



## Huge Shock To NDA No 'Delimitation' For Now



For the first time in its 12 years tenure since coming to power in 2014, the NDA government led by Narendra Modi has faced a huge setback in the Lok Sabha as a constitutional amendment bill introduced has failed to secure the required majority. As per reports, the much hyped and highly debated Constitutional (131st Amendment) Bill

2026 failed to secure the adequate 2/3rd majority for clearance as only 278 MPs of the lower house of Parliament voted in its favour against the required 360 mark as 211 denied it as unconstitutional. So, the key bill to amend Women's Reservation has been stalled by the Opposition parties. With this big setback to the Modi government, the controversial bills which were overlapped with the Women's Reservation bill, including the one for Delimitation of parliament constituencies and for subsequent increase in the number of existing seats of Lok Sabha were not put to vote as the first one did not pass the key hurdle. A three day special Parliament session has been convened from April 16 to 18 and the Lok Sabha witnessed high-decibel and heated debates from the NDA members including the Prime Minister and its

Opposition parties. The session is supposed to culminate in the passing of the historical Women's Reservation bill which makes it mandatory for reserving 33% seats in the Lok Sabha and the state assemblies, a move which is welcomed by all and sundry across party lines. Unfortunately, the linking of the two other contentious bills by-passing of the requirement of the crucial new census played a significant role in receiving huge opposition from the non NDA parties as the entire exercise could dent the overall representation of South India in the country's electoral map. The NDA government is highly disappointed with the unexpected jolt in the Lok Sabha. The House is adjourned and will meet for the final day on Saturday which could see a huge chaos after this development.



### CM urges centre to procure Support from Union Minister

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy met with Union Civil Supplies Minister Pralhad Joshi to discuss outstanding funds owed to the state and other issues. They urged the Union Minister to procure 30 lakh metric tonnes of par-boiled paddy for the 2025-26 Rabi and Kharif seasons. The Chief Minister explained that the Yasangi crop yield for 2025-26 is expected to reach 90 lakh metric tonnes and requested the full procurement to support Telangana's farmers. Meanwhile, Revanth Reddy's visit to Delhi is busy, as he advocates for a "hybrid model" for constituency delimitation. He is working with southern state Chief Ministers to oppose the pro-rata formula and is also meeting Union Ministers to secure funds and schemes for Telangana.

### Telangana plans IPHS-based overhaul of public healthcare system

Hyderabad: Telangana Health minister Damodar Rajanarasi mha has directed officials to prepare comprehensive plans to upgrade all Community Health Centres (CHCs), Area Hospitals, and District Hospitals in the state in line with Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS). The directive was issued during a high-level review meeting held at the Secretariat on Friday, April 17.

### CM Revanth hails 'Oppn unity' in Lok Sabha

Hyderabad: Quick on the uptake, Telangana Chief Minister and Congress' star campaigner in and beyond Telangana A Revanth Reddy summed up the rejection of women's quota, delimitation and related bills in the Lok Sabha on Friday as a "red-letter day" in Indian history. In a post on his handle on social media platform X, the Chief Minister said the day would be remembered for the unity of opposition and democratic forces under the leadership of Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge. He stated that the collective efforts of opposition parties had helped "avert a national disaster" and thanked leaders from multiple political parties for standing together on the issue. Revanth Reddy acknowledged the support of several regional and national leaders, in-



cluding MK Stalin, Mamata Banerjee, Akhilesh Yadav, Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray, Lalu Prasad Yadav, Hemant Soren, Farooq Abdullah, Naveen Patnaik, Arvind Kejriwal, along with leaders of Communist parties.

### Gautam Adani Overtakes Mukesh Ambani to Become Asia's Richest Person

New Delhi: Gautam Adani has overtaken Mukesh Ambani to become Asia's richest person, according to the latest data from the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. As per the rankings released on Friday, Gautam Adani, Founder and Chairman of the Adani Group, now ranks 19th globally with a net worth of USD 92.6 billion. In comparison, Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries, stands at the 20th position with a net worth of USD 90.8 billion.



### Hormuz Reopens: What Is Trump's Promise to the World?

The world politics had been taking new twist sentences in the recent past, due to the ongoing conflict between Iran and the United States. Things have been largely volatile in the recent past as the conflict goes deeper and deeper. One of the primary weapons that Iran has started to use against its detractors is the closure of Strait Of Hormuz. This became a major cause of concern as several countries including India struggled due to the inadequate supply of oil and gas, which is a result of this strategic closure of Hormuz. However, the latest update is that Iran has agreed to open this crucial water transport route for all commercials effective immediately. This was quickly followed by another communication from Donald Trump as he stated that Iran has agreed to never shut down this particular waterway passage again in the future.

### Uttam Meets NDSA Chairman, Plans to Repair KLIS Barrages on Track



Hyderabad: Irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has said the government was committed to completing all the required tests at the Medigadda, Sundilla and Annaram barrages before the onset of this year's monsoon season. The minister who said the government was working closely with the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA), and Central Water Commission (CWC), on plans to get the barrages back into shape, added that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy would be visiting Medigadda on April 20 for an on-the-spot assessment of the preparatory work and review the plan of action for the eventual repairs to the barrages. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday met with NDSA chairman Anil Jain in New Delhi on Friday and discussed the pre-repair designs tests that are now underway at the three barrages, and the plan of action for taking up repairs after the end of the monsoon season.

### TRANSCO artisans call off strike after assurances from Dy CM

Hyderabad: Transmission Corporation of Telangana Limited (TRANSCO) artisans on Friday, April 17, called off their indefinite strike after Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka assured that he would hold talks with the TRANSCO Chairman and Managing Director D Krishna Bhaskar regarding their issues. The Telangana Vidyuth Artisan Employees Joint Action Committee (TVAEJAC) had called the indefinite strike from 9 am on April 8, citing unresolved demands that included regularisation of the services of artisans.



### Allahabad HC orders FIR against Rahul Gandhi over alleged dual citizenship case



LUCKNOW: The Lucknow Bench of the Allahabad High Court on Friday ordered the registration of an FIR against Congress MP and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in connection with the dual citizenship issue. The court also said the state government may recommend a probe into the matter by any central agency. The order came on a petition filed by Karnataka BJP worker S Vignesh Shishir, who accused Rahul Gandhi of holding British citizenship and incorporating a company named M/S Backops Ltd., registered in August 2003. It was further submitted that Gandhi had allegedly declared his nationality as British and possessed a Director Identification ID linked to London and Hampshire addresses. Setting aside the lower court's order, Justice Subhash Vidyarthi said the magistrate did not need to comment on the merits of the allegations at this stage.

Monday, April 20, 2026

## Heritage Under Threat from Disasters and Conflicts

(On the occasion of “International Day of Monuments and Sites” on 18 April)

A World Heritage site is defined as a ‘natural or man made area or a structure that is of international importance, and space which requires special protection’. From ancient temples to architectural marvels, heritage sites are symbols of our collective proud history and creativity. To preserve our heritage sites, highlight the role of communities in heritage conservation, raise the awareness, promote tourism, attract international cooperation and sustainable development “World Heritage Day” or “International Day of Monuments and sites” is observed on 18 April annually from 1983 by UNESCO. This day encourages people to appreciate the rich heritage that connects generations, importance of preserving our cultural and historical monuments and shapes national identity. “International Day of Monuments and Sites-2026 Theme: “The official theme of World Heritage Day-2026 is “Emergency Response for Living in Context of Disasters and Conflicts” emphasises the urgent need to protect cultural heritage that is increasingly at risk due to natural disasters, armed conflicts, and climate-related threats. It is also the occasion of six decades of ICOMOS (International Council of Monuments and Sites) rich experience, existence, and action. The focus is on learning from past challenges to build more resilient strategies for safeguarding monuments and sites across the world. “UNESCO World Heritage Sites:“ UNESCO believes that the sites classified as World Heritage hold cultural and physical significance. Today, there are a grand total of 1,092 UNESCO World Heritage Sites worldwide, of which 845 are cultural, 209 are natural and 38 are a mixture. 55 of these are in danger, including the birthplace of Jesus, Church of the Nativity and pilgrimage Route in Bethlehem. The countries with the most UNESCO World Heritage Sites are Italy (54), China (53), Spain (47), Germany (44), France (44), and India (43). “World Heritage Day 2026 is not just about celebrating the past, but about protecting it for the future. As disasters and conflicts continue to threaten our shared heritage, it becomes our collective duty to act through preparedness, education, innovation, and unity. Let this year’s theme serve as a call for action for governments, professional, communities, and youth to stand together in safeguarding the legacies that define our identities.

Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy

## Town Congress president hails Revanth for caste census



Mahabubnagar: Following the directions of Congress national leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, a programme was organised under the leadership of the Town Congress Party at Telangana Chowrasta in Mahabubnagar to mark the completion of the caste census in Telangana under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. On this occasion, party leaders performed milk abhishekam to the portraits of

Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge, former President Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Speaking at the event, Town Congress Party President and MUDA Chairman Laxman Yadav praised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for successfully completing the caste census with strong commitment. He criticized the NDA government at the Centre, stating that despite repeated demands by Rahul Gandhi over the years.

# Cong govt colluded with Sigachi to deny compensation to 54 families

Siddipet: Former Minister T Harish Rao lashed out at the Congress government for cheating the victims of Sigachi blast by colluding with the management of Sigachi Industries. In his post on X on Friday, Harish Rao said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and District Minister Damodara Rajanarasimha promised one crore compensation to each of the 54 persons killed in the biggest industrial blast ever reported in Telangana. The duo visited the Pashamylaram industrial area in Patancheru hours after the blast on June 30, 2025. Even nearly one year after the blast, the former minister said that the management had just given Rs 45.40 lakh to each and every family on an average. He said that the payment of Rs 54.30 lakh was still pending to each family. Though the management claimed that they paid Rs 40 to Rs 42 lakhs to each of the deceased person’s family, Rao said that they hardly paid Rs 25 lakh. He said that the management had combined PF, ESI and insurance benefits, which is actually paid from the employees own money, in the payment list. The former minister termed it as cheating the victims even though they served in the industry for years contributing to its growth. Even though the committee constituted by the government had found gross violations in safety measures, Rao said that the government had failed to take any action on the management. He termed the incident as a social murder committed by Sigachi management. Rao demanded that Revanth Reddy keep his promises by getting one crore compensation by excluding PF, ESI and insurance ben-



efits from the list without any further delay. Otherwise, Rao asked the government to attach the Sigachi’s assets following the revenue act to recover the compensation promised. Stating that the government failed to arrest the management, Rao said the police arrested the MD following the directions of the High Court. However, he said that the MD walked out free on bail within no time. The former minister lamented that the government made the eight families, whose bodies remained untraced after the blast, roam around offices for days to get birth certificates.



## Indiramma Housing: Alleging injustice, woman attempts suicide

Suryapet: A woman attempted suicide in the presence of senior district officials, creating a major sensation, here on Thursday. Distressed over alleged injustice in the Indiramma housing scheme allotment, the woman took the step as a mark of protest. According to reports, Sunitha, a resident of Taduvayi village in Munagala mandal, had been upset for some time after not being allotted a house under the Indiramma colony housing distribution. She alleged that political leaders and officials colluded to deny her benefit. On Thursday, during the ‘Prajapalana – Pragathi Pranalika’ programme at the Munagala mandal headquarters, a free helmet distribution event was conducted under the supervision of the District Collector and Superintendent of Police. During the event, Sunitha approached the stage to present her grievance. The victim expressed anguish that welfare schemes are being extended only to those with political backing, while deserving individuals like her are being denied benefits. She accused officials of blocking her housing allotment under political pressure. As Sunitha began losing consciousness after attempting suicide, she was rushed in a police vehicle to the government hospital in Kodad, where she is currently receiving emergency treatment.

## Telangana activists urge govt to implement 2011 Act for tenant farmers



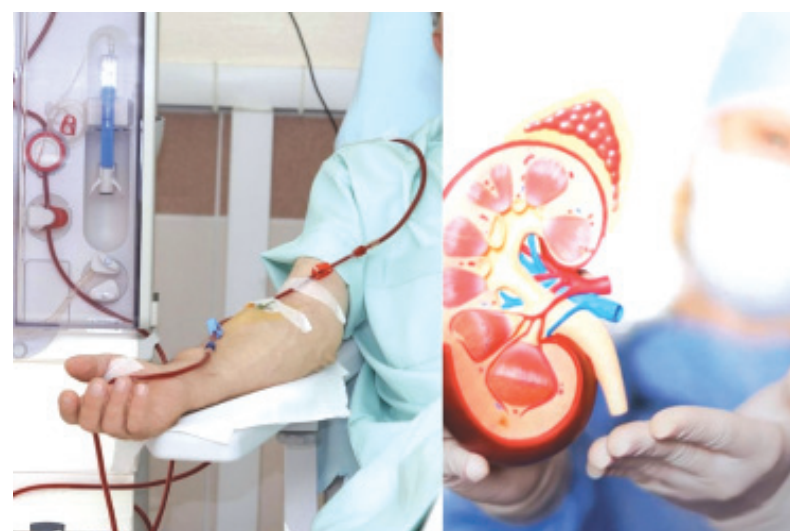
Hyderabad: Several public organisations launched a united front called the “Telangana Tenant Farmers Recognition Committee,” to demand that the Congress government honour its pre-election promises. Declaring a struggle for recognition of farmers, the Rythu Swarajya Vedika group formed the committee to draft a joint action plan. During a roundtable meeting, the participants expressed outrage over the Congress-led state government. Citing a concern-

ing statistic of 80 per cent of farmer suicides involve tenants in Telangana, the group warned that government negligence is driving 36 per cent of the state’s agricultural workforce into debt and despair. “Due to a lack of bank loans and government schemes, they are trapped in extreme distress and mounting debt,” the organisation said in a release. Led by renowned economist Professor D Narasimha Reddy, the committee called for the immediate implementation of the 2011 Land Li-

ensed Cultivators Act, emphasising that its provisions hold the government responsible for issuing Loan Eligibility Cards (LEC) to grant access schemes and crop loans. Field activists and tenant farmers hailing from different districts explained that the absence of a landowner and lack of “Pattadar Passbooks” results in significant losses, specifically during urea distribution, subsidy schemes, selling harvested crops and claiming compensation for crop loss

## Telangana to expand dialysis network with 79 new centres

HYDERABAD: In response to the rising burden of kidney disease and increasing pressure on public healthcare facilities, the Health department has decided to establish 79 new dialysis centres with 416 beds in government hospitals across the state. Additionally, 155 beds will be added across 67 existing centres to ease overcrowding. The decision follows a proposal by the Rajiv Aarogyasri Health Care Trust, Hyderabad, which identified critical service gaps through spatial analysis. The Health department observed that several rural, tribal and remote areas lack adequate dialysis facilities, forcing patients to travel long distances for treatment. According to a recent government order, the expansion aims to ensure dialysis services are available within a 25-km radius, improving accessibility and enabling timely treatment, especially for patients with chronic kidney disease and emergencies



such as acute kidney injury (AKI). The new centres will be set up under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, following a hub-and-spoke approach. Tertiary care institutions such as Nizam’s Institute of Medical Sciences, Osmania General Hospital and Gandhi Hospital will act as hubs, providing clinical supervision, technical guidance and quality assurance to peripheral centres. A senior Health Department official said the Telangana Medical Services Infrastructure Development Corporation (TGMSIDC) will soon float tenders for the new centres. Private service providers will be responsible for establishing and operating dialysis units, including supply of machines, RO plants, consumables and manpower. The government has also approved the addition of 155 dialysis beds in 67 existing centres, many of which are currently operating under

heavy patient loads. In some facilities, more than four dialysis shifts are being conducted daily, reflecting a surge in demand. The expansion is expected to reduce waiting time and improve service efficiency. The additional capacity will be created through existing service providers under current PPP agreements to ensure continuity of services. Officials noted that over 15,600 patients have availed dialysis treatment so far under the programme. New centres are planned at several locations, including government hospitals in Bhupalpally, Quthbullapur, Mulugu and Narnoor, as well as facilities in Bela, Indervelly, Bheempur and tribal mandals in Bhadradi Kothagudem and Jayashankar Bhupalapally districts. The move is expected to significantly decentralise dialysis care, reduce the burden on major hospitals and improve access to life-saving treatment in underserved regions.



# Hyderabad Voice

Monday, April 20, 2026

## Telangana invites US firms to invest in aerospace, defence sectors



Hyderabad: Telangana's IT and Industries minister, D Sridhar Babu, has called on American companies to explore investment opportunities in the state's rapidly expanding aerospace, defence, and space industries. The appeal was made during a meeting with a delegation from the US National War College in Hyderabad on Thursday, April 16. Highlighting Telangana's growing prominence, the minister

emphasised the state's push to position itself as a strategic hub for manufacturing and advanced technology. Today, I had the pleasure of welcoming a distinguished delegation from the U.S. National War College to the Telangana Secretariat. He invited collaboration with US firms, universities, and research institutions across key areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, and space technology. Sridhar

Babu noted that Telangana has witnessed over 30 percent annual growth in the sector, alongside a remarkable 103 percent compound annual growth rate in exports between 2024 and 2026. He said the government is now implementing a focused strategy to establish the state as a global leader in drones, counter-drone systems, aerospace components, and defence electronics. Efforts are also underway to strengthen capabilities in satellite systems, AI, cybersecurity, and advanced communications. The minister credited Telangana's progress to the presence of major global aerospace and defence companies, as well as key public sector organisations. He added that more than 1,500 MSMEs in the state are actively contributing to precision engineering, drone technologies, and defence electronics manufacturing. Underscoring Hyderabad's competitive edge, Sridhar Babu pointed out that the city was recently ranked as the world's most cost-effective aerospace destination in an international survey. He also highlighted that Telangana has received the Government of India's "Best State for Aerospace" award for five consecutive years.

## BRS slams Revanth Reddy on 'hybrid delimitation' proposal



Hyderabad: Telangana chief minister A Revanth Reddy's suggestion of hybrid delimitation has led to a political controversy, with BRS questioning the attempt to trade democracy for Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). In an aggressive remark directed at the CM, BRS leader Dasoju Sravan accused Revanth Reddy of trying to link parliamentary representation to economic performance rather than the population, adding it is "unconstitutional and absurd." The Congress leader asked Revanth Reddy if the proposal has the backing of the Congress Working Committee (CWC), stating that the move is an "illogical stunt". "Why should the proposal first not get approval of your party's highest policy making body, CW Committee? Only after getting their approval, make a public statement," Sravan told Reddy. "Mapping seats to money instead of people is unconstitutional and absurd," he said, accusing the chief minister of indulging in "senseless sensationalism" and attempting to convert India's "people-centric democracy into capital-centric elitism", thereby demeaning the spirit of the Constitution. Revanth Reddy proposed a hybrid delimitation model, where the proposed increase in Lok Sabha seats would be divided between population-based allocation and economic contribution measured through Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Reddy has argued that relying solely on population could disadvantage southern states like Telangana, which have effectively controlled population growth while contributing significantly to the economy. The issue forms part of a broader national debate expected ahead of the next delimitation exercise, which could increase the number of Lok Sabha seats.



## Musi Villagers Seek Inclusion In Discussion On River Rejuvenation Project

HYDERABAD: Villagers from nearly 100 settlements along the Musi have written to the three-minister sub-committee, asking to be included in decisions on the river's rejuvenation project and stating that decades of pollution had damaged their health, livelihoods and land. "The lives of the people in these villages are closely tied to the river," the petition stated. They noted that the Musi flows through about 20 mandals across three districts and residents said they welcomed the government's plan to clean the river but added that details of the project have not reached them. "No officials or public representatives have visited our villages to explain it," they said. People said they had only seen presentations and news reports about the project. "We are seeing reports that hundreds of houses may be demolished and thousands of families displaced," the petition notes.

They questioned whether the work could proceed without causing hardship. The memorandum detailed the impact of pollution over three decades. Wastewater from Hyderabad and industrial discharge has affected crops, livestock and fisheries, it said. "Over 100 women have suffered miscarriages in the past two decades," it said, while livestock reproduction had declined and fish had disappeared from village tanks. Farmers reported up to 40 per cent loss in crop yield, and toddy tappers said their produce has turned unfit for sale. Residents have asked the committee to visit the villages, extend the project further downstream, and allocate ₹1,000 crore for about 70 affected villages. They also sought RO plants in every village, repairs to Nizam-era irrigation canals, desilting of tanks, and separate support for fishing, shepherd and toddy-tapping communities.

## Two youths killed as motorcycle crashes into tree in Keesara

Hyderabad: Two young men died on the spot after their motorcycle went out of control and ramed into a tree at Yadgarpally cross roads in Keesara on Thursday night. According to police, the victims were identified as Kanakaraju (22) and Arun (20), residents of Gabbilalpet in Jawaharnagar. The duo ran a car washing centre for their livelihood. On Thursday night, they, along with two friends, were travelling on two separate motorcycles to Yadgarpally and were returning when the mishap took place. While heading towards Thimmaipally, the bike ridden by Kanakaraju reportedly lost control at a sharp curve due to high speed and crashed into a tree.

Kanakaraju died instantly, while Arun, who was riding pillion, was thrown off the bike and suffered fatal injuries. On receiving information, Keesara Police reached the spot and took up investigation.

## 2,200 get permanent registration via VAHAN



HYDERABAD: The rollout of the VAHAN portal is being implemented in a phased, module-wise manner, with several key components already operational, the Transport department said on Thursday. The department said the temporary registration module has been successfully implemented and stabilised. The fancy number (special registration number) module is also functional, with 858 auctions conducted through the portal so far, im-

proving transparency and efficiency. A total of 2,200 vehicles have been issued Permanent Registration (PR) numbers across Telangana using the system. Officials said the VAHAN portal is being progressively stabilised with continuous support from the National Informatics Centre (NIC) team. Additional modules are being enabled in phases, and the system is expected to be fully stable within the next 15 days, allowing seamless delivery of all services.

The department appreciated the cooperation extended by vehicle dealers, citizens and other stakeholders during the transition, and reiterated its commitment to strengthening digital governance and delivering efficient, citizen-centric services.

## Ten Telangana Fire Services Personnel Receive Bronze Disc Awards

Hyderabad: The Centre's Directorate-General Fire Services Civil Defence and Home Guards has awarded ten fire services personnel the bronze disc and commendation certificate in recognition of their outstanding service. This is the first time such a large number of personnel from Telangana Fire Services have received the award. According to a press note issued Thursday, the award is a high-level commendation given to personnel



from the D-G, under the Union ministry of home, for exemplary duty, bravery and exceptional service. The recognition is accompanied by a commendation certificate and is considered a prestigious honour for meritorious contribution. The awardees from Telangana include B. Sudhakar, Gowliguda station fire officer; leading fire fighters G Yadagiri (Secretary); Md Ghouse Pasha (Gadwal); Gadde Krishna Prasad (Wyra, Khammam); fire fighter technical Sara Rajeshwar (Hayathnagar); Vagadani Ram Babu Khammam); K. Vinod Kumar (snorkel, Hyderabad), and fire fighters M. Pravithan (Gowliguda), G. Rakesh Kumar (High Court) and Juttukonda Venkateshwarlu (Huzurnagar, Nalgonda). Vikram Singh Mann, Director General of Telangana fire, disaster response, emergency and civil defence department, congratulated the awardees and said the recognition would motivate personnel to continue serving the public with greater dedication and promote awareness on fire safety in society.

## Police warn against 'hafta' collection in Charminar area

Hyderabad: The Charminar police issued a warning to people involved in illegal 'mamool' collection --extortion from shopkeepers and street vendors --in the Charminar and its surroundings, saying any violation would invite immediate arrest and remand. DCP Charminar Kiran Khare conducted a counselling session for individuals involved in illegal 'mamool' collection from shopkeepers and street vendors in the Charminar area. ACP Charminar Chandra Shekhar and SHO Charminar Ram Babu were also present. All identified persons were strictly warned to desist from any form of extortion or intimidation. Any violation will invite immediate legal action, including opening of rowdy sheets, registration of cases, arrest, and remand. This is a final warning. DCP Kiran Khare emphasised a reform approach, giving a final opportunity to change behaviour and adopt lawful means of livelihood. Shopkeepers and vendors were instructed to maintain discipline.



## Electricity Artisans Calls Off Strike

Hyderabad: Electricity Artisans JAC Chairman Satish Reddy here on Friday announced that the strike has been called off immediately following the Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu's directions to hold discussions with the Transco Chairman and Managing Director on their issues. On Friday morning, JAC leaders met the Deputy Chief Minister at Praja Bhavan in Hyderabad. Artisans JAC Convener Sailu expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Deputy Chief Minister for responding positively to their concerns and permitting discussions with senior officials.

# CM Revanth Reddy urges centre to procure Support from Union Minister



Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy met with Union Civil Supplies Minister Pralhad Joshi to discuss outstanding funds owed to the state and other issues. They urged the Union Minister to procure 30 lakh metric tonnes of par-boiled paddy for the 2025-26 Ravi and Kharif seasons. The Chief Minister explained that the Yasangi crop yield for 2025-26 is expected to reach 90 lakh metric tonnes and requested the full procurement to support Telangana's farmers. Meanwhile, Revanth Reddy's visit to Delhi is busy, as he advocates for a "hybrid model" for constituency delimitation. He is working with southern state Chief Ministers to oppose the pro-rata formula and is also meeting Union Ministers to secure funds and schemes for Telangana.

## SCR, Telangana officials review high-speed rail plans linking Hyderabad with Bengaluru, Chennai and Pune



HYDERABAD: South Central Railway (SCR) on Thursday held a high-level meeting at Rail Nilayam with state officials to review and expedite ongoing and proposed infrastructure projects. SCR General Manager Sanjay Kumar Sri vastava, Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao and

senior officials attended the meeting, the first such interaction on railway premises involving the Chief Secretary. Plans for a high-speed corridor linking Hyderabad with Bengaluru, Chennai and Pune, and the Regional Ring Rail project were discussed. Officials also reviewed projects includ-

ing RuBs, RoBs, new lines, station development and approach improvements. Discussions focused on land acquisition, NOCs, traffic diversions and utility shifting. Railways also sought cost-sharing support for new lines. The Chief Secretary stressed regular coordination and timely execution.

## Woman held with 3 kg hydroponic marijuana at Hyderabad airport

Hyderabad: The customs officials at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport here have seized a large quantity of narcotics from a woman passenger who arrived from Bangkok on a Thai Airways flight on Friday. According to information available, around 3 kgs of hydroponic marijuana was recovered from

her possession during inspection. The suspect woman was immediately taken into custody, and officials are questioning her to determine the source and intended destination of the contraband. Further investigation is currently underway to uncover possible links to an international drug network.

# Former Minister Motkupalli Narsimhulu says Revanth's government ready to collapse

Hyderabad: Former Minister Motkupalli Narsimhulu on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the government led by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, claiming it could collapse at any time. Speaking at a press conference here on Thursday, Narsimhulu referred to the Chief Minister's recent remark that detractors were "digging trenches" behind his back. He said the statement reflected instability within the government. The former Minister questioned why no action had been taken against Ministers facing corruption allegations. He alleged that one Minister was widely referred to by the public as a "10 percent Minister" and criticised the Chief Minister for failing to act. Narsimhulu also asked whether holding on to the Chief Minister's post was more important than maintaining public trust. He said the government could retain credibility only by acting firmly against corruption. "Who are the people digging trenches behind your back? How can a government function with so many corruption charges against it?" he asked. He demanded that anyone facing corruption charges be removed from



office, irrespective of caste or community. He further alleged that the Chief Minister had failed to address issues affecting Scheduled Caste communities, especially after SC categorisation. "We are tired and cannot bear the humiliation," Narsimhulu said.

## OBC Women Must Get Rightful Share of Representation: Kavitha



Hyderabad: Telangana Jagruthi president Kavitha Kalvakuntla on Thursday said that delimitation should be linked with an OBC sub-quota instead of the Women's Reservation Bill so that OBC women can get their rightful share of representation. She highlighted that the representation of Telangana is 3.13 per cent in the parliament, and the delimitation will further widen the gap. "The 3.13 per cent is Telangana's share in the parliament as of date. That should be treated as a baseline during the delimitation exercise. The proportional representation of Telangana should only increase and not decrease in any case." A blanket 50 per cent increase that is being proposed right now looks okay on the face of it, but when you look at the absolute numbers, the gap will increase. People of Telangana will hit the streets; our share of 3.13 per cent is diluted in any way," she said. "Secondly, it is highly unfortunate that delimitation is being linked to the Women's Reservation Bill. Rather, it should be linked with an OBC sub-quota within the 33 per cent. OBC Women should get their rightful share

of representation at any cost," she added. Kavitha departed for Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, to offer prayers at Kashi Vishwanath temple, ahead of the scheduled launch of her political party 'Telangana Jagruthi' on April 25. Her remarks come as the Central government has proposed increasing the number of Lok Sabha seats to 850 as part of its intention to implement the Women's Reservation Act from 2029 Lok Sabha polls, with 815 seats proposed to the states and the remaining 35 for the Union Territories, according to sources. The Lok Sabha has 543 seats at present. The government intends to move a Constitution amendment bill for the implementation of a 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha from 2029 in a special sitting of parliament on April 16, 17, and 18.

## Telangana caste survey: 135 of 242 castes above state backwardness average, says expert panel



An expert panel that examined the Telangana caste survey conducted during 2024-25 has found that 135 of the state's 242 castes are more backward than the state's average Comprehensive Backwardness Index (CBI). The Independent Expert Working Group (IEWG), chaired by former Supreme Court judge Justice B. Sudershan Reddy, said Scheduled

Castes and Scheduled Tribes are about three times more backward than General Castes. The findings were part of the Telangana Socio-Economic, Educational, Employment, Political and Caste (SEEEPC) Survey 2024, which was released by the state government on Wednesday night. The nine-member IEWG, constituted in March 2025, was tasked

with verifying, analysing and interpreting the survey data. According to the group, the weighted average CBI score for the state is 81, with higher scores indicating greater backwardness. It noted that 135 castes—making up 67% of the population—have scores above this average. Among them are 69 Backward Classes, 41 Scheduled Castes and 25 Scheduled Tribes. The report also stated that all 18 General Castes, which account for about 12% of the population, fall below the state average CBI. The panel emphasised that "every backward caste is not equally backward," highlighting variation within categories. It added that the remaining 107 castes fall below the state average in backwardness, comprising 18 Scheduled Castes, 7 Scheduled Tribes, 64 Backward Classes and all 18 General Castes. These groups together account for about 29% of the population.

## Man Dies After Electric Shock While Repairing Cooler in Hajipur

Tragedy struck Hajipur village in Ellareddy Mandal in Kamareddy when 47-year-old died after suffering an electric shock while attempting to repair an air cooler in his home. With the intense summer heat gripping the state, many rely on air conditioners and coolers, and victim was no exception. While fixing the cooler, he received a fatal electric shock and collapsed immediately. His family rushed him to hospital, but doctors confirmed he had already passed away. Villagers are deeply shaken by the incident. Originally from a modest farming family, victim earned his livelihood through agriculture. He is survived by his wife and two daughters, who are devastated by his loss.

## HC asks MLAs to file counters in disqualification case

Hyderabad: Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G.M. Mohiuddin of the Telangana High Court on Thursday directed several MLAs, who were elected on BRS tickets in the 2023 Assembly elections and are alleged to have defected to the ruling Congress party, to file their counters positively by May 6. The Bench was hearing a batch of writ petitions filed by BRS MLAs seeking disqualification of legislators who were elected on BRS tickets but subsequently joined the Congress party. The petitioners include BJP MLA Alleti Maheshwar Reddy and BRS MLAs Kalvakuntla Sanjay, KP Vivekanand, Palla Rajeshwar Reddy, Chinta Prabhakar, Padi Kaushik Reddy and Guntak andla Jagadeesh Reddy, who approached the Court contending that the Speaker's recent order holding that the MLAs had not defected is illegal and liable to be set aside. The challenge is directed against MLAs Danam Nagender, Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, T. Prakash Goud, Kale Yadaiah, Tellam Venkat Rao, Bandla Kris hnamohan Reddy and Arikepudi Gandhi, Kadiyam Srihari and Dr. Sanjay Kumar. When the matter was taken up, counsels appearing for the respondent MLAs sought time to file their counters. Advocate General A. Sudarshan Reddy appeared for the State in one of the petitions, while Tulsi Raj Gokul, Standing Counsel for the Telangana State Legislature, represented the Assembly Speaker. At the outset, the Bench was inclined to grant three weeks' time for filing counters and a further three weeks for the petitioners to file their replies, indicating that the matter could be posted after the summer vacation. However, counsel for the petitioners opposed the extended timeline, expressing apprehension that the respondents may delay the proceedings by repeatedly seeking time. It was pointed out that in earlier proceedings relating to disqualification, despite observations of the Supreme Court that such matters ought to be decided within a reasonable period, there had been considerable delay. It was also brought to the notice of the Court that when the disqualification petitions were not being decided, the BRS MLAs had approached the Supreme Court, which had directed the Speaker to dispose of the petitions and had even initiated contempt proceedings. Subsequently, after the Speaker dismissed the petitions citing lack of evidence, the proceedings before the apex court were closed.

# Quiet architect of women's quota

NEW DELHI: As India turns its attention to the question of women's representation, it is imperative to recall the diminutive yet powerful figure who first made the demand politically inescapable: CPI MP Geeta Mukherjee, fondly called 'Geetadi'. At a moment when the idea is finally moving from legislative promise towards implementation, remembering her is not merely an act of tribute—it is essential to understanding the long and unfinished history of the demand. She belonged to a political tradition in which ideas were shaped beyond immediate electoral arithmetic. Long before women's reservation entered mainstream political discourse, she recognised that the marginal presence of women in legislatures was not incidental but embedded in patriarchy. Her intervention came in 1996, when she chaired the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Women's Reservation Bill. The proposal for 33% reservation in



Parliament and state assemblies was, at the time, deeply contentious. It was dismissed as impractical, disruptive, or tokenistic by almost all parties. Yet Mukherjee persisted with quiet determination and intellectual rigour. She engaged extensively with women's organisations across the country and worked to build consensus. A four-time MLA from Panskura Purba (1967–77) and a seven-time MP from Panskura (1980–2000), she was a central figure in the CPI and a leading force within the National Federation of Indian Women. Her influence extended well beyond office. She moved seamlessly between parliamentary debate and grassroots mobilisation. Her legacy lies in forcing politics to confront structural exclusion.

## MP Compares AP-Telangana Bifurcation To India-Pak: SM Explodes



It has been a decade and half since the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, but even to this day, this is a burning topic. This got aggravated further with the latest provocation made by Karnataka MP Tejasvi Surya. This young MP was speaking in the Parliament regarding the newly proposed delimitation bill that's extensively discussed by the NDA alliance. This was when things took an ugly turn after the MP compared the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to the bifurcation of India and Pakistan. Out of the blue, this MP from Karnataka said the bygone UPA gov-

ernment was so ridiculous with the division of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana back then that it replicated the horrendous way the British split India and Pakistan. This immediately kickstarted away of negativity on social media as everyone started calling out the MP for making such a sly remark on AP and Telangana. Reacting to this, a Telugu guy posted "When our state formation is insulted in Parliament, silence is not diplomacy — it's cowardice. While Tejasvi Surya makes irresponsible remarks about Telangana, what are the 17 MPs of Telangana doing? Just watching? You

were elected to protect Telangana's pride, not to sit silent when our????? is disrespected. This is not just politics — this is about Telangana's self-respect. If you can't speak for Telangana, you don't deserve to represent it." Another Twitter user posted "But your party has also supported that day tejasvi." A Kannada social media posted. This guy elected in bengaluru north won't talk about his constituency ever. Never bought funds to suburban rail! Never bought funds to metro. Waste body elected in the name of religion always talk irrelevant things to his constituency." Another commented.



## 'End Of An Era': Congress Fails To Send Even One MP From Assam To Rajya Sabha

Guwahati: In a historic and symbolic setback, the Indian National Congress (INC) has been left without a single representative from Assam in the Rajya Sabha for the first time since Independence. The shift became official on Thursday following the swearing-in of newly elected three members after the latest biennial polls, marking a complete wipeout of the Congress from the state's seven-member quota in the Upper House. Today Jogen Mohan and Terash Gowalla took oath as BJP MPs and UPPL president Pramod Boro took the oath. At present the BJP has 4 MPs including Jogen Mohan, Terash Gowalla, Kanad Purkayastha, Pabitra Margherita while the UPPL has two Pramod Boro and Rwnqwra Narzary and the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) has lone Birendra Prasad Baishya as their representative. First time Congress has nil representative from Assam. Once the dominant political force in Assam, the party's absence underscores the firm grip of the BJP-led alliance in the state's current political landscape. For decades, Congress had been a permanent presence in Assam's Rajya Sabha representation. The state even sent former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to the Upper House for nearly 28 years, from 1991 to 2019. Congress sent former President of India Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Puspallata Das, Maulana Tayyebulla, Deba Kumar Barooah, Prafulla Goswami, Mahendra Mohan Choudhry, Bijoy Chandra Bhagavati, Matang Sinh, Anwara Taimur, Silvius Conpan, Karnendu Bhattacharjee Congress stalwarts.

## Priyanka Gandhi invokes Chanakya to target Amit Shah in Lok Sabha



New Delhi: In friendly banter, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday told Home Minister Amit Shah that had Chankaya been alive today, he would have been startled by the BJP leader's "political shrewdness". Participating in a debate in the Lok Sabha on three bills introduced for amendments to the women's quota law and setting up a delimitation commission, Priyanka Gandhi accused the government of once again wanting to "dupe" people and launching a "big attack on the country's integrity". "On the one hand there is this big talk of women's reservation, and on the other hand, the rights of OBCs are being taken away. A strong structure is being erected for the next polls by reduc-

ing the influence of small states, shredding democracy to pieces," Priyanka Gandhi alleged. "The home minister is laughing... He has made this full scheme. Had Chankaya been alive, he would have been startled by your political shrewdness ('rajnaitik kutilta'). He (Shah) made the whole plan, and he is laughing now... He agrees with me," the Wayanad MP said. Hitting out at the government, she claimed the plan involved calling a sitting of Parliament during elections, not calling an all-party meeting, sharing the draft of the bill just a day before the sitting so that the opposition does not get a chance to deliberate on it, starting a discussion in media that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to take a big step for women's empowerment.

## 'Chameleons': Mayawati slams Congress, SP over caste question in women's reservation

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati on Friday slammed the Congress and the Samajwadi Party (SP), likening their positions on caste and women's reservation to that of a "chameleon", amid the ongoing debate on delimitation and the implementation of the women's reservation law. Her remarks come against the backdrop of discussions on the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023 and its proposed linkage with delimitation based on the 2011 Census. In a post on X, Mayawati alleged that the Congress had historically failed to safeguard the interests of Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes

(OBCs). "In the matter of constitutional/legal rights, etc., of the country's SC, ST, and OBC communities, the Congress, which changes its colour like a chameleon, is the same party that, now talking about these categories in women's reservation, never took any initiative during its central government to fulfill their reservation quotas in any sector." "Nor did it implement the 27 per cent reservation for the OBC community in government jobs and education as per the Mandal Commission report, which was eventually implemented in the government of former Prime Minister VP Singh only through the tireless efforts of the BSP, as is well known," she said.

## No Reservation To Muslims; Quota On Basis Of Religion Unconstitutional: Shah

NEW DELHI: Union home minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that Muslims would not be given reservation as any quota on the basis of religion will be unconstitutional. During a fiery 40-minute debate, following which three Bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha for amendment of the women's quota law and to set up a delimitation commission, Shah said that a caste census will be carried out along with population enumeration during the ongoing census exercise. Initiating the discussion on the three bills, Congress deputy leader Gaurav Gogoi said that the bills are "anti-women, anti-caste census, anti-Constitution and anti-federal structure of the country. Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav accused the ruling BJP of turning "nari" (women) into a "nara" (slogan) and said that the Centre is using




the proposed amendments to the women's quota law to delay the census. Reacting after Akhilesh Yadav and Samajwadi Party MP Dharmendra Yadav spoke in favour of giving a quota to Muslims, Shah said, "The question of providing reservation to Muslim women on the basis of religion does not even arise. Our Constitution does not allow reservation on the basis of religion. I want to make it clear our government's resolve that Muslims will not be given reservations on the basis of religion. Such reservation is unconstitutional." Referring to the Samajwadi Party members' demand for a caste census, Shah said that the government had taken a decision to carry out the caste census and asserted that it will be carried out along with the population enumeration.

"Right now, the counting of households is underway. The households do not have any caste. If the Samajwadi Party had its way, they would determine the caste of households as well," he said. If the Samajwadi Party gives all its tickets to Muslim women, where do we have any objection? We have no objections at all," Shah said, adding, "I want to make it clear that this census will be conducted along with caste enumeration." The three bills were introduced after a fiery 40-minute debate, following which the Opposition pressed for the division of votes to introduce the Constitutional (131st Amendment) Bill. The bill was later introduced with 251 members supporting it and 185 members voting against the introduction. Gogoi accused the government of attempting to take political advantage through delimitation.

Estd : 1996

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## Education

**VOICE OF WORDS**

Monday, April 20, 2026



## University of London to establish its first offshore campus in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: The University of London (UOL) is planning to establish its first offshore campus in Telangana's Hyderabad, with its temporary facility likely to be Lake View Guest House in Somajiguda. The permanent campus is planned at the Education Zone in Bharat Future City on the outskirts of the city. The university has since begun the application process with the University Grants Commission (UGC) to start the 2027 academic year. Prestigious institutions such as the London Business School, King's College London and the London School of Economics serve as constituent colleges under the university's umbrella. As the UOL only operates a small institute in Paris offering limited courses, the upcoming campus in Telangana makes it the university's first offshore campus in the world. The construction for a permanent location in the Future City will be initiated soon. The University of London may be the first of several international institutions to establish a campus in Hyderabad. On Wednesday, April 15, a team from Newcastle University met with Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TGCHE) Chairman Professor V Balakista Reddy to explore potential collaborations in artificial intelligence, data science, entrepreneurship, allied healthcare programs, agro business and management programmes. The team, comprising Dean of Operational Research Professor Stewart Robinson, Global Special Advisor (India) Dr Aditya Narain Sharma, Deputy Director, National Innovation Centre for Data Barry Hodgson, informed Reddy that with two offshore campuses based in Singapore and Malaysia, they are scouting various Indian cities for their next campus. Along with Newcastle University, the UK Department of Business and Trade is planning to facilitate 13 UK-based schools that had previously shown interest in opening branch campuses in Hyderabad. The Congress-led state government said it aims to build a knowledge hub in the Bharat Future City, including offshore campuses of world-renowned institutions.

## Thane Zilla Parishad Selects 59 Meritorious Students For ISRO Visit Under 'Mission Bharari' To Boost Scientific Curiosity

Thane : In a significant step toward nurturing scientific curiosity among school students, the Thane Zilla Parishad has selected 59 meritorious students from across the district for an educational visit to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) under its flagship 'Mission Bharari' initiative. The programme aims to inculcate a scientific temperament among students at an early age and motivate them to pursue higher education in science and technology. The selected students, studying in Classes 5 to 8 in Zilla Parishad schools, hail from talukas including Bhiwandi, Shahapur, Murbad, Kalyan, and Ambernath. Among the selected candidates, Ambernath taluka leads with 16 students, while Murbad has the lowest representation with 10 students. The

group comprises 54 Marathi-medium and 5 Urdu-medium students, including 27 boys and 32 girls. The selection process was conducted in three stages—cluster level (January 23) taluka level (January 28), and district level (January 31). Only the top-performing students from these competitive examinations were chosen for the prestigious tour. The initiative is being implemented under the guidance of Chief Executive Officer Ranjit Yadav. To support the programme the District Planning Committee has allocated a budget of Rs 50 lakh for the financial year 2026-27. As part of the tour the students will travel by air between April 27 and May 1 to visit ISRO's space research facilities in Bengaluru. The visit will provide them with first-hand exposure to India's advancements in space science.

# Telangana Shines in CBSE Class X Results: Hyderabad Schools Hit 100%

Hyderabad: CBSE declared the first Class X exam results for the 2025-26 academic year on Wednesday afternoon and Telangana reported a near-total pass rate and schools in Hyderabad posted a series of 100 per cent results alongside high scores across subjects. Across the state, 56,276 of the 56,390 students from 559 schools cleared the exams, which took the pass percentage to 99.80. Girls stayed ahead with 99.93 per cent compared to 99.70 among boys. The Vijayawada region, which includes Telangana, recorded 99.79 per cent, on par with Trivandrum, while Chennai followed with 99.58 and Bengaluru with 98.91. Nationally, 24,71,777 students appeared and 23,16,008 passed, taking the overall pass percentage to 93.70, a marginal rise from last year. Girls again outperformed boys across the country with 94.99 per cent against 92.69 per cent. A total of 55,368 students scored 95 per cent and above, while 2,21,574 crossed the 90 per cent mark. Schools in Hyderabad reported strong outcomes. Johnson Grammar School, Nacharam recorded a 100 per cent pass result. Sreeya Divi led the batch with 98.3 per cent followed by Nidumolu Sai Anirudh with 98 per cent and Mulamalla Rithvik Reddy with 96.6 per cent. Several students recorded full marks across subjects including Mathematics, Science, Social Science, languages and Information Technology. "I decided to complete all my studying part by January 1 and then later I started on practice, that's how I got the high scores I believe. Just a lot of practice," said Sreeya Divi. She



relied on CBSE resources, previous papers and the marking scheme to prepare. "Walking, my pets and sketching helped me deal with stress because there's no denying these exams can get to you" she added. She plans to pursue medicine, and advised juniors to keep a balance. "Students should study, but also make friends and make memories. I think it is one of the best years of their life and they should not forget to have fun." Her classmate, Mulamalla Rithvik Reddy said the Mathematics paper was tougher than expected and influenced how he prepared for the rest. "I did not expect such marks, especially since the Mathematics paper was very tough. But it pushed us to prepare better for the rest of the exams." Like Sreeya, he said revision and planning made a difference. "Time management was the key. You also have to be very well planned and organised." He added that solving previous years' papers built confidence during exam period and he plans to take MPC to pursue engineering. Lakshmi Vishwanathan, academic director at the school, said the results came from consistent work in classrooms and regular assessments. "We are in a very elated mood.

Our students have secured a cent percent result in Grade X CBSE," she said, adding, "We made students practise as many sample papers as possible and guided them through regular assessments and reflection." In Madhapur, Meridian School also reported a 100 per cent pass result. Tanvi Borra topped the school with 493 out of 500, or 98.6 per cent. Debina Banerjee followed with 97.8 per cent and Bhavish Reddy with 97.6 per cent. Several students scored in the mid-90s range, and the school reported 21 full scores in Artificial Intelligence and two in English. Several other schools also noted full marks in AI like DPS Mahindra Hills. "We have seen numerous full scores in AI and a few more 99s in Hindi," said DPS principal Nandita Sunkara. I Dr B. Ebenezer, senior principal and head SVKM School at the NMIMS Hyderabad campus said the board's two-exam system could help students improve scores. "I believe the two exam systems are great for the students. And those who scored below 90 or 95 might opt for it. And of course it is also a great move for those who might have to repeat. They'd not have to wait for another year for the exam," he said.

## CBSE Class 10 results: Telangana ranks 2nd-best in India with 99.8 pass rate

Hyderabad: Telangana posted a pass percentage of 99.80 in the CBSE Class 10 results announced on Wednesday, April 16, emerging as the second-best performing state in the country and outpacing the national average of 93.70. Of the 56,390 students who appeared from 559 schools across the state, 56,276 cleared the examinations, which were conducted between February 17 and March 11 across 176 centres. A total of 56,444 students had registered. Tamil Nadu topped the national standings with 99.9 per cent, while Telangana and Kerala were joint second at 99.8 per cent. In last year's results, Telangana had ranked third behind both states.

Within the Vijayawada region, under which Telangana falls for CBSE administrative purposes, the pass percentage stood at 99.79, on par with the Trivandrum region. Chennai recorded 99.58 per cent and Bengaluru 98.91 per cent. Girls in the state outperformed boys, clocking 99.93 per cent against 99.70 per cent. The trend mirrored the national picture, where girls recorded 94.99 per cent against 92.69 per cent among boys.

Among management categories, students from Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV) and Kendriya Vidyalayas (KV) in the state achieved 100 per cent results. Government school students recorded 99.85 per cent, while independent schools posted 99.78 per cent. Nationally, of the 24,71,777 students who appeared, 23,16,008 passed, putting the overall pass percentage at 93.70, a marginal rise of 0.04 percentage points over the previous year. A total of 55,368 students scored 95 per cent and above, while 2,21,574 crossed the 90 per cent mark.



సర్కారు బడుల్లో AI పాఠాలు..

## AI In Telangana Schools

HYDERABAD: The Telangana government has begun introducing artificial intelligence lessons in its schools, alongside distributing 2,000 laptops to improve digital access, as part of a statewide programme that will reach nearly two million students. The School Education Department is rolling this out in partnership with Amazon Future Engineer and Pi Jam Foundation. Laptops have been sent to Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, IOE KGBVs and CURE schools, where students often rely on shared or limited devices. Students from

Classes V to IX will now study AI through a Digital Learning textbook prepared by SCERT Telangana, with Pi Jam supporting the content and classroom rollout. Lessons run for 20 to 25 hours each year and introduce ideas such as data, decision-making systems and everyday uses of AI. A state platform, [telangana.codemitra.org](http://telangana.codemitra.org), has gone live to let students practise what they learn in class. The programme also includes training for more than 28,000 teachers so that lessons can move beyond basic device use.

Dr. Yogita Rana, Principal Secretary, Education, said, "We are committed to preparing our students for a rapidly evolving world. Introducing AI literacy in government schools ensures that students not only use technology, but also understand how it works and how it can be applied to solve real-life problems." Officials said the initiative forms part of a plan to include AI, design thinking, computational thinking and digital citizenship in school education from the 2025-26 academic year, as the state prepares for a wider rollout across India from 2026-27.

## 'From IAS Officer To Serving Indian Army,' MPBSE Board Toppers Share Their Success Mantras & Dreams



Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh): School education is often called the foundation of a person's life and the board exam definitely directs a young learner's life to a certain path. Every year, board exam toppers inspire thousands of students with their hard work and dedication. Their success shows that regular study, clear goals, and discipline can help one reach the pinnacle. Behind every top ranker is the same set of efforts - steady practice, patience, and focus. These achievers prove that success does not come from shortcuts, but from consistent effort and self-belief. As the Madhya Pradesh Board of Secondary Education (MPBSE) announced the results of 10th and 12th board exams, the toppers shared their respective success mantras to guide the student going to take these exams in future. Talking to the media, Class 12 Tanvi Kumawat from Indore, the state topper in Biology, said, "It is a reflection of my hard work and being consistent in my studies. I focused entirely on my school studies and remained dedicated to my goal. I really want to become a good doctor. I feel it is the most respectful profession." Following her mantra, Tanvi secured a remarkable 492 out of 500 marks. "NCERT, consistency & answer writing is the key," says Shruti Shruti Tomar from Morena, Class 12, state topper in Arts securing 97.8%, said, "Students must remain consistent with studies, read NCERTs, take multiple mock tests and pay attention to the answer presentation, that much is enough." he further added, "There aren't enough resources for the MP Board on the internet which makes it a bit difficult, however, our teachers helped us through it." "Never give-up," says Khushi Khushi Rai from Bhopal, Class 12 and Commerce student secured 98.8% bagging the 1st rank in state. She said, "I used to study for minimum 8 hours and maximum 12 hours. My parents and teachers always supported me and never pressured me." For the other students she said, "Never give-up. Hard work doesn't pay off immediately but it does one day. Keep working and one day you will achieve everything." She said she wants to pursue CA in future.



International News

**VOICE OF WORDS**

Monday, April 20, 2026

# US President Donald Trump Announces Israel-Lebanon Talks - 1st In 34 Years

Washington DC: US President Donald Trump has announced talks between Israel and Lebanon, marking the first interaction between the two sides after almost three and a half decades. Taking to Truth Social, the US President said, "Trying to get a little breathing room between Israel and Lebanon. It has been a long time since the two leaders have spoken, like 34 years. It will happen tomorrow. Nice!" While POTUS did not specify which leaders would be speaking, he appeared to be referring to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun. High-level talks between leaders of Israel and Lebanon are extremely rare as the two countries have technically remained in a state of conflict since 1948 and do not maintain diplomatic ties. The first acknowledged instance of top-level talks dates back to 1983 after the Lebanon War, when the United States brokered talks that led to a temporary truce. Lebanon is likely to demand a ceasefire before agreeing to hold such high-level talks with Israel. Around 2,167 people have been killed in Lebanon since the country entered the war on 2 March, including 260 women, 172 children and 91 medical personnel, according to the country's health ministry. Over a dozen



Israeli soldiers have been killed in the ground offensive in Lebanon. Lebanon entered the war after the Iran-backed group launched attacks in retaliation for the killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in the initial salvo of the US-Israeli attacks.



## US To Not Renew Sanctions Waiver On Russian & Iranian Oil; India Among Affected Buyers

Washington: The United States will not be renewing the waiver that allowed the purchase of some Iranian and Russian oil without facing US sanctions. Buyers, including India, were major beneficiaries of the sanctions waiver. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, speaking to reporters on Wednesday, said that the United States would not renew the general licence on Russian oil or the general licence on Iranian oil. He noted that the waiver applied to oil that was already in transit prior to 11 March and that this supply had now been exhausted. He added that countries had been informed that if they were buying Iranian oil, or if Iranian funds were held in their banks, the United States was now prepared to apply secondary sanctions. The interim waivers were designed as a short-term measure to stabilise rising energy prices, allowing limited transactions involving oil already loaded onto vessels before specified deadlines to reach global markets and help relieve pressure on energy supplies during the conflict. The waivers on the purchase of Russian oil allowed India to secure additional supplies during global oil disruptions. Reportedly, Indian refiners placed orders for roughly 30 million barrels of Russian oil during that period.

## China urges Iran to ensure safe passage through Hormuz Strait



China has called on Iran to guarantee freedom and safety of navigation through the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, as tensions persist amid the ongoing conflict involving the United States. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi conveyed the message during a telephone conversation with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi on Wednesday, marking the first such appeal from Beijing since Tehran began tightening control over the crucial maritime corridor. The development comes alongside diplomatic efforts to revive

negotiations. A Pakistani delegation led by Field Marshal Asim Munir arrived in Tehran the same day to explore fresh proposals for a second round of US-Iran talks, expected to be held in Islamabad. China, a key partner of Iran and its largest oil buyer, has expressed concern over disruptions to energy supplies following the US blockade of the Strait, which has hindered the movement of oil and gas shipments from Iranian ports. The Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway between Iran and Oman, handles nearly one-fifth of global oil trade and is considered one of the world's most critical maritime choke points. According to a statement from the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Wang noted that the situation was at a "critical stage" between conflict and de-escalation, with an opportunity emerging for peace. While emphasising that Iran's sovereignty and security must be respected, he also underscored the importance of maintaining uninterrupted international navigation through the Strait, calling it a shared priority of the global community. Araghchi, in response, expressed hope that China would play a constructive role in facilitating peace

## Israel, US share 'identical goals' on Iran, says Netanyahu

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that his country and the United States share "identical goals" in the ongoing conflict involving Iran, while cautioning that it is too early to predict how the situation will unfold. Netanyahu on Wednesday said that Washington has kept Israel informed of its contacts with Tehran. He reiterated that both countries aim to ensure the removal of enriched material from Iran, dismantle its enrichment capabilities, and reopen key maritime routes. "Our goals and those of the United States are identical: We want to see the enriched material removed from Iran, we want to see the cancellation of enrichment capabilities within Iran, and of course, we want to see the opening of the straits," he said in a statement. "It is too early to say how this matter will end, or even how it will progress. In anticipation of the possibility that fighting may resume, we are prepared for any scenario," he added, referring to the fragile two-week ceasefire between Iran and the US-Israel set to end on April 22. Amid con-



tinued hostilities, Israeli forces and the Shi'ite Lebanese group Hezbollah have exchanged heavy fire. Netanyahu said military operations were ongoing, with forces continuing to strike militant targets while supporting residents in northern Israel. "I stand by the residents of the north who are continuing to stand firm. At the same time, our forces are continuing to strike Hezbollah," he said. Referring to operations in Bint Jbeil, a key Hezbollah stronghold in southern Lebanon, Netanyahu said Israeli forces were close to overcoming the area, long regarded as a symbol of the group's resistance since the 2006 war. He

also said he had instructed the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) to widen the security zone in southern Lebanon and extend it eastward toward the slopes of Mount Hermon to "better assist our Druze brothers in their time of distress". Netanyahu confirmed that negotiations with Lebanon were under way with US facilitation, a significant development given the absence of formal diplomatic relations between the two countries. "In the negotiations with Lebanon, there are two central goals: first, the disarmament of Hezbollah, and second, (achieving) a sustainable peace," he said.

## Fresh allegations of enforced disappearances emerge from Balochistan



Fresh allegations of enforced disappearances have surfaced in Balochistan's Panjgur district, where six men — including three brothers — were reportedly detained during a late-night raid, according to The Balochistan Post. Sources cited by the publication claim that Pakistani security personnel carried out house searches in the Hakeem Bazaar area of Parom. During the operation, six individuals were allegedly taken into custody and moved to an undisclosed location. The detained individuals have been identified as Sabir, Shareef, and Shakeel — sons of Ghulam Hussain — along with Mukhtiar, son of Ghulam Rasool; Hussain, son of Nisar; and Maula Bakhsh, son of Sakhi Dad. In a separate development, two individuals who had previously been reported missing were released. Aamir, son of Jasim Walidad and a resident of Mand in Kech district, had allegedly been missing since December 26, when he disappeared from Gwadar. Another individual, Ilyas, son of Miadad, who was reportedly taken on April 6, has also been freed. Meanwhile, concerns over enforced disappearances were further highlighted in Quetta, where the wife of Mohammad Siddique Langove addressed a press conference, appealing for her husband's recovery. She alleged that he was taken by Pakistani forces from their home in Killi Ismail around midnight on April 7. Since then, the family has received no official information about his whereabouts. Describing the situation, she said the family is living in distress and uncertainty, with their children repeatedly asking about their missing father.

## LeT co-founder Amir Hamza shot at in Lahore, admitted to hospital in critical condition

Amir Hamza, a founding member of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), was shot at by unidentified gunmen outside a news channel's office in Lahore on Thursday. According to multiple reports, Hamza sustained severe injuries in the attack and is currently admitted to a hospital where he is said to be in a critical condition. In a post on X, Lahore Police said it "responded swiftly to the incident of firing by unidentified individuals at the vehicle of the Chairman of Tehreek-e-Hurmat-e-Rasool Pakistan at Hamard Chowk." All individuals in the vehicle remained safe. A high alert has been issued in the area, and search operations are underway to identify and arrest the perpetrators, the police said. Police said they have launched a probe into the incident with the help of CCTV footage to trace the attackers. This is the second time in less than a year that Hamza came under attack. Last year in May, there was a similar attack on Hamza when he was shot in the waist area by unidentified men. The channel's religious programme host Justice (ret.) Nazir Ahmed Ghazi and Hamza were in the vehicle. In the attack, Hamza suffered bullet injuries while Ghazi remained unhurt, the police said. Amir Hamza co-founded Lashkar-e-Taiba along with Hafiz Saeed in the late 1980s. Though the United Nation has banned and designated LeT as a terrorist group, India has long accused Pakistan of using it in multiple attacks against the country. Hamza has been designated as a terrorist by the US. In the past, he served as the head of LeT's "special campaigns" department. In 2018, Hamza formed a fundraising group for the LeT following a ban on the JuD and Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation by the Pakistani government.



# VOICE OF WORDS

## BUSINESS

## India, New Zealand FTA to be signed on April 27

NEW DELHI: India and New Zealand will sign a free trade agreement (FTA) on April 27 here, an official said on Thursday.

The free trade pact aims to provide tariff-free access to the island nation's market for domestic exporters' goods and will bring in USD 20 billion in investment over the next 15 years. The two countries on December 22 last year announced the conclusion of negotiations for the trade deal which aims at doubling bilateral trade to USD 5 billion in the next five years.

The official said that the pact will be signed on April 27 in Bharat Mandapam after a meeting of the India-New Zealand Business Forum. While India will get zero-duty market access on 100 per cent of its exports, the agreement will eliminate or reduce tariffs on 95 per cent of New Zealand's exports to India, including items ranging from wool, coal, wood, wine, to avocados and blueberries. However, New Delhi has made no duty concessions on



imports of dairy products like milk, cream, whey, yoghurt, and cheese; onions, sugar, spices, edible oils, and rubber to protect farmers and the domestic industry. Under the pact, New Zealand will also get duty-free access to goods such as sheep meat, wool, coal and over 95 per cent of forestry and wood articles. As regards the services sector, New Zealand will give a temporary employment

entry visa pathway for Indian professionals in skilled occupations with a quota of 5,000 visas annually and a stay of up to three years. Bilateral merchandise trade stood at USD 1.3 billion in 2024-25. The total trade in goods and services reached about USD 2.4 billion in 2024, with services trade alone reaching USD 1.24 billion, led by travel, IT, and business services.



## Wipro Approves Rs 15,000 Crore Buyback Of 60 Crore Shares At Rs 250 Price In FY26

Bengaluru: In a move that signals confidence in capital allocation, Wipro has unveiled a sizable buyback plan alongside its annual results, giving investors a clear pathway to return value amid steady earnings performance. Wipro's board has cleared a proposal to repurchase up to 60 crore equity shares at Rs 250 each, translating into a total outlay of Rs 15,000 crore. This accounts for 5.7 percent of the company's paid-up equity capital. The buyback will be executed through the tender offer route, ensuring proportional participation for shareholders. The offer will be open to existing shareholders, including those holding American Depository Receipts who convert them into equity shares. Promoter and promoter group entities have indicated their intention to participate, reflecting internal confidence in the company's valuation. The buyback size excludes transaction-related costs such as taxes and advisory fees. The proposal requires shareholder approval through a special resolution via postal ballot. Wipro has also constituted a dedicated committee to oversee execution, covering regulatory compliance, timelines, and operational decisions. The final record date and detailed schedule will be disclosed in the public announcement and offer documents. The buyback comes alongside the company's audited financial results for the year ended March 31, 2026, which were approved at the same board meeting. The move underscores Wipro's strategy to return surplus cash to shareholders while maintaining flexibility for future investments and operational needs. Wipro's latest decision highlights a continued focus on shareholder returns, with the buyback expected to enhance earnings per share and optimize capital structure once executed.

## Govt Considering Proposal To Hike Essential Drug Prices By Up To 20% Due To War-Induced Rise In Input Costs



The government is considering a 10-20 percent increase in prices of essential medicines such as cancer drugs as pharmaceutical companies face a steep rise in input costs due to the West Asian war. The rise in prices would be temporary and will remain in effect only until the input costs remain elevated, according to a report by Moneycontrol. The prices will be hiked for at least three months. "The government is inclined to help the industry overcome the current crisis, but any increase will be limited to

the duration of the disruption," said the report, citing a source. The proposed price hike, if implemented, will impact antibiotics, injectables, and cancer drugs. While some industry stakeholders are looking at a price hike of as high as 50 percent, it is unlikely that the government would agree to such a steep increase, keeping in mind the critical nature of the drugs. "Different stakeholders have suggested different ranges, but the idea is to provide calibrated support of 10-20 percent rather than a sharp increase," the report cited the source as saying. The input costs for pharma companies have increased as the industry is facing a shortage of solvents from the Gulf region. Most of the solvents are petrochemical derivatives linked to crude oil and gas supply chains. They are essentially industrial chemicals used to dissolve, process, and purify drug ingredients during manufacturing. While solvents are not always present in the final medicine, they are used across most pharmaceutical manufacturing processes, making their availability critical for a wide range of drugs. "There is supply disruption from the Gulf, but if it continues for two to three months, it can start affecting production across medicines," the source said. Pharma companies also face safety risks in maintaining large inventories of solvents, which limits their supply for a long period.

## Sundar Pichai, Neal Mohan: Indian-Origin Executives Shine In Time 100 Most Influential People 2026 List

From business leaders like Google chief executive Sundar Pichai and YouTube head Neal Mohan to chef Vikas Khanna and actor Ranbir Kapoor, Time's list of The 100 Most Influential People of 2026 featured Indians and Indian-origin individuals along with global leaders and rising voices across the world. The list, which included short profiles of each individual, described Pichai as the leader who guided the company into the artificial intelligence race at a time when OpenAI had already captured attention after the release of ChatGPT in 2022. "After OpenAI captured the public imagination with ChatGPT's 2022 launch, Google faced questions about its leadership in AI. Pichai responded decisively, merging the company's premier labs, Google Brain and DeepMind,



to create Gemini, which the company rolled out as a stand-alone product and integrated with Search, Android, Chrome, Google Cloud, and more," said Andrew Ng, founder of DeepLearning.AI and co-founder of Google Brain, in his note describing the influence of the Google CEO. "Few leaders have brought artificial intelligence to more people than Sundar Pichai. Since becoming CEO of Google in 2015, he has overseen the translation and implementation of Google's research breakthroughs into products used by billions." YouTube's Mohan, whose parents hailed from Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow, was described as one of the most approachable executives who turned the video-sharing service into a phenomenon with its omnipresence. "Mohan supercharged the platform's growth and omnipresence. It's

on every screen in the home. It's on every media planner's list, and in 2025 it became the most popular video provider on TV sets in the U.S. This wasn't entirely Mohan's doing—Google's products tend to dominate whatever space they enter—but he played a key role," said Belinda Luscombe, Time editor-at-large. "Mohan has enough technical depth to earn the respect of software engineers and sufficient charm to attract advertisers. He has negotiated deals with the biggest sports leagues in the world, yet his warmth has earned the loyalty of creators," Luscombe added. Chef Vikas Khanna has also been hailed for showcasing India's culinary skills as a form of soft power, while actor Ranbir Kapoor is credited with authentically representing the country's evolving youth.



## Indian LNG Importers Raise Purchase Of Spot Shipments After Prices Ease

Indian natural gas importers have ramped up purchases from the spot market after prices dropped by almost 40 percent from their peaks. Companies like Bharat Petroleum, GAIL India, and Gujarat State Petroleum have bought liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments for delivery between April and June at below \$16 per million British thermal units, according to a report by Bloomberg citing energy traders. The LNG supplies were purchased via tenders that closed on April 15, the report added. Earlier, Indian companies' spot purchases had declined because of expensive deals. Currently, spot LNG prices, which had more than doubled after the start of the war, are at their lowest level in over a month. Spot LNG prices had earlier jumped to roughly \$25 per million Btu. High costs had even led to the cancellation of purchase tenders, in turn limiting supply in the country. The government had imposed restrictions on LNG supply to commercial establishments. Out of the total LPG consumption in India, about 86 percent comes from households, while the rest is from commercial establishments like restaurants, eateries, and hotels. During the last decade, the country's LPG consumption has increased by 74 percent, mainly because of the government's push to shift households from polluting and hazardous fuels to cleaner fuel. So far, the government has added 10 crore households under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. As of March 1, 2025, the total number of active domestic LPG consumers in India stood at 32.94 crore, covering almost every household in the country. While 60 percent of India's LPG consumption depends on imports, about 90 percent of these imports were from the Gulf region before the war. Both sides in the conflict attacked each other's energy assets in the region. Qatar's Ras refinery, which exports a large amount of natural gas, was among the first energy units to come under attack. While peace talks are ongoing, experts are concerned that it could take months to return to normal energy supplies due to the damage caused during the war.

## NBFCs can now open branches without prior RBI nod

The Reserve Bank has permitted non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) to open branches without seeking prior approval from the central bank, unless specifically restricted and with certain conditions. "The objective of these amended directions is to provide operational flexibility to non-banks for branch expansion to facilitate ease of doing business while ensuring necessary regulatory compliance," the central bank said in a master direction on Wednesday. Under the revised framework, non-banks will be allowed to expand their branches without prior RBI approval, marking a departure from the earlier approach where certain categories required prior regulatory nod. The RBI has retained a calibrated approach for deposit-taking NBFCs based on their financial strength and credit profile. According to the new directions, deposit-taking NBFCs with net owned funds of up to `50 crore or with a credit rating below AA can open branches or appoint agents only within the state where their registered office is located. Those with net owned



funds of above `50 crore and a credit rating of AA or higher can open branches or appoint agents anywhere in the country.

# VOICE OF WORDS

## HEALTH

### When does everyday stress become a mental health concern



Everyday stress can turn into a chronic mental health concern if the body doesn't get time to recover. Experts say signs like fatigue, sleep issues, and irritability should not be ignored as prolonged stress can impact both physical and mental health. Living under stress is a way of life for many people. There are deadlines to meet, bills to pay, personal conflicts to deal with. Most of the time, everything can be handled without too much problem. But sometimes, it doesn't pass. It stays. According to Dr Sreystha Beppari, Consultant Psychiatrist at Apollo Hospital, Pune, stress becomes a concern not because it exists, but because it doesn't switch off.

#### What stress does to your body

In the moment, stress is the body's natural response to pressure. Your heart rate increases, your mind races, and your body prepares to react. This "fight or flight" response is meant to help you deal with short-term challenges. In fact, short bursts of stress can even be useful. But the body is not designed to stay in this state for long.

#### When stress stops being temporary

The real problem begins when stress becomes constant. Dr Beppari explains that when the body is exposed to stress repeatedly, its recovery system does not get a chance to reset. "The key issue is not the stress itself but the lack of recovery," she notes. Over time, this keeps the body in a state of continuous alertness, where it never fully relaxes. That is when stress begins to turn chronic.

#### Early signs you should not ignore

At first, the signs may seem small. You may feel constantly tired, irritable, or have trouble sleeping. Headaches, lack of focus, and changes in appetite can also show up. But as stress continues, it starts affecting the body more deeply. Issues like high blood pressure, blood sugar imbalance, weakened immunity, and digestive problems may follow. Long-term, it can cause anxiety or even depression.

#### When stress becomes your "new norm"

One of the greatest red flags comes when stress becomes your new norm. When you're always on edge, overburdened, or brain-drained, it becomes what you consider normal, and it's no longer just stress. It is a mental health concern. As Dr Beppari puts it, stress crosses the line when it becomes an everyday experience rather than a temporary phase.

#### Why rest alone is not enough

Taking a break helps, but it may not be enough once stress becomes chronic. A more structured strategy is needed for recovery. There must be a change from this state of permanent "survival mode." Such actions as sleeping more, minimising the time spent on devices, lowering caffeine intake, and engaging in activities that promote relaxation in the body are included. Breathing techniques, social interactions, and creating limits both professionally and personally may also prove effective.

#### The importance of getting help

In some cases, coping with stress on one's own is insufficient. Consultation with a psychologist will enable an analysis of the underlying problems, particularly in situations where the source of tension has been around for a long time. Stress is not the problem. Living in it constantly is. The difference lies in recovery. When the body and mind do not get a chance to reset, stress slowly turns into something more serious. Because feeling "on edge" all the time should never become normal. Disclaimer: Tips and suggestions mentioned in the article are for general information purposes only and should not be construed as professional medical advice.

## Why eating late at night or skipping breakfast could be harming your health

Why eating late at night or skipping breakfast could be harming your health. Skipping meals and late-night eating can disrupt metabolism, affect blood sugar control and contribute to weight gain. A nutritionist explains how irregular eating patterns impact health and why consistent meal timing is key. Your eating schedule may be affecting your metabolism. Here's a pattern many people fall into without realising it. You skip breakfast because you're rushing, delay lunch because work gets busy, and end up eating your heaviest meal late at night. It feels manageable in the moment. Over time, however, even these minor details could disturb the process of metabolism. Let's understand it better! Why skipping meals isn't as harmless as it seems. "Skipping meals can disrupt blood sugar balance and appetite regulation," says Ms Aditi Prasad Apte, Senior Clinical Nutritionist at Aster RV Hospital, Bengaluru. While fasting may help decrease the body's glucose levels at first, this may eventually cause overeating, which will result in high peaks and dips in the body's glucose levels. Such behavior may contribute to developing insulin resistance and Type 2 diabetes.

#### What happens when you eat late at night

Late-night eating adds another layer to the problem. "The body's ability to metabolise glucose and fats declines in the evening," she explains. This means calories consumed late at night are more likely to be stored as fat instead of being used for energy. It can contribute to weight gain and is linked to obesity and metabolic syndrome.

#### Sleep and hormonal impact

Besides affecting digestion, eating late-night meals affects sleep. Large meals before bedtime can negatively influence the quality of sleep, influencing hormones responsible for appetite control,



including ghrelin and leptin. Thus, you feel sleepy upon waking, hungry all day long, perpetuating the process.

#### Impact on gut health

Unstable eating habits can negatively influence gut health. This may cause bloating, discomfort, and change the balance of microorganisms within the gut. The imbalance in gut flora is associated with increased inflammation and other metabolic problems.

#### Why is eating time equally important?

We pay attention to our diet but overlook the timing of meals. Consistency in the meal times helps manage metabolism and energy levels.

Simple habits that can make a difference:

Don't skip breakfast regularly

Keep meal timings consistent

Avoid heavy dinners late at night

Space meals evenly through the day

"Regularising meal patterns is a foundational step toward preventing long-term metabolic disorders," says Ms Apte. Your body works best on rhythm. When meals are skipped or pushed too late, that rhythm gets disrupted. It is not only hunger that gets impacted over time, but metabolism and your entire system.

## How much screen time is too much? Doctor shares safe limits for your eyes

Excessive screen time can lead to digital eye strain, dry eyes and vision issues, especially in children. A doctor explains safe screen time limits and shares practical tips like regular breaks and the 20-20-20 rule to protect eye health. Today's screens have become integral parts of daily activities, be it for business purposes, leisure or social interactions. While it may not be possible to avoid them entirely, their excessive use is having a negative impact on our vision without us being aware of it. Be it dryness of eyes, to premature visual disturbances in kids, the number of cases observed by doctors is only going up. So where do you draw the line?

#### What too much screen time does to your eyes

"In today's digital world, completely avoiding screens is unrealistic. However, too much screen time may pose serious threats to eye health and may result in digital eye strain," says Dr Prabhjot Kaur, Senior Consultant Ophthalmologist at Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital, New Delhi. She notes that patients often report symptoms like dryness, blurred vision and irritation. In children, prolonged exposure is increasingly being linked to early myopia.

#### Screen time rules for children

When it comes to kids, the guidelines are clearer. "There should be no screen time for children below two years. Between two and five years, it should be limited to less



than one hour per day, and under two hours for older children," says Dr Prabhjot Kaur. Despite this, doctors are seeing younger children with excessive screen exposure, which is a growing concern.

#### What about adults?

For adults, there are no strict universal limits, but moderation is key. "We suggest limiting recreational screen time, like social media, to under two hours a day and avoiding screens at least one hour before bedtime," she explains. Balancing work-related screen use with regular breaks is equally important.

#### The 20-20-20 rule you should follow

One of the simplest ways to reduce strain is the 20-20-20 rule. "Every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds," says Dr Prabhjot Kaur. It may sound basic, but it helps relax eye muscles and reduce fatigue over time.

#### Small habits that make a big difference

Eye care isn't just about limiting screen time, it's also about how you use screens.

Take regular breaks, even if not every 20 minutes

Avoid switching from one screen to another during breaks

Maintain proper lighting and posture

Stay hydrated

Use lubricating eye drops if screen time is high

"Continuous near work reduces blink rate, leading to dryness and blurred vision," she explains.

You don't have to eliminate screens, but you do need to be mindful of how often and how long you use them. A few small adjustments, like taking breaks, reducing late-night screen use and following simple rules, can go a long way in protecting your eyes over time.

# VOICE OF WORDS

## WOMEN

Dry skin problems? Medical tests you should get done to find the root cause



Dry skin is often linked to environmental factors, but persistent dryness may indicate underlying health conditions such as thyroid disorders, vitamin deficiencies, diabetes, or hormonal imbalances. Early diagnosis can help address internal health issues and improve skin health effectively. Medical tests you should get done to detect dry skin issues. Medical tests you should get done to detect dry skin issues. Dry skin is a very common problem. It rarely occurs in the hot climate, frequent washing, and with old age or some habits like taking long hot showers or using strong soaps. For most people, this is just a minor problem. The skin covering is damaged, water is lost, and the condition is usually treated by applying moisturiser and using gentle care. The thing is, though. Dry skin sometimes signals a deeper problem when it lasts longer than usual, is extremely painful, or does not get better with adequate skincare. In such instances, doctors are likely to order some specific diagnostic tests to establish if there's a medical issue underlying rather than just managing the skin. It's crucial to point out that most dry skin patients are not required to have lab tests. According to Dr Sai Lahari Rachumallu, Associate Consultant - Dermatology, Manipal Hospital, Bhubaneswar, testing is only done when the dryness is associated with other symptoms such as severe itching, being tired, changes in weight, discolouration, and numbness, or when the dryness continues in spite of good moisturising.

Hypothyroidism is one of the most common medical reasons for dry skin. When thyroid hormone levels drop, the skin usually becomes dry, coarse, rough, and may even appear pale or feel cold. Blood Sugar Tests (Fasting blood sugar, post-prandial blood sugar, HbA1c) Diabetes can reduce skin moisture and impede the skin's barrier function. This results in dryness, itching, and increased risk of infections, particularly over the legs and feet.

### Complete Blood Count (CBC)

A CBC helps to identify anaemia or hidden infections. Anaemia, especially iron deficiency, can lower the oxygen supply to the skin and make it dull and dry.

### Serum Vitamin Levels

Vitamin D: Low levels have been associated with dry, itchy, and sensitive skin.

Vitamin B12: A lack of it may result in dryness, pigmentation changes, and neuropathic itching or burning sensations. Vitamin A: It is rare to have a deficiency, but if so, it may result in severe dryness and scaling.

### Renal Function Tests (Urea, Creatinine)

Chronic kidney disease may be accompanied by severe dryness and intense itching long before other symptoms appear.

### Liver Function Tests (LFTs)

Certain liver diseases may cause widespread itching and dry skin due to the body's retention of bile salts. What this mainly implies is that testing should be discriminative, not routine. Do not self-prescribe tests. A targeted approach prevents unnecessary costs, false alerts, and anxiety. If moisturization and good skincare do not get rid of the dry skin for two to three weeks, the next appropriate move is to consult a dermatologist. A thoughtful appraisal guarantees that the skin receives the right treatment and that any underlying condition, if it exists, is caught early on and addressed.

## Oily skin 101: Still dealing with excess oil on face? You might be doing this wrong

Excess oil is not just a surface issue. This story explains why oily skin happens, how harsh skincare can worsen it, and how modern dermatology treatments like chemical peels and laser-based therapies help rebalance the skin for long-term clarity and control. Midday shine is not just a quick mirror moment problem. For many, it is something that quietly chips away at confidence through the day. Oily skin is often misunderstood. It is not simply about "too much oil". It is about imbalance. And while most people try to fix it with harsh products, dermatology today is moving in a very different direction, one that focuses on control, not stripping the skin.

### Why is your skin producing excess oil in the first place?

Sebum is not the enemy. It plays an important role in protecting your skin barrier and maintaining elasticity. The problem begins when production goes into overdrive. According to dermatologist Dr Keerthana Kalva, Chief aesthetic dermatologist, this can happen due to several factors, such as humidity, stress, and even hormonal shifts. When excess oil mixes with dead skin cells, it starts clogging pores, leading to breakouts and that constant greasy appearance. What makes things worse is the instinct to over-clean or use strong, alcohol-based products. These strip the skin, triggering it to produce even more oil to compensate.

### Why harsh skincare often makes oily skin worse

It feels logical to dry out oily skin, but that approach usually backfires. When the skin loses its natural oils too aggressively, it goes into defence mode. The result? Even more oil production, more congestion, and a cycle that feels impossible to break. Modern dermatology focuses on regulating oil at its source rather than just dealing with what shows up on the surface.

### Treatments that go beyond surface-level fixes

When basic skincare stops working, in-clinic treat-



ments can make a visible difference. Chemical peels, especially those with salicylic acid, are often advised because they are better able to reach into the pores and clean out blackheads. Harmony XL Pro is an advanced treatment that utilises a combination of a vacuum and a laser. The vacuum clears out excess oil and debris, while the laser targets sebaceous glands to reduce oil production. Over time, this helps limit acne and improve overall skin behaviour. The aim is not just to temporarily satisfy. It is a long-term balance.

### Why your daily habits still matter

Even the best treatments need support from your everyday routine. One of the biggest myths is that oily skin does not need moisturiser. In reality, skipping hydration can worsen oiliness. The key is to use light, non-comedogenic, water-based products. Another factor that plays a role in the development of oily skin is diet. Excessive sugar and carbohydrate intake can have a direct impact on hormones that control oil secretion. On the other hand, food items rich in zinc and antioxidants are beneficial for healthy skin. Living with oily skin does not have to mean living with blotting and frustration. The shift to thoughtful regulation has transformed the world of dermatology.

## Everyday habits that are secretly damaging your skin, according to a dermatologist

Everyday habits like using dirty pillowcases, over-cleansing, touching your face, and skipping sunscreen can damage your skin over time. Experts say mindful skincare and small lifestyle changes can help restore skin balance and prevent long-term issues. You might be following a skincare routine religiously and still not seeing results. The problem is not always what you're doing. Sometimes, it's what you're doing without realising. Small, everyday habits can quietly weaken your skin barrier, trigger breakouts, and even speed up ageing. And because they feel harmless, they often go unnoticed. According to Dr Parmeshwar Kanade, dermatologist and dermatosurgeon, awareness matters just as much as products when it comes to healthy skin.

### Dirty pillowcases can trigger breakouts

Your pillowcase collects oil, sweat, and bacteria every single night. Over time, this build-up sits against your skin for hours, increasing the chances of acne and irritation. Changing your pillowcases regularly can make a noticeable difference, especially if you are prone to breakouts.

### Touching your face more than you think

It's almost automatic. Resting your chin on your hand, picking at a spot, or just brushing your face. But every touch transfers dirt and bacteria to your pores. This can lead to inflammation, scarring, and even stubborn dark spots



that take longer to fade.

### The over-exfoliation quest for glowing skin

More is not always better when it comes to exfoliation. Over-exfoliation using scrubs or acids can strip away natural oils, leaving your skin sensitive and prone to redness. It can also disrupt balance, making breakouts more frequent.

### The over-cleansing trap

Washing your face repeatedly may feel like you're keeping it clean, but it can backfire. When natural oils are stripped away too often, your skin starts producing more oil. This creates a cycle of dryness and breakouts that can be difficult to manage.

### Your diet shows up on your skin

What you eat reflects on your skin, even if the effects are not immedi-

ate. High sugar intake can trigger inflammation and affect collagen, leading to dullness, early wrinkles, and a weakened skin barrier over time.

Skipping sunscreen indoors is a mistake

You don't need to step outside to apply sunscreen. UV rays can pass through windows, contributing to pigmentation and ageing. Using sunscreen daily, even indoors, helps protect your skin in the long run. Good skin is not just about adding more products. Sometimes, it's about doing less and being more mindful. Once you start noticing these small habits, the difference shows up gradually. Clearer skin, fewer breakouts, and a healthier glow that actually lasts.

# VOICE OF WORDS

## SPORTS



## India wins a thriller against Malawi in FIFA Series

Hyderabad: The Indian women's team scored a thrilling 3-2 victory over Malawi in the third-place play-off of the FIFA Series 2026 at the Nyayo National Stadium in Nairobi on Wednesday. Astam Oraon (18'), Aveka Singh (45+1'), and substitute Priyadharshini Selladurai (84') were on target for the Blue Tigresses, while Khumalo Ireen (42') and Henry Deborah (60') scored for Malawi. India started brightly, enjoying early possession. Their attacking intent paid off in the 18th minute. Nirmala Devi Phanjoubam delivered a floated corner from the right, and Malawian goalkeeper Esther Maulidi came off her line but failed to make contact. The ball bounced off Aveka Singh and fell kindly to Astam Oraon, who reacted quickest to poke it into the net and give India the lead. It was the 21-year-old's first goal for the national team. After going behind, Malawi grew into the game and began to enjoy more possession in the Indian half. Their pressure paid off in the 42nd minute when Sanfida Nongrum brought down Bernadetta Mkandawire on the edge of the box, conceding a free-kick in a dangerous position. Khumalo Ireen stepped up and unleashed a superb left-footed strike into the top corner. India goalkeeper Shreya Hooda made contact with the ball but was unable to keep it out. However, the Blue Tigresses responded immediately. In the first minute of first-half stoppage time, a slick one-two down the left between Karishma Shirvoikar and Babina Lisham saw the latter whip in a dangerous cross into the box. Aveka Singh was perfectly positioned and scored with a composed volley to restore India's lead just before the break. Like Astam, it also marked Aveka's first goal for the Blue Tigresses. They equalised for the second time just after the hour mark. Khumalo Ireen delivered a corner from the right, which was first met by substitute Mulimbika Sarah, and Henry Deborah reacted quickest to fire a volley into the net, making it 2-2. With the tie seemingly headed for a penalty shootout, the decisive moment arrived six minutes from time. Nirmala's free-kick from the halfway line picked out substitute Priyadharshini Selladurai, who did brilliantly to cut inside onto her right foot before unleashing a precise strike into the bottom corner, leaving the Malawi goalkeeper with no chance to make a save. The Blue Tigresses held on to their lead to secure a hard-fought victory and confirm a third-place finish in the FIFA Series 2026. India had earlier suffered a 0-2 defeat to Kenya in the semi-finals, while the hosts are set to face Australia in the final later in the day.

# Vayuputra Tigers win FNCC-Pullela Gopichand badminton league title

Hyderabad: Vayuputra Tigers won the FNCC-Pullela Gopichand badminton league championship with a 6-2 win against Elegans Eagles in the final here on Wednesday. Two-time world boxing champion Nikhat Zareen gave away the prizes in the presence of KS Rama Rao and V Chamundeshwaranath. The results: Final: Vayuputra Tigers bt Elegans Eagles 6-2. Junior women's singles: Aaradhya (Vayuputra) bt Kanvika (Elegans) 3-15, 15-13, 15-11. Women's singles: Shreyanshi (Elegans) bt K Navya (Vayuputra) 15-12, 15-5. K Sershra Reddy (Vayuputra) bt Disha Santosh (Elegans) 15-14, 12-15, 15-14. Junior men's singles: Linesh (Vayuputra) bt Chinmay (Elegans) 15-12, 15-13. Men's singles: Shourya (Vayuputra) bt S Pranit (Elegans) 15-12, 15-12. Tazuwala (Elegans) bt Tharun Manepalli (Elegans) bt Tharun Manepalli



(Vayuputra) 15-11, 6-15, 15-12. Mixed doubles: Yogansh and Anjana (Vayuputra) bt Hari and Varna (Elegans) 15-14, 15-13. Men's doubles: Ruban and Mithesh (Vayuputra) bt Krishna and Sai Raman (Elegans) 15-14, 15-7. 3rd place: Porus Panther bt FNCC Lions 6-3.



## Sports Authority Of India, Western Railway Win At 45th Willingdon Catholic Gymkhana Rink Hockey Tournament

Sports Authority of India beat Central Railway 2-1, in the Elite Women's category of the floodlit 45th Willingdon Catholic Gymkhana Rink Hockey tournament, held in Santacruz, Mumbai yesterday. Central Railway had former India hockey international Hnialum Lalruatfeli who played in the 2016 Rio Olympics, Lalhunmawii who represented India in the Hockey World League in 2017 in West Vancouver, Canada and Lalrindiki who played in the Junior World Cup. In the other match, Western Railway beat Republicans Orange 3-2. Western Railway too had international players Anupa Barla who played in the Junior World Cup 2013, winning a bronze medal, and also in the Commonwealth Games 2014. Mariana Kujur played in the Asia Cup 2022 and 5-a-side World Cup 2024 in Oman, winning a bronze medal in both the tournaments. She also played in the 2016 Junior Asia Cup in Bangkok and the 5-a-side Asia Cup in Oman in 2023, winning a gold medal. In the Veterans category, Ave Maria beat Span FC 2-1.

## Amee Kamani wins Asian Heyball title

Hyderabad: India's Ameer Kamani failed to build on a promising start and went down 2-6 to Filipino Rhaki Constantino in the women's gold medal clash of the Asian Heyball Championships in Shah Alam, Malaysia, on Wednesday. The Indian ace, who began on a strong note in the race-to-6 final, failed to maintain the tempo and gave her rival a chance. Not looking a gift horse in the mouth, Constantino capitalised on Ameer's lapse to take a firm grip on the proceedings. The Filipino, who had also accounted for Ameer in the first round, gave the Indian little chance. Ameer, who came through the losers' bracket after her opening loss to Constantino, lost the third and fourth frames from strong positions. Although the Indian reduced the margin with some clever safety play in the fifth frame, the Filipino raised her game several notches thereafter.



She played the big points well to put the World Championships bronze medallist under pressure. With some stunning potting and brilliant cue-ball control, Constantino ran through the sixth and seventh frames to take a 5-2 lead. In the eighth frame, Ameer had a chance to pull one back, but missed a pot to the bottom left-hand pocket. The Filipino then quickly ended Ameer's challenge and walked away with the trophy. Results: Women: Final: Rhaki Constantino (Phi) bt Ameer Kamani (Ind) 6-2. Semifinals: Constantino bt Angelina Ticoalu (Ina) 6-3; Ameer bt Waratthanun Sukritthanes (Thai) 6-5.

## Vaishali's quiet confidence, mother's presence her biggest strengths in World Championship quest



NEW DELHI: The newly-crowned Candidates champion R. Vaishali, a soft-spoken and unassuming presence often seen with her mother by her side, stands out for her quiet intensity, shaped by strong values and a grounded upbringing, the kind of Indian sportsperson who lets her game do the talking. What truly shapes her is the ecosystem she comes from -- a deeply committed chess family that has quietly nurtured excellence without seeking the spotlight, and in that understated, almost self-effacing journey lies her greatest strength. On Wednesday, Vaishali, the lowest-rated player in the

eight-woman field at the Candidates tournament in Paphos, Cyprus, let her quiet game do the talking, springing a fine victory over Kateryna Lagno to seal a place in the World Championship showdown against Ju Wenjun later this year. For long, Vaishali, 24, had lived in the shadow of her younger and more celebrated brother, R. Praggnanandhaa, who had qualified for the Open section of the Candidates tournament, but a string of underwhelming performances knocked him out of contention early in the 14-round competition, ending his hopes of challenging D. Gukesh for the world title later this year. Even

after Praggnanandhaa's chances faded, the spotlight never quite turned to Vaishali, who is deeply close to her brother and would have felt his disappointment, perhaps even her own dip in morale. But the quiet presence of her mother, always by their side in a saree and with a calm, unreadable expression, seemed enough to steady her and remind her that not all was lost. With 8.5 points, she sealed the title this time, a step up from last year in Toronto when Vaishali had qualified for the Candidates but finished joint second, narrowly missing out on a shot at the World Championship. Silence and few words have long been her forte, shaped in a middle-class household where her father worked as a bank branch manager and her mother was a homemaker. Vaishali, who became only the third Indian woman Grandmaster after Koneru Humpy and D. Harika in December 2023, quietly rose through the ranks. She collected age-group titles in plenty and earned her International Master title in 2021, before stepping into the spotlight at the Chess Olympiad in Mamallapuram, Chennai in 2022, where she clinched a historic individual bronze and also helped the team secure a bronze. In Cyprus, that same quiet confidence held firm, even with her cast as the underdog. She did have momentum on her side, having qualified for the Candidates by winning the FIDE Women's Grand Swiss tournament in 2025 just as she had in 2023. But in a field packed with heavyweights like Norway Chess champion Anna Muzychuk, women's World Rapid champion Aleksandra Goryachkina.



## Shubhankar Sharma Opens Two-Shot Lead At Boulders Classic 2026

Shubhankar Sharma carded a second consecutive six-under 66 to take a two-shot lead after round two of the inaugural INR 1 crore Boulders Classic being played at the Boulder Hills Golf & Country Club in Hyderabad. The 29-year-old Shubhankar (66-66), a six-time DP World PGTI winner, is playing his first event on the tour since the Tour Championship in Jamshedpur in December 2021. He moved to the top of the leaderboard at 12-under 132 with a steady and controlled display over the first two days. Thirty-six-year-old Divyanshu Bajaj (69-65) of Kolkata produced an error-free seven-under 65 to climb from tied 14th to solo second at 10-under 134. Overnight leader Vishesh Sharma (65-70) of Hyderabad slipped to third at nine-under 135 after a round of two-under 70. Honey Baisoya, a winner on the DP World PGTI this year, broke the course record with an immaculate round of eight-under 64 that propelled him 38 spots from overnight tied 42nd to tied fourth at a total of eight-under 136. Honey, who made an eagle, eight birdies and two bogeys during his spectacular second round, eclipsed the previous course record of 65 shot by Vishesh Sharma in round one. Ajeetesh Sandhu (68) and Anshul Kabthiyal (67) shared fourth place with Baisoya. Shubhankar Sharma fired seven birdies against a lone bogey, closing strongly with back-to-back birdies to build on his opening-round momentum. Reflecting on his strong run, Shubhankar said, "I've finished well both days with a couple of birdies, so that's been encouraging going into tomorrow. I played pretty solid again today and stayed patient throughout."



## Mrunal Breaks Silence on Unexpected Scene Cuts

Mrunal Thakur has opened up about her experience working on Ajay Devgan's *Son of Sardaar 2*, revealing some unexpected challenges she faced during the film's making. In a candid interaction, the actress admitted that certain developments left her disappointed. "I did not know that two important scenes of mine would be edited on the table," she said, expressing surprise over the final cut. Mrunal also revealed that she wasn't informed about a major casting decision. "I didn't know a very senior actor was going to play my husband, and this is not what I expected from the movie," she added. Despite these setbacks, Mrunal maintained a balanced perspective on her journey. She emphasized that every film brings its own lessons and experiences, whether good or bad. The *Dacoit* star stated that she has learned to accept failures and move forward without dwelling on them.



Known for her strong performances and careful script choices, Mrunal's honesty has struck a chord with fans, though some of her poor choices in Bollywood have also brought her backlash. While this experience may not have gone as planned, it reflects the unpredictable nature of filmmaking. She is currently in the news for her fabulous performance in Adivi Sesh's *Dacoit*.

## Rao Bahadur's O Sundari: Nostalgic & Whimsical



Hero Satya Dev and director Venkatesh Maha reunite for the second time for the psychological thriller *Rao Bahadur*, which has already generated a strong response with its first look and teaser. The team has now kickstarted its musical promotions. The first single, *O Sundari*, is out now. It is set against a vibrant, retro-inspired backdrop that blends classic aesthetics with colorful, artistic illustrations. The music is composed by Smaran Sai, featuring a mix of smooth rhythms and classical undertones. Written by Rehman, the lyrics evoke a sense of longing and admiration. The track is performed by renowned singer Vijay Yesudas, whose soulful voice adds a rich, romantic feel. The overall tone of the song is nostalgic and whimsical, showcasing the entrancing chemistry between the lead pair, Satya Dev and Deepa Thomas, through a series of stylized, picturesque moments. Director Venkatesh Maha once again proves his command over music, as *O Sundari* stands out as a classic and addictive number that is likely to become a chartbuster. The film is presented by Superstar Mahesh Babu and Namrata Shirodkar's GMB Entertainment, and produced by A+S Movies and SriChakraas Entertainments.

## Sahu Garapati Bringing Vaazha 2 In Telugu



Producer Sahu Garapati, known for delivering several notable blockbusters in Telugu cinema under the Shine Screens banner, is now enjoying back to back hits in Malayalam as well. His latest production *Vaazha 2* has emerged as a massive success, crossing the 100 crore mark within just seven days of its theatrical release. A coming-of-age comedy drama, the film is directed by debutant Savin SA and penned by Vipin Das. It is a spiritual sequel to *Vaazha: Biopic of a Billion Boys*, carrying forward its youthful and relatable storytelling. Sahu Garapati is set to introduce the film to Telugu audiences on April 14th. The first part had garnered an excellent response on OTT among Telugu viewers, which builds solid expectation for the sequel. Coupled with its impressive performance in Malayalam, *Vaazha 2* is well-positioned to make a strong impact at the Telugu box office.

## Not Stardom, Credibility Matters

Times have changed after the COVID pandemic. People have become so critical about films. That's why there are no averages. We only have hits or flops these days. So, we are seeing films tank as soon as the talk is divided. Earlier, star power alone often guaranteed strong openings regardless of content, but recent trends show that even big stardom is not enough. Several high-profile films have failed, proving that content and audience response matter more than ever. But then, Adivi Sesh's *Dacoit* proved otherwise as it opened to a mixed response. For any other actor, the movie would have tanked in the first weekend itself. But *Dacoit* surprised with steady collections over the weekdays too. Definitely, the movie content is decent but more than that the credibility Sesh earned over the years is working its magic. *Dacoit*'s result may end up anywhere from here but it is an interesting test case in times like this. Audience have given a privilege to the actor that no other star has received in recent times. It is important for actors to give the audience the impression that they are sincere, hardworking and take their craft seriously. Also, they should ensure they try to deliver quality content. Sesh did exactly that and it is showing results. Also, Sesh's popularity is confined to the urban pockets or the Multiplex audience in the cinema language.

## Saiyaara Trio Join Hands for Another Romantic Drama?



The team behind the blockbuster *Saiyaara* is set to reunite, and the news has already created a strong buzz in industry circles. Actors Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda, along with director Mohit Suri and producer Akshaye Widhani, are reportedly coming together once again for a new intense love story. After the massive success of *Saiyaara*, which turned Ahaan and Aneet into overnight sensations, expectations are naturally high for their next collaboration. The makers are said to be working on a fresh romantic narrative, aiming to recreate the emotional depth and musical appeal that made their previous film a hit. Interestingly, despite multiple offers coming his way after *Saiyaara*, Mohit Suri has chosen to continue his collaboration with the same team. The upcoming project is expected to explore a new dimension within the romance genre, while still retaining the emotional intensity that defines Suri's storytelling. The said-film is currently in the scripting stage, with production likely to begin once the screenplay is finalized. If things go as planned, this reunion could once again strike a chord with audiences, especially among younger viewers who connected deeply with *Saiyaara*.

## Priya Prakash Varrier Brings Village Charm Alive

Priya Prakash Varrier who became a national sensation with her famous wink is making everyone fall in love with her latest Instagram post. The young actress shared a beautiful photo with a village-style mood. In the picture, Priya is seen sitting near hay bundles wearing a traditional cream and gold dress. Her hairstyle with a long braid and a red cloth tied at the end made her look adorable. She credited Mankasurath for the dress, Stylewithmay and Mayzaideh Khalid for styling, Vasan Makeup Artist for makeup, Pure Allure Jewellery for accessories, and Harikumar for photography. She also thanked Hrischique for edits, M A R I E as the styling assistant, and Lightson Creations for the studio support. Apart from social media, Priya Prakash Varrier has also been active in films. Recently, she made a cameo appearance in the movie *Sarvam Maya*. Even though her role was small, she received appreciation from the team and audience. In a message shared earlier, Priya thanked the makers of the film for giving her the opportunity to be part of the project. She expressed happiness about working with the team and said it was a memorable experience for her. Priya has always tried to choose different kinds of roles in her career. After her viral debut, she faced both huge popularity and strong criticism. However, she continued to work hard and slowly built her space in the film industry.



## Srinivasa Mangapuram Teaser: Jaya Krishna impresses big time

Superstar Mahesh Babu has officially unveiled the much-awaited teaser for the upcoming film *Srinivasa Mangapuram*, marking a grand acting debut for his nephew, Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni. As the grandson of the legendary superstar Krishna, Jaya Krishna steps into the world of Telugu cinema with a performance that displays remarkable maturity and the undeniable charm of a future mass hero. Directed by the acclaimed Ajay Bhupathi, the film promises a gripping narrative set against the rustic backdrop of Tirupati. It follows the journey of Vasu Babu and Manga, two close friends whose lives take a dramatic turn as their joyful romance is met with unexpected conflict. Rasha Thadani, daughter of Raveena Tandon, makes her debut alongside Jaya Krishna, and their vibrant chemistry is already capturing attention. The stakes are pushed even higher by the formidable Dr Mohan Babu, who plays the intense antagonist.

