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Brief Insights

RSS, BJP Leaders Differ In Appointment of Party Media Convenors



All is not well at the BJP's Kerala unit. While the RSS is up in arms against the appointment of one of the state media convenors with ties to people having alleged links with the PFI, several senior BJP leaders are miffed over the efforts of new Kerala unit chief Rajeev Chandrasekhar to bring in "his own people" rather than party karyakartas in his team. The appointment of one of the media convenors in Mr Chandrasekhar's team, a former Union minister who was named as the BJP's Kerala chief last month, has come under the scanner. The new appointee is said to be a close friend of Sidheeq Kappan, a journalist

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US Man Hijacks Plane In Belize, Shot Dead By Passenger



A U.S. man hijacked a small plane in Belize on Thursday, stabbing two passengers and a pilot, before one of the stabbed passengers fatally shot him, officials in Belize and the United States said. The plane then landed safely. The Tropic Air plane was carrying 14 passengers and two crew members, and was flying from Corozal, a small town near Belize's border with Mexico, heading to the popular tourist destination of San Pedro when it was hijacked. The plane circled in random directions for nearly two hours as the drama unfolded in the skies. The plane was tailed by a police helicopter before touching down at an airport in the coastal town of Ladyville. Belize authorities declared a full emergency immediately

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BRS, Congress Conspiring To Ensure MIM's Victory In MLC Polls, Says Kishan Reddy: P8

Protests Erupt in Hyderabad Against Waqf Amendment Act: P8

KTR Urges PM to Probe Rs 10k Cr Scam in Kancha Lands: P8



CM Revanth Woos Japanese Investors

Showcases Telangana as China+1 Hub

Hyderabad WUT | Apr. 19

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday extended a warm invitation to Japanese companies to invest in Telangana, highlighting the state's potential as a China+1 alternative for global businesses seeking to de-risk their operations. Speaking at the India-Japan Economic Partnership Roadshow in Tokyo, the Chief Minister opened his address in Japanese, greeting the gathering with, "Konichiwa, Tokyo. Namaskaram. I bring warm greetings from my people in Telangana, India's youngest and fastest developing state." "Japan is known as the Land of the Rising Sun. Our state's vision is



'Telangana Rising.' Today, I am proud to say — Telangana is rising in the Land of the Rising Sun," Reddy told over 150 delegates from the Japanese business community. He encouraged Japanese companies to explore investment opportunities in Telangana, stating, "Come to Telangana, find your China+1 alternative. Invest, Thrive, Grow, Succeed. Hyderabad will feel like home."

Highlighting the state's industrial ecosystem, the Chief Minister said, "We offer world-class infrastructure, skilled talent, and clear and consistent policies to support your investments in priority sectors such as life sciences, global capability centers (GCCs), electronics, electric vehicles (EVs) and energy storage, textiles, food processing, AI data centers, and logistics."

CONTINUE:P2

Sonia, Rahul Gandhi Eyed Rs 2000 Cr Properties Without Investing A Penny: BJP

Former Union minister Anurag Thakur alleged that the Congress used the newspaper as its ATM

Hyderabad WUT | Apr. 18

The BJP on Friday dared Congress leaders facing corruption charges to seek a quick and time-bound disposal of cases, as it slammed the party for citing politics as the reason for the ED's action against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case. The ruling BJP kept the heat on the opposition party following the ED's chargesheet against the Gandhis and accused chief ministers from the Congress-ruled states of ploughing public money as advertisement into the weekly newspaper which few read. Former Union minister Anurag Thakur alleged that the Congress used the newspaper as its ATM, claiming that Gandhis sought to acquire properties worth Rs 2,000 crores



of the National Herald without investing a penny from their pocket. Both Gandhis together owned 76 per cent of the Young Indian company which was, he said, given Rs 50 lakh loan by the Congress. The company then took over the Associated Journals Limited, which owns the newspaper affiliated to the Congress, in lieu of Rs 90 crore it owed to the opposition party, he said. Thakur asked if a political party can give a loan. To a question about the allegation that the ED action was politically motivated, the BJP leader

dared Congress leaders facing corruption charges to move courts to seek quick and time-bound trial in the cases against them. "If they have guts, they should do it," he said, adding that in the "Congress model of corruption" the thieves make a lot of noises. The National Herald case, he said, has stunned the Congress ecosystem into silence. Thakur noted Gandhis have moved courts for quashing action against them for many times since a lower court took cognizance of the matter before the Modi government came to

power. The courts gave them no relief except that they are on bail, he said, adding that the judiciary did not intervene in the Enforcement Directorate's probe. Turning to his home state Himachal Pradesh where the Congress is in power, Thakur accused the party of not fulfilling any of its 10 main promises but spending crores of rupees in advertisement in the National Herald. "Does any Congress leader or member read it in Himachal," he asked, demanding that people should be given details of money spent by different Congress governments in advertisements in the newspaper, which is available digitally. The Congress has been organising protests in different parts of the country against the ED action.

Bihar CM launches Mahila Samvad Campaign to Connect to Women

Patna WUT | Apr. 19

In a bid to reach out to the female voters, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar on Friday virtually launched the "Mahila Samvad" campaign to connect and inform women about the welfare measures being taken by the state government for their



empowerment. The chief minister also flagged off "women dialogue" awareness vehicles for all districts from his official residence at 1, Anne Marg,

in Patna. There is a tussle among the contesting political outfits to woo the women voters in the state. It may be recalled that participation of women voters had surpassed the men voters' turnout during the last Lok Sabha polls. Women voters form nearly 48 per cent of the state's total electorate and in last year's

CONTINUE:P4

More Than 1,000 International Students Have Had Visas Or Legal Status Revoked

Washington WUT | Apr. 19

More than 1,000 international students have had their visas or legal status revoked in recent weeks, and several have filed lawsuits against the Trump administration, arguing the government denied them due process



when it suddenly took away their permission to be in the U.S. The actions by the federal government to terminate students'

legal status have left hundreds of scholars at risk of detention and deportation. Their schools range from private universities like Harvard and Stanford to large public institutions like the University of Maryland and Ohio State University to some small liberal arts colleges.

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Ajit Pawar Gives Half-Hearted Speech Due to Paucity of Time



Amid the reports of power struggle in the BJP led Mahayuti, Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar on Friday openly expressed his displeasure over the time allotted to him to make his speech during a programme of state sports award at Pune. Within a span of seven days, this is the third time when Mr. Pawar was denied time to give his speech. Earlier in this week, Mr Pawar and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde were not given a chance to speak on the occasion of Dr B.R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary at Chaityabhoomi in Dadar. The duo had left

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Modi, Musk Explore Tech And Innovation Ties

Hyderabad WUT | Apr. 18

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a telephonic conversation with Tesla CEO Elon Musk on Friday and discussed the immense potential for collaboration in the technology and innovation sectors. PM Modi expressed India's commitment to advancing India's partnership with the US in these domains. PM Modi said that they held talks on various issues, including the topics they



covered during their meeting in the US in February this year. In a post on X, PM Modi stated, "Spoke to @elonmusk and talked about various issues, including the topics we covered during our meeting in Washington DC earlier this year. We discussed the immense potential for

collaboration in the areas of technology and innovation. India remains committed to advancing our partnerships with the US in these domains." Earlier in February, Elon Musk called on PM Modi at Blair House in Washington, DC. During the meeting, PM Modi and Musk discussed strengthening collaboration between entities of India and the US in innovation, space exploration, artificial intelligence, and sustainable development.

Good Friday Observance in Hyderabad

Christian Community Marks Good Friday with Passion Play and Fasting

Hyderabad WUT | Apr. 19

The Christian community across Hyderabad and Secunderabad came together to observe Good Friday, a solemn day of mourning and reflection, commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Thousands of believers gathered in churches and chapels across the twin cities to participate in prayers, fasting, the Passion Play, and special masses throughout the day.

James Silvesta, from the Catholic Church Association of Hyderabad, described Good Friday as the most sacred Friday of the year. He explained that the day began with morning services, where congregants gathered for a series of religious observances. "We engage in Bible readings, hymns, and the Stations of the Cross—a sequence of 14 depictions illustrating Christ's journey from condemnation to his burial," he said.

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Devotees gather at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Hyderabad for a solemn Good Friday Passion Play, reenacting the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. —Photo: Mir Zulfeqar ali

ESTD-1960.

ASTORIA HOTEL

Hyderabad Laziz Biryani

ek baar khaoge
baar baar aaooge

5 - 9 - 8 / C AG OFFICE ROAD, OPPOSITE TO RBI, HYDERABAD

United Muslim Forum Urges Massive Turnout for Protest Rally Against Waqf Amendment Act

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 19

The United Muslim Forum has called upon citizens, especially members of the Muslim community, to participate in large numbers in a protest public meeting against the controversial Waqf Amendment Act. The rally, organized by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 19, at Dar es Salaam. In a joint statement issued by the forum, key religious leaders and public figures, including Maulana Mufti Syed Sadiq Mohiuddin Fahim (President), Maulana Syed Shah Ali Akbar Nizamuddin

Hussaini Sabri, Mr. Syed Muniruddin Ahmed Mukhtar (General Secretary), and several others, expressed strong opposition to the amended Act. They criticized the central government’s intent and legal strategy, stating that the postponement of the law’s implementation and selective non-enforcement are mere tactics to weaken public resistance. The forum argued that the government is attempting to divide the Muslim community by raising issues related to backward classes and sectarian differences, while distracting from the core issues of constitutional justice and minority

rights. The statement emphasized that the court has not stayed the law but accepted the government’s undertaking not to implement certain provisions temporarily. “This is an attempt to buy time and cool down public sentiment,” the forum said, urging people to continue the struggle with full intensity. The rally aims to send a strong message that Muslims, along with justice-loving citizens across faiths, stand united in demanding the withdrawal of what they termed a "black law." The forum called on the public to ensure the Dar es Salaam rally becomes a symbol of resistance and unity.

CM Revanth Reddy Invites Japanese Firms to Invest in Telangana Under China+1 Strategy

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 19

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended a warm invitation to Japanese companies to invest in Telangana, positioning the state as a key alternative under the China+1 strategy. Speaking at the India-Japan Economic Partnership roadshow held in Tokyo on Friday, the Chief Minister showcased Telangana’s potential as a dynamic investment destination. Greeting the audience with a blend of Japanese and Indian warmth — “Konni-chiwa, Tokyo. Namas-

karam” — Revanth Reddy said, “I bring warm greetings from my people in Telangana, India’s youngest and fastest developing state.” Addressing over 150 representatives from the Japanese business community, he emphasized the synergy between Japan and Telangana. “Japan is called the Land of the Rising Sun. Our state’s vision is Telangana Rising. Today, I am proud to say — Telangana is Rising in the Land of the Rising Sun,” he remarked. Highlighting the advantages of investing in Telangana, the Chief Minis-

ter urged Japanese firms to consider the state as part of their China+1 diversification plans. “Come to Telangana — find your China+1 alternative. Invest, Thrive, Grow, Succeed. Hyderabad will feel like home,” he said. Revanth Reddy outlined Telangana’s strengths including world-class infrastructure, a skilled workforce, and investor-friendly policies. He invited investments in key sectors such as life sciences, global capability centres (GCCs), electronics, electric vehicles and energy storage, textiles, food processing, AI data

centres, and logistics. “I am very happy to be in Tokyo,” he added. “Your city’s infrastructure, environmental focus, and innovation are truly inspiring. The kindness and discipline of the Japanese people have left a deep impression on me. I’ve learnt a lot from Tokyo for developing Hyderabad.” The roadshow opened with remarks from Sibi George, Ambassador of India to Japan, who spoke about the strengthening Indo-Japan economic relations. Toshihiro Mizutani, Director General of JETRO Bengaluru, encour-

aged deeper industrial collaboration between Japan and Telangana. Promotional films were showcased on Telangana’s flagship projects — Future City, India’s first planned Net Zero industrial city, and the Musi Riverfront Rejuvenation Project, one of India’s largest riverfront developments. Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary (Industries and Commerce), presented key investment opportunities across emerging sectors such as green energy, AI, electronics, and EVs, underscoring the state’s preparedness to welcome Japanese.

BRS Leader Krishank Manne Alleges Harassment by Congress Govt Over Forest Land Row

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 19

BRS social media convenor Krishank Manne appeared for the third time at Gachibowli Police Station on Saturday in connection with four FIRs filed against him regarding his online campaign on the Kancha Gachibowli forest land issue. After eight hours of what he described as aimless waiting, he has been asked to appear



again on April 23 for further questioning. Krishank accused the Congress government of using police summons as a tool of political harassment, especially with the BRS party’s 25-year celebrations approach-

ing. “In just nine days, I’ve been called four times. They didn’t even question me properly. Like on April 15, I was only made to sit for hours,” he said, alleging deliberate attempts to obstruct his political

work. Citing the Supreme Court’s Central Empowered Committee (CEC) report, Krishank claimed that the apex court confirmed illegal activity on the forest land, including the death of deer at the University of Hyderabad and unauthorized mortgaging of the land. “1,524 trees were cut down under the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government. This is not development, it’s envi-

ronmental destruction,” he asserted. He also criticized the Congress for allegedly dismissing the Supreme Court’s findings as social media propaganda, saying it reflects their disregard for the environment and judicial process. Krishank vowed to legally fight what he called “politically motivated targeting” and said he won’t be silenced by intimidation.

Vemula Prashanth Reddy Slams Police Action on BRS Protestors in Bheemgal

Hyderabad R santosh chowdary WUT | Apr . 19

Former Minister and Balkonda MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy strongly condemned the police lathi charge on BRS workers protesting peacefully in Bheemgal. He criticized the Congress government for registering false cases against the protestors, calling it a serious attack on democracy. Prashanth Reddy questioned the government’s failure to

fulfill key promises, including Kalyana Lakshmi cheques, one tola gold for brides, Rs. 2500 monthly support for women, and Rs. 4000 for senior citizens and beedi workers. He said farm loan waivers were incomplete, with 30,000 out of 51,000 farmers in Balkonda still waiting for relief. He also alleged that benefits like Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bhārōsa have not reached the intended beneficiaries. He accused the government of double standards, stat-

ing that while Congress supporters were spared, BRS workers were beaten and slapped with false cases simply for questioning broken promises. “Is it a crime to ask for what was promised?” he asked. Calling on the people, especially women and farmers, to see through the injustice, Prashanth Reddy vowed to continue the fight for public welfare despite the attacks. “You cannot shake our resolve,” he declared.

VHP To Hold Demonstrations In Telangana To Protest Against Violence In West Bengal

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 19

Telangana unit of Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) has decided to organize demonstrations across all the district headquarters in the State on Saturday and submit representations to the Collectors to protest against the violence on Hindus in West Bengal. In a statement issued here on Friday, VHP State president Bhojanpalli Narasimha Murthy and national spokesperson Ravinutala Shashidhar urged the people to participate in the protest programme in large numbers. They said a representation would be submitted to the district Collector after the protest requesting him to forward it to the President of India requesting to impose

President’s rule in West Bengal where the ruling party was indulging in vote bank politics and resorting to violence. The brutal violence in certain villages in West Bengal following the violence over the Waqf (Amendment) Bill was highly objectionable, they said, demanding that the Central government initiate stern action against those who were responsible for the violence targeting innocent Hindus. The trouble mongers were creating unnecessary problems on the Bangladesh border in the name of violence, they said. Requesting the Centre to deal sternly with the trouble mongers, the VHP leaders demanded the government immediately impose President’s rule in West Bengal .

Nirmal Kumar Yadav met with Meenakshi Natrajan and submitted his application

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 18

Senior Congress leader and AICC OBC coordinator Nirmal Kumar Yadav on Thursday, April 18, met with AICC secretary and Telangana Pradesh affairs incharge Meenakshi Natrajan and submitted his bio-data in regard to a nominated post. He explained his full profile of 36 years of industrious work. She responded positively, stating that if suitable, any nominated post could be possible. Nirmal Kumar Yadav has been working with the Congress party since his NSUI days and has held several posts during his political career. He is currently the AICC OBC coordinator. In several states, he worked for assembly elections. He established the Hindi Samaj in Hyderabad. During the parliamentary elections in the Hyderabad-Secunder-



abad constituencies, he worked relentlessly. He also led several protests during the previous BRS government regime. Recently, he held a major protest in front of the ED office against the fake charges against Sonia and Rahul Gandhi. In a media statement regarding the fake charges on Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the ED charge sheet related to the National Herald newspaper case, APCC former secretary Kagita Rayappa stated on April 18 that the Modi government at the center rules the systems illegally. It uses au-

tonomous institutions for political gains, weakening those systems. The inclusion of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the case is for political self-interest. This is an action that undermines the Constitution and democratic values. The Modi government is trying to threaten and silence opposition party leaders by registering cases through institutions like ED and CBI. This is a bogus charge sheet, a bogus case. In a 12-year-old case, the government had to file a charge sheet on the 365th day because there was no evidence. In that case, no money was exchanged, no one was benefited, and no assets were transferred. The Young Indian company is a non-profit Section 25 company, which does not pay any dividend or salary to its shareholders. Nehru started three newspapers for the country – National Herald, Navjeevan, and Quami

Awaaz. A newspaper started during Nehru’s time gradually weakened financially, and Congress tried to revive it. Where is the corruption in that? Why are cases being filed only against opposition parties? What happened to those who had cases filed by ED and CBI but joined the BJP? Were they prosecuted in election cases? Those who had ED cases against them had their cases closed as soon as they joined the BJP. This indicates that the ED works as a tool for the BJP’s political agenda. The BJP’s spirit of revenge is visible in the ED taking action against a family that has made countless sacrifices for the country. The Modi government, intoxicated with power, is trying to intimidate the opposition through the ED by filing baseless cases against party leadership, he added. Democracy is under attack in the country.

AIMIM MLA Kausar Mohiuddin Mobilizes Support Against Waqf Amendment Act 2025

Hyderabad WUT | Apr . 19

In response to the protest call given by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) against the controversial Waqf Amendment Act 2025, AIMIM Karwan MLA Kausar Mohiuddin, along with AIMIM party corporators, addressed the congregants at Qutub Shahi Masjid in Langar Houz following Namaz-e-Jumma. Speaking to the Mussallis, the MLA strongly opposed the recent amendments to the Waqf Act and urged the local residents to stand united in safeguarding Waqf properties. He emphasized the importance of collective resistance and encouraged everyone to participate actively in the upcoming protest. The protest meeting has



been scheduled for Saturday, April 19, 2025, from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM, at the AIMIM Headquarters – Darsgah-e-Jihad-o-Shahadat (Darsusalam), Hyderabad. The gathering aims to express community dissent and solidarity against the changes proposed under the new legislation. MLA Mohiuddin appealed to the residents of the area to come together in large numbers to make their voices heard and demonstrate their commitment to protecting religious endowments. “Let’s unite and raise our voice to protect Waqf properties. Your presence matters,” he stated.

KCR Calls for Massive Women’s Participation in BRS Rajashatotsavam Sabha

Hyderabad R santosh chowdary WUT | Apr . 19

The BRS party is making elaborate arrangements to ensure strong women’s participation in the upcoming Rajashatotsavam Sabha scheduled for the 27th of this month at Elkathurthi in Warangal district. Special efforts are being made to provide a comfortable and safe environment for female attendees. A dedicated seating area will be arranged for women, including tents or shade structures, particularly for the elderly and mothers with children. Clean restrooms



and drinking water stations will be set up, along with the deployment of women police personnel for enhanced security. A baby care center will also be available to assist mothers attending with infants. To mobilize women, local meetings, door-to-door campaigns, and group discussions will be led by women

leaders. The Sabha will highlight various welfare schemes and initiatives aimed at women’s empowerment. Visual and audio arrangements will be planned to ensure visibility and clarity from the women’s section. Self-help groups (SHGs) and local women’s organizations will actively participate, enhancing

collective engagement. Women volunteers will be assigned roles in hospitality, crowd coordination, and event management. Senior women leaders including MLC Kavitha are expected to lead awareness drives in the region. Former MLAs, ZPTCs, and women committee members will be roped in to form booth-level women’s committees for better grassroots outreach. Motivational content targeting women will be promoted on social media to encourage participation. Transportation from remote villages is also being arranged, ensuring women from across the district can attend the Sabha with ease.

BRS Demands Justice After HC Verdict on Group-1 Exam

Hyderabad Prashanth reddy WUT | Apr . 19

Following the Telangana High Court’s verdict on the Group-1 exam, BRS State Leader Enugula Rakesh Reddy addressed the media at Telangana Bhavan, welcoming the judgment as a victory for justice and aspirants who fought against a flawed examination process. He strongly criticized the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) for its negligence and lack of transparency, citing discrepancies in candidate numbers—from



21,075 to 21,085—as evidence of systemic failure. The BRS leader also condemned the government’s alleged misuse of power, noting that whistleblowers received legal notices while the core issues remained unresolved. Reddy pointed to questionable marking patterns, inconsistent scores after re-evaluation, and unequal success rates at specific

centers—factors suggesting deeper manipulation. He also slammed the state’s unprofessional arguments in court, especially concerning women’s exam centers. BRS reaffirmed its demand for a CBI probe into the entire recruitment process and pledged unwavering support to the aspirants through legal and democratic channels. “This is not about politics; it’s about justice,” said Reddy. “Thousands of youth have invested years for a fair chance. Their trust was broken, and BRS will stand by them until every wrong is made right.”

Kanaka Vasthra Silks Unveils Flagship Store with Aishwarya Rajesh as Showstopper

Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

Kanaka Vasthra Silks, a new name in premium ethnic wear, proudly announces the grand opening of its first flagship store at Metro Pillar No. 685, Opp. Bramharamba Theatre, Near JNTU Metro Station, Kukatpally. This exclusive store is dedicated to the timeless elegance of pure Kanjivaram sarees and aims to be the ultimate destination for luxurious silks and traditional weaves. As the flagship store opens its doors, it promises to offer a wide range of exquisite silks, including the iconic Kanjivaram sarees that epitomize heritage, grandeur, and beauty.



The grand opening event will be graced by the presence of the elegant Aishwarya Rajesh, who will serve as the celebrity guest and showstopper. She will be seen wearing one of the store's signature Kanjivaram sarees, showcasing the rich cultural legacy of the brand. Aishwarya Rajesh's participation adds an extra layer of glamour and prestige to the launch event.

The management team behind Kanaka Vasthra Silks includes Pothamshetty Srinivasulu, Maturi Pavan Kumar, Junna Rohit Reddy, and B. Nagashree Reddy, who serve as the directors. The store also has the extended support of several prominent figures, including Junna Shekar Reddy of Junna Solars, Konijeti Venkateshwarra Gupta, Director of Flow Gen Hydro Energy Ltd, Konijeti Malikarjuna Prasad of Kriya Jewellers, and V. Vijay Kumar of Vision VVK Housing. With its exquisite collection and focus on preserving traditional weaves, Kanaka Vasthra Silks is poised to set a new standard in the world of ethnic fashion.

Gangula Kamalakar to embark on padayatra for water in Telangana's Karimnagar

Karimnagar
WUT | Apr . 19

Karimnagar MLA Gangula Kamalakar has decided to embark on a 'padayatra' in the constituency to get water for irrigation in the segment. The 'padayatra' will be organised in the name of 'Chalo Narayanapur', which is the main water source for Karimnagar constituency. Kamalakar announced this while interacting with media persons after inaugurating a paddy purchase centre in Karimnagar rural mandal on Friday. The Narayanapur reservoir was the main water source for Karimnagar constituency. However, there was no water in Narayanapur. Though farmers



were facing troubles with regard to irrigation, the State government was least bothered about their issues. To mount pressure on the government, the padayatra would be taken out very soon, he said. Earlier, Kamalakar said officials should purchase paddy that arrived at the centres and shift it immediately to mills since there was a possibility of hailstorms in the coming days. Farmers, who were already suffering due to lack of Rythu Bandhu, irrigation water and crop

loan waiver, would suffer a huge loss if the crop was soaked in the rains. So, the government should immediately start the purchasing of paddy, he demanded. Farmers suffered a huge loss by selling the crop to millers at low prices as the State government failed to start the procurement centres at the right time, he said, recalling that during the BRS regime, procurement used to start in the second week of March. Even soaked and discolored paddy was also procured providing MSP, he said. Farmers informed the MLA that officials had allocated long distance rice mills instead of the nearest ones for them to shift the crop after procurement.

Telangana Girijan Co-operative Corporation Ltd (TGGCC) Launches Giri Nature – Millet Snacks

Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

The Telangana Girijan Co-operative Corporation Limited (TGGCC) has launched Giri Nature – Honey Millet Cookies and Honey Chikki, a new range of millet-based snacks. The launch event, held at DSS Bhavan, Masab Tank, was attended by A. Sharat, Hon'ble Secretary – Tribal Welfare, Government of Telangana, and Dr. B. Dayakar Rao, CEO & Director – Nutrihub, ICAR-IIMR. The newly introduced millet snacks aim to support the upliftment of the tribal community while promoting healthy eating habits, especially among children. This initiative is designed to empower tribal producers, ensuring that their products reach consumers and contribute to societal welfare. The launch has garnered strong support from Telan-



gana's leadership, including Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister M. Bhatti Vikramarka, Minister for Women & Child Welfare, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development Seethakka, and Kotnak Thirupathi Garu, Chairman of TGGCC. In his remarks, Kotnak Thirupathi emphasized the importance of providing healthy, nutritious snacks to children, particularly in government schools. He highlighted that good health, particularly for growing children, is vital for the nation's future, and the Giri Nature snacks are designed to contribute to their overall well-being by promoting gut health and offering essential vitamins and minerals. This initiative, led by A. Sharat Garu, focuses on creating high-quality millet-based products using pure Girijan honey, collected from forested hills by tribal communities. The project is backed by extensive research and product development by Dr. B. Dayakar Rao and aims to provide nutritious, delicious snacks that contribute to both children's health and societal development.

Waqf Meet 'Cong's Plot to Create Unrest': Bandi Sanjay

Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Friday launched a scathing attack on the Congress government in Telangana, alleging that the upcoming meeting organized by AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) at Darussalam on Saturday was a Congress-sponsored programme intended to incite communal unrest. Speaking at a press conference, Sanjay warned that the situation in Telangana could deteriorate into chaos similar to that witnessed in Murshidabad and parts of West Bengal if such gatherings were



not curtailed. He held the Congress government squarely responsible for any potential law and order disturbances. The minister alleged that the protests, being carried out under the pretext of opposing the Waqf Act, were part of a larger conspiracy to disrupt peace. Referring to official data, he pointed out that out

of the 77,000 acres of Waqf land in Telangana, only 16,000 acres—or about 20 per cent—were under the control of dargahs and masjids. "Who controls the remaining land?" he asked, accusing the Owaisi brothers of encroaching on Waqf properties for running hospitals, schools, and offices, thereby depriving poor Muslims of their rightful resources. Sanjay demanded that the state government release a white paper detailing the income generated from Waqf land, how it is utilized, and whether the benefits reach the poor and Pasmanda Muslim communities. He estimated the value of Waqf land in Telangana to be over ₹5 lakh crore, adding that there was no transparency in the revenue generated and its expenditure. He also highlighted that more than 4,000 Waqf-related cases are pending in courts, blaming the Waqf Board for deliberately delaying proceedings by not filing counter affidavits. The Dharam portal introduced by the previous BRS government

was also criticized for facilitating title changes on thousands of acres of Waqf land. On the National Herald case, Sanjay defended the ongoing investigation, stating that it began in 2012 before the BJP came to power. "Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are out on bail. The court issued notices in 2013 and ordered a CBI probe," he said. He further questioned Congress protests at the Enforcement Directorate's office, suggesting they protest at Sonia Gandhi's residence instead. He also condemned the use of abusive language by Congress leaders, including former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav, and defended Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy against what he termed baseless allegations.

Congress' promise of 10-gram gold to newlyweds not possible in near future: CPI MLA

Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

Is the Congress government in the State unlikely to deliver the promise of giving 10 gram gold as part of Kalyana Lakshmi/Shadi Mubarak scheme? Congress ally CPI's Kothagudem MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao says so. It might be noted that the Congress in its election manifesto in Assembly elections promised to give one tola gold in addition to Rs 1,00,116 to newlywed brides from poor

families. However, Sambasiva Rao feels that it might not be possible for the Congress government to give one tola gold in the near future. He made this comment after distributing Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak cheques here on Friday. He also said that the government was unable to pay salaries to the employees on time indicating the poor condition of the State treasury. It might be noted that the poor families, which have arranged marriage ceremonies for girls, were already facing

difficulties due to the delay in releasing the funds for Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes. Many families were being forced to borrow money from private financiers. The Revanth Reddy government has already failed to provide the promised Rs 500 bonus for 10 different crops, including paddy, cotton, maize and red gram. The promised fee reimbursement for students from SC, ST, BC and minority communities was yet to be delivered, besides clearing old dues.

Warangal
WUT | Apr . 19

As many as 200 double-bedroom houses built during BRS regime for journalists at Deshaipet in Warangal East constituency have become addas for anti-social elements and illegal activities. The alleged negligent attitude of the local MLA, Minister Konda Surekha, in allotting the houses to journalists forced them to take to the streets with a demand to allot the houses to all eligible journalists at the earliest. The journalists in Warangal east constituency had taken up an indefinite 'deeksha' on April 14 in support of their de-

mand. It may be recalled that the previous BRS regime built 200 double-bedroom houses on an area of 3.23 acres at Deshaipet with an estimated cost of Rs 12.60 crore. There are nine blocks with ground plus two structures with green area and internal roads. With the lack of proper security and non-allotment of houses, local youths and rowdy elements have turned the houses into gambling dens and also using them for liquor parties. The door panels and windows of many houses have broken and been taken away by the locals, said senior journalists Velagan-

dula Ajay and Jakkula Vijay Kumar. The double-bedroom houses complex was inaugurated by former MA&UD Minister KT Rama Rao along with the local MLA N Narendar on June 17, 2023 and the MLA proposed to allot the houses to all eligible journalists. According to local BRS leader Dr Hari Ramadevi, as the process of identifying eligible journalists to allot the houses was underway, the Assembly election code of conduct came into force and the process was put on hold. Some political pressure also played a role in stopping the process.

Fraudulent Land Grab in Kothagudem

Locals Demand Action Against Encroachers and Forged Documents



Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

In Kothagudem village, located in Narayanapur Mandal, a group of individuals has been illegally occupying vacant lands that belong to the hereditary village head. These individuals are reportedly involved in creating fake documents and forging signatures to take control of these lands, which are not listed in the village revision record. Despite numerous complaints from the village head, local officials, and the community, no significant action has been taken to resolve the issue. The concerned petitioners have repeatedly approached local authorities, including the Narayanapur Police Station, and submitted a letter requesting the forged signatures be sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for investigation. However, they claim no acknowledgment has been received, and no legal action has been taken to address the matter. This lack of response from the authorities is leading to a sense of injustice within the community. Various media outlets have reported on the ongoing encroachments in Kothagudem

village, highlighting the seriousness of the situation. Multiple complaints have been made to the MRO, MPO, MPDO, DPO, Grama Secretary, and Sarpanch, but the issue remains unresolved. Additionally, government land meant for public use is being occupied, with those involved allegedly holding government jobs, including as Grama Kantham, and forging documents for land encroachment. The lack of proper maintenance and updating of the village's records has further allowed these encroachments to persist. The original heirs of the inherited lands are being denied their rightful place to live, while the encroachers continue with the support of influential leaders. The petitioners have requested the Telangana Yadadri Collector to conduct a thorough investigation into the matter, arrest the encroachers, and take necessary action. They urge the authorities to implement a solution under the Bhu Bharati Act Go MS 39 by surveying the lands and issuing Unique Identification Numbers (UNI) to prevent further encroachments.

Modi threatening in the name of fake cases the family who sacrificed their lives for the country: Kagita Rayappa

Hyderabad
Prashanth reddy
WUT | Apr . 19

:In protest against the inclusion of the names of Congress party All India leaders and India alliance chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi and leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha Shri Rahul Gandhi in the ED charge sheet in the National Herald newspaper case, apcc former secretary kagita rayappa Stated in his Media statement on April 18 Friday. He said in a statement on this occasion, the Modi government at the center rules the systems illegally. It uses autonomous institutions for its political gains. It weakens

those systems. It is clear that the inclusion of Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald newspaper case is for their political self-interest. Everyone needs to condemn the actions of the Modi government that undermine the Constitution and democratic values. It is trying to threaten and silence the opposition party leaders by registering cases through institutions like ED and CBI. This is a completely bogus charge sheet, a bogus case. The fact is that in a 12-year-old case, the government had to file a charge sheet on the 365th day because there was no evidence. In that case, the government had filed a charge sheet, where not a single



paisa was exchanged. Not a single rupee was taken, not given, not benefited anyone. In the same case, the BJP is alleging corruption. Not a single asset was transferred. Young Indian is

a non-profit-making -Section 25 company, which does not pay any dividend or salary to any one of its shareholders. Nehru ji started three newspapers for the country - National Herald, Navjeevan and Quami Awaaz. A newspaper started during Nehru ji's time gradually weakened financially, Congress tried to bring it back, where is the corruption in it, he said. Why don't they file cases against any other party except the opposition party? What happened to those who were registered cases by ED and CBI after joining BJP? Was there prosecution in election cases? Those who have ED cases in the country, their cases were closed as soon as they

joined the BJP. From this, it seems that the ED is a parrot in a cage, it works for the BJP. The BJP's political agenda and spirit of revenge is visible in the ED taking action against a family that has made countless sacrifices for the country, he said. The Modi government, which is intoxicated with power, is trying to intimidate the opposition through the ED. They are harassing them by filing baseless cases against the party leadership, he said. Democracy is under attack in the country, this will not last forever, he said, let us all fight against the actions of the Modi government as soldiers of the Congress party

RSS, BJP Leaders Differ In Appointment of Party Media Convenors

New delhi
WUT | Apr . 19

All is not well at the BJP's Kerala unit. While the RSS is up in arms against the appointment of one of the state media convenors with ties to people having alleged links with the PFI, several senior BJP leaders are miffed over the efforts of new Kerala unit chief Rajeev Chandrasekhar to bring in "his own people" rather than party karyakartas in his team. The appointment of one of the media convenors in Mr Chandrasekhar's team, a former Union minister who was named as the BJP's Kerala chief last month, has come under the scanner. The new appointee is said to be a close friend of Sidheeq Kappan, a journalist having alleged links with the PFI and out on bail in a UAPA case.

A prominent Hindutva leader Swami Bhargava

Ram, close to the RSS, is leading the campaign against this new appointee's inclusion in the BJP chief's team. The saf-ron leader has also raised security concerns over the appointment, linking the appointee with Kappan. Besides, several senior BJP leaders are miffed over the efforts by the new chief to bring in "his own people" rather than BJP karyakartas in his team. While the Assembly polls are scheduled in the southern state early next year, the local body polls are scheduled by the end of this year. The BJP is already struggling despite its central leadership trying hard to compete with the Left and the Congress since 2014. To make matters all the more challenging, the RSS, it is learnt, wants the team of the new BJP chief in the state to give opportunities to "new faces" from within the organisation.

U.S. Man Hijacks Plane in Belize, Stabs Passengers and Pilot Before Being Fatally Shot

New delhi
WUT | Apr . 19

A dramatic hijacking unfolded in Belize on Thursday when a U.S. man aboard a small commercial flight attacked two passengers and the pilot, before being fatally shot by one of the injured passengers. Despite the chaos, the aircraft landed safely. The Tropic Air flight, carrying 14 passengers and two crew members, was en route from Corozal—a town near the Mexican border—to the tourist hotspot San Pedro. The situation escalated shortly after takeoff, around 8:30 a.m. local time, prompting Belize authorities to declare a full emergency. The hijacker, identified as Akinyela Taylor, allegedly demanded to be flown out of Belize, possibly to Mexico or the United States. During the ordeal, the plane circled erratically for nearly two hours while being followed by a police helicopter. It eventually landed safely in the coastal town of Ladyville. Belize Police Commissioner Chester Williams stated that Taylor, reportedly a U.S. military veteran, stabbed both the pilot and

two passengers. One of the wounded passengers, despite suffering a serious lung injury, managed to shoot and kill the hijacker. The passenger, licensed to carry a firearm, surrendered the weapon to authorities and is currently in critical condition. "We are praying for him," said Commissioner Williams. "He's our hero." Tropic Air CEO Maximillian Greif praised the pilot's bravery: "In the face of incomprehensible pressure, our pilot acted with extraordinary courage and calm, guiding the aircraft to a safe landing. His actions were nothing short of heroic." The pilot and both injured passengers were taken to a hospital for treatment. Tropic Air officials identified the injured crew member as Howell Grange, and the two passengers as Fitzgerald Brown and Jair Castañeda. Their nationalities have not yet been confirmed. U.S. officials are working closely with Belizean authorities to investigate the motive behind the hijacking. State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce described the incident as "horrifying" and expressed relief that a mass casualty event was avoided.

Over 1,000 International Students Face Visa Cancellations in the U.S., Sparking Legal Battles

New delhi
WUT | Apr . 19

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has expressed growing concerns about the intentions of the United States, casting doubt over the U.S. commitment to a fair and peaceful resolution just a day before a new round of nuclear talks between the two nations. These talks, set to take place in Rome, follow a series of high-level negotiations between the two countries, which represent the highest-level talks since U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal three years ago. Since that time, Iran has gradually escalated its nuclear activities, including enriching uranium to levels up to 60 percent purity—near weapons-grade levels of 90 percent. In a press conference held in Moscow on Friday, Araghchi was candid about the serious doubts Iran has regarding the United States' motivations in these negotiations. Despite these reservations, he made it clear that Iran would still participate in the upcoming talks scheduled for the next day. These negotiations are being mediated by Oman, with U.S. Middle East

envoy Steve Witkoff representing Washington's interests. Araghchi reiterated that Iran's primary goal is to reach a peaceful resolution regarding its nuclear program, which it has consistently insisted is for peaceful civilian purposes, despite the long-standing accusations from Western powers that Iran is seeking to develop nuclear weapons. The Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also participated in the Moscow press conference, offering Russia's support in facilitating the ongoing negotiations. Lavrov stated that Russia was prepared to play any role deemed helpful by Iran and acceptable to the United States in the negotiations. He emphasized

that any potential agreement between Iran and the U.S. should focus strictly on the nuclear issue, warning against complicating the talks by introducing non-nuclear issues that could derail progress. Lavrov stressed that adding additional topics, such as Iran's missile program or its regional influence, could create unnecessary risks and hinder the chances of reaching a successful agreement. Iran's stance on the nuclear talks has remained firm. The country has drawn clear red lines regarding its nuclear program, particularly the enrichment of uranium. Araghchi specifically stated that Iran would not discuss uranium enrichment, especially in light

of U.S. negotiators pushing for a complete halt to Iran's enrichment activities. Additionally, Iran has made it clear that its missile program and regional influence are not open for negotiation, considering these areas to be beyond the scope of the nuclear talks. This hard-line position is in line with Iran's long-standing rejection of what it perceives as unreasonable demands from the U.S. in past negotiations. Araghchi noted that while Iran is ready to engage in talks, there must be realistic expectations from both sides. He emphasized that if the United States refrains from making what he termed "unrealistic demands," an agreement could indeed be reached.



Bihar CM launches Mahila Samvad Campaign to Connect to Women

Patna
WUT | Apr . 19

In a bid to reach out to the female voters, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar on Friday virtually launched the "Mahila Samvad" campaign to connect and inform women about the welfare measures being taken by the state government for their empowerment. The chief minister also flagged off "women dialogue" awareness vehicles for all districts from his official residence at 1, Anne Marg, in Patna. There is a tussle among the contesting political outfits to woo the women voters in the state. It may be recalled that participation of women voters had

surpassed the men voters' turnout during the last Lok Sabha polls. Women voters form nearly 48 per cent of the state's total electorate and in last year's Lok Sabha polls, women voters participation surpassed men's turnout. As per the records, in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the average voters turnout in Bihar was 56.28 per cent, while men's participation was at 53 per cent and women's turnout was recorded at 59.45 per cent. It is believed that through the Mahila Samvad campaign, the NDA government in Bihar is trying to reach out to women voters across the state to win another term in

power in the state. During the campaign, the women dialogue awareness vehicles will travel to all districts and spread awareness about government welfare schemes for women and facilitate dialogue, particularly in rural and remote areas. The work done by the NDA government will be shown to the women electorate through the video-films during the campaign. Nearly 600 vehicles fitted with large television screens are being used for the purpose. The suggestions received from women will be compiled by officials and will be further used by the government in further formulating policies and

schemes for women. "The campaign aims to educate, inspire and connect women with resources and opportunities that are being provided through state-run schemes for women," the chief minister's office (CMO) said in a statement. A letter written by Mr Kumar addressed to women of the state was also released at the launch function of the campaign. The CMO said that the problems, which will be received during the dialogue, will be resolved quickly at various levels. "Problems of women will be discussed in the presence of senior officials during the campaign and will be resolved.

Haryana Land Deal: Robert Vadra Appears Before Probe Agency On 3rd Day

New delhi
WUT | Apr . 19

Amid ongoing reports of a power struggle within the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Friday openly voiced his displeasure over the minimal time allotted to him for delivering his speech at the state sports awards ceremony in Pune. This marks the third instance within a week where Pawar was reportedly denied adequate speaking time at official events. The award function, organized by the state sports department, was held at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Mhalunge-Balewadi, Pune. It was attended by Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar. The ceremony recognized around 150 sports achievers with the Shiv Chhatrapati State Sports Lifetime Achievement Award and Excellent Sports Guide Awards. However, the other Deputy CM, Eknath Shinde, was notably absent from the event. During his brief address, Pawar, who also serves as the state's finance minister, sarcastically remarked on the time constraint, saying, "Even a team in an ODI match is given four hours. Hockey and Kabaddi games also last more than an hour. But here, the head of the state

and two deputy chief ministers are given only four to five minutes to speak." He emphasized that such a limited duration was insufficient to even acknowledge the names of the awardees, let alone discuss the government's initiatives for sports development. "How can I talk about what efforts the government is taking for the development of sports in such a limited time slot? I am a person who abides by rules. Therefore, I am going to stop here," he concluded. Earlier this week, both Ajit Pawar and Eknath Shinde were not allowed to speak during Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary event at Chaityabhoomi in Dadar. They left the venue without interacting with the media. Similarly, Pawar was not permitted to speak during the 345th death anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Raigad Fort, which was attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The repeated instances of being sidelined have further fueled speculation about internal friction within the Mahayuti alliance.



US Revokes 1,000+ Student Visas, Lawsuits

Washington
WUT | Apr . 19

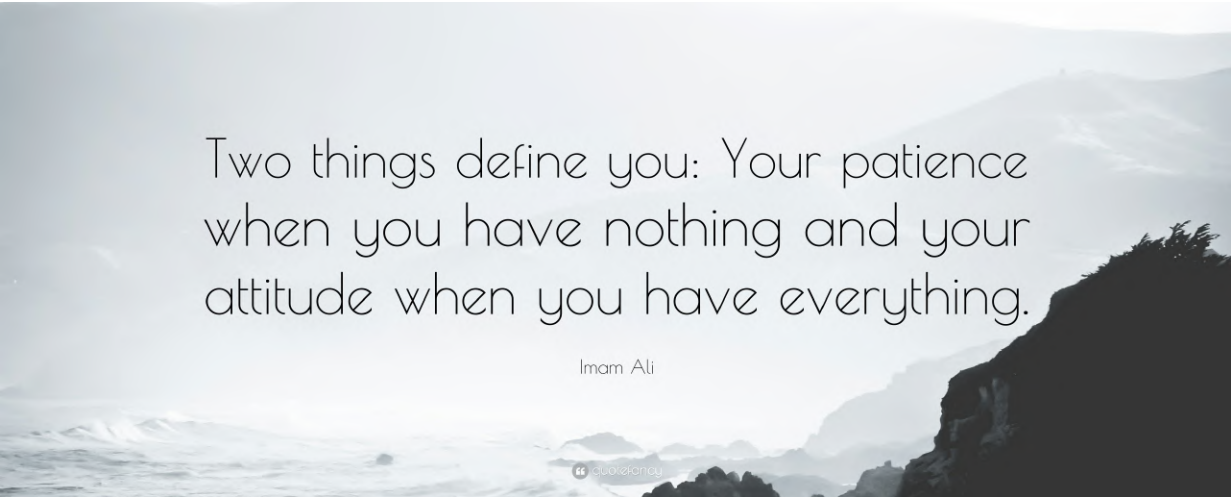
In a move that has triggered alarm across the academic community, more than 1,000 international students have had their visas or legal status revoked in recent weeks, with many now facing the threat of detention or deportation. According to an Associated Press review, at least 1,024 students from 160 colleges and universities have been impacted, ranging from prestigious institutions like Harvard and Stanford to large public schools such as Ohio State and the University of Maryland. Several affected students have filed lawsuits against the

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), claiming the government denied them due process and failed to provide valid reasons for the termination of their legal status. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other legal advocates argue the DHS appears to have enacted an unwritten, nationwide policy targeting student visas en masse, often over minor infractions or for unclear reasons. In some cases, students have lost status over issues as trivial as old traffic violations. Colleges and universities have expressed concern over the arbitrary and opaque nature of the revocations,



noting a lack of communication from the federal government. DHS has so far not provided public comment on the situation. Student visas, typically issued under the F-1 category, require recipients to maintain academic enrollment and financial support. While these visas are issued by the State Department, legal status inside the U.S. is monitored by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program under DHS. Traditionally, students who lost their visas could still legally remain in the U.S. to complete their studies. However, the recent terminations also revoke legal residency, placing students at risk of arrest. Legal challenges are underway across sev-

eral states. A federal judge in New Hampshire recently blocked the removal of a Dartmouth student, and similar cases are being heard in California and Georgia. Higher education leaders have condemned the lack of transparency, warning that these developments could deter future international enrollment. "These actions are creating fear and confusion," said Sarah Spreitzer from the American Council on Education. Meanwhile, colleges are urging students to carry immigration documents at all times and are calling on the federal government for clarity and accountability.



EDITORIAL

TECH TRASH, GROWING E-WASTE CRISIS

Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

Have you ever wondered where your old smartphone goes after you toss it? That tiny device — filled with valuable metals and toxic chemicals — doesn't just vanish. More often, it ends up in landfills or is dismantled under hazardous conditions in developing countries.

With technology evolving rapidly, devices are being replaced at an alarming rate, fueling a growing e-waste crisis. E-waste, or electronic waste, includes discarded gadgets like smartphones, computers and TVs. While no universal definition exists, it generally covers expensive, durable products used for data processing, communication and entertainment.

As lifespans shrink due to rapid innovation, global e-waste surged to 62 million tonnes in 2022 and is projected to hit 82 million tonnes by 2030 (Statista, 2025). Poor recycling rates, informal processing and


weak regulations intensify the crisis, posing severe environmental and health risks. Per Capita e-waste Per capita production is the average amount of e-waste each person in a country produces. In 2022, the average per capita e-waste production was 7.8 kilograms. While Asia generated the largest quantity of e-waste overall, Europe and Oceania had the highest per capita rates, producing 17.6 kilograms and 16.1 kilograms per person, respectively. This shows that e-waste is not evenly distributed worldwide, and different regions handle it in different ways.

Within this vast waste stream, valuable metals such as gold, silver and platinum can be found in recoverable amounts. Valuable metals in e-waste were worth \$9.6 billion in 2022 and could reach \$13.6 billion by 2029. However, only 22.3% was properly recycled, while 48 million tonnes were informally handled, with 29% likely ending up in landfills.

Weak enforcement of laws, such as the 2016 Municipal Solid Waste Rules (Turaga & Bhaskar), allows illegal e-waste exports in low to middle-income countries, where workers, including women and children, face toxic exposure. Poverty forces many communities to rely on e-waste scavenging despite serious health risks.

Pregnant women and children are especially vulnerable, facing higher risks of neurodevelopmental disorders, respiratory diseases and toxic exposure. Studies link informal recycling to premature birth, stillbirth, and cognitive impairments. Addressing this crisis requires stronger regulations, safer recycling practices and technological innovations.

Toxic Wasteland In Ghana, one of the world's largest e-waste dumps, children as young as ten can be seen rummaging through mountains of discarded electronics, hoping to find valuable metals like copper and gold. Their hands, often bare, are covered in soot from burning



**WAKE UP
TELANGANA**
— ENGLISH DAILY —

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The Editor



Plea seeks fresh list for MPTC poll

Justice T. Madhavi Devi of the Telangana High Court took on file a writ petition challenging the final list of mandal parishad territorial constituencies (MPTCs) published by the district collector and district election authority in PA Pally mandal, Nalgonda district. The judge was hearing a writ plea filed by Palle Satyanarayana, an ex-sarpanch of PA Pally, and five others, assailing the action of the respondent authorities in publishing the final list of MPTCs without first issuing a draft notification or inviting objections, as required under the relevant administrative guidelines. The petitioners contended that the final list issued by the district collector and district election authority through proceedings dated February 3, 2025, was arbitrary and in direct violation of the instructions issued by the principal secretary, panchayat raj and rural development department, under Memo dated January 30, 2025. The petitioners contended that the respondent authorities had failed to publish the draft MPTC list and did not dispose of the objections already submitted, thereby denying them a fair opportunity to participate. The petitioners sought a direction to set aside the final publication and to direct the authorities to follow due process by first issuing a draft notification, inviting and considering objections, and only then publishing the final MPTC list in accordance with the official guidelines. The judge directed the government pleader for panchayat raj to get instructions from the respondent authorities and posted the matter next week.

SC to Hear Plea on Termination of Telangana Law Officers on May 5

Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

The Supreme Court has scheduled a hearing on May 5 to consider a plea challenging the termination of several state law officers in Telangana following the formation of the Congress-led government. These law officers, who were appointed by the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government to represent

the state at various judicial forums, have moved the apex court against the Telangana High Court's verdicts that upheld their dismissal. The plea has been filed by Yendala Pradeep and others. On April 17, a bench comprising Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Prashant Kumar Mishra heard the matter briefly before deferring it. The court allowed the adjournment after the

counsel for the Telangana government sought time to seek fresh instructions in light of the arguments presented. "After hearing senior counsel for the petitioners, when called upon, counsel for the state submitted that in view of issues which have emerged during the course of arguments, she would be required to take fresh instructions, specifically on such issues," the bench noted while

adjourning the matter. The legal challenge pertains to a government order issued in June 2024, shortly after the Congress came to power following the Assembly elections in November 2023. The new administration terminated the services of law officers appointed under the previous regime, prompting a legal dispute over the validity of such action. The petitioners argue that

a change in political leadership does not alter the constitutional identity of the state and claim that their services were unfairly terminated solely due to political reasons. They are seeking reinstatement and all consequential service benefits. However, both a single-judge bench and a division bench of the Telangana High Court had dismissed their petitions. The High Court ruled that

law officers serve at the pleasure of the government and are not regular employees, adding that their appointments are contractual in nature and may be terminated with a month's notice or honorarium. The court also observed that the appointments were not made through a formal selection process and reaffirmed the government's authority to choose its legal representatives

Telangana High Court Continues Hearing on Plea Against Govt's Stance on AICTE-Approved Intake

Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

The Telangana High Court on Friday continued hearing a batch of writ petitions challenging the state government's stance on student intake for the academic year 2024-25 in AICTE-approved institutions. Justice K. Lakshman is presiding

over the case, which includes petitions filed by MGR Educational Society and others. The petitioners have contested the applicability of Section 20 of the Telangana Education Act, 1982, arguing that it is unconstitutional and ultra vires when applied to approvals granted under the AICTE Act, 1987.

They urged the court to strike down a government memo issued in August 2024, calling it arbitrary, unlawful, and violative of constitutional provisions.

According to the petitioners, their institution had received full approvals from both the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Jawahar

lal Nehru Technological University (JNTU) for its courses, including an increased student intake for 2024-25. However, the state government's reliance on Section 20 and the subsequent issuance of the memo allegedly prevented the institution from admitting students to its full sanctioned capacity. The plea also sought

directions from the court to recognize the petitioner college as duly approved for the current academic year and to permit admissions either through a fresh mop-up round of TG Eapcet counselling or via spot admissions. Earlier in September 2024, the High Court had declined to grant interim relief, citing the

completion of admissions and the commencement of the academic session in August. The court had also dismissed interim prayers to suspend the impugned memo and to direct authorities to notify all approved courses and intake during the mop-up and spot admission phases of TG Eapcet 2024-25.

In ‘Kesari 2’, I’m not acting as an artist, but as an Indian: Akshay Kumar

Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

As “Kesari Chapter 2” released on Friday, actor Akshay Kumar said that he’s not merely acting as an artist, but as an Indian in the film.

Akshay took to Instagram, where he shared a few stills from the film, which also stars Ananya Panday and R Madhavan.

For the caption, he wrote in Hindi: “Kahaniyaan bahut suni hongi aapne par yah ek toofaan hai. C Shankaran Nayar ki is kahani ne mujhe jhahkooor diya kyunki hum nahin jaante the ki Jallianwala Bagh narsanhar ke baad kisi ek vyakti ne poore British ampayar ko adalat mein ghaseet kar ghutnon par la diya tha.”

“(You must have heard many stories, but this one is a storm. C Sankaran Nair’s story shook me because we didn’t know that



after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, one man dragged the entire British Empire to court and brought them to their knees..)” “Kesari Chapter 2 film mein sirf ek kalakaar ki haisiyat se nahin balki ek Bharatiya ke taur par kar raha hoon. Yah sirf ek film nahin... yah ek adhoora hisaab hai, yah ek dardnaak yaad hai... aur aakhirkaar — yah insaaf hai. Kesari Chapter 2 ab aapke naz-deeki cinema gharon mein.”

“(In the film Kesari Chapter 2, I am not acting merely as an artist, but as an Indian. This is not just a film... this is an unfinished account, this is a painful memory... and finally — this is justice. Kesari Chapter 2 — now in your nearby cinemas..)” “Kesari Chapter 2: The Untold Story of Jallianwala Bagh” is directed by Karan Singh Tyagi and produced by Dharma Productions, Leo Media Collective, and

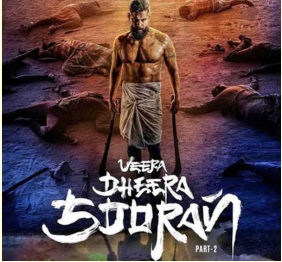
Cape of Good Films. The film is a spiritual sequel to Kesari in 2019, the plot is based on the book The Case That Shook The Empire by Raghu Palat and Pushpa Palat, centred around C Sankaran Nair and the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre. The film stars Akshay Kumar, R Madhavan and Ananya Panday. It was released on 18 April 2025, marking the 106th anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. The first installment of “Kesari” was headlined by Akshay. Directed by Anurag Singh, it follows the events leading to the Battle of Saragarhi, a battle between 21 Sikh soldiers of the 36th Sikh Regiment of the British Indian Army and 10,000 Afridi and Orakzai Pashtun tribesmen in 1897. Ahead of the release of the film, Akshay, Ananya visited the Golden Temple and Jallianwala Bagh on April 14 to remember

Chiyaan Vikram’s ‘Veera Dheera Sooran: Part 2’ to stream on OTT from this date

Mumbai
WUT | Apr . 19

Actor Chiyaan Vikram’s action thriller ‘Veera Dheera Sooran: Part 2’ to stream from April 24 on Prime Video.

Written and directed by S U Arun Kumar and starring Chiyaan Vikram in the lead, Veera Dheera Sooran: Part 2 also features S J Suryah, Suraj Venjaramoodu, Dushara Vijayan, and Prudhvi Raj in pivotal roles. The gritty survival thriller is replete with intense performances, power-packed action, and stirring music by the maestro G V Prakash Kumar. It will be avail-



able in Tamil, with dubs in Telugu, Hindi, Malayalam, and Kannada. Prime Video took to Instagram, where they made the announcement and wrote: “One night. No rules. Only survival. A night that will change everything. #VeeraDheeraSooranOnPrime, April 24”. Set against the backdrop of a temple festival in Madurai, Veera Dheera Sooran: Part 2 follows the story of Kaali, a

seemingly reformed provision store owner, loving husband and doting father. But when his troubled past resurfaces in the form of his former crime boss, Periyavar Ravi, Kaali is dragged back into a world he thought he had left behind. Unfolding over the course of a single treacherous night, the edge-of-your-seat thriller takes a gory turn when he is tasked with eliminating SP Arunagiri. As Kaali struggles to protect his family while confronting ghosts of his violent past, he finds himself dragged into a dangerous game of survival, facing threats from multiple sides.

Sikandar Box Office Collection Day 18: Salman Khan’s Film Continues To Struggle



Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

Salman Khan’s Sikandar continues to witness a decline at the box office. On Wednesday, the film earned ₹14 lakh through ticket sales, according to industry tracker Sacnilk. With this, the movie – made on a reported budget of ₹200 crore – has amassed a total of ₹109.74 crore in 18 days. Sikandar recorded an overall Hindi occupancy of 6.19% on April 18, the report added. The breakdown includes 4.78% for morning shows, 6.41% for after-

noon shows, 6.62% for evening shows and 6.96% for night shows. While Sikandar continues to struggle at the box office, Akshay Kumar came out in support of Salman Khan on Tuesday. During a special screening of Kesari: Chapter 2 in Delhi, Akshay was asked about the recent underperformance of big-budget films. In response, Akshay Kumar told Hindustan Times, “Dekhiye yeh galat baat hai. Aisa hai, aisa ho nahi sakta hai. Tiger Zinda hai aur hamesha rahega. Salman aisi nasal ka tiger jo zindagi mein kabhi marr nahi sakta. [Look, this is wrong. This is how it is — it just can’t happen. The Tiger is alive and will always remain so. Salman is that breed of tiger who can never die in this life.

‘Jinguchaa’ first single from Mani Ratnam’s ‘Thug Life’ released

Mumbai
WUT | Apr . 19

The makers of director Mani Ratnam’s eagerly-awaited explosive action entertainer ‘Thug Life’, featuring actor Kamal Haasan in the lead, on Friday released ‘Jinguchaa’, the first single from the film much to the delight of fans and film buffs.

At a grand event organised at the Kalaivanar Arangam, the makers released the first single of the film in the presence of distributors of the film and media persons from across the country. ‘Jinguchaa’, the first single that has lyrics by Kamal Haasan, has been set to tune by Oscar winner A R Rahman. It has been rendered by Vaishali Samant, Shakthisree Gopalan and Adithya RK.

A special screening for the media showed that the song appears during a wedding that takes place in the film. Sanya Malhotra delivers a delightful dance performance in the song, which also has Kamal Haasan and Silambarasan shaking a leg at the end. The first single launch event was attended by director Mani Ratnam, music director A R Rahman, actors Kamal Haasan, Trisha, Joju George, Ashok Selvan and Abhirami among others. It was disclosed that the film’s full-fledged



audio launch is to take place on May 16. This apart, a musical event is also to take place in Australia as well and the entire ‘Thug Life’ team is expected to participate in it. Kamal Haasan plays a character called Rangaraya Sakthivel Naickan in this film, which has triggered immense excitement as it will only be the second film after Nayagan in which Mani Ratnam is working with Kamal Haasan. The two legends are coming together for this film after a period of 36 years. It may be recalled that director Mani Ratnam’s production house Madras Talkies had described this film as “an epic tale of power, rebellion, and triumph.” The film has music by A R Rahman and cinematography by Ravi K Chandran. It will have editing by Mani Ratnam’s trusted editor Sreekar Prasad and stunts by the stuntmasters, Anbariv.

Misbehaviour With Malayalam Actress; Kerala Culture Minister Assures Action

Mumbai
WUT | Apr . 19

Kerala’s Culture Minister, Saji Cherian, stated on Friday that the allegations made by Malayalam actress Vincy Aloshious against her co-actor, Shine Tom Chacko, who is accused of misbehaving with her on a film set, will be investigated. Cherian stated that the complaint filed by the actress is a serious issue and requires a thorough investigation. He praised her for publicly sharing her experience and demonstrating the courage to call out inappropriate behavior, emphasizing that such incidents are unacceptable in the Malayalam film industry, which is respected nationwide. The government has vowed to take strict action if the allegations against



Shine Tom Chacko are proven true. Minister Cherian also urged for the establishment of effective internal mechanisms within the film industry. He called for the film community to respond promptly when such complaints arise. It is no secret that many internal committees on film sets exist only on paper and do not adhere to established guidelines. In a related development, the Ernakulam North police station has instructed

Shine Tom Chacko to appear before the officers concerned on Saturday. A notice was issued to him on Friday, asking for his presence at the North Police Station. However, sources close to Chacko indicate that he is unlikely to comply with the request, as he plans to seek more time to respond to the police and is consulting with legal counsel regarding the complaint. In her allegations, Vincy, who has appeared in numerous films, claimed that Shine Tom Chacko made sexually suggestive comments while under the influence of drugs. She reported that when she went to a room to change her clothes, the actor followed her and even offered to help her change, which she considered a form of sexual advancement.

Athiya Shetty reveals daughter’s name, shares first picture on Instagram on KL Rahul’s birthday

Mumbai
WUT | Apr . 19

Athiya Shetty and KL Rahul welcomed their baby girl recently in March, and on Friday, the couple posted her first picture on social media and revealed her name. The couple shared a photo of their daughter and revealed her name ‘Evaarah’ in the caption on Friday, which also happens to be the star Indian batter’s birthday. “Our baby girl, our everything Evaarah ~ Gift of God,” they shared in the caption.

Actors Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Anuska Sharma, Vaani Kapoor and



Malaika Arora dropped heart emojis in comments

section of the photograph.

Mohanlal’s L2: Empuraan gears up for its OTT release

Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

Mohanlal’s much-loved action drama L2: Empuraan, the thrilling sequel to Lucifer, is all set to make waves once again—this time on the digital screen. After a record-breaking run at the box office and receiving applause from critics and fans alike, the film is ready to reach audience at home through an OTT release.

Directed by Prithviraj Sukumaran, L2: Empuraan continues the gripping story that began with Lucifer.



The film received strong positive talk not just in Kerala, but across the country, with many praising its gripping narrative and powerful performances. The sequel dives deeper into the mysterious and intense world

built in the first film, offering twists, political drama and action-packed sequences. The movie features a star-studded cast, including Mohanlal in the lead role, along with Prithviraj Sukumaran, Tovino

Thomas, Manju Warrier, Suraj Venjaramoodu and Sachin Khedekar, among others. Their performances, especially Mohanlal’s, were widely appreciated by fans and critics. With strong storytelling and stylish direction, L2: Empuraan became a sensation in theatres. Now, audience who missed it on the big screen or wish to re-watch the thrilling ride have a new reason to celebrate. The film is scheduled to start streaming on JioHotstar from April 24, 2025, bringing the blockbuster straight to living rooms.

CITY CLICKS

Royals in for a clash against Lucknow Super Giants at Jaipur



An inconsistent Rajasthan Royals will be desperate to plug the holes across departments and halt a three-match losing streak when they host Lucknow Super Giants in the Indian Premier League here on Saturday.

With just two wins from seven games, the Royals are languishing at eighth on the table and come into the contest on the back of a gut-wrenching Super Over defeat to Delhi Capitals.

As the league hits the halfway mark, they'll need to shake off the heartbreak quickly if they hope to upstage Rishabh Pant's men and climb out of the bottom half.

Plagued by inconsistency in both batting and bowling, RR's campaign has struggled to find momentum. To make matters worse, skipper Sanju Samson suffered a side strain in the previous match and had to retire hurt, though he later said he was feeling "alright."

The Royals' batting, built around Indian mainstays, has misfired far too often, leaving the middle order exposed and under pressure.

Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, however, seems to have shaken off his rustiness with back-to-back half centuries against Royal Challengers Bengaluru and DC. But it will have to be seen if he carries the momentum into Saturday's match.

Samson is yet to produce a defining knock, with the 66 he made in RR's first match against Sunrisers Hyderabad being his best so far. A lot will depend on his and Jaiswal's form regarding how RR fare against the likes of Shardul Thakur, Avesh Khan, Digvesh Rathi and Ravi Bishnoi.

Riyan Parag and Dhruv Jurel have not made much contribution so far in the batting front, and the duo need to fire if RR have to post or chase down a big total.

Nitish Rana came back to form with a 51 against DC after the 81 he made against Chennai Super Kings last month, and he needs to carry on the momentum.

On the bowling front, Jofra Archer has slowly gotten into his groove. But the Royals' attack as a whole has been toothless. Apart from Sandeep Sharma, their other bowlers have struggled to control the scoring rate.

Sri Lankans Wanindu Hasaranga and M Theekshana have not done much really with seven wickets from as many matches while conceding lot many runs.

India fields strong squad for Asian Boxing, reflecting bright future



India has fielded a 56-member youth boxing squad—30 U-15 and 26 U-17 pugilists—for the Asian U-15 & U-17 Boxing Championships being held in Amman, Jordan, from April 17 to May 1. This is the first event organised by Asian Boxing, endorsed by both the Olympic Council of Asia and the newly-formed World Boxing.

Standout names in the U-17 boys' squad include Sahil Duhan and Devansh, who clinched silver and bronze, respectively, at the 2024 Asian Junior Championship, along with Tikam Singh, the SGFI 2024 gold medallist. On the girls' side, Samiksha Singh, Anshika, and Khushi Chand were among the medal winners at the 2024 Asian School Boys & Girls Boxing Championships in Al Ain.

The U-15 lineup features Ravi Sihag, a bronze medalist from the Asian School Boys Championship in Al Ain in 2024, as well as the 2024 sub-junior national girls boxing champion (64-67 kg), Trushna Mohite.

These young athletes reflect the bright future of Indian boxing, especially as the country eyes the 2036 Olympics. Competing at this prestigious championship, they carry the hopes of a nation and the potential to inspire the next generation of boxers.

The Interim Committee has upheld the values of the Boxing Federation of India by ensuring every athlete gets the support and opportunity to shine. It acted swiftly to resolve the deadlock and secured India's participation in this critical championship.

The team, accompanied by coaching staff and officials, travelled to Amman on April 17, with preliminaries beginning on April 19 following the draw on April 18.

The team:

Boys U-15:

Yash Nikam (33 KG), Sanskar Vinod Atram (35 KG), Har-sil (37 KG), Prikshit Balahra (40 KG), Hardik (43 KG), Khaidem Rudraksh Singh (46 KG), Sanchit Jayani (49 KG), Ravi Sihag (52 KG), Nelson Khwairakpam (55 KG), Naman Saini (58 KG), Abhijeet (61 KG), Lakshay Phogat (64 KG), Arpit Bishnoi (67 KG), Parth (70 KG), Yaman-veer Jawandha (+70 KG)

Girls U-15:

Komal (33 KG), Khushi (35 KG), Tamanna (37 KG), Svi (40 KG), Milky Meinam (43 KG), Yanshika (46 KG), S Linthoi Chanu (49 KG), Princi (52 KG), Samrudhhi Satish Shinde (55 KG), Navya (58 KG), Sunaina (61 KG), Ka-

Punjab Kings beat RCB in rain-hit match

After reducing the hosts to a total of 95 runs with crafty bowling

Bengaluru WUT | Apr . 19

In a rain-affected IPL encounter that commenced unusually late at 9:45 PM, Punjab Kings delivered a disciplined all-round performance to secure a convincing five-wicket victory over Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Friday.

The match was reduced to 14 overs per side due to persistent evening showers, but that did little to dampen the intensity of the contest.

Punjab's bowlers laid the foundation for the win by executing a near-perfect strategy with the ball, restricting RCB to a below-par 95 for 9. Despite a few hiccups in their chase, the Kings overhauled the target in 12.1 overs, finishing at 98 for 5 and moving to second place on the points table with 10 points—just behind leaders Delhi Capitals. Meanwhile, RCB's woes at home continued as they remain winless on their turf this season.

Punjab Kings skipper Shreyas Iyer's decision to bowl first after winning the toss proved to be spot on. The pitch, fresh from the rain and offering considerable bounce, turned



into a tricky surface for stroke-making. The RCB innings got off to a disastrous start as Phil Salt was dismissed in the very first over. Attempting an aggressive shot off Arshdeep Singh, Salt only managed to get a faint edge that was safely pouched by wicketkeeper Josh Inglis.

The early loss of Salt was just the beginning of RCB's troubles. Star batter Virat Kohli followed soon after, falling to a well-directed delivery from Arshdeep. Marco Jansen covered significant ground to take a brilliant catch in the deep, sending the crowd

into stunned silence. RCB found themselves reeling at 26 for 3 by the end of the powerplay, with Liam Livingstone also falling cheaply.

The middle order failed to provide any real resistance. Yuzvendra Chahal, returning to his former IPL home ground, made an immediate impact by dismissing Jitesh Sharma and later accounted for Rajat Patidar. Patidar had looked promising during his short stay, stroking 23 off 18 balls, including a stunning pick-up shot for six over mid-wicket, but he too succumbed to the pressure.

Marco Jansen, combin-

ing pace and bounce effectively, struck twice in an over to dismiss Krunal Pandya and impact substitute Manoj Bhandage. With wickets tumbling at regular intervals, it was Tim David who stood tall amidst the ruins.

David, coming in at a precarious moment, played a brilliant lone hand for RCB. The Australian all-rounder remained unbeaten on 50 off just 26 balls, striking powerfully and cleanly to give his team a fighting chance. His most impressive moment came against left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar, whom he took for three consecutive

sixes in a lone display of aggression. Thanks to his knock, RCB managed to reach 95 for 9, a total that looked far from sufficient but still defendable on a testing surface.

Brar, despite being hit by David, had a commendable outing with two crucial wickets, while Arshdeep (2/23), Jansen (2/10), and Chahal (2/11) shared the honors in what was an all-round bowling effort from the Kings.

Punjab Kings' chase began with a bit of uncertainty. Their in-form and explosive opening pair of Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh looked unsettled against the bounce and movement generated by the RCB pacers. Arya, who had impressed earlier in the tournament, struggled to time the ball and eventually fell to a mistimed lofted shot off Josh Hazlewood, caught by Tim David.

Hazlewood, RCB's standout bowler on the night with figures of 3 for 14, then sent back skipper Shreyas Iyer for a low score. Iyer, attempting a cut shot to a delivery too close to his body, edged it behind to wicketkeeper Jitesh Sharma.

Prabhsimran and Josh Inglis also departed cheaply, and with the

score at 53 for 4, Punjab looked to be in a spot of bother. But the calm presence of Nehal Wadhwa in the middle helped the visitors regain control.

Wadhwa played a crucial, match-winning knock, displaying maturity and temperament under pressure. The left-hander remained unbeaten on 33 from just 19 balls, countering the leg-spin threat of Suyash Sharma with a couple of towering sixes. His composed presence allowed Punjab to cross the finish line comfortably despite the early jitters.

With this vital win, the Kings not only boosted their playoff hopes but also continued their upward march on the points table. For RCB, the loss further compounds a disappointing season, particularly at home, where they have yet to taste victory.

Player of the Match: Tim David – 50* (26 balls), including 3 sixes in a row off Harpreet Brar.

Despite the result, David's explosive innings stood out in an otherwise bleak RCB batting display and earned him the Player of the Match honors.

The battle of titans: All eyes on Siraj and Starc as Gujarat takes on Delhi Capitals

Ahmedabad WUT | Apr . 19

Mitchell Starc's mastery at the death and Mohammed Siraj's resurgence with the new ball will be the centre-pieces of a blockbuster top-of-the-table IPL showdown as Delhi Capitals take on Gujarat Titans in what promises to be a high-octane clash on Saturday.

The Capitals, who currently sit comfortably at the top with 10 points from six matches, come into the encounter riding a wave of momentum. Their dramatic Super Over victory against the Rajasthan Royals in their previous outing has only added to the team's confidence.

Starc, the architect of that triumph, delivered a spell of high-class fast bowling under pressure — including an unforgettable Super Over filled with toe-crushing yorkers — to seal the win. The Australian speedster, having skipped the Champions Trophy to recharge after a demanding Border-Gavaskar Trophy, looks fresher and sharper than ever. With 10 wickets to his name and an economy rate just over 10, Starc has led Delhi's pace attack with intent, ably supported by



Mukesh Kumar and Mohit Sharma. The upcoming battle between Starc and Gujarat's top order could very well shape the outcome of the match.

Gujarat's batting has revolved around the consistency of skipper Shubman Gill, the dependable Sai Sudharsan, and the ever-dangerous Jos Buttler. At least one among them has scored

a half-century in every game so far, making them the backbone of the Titans' run-scoring engine. However, their middle order remains relatively untested, and when finally exposed against the Lucknow Super Giants, they stumbled, resulting in a loss.

If Delhi's pacers, led by Starc, can dismantle the top order early, it could leave

Gujarat vulnerable and swing the game in Delhi's favor. On the flip side, Gujarat's bowling spearhead Mohammed Siraj has undergone a transformation of his own.

After an underwhelming Test series and missing India's Champions Trophy campaign, Siraj took time off to work on his craft — and it's paying dividends. With 10 wickets at an economy rate of 8.50, he has become the driving force of Gujarat's pace battery.

Siraj has particularly excelled in the Powerplay, using his Test-match lengths and lateral movement to trouble batters. Siraj's battle will be against a relatively inexperienced Delhi opening pair — Jake Fraser-McGurk and Abishek Porel.

Fraser-McGurk has yet to find rhythm in this IPL, while Porel has shown glimpses of promise. Both will be tested not only by Siraj but also by the in-form Prasidh Krishna, who has quietly had an outstanding season. Should Delhi lose early wickets, they will look towards the experience of KL Rahul and Karun Nair to stabilize their innings.

Axar Patel, who plays for Gujarat in domestic cricket, will be keen to

make an impact on his home ground. His recent return to form with both bat and ball adds depth to the Capitals' lineup.

Spin is expected to play a significant role as well. Gujarat have a reliable spin duo in Rashid Khan and Sai Kishore, who've regularly tied up opposition batters. Delhi's spin threat has come from Kuldeep Yadav, who's been instrumental in the middle overs alongside young left-arm spinner Vipraj Nigam.

However, Kuldeep's availability remains uncertain after he walked off with a shoulder injury in the previous game. His absence would be a major blow to Delhi's bowling plans, and the franchise is yet to provide a fitness update.

With two well-balanced teams clashing, each boasting world-class pace and spin options, and explosive batting lineups, this encounter could be a defining moment in the race for the IPL playoffs. The key will lie in the fine margins — whether Starc can break Gujarat's top order early, or if Siraj can dent Delhi's fragile opening combination — setting up what promises to be a thrilling contest.

Fierce Thunderstorm Batters Hyderabad, Brings Relief and Chaos

Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

A sudden and intense thunderstorm swept through Hyderabad on Friday evening, catching residents off guard and disrupting daily life across the city. The storm, marked by heavy rain, gusty winds, and even hail in some areas, brought much-needed relief from the recent heatwave but left behind widespread chaos.

According to the Telangana Development Planning Society, the highest recorded rainfall was 80.5 mm at the Owaisi Community Hall in Kanchanbagh. Several other localities, including Bahadurpura and Yakutpura, also reported rainfall ex-



ceeding 60 mm. The weather system began forming around 5:45 PM in western Hyderabad and rapidly intensified. Dark clouds rolled in swiftly, followed by strong winds and a heavy downpour. Localities such as Nallakunta even witnessed a brief hailstorm. Neighbourhoods like Gachibowli, Nanakramguda, Manikonda, Narsingi, and Bandlaguda were the first to be hit. The storm then spread across the city, affecting areas including Shaikpet, Kokapet, Hitec City, Alwal, Sainikpuri, Malakpet, LB Nagar, Ameerpet, Paradise, and several others.

The downpour caused severe waterlogging, with vehicles seen navigating

knee-deep water. Traffic snarls and signal failures were reported at several key intersections during the evening rush hour. Fallen trees added to the gridlock, with at least 48 tree-fall complaints received by the Hyderabad Revenue and Disaster Management Authority. Areas like Saroornagar, Kukatpally, BN Reddy Nagar, and Sultan Bazaar were among the worst affected.

Power outages were reported in parts of Khairatabad, Saidabad, and nearby localities. GHMC's Disaster Response Force (DRF) teams were deployed to clear debris, pump out water from flooded streets, and restore normalcy. Operations con-

tinued late into the night, especially in trouble spots like Raj Bhavan Road, Pragathi Bhavan, and Shilparamam.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for Hyderabad and 16 adjoining districts, forecasting thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds up to 50 km/h over the next 3-4 days. The storm was caused by a weather system pulling moisture from the southern Bay of Bengal, leading to atmospheric instability. While the rain offered temporary relief from the scorching heat, temperatures are expected to climb back to around 40°C in the coming week, meteorologists warned.

KTR Urges PM to Probe Rs 10k Cr Scam in Kancha Lands

Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to order a swift investigation into the destruction of the Kancha Gachibowli forest and an alleged Rs 10,000 crore financial scam. In a public appeal on X, he accused the Congress-led state government of orchestrating a massive fraud. Rama Rao described it as an environmental catastrophe and a grave financial fraud. The BRS leader alleged that the Telangana government mortgaged the 400 acres of land — lacking legal title — to raise a Rs 10,000-crore loan through intermedi-



aries, bypassing environmental clearances and forest department approvals. "This is not just about biodiversity loss. It's a 10,000 crore scam by the Congress government," he averred.

He claimed that the Supreme Court's Central Empowered Committee (CEC) had confirmed financial irregularities and recommended probes by Central agencies. The BRS has submitted evidence to support these

claims, he said. Referring to the Prime Minister's April 14 remarks in Haryana condemning deforestation in Telangana, Rama Rao urged Modi to expedite investigations to demonstrate his commitment to environmental protection and dispel perceptions of BJP-Congress collusion. "It's time to show Telangana that BJP and Congress aren't working together and that you truly care about protecting the environment," he said. He also criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's claim that there was no wildlife in Kancha Gachibowli, pointing to a Telangana High Court Registrar's report confirming the presence of diverse fauna in the area.

Protests Erupt in Hyderabad Against Waqf Amendment Act



Elaborate security arrangements were made at Macca Masjid near Charminar during Friday prayers. Following the prayers, Muslim devotees staged a protest with placards and slogans against the newly passed Waqf Amendment Act 2025 in Parliament.

Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

Massive protests broke out near the historic Makkah Masjid and in Saidabad on Friday, April 18, as demonstrators voiced strong opposition to the recently passed Waqf Amendment Act. The protests took place following the weekly Friday prayers.

In the Old City area, protesters gathered in large numbers near Makkah

Masjid, holding placards and banners condemning the Act. The Hyderabad Institute of Excellence was among the groups present at the demonstration. Slogans demanding the rollback of the amendment echoed through the area, as security forces maintained a close watch.

A similar protest was also held in Saidabad, where worshippers took to the streets after prayers to express their discontent with

the central government's move. Protesters criticized the Act, alleging that it undermines the rights and autonomy of the Waqf Board.

The Waqf Amendment Act was recently passed by Parliament, triggering outrage among sections of the Muslim community across the country. In Hyderabad, Friday's protests marked a significant show of resistance.

Hyderabad MMTS Rape Attempt Fabricated: Railway SP

Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

The alleged rape attempt on a woman aboard a Secunderabad MMTS train has taken a significant turn, with Railway Superintendent of Police (SP) Chandana Deepti stating that the woman misled the police. According to SP Deepti, the woman's injuries were sustained when she fell from the moving train while attempting to film an Instagram reel on her mobile phone. The SP revealed that the woman fabricated the rape attempt story to make her fall believable to

the authorities.

The police investigation involved an extensive review of over 300 CCTV cameras and the interrogation of more than 120 suspects. Authorities are now in the process of seeking legal opinion to close the case based on their findings. Initial reports of an attempted rape on a woman from Anantapur district, who works in a private firm, had gone viral. The woman, who fell from the MMTS train near Kompally, was initially admitted to Gandhi Hospital before being transferred to a private medical facility.

BRS, Congress Conspiring To Ensure MIM's Victory In MLC Polls: Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 18

The BRS and Congress were trying to ensure the victory of MIM in MLC elections with an aim to defeat BJP, alleged Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy here on Friday. "These three parties are working together as one. The BRS and Congress are conspiring to ensure the victory of Majlis," he said, while addressing party leaders at a preparatory meeting held ahead of Hyderabad local authorities



MLC elections, at Hotel Haritha Plaza in Begumpet.

"If people of Telangana do not think wisely, there is a danger of a situation like Razakars rule again. There are many incidents where Majlis leaders took

over the houses of Hindus in the old city and forcibly evacuated the residents," he said. The Congress and BRS were not hesitating to sacrifice Telangana and Hyderabad. The BJP is contesting Hyderabad local authorities MLC elections with an intention of awakening the people. "Winning is not important for us. The main goal is to save Hyderabad. The BJP is waging a war against the Majlis party's fanaticism and hooliganism," he explained.

Nehru Zoo Introduces Food Court With 300 Seats

Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

The Nehru Zoological Park has opened a food court near the rhinoceros enclosure, to seat over 300 visitors. The food court, being run on a 10-year lease in a public-private partnership mode, was inaugurated by R.M. Dobriyal, principal chief conservator of forests. He thanked officials for their support, including Elusing Meru, Dr Suvarna, Dr Sunil Hiremath and Vasantha. He said Dr Suvarna had



an important role in planning and carrying out the project.

Drunk men misbehave, create ruckus at Ayodhya Villas

Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

Drunk persons created a ruckus at Ayodhya Villas in Bahadurpally, under the jurisdiction of the Medchal-Dundigal Police Station. They trespassed into the premises, vandalized vehicles by breaking car windows, and assaulted a

security guard who attempted to stop them. It has also been reported that they misbehaved with a woman during the incident. The entire episode was captured on CCTV. The accused have been identified as Ajay, Nithin Lalu, and Thirumalesh. A case has been registered against them.

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Good Friday Observance in Hyderabad

Easter Celebrations Follow Good Friday Observance Across Twin Cities

Hyderabad
WUT | Apr . 19

The Christian community across Hyderabad and Secunderabad came together to observe Good Friday, a solemn day of mourning and reflection, commemorating the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Thousands of believers gathered in churches and chapels across the twin cities to participate in prayers, fasting, the Passion Play, and special masses throughout the day. James Silvesta, from the Catholic Church Association of Hyderabad, described Good Friday as the most sacred Friday of the year. He explained that the day began with morning services, where congregants gathered for a series of religious observances. "We engage in Bible readings, hymns, and the Stations of the Cross—a sequence of 14 depictions illustrating Christ's journey from condemnation to his burial," he said.

After the morning services, believers returned home before reconvening at 3 pm, a time considered sacred as the hour when Jesus is believed



Devotees gather at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Hyderabad for a solemn Good Friday Passion Play, reenacting the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ.—Photo: Mir Zulfeqar ali

to have breathed his last. "At this hour, believers engage in prayers and meditation, reflecting on the significance of this holy moment," Silvesta added.

Throughout the day, many churches hosted the Passion Play, a dramatic reenactment of Christ's trial and crucifixion. The Way of the Cross

was also observed, with participants carrying wooden crosses, retracing Jesus' final steps.

Beyond the religious services, fasting was observed in various forms, with many opting to forgo meals in solidarity with Christ's suffering. "From morning till 3 pm, fasting is generally ob-

served. Some individuals fast the entire day, while others skip one or two meals," said Sheela Kurian from St John the Baptist Church. "Our fast serves as a symbolic expression of unity with Christ's immense suffering and a humble recognition of his sacrifice."

Good Friday's observance

leads into the joyful celebration of Easter on Sunday, which marks Christ's resurrection and the culmination of the 40-day Lenten period. Lent is observed by many Christians as a time for repentance, during which personal indulgences are often avoided.

Easter Sunday will be celebrated with special services, prayers, hymns, and sermons recounting Christ's triumph over death. Churches and chapels across the city will be adorned with colorful lights and fragrant flowers, welcoming worshippers for the festive occasion. Families are expected to gather for festive meals, embracing the spirit of renewal and joy.

The tradition of Easter eggs also plays a key role in the celebration, holding symbolic meaning within the festival. "We enjoy coloring eggs in vibrant hues," said Sharon Dasari, a 24-year-old resident of Kukatpally. "The egg symbolizes the Resurrection—just as Jesus rose from the tomb, the egg represents new life emerging from the shell."