



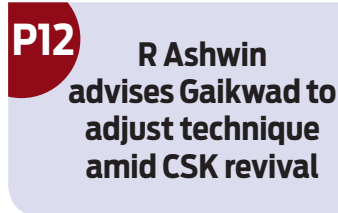
Tensions peak as ships bypass the blockade

P9



Indian warehousing market sees huge demand spike

P11



R Ashwin advises Gaikwad to adjust technique amid CSK revival



US-IRAN TALKS - ROUND 2

PAK PEACE BROKERS LAND IN IRAN

Army Chief Asim Munir and interior minister reach Iran to push US-Iran talks as truce uncertainty persists; Islamabad eyes role as key mediator

TEHRAN

Pakistan's Army Chief Asim Munir has arrived in Iran as part of a high-level delegation aimed at facilitating renewed engagement between Tehran and Washington.

The visit, confirmed by Iranian sources, comes amid efforts to revive stalled US-Iran talks and ease tensions following recent escalations. The development positions Islamabad as a potential intermediary, with discussions expected to focus on restarting negotiations and exploring pathways to de-escalation between the two sides.

Diplomatic push gains momentum

According to Iranian state media, the delegation led by Asim Munir is carrying a message from the United States and is expected to co-ordinate the next phase of dialogue. Reports suggest a second round of talks could take place in the coming days in Islamabad, indicating a possible shift towards Pakistan as a venue for negotiations.

The move reflects a broader diplomatic push involving Shehbaz Sharif, who has been actively trying to emerge as 'key mediator' between United States and Iran.

Truce uncertainty goes on

Despite these developments,



There will be "no deal" with Iran if it continues to pursue a nuclear weapon. They cannot have a nuclear weapon.

—Donald Trump, US President

questions remain over the status of the ceasefire between Iran and the United States. A senior US official, quoted in media reports, said Washington has not formally agreed to extend the ceasefire, although backchannel engagement continues.

US President Donald Trump has indicated that talks could resume in Pakistan

within days, further adding to expectations of imminent diplomatic activity. However, the absence of a formal agreement underscores the fragile nature of the current situation.

High stakes, regional role

The visit by Asim Munir highlights Pakistan's growing diplomatic role as a conduit between competing powers. With tensions still simmering, the outcome of these engagements could prove crucial in determining whether the region moves towards renewed dialogue or further confrontation.

As preparations for the next round of talks gather pace, all eyes will be on Islamabad's ability to bridge differences and bring both sides back to the negotiating table.

Finance ministers urge US, Israel, Iran to uphold truce

LONDON

Finance ministers from countries including the United Kingdom, Japan and Australia on Wednesday urged the United States, Israel and Iran to fully implement a ceasefire and warned of risks to the global economy.

"We welcome the recent announcement of a ceasefire... and call on all parties to implement the ceasefire in full," the ministers said in a joint statement.

The ministers -- from the United Kingdom, Australia, Japan, Sweden, the Nether-

lands, Finland, Spain, Norway, the Republic of Ireland, Poland and New Zealand -- warned that "renewed hostilities, a widening of the conflict or continued disruption in the Strait of Hormuz would pose serious additional risks" to energy security and financial stability.

They also called for "a swift and lasting negotiated resolution" and a return to "free and safe transit through the Strait of Hormuz."

They said they would co-ordinate economic responses and support vulnerable countries affected by the crisis.



Iran: Will block Red Sea if Hormuz siege goes on

TEHRAN

Iran has warned that if the US continues its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz and creates insecurity for Iran's commercial vessels and oil tankers, it will consider it a prelude to a violation of the ceasefire and would consequently block all trade through the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and the Red Sea.

In a statement carried by Iranian state television, Ali Abdollahi, the commander for Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, the country's highest operational command co-ordinating the armed forces, said that if the

US continues its blockade and creates "insecurity for Iran's commercial vessels and oil tankers", it will "constitute a prelude to a violation of the ceasefire". Iran's armed forces would consequently not allow any exports or imports to continue in the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and the Red Sea, he warned.

"The powerful armed forces of the Islamic Republic will not allow any exports or imports to continue in the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and the Red Sea," said Abdollahi. Blockading the Red Sea would likely involve the Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen.



Iranian supertanker passes Hormuz test despite US blockade

A sanctioned Iranian supertanker has reportedly crossed the Strait of Hormuz without interference, in what Iranian state media described as a direct challenge to US sanctions and military pressure in the region amid the war. As per reports, the vessel, identified as a very large crude carrier (VLCC) capable of transporting up to two million barrels of oil, transited the crucial waterway openly with its tracking system switched on. The tanker entered Iranian waters "without any concealment" and completed its journey "without the slightest disturbance".

What's happening

■ British Prime Minister Keir Starmer says UK will not be dragged into Iran war

■ European lawmaker Hannah Neumann says Iran rights situation risks being overlooked in US-Iran talks

■ Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shirin Ebadi criticizes Europe's silence on Iran repression

■ Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says Turkey working to extend Iran ceasefire

■ Trump says China agreed not to send weapons to Iran

■ US Marines train aboard USS Tripoli enforcing Iran blockade

Choudhary is the new 'Samrat' of Bihar

PATNA

Samrat Choudhary took oath as Chief Minister of Bihar on Wednesday. He is the first BJP leader to hold the CM post in the state.

Governor Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (ret'd) administered the oath of office and secrecy to Choudhary as chief minister and to JD(U)'s Vijay Kumar Choudhary and Bijendra Prasad Yadav as members of the Council of Ministers at the Lok Bhawan here.

"I will immediately start working for the prosperity of the state. It should remain clear that Bihar will continue to be governed on the Modi-Nitish model," Choudhary said after the ceremony.

Top leaders of the NDA, including Union Ministers J P Nadda and Chirag Paswan, Nitish Kumar, and all NDA MLAs, attended the ceremony.

Both Vijay Kumar Choudhary and Yadav were part of the Council of ministers in the Nitish Kumar government. They are considered close to JD(U) supreme Kumar.

Nitish, who had served as Bihar CM for the past two decades, resigned from CM's post on Tuesday after his election to the Rajya Sabha. Samrat was chosen as the next CM during a meeting of the BJP Legislature Party.

Congratulating Choudhary on being sworn in as the CM,



2026: SCRIPTS SEVERAL RECORDS

■ Becomes first BJP chief minister in Bihar, the only state in the Hindi heartland where the saffron camp had failed to have its own CM

■ He equaled the feat of Bharat Ratna Karpoori Thakur, who became CM after being elevated from DyCM post in 1970

■ The second CM from the Koeri community, the second most influential OBCs after Yadavs. Earlier, Satish Prasad Singh, also a Koeri, had become Bihar CM in 1968 but only for five days.

Nitish Kumar expressed confidence that under his leadership, "Bihar will develop rapidly and join the ranks of the most developed states in the country."

The road to success

1999: Becomes minister for first time in Rabri Devi-headed RJD govt.

2010: Becomes Chief Whip of the RJD.

2014: Joins JD(U); becomes minister in Jitan Ram Manjhi govt.

2017: Joins BJP.

2018: Becomes Bihar BJP president.

2021: Becomes Panchayati Raj Minister in Nitish Govt

2024: When Nitish dumped RJD and rejoined NDA in January 2024, Samrat becomes DyCM as well as Finance Minister.

2025: Becomes Nitish's deputy again and gets Home portfolio, thereby becoming the second most powerful politician in Bihar.

PM Modi also congratulated Choudhary and said his "grassroots experience will prove beneficial" to Bihar. "Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Shri Samrat Chaudhary on taking oath as the Chief Minister of Bihar! His energy, dedication to public service, and grassroots experience will prove extremely beneficial for the state. I am fully confident that under his capable leadership, while fulfilling the aspirations of the people, Bihar will touch new heights of all-round development," he wrote in a post on X.

Nitish's son Nishant Kumar, who was tipped to be the new DyCM, reportedly refused to join the new Cabinet saying he would like to work for the party at the grass-roots level.

MLA Vinay Kulkarni convicted in Yogesh Gowda murder case

BENGALURU

A Special Court for MPs and MLAs on Wednesday found Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni guilty in the 2016 murder of BJP leader Yogesh Gowda.

Along with him, 16 others were found guilty. Two other accused were acquitted by Judge Santhosh Gajanan Bhat.

The court will pronounce the quantum of punishment on Thursday (April 16).

The court convicted Kulkar-



ni for charges of murder and criminal conspiracy, but acquitted him for charges under the Arms Act.

The case pertains to the killing of BJP Zilla Panchayat member Yogesh Gowda in Dharwad on June 15, 2016.

HERITAGE-RICH

PM hails India's civilisational legacy

MANDYA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday addressed a gathering at Shree Kshetra Adichunchanagiri in Nagamangala taluk during his official visit to Karnataka, where he highlighted India's civilisational continuity, praised the spiritual heritage of Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math, and underlined the government's welfare initiatives.

Modi said, "Visiting and worshipping at Shri Kaal Bhairav Temple, witnessing the inauguration of Shri Guru Bhairavaikya Temple... these experiences will always remain with me. I consider it my good fortune that I got the opportunity to come among all of you."

Referring to the Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana

Siddu welcomes Modi with charter of demands



BENGALURU: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday submitted a five-page memorandum to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, outlining 18 "long-pending" projects of the state which require the Centre's "urgent attention".

The memorandum was handed over after the CM received the PM at HAL Airport in Bengaluru during his visit to the state to attend a programme at the Adichunchanagiri Mutt.

Math, he said it represents continuity of tradition, saying it is a "living embodiment of cultural and spiritual continuity" with a history spanning nearly 2,000 years, enriched by its guru parampara and service traditions.

Emphasising India's ancient cultural strength, he said, "India is a vibrant civilization that has been thriving for

thousands of years," adding that very few nations in the world have traditions that endure for such a long period.

He also inaugurated the Sri Guru Bhairavaikya Mandira at Sri Kshetra Adichunchanagiri, a memorial dedicated to the revered seer, Sri Sri Sri Dr Balagangadharanatha Mahaswamiji, the 71st pontiff of the Mahasamsthana Math.

8 dead, 21 hurt as bus overturns in Fatehgarh Sahib

CHANDIGARH

Eight pilgrims were killed and 21 others injured after a bus carrying devotees returning from Anandpur Sahib overturned in Punjab's Fatehgarh Sahib late Tuesday night.

The accident occurred near Himmatpura on the Morinda-Chunni road in the Bassi Pathana area at around 10 pm, when the devotees—residents of Main Majri village—were returning after paying obeisance on the occasion of Baisakhi.

Initially, six people, including a woman, died, while 21 others were injured. Two more victims later succumbed to their injuries at Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research. Around 40 people were travelling in the bus at the time of the incident.

QUICK READ

Missing Odisha fisherman's body found in Malpe harbour

Udupi

The body of a 35-year-old fisherman from Odisha, identified as Sanatana Kisan, was recovered from the waters near the T-dock of Malpe fishing harbour in Udupi, nearly 12 days after he went missing. Sanatana had been working aboard the fishing boat 'Ishanidhi,' which was anchored at the harbour due to a lull in fishing activities. He was last seen on the vessel around 9:30 pm on March 31. When he could not be found the next morning, a missing complaint was filed at Malpe police station. Preliminary investigations suggest he may have accidentally slipped into the water while the boat was docked. His body was later spotted floating near the jetty. Police have registered a case of unnatural death and sent the body for post-mortem. Further investigation is ongoing.

Kukluru Sri Muthappa festival celebrated with devotion

Virajpet

The annual festival at Kukluru Sri Muthappa Temple was held over two days with great religious fervor and devotion near Virajpet. As per tradition, the celebrations began with various rituals. The Muthappa Vellattam ritual was performed, followed by Shasthappa Vellattam and Vasurimala Vellattam at night. In the early morning hours, Guliga There was conducted, followed by the main Muthappa and Thiruvappa There rituals, along with Shasthappa and Vasurimala There ceremonies. A large number of devotees participated in the festival. Prasadam was distributed to all attendees, and free meals (anadanam) were arranged by the temple for devotees throughout the two-day event. Temple authorities and committee members were present during the celebrations.

Ashok Rai inaugurates ₹35 lakh bridge

Puttur

Congress MLA Ashok Rai inaugurated a newly constructed bridge at Madyarabettu in Poonacha village, built at a cost of ₹35 lakh. The bridge is expected to improve connectivity in the region by linking Madyarabettu with the Bulerikatte, Sarya, Ajeeru, Kallaje, and Devinagara areas. The infrastructure project had been a long-pending demand of local residents, who had been facing difficulties due to lack of proper connectivity. With the completion of the bridge, travel between surrounding villages is expected to become easier and more convenient, benefiting daily commuters and local transport. Residents expressed satisfaction over the long-awaited development, noting that the bridge would significantly reduce travel time and improve access to nearby areas. Local leaders and villagers welcomed the initiative and thanked the authorities for fulfilling the long-standing request.

TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION MARKS CODAVA NEW YEAR IN GONIKOPPA

The Codava National Council marked Edamyar New Year with a torchlight procession in Gonikoppa, Madikeri.

MADIKERI

The Codava National Council (CNC) organised the 32nd annual Pombolak torchlight procession in Gonikoppa to mark Edamyar 1, the Codava New Year according to the solar calendar. The event combined cultural celebration with renewed calls for constitutional recognition and protection of Codava identity.

The procession began at the RMC Yard at 6.30 pm with traditional Dudikott Paat performances, setting a

festive and cultural tone. It then moved through major roads, including the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway, before concluding near the Umamaheshwari Petrol Bunk. A large number of community members participated, reflecting strong cultural unity and enthusiasm.

Edamyar 1, which falls in the Gregorian calendar, marks the sun's transition into the aries zodiac sign and signifies the beginning of a new agricultural cycle for the Codava community. It also represents



the onset of spring and the end of the traditional leisure

season, making it an important cultural milestone.

At the Gonikoppa bus stand, CNC volunteers formed a human chain before CNC chairman Nachappa Codava addressed the gathering. He reiterated long-standing demands of the community, including constitutional safeguards, recognition of Codavas as a distinct indigenous group, and inclusion of the Codava language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

The CNC also renewed its demand for a separate Codavaland administrative arrange-

ment under constitutional provisions, along with political representation and stronger protection of cultural practices and heritage.

Participants took a collective oath expressing solidarity with these demands. The event featured traditional music, cultural performances, and community participation, highlighting efforts to preserve Codava identity while strengthening awareness among younger generations about their cultural roots and rights.

Civic issues raised over neglect of Ambedkar Bhavan

SULLIA

Public concern has grown over the alleged neglect of Ambedkar Bhavan, with residents warning of protests if authorities fail to take immediate corrective action. The issue was raised during a meeting held, where community members expressed dissatisfaction over the building's deteriorating condition.

Locals alleged that despite repeated representations to the concerned authorities, no meaningful steps have been taken to improve or maintain the facility. They said Ambedkar Bhavan, which is intended to serve as an important social and cultural centre, has been left in poor condition for a long period.

Speakers at the meeting pointed out several issues, including inadequate maintenance, lack of basic infrastructure, and overall administrative indifference. They



Residents in Sullia have expressed concern over the poor condition of Ambedkar Bhavan, urging authorities to restore and maintain the facility without further delay.

stressed that the building should function as a vibrant hub for community gatherings and cultural programmes, but instead is facing gradual neglect and decay.

Community leaders also recalled earlier assurances made by officials regarding renovation and development work, stating that these

promises have not been fulfilled. They urged the administration to treat the matter seriously and act without further delay.

Warning of possible agitation, residents said they would be forced to launch protests if their demands continue to be ignored. One participant stated that patience among the public is wearing thin due to repeated delays.

The meeting concluded with a strong appeal for immediate government intervention to restore Ambedkar Bhavan and ensure it serves its intended purpose for the benefit of the local community.

Madikeri MLA Dr. Mantar Gowda paid tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar during his 135th birth anniversary events.

MLA pays tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in Kodagu

MADIKERI

On the occasion of the 135th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Madikeri Congress MLA Dr. Mantar Gowda actively participated in commemorative programmes held across Kodagu district, paying rich tributes to the chief architect of the Indian Constitution.

The first programme was conducted at Gandhi Bhavan in Madikeri, where Dr. Gowda garlanded Dr. Ambedkar's portrait and offered floral tributes. Addressing the gathering, he quoted Ambedkar, saying, "One who forgets history cannot create history." He emphasized that the Constitution is not merely a legal document but a guiding force for life and democratic values.

Dr. Gowda stressed the importance of building an inclusive society where the uplift-



ment of the most marginalized sections becomes the true measure of progress. He called for continued efforts to ensure equality, liberty, and fraternity as envisioned by Ambedkar, urging citizens to remain committed to social justice.

He later participated in another commemorative event at the Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) in Madikeri, where he again offered floral tributes. His participation at the medical institution was seen as symbolically significant, linking Ambedkar's vision of social

empowerment with education and healthcare development.

Dr. Gowda, who holds an MBBS and MD in Radio Diagnosis, also highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen healthcare services in the region, including support for the medical college and public health initiatives.

Both events witnessed participation from local leaders, students, and officials, reflecting widespread respect for Dr. Ambedkar and his enduring legacy in shaping India's democratic and constitutional framework.

Development possible across sectors without English dependence

KADUR

Emphasizing the importance of mother tongue, thinker B.L.Shankar said that it is a misconception that English is essential for knowledge and development in all fields. He stated that societies around the world have progressed significantly without relying on English in every domain.

He was speaking at the valedictory function of the 21st District Kannada Sahitya Sammelana held in Kadur, where the Sahitya Siri awards were presented to achievers from various fields.

Shankar said that while many conferences are held to promote Kannada language, literature, and culture, there is concern over how many of the resolutions taken in such events are actually implemented. He stressed that Kannada must be actively used in daily life to strengthen the language.

He further pointed out that despite having a strong system of government schools with qualified teachers and good infrastructure, parents still prefer private English-medium institutions, which he called unfortunate. According to him, the belief that English alone leads to global knowledge needs to be questioned.

He also highlighted that Kannada is one of the 20 living and widely used languages in the world. With a rich literary and cultural heritage spanning thousands of years, Kannada has produced many scholars and achievers, earning prestigious recognitions such as eight Jnanpith awards and two Saraswati Samman awards. He said this is a matter of pride for all Kannadigas.

It is necessary to pass cultural values to the youth: MLA Gurme

UDUPI

Stressing the importance of cultural education, MLA Gurme Suresh Shetty said that instilling Indian traditions and values in the younger generation is essential, as India is one of the youngest countries in the world, with more than 50% of its population being youth.

He was speaking while presiding over the valedictory ceremony of a one-week residential Yakshashikshana camp organized by the Yakshashikshana Trust at the IYC auditorium of Yakshagana Kalaranga, with sponsorship from Bhima Gold.

The MLA appreciated Kalaranga for its efforts in promoting cultural education and said such initiatives play a key role in shaping disciplined and confident youth. He noted that many graduates face difficulties in securing



jobs due to a lack of communication skills and interview confidence, and emphasized that training programs like Yakshashikshana help address these gaps by building self-confidence among students.

The event featured a Yakshagana demonstration performed by 103 students who had completed the training. Their performance highlighted the practical outcomes of the residential camp.

Several dignitaries were present at the programme, including Guru Bannanje San-

jeeva Suvarna, Dr. Sandeep Shetty from Udyavara Veterinary Department, Ravindra Shetty Kollabettu, businessman Srinivasa Rao from Hiriyadka, Bhima Jewellery manager Ravendra Bhat, Panambur Vasudeva Aithal, and Kalaranga vice-president V. G. Shetty.

The programme was widely appreciated for blending traditional art forms with youth development, aiming to preserve cultural heritage while also improving communication skills and confidence among students.

YAKSHAGANA TRAINING CONCLAVES

Yakshagana training camp concludes, strengthening cultural heritage



The valedictory event brought together trainees who demonstrated their learning through Yakshagana performances, showcasing the outcomes of the training pro-

gramme. Organisers highlighted the importance of such initiatives in ensuring the continuity of traditional art forms in a rapidly modernising society.

Dignitaries present at the event appreciated the efforts of Yakshagana Kalaranga and Yakshashikshana Trust for their consistent work in nurturing cultural talent. They emphasized that preserving indigenous art forms like Yakshagana is essential for maintaining cultural identity and passing it on to future generations.

The programme concluded with encouragement for students to continue practicing and contributing to the growth of Yakshagana, reinforcing its relevance in contemporary times while safeguarding its traditional essence.

QUICK READ



SSLC student electrocuted while playing cricket

Mangaluru

A 15-year-old SSLC student, Varun, died after being electrocuted while playing cricket with friends near Mahakalipadpu in Mangaluru. During the game, the ball landed on the roof of a nearby bhajan mandir. When Varun climbed up to retrieve it, he accidentally touched a live overhead electric wire and suffered a fatal shock. He was rushed to a hospital but was declared dead on arrival. Varun had recently completed his SSLC examinations and was awaiting results. His family, originally from Haveri district, has lived in Mangaluru for decades. Local leaders visited and assured compensation to the grieving family. Police said the incident occurred near an underpass area nearby.

Basaveshwara Jayanti to be held in Mangaluru

Mangaluru

The Dakshina Kannada district administration will organise Basaveshwara Jayanti on April 20 at Tulu Bhavan in Urvastores, Mangaluru, at 10.30 am. The programme is being jointly held by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, Department of Kannada and Culture, and Karavali Veerashaiva Kshemaabhirudhi Sangha. Assembly Speaker U. T. Khader will be present, while District In-charge Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao will inaugurate the event. MLA D. Vedavyas Kamath will preside over the programme. Dr Yogeesh Kairodi, Head of the Kannada Department at Alva's College, Moodbidri, will deliver the Jayanti message. Officials said the event aims to honour the teachings and contributions of Basaveshwara and promote awareness of his ideals of equality, social justice, and compassion. The Department of Kannada and Culture has invited the public to participate in large numbers, making the celebration a meaningful cultural and social gathering.

GTTC invites applications for diploma courses

Mangaluru

The Government Tool Room and Training Centre (GTTC), Baikampady, Mangaluru, has invited applications for its diploma programmes aimed at enhancing technical skills and improving employment opportunities for youth. Established in 1972 in collaboration with the Government of Karnataka and Denmark, GTTC has expanded to about 35 centres across the state. The Mangaluru centre, operational since 1994, offers diploma courses in tool and die making, precision manufacturing, and artificial intelligence and machine learning. SSLC pass students are eligible for first-year admission, while PUC (Science) and ITI-qualified candidates can join directly in the second year. The four-year course includes a compulsory one-year internship in reputed industries across India, with a monthly stipend of ₹18,000 to ₹20,000. Officials said the programme focuses on hands-on training and employability.

Speaker Khader calls for boost in agriculture, Health research

Karnataka Speaker U.T Khader called for stronger research in agriculture and healthcare at a national summit.

KUNDAPURA

Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T Khader has stressed the need to strengthen research in agriculture and healthcare to address pressing challenges in both sectors. He was speaking at the valedictory function of a national summit held at IMJ Educational Institute, Moodlakatte.

The two-day summit, titled “Quantum Computation, Precision Instrumentation and Emerging Research Infrastructure,” brought together academicians, researchers, and experts to discuss advancements in emerging scientific fields, including quantum technology and high-precision instrumentation.

Addressing the gathering, Khader noted that enhanced research in agriculture could



help resolve long-standing issues faced by farmers, including productivity challenges and climate-related concerns. He also highlighted that innovations in healthcare research would significantly improve access to quality medical services and strengthen the public health system.

He assured participants that he would take up the matter of government support for re-

search centres with the Chief Minister and the Minister for Science and Technology, particularly regarding funding and subsidies to encourage innovation and infrastructure development.

Renowned researcher Prof. Saptarshi Chaudhary appreciated the initiative to establish a Quantum Computer Research Centre in a rural location like Moodlakatte, stating

that such advanced facilities are typically concentrated in metropolitan cities.

The programme featured participation from academic leaders, including IMJ president Siddharth J Shetty, who delivered the welcome address. Dr Parnika Das, scientific officer at VECC Kolkata, attended as the chief guest.

The summit report was presented by IMJIR director Dr Satyajit, while Academic Director Dr S N Bhat welcomed the gathering. Dr Ramakrishna Hegde proposed the vote of thanks, and Professor Rajeshwari Shetty compered the event.

The summit concluded with a call to strengthen research infrastructure in rural regions to promote innovation and knowledge-driven development.



Mangaluru Airport marks Fire Service Week with safety drills

MANGALURU

Mangaluru International Airport (IXE) observed National Fire Service Week with a comprehensive programme highlighting fire prevention awareness, emergency preparedness, and collective responsibility in aviation safety.

The event was inaugurated by Binu Varghese, Chief Airport Officer, who spoke about the historical significance of the Bombay Docks Fire on April 14, 1944. He emphasized the importance of strict safety protocols in the aviation sector, which operates in a highly sensitive and risk-prone environment.

As part of the programme, the Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) team conducted a series of live demonstrations showcasing their operational readiness. These included simulated aircraft fire response, casualty rescue procedures, smoke chamber exercises, fire walk drills, and pocket fire extinguishing techniques. The demonstrations highlighted the team's efficiency, precision, and ability to respond swiftly during emergencies.

The event also focused on awareness-building among airport staff and participants. Interactive activities such as quizzes, drawing competitions, and poster-making con-

Mangaluru Airport marked Fire Service Week with safety drills, awareness activities, and ARFF demonstrations highlighting emergency preparedness and fire prevention across aviation operations.

tests were organized to promote fire safety education in an engaging manner. Winners of these competitions were felicitated during the programme, encouraging active participation and learning.

Officials noted that such initiatives play a crucial role in strengthening safety culture within airport operations. The combination of training exercises and awareness activities aimed to ensure that both staff and stakeholders remain prepared for emergency situations.

National Fire Service Week is observed annually across India from April 14 to 20 in memory of the Bombay Docks fire tragedy, while also reinforcing the importance of fire safety preparedness across sectors.

The programme at Mangaluru Airport, operated by Adani Airports, successfully combined remembrance, training, and community engagement to enhance overall emergency readiness and safety awareness.

Mangaluru MLA Vedavyasa Kamath laid the foundation stone for a retaining wall project in Kadri Shivabagh ward.

Kamath lays foundation stone for retaining wall

MANGALURU

The foundation stone-laying ceremony for the construction of a retaining wall along Thomanaygar road in the 34th Kadri Shivabagh ward of Mangaluru Mahanagara Palike was held under the leadership of MLA Vedavyasa Kamath.

the MLA said that residents of the area had long been demanding the construction of a retaining wall to prevent rainwater from the storm water drain from flooding nearby houses during heavy rains.

He recalled that during the previous BJP government's tenure, funds were sanctioned

for the project and the work was initiated as part of flood mitigation measures in the city. He further stated that it was the first time in the state that a government had specifically allocated funds for a storm water drain-related project within the Mangaluru City Corporation limits.

Kamath added that the stalled portion of the work has now been revived and is progressing with renewed momentum. He expressed confidence that the retaining wall would provide long-term relief to residents who have been facing flooding issues for years.

Local residents and civic



officials were present during the ceremony. The project is expected to strengthen the storm water management system in the area and reduce monsoon-related damage to homes and infrastructure.

The MLA assured that similar infrastructure improvements would be taken up in other vulnerable parts of the constituency in a phased manner to address recurring drainage and flooding problems.

Auto drivers hit hard by LPG shortage crisis

MANGALURU

A severe LPG shortage has disrupted auto-rickshaw services across Mangaluru, Mysuru, Hassan, and other parts of Karnataka, leaving thousands of drivers struggling to sustain their livelihoods. The crisis is largely linked to supply disruptions caused by ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, which have affected fuel imports and distribution.

Over 300,000 auto-rickshaws in the state rely on LPG as their primary fuel, including around 150,000 in Bengaluru alone. With nearly 65% of LPG supply managed by private companies, many fuel stations have either reduced operations or shut down completely due to limited availability. This has significantly impacted daily transport services.

The price of auto LPG has

also seen a sharp increase, rising from ₹66 per kg to ₹94.90, adding further financial pressure on drivers. In cities like Mangaluru, where more than 15 stations previously provided LPG, only one or two stations now receive supply each day.

Drivers are forced to travel long distances and wait in queues for one to two hours, often relying on WhatsApp updates to locate functioning fuel stations. This has reduced their working hours and daily earnings, making it difficult to meet basic household expenses.

With daily costs ranging between ₹200 and ₹250, many drivers fear they will not be able to afford school fees and other essential expenses for their families. If the situation continues, auto services could come to a standstill, prompting urgent calls for government intervention.



Education was Ambedkar's first priority: Prof. Dayananda

MANGALURU

Dr. B.R.Ambedkar emphasized education as the foremost priority in building an equal and progressive society, said retired Political Science professor Prof. Dayananda Nayak of Mangalore University. He was speaking at a programme held to mark the 135th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R.Ambedkar, organized in collaboration with the New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA).

Prof. Nayak highlighted that Ambedkar focused on creating a society based on secular values and awareness, where education serves as the foundation of social transformation. He said that true education is not merely obtaining degrees, but gaining awareness and understanding, which leads to moral consciousness and responsible citizenship.

He added that while educa-



tion today is often reduced to academic qualifications, Ambedkar's vision was rooted in values, principles, and critical thinking. According to him, it is easier to destroy systems than to build them, and therefore every action must be guided by careful thought and wisdom. Ambedkar himself followed this path of discipline and determination, overcoming social barriers to pursue higher education and earning multiple degrees, including from abroad.

Prof. Nayak also empha-

sized that instead of limiting Ambedkar's legacy to statues and ceremonial tributes, society should actively follow his ideals and principles in daily life.

The programme was presided over by NMPA Vice-Chairperson S. Shanti. Floral tributes were offered to Dr. Ambedkar's statue at the port premises. MLA Dr. Bharath Shetty, along with NMPA officials, board members, employees, and representatives of various organizations, were present at the event.

Students attend cancer awareness session

MANGALURU

A cancer awareness programme titled “Increase Awareness, Early Detection and Prevention” was recently organised at Government First Grade College, Mudipu by the Medical Surgical Nursing Department of Nitte Usha Institute of nursing sciences.

The programme was aimed at educating students about the importance of early detection, prevention, and lifestyle changes in reducing cancer risks. College Principal Dr. Sheshappa K presided over the event and highlighted the significance of timely diagnosis and healthy living habits in his address.

During the session, awareness was created about major types of cancers, including colorectal, kidney, ovarian, and prostate cancers. The speakers emphasized that early identification of symptoms and regular health check-ups play a crucial role in improving treatment outcomes.

Resource person Veeresh Kademani from the Medical Surgical Nursing Department delivered an informative talk on cancer prevention and warning signs. He explained various risk factors associated with cancer and the importance of adopting preventive healthcare practices.

Postgraduate nursing students Sobutilla Jameer and Chirashree presented detailed lectures on colorectal, kidney, ovarian, and prostate cancers, making the session more interactive and informative for the audience.

The programme also highlighted the importance of observing March as Cancer Awareness Month, encouraging participants to spread awareness in their communities.

CHILDREN WASTE AWARENESS

MCC holds waste awareness session for children

MANGALURU

In an effort to build environmental awareness among the younger generation, the Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC) Surathkal team conducted a special waste management awareness session for children attending a summer camp.

The programme was held at Sri Adishakti Temple in Katipalla, where MCC officials educated students on key aspects of responsible waste handling. Topics included waste segregation at source, composting methods, and the harmful effects of single-use plastics, which are banned under environmental regulations.



To make the session engaging, officials used interactive methods such as games and group activities. This approach helped children understand environmental concepts in a simple and enjoyable

way, ensuring better retention of the lessons taught.

The initiative aimed to encourage sustainable habits from an early age, helping children develop a sense of responsibility towards main-

taining cleanliness in their surroundings. Officials highlighted that small behavioural changes at the household level can collectively make a significant impact on urban waste management.

QUICK READ

Hydro ganja worth Rs 9.1 crore seized at Bengaluru airport

BENGALURU Customs officials seized 26.2 kg of high-value hydroponic ganja from passengers arriving from Bangkok at Kempegowda International Airport Terminal 2, with the contraband valued at Rs 9.1 crore. The drugs were concealed in checked-in baggage and detected through targeted profiling and surveillance. In the biggest haul, two passengers carried 17.9 kg worth Rs 6.3 crore. Other seizures included 4.9 kg, 1.8 kg, and 1.5 kg in separate cases. All accused were arrested under the NDPS Act. Officials said the seizures highlight rising organised smuggling via Southeast Asian routes.



Collegium clears 3 High Court judges

BENGALURU The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the elevation of three judicial officers from Karnataka as High Court judges. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant. The officers recommended are Rajeshwari Narayana Hegde, Kedambadi Ganesh Shanti and Mahadevappa Bringesh. The proposal will now be sent to the Centre for final approval and appointment. Currently, only 45 judges are serving against the sanctioned strength of 62 across Karnataka High Court benches. Even after these appointments, 14 vacancies will remain, highlighting the need to fill judicial posts.



Student excels in II PU exam with 97.33 percent

BENGALURU S Manoj, a student of Karnataka Hindi Prachara Samithi College (KHPS), Jayanagar, has achieved an outstanding score of 584 marks (97.33 percent) in the II PU examination in the PCMB stream. His performance is among the top results from the institution this year, reflecting consistent hard work and academic dedication. Manoj's achievement has brought pride to the college and inspired fellow students. The Principal and management of the college congratulated him on his success and wished him the very best for his future academic pursuits.

Wonderla unveils Terrea, a nature-themed urban resort

TRANSFORMED PROPERTY OFFERS IMMERSIVE STAYS, PREMIUM DESIGN, AND VERSATILE EVENT SPACES

BENGALURU

Wonderla Holidays Ltd., India's largest amusement park operator, has announced the launch of Terrea by Wonderla, a newly reimagined nature-inspired urban resort located next to the Wonderla Bengaluru amusement park. The property marks a complete transformation of the former Wonderla Resort into a premium, experience-driven destination catering to the city's growing demand for up-



scale staycations. Developed over nearly eight months with an investment of around ₹18

crore, Terrea represents a ground-up overhaul of all guest-facing elements while

retaining core infrastructure. The earlier resort, which primarily served as a functional accommodation for park visitors, has now been redesigned to deliver a more immersive and luxurious hospitality experience. Built around an "Earthen Luxe" design philosophy, the resort introduces three distinct room themes and enhanced amenities aimed at offering guests a blend of comfort, design, and connection with nature.

The property also features multi-purpose event spaces, making it suitable for family getaways, corporate retreats, and social celebrations. Speaking on the launch, Arun K Chittilappilly, Executive Chairman and Managing Director of Wonderla Holidays Ltd., said the brand is expanding beyond amusement parks into a broader hospitality ecosystem. He noted that while Wonderla has entertained over 46 million visitors across its

parks in Bengaluru, Kochi, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar and Chennai, Terrea represents the next phase of growth by extending the guest experience beyond park visits. He added that Terrea complements "The Isle by Wonderla," offering a contrasting yet connected experience. While The Isle focuses on tranquillity and seclusion, Terrea emphasises energy, design, and accessibility, together creating a holistic leisure destination within Bengaluru.

Women's reservation will reshape political landscape: HD Kumaraswamy

BENGALURU

H. D. Kumaraswamy, Union Minister for Industries, said that full implementation of women's reservation will significantly alter the country's political landscape, leading to a redistribution of constituencies and greater representation for women in governance. Speaking at the JD(S) state office during the birth anniversary celebrations of B. R. Ambedkar, Kumaraswamy noted that the idea of women's reservation was first pushed decades ago by former Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda. He said the proposal has now gained momentum under the leadership of Narendra Modi, with the Centre moving toward implementing 33 percent reservation for women. Ku-

maraswamy explained that once the policy is fully rolled out, it will result in a reorganisation of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies. In Karnataka, he said, the number of Lok Sabha seats could rise to 42, while Assembly constituencies are also expected to increase accordingly. He urged party workers to strengthen the organisation at all levels in preparation for these changes. Emphasising the importance of inclusivity, he said the party would encourage greater participation of women candidates in upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. At the same time, Kumaraswamy cautioned party workers against raising personal slogans at events meant to honour national leaders. Referring to supporters chanting his name,

"We should build the party by including all communities and creating a strong cadre at every level. Our aim should be to represent the exploited and voiceless, which is the true message of Dr B R Ambedkar. However, some people merely carry the Constitution's preamble for propaganda," Kumaraswamy said. Several party leaders, including M Krishna Reddy, K An-nadani, Venkatarao Nadagouda, T A Saravana, T N Javarai-gowda, H M Ramesh Gowda, and K A Thippeswamy, were present at the event.



he said it was inappropriate to promote individuals during Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations and stressed that such occasions should focus on upholding Ambedkar's ideals and principles. He called on party members to build a strong organisational structure from the grassroots, including

Union Minister says full implementation will trigger constituency redistribution and boost women's participation

village, hobli, and polling booth levels, and to work as a voice .

HC notice to govt over plea to retain Solur hobli in Magadi taluk

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has issued notices to the state government on a petition seeking directions to retain Solur hobli within Magadi taluk, opposing its transfer to Bengaluru Rural district under Nelamangala taluk jurisdiction. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C. M. Poonacha heard the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed

by farmers, including 82-year-old Honnasiddaya from Haiganahalli village in Magadi taluk. The court directed the Principal Secretary of the Revenue Department and Deputy Commissioners of Bengaluru Rural and Bengaluru South districts to file their objections, and adjourned further hearing. The petitioners argued that residents of Solur hobli have long depended on Magadi town for essential services

such as revenue offices, courts, hospitals, and other government facilities. They pointed out that Magadi is located within 2 to 18 kilometres from the villages in the hobli, making it easily accessible. However, following the government's decision, residents are now required to travel nearly 68 kilometres to Devanahalli for district-level services. Petitioners highlighted the lack of adequate public transport.

Guarantee schemes will drive Cong win in civic polls: Salim Ahmed

BENGALURU

Legislative Council Chief Whip Salim Ahmed said the State government's guarantee schemes will act as a strong foundation for the Congress party's success in the upcoming municipal corporation elections under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). Speaking at a Booth Level Agent (BLA) training programme for Congress workers in the Mahalaxmi Layout Assembly constituency, Ahmed urged party cadres to begin preparations immediately for the five civic body polls. He said the government has successfully implemented the five guarantees promised during the Assembly elections, which have improved the quality of life for people across the state. "These guarantee schemes

will be the key to our victory. They have reached households and are making a tangible difference," he said, calling on workers to highlight these achievements among voters. Ahmed added that the government, led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, is committed to inclusive development and ensuring equal opportunities for all sections of society. Targeting the BJP, he criticised the Centre for allegedly failing to deliver on key promises made over the past decade. Referring to assurances made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, including doubling farmers' income, creating jobs, curbing corruption, and bringing back black money, Ahmed claimed that people have been disappointed.

Kumaraswamy fears sinking JDS, says MLA S T Somashekar

BENGALURU

BJP MLA S. T. Somashekar hit out at Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy, alleging that his remarks about the JD(S) being a "sinking ship" reflect fear about the party's future. Speaking at the inauguration of sewerage construction works undertaken by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board in Nagadevanahalli ward of Yeshwantpur constituency, Somashekar accused Kumaraswamy of past political decisions coming back to haunt him. He referred to the period when N. Dharam Singh was Chief Minister, alleging that self-serving political moves had weakened alliances.

Somashekar also responded to Kumaraswamy's remarks made at a recent JD(S) Janata Samavesha, where the latter described his own party as a "sinking ship." He said leaders from both Congress and JD(S) had failed to address the concerns of MLAs during the coalition government, which led to several leaders shifting allegiance. "During the coalition period, leaders stayed away from ground realities and did not respond to our issues or support constituency development. That is why many of us were compelled to join the BJP," he said, adding that the fall of the coalition government was not the responsibility of a few individuals alone. Highlighting his own work,

Somashekar said he has prioritised development in Yeshwantpur constituency by addressing the needs of residents. He also claimed to have successfully organised large-scale political events, including a gathering of over one lakh people during visits by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. With Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) elections approaching, he said political parties are actively organising programmes, while he continues to focus on development work in the constituency. Nagadevanahalli ward president Prakash Gowda, Congress leaders Chetan Gowda and Devaraj, and BWSSB officials were present at the event.

Resident complaint snowballs into civic issue; GBA notice ignored, no action on ground



BENGALURU

What began as a single resident's complaint over unauthorised commercial activity in a quiet Koramangala neighbourhood has now escalated into a larger civic concern, with authorities yet to enforce action despite issuing notices. Gilbert Millicent Nathan, a resident of 4th Block, Koramangala, had approached officials in November 2025, alleging that a residential building on 3rd Cross, 16th

Main Road was being used by a private EV battery firm for research, testing, and assembly operations. According to him, the activity has led to congestion, safety risks, and invasion of privacy. He said the situation has worsened over the past two years with the firm employing over 40 staff. "There are frequent disturbances, including late-night gatherings. The safety of my daughters has become a serious concern.

The company is neither respecting our privacy nor following civic norms," he alleged. The matter was taken up by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), whose Health Officer for the BTM Zone issued a formal notice on October 11, 2025. The notice confirmed that commercial operations were being carried out in a residential zone and cited complaints of noise and air pollution. Following an inspection,

authorities found prima facie merit in the allegations and directed the firm to cease operations within seven days. The notice warned of strict action, including closure, in case of non-compliance. However, months after the directive, residents allege that no concrete action has been taken on the ground. The firm is reportedly continuing its operations, raising concerns about enforcement lapses. A senior GBA official acknowledged the delay, stating

that multiple notices had been issued but the company had not complied. "We will take strict action soon. The firm claims to have obtained NOCs from residents and approvals from various departments, which we are currently verifying," the official said. Residents say the inaction has eroded confidence in civic authorities and are now demanding immediate intervention to restore the residential character of the locality.

QUICK READ

Yuvanidhi scheme opens online unemployment support portal

Mandya
Eligible candidates who have passed Bachelor's, postgraduate and diploma courses and are unemployed from 2022-23 to 2025-26 can register on Seva Sindhu portal <https://sevasindhugs.karnataka.gov.in>. Under Yuvanidhi scheme, graduates receive Rs 3,000 monthly and diploma holders Rs 1,500. Benefit applies after 180 days of unemployment after results with mandatory monthly self-declaration of jobless status. Applicants must not be studying or self-employed. Applications can be made at Karnataka One, Grama One and Bapuji centres. Aadhaar-linked bank account and mobile number are required. Applicants can check status online and contact employment office for help if rejected.

Free bladder checkup camp at Chitradurga Hospital

Chitradurga
A free bladder checkup camp will be held on April 18 at Room No. 15 of the District Hospital in Chitradurga. The camp is jointly organized by the district hospital and S.S. Narayana Health Hospital, Davangere. Urologist Dr U S Karthik will be available from 10 am to 1 pm to conduct examinations. People with problems such as kidney stones, frequent urination, prostate issues, urinary infections, burning sensation, blood in urine and other bladder-related disorders can attend the camp. District Surgeon Dr S P Ravindra said the public should make use of this free health service offered for early detection and treatment.

ABVP protests over serious minor abuse case

CHITRADURGA

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) held a protest against the sexual assault of a minor student. Students from Bapuji College gathered in front of the taluk office and submitted a memorandum through the Tahsildar demanding strict punishment for the accused teacher and doctor involved in abortion case. They said the act by a teacher broke trust in the education system and shocked the student community. Reacting to the incident,

Home Minister brings new hope to Rabia

CM Siddaramaiah assured housing help for Rabia in Sira within six months after her public appeal for shelter

TUMAKURU

Rabia, a woman from Sira taluk in Tumakuru district, who earlier sought euthanasia due to lack of housing, has now received relief after government intervention. Home Minister G. Parameshwara met her in Tumakuru and assured support for rent and ration expenses for the next six months. He also promised to help her get a house or plot in Sira within six months. The decision came after Rabia met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during a public programme

and expressed her distress about not having shelter. She had earlier appealed on stage, drawing attention to her situation and seeking urgent housing support. Officials said the assurance has brought relief to Rabia, who is now hopeful about a stable future. Authorities added that follow-up action will ensure timely delivery of housing assistance and welfare support. During the interaction, the minister emphasized that no citizen should feel abandoned due to housing insecurity in urban or rural areas. He appreciated officials for re-



sponding quickly and said welfare schemes must reach the most vulnerable families without delay. Local leaders also said Rabia's case highlights the importance of timely implementation of housing programs and social safety nets. Officials confirmed that further monitoring will be done to ensure Rabia receives promised benefits on time and that similar cases in Tumakuru district are addressed with compassion and efficiency under government welfare measures going forward system

UGD sewage sites raise serious death fears

VIJAYAPURA

Questions are rising again over safety at Vijayapura's underground drainage sewage treatment areas after another body was found under suspicious circumstances. The latest case is of Reshama Salman Sannidi, a resident of Nagthan, who had been missing for seven days. Her husband said she was under treatment for mental illness and was taking regular medication. After searching in Vijayapura and nearby districts like Kalaburagi and Bidar, police asked him to identify a body. He was shocked to see his wife's body found in sewage water in a badly damaged condition. The discovery has angered citizens who question safety inside poorly secured UGD sewage zones in the city. This is not the first incident as three children died in 2025 after being found in a drainage channel. Despite protests earlier locals say no strong safety steps were taken by authorities after



Body of missing woman found in Vijayapura UGD sewage area, sparking safety concerns and criticism of civic negligence

those deaths. Now another body has raised fears that these areas may be used to hide crimes or dump evidence. People blame Vijayapura City Municipal Corporation for neglect saying basic fencing and security are missing despite large spending. Residents are demanding answers from officials and asking what steps are being taken to prevent future incidents. The repeated discoveries have created fear with many saying these sites are becoming unsafe and poorly watched. Authorities have been urged to respond quickly and improve protection around all sewage treatment locations immediately. Until then residents fear these zones may

continue to reflect deeper failures in public safety management. Weeks of unanswered questions have left families worried about safety in everyday movement near drainage zones across the city. Local people say they want cameras, fencing, and regular monitoring so that no one can access dangerous sewage sites freely. Officials have not yet given a detailed public explanation about the latest incident, increasing anger among residents. Residents insist that only urgent action and transparent investigation can restore trust and prevent such tragedies from happening again in these neglected sewage drainage areas across Vijayapura city in future without delay.

DC ordered emergency water supply via tankers, borewells under Jal Jeevan Mission, ensuring monitoring and preparedness across Chikkaballapura district during summer

No compromise on drinking water supply: G. Prabhu

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu instructed officials that there should be no compromise in drinking water supply in the district under any circumstances. He was speaking while presiding over the Disaster Management Authority meeting held at the District Collector's office auditorium on Wednesday. He said that if any locality in rural or urban areas faces drinking water shortage immediate emergency action must be taken to supply water through tankers. With rising summer heat officials were told to prepare temporary arrangements using tankers or private borewells wherever necessary. He also directed that new borewells should be sanctioned under Jal Jeevan Mission or through District Task Force approval. Officials including Taluk Panchayat EO's urban body commissioners and tahsildars were instructed to monitor daily



water supply closely. The DC reviewed the situation in several villages across Chikkaballapura district where drinking water is being supplied through private borewells and tankers. He noted that so far there is no large scale tanker supply in urban areas but some wards are depending on alternative sources. The Deputy Commissioner urged officials to identify vulnerable villages in advance and ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply during peak summer. Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. Y. Naveen Bhat and

other senior officials including tahsildars and urban body officers attended the meeting. Authorities were also told to respond quickly to complaints from citizens and ensure safe drinking water through regular maintenance of infrastructure across all taluks in the district. They emphasized that coordination between rural and urban bodies is essential to prevent water crisis and protect public health during the summer months in Chikkaballapura district going forward without any delay.

Bidar official promises strong Kannada medium support

BIDAR

Additional Deputy Commissioner Shivananda Karale assured that he will make a sincere effort to submit a report on the Kannada situation to the government to address problems of Kannada medium students. He said he will en-



sure basic facilities for students studying in Kannada medium schools in border and outlying areas of Telangana adjoining Karnataka are addressed properly. He received a memorandum at the Additional Deputy Commissioner's office and assured that these issues will be brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner and steps will be taken. The petition stated that lakhs of Kannada speakers have lived in these border villages for decades preserving their language culture and identity while still facing issues in education employment and administration. It urged the

administration to hold a meeting of officials under his chairmanship collect accurate data and send a detailed report to the Karnataka government. Kannada schools continue to function in villages such as Karamungi Oudhatapura Yasagi Goudagaon Shahapur Murgi Shikharakhan Gundegaon Ratnapur Mangalagi and Mainalli in Narayan Kheda taluk of Sangareddy district in Telangana. The delegation requested that the Karnataka government take immediate steps to protect Kannada schools and improve opportunities for higher education and employment for border

Kannadigas. They also sought priority in residential schools higher education and government jobs for students from border areas and demanded policy support for their welfare. The delegation included Dr. Jagannath Hebbal Shivasharanappa Ganeshpur Dharmendra Poojary Bagaduri Dr. Rajkumar Hebbal Bheemarao Bidarkar Rajkumar Madaki and other representatives who urged early action by the government to resolve long pending issues affecting Kannada speaking border communities and ensure their rights and development in Telangana region.

Pratibhanjali music show mesmerises Mandya audience

MANDYA

The Pratibhanjali Sugama Sangeet Academy organised a memorial cultural programme at Gandhi Bhavan in Mandya to honour cultural leader K.S. Sachchidananda. The event marked the silver jubilee of the academy and attracted a large audience who enjoyed devotional and Kannada music performances. Inaugurating the programme, K.S. Vijay Anand said he was happy to see the cultural initiative continue in his father's name and assured full support. District Prison Superintendent M. Shanthashree appreciated the academy's social work and noted that music training is also being given to prison inmates. The programme featured melodious performances based on Kannada poetry by various singers and teams that received warm appreciation from the audience. Songs included compositions such as Buddha Banda Dari and other lyrical works that reflected social themes and cultural values. The audience responded with enthusiasm and appreciation as the singers presented folk,



devotional and Kannada cultural songs throughout the event. The programme was presided over by Karnataka Sugama Sangeet Parishad Mysore District Unit president Nagaraju V. Bhairi. Pratibhanjali David delivered the introductory speech and highlighted the academy's 25-year journey in promoting cultural music. Several dignitaries, trust members, teachers and cultural enthusiasts attended the programme and appreciated the efforts of the organisers. The event concluded with applause, highlighting the importance of preserving Kannada culture and encouraging young artists to continue traditional and modern musical expressions in society.

Forest alert as elephant roams Sakleshpur area

SAKLESHPUR

In Sakleshpur range, a lone wild elephant has been moving near villages, creating concern among residents and coffee plantation workers. To ensure safety, the forest department has started precautionary steps and increased monitoring in the affected areas. Range Forest Officer Hemant Kumar visited Shantapur village and spoke with villagers, labourers, and plantation owners about the situation. He advised people to be careful during early mornings and nights, and not to go alone near forest edges. He also suggested that villagers move in groups while traveling close to forest areas for added safety. The department stressed that people should immediately inform officials if they notice any unusual elephant movement nearby. Officials said protecting villagers' lives is the top priority and such steps help reduce risk in the region. Authorities added that continuous awareness drives, regular field visits, and cooperation from locals are essential to prevent conflict between humans and wildlife and to ensure peaceful coexistence in the forest fringe villages for better forest safety management efforts.

RURAL HEALTH OUTREACH

Free eye camp brings hope Dyamavvanahalli village

CHITRADURGA

A free eye check-up and blood donation camp was held at Dyamavvanahalli government school under Kasavarahatti PHC limits with participation from health officials, NSS volunteers and local residents on Wednesday. Taluk Health Officer Dr. B.V. Girish inaugurated the camp and said eye donation

can give vision to two blind people from one donor. Doctors explained that blood donation helps save lives of accident victims and anaemic mothers in emergency situations and encouraged healthy adults to participate. District Blood Bank Medical Officer Dr. Rupa advised people to follow balanced diet, avoid junk food and maintain health to prevent



anaemia. PHC Medical Officer Dr. B. Shivakumar said youth

should adopt service minded attitude, cleanliness and envi-

ronmental awareness to build a healthy society. Health educator B. Moogappa informed that even people with diabetes, blood pressure and those using spectacles can donate eyes under guidelines, and registration is available online. In the camp, ten people donated blood, twenty three underwent eye screening, nine were identified for cataract surgery and several others re-

ceived health check-ups and glasses support schemes. Officials from the health department, NSS unit, doctors, teachers and volunteers participated and stressed the importance of regular health camps for rural communities. Organisers said the programme created awareness on eye donation and blood donation among villagers and encouraged many young people

to come forward for voluntary service in future health camps planned in the district. They also said early diagnosis of eye diseases and timely treatment will reduce avoidable blindness and improve quality of life in rural areas through continuous outreach activities and government support initiatives. Officials appreciated public participation in the camp.

POONA ACCORD BLAMED FOR DALIT ISSUES: GEDDAM

Leaders highlighted Ambedkar’s ideals, announced ₹20 crore research centre and Bhavan, with officials attending the district programme

BIDAR

Premkumar Geddham said the Poona Pact is a major reason why Dalit issues remain unresolved even.

He was speaking at the 135th birth anniversary celebration of B. R. Ambedkar held at Ambedkar Circle in Bidar under the joint auspices of the district administration and various departments.

Geddham said that if the demands placed by Ambedkar during the Round Table Conference had been accepted, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and minorities would have held stronger positions in governance. However, he said the Poona Pact came into effect following opposition from Mahatma



Gandhi, which changed the course of representation.

He alleged that despite constitutional ideals of equality, justice and fraternity, discrimination and social inequality still persist in society. He expressed concern that incidents of untouchability and discrimination against Dalits continue in different forms.

Speaking at the event, Nijagunananda Swamy said Ambedkar believed in progress through education, organisation and struggle, and stressed the need to follow constitutional values.

District in-charge minister Ishwar Khandre said that the ideas of Basavanna and Ambedkar helped oppressed

communities gain access to education and opportunities.

He also announced plans to establish an Ambedkar Research Centre in the district with an estimated cost of ₹20 crore, along with the construction of an Ambedkar Bhavan.

Several dignitaries, including Rahim Khan, MLA Shailendra Beldale, District Collector Shilpa Sharma and other officials, attended the programme.

Hundreds of community members and leaders were present and paid tribute to Ambedkar while calling for stronger efforts to ensure equality and social justice in society through constitutional values and awareness in coming years ahead.

Chikkaballapura plans meaningful Jayanti celebrations

CHIKKABALLAPURA

Deputy Commissioner G. Prabhu has instructed officials to ensure that the upcoming Basava Jayanti and Bhagirath Jayanti celebrations are conducted in a meaningful and disciplined manner across the district. He gave the directions while chairing a preliminary preparation meeting at the District Administration Building in Chikkaballapura.

Officials informed that Basava Jayanti will be celebrated on April 20 at Basa-

vanagudi on Gandhikolai Road in Chikkaballapura city, while Bhagirath Jayanti will be held on April 23 at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan in the city.

The Deputy Commissioner said the programmes should highlight the ideas and teachings of the respected personalities through speeches and discussions. He also instructed that talent awards be presented to meritorious SSLC and PUC students from the community.

He directed departments to ensure proper arrange-

ments including invitation printing, stage setup, decoration, drinking water, sanitation, police security, mid-day meals, procession arrangements and cleanliness in the city.

He stressed that all responsibilities must be executed without any lapses.

He appealed to community leaders, organisations and citizens to actively participate and make the events successful.

Officials present at the meeting included Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secre-

tary Atik Pasha, Tehsildar Rashmi, Assistant Director of Kannada and Culture Department Ravi Kumar, and several community leaders and departmental officers.

The administration said coordinated efforts will ensure smooth conduct of both Jayanti celebrations and promote the messages of social reformers and spiritual leaders among the public through meaningful cultural programmes and community participation across the district this year.

Ensure proper delivery of Annabhagya scheme benefits: Chennappa

AURAD

Taluk Panchayat Implementation Committee Chairman Chennappa Uppe directed officials to ensure proper delivery of the Annabhagya Yojana benefits to eligible people without any lapses.

He was speaking at a meeting with ration distributors held at the Taluk Panchayat Hall on Wednesday to review the implementation of the state government’s ambitious guarantee scheme.

Uppe stressed the need for better coordination between ration dealers and the public to resolve issues faced by beneficiaries. He warned that strict action would be taken against officials if complaints are received regarding irregularities in ration distribution.

Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Kiran Patil instructed officials to increase awareness at the village level so that all eligible beneficiaries can access the benefits of the government’s guarantee schemes. Assistant Director Shivaku-



Chennappa Uppe reviewed Annabhagya Yojana, directing strict monitoring, coordination with ration dealers, and awareness to ensure benefits reach eligible beneficiaries without irregularities

mar Ghate said officials must ensure that benefits reach the right people and no deserving family is left out of the scheme.

The meeting focused on improving transparency, accountability and efficiency in distribution systems to strengthen public trust in wel-

fare programmes.

Several officials and representatives, including Balasahab Patil, Shivakumar Patil, Shankar Patil, D. K. Chandu, Sanjukumar Ujani and Chennabasappa Kautha, attended the meeting along with staff from various departments.

Officials from GESCOM, the Food Department, Yuvandhi, Transport Department and Taluk Panchayat also participated in the discussion. Authorities emphasised the importance of timely distribution, grievance redressal and continuous monitoring to ensure that the Annabhagya Yojana reaches every eligible household effectively and supports food security across the taluk in the coming months.

Prakash Jamadar defended MLA M.Y. Patil, criticized Malikayya Guttedar, and demanded clarity on Congress ticket distribution

Jamadar hits back at Guttedar remarks strongly

AFZALPUR

Guarantee Implementation Committee Chairman Prakash Jamadar strongly reacted to remarks made by former minister Malikayya Guttedar during a press conference held in Afzalpur town.

Jamadar clarified that he is not a follower but a committed supporter of senior MLA M.Y. Patil and said it was inappropriate to speak disrespectfully about him. He ob-

jected to comments referring to Patil and questioned Guttedar’s past role in the constituency.

He alleged that during Guttedar’s tenure as MLA, much of the constituency work was handled by his brother while he spent time in Bengaluru. Jamadar questioned whether such criticism was justified.

He also demanded that the Congress party clarify how backward communities were given representation in ticket

distribution and alleged that statements against him were aimed at discouraging his work after being appointed to key positions.

Jamadar recalled that M.Y. Patil had supported him during difficult times and said he has been associated with him for over 25 years. He urged Guttedar to apologise for his remarks.

Several local leaders including Chandrashekar Karajagi, Maihibuba Patel Kallur, Shivanand Gadi, Sanganagouda Patil and others were present at the press conference.

The exchange highlights growing political tensions in the region as leaders prepare for future electoral challenges and internal party discussions over leadership and representation issues in the constituency.



Foundation serves food kits on Ambedkar Day

VIJAYAPURA

Manikantha Foundation organized a food kit distribution programme for people affected by leprosy in Gandhinagar South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560098, declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as YASODA in my husband PPO No-59052100087. The actual name of mine is THANKAM ALIAS YASODA, which may be amended accordingly.

the service successful. Foundation president Prabhushwamy Hiremath and members said they will continue such social service programmes in the future. Volunteers and well-wishers who participated in the programme said that such initiatives help in building an inclusive society and bring dignity to marginalized groups. Organisers noted that the drive was conducted peacefully and successfully, with active involvement of community members and local supporters.

They said the programme aimed to extend Ambedkar’s message of equality, compassion and social justice to the grassroots level through direct service. Local leaders appreciated the effort and said more such welfare activities will



continue in Vijayapura to support vulnerable communities. Organisers reaffirmed commitment to continue humanitarian service programmes inspired by Ambedkar’s ideals of equality, dignity and justice, ensuring sustained support for poor and neglected families through community participation and donor assistance in coming years ahead

Vishwakarma marriage meet urged to be used well

RAMANAGARA

Vishwakarma leader and Youth Congress vice-president Janardhan has appealed to the community to make full use of the upcoming state-level Vishwakarma bride and groom convention to be held in Bengaluru from April 24 to 26.

Speaking at a press conference at Chaitanya Bhavan in Ramanagara on Wednesday, he said the event is being organized to help Vishwakarma youth find suitable life partners and strengthen community bonding. He urged parents and marriage seekers from the community to participate in large numbers and benefit from the facility.

He said the convention will be held at Gururaja Kalyana Mantapa in Bengaluru under the leadership of Karnataka Vishwakarma Mahasabha state president K. P. Nanjundi. This is the third edition of the event, which has already been conducted successfully twice before. Janardhan said all arrangements including food and accommodation will be provided free of cost for participants over the three days. He added that thousands of bride and groom candidates from across Karnataka are expected to attend, and application forms have already been distributed through community networks.

He said the matchmaking programme will begin at 11 am on April 24, with the aim of bringing families together in an organized platform.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HARIPRASAD (old name), a resident of NO 96, SRI KHANDE NILAYA, 13TH CROSS, CHOLUR PALYA, MAGADI ROAD, Bengaluru, 560023, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to N HARIPRASAD (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 15-04-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PURUSHOTHAMA S/o VISHWANATH, R/o Basaveswara Nagar, Nelamangala Taluku, Arasinakunte, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka-562123, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ARJUN.

Document Lost

This is to inform to General public that my client Smt.Manjula N w/o Kadirappa, Residing at 4th A Cross, Maruthinagar,Srinivasapura Town and Taluk, Kolar District, I am the Owner of the Below said Property,while Sale Deed for taken Certified Copy ,have lost following Documents of property pertaining to below Mentioned property Situated at, 4th A Cross, Maruthinagar,Srinivasapura Town and Taluk, Kolar District, had published the factum of loss of her Original Regd Sale Deed,dated:- 22-03-2000, Registered Sale Deed, executed by Sri,T.K.Narayanaswamy s/o Kuppuswamy, in favour of Smt, swooruparani w/o R.Lakshmanareddy, with respect to schedule property, under sale Deed dtd:22-03-2000, which is registered as Doc.No:1315, in Pages 154-156, in regd as document no.2870, in regd before the Office of the SRO Srinivasapura, IN Respect of Property Bearing Kolluru New Extension, V.P.Katha no.244, Site no.21, in Measuring 40x30 Feet,police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO. Lost Report no.2150784/2026, DATED:-11-04-2026, and complaint dated:-11-04-2026, by respective person,if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address. Place:-Chinthamani, Date:-11-04-2026

K.S.HARISH KUMAR ADVOCATE
Office: NEAR KISHORE SCHOOL, ABOVE APPOLO PHARMACY, BESIDE SANTHOSHI MATHA TEMPLE, BANGALORE MAIN ROAD CHINTHAMANILM:-9980110692

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact:
080-41209042

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANITHA KATTA LAKSHMINARAYANA SETTY W/o K S LAKSHMINARAYANA SHETTY, aged about 50 years, residing at # 29, 13th Cross, 4th Main, Aagrahara Dasarahalli, Basaveswaranagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560079, have changed my name from ANITHA KATTA LAKSHMINARAYANA SETTY to K L ANITHALAKSHAMMA for all practical /documentation purposes, vide affidavit dated 13-04-2026 sworn before Advocate & Notary Ravikumar V, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHOBBIT JAIN S/o LATE RAKESH KUMAR JAIN R/o Flat No. 407, Asset Alcazar Apartment, Volagere Kallahalli Village, Dommasandra Post, Sarjapur Main Road, Anekal Taluqa, Bangalore, Karnataka-562125, have changed the name of my minor daughter IVANA JAIN aged 4 years and she shall hereafter be known as IVAANA JAIN.

NAME CHANGE

I, DINESH JIYARAM SOLANKI, S/o. Jiyaram Solanki, Resident of 2nd Floor, No. 4 & 5, 18th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Dasarahalli Main Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru -560024, Karnataka, have changed my name to DINESH SOLANKI, vide affidavit dated: 15.04.2026 before notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT - REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES, BANGALORE

In the matter of Section 13(3) of LLP Act, 2008 r/w Rule 17 of the LLP Rules, 2009; and
In the matter of PURPLE TREE VENTURES LLP (LLPIN: AAS-6412) having its registered office at No. 7/2, Ground Floor, Brunton Road Bangalore, Karnataka, India - 560025- Petitioner
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the LLP proposes to make a petition to Registrar of Companies, Bangalore under Section 13(3) of the LLP Act, 2008 seeking permission to change its Registered office from the state of "Karnataka" to the state of "Tamil Nadu". Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the LLP may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by Registered post of his / her objections stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition supported by an affidavit to the Registrar of Companies, Bangalore - situated at 'E' Wing, 2nd Floor, Kendriya Sadana, Kormangala, Bangalore- 560034, within 21 (twenty one) days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the petitioner LLP at its registered office at the address mentioned above.
For and on behalf of PURPLE TREE VENTURES LLP -SD-
Mr. HARI Designated Partner (DIN: 03449814)
Date: 16/04/2026 Place: Bangalore

NAME CHANGE

I, SABA SULTANA ABUMOHAMMED USMAN, resident of No. 67, Ayesha Tranquil, Mosque Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004, have changed my name to SABA USMAN ARMAR, vide affidavit dated: 15.04.2026, before Notary BASAVARAJA, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMOGH M S/o MAHESH KUMAR, R/o 3633, Prestige KEW Garden, Yemlur, Marathahalli Colony, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560037, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AMOGH MAHESH PADUKONE.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is for general information that I, THANKAM ALIAS YASODA W/o late K. V. MADHAVAN, R/o 439/D, 2nd Cross, 43 Main, 1st Phase, Subhash Bhavan, Ideal Homes Township, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560098, declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as YASODA in my husband PPO No-59052100087. The actual name of mine is THANKAM ALIAS YASODA, which may be amended accordingly.

Document Lost

This is to inform to General public that my client Smt. Chinnamma W/o Vijayakumar, Residing at Kadashanahalli Village, Kattriguppe Village Panchayath, Ambajaidurga Hobali, Chinthamani Taluk, Chikkaballapura District, I am the Owner of the Below said Property,while Sale Deed for taken Certified copy ,have lost following Documents of property pertaining to below Mentioned property Situated at Kadashanahalli Village, Kattriguppe Village Panchayath, Ambajaidurga Hobali, Chinthamani Taluk, Chikkaballapura District, had published the factum of loss of her Original Regd Sale Deed,dated:-05-09-1996, Regd Sale Deed, Executed by Channamma w/o Rajappa, in Favour of Sri, L.M.Vijayakumar s/o L.M.Ammannanavar,In regd as Book No.1Volume No.1947, IN Pages 110-112, In Regd as Document no.1219/96-97, In regd before of the SRO Chinthamani in Respect of Property Bearing Chinthamani taluk, Ambajaidurga Hobali, Kadashanahalli Village,House List Register no.23, in Measuring 29x17 Feet,police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO. Lost Report no.2153456/2026, DATED:-13-04-2026, and complaint dated:-13-04-2026, by respective person,if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address. Place:-Chinthamani, Date:-13-04-2026

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Office: NEAR KISHORE SCHOOL, ABOVE APPOLO PHARMACY, BESIDE SANTHOSHI MATHA TEMPLE, BANGALORE MAIN ROAD CHINTHAMANILM:-9980110692



QUICK READ

Blind couple love case reaches High Court

New Delhi

A 100% visually impaired man has approached the Delhi High Court seeking release of his partner, who is also visually impaired and allegedly confined by her family over an interfaith relationship. The Division Bench of the Delhi High Court issued notice to the woman's family and directed that she be produced before the court on April 18. It is a habeas corpus petition filed by Ram Kripal under Article 226, alleging the woman was taken from her hostel, kept in confinement, and denied contact, despite claiming a consensual interfaith relationship and seeking police action earlier.

TCS Nashik harassment probe deepens

Nashik

The investigation into alleged harassment at the Tata Consultancy Services Nashik office has intensified, with police saying senior HR officials ignored over 70 complaints. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) is examining possible collusion, communication records, and financial links between accused employees. Authorities allege that complaints were not properly escalated despite being raised repeatedly. Around nine cases have been registered, involving multiple accused, some of whom are in custody. The Tata Sons has ordered an internal probe, stating zero tolerance for misconduct and assuring full cooperation with the ongoing police investigation into the matter.

BJP women lead scooty rally for bill support

Hyderabad

The Bharatiya Janata Party women's wing organised a large scooty rally in Hyderabad to support the Women's Reservation Bill. Hundreds of women riders took part, highlighting demands for greater representation of women in Parliament and state assemblies. Leaders said the move aims to strengthen women's empowerment and encourage political participation. Party representatives also planned further marches and meetings in coming days. They claimed the Bill would help women address social issues more effectively. The event also saw criticism of opposition leaders, with organisers accusing them of failing to act on earlier promises related to women's welfare and representation.

Class 10 CBSE students excel with higher scores

CBSE released Class 10 results with a 93.70% pass rate, marking an improvement under the new dual-exam academic system.

NEW DELHI

Thousands of families are celebrating as the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) officially released the Class 10 exam results. This year, students reached a national pass rate of 93.70%, a small but proud step up from last year's performance.

The 2026 academic year marked a big change for students. Under new education rules, the board introduced a dual-exam system to reduce stress. Officials noted that the improved scores prove students are handling the new, practical style of learning very well.

Students can find their marks quickly on the DigiLocker platform or through official websites like results.cbse.nic.in. For those in remote areas, results are also



available via SMS and the UMANG app. Schools will receive full result lists via email to help students who cannot get online.

Trivandrum and Vijayawada led the country with nearly perfect scores of 99.79%. To keep things fair and reduce pressure, the board chose not to release a "merit list" or rank students into first or second divisions.

Looking ahead, CBSE is

making a major tech upgrade. While Class 10 papers were checked by hand, the board is moving to "On-Screen Marking" for Class 12. This digital system uses scanned papers to stop totaling errors and get results out faster. With over 46 lakh students appearing for exams across 26 countries, this digital shift aims to make the grading process clearer and more accurate for everyone involved.

Signis India condemns remarks against Pope, urges responsible discourse

JALANDHAR

The Indian chapter of the World Catholic Association for Social Communication, SIGNIS India, has strongly condemned the recent disparaging remarks made by former U.S. President Donald Trump against His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, calling for respect and responsibility in public communication.

In a statement, SIGNIS India expressed deep concern over comments directed at the Supreme Pontiff, noting that such remarks hurt the sentiments of Catholics worldwide. The organisation said that the Pope, as the successor of St. Peter and the visible head of the Catholic Church, commands deep reverence among millions of believers. Any affront to him, it said, amounts to disrespect toward



the faith and dignity of the global Catholic community.

While reaffirming its support for freedom of expression and constructive dialogue in democratic societies, SIGNIS India stressed that personal attacks on religious leaders are unacceptable. It warned that such rhetoric undermines mutual respect, weakens interreligious harmony, and erodes the moral foundations of public discourse.

Calling upon leaders, media

professionals, and influencers to exercise restraint, the body urged them to uphold civility and avoid language that demeans religious beliefs.

SIGNIS India also reaffirmed its loyalty and communion with Pope Leo XIV, praying that his mission rooted in peace, justice, and compassion continues to inspire humanity. It encouraged the faithful to respond with prayer and wisdom rather than anger in challenging situations.

Delhi HC asks center for clear rules on transgender ID



NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has asked the central government to clarify how transgender individuals should be recognized in official and educational documents. A bench of Justice Prathiba M. Singh and Justice Madhu Jain noted that this case is vital because it will affect almost every major government record in the country.

The court's decision came while hearing several petitions about how gender is listed on certificates from schools like CBSE and Delhi University. The judges pointed out that any new rules will likely change how names and

genders are recorded on birth certificates, passports, driving licenses, and other state IDs. To ensure a thorough review, the court has officially added the Secretary of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to the case. During the discussion, lawyers mentioned the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act of 2026. This new law changes the legal definition of a "transgender person," but there is currently confusion because the government has not yet officially started using the new definition. The petitioners argue that regardless of the delay, they should be protected under these updated rules.

Supreme Court ends huge Sterling Biotech case

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court closed the long-running Sterling Biotech case after a massive recovery of nearly ₹9,800 crore. This decision brings a final end to the legal battles surrounding Nitin J. Sandesara and his business group. The court decided that since the banks and lenders have now been paid back in full, there is no reason to keep the legal fight going.

The case originally began when investigators claimed the company owed over ₹5,000 crore. Over the years,

the money was clawed back through different ways. About ₹3,500 crore was paid directly to banks, while more than ₹1,100 crore came from selling off company assets. A final large deposit of over ₹5,100 crore recently pushed the total recovery to a level that satisfied the court. Because the lenders have their money back, the judges ordered that all related investigations by groups like the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate be dropped. The court noted that continuing these cases would serve no

real purpose. A tiny remaining balance of about ₹45 lakh was paid just two days ago to clear the books completely. Lawyers for the company argued that the full repayment justified a fresh start. The Supreme Court agreed, marking this as a rare example of a high-value financial dispute ending with the banks getting every penny they were owed. With all debts settled, the court declared the matter officially finished, closing a major chapter in Indian financial law.

Schools must build better citizens says speaker

NEW DELHI

Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta shared a powerful message about the future of our students. Speaking at a prize ceremony at Delhi Public School, Mathura Road, he argued that education should be about much more than just getting high marks. Instead, he believes the real goal of schools is to raise young people who are aware, disci-

plined, and ready to help their country.

While good grades can open doors, Gupta explained that character and wisdom are what truly help a person succeed in the long run. He congratulated the students, parents, and teachers, noting that true success comes from hard work and staying consistent. To him, an achievement only matters if the person behind it has a strong sense of purpose.

to improve rules for the “Exclusive Economic Zone,” which would help local fishermen catch more deep-sea fish like tuna once the ban ends. For now, thousands of boats are docked as officials strictly enforce the rules to prevent overfishing. While the two-month pause is difficult for workers, scientists say it is essential for the environment.

Coastal communities now face a quiet 61 days as they wait for the seas to recover and the next fishing season to begin.

promised ₹20,000 in cash to each eligible fisherman. This money will be sent directly to their bank accounts this May. While the government says this aid helps replace lost income, many local fishing leaders argue it is not enough. They are calling for extra support for women and young workers who also rely on the industry but may not qualify for the current payout.

Industry experts are also looking for bigger changes in the national budget. They want the central government

Chhattisgarh cuts property fees for women by half

RAIPUR

In a landmark move for women's rights, the Chhattisgarh government announced two major legal shifts. During a cabinet meeting led by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, officials launched a push for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and slashed property registration costs for women.

The most immediate change is a 50 percent discount on property registration fees for assets held in a woman's name. This policy is designed to encourage families to put land and homes in the names of wives, daughters, and mothers, boosting their financial security. While the state expects to lose about Rs 153 crore in revenue, leaders view this as a vital "social in-



Chhattisgarh is slashing property registration fees for women by 50 percent and forming a committee to draft a Uniform Civil Code to ensure gender-equal laws.

vestment" to help women in rural and urban areas gain independence.

On the legal front, the state

is moving toward a Uniform Civil Code. A high-level committee, led by retired Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, has been formed to draft the new rules. The goal is to replace various religious laws regarding marriage, divorce, and inheritance with one single set of rules for everyone.

"This is about making the law simple and equal," a government spokesperson shared. By creating a uniform system, the state hopes to protect the rights of women and children who are often vulnerable under older, complex personal laws. The committee will now begin a massive consultation process with legal experts and tribal communities to ensure the new code respects the state's unique cultural balance.

PM Modi leads major election roadshow in Kanniyakumari

KANNIYAKUMARI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi swept through the streets of Nagercoil, leading a massive roadshow that signals a high-stakes push for the upcoming Tamil Nadu elections. Flanked by BJP and AIADMK leaders, the Prime Minister used the event to honor Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and energize the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) base.

The atmosphere was electric as the Prime Minister traveled alongside AIADMK leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami and state BJP chief Nainar Nagenthiran. The joint appearance solidifies the partnership between the two parties as they look to unseat the current DMK government. Supporters lined the roads, waving flags and cheering as the convoy passed through the coastal



district. Local BJP leader K. Annamalai voiced strong confidence in the alliance, predicting a "huge mandate" for the NDA. He emphasized that voters are eager for change and believe the current administration has blocked central government benefits from reaching the public. To counter this, PM Modi highlighted the success of "Direct Benefit Transfer" schemes, which send money straight to citi-

zens' bank accounts, cutting out middlemen. The political landscape in Tamil Nadu is growing more complex. While the main fight remains between the DMK-led alliance and the NDA, the entry of a actor-turned-politician Vijay and his new party, TVK, could create a three-way battle for votes. With the single-phase election set for April 23 and counting on May 4.

Amarnath Yatra registration opens across the country

JAMMU

Thousands of devotees across India began signing up for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. This year's pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine is set to be longer than usual, lasting 57 days. The journey will officially start on July 3 and come to a close on August 28, perfectly timing with the festival of Raksha Bandhan. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced that registration is now open.

NEW QR CODES IMPROVE GUJARAT BUS TRAVEL



AHMEDABAD

Commuters in Gujarat now have a direct way to voice their opinions on the go. The Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation (GSRTC) has launched a new QR code feedback system across its fleet. By scanning a code placed on the back of their seats, passengers can instantly rate their journey, report issues, or even upload photos of problems they encounter.

The system is already proving its worth. Recently, passengers in premium AC and Volvo buses used the codes to complain about bad smells. The corporation responded quickly by installing air fresheners in all luxury buses state-

wide. Beyond just complaints, the data shows that people are generally happy, in March alone, the service earned an impressive 4.5 out of 5 rating from over 1,700 travelers. Safety and staff behavior were highlighted as the strongest areas.

The government is using this tech to handle its massive growth. Over the last year, daily ridership jumped from 25 lakh to 27 lakh passengers. Leaders now hope to reach 30 lakh daily riders by making the buses cleaner and more reliable. To help with this, GSRTC is creating 400 special QR codes specifically for bus depots, allowing people to rate the cleanliness of stations as well.

BREEDING SEASON

East coast fishing ban begins for conservation

VISAKHAPATNAM

A mandatory 61-day fishing ban officially took effect across India's eastern coastline to protect marine life during the peak breeding season.

Running from April 15 to June 14, the ban stops all mechanized fishing activities in West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. The goal is to allow fish stocks in the Bay of Bengal to replenish, ensuring the long-term health of the ocean.

To support families during



this period, the Andhra

Pradesh government has

QUICK READ

Pakistan police face severe gender gap crisis

KARACHI

A new report highlights a serious lack of women in Pakistan's police force, with female staff making up less than three per cent. The study by Accountability Lab Pakistan links this gap to poor handling of crimes against women and low trust in police. Pakistan ranked 145th in the Global Gender Gap Index 2024 by the World Economic Forum. Experts say fewer women officers lead to underreporting and weak investigations. The report urges reforms to improve gender balance, strengthen justice, and build public confidence in law enforcement across the country.

Teen killing sparks rights concerns in Balochistan

BALUCHISTAN

An 18-year-old student was shot dead in Kech district, raising serious human rights concerns. The victim, Chakar Baloch, was attacked by unknown gunmen at his shop and died on the spot. Activists and the Baloch Yakehti Committee alleged the killing was carried out by a state-backed group, calling it an extrajudicial act. Reports highlight growing violence in the region. The group has urged the United Nations to step in and ensure fair investigation, as fears rise over safety and justice in Balochistan.

Japanese firm eyes India for leather expansion

TOKYO

Kyowa Leather Cloth is focusing on India as a key growth market through partnerships with local firms. The company, known for supplying materials used in Toyota cars, plans to expand production as India's auto sector grows. A company official said demand for premium vehicles is expected to rise, creating new opportunities. Kyowa aims to set up a factory in India by 2029. It is also working on eco-friendly solutions, including recycling and using natural materials, to reduce environmental impact while meeting future demand from Indian car buyers.

Tensions peak as ships bypass the blockade

Despite a massive U.S. blockade, Iranian ships are using deceptive shipping tactics to bypass naval enforcement in the region

DUBAI

The high-stakes game of cat-and-mouse in the Strait of Hormuz has entered a dangerous new phase.

Despite a massive U.S. blockade involving over 10,000 personnel and a dozen warships, at least two Iranian container ships successfully reached the port of Bandar Abbas. They did so by using a common maritime deception: altering their Automatic Identification System (AIS) data to hide their final destination.

The U.S. Central Command recently launched this "no-exceptions" blockade following military strikes against Iran in



late February. The mission aims to stop all maritime traffic entering or leaving Iranian waters. While U.S. forces claim that no ships successfully bypassed the line in the first 24 hours, forcing six merchant vessels to turn back,

maritime data suggests that "dark" or deceptive shipping tactics are already complicating enforcement. By changing their destination signal from "Bandar Abbas" to the vague "PG Ports" (Persian Gulf Ports), these vessels obscured

their intent until they had cleared the most heavily patrolled zones.

The risks of miscalculation are extreme. President Donald Trump warned that the military will "eliminate" any ship that breaches the blockade line. This aggressive stance comes as daily traffic through the world's most vital oil chokepoint has plummeted to less than 10 percent of its normal volume. Before the conflict began, over 100 ships transited the Strait daily, and as of now that number has slowed to a trickle as the global shipping industry weighs the risk of "elimination" against the necessity of trade.

Security alert: 800 terrorists massing at borders

LAHORE

Indian intelligence agencies have issued a major security warning following the discovery of at least 70 active terror launchpads across the border. Reports indicate that nearly 800 terrorists are currently waiting in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to infiltrate into Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials say the Pakistan establishment is trying to take advantage of the world's focus on conflicts in the Middle East. By moving operatives during this time, and amidst ongoing state elections in India, they hope to find gaps in border security. Intelligence suggests that at least 10 of these launchpads are located along the International Border, while the remaining 60 are spread along the Line of Control.

The strategy for crossing over has reportedly changed. Instead of small groups, the plan is to push 10 to 15 battle-hardened fighters through multiple points at the same time. This "coordinated strike" method aims to stretch Indian security forces thin, hoping at least some groups can slip past the heavy surveillance.

This sudden rush comes after Indian forces successfully destroyed terror camps last year during "Operation Sindoor." That operation was a response to a deadly attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 tourists. Since then, local terror networks have grown weak, forcing the ISI to rely on sending highly trained operatives from outside to keep unrest alive.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is investigating Lululemon to determine if their products contain harmful "forever chemicals" called PFAS.

Texas investigates Lululemon over 'forever chemical' claims

TEXAS

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has opened an investigation into Lululemon to determine if the athletic apparel giant's products contain harmful Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

The probe focuses on whether the Canadian company misled customers who buy the brand specifically for its "wellness" and "sustainability" image. Commonly called "forever chemicals" because they do not break down in the environment, PFAS are a group of 14,000 synthetic chemicals linked to serious health risks. According to the CDC, expo-

sure can lead to cancer, high cholesterol, and weakened immune systems. Paxton's office has issued a legal demand for documents to review the company's supply chain, safety testing protocols, and its internal list of restricted substances.

Lululemon denies the allegations, stating it does not use PFAS in its current lineup. The company clarified that it finished phasing out these chemicals in early 2023, noting they were previously used only in a small number of water-repellent items. Lululemon insists its products exceed global safety standards and is cooperating with Texas officials by



providing the requested data.

The investigation marks a significant moment for the "athleisure" industry. As health-conscious shoppers move toward non-toxic clothing, regulators are increasingly scrutinizing whether "green" marketing matches the actual chemical makeup of the fabric. If the probe finds evidence of PFAS, it could lead to major legal penalties and a shift in how athletic gear is manufactured worldwide.

Police burn massive stashes of illegal drugs

KHOST

Counter-narcotics police in eastern Afghanistan took a fiery stand against the drug trade this week, publicly burning over 100 kilograms of seized narcotics.

The event, held in Khost province, was designed to send a clear message - the government is tightening its grip on illegal smuggling.

Provincial director Qari Wahidullah Matawakil confirmed that the destroyed contraband included heroin, hashish, and raw opium. Also tossed into the flames were thousands of "Tablet K" pills, a common local stimulant. Officials stood by as the drugs turned to ash, emphasizing that no one has the right to produce or move narcotics in the region.

This public display is part of a much larger nationwide crackdown. Over the last few months, Afghan security forces



es have been busy smashing poppy farms and intercepting smugglers on the move. From the northern province of Takhar to Herat in the west, police have seized hundreds of kilograms of drugs hidden in vehicle compartments and arrested dozens of suspects.

In one recent raid, officers even recovered an assault rifle alongside 75 kilograms of raw opium, highlighting the dangerous nature of the trade. The government has vowed to continue these operations until the country is entirely free of drug threats. For now, the message from Khost is loud and clear, those who violate the law will face legal action, and their products will end up as smoke.

India-Germany boost ties for future

BERLIN

India and Germany have taken a massive step forward in their long-standing friendship.

Top officials met in Berlin this week to discuss how the two nations can work closer together on high-tech projects, national defense, and clean energy. This meeting is extra special because the two countries are celebrating 75 years of working together. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met with German leaders to review everything from trade to new technology. Both sides agreed that in a changing world, it is vital to share ideas on "green" hydrogen and digital tools. They also looked at ways to build military equipment together, making both nations stronger and



more secure.

The talks weren't just about business and machines, they were about people and peace. The leaders discussed global issues, including the conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia, seeking ways to ensure food and energy stay affordable for everyone. To mark this big anniversary, they even launched a brand-new logo that represents their 75-year bond.

This visit follows a successful trip by German

Chancellor Friedrich Merz to India earlier this year. That meeting set the stage for this week's progress, proving that the partnership is more active than ever. By focusing on innovation and trust, India and Germany are not just looking back at their history, they are building a high-tech future together.

Both sides plan to meet again later this year to keep this positive energy moving forward for their citizens.



Sky-high fuel costs ground Virgin Australia flights

SYDNEY

Virgin Australia is scaling back its domestic schedule and raising ticket prices as a massive spike in jet fuel costs hits the airline's bottom line.

In a recent update to the Australian Securities Exchange, the carrier revealed that fuel expenses for the second half of 2026 are expected to jump by 40 million AUD (\$28.5 million USD) more than originally planned.

The airline, which is 25% owned by Qatar Airways, blames the sudden financial pressure on the Middle East crisis. Jet fuel prices have become extremely unstable, more than doubling since late February. To survive the volatility, Virgin Australia is cutting its domestic flight capacity by 1% this quarter and using "fuel hedging", a way to lock in prices to protect against further spikes.

The crisis is hitting every major carrier in the region. Qantas Group issued an even grimmer warning, showing

Virgin Australia and Qantas are cutting domestic flights and raising fares as Middle East tensions drive a massive \$840 million combined spike in jet fuel costs.

that the entire industry is in defensive mode. As airlines struggle, the governments of Australia and Singapore are stepping in to secure the broader energy market. Prime Ministers Anthony Albanese and Lawrence Wong have pledged "maximum efforts" to keep essential supplies like diesel and liquefied natural gas (LNG) flowing between the two nations.

While these high-level deals aim to stabilize the country's energy security, the immediate impact for travelers remains clear: with fewer seats available and higher operating costs, flying across Australia is about to get more expensive.

AIRLINE

VIRGIN AUSTRALIA

Estimated fuel hit
\$40 Million AUD

Capacity cut
1%

QANTAS GROUP

Estimated fuel hit
\$800 Million AUD

Capacity cut
5%

FUEL DIP

CAMBODIA FUEL PRICES DROP AMID TWO-WEEK CEASEFIRE

PHNOM PENH

Motorists in Cambodia are seeing a welcome drop in fuel costs following a two-week ceasefire agreement between the United States and Iran.

The Ministry of Commerce announced that regular gasoline has fallen to 5,100 riels (\$1.28) per litre, a nearly 2% dip from just a few days back. Diesel saw a much steeper decline, dropping over 7% to 6,400 riels (\$1.60) per litre.

The price relief is a direct result of easing tensions in West Asia, which have heavily impacted global oil markets. Because Cambodia lacks its own



active oil refineries, the nation relies entirely on imports, making it highly sensitive to international conflict. To protect citizens from the "Middle East premium," Prime Minister Hun Manet confirmed that the government is spending roughly \$50 million every month to subsidize fuel costs by slashing import taxes and duties.

While the government is sub-

siding oil to keep the economy moving, it is also using tax breaks to nudge the country toward energy independence. Subsidies now extend to electric vehicles (EVs), solar-powered devices, and electric stoves. By reducing the cost of green technology, officials hope to lower the country's total reliance on the volatile global oil market in the long run.

REGULAR GASOLINE

New Price (Riels) —> 5,100
USD Equivalent —> \$1.28
% Change —> -1.9%

DIESEL

New Price (Riels) —> 6,400
USD Equivalent —> \$1.60
% Change —> -7.2%

COOKING GAS (LPG)

New Price (Riels) —> 3,900
USD Equivalent —> \$0.97
% Change —> Unchanged

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

5		8		4	2	7		1
1	4	7		8	5		3	9
	6		7	1			4	
9				2	3		8	4
6		4	9	7		1	2	
	3	2	4		1	9	5	
3	2			5	6		7	8
	1	6		3	7	5	9	
7		5	2		4		1	

8	7	9	6	2	5	4	1	3
5	1	4	8	3	9	2	6	7
2	6	3	4	1	7	8	5	9
7	2	6	5	4	1	3	9	8
9	4	5	3	8	6	7	2	1
1	3	8	7	9	2	5	4	6
6	8	2	9	5	3	1	7	4
3	5	7	1	6	4	9	8	2
4	9	1	2	7	8	6	3	5

Fill a 9x9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3x3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle



Atletico Madrid survive Barcelona scare to reach Champions League semifinals

MADRID

Atletico Madrid booked their place in the UEFA Champions League semifinals after holding off a fierce comeback attempt from FC Barcelona in a dramatic quarterfinal second leg at the Metropolitano. Despite a 2-1 defeat on the night, Diego Simeone's side advanced 3-2 on aggregate, thanks to their 2-0 first-leg win in Barcelona.

The victory marks Atletico's return to the Champions League final four for the first time since 2017, sparking emotional celebrations inside the stadium long after the final whistle. Players and fans stayed behind to chant, sing, and celebrate a landmark European achievement under Simeone's long-standing leadership.

Barcelona made a blistering start, overturning the aggregate deficit within the opening 24 minutes. Young star Lamine Yamal struck early after capitalising on a defensive error, becoming the youngest top scorer in Champions League history under the age of 19. Moments later, Ferran Torres added a second with a clinical finish, briefly putting Barcelona in control of the tie.

However, Atletico responded before halftime through Ademola Lookman, whose breakaway goal proved decisive in shifting momentum back toward the Spanish capital side. The goal ensured that Barcelona still trailed on aggregate despite their strong start. The match

turned further in Atletico's favour after Barcelona defender Eric Garcia was sent off in the 79th minute for a foul on Alexander Sorloth, reducing the visitors to 10 men at a crucial stage. Atletico managed the closing minutes with discipline and defensive resilience to secure qualification.

Atletico captain Koke praised the team's character, highlighting their ability to recover after a difficult opening spell. Simeone, visibly emotional after the match, said reaching another semifinal after 14 years of constant rebuilding was a deeply meaningful achievement for him and the club.

Barcelona, coached by Hansi Flick, expressed frustration over missed chances, particularly in the first half when they had opportunities to extend their advantage further. Frenkie de Jong admitted the red card proved decisive, while Flick insisted his side's effort and mentality were strong despite elimination.

Atletico Madrid will now face either Arsenal or Sporting Lisbon in the semifinals, with the English side holding a narrow first-leg advantage. Simeone's men remain in contention for a historic Champions League title, having previously fallen short in two finals and a semifinal during their European journey.

For Atletico, the night was more than just qualification—it was a reaffirmation of resilience, identity, and belief on Europe's biggest stage.

Hugo Ekitike injury casts major doubt over Liverpool and France plans

Liverpool forward stretchered off after serious-looking leg injury in PSG defeat

LIVERPOOL

Hugo Ekitike suffered a potentially serious injury during Liverpool FC's UEFA Champions League quarterfinal second-leg defeat to Paris Saint-Germain, raising concerns for both club and country ahead of a crucial stretch of the season.

The France international was forced off in the first half after appearing to injure his right leg following an awkward slip in the 27th minute at Anfield.

Medical staff rushed onto the pitch as Ekitike received treatment before it was quickly determined that he could not continue.

He was taken off on a stretcher and replaced by Mohamed Salah, in a worrying moment for Liverpool fans who have relied heavily on the striker's form this season.



Liverpool manager Arne Slot admitted after the match that the injury "doesn't look good," although he stopped short of providing a definitive diagnosis. He said further medical assessments would be carried out the following day to determine the full extent of the damage.

The setback comes at a crucial stage of the campaign, with Liverpool chasing both domestic and European objectives. Ekitike has been one of the standout performers for the club this season, scoring 19 goals across competitions

and emerging as a key attacking figure under Slot's system.

The injury also poses a significant concern for the France national football team ahead of the upcoming FIFA World Cup preparations. The young forward had recently

boosted his international reputation by scoring in France's 2-1 victory over Brazil, further establishing himself as an important option in attack.

The match itself ended in disappointment for Liverpool, as PSG secured a 2-0 win on the night and a dominant 4-0 aggregate victory to progress to the semi-finals. Despite the result, the focus quickly shifted to Ekitike's condition rather than the elimination.

PSG also had injury concerns of their own, with Nuno Mendes and Désiré Doué both forced off at different stages, though neither appeared as serious as Ekitike's issue.

For Liverpool, the immediate priority now will be assessing recovery timelines, as losing their in-form striker at such a decisive stage could significantly impact their remaining season ambitions across all competitions.

French winger's brace seals dominant aggregate win as Liverpool crash out at Anfield

Ousmane Dembélé fires PSG past Liverpool into Champions League semifinals

LIVERPOOL

Ousmane Dembélé delivered a decisive double at Anfield as Paris Saint-Germain defeated Liverpool FC 2-0 on the night to complete a commanding 4-0 aggregate victory and advance to the UEFA Champions League semifinals. The French international's clinical finishing ensured the defending champions progressed comfortably despite a spirited but wasteful display from the English side.

The defeat marked a painful end to Liverpool's European campaign and potentially a bitter farewell to club icon Mohamed Salah, whose nine-year spell at Anfield may now be nearing its conclusion. Manager Arne Slot made the surprising decision to start Allexander Isak ahead of Salah, but the tactical shift failed to

inspire a turnaround in fortunes. Liverpool's night worsened early when forward Hugo Ekitike suffered a serious-looking leg injury and had to be stretchered off in the first half. The incident not only disrupted Liverpool's attacking structure but also cast doubt over his availability for the remainder of the season and beyond.

Despite flashes of resistance, Liverpool struggled to convert chances. Virgil van Dijk and Milos Kerkez were both denied by crucial PSG defensive interventions, while a VAR reversal denied them a penalty that briefly raised hopes of a comeback.

PSG, meanwhile, showed their superiority in key moments. Although they missed several chances earlier in the tie, Dembélé eventually broke Liverpool's resistance in the

72nd minute, cutting inside and curling a precise strike into the bottom corner to effectively end the contest.

The winger added a second in stoppage time, finishing calmly from a Bradley Barcola assist to underline PSG's control over both legs of the quarterfinal. The French champions, led by Luis Enrique, have now reached their third consecutive Champions League semifinal, reinforcing their status as one of Europe's most consistent forces.

Liverpool, currently struggling in the Premier League and already out of domestic cup competitions, will finish the season without silverware. Their elimination also raises questions about squad depth and attacking balance following a season plagued by injuries and inconsistency.



Jordan Spieth boosts US Open hopes with strong Masters finish

AUGUSTA

Jordan Spieth took an important step toward securing U.S. Open qualification exemption with a solid finish at the Masters, where a final-round 4-under 68 lifted him into a tie for 12th at Augusta National. While not a headline-grabbing surge, the result marked his best major performance in three years and arrived at a crucial stage of his season.

Spieth's closing round featured moments of brilliance, including a stunning bunker shot holed for eagle on the par-5 13th and a confident 15-foot birdie putt at the final hole. The late push helped him climb back into contention on the leaderboard and regain valuable world ranking points at a time when positioning is critical.

The result moves Spieth from No. 61 to No. 52 in the Official World Golf Ranking, placing him closer to the top 60 cutoff that guarantees entry into the U.S. Open. With his 10-year exemption from his 2015 U.S. Open victory now expired, Spieth is no longer automatically qualified for the major and must rely on ranking position or special exemptions to secure entry.

At 32, Spieth remains in a competitive but precarious position, hovering around the qualification threshold. While former champions sometimes receive discretionary entries, he is determined to earn his way back through performance rather than rely on exemptions.

The timing of his Masters finish is significant, as the PGA Tour enters a demanding stretch leading into the PGA Championship. The next several weeks include high-stakes events such as the RBC Heritage and multiple signature tournaments, all offering crucial ranking opportunities ahead of the U.S. Open qualification deadline.

Justin Thomas noted earlier in the week that the current PGA Tour schedule is unusually packed, with little recovery time between major events. Players must now balance form, fatigue, and preparation across a congested calendar that leads directly into major championship season.



Real Madrid legend Jose Emilio Santamaria dies at 96

MADRID

Real Madrid great Jose Emilio Santamaria has died at 96, the club confirmed on Wednesday.

The Uruguay-born defender joined Madrid in 1957 and won four European Cups, six La Liga titles, one Intercontinental Cup and a Spanish Cup, making 337 appearances.

He represented Uruguay 25 times, playing in the 1954 World Cup, and later earned 16 caps for Spain, featuring in the 1962 edition. After retiring, Santamaria coached Spain at the 1982 World Cup and managed its Olympic teams. He also had a long managerial stint with Espanyol.

Anthony Joshua vs Tyson Fury mega-fight targeted for November showdown

LONDON

Anthony Joshua and Tyson Fury are in advanced negotiations for a blockbuster heavyweight showdown scheduled for November, according to promoter Eddie Hearn, who believes the long-awaited all-British clash is now closer than ever to becoming reality. Hearn said that he is "pretty sure" the fight will finally take place later this year, despite recent confusion caused by premature announcements from streaming platforms.

The speculation intensified after Fury returned from a 16-month retirement with a points victory over Arslanbek Makhmudov, prompting Netflix to suggest that a deal with Joshua had already been completed. However, Hearn clarified that no final agreement has been signed and insisted that discussions are still ongoing between both camps.



Joshua, who last fought YouTuber Jake Paul in December after a lengthy layoff, is expected to take a tune-up bout in July before stepping into the ring with Fury. Hearn confirmed that contract discussions have been exchanged and negotiations are continuing without any major obstacles, though details such as timing, location, and interim opponents are still being finalised.

According to Hearn, Joshua's instructions are clear: secure the Fury fight. The promoter emphasised that



both sides are broadly aligned on making the mega-fight happen, with only logistical and scheduling matters left to resolve. The current plan involves Joshua taking a warm-up fight comparable in level to Fury's recent opponent before the November showdown.

Fury's camp had suggested that Joshua's previous bout against Jake Paul could serve as adequate preparation, a claim Hearn dismissed as "cheeky," reiterating that a more credible opponent is expected before the undisputed heavyweight clash.

Usyk calls Verhoeven dangerous, backs Joshua over Fury in blockbuster prediction

LONDON

Oleksandr Usyk has described kickboxing star Rico Verhoeven as a "dangerous opponent" ahead of their heavyweight clash.

The undefeated Ukrainian champion, who holds the WBA and IBF heavyweight titles, will face Verhoeven in a 12-round bout on May 23 at the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt. However, Usyk confirmed that his belts will not be on the line for the

unique cross-discipline contest against the Dutch kickboxing legend. Speaking at a press conference in London, Usyk said he was fully aware of criticism surrounding the matchup but insisted he wanted to take control of his own career decisions at this stage. He described Verhoeven as a strong and dangerous fighter, acknowledging the Dutchman's size, experience, and combat background.

Verhoeven, a former long-time kickboxing world champi-

on, has only one professional boxing bout on his record, but remains confident he can cause an upset. Standing at 6-foot-5 and weighing around 125kg, he claimed his physical advantages and "kickboxing angles" would pose problems for Usyk, who typically competes under 230lbs.

The Dutch fighter even suggested that one clean shot could end the contest, though Usyk responded calmly, saying only, "We'll see," while

reiterating his belief that size alone does not determine outcomes at elite level.

Usyk, known for his movement, conditioning, and tactical intelligence, added a lighter note when discussing preparation, joking that "good pasta" and disciplined training are his key ingredients for success. Beyond his upcoming bout, Usyk also weighed in on the heavyweight division's biggest talking point: a potential clash between Joshua and Fury.

QUICK READ

Government plans system to steady fuel prices

New Delhi

The central government is planning a new system to control sudden changes in petrol, diesel, and LPG prices. The idea is to protect people from rising costs caused by global oil market swings. Officials are discussing a special fund that can be used during sharp price increases. This system may work like the one used for farm goods, where stocks are released to control prices. The plan is different from emergency oil reserves. It will offer temporary relief, not regular subsidies. Ministries are still deciding how and when to use the fund, aiming to keep fuel prices more stable for households.

Railways near full electrification as passenger numbers surge

New Delhi

Indian Railways has nearly completed electrification, covering 99.6 per cent of its broad gauge network. It runs around 25,000 trains daily and carried 741 crore passengers in 2025–26. Revenue reached about Rs 80,000 crore, while freight hit a record 1,670 million tonnes. Electrification has grown sharply since 2014, saving fuel and cutting costs. New safety systems and better communication tools are improving travel. Faster tracks now allow higher speeds. Modern trains like Vande Bharat and Amrit Bharat are gaining popularity. Officials say these steps are making rail travel quicker, safer, and more affordable for millions of passengers across India.

Office demand rises, vacancy rates hit lows

New Delhi

Office space vacancy in India's top cities fell to 13.8 per cent in early 2026, dropping below 14 per cent for the first time since the pandemic. The fall is due to strong demand and fewer new buildings. A report said vacancy has been shrinking for eleven straight quarters. New office supply also declined sharply. Cities like Bengaluru, Delhi NCR, and Chennai led new development, while others saw none. Experts say steady leasing and demand from global firms are driving growth, keeping office markets stable and rentals firm across major business hubs in India.

Air India seeking billions after massive loss

NEW DELHI

Air India is turning to its owners for a massive financial rescue after reporting a staggering loss of over ₹22,000 crore for the past year.

The airline, owned by the Tata Group and Singapore Airlines, is currently in talks for a fresh cash infusion to stay afloat. This financial crisis comes at a difficult time, as the airline also faces leadership changes with CEO Campbell Wilson preparing to step down later this year.

Several major setbacks contributed to this record-breaking loss. Operational costs spiked after Pakistani airspace was closed to Indian carriers, forcing planes to take longer, more expensive routes to the West. The airline's reputation and schedule were also hit hard by a tragic Boeing 787 crash last June, which led to a significant cut in flight services. Furthermore, ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, a region that accounts for 16 percent of the airline's business, have disrupted major international routes and sent fuel prices soaring.

The struggle is also hurting Singapore Airlines, which owns about a quarter of the company. Since merging its Vistara brand into Air India in 2024, the Singaporean partner has seen its own earnings dragged down by these mounting debts. While the Tata Group remains committed to transforming the former state-run carrier, experts suggest the planned funding might still fall short of what is actually needed to fix the airline's deep financial and operational problems in such a volatile global market.



Indian warehousing market sees huge demand spike

India's industrial and warehousing sector surged by 22 % in 2026, driven by logistics, e-commerce, and manufacturing demand.

NEW DELHI

India's industrial and warehousing sector is off to a flying start this year. A new report shows that demand for large storage spaces grew by an impressive 22 percent during the first three months of 2026.

Businesses across the country snapped up 11 million square feet of space to keep up with growing consumer needs.

Leading the charge was the Delhi-NCR region, which accounted for nearly one-third of the total demand. Chennai followed closely behind, showing strong interest from various industries. Interestingly, cities like Hyderabad and Bengaluru saw their leasing numbers double or even triple compared to the same time last year, marking a massive shift in regional growth.

The biggest drivers of this



trend are logistics companies that manage shipping and deliveries for others. These firms accounted for about 33 percent of the total space taken. Online shopping platforms and car manufacturers also played a major role, as they look to modernize their supply chains and reach customers faster. Even electronics and grocery brands are joining the race, renting significantly more space than they did a year ago.

Experts note that while the

market is booming, developers are being cautious. Global tensions and supply chain issues mean new construction might slow down slightly. However, government policies supporting local manufacturing continue to give the industry a boost. Despite some international uncertainty, the desire for modern, efficient warehouses remains higher than ever, proving that India's industrial heartbeat is stronger and more resilient than before.

Wholesale prices rise as fuel costs jump

NEW DELHI

India's wholesale inflation climbed to 3.88 percent in March, marking a significant increase from the 2.13 percent seen in February. This rise was largely fueled by a sharp spike in global energy prices and the rising cost of manufactured goods.

The biggest driver behind this surge was the "fuel and power" category. Prices for crude oil and natural gas skyrocketed by over 36 percent in just one month, triggered by ongoing conflicts in the Middle East. While a 5 percent drop in electricity costs helped soften the blow, the overall pressure on fuel remained heavy. Meanwhile, manufactured items also saw price hikes across 16 different categories, including everyday household products.

On the retail side, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) also ticked up slightly to 3.4 percent. Interestingly, the most dramatic price increases weren't in food, but in luxury items. Silver jewelry prices jumped by nearly 149 percent, while gold grew by roughly 46 percent.

For the average kitchen, the news was mixed. While vegetables like tomatoes and cauliflower became more expensive, several staples actually saw a price drop. Onions, potatoes, and garlic recorded double-digit declines, and essential pulses like chickpea and tur dal also became cheaper. Overall, while food prices remained relatively stable, the rising cost of fuel and raw materials continues to push India's general inflation higher, making it a key area for the government to monitor in the coming months.



Global PC market sees surprise sales jump

NEW DELHI

The global personal computer market grew by 4 percent in the first quarter of 2026, with shipments reaching nearly 63 million units.

While the numbers look positive, experts warn that this growth doesn't necessarily mean more people are buying computers. Instead, tech companies are reportedly stockpiling inventory to avoid upcoming price hikes for essential parts like memory chips.

This trend, often called "memflation," is driving up the cost of manufacturing. By filling warehouses now, vendors hope to protect themselves from more expensive components expected later this year. Analysts noted that these figures are "artificially inflated" because companies are buying ahead of time rather than reacting to immediate customer needs. This behavior was most common in the

budget-friendly laptop segment, where profit margins are already very thin.

Among the top brands, the rankings remained mostly steady. Lenovo continues to lead the world in total sales, followed by HP and Dell. However, Apple was the standout performer this quarter. The company saw a massive 12.7 percent growth, largely thanks to the popularity of its new MacBook Neo. Students and first-time buyers have flocked to the device, drawn by its mix of high performance and competitive pricing.

Elsewhere in the market, ASUS managed to overtake Acer to become the fifth-largest PC seller globally. While the industry is currently celebrating growth, all eyes are on the next few months. If component prices continue to rise as predicted, both companies and consumers may face a much tougher financial landscape by the summer.

New career paths open for Indian graduates

NEW DELHI

The job market for India's fresh graduates is undergoing a massive transformation.

According to a new report, traditional career paths are being replaced by high-growth roles like Artificial Intelligence (AI) specialists and digital content creators.

As technology evolves, companies are hunting for young talent capable of mastering generative AI and modern communication.

Interestingly, these opportunities are not limited to tech firms. Sectors like education, energy, and transportation are now hiring entry-level professionals for business and human resources roles. Experts suggest that skills are now transferable across industries, meaning a marketing student could find a great career in



India's fresh graduates are pivoting to AI and content roles as startups and tier-2 cities emerge as major hubs for cross-industry, skill-based career opportunities.

the logistics or utility sectors. This shift allows graduates to explore diverse paths rather than sticking to one rigid field.

The report also highlights a surprising trend, small businesses are becoming major employers. Firms with

fewer than ten employees saw a significant jump in hiring graduates over the last two years. This suggests that startups and boutique agencies are providing vital stepping stones for those just starting their professional journeys.

Geography is no longer a barrier either. While big metros remain popular, smaller cities like Jaipur, Indore, and Vadodara are emerging as fast-growing job hubs. Career experts advise young professionals to stay flexible and open to relocating or trying unconventional roles. By building a versatile skill set and embracing diverse experiences, India's youth can find success in this dynamic economy, proving that the first step into the workforce is now more exciting and varied than ever.

Indian pharma companies expect a 12% revenue growth this quarter, though profits may drop due to drug patent expirations.

Indian healthcare revenue growth set to slow

NEW DELHI

India's major healthcare and pharmaceutical companies are bracing for a modest finish to the fiscal year.

A new report suggests that while revenue will likely grow by a steady 12% this quarter, actual profits are expected to take a hit. Net earnings across the sector could drop by as much as 14 percent compared to the same time last year.

The primary reason for this dip is the "loss of exclusivity" for several major drugs, most notably the cancer med-

ication Revlimid. Big industry names like Dr. Reddy's, Cipla, and Sun Pharma are feeling the pinch as their special rights to sell these expensive treatments end. For Dr. Reddy's in particular, this change could lead to a sharp decline in earnings as the massive profits from that specific drug begin to vanish.

Global tensions are also adding to the pressure. The ongoing conflict between the US and Iran has caused shipping and raw material costs to rise. While a stronger US dollar helps Indian exporters, those gains are being can-

celed out by expensive freight. This could force companies that make active ingredients to raise their prices soon.

On a positive note, government regulators are keeping a close watch on the booming market for weight-loss and diabetes drugs. As cheaper versions of these popular treatments prepare to enter the Indian market, health officials are stepping up safety checks. This ensures that as these life-changing medicines become more affordable for everyone, they remain safe for public use.

Delhi EV policy to drive long term sales

NEW DELHI

Delhi's ambitious new plan for electric vehicles (EVs) is expected to spark a massive wave of buying in the coming years.

A recent report suggests that the government's 2024–2030 draft policy, backed by a massive ₹40,000 crore budget, will fundamentally change how people in the capital travel. The goal is clear: make all new three-wheelers electric by 2027 and all two-wheelers electric by 2028.

While the long-term outlook is bright, there might be

a short-term dip in sales. Because the policy is still in the "draft" stage, many buyers are waiting for final details before spending their money. However, experts believe this "wait and watch" approach will lead to a huge surge in demand once the rules are officially launched. People who delayed their purchases will likely rush to showrooms to take advantage of the new benefits.

To encourage early buyers, the government is offering the biggest rewards right away. For example, those who buy electric scooters in the first year can get up to

₹30,000 in incentives. These rewards will gradually decrease over the following years to encourage people to switch sooner rather than later.

The policy also shifts focus for cars. Instead of direct cash handouts, the government is offering tax breaks and rewards for scrapping old, polluting vehicles. Even "strong hybrid" cars are getting a 50 percent discount on road tax. This strategic roadmap ensures that Delhi remains a leader in green energy, rewarding companies that have already invested in electric technology.

Digital gold investments triple amid global tension

NEW DELHI

While physical gold remains a cultural favorite, digital gold is stealing the spotlight. A new report shows that Gold Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) have seen a massive surge, with total assets nearly tripling over the past year. By the end of March 2026, the value of these digital holdings reached a staggering ₹1.71 lakh crore, reflecting a grow-

ing trust in paperless gold.

The growth has been explosive. Just five years ago, the total investment in these funds was around ₹14,122 crore. Since then, the market has grown at an average annual rate of nearly 65 percent. Experts point to a "double pull" driving this trend: intense global uncertainty caused by geopolitical conflicts and the soaring price of gold itself. For many, digital

gold has become a vital "safety net" in their financial portfolios.

In March alone, investors poured over ₹2,265 crore into these funds. This is a huge turnaround from the same time last year when investors were actually pulling money out. Although the pace of investment slowed down slightly compared to February, mainly because gold prices dipped and global tensions



eased briefly, the overall interest remains incredibly high. There are now 26 different gold fund schemes for people to choose from.

Financial advisors note that

digital gold is often a smarter move for those looking to make a profit. Unlike physical jewelry, which carries making charges and storage risks, ETFs are transparent, efficient, and easy to sell. While families still buy physical gold for weddings and traditions, the digital version has clearly become the preferred tool for modern Indian investors looking to protect their wealth.

GENDER EQUALITY

Maruti Suzuki boosts shop floor diversity with women

NEW DELHI

India's leading carmaker, Maruti Suzuki, is celebrating a major milestone in its journey toward workplace equality.

The company announced that its female workforce has now surpassed 1,300 employees.

This growth is largely driven by a strategic move to hire more women for technical roles at its massive manufacturing plants located in Gurugram and Manesar.

Traditionally, automotive shopfloors were male-domi-



nated environments, but Maruti Suzuki is changing that narrative. Over the last two years, the company has systematically recruited women for critical tasks, including

engine assembly, transmission work, and quality control. These roles require extreme precision and consistency, and the company notes that its female technicians are excel-

ling. To ensure a level playing field, all new hires undergo the same rigorous training as their male colleagues, opening doors for long-term career growth.

CEO Hisashi Takeuchi expressed that while women have always succeeded in the company's offices, true integration happens on the factory floor. To support this vision, Maruti Suzuki has invested in significant infrastructure upgrades. The facilities now feature dedicated restrooms, changing rooms, and crèche services for working mothers.

Safety has also been prioritized with extra security patrols and guards during evening shifts.

Beyond physical upgrades, the company is focused on culture. All employees must complete training on preventing sexual harassment, and sensitivity workshops are held to ensure an inclusive environment. By fostering this supportive ecosystem, Maruti Suzuki is proving that the future of Indian manufacturing is not just about machines, but about empowering a diverse and skilled workforce.





Royal Challengers Bengaluru defeated Lucknow Super Giants by 5 wickets at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Ajinkya Rahane fined for slow over-rate as KKR lose again in Chennai

Ajinkya Rahane fined ₹12 lakh for KKR's slow over-rate vs CSK

CHENNAI

Kolkata Knight Riders captain Ajinkya Rahane has been fined ₹12 lakh for maintaining a slow over-rate during their Indian Premier League 2026 clash against Chennai Super Kings at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

The penalty was imposed as per Article 2.22 of the IPL Code of Conduct, which governs minimum over-rate offences, after KKR's first breach of the season.

As this was their first offence of the season, Rahane was fined ₹12 lakh by the match referee, in line with IPL regulations. The loss further deepened KKR's struggles in IPL 2026, leaving them at the bottom of the points table with no wins so far.

Rahane said the team needed to improve discipline in the middle overs and avoid time penalties going forward.

Kolkata Knight Riders will next face Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad on April 17, aiming to bounce back strongly.

Team management is expected to review over-rate patterns from the match, especially during the middle overs where field adjustments and bowling changes often caused delays.



Despite the setback, KKR officials backed Rahane's leadership, stating that the squad is still adapting to combinations in the early phase of the tournament.

The franchise has also been rotating several players in the bowling unit, which has impacted the flow of overs in pressure situations.

Chennai Super Kings' win, powered by disciplined bowling performances, helped them strengthen their position in the standings and maintain momentum at home.

Weeks into IPL 2026, over-rate penalties have become a recurring concern for several teams, with captains often held accountable for tactical delays

and frequent field changes that stretch innings beyond permissible time limits.

Experts believe that maintaining over-rate discipline is becoming increasingly important in T20 cricket, where strategic pauses and match-ups can sometimes unintentionally slow the pace of play under high-pressure conditions.

With KKR set to face Gujarat Titans next, the team will aim to correct their over-rate issues while also seeking their first win of IPL 2026.

Rahane's fine adds pressure on KKR as they search for rhythm, consistency, and a turnaround in form ahead of crucial upcoming fixtures in the league stage of IPL 2026 season.

Kaif questions KKR's Russell decision amid winless run

KOLKATA

Former India batter Mohammad Kaif has criticised Kolkata Knight Riders' team strategy in IPL 2026, suggesting the franchise may have erred by shifting Andre Russell into a "power coach" role while investing heavily in Australian all-rounder Cameron Green. His comments came after KKR suffered yet another defeat, a 32-run loss to Chennai Super Kings, leaving them winless this season.

Kolkata Knight Riders have endured a disappointing start to their campaign, managing only one point from a washed-out match against Punjab Kings. Losses against Mumbai Indians, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Lucknow Super Giants, and Chennai Super Kings have left the side rooted at the bottom of the table and under growing scrutiny.

Kaif, reacting to the situation on social media, questioned whether sidelining Andre Russell from a regular all-rounder role was a strategic mistake.

He argued that Russell, even in the latter stages of his career, still offers greater match impact than the Rs 25 crore signing of Cameron Green, especially in high-pressure situations.

The debate has intensified due to Green's role in the playing XI. The Australian all-rounder has largely been used at No. 6, a position that does not fully utilise his strengths as a top-order batter. Historically, Green has thrived when given time to build innings, but in the lower middle

order he has often been forced into rushed finishes.

This misalignment has reflected in his performances. Apart from a 32 not out and a



bowling return of 1 for 28 against Lucknow Super Giants, Green has struggled for consistency, recording scores of 0, 4, 2, and 18 in other matches. His inability to influence games has added to KKR's broader concerns in both batting depth and finishing ability.

In contrast, Russell's long-standing role as a finisher and explosive all-rounder had previously defined KKR's identity in the league. His ability to change games in a few overs with both bat and ball made him one of the franchise's most valuable assets over the years.

IPL 2026: Dhoni's Guidance behind Noor Ahmad's Match-Winning Spell vs KKR

MS Dhoni's nets conversation helped Noor Ahmad dominate KKR attack

CHENNAI

Spinner Noor Ahmad delivered a match-winning spell of 3 for 21 against Kolkata Knight Riders, turning the game decisively in Chennai Super Kings' favour and guiding them to a 32-run victory in IPL 2026. His performance came after a detailed discussion with MS Dhoni during practice sessions, which CSK believe helped refine his approach and execution under pressure.

CSK assistant coach Sridharan Sriram revealed that Noor Ahmad had been working closely on improving his control and variation leading into the match. According to him, Dhoni's inputs during nets were particularly focused on encouraging Noor to bowl more leg-breaks and use subtle changes in pace and flight to exploit any as-



stance from the surface.

The left-arm wrist spinner had struggled earlier in the season, picking up just one wicket in his first four matches, but showed composure and discipline on a pitch that offered limited assistance. His ability to adjust his lengths proved crucial in breaking partnerships at key stages of the innings.

Former West Indies spinner

Akeal Hosein also played a key supporting role, guiding Noor on the ideal "in-between length" that made it difficult for the KKR batters to score freely. This on-field communication ensured Noor settled into rhythm after a slightly wayward start in his opening over.

Sridharan Sriram praised the spinner's aggressive mindset, noting that maintaining revolutions on the ball and search-

ing for turn even on flat pitches was central to his improvement. He added that such intent allowed bowlers like Noor to create chances rather than simply contain runs.

The victory further strengthens Chennai Super Kings' position in the IPL 2026 standings, with Noor Ahmad's performance expected to boost his confidence in the matches ahead as the franchise looks to build momentum in the tournament. CSK will now hope Noor Ahmad continues this form in the remaining league fixtures, especially in conditions where spin is expected to play a major role. Team management believes that the combination of experienced leaders and young overseas talent will be crucial in their push for qualification to the playoffs this season ahead of the crucial mid-season fixtures in IPL 2026.

RASHWIN advises Gaikwad to adjust technique amid CSK revival

CHENNAI

Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has suggested a small but important technical adjustment for Chennai Super Kings captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, urging him to focus on playing more "down the ground" as the batter continues to search for form in IPL 2026. The observation comes at a time when CSK are beginning to regain momentum after a shaky start to their campaign.

Chennai Super Kings had lost their first three matches but have since bounced back with consecutive wins, including a strong performance against Kolkata Knight Riders. The turnaround has eased pressure on Gaikwad's leadership, though his individual batting form remains under scrutiny.

Ashwin said the wins would help the skipper settle into his role with greater clarity and freedom. He stressed that T20 cricket demands consistent intent but also smart decision-making early in the innings, especially for top-order batters.

Gaikwad has managed only 63 runs in five matches, with a highest score of 28, leading to discussions around potential changes in the batting order. One of the options being considered is promoting young batter Ayush Mhatre to open alongside Sanju Samson, allowing Gaikwad to shift to No. 3 and rebuild his innings with less immediate pressure.



Aaron hails debutants Praful and Sakib after SRH win

HYDERABAD

Praful Hinge and Sakib Husain produced dream debut performances for Sunrisers Hyderabad, each claiming four wickets to power a dominant win over Rajasthan Royals in their IPL 2026 clash. The young pace duo dismantled the opposition batting line-up, setting the tone for a comprehensive victory and offering SRH a much-needed boost to their bowling unit.

Bowling coach Varun Aaron was full of praise for the debutants, calling their performances "massive" given their limited exposure at the highest level. He said the team management had encouraged both players to express themselves freely and enjoy the occasion, which reflected in their



fearless approach with the ball. Praful, 24, struck early blows with a sensational opening spell, removing three top-order batters in quick succession and breaking the backbone of the Royals' innings. His ability to generate movement and maintain a disciplined line left the opposition reeling inside the powerplay. Sakib, meanwhile, delivered a clinical spell at the death, shutting down any hopes of a late resurgence.

Aaron credited the franchise's scouting and selection group for backing domestic talent and trusting their assessment of the squad's deeper pool. He highlighted that players like Praful and Sakib had shown consistent promise in domestic cricket, and the IPL stage merely gave them the platform to deliver on that potential. The coach also mentioned injured pacer Omar Tarmale as another promising name in the setup, noting that injuries had delayed his opportunities but not diminished his importance to the squad's long-term plans. He emphasized that SRH's bowling strategy was built on identifying X-factor players capable of changing games in short bursts.

MADUSHANKA REPLACES INJURED CARSE IN SRH SQUAD

KOLKATA

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The current struggles have also highlighted the absence of a proven finisher, with KKR experimenting with multiple batting combinations without finding stability. The lack of clarity in roles has further compounded their issues in closing out matches.

While the season is still in its early stages, Kaif's comments underline a growing concern that KKR's problems may be structural rather than form-based.

