



Baker Hughes sets up new unit in Telangana's Siddipet, 230 jobs on cards

Hyderabad: American energy technology major Baker Hughes launched a lean manufacturing facility at the Azad-Centre of Excellence & Innovation in TGIIIC Industrial Park at Tuniki Bollaram village in Siddipet district. This new facility was officially launched on Thursday, April 23, by the IT and Industries Minister of Telangana, D Sridhar Babu. With a built-up area of 7,600 square meters, the plant will produce precision parts for the IET segment of the company. Baker Hughes is a leading company with operations across more than 120 countries, specialising in oilfield services, industrial technology, and digital solutions. The company says that this new manufacturing facility will enhance its manufacturing capabilities globally while leveraging the industrial potential in Telangana.

Telangana police issues notice to X seeking info on news handle TeluguScribe

Hyderabad: The Telangana Police's Intelligence Wing has requested the X Corp (formerly known as Twitter) to furnish information regarding popular social media news handle @TeluguScribe, including information on its account registration, usage logs and activity details. TeluguScribe describes itself as the most popular social media news platform covering Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. A notice was issued to X Corp's Safety-Legal Policy wing in Bastrop,

Texas, under Section 94 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Section 43 (F) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2008, on April 18. In the notice, R Bhaaskaran, Deputy Director General of Police, CI Cell, Intelligence Department, informed X that Telugu Scribe has been frequently making tweets containing highly objectionable and filthy language, along with morphed photos and videos.

Rythu Bharosa Covered Farmers up to 2 Acres in 2 Phases



Hyderabad: The Rythu Bharosa financial assistance scheme for the ongoing yasangi (rabi) season has covered 71 lakh farmers owning land up to 2 acres each in two phases.

Nearly 71.05 lakh farmers have received a cumulative Rs 5,653 crore in two phases, while an additional Rs 3,446 crore is required to extend the benefit to all eligible farmers without any restriction on land extent. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy released the funds in two phases, with the first tranche disbursed on March 22 and the second on April 20. Under the second phase, the government credited Rs 2,206.06 crore into the bank accounts of 45,11,947 farmers who own between one and two acres. Data from agriculture department show that an additional allocation of around Rs 3,446 crore would be required to ensure full implementation of the scheme for all farmers.

No 'WA varsity' inputs on Sabarimala: SC

NEW DELHI: On Day 8 of the Sabarimala reference hearings held on Thursday, the nine-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court underlined that constitutional principles must prevail over external public commentary and opinions expressed outside the legal framework.

22 Indian seafarers safe after Iran attack in Hormuz Strait: Shipping Ministry



New Delhi: As many as 22 Indian seafarers on board the two foreign-flagged ships, which came under fire from Iran's military in the Strait of Hormuz during the last 24 hours, are reported to be safe, according to an update issued by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways on Thursday. Vessel Euphoria, a Panama-flagged container ship, has 21 Indian seafarers onboard, while Vessel Epaminondas, also a Panama-flagged container, has 1 Indian seafarer onboard, the statement said.

Revanth, Uttam To Meet CBI Director in Delhi Seeking

Probe Into Kaleshwaram Irregularities

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy will soon visit Delhi to personally meet the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and request the initiation of a probe into alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation scheme (KLIS), as previously sought by the state government. The decision was taken during the Cabinet meeting held on Thursday. The Cabinet also decided to constitute a sub-committee of ministers on the Kaleshwaram issue. This panel will consult legal experts and recommend the future course of action to the government in light of the latest orders of the Telangana High Court on the report submitted by the Justice P.C. Ghose commission. Advocate-General A Sudarshan Reddy briefed the Cabinet about the details of High Court's verdict. Deliberating on the verdict, the Cabinet noted that the court had neither faulted the appointment of the judicial commission nor its findings. The court observed that the constitution of the commission was legal and constitutional. It raised objec-



tions only on technical grounds, stating that notices were not issued to certain individuals in the prescribed format.

Kishan, Bandi Slam Revanth for Women's Reservation Bill Failure



Hyderabad: The Telangana BJP on Wednesday launched a strong attack on Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the Congress, holding them responsible for the defeat of the

women's reservation Bill in Parliament earlier this month. The scathing attacks came at the BJP's 'Mahila Agraha Yatra' led by Union ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, along with state BJP president N. Ramchander Rao, and party MPs D.K. Aruna, Dr K. Laxman and Etala Rajendar. Speaking at Dharna Chowk near Indira Park where the protest march concluded, Kishan Reddy said the Congress must be buried forever for the injustice it perpetrated on women by not allowing the Bill to be passed. Singling out Revanth Reddy, Kishan Reddy said the Chief Minister was "bursting crackers and celebrating the defeat of 70 crore women in the country" when the Bill fell through in Parliament.

BRS Social Media Leader Krishank Among Nine Arrested

Hyderabad: Kukatpally police arrested BRS social media leader Manne Krishank along with eight others and produced them before a court, which remanded them to judicial custody on Thursday. Police said the incident pertained to allegedly objectionable content and exchanges on social media platforms and that they were acting on a complaint lodged by Congress social media coordinator Rajender. The controversy revolved around a post releasing a picture of a purported Telugu newspaper clipping with the headline claiming that Krishank and his wife were involved in a job scam. Krishank refuted the claims. In response, Krishank lodged a complaint, leading to the registration of a counter case. He alleged that made derogatory and offensive remarks targeting his family were made by Rajendar, prompting him to seek legal action. Krishank stated that the allegations were false and claimed that no such news article was published in the newspaper. Police officials confirmed that both cases are being investigated simultaneously.



RTC Strike: Three Employees Attempt Suicide

Warangal, Nalgonda: Tension escalated across the erstwhile Warangal district on Wednesday, second day of the TGSRTC strike, after veteran bus driver Kola Shankar Goud, 57, with a 30-year record of service attempted to die by suicide at the Narsampet bus stand in Warangal on Thursday. The incident, which took place in the mid-afternoon in public view, sparked widespread

outrage and Opposition leaders accused the government of pushing employees to the brink of despair. Late at night, Shankar Goud's son-in-law Suman said that officials had shifted the RTC veteran to the Apollo DRDO Hospital in Hyderabad. He was on a ventilator and experts from Osmania Hospital were also called in for consultation, Suman said.

Govt. Dismisses Rumours on Hike of Petrol and Diesel Prices Post Assembly Elections

New Delhi: Dismissing the rumours on the hike of petrol and diesel prices post assembly elections, the government on Thursday signalled that there is no such proposal under consideration. The statement of the government comes after there are several reports saying that there is a potential hike of Rs 25-28 per litre in petrol and diesel prices after state assembly polls. Clarifying the reports, the ministry of petroleum and natural gas (MoPNG) said in a post on X that state-owned fuel retailers are incurring losses of about Rs 20.



Saturday, April 25, 2026

Gram Uday Se Bharat Uday - Panchayat Raj System

(On the occasion of "National Panchayat Raj Day" on 24 April)

The evolution of Panchayat Raj System in India can be traced back to ancient Vedic period when village assemblies, or grams sabhas were responsible for local administration. The formal introduction of "Panchayat Raj as a structured and constitutional entity came much later. On 24 April 1993 Panchayat Raj system in India came into effect with the enactment of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act on 22/23 December 1992, was ratified by state legislatures and came into effect on 24 April 1993. "National Panchayat Raj Day:" To mark the establishment of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) in India through constitution, "National Panchayat Raj Day" is observed every year on 24 April to promote grassroots democracy, rural development, inclusive governance, women empowerment, ensure accountability and transparency, strengthening local governance, and empower rural communities. The decentralisation of power, e-governance, capacity building, and financial oversight are some of the core responsibilities of PRIs in India. "Three-tier Panchayat Raj Structure:" On National Panchayat Raj Day, the government and local bodies organise events, discussions, and awards to encourage best practices in local governance. This day mainly focus on enhancing participatory governance, rural upliftment, rural women empowerment, and digital transformation in village-level administration. Every state has its own department to manage local self-governance at the village, block, and district levels. The constitution provides a three-tier Panchayat Raj structure, namely, Gram Panchayat at village level, Panchayat Samiti at the block level, and Zilla Parishad system at the district level. "The Constitution of India recognises PRIs as "Institutions of Self-governance". Currently, there are nearly 2.63 lakh Panchayats, 31.47 lakh elected representatives of PRIs of which 14.54 lakh are women. The Constitution empowers the states to devolve powers to the Panchayats to discharge their functions as institutions for local self-governance. It is important for achieving inclusive growth and addressing issues like climate change and rural-to-urban migration.

Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy

Congress failed to keep promises made to RTC employees: Harish Rao



Siddipet: Former Minister T Harish Rao, who expressed his solidarity with RTC employees on strike in Siddipet, demanded that the government recognise RTC staff as government employees without any delay as promised by the Congress. Citing the promises made in the Congress manifesto, Rao said that the Congress had promised to implement two pay revisions besides restoring trade unions immediately after coming to power. He further accused the government of conspiring to privatise the entire RTC in a phased manner across the State, beginning from Hyderabad. Rao said that the introduction of the Maha Lakshmi scheme had become a burden on the drivers and conductors. While the Congress was boasting of spending Rs 9,200 crore on the Maha Lakshmi scheme, the former minister said that the

government paid only Rs 7,000 crore to RTC, and denied the remaining Rs 2,200 crore. The former minister said that the Congress had raised its voice when the BRS was in power. He questioned MLC Kondaram, who had questioned the BRS earlier, for staying calm on the RTC workers' protests now. Rao accused so-called intellectuals like Kodandaram of acting only against former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao when RTC staff launched a strike during the BRS rule. He said that these intellectuals never really had any concern for the employees' issues. Rao demanded that the government keep all the promises made to the RTC employees.

Water Crisis Looms Over Karimnagar

KARIMNAGAR: A severe drinking water shortage is threatening Karimnagar and its neighbouring districts as water levels at the Lower Manair Dam (LMD) have plummeted to critical levels. With the peak summer approaching in May, official data reveals that the reservoir is drying up, raising alarms for urban and rural residents alike in Karimnagar district. Against its total storage capacity of 24tmc, LMD currently holds only around 6tmc. Of this, 2tmc is considered dead storage, leaving a mere 4tmc accessible for use and also for release to neighbouring districts. The authorities said if the situation turns worse in the coming days, the remaining water must be drawn using booster pumps. At current consumption rates, this storage can last only a month, with high temperatures expected to further accelerate depletion through evaporation. The crisis poses a direct threat to the drinking water needs of Karimnagar, Warangal, Sircilla, Vemulawada and Siddipet regions. Furthermore, the supply to 494 villages covered under the Mission Bhagiratha scheme is at risk. To avert a total dry-out, officials and political leaders are considering the transfer of water from the Mid



Manair Dam (MMD) to replenish the LMD. In response, a Congress party delegation, led by city Congress president Vaidyula Anjan Yadav, recently met BC welfare minister Ponnamb Prabhakar at the secretariat in Hyderabad. The delegation submitted him a representation requesting the immediate release of 3tmc of water from Mid-Manair to ensure the Karimnagar Corporation area does not face a water famine this summer. Minister Prabhakar responded swiftly, discussing the matter with the principal secretary to irrigation, and writing to irrigation minister Uttam

Kumar Reddy. The minister replied that steps were being taken to ensure consistent water supply for the public. However, the situation at Mid-Manair Dam (MMD) is becoming tight. As of Wednesday morning, MMD holds 8.048tmc against its full capacity of 27.55tmc. With no fresh inflows from sources like SRSP or the flood flow canal, and an outflow of 435 cusecs, primarily due to supply needs and evaporation, officials are carefully monitoring the levels. Currently, only one gate at MMD has been partially opened to manage the outflow.

Former MP Vinod Kumar urges Congress govt to expedite Medigadda repairs



Hyderabad: Welcoming the High Court's direction barring any action based on the Justice PC Ghose Commission report on the Kaleshwaram project, former BRS MP B Vinod Kumar urged the Congress government to stop its vendetta politics. He appealed to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to expedite the repair of the Medigadda barrage. Addressing a press meet at Telangana Bhavan, Vinod Kumar said his arguments that the Commission's findings would not stand judicial scrutiny due to violations of natural justice were proved right. He said key responses and technical aspects were ignored during the inquiry, rendering the report flawed. The former BRS MP stressed the strategic importance of the Kaleshwaram project, warning that any delay in repairing the Medigadda barrage could have serious consequences, especially with forecasts of weak monsoon conditions due to El Nino. "Without

Medigadda, North Telangana risks severe water scarcity," he cautioned. Vinod Kumar dismissed the Congress government's claims that the project had collapsed, asserting that the barrages remain structurally sound. He reminded that Kaleshwaram was a massive irrigation network, not limited to a single structure. He credited former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao for conceptualising and executing a large-scale water management system across the Godavari basin. He urged the Congress government, especially Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, to stop a negative approach towards the project and act in the larger interests of Telangana, failing which it would prove detrimental to farmers of the state.



Several Injured as RTC Bus Hits Truck in Karimnagar

Karimnagar: Two passengers were seriously injured and several others sustained minor wounds when a TGSRTC bus, operated by a hired driver, collided with a lorry on Wednesday morning near the Kothirampur bypass in Karimnagar district. The bus, belonging to the Karimnagar-2 depot, was heading for Warangal. The accident sparked public anger over the use of inexperienced drivers to run buses during the ongoing state-wide RTC strike. According to eyewitnesses, the privately hired driver lost control of the vehicle at the Alugunur-Kothirampur stretch. The bus rammed into an oncoming truck and crashed onto a road divider, leaving the front portion of the bus completely damaged. The seriously injured passengers were rushed to the Karimnagar government hospital. Local residents and passersby rushed to the spot to rescue those trapped inside the damaged vehicle. The accident has intensified the backlash against the RTC management's decision to use temporary, non-regular staff. The strike paralysed transport services across districts, as most buses remained in their depots.

Verdict Doesn't Mean a Clean Chit to Anyone: Uttam

Hyderabad: Irrigation minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday said the Telangana High Court verdict in the case related to pleas questioning the Justice P.C. Ghose commission of inquiry report "did not give anyone any clean chit". The minister also said today's judgment does not preclude the CBI from taking up an investigation into matters related to the Kaleshwaram project and Medigadda barrage, as already sought by the Telangana government. In fact, last September, the government, after a detailed discussion on the Justice Ghose report in the Assembly, had made it clear that it would not take any action based on the judicial commission's report. We had said right then that we are asking the CBI to investigate, and we hope this will happen," Uttam Kumar Reddy said. The CBI, he added, has with it copies of the judicial commission, the vigilance, and NDSA reports on Medigadda, enough for it to start its investigations. The government, he said, will decide on its next course of action once it examines the full judgment. Uttam Kumar Reddy made it clear that the court orders related to a plea seeking the quashing of Government Order



No.6 setting up the Justice P.C. Ghose Commission. The High Court did not find fault with the commission's setting up or its findings. It was also clear on stating that the commission's appointment was neither arbitrary, illegal, nor ultra vires.

Karimnagar Police Launches Drive Against Unlicensed Moped Riders



KARIMNAGAR: In a move to curb rising road fatalities, the Karimnagar Police has launched a first-of-its-kind special drive targeting TVS XL moped riders and seized as many as 140 vehicles here on Wednesday. The initiative, at the behest of city police commissioner Goush Alam, follows a worrying trend of moped users, mostly farmers and small traders, increasingly becoming victims of fatal accidents due to a lack of safety awareness and proper licensing system. The traffic police intensified checks across the city, resulting in the seizure of 140 TVS XL vehicles that were being operated without valid driving licences or insurance. Traffic ACP Bandari Yadagiri Swamy revealed that the drive was triggered by a worrisome statistic. In Thimmapur village alone, four fatal accidents occurred within a single month, all involving TVS XL mopeds.



Hyderabad Voice

Saturday, April 25, 2026

HMWSSB introduces barcode tracking for water tankers

Hyderabad: The HMWSSB has introduced barcode tracking for its water tankers to curb misuse. HMWSSB Managing Director K Ashok Reddy on Thursday visited a few filling stations in the city amid rising tanker demand and said the barcode system is mainly to prevent misuse during tanker trips and ensure that tanker operations are monitored round the clock and carried out as intended. He also said CCTV cameras were installed at every filling station and connected to the main office in Khairatabad to track the movement of tankers. Strict action would be taken against any misuse in tanker bookings, he said.

CM Revanth Instructs Officials To Fast-Track Investment Projects

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to ensure the swift implementation of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed with global companies. As part of a dedicated monitoring mechanism for investments, a senior IAS officer will oversee the progress. At a review meeting held at his residence in Jubilee Hills, attended by Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, CM's Special Secretary Ajith Reddy and other senior officials, the Chief Minister assessed the status of MoUs signed with various companies at platforms such as Davos, the 'Telangana Rising' Global Summit, and other venues. He emphasised that companies already allotted land and granted necessary approvals should be encouraged to commence operations at the earliest. Revanth Reddy directed officials to allocate land to companies within the designated 'CURE, PURE and RARE' zones and to expedite all pending land acquisition processes. He also asked officials to proactively gather details on infrastructure and amenities required by these companies. Noting that data centres can utilise treated water supplied through Sewage Treatment Plants



(STPs), he directed officials to prepare suitable plans. The Chief Minister instructed officials to classify companies that have signed investment agreements into three categories. Top priority will be given to multinational corporations and firms with a strong market reputation to ensure early commencement of operations. The second category will include rapidly growing companies with high future potential, while the remaining firms will fall under the third

category. He also ordered the creation of a comprehensive real-time dashboard to keep the Chief Minister's Office and concerned departmental ministers fully updated on progress. Earlier, the Chief Minister reviewed the progress of Hyderabad Metro Rail works and directed officials to expedite pending land acquisition in the Old City. He instructed that the Metro Rail project up to Chandrayangutta be completed within the stipulated timeline.

PDS: 85% of 3-Month Rice Quota Distributed



Hyderabad: The civil supplies department has successfully distributed over 85% of its allocated rice quota for three months April, May and June, well ahead of the April 30 deadline. As of April 21, the state has delivered over 5.48 lakh metric tonnes of rice to beneficiaries across the state. According to officials, this rapid distribution strategy was executed in direct response to a March 2 directive from the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. The Centre instructed all states to advance the lifting and distribution of food grains for the April, May, June 2026 quarter to prevent logistical and storage bottlenecks ahead of the procurement season. Out of the total allocation of 6,43,303 metric tonnes (MT) of rice, the department has already distributed 5,48,140 MT. This translates to an 86% completion rate with eight full days still remaining in the month. The widespread reach of this initiative is evident in the data, with the state recording over 2.62 crore successful transactions state-wide to date. "To maintain total transparency during this accelerated rollout, all digital transactions and beneficiary authentications for the month are being processed and monitored independently at the Fair Price Shops."

Unfazed by HC verdict on Kaleshwaram, TPCC chief Mahesh roots for CBI probe

TPCC President and MLC B Mahesh Kumar Goud on Wednesday asserted that the recent High Court verdict does not hinder a CBI probe or any other investigation into the alleged irregularities linked to the Kaleshwaram project. Addressing a media conference in Delhi, Goud clarified that the court's judgment neither exonerates the accused nor discredits the findings of the Justice PC Ghose Commission. According to him, the verdict merely pointed out procedural lapses in the manner in which the investigation was conducted, without questioning the substance of the allegations. He emphasised that the ex-



istence of corruption in the project is "undeniable" and widely known to the public. The Kaleshwaram project, constructed during the BRS regime at a cost of around Rs.1 lakh crore, had reportedly suffered structural issues, including collapse and subsidence, during its own tenure. Goud further stated that the High Court did not find fault with the commission constituted by the State Government, but only highlighted certain procedural shortcomings. He maintained that the process of bringing the guilty to justice remains on track, even if slightly delayed. "The imprisonment of those responsible is inevitable. The process may take a few more days, but it has not been stopped," he said.



Tensions grips in RTC workers protest after a driver attempts self immolation

Tensions escalated when RTC driver Shankar Goud, actively participating in the strike, attempted self-immolation by pouring petrol over himself. Protest by Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) workers has entered its second day, with demands for merger into the state government and recognition as government employees. Across Telangana, workers are staging sit-ins and demonstrations outside depots. Tensions escalated when RTC driver Shankar Goud, actively participating in the strike, attempted self-immolation by pouring petrol over himself. He sustained severe burns and was rushed to MGM Hospital. The incident has shocked the community. Following the act, workers held a sit-in in front of the depot, while police were deployed to prevent any further disturbances.



Health Minister Pushes AYUSH Outreach

Hyderabad: Health minister C. Damodar Rajanarsimha inquired about various aspects concerning the government and private AYUSH hospitals, clinics, colleges and other related institutions in state on Wednesday. The minister conducted a review meeting on AYUSH medical services in the state. He instructed officials to formulate proposals necessary for the development of government colleges and hospitals. He stressed about the functioning of AYUSH department should be geared towards popularising traditional Indian medical services and ensuring they are beneficial to the public. He stated that the number of Outpatient (OP) and Inpatient (IP) cases should increase further and issued directives to recruit doctors and staff wherever necessary. The minister ordered that full-fledged facilities be established in the Integrated AYUSH hospitals located in Siddipet, Vikarabad and Bhupalpally and that these facilities be made available to the public as soon as possible. He directed that there should be no gaps in the supply of AYUSH medicines. Principal Secretary of Health Christina Z. Chongthu, AYUSH director Srikanth Babu and others participated in the meeting.

Tribal Families Explore Hyderabad on Tourism Initiative



Hyderabad: As the clock struck 2.30 pm on Wednesday, two buses carrying tribal families from hamlets in Utnoor mandal rolled into Taramati Baradari at Ibrahimbagh. The visit was part of the Telangana Tourism Development Corporation's exposure programme to give

first-time visitors a glimpse of Hyderabad. From five-year-olds to those above 60, many stepped down hesitantly, some barefoot, others in slippers. Women wore their best sarees, youngsters arrived in chudidars, elderly men in dhotis, and young men in shirts and jeans. They were welcomed

with the traditional Telugu tamala bhaja. Fourteen-year-old Lakshmi U sat quietly, feeding her younger brother. "This is my first time in a city," she said, adding that the food served was delicious. Many spoke broken Telugu, communicating mostly in their native dialects, but enjoyed both vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals after freshening up. Over 250 participants are part of the initiative. Seetha mahalakshmi, 23, a B.Ed student, said she had earlier visited Hyderabad only for exams. "I convinced my parents to let me join. They even transferred money to my phone. I hear there's so much to shop at Charminar," she said, smiling with her friends. Tourism minister Jupally Krishna Rao interacted with the group, asking about their comfort at the resort and challenges back home. He encouraged parents to educate their children for better livelihoods. Participants raised concerns about forest officials, lack of proper roads, water for farming, mosquito menace and absence of gas connections. Sonerao, travelling with his wife after 35 years of marriage, said the city felt completely different from the village. "We grow corn and toor dal, which are sent to cities like this. But our roads are still mud.

Telangana govt. promotes six senior IPS officers to Director General rank



The Telangana government has issued orders to promote six senior IPS officers to the rank of Director General (DG). The Telangana government has issued orders to promote six senior IPS officers to the rank of Director General (DG). The officers promoted include Additional DGs Mahesh Bhagwat, Swati Lakra, V.V. Srinivasa Rao, Charu Sinha, Anil Kumar, and V.C. Sajjanar. Mahesh Bhagwat is currently the Additional DG for Law and Order, while Swati Lakra serves as DG for the Special Protection Force. V.V. Srinivasa Rao is the Chairman of the Telangana Police Recruitment Board, and Charu Sinha is the ADG for the CID, Women's Safety Wing, and ACB. Anil Kumar is the ADG for Greyhounds, and V.C. Sajjanar is the Hyderabad Police Commissioner. Despite their promotions, all six officers will continue performing their existing duties until further orders are issued.

Hyderabad police bust tea adulteration racket, 10 held

Hyderabad: In a major operation, the H-FAST team of the Hyderabad police busted a tea powder adulteration racket in the city and conducted raids at 15 locations in the last two days. The police nabbed 10 persons who were running the racket. According to the police, during the raids, the accused admitted to mixing harmful synthetic chemicals with inferior quality tea powder.

Complete land acquisition for firms: CM



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy directed the officials to complete the pending land acquisition processes for companies, which have signed MoUs with the state government expeditiously. The Chief Minister reviewed the status of the MoUs signed with companies for investments

in Telangana during the Davos and 'Telangana Rising' Global Summits. The officials briefed the Chief Minister on the details of companies across various sectors that have already grounded their operations, as well as those with pending status. The authorities also apprised

the CM of the details regarding land parcels including those within Future City and other regions, which need to be allocated to organisations based on priority. Revanth Reddy advised officials to proceed in a planned and systematic manner regarding the provision of necessary amenities to companies and the anticipation of their future requirements. The officials were also directed to formulate plans ensuring that data centres utilise treated water through Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) to meet their water requirements. The Chief Minister emphasized that the companies which have entered into investment agreements should be categorized into three distinct groups and accord top priority to renowned and established brand organizations and ensure that the organizations commence their operations at the earliest by providing all necessary facilities and support.



Govt sanctions Rs 98,000 crore for road development in Telangana

Hyderabad: The government has sanctioned Rs 98,000 crore for road development across Telangana, of which Rs 148 crore would be used in construction, which is expected to be completed by 2028. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, IT Minister Sridhar Babu and Minister of Roads Komatireddy Venkata Reddy held a special review meeting at the Dr BR Ambedkar Secretariat on Wednesday. Bhatti instructed officials to start the construction of long-pending approach roads to bridges. He noted that several bridges built three years ago have remained underutilised due to the absence of proper approach roads. He said that if proposals are submitted in a proper format, approvals and execution would become easier and help expedite the road construction works. Officials have been directed to send the proposals to the Finance Department in a 1:4 ratio. "The sub-committee would examine and approve them promptly," he said. With the monsoon season approaching, Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy directed officials to complete the construction of approach roads by June 8. Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy said that the prestigious Indian Roads Congress (IRC) conference, which attracts contractors and infrastructure experts from across India and the world, will be held in November at the HITEX in Hyderabad.



BJP alleges Congress-BRS nexus after Kaleshwaram verdict

Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy has stated that the Telangana High Court verdict on Kaleshwaram project irregularities exposes the administrative and legal failures of the Congress government. Despite the Justice PC Ghose Commission report pointing to large-scale corruption, the government failed to present evidence effectively. Kishan Reddy accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of shielding former CM K Chandrashekar Rao and his family, despite election promises of strict action against BRS corruption. He noted that scandals involving thousands of crores in Kaleshwaram, land encroachments, drug cases, and irregularities in Mission Bhagiratha remain untouched. He demanded that Rahul Gandhi and Revanth Reddy explain why probes have stalled and whether Congress and BRS are colluding to protect each other. Echoing this, Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar said the Kaleshwaram case proves compromise politics between KCR and Revanth Reddy. He alleged that instead of pursuing the full Rs 1 lakh crore scam, the Congress government limited its request to the CBI to investigate only Rs 9,000 crore. He described this as a deliberate ploy to protect KCR. He further claimed that while bundles are being sent to Delhi Congress leaders, cases in Telangana are being closed, exposing a quid pro quo arrangement. Bandi Sanjay warned that the people are watching these political compromises closely. He said the government must immediately initiate transparent legal proceedings against corruption, fulfil election promises, and stop betraying the public with empty assurances. The BJP leaders maintained that the ruling party has compromised on its integrity by failing to hold the previous regime accountable for its financial irregularities and institutional damage over the last decade.

Rs.10.55 lakh fines imposed for mobile phone and siren misuse in Malkajgiri

Hyderabad: The Malkajgiri traffic police during a special drive conducted against use of mobile phones while driving and unauthorised sirens booked 1,070 cases on Thursday. A fine amount of Rs. 10.55 lakh was imposed on the violators. K Rahul Reddy, DCP Traffic Malkajgiri said that special emphasis was placed on vehicles using unauthorised sirens. Strict enforcement measures were implemented at major junctions and accident-prone areas to address motorists' use of cell phones while driving, dangerous manoeuvres, and siren misuse.

Minister Hands Over Cheques Worth Rs 5 Lakh Each to Kin of Deceased Gig Workers



Hyderabad: Labour and mines minister G. Vivek Venkatswamy handed over ex gratia cheques to the family members of gig workers who lost their lives while on duty. Financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh each was provided through the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). The minister personally handed over cheques to the families of Lokurthi Naresh, G. Shyam Sundar and Ahmed bin Abdul Khader on Wednesday. Speaking to the bereaved family members at the progra

mme held in his chamber at the Secretariat, the minister said that the Telangana government, inspired by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's vision, has stood firmly by gig workers and passed the Gig Workers Welfare Act in the Assembly. He reiterated that gig workers require such protection and a strong social safety net. He assured that the state government would stand by every worker in times of distress. Whether gig workers or hamalis, all workers deserve support and protection from

the government, he said. The minister appreciated the role of The Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union (TGPWU) noting that their continuous follow-up with labour department officials made this initiative possible. He reiterated that the government will never neglect gig workers and weaker sections and will always remain committed to safeguarding their rights and welfare. Labour department special chief secretary Dana Kishore, additional commissioner E. Gangadhar and TGPWU president Shaik Salauddin were present at the minister's chamber. The bereaved family members expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the labour minister for extending financial assistance and supporting them during their difficult time.



DCA serves notices to 75 medical shops over weight loss drug violations

Hyderabad: The Drugs Control Administration (DCA), Telangana on Thursday issued show cause notices to 75 medical shops for various violations while selling weight loss drugs. The special drive focused on weight loss drugs containing Tirzepatide (Mounjaro) and Semaglutide (Ozempic, Wegovy, Rybelsus) as well as generic equivalents of Semaglutide formulations, manufactured by various companies and recently introduced into the market following the patent expiry of the innovator's Semaglutide formulations, along with other weight loss drugs. The violations detected included sale of drugs without prescriptions and without issuing bills, failure to produce sales bills, failure to maintain prescription drug registers, dispensing prescription drugs without the presence of a Registered Pharmacist, failure to produce purchase bills, irregularities in maintaining copies of sales and purchase bills. In an advisory, the DCA said weight loss drugs (Tirzepatide and Semaglutide formulations) should be used strictly with prescriptions from specialists such as endocrinologists and internal medicine specialists.

Telangana Employees' JAC issues ultimatum to govt over pending demands

The Telangana Employees JAC has issued a stern ultimatum to the state government regarding their pending demands. Leaders warned that employees will stage a hunger strike on 5 May if their grievances remain unaddressed. The JAC wrote to Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao demanding an immediate response to their concerns. Representing over 1.5 million workers, the committee highlighted key issues including the second PRC report implementation, release of pending bills, EHS scheme guidelines, and reinstatement of the Old Pension Scheme. Following black badge protests on 17 April, the lack of government action prompted this next phase. The one-day hunger strike will occur across all district headquarters and at Indira Park and Dharna Chowk in Hyderabad. The JAC urged the government to resolve sixty-four pending issues and grant permission for the protests. This escalation follows months of frustration over delayed administrative decisions.

Ponguleti Dares Opposition To Show Any Welfare Scheme Dropped By Congress Govt

Nalgonda: Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Wednesday challenged the opposition BRS to show any welfare scheme discontinued by the Congress government in the last two and half years of its rule. Allegations by the BRS in this respect are baseless, the minister said while distributing the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak cheques to 27 beneficiaries at Khammam. He said that the previous BRS government had failed to issue new ration cards or sanction pucca houses, that adversely impacted the lives of the poor for a decade. "The people taught a lesson to the BRS by defeating it. In the recently conducted elections also, the people rejected the BRS and continued their support to the Congress," he said. Srinivas Reddy asserted that this was the "good performance certificate" that the people gave the Congress government vis-à-vis its efficient governance and able implementation of the welfare schemes. Even though the BRS had used the social media for its "false propaganda" against the Congress govern-



ment, the people continued to stand firmly in support of the Congress in every election in the last two and half years, he said.

Celebs & Politicians Pay Tribute to Ex CM Nadendla



Former Chief Minister Nadendla Bhaskara Rao was given an emotional farewell at his residence in Jubilee Hills, where celebrities and political leaders gathered to pay their last respects. From Tollywood, Chiranjeevi, Allu Aravind, and many others celebs paid floral tributes and consoled the family. Political leaders from AP and Telangana including G. Kishan Reddy and Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka also visited. The final rites were held with full state honors at Panjagutta Hindu Crematorium. A gun salute marked the farewell as family members and admirers bid a final goodbye.

EC issues show cause notice to Kharge over 'terrorist' jibe at PM Modi



New Delhi: Finding Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge prima facie violative of the poll code for calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "terrorist", the Election Commission on Wednesday issued a show cause notice to him. The EC had earlier issued a notice to Kharge saying Union minister Kiren Rijiju and TMC leader Derek O'Brien were the complainants. It later withdrew the notice from its website and issued a fresh one removing O'Brien's name. Officials said the TMC leader's name was added inadvertently. Kharge has been asked to explain his stand within 24 hours, cautioning that if he fails to respond, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say in the matter and the Election Commission will take appropriate action or decision in the matter without making any further reference to him. The notice comes a day before polling in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Kharge on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Modi of "terrorising" political parties by misusing government machinery and central agencies to stifle the opposition, triggering strong reactions from the BJP, which attacked the opposition leader for calling Modi a "terrorist". Addressing a press conference in Chennai, Kharge initially referred to the prime minister as a "terrorist" while criticising the AIADMK's alliance with the BJP. Questioning how the AIADMK, a party rooted in the Dravidian ideologies of Periyar and C N Annadurai, could justify partnering with Prime Minister Modi, Kharge said, "How these AIADMK people, who themselves put the photo of Annadurai... how can they join with Modi? He is a terrorist... "He doesn't believe in equality. His party won't believe in equality and justice..." However, when asked by reporters to clarify the context of the remark, Kharge said he meant that the prime minister was "terrorising" the democratic fabric of the country. "He is terrorising people and political parties. I never said he is a terrorist (in the literal sense). Terrorising this... he is misusing his power and government machinery and abusing, maligning opposition parties," Kharge said.



More Troubles For Ananthababu

YSRCP MLC Ananthababu is facing serious trouble in the driver murder case. The case is about the death of his driver Subrahmanyam. Now the court is about to frame charges on April 24 and 25. This is a key step that will decide how the case moves forward. The main issue now is not just the murder case. A new allegation has come out that Ananthababu tried to pressure key witnesses. These witnesses are very important for the case. Reports say four witnesses were taken to a place and forced to support him. They were offered money and also threatened. Each person was allegedly promised more than Rs 3 lakh and Rs 1 lakh was given in advance. They were told to speak in his favor in court. Police came to know about this and reached the spot. Ananthababu reportedly escaped from there on a bike, leaving his car behind. Police later confirmed the incident and filed a new case. His close associate Maganti Rambabu has been arrested. Now the big risk for Ananthababu is his bail. The court had already warned that trying to influence witnesses can cancel bail. Police have started steps to cancel it. If that happens, Ananthababu may go back to jail and his situation will become more serious.

Pawan Leads AP From 24th to No.1 Rank

Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj department has emerged as a national leader with strong reforms and clear governance under Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan. In just 22 months, the department moved from a weak system to one of the best performing in the country. Earlier, during the YCP government, this sector faced serious issues. Local roads were in poor condition and many panchayat works were delayed or neglected. This created dissatisfaction among people and became one of the reasons for the Jagan's defeat. After Pawan Kalyan took charge of the department under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu, the system started moving in a new direction with clear focus on development and accountability. The focus has been on making village bodies stronger, independent, and self-sustaining. With



this approach, Andhra Pradesh secured the number one rank in the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan rankings, a major jump from 24th place earlier. One of the biggest highlights was conducting over 13,000 Gram Sabhas in a single day across the state. This created a record and helped plan development works worth thousands of crores with direct public participation. The government also brought new energy into the system by giving promotions to around 10,000 employees, improving efficiency at all levels. Infrastructure saw rapid growth. Thousands of kilometers of CC and BT roads were built, including connectivity to tribal areas. Many remote villages now have better transport access, improving daily life. Sanitation also improved with innovative systems like waste collection vehicles and cost effective drainage solutions. In rural employment, the focus shifted from just providing work to improving livelihoods. Farmers benefited through farm ponds, water tanks, and cattle sheds, strengthening agriculture support. Digital governance added transparency.

Tamil Nadu Assembly Polls See Record 82.24% Turnout As Voting Concludes Peacefully Across State



Chennai: Voting for the Tamil Nadu Assembly election ended at 6 PM on Thursday and electors who gathered in the polling stations before the time for closure of polling were allowed to vote, officials said. About 82.24 per cent of the 5.73 crore eligible voters exercised their franchise in the election to the 234-member strong Tamil Nadu Assembly, a record turnout. This was the provincial figure till 5 pm and the final data will be made available following consolidation of data, officials added. The DMK, which heads the Secular Progressive Alliance, is seeking to retain power, and is leading a multi-party coalition that includes Congress, Left parties and the VCK. The AIADMK, heading the National Democratic Alliance, on the other hand, is pushing for a return to power with allies BJP, AMMK and PMK, among others, in tow. Actor Vijay-led TVK is attempting to break the decades long tradition of DMK and AIADMK alternatively ruling the state and form its government.

11 Killed In Mirzapur Road Tragedy After Truck Rams Cars, Massive Blaze Engulfs Vehicles

Mirzapur: At least 11 people were killed in a major road accident in Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur on Wednesday night after a collision involving multiple vehicles triggered a fire on the Mirzapur-Rewa National Highway. According to police, the accident occurred around 9.30 pm when a speeding truck went out of control due to brake failure and rammed into a Bolero and a Swift car moving ahead. The impact pushed both vehicles into a trolley in front, leading to a pile-up. The collision caused the Bolero to be flung aside, where it caught fire with a loud explosion. The Swift car got trapped between the truck and the trolley. The blaze quickly engulfed the Bolero, leaving the occupants with no chance to escape.

Bengal polls: Mamata, Shah run rival war rooms as 78.77% turnout, violence mar first phase


As Bengal voted in the first phase across 152 seats on Thursday, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Amit Shah operated rival 'war rooms' from Kalighat and Salt Lake, monitoring real-time turnout and booth-level feedback in a high-stakes contest. Banerjee was joined by her nephew and party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, while Shah was accompanied by senior BJP leaders, including Union minister Bhupendra Yadav. Sporadic violence, intimidation and assaults on BJP candidates cast a shadow over polling in several pockets, as West Bengal recorded brisk voting in the first phase of the assembly elections on Thursday, with turnout climbing to 78.77 per cent of 3.60 crore electors by 3 pm. From early morning, Kalighat, the ruling TMC's political nerve centre, became a virtual command hub. Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee closely monitored polling trends, district feedback, and any signs of disruption, party sources said.



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Education

VOICE OF WORDS

Saturday, April 25, 2026

441 Social Welfare Students Clear JEE Main



Hyderabad: Overcoming financial and social challenges, students of the Telangana Social Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TSWREIS) excelled in the JEE Main 2026 results, with 441 qualifying for the JEE Advanced. Of them, 35 scored above the 90 percentile, 156 above 80 percentile and 339 above 70 percentile. Among the top scorers, K. Karthik of CoE Gowlidoddi secured an all-India rank of 795 in the ST category; S. Vaibhav Prasad 919. From the same institution, Ch. Swaroop scored 98.92 percentile with 2,036 rank in the OBC category, and

S. Nikhil secured 97.72 percentile with 1,097 rank in the SC category. K. Akshay Kumar of CoE Wardhannapet scored 97.44 percentile and 1261 rank in the SC category. Girls also performed strongly, with Y. Sirisha of CoE Gowlidoddi Girls' College securing 2032 rank in the ST category and K. Sri Varsha 3221 rank in the SC category. Overall, three students secured ranks within 1,000, eight within 2,000 and 13 within 3,000. In the PwD category, V. Eswar Varaprasad of CoE Gowlidoddi achieved 202 rank and D. Sirisha of CoE Narsingi 336 rank. Social Welfare minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar congratulated the students and encouraged them to excel in the JEE Advanced scheduled for May 17.



AESL Telangana Excels in JEE Main 2026; 48 Students Score 99+ Percentile, Jayanth Shekhar Secures AIR 93

Hyderabad: Students from Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), Telangana, have delivered an impressive performance in JEE Main 2026, with 48 students achieving 99 percentile and above. The results highlight consistent academic excellence and strong preparation standards across AESL's Telangana centers. Leading the achievers is Jayanth Shekhar, who secured an exceptional 99.996952 percentile and an All India Rank (AIR) of 93, emerging as the top performer from the state. Among other top-ranking students are Hanzalah Abedeen (AIR 189, 99.992 percentile), Shiva Tejanshu A (AIR 366, 99.98 percentile), Alamuri Chaitanya (AIR 523, 99.97 percentile), Rishit Kyatham (AIR 664, 99.96 percentile), and Harish (AIR 1285, 99.92 percentile). In total, 29 students from the cohort secured top ranks, reinforcing the institute's strong academic track record. Commenting on the results, Dheeraj Kumar Misra, Chief Academic and Business Head for South India at AESL, said the achievement reflects both student dedication and the effectiveness of the institute's academic ecosystem. He emphasized that disciplined preparation, consistent effort, and structured learning played a key role in the outcomes.

Students attributed their success to a combination of self-discipline, regular practice, expert mentorship, and continuous assessment. The structured curriculum, supported by experienced faculty and frequent mock tests, helped them identify weaknesses early and steadily improve performance while maintaining exam readiness. Conducted by the National Testing Agency, JEE Main provides students with two attempts annually, allowing scope for score improvement. The exam serves as a gateway to premier engineering institutions such as the National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), and other centrally funded technical institutes. It also acts as a qualifying exam for JEE Advanced, which enables admission into the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). The strong results from Telangana underline a continued trend of high performance, driven by focused preparation strategies and sustained academic support.

UoH, HAL launch Centre for Digital Twin Technology

Hyderabad: The University of Hyderabad (UoH) on Tuesday launched a Centre of Excellence in Digital Twin Technology in partnership with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), alongside inaugurating a new interdisciplinary research facility. The Centre and the Interdisciplinary Research Cluster (IDRC) building were inaugurated in the presence of HAL chairman and managing director D.K. Sunil, Vice-Chancellor in-charge J. Anuradha and noted scientist Goverdhan Mehta. Set up with HAL's corporate social responsibility support, the digital twin centre aims to advance research, innovation and skilling using real-time simulation, data systems and artificial intelligence. It houses specialised labs equipped with high-end systems,



sensors, drones and analytics tools. D.K. Sunil said the collaboration was significant for aerospace applications. "Digital twin technology will help build real-time models to improve efficiency and maintenance of aeronautical systems," he said. Prof. J. Anuradha said the initiative bridges academic research with real-world use. "This strengthens our effort to connect theory with practical applications," she noted. Prof. Samrat Sabat, coordinator of the centre, said it would focus on training and develop-

ing solutions in predictive maintenance, electric vehicle battery systems and smart infrastructure. The newly inaugurated IDRC building is designed to support interdisciplinary research across departments. Prof. Goverdhan Mehta urged students and faculty to use the facility to address complex problems. "Interdisciplinary research is key to solving real-world challenges," he said. The event also included a tour of facilities and discussions on future collaboration between the university and HAL.

Only 1,600 Indians Studying In Japan: Experts In Hyderabad Call For Stronger Academic Ties

HYDERABAD: Only about 1,600 Indian students are studying in Japan, speakers said at a seminar in Hyderabad on Monday, as they pushed for stronger academic and youth links between the two countries. The seminar, 'Youth and Academia Powering India-Japan Relations', was organised at St Ann's College for Women as part of the 75th year of diplomatic ties between the two countries. Conversations moved between geopolitics, campus opportunities and lived experiences in Japan, giving students a grounded sense of what studying or working there actually involves. A Sanjay Pulipaka, chairperson of Politeia Research Foundation, said the relationship between the two countries had moved beyond diplomacy into a strategic space. "India and Japan are, in many ways, altering the balance of power in Asia," he said, pointing to cooperation in infrastructure and technology. He added that stronger student



movement is necessary if this relationship is to deepen. "If we don't understand our partners, how do we work with them in a rapidly changing geopolitical environment?" Masayuki Taga, diplomat and former consul-general of Japan, Visiting Professor at Gifu Women's University and director of the Japan India Association, brought the focus back to the classroom and said students needed to move beyond memorising answers. "The focus is shifting not just on what answers you find, but on what questions you ask, and why," he said. He urged students to build curiosity and read about cultures, recalling Rabindranath Tagore's observation that the Japanese "do not waste their energy on pointless arguing" and value restraint. Details on study pathways came from professors of several universities like Kyoto University and Hiroshima University, both with high world rankings. Dr Sushil Raut of Hiroshima University, an Indian faculty member, said the

institution already has a diverse international student base. "We have more than 2,000 international students from more than 100 countries," he said. He spoke about programmes ranging from short-term exchanges to full degrees, and pointed to the MEXT fellowship. "You do not have to pay tuition fees. They also provide travel support and a scholarship," he said, adding that living costs in Hiroshima are lower than in larger cities. Industry perspective came from M. Kishore, director at Satven, Hiroshima, who spoke about work culture and demand. "The beauty of the Japanese language is that the culture is integrated into it. If you learn the language, you learn the culture," he said. He pointed to sectors such as healthcare, AI and automotive engineering as areas with demand and added, "If you learn the language well, your job is safe till retirement in Japan."

What students need to know about applied finance program costs

The financial services business is changing quickly, and so is the need for highly qualified workers who can handle the complexities of today's markets. Specialized studies in applied finance and wealth management are becoming more important for people who want to work in investment advice, portfolio management, financial planning, and private banking. These programs are different from regular business degrees since they offer focused curricula that combine academic excellence with real-world use. As the world's wealth grows and wealthy people want for more complex financial advice, businesses are looking for graduates who have both academic understanding and real-world experience. Students who want to move up in their jobs in financial services quickly have found that applied finance and wealth management programs are a good choice. But before they sign up for such a program, students need to think about how it would affect their finances. Before starting a program like this, it's important to know how much money you will have to spend. There are several charges that future students should carefully think about, from tuition and living expenses to certification fees and more. This article lists the most important cost factors to assist students make a smart choice.

Fees for tuition and the structure of the program

The cost of tuition and the format of the program might vary a lot depending on how long the program lasts, the mode of teaching, namely whether it



is in campus or online, and how much it costs to go to school in general. For instance, a master's program that lasts one year may cost more than one that lasts two years and involves internships or classes that take you around the world. Because these schools are well-known and adjacent to significant financial centers like London, New York, Singapore, Sydney or Dubai. Their programs are sometimes more expensive. Students should also look into what the quoted price includes. Some programs charge extra for things like library access, technology fees, and some course materials, while others list these as separate prices. Students can prevent unexpected charges after they've already signed up by knowing exactly how much their school costs. You should look at more than simply the prices of different programs. You should also think

about how much information and value they give you.

Costs other than tuition

Tuition is only one piece of the money puzzle. Students should also think about additional costs, like rent, food, health insurance, travel, and school supplies. Housing may be one of the most expensive things students have to pay for besides tuition if they are studying in a different city or country. Cities with strong financial sectors frequently have higher rental markets. This means that students have to spend more money each month. Travel costs, such as flights to and from home, daily commute fees, and any travel related to study trips or networking activities, also increase over time. Also, textbooks, software subscriptions, professional journals, and other school supplies may not be included in the cost of tuition. Students need to save money for these things, which means they have to



International News

VOICE OF WORDS

Saturday, April 25, 2026

'Will push for it': UNSG candidate Bachelet responds as India presses on UNSC reform, Global South goals

UNITED NATIONS: India raised issues of UN Security Council reform and Global South development goals as it questioned former Chilean president and UN Secretary General candidate Michelle Bachelet on her plans to address them if elected to lead the global organisation. Bachelet, the former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, said that there is a "real need" for Security Council reform and greater representation in both permanent and non-permanent categories, vowing to push efforts towards achieving it. "I think it's a real need for a reform of the Security Council," Bachelet said here Tuesday in response to a question by PTI on the long-pending UNSC reforms and developing countries like India sitting at the powerful table as permanent members to reflect current global realities. Bachelet is one of the



four candidates currently in the fray to be the next Secretary General of the United Nations. The current UN chief, Antonio Guterres, completes his tenure on December 31, after having served two consecutive five-year terms as the world's top diplomat. During a three-hour interactive dialogue here on Tuesday, Bachelet faced questions from UN member states and civil society about her vision for the position of the next Secretary-General and why she is the best choice for the top job at the UN. "The ninth decade of the UN must be one of leadership and hope. We appreciate your efforts in articulating your vision and plan of action to the member states," Secretary (West) in the Min-

istry of External Affairs, Ambassador Sibi George said during the interactive dialogue with Bachelet. Michelle Bachelet, former Chilean president and a candidate for United Nations secretary-general, speaks during an informal dialogue at UN headquarters on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. "It is evident that today the UN Security Council framework reflects the realities of a different era. Your vision statement advocates sustaining and advancing ongoing reforms at the UN. I request you to elaborate on the steps you plan to pursue in order to realise this objective," George said. Posing the second question, George said Bachelet's vision statement puts special attention towards Small Island Developing

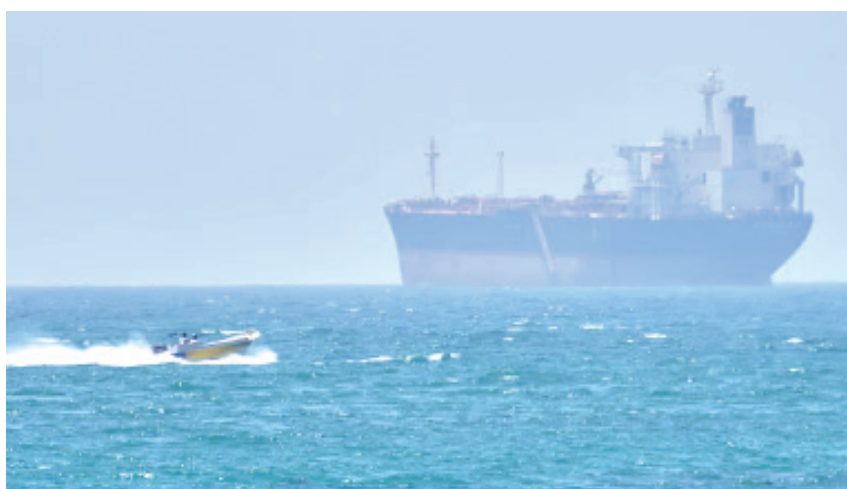
States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) in view of sustainable development. "We are keen to know more about your thoughts and approach towards achieving the developmental goals of the Global South," he said. Bachelet, who has been jointly nominated by Brazil and Mexico, stressed that it is important for her that the Secretary General understand the different realities and can find ways of doing things in the best possible manner. "It's clear for me that the UN80 process had to be really reflecting what's going on and can be implemented," she said, referring to the ambitious initiative launched by Guterres aimed at transforming the 80-year old global organisation to make it more effective and efficient in dealing with current geo-political realities and challenges.



Iran Urges UN to Push US to Free Seized Ship Touska

New York: Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Amir Saeed Iravani, has formally urged the global body to press the United States to immediately and unconditionally release the Iranian commercial vessel Touska, along with its crew and their families, according to Iranian state broadcaster Press TV. In a letter sent on Tuesday to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the President of the Security Council, Iravani raised "urgent concern" over what he described as ongoing violations of international law by the United States, including the targeting of Iranian commercial ships. Iravani detailed the incident, stating that US forces captured the Touska in the Sea of Oman near Iran's coast a day earlier, calling the move a "hostile and unlawful act." "This attack involved coercion, intimidation, and reckless endangerment of the lives of the ship's crew and their families," he said. He emphasized that the seizure of a civilian vessel constitutes a clear violation of fundamental principles of international law, including the prohibition on aggression. The deliberate intimidation and psychological terror inflicted on the crew and their families further aggravate the severity of this act. Such conduct amounts to maritime piracy and represents a dangerous escalation that threatens the safety and security of vital shipping routes," he added. Iravani further stated that the incident reflects characteristics of aggression as outlined in a UN General Assembly resolution and also represents a breach of the ceasefire announced by US President Donald Trump on April 7. This action poses a serious threat to regional and international peace and security, further destabilising an already fragile situation," he said. The envoy reiterated that Iran strongly condemns the move as unlawful and urged the United Nations to take swift and decisive action by denouncing the attack, holding those responsible accountable, and ensuring the immediate release of the vessel and all those on board.

Iran seizes third container ship in Hormuz after Trump extends ceasefire indefinitely



Iran's Revolutionary Guards on Wednesday seized three ships attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz as US President Donald Trump extended a temporary ceasefire between both countries. The IRGC in a statement earlier in the day confirmed the seizure of two ships. "The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps naval force this morning identified and stopped in the Strait of Hormuz two violating ships," the Guards said in a statement. "The two offending ships... were seized by the IRGC's naval forces and directed to the Iranian coast." They identified one ship as "MSC-FRANCESCA", which they said belonged "to the Zionist regime" in refer-

ence to Israel, and the other as "EPAMINONDAS", which they said was "tampering with navigation systems and jeopardising maritime security." Iranian media including the Nour News, Fars and Mehr news agencies later reported IRGC's naval forces have attacked a third vessel called the Euphoria. They said the vessel had become "stranded" on the Iranian coast, without elaborating. The attacks came after US President Donald Trump said the country has indefinitely extend the ceasefire with Iran, which had been due to expire on Wednesday, to give Tehran time to come up with a "unified proposal" ahead of possible negotiations. Iran has offered no formal acknowledgment of Trump's ceasefire extension. The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said the first attack happened around 7:55 am in the strait and targeted a container ship. The UKMTO said a Guard gunboat did not hail the ship before firing and added that the incident took place 15 nautical miles northeast of Oman and all the crew were safe. "The master of a container ship reported that the vessel was approached by one IRGC gunboat... that then fired upon the vessel, which has caused heavy damage to the bridge. No fires or environmental impact reported," it said.

'Two US officials killed in Mexico crash after anti-drug operation worked for CIA'



WASHINGTON: Two U.S. officials killed in a vehicle crash as they returned from destroying a clandestine drug lab in northern Mexico over the weekend were working for the CIA, according to a U.S. official and two other people familiar with the matter. Two Mexican investigators also were killed in the crash, which Mexican authorities said occurred while the convoy was returning from an operation to destroy drug labs of criminal groups. There have been discrepancies in the public accounts of what happened from U.S. and Mexican officials, which experts say underscores heightened American involvement in security operations in Mexico and across the region. The CIA's involvement was confirmed Tuesday by the three with knowledge of the crash, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence matters. That the U.S. officials worked for the CIA was reported earlier by The Washington Post. It comes after days of contradictions from Mexican and U.S. authorities about the role that American officials played in an operation to bust a narco-laboratory in northern Chihuahua state. The lack of clarity from authorities reignited a debate over the extent of U.S. involvement in Mexico's security operations as Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum faces extreme pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump's administration to crack down on cartels. Trump has taken a more aggres-

sive stance toward Latin America than any leader in recent U.S. history, capturing Venezuela's president, blockading oil shipments to Cuba and launching joint military operations in Ecuador, a country also marked by criminal violence. Trump has repeatedly offered to take action on Mexican cartels, an intervention that Sheinbaum has said was "unnecessary." The CIA officers were initially identified as U.S. embassy personnel by U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Ron Johnson, who is himself a former CIA employee. The U.S. Embassy declined Monday to identify the individuals or which entity of the U.S. government they worked for, but said the officials were "supporting Chihuahua state authorities' efforts to combat cartel operations." The embassy, State Department and CIA declined to comment on the identities of reports of CIA involvement in the operation. Local Mexican officials originally claimed they were working with the U.S. on an operation, but later walked those comments back after the effort came under scrutiny from Sheinbaum. Sheinbaum said she knew nothing of a joint operation between Chihuahua's government and the U.S. despite reports that the Mexican army was also involved in the raid on the lab.

Israel Urges Lebanon To Disarm Hezbollah Ahead Of US Talks In Washington



Jerusalem: Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar called on Lebanon to work with Israel to disarm the Iranian-backed militant group Hezbollah ahead of negotiations in Washington on Thursday. The meeting follows a similar gathering last week in Washington, and is the first time in decades the two countries are speak-

ing directly. "We don't have any serious disagreements with Lebanon. There are a few minor border disputes that can be solved," Saar said during Independence Day remarks to Israel's diplomatic corps. "The obstacle to peace and normalisation between the countries is one: Hezbollah," he said, adding that Lebanon could have "a future of sovereignty, independence and freedom from the Iranian occupation". Israel's military has currently established a buffer zone stretching around 10 km (6 miles) into southern Lebanon to remove the threat of short-range rockets and anti-tank missiles toward northern Israel.

Iran Says Won't Reopen Hormuz as Long as US Blockade Remains

Tehran: Iran vowed Wednesday not to reopen the Strait of Hormuz so long as a US naval blockade remained in place despite a ceasefire extension, as it announced the seizure of two ships trying to cross the strategic waterway. As the clock ticked for a return to the war that has engulfed the region, US President Donald Trump had said Tuesday he would maintain the truce to allow more time for Pakistani-brokered peace talks. Iran said it welcomed the efforts by Pakistan but made no other comment on Trump's announcement. "A complete ceasefire only has meaning if it is not violated through a naval blockade," said Iranian parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, who led Tehran's delegation in the first round of talks in Islamabad. "Reopening the Strait of Hormuz is not possible amid a blatant violation of the ceasefire. Oil prices, which have soared since Israel and the United States attacked Iran on February 28, kept inching up from the uncertainty on whether war will resume, although US stock prices gained ground.

VOICE OF WORDS

BUSINESS

Short-term fluctuations, including FDI outflows closely monitored: RBI Governor

NEW YORK: Short-term fluctuations, including net FDI outflows and exchange rate movements, are cyclical in nature and are being closely monitored, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said. He was speaking at a round-table hosted by Consulate General of India in New York on Monday. A press release was issued the next day. Malhotra highlighted the ongoing reforms to simplify regulatory frameworks, enhance ease of doing business, expand market access for foreign investors, and further integrate onshore and offshore markets. The round-table was attended by over 100 representatives from financial institutions, investment firms and policy circles, including participants from banks, asset management firms, family offices, capital management firms, institutional investors, wealth managers, and other industry professionals. During the session, RBI Chief General Manager Dimple Bhandia gave a presentation, highlighting the country's strong macroeconomic fundamentals, resilient financial sector, and consistent policy framework. It emphasized India's position as the fastest-growing major economy and its trajectory to become the third-largest economy globally in the coming years. The discussion highlighted key indicators such as low inflation within the target range, a manageable current account deficit of around 1.1 per cent of GDP, robust foreign exchange reserves of USD 700 billion, the release added.



Seafood exports hit record Rs 72,325 crore; volume rises despite dip in US numbers

KOCHI: India's seafood exports touched a historic high of Rs 72,325.82 crore (\$8.28 billion) in 2025-26, with total export volumes rising to 19.32 lakh metric tonnes, according to provisional figures released by the Marine Products Export Development Authority. The data clearly shows that there was no decline in overall export quantity, with both value and volume registering growth during the financial year. Frozen shrimp continued to dominate India's marine exports, contributing \$5.51 billion — accounting for more than two-thirds of total export earnings. Shipments of shrimp increased by 4.6% in volume and 6.35% in value, reinforcing its position as the key driver of export growth. The United States remained the largest importer of Indian seafood, with purchases worth \$2.32 billion. However, exports to the US declined sharply, falling by 19.8% in volume and 14.5% in value, largely due to the impact of reciprocal tariffs. This decline was effectively offset by strong growth in alternative markets. Exports to China, the second-largest destination, rose by 22.7% in value and 20.1% in volume. The European Union recorded a significant surge, with exports increasing by 37.9% in value and 35.2% in volume. Southeast Asian markets also showed robust expansion, posting growth of 36.1% in value and 28.2% in volume. Shipments to Japan grew by 6.55% in value, while exports to West Asia registered a marginal decline of 0.55%, attributed to regional instability towards the end of the financial year. On the product side, apart from shrimp, exports of frozen fish, squid, cuttlefish, dried items and live seafood registered positive momentum. Value-added segments such as surimi, fishmeal and fish oil also showed improved performance, while chilled products witnessed a decline. In terms of logistics, the major export hubs—Vizag, JNPT, Kochi, Kolkata and Chennai—together accounted for nearly 64% of total export value, underlining their continued importance in India's seafood export supply chain, said MPEDA.

Premier Explosives Secures Rs 350.23 Crore Export Order For Defence Products



Secunderabad: Premier Explosives is expanding its global footprint with a sizable defence export order, reflecting growing international demand for its specialized products. Premier Explosives Limited has secured export orders valued at Rs 350.23 crores for supplying defence products to an international client. The order, disclosed on April 22, 2026, represents a major win for the company in overseas markets and reinforces its position in the defence manufacturing segment. The contract will be executed over a period of two years, providing the company with medium-term revenue visibility. As detailed in the annexure on page 2, the structured timeline allows for phased delivery of defence products, aligning production schedules with client requirements and ensuring steady operational flow. This order highlights Premier Explosives' growing traction in international markets. The contract, awarded by an overseas client, underscores the

company's capability to meet global defence standards and deliver specialized products beyond domestic demand. The international nature of the deal further diversifies its revenue base and enhances its export credentials. The company has confirmed that there is no promoter or group company interest in the entity awarding the contract, and the transaction does not fall under related party arrangements. This ensures that the deal has been executed on an arm's length basis, maintaining transparency and compliance with regulatory standards. The latest export order marks a significant step in Premier Explosives' growth trajectory, strengthening its foothold in the global defence supply chain while supporting long-term business expansion.

Indian Real Estate Land Deals Skyrocket To Rs 54,818 Crore With 32% Growth

New Delhi: The real estate industry in India witnessed a 32 per cent year-on-year surge in land acquisitions in 2025, with developers acquiring 3,093 acres across 149 transactions valued at Rs 54,818 crore, according to a report released on Wednesday. The report by JLL also said the acquired land is expected to unlock nearly 229 million square feet of development over the next two to five years, reflecting strong developer confidence and sustained demand. It highlighted a skewed investment pattern, with Tier I cities accounting for 89 per cent of total capital deployed despite representing only 52 per cent of land acquired. On the other hand, Tier II cities accounted for 48 per cent of land transactions but attracted just 11 per cent of investments which indicates lower land costs and emerging growth opportunities. The momentum has continued into 2026, with around 900 acres acquired in Q1 across key markets, valued at nearly Rs 18,000 crore. The report also stated that the Mumbai Metropolitan Region recorded the largest deal, with an 11-acre parcel transacted for Rs 5,400 crore. Developing these land parcels will require over Rs 92,000 crore in construction capital, with external funding needs estimated to exceed Rs 52,000 crore. The report noted that this would likely drive increased participation from Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), private credit providers and institutional investors. Tier I cities are expected to absorb nearly 89 per cent of the capital required for upcoming developments due to higher project costs and premium real estate demand in major metros. Moreover, residential development has remained the primary growth driver, accounting for 78 per cent of land allocation and around 76 per cent of total funding requirements, with an estimated construction cost exceeding Rs 72,000 crore. While office development has a projected capital requirement of about Rs 8,700 crore, suggesting continued demand for Grade A office spaces. The report also noted that individual landowners dominated the supply side, accounting for 65 per cent of total transactions. While individual sellers were dominant in cities like Chennai, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Pune, corporate entities led in Hyderabad, and government bodies accounted for a majority of transactions in Delhi-NCR. In the industrial and emerging asset segments, developers are increasingly exploring opportunities in data centres, logistics parks and other alternative real estate classes.

GST Deadline Extended To April 21 For March GSTR-3B Filing, Government Issues Notification After Technical Glitches

New Delhi: In a major update, the government has introduced a change related to Goods and Services Tax (GST), impacting all taxpayers. The biggest development is the extension of the deadline for filing the GSTR-3B return for the month of March. Taxpayers can now file their GST returns and complete tax payments until April 21, instead of the earlier deadline of April 20. The decision was taken after several taxpayers faced technical difficulties while filing their returns on April 20. Due to these issues, many were unable to complete the process on time. To address these concerns and provide relief, the government decided to extend the deadline by one day. A formal notification was issued on Tuesday by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). The notification confirmed that the last date for filing the March GSTR-3B return has been extended to April 21.

This official announcement ensures that taxpayers will not face penalties due to the technical problems encountered earlier. What is GSTR-3B? GSTR-3B is a monthly summary return that registered taxpayers must file. It includes details of sales, purchases, tax liability, and input tax credit. Depending on their category, taxpayers usually file this return on the 20th, 22nd, or 24th of each month. According to Rajat Mohan, Managing Partner at AMRG Global, the extension has provided relief to taxpayers. However, he also pointed out that the situation highlights the need to strengthen the GSTN system. He added



that although the notification was applied retrospectively, the delay in communication created last-minute pressure. Tax teams and professionals had to work late hours to meet deadlines, increasing stress during the filing process. Overall, while the extension has eased immediate concerns, it has also raised questions about the reliability and efficiency of the GST filing system.

Amazon India to invest Rs 2,800 crore in safety, wellbeing, and operations network



BENGALURU: Amazon India has announced plans to invest more than Rs 2,800 crore (about \$300 million) to strengthen safety, health, and financial well-being for its workforce while expanding its operations network across the country. The company said the investment is part of a broader commitment to invest over \$35 billion in India by 2030, with a focus on business expansion, AI-driven digitisation, export growth, and job creation. "Since launching Amazon.in in 2013, we have built one of India's safest, fastest, and most reliable operations networks, serving customers across every serviceable pin code in the country," said Abhinav Singh, Vice President of Operations for Amazon India and Australia. "At the heart of this network are our people, and we remain committed to raising the bar on associate safety, health, and financial wellbeing." He added, "This year, we are investing over INR 2800 crore (~USD 300 million) to further strengthen these efforts, while continuing to scale our operations network and advance the technology that enables faster, safer, and more reliable deliveries for customers." A large part of the investment will go towards expanding programmes aimed at improving the lives of tens of thousands of associates and partners. Amazon plans to scale up Project Ashray, which provides air-conditioned rest facilities for delivery workers. These centres, already present in several major cities, offer seating, drinking water, charging points, and first-aid sup-

port, serving more than 150,000 delivery associates every month. Health initiatives will also grow, including Sushruta, a programme supporting long-haul truck drivers and their families, alongside new efforts focusing on mental health and ergonomic care. The company will continue to run nationwide medical camps offering free check-ups and preventive screenings. In addition, Amazon said it will enhance medical and accident insurance coverage and expand access to government welfare schemes through its Samridhi programme. This is expected to benefit tens of thousands of workers and more than 200,000 community members. Support for education will also continue under the Pratiidhi programme, which provides scholarships and mentorship to associates' children. In 2025, 5,000 scholarships were awarded. Alongside worker-focused initiatives, the company will invest in expanding its logistics and delivery infrastructure, including fulfilment centres, sortation hubs, and last-mile delivery stations. The aim is to improve delivery speeds, particularly in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, while supporting sellers and small businesses. Amazon also plans to grow its quick commerce service, Amazon Now, which already operates more than 300 micro-fulfilment centres. The company said it will more than double its presence in existing cities and expand into new ones. These efforts are expected to allow deliveries ranging from minutes to several days, depending on customer needs. The investment will also cover new technology, including artificial intelligence and machine learning tools designed to improve efficiency and safety.

VOICE OF WORDS

HEALTH

Work from home vs office: Which is worse for your body?



Both work-from-home and office setups have hidden physical downsides. While home setups often lead to poor posture and reduced movement, office life adds stress through long commutes and sedentary routines. Experts highlight that the real impact depends on daily habits rather than location alone. The conversation around work has mostly been about productivity, flexibility, and convenience. But there's another question people rarely ask: what is your work setup actually doing to your body? The answer isn't as simple as choosing one over the other. Both working from home and office life come with their own physical consequences. And neither is as harmless as it seems. "Your body responds to patterns, not locations. Whether you're at home or in an office, prolonged stress and poor physical habits will eventually show up," says Dr Chandni Tugnait, MD (A.M), psychotherapist, life alchemist, coach and healer, and founder and director of Gateway of Healing. The work-from-home problem: Comfort that quietly hurts Working from home sounds ideal until you look at how most people actually do it. Dining tables turn into desks. Sofas become workstations. Laptops sit too low, chairs offer little support, and posture takes a back seat. Over time, this adds up. Poor ergonomics can lead to neck strain, back pain, and wrist issues. But there's another layer to it that often goes unnoticed, reduced movement. At home, your day can shrink to a few steps between your bed, desk, and kitchen. "What looks like convenience can slowly turn into physical stagnation. The lack of natural movement throughout the day impacts both physical and mental health," Dr Tugnait explains.

The office problem: Stress you don't always see

Offices, on the other hand, come with a different kind of strain. The biggest one? Commuting. In many Indian cities, daily travel can add two to three hours of sitting, noise, and stress before the workday even begins. It's exhausting in ways that don't always feel obvious. Long commutes are linked to higher cortisol levels, the body's primary stress hormone. Over time, elevated cortisol can affect sleep, immunity, and even weight. "Chronic stress, even if it feels normal, can have a cumulative impact on the body. It affects everything from energy levels to emotional regulation," says Dr Tugnait. Beyond that, office environments bring their own challenges, long hours of sitting, screen exposure, and the subtle pressure to always be "on". Here's where it gets real. Your body doesn't distinguish between a bad chair at home and a bad chair at work. It doesn't care whether your stress comes from deadlines or traffic. It only responds to what you repeatedly do.



The growing habit of checking phones immediately after waking up, often called the "6 AM phone rule," is changing how people start their day. Experts warn that it can increase mental fatigue and reduce focus by putting the brain into a reactive state early on. Your morning routine might be hurting your focus. There was a time when mornings were slow, intentional, and yours. Today, for many people, the day begins before they even sit up in bed. The phone is picked up, notifications are checked, messages are answered, and within minutes, the mind is already occupied. What's now being casually called the "6 AM phone rule" is quietly becoming a habit. And while it may seem harmless, experts say it's reshaping how we start our day. "The first hour of the day does not just begin your schedule, it sets the tone for your mind," says Dr Rekha Chaudhari, Founder of World Digital Detox Day.

Why this small habit feels bigger than it looks

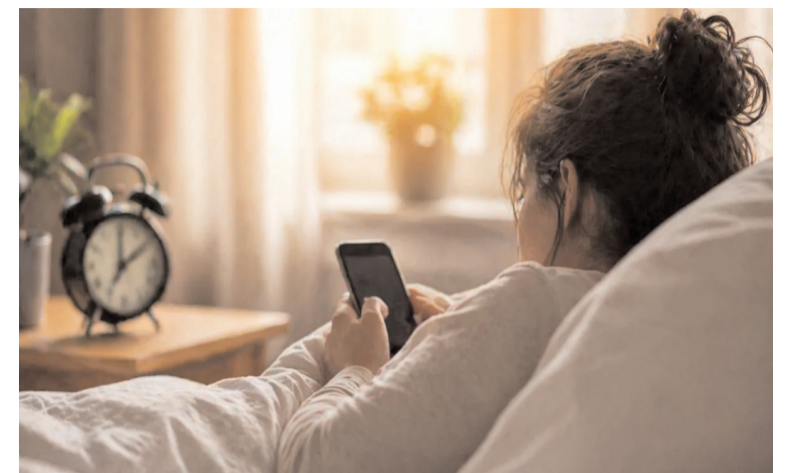
Checking your phone first thing in the morning may feel productive. You're catching up, staying informed, responding quickly. But the brain reads it differently. "When you start your day with a screen, your mind immediately enters a loop of reactivity instead of beginning from a calm, neutral state," explains Dr Chaudhari. Instead of your thoughts leading the day, external inputs take over.

The hidden effects on your mental state

This shift doesn't always feel dramatic. It builds quietly. Many people report feeling rushed even before getting out of bed. There's a subtle pressure to check, reply, and keep up.

Over time, this can lead to: Mental fatigue, Reduced focus, Irritability, Anxiety

"In this state, we begin to ignore basic signals from



the body like rest, movement, and natural morning needs," Dr Chaudhari notes.

Why therapists are divided

Not everyone sees this habit as entirely negative. Some therapists argue that checking your phone early helps you feel connected and prepared for the day. But others are more cautious. The concern isn't the phone itself, it's the timing. Because once your brain starts reacting, it's harder to regain control.

What mornings were meant to do

Traditionally, early mornings were designed for stillness. Whether it was exercise, meditation, or simply sitting quietly, the idea was to give the mind space before the world entered it. "It is not about choosing between a workout and a phone. It is about whether your morning is self-led or externally driven," says Dr Chaudhari.

The case for a screen-free start

Digital wellness experts suggest a simple shift, delay your phone use by even an hour. This creates space for the brain to wake up naturally, without being pulled into constant stimulation. "The mind needs a pause before it begins receiving input," Dr Chaudhari adds. Even small changes can help reset how your day feels.

Neurologist rates viral migraine hacks on a scale of 1 to 10; here's how eyebrow clipping scored

A neurologist reviews popular migraine hacks and rates what actually works. From cold caps and peppermint oil to viral tricks like salt under the tongue, he separates effective remedies from myths, helping you manage migraine pain more realistically. Not every migraine hack is a waste of time. But not every hack works either.

Not every migraine hack is a waste of time. But not every hack works either. Migraines are hard enough on their own. Add peak summer heat into the mix and it just gets heavier. The pain feels sharper, the fatigue lingers longer, and even small triggers can set things off. That is usually when people start trying quick fixes they see online. Some look simple. Some even convincing. But not all of them actually help. To cut through that noise, Dr Elie Sader, a double board-certified neurologist and pain medicine specialist, reviewed a bunch of popular migraine "hacks" and rated them on a scale of one to ten. His take is fairly direct. "Some of these will help. Some are straight-up useless. This one does not hold up at all. According to him, placing a pinch of salt under your tongue during a migraine has no scientific backing. He gave it a clear zero out of ten. "I wish it were that easy, but salt has no role to play in migraine. A pinch of salt, whether table salt or mineral salt, is not going to cut it," he said.

This is one of the more useful options. He rated ice packs or cold caps an eight out of ten, saying



many patients do feel relief. The effect comes from vasoconstriction, which means narrowing of blood vessels, along with temperature regulation. "This works for a lot of patients, though the benefit is short-lived, usually half an hour to an hour. It works by vasoconstricting the blood vessels and activating temperature-sensitive ion channels," he explained. This one is often talked about. But the evidence does not quite support it.

He gave it a three out of ten and pointed out that the idea behind it is linked to stimulating the vagus nerve. But there are no strong, large-scale studies to confirm that. "Supposedly, it works by tickling the vagus nerve, but there are no large-scale studies on it. It is definitely overhyped and carries a high rate of complications, such as infection," he said. This sits somewhere in the middle. e rated it a five out of ten. The mechanism here is based on

the Gate Control Theory of Pain, acting at the level of the supraorbital nerve, which is a branch of the trigeminal nerve. "This works via gate theory at the level of the supraorbital nerve. It might work for some people with frontal headaches, but you shouldn't get your hopes up," he noted.

This one sounds unusual, but there is some logic behind it. He rated it a seven out of ten. The combination of caffeine and easily digestible carbohydrates can help, especially since low blood sugar or fasting is a known migraine trigger. "The caffeine and carbohydrates help because fasting is a well-known trigger for migraine," he explained. This one is more theory than proof. He rated it a four out of ten. The idea is that soaking feet in water may dilate blood vessels in the lower body and redirect blood flow away from the brain.

VOICE OF WORDS

WOMEN

Why your eyebrows matter more than you think as you age



Eye-brow position plays a crucial role in how youthful, rested, and expressive a face appears. Experts explain that even a slight brow descent due to ageing can make the face look tired, and that skincare alone cannot address this structural change. Why eyebrow position matters more than skincare in ageing? When people think about ageing, the focus usually lands on wrinkles, fine lines, or sagging skin. But there's one feature that quietly shapes how your entire face is perceived, your eyebrows.

It might sound subtle, but even a slight change in brow position can alter how rested, expressive, or youthful you look. According to Dr Debraj Shome, Co-Founder and Director at The Esthetic Clinics, the eyebrow plays a far more defining role in facial expression than most people realise.

The small shift that changes everything

Ageing does not happen all at once. It shows up in gradual, almost unnoticeable ways. One of the earliest changes is the descent of the brow. As skin loses elasticity and underlying fat reduces, the eyebrows begin to droop, especially at the outer corners. This can make the eyes appear heavier, and the face look tired or even stern, even when you feel perfectly fine. What's interesting is that this shift can happen by just a few millimetres, yet the visual impact is significant.

Why skincare alone can't fix it

You may be using the right creams or treatments, but if the brow position has changed, the face can still appear fatigued. That's because the issue is not just about skin quality, but structure. In simple terms, it's not only what's on the surface, but what's happening underneath that shapes how your face looks over time.

The shift towards non-surgical solutions

The positive thing about this problem is that it does not require surgical intervention anymore. There was a scientific study carried out over many years and published in the Indian Journal of Ophthalmology showing that some non-invasive procedures, such as injections with botulinum toxin and filler injections made from hyaluronic acid, help lift up the brows. These procedures work differently. The one works by relaxing the muscles that make your brow sink down. The other adds volume in targeted areas to support the brow's position. When used correctly, the results can look natural and last for a considerable period, without the downtime associated with surgery.

Getting the balance right matters

There's a fine line between restoring and overdoing it. Experts point out that the goal is not to dramatically lift the brow, but to bring it back to its natural position. An overly lifted brow can look just as unnatural as a drooping one. Typically, the ideal brow differs slightly for men and women, with women having a softer arch and men a flatter, more level shape. The focus, however, remains the same, subtle correction that enhances rather than changes the face.

Ageing is not just about lines or texture. It's about how features shift over time. And sometimes, the smallest adjustments, like restoring brow position, can make the biggest difference in how fresh and expressive your face appears.

Travel-friendly skincare:

How to protect your skin this summer

Travel can disrupt the skin barrier due to sun exposure, humidity changes, and environmental stress. Dr Mithila Ravindranath explains how a simple, consistent skincare routine focused on hydration, protection, and recovery can help prevent issues like tanning, dryness, and breakouts during vacation. Summer trips are meant to feel easy. You step away from routine, spend more time outdoors, and let your schedule loosen up a bit. But your skin doesn't always adjust as smoothly. A change in weather, more sun exposure, different water, even air travel, all of it can throw your skin off balance. That's why people often notice sudden breakouts, dryness, or tanning, even when they're being careful. According to Dr Mithila Ravindranath, Chief Consultant Dermatologist at Amintri Skin and Hair Clinic, "When you move from controlled indoor environments to high UV exposure and varying humidity, the skin barrier can get disrupted, making it more prone to damage." Why your skin behaves differently when you travel? The shift is subtle, but noticeable. Spending long hours in the sun increases melanin production, which leads to tanning and sometimes dark spots. At the same time, heat and humidity can trigger excess oil, while dry air in flights or air-conditioned rooms can leave the skin dehydrated. "External stressors like UV radiation, saltwater, and even frequent face-touching can weaken the skin's protective barrier," explains Dr Ravindranath. Once that barrier is compromised, your skin becomes more reactive than usual. Good travel skincare doesn't begin at the airport. It starts earlier. Keeping your routine simple and consistent in the weeks leading up to your trip helps strengthen your skin. Hydration plays a key role here. "Ingredients like hyaluronic acid support the skin's ability to retain moisture, which becomes especially important during travel," Dr Ravindranath notes. It's also worth testing any new product beforehand. Travel is not the time to experiment.



Keep your routine simple, but effective

When you're travelling, less really is more. A gentle cleanser, a lightweight moisturiser, and a reliable sunscreen are often enough. During the day, focus on hydration and protection. At night, slightly richer formulas can help the skin recover from sun exposure. "The goal is to support the skin barrier, not overload it," says Sun protection is non-negotiable

If there's one step you cannot skip, it's this. High UV exposure during summer trips makes sunscreen essential. A broad-spectrum SPF 30 or higher works well, but reapplication is just as important. "Reapplying sunscreen every two hours is key, especially in outdoor or beach settings," Dr Ravindranath advises. For humid conditions, mineral sunscreens with zinc oxide can feel lighter and less greasy. Adding protective clothing can also make a difference.

Managing common travel skin issues

Even with precautions, small issues can show up. Pool water or the sea can disturb your skin's pH balance, sometimes leading to breakouts. Rinsing your face and using calming ingredients like aloe vera can help. Long flights often bring puffiness. Cooling eye patches or caffeine-based products can reduce that swelling.

Can anti-grey hair serums really reverse greying? Dermatologist explains what to



Do anti-grey hair serums really work? Dr Swati Worah explains that while they cannot reverse grey hair, they may help slow the process. She highlights key ingredients, expected timelines, safety concerns, and who is most likely to benefit. Grey hair is one of those things people notice early and try to fix even earlier. The market is full of serums that promise to bring back natural colour or stop greying altogether. But how much of that actually works is a different question. Dr. Swati Worah, Dermatologist, Kaya Clinic, breaks it down simply. In her view, most of these products are not miracle fixes. They can help in some cases, maybe slow things down. But reversing grey hair completely is a different story.

Do anti-grey serums reverse grey hair?

"Most anti-grey hair serums do not

reverse already grey hair," Dr Swati said. She explained that greying happens when melanocytes, the cells that produce pigment, stop working or get depleted. "Once these cells are depleted, reversal is biologically unlikely," the dermatologist added. However, she noted that some serums may help slow further greying, especially when factors like oxidative stress or nutritional gaps are involved. Ingredients that actually matter and what is just hype? Not everything listed on the label is useful. "Ingredients with some scientific basis include antioxidants like Vitamin E and Vitamin C, catalase, copper peptides, and niacinamide," she explained. These may help reduce oxidative stress around the hair follicle. At the same time, she pointed out that many herbal extracts and so-called "proprietary blends" do

not have strong clinical backing. "They are often used more for marketing appeal than proven results," Dr Swati noted. How long it takes to see any visible change

This is where expectations often go wrong. "Hair growth cycles are slow, so any visible change takes time," she said. If a product works, it usually shows in subtle ways first.

"Users may notice slowing of greying or slight improvement in hair quality over 3 to 6 months," she added. Complete reversal, however, remains rare.

Are these serums safe for long-term use?

On safety, the answer is mostly reassuring but not absolute.

"Most topical serums are generally safe when used as directed," she said. Still, some people may experience irritation, itching, or even allergic reactions on the scalp.

"Long term safety data is limited, so continuous use should be cautious, especially in sensitive individuals," the dermatologist advised. Who benefits the most and who probably will not? Results depend a lot on why the greying is happening in the first place. "People with early or premature greying linked to stress, lifestyle, or nutritional deficiencies may benefit the most," Dr Swati explained. But for others, the outcome may be different. "Those with genetic or age related greying are less likely to see significant results, as the underlying cause is not reversible," she said.

VOICE OF WORDS

SPORTS



Hyd's Ayushi qualifies for National Powerlifting C'ship

Hyderabad: Hyderabad's 18-year-old Ayushi Prajapati has made a remarkable debut in powerlifting by qualifying for the National Sub-Junior and Junior Powerlifting Championship. Ayushi, who trains at Actin Fitness Centre in Durganagar, topped the 63 kg category in the Classic Junior Powerlifting Championship organised by the Telangana Powerlifting Association. Her performance has earned her a spot to represent Telangana at the national-level competition in Amalapuram, Konaseema district, next month. Powerlifting is increasingly gaining popularity in Telangana, with young athletes, especially girls, demonstrating exceptional talent. Ayushi's dedication and rigorous training have helped her achieve this milestone. Ayushi, who will be competing in the junior category at the national level, aims to take her success further, aspiring to win a medal for India at international events. Telangana celebrates her achievement as an inspiration for aspiring powerlifters.

Double Olympic medallist Vlasic named TCS World 10k Bengaluru ambassador

BENGALURU: Over Rs 5 cr has already been raised for social good before the 18th edition of the TCS World 10k Bengaluru. The money, according to a press release issued by the organisers, will benefit 94 NGOs across 16 causes. "This year's edition has seen a resounding commitment to social causes, with 38 companies fielding teams comprising a total of 2500+ employees in support of the charities and causes that are near and dear to them, encouraging the spirit of social giving as well as employee engagement while creating a socially conscious organisation," the release stated. United Way Bengaluru, the philanthropy partner, facilitated the charity drive. The main event is a World Athletics' Gold Label race event. This year's



event is scheduled for Sunday morning. Blanka Vlasic, a double Olympic medallist, will be the 'International Event Ambassador' for the event. The Croat, a world champion in 2007 and 2009, is one of the greatest names in high jump as her life-time best of 2.08m is third on the all-time list. She will be landing in the city on Thursday. She will flag off the main event on Sunday.

Brighton crush Chelsea to pile pressure on under-fire Rosenior



BRIGHTON: Chelsea crashed to a dismal 3-0 defeat against Brighton on Tuesday, leaving their hopes of qualifying for the Champions League in tatters as pressure mounts on beleaguered boss Liam Rosenior. Rosenior's side produced one of their worst performances of a miserable season as Ferdi Kadioglu put Brighton ahead in the first half before Jack Hinshelwood and Danny Welbeck netted after the interval. It is the first time that Chelsea have lost five consecutive league games without scoring since 1912, fittingly the year that the Titanic sank. Beaten seven times in their last eight games in all competitions, the Blues have just one victory in their past nine league matches. Chelsea are languishing in seventh place, seven points behind fifth-placed Liverpool in the fight for the top-five finish that guarantees a Champions League berth. Rosenior's team are in danger of missing out on European football altogether unless they can halt their wretched run. They face Leeds in the FA Cup semi-finals on Sunday knowing a defeat at Wembley could push Rosenior to the brink of the sack just months after he arrived from Strasbourg to replace Enzo Maresca in January.

Chennaiyin held to goalless draw by relegation-threatened Mohammedan

CHENNAI: It is not to say that Mohammedan SC are the easiest opponent in the ongoing Indian Super League season but no team would want to drop points against a relegation-threatened side who had just one point to show for till Tuesday. Then, Chennaiyin FC squandered an opportunity to consolidate at home, finishing with a goalless stalemate against Mohammedan SC here. Questionable substitutions and lack of fresh legs towards the end may have cost the two-time ISL champions another win which would have been crucial before getting on the road for away games. With 15 minutes to go in the match, defensive changes like Mohammed Ali Bemmamer and Pritam Kotal were made. The wingers Irfan Yadwad and Prakadeswaran S were innovative with their crosses into the box, but the final outcome did not result in a goal as Daniel Chima Chukwu failed to capitalise.

The visitors, meanwhile, maintained a narrow shape and tried to hit Chennaiyin on the counter. They let the opposition have most of the ball,



and tried to capitalise on errors. Mohammedan, coached by former Chennaiyin player Mehrajuddin Wadoo, kept attacking the channels which were left exposed due to the fullbacks pushing high. Earlier, the hosts had a good start by getting the first shot on goal within two minutes. But the visitors managed to keep them at bay. The attacking duo of Makan Chothe and T Adison Singh, feeding off midfielder Amarjit Singh's passes,

kept Chennaiyin on their toes with the pace they had in the counter attack. One silverlining for the team is the impact of local boy Prkadeswaran S. When he was brought on in the 54th minute, the largely quiet crowd at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium got louder and louder every time he took a touch. That in turn spurred the team into making more forays into the opposition box, but unfortunately was not enough.

Jannik Sinner eyes strong run in Madrid before French Open



New Delhi: Italian star Jannik Sinner has made it clear that the Madrid Open is an important part of his clay-court season, but his main focus is on performing well at Roland Garros as he aims for a career Grand Slam. The world number one arrives in Madrid after a significant breakthrough on clay. He recently defeated Carlos Alcaraz in straight sets to win the Monte Carlo Masters. However, Sinner admitted that he has not had the best results in the Spanish capital. "I never played very well here, so let's see how it goes this year," Sinner said ahead of the tournament. "I'm trying to improve as a player, and this might be one of the toughest challenges because of certain factors like altitude and wind." Even though he is one of the favourites and is aiming for a fifth consecutive Masters title, Sinner emphasised that his larger goal is in Paris. "The most important is Roland Garros," he said. "We try to be in the best shape possible there, but I'm here to do my best, and then we will see how it goes." Sinner's motivation is heightened by last year's disappointment at Roland Garros, where he lost a dramatic final to Alcaraz despite having three championship points. The 24-year-old has another chance to complete his Grand Slam collection, as the French Open is the only major title he still needs. The Madrid Open will miss two of tennis's biggest stars, with Alcaraz out due to a wrist injury and Novak Djokovic also absent. Sinner acknowledged that their absence creates a void. "It is a very big pity not to have Alcaraz here and also Novak, the two biggest stars in tennis," he said. "We have shared many tournaments since last year, but in my mind, I also know that if I want to play against Carlos, it is in the final, and the path to the final is very long."



Shiva Narwal wins gold in 10m air pistol at Junior World Cup

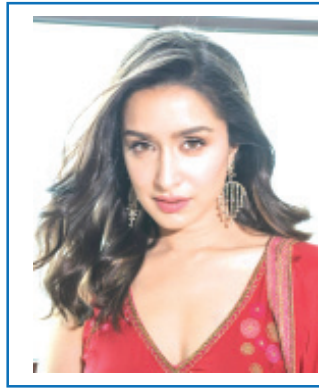
Shiva Narwal might have been forced to take a break but is still potent with the gun. The former mixed world teat world champ marked his return to claim gold in 10m air pistol men's junior event on Day One of the ISSF Junior World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun in Cairo on Tuesday. Chirag Sharma accompanied Narwal on the podium by securing bronze. In the women's sice, Panaah Bhugra added a silver in 10m air rifle. Narwal continued his form from the qualification to claim gold with 241.8, finishing 1.8 ahead of Uzbekistan's Sodikjon Abdullaev, who secured silver. India's Chirag Sharma completed the podium with 218.9, while Abhinav Deshwal, the other Indian in the final, finished seventh with 136.7. Earlier in qualification, Shiva qualified in top spot with a score of 576-19x, followed by Abhinav in third place with a score of 576-16x and Chirag who qualified in fourth place, shooting 575-13x. Abhinav Choudhary (570-14x), Himanshu Rana (568-12x) and Abhay Dhama (567-17x) missed out on a spot in the finals. In the women's junior 10m air rifle event, Panaah Bhugra, who qualified for the finals with a score of 629.4 maintained her place in the medal positions from the first series and showcased consistency to eventually clinch the silver medal with a final score of 250.6. The French duo of Anceline Brackman and Helena Escalé secured gold and bronze with scores of 252.0 and 228.6, respectively. Shambhavi Kshirsagar, who finished qualification in top spot with a high score of 634.0, finished outside the medal positions in fourth place with a score of 206.5. The third Indian in the final, Anvii Rathod finished sixth with a score of 164.6. Anvii qualified for the finals in sixth place with a score of 628.6, while the other Indians in the competition, Manyata Singh scored 628.3 to finish in eighth place. With the rule of maximum of three athletes per country, the three top ranked after qualification round proceeding to the final, Manyata missed out. Anushka Thokur (627.9) finished in ninth and Aneesha Sharma (627.1) finished in tenth place.

Lucknow suffers embarrassing 40-run loss against Rajasthan Royals

Lucknow: Lucknow Super Giants batters, led by their mercurial skipper Rishabh Pant, let Mohammed Shami's brilliant bowling effort go down the drain with an embarrassing 40-run defeat at the hands of an equally profligate Rajasthan Royals in an IPL match here on Wednesday. Chasing a target of 160, LSG huffed and puffed before being shot out for 119 in 18 overs after the slide started with their skipper Pant playing the most ugly sweep-cum-hoick to let the momentum slip after Shami, along with Mohsin Khan and Prince Yadav, had set up the platform for the hosts. The decision to use a player like Himmat Singh as 'Impact Sub' will be questioned for the longest time as the player in nearly a decade of domestic cricket never won a SMAT game for Delhi with a career strike rate of 135 and less than a six per game. The win took Royals to the second spot with 10 points from seven games despite a shoddy batting effort. Royals would be indebted to their 'OG' Ravindra Jadeja (43 no off 29 balls and 1/29) whose all-round effort went a long way in securing the win. His partnership with Shubham Dubey got them some kind of a total and then with the ball, he flung the data analysts' match-up card to remove Nicholas Pooran. While Royals' batting has been inconsistent this season, the bowlers have been on the money as Rishabh Pant was dismissed by Nandre Burger (2/27), and Jofra Archer (3/20) accounted for Aiden Markram



with a rising delivery. This was after Ayush Badoni was unfortunately run-out. It was left to Mukul Choudhary, who still is a work in progress and haven't yet learnt how to tackle bouncers that grip off the surface. Earlier, Shami delivered a couple of beauties while Mohsin snuffed out teen sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi to restrict Royals to a meagre 159 for 6 after opting to bowl. This is the third time in three games that Royals' top order has imploded and things have spiralled southwards for the franchise.



Prabhas and Samantha Tops Most Popular List 2026



Ormax Media has released the list of most popular film stars in India for the month of March, and the results have caught everyone's attention. The list shows which actors and actresses are currently trending and loved by audiences across the country. In the heroes category, Prabhas has secured the number one position. This shows his strong fan base and continued popularity after big films. He has been one of the most talked-about stars in recent times. Following him, Allu Arjun stands in the second position. His stylish screen presence and recent successes have helped him maintain a strong place. The third spot is taken by Vijay, who continues to enjoy massive support, especially in the South. Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan comes next, showing his evergreen craze among fans. Mahesh Babu and Ram Charan also feature prominently in the list. Other actors who made it to the top 10 include Salman Khan, Ranveer Singh, Jr NTR, and Akshay Kumar. This mix of stars from different film industries shows how audiences today enjoy content from all languages. In the heroines category, Samantha Ruth Prabhu has taken the top position. Her popularity remains very high due to her performances and strong social media presence. In second place is Alia Bhatt, followed by Rashmika Mandanna, who continues to grow as a pan-India star. The list also includes top actresses like Deepika Padukone, Kajal Aggarwal, Sai Pallavi, Nayanthara, Trisha Krishnan, Kriti Sanon and Sreeleela.

Nelson Plans Risky Cameo Twist in Jailer 2?

Speculation around the much-anticipated sequel Jailer 2 continues to build, especially regarding a high-profile cameo that has kept fans guessing for months. Initially, names like Nandamuri Balakrishna and Shah Rukh Khan were widely circulated, creating huge excitement across industries. However, recent reports suggest that director Nelson Dilipkumar has already completed filming this mysterious cameo, and the choice may surprise many. According to the latest buzz,

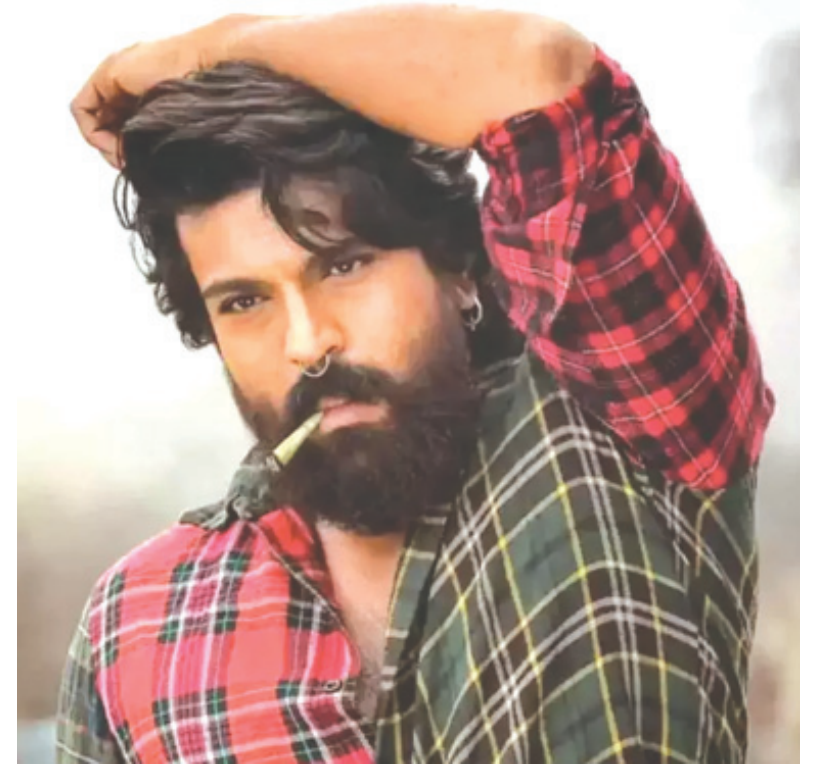
the cameo has been shot with Mohanlal, a name that already holds significance in the Jailer universe. Mohanlal previously made a powerful cameo appearance in the first installment, leaving a lasting impression despite limited screen time. This development raises an intriguing question: how will Nelson reinvent Mohanlal's presence in the sequel with other character? The real twist lies in the repetition. Bringing back the same actor for another cameo could either risk predictability or

Shivani Nagaram Turns Heads with Minimal Glam

Shivani Nagaram impresses with her effortless charm and refined elegance in this stunning portrait. Dressed in a deep blue off-shoulder outfit, she delivers a graceful yet bold style statement that perfectly complements her poised personality. The soft lighting and blurred backdrop enhance her natural beauty, while her intense gaze over the shoulder adds a layer of intrigue and confidence. Her neatly styled hair and minimalistic makeup further elevate the sophisticated vibe of the look. Shivani Nagaram has been steadily making her mark in the entertainment industry with her screen presence and expressive performances. Known for her work in digital content and emerging film projects, she is gradually building a strong foothold in the Telugu film space. While she is still in the early phase of her film career, industry buzz suggests she is actively exploring promising roles, with a few exciting projects expected to be announced soon. Beyond acting, Shivani's fashion sense continues to grab attention. This look highlights her ability to keep things simple yet impactful, proving that elegance lies in subtle details. With growing popularity and a keen eye for style, Shivani Nagaram is undoubtedly a talent to watch out for in the coming years.

Mega Hero Joins Rs 100 Cr Remuneration Club

Rs 100 crore used to be a dream number for films, but 5 years ago, Telugu films started getting Rs 100 crores gross, and then expanded into Rs 1000+ crores clubs also. Now, Telugu stars entering the Rs 100 crore club means it's not about their film collection, but they are taking home Rs 100 crores as their remuneration. Superstar Prabhas is already there as he takes home more than that already. Mahesh Babu is moving into the profit-sharing zone for Varanasi and can easily cross that mark. After Pushpa, Allu Arjun's range has gone up sharply, and he's also charging nearly Rs 150 crores, they say. Now, Ram Charan joins that space, if reports are to be believed. Post RRR, this mega hero's positioning has changed. Global recognition has come, a bigger market has been created, and that naturally resulted in higher expectations. Even Game Changer's flop show hasn't dented his demand. The hype and business around Peddi clearly show that, so does the remuneration part. The talk is



that Ram Charan is charging close to Rs 120 crore for Peddi. His highest ever in his career. And for his next with Sukumar, there's a buzz of an even bigger deal, touching ₹140 crore mark. However, when remuneration hits this level, the film's economics shift completely. Recovery becomes tougher, unless the film scores a blockbuster. The margin for error becomes very small, owing to the stakes involved. Charan should make sure that there will be no underperformer that can shake the entire structure.

Will Dhanush & Mrunal Take This Risk Now ?



Despite not sharing screen together, both Dhanush and Mrunal Thakur have given a lot of feed to rumours after getting spotted together for a couple of filmy events in recent times. Their silence has further raised the eyebrows and speculation was thick and fast that they might soon get married. However, Mrunal quickly laughed off the rumours, while Dhanush did not respond at all. While murmurs continue over their relationship, another interesting scoop involving these actors started making rounds in the Tamil media circles. As per the latest reports, Dhanush is likely to wield the megaphone for a lady oriented period drama set in the backdrop of 1960/70s with Mrunal Thakur headlining it as the lead actor. Kollywood is abuzz with this news as both these actors are currently the toast of the town because

of the recent rumours. A few months ago, there were reports that both Dhanush and Mrunal might actually together in an upcoming film. But, the news turned out to be false. Though it is not yet official that Dhanush will direct a film for Mrunal, the industry has once again started speculating about their close bonding. Both Dhanush and Mrunal are currently busy with a handful of projects. Moreover, the rumours about their romantic link are refusing to die down. So, it would be interesting to see if they really take the risk and join hands for a professional collaboration at this juncture to keep the rumours alive further. Mrunal already had a couple of releases this year and now gearing up for her third outing. She appeared in the Bollywood rom-com Do Deewane Seher Mein and Telugu film Dacoit. Her next release Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai will hit the screens very soon. Dhanush is currently awaiting his upcoming film Kara.



Malayalam Blockbuster Gets Open Ground In Telugu

Tollywood box office is currently waiting for a big blockbuster this Summer season. The rush of movies have come down and we have been witnessing only small films at the ticket windows. We had three releases last weekend but they failed to generate a big buzz at the box office. In this scenario, new release Vaazha II: Biopic of a Billion Bros will have a potential to perform well. Films like Papam Prathap, Thimmarajupalli TV and Bad Boy Karthik did not get a unanimous positive response. While Papam prathap and Thimmarajupalli tv tried catching attention, the films weekend on Sunday itself. So, there is a golden chance for Vaazha II now. In spite of being a dubbed Malayalam release, the film is carrying a good word of mouth because of its blockbuster status in Malayalam. Billed to be a coming-of-age comedy drama film directed by Savin SA (in his directorial debut) and written by Vipin Das, the film is the sequel to Vaazha: Biopic of a Billion Boys (2024). The film was released on 2 April 2026 and has emerged as the highest-grossing Malayalam film of 2026 and the fifth highest-grossing Malayalam film of all-time.