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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,



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.

—Samrat Choudhary, Bihar 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.

MY VOTE, MY RIGHT

Civil Groups Protest Voter Roll Deletions in Mysuru

MYSURU

Members of various civil society organisations staged a protest at Town Hall in Mysuru on Wednesday, opposing the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and alleging large-scale, arbitrary deletion of voter names.

The demonstration was organised under the banner “My Vote, My Right,” a coalition of concerned citizens and groups including People’s Union for Civil Liberties, APCR and Samata.

Protesters expressed concern that the SIR process, currently underway in several states, threatens the fundamental democratic right to vote. They demanded that the Government of Karnataka suspend the implementation of SIR in the state at least until the Supreme Court delivers its verdict on pending cases challenging the exercise.

Addressing the gathering, speakers alleged that the revision process has already resulted in the deletion of lakhs



of voters across the country, raising fears of widespread disenfranchisement. A memorandum submitted to the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that nearly 65 lakh voters were reportedly deleted in Bihar during Phase I, while over 6.5 crore names were removed in Phase II across multiple states

and union territories.

The protesters also questioned the transparency of the voter mapping exercise in Karnataka. While official data claims that over 80% of voters have been mapped, only a small fraction has been verified, creating confusion about the actual progress. They

pointed out the lack of clarity on procedures, guidelines, and timelines, despite repeated representations to the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO).

Raising concerns about public awareness, activists noted that many citizens remain unaware of the mapping process and are uncertain whether their names are included in the rolls. They warned that such gaps could lead to eligible voters being excluded from the electoral process. The demonstrators urged authorities to make all guidelines and instructions related to voter mapping publicly available, publish booth-wise data on mapped and unmapped voters, and conduct awareness campaigns. They also called for the establishment of help-desks and camps at ward and panchayat levels to assist citizens and ensure documentation requirements are met. Prominent participants included Kamal Gopinath, M.F. Kaleem, Dr. E. Rati Rao, Maj. Gen. Vombatkere, and several other activists and concerned citizens.

MYSURU

MLC Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah instructed officials to take necessary precautions to ensure that people in the district do not face drinking water shortages during the summer season.

Speaking at a meeting with officials held on Wednesday, he said that officers have already identified villages that may face drinking water scarcity and they must visit these villages regularly, assess the situation on the ground, and make necessary arrangements. Besides, they must review the functioning of multi-village drinking water supply schemes and rectify any issues if found. Officials must prepare a list of private borewells and identify villages where water needs to be supplied through tankers, and plan accordingly.



Dr Yathindra pointed out that if there is any shortage of funds or other issues related to drinking water projects, they should immediately be brought to the notice of higher authorities. Resolving drinking water problems should be given top priority. After the meeting, the citi-

zens submitted grievances regarding issues such as land for cremation grounds, title deeds, and the shortage of doctors in primary health centres.

Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy, Zilla Panchayat CEO S. Yukesh Kumar, and other officials were present at the meeting.

MALAVIKA WELCOMES HIKE IN WOMEN’S QUOTA IN LOK SABHA

MYSURU

BJP State Women’s Vice President Malavika Avinash said that the Union government

led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has increased women’s reservation to 33 per cent with the aim of ensuring that women take leadership roles not only in empowerment but also in the development of the country in a “Developed India by 2047.”

Speaking at a press conference held at the BJP office in the city on Wednesday, she said that women must be empowered not just economically and educationally, but also politically. Several programmes and schemes have been implemented to achieve this goal. The census was originally scheduled for 2021, but due to COVID-19, it has been postponed to 2027. As it may be difficult to complete the census before the 2029 Lok Sabha general elections,



the Nari Shakti Vandan initiative will be enacted into law through a special session.

Malavika said that the current number of 543 seats in Parliament is being increased to 816 seats and this increase will ensure that men do not feel that their seats are being taken away. With the growing population, increasing the number of seats has become necessary and described this as a moment of celebration not only for Indian women but for women across the world. This deci-

Unlike the Congress, there is no dynastic rule in the BJP. In Congress, only one family is empowered. That is not the case in BJP, at least to our knowledge.

—Malavika Avinash

sion would be among the most significant decisions of the 21st century. In many developed countries, such reservations do not exist. Political parties must not politicize the issue. While differences may exist in politics, all parties should unanimously wel-

come this legislation on women’s reservation.

She said that this is a long-awaited moment after 77 years, as gaining opportunities in politics is not easy. To create awareness, a week-long campaign is being organized across 15 regions of the state, including Nari Shakti conventions, padayatras, bike and scooter rallies. Programmes are also being conducted through articles, human chains, and social media.

To encourage women to participate in this celebratory moment and share their experiences, a “missed call” campaign has been launched using the number 9667173333. Additionally, a signature collection campaign is also being conducted.

State BJP Mahila Morcha Secretary Lakshmi Ashwini, former State President Veena Prakash, Mysuru City Mahila Morcha President Renuka Raj, and others were present.

Valedictory of various activities held at Maharani’s college

MYSURU

A combined valedictory programme for Sports, National Service Scheme (NSS), NCC, Rangers, and cultural activities was organized on Wednesday at Maharani Women’s Arts College in Mysuru.

The programme was presided over by Prof. M.S. Anita. The chief guests included Prof. Pratima D.S., Regional Joint Director, Office of the Regional Joint Director, Department of Collegiate Education, Mysuru Division, Mysuru. Another special guest was V.R. Shailaja, KAS (Selection Grade), Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority, National Highway-275 Mysuru-Madikeri Division, Mysuru.

Renowned singer and film actor Naveen Sajju was also present as a chief guest. Prof. Anand A., IQAC Coordinator, Dr. Bhaskar K.S., Secretary of the Cultural Fo-

rum, Dr. Nagaveni T., Treasurer of the Cultural Forum, and Sri Venkatesh K., Office Superintendent, were also present on the dais.

In her address, V.R. Shailaja, an alumna of the college who is now a KAS (Selection Grade) officer, spoke about the students and quoted D.V. Gundappa’s Manthimanna Kagg. She encouraged the students by saying that all of them are “Maharani” (queens) and none of them are insignificant—everyone is important.

Chief guest Naveen Sajju, after listening to the college’s sports report, congratulated the students who had won gold and silver medals and encouraged everyone to shape their lives meaningfully.

Special invitee Prof. Pratima D.S., after hearing about the students’ achievements over the past year, conveyed her best wishes and advised them to shape their future according to their aspirations.

SWR Mysuru Division celebrates 135th Birth Anniversary of Ambedkar

MYSURU

Mysuru Division of South Western Railway celebrated the 135th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar today with due reverence and dignity at the Divisional Office premises in Mysuru on Tuesday.

The commemorative programme was attended by officers, staff members and representatives of recognised railway associations and unions. Floral tributes were paid by Mudit Mittal, Divisional Railway Manager, Mysuru, Shammas Hameed, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Mysuru, all Divisional Officers, members of AICSTREA, SWRMU, SWRES, AIOBCREA, and staff in respectful remembrance of the great national leader and social reformer.

Speaking on the occasion, Mittal, paid rich tributes to Ambedkar and highlighted his immense contribution to the nation. He said that Dr. Ambedkar’s life and ideals, rooted in the principles of equality, justice, social harmony and human values, continue to inspire generations across the country. Dr. Ambedkar’s vision for an inclusive, progressive and equitable society remains highly relevant even today.

V. Nandashankar, Divisional Secretary, AICSTREA, recalled the unparalleled contribution of Dr Ambedkar as the principal architect of the Constitution of India. He noted that the robust and progressive Constitution framed under his leadership has laid a strong and enduring foundation for the nation’s democratic framework, safeguarding the rights, dignity and constitutional values of every citizen.

The programme concluded with officers and staff reaffirming their commitment to uphold the principles of justice, equality and fraternity, as envisioned by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, and to continue working towards nation-building in the true spirit of public service.



Ambedkar Jayanti Celebrated at MYMUL

MYSURU

The birth anniversary of the architect of the Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, was celebrated by the Mysuru District Milk Producers’ Cooperative Societies Union (MYMUL) at the union hall in Alanahalli on Tuesday.

MYMUL President K. Eregowda who inaugurated by offering floral tributes to Ambedkar’s portrait, said that Dr Ambedkar was not just an individual but a powerful force in the country. He noted that Ambedkar was perhaps the only person in the country to have attained 32 academic degrees, making him a vast reservoir of knowledge. People from all communities must come together to remember Ambedkar and share his ideals. Ambedkar should not be confined to any one caste or community. If he had lived longer, the country would have reached even greater heights.

He further said that Ambedkar, disillusioned by the caste system in Hinduism, embraced Buddhism. In earlier times, only certain communities held power, but after the Constitution was framed, equality, education, and opportunities became accessible to all.

Drawing a comparison,



BOY SHINES

An 11-year-old boy, Devanash impressed the gathering by delivering a continuous three-minute speech in English about Ambedkar’s life, his role in drafting the Constitution, education, and achievements. He received appreciation and a special gift from the audience.

he said that while Ambedkar brought social equality, Verghese Kurien revolutionized the dairy sector and supported livelihoods. He urged everyone to ensure education for their children so that Ambedkar’s efforts bear fruit.

MYMUL Director Om Prakash said that Ambedkar played a crucial role in

“We have heard about the 12th century but not seen it. Even in this century, caste discrimination existed in rural areas. However, things have now changed. This transformation has been possible through education, organization, and struggle. Let us raise our children without caste bias and educate them about the Constitution and its values.”

—Soumya, In-charge Manager, Administration Department

drafting the Constitution and ensured constitutional rights for all. The Constitution was designed to uplift the marginalized and bring them into positions of power. Merely remembering him is not enough; people must educate their children. He said that everyone in the union works together as one and should participate in all such celebrations to understand shared aspirations. He also described Ambedkar’s contribution to

writing around 13,000 books as a remarkable achievement.

MYMUL Director B.N. Sadananda said that Ambedkar envisioned a society based on equality. Beyond all this, Ambedkar gave the nation a great Constitution. He said true development will be possible only when people rise above caste and become universal human beings, as envisioned by Kuvempu.

Ambedkar had all the qualities to become the first Prime Minister of the country, he added, stressing that knowledge is the greatest power and should be passed on to future generations, he added.

MYMUL Managing Director Suresh Nayak, along with managers, deputy managers of various departments, office-bearers of the employees’ union, and staff members of the Mysuru District Milk Union were present.

SOCIAL WORK CAMP 2026 INAUGURATED



MYSURU

The inauguration programme of the Social Work Camp 2026 was held at Maharshi Valmiki Adivasi Tribal Residential School in Udburu Hadi, H.D. Kote taluk on Wednesday.

The camp is organized by the postgraduate students of the Department of Social Work, JSS Arts, Commerce and Science College, Ooty Road, Mysuru, in collaboration with the Department of Tribal Welfare and the Karnataka Tribal Research Institute, Mysuru.

The programme was inaugurated by Anil Chikkamadu, MLA of H.D. Kote. The event was presided over by Prof. B.V. Sambashivaiah, Chief

Executive of the college. Mahesh, Taluk Tribal Welfare Officer of H.D. Kote, Dr. M.P. Somashekar, Head of the Department of Social Work, and Dr. Kalpana B.S., Camp Officer, were also present along with social work students and residents of Udburu, Kerehadi, Malada Hadi, Siguru Hadi, and Karapura Hadi.

On the occasion, Anil Chikkamadu advised students to move away from “mobile culture” and adopt a “book culture” for their growth and development.

Prof. B.V. Sambashivaiah encouraged the students by stating that while they gain knowledge in college, they acquire practical skills through fieldwork in tribal areas.

LUXURY OF STANDING



When bus shelters become cattle lounges in the city of palaces

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM

In the culturally rich city of Mysore, where palaces gleam and traditions thrive, a new minimalist trend in urban design has quietly taken over—bus shelters without benches. Yes, you heard that right. The shelters are very much there: sturdy, concrete, and proudly standing at major circles and junctions. But the humble bench, once considered an essential companion, seems to have taken voluntary retirement.

There was a time when the government built bus shelters with a sense of purpose. First came the roof, then the pillars, and most importantly, the concrete benches—those unsung heroes of public comfort. They allowed weary citizens to sit, relax, and contemplate life (or at least curse delayed buses). But now,

Mysore seems to have embraced a bold new philosophy: “Why sit when you can stand indefinitely?”

After all, this is not Japan. Buses here do not glide in like disciplined soldiers on the dot. They arrive fashionably late—sometimes very fashionably late. And in this grand waiting game, standing has become an involuntary fitness routine for citizens.

For the middle-aged, perhaps it’s a tolerable inconvenience. A bit of standing, a bit of patience—why not? But for the elderly, it’s less of a wait and more of a test of endurance. One cannot help but wonder: is this an unannounced “Senior Citizens’ Standing Championship”?

Then come the women with young children, bravely juggling bags, babies, and balance. With free bus travel schemes encouraging more

women to use public transport, the irony deepens. The buses may be free, but the seating at the shelters clearly comes at a premium—one that doesn’t exist.

Meanwhile, in Bengaluru, the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation has rolled out air-conditioned bus shelters. Air-conditioned! In Mysore, however, even a basic bench seems to be an ambitious dream.

The shelters, devoid of human comfort, have found new patrons—stray dogs and cattle, who now lounge in regal ease, perhaps wondering why humans prefer standing outside.

Naturally, people have adapted. They gather near shops, lean against walls, or hover under whatever shade they can find. The bus shelter, ironically, is the last place they choose to wait.



Voices from the Ground

“I think the benches are invisible. Maybe only the officials can see them,” quips Ramesh, a daily commuter. “I come early, not for the bus, but to secure a spot near a shop wall,” laughs Shobha, holding her toddler. “Even the cows are more comfortable than us. At least they sit,” mutters an elderly passenger.

Perhaps it’s time for the Mysore City KSRTC authorities to conduct a simple survey—one that answers a very complicated question: where exactly did the benches go? Until then, Mysore’s bus shelters will continue to stand tall, while its people do the same—quite literally.

AMBEDKAR THEME PARK TO BE BUILT IN ILAVALA ON 10 ACRES OF LAND: DR HCM

MYSURU

Social Welfare and District In-charge Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa announced that an Ambedkar Theme Park will be constructed in Ilavala Hobli of the taluk to showcase the struggles, achievements, statesmanship, and philosophies of the architect of the Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Speaking at a meeting held with district-level officials at the Zilla Panchayat hall on Wednesday regarding the construction of the theme park, he said that 10 acres of land have been reserved for the



project. Officials have to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) along with a blueprint and required funding estimates for building the museum.

The Constitution framed by Dr Ambedkar provides solutions to many pressing issues such as the economy, unemployment, and water problems. These aspects should be presented in a way that is easily understandable to the common people.

The minister said the museum should depict key events from Ambedkar’s life—from his birth to his parinirvana—and also include the thoughts

and contributions of Shahu Maharaj and Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar.

Highlighting Mysuru as a historic tourist destination, he said the theme park should attract more visitors and be developed with innovative features. Every citizen should remember Dr Ambedkar before exercising their fundamental rights, as it is due to the Constitution he gave that people are able to lead better lives today. Before finalizing the blueprint, inputs should be gathered from eminent personalities to ensure a well-developed museum.

Dr Mahadevappa suggested

that appreciations and views expressed by various dignitaries about the Constitution and Ambedkar’s contribution to social justice should be displayed in the museum. The content should be presented in a way that is easily accessible and understandable to the general public.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy, Zilla Panchayat CEO S. Yukesh Kumar, Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif, Mysuru Development Authority Commissioner K.R. Rakshit, and other officials.



Free treatment Camp for Kidney Stones

MYSURU

A special free screening and treatment camp for kidney stone-related issues is being organized at the Department of Shalyatantra (Surgery OPD) of the Government Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital, New Sayyajirao Road, Visvesvaraya Circle, Mysuru, from April 15 to April 31, between 10 am and 4pm on working days.

For more information, interested persons may contact Dr. Caroline, Assistant Professor (Mobile: 9449412309), according to a press release issued by the Principal of the Government Ayurveda Medical College and Hospital.

NO POWER SUPPLY TODAY

MYSURU

Due to underground cable work on the 11 KV B.M. Srinagar power line under the V.V. Mohalla subdivision, there will be a power outage on April 16 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Areas affected include B.M. Srinagar, Karakushala Nagar, areas around the IOCL Godown, in front of GRS, around NUURM Building, and nearby localities, according to the Executive Engineer of the V.V. Mohalla division.



3-DAY RESIDENTIAL SPACE SCIENCE CAMP FROM APRIL 18

MYSURU

In a unique and socially transformative initiative, a 3-day residential Space Science Camp will be organized from April 18 to 20, 2026, at the V-LEAD Campus in Hebbal, Mysuru.

This program is jointly organized by IIST@SCHOOLS and Arsha Space School, bringing leading space scientists from the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) directly to students from underprivileged backgrounds. Organized in collaboration with Arsha Space School (ARSHA)—an educational initiative of the ARSHA Trust—this national outreach program aims to ignite scientific curiosity, confidence, and aspirations among students from government schools, tribal communities, rural areas, and especially girl students.

Distinguished Guests & Academic Leadership

Padma Bhushan Prof. B. N. Suresh — Chancellor, IIST

Former Director of VSSC and a visionary aerospace leader shaping India’s space advancements and mentoring future scientists.

Prof. Dipankar Banerjee —



Vice Chancellor, IIST

A renowned solar physicist and senior professor at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru. Former Director of ARIES, currently serving as Director and Vice Chancellor at IIST.

Prof. Kuruvilla Joseph — Pro Vice Chancellor, IIST

Among the top 2% of scientists globally, specializing in nanomaterials and green composites, advancing sustainable materials and academic innovation.

Prof. Girish Kumar R. — Director, SPI (University of Kerala)

An academic leader promoting interdisciplinary research, innovation, and institutional collaboration for educational and social impact.

Air Commodore Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair (joining on April 20)

Indian Air Force fighter pilot and ISRO-designated astronaut for India’s first human spaceflight mission Gaganyaan (2027). Recipient of the Kirti Chakra and Sword of Honour.

A Mission Beyond Education

This initiative represents a strong commitment to nation-building by empowering marginalized communities. It bridges the gap between premier scientific institutions and underprivileged sections, paving the way for a more inclusive and sustainable society.

Objectives

Direct interaction with ISRO and IIST scientists, foster scientific curiosity and national pride, encourage participation from rural and tribal students, inspire girl students from government schools to pursue science.

BVA Degree Admissions Begin at CAVA College

MYSURU

Admissions have commenced for the four-year (eight-semester) Bachelor of Visual Arts (BVA) degree course for the academic year 2026–27 at the renowned Chamarajendra Government College of Visual Arts (CAVA).

As per the State Education Policy (SEP), applications are invited from candidates who have passed II PUC or an equivalent examination. Applications can be submitted online through the UUCMS portal (<https://uucms.karnataka.gov.in>) or the college website (<https://www.cavamysores.karnataka.gov.in>) on or before May 30.

According to the University of Mysore admission notification, students can choose specializations from the third semester onwards in Painting, Sculpture, Graphic Arts, Applied Arts, Art History, Photography, and Photojournalism. The dates for the entrance exam and interview for applicants will be announced separately at a later stage.

For more details, interested candidates may contact the college helpline number 0821-2438931 during office hours, as stated by the Dean of the Chamarajendra Government College of Visual Arts.

Applications Invited for admission to Class 6 in prestigious schools

MYSURU

The Department of Social Welfare has invited applications from eligible Scheduled Caste students for Class 6 admission in prestigious schools. Online registration is open from April 15 to May 4 through the department website.

After applying, candidates must submit required documents to the Joint Director’s

office by May 5 before 5:30 PM. Priority will be given to disadvantaged groups, including children of pourakarmikas, safai karmacharis, Devadasis, and ex-servicemen, as well as those with disabilities, from single-parent families, slum dwellers, and families affected by natural calamities, bonded labour, displacement, or farmer suicides, according to an official release.

₹100 CRORE RELIEF FROM THE STATE GOVT Pensioners of University of Mysore finally breathe easy

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM
MYSURU

The pensioners of the University of Mysore finally have a reason to smile—and this time, it’s not delayed.

After enduring months of anxiety last year due to irregular pension payments, relief has arrived in the form of a ₹100 crore sanction by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. For hundreds of retired staff members, this is not just financial support—it is peace of mind, at least for the coming year.

Ironically, there was a time when pension disbursement at the university functioned like clockwork. The corpus fund of ₹100 crore ensured that retirees received their pensions without fail. But things took a turn when this very fund was diverted towards building construction. The result? A financial vacuum that left pensioners waiting endlessly for their monthly dues.

Adding to the university’s woes was a steady decline in student enrolment. With new universities mushrooming in neighboring districts, revenue streams thinned, leaving the administration struggling to meet its obligations. Pensioners, who had spent decades serving the institution, suddenly found themselves caught in an unfortunate financial limbo.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, Vice-Chancellor N. K. Loknath stepped in. He submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister and higher education authorities, seeking ₹187 crore to rebuild the depleted corpus fund. Understanding the plight—especially in his home district and alma



“The university was going through an unprecedented financial strain due to reduced revenue and past decisions. The support from the government has come at a crucial time.”

“While the sanctioned amount is less than what we requested, it will significantly help in ensuring timely pension payments for now.”

“We remain committed to finding a long-term solution to rebuild the corpus fund and secure the future of our pensioners.”

For now, the crisis has eased, and the pensioners of the University of Mysore can finally look forward to their monthly dues arriving on time—without the shadow of uncertainty.

—Prof. N.K. Loknath speaks

“For months, we had to think twice before buying even essential medicines. Now, at least, we can live with dignity,” said a retired professor.

“It’s not just about money; it’s about respect for our years of service. This support means a lot,” shared another pensioner.

“Last year was very stressful. Delays in pension affected our entire household. This decision has lifted a huge burden,” remarked a former administrative staff member.

matter—Siddaramaiah sanctioned ₹100 crore as an immediate measure to stabilize pension payments. While it falls short of the requested amount, it has brought immense relief to the pensioners.

ACHIVERS.....	
JSS Suttur Mutt presented various awards to the winners at a colourful function held at JSS Mahavidyapeeta in Mysuru on Wednesday.	
Sri Shivarathreshwara Award: Dr O.L.Nagabhushanaswamy and H.S.Siddalingappa (2023), late Prof Balachandra Jayashetty (2024) and Dr S Shivananda Byalahunasi and Dr Ajaykumar Tandur (2025).	
M.Veerappa endowment award: Sangappa Ningappa Malagonda (2023), Shivaputrappa M.Badigera (2024) and Chandrashekar Bhimanappa Somashetty (2025).	
D.V.Halabhavi Award: Prof K.S.Appajiah (2023), Vijaya Rao (2024) and Kishorekumar S Hiremath (2025).	
The awards were presented by Dr B.S.Manjunathaswamy, director, Department of Kannada and Culture.	
Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji of the Suttur Mutt and others were present.	

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 Bringes. 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 PUC 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 Anadani, 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.

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.

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

ceedings are underway. A district health team inspected Lakshmi Nursing Home and

submitted a report to the deputy commissioner. The administration assured that students' demands will be forwarded to the chief minister through proper channels. Students also said they will continue peaceful protests until justice is delivered and stronger safety measures are implemented in educational institutions across the district. They demanded accountability from authorities and quick response systems to prevent such incidents in future and protect students effectively going forward more strongly.

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.

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



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 Feets,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, SHOBHIT 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 and 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 A M O G H M A H E S H 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, Rajarajeshwarinagar, 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, Katriguppe 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, Katriguppe 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 Feets,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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Town Panchayat Anavatti-574133
Email:ka.anavatti.tp@gmail.com
Web:www.anavattitown.mrc.gov.in Ph: 08184-200899
No. A.T.P./I.E.Tender/W.C.R.-02/2026-27 Date: 13.04.2026

Re Tender Requirement (Only through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP))

Re Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999-2000, Rules 2000, as per Standard Tender Document Rules, as per KW-2 Rules, in Standard Tender Document from eligible contractors for implementing works in S.F.C. Special Grant of Anavatti Town Panchayat for the year 2023-24. Tenders can be submitted through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sl.No. 1. Indent Number: DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 53169/CALL-2 Approx. Amount (Rs. In lakhs): 50.00 Tender E.M.D. (in Rs.): 42,400/- Time Period: 4 Months Reservation: S.T.

Tender Schedule dates under KPP Portal system are as below:

1. Date of availability of Tender Documents in KPP Portal: 13.04.2026 **2.** Last date for submission of Tender: 27.04.2026 up to 5.30 PM **3.** Date of opening Technical Bid: 29.04.2026 after 10.30 AM **4.** Date of opening Financial Bid: 30.04.2026 after 11.00 AM **5.** Further information can be viewed on www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Chief Officer Town Panchayat, Anavatti	Sd/- Administrative Officer Town Panchayat, Anavatti
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DIPR/smg/No.ksmca/26-27/82,04/93

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

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, disciplined, 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.

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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 investment" 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.



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.

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On the legal front, the state

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.

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.

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 statewide. 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.



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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

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

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.

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.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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

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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

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle



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.

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	Capacity cut
\$40 Million AUD	1%
QANTAS GROUP	
Estimated fuel hit	Capacity cut
\$800 Million AUD	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



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

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.

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



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



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

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-



Maruti Suzuki boosts shop floor diversity with women

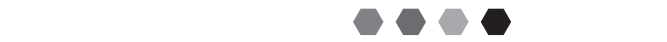
NEW DELHI

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-



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

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-

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.



GENDER EQUALITY

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.

MADUSHANKA REPLACES INJURED CARSE IN SRH SQUAD

KOLKATA

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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.

