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SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THEY HAVE RESURRECTED THE DIRE WOLVES

Colossal Biosciences, a Dallas biotech company, has successfully "de-extincted" the dire wolf, a species that roamed America 12,500 years ago

CLOSELY RESEMBLES ITS ANCESTOR, GRAY WOLF

By harnessing ancient DNA, cloning, and gene-editing technology, scientists have created three dire wolf pups, essentially a hybrid species that closely resembles its extinct ancestor, the gray wolf. The dire wolf, a formidable predator and inspiration for HBO series "Game of Thrones," was characterised by its size, wider head, thicker fur, and stronger jaw

RARE TOOTH AND SKULL USED IN STUDY

- The researchers studied a 13,000 year-old dire wolf tooth unearthed in Ohio and a 72,000 year-old skull fragment found in Idaho
- They took blood cells from a gray wolf and genetically modified them before transferring the genetic material to an egg cell from a domestic dog. Embryos were then transferred to surrogates | P9

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DAYS IS THE TIME IT TOOK FOR THE NEW ENGINEERED PUPS TO BE BORN

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Court invokes spl powers to declare 10 TN bills as passed; sets deadline for guvs

Guv sending reiterated bills to Prez illegal: SC

FOUR TIMELINES SET FOR EXPEDITED ACTION

1. In the case of withholding of assent or reservation of the bills for the President upon the aid and advice of the state's ministers, the governor has to act within a month
2. If assent is to be withheld, contrary to the advice of the ministers, the governor must return the bills with a message within 3 months
3. If bill is to be reserved for the President, contrary to the advice of ministers, guv must do so within 3 months
4. If a bill is reiterated by the state assembly without change, the governor must grant assent within a month



Justice J B Pardiwala

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

IN a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court on Tuesday held the action of Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi to reserve 10 bills for the President's consideration despite their reiteration by the state assembly "illegal and arbitrary".

The governor has no option but to give assent to the bill that is presented to him after re-passage in the state assembly if it is unchanged, a two-judge bench comprising justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan said.



Governor R N Ravi

The court said the governor must act on the aid and advice of the state legislature. "Under Article 200 of the Constitution, the governor does not possess any discretion and has to mandatorily act on the aid and advice of the council of ministers." Article 200 of the Constitution deals with assent to bills.

The bench said once the governor withholds assent, he is obligated to follow the procedure prescribed in the first proviso of Article 200, which is on returning the bill to the House as soon as possible. It exercised its special power under Article 142 to make the bills re-presented to the governor, as deemed to have been passed.

The court pronounced the verdict after hearing a plea filed by the Tamil Nadu government against Governor Ravi for sitting over bills — some for over three years — and later escalating them to the President. The bills were sent to the President shortly after another bench in the Punjab governor's case ruled that the governor does not have pocket veto or absolute veto over bills by squatting over them.

"The governor cannot sit on bills and exercise pocket veto over them. Article 200 gives the bills passed by the state assembly the authority of an Act. Without this Act, it is only a document of aspiration of people which does not come into effect," said Justice Pardiwala, who authored the judgment. Pocket veto an indirect veto of a bill by leaving it unsigned till it is too late for it to be dealt with.

The court said though there was no specific time limit under Article 200 for the governor to take his call, it cannot lead to inertia. "Despite there being no prescribed time limits, Article 200 cannot be read in a manner which allows the governor to not take action on the bills, which are presented to him for assent and thereby delay, and essentially roadblock law-making machinery in the state," it said.

For the first time, the court set timelines for gubernatorial clearance of bills, adding failure to adhere to them could invite judicial scrutiny. It gave governors just one month to decide if they wanted to reserve a bill for the President's consideration. If they wanted to withhold assent without the aid and advice of the council of ministers, they have to return the bill within three months. If the bill is reiterated after re-consideration by state assembly, the governor will have to mandatorily give his assent within a month.

The governor must perform his role as a friend, philosopher and guide with dispassion and not be guided by political considerations, the verdict said. "In times of conflict, he must be the harbinger of consensus and resolution, lubricating the functioning of the state machinery by his sagacity, wisdom, and not run it into a standstill."

BILLS THAT WERE CLEARED

- 2020 Bill to amend the Tamil Nadu Fisheries University Act, 2012
- 2020 Bill to amend the TN Veterinary and Animal Sciences University Act, 1989
- 2022 Bill to amend the Universities Laws
- 2022 Bill to amend the TN Dr. Ambedkar Law University Act, 1996
- 2022 Bill to amend the TN Dr MGR Medical University, Chennai, Act, 1987
- 2022 Bill to amend the TN Agricultural University Act, 1971
- 2022 Bill to amend the TN Universities Laws
- 2022 Bill to amend the Tamil University Act, 1982
- 2023 Bill to amend the TN Fisheries University Act, 2012
- 2023 Bill to amend the TN Veterinary and Animal Sciences University Act, 1989



Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, and Sonia Gandhi during the CWC meeting | PTI

Cong resolution calls Waqf Act polarising, foreign policy weak

PREETHA NAIR @ Ahmedabad

FROM opposing the Waqf Act to India's foreign policy, One Nation, One Election bill and proposed delimitation to economic and education policy, the political resolution being discussed at the All India Congress Committee session in Ahmedabad vows to strengthen organisational capacity and competence to fight for *Nyay* (justice) for every Indian.

While the Congress Working Committee meeting on Tuesday gave the draft resolution its final shape, it is expected to be passed at the AICC session on Wednesday.

Reaffirming the party's opposition to the contentious Waqf Act and anti-conversion laws, the resolution said the party is committed to fighting the politics of religious, linguistic, caste-based, and regional divisions. The resolution said the Waqf and anti-conversion laws are part of BJP's polarising strategy.

NATIONALISM PITCH

Terming the Congress party's idea of nationalism as one that binds people together, the resolution said 'the pseudo-nationalism of the BJP-RSS' seeks to divide the nation over region, language, attire, and food habits

"We will not allow India to be divided, nor will we allow those who seek to divide it to succeed in their diabolical designs. Our path is clear: Quit hate, Unite India," it said. Terming the Centre's foreign policy a weak-kneed one, the resolution said the BJP government has compromised the country's foreign policy at the altar of individual branding and serving vested interests.

"Though Congress remains a strong votary of close ties with the US, it can never happen at the expense of India's national interests," said the resolution.

"During the PM's visit to Washington, D.C., we were publicly insulted and our country was labelled as a 'Tariff Abuser'. Indian migrants were treated like animals and deported from the US in chains and handcuffs," it said.

On the border dispute, the resolution said China has illegally occupied 2,000 sq km of Indian territory in Eastern Ladakh. Yet, the BJP government has failed to restore the status quo ante, as it existed before April 2020, the resolution noted.



Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's younger son, Mark Shankar, sustained injuries in a fire accident at his school in Singapore | EXPRESS

Pawan's younger son injured in Singapore fire accident

K KALYAN KRISHNA KUMAR
@ Vijayawada

DEPUTY Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's younger son, Mark Shankar, aged eight years, sustained injuries in a fire accident at his school in Singapore.

The incident reportedly occurred when a fire broke out on the campus, causing injuries to his hands and legs. He also suffered smoke inhalation and was immediately rushed to a hospital where he is currently undergoing treatment.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to the Indian High Commissioner in Singapore and directed him to extend full support to Pawan Kalyan's family and closely monitor the condition of his son.

Pawan Kalyan while speaking to mediapersons in Hyderabad on Tuesday evening about the incident, confirmed that his son is safe but sustained burn injuries to his hands and legs and suffered severe smoke inhalation. P4

Bitter infighting within the Trinamool Congress spills out into the open in West Bengal

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @ Kolkata

BITTER infighting within West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) surfaced on Tuesday after a video showing an alleged verbal altercation between party MPs and screenshots of their exchanges from its official WhatsApp group went viral on social media.

Amit Malviya, head of BJP's IT cell, shared the screenshots, indicating a bitter argument between TMC MPs Kalyan Banerjee, Kirti Azad and Mauha Moitra. The authenticity of the screenshots couldn't be independently verified.

But this newspaper spoke to many senior leader of the TMC and none of them refuted the incident though they didn't divulge any detail.

Banerjee, speaking to reporters in Kolkata, acknowledged the altercation but blamed the 'woman MP' involved. "I've been in politics for 40 years. This woman MP asked the security at the EC office to arrest me. She hurled abuses at me. It's me who fights in Parliament, not someone obsessed with a particular industrial house," alleged Banerjee, the party's chief whip in the Lok Sabha. He didn't name the woman MP.

"It was Kirti Azad who provoked me and lectured me on what to do. He's the one who leaked the WhatsApp chats," Banerjee claimed.

Senior TMC leaders said the issue has been brought to the attention of party supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Steady rise in price offers glimmer of hope for tariff-hit shrimp farmers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada/Rajahmundry

A day after the aquaculture stakeholders' meeting with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, shrimp prices in Andhra Pradesh have shown signs of a slow but steady increase over the past two days, offering a glimmer of hope to the beleaguered aqua industry.

Efforts by the state government to stabilize the sector, which has been reeling from the adverse impacts of U.S. President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariffs, appear to be bearing fruit. Official data indicates that prices for various shrimp counts (per kg) have risen by Rs. 20 in many cases.



The 100-count shrimp, previously priced at Rs. 200, is now fetching Rs. 220, while the 90-count has increased from Rs. 210 to Rs. 230. Similarly, the 80-count shrimp is now sold at Rs. 250 (up from Rs. 230), and the 40-count and 50-count varieties have climbed to Rs. 340 and Rs. 320, respectively, from Rs. 320 and Rs. 300. However, the 30-count shrimp saw a slight decline, dropping from Rs. 410 to Rs. 400.

The state government has been proactive in addressing the industry's concerns. CM Naidu recently wrote to the Union Commerce and Industry Minister, seeking intervention to mitigate the impact of the US tariffs, which include a 26% reciprocal tariff, a 2.49% anti-dumping duty, and a 5.77% countervailing duty. P4

Waqf Act comes into force, govt files caveat in Supreme Court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court is likely to hear on April 15 a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025. A final causelist is yet to be uploaded on the court website.

The Centre on Tuesday filed a caveat in the Supreme Court and sought a hearing before any order was passed in the matter. A caveat is filed by a party in courts to ensure that no orders are passed without hearing it. Former Additional Solicitor General (ASG) and senior SC lawyer, K C Kaushik, speaking to this newspaper, said the Centre wanted a representation before any order is passed by the SC. "No ex-parte order should be issued without prior notice and an opportunity to be heard. The government wants to be the prime respondent in the matter," he said.

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EXPRESS READ

China says it will act against US tariffs

Beijing: China said it will take countermeasures against the US after President Donald Trump threatened an additional 50% tax on Chinese imports in retaliation for Beijing's backlash against US' 34% tariffs. China said it will "fight to the end" to safeguard its own interests s. | P9

Tribal couple alleges 15 years of bonded labour

BANDHAVI ANNAM @ Guntur

THE long-ignored miseries of the Yanadi tribal community in Andhra Pradesh's Repalle mandal resurfaced this week when an elderly ST couple, Namburu Padma and Agni, stepped forward and alleged that they had been held in bonded labour for nearly 15 years.

Their harrowing experience has cast light on the larger, systemic exploitation of over 400 tribal families in the region.

At a public grievance redressal meeting at the Bapatla Collectorate, the couple revealed they were taken from their native Bobbarlanka village to Elisetidibba in Krishna district under the pretext of employment.

There, they were forced to hunt for crabs and forest produce in the mangrove forests without wages, but receiving only meagre rations like rice and vegetables.

What followed was even worse as Padma and Agni had alleged that they were "sold" multiple times - from one middle man to another middle man for ₹40,000, then to another man for ₹70,000, and finally for ₹1.2 lakh. P4

ALMANAC TODAY

Wednesday : 09/04/2025 **Year:** Sri Viswavasu **Aayanam:** Uttarayanam
Rutuvu: Vasantha **Masam:** Chaitra **Paksham:** Shukla **Tithi:** Dwadashi 10.55 pm
Nakshatram: Makha 09.57 am **Durmuhurtham:** 11.53 am - 12.43 pm
Varjyam: 06.46 pm - 08.32 pm **Rahukaalam:** 12.00 pm - 01.30 pm

WEATHER WATCH

MIN 23°C | MAX 41°C

FORECAST Bright sky

Sunrise 06.03 am
Sunset 06.24 pm
Moonrise 03.42 pm
Moonset 04.16 am

We are prioritising PGRS petitions, says Revenue Min

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tirupati

REVENUE, Stamps & Registration and Tirupati District In-Charge Minister Anagani Satya Prasad outlined key development and governance initiatives, stressing the coalition government's commitment to transparent administration and regional growth.

Addressing the mediapersons at the Tirupati District Collectorate, the Minister stated, "We are prioritising PGRS petitions. The CM and all ministers are regularly reviewing and resolving them in a time-bound manner." He added the current government is addressing public grievances more effectively than the previous administration.



Satya said the State has implemented administrative reforms for ideal governance and citizen welfare. "AP now ranks second nationally in growth rate due to the Chief Minister's visionary leadership and efficient administration," he said.

He confirmed the resolution of long-pending land issues in Settipalli, which will be developed as a model township. The second phase of land allotment in Sri City, covering 2,500 acres, is underway, with several new industries expected.

"Tirupati will be developed into a major tourism hub," he said, citing projects like Lulu Mall, Oberoi Hotel, and Hyatt. The government also plans corrective measures for TDR bonds and a ₹100 crore project for desilting Pulicat Lake entrance.

Satya said an Integrated Sports Complex is being developed across 34 acres with support from the SAP Chairman. He reiterated the government's commitment to 'Vision 2047,' building on 'Vision 2020,' and focusing on development across Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, Rayalaseema, and Tirupati.

"Tirupati district has achieved a per capita income of ₹3.5 lakh, ranking third in the state," the Minister noted.

Pulivendula is ready for a change, says Min

Savita says the TDP-led NDA govt focuses solely on development and there is no place for political vendettas

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kadapa

MINISTER for BC Welfare and Kadapa District In-charge, S Savita, has asserted that the TDP will emerge victorious in Pulivendula in the 2029 general elections. Addressing a constituency-level TDP workers' review meeting at a private function hall in Pulivendula on Tuesday, the Minister expressed confidence that the TDP would also sweep the upcoming local body elections.

Highlighting the changing political sentiment in Pulivendula, Savita pointed out that while YS Jagan Mohan Reddy won with a majority of 93,000 votes in 2019, that figure dropped to 60,000 in 2024. "This trend indicates that Pulivendula is ready for change, and TDP's victory in 2029 is certain," she said.

Savita emphasised that the current TDP government under Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is focused solely on development, with no place for political vendettas. "Our cadre have endured personal hardships but continue to stand by the party. No other party respects its workers the way TDP does," she said.

The Minister stressed that the CM is focused on development and inclusive governance. She highlighted that contractor bills are being cleared without political bias, in contrast to the previous YSRCP government, which allegedly discriminated against TDP supporters. She said development projects are being pursued uniformly across constituencies, including Pulivendula and Kuppam.



Minister for BC Welfare Savita addresses constituency-level TDP workers' review meeting at a private function hall in Pulivendula on Tuesday | EXPRESS

"Special efforts are being made to accelerate progress in Pulivendula," she said.

Calling on the party cadre to intensify groundwork ahead of the local elections, the Minister said, "CM Naidu is committed to fulfilling every promise made to the people. Work has already resumed on key projects such as Amaravati and Polavaram." She acknowledged minor differences within the party but assured that such issues would be resolved soon.

Savita concluded by calling for unity among workers and encouraging full-scale preparations to ensure TDP's success in the upcoming Mahanadu and future elections.

Govt committed to Kurnool's development

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kurnool

KURNOOL District In-charge Minister and Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu on Tuesday reaffirmed the government's commitment to the all-round development of the significant Kurnool district.

Addressing the District Development Review Meeting (DRC) at Sunayana Auditorium in the Collectorate, Ramanaidu said the State was taking comprehensive measures for regional growth despite financial constraints. He was joined by Minister for Industries, Commerce and Food Processing TG Bharat, Kurnool MP B Nagaraju and local MLAs.

The meeting focused on key sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, industry, and law and order. Ramanaidu stressed the government's P4 initiative, aimed at transforming impoverished families into 'golden families'.

He cited major accomplishments including progress on Amaravati's capital construction, completion of the Polavaram project, and the successful opposition to the privatisation of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

Vontimitta temple: TTD staff 'oppose' free laddus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tirumala



TIRUMALA Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) employees have raised objections to the administration's decision to distribute free Tirumala laddus during the Sri Rama Navami Seetha Rama Kalyanam celebrations at Vontimitta on April 11, citing concerns over safety and the risk of setting a precedent.

TTD's revised arrangements include offering two water bottles, snacks, sweets, traditional items like Muthyala Talambralu and Akshinthalu, breakfast, meals, and Anna Prasadam to all devotees. However, employees fear that offering the ₹50 laddu free of cost could lead to future demands for similar distributions during other festivals and at temples statewide.

"Providing free laddus could open the floodgates for similar expectations elsewhere," said a senior TTD staffer. "If needed, elected representatives or the government should sponsor them, as in earlier years."

Employees also flagged the risk of mismanagement, citing past incidents of hoarding and disorder during the celebrations. "Last year, there were altercations over water and kits. Post-Kalyanam, decorative items were looted from the stage," one staff member recalled.

Referring to a recent stampede in Tirupati, they warned that free laddu distribution could worsen crowd control challenges. "The gathering in Vontimitta will be much larger, increasing the likelihood of chaos," said an employee with past service at the temple.

Sanitation issue swiftly resolved in Kapadipalem by JSP Secy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Nellore

JSP district general secretary Gunkula Kishore promptly resolved the long-standing issue of garbage and silt accumulation at Kapadipalem in Nellore. After receiving a complaint, he contacted municipal authorities and within few hours the streets were cleared and arrangements made to remove the silt.

Local residents expressed gratitude to Gunkula, Minister for Municipal administration and Urban development (MAUD) Ponguru Narayana, and the municipal workers for their swift response.

JSP leaders raised concern over the rising street dog menace in the city. Kishore, along with senior JSP leader Noone Mallikarjuna Yadav, submitted a formal complaint to the Joint Director of the Veterinary Department, urging immediate control measures.

Kishore urged sterilisation and vaccination of dogs to prevent rabies and announced a committee to address the issue. Leaders proposed capturing dogs, enforcing registration, conducting awareness drives to report aggressive dogs.

Finance Min launches spl PGRS at Vidapanakallu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Ananatapur

MINISTER for Finance, Planning, Commercial Taxes, and Legislative Affairs Payyavula Keshav inaugurated a Special Public Grievance Redressal Platform (PGRS) at the Tahsildar's office in Vidapanakallu mandal, Uravakonda constituency, on Tuesday.

The initiative aims to address public issues responsibly, with the minister accepting petitions from locals and planting a sapling on the premises.



Minister Payyavula Keshav during PGRS at Vidapanakallu mandal | EXPRESS

Keshav emphasised his commitment to repaying the trust of Uravakonda's people, who have supported him for 30 years. He pledged to balance his statewide duties with constituency needs, vowing to serve as the "first worker" for the region.

The platform, he said, was designed to resolve hardships after witnessing constituents' struggles firsthand, prompted by prolonged Assembly budget sessions and frequent calls about local issues.

The Minister highlighted the state's dire financial state, inherited as a 'legacy of debt,' with revenues barely covering salaries, past loans, and interest—leaving no surplus for development. Despite this, he outlined ambitious plans, including ₹3,800 crore allocated for the Handri-Neeva canal, with 10% of work completed.

Aiming for completion within 70 days, Keshav announced projects including roads from Vidapanakallu to Gadekallu, caste-based community halls (₹30–50 lakh each), and ₹80 crore for canal works. He assured petitions would be logged online, tracked and addressed, with receipts issued and officials probing complaints.

Industries Minister vows to upgrade Kurnool govt hosp to corporate-level

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kurnool

Minister for Industries, Commerce and Food Processing TG Bharat on Tuesday assured that Kurnool Government General Hospital (GGH) would continue improving its medical infrastructure despite financial limitations, with plans to develop it into a corporate hospital by 2029.

Bharat, along with District Collector P Ranjith Basha, inaugurated a newly installed 2D Echo Colour Doppler machine in the hospital's cardiology department. The equipment, costing approximately ₹61 lakh, enables advanced diagnosis of heart-related conditions, including in infants as young as one month.

"This new equipment will allow early detection of heart issues in very young children," said the Minister. He added that both Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav are committed to transforming the hospital into a super-specialty centre. "Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav is scheduled to visit the Kurnool Cancer Hospital on April 19 as part of this mission," he noted.

Hospital Superintendent Dr K Venkateshwarlu said, "The previous equipment was suitable only for adults, whereas the new machine can be used to diagnose heart conditions in infants, expanding our diagnostic capacity," he said.

Principal of Kurnool Medical College Dr Chitti Narasamma stressed "this tool will be vital for enhancing cardiac care at the hospital," she said.

EXPRESS READ

AIYF to hold nat'l conf in Tirupati from May 15

Kurnool: The All India Youth Federation (AIYF) will hold its 17th National Conference in Tirupati from May 15 to 18. AIYF National Secretary Nakki Lenin Babu, addressing the media at the organisation's local office on Tuesday, urged youth and unemployed individuals to actively participate and make the event a grand success

Min lauds donors for boosting GGH facilities

Anantapur: Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav, alongside MP Ambika Lakshminarayana, inaugurated new facilities at Anantapur GGH, lauding donor support for boosting facilities. He urged improved services, highlighted 2,154 daily outpatients and announced recruitment to address 59% staff crunch across hospitals

CPM demands rollback of gas cylinder price hike

Tirupati: CPM District Secretary Vandavasi Nagaraju demanded that the Central government to withdraw the recent hike in gas cylinder prices, calling it an unjust burden on the public. Nagaraju condemned the ₹50 increase in gas cylinder prices, stating that it worsens the impact of inflation on already struggling families

Proddatur hosp to get facelift

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kadapa

KADAPA District Collector Sridhar Cherukuri announced plans to comprehensively develop Proddatur District Hospital to ensure top-quality healthcare.

Speaking at the Hospital Development Committee meeting, he highlighted infrastructure upgrades, equipment enhancement, and staffing solutions.

He urged adoption of the People-Public-Private Partnership (P4) model and praised local leaders, staff, and the IMA for their contributions towards achieving corporate-level healthcare in public sector.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

09TH April : The fact that Jupiter, that most hopeful of planets, is so excitable, must boost general confidence levels, yet, over the next few weeks, many of us are due to meet a number of unexpected challenges to our security. This is why we must consciously keep our spirits up, putting forward a cheerful face whenever we can!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Personal involvements which once seemed so necessary and fundamental to your existence may no longer provide you with the stability you desire. It looks as if from now on you will be thrown back on your own resources even more than you ever were in the past.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Your main concern must be to establish stronger ties with energetic people, especially those younger or less experienced than you. You have sufficient wisdom to see yourself as a teacher in the broadest sense of the word, passing on your wisdom to people who have never come close to the events you have encountered.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
There is almost certain to be a major confrontation over career matters, but the saddest part of the whole sorry incident may be that someone you trusted appears to have let you down. Forgive and forget would seem to be the best answer. It's certainly the most noble way out of a current impasse.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The fact that other people may be behaving badly doesn't give you the excuse to do the same. You have a reputation to maintain and, to this end, you may keep silent when, all around you, people are discrediting themselves. Your discretion will reflect well on you.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
It is time to cut away dead wood and avoid any suspicion that you are hanging on to attitudes or behaviour patterns that have been brought into disrepute. Bear in mind that this is a generally positive phase. Also remember that good fortune is what you make it.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
It's not simply a question of forcing others to move aside, you must demonstrate to one and all that you are both capable of taking control and of securing benefits for everyone, regardless of existing circumstances. Really, you're bigger and better than you think!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Recent planetary influences have been stimulating, there's no doubt about that. However, the consequences may have been costly, and you're left to pick up the pieces. Do so with your usual skill. I know it's tiring to have to cope with other people's mess, but that's what you're good at!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Your judgement is generally accurate but, to be fair, there is no way that you can predict exactly how partners will respond to your plans. However, you would do well to steel yourself to match their ingenuity and determination. In love, follow a cautious path. And don't take anyone for granted!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
It may take a while for the dust to settle and for you to get back on friendly terms with one or two colleagues and associates. You must be true to your nature and adopt a long-term point of view. If you get your hopes and desires in some sort of order then your behaviour will become more logical.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Where to go from here in your personal plans? A temporary delay may be the answer, although you must be clear in your mind that whatever happens now is bound to have a profound effect. You are at the beginning of a whole new phase of existence. But how and what will not be clear until next month.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Seldom have you experienced a like period when partners or colleagues can offer you such help and assistance. Take heart from the fact that adverse influences are now waning and the prospect that people will once again appreciate your rare, even unique human gifts, is growing.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You may be going off on one of your typical flights of fancy. What is required now is detailed and thorough homework, otherwise you may risk isolating yourself. You need friendly company and support from people who understand what you're feeling without having to be told.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

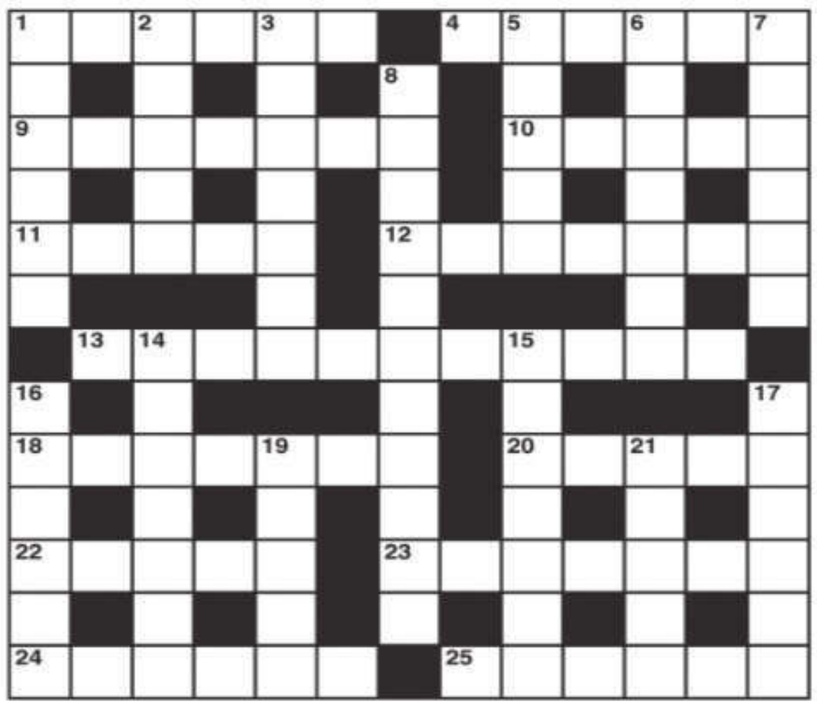
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1	6	9	8	7	4	5	3	2
5	2	8	3	4	1	9	7	6
6	1	7	9	2	5	3	4	8
4	9	3	7	6	8	1	2	5

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Remains in rows (6)
4 Game to cross the river (6)
9 One of the toasts that may be offered with a meal (7)
10 His work is often pressing (5)
11 Nick is not going to church (5)
12 The hand Mark won in style (7)
13 A case of galloping consumption? (7,4)
18 Comes and puts the map away? (5,2)
20 Give someone a painful reminder? (5)
22 He wrote of French opposition (5)
23 An account that has been overdrawn? (7)
24 States differ - so do these (6)
25 It's a simple thing to multiply by dividing (6)

DOWN

1 Back in a moment (6)
2 Twisted roots used for a perch (5)
3 A jug thrower (7)
5 King has to say he likes wild parties (5)
6 Cover up novel problem (7)
7 Hold out longer? (6)
8 A world opens out for this Asian cat (4,7)
14 Elevates one from being pointlessly spiteful (7)
15 A short dress mother, to say the least (7)
16 Belief in solvency? (6)
17 Red Sea has changed colour (6)
19 Investment but not necessarily of capital (5)
21 Being stupid, needs retraining (5)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Bashful, 5 Based, 8 Atlantic Ocean, 9 Tibia, 10 Unswept, 11 Stable, 12 Pathos, 15 Accused, 17 Sofia, 19 Pain in the neck, 20 Range, 21 Dressed.

Down: 1 Boast, 2 Sale by auction, 3 Fantail, 4 Laid up, 5 Books, 6 Scene-shifters, 7 Denotes, 11 Snapper, 13 Austere, 14 Edited, 16 Suite, 18 Asked.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RVAAL

RNAKD

CLFIEK

LEBGTO



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AGAIN TUNER WRENCH GLOOMY
Answer: She had doubted that she'd like his new beard, but it was — GROWING ON HER

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Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

DATA ANALYSIS Central University of Andhra Pradesh Commerce Department hosted a workshop on data analysis for managerial decision-making, offering hands-on training to equip students with practical industry-relevant skills



Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu inspects Bhogapuram Greenfield Airport works on Tuesday | EXPRESS

Bhogapuram airport to feature longest runway

Civil Aviation Minister says the project is expected to be completed by June 2026

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vizianagaram

UNION Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu on Tuesday announced that the Bhogapuram Greenfield Airport in Andhra Pradesh, along with Mumbai and Noida airports, will transform India's aviation landscape. The new airport, featuring a 3.8 km runway—the longest in the country—is progressing rapidly and is expected to be completed by June 2026. He, who inspected the site along with State and district officials, emphasised that the airport will be equipped with advanced technology and cultural elements representing North Coastal Andhra Pradesh (NCAP).

During the visit, Ram Mohan Naidu was accompanied by MSME and NRI Empowerment Minister Kondapalli Srinivas, MP Kalisetti Appalanaidu, GMR Visakhapatnam International Airport Limited (GVIAL) Chairman Karrothu Bangarraju, and Vizianagaram District Collector BR Ambedkar. The team reviewed ongoing works at the terminal, runway, ATC tower, and other key structures. Representatives from GVIAL and L&T briefed the Minister on project progress.

Naidu said while only 26% of the work was completed under the previous administration, 71% has been achieved under the current government, guided by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. He highlighted completion of 97% of runway work, 92% of the taxiway, 72% of the ATC tower, 60% of the terminal building, and 40% of ancillary facilities.

He added that plans are underway to set up a skill development centre at the site, along with a proposed detailed project report (DPR) to link the airport with Mulapeta port and the Visakhapatnam-Raipur highway.

Minister's assurance

Ram Mohan Naidu assured farmers who gave up land for the project that all pending issues, including the approach road, will be resolved promptly with the CM's intervention

APGB office shift to Amaravati notified

S NAGARAJA RAO @ Kadapa

THE Union government's April 5 Gazette notification announcing the relocation of Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank (APGB) headquarters from Kadapa to Amaravati has triggered widespread protests across Rayalaseema. Political leaders, bank staff, farmers, traders, and civil society members have condemned the move as unjust and detrimental to regional development.

The decision, made under the 'One State-One RRB' policy, has raised serious concerns regarding local employment, accessibility, and regional balance. On Tuesday, the Rayalaseema Communist Party, led by State Secretary Ravishankar Reddy, staged a demonstration at the Kadapa District Collector's office, demanding immediate withdrawal of the order. Reddy termed the shift a betrayal of Rayalaseema and accused both the Centre and State of prolonged neglect. He warned of a wider agitation if the decision is not reversed.

APGB, formed in 2006 with a ₹25 crore investment, is the largest rural bank in AP and among the biggest in the country. With 2,800 employees, it serves the districts of Kadapa, Anantapur, Kurnool, Nellore, and Ongole. The bank manages ₹50,000 crore in deposits and ₹46,344 crore in business, and holds surplus funds of ₹6,000 crore—meeting all criteria to retain its head office in Kadapa, according to stakeholders.

Protesters argue the shift would increase operational costs. They cited past assurances by CM N Chandrababu Naidu in Mydukur that the headquarters would remain in Kadapa. Reddy also pointed to previous setbacks like the Krishna Pennar project and relocation of Andhra University branches, accusing the State government of siding with vested interests. Reddy questioned why Ballari in Karnataka retained its rural bank head office post-merger, while Rayalaseema alone is burdened with centralisation. The Ministry of Finance's November 4 circular, prepared in consultation with NABARD and States, proposes reducing RRBs nationwide from 43 to 28, with headquarters based in State capitals or high-business zones. In line with this, AP's four RRBs—including APGB—will be merged and based in Amaravati. Employees urged Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav and Transport Minister Mandapalli Ramprasad Reddy to intervene.



Ranga Rao elected as APL chairman

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Visakhapatnam

FORMER minister and Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation (APFDC) chairman Ravu Venkata Sujay Krishna Ranga Rao was elected chairman of the Andhra Premier League (APL) Governing Council under the Andhra Cricket Association (ACA) during a virtual meeting on Monday. Vadlamani Sudhakar Chowdary was elected as a council member.

The Andhra Cricket Association will soon convene the next Governing Council meeting under Ranga Rao's leadership to finalise the 2025 Andhra Premier League schedule and franchise decisions.

ACA President and Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) congratulated the newly elected members and expressed confidence in their leadership.

Ranga thanked President Sivanath, Andhra Cricket Association Secretary and Rajya Sabha MP Sana Satish Babu, and Apex Council members for their support and trust.

JNTUA to hold APECET 2025 on May 6

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Anantapur

APECET-2025 will be conducted by JNTUA on behalf of APSCHE on May 6.

The official notification was released on March 10 and applications began on March 12. As of April 7, a total of 33,454 applications were received. Candidates can still apply with late fees: ₹1,000 by April 12, ₹2,000 by April 17, ₹4,000 by April 22, and ₹10,000 by April 28. The exam is for diploma holders seeking lateral BTech entry.

15 Falaknuma coaches get detached

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Srikakulam

A major train accident was averted on Tuesday morning when 15 coaches of the Secunderabad–Howrah Falaknuma Express got detached near Summadevi railway station in Srikakulam district.

The incident occurred around 7 am, just 5 km from Palasa, while the train was heading to Howrah. The detached coaches halted on the tracks, while the engine and 10 coaches moved on to Mandasa station. After being alerted by the guard, the loco pilot brought the remaining portion of the train to a stop. Railway officials and technical staff rushed to the spot and restored normalcy by recoupling the compartments.



Railway staff carry out rescue operations at the mishap site | EXPRESS

Panic gripped passengers during the incident, with many crying for help. Though no injuries were reported, the mishap caused confusion on board. Several trains along the route were delayed.

Authorities are probing the mechanical fault and assured necessary corrective measures will be taken to avoid similar incidents in future.

900 engines stolen from Kia car plant, insiders' role suspected

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Anantapur

THIEVES have stolen around 900 car engines from Kia India Automobiles near Erramanchi, close to Gutturu in Penukonda mandal, Sri Sathya Sai district.

The thefts, uncovered during a recent audit, are believed to have occurred since 2020.

Police suspect involvement of both insiders and outsiders. The engines, sourced from Tamil Nadu, go to Kia's affiliate Mobis before assembly at Kia India. Investigators believe the engines disappeared from Mobis.

Kia lodged a complaint last month. District SP V Ratna said a special team is probing the case and assured swift arrests.

EXPRESS READ

Telugu Theatre Day in Vijayawada on April 16

Vijayawada: The State government will celebrate Telugu Theatre Day on April 16 at Tummalapalli Vari Kshetrayya Kalakshetram in Vijayawada to mark the 177th birth anniversary of social reformer and writer Kandukuri Veeresalingam Pantulu. Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh announced the formation of an 11-member panel, headed by playwright Dr Burra Sai Madhav, to select recipients of newly instituted Kandukuri Theatre Awards

OPPORTUNITIES

General

MAHATMA GANDHI COLLEGE - IRITTY
Keezhur P O, Iritty-670703, Kannur Dt., Kerala
Re-accredited by NAAC with 'A grade', Aided & Affiliated to Kannur University,
Website: www.mgcollege.ac.in, Email: mgcollege.ac.in@gmail.com, Tel: 04902491666, Mob: 9447371339

WANTED

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the permanent posts of Assistant Professors in the following subjects:

Sl.No	Subject	No.of Vacancies
1	Management Studies	1 Vacancy (Open Merit)
2	English	1 Vacancy (Open Merit)
3	Malayalam	1 Vacancy (Open Merit)
4	Hindi	1 Vacancy (Open Merit)

Age, Qualification and Scale of pay is as per the UGC/University/Government rules. Appointments are subject to approval from Kannur University / Government.

Application form can be had from the college office on payment of Rs.1000/- (Rs.1100/- by Post) or can download from the college website. The downloaded form should be submitted along with a DD for Rs. 1000/- drawn in favour of the Gen. Secretary, Iritty Educational Society payable at Iritty or can transfer the cost of application form to A/c number: 57048660277,SBI Punnad Branch,IFS Code:SBIN0070384 along with details of transfer ID.

The candidates with disability are exempted from payment of cost of application.

The duly filled in application form should reach the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

IRITTY 08.04.2025 GENERAL SECRETARY, IRITTY EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

OPPORTUNITIES

गार्डन रीच शिपबिल्डर्स एण्ड इंजीनियर्स लिमिटेड
Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम / A Govt. of India Undertaking)
रक्षा मंत्रालय / Ministry of Defence
पंजीकृत एवं निगमित कार्यालय : 'गोलघर', 82, गार्डन रीच रोड, कोलकाता - 700 024
Registered and Corporate Office : 'GRSE Bhavan', 82, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata - 700 024
Web: www.grse.in CIN: L35111WB1934GOI007891

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO. 2025/02 (O)

GRSE Ltd. is one of the Premier Schedule –A Mini Ratna, Category -I, Defence PSU Shipyards of India. It is effectively contributing to the Defence preparedness of the country by building different sophisticated and state-of-the-art warships while also having other business verticals including Ship Repair and Commercial Shipbuilding. The Company invites applications from qualified, talented and dynamic Indian Nationals for the posts of Officers in various grades as indicated below:

1. General Manager (E-7) - Technical-01 (OBC) (Backlog)
2. Additional General Manager (E-6) - Human Resource-01 (OBC)(Backlog)
3. Deputy General Manager (E-5) - Admin & Security-01 (OBC)
4. Manager (E-3) - Finance-01 (ST)(Backlog)
5. Manager (E-3) - Security-01 (UR) *(Posting will be at Kolkata or Ranchi)*
6. Deputy Manager (E-2) - Human Resource-01 (OBC)(Backlog)
7. Deputy Manager (E-2) - Safety-01 (UR) *(posting will be at GRSE's Ranchi unit)*
8. Deputy Manager (E-2) - Medical-01 (OBC)(Backlog)
9. Assistant Manager (E-1) - Electronics-01 [OBC & PwBD (VH/LV)]
10. Assistant Manager (E-1) - Safety-02 (UR-1, OBC-1)
11. Assistant Manager (E-1) - Information Technology (IT)-02 (SC-1, OBC-1)
12. Junior Manager (E-0) - Security-02 (OBC-2) *(Posting will be at Kolkata or Ranchi)*
13. Junior Manager (E-0) - Technical (Engineering)-02 [UR-1, ST-1 (Backlog)]
14. Junior Manager (E-0) - Technical (Hull)-01 (ST) (Backlog)
15. Junior Manager (E-0) - Technical (Electrical)-01 (ST) (Backlog)
16. Junior Manager (E-0) - Technical-03 [PwBD (VH/LV)-2, PwBD (HH/PD)-1]
17. Project Superintendent (CGM/E-8) (On Fixed Term Contract) - Technical-01 (OBC)
18. Additional General Manager (E-6) (On Fixed Term Contract) - Technical-01 (OBC)
19. Deputy General Manager (E-5) (On Fixed Term Contract) - Technical-03 (OBC-1, SC-1, EWS-1)
20. Deputy General Manager (E-5) (On Fixed Term Contract) - Technical (Kochi)-01 (UR) *(posting will be at Kochi, Kerala)*
21. Senior Manager (E-4) (On Fixed Term Contract) - Technical-08 (UR-1, OBC-3, SC-2, ST-1, EWS-1)
22. Manager (E-3) (On Fixed Term Contract) - Technical-02 (OBC-1, SC-1)
23. Deputy Manager (E-2) (On Fixed Term Contract) - Medical-01 (OBC) (Backlog) The post is reserved for PwBD (OH)
24. Junior Manager (E-0) (On Fixed Term Contract) - Technical-01 (UR)

The details like General Conditions, eligibility, essential qualification, minimum experience, selection process, how to apply etc. are available in **'Career section'** of GRSE website **www.grse.in** or **https://jobapply.in/grse2025**

Online registration: Opening Date- 05 April 2025 & Closing Date- 26 April 2025

Candidates are required to apply only through ONLINE mode. No other means / mode of submission of applications will be accepted.

Any Addendum/Corrigendum will only be published in GRSE website.

"In Pursuit of Excellence and Quality in Shipbuilding"

BEFORE THE COURT OF HON'BLE SUB-ORDINATE JUDGE AT AMBUR, TIRUPATHUR DISTRICT, TAMILNADU

H.M.O.P. NO. 03/2024

A. GOPI ... Petitioner

:: Versus ::

S. NANI @ BHAKIYALAKSHMI ... Respondent

NOTICE THROUGH PUBLICATION

To,

S. NANI @ BHAKIYALAKSHMI,
W/o. A.Gopi, D/o. Sudhakar, CCS Colony, 75 Doddipalle, Chittoor Mandal & District, Andhra Pradesh - 517 214.

Whereas, the above named Petitioner, has instituted the above H.M.O.P. No. 03/2024 before the Hon'ble Court. But in spite of sending notice by registered post, you have failed to appear before the Hon'ble Court to answer the claim of the Petitioner. As such you are hereby directed to appear before the Hon'ble Court on **24/04/2025** at about **10:30 AM** either by personally or through an Advocate. Failing which the case will be heard and decided in your absence in accordance with law.

G. MOORTHI, B.A., B.L., **Advocate**, Ambur Advocates Association, Combined Court Building, Ambur, Tirupathur District-635802. **Cell : 94430 40656.**

KERALA UNIVERSITY OF FISHERIES AND OCEAN STUDIES, PANANGAD

NOTIFICATION

No.GA5/2709/2025 Dtd:04/04/25

Applications are invited for various teaching posts at **KUFOS.**

Last date of receipt of application is **08/05/2025.**

For more details visit: **www.kufos.ac.in**

Sd/-, Registrar

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE : CORRIGENDUM-I

No: e-Tender Notice No.CMG/C/CON/248742 - (I) Dt: 07.04.2025

Refer to Tender No CMG/C/CON/248742 dated 11.03.2025. Name of work: **"Construction of Ancillary services/ facilities with allied Civil, PH, Electrical & Mechanical works, including: (i) Water treatment plant and 500 Cum domestic water GLR (ii) External water supply system (iii) 400 Cum raw water collection GLR cum pump house and pumps & pumping mains (iv) 400 Cum GLR and Pump house for External Firefighting at SSLV Launch complex (SLC), Tiruchendur & Sathankulam Taluks, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu on EPC Mode – III (Package-6)"** (Est. cost Rs. 827 Lakhs). **Sale period extended upto 18.04.2025.** Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
Head Office, POONAMALEE HIGH ROAD,
Chennai Metro Rail Limited, (CMRL)Admin Building, Koyambedu, Chennai-600 107
Ph.No. (044) 26426773 Email id . : tncsc.tn@nic.in CIN:U15137TN1972SGC006157

SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE

BS3/013209/2025 Date: 08.04.2025

Short e-tender No.BS3/013209/2025 -TNCSC/25-26

Tamilnadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites online short electronic tender for the **"PURCHASE OF 600 LAKH NUMBERS OF FORTIFIED RBD PALMOLEIN OIL 1 LITRE POUCHES (910 gms)" for the months of July 2025, August 2025 and September 2025.**

Complete short e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded from **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.**

The bidders have to participate only online bidding with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III

Last Date and Time for Online Submission: 24.04.2025 up to 11.00 A.M.

DIPR/1436/TENDER/2025 MANAGING DIRECTOR.

TELANGANA CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING FEDERATION LTD.,
5-2-68, 3rd Floor, Mahatma Gandhi Markfed Bhavan, Jambagh, Hyderabad-500095
Phone: 040-24607106 & 24607108 PMBX 2 Lines, Fax: 040-24607100
E.mail: fert.markfed2024@gmail.com, Webpage: www.markfed.telangana.gov.in

RC.No:1371/H&T Tender 2025-26 **CORRIGENDUM-I** Date: 08.04.2025

In partial modification to the Tender Notification published on 05.04.2025 for online e-tender by TG MARKFED in two bid system (i.e Technical bid and price bid) for the Financial years 2025-26 & 2026-27 for fertilizer Handling, storage and transportation contract for 22 rake points i.e Rake point wise - District wise http://tender.telangana.gov.in.

Online tendering process is two bid system i.e., Technical bid and price bid for each Schedule and the following are the dates and time for e-tender process.

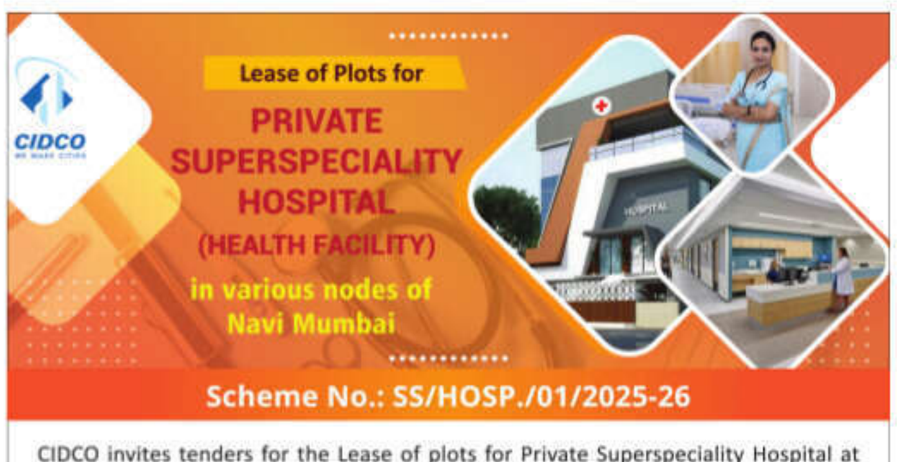
Bid Submission start date : 08.04.2025 from 3.00 P.M, **Pre - bid Meeting date :** 11.04.2025 at 11.00 A.M, **Bid Submission end date :** 28.04.2025 at 5:00 P.M, **Opening of Technical date :** 29.04.2025 at 11:00 A.M., **Opening of Price Bid date :** 30.04.2025 at 3.00 P.M.

For further details please contact the following : Address/e-mail/contact details: 5-2-68, TG MARKFED, 3rd floor, Mahatma Gandhi Markfed Bhavan, Jambagh, Hyderabad-500095. fert.markfed2024@gmail.com. Contact Numbers: **7288879803, 7288879854, 7288879855.** Web page: **www.markfed.telangana.gov.in.**

Contact Details for Service Provider for online e-procurement platform: **Vupadhi Techno Services Pvt. Ltd.,** Mobile no; 7337445546/7337445545/6309339690/9912756216, e-Mail ID: tseprocsupport@vupadhi.com

DIPR R.O. No. : 11-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26, Date: 08-04-2025. Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR.

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS



CIDCO invites tenders for the Lease of plots for Private Superspeciality Hospital at Various Node, Navi Mumbai from an Individual, a Hindu undivided family, a Company formed under Companies Act 1956, Trust/Societies registered under Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950, Society Registration Act, 1860, Partnership firm registered under Indian Partnership Act 1932, Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) and any person competent to contract under the Indian Partnership Act 1872 as per the eligibility criteria and terms & conditions prescribed in the e- Scheme Tender Booklet.

Details of plots

SR. No.	Node	Sector No.	Plot No.	Area Sq. mtrs.	Base Rate (per Sq. mtrs.) (Rs.)	EMD Amount (Rs.)
1	Kharghar	30	81A	4000.14	Will Be published in E-scheme Booklet	
2	Vashi	7	45	2000		

For details of the e-Scheme, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions, please refer to the e-Scheme Booklet. The e-Scheme Booklet is available w.e.f. **17.04.2025 from 11.00 am to 16.05.2025 at 23.59 hrs.** on https://eauction.cidcoindia.com. The amount paid towards cost of The E- scheme booklet is non-refundable.

CIDCO reserves the rights to cancel the plot/s, amend plot area, revoke plot/s, modify any conditions of the Scheme in its discretion or reject any or all applications without assigning reason thereof.

General Manager (Social Service)

CIN-U99999 MH 1970 SGC-014574 www.cidco.maharashtra.gov.in CIDCO/PR/013/2025-26

Save Rain Water Create Rain Water Harvesting Structure

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Tender Notice No:2/2025-2026

The tenderers willing to submit tenders for **Reclamation of Existing Dump Yard at Ariyamangalam through Bio-Mining Process (Phase -III)** in Tiruchirappalli City Municipal Corporation valuing at the cost of **Rs.4085.00 Lakhs** to be executed under the **Swachh Bharat Mission(U)-2.0** are requested to submit tenders through E-Tendering procedure in **http://tntenders.gov.in** as well as through sealed hard copy on or before **3.00.p.m.** of **27.05.2025,** which will be downloaded and opened at **03.30.p.m** in the same day. If the date of receipt of tender happens to be holiday, then tenders will be received in the succeeding working day at the same time and venue.

Pre bid meeting in this regard will be held on **24.04.2025** at **11.00 am** at **Corporation Main office**. Other details may be obtained in the **Engineering section, Main office** during office hours in working days.

Tender Conditions are available in the above said website.

(1140/2025/E5(Main) **Commissioner,**
DIPR/1449/TENDER/2025 **Tiruchirappalli City Municipal Corporation**

THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED › MARK TWAIN
QuoteExpress

DELHI VISIT Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar met FCI MD Ashutosh Agnihotri and NCCF MD Anice Joseph Chandra in Delhi to discuss millet and pulse procurement, and rice exports from State's ports to other countries

CM to head State-level P4 society

Govt sets an ambitious target of facilitating adoption of 5 lakh 'Golden Families' by Aug 15

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada



THE State government has intensified its efforts to establish a robust framework for the P4 (Public-Private-People Partnership) programme, aimed at achieving zero poverty. As part of the initiative, a State-level society is being formed, with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu as its Chairperson, and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan as Vice-Chairperson.

The society will be supported by a CEO, a director, and dedicated teams, including a call centre, technical and programme teams. At the district level, the District Incharge Minister will act as its chairperson, while MLAs will head constituency chapters. At the grassroots, Panchayat secretaries and Ward administrative secretaries will lead secretariat chapters in villages and wards.

On Tuesday, Naidu chaired a review meeting at the State Secretariat to discuss the formation of the State-level society and the progress of the P4 programme. He directed the District Collectors, Ministers and MLAs to identify 'mentors', who will adopt households (Golden Families) as part of the initiative for the economic uplift of the underprivileged. Emphasising transparency in implementing the programme, he instructed the officials to upload details on a dedicated website, including donor contributions, and the additional support required for these families. This will enhance public trust in the P4 programme, he said.

The government has set an ambitious target of facilitating the adoption of 5 lakh 'Golden Families' by August 15.

During the review, the officials informed the Chief Minister that the registration of mentors and families is underway to meet the target. Organisations such as Milaap, DonateKart, and RangDe are partnering with P4 as key stakeholders, enabling donors to adopt families, mandals or villages, and provide financial assistance. Donors can also choose specific beneficiaries, and offer support online through the P4 platform.

Looking ahead, Naidu asked the officials to prepare an annual progress report by the next Ugadi festival detailing the achievements of the P4 programme over the year. The report will serve as a comprehensive update on the initiative's impact, reinforcing the government's commitment to poverty eradication, he said.

Use tech to redress grievances: CM to officials

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday directed officials to accelerate public grievance redressal using advanced technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI). He emphasised timely updates for petitioners on complaint progress, and the resolution of solvable issues within set deadline. For complaints without immediate solutions, the officials must clearly explain reasons for the delay to petitioners, he said. To curb fake or repetitive complaints, he mandated collecting Aadhaar card and mobile numbers with detailed scrutiny to prevent misuse of the system. The Chief Minister suggested gathering feedback from petitioners after resolving their grievances.

Volunteer posts not official, YSRC govt misled youth: Pawan Kalyan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Visakhapatnam

DEPUTY Chief Minister (Panchayat Raj and Rural Development) Pawan Kalyan alleged that the previous government misled thousands of youth by creating unofficial village volunteer posts without proper appointments or Government Orders.

Speaking on the issue of village volunteers on Tuesday, he said, "Volunteers were made to believe that they were government employees, but there were no official GO or appointment letters. Payments were made from unknown sources, leaving many youths under the impression that they were in permanent roles. What they paid was only honorarium and not salaries."

The matter was discussed in the first Cabinet meeting of the new government, and it was found that there had been no proper recruitment process. "I brought this to the attention of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and HRD Minister Nara Lokesh. Upon review, it was confirmed that no legitimate process had been followed. The youth should question how they were paid and from where," he said.

During his visit to Kuridi, the Deputy CM announced the launch of a pilot project on collective organic farming in partnership with the local community. Interacting with villagers, he encouraged them to utilise over 500 acres of land in the village for the cultivation of medicinal plants, fruits and flowers. Officials would ensure market linkage and facilitate export opportunities, he said.



Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan takes part in the Rachabanda programme at Kuridi in ASR district on Tuesday | EXPRESS

"Those who are willing to work will be supported. The government is committed to generating employment, particularly for youth in agency areas," he said. He also announced that Kuridi, which holds personal significance for him, will receive ₹5 lakh from his personal funds for development works.

He noted that around 2.5 lakh acres in agency regions are currently under coffee cultivation, and that steps are being taken to bring an additional one lakh acres under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). "Even farmers with 10 to 15 cents of land will be supported for three years. Backyard farming will also be encouraged," he said.

Pawan Kalyan further proposed developing a tourism circuit in tribal regions, inspired by Kerala's cultural tourism model. "Village deity festivals, temples, and traditional practices can be promoted through homestays, which will generate employment while preserving local culture," he said.

Earlier in the day, he visited Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy temple in Kuridi and performed Abhishekam alongside locals.

At a separate meeting in Araku, the Deputy CM interacted with representatives of the Andhra Pradesh Sarpanches Welfare Association and tribal sarpanches from Alluri Sitarama Raju district. District Collector AS Dinesh Kumar, Joint Collector MJ Abhishek Gouda and Sub-Collector Souryaman Patel were present.

PK, 1st minister to stay in Araku after Maoist attack

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has become the first high-ranking political leader to stay overnight in the agency area of Araku Valley since the 2018 Maoist attack that claimed the lives of two former MLAs. In September 2018, Maoists shot dead former Araku MLA Kidari Sarveswara Rao and former MLA Siveri Soma near Livitiput village in Dumbriguda mandal. Following the attack, political leaders have limited their visits to day trips. Pawan Kalyan stayed at the Railway Officer Guest House on Monday night, located around 13 km from Livitiputtu, the site of the 2018 Maoist attack

'Save dedicated No. 95523 00009 to access all Mana Mitra services'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

IN order to ensure widespread adoption of 'Mana Mitra', a WhatsApp-based platform designed to bring government services to the fingertips of the people, the State government has decided to conduct a door-to-door awareness campaign, Mana Mitra at Every Home, from April 15.

Residents of Andhra Pradesh are urged to save the dedicated number: 95523 00009, to access a wide range of services.

Village and ward secretariat staff will visit households across all districts to help residents save the Mana Mitra number and demonstrate how to use the platform. District Collectors will oversee the campaign's implementation and progress.

To support this effort, the Information Technology and Real-Time Governance (RTG) Departments have prepared brochures and video messages, which will be shared during door-to-door visits and circulated via WhatsApp and village-level social media.

The initiative aims to ensure that every mobile phone in Andhra Pradesh has the Mana Mitra number saved, enabling citizens to access government services digitally and efficiently. These services will be available instantly, eliminating the need for physical visits to government offices. Officials assured the platform is secure, with personal data protected and not shared with WhatsApp or third parties. Digital certificates issued through the service are legally valid.

ACCESS TO OVER 250 SERVICES

Currently, Mana Mitra offers access to more than 250 services, with plans to expand to 500 by June 12 and eventually over 1,000.

Citizens can download certificates, using Aadhaar-linked mobile numbers.

Pay utility bills, including electricity, water, and property taxes.

Book bus tickets, Reserve temple services, including those at Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) and other major temples.

HOW TO USE MANA MITRA PLATFORM

Save the number 95523 00009 as 'Mana Mitra'.

Send a 'Hi' message to start.

Choose a service from the AI-powered chatbot menu or use voice commands, such as 'Electricity Bill Payment.'

Provide necessary details, such as Aadhaar number or service ID for identification

Receive real-time updates, confirmations, and downloadable e-certificates or receipts

EXPRESS READ

Roll back duty hike on petrol & diesel: CPM

Vijayawada: State CPM secretary V Srinivasa Rao demanded that the Centre roll back the ₹2 excise duty hike on petrol and diesel per litre to safeguard the interests of common man. The Centre should abolish the excise duty on petrol and diesel and adjust their prices in line with declining international crude oil prices, Rao said.

CM's new home Bhoomi Puja today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

AMARAVATI, Andhra Pradesh's envisioned capital, is set to witness a significant event as Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu prepares to perform the Bhoomi Puja for his personal residence on Wednesday morning.

The ceremony, to be held alongside his family near the E9 road behind the Velagapudi Secretariat, marks a symbolic step in the ongoing revival of the capital region. Naidu, who acquired the land recently, is building his home in the heart of Amaravati, reinforcing his commitment to its development. The TDP supremo, widely recognised as the architect of Amaravati, has been steering the capital's growth post-bifurcation of the State.

During his earlier tenure until 2019, he focused on land pooling, planning, and initial construction, often putting personal matters aside. Since returning to power in 2024, Naidu has accelerated efforts to transform Amaravati into a world-class capital.

He has restarted stalled projects, finalised tenders, and invited global firms to contribute, aiming to lift the State from having no capital to boasting one of India's finest.

His decision to settle in Amaravati has delighted locals, who see it as a sign of confidence in the region's future. His leadership has emphasised public involvement, notably during challenges like land disputes, where he stood by farmers. With Central funds flowing in, and construction gaining pace, the capital is buzzing with optimism. The Bhoomi puja not only marks a milestone for Naidu but also adds momentum to Amaravati's journey towards becoming thriving hub.

Min: Complete HNSS works by June 10

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Vijayawada

WATER Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu has urged engineers to complete the widening and lining of the Handri-Neeva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS) Canal by June 10. During an inspection near Pattikonda, he emphasised the canal's importance, originally initiated by NT Rama Rao, and criticised the previous administration for neglecting it, allocating less than ₹500 crore post-2019. The current government has earmarked ₹3,240 crore in the latest budget, he affirmed.



Spanning 565 km, the canal will lift water to 392 metres, filling local tanks and improving groundwater levels. The project, divided into nine packages, is set for completion before the monsoon. Ramanaidu dismissed YSRCP leaders' objections as political opportunism and assured that pending electricity dues would be cleared. He stressed timely execution, urging officials to deploy adequate resources and scheduling regular reviews to ensure steady progress.

COERCIVE TACTICS

Naidu undermining democracy, say Jagan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Raptadu (Anantapur)

YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy accused Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu of undermining democracy through manipulative politics and coercive tactics during the local body bypolls in the State.

Speaking to the media after consoling the family of Kuruba Lingamayya, who was murdered in Ramagiri mandal, Jagan alleged that the TDP resorted to violence and intimidation to grab posts in the local bodies where it lacked majority.

In Ramagiri, despite the YSRCP's strength of nine members against TDP's lone MPTC, Jagan claimed that the ruling party pressured MPTCs with police assistance, delayed the election process, and unleashed attacks that led to Lingamayya's death. He criticised police for registering a case against only two of the 20 attackers.



Jagan mentioned attacks on YSRCP leaders in Nandyal, Mahanandi and Pedakurupadu, and the wrongful imprisonment of party leaders as evidence to the TDP's vindictive politics under Naidu's 'Red Book Constitution'. He warned that the police need to face backlash from people if they act like Naidu's 'watchmen'.

He was greeted with chants of 'CM, CM' by YSRCP cadre during his visit. Jagan patiently listened to locals' grievances, and received their representations. Asserting that this phase of terror would not last long, Jagan said those responsible for the atrocities would face severe consequences. He termed Naidu's alleged power-driven excesses a 'scar on democracy'.

Security lapses come to fore during Jagan's visit

Severe security lapses were witnessed during the visit of former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to Ramagiri in Sri Sathya Sai district on Tuesday. Despite being a Z+ category protectee, adequate police force was not deployed at the helipad. Due to an uncontrolled crowd surge, the helicopter's windshield was damaged. Hence, the pilots refused to fly back with the VIP, citing security concerns. The helicopter left soon after Jagan's arrival, and he had to return to Bengaluru by road after completing his programme in the district. The YSRCP slammed the TDP-led NDA government for not providing adequate security to Jagan during his visit to Raptadu

Deputy CM continues tour despite son's accident

Continued from page 1

He expressed concern that the smoke exposure could have long-term effects on Mark's health. He also informed that Mark's classmates suffered third degree burns.

The tragic fire occurred during a summer camp attended by around 30 children, including Mark. Pawan Kalyan was in the tribal region of Alluri Sitarama Raju district, participating in the government programme 'Adavi Talli Baata', when he received a call from his wife Anna at around 8:30 am.

Initially believing it to be a minor incident, he later realised the gravity of the situation. He was informed that one child had lost their life in the accident, and all the children, including Mark, had been hospitalised. His son is currently under general anaesthesia and undergoing a bronchoscopy procedure.

He emotionally noted that the accident coincided with his elder son Akira's birthday, making it an especially difficult day for the family. Pawan Kalyan expressed his gratitude to PM Modi for extending support through the Indian High Commission in Singapore. He received a call from the PMO, where the Prime Minister assured him of any assistance required.

He also thanked Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, opposition leaders Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy and KT Rama Rao, Tamil Nadu BJP President K Annamalai, State BJP chief Purandeswari, Union Ministers Ram Mohan Naidu, Kishan Reddy, Bandi Sanjay, Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishna Raju, Ministers Nara Lokesh, Nadendla Manohar, Kandula Durgesh, and others from party, film industry and co artists who reached out to express their concern.

Several officials and party leaders urged Pawan Kalyan to halt the tour and fly to Singapore. However, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that he had already committed to visiting Kuridi village near Araku to interact with tribal residents and understand their concerns. He affirmed that he would complete his scheduled programmes before departing for Singapore.

400 ST families living in near-isolation; Collector's orders comprehensive probe

Continued from page 1

After returning to their village recently with the help of tribal activists, they were allegedly threatened and told to either repay ₹1.2 lakh or go back to bonded labour. While she recently received an Aadhaar card with the help of activists, her husband Agni remains undocumented.

TDP ST Cell district president Tirumalashetty Srinu, who has been closely following the issue, said the suffering of the Yanadi families runs deep and long.

Speaking to *TNIE*, he said, "These families have been living in silence and fear for years. Middlemen control their lives, threatening them if they try to escape this bonded existence. They don't have ration cards, Aadhaar, or even access to basic healthcare or education."

He added that over 400 ST families are still living in near-isolation in the Lanka Vanidibba and Elisetidibba regions, surviving by collecting crabs and forest produce. "They don't know what freedom feels like. They are paid not in money but in leftover food - just enough to keep them alive for the next day of work," Srinu said with anguish.

Responding swiftly, District Collector Venkata Murali ordered a comprehensive probe with a special team involving the Revenue, Police, Tribal Welfare, and Labour departments. Speaking to *TNIE*, he said, "The team will soon visit the village and the places they had worked to identify the facts. If the claims are proved, strict legal action will follow."

However, the collector clarified that the district administration had no prior information about the plight of the other families, and facts would only emerge following the investigation.

Meanwhile, ST Commission Chairman Dr D V G Shankar Rao took serious note of the incident and ordered Bapatla officials to submit a detailed report immediately.

Expressing concern, he said, "To hear that tribal individuals are still being sold and forced into bonded labour in this day and age is nothing short of appalling. Such incidents must never be repeated."

Aquaculturists demand reduction in input costs

Continued from page 1

These measures have disrupted seafood exports, particularly to the U.S., a key market for Andhra Pradesh's shrimp.

Additionally, the Agriculture Minister announced the formation of the National Prawns Coordination Committee (NPCC) during the stakeholders' meeting with aqua farmers, traders, and exporters, aiming find solutions. Meanwhile, traders have begun exploring alternative markets, such as local sales to offset export losses.

Despite these efforts, challenges persist. Aqua farmers in the Godavari districts, including Palakollu, Achanta, and Narasapuram, have declared an aqua holiday for July, August, and September, citing unsustainable losses due to the tariffs and high input costs.

AP Prawn Farmers Federation Joint Secretary Rudraraju Yuvaraju highlighted the crisis, noting that the 30-count shrimp has dropped from ₹470 to ₹410 and the 50-count from ₹350 to ₹310, with processing plants slashing prices by nearly ₹50 per kg.

With 5 lakh farmers cultivating shrimp across 2.5 lakh hectares, employing 40 lakh people, and contributing 10% to the state's GDP (₹1.12 lakh crores in GVA), the sector's turmoil is significant.

However, not all farmers support the idea of a crop holiday. P. Ramesh from Kaikaluru, said, "We'd rather reduce the extent of cultivation than stop entirely," adding that fish farming isn't profitable on shrimp-suited land.

BRIDE KILLS SELF A 21-year-old newly married woman hanged herself to death in the bathroom of her in-law's house at Mancherial district in Telangana following alleged dowry harassment over ₹6 lakh

AP eyes ₹25k crore tourism investment

K KALYAN KRISHNA KUMAR
@ Vijayawada

THE State government aims to attract investments worth ₹25,000 crore in the tourism sector over the coming four years, targeting the creation of at least 50,000 rooms in the hospitality segment.

Therefore, the State government has decided to showcase the tourism potential of Andhra Pradesh for the first time at the at the 20th South Asia Hotel Investment Conference (SAHIC), being held at Powai Lake from April 8 to 10.

Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh will visit Mumbai on April 9 and 10 to lead the State delegation. Tourism Secretary Ajay Jain and APTDC Managing Director Amrapali Kata will accompany Minister Durgesh. During the meeting, the government delegation will directly engage with international hospitality stakeholders and promote ease of doing business. The officials will highlight the State's tourism potential and the new tourism policy, which grants industry status to the sector. Officials will also present investor-friendly reforms, subsidies and attractive incentives.



We are building a tourism-driven economy that not only showcases the State's unique natural and cultural diversity but also creates employment and revenue

Kandula Durgesh, Tourism Minister

"We are building a tourism-driven economy that not only showcases the State's unique natural and cultural diversity but also creates employment and revenue," said Durgesh. "Our presence at SAHIC reflects our commitment to attracting global investors."

Speaking to TNIE, Tourism Secretary Ajay Jain said, "On Wednesday, we are meeting around 20 investors to present our policies and invite them to invest in the State. There will be no MoU signings tomorrow. All MoUs will be signed in the presence of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in Vijayawada. The focus will be on showcasing the State's hospitality infrastructure and facilities. Both parties will reach an agreement after the investors visit in May."

Since the announcement of the new tourism policy, several companies have expressed interest in developing beach resorts, heritage hotels, eco-tourism hubs, adventure circuits, and convention centers in the State.

The visit is part of a broader strategy to integrate tourism into Andhra Pradesh's development agenda.

With abundant natural and cultural assets — including coastlines, hills, forests, temples, and heritage sites — the State is positioning itself as a comprehensive tourism destination.

PPA agrees to joint survey for submergence in T'gana

AP govt says there is no need for it; PPA urged to resolve issues

VV BALAKRISHNA @ Hyderabad



POLAVARAM Project Authority (PPA) Chief Executive Officer Atul Jain on Tuesday said that a joint survey to assess the potential submergence of areas in Telangana, including the temple town of Bhadrachalam, under Polavaram backwaters would be undertaken soon.

Telangana irrigation officials had reiterated their request for a joint survey during a coordination meeting held by the PPA. They gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation and submitted supporting documents outlining concerns over submergence of Telangana areas.

However, officials from the Andhra Pradesh government stated there was no need for a joint survey.

Telangana Engineer-in-Chief G Anil Kumar and Godavari Basin Deputy Director S Subramanyam Prasad urged the PPA to resolve the long-pending issue by conducting the joint survey. Telangana officials recalled that the Andhra Pradesh government had consented to a joint survey in August 2024.

They also requested that the PPA implement protection measures in line with the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal Award (GWDTA). These measures include embankments, retaining walls and pumping arrangements. Telangana also called for immediate ground-truthing.

"There are about 35 medium and major streams merging into the Godavari from both sides between Burgampahad village and Dummugudem anicut, which will be affected by Polavaram backwaters. Andhra Pradesh should undertake protective works where necessary to prevent inundation of low-lying areas along these streams," Telangana officials said.

They also referred to directives issued by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in 2019. The NGT had stated: "The PPA-cum-AP Irrigation department may take complete responsibility for any adverse impacts arising from the project in future. The PPA may coordinate with the states of Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, examine the issues, and implement appropriate remedial and safeguard measures."

Telangana requested that the PPA immediately initiate a joint survey through any agency under its supervision, as is being done in Chhattisgarh. Officials said action was urgent ahead of the upcoming monsoon season.

They pointed out that the issue needs to be addressed without further delay, as mandated by the Supreme Court in its September 2022 order. Two years and six months have passed since the verdict, they said.

Telangana officials expressed concern that after completion of the Polavaram project, water retention at full reservoir level for several days may lead to drainage stagnation and flash submergence of local streams and the Kinnersani river.

Stalin hails SC verdict, slams AIADMK silence in Assembly

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

CHIEF Minister MK Stalin and Speaker M Appavu took jibes at the MLAs of the principal opposition party, AIADMK and the ruling party at the centre, BJP, who remained silent on Tuesday in the Assembly while all others welcomed the Supreme Court's verdict censuring Governor RN Ravi for withholding assent to 10 bills sent to him.

Stalin requested the DMK MLAs and members of all other parties that welcomed the verdict, except the AIADMK and the BJP, to convey their thanks to the Supreme Court and the people of Tamil Nadu by thumping their desks.

The House subsequently reverberated with the sound of them thumping the desks.

Though many MLAs of the AIADMK, including deputy leader of opposition RB Udhayakumar and chief whip SP Velumani, and BJP MLA Vanathi Srinivasan were present at that time, they remained silent without making any remarks.

Appavu said it was painful to note that the AIADMK MLAs hesitated to thank the apex court and the CM for ensuring the passage of the 10 pending bills even though the one of the bills was for renaming Tamil Nadu Fisheries University after former chief minister and AIADMK supremo J Jayalalithaa.

Stalin noted the bill was passed during AIADMK's regime but lacked the governor's assent. Mocking AIADMK MLAs' protest attire, he said he was relieved they wore black shirts instead of saffron.

Tension resurfaces in TG as AP cops take over security of Nagarjunasagar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Nalgonda

TENSIONS have resurfaced at the Nagarjunasagar project with the Telangana government on Tuesday objecting to the presence of Andhra Pradesh forces guarding the dam.

Until Monday, the dam — under Telangana's jurisdiction — was protected by a CRPF battalion from Mulugu district.

On Tuesday, following instructions from senior officials, the Telangana unit was relieved.

A CRPF battalion from Visakhapatnam, previously deployed on the Andhra Pradesh side, immediately took over security.

This development has raised concerns among Telangana officials, who fear Andhra Pradesh might divert water to suit its own needs.

As per Union government instructions, Andhra Pradesh government is responsible for securing the Srisailam Dam, while the Nagarjunasagar project is to be secured by Telangana government.

Telangana authorities have reportedly filed a complaint with the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB), objecting to Andhra Pradesh's growing role at the Nagarjunasagar project.



QUENCHING THIRST

A monkey tries to drink the last drop from a soft drink bottle thrown by visitors at Sikharachandi hilltop in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday | DEBADATTA MALLICK

GHMC to acquire 299 properties near KBR Park

S BACHAN JEET SINGH
@ Hyderabad

TO ease traffic around KBR Park, where six flyovers and grade separators are planned under the Hyderabad City Integrated Traffic Infrastructure (H-CITI) project, the GHMC has identified 299 properties for acquisition, requiring 56,621 sq. yds of land.

The flyovers and underpasses aim to decongest one of Hyderabad's busiest corridors, connecting key IT hubs like Madhapur, Hitec City, Gachibowli and Kondapur. The six junctions have been divided into two packages, with a total project cost of ₹826 crore — ₹421 crore for Jubilee Hills Checkpost, KBR entrance and Mugdha junctions, and ₹405 crore for Film Nagar, Maharaja Agrasen and Cancer Hospital junctions.

PROPERTIES IDENTIFIED FOR LAND ACQUISITION

Stretch	Distance (km)	No. of properties	Land required (sq.yds)	Funds required (₹crore)
KBR Junction to Mugdha Junction	1.8	40	7,884	60
Jubilee Hills Checkpost Junction	2	47	13,390	115
Road No. 45 Junction to Jubilee Hills Checkpost	1.2	36	6,249	125
Film Nagar Junction	1.4	43	9,927	105
Maharaja Agrasen Junction	1.2	34	5,531	76
Cancer Hospital Junction	1.3	18	13,638	60

An additional ₹741 crore is needed for land acquisition. Of the required land, 10% (about 5,662.13 sq.yds) will opt for Transferable Development Rights (TDR), according to GHMC's Town Planning wing.

For widening the 6.5 km stretch between Virinchi Hospital Junction and Jubilee Hills Checkpost into 100-120 ft BT roads along the Road Development Plan corridor, 81 properties will be acquired at a cost of ₹200 crore.

Vehicles moving clockwise will use underpasses, while those going counter-clockwise will take flyovers, enabling uninterrupted circulation around KBR Park.

Trains shift to revamped Cherlapally raise concerns over limited connectivity

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

THE recent approval by the Railway Board to temporarily shift five trains from Secunderabad Station to the newly developed Cherlapally Railway Terminal has brought concerns over passenger connectivity to the forefront. In addition to South Central Railway's (SCR) decision to run the East Coast Express from Cherlapally instead of Hyderabad starting June 15, it has also planned to divert 13 trains via Cherlapally instead of Secunderabad and to designate Cherlapally as the terminal station for two other trains. Most of these changes are set to take effect by the end of April. Cherlapally Railway Station, inaugurated by PM Modi on January 6, was developed at an estimated cost of ₹413 crore to international standards.

The terminal was envisioned to help decongest the city's three major stations—Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Kacheguda.

However, passengers have voiced concerns about the lack of adequate connectivity, especially given the station's location on the outskirts of the city. Despite efforts by the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGRTC) to provide bus connectivity, commuters say reaching Cherlapally from various parts of Hyderabad remains a challenge.

TSRTC currently operates around 146 bus services daily from different city points to the Cherlapally terminal. Speaking to TNIE, Chengicherla depot manager Kavitha said that over 100 bus trips (250C) run every 10 minutes from the north side (platform 1) of the station to Secunderabad, covering areas such as Habsiguda, Nacharam, Tarnaka and Mallapur.

She said 12 buses (113F/Z) connect platform 9 to Borabanda every 30 minutes.

EXPRESS READ

Five Kerala BJP workers get life term for killing JD(U) leader

Kochi: The Kerala High Court has awarded life imprisonment to five BJP workers who were guilty of murdering Janata Dal (United) leader P G Deepak in Thrissur. Those convicted are Rishikesh, Nijin, Prasanth, Rasanth, and Brashnev. The prosecution said Deepak, an office-bearer of the JD (U) and running a ration shop at Pazhuvil Centre, was stabbed to death on in front of his shop

Two migrant workers mistaken for thieves, beaten up in TN

Tiruchy: Three people were held for assaulting two migrant workers in Panjappur after suspecting them to be thieves. The suspects, R Santhosh, R Dhanasekar, K Sathishkumar and C Manickam of Panjappur. Police said Puhan and Deepak Doss work as construction workers. They attacked the two workers with wooden logs and sticks. The workers suffered with injuries and a probe is underway

Seven injured as RTC bus overturns in Telangana

Hanamkonda: Seven passengers sustained injuries when a TGSRTC bus overturned at Chinthagattu crossroad under the Kakatiya University Campus (KUC) police station limits in Hanamkonda district in Telangana. The bus was en route from Ongole to Adilabad. the SI said, the accident occurred after the bus collided with a motor grader vehicle, reportedly travelling in the wrong direction

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (APCRDA)
Lenin Centre, Governorpet, Vijayawada-520002 (A.P.)
E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. MAU61-ADMNOSD(VI)/15/2025-IFR1, Dt.07.04.2025
Name of Work: Operation and Maintenance of Street Lighting in VIP routes of Amaravati Capital Region Villages and Seed Access Road- Estimate Cost: Rs. 68.34 Lakhs
The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 09.04.2025 to 17.04.2025 up to 14.00 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid 17.04.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs, Technical bid opening 17.04.2025 @16.00Hrs. For further details please refer to www.apeprocurement.gov.in and www.crda.ap.gov.in
Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA , Vijayawada

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Syed Kalet Basha (Old Name) S/o Syed Akbar Basha, R/o. 3/73, Turukapalli, Mukkavaripalli, Obulavaripalli, Annamayya Dist. AP- 516108. I have changed my Name to SYED KHALID (New Name) S/o SYED AKBAR BASHA Henceforth I will be known as SYED KHALID (New Name).

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Sodanapalli Rafi (Old Name) S/o Sodanapalli Hasan Saheb,R/o.4-86-A, Indirapuram,Angallu,Annamayya Dist. AP-517325. I changed my Name to SODANAPALLI MAHABOOB BASHA (New Name) S/o SODANAPALLI HASAN SAHEB. Henceforth I will be known as SODANAPALLI MAHABOOB BASHA (New Name).

CHANGE OF NAME
I, D.Dhanavi S/o D.Nehru (Old Name) D.No:1, B-Type, Vinayaka Nagar Quarters, ISKCON Temple, Tirupati Urban Mandal, Tirupati Dist., Andhra Pradesh, 517501. Do here by declared I have changed my Name as DHANAVATH DHANVIRAJ S/o DHANAVATH NEHRU (NEW NAME).

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Moyilla Kalva Ravi Kumar, S/o Venkata Subbanna Moyilla kalva, D.No. 38/171-110-2, Prathap Co Operative Colony, Kadapa, Y.S.R. Dist. A.P., I have changed my Name to MOILLAKALVA RAVI KUMAR (New Name)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
ANANDPUR BARRAGE PROJECT, SALAPADA. DIST:-KEONJHAR, ODISHA, PIN: 758020, E-Mail:cceabp@gmail.com
E-procurement Notice No. CCEABP- 01 of 2025-26
(Bid Id No. ABP-Soro-01/01 of 2025-26)
A-16 *DETAILED NOTICE INVITING TENDER ON EPC CONTRACT*

Name of Work	Class/EMD /Tender Fee /Period of completion
Construction of Distribution system for 5052.68 Ha. of CCA including Command Area Development (CAD) of Salandi Left Main Canal from RD 60.304 km to 71.505 km through Under Ground Pipe Line Irrigation system (Gravity Flow) of Anandapur Barrage Project in Balasore District of Odisha on EPC-Turn Key Basis including operation and maintenance of the commissioned project.	(1) **Class of Contractor** - Super Class or Equivalent Grade Bidders (2) **EMD: Rs 139.00 lakh.** (3) **Tender Fee: Rs.10, 000.00.** (4) **Period of completion: 24 (Twenty four)** calendar months including rainy seasons.

A. Period of Availability of Bid Document in the Portal : From 10.00 AM of 09.04.2025 to 02.05.2025 up to 5.00 PM
B. Date & time For Pre-Bid Conference : 23.04.2025 at 11.30 AM
C. Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bid : 02.05.2025 up to 5.00 PM.
D. Place of Sale & Receipt of Bid : On-Line through e-Procurement.
E. Time and Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 03.05.2025 at 11.30 AM.
F. Place of Opening of Bid : 0/o the Chief Construction Engineer, Anandapur Barrage Project, Salapada.
G. Further details can be seen from E-Procurment Portal "https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in"
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Anandpur Barrage Project, Salapada
OIPR-32180/11/0002/2425

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.
Corporate Office : 802, Natraj By Rustomjee, Western Express Highway, Sir M.V. Road, Andheri East, Mumbai - 400069, Maharashtra.
Naidupet Branch : D No 3-2-67/A, Shop No 6, Ground Floor, Ramakrishnapuram, Near Andhra Bank, Naidupet, Spsr Nellore-524126, (AP)A.O : **Thumuluri Jayendra Bhaskar**, Contact No.: **9885511243.**
PROPERTY FOR SALE UNDER PROVISIONS OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002 THROUGH PRIVATE TREATY
Whereas the Authorised Officer, Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) has taken the Possession u/s 13(4) of the **Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002 (The SARFAESI Act, 2002)** of the properties ("the Secured Asset") given below. The Authorised Officer has received offer of Sale from some interested party against the above mentioned Secured Asset under the SARFAESI Act for recovery of the Secured Debt. Now, the Authorised Officer is hereby giving the Notice to Sale of the above said property through Private Treaty in terms of rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. The Details of the Account are as follows:

Sl No.	Name of the Borrower / Co-Borrower	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Reserve Price (RP)	Total O/s Amount as on	Description of the Immovable property
1.	Loan Code.27510000013 Naidupet Branch) Kistamma Gumma (Borrower) Veera Ragaiah Gumma (Co Borrower)	11-07-2023 ₹ 14,43,498.00	₹ 19,00,000.00 (Rupees Nineteen Lakhs Only)	25-03-2025 ₹ 20,81,621.00	Near Door No.2-18 Gangamma Temple Street Ward No.7 Manubolu SPSR NELLORE-524405,andhra pradeshBounded : **East By** :Panchayathi Cement Road, **West By** :House Of K Manohar, **North By:** Panchayathi Cement Road and **South By** :Gangamma Temple.

The Authorised Officer will hold auction for sale of the Secured Asset on **'As is where is Basis', 'As is what is basis' and 'Whatever is there is basis'.** AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the said property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept or reject the offer without assigning any reason whatsoever and sale will be subject to confirmation by Secured Creditor. On the acceptance of offer of proposed buyer, he/she is required to deposit 25% of accepted price inclusive adjustment of Earnest Money Balance immediately and the balance amount shall be paid by the purchaser within 15 (fifteen) days from date of acceptance of Offer by the Secured Creditor. The proposed buyer is to note that in case of failure of payment of balance amount by him/her within the time specified, the amount already deposited shall stand forfeited and property will be resold accordingly. **This is 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the above described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and to the amount due to Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd., in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.**
The Date of Auction is fixed for 24-04-2025
Place : Naidupet
Date : 09.04.2025
Authorised Officer
Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

QuoteExpress
IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE › NELSON MANDELA

EDITORIAL



After all, the chief business of the American people is business

Calvin Coolidge

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

LANDMARK SC RULING ON TAMIL NADU GUV UPHOLDS FEDERAL SPIRIT

IN a severe reprimand of Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi, the Supreme Court has set aside his decision to withhold assent to 10 bills he was sitting on for years, their re-enactment by the state assembly notwithstanding, as illegal and erroneous. The landmark verdict nullified any decision the president might have taken on the bills after he escalated them post their re-consideration by the legislature. The court was cross as he flouted the principle laid down by a different bench in the Punjab governor case, which said those in gubernatorial positions do not have a veto on bills by squatting on them. Instead of falling in line, Ravi sent the Tamil Nadu legislations to the president. Some of those bills sought to take away the powers of the governor as chancellor in appointing vice-chancellors of state universities and vest them in the chief minister.

Article 200 of the Constitution allows the governor to grant assent, withhold assent and send it back to the legislature for reconsideration, or reserve bills for the president. But bills cannot be reserved for the president after they are re-enacted by the assembly in their original form. The court found the governor's argument that it was not open for the assembly to re-enact the bills because he had not sent them back, while withholding assent, devoid of merit. Much of the problems arose due to the lack of timelines in Article 200. To plug the gap, the bench ruled that if a governor withholds assent, he must return the bill along with a message within three months. If he wants to escalate it to the president, he again has a maximum of three months to do so. But if a bill is reconsidered by the assembly and sent back to the governor, he has no option but to convey his assent within a month.

The court went on to remind that gubernatorial roles must be discharged without considerations of political expediency. In times of conflict, he must evolve consensus and not create roadblocks for the state legislature elected by the people through democratic process. By upholding the federal spirit of the Constitution and setting tight timelines, the ruling removes doubts about gubernatorial options on bills. While the verdict may not end future showdowns, expedited decision-making would serve democracy well.

STOP THEFT OF MINOR MINERALS, PUNISH GUILTY

THEFT of minor minerals is not new across India. But recent audits have blown the lid off the systematic loot that was going on across Odisha in a brazen violation of norms. Thanks to poor governance, the state leaked critical revenue while an organised mafia benefited. Instances of operating without permit, mining in no-go areas such as in forests and on riverbeds, and defiance of court orders by revenue authorities are some of the issues the auditor general flagged. In Sambalpur district, a lessee was allowed to extract stones from two quarries located within forest land without prior permission from the Centre. Between 2015 and 2020, the leaseholder extracted 4.76 lakh cubic metres of stones in clear violation of the Forest Conservation Act and managed to get away with a paltry penalty. Worse still, agencies implementing government infrastructure projects procured minerals from unauthorised sources, leading to a revenue loss of ₹864 crore over seven years. Such blatant violations occurred during the last two tenures of the BJD government.

Theft of minor minerals—which include stone, gravel, clay and sand—is rampant across India. Much of it is enabled by a nexus between organised crime syndicates and state officials, at times with the blessings of their political masters. It is no different in Odisha. A hill in Jajpur district bore the brunt of administrative lapses as the leaseholder extracted granite without the state pollution control board's consent to operate. Between 2002 and 2015, against the stipulation of 14 lakh cubic metres, it mined close to 73 lakh cubic metres—more than five times. An income tax investigation found that an operative has sold stones and stone aggregates worth ₹200 crore from the same site since 2014, helping him acquire benami assets across the country.

Mineral earnings are a crucial source of non-tax revenues. Between 2015 and 2023, Odisha earned ₹1.38 lakh crore as mineral receipts, almost a quarter of the total revenue generated by the state. But the share of minor minerals, though a substantial ₹3,475 crore, has dropped. Revenue leakage aside, illegal mining causes irreversible damage to the environment. The state's BJP government should not sit on the probe reports. It must stop the daylight loot and fix accountability on those responsible for it.

QUICK TAKE

THE HAZARD OF BEING AN IMPOSTER

THERE is a colloquial saying in some Indian languages: stealing is a great art, until you get caught. A person going by the impossibly pompous name of Edward Albert Lancelot Dodd Canterbury Caterham Wickfield surely has never heard of it. Born José Eduardo Franco dos Reis, he went up the judicial ladder in Brazil the legal way. Somewhere in the middle, he changed his life story for no apparent reason, acquired the multi-barrelled name and posed as an aristocrat. He served as a judge in São Paulo for 23 years and was only recently caught for falsifying pension records. Maybe he should have minded another saying: don't play bluff with the hand that feeds.

Game theory gone rogue? The Great Tariff War was born of a bad marriage between jingoistic alarmism and high finance. Even Trump backers aren't ruling out an economic nuclear winter

HOW AN ECONOMIC COVID WAS MADE IN AN AMERICAN FACTORY



SANTWANA BHATTACHARYA, Editor



MANDAR PARDIKAR

CAN there be a feminist reading of Donald J Trump's tariff war against the whole universe? Yes indeed, and since nothing else has helped to clear the world's brain fog, here goes. Those who saw him up close describe Trump as a kind of blundering Hugh Hefner of politics. A raucous, all-American Alpha male dream playing in the highest office, with a blonde secretary always in tow, if not the "hundred women" of campaign lore. Outside of his own power trip, he's also a petulant, 78-year-old 'WhatsApp uncle' with woolly ideas about the world. Put the two together, and you can actually derive the phenomenon we have today. A comic-book despot who thinks the world is just another blonde.

Now for other readings. In November 2016, the German magazine *Der Spiegel* had greeted Trump's first appearance on the world stage with a very striking cover. It had the US president's face as a screaming meteor hurtling towards a peaceful Earth, his own blond mane blazing behind him like solar flares. *'Das Ende Der Welt (wie wir sie kennen)'*, said the words on the cover. The End of the World (As We Know It). It took nine years for that promise to be truly fulfilled. When the meteor hit, even the penguins of McDonald Islands were startled out of their peaceful Antarctic reverie. Yes, no humans live there, and that cluster of volcanic icicles have been slapped with a 10 percent tariff! Internet memes were soon showing a delegation of its black-coated avian elite waddling away to White House to plead mercy, while blue-collared penguin citizenry marched in protest.

The most charitable explanation is that the tariff rate chart Trump held up on a windy 'Liberation Day' was the handiwork of ChatGPT. This is very likely not a joke. That 'almost real' zombie effect, with degrees of separation from reality, perfectly fits AI. Not to mention how closely it matched Trump's scattershot approach to problems. Madagascar, the closest human habitation to Heard and McDonald Islands, has earned a crippling 47 percent tariff. Its crime is that it exports raw vanilla beans to the US and is too poor to import anything American, so it is adjudged to be sitting on a tyrannical trade surplus, thus making itself deserving of punishment.

Simply put, everyone got burnt. We don't know how many gem workers, slaving away at their workshops in Surat, will have to get on a train back to their native Odisha. For the shrimp farmers of coastal Andhra, what befell them could be worse than a cyclone. Sharing the grief of penguins and humans is Trump's billionaire friend Bill Ackman. Among those slick hedge fund bosses who are now ruing their enthusiastic backing of his presidency, Ackman sees an "economic nuclear winter" on the horizon. Even Elon Musk, nearly half of whose Tesla car batteries and other components come from China, snarled on X: "A PhD in Econ from Harvard is a bad thing, not a good thing." His target? Trump advisor and tariff hawk Peter Navarro. "He ain't build s**t." That's how palace conflict goes when translated into 'American'.

The more serious analysts soon got to the nub of it. No one really thinks of Trump as the Keynes of the 21st century, but he has a team of bona fide gurus behind him. Well, sort of. His treasury secretary Scott Bessent read political science at Yale, but went back there to teach economic history. That subject seems to loom large over this present scenario of devastation. Those knowledgeable about the discipline, from Paul Krugman to our own Montek Singh Ahluwalia, were quick to spot the echo of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930, a quick-fix for the Great Depression that greatly worsened it and ultimately became a factor for World War II.

Trump is himself said to be rather fond of 19th century American protectionism that helped develop its manufacturing potential. Old Oprah footage from the 1980s has him raging about the same theme that he's agitated over today. Which is, cruel foreign nations robbing America of its manufacturing testosterone. Then he had a different Oriental enemy in mind. It was Japan, then flooding the world with its cars and electronics. Today, of course, it is China. What if America literally wrote Japan's constitution after the war, and built it up as a politically defanged factory yard? Or that Nixon's meeting with Mao set up our present world of global value chains that China dominates? So, the problem with the plan is that it worked too well?

If one fact stands out in stark relief today, it is how inextricably economics is tied to politics and how that's in turn conducted like an extreme case study in game theory class. Those who point to the 'method in the madness' are all going back to a paper written by another Trump man, Stephen Miran. He was part of the team during the first term, and wrote this while peddling his skills at Hudson Bay Capital in the interim. Yes, another fund manager and bright spark from Harvard. Titled '*A User's Guide to Restructuring the Global Trading System*', the document is clearly the blueprint for the Great Tariff War and contains the endgame that Bessent has spoken of. Shorn of its gobbledygook, it's a strange mishmash of jingoistic alarmism and high financial analysis.

America's root problem, the paper says, is the dollar's status as the world's reserve currency. That means even when "Polynesia and Melanesia" trade with each other, Miran writes, they do it through the dollar. Every country wants some in its forex reserves, so the demand stays high and inelastic, and the currency itself stays at a high valuation. This has a disabling effect on American exports, since they remain costly. Therefore, over a period of time, this handicap emasculated American manufacturing and left it with the Rust Belt. So a return to the Golden Age is possible only by demolishing the status quo. But that's not all. Chinese factories also pose a military threat! They can be easily turned over to defence production if war strikes. The absence of factories, in Miran's worldview, leaves the US militarily weaker. Yes, that's what all that Harvard sophistication amounted to.

Miran, if one reads between the lines, seems smart enough to know in his heart that the answer is to 'de-dollarise'. But that's the most hateful word in Trump's English dictionary, so he plays along. And lays out a plan that feeds his boss's love for the most beautiful word. 'Tariff', by the way, was imported via Italy and is originally a product of the Arabic language factory.

How about a retrospective 34 percent tariff on all cultural imports into America?

COURTS BEGIN TO CHECK ED'S SUMMONS POWER



ATUL N MENON, Advocate, Supreme Court of India

THREE months into the new year, the courts continue to reinterpret and shape the laws on money laundering. Today, it is one of the most feared crimes in India. Why? Because if you are accused of money laundering and end up being a guest of the state for it, you are unlikely to get any leniency from the judiciary when it comes to securing bail. This is despite the fact that the conviction rate for this offence remains below 5 percent. This is apart from the seizure of one's assets including electronic items and freezing of bank accounts that the ED is empowered to do upon a mere suspicion that they contain evidence of 'proceeds of crime'. Even before the crime of money laundering is proven.

Make no mistake, money laundering is indeed a serious offence. It can disrupt a country's economy by robbing it of legitimate revenues and deserves to be treated with a stringent hand. But one concern about the tough law for fighting this crime is the unbridled powers it gives to the machinery that enforces it and the ease with which it can be misused. The trepidation begins the moment one is summoned by the ED. There is no way of knowing what you are being summoned for–whether it is for the commission of an offence or giving evidence as a witness.

The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) allows the director, additional director, joint director, deputy director and assistant director of the ED to summon any person—if they deem it necessary to give evidence or produce documents during the course of the investigation (which is "inquiry" as per the Supreme Court when the provision was challenged before it). Those summoned cannot fail to appear, have to be truthful when giving statements, and must produce all documents sought. Hecannot refuse to answer any question, and cannot refuse to sign any statement which he or she has given. Each of these would have their own set of penal consequences.

The bonus the ED gets, which the police in a normal criminal case do not, is that the statements of those summoned as witnesses can be used as evidence in the court. This means the protection granted by the Constitution that no person's statement can be used against him does not apply here unless the person summoned is a formal accused/is already arrested.

Furthermore, even though one may be summoned for providing evidence, the moment the evidence or statements provided bring to light the commission of some kind of offence, an arrest then and there cannot be ruled out. A notice of summons is often seen as a prequel to an arrest. For an arrest under PMLA, there has to be a scheduled offence. But for summoning a person for inquiry of an offence under the PMLA, a person need not be accused of committing any scheduled offence.



PTI

> Unlike the police in normal criminal cases, the Enforcement Directorate can use statements of those summoned as witnesses as evidence in trial. The courts usually do not entertain challenges to ED's summons. But in recent times, a few high courts like Karnataka's have checked that power

Courts in India often do not entertain challenges to summons issued by the ED. They would only interfere in exceptional circumstances, as seen in the cases mentioned above, where the courts feel that personal liberty is being violated. An apprehension of being coerced into giving statements, or being arrested cannot be grounds for challenging the summons by invoking the writ jurisdiction of the high courts. Last year, the Delhi High Court, in the case of Talib Hassan Darvesh, rejected the challenge to summons on the ground that it was vague (that is, without specifying whether the accused was being summoned as an accused or witness).

Of late, however, the courts have started giving some kind of clarity on some vital concerns that arose out of the power to issue summons by the ED. For example, the Allahabad High Court, in a recent ruling, held that at least some sort of reference or detail of the predicate offence or case must be indicated so that the person concerned could appear before the authority with complete details. This is despite the fact that the statutorily prescribed format of the summons does not provide any such details.

Similarly, the Karnataka High Court, in two recent cases, has made it clear that where no prima facie case has been established showing that an offence has been committed under the PMLA, and no incriminating material has been elicited at the time of search and seizure, the issuance of summons to the petitioner lacks legal authority. In the case of Parvathi Siddaramaiah, wife of Chief Minister Siddaramiah, the state high court held that since the MUDA land parcels which were allotted to her and which formed the alleged proceeds of crime in terms of the petitioner had been returned, the ingredients essential for the offence of money laundering had not been made out, and therefore, she could not have been summoned.

Even earlier, in 2023, the Karnataka High Court had not only held that summoning of a person repeatedly without probable cause or reasonable ground and only on the ground of suspicion alone is not in accordance with the principles of due causes and fairness, but also that such witness cannot be expected to make incriminating statements.

These judgments, although subject to reversal by higher courts, show that the ED's powers to summon witnesses is not as unbridled as has been perceived—and the courts can restrict them where the need arises.

(Views are personal)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Yunus's message

Ref: *Yunus chokes the chicken's neck in Beijing* (Apr 8). Yunus has clearly expressed his intentions to strengthen ties with China and Pakistan, and wage a political and economic war to undermine India, which has given refuge to Sheikh Hasina. We should consider halting economic assistance and cooperation with Bangladesh.
Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati

Hang boots

Ref: *Dhoni must reassess his form and future* (Apr 8). I am reminded of the wise words of cricket legend Sunil Gavaskar: "One should hang their boots during their heyday, leaving fans asking 'Why?' rather than 'Why not?' when the sportsman continues to play in poor form." These words are especially relevant for M S Dhoni now.
S Vaithianathan, Madurai

Tariff opportunity

Ref: *Trump's tariffs push countries to make strange bedfellows* (Apr 8). In line with Shakespeare's famous quote, "Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows." With lower tariffs, it makes sense for Chinese companies to make in India and export to the US. This not only boosts our growth but also positions India as Asia's most attractive manufacturing hub.
Rajarao Kumar, Bengaluru

Education's future

Ref: *Focus on student outcomes while debating NEP 2020* (Apr 8). The NEP is designed to inculcate 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration. Opposition to the NEP is not based on sound logic, but politics.
G Nataraja Perumal, Tenkasi

Market crash

Ref: *Panic Monday* (Apr 8). Recouping the short-term losses suffered by investors will be challenging while the future remains uncertain. While India navigated the Covid crisis relatively well, this time it faces a tougher challenge, with world leaders engaged in trade wars, complicating the global economic landscape.
Govardhana Myneedu, Vijayawada

CSK's season

Ref: *Chennai's musical chair at the top hurting franchise* (Apr 8). Chennai must address several issues in this year's IPL. The team lacks the intent to win, with an unaggressive opening pair and the lowest scoring rate. The bowling lacks sharpness. Many senior players are included based on past glory, but they are unlikely to benefit the team.
Mohan P N, Thiruvananthapuram

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POSTS OF THE DAY



Yogi Adityanath @myogiadityanath

PM MUDRA Yojana has become a catalyst for financial freedom – empowering entrepreneurs and nurturing self-reliance & growth for an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.



Kiren Rijiju @KirenRijiju

Honoured to be a part of Simang Kumhei, the Annual Fest of North East Students' Counselling & Welfare Cell at Zakir Husain Delhi College, New Delhi.



Shivraj Singh Chouhan @ChouhanShivraj

The news of the demise of the most respected Dadi Ratanmohini, the chief Rajyogini of Brahmakumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya, is extremely sad.

● CLARIFIES POWERS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNORS ● BILLS HAVE BEEN PENDING FOR LAST THREE YEARS: KK VENUGOPAL

Guvs should act in time-bound manner on bills, says top court

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

IN a landmark ruling delivered on Wednesday, the Supreme Court clarified the powers and responsibilities of Governors in India regarding the bills presented to them by State legislatures under Article 200 of the Constitution.

The Bench, comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan, highlighted the importance of Governors not undermining the democratic will of the people and introduced measures to prevent undue delays in the decision-making process. The judgment set out specific timelines for Governors to act on bills sent to them.

No Veto Power for Governors

The Supreme Court stressed that the Governor has no veto power, meaning they cannot simply refuse to act on a bill indefinitely. The Governor is not permitted to exercise a "pocket veto", where they delay or withhold assent without valid constitutional reasons.

The Supreme Court then ruled that the Governor cannot reserve a bill for the President after the legislature has already reconsidered it. Once a bill is re-presented to the Governor after being sent back to the legislature, the Governor must either assent to it or take one of the other two available actions under Article 200. If the bill is identical to the one initially presented, the Governor cannot send it for Presidential consideration again.

Timelines for Governors

Although Article 200 does not specify a strict timeline for the Governor's actions, the Court observed that allowing indefinite delays in deciding on bills would be unreasonable.

The phrase "as soon as possible" in the Constitution infuses a sense of urgency, and the Governor must act within a reasonable time.

To establish a judicial standard and prevent arbitrary delays, the Court introduced specific timelines for Governors to follow: If the Governor withholds assent or reserves a bill for the President, based on the advice of the State Council of Ministers, they must act within a maximum of one month.

If the Governor withholds assent contrary to the advice of the State Council of Ministers, they must return the bill, along with a message, within three months.

If the Governor reserves a bill for the President against the advice of the State Council, they must do so within three months. If a bill is re-presented to the Governor after reconsideration, they must grant assent within a maximum of one month.



ALSO IN TOP COURT

Petitions on Central aid for rare diseases

The Supreme Court decided to examine pleas challenging the Rs 50 lakh cap on Centre's assistance for treating patients suffering from rare diseases like spinal muscular atrophy. The bench said the petitions on the cap of ₹50 lakh central aid to treat diseases would be heard by a bench headed by Justice P S Narasimha in the week commencing May 13.

Plea for probe into Sukma case deferred

The SC said it would hear in July a plea for an independent probe into the August 2018 incident in which 15 alleged Maoists were gunned down in an encounter in Sukma district. "Now, the peace process is going on there. Today, there is a news that 26 people have surrendered," the bench said.



TN VERDICT CAN COVER US TOO: KERALA

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

AFTER the Supreme Court on Tuesday declared "illegal and arbitrary" the Tamil Nadu Governor's action of sitting on 10 bills re-sent to him by the state Assembly, the Kerala government requested the CJI-led bench to list its similar writ petition, pending before it, before the bench headed by Justice J B Pardiwala.

When the matter came up for hearing before a two-judge bench led by the CJI and also comprising Justice Sanjay Kumar, former AG and senior lawyer K K Venugopal, appearing for Kerala, pleaded for listing this matter because "for the last three years bills have been pending."

CJI Sanjiv Khanna deferred the hearing to another date, indicating his retirement date in mid-May. The bench said it has listed it tentatively for May 13. It did not specify which bench would hear the plea despite repeated requests made by Venugopal to list it before the Justice Pardiwala bench. Venugopal argued that seven bills are pending with the state Governor. He highlighted that judgment in the Tamil Nadu case adequately addressed the state's problem with its Governor.

The Kerala government moved the apex court last year, claiming the Governor's inaction regarding several bills passed by the state legislature. In its petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution, Kerala challenged President Droupadi Murmu's reconsideration and action in withholding assent for four of the seven bills referred by the Kerala Governor.

The Kerala govt also challenged the Governor's action of referring the bills to the President, arguing that none of the bills related to Centre-State relations and did not require Presidential assent.

The Supreme Court had notified the Centre and Additional Chief Secretary to the Kerala Governor and asked them to file a detailed reply.

Venugopal had pleaded with the apex court that the Court should lay down guidelines on when Governors can return/refer bills. "This is confusion in the minds of various governors in the country regarding their powers related to assenting bills. In the present (Kerala) case, out of eight bills, two of them had been kept pending for 23 months," the senior lawyer said.

SC: Courts not supposed to do moral policing

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY
@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday set aside a Punjab and Haryana High Court decision imposing a fine of ₹10 lakh each on political analyst Tehseen Poonawalla and musician Vishal Dadlani for allegedly insulting and mocking Jain saint Tarun Sagar on Twitter in 2016 after noting that "courts are not supposed to do moral policing".

"What kind of order is passed by the court (Punjab and Haryana HC)? The court is not supposed to do moral policing. This is not a function of the court at all," said a two-judge bench of the apex court, led by Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, on Tuesday. Poonawalla told TNIE that he was happy with the order.

The Punjab and Haryana HC, in its 2019 order, quashed the criminal case filed against them but imposed costs on Dadlani and Poonawala for allegedly insulting and mocking the Jain saint.

SC sets aside HC order on CBI probe into WB teachers' job case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday set aside the Calcutta High Court ordering a CBI probe into the West Bengal cabinet's decision to create supernumerary posts in state-run and aided schools. A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar, however, made it clear the probe into other aspects related to the appointment of 25,753 teachers and staffers in West Bengal's state-run and aided schools would continue.

A supernumerary post refers to a temporary position created to accommodate an employee who is entitled to a regular post that is currently unavailable. "Having regard to aforesaid discussion we are of the view that the Calcutta High Court was not justified in referring the issue of creation of supernumerary posts to CBI. Pursuant to the cabinet decision, we take note of Articles 74(2) and 163(3) of the Constitution which specifically state that the question whether any, and if so what, advice was taken by the cabinet of ministers to aid and advise the governor shall not be inquired into in any court. The aforesaid direction is set aside," the bench said.

We clarify that our observations are limited to the extent of direction to investigate the creation of supernumerary posts and not in any way reflect upon the chargesheets filed by CBI — Sanjiv Khanna, CJI

On the issue of CBI probe into other aspects to the recruitment scam, the CJI said, 'We clarify that our observations in this order are limited to the extent of direction to investigate the creation of supernumerary posts and not in any way reflect upon the investigation and chargesheets filed by CBI in other aspects." The apex court on April 3 invalidated the appointment of 25,753 teachers and staffers and called the entire selection process "vitiated and tainted".

While delivering the verdict, the bench had made it clear it would independently deal with the plea raised by the West Bengal government 'with regard to the direction of investigation by the CBI on the decision taken to create supernumerary posts'.

Kharge raps BJP 'takeover' of institutions

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

CONGRESS president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday criticised the BJP for the RSS's "ideological takeover" of institutions associated with Mahatma Gandhi, such as the Sarva Seva Sangh in Varanasi and Gujarat Vidyapeeth. Kharge called this an erosion of Gandhian values.

"Those with such divisive ideologies might even steal Gandhi's glasses and walking stick," Kharge quipped, underscoring Congress's resolve to safeguard the Constitution and the legacies behind it.

Kharge was addressing a gathering after opening the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting at the Sardar Patel Memorial in Ahmedabad. After a 64-year hiatus, the Congress returned to Gujarat on Tuesday, launching its 84th Plenary Session in Ahmedabad—a symbolic homecoming laden with political messaging.



The two-day conclave (April 8–9) marks the party's first major session in the state since the 1961 Bhavnagar convention, the first held in Gujarat post-Independence.

Congress heavyweights Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi landed in Ahmedabad around 10:30 am, delayed briefly due to a bomb scare on an Air India flight to London.

While delivering his speech Kharge emphasized that Gandhi armed the nation with the indomitable tools of truth and non-violence, tools no regime could suppress. But in contrast, he lamented today's political climate, where communal discord is fanned, and oligarchs tighten their grip on national resources.

Drawing a line from history, he reminded the gathering of the Champaran and Bardoli Satyagrahas—epic struggles that defined Gandhi and Patel's leadership and shaped India's freedom movement.

The session also laid groundwork for a nationwide campaign marking Sardar Patel's 150th birth anniversary on October 31—an occasion, Kharge noted, that Nehru once hailed as a celebration of "India's unity." Patel's imprint on the Constitution, especially his leadership of the Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights and Minorities, was highlighted as a cornerstone of Congress's democratic legacy.

Yet, Kharge warned of a "calculated campaign to distort history"—where the RSS, once banned by Patel himself, now seeks to appropriate his legacy. "There's an attempt to pit Patel against Nehru," Kharge said, countering with evidence of their camaraderie, including Patel's 1937 pledge of support to Nehru and their daily correspondence through India's formative years.

Patel, protest and politics: Cong fires warning shot from BJP's backyard

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

AFTER a 64-year hiatus, the Congress held its landmark session in Gujarat on Tuesday with the Congress Working Committee (CWC) convening at Ahmedabad's Sardar Smarak from 11:50 am to 3:50 pm. The four-hour meeting, attended by 158 members, placed Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at its core, both symbolically and politically.

A resolution honoring Patel's legacy was unanimously passed, underscoring his pivotal role in the party and the nation's history. In a gesture steeped in symbolism, each CWC member was presented with "Patel: A Life", reaffirming the Congress's claim to his ideological lineage.

Capping off the day, senior leaders assembled for a group photo outside the memorial—visually anchoring the party's renewed embrace of Patel's legacy at a time when it's being hotly contested.

"Today, a special resolution regarding Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was discussed and passed," said Congress general secretary in-charge of communication Jairam Ramesh while addressing a press conference after the day's meeting. "Two more resolutions will be taken up—one on national issues and the political situation in Gujarat, which will be discussed tomorrow at the AICC," he added.

He stated, "Tomorrow's resolution will outline the Congress's agenda on social justice, political justice, and economic justice. It will be discussed in detail, and members will share their views on it."

Meanwhile, during the meet, several prominent Congress leaders launched a fierce attack on BJP leaders in Gujarat, the party's traditional stronghold.

Linking regional concerns to the national narrative, they turned up the heat on the BJP government at the Centre, questioning its stance on key national and international issues. "Friends, this land is historic," said Sachin Pilot while addressing reporters. "Land of Gandhi, land of Patel. Congress is holding a key convention here. Today, the AICC's Extended Working Committee is meeting. Our resolution—Nyaya Path—is being shaped with views from all members."

"This meet will script a new chapter," Pilot said. "Kharge ji, Sonia ji, Rahul ji, all senior leaders are here. Gujarat has always been Congress soil," Pilot added.

Protest against Waqf Act driven by 'appeasement politics', says Modi

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday came down heavily on the Opposition, including the Congress, for their protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which came into effect on April 8, 2025. The PM stated that the opposition to the Waqf Act was driven by "politics of appeasement" and emphasised that the new law is intended to ensure social justice for women and poor Muslims.

Speaking at the 'RisingBharat' summit, organised by a media house, just hours after his government formally notified the Waqf Amendment Bill as law, PM Modi asserted that the Waqf Amendment Act had been passed for "societal justice" in 2025, in contrast to the 2013 Act passed by the UPA government, which he accused of appeasing radicals and assisting the land mafia.

Taking aim at the previous government, he said that the Waqf Act had turned into an "instrument of fear" under the UPA's watch.

'Instrument of fear'

Taking aim at the previous government, Modi said that the Waqf Act had turned into an "instrument of fear" under the UPA's watch. Addressing the ongoing protests against the Bill, he claimed that appeasement politics is fundamentally at odds with the concept of social justice.

Addressing the ongoing protests against the Bill, which had recently passed both Houses of Parliament, he claimed that appeasement politics is fundamentally at odds with the concept of social justice.

He sought to reassure the Muslim women and the poor that the new law would protect their rights and is specifically designed for the welfare of ordinary Muslims. Modi highlighted the alleged misuse of the previous Waqf Act, mentioning how the land of temples, churches, and gurudwaras had been wrongfully claimed as Waqf properties.

Extensive consultations had taken place to draft the new legislation. "The debate on the Waqf Bill stood as the second longest in our parliamentary history. Discussions on the bill spanned more than 16 hours across both Houses of Parliament, accompanied by 38 meetings of the JPC, totalling 128 hours of deliberations," he said. He also mentioned that nearly 1 crore online suggestions were received from citizens. "This underscores that democracy enriched and strengthened through active public participation."

Attacking the Congress, PM alleged the party had obtained power by resorting to the politics of appeasement, during which some radical leaders gained wealth, but the common Muslim continued to suffer.

India, UAE agree to scale up defence relations

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

INDIA and the UAE on Tuesday agreed to further boost their defence ties by deepening the Coast Guard-to-Coast Guard cooperation, scaling up defence industry collaboration and through training exchanges.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) shared that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a meeting with the Crown Prince of Dubai, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum — who is also the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence of UAE — at the South Block in New Delhi.

The leaders expressed satisfaction with the current defence cooperation through institutional mechanisms, military exercises, exchange of training programmes, etc, but noted that there is a need to step it up. "Both ministers acknowledged that defence cooperation needs to be scaled up to match the progress made in other areas, such as trade and business, in line with the vision and determination of the two leaders — Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of UAE Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan."



PM Narendra Modi with Crown Prince of Dubai and Deputy PM and Minister of Defence of UAE Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum | PTI

Training exchanges a key area of cooperation

Training exchanges were identified as one of the key areas of defence cooperation that would "enable understanding of each other's defence ecosystems and accelerate strengthening of bilateral defence ties."

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Through a post on X after the meeting, the Defence Minister stated that the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with the UAE is of immense priority for India. "In the coming years, we are eager to work closely in areas such as defence cooperation, co-production and co-development projects, innovation and technology. Both India and the UAE are committed to working towards peace and prosperity in the region," Singh said.

The UAE has emerged as India's key partner and a trusted ally in the Gulf Region. An MoU for defence cooperation was signed with the UAE in 2003, and another one on defence industry cooperation in 2017. India and the UAE have strong bonds of friendship based on centuries-old cultural and economic ties, the MoD emphasised.

Sheikh Hamdan, who is on a two-day visit to India, also met with PM Modi. The two reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties. Modi observed, "Dubai has played a key role in advancing the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. This special visit reaffirms our deep-rooted friendship and paves the way for even stronger collaboration."

CROP LOSS

As unseasonal rains left crops and houses in parts of Palghar and Thane districts affected, local Lok Sabha MPs have demanded government's intervention and sought compensation for local farmers and residents.

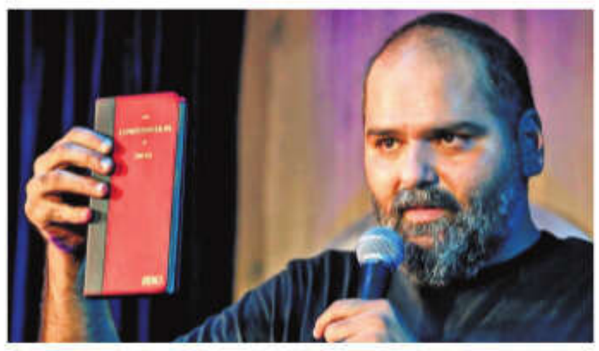
1 MAN HANGS SELF TO DEATH IN HIMACHAL'S KANGRA

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	26	Mumbai	35	28
Bhopal	38	24	Panaji	35	28
Jaipur	40	27	Patna	35	26
Amritsar	36	22	Lucknow	38	25
Chennai	32	28	Port Blair	29	27
Kolkata	33	27	Imphal	29	17
Srinagar	18	10	Chandigarh	37	22

Maha reply on Kamra's plea against FIR sought

A division bench issued notices to state and complainants

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai



THE Bombay High Court on Tuesday sought the Maharashtra government's response to the plea filed by stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra seeking quashing of the first information report (FIR) registered by the Mumbai Police against him for his mocking lyric and traitor remark against Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

A bench of Justices Sarang Kotwal and SM Modak issued formal notice to the State government and the complainants. However, the Special Public Prosecutor appearing for the State sought time to file a response.

The next hearing date is April 16. Stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra had approached the Bombay High Court to quash the FIR against him filed by Shiv Sena workers over Kamra's allegedly offensive remarks against Shinde.

Senior Advocate Navroz Seervai, appearing for Kamra, said the order passed by the Madras High Court on Monday extending the anticipatory bail has not yet been published on the court website. Hence, he requested the Bombay High Court to hear the quashing plea on Tuesday urgently.

He added, "The interim protection order has not been uploaded on the court website. We mentioned it, and your lords were kind enough to keep it today. A judge there noted defects in service. Then he asked registry people whether the service was effective, and they said no. Because the notice was not effective, the learned judge just said. Interim protection extended. In this situation, I will humbly request a stay on the FIR," he argued.

He argued that if the Court gave the State time for their response, then Kunal Kamra's personal presence must not be insisted upon by the police since there is a threat to his safety in Maharashtra.

"Kamra is prepared to respond to police via video conference," Navroz Seervai said, adding, "My client has not once, not twice, but thrice offered to state via video conference in the light of actual death threats which has been recognised by the judge in Madras. Authorities are not very keen on recording his statement. They want him here (in Mumbai). You lords can say that his physical presence may not be insisted," Seervai said.

'Bail order not posted on website'

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Buying private vehicles to cost more in UP

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

BUYING a private, non-electric vehicle is set to get expensive in Uttar Pradesh. The Yogi cabinet approved a proposal to increase the existing tax on vehicles above 40,000 by 1% on Tuesday in light of a loss of "thousands of crores" due to a subsidy being provided on electric vehicles.

Transport minister Daya Shankar Singh said that the tax hike would apply to only private vehicles—both two- and four-wheelers—that cost more than 40,000. There has been no change in transport tax slabs since 2009.

"Non-air conditioned vehicles of less than ₹10 lakh will see the one-time transport tax go up from 7% to 8%. Similarly, the tax on air-conditioned vehicles which cost less than ₹10 lakh will go up from 8% to 9%. For vehicles which cost more than ₹10 lakh, the tax has been increased from 10% to 11%. For vehicles which are less than ₹40,000, the existing tax slab of 7% will remain," said the minister.

"The subsidy on EVs is resulting in a burden of thousands of crores on state exchequer. It has been decided to increase existing tax slabs by 1% to balance it out. This will result in additional earnings of ₹450 crore for the government," he said.

Shah reviews security, says time to implement 'zero' terror plan in J&K

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar



HOME Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that entire terror eco-system nurtured by elements inimical to India in Jammu and Kashmir has been crippled. He directed the security agencies to implement Area Domination Plan and Zero Terror plan in the Union Territory.

Shah was chairing a high-level security review meeting at Rajbhavan. The meeting was attended by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary, Director (IB), Army Chief, GOC-in-C Northern Command, J&K Chief Secretary, J&K DGP and heads of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

However, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, was not invited to the meeting.

The meeting was held in the backdrop of recent encounter in the forest area of Kathua in which four policemen and two militants were killed and five security men including a DySP and a para commando injured.

In the meeting, the home minister said under the leadership of PM Modi, the Government of India is committed to establishing lasting peace in J&K and completely eradicating terrorism and reiterated zero tolerance policy against terrorism. He lauded efforts of security agencies for significant reduction in terror-related incidents, infiltration and recruitment of youth in terror organisations in J&K.

"Due to sustained and coordinated efforts of the Modi Government, entire terror eco-system nurtured by elements inimical to our country in J&K has been crippled," he said.

Stressing on security agencies to continue efforts with a coordinated approach to eliminate terrorism in J&K, HM directed that implementation of "Area Domination Plan" and "Zero Terror Plan" must be ensured in mission mode.

He asked security officials to ensure that all attempts of infiltration of militants are foiled at the border only and militants are not allowed to sneak into the hinterland.

DEHRADUN DIARY

NARENDRA SETHI

Our correspondent in Uttarakhand

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The name game is on in hill state of Uttarakhand

Renaming is the order of the day in Uttarakhand. Two key roads in Haldwani — Nawabi Road and Panachakki to ITI Road — have been rechristened as the Atal Marg and Guru Golwalkar Marg, confirmed an order by the Urban Development Department. This decision follows CM Pushkar Singh Dhami's broader initiative to rename 15 locations across four districts. "The name changes were based on proposals from the Haldwani Mayor and cleared by the Public Works Department," an official stated. Meanwhile, the decision to rebrand Miyawala in Dehradun to Ramjiwala is being reconsidered amid public concerns, Dhami has clarified.



Crisis of buses looms large in Uttarakhand

The Uttarakhand State Transport Corporation (UTC) is staring at a crisis as its tender for 100 new buses has failed to receive a response from the companies, officials privy to the matter have revealed. This setback will further strain the already stretched fleet, especially since Delhi only allows BS-VI compliant buses to operate. The fleet has dwindled from 950 to 835, and a significant 480 more buses are slated to be scrapped by 2025–26. "No company participated in the first tender," stated UTC Managing Director Reena Joshi. While a fresh tender will be issued, the delivery is anticipated only by the end of this year or even early next year.

Most MBBS students here dealing with stress

MBBS students at the Government Doon Medical College are grappling with alarming levels of stress, a new study has found. Research by Dr Supriya Singh, a PG doctor in physiology, revealed that a staggering 87.3% of first-year students across two batches are suffering from stress. "This is a worrying trend," stated Dr Supriya, whose research also highlighted that 38.1% of students are overweight or obese. The study attributes this to factors like "poor diet, lack of exercise, study pressure, sleep deprivation and future anxieties". Interestingly, the research indicated the trend is slightly more pronounced among female students.

Kalpana to accompany Hemant as J'khand seeks FDI from Spain, Sweden

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

TO position Jharkhand as a leading global destination for investors and attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Chief Minister Hemant Soren, along with his wife Kalpana Soren and some department heads, will visit Europe from April 19 to April 27.

On Monday, the state cabinet approved a proposal related to the expenditure. This decision was among 14 proposals approved during the state cabinet meeting held on Tuesday.

The itinerary covers visits to Madrid, Barcelona, and Gothenburg and includes structured one-on-one meetings with prospective investors and business leaders.

According to officials, the high-level delegation headed by CM Soren will reach Madrid on April 19 and have a one-to-one meeting with representatives of major companies on April 21.

The delegation will also visit the National Renewable Energy Center, where research is being done on solar energy, they said. The next day, the team will meet representatives of companies from Madrid's mining and steel sectors. Then, on April 23, the delegation will meet representatives of the Agriculture Ministry in Barcelona.

On April 25, companies working on clean energy will meet in Gothenburg, Sweden. The following day, entrepreneurs will meet one-on-one before the CM returns with the delegation on April 27.



Given Jharkhand's complex land acquisition issues and bureaucratic hurdles, it is unlikely that global investors will be inclined to commit resources here.

C.P. Singh, BJP legislator

While the state government has framed the visit as a strategic initiative to position Jharkhand as a viable investment destination in Europe, the BJP has raised objections, characterizing the tour as a misuse of public funds with limited returns.

BJP MLA and former minister C.P. Singh questioned the utility of such high-profile international engagements, saying the state has persistently failed to translate previous investor outreach into tangible industrial development. "This seems less like an investment drive and more like a taxpayer-funded excursion, he added.

₹314 cr I-T notice to daily wager in MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

A middle-aged raj mistry (master-mason), living in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh, has reportedly received a tax recovery notice worth over ₹314.79 crore from the income tax department. Chandrashekhar Kohad has received a notice from the I-T office in the adjoining Maharashtra for paying dues of more than ₹314.79 crore with respect to assessment years 2014-15 and 2015-16.

The local municipality officials, who were looking for Kohad, were unable to trace him despite sustained efforts for around a week. But they finally traced him on Monday night.

"I don't know how tax dues worth over ₹314.79 crore are pending against me. I have been working as a master mason since the last many years, particularly in neighboring Maharashtra," Kohad said.

"My wife has plunged into depression, while I'm already suffering from kidney and heart problems for which I was hospitalized in January. I don't know how transactions worth crores have been done in my name, when I maximum earn ₹300-500 daily," he added.

He suspects that someone in a private bank in Nagpur might have used his documents to commit fraud, which has landed him in this tax trouble.

Day after Rahul's unity call, Tejashwi says he's CM face

RAMASHNAKAR @ Patna



Leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav addresses a 'Musahar-Bhuiyan' rally, in Patna on Tuesday | PTI

A day after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi called for a united front in the upcoming Bihar assembly elections, RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav declared himself the chief ministerial candidate for the opposition's Mahagathbandhan, or grand alliance, in the state.

Addressing the 'Musahar-Bhuiya Maharally' in the state capital, Tejashwi said that people from economically backward sections would benefits from the 'Mai-Behan Samman Yojna' if the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan was voted to power.

Tejashwi promised to provide land for constructing pucca houses and provide jobs for the poor. "If I become the chief minister, I will ensure that the promises made to you are fulfilled. I may be younger than Nitish Kumar, but I stand by my words," he said in an apparent jab at the CM.

To support his claims, the Opposition leader in the Bihar assembly said that he had created five lakh jobs for youths during his tenure as deputy chief minister in the Mahagathbandhan government led by CM Kumar.

"The doors of appointment have been opened. The government has initiated the process of recruitment in various departments, which was started during the Mahagathbandhan government," he told the crowd gathering applause.

Drawing a parallel between the Nitish government and overage vehicles, Tejashwi said, "Just as the vehicles over 15 years are discarded for new ones, the Nitish Kumar government is 20 years old, and it's time for it to be voted out."

He expressed that the removal of the NDA government would pave the way for the people's uplift. He also slammed the Prime Minister, asserting that Narendra Modi will frequently visit the state due to elections. "The PM and his ministerial colleagues will flock, but will forget the state once the elections are over," he claimed.

Tejashwi alleged that the BJP was attempting to strip the Dalits and Backwards of their rights inscribed in the Constitution and claimed that the saffron party would end reservation guaranteed in the Constitution. He said that the BJP was attempting to change the Constitution to end reservation. On Monday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi underlined the need to fight assembly elections in Bihar unitedly and said that NDW could be defeated only when the Magagathabandhan contested the election unitedly.

"If we fight election separately, removing NDA from power in the state would be difficult. So, we have decided to contest the assembly elections in Bihar in alliance with RJD and Left parties," he said while addressing office-bearers at state party headquarters.

477 cases in 15 months: Worry in the Hills as HIV infection up in Kumaon

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

A sharp rise in HIV cases in Uttarakhand's Kumaon region has sparked concerns about public health. Figures from the Dr Sushila Tiwari Government Hospital (STH) reveal that a staggering 477 new cases of HIV were detected in just a span of 15 months.

The antiretroviral therapy (ART) centre of the facility in Kumaon has recorded around five new cases daily. Dr Vaibhav Kumar, nodal officer and senior physician at the hospital's ART centre, has described the situation as "serious" and stressed the need for raising awareness to arrest the worrying trend.

"Approximately five new patients are coming in every day, and this is a serious situation," Dr Kumar explained, adding, "To effectively combat this, we need to hold significantly more awareness campaigns."



Approximately five new patients are coming in every day, and this is a serious situation. To effectively combat this, we need to hold more awareness campaigns.

Dr Vaibhav Kumar, nodal officer and senior physician at STH's ART centre

"The 477 new patients registered between January 2024 and March 2025 include 370 men, 98 women, eight children, and one transgender individual," a source has revealed. Besides, 38 of the cases are linked to individuals from prison.

Experts attribute this surge primarily to intravenous drug use. "Injection drug users are the primary drivers of this rapid spread, acting as vectors for the virus," an expert explained, adding, "Sharing needles and syringes is leading to a significant increase in the transmission rates."

A total of 4,824 HIV patients were registered at the ART centre between the year 2010 and last month. Of them, an alarming 880 patients died, while 450 others were referred to other centres for treatment and continued care. While 816 of the patients have not consistently received treatment, as many as 2,536 patients are actively undergoing treatment at the centre. Dr Kumar further emphasised the need for consistent treatment.

Man beaten to death in revenge killing after 15 yrs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi



Convicted for beating Rampal to death in 2009

The police said that Mahavat and his brother Babloo were convicted for beating Rampal to death in 2009. Mahavat completed his jail term and settled in Lakhimpur Kheri. On Monday, he visited his village, Bahangaon. Rampal's sons recognised him and decided to seek revenge. An FIR was registered at Beniganj Police Station in connection with Mahavat's killing based on a complaint filed by his wife.

THIS is a sordid saga of murder, re-enacted as revenge 15 years later. It happened in Bahangaon village in Hardoi, in central Uttar Pradesh, where a group of people beat up a 48-year-old person, Mahavat, to death with sticks in full public view on Monday.

Mahavat, the village Sarpanch, was bludgeoned to death by the sons of Rampal. The twist is it was Mahavat who had similarly killed Rampal 15 years ago.

Rampal's sons, in a fit of unrelenting rage all these years, avenged the death of their father, said local sources.

The police arrested 18 persons, including over half a dozen women, on Tuesday in connection with the killing.

The police said that Mahavat and his brother Babloo were convicted for beating Rampal to death in 2009.

Mahavat completed his jail term and settled in Lakhimpur Kheri. He was making both ends meet as a daily wager.

On Monday, he visited his village, Bahangaon, under the Beniganj police station. Rampal's sons recognised him and decided to seek revenge. They killed him.

"We have learnt that Sarpanch Mahavat was convicted in Rampal's murder and was released from jail during the Covid period after serving a jail term of 13 years. We are verifying court records to gather more details about the case," said Station House Officer, Beniganj police station, KB Singh.

As per the police, on getting the information about a group thrashing a man in Bahangaon, they went to the spot and took him to the Community Health Centre at Kothanwan, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

An FIR was registered at Beniganj Police Station in connection with Mahavat's killing based on a complaint filed by his wife, Nirmal Devi. She named 12 persons in her complaint, claiming that 25-30 unidentified persons were also involved in the killing.

Police sources said their preliminary inquiry revealed that Mahavat had settled in Lakhimpur Kheri after finishing the prison term and never thought of visiting his native village in Hardoi till Monday.

That fateful day, no sooner had he arrived in Bahangaon that a villager recognised him and allegedly informed Rampal's family. Realising the danger he was in, Mahavat tried to hide inside a house, but Rampal's sons dragged him out and assaulted him.

Meanwhile, the police informed Mahavat's family, who reached the hospital and took custody of the body after the postmortem. Eighteen accused have been arrested so far.

50 hippos
and other large animals have died from anthrax in Africa's oldest national park

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain HR: Heavy Rain LS: Light Snow TDS: Thundershower LC: Light Cloud SNY: Sunny

Beijing	21	11	SNY	Los Angeles	20	9	LC
Colombo	32	25	LC	Melbourne	23	11	SNY
Dhaka	35	25	SNY	Moscow	10	5	LR
Dubai	33	23	SNY	New York	14	2	SNY
Houston	27	23	LC	Singapore	34	25	LR
Istanbul	17	10	LR	Toronto	5	-1	LC
London	15	7	SNY	Washington	16	6	SNY

US levies 104% tarrif on China in counterpunch

Beijing vows to fight to the end after Trump's earlier threat of a 50% tariff in response to China's retaliation

BEIJING

ADDITIONAL US tariffs on Chinese imports are set to reach 104% on Wednesday, the White House told AFP, as Washington doubles down on planned action after Beijing vowed a "fight to the end" on levies. US President Donald Trump and China are sparring over tariff hikes and other retaliatory moves, as governments elsewhere are brainstorming strategies to cope with the trade war between the global economic giants.

China said it will "fight to the end" and take countermeasures against the United States to safeguard its own interests after President Donald Trump threatened an additional 50% tariff on Chinese imports in retaliation for Beijing's backlash against the 34% tariffs he ordered on his April 2 "Liberation Day."

"The US threat to escalate tariffs on China is a mistake on top of a mistake and once again exposes the blackmailing nature of the US. China will never accept this," the Commerce Ministry said in a statement read on state-run broadcaster CCTV. When asked about the possibility of talks between Washington and Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said "I think what the US has done doesn't reflect a willingness for sincere dialogue. If the US really wants to engage in dialogue, it should adopt an attitude of equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit."

Meanwhile, Chinese state-run companies were told to help support the country's financial markets after they were hit by massive saves of selling on Monday. While world markets calmed somewhat after frenzied selling over two trading sessions that wiped out trillions of dollars worth of wealth, leaders in Asia shifted into damage control mode.

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba spoke with Trump late Monday and then convened a task force Tuesday to mitigate damage from the 24% US tariffs imposed on Washington's biggest ally in Asia.

Economic Revitalization Minister Ryosei Akazawa was appointed lead trade negotiator and senior officials were dispatched to Washington to follow up on the Ishiba's talk with Trump. Ishiba told his ministers to do their utmost to get Trump to reconsider and also to mitigate the impact from the US "reciprocal" tariffs, which he said would be a blow to all industries, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi told reporters.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said his government and other Southeast Asian countries would send officials to Washington to discuss the tariffs and it was working to build a consensus on a unified response among the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as they convened an investment conference in Kuala Lumpur. *AP*



Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, left, talks with Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati during an event called Economic Gathering with the President of the Republic of Indonesia, in Jakarta, Indonesia | AP

EU CHIEF URGES CHINA TO AVOID 'ESCALATION' OVER US TARIFFS

Brussels: EU chief Ursula von der Leyen warned against escalating a trade standoff sparked by sweeping US tariffs during a phone call with Chinese Premier Li Qiang on Tuesday, the European Commission said. Speaking with Li after Beijing vowed to "fight to the end" against fresh tariffs threatened by Trump, von der Leyen stressed the "vital importance of stability" for the world's economy. "The President called for a negotiated resolution to the current situation, emphasising the need to avoid further escalation," said a readout of the call issued by Brussels.

MEGA EXPERIMENT

Scientists employ genetic engineering to resurrect dire wolf

TEXAS

THREE genetically engineered wolves that may resemble extinct dire wolves are trotting, sleeping and howling in an undisclosed secure location in the US, according to the company that aims to bring back lost species.

The wolf pups, which range in age from three to six months old, have long white hair, muscular jaws and already weigh in at around 80 pounds — on track to reach 140 pounds at maturity, researchers at Colossal Biosciences reported Monday.

Dire wolves, which went extinct more than 10,000 years old, are much larger than gray wolves, their closest living relatives today.

Independent scientists said this latest effort doesn't mean dire wolves are coming back to North American grasslands any time soon.

"All you can do now is make something look superficially like something else"— not fully revive extinct species, said Vincent Lynch, a biologist at the University at Buffalo who was not involved in the research.

Colossal scientists learned about specific traits that dire wolves possessed by examining ancient DNA from fossils. The researchers studied a 13,000 year-old dire wolf tooth unearthed in Ohio and a 72,000 year-old skull fragment found in Idaho, both part of natural history museum collections.

Then the scientists took blood cells from a living gray wolf and used CRISPR to genetically modify them in 20 different sites, said Colossal's chief scientist Beth Shapiro. They transferred that genetic material to an egg cell from a domestic dog. When ready, embryos were transferred to surrogates, also domestic dogs, and 62 days later the genetically engineered pups were born.

Colossal has previously announced similar projects to genetically alter cells from living species to create animals resembling extinct woolly mammoths, dodos and others.

Though the pups may physically resemble young dire wolves, "what they will probably never learn is the finishing move of how to kill a giant elk or a big deer," because they won't have opportunities to watch and learn from wild dire wolf parents, said Colossal's chief animal care expert Matt James.


Colossal Biosciences' photo shows genetically engineered wolf with dire wolf traits | AP

Colossal clones red wolves to boost genetic diversity

Colossal cloned four red wolves using blood from wild wolves to enhance genetic diversity in the critically endangered species. While experts call it a less invasive cloning method, it still requires sedating wild wolves. Colossal met with US Interior officials in March, and Secretary Doug Burgum hailed it as a "thrilling new era" in science. However, some scientists warn of limitations in restoring extinct species.

EXPRESS READ

Prince Harry fights UK security downgrade

London: Prince Harry's lawyer told a UK appeal court that reducing his security in Britain was "unjustified." Harry, appealing the government's decision, attended the hearing in London. After leaving royal duties in 2020, he lost publicly funded protection. The High Court ruled against him in February, but he won permission to appeal. The government insists his protection should be "bespoke." The hearing ends Wednesday, with parts held privately due to security concerns.

S Korea fires warning shots at North Koreans

Seoul: South Korea fired warning shots after North Korean soldiers crossed the border on Tuesday, the first such intrusion in nearly a year. About 10 armed North Korean troops briefly entered the eastern section of the Demilitarized Zone before retreating after South Korea issued warnings. No casualties were reported, and North Korea didn't return fire. Similar incidents occurred last year. Tensions remain high as North Korea strengthens border defenses and deepens ties with Russia.

Man held for threatening judge in Le Pen case

Paris: French authorities detained a 76-year-old man for threatening the judge who sentenced far-right leader Marine Le Pen to an election ban. He posted "What this bitch deserves" with a guillotine image on X. Le Pen received a partly suspended jail term, a €100,000 fine, and a five-year election ban for misusing EU funds. The ruling shocked France and sparked threats against judges. Le Pen called it a "witch hunt," while former justice minister Nicole Belloubet condemned attacks on the judiciary.

Trump says US will hold direct talks with Iran

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said Monday the US will hold direct talks with Iran about its nuclear programme, while warning the Iranians they would be in "great danger" if the talks don't succeed in persuading them to abandon their nuclear weapons program. For its part, Tehran confirmed talks would happen but insisted they would be indirect discussions through a mediator. Trump, in comments to reporters after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said the talks will start Saturday. He insisted Tehran can't get nuclear weapons.

"We're dealing with them directly and maybe a deal is going to be made," Trump said. He added that "doing a deal would be preferable to doing the obvious."

Asked if he would commit to military action against Iran should his negotiators be unable to come to terms with Tehran, Trump responded, "Iran is going to be in great danger, and I hate to say it."

"If the talks aren't successful, I think it's going to be a very bad day for Iran," Trump said. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, writing on the social platform X that is banned in Tehran, insisted the talks would be indirect.

"Iran and the United States will meet in Oman on Saturday for indirect high-level talks," he wrote. "It is as much an opportunity as it is a test. The ball is in America's court."

Trump recently sent a letter to Iran's supreme leader, 85-year-old Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, calling for direct negotiations with the United States over its rapidly advancing nuclear program. But Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said late last month that Iran had rejected Trump's entreaty while leaving open the possibility of indirect negotiations with Washington.

But Trump has consistently called on Iran, which is the chief sponsor of Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Houthi militants in Yemen, to abandon its nuclear program or face a reckoning. AP


Donald Trump said the talks will start Saturday | AP

Israeli strikes kill 25 people in Gaza as Supreme Court hears Shin Bet cases

GAZA

ISRAELI strikes on the Gaza Strip overnight and into Tuesday killed at least 25 people, including eight children and five women, according to Palestinian medics. Gaza's Health Ministry says the bodies of 58 people killed by Israeli strikes have been brought to hospitals over the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Israel's Supreme Court is hearing a group of eight cases challenging Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's move to dismiss the head of the internal security agency.

Israel ended a ceasefire with Hamas in March and has cut off all food, fuel and humanitarian aid to Gaza — a tactic that rights groups say is a war crime — while issuing displacement orders that have forced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to flee Israeli bombardments and ground operations.

Iran's foreign minister says he will have indirect talks with US envoy over Tehran's nuclear programme. He said he will meet with US envoy Steve Witkoff in Oman for the first negotiations under the Trump administration seeking to halt Tehran's rapidly advancing nuclear program as tensions remain high in the Middle East.

Speaking to Iranian state television from Algeria, Abbas Araghchi maintained the talks would be indirect, likely with Omani mediators shuttling between the parties. US President Donald Trump, in announcing the negotiations on Monday, described them as direct talks.

There was no immediate acknowledgment from the US.that Witkoff would lead the American delegation. *AP*

WAR WATCH
ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 550



TOLL SO FAR
51,340

ASIA MATTERS



INDONESIA

20,000 HA OF FISHPONDS THIS YEAR

The Indonesian government plans to establish fishponds covering a total area of 20,000 hectares on Java Island by the end of 2025. Coordinating Minister for Food Affairs Zulkifli Hasan said on Tuesday that the fishponds would be used for fish farming to support food sufficiency, particularly as a source of protein. He explained that the development of the ponds would involve revitalizing old, abandoned fishponds along Java's northern coastal region. Hasan said 70,000 hectares of ponds have remained unused for several decades, and can be used now.

MALAYSIA

SUPERMARKET FIRE SPARKS PANIC

Shoppers at Econsave supermarket in Bandar Puncak Alam were thrown into a momentary panic when a fire broke out on the building's roof Tuesday. The fire occurred around 1pm while there were customers inside. An emergency call was received at 1.14pm. Two fire engines from Bestari Jaya and Bukit Jelutong fire stations were sent to the scene.

THAILAND

KOH KUT FACES TOURISM SQUEEZE

Limited accommodation on Koh Kut island is raising concerns about tourism growth. Dechatorn Chan-ob, chief of Tambon Administrative Organization in Koh Kut and owner of Suan Ya Resort, said the island has about 1,100 to 1,200 hotel rooms, limiting capacity to 4,500 tourists per day. During weekends, the island faces a shortage of rooms, particularly for international tourists. Despite owners' efforts to expand room capacity, most are unable to proceed due to land disputes with the navy, which still controls much of the area. Land issues remain unsolved too.

World's 'exceptional' heat streak lengthens into March

PARIS

GLOBAL temperatures hovered at historic highs in March, the EU agency that monitors climate change said on Tuesday, prolonging an unprecedented heat streak that has pushed the bounds of scientific explanation. In Europe, it was the hottest March ever recorded by a significant margin, said the Copernicus Climate Change Service. That drove rainfall extremes across a continent warming faster than any other, as planet-heating fossil fuel emissions keep rising.

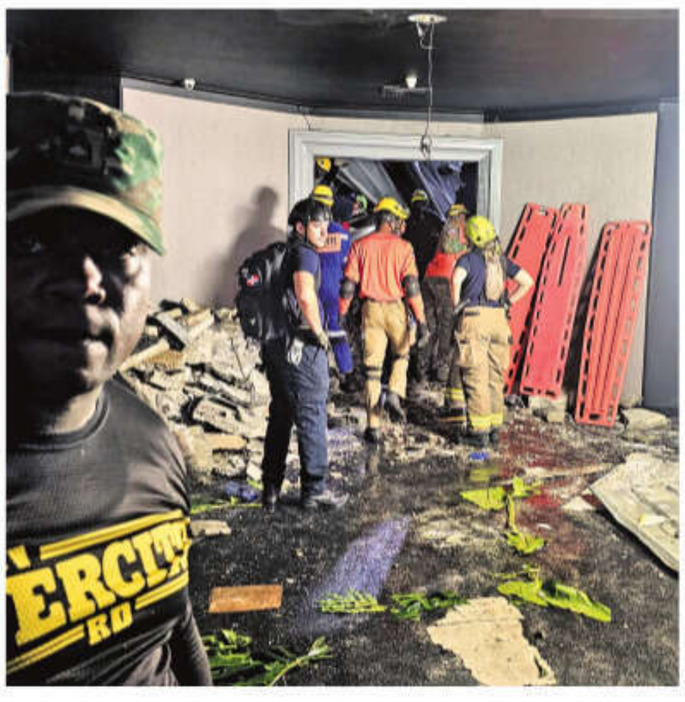
The world meanwhile saw the second-hottest March in the Copernicus dataset, sustaining a near-unbroken spell of record or near-record-breaking temperatures that has persisted since July 2023.

Since then, virtually every month has been at least 1.5 degrees Celsius hotter than it was before the industrial revolution, when humans began burning massive amounts of coal, oil and gas.

March was 1.6C above pre-industrial times, extending an anomaly so unusual that scientists are still trying to fully explain it.

"That we're still at 1.6C above preindustrial is indeed remarkable," said Friederike Otto of the Grantham Institute for Climate Change and the Environment at Imperial College London.

Scientists had predicted the extreme run of global temperatures would subside after a warming El Nino event peaked in early 2024, but they have stubbornly lingered well into 2025. "We are still experiencing extremely high temperatures worldwide...," said Robert Vautard, a leading scientist with the United Nations' climate expert panel IPCC. *AFP*



NIGHT OF HORROR

Rescuers race to find survivors on Tuesday among the rubble of a Dominican Republic night club where at least 27 people died and more than 150 were hurt in an early-morning roof collapse. Local media reported there were between 500 and 1,000 people in the club when the disaster struck | AFP

Zelenskyy says two Chinese captured fighting for Russia

KYIV

THE Ukrainian military has captured two Chinese men fighting with the Russian army in the eastern Donetsk region, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced Tuesday.

Ukraine has information that there are "significantly more" Chinese fighting alongside the Russians in the more than three-year war, Zelenskyy said, adding that he has asked his top diplomat "to immediately contact Beijing and find out how China is going to react to this."

China has provided strong diplomatic support for Russia since it launched its full-scale invasion of its neighbor, which was widely criticized in the West. Beijing has also contributed an economic lifeline through the trade in energy and consumer goods. However, China is not known to have provided Russia with weapons or military expertise, unlike Iran and North Korea, with the latter even providing troops, according to American and South Korean officials. Russia allows foreigners to enlist in its military, as does Ukraine. The pay offered by Moscow makes serving for Russia attractive. Russia has effectively rejected a US proposal for an immediate and full 30-day halt in the fighting, and both sides are believed to be readying a spring-summer campaign on the battlefield. "I cannot see any indications that would lead to a ceasefire or even a peace, but I see many indications (for) the continuation of the war," Nico Lange, a Senior Fellow at the Center for European Policy Analysis in Washington, said in an analysis Monday. *AF*

Pentagon chief fires US NATO representative

WASHINGTON

DEFENSE Secretary Pete Hegseth has fired a top US admiral assigned to NATO, the Pentagon announced Tuesday, saying her removal was due to a loss of confidence in her ability to lead. Vice Admiral Shoshana Chatfield is the latest in a string of senior officers — including multiple women — to be dismissed by Donald Trump's administration, part of a rare major shakeup of top US military leadership that began shortly after the president returned to office in January.

The various firings have led to accusations that Trump and his administration are seeking to politicize the traditionally apolitical US military and ensure it is led by people who are personally loyal to the president. AFP

Market Watch

MARKET				GOLD				SILVER				FOREX			
1089.18	Sensex	74,227.08		₹650	24 carat (10 gm)	₹89,880		1 kg	₹94,000			Dollar	85.90		
374.25	Nifty	22,535.85		₹600	22 carat (10 gm)	₹82,400		10 gm	₹940			Euro	94.29		

IT cos may see muted FY26 guidance

Analysts expect most large IT cos to register revenue fall in Q4FY25 on weak demand due to US tariffs



UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

IT services companies will report their Q4 (January-March) FY25 earnings, starting with Tata Consultancy Services on April 10. Analysts expect a weak exit for FY25 and unexciting guidance for FY26 due to rising global uncertainty. Wipro and Infosys will present their Q4 financial results on April 16 and 17, respectively.

"Budgets will be trimmed, and tech spends will be redirected toward extreme efficiency and resilience," said Motilal Oswal Financial Services in its report. It said the full impact of tariffs will take time to unfold and discretionary spend is likely to be put on hold again. "We expect the next 3-6 months to bring negative news flow—including earnings cuts and potential pullbacks in FY26 guidance," it said in a note.

HDFC Securities expects most of the large IT companies to register revenue decline in Q4FY25 ranging from -1.8% to +0.1% QoQ (-1.6% to +6% in YoY terms) due to a weak demand environment, lower billing days, and lower discretionary spends. Q4 revenue growth expectations for mid-tier ranges from +3.7% QoQ to -4.7% QoQ. Within tier-1 IT, Infosys is expected to lead the fall with 1.8% QoQ decline, followed by 0.5% QoQ decline for TCS, HCLTech, Wipro and Tech Mahindra.

It expects IT sector growth for FY26 to be at 5.3%, which is slightly better compared to FY25 (3.4%).

As far as hiring is concerned, Kamal Karanth, co-founder of Xpheno, a specialist staffing firm, said the tariffs at this point are focussed on the trading, manufacturing and impex corridors. "The spillover of the tariffs' impact into the shipping of jobs and consumption of services cross border is imminent. But the near-term impact at this point is largely a notable knee-jerk drop in active talent demand. This has been evident in the last three to four weeks, with the fiscal end cleanup and reset of talent demand clubbing with a cautionary removal of active demand from certain cohorts," he told TNIE.

According to him, the cyclic reset and knee-jerk market reactions have collectively driven 70,000 to 80,000 active openings out from the active demand funnel in India. "The current active demand in the funnel is in the 220,000 to 240,000 range, as compared to the 310,000+ seen in February this year," he added. The IT Services cohort as a key beneficiary of service imports by the US, has already been on the simmer awaiting stabilisation of technology spend and consumption. Further serviceability of the US market with the visa linked changes and challenges has also had its impact. The tariffs will hence have a lower near-term impact on this cohort, that has already moderated, he further added.

Active openings may go down by 70K-80K

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Lower near-term impact on US IT services imports

The IT Services cohort as a key beneficiary of service imports by the US, has been on the simmer awaiting stabilisation of technology spend and consumption. The tariffs will have a lower near-term impact on this cohort, that has already moderated, Kamal Karanth said.

Benchmarks rise nearly 1.5% after Monday's crash

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

FOLLOWING the heavy fall of Monday, domestic equity markets rebounded on Tuesday, with the benchmark indices – BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty50 – gaining about 1.5% each. The recovery is driven by positive trade discussions between nations, which also lifted Asian stock markets.

The Sensex settled at 74,227.08, up by 1089.18 points or 1.49% and the Nifty50 gained 374.25 points or 1.69% to close at 22,535.85. In the broader markets, the Nifty Midcap 100 and Nifty Small cap 100 indices gained 2.11% and 2.13%, respectively.

Meanwhile, the volatility index, India VIX, cooled off sharply by 10.31% to 20.44, indicating easing market volatility. In the Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 surged 6% on Tuesday, Shanghai Composite Index jumped 1.58%, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 1.51%.

Narinder Wadhwa, MD & CEO of SKI Capital services, said that the recovery is primarily driven by bargain hunting and positive cues from Asian markets amid renewed hopes for U.S. tariff negotiations.

This rebound follows a significant decline on Monday, where the Nifty 50 and Sensex



fell by 3.2% and 3%, respectively, marking their largest single-day drops in ten months.

The fall was attributed to the reciprocal tax imposed by US President Donald Trump last week on goods imported into the world's largest economy. This move stoked fears of an all-out global trade war, which according to analysts, are inherently inflationary and could complicate the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy trajectory. Any escalation in trade disruptions may heighten recessionary risks in the US, leading to a broader slowdown in global economic activity. "Trump announced upcoming tariff negotiations with Japan. However, his threat of additional tariffs on Chinese goods tempered optimism. Asian markets responded positively, with Japan's Nikkei 225 surging by 6.3%," said Wadhwa.

RBI, Sebi take measures to prevent fraud

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

FINANCIAL sector regulators – the RBI and the Sebi are taking various measures to prevent gullible banking customers and market investors from getting duped.

While the RBI over the weekend has launched a 'verified WhatsApp channel for public awareness,' the Sebi on Tuesday launched a new '1600' phone number series to combat fraud in the securities market.

The RBI has been conducting public awareness campaigns across mediums such as text messages, television and digital advertisements under the 'RBI Says' initiative. "Through verified 'Reserve Bank of India' account on WhatsApp, we aim to make financial information accessible to everyone, regardless of location. This initiative will ensure vital information reaches people , strengthening trust and resilience in our digital financial ecosystem," RBI has said on April 4.

FUEL

Crude may hit $40/barrel in extreme case

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

Goldman Sachs lowered its oil price forecasts twice in a week and said that crude prices could potentially drop below $40 per barrel in an extreme scenario. According to a report, this scenario assumes a global economic slowdown and OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) increasing oil production, leading to a supply surplus.

"In a more extreme and less likely scenario with both a global GDP slowdown and a full unwind of OPEC cuts, which would discipline non-OPEC supply, we estimate Brent would fall under $40 a barrel in late 2026," analysts including Yulia Grigsby said in an April 7 note. However, this view doesn't represent the bank's current base-case outlook, which has Brent at $55 next December.

After the Trump administration announced tariffs, global crude oil prices fell to nearly $60 per barrel, down from levels near $75 just last week. President Donald Trump's trade war push, rising fears of a recession in the US, and a lack of global demand have all acted as headwinds for oil recently. However, on Tuesday, Brent crude recovered to $64.92 per barrel, up by 1.11% at 6:57 PM IST. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil also improved to $61.47 per barrel, up by 1.27%.

ASIANOMICS

INDONESIA

MARCH INFLATION STAYS BELOW CENTRAL BANK'S TARGET

The annual inflation in Indonesia was at 1.03% in March, below the central bank's target range for the third consecutive month. Bank Indonesia had set targets inflation within a range of 1.5-3.5%. Inflation has been very low at the start of 2025, with Indonesia recording its first annual deflation reading in over two decades in February, as the government offered hefty discounts on some electricity prices. Even though electricity prices returned to normal in March, there was an ongoing impact for some customers that influenced the March reading, the statistics bureau said. Authorities have said the low inflation figures were not an indication of weak purchasing power but a reflection of the government's policy, citing higher core inflation readings. The annual core inflation rate was 2.48% in March, roughly in line with expectations and the same as February's reading. Indonesia, the world's biggest Muslim-majority country, typically sees demand peak in the lead-up to the Eid al-Fitr festivals, which fell in late March this year.

JAPAN

ECONOMY MINISTER AKAZAWA TO HEAD TRADE TALKS WITH US

The economy minister of Japan, Ryosei Akazawa, has been appointed as trade negotiator with the United States, the government spokesperson said on Tuesday. Bilateral discussions on exchange-rate moves will continue to be managed by Japan's finance minister and the US treasury secretary, chief Cabinet secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi told a news conference. Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba is considering another visit to the US for discussions with President Donald Trump, with progress in ministerial-level talks being a key consideration, Hayashi said. The appointment, made by Ishiba, came after the Japanese prime minister and Trump agreed to initiate bilateral discussions on tariffs in a telephone meeting on Monday. Trump has designated Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer to oversee trade negotiations with Japan, Bessent said on social media.

MALAYSIA

TO SEND OFFICIALS TO US FOR TARIFF TALKS

Malaysia will send officials to Washington to for discussions with the US officials on trade tariffs, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said on Tuesday. This move came after US President Donald Trump imposed a 24% levy on imports from the country. While acknowledging that there could be limited room "to revisit the underlying intent" of the tariffs, Anwar said there was still scope to adjust the policy's implementation. The 10 ASEAN member states, which count on the US as their main export market, were among those hardest hit by Trump's levies. The investment conference Anwar addressed is part of a series of events lined up ahead of a meeting of ASEAN economics and finance ministers and central bank governors in Kuala Lumpur this week to discuss how to respond to the US tariffs. Manufacturing powerhouse and ASEAN member Vietnam was hit with a 46% tariff on its exports to the United States, while neighbouring Cambodia -- a major producer of low-cost clothing for big Western brands -- was slapped with a 49 percent duty.

Mobile phone exports cross ₹2 lakh cr in FY25

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

THE country's mobile phone exports have crossed a significant milestone, surpassing Rs 2 lakh crore in the financial year 2024-25, said minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday.

The minister also announced that iPhone shipments alone contributed ₹1.5 lakh crore to this figure, marking a remarkable 54% growth over the previous fiscal year. "Smartphone exports crossed ₹2 lakh crore in the financial year 2024-25. It is now among the top exported goods out of India. About ₹1.5 lakh crore worth of iPhones were exported," Vaishnaw said.

The minister further pointed out that around 2.5 million people have been employed in electronic manufacturing, a feat that was unimaginable just 10 years ago. While talking about component manufacturing, Vaishnaw said that, as is typical in every country, the production of finished products begins first, followed by assembly, and then the manufacturing of components.



"It is a great matter of pride that after the success of finished goods production and the success of manufacturing models in India, the next step is component manufacturing.

With component manufacturing, all the individual components that we see in finished products, like mobile phones, will now be manufactured in India," said the minister. There is a wide variety of components being manufactured in India in a detailed manner.

Also, the machinery required for electronics manufacturing will now also be produced in India, including the production of these machines, said the minister. The minister also announced that the government is issuing a draft notification for a passive component scheme, which will be open for consultation for about two weeks.

He said after the today's notification, there will be consultations with the industry for a few days. In fact, there has already been extensive consultation during the time the scheme was being designed. "Now, the final implementation phase will involve consultations on how the guidelines will be structured," said the minister.

Banks may see 11% credit growth in '26

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

THE easing in some of the key regulations since new RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra took office in December can help banks, which have been seeing lower credit sales, bolster their loan book expansions to the tune of 10.8% in FY26, as per a report.

The report stated banks' net interest margins will decline by 15-17 bps due to falling interest rates but high deposit pricing. Rating agency Icra, while maintaining a positive outlook for rge banking sector on Tuesday, warned of the rising delinquencies saying "asset quality remains a monitorable factor requiring close observation amid evolving economic conditions." At 10.8% incremental credit is projected at ₹19-20.5 trillion in FY26. Till the fortnight ending March 21, credit grew at 11% to reach ₹182.4 trillion, down 16.3% from a year ago, while deposits grew by 10.3% to ₹225.7 trillion, down from 12.8% a year ago.



It expects the regulatory easing seen in the recent months to support a credit expansion of 10.8 % in FY26. Such measures include the repo rate cut, deferment of proposed changes in the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) framework and additional provisions on infra projects, along with the roll-back of increased risk weights on lending to unsecured consumer credit and non-banks.

Rupee falls 50 paise to settle at 86.26

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

RUPEE declined for the third straight session, tumbling 50 paise to settle at 86.26 against the US dollar on Tuesday, according to the interbank foreign exchange rates.

This was the maximum single-day loss in nearly three months amid a looming global trade war stoking fears of economic meltdown.

The local currency had earlier recorded such a steep loss in one session on January 13 this year, when it had depreciated by 66 paise. According to forex traders, some recovery in crude oil prices and continued foreign capital outflows also dented sentiments.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the Indian currency opened at 85.89 and swung between a high of 85.82 and a low of 86.29 against the greenback. The unit ended at 86.26, registering a loss of 50 paise from its previous closing level.

However, as per RBI reference rate, rupee settled at 85.90 against the US dollar.

On Monday, the rupee settled 32 paise lower at 85.76 against the US dollar, after losing 14 paise in the preceding session on Friday.

"The rupee experienced a decline in value against the US dollar, primarily driven by strong demand for dollars from importers and ongoing outflows of foreign funds from Indian equity markets," forex traders said.

'Credit inflow much lower than small biz need'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Mumbai

DESPITE continuing efforts of the government to channelise the formal financing to small businesses, a survey shows though credit availability has improved, the quantum is much lower than what they need.

This segment saw ₹33.6 lakh crore in bank credit under the Mudra scheme over the past one decade. However, more than 40% of such businesses feel the segment need more fund inflow. In an interview to a business daily, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said as much as ₹33.65 lakh crore of credit was extended to 52.37 crore loan accounts under the scheme, launched in April 2015. This he said, "celebrates 10 glorious years of empowering small and micro-entrepreneurs across India."

However, the ground level reality and the high number



seems to be not in synch if a survey by the sectoral lender Sidbi is any indication.

"Though 80% of the 1,200 respondents of the survey have reported credit availability, the adequacy of the credit being given continues to be a concern, with 40% of manufacturing and 41% of services companies stating that the finance availability doesn't meet their needs," the Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) said on Tuesday in its MSME outlook survey for March quarter.

Majority of the survey participants are optimistic about improved credit access in the year ahead, with only nearly 20% continuing to express concerns. The cost of finance remains a pressing issue, with 40% of MSMEs across sectors reporting higher borrowing costs during the survey.

The survey consists of two indices — the MSME business conditions index and the business expectations index, which help policymakers and stakeholders track the evolving business environment and expectations of the sector.

The survey reflects a broadly optimistic sentiment among participants, underpinned by improved business conditions and forward-looking growth plans.

The business conditions index for Q4 stands at 60.82, up from the previous quarter's 58.30, indicating a sustained healthy business environment across the manufacturing, services, and trading sectors.

Fintech start-ups' funding down 35% to $366 mn in Q1

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

MACROECONOMIC challenges and geopolitical headwinds have resulted in decline of fintech funding in Q1 2025 (January-March). The first quarter of 2025 saw a funding of $366 million, a fall of 35% as against $571 million raised in the same quarter last year.

The fintech sector raised similar funding ($365 mn) in Q4 2024, according to market intelligence platform Tracxn.

The March quarter witnessed a 56% drop in early-stage funding at $92.6 million compared to $210 million in Q1 2024 and a 41% decrease from $157 million raised in Q4 2024.

Seed-stage funding witnessed $45.9 million in funding, a decline of 39% compared to $75.5 million raised during Q1 2024 and a 16% decline compared to $54.6 million raised in the previous quarter.

Neha Singh, co-founder Tracxn, said, "The Indian fintech sector continues to evolve despite market fluctuations. While funding levels have declined, the industry's long-term growth potential remains strong. With increasing regulatory clarity, digital payment expansion, and a rising global footprint, we anticipate exciting opportunities for Fintech start-ups in the coming years." In March alone, fintech start-ups raised $187 million, accounting for 51% of the total funds.

Concussion setbacks end Pucovski's cricket career



Repeated concussions have taken such a toll on Will Pucovski's promising cricket career that he's decided he'll never play the game again. Pucovski was first selected for an Australia squad in 2019 but he only played one Test - scoring a flourishing 62 on debut against India in 2021 - because of a string of concussion setbacks.

PBKS opener's fastest century this season helps team beat Chennai Super Kings by 18 runs

Arya in new Avatar for Punjab

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Chennai

ONLY a few days into Punjab Kings' pre-season camp, there was several interview requests for Priyansh Arya. When it was put to him that several scribes wanted to speak to him, the opener had given a one sentence response. "I will talk after I perform," he had said.

In a performance straight out of a fever dream on Tuesday night, Arya didn't just perform, he played the sort of an innings that will, in time, have its own wikipedia page. Remember Paul Valthaty's mayhem against the same opposition? That Yusuf Pathan ton from the dream factory when he clattered 100 off 37?

This 100 from Arya, off 39 balls, will belong in that same cultish genre, where an otherwise routine game will be remembered because of the knock. Firstly, Arya may not be a household name but he's a well known face among the T20 circuit. In a Delhi Premier League game last year, he hit six sixes in an over. He continued that form into the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20s where he topscored for Delhi (325 runs at a strike-rate of 176.6).

It's why R Ashwin made a special mention of Arya in his YouTube channel before the IPL had begun. "... he's my No. 1 player," he had said. When Punjab got him at the auction for ₹3.8 cr (base price of ₹30 lakh), people did expect him to play a part in 2025 but Josh Inglis and the retained Prabhsimran Singh were seemingly the openers who would start.

Coach Ricky Ponting, never one to shy away from giving youngsters the chance to show what they are made of, took a hammer to that sentiment even before the IPL had begun. "He," the Australia had said in the lead up to the tournament, "is a very special potential opening batter for us." He had kind of repaid that faith in fits and bursts over the first two weeks. Against an already beleaguered Chennai franchise, the 24-year-old married hedonism and talent with some luck along the way.

This version of Punjab is all about batting intent and attacking without worrying about the wickets lost column. Some teams prefer this because the thinking, then, is clear and uncluttered without the fear of consequences. At 3/54 after five overs, Arya may have been inclined to rein it in a touch on other sides. Not for Punjab. In the process, he ended up playing the cricket version of 'call the ambulance but not for me' meme. It was an innings filled with audacious strokeplay, disrespecting two of the greatest spinners this country has known and throwing out conventional wisdom out of the window. The apogee of his innings came soon after Matheesha Pathirana, an expert in bowling at the back end, came in for his first over. The Sri Lankan's radar was off but Arya was ruthless enough to take full advantage of the largesse. Off his second ball, he dispatched a low full toss outside off over point for six. The next, he pulled well in front of square for six. The hattrick was completed when a bumper was swiped over square leg.

If that was dessert, the entree was reserved for R Ashwin either side of the powerplay. The off-spinner, one of the franchise's most expensive acquisitions at the auction, was welcomed with a boundary, a sweep. He closed out Ashwin's first over by pumping a short ball outside off over long off for six to signal a 19-ball 50.

With the pitch offering no turn, Arya was lining up the veteran. Ashwin recovered well to pick up a couple of wickets but the southpaw was unrelenting. Off his last over, a nothing ball on leg stump was promptly thrashed in front of square. He had kind of inversed one of cricket's great truisms. 'If the bowler is going to miss, I'm going to hit' or something on those lines.

The times when Arya missed, the fielders missed. In the end, the fielders grassed multiple offerings. Not a surprise when you consider they have now put down 12 chances in five matches.

After Arya's pyrotechnics, Shashank Singh and Marco Jansen lifted them to 219. Considering the visitors were 0-10 in chases over 180 since 2019, the writing was already on the wall. And so it proved. The match is further confirmation that Chennai need the kind of surgery Punjab had before this year.

The end result? Punjab join four other teams on six points. Chennai, meanwhile, have lost a fourth game on the spin.



Punjab opener Priyansh Arya's innings of 103 off just 42 balls was laced with seven fours and nine sixes | PTI

Fastest 100s in IPL (Top-5)

Player	Balls	Year
C Gayle	30	2013
Y Pathan	37	2010
D Miller	38	2013
T Head	39	2024
P Arya	39	2025

BRIEF SCORES

PBKS 219/6 in 20 ovs (Arya 103, Shashank 52 n.o, Jansen 34 n.o, Khaleel 2/45, Ashwin 2/48) **bt** CSK 201/5 in 20 ovs (Conway 69, Dhoni 27; Ferguson 2/40).

N-Pooran: Nicholas at it again

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@ Chennai

AFTER Nicholas Pooran's 26-ball 70 against Sunrisers Hyderabad earlier this season, the southpaw gave a peak into what has made him into a modern six-hitting freak. The simple, uncomplicated answer was nothing. Just 'timing,' according to him. "I just try my best to get in good positions and if it's there, just time the ball nicely," the West Indian had said. "In the last nine years, I have been working on my craft.

"I have never worked on my bat speed, I'm just blessed with incredible talent. In that same interview, he had mentioned the plan is to never hit sixes.

On Tuesday, he lit up the Eden Gardens just as natural light was beginning to lose its effect. He likes to muscle balls but the one big difference these days is he doesn't lose his balance. The areas he likes to access have remained the same (leg side) but his head remains still and there's greater belief in his skillset.

It's what has enabled him to become one of the finest batters in this format. There was a time when he was a hot and cold batter, especially early on in his career.

These days, you cannot possibly construct a gun T20 squad without having him in your top-order. Since the start of last year, he's not only the leading six-hitter (211) but also the batter with the most fours (210). Sure, he plays a lot of games in this format around the world but his balls faced per boundary is a barely believable 4.37.



Nicholas Pooran hits a six on his way to an unbeaten 36-ball 87 against KKR | PTI

TOP FIVE SIX-HITTERS THIS SEASON

Player	Sixes	Balls/six
Nicholas Pooran	24	5.12
Mitchell Marsh	15	9.8
Shreyas Iyer	13	5.92
Ajinkya Rahane	12	9.58
Aniket Verma	12	6.16

He went much better than that as the hapless Kolkata Knight Riders bowlers repeatedly came under fire. On a surface that became better for batting as the evening wore on, he only came into bat after 10.2 overs thanks to another big opening stand. But he got to work straight away.

After a couple of boundaries through the off-side off Spencer Johnson, he used his long levers to nullify the threat of Varun Chakravarthy. After that, he swept Sunil Narine for six before going downtown.

It was six-hitting in excelsis and the spinners kept travelling. A sequence of 404646 off Andre Russell moved the visitors to a position of comfort. This over, in a nutshell is what the 29-year-old is all about. His lightning quick bat speed and swinging zone both came into play as he accessed different areas of the leg side right from fine leg to over the bowler's head.This incredible assault meant the visitors just about managed to get above par on a good strip with no signs of the ball holding. Kolkata gave it a good go but finished on the wrong side of the result when chasing 239.

Lucknow, though, continue to roll. Their squad construction is flawed — no overseas bowler of any note — but with Pooran in this kind of form, and Mitchell Marsh in his elements, it hasn't mattered. It just feels unsustainable but it will be fun as long as it lasts.

Brief scores: LSG 238/3 in 20 ovs (Markram 47, Marsh 81, Pooran 87; Rana 2/51) **bt** KKR 234/7 in 20 ovs (Narine 30, Rahane 61, Venkatesh 45, Rinku 38; Akash 2/55, Thakur 2/52).

Form teams go head to head

After an iffy start, Rajasthan seek a third win on the bounce. But Gujarat are the other form team in the league as they have won three back-to-back. A look at Wednesday's Indian Premier League encounter...

ARCHER VS GUJARAT'S TOP-ORDER

After a below-par start, Jofra Archer is up to speed in this year's edition. The pacer has virtually been unhittable in the last two games, returning with overall figures of 4/38 in seven overs. The Royals management will once again unleash him in the powerplay in the hope of scalping at least one Gujarat opener. Because Sai Sudharsan, Shubman Gill and No. 3 Jos Buttler have scored the bulk of the runs.

RUTHERFORD'S KICK

Having let go off David Miller, Gujarat gambled on the mercurial Sherfane Rutherford to provide some ballast post the powerplay. It has worked out, at least so far. The West Indian has scored 129 off 73 deliveries, with 11 fours and nine sixes. That's a boundary every 3.6 balls, exactly what they need from.

HASARANGA-THEEKSHANA AXIS

Replacing Yuzvendra Chahal and R Ashwin was going to be a painful ask but the Sri Lankan duo of Maheesh Theekshana and Wanindu Hasaranga has given it a good go so far. Hasaranga's wrist spin has accounted for wickets in all three games he has played and he would love to get tucked into a slightly undercooked Gujarat middle-order.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS VS GUJARAT TITANS @ AHMEDABAD

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS AND JIOHOTSTAR, 7.30 PM

EXPRESS READ

Kaur returns to lead India women's team for ODI tri-series

NEW DELHI: Harmanpreet Kaur returned as India women's team captain for the ODI tri-series in Sri Lanka starting this month after she was rested for the home series against Ireland in January. The series scheduled from April 27 to May 11 also involves South Africa besides hosts Sri Lanka. India will face Sri Lanka in the tournament opener on April 27.

NZ head coach Stead steps down from limited-overs formats

WELLINGTON: Gary Stead confirmed on Tuesday he will no longer coach New Zealand in the T20 and ODI formats and is considering his future in Test cricket. Stead said he expects to take a month to reach a final decision. The 53-year-old Stead has coached New Zealand in all formats since taking over from Mike Hesson in 2018.

India's wushu players impress in Sanda World Cup in China

JIANGYIN (CHINA): Indian wushu player Mukesh Choudhary clinched the 75kg gold while five others moved to the finals of the 10th Sanda World Cup here. The six-member Indian contingent has demonstrated remarkable skill and determination against some of the world's best fighters in the tournament thus far.

KARTING

MIKA receives CIK-FIA certification

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

THE Madras International Karting Arena (MIKA) in Sriperumbudur received the highly-coveted CIK-FIA Grade-1 certification, thus placing the facility among the elite karting circuits in the world. The circuit, measuring 1.17km, is the longest karting track in India with a multiple track configuration suitable for competitive racing as well as corporate and leisure activities.

Securing the licence is the culmination of months of designing, planning and efforts to develop a facility that conforms with global standards. The track layout has already received rave reviews about it being a driver's delight, given the mix of sharp turns, high-speed straights, and elevation changes.

The licence, dated April 8, is valid for three years and certified that the track fulfilled "the conditions and safety standards laid down by the CIK-FIA for the running of kart races held under CIK-FIA rules". It was inspected by Willibald Zöttl, the CIK-FIA Technical Inspector for the Circuit and Safety Commissions. The circuit is located within the premises of the Madras International Circuit which boasts of a FIA Grade 2 racing track and is the hub of motor racing in India.

BJKC: India lose 1-2 against New Zealand

PUNE: The Indian women's tennis team lost 1-2 vs New Zealand in a group stage match of the Billie Jean King Cup on Tuesday. They next face Thailand on Wednesday.

ISSF World Cup: Teenager Suruchi clinches gold, Manu fails to qualify

ENS @ Chennai

DOUBLE Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker is not having the start she would have desired in the first international competition of the new season. Competing in the inaugural ISSF World Cup of the year at Buenos Aires, Manu -- considered as one of the country's finest shooters -- has fired blanks in two key events. First, she finished outside the medal bracket (sixth) in what is considered her pet event (25m pistol) behind Esha Singh, who won a silver medal. On Tuesday, Manu could not even get into the final of the 10m air pistol, the event in which she had captured bronze at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

However, young India shooter Suruchi Singh was a complete contrast on the day. She not only shot well but went on to bag India's third gold of the competition. Competing in a big pond filled with some big hitters of the craft, Suruchi, defying her age, held her own to finish on top. Manu and Sainyam, the other Indians in the category, had failed to get past the qualification hurdle earlier. Manu, who had started training late after the break she had taken post the Olympics, seems to not have found her rhythm yet. She finished 13th, but three shooters were shooting for ranking points (RPO) with a score of 574 with a brilliant 100 in her third series. However, returns of 94 each in the first two series turned out to be too much to cover in the end as. Sainyam, the third Indian shot 572 to end 13th. The way Indian shooting goes, a little dip in form could be perilous as other shooters would be breathing down the neck for a spot in the national team. Suruchi is one such case in point.

The 18-year-old, the lone Indian in the eight-woman final alongside some big names like Doreen Vennekamp (Germany) and Tokyo Olympic medallist Jiang Ranxin, was a picture of calmness as she captured the yellow metal with a tally of 244.6. In critical moments, she hit some high 10s to finish ahead of two Chinese shooters - Qian Wei (silver) and Ranxin (bronze).

Vennekamp, who is more renowned for her shooting in the 25m pistol category, was the first to get eliminated.

Thanks to Suruchi, India now have three gold, one silver and one bronze in the competition. China currently occupy the first spot with a total of seven medals (3G, 2S, 2B). India are placed second. Suruchi had earlier topped the qualification stage to enter the final.



Suruchi Singh (C) finished on the top of the podium in 10m air pistol event | NRAI

BARCELONA VS DORTMUND

They were slightly undercooked at the weekend but the Catalans' triumvirate of Raphinha, Robert Lewandowski and Lamine Yamal have scored goals for fun this year, especially in Europe. This is a repeat of a group stage match where Barcelona won 3-2. The hosts do not have a full complement of players to pick from. For Dortmund, who have not been at the races in the Bundesliga, it is about a question of hoping to profit from the hosts' high-line. They do have the players capable of getting in behind so expect goals.

6

In six of their last 13 matches across all competitions, Barcelona have scored at least four goals

Dortmund threat for Barcelona

Goal-crazy Barcelona start favourites against Dortmund while PSG will hope to quell the threat of Aston Villa. A look at the remaining two first legs of the quarterfinals of the Champions League.





Ousmane Dembele (C) has turned into a lethal finisher with 32 goals in all competitions | AFP

PSG VS ASTON VILLA

Whisper it quietly but the Parisiens have finally put together a squad capable of duking it with the big boys. With a balanced midfield and the forward line in sync with the needs of the team, they can attack but can defend in numbers. As they showed against Man City, this is a team with serious power as well as control. However, Aston Villa will know they won't be pushovers. The loan signings of Marcus Rashford and Marco Asensio has freshened them up. It's a team bang in form.

7

Aston Villa have won seven consecutive games

12.30 AM ON THURSDAY SONY SPORTS NETWORKS

Badminton Asia C'ships: Kapila-Crasto advance

AGENCIES @ Ningbo (China)

THE Indian mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto battled hard to beat Hoo Pang Ron and Su Yin Cheng of Malaysia to enter the pre-quarterfinals of the Badminton Asia Championships here on Tuesday.

The Indian pair fought for 51 minutes to get the better of their Malaysian counterparts 15-21 21-12 21-11 in the first round match.

Crasto and Kapila will next play Chinese Taipei's Hong Wei Ye and Nicole Gonzales Chan.

Elsewhere, it was disappointment as three other Indian mixed doubles pairs lost their opening matches.

The pair of Satish Kumar Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath was sent packing by third seeded Malaysian duo of Soon Huat Goh and Shevon Jamie Lai 18-21 19-21.

Later, Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh also lost 9-21 11-21 to Malaysian pair of Thulith Palliyaguru and Panchali Adhikari.

The other Indian mixed doubles pair of Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde fought hard for 56 minutes before going down 21-18 17-21 17-21 against another Malaysian combination of Roy King Yap and Valeree Siow.



Dhruv Kapila & Tanisha Crasto reached pre-quarterfinals of the BAC 2025 | X

DID YOU KNOW?

Research has shown that the human body emits its own visible light, though it is 1,000 times less intense than the levels that our human eyes are able to sense

The Milky Way is a barred spiral galaxy, meaning it has a central bulge and a bar-shaped structure, with spiral arms extending outwards

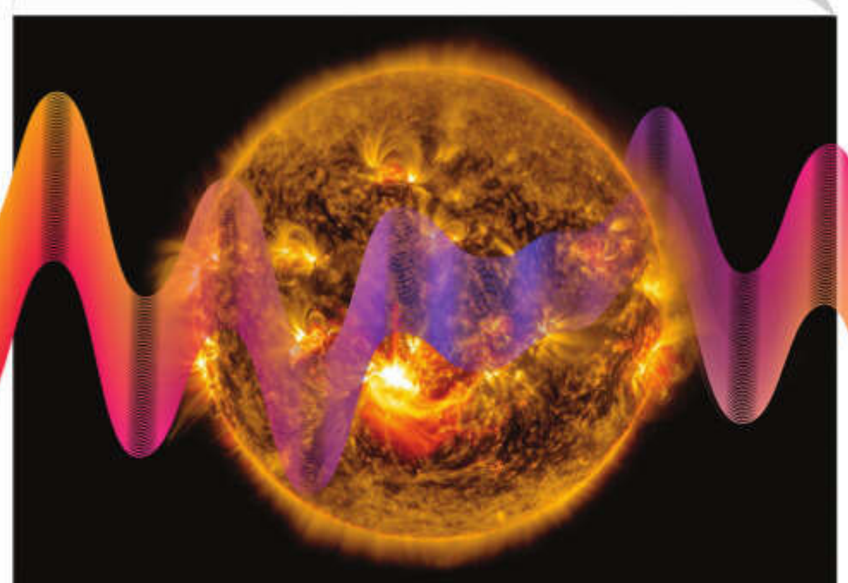
KNOWING OUR GALAXY


Stars in M67 cluster

13.6 BN
It is estimated to be around 13.6 billion years old

200 BN STARS
It is estimated to be around 100,000 light-years in diameter and contains around 200 billion stars, along with gas, dust, and dark matter

1. The name "Milky Way" comes from the appearance of a band of light across the night sky, which ancient Greeks and Romans believed was a "river of milk"
2. At the heart of the Milky Way lies a supermassive black hole called 'Sagittarius A', which exerts a strong gravitational pull
3. The Solar System is located on the inner edge of the Orion Arm, one of the galaxy's spiral arms
4. The Solar system takes about 250 million years to complete one orbit around the Milky Way's centre
5. It is believed to have formed from the collision and merger of smaller galaxies and gas clouds billions of years ago
6. The Milky Way, like most galaxies, is thought to contain a significant amount of dark matter, which is invisible
7. The Milky Way has several satellite galaxies, including the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds
8. The Milky Way is part of the Local Group of galaxies, along with the Andromeda Galaxy and several dwarf galaxies
9. The Local Group is part of the Virgo Supercluster, which in turn is part of the larger Laniakea Supercluster
10. The Milky Way is visible to the naked eye as a faint band of light, especially in dark skies away from city lights


The stars in the M67 cluster are of a similar age and composition to our own star, the Sun – which is less evolved | NASA/GODDARD/SDO

TUNING INTO THE STARS

RESEARCHERS AT UNSW HAVE INTERROGATED THE 'SOUNDS' OF A CLUSTER OF STARS WITHIN THE MILKY WAY, UNCOVERING A TECHNIQUE FOR ASTROPHYSICISTS TO PROBE THE UNIVERSE AND LEARN MORE ABOUT ITS EVOLUTION

SUN AND THE PLANETS



MOST galaxies are estimated to be between 10 billion and 13.6 billion years old, with some potentially being as old as the universe itself, which is around 13.8 billion years old. Now, a study led by researchers at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, Australia, into a cluster of stars 2,700 light years away reveals their stages of evolution through the 'sounds' they make. This discovery will allow scientists to map the history of the Milky Way and other galaxies, accelerating knowledge in astrophysics.

Dr Claudia Reyes is the lead author of the study published in Nature. While undertaking her PhD at the UNSW School of Physics, she studied 27 stars in a cluster of stars called M67 (Messier 67), all born from the same cloud of gas 4 billion years ago.

She says these stars have similar chemical compositions, but different masses which made them ideal for studying evolution in real-time. "When we study stars in a cluster, we can see their whole sequence of individual evolution," Dr Reyes says, adding that while these stars are the same age, it's their mass that gives away how quickly they have evolved. And, she adds that M67 is a very special cluster as it includes a broad range of 'giants', from the smaller, less-evolved subgiants to red giants –the latter being the most-evolved stars.

The study also opens ways to learn more about what our own star – the Sun – will do as it becomes bigger and older. This is because, "the Sun was born in a cluster similar to the one we studied", explains Dr Reyes.

Captivating clusters

Observing such a broad evolutionary range of stars within a single cluster has never been achieved before at such detail. "Verifying the age of a star is one of the most difficult things to do in astronomy, because the age of a star isn't revealed by its surface," says co-author Prof Dennis Stello, also from the UNSW School of Physics, adding, "It is what happens inside that shows how old it is."

Because the stars in the M67 cluster are of a similar age and composition to our Sun, they can offer insights into our Solar System's past and formation, as well as its future as the Sun evolves.

"Almost all stars are initially formed in clusters," Prof Stello says, adding, "They are basically big families of hundreds to thousands of stars born from one big cloud of gas. Usually, they would slowly disperse into a diffuse random selection of stars. But some of them are still within groups – clusters. You can see them when you look to the sky as areas with lots of stars close together, where they are still closely bound, like the cluster we studied here."

Symphony in the sky

The study allows for the precise determination of a star's age and mass based on its oscillation frequencies. The frequencies by which any star 'rings' depends on the physical properties of the matter inside it, giving clues about its density, temperature and age.

This was the first time researchers could interrogate the 'ringing' across a cluster of stars to learn more about their interiors. They used the Kepler K2 mission as the primary way to observe, or 'listen'.

Prof Stello says the process is like listening to an orchestra, and identifying instruments based on their sound. "The frequency by which an instrument is vibrating – or ringing – depends on the physical properties of the matter that the sound travels through. Stars are the same. You can 'hear' a star based on how it rings. We can see the vibration – or the effect of the vibration – of the sound just like you can see the vibration of a violin string," he says.

The biggest stars have the deepest sounds. Small stars have high-pitched sounds. And no one star plays just the one note at once – each star covers a symphony of sound coming from its interior.

Sound exists as a wave of energy, a vibration, moving through particles – solid, liquid or gas. But in space, there are no particles, which means there's no sound. Prof Stello says each star is like a breathing ball of gas – cooling down and heating up – with slight changes in brightness. "It's these fluctuations in brightness that we watched and measured, to gauge the sound frequencies," he informs.

As stars mature towards red giants, their frequencies change and behave differently. These changes can track their evolution. The frequency differences between the many nodes 'played' by a star can give clues about a star's interior properties.

By studying the 27 stars in the M67 open cluster, the researchers could, for the first time, observe the relationship between small and large frequency differences in giant stars, which can now be applied to individual stars.

> **The frequency by which an instrument is vibrating – or ringing – depends on the physical properties of the matter that the sound travels through. Stars are the same. You can 'hear' a star based on how it rings**
>
> Prof Dennis Stello, UNSW School of Physics

Understanding the Milky Way

To better understand the formation and evolution of galaxies, scientists need to know the age of all its components, including the stars. Dr Reyes says this study will lead to the accurate identification of the mass and age of stars in the Milky Way. This is also important for understanding stars that host planets, as a star's properties are critical for supporting life on those worlds.

Prof Stello says frequency signatures will also be important when modelling the future evolution of our Sun. "This study has enabled us to probe the fundamental physics that happens inside stars, deep into their interiors, and the fundamental physics under these extreme conditions. This is something we still grapple with. It's important for us to build evolution models that we can trust, so that we can predict what happens not only to the Sun, but also to other stars as they grow older," he adds.

Dr Reyes says their findings were unexpected. "We discovered something new with this signature in the frequencies," she suggests, adding that they already have data from many years of studying the Milky Way and its stars.

"The next step is to go back and look at that data; to look for those particular frequencies that nobody thought to look for before. And we can do this by listening to the stars," she concludes.

(Source: University of New South Wales)

ASTROBIOLOGICAL TREAT

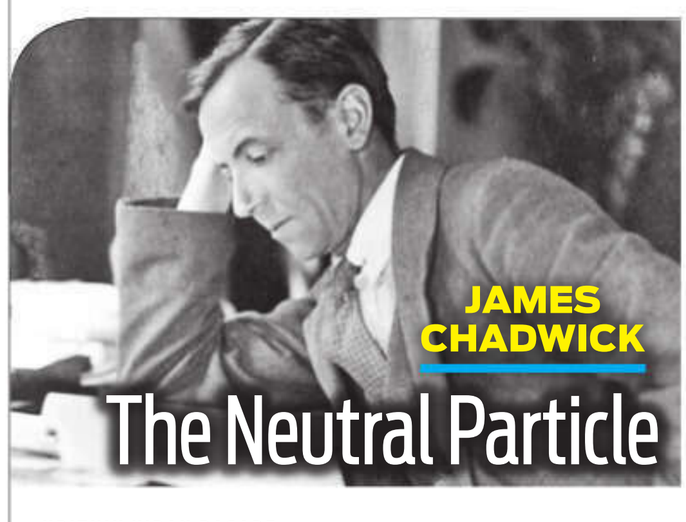
MICROBES IN THE EXTREME, AN INDICATOR TO ET LIFE?

HUMAN impressions about extraterrestrial (ET) life are that it has to be in the image of Homo Sapiens — a biped, with two upper limbs, a head, two eyes, with all else varying to bring in some difference from humans. Even conditions that we understand to be conducive for their survival are markedly similar to those in which we survive. But it need not be so. ET life could be anything from the very microscopic to extremely huge, and could survive in any condition — from the mild to the extreme. Now, researchers from Portland State University (PSU) are identifying biosignatures in the former — the very microscopic — in extreme environments on Earth itself. The research team's investigations focused on active microbial motion; the study of their form, shape and structure; and optical properties as the three main biosignatures, while using on site video microscopy in areas like hot deserts, in Arctic ice and in alkaline springs. Their investigations supported the idea that even in extreme environments, some fraction of microbes exhibit detectable life-indicating characteristics. The PSU research also highlighted the importance of digital holographic microscopy (DHM) as a promising tool for future space missions analyzing liquid samples in search of life, in which the ability to swim could be considered as a strong potential biosignature. They also introduced chemical and thermal stimuli to test their effects on their ability to move spontaneously, as well as the degree of their movements. The responses varied — some environments showed strong microbial reactions, while others showed little to none. The research in this direction paves the way for astrobiologists to consider the possibility of ET life in the microbial state in extreme conditions, which could prevail on other planets of the solar system or any of their respective natural satellites. For looking for intelligent life, however, more sophisticated means would be required. But then, we may never know whether we are already being researched by extraterrestrials with much higher intelligence than us in the same manner as the PSU team is studying these microbes in extreme conditions. Will we?

Simply SCIENTIFICO

Science is a world in itself. Here are some interesting facts that connect with you

Nirad Mudur



HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE

NEUTRONS, along with protons, are subatomic particles found inside the nucleus of every atom. The only exception is hydrogen, where the nucleus contains only a single proton. Neutrons have a neutral electric charge, with slightly more mass than positively-charged protons.

Pioneering British physicist James Chadwick discovered the neutron in 1932. His work not only expanded our understanding of the atomic structure, but also laid the groundwork for the development of nuclear physics and the atomic age. Chadwick's discovery changed the way scientists viewed the nucleus of an atom, leading to revolutionary advances in energy production and atomic weaponry.

Born on October 20, 1891, in Bollington, Cheshire, England, Chadwick showed early academic promise. He attended the University of Manchester, where he studied physics under Ernest Rutherford, a mentor who had a profound influence on his career. Rutherford's research on atomic structure inspired Chadwick's curiosity about the fundamental building blocks of matter.

BEHIND THE SCIENCE

After completing his studies in Manchester, Chadwick worked with prominent scientists, including Niels Bohr and Otto Hahn. It was during his time at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge that Chadwick made his groundbreaking discovery. In 1932, he discovered the neutron by bombarding beryllium with alpha particles, resulting in the emission of highly energetic, uncharged particles. This neutral particle, which Chadwick identified as the neutron, was crucial in explaining the stability of atomic nuclei and provided a missing piece in the puzzle of atomic structure.

Chadwick's discovery of the neutron revolutionised the understanding of the atom. Before his work, scientists had identified protons and electrons, but they had not fully understood the role of neutral particles in the nucleus. Chadwick's neutron theory allowed for a more complete model of the atom and paved the way for the development of nuclear reactors and weapons.

In recognition of his monumental achievement, Chadwick was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1935. He continued to make significant contributions to nuclear research throughout his career, including work on the Manhattan Project during World War II. He passed away on July 24, 1974, in Cambridge, England.

HOW IT WORKS

TOWERING STRONG AGAINST WINDS AND QUAKES

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE

On March 28, 2025, a still under-construction building intended for the State Audit Office collapsed in Bangkok, Thailand, following a major earthquake that originated in Myanmar, resulting in over 30 casualties. As populations explode and cities shrink, the need to build higher becomes the immediate solution. As of 2024, there are over 7,000 skyscrapers of over 150-metres-tall across the globe, and a major factor determining their construction is their resistance to natural phenomena, predominantly earthquakes and strong winds, and the calamity in Thailand brings this fact back into focus.

Standing firm

The world's tallest buildings are marvels of modern engineering, pushing the limits of design, technology, and construction. With increasing urbanisation and the demand for vertical living and working spaces, skyscrapers must be built to withstand natural forces, while providing safety and stability for their inhabitants.

Tall buildings are highly susceptible to the forces of wind due to their large surface areas and great heights. As wind pressure increases with height, skyscrapers need to be designed to resist bending and swaying caused by these forces. One of the primary strategies employed in skyscraper design is aerodynamics. The shape of the building is often streamlined to reduce wind resistance. For eg., Some skyscrapers feature curved or tapered designs to allow wind to flow smoothly around the structure, minimising the pressure exerted on it.

To further mitigate the effects of strong winds, engineers use damping systems. One common type is the tuned mass damper, a large, heavy weight suspended near the top of the building. This device moves in the opposite direction of the building's sway, counteracting the forces that would otherwise cause excessive movement. The Taipei 101 in Taiwan and the **Burj Khalifa in Dubai** are perfect examples of skyscrapers equipped with these systems. Additionally, building materials play a significant role in maintaining stability; high-strength concrete and steel are often used for their resilience under wind pressure.



Resistance from the ground up

Earthquakes present another formidable challenge for tall buildings. When seismic activity occurs, buildings must be able to absorb and dissipate the energy produced by the tremors to prevent catastrophic failure. One of the key methods to achieve this is flexibility. Unlike shorter buildings, which may be rigid, skyscrapers are designed to sway slightly during an earthquake. This flexibility allows the building to move with the seismic forces rather than resisting them entirely, reducing the likelihood of structural damage.

Base isolation systems are another crucial element in earthquake-resistant design. These systems involve placing a building on flexible bearings or isolators, which can absorb the seismic waves and reduce the amount of motion transferred to the structure above. This technology helps protect the building's foundation and lower floors from the worst effects of an earthquake. The Willis Tower in Chicago and other skyscrapers in earthquake-prone regions, such as Japan and California, utilise such systems to enhance safety.

Additionally, reinforced concrete and steel frameworks are used extensively in the construction of earthquake-resistant skyscrapers. These materials can withstand both the tension and compression forces exerted during seismic events. The integration of shear walls, bracing, and moment-resisting frames ensures the structure remains intact, even in the event of an earthquake.

Today's formidable, imposing structures are built not only for grandeur, but for safety. As cities continue to grow upwards, the ability to protect towering skyscrapers from natural forces will remain a cornerstone of architectural innovation.