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BRIEFS

Centre playing politics on women's reservation law: Congress

Congress on Friday accused the centre of playing politics in the name of women's reservation law and said that delimitation exercise linked to it was "not constitutional" and could have "grave consequences". According to the proposed amendments to Women's Reservation Act, Lok Sabha seats are expected to increase from 543 to 816, and around 33% will be reserved for women.

PM Modi announces ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh for Mathura boat accident victims

Prime Minister Narendra Modi consoled the loss of lives after a boat carrying pilgrims capsized in the Yamuna River in Mathura and announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased and ₹50,000 to the injured. "I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured. The local administration is assisting those affected," he said.

Telangana will reject Revanth Reddy once he loses power: KTR

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) on Saturday, April 11, hit out at Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, saying the leader will be remembered as one "who deceived all sections of society" and that people of Telangana will eventually reject him and the Congress party.

The BRS leader was attending a large-scale party workers' meeting in Ibrahimpatnam, where he felicitated newly elected chairpersons, councillors, and sarpanches.

He said that despite nearly two months of alleged irregularities and misuse of power, the BRS still managed to secure victories in Ibrahimpatnam and Kyathanpally municipalities.

"Power is never permanent...once Revanth Reddy steps down from office, he may not even have anyone to acknowledge him...the public will certainly teach him a lesson for his undemocratic governance," KTR said.

At the gathering, KTR spe-



cially appreciated Prashanth Reddy, son of senior leader Manchireddy Kishan Reddy, for standing firm against harassment by the ruling party and emerging victorious.

"Election results prove that strong and determined leadership always earns public support," he said.

KTR accused Revanth Reddy of running a "land scam" in the name of Pharma City and said that before elections, Congress leaders had promised to return the 14,000 acres of land acquired for Pharma City to farmers, but are now misleading them with the concept of a "Fourth City"

or "Future City." "On the one hand, the government claims in court that Phrama City exists, then proposes a new project on the same land outside," he said.

"Leaders like Bhatti Vikramarka, Seethakka, and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy had assured farmers during their padyatras that lands would be returned if Congress came to power.

But now, instead of fulfilling that promise, the government is planning to acquire an additional 16,000 acres, calling it a Bharat Future City," KTR stated in a release, terming the project a "drama"

aimed at benefiting the Chief Minister's family members and associates.

The former IT minister also said that the Congress government has expanded the prohibited land list from 16 lakh acres to nearly one crore acres, using it as a tool for "black-mail politics."

He accused Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and officials of pressuring collectors and facilitating illegal land settlements.

KTR also made allegations against Ibrahimpatnam MLA Malreddy Ranga Reddy, claiming widespread corruption and illegal collections

from businesses such as hotels, bars, and crushers.

He reiterated his warning that those who engage in illegal activities under political pressure will not be spared when BRS comes back to power and urged officials to work in the interest of the people.

In the end, he thanked party leaders and councillors who withstood pressure, false cases, and intimidation and helped secure the municipal leadership for BRS. He expressed confidence that the difficult phase for the party is over and that better days are ahead for the state.

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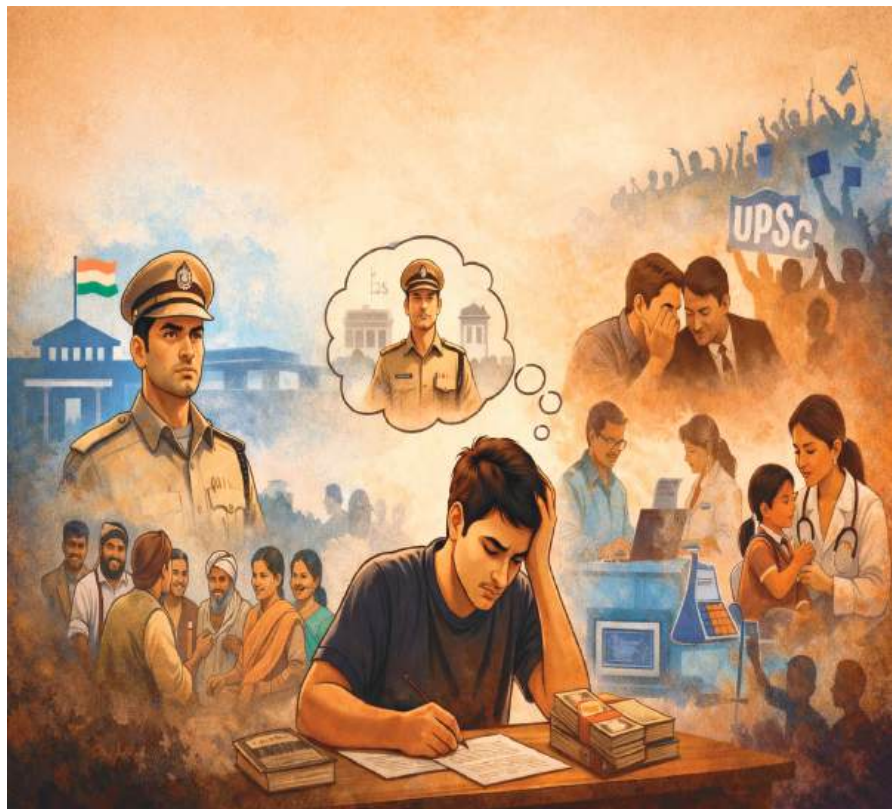
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EDITORIAL

Life is bigger than one exam: Questioning the mindset surrounding the UPSC



The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) results were recently announced. Like every year, the stories of successful candidates are making headlines. The interviews of the toppers, their strategies, their hard work, and their struggles are being discussed across the country. This is natural. The achievements of the young people who succeed in this exam after years of rigorous preparation are certainly worthy of praise.

But amidst all this celebration, there's another aspect that's less frequently discussed. It's the mindset that's forming in our society around the UPSC, which has transformed this exam into not just an opportunity but the ultimate measure of success.

Gradually, the belief that the ultimate goal of education is the UPSC has become deeply ingrained in our social environment. In homes, among relatives, and even in school and college settings, the message often echoes: true success lies in passing this exam. If a young man or woman in a household is selected for the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) or Indian Police Service (IPS), it becomes a matter of pride for the entire family and neighborhood. This pride is natural, but it also carries an unspoken message: those who fail to clear this exam are perhaps not as successful.

This mindset often creates unnecessary pressure on the minds of millions of young people. At the age of 18 or 19, when a student is contemplating their future, the UPSC is often presented as the ultimate goal. Interestingly, very few of these young people actually pursue this path, understanding the complexities of governance, policymaking, or public service. Often, this decision is driven more by the desire for social prestige than by motivation.

This trend has intensified in the age of social media. Short video clips, images of officers in uniform, and popular portrayals like "Collector Sahib" or "Supercop" create an attractive image in the minds of young people. But the reality behind these images—long working hours, administrative complexities, constant responsibility during natural disasters, political pressure, and the difficulties of decision-making—is rarely mentioned.

Another important issue related to this exam is that of language. Over the past few years, the representation of Hindi-medium candidates in UPSC results has been steadily declining. This is not just a language issue, but also an issue of equality of opportunity. Many students from smaller cities and towns across the country prepare for this exam with limited resources. They face challenges with the English language, a lack of study materials, and expensive coaching facilities.

Ironically, the officials who must work with the country's diverse population often think

and speak in their local languages. Hindi, Bhojpuri, Maithili, Awadhi, or other Indian languages are not just a medium of communication but also an expression of social experiences. If the experience of linguistic inequality increases in the selection process, it should be a matter of concern.

At the same time, we must recognize that a nation isn't built solely by administrative services. Today, the contributions of scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, teachers, doctors, and technical experts are equally important to India's progress. Thousands of young people working in information technology are strengthening the country's digital infrastructure. New ideas in the startup world are finding solutions to the problems of farmers, small businesses, and ordinary citizens.

Yet these professions rarely enjoy the social prestige that civil service commands. This imbalance also impacts young people's career choices. Many talented students, simply due to societal expectations, spend years preparing for the UPSC, even though their potential could contribute significantly in other fields.

It's also a harsh reality that out of millions of candidates, only a few hundred ultimately succeed in this exam. For the remaining candidates, the process can often prove lengthy and mentally demanding. Some students persevere for five or six years, during which their age, financial resources, and sometimes even personal relationships are compromised. In the event of failure, they are left feeling as if their struggle was in vain.

In fact, this attitude is the biggest problem. Success or failure in an exam cannot determine a person's full potential or worth. The UPSC is certainly an important exam, but it is not the door to life's possibilities.

As a society, we must understand that there are many paths to success. If we encourage young people to pursue only one path as supreme, we will inadvertently limit their potential.

The need today is that while we respect exams like the UPSC, we shouldn't let them become the sole goal of life. Young people must be assured that their hard work, their talent, and their contributions are not diminished by any single result.

Every profession has its own dignity, and every responsibility has its own importance in society. If we can develop this balanced approach, it will not only reduce unnecessary pressure on young people but also provide the country with talented and dedicated citizens in diverse fields.

Ultimately, it's important to remember that the result of any exam determines only an opportunity, not a person's worth. Life's possibilities are much broader than that—and it is these possibilities that are the true strength of a society.

What will it take to get ships going through the Strait of Hormuz again?



Wednesday's ceasefire announcement by President Donald Trump, linked to Iran reopening the Strait of Hormuz, prompted immediate optimism shipping would quickly resume. It didn't.

The following morning, traffic remained minimal. A handful of vessels, largely linked to Iran, made the transit. But most of the ships waiting in the Gulf stayed put. Iran announced shortly afterwards that it would effectively close the strait because of Israel's attacks on Lebanon.

The reality is the strait was never closed. Framing the issue as "open" or "closed" misses the point.

Ships are not being physically blocked. They are being deterred.

Over recent weeks, Iran has demonstrated both the capability and intent to target commercial shipping. Attacks and credible threats against vessels have driven daily transits down from around 130 to just a handful. Until that risk changes, ships will not return in meaningful numbers.

So what can be done to turn this around?

Both walking and talking

The ceasefire declarations have added to the uncertainty rather than resolved it.

Washington has asserted that the strait is open.

Tehran's messaging has been more ambiguous, including references to requiring vessels to inform Iranian authorities before transiting.

Some interpret this as a precursor to attempts to exert control over the waterway through a toll.

This ambiguity matters. Shipping is a commercial activity driven by risk calculations. Operators and crews will not move on the basis of political statements, particularly when recent experience suggests those statements may not hold.

The importance of reassurance

In practice, restoring traffic through the strait will likely occur in two phases.

The first is reducing the threat. That can occur through military means, diplomacy, or a combination of both, but it must materially degrade Iran's ability and willingness to target shipping.

The second is reassurance.

Even if Iran's attacks on civilian shipping stop as a result of the ceasefire, shipping will not immediately return. Confidence has been shaken and will take time to rebuild.

A credible reassurance effort would include limited naval escorts, at least initially. It's notable the US did not move immediately to demonstrate confidence in the ceasefire by escorting US flagged and crewed commercial vessels out of the Gulf.

That would have sent a clear signal to industry, helped restore confidence in transits and undercut subsequent Iranian claims that ships require approval from its armed forces.

Given Iran's interest in maintaining the ceasefire, it would have been unlikely to challenge ships under US naval protection. The US hesitation has instead created space for Iran to entrench its position, pushing vessels closer to its coastline and reinforcing its ability to shape how the strait is used.

An effective reassurance campaign would also involve a broader international presence to provide surveillance, information-sharing and rapid response capability. The international community should move quickly to establish this. Its very establishment would help restore confidence in transits.

We have seen this model before. The International Maritime Security Construct, established in 2019 following Iranian attacks in the Gulf of Oman, focused on transparency, coordination and reassurance rather than large-scale convoy operations.

I served as the construct's Director

of Plans in 2020. A similar, but more effective, approach is likely to be required again. It is not a silver bullet, but reassurance is layered, and this would at least provide the clarity and communication shippers need.

Diplomacy will also matter. Clear, coordinated messaging from the international community, backed by explicit economic consequences for any renewed attacks on merchant shipping, will be essential to rebuilding confidence.

The question of tolls

There has also been speculation about whether Iran might seek to impose a toll on vessels transiting the strait.

The legal position here is clear. The Strait of Hormuz is an international strait under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Ships enjoy the right of transit passage through the strait. Charging vessels for passage would cut directly against that principle and set a dangerous precedent for other strategic waterways.

There are early signs Iran is testing the boundaries. Reports of radio calls warning vessels they require approval to transit, and suggestions that ships should notify Iranian authorities before transiting, point to an attempt to exert greater control over the strait.

That should be resisted.

Allowing a toll, or even limited restrictions, to take hold in the Strait of Hormuz would have far-reaching consequences, undermining the central principle of maritime trade: freedom of navigation. Regardless of Donald Trump's flippant comments, the international community is unlikely to accept any enduring Iranian toll system.

If Iran attempts to pursue one, it should face clear economic consequences, including sanctions.

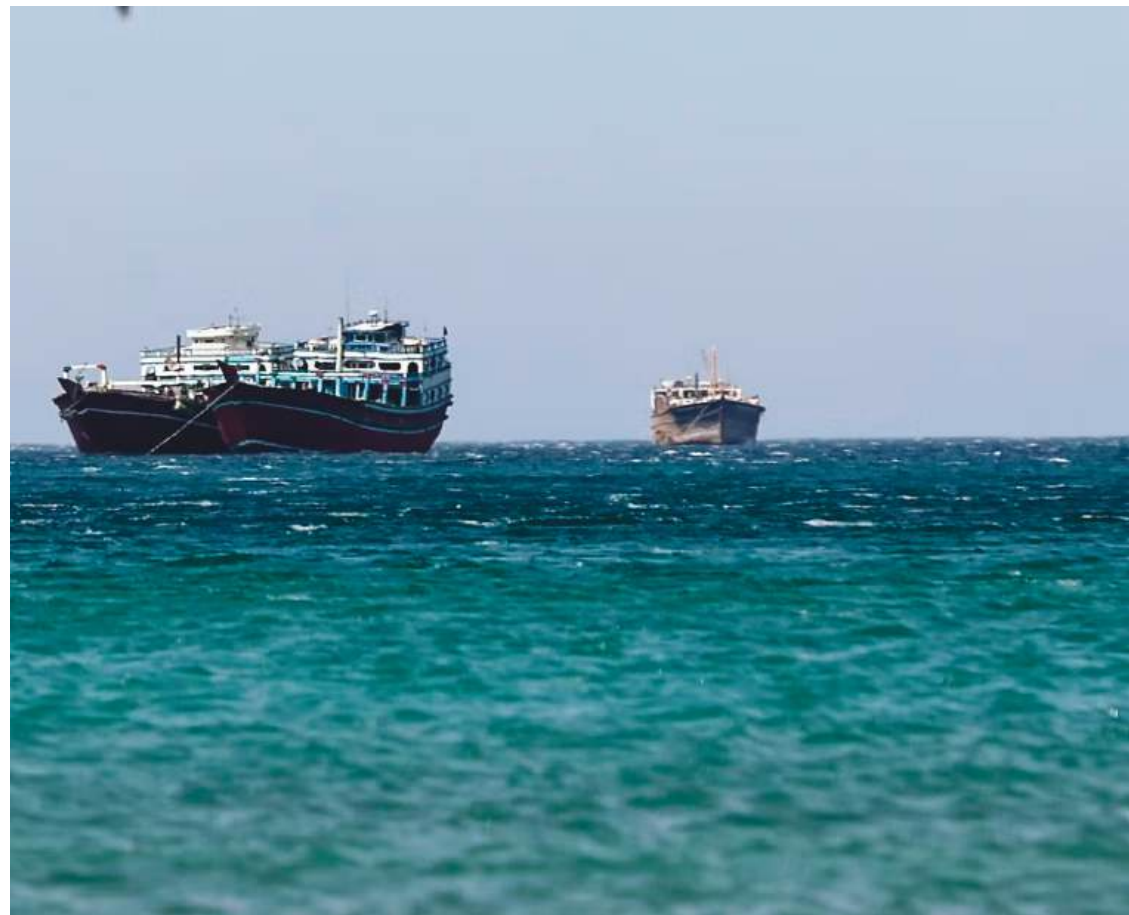
Questions remain about whether mines have been laid in or near the strait. Even the suggestion adds to uncertainty and reinforces the need for a coordinated international response, including transparent assessments of the threat environment.

A clear, public assessment from the international community on whether the strait has in fact been mined would go a long way. It should be an early priority for any coalition effort.

The bottom line

Ultimately, shipping will return to the Strait of Hormuz not when it is declared open, but when it is assessed to be safe enough.

That will require a sustained period without attacks, a visible international effort to secure the waterway, and clear signalling that the rules governing international straits will be upheld. Until then, the ships will wait.



Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu's role in the US-Iran war

There is now a ceasefire in the conflict between Iran on the one hand and the USA and Israel on the other, but it hangs by a thread. Resumption of war cannot be ruled out

At times, the ending can be made sense of only through the beginning. There is now a ceasefire in the conflict between Iran on the one hand and the United States of America and Israel on the other, but it hangs by a thread. This means that the resumption of war and its attendant horrors and sufferings cannot be ruled out. However, once the dust settles, it may be instructive to examine the roots of the West Asia crisis. And, if an illuminating account in The New York Times, the report-

ing of which is all set to be part of a forthcoming book, is any indication, Donald Trump may, indeed, have lit the fire in West Asia. But — and this is of crucial importance — he was egged on to light the flames by a Machiavellian ally, a nation that appears to have disproportionate heft with the United States of America, so much so that it can bring the US, and the world, to war. That nation, the news report makes it clear, is Israel.

On February 11, so goes The New York Times's account, Benjamin Netanyahu met Donald Trump and key members of his administration in a crucial meeting at the Situation Room in the White House. What tilted the outcome of

the meeting in favour of conflict was Mr Netanyahu's hard selling, in the form of a presentation, of some conclusions, which, in hindsight, stand disproved. For instance, in that meeting, the Israeli prime minister appeared certain of the capitulation of the Iranian regime facilitated by war and domestic uprising; he further claimed that Iran's missile capacities could be neutralised quickly; that Tehran was too weak to choke the Hormuz Strait; and that Iran's capacity to retaliate against the US and its Gulf allies was minimal.

Mr Trump was swayed, as was most of his Establishment, save for the vice-president. But the war has discredited each of Mr Netanyahu's assertions.

Several, albeit speculative, inferences can be drawn from this engagement. For instance, Mr Trump may have been influenced not just by Mr Netanyahu's convincing presentation: Israel's historical ties with the US as well as the convergence of the American president's own hawkish views with those of the Israeli prime minister may have acted as a trigger. That America's intelligence apparatus as well as all most of the president's wise men nodded in agreement — eventually — also exposes the perils of institutional acquiescence towards an overbearing executive authority. This is, by no means, a phenomenon limited to the US: the mother of democracy is not immune to this erosion either.

Two months after that consequential meeting, it would be interesting to see where the two stakeholders — conspirators — are placed. The war with Iran has

cemented Mr Trump's image as a gullible, unpredictable, and whimsical president. His constant, contradictory fulminations, against perceived foes and friends, in the course of the war have made matters worse. He now faces rising anger at home, international opprobrium, and, yet, chooses to stomp on a battered world battling a severe energy crisis among other challenges. Mr Netanyahu, though, will not be displeased. Israel's predations in Lebanon — they have cast a shadow on the ceasefire with Iran — mean that apart from strategic gains in the region, the clouds of war would continue to deflect public attention from Mr Netanyahu's domestic troubles, including judicial examination of charges of corruption. And while Iran, the world, and even Mr Trump count their respective losses, Mr Netanyahu can afford — as of now — to bask in his ledger of gains.



Source: theconversation.com

HAL OBC Body Marks Phule Jayanthi

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

The HAL OBC Employees Welfare Association celebrated the 199th birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule with great enthusiasm on Saturday, highlighting his enduring legacy and contributions to social justice and education.

The programme, held under the leadership of Association President Ravikumar Mudhiraj, began with the traditional lighting of the lamp and garlanding of Phule's portrait. HAL Accessories CEO Satyanarayana, who attended as the

Chief Guest, paid rich tributes to the reformer and emphasized his transformative role in shaping an equitable society.

Addressing the gathering, Satyanarayana stated that the progress in literacy and empowerment among oppressed sections and women is largely the result of Phule's relentless efforts. He noted that Phule's life continues to serve as a guiding force for future generations committed to equality and justice.

Senior officials including Hyderabad Avionics Executive Director Rammohan Rao, COP Chief Muralikrishna, and Liaison Officer Srihari Rao

also spoke on the occasion, recalling Phule's pioneering work in promoting education and challenging social inequalities.

On the occasion, Association President Ravikumar Mudhiraj highlighted key issues concerning the welfare of Backward Classes. He submitted a representation to the government outlining major demands, including the removal of the 'Creamy Layer' criterion in OBC reservations, enhancement of the income limit for Non-Creamy Layer certificates to 15 lakh, establishment of a dedicated Central Ministry for OBC welfare,



and a five-year relaxation in the upper age limit for OBC candidates in government job recruitments.

The event witnessed active participation from employees

and union leaders. Representatives such as Venkatadri, R. Vengal Rao, Karka Nagaraj, and Srinivas Babu, along with OBC office bearers including Madhu Sudhan, Bhagya Lak-

shmi, and Saikumar Goulikar, contributed to the success of the programme, reaffirming their commitment to Phule's ideals of social equality and empowerment.



Harris Jayaraj Concert on April 26

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

Renowned music composer Harris Jayaraj is set to enthrall audiences with a grand live concert in Hyderabad on April 26 at Boulder Hills. Ahead of the much-anticipated event, the composer, along with singer Karunya NC, interacted with the media and shared key highlights of the upcoming musical evening.

Speaking about his long-awaited performance in the city, Harris Jayaraj said the overwhelming response to the re-release of the film Orange inspired him to curate a special concert for Telugu audiences. He assured that the event would be a memorable treat, featuring popular tracks from films like Orange, Vasu, and Gharshana.

Highlighting the uniqueness of the concert, the composer revealed that all the singers performing at the event will be

the original voices behind the songs. This, he said, would offer an authentic and immersive live music experience for fans. He also mentioned that selecting songs was a challenging task due to the diverse lineup of singers, promising a rich and engaging musical journey. The event is being organised by Xora Club, which has assured that the concert will deliver an international-level experience, making it a one-of-a-kind musical event for Hyderabad audiences.

The media interaction also featured an engaging question-and-answer session, adding to the excitement surrounding the concert. Tickets for the event are currently available on District by Zomato.

With anticipation building rapidly, the concert is expected to be a grand musical celebration and a must-attend event for music lovers in the city.

Continental Hosts Parkinson's Initiative

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

Continental Hospitals marked World Parkinson's Day with a Patient Connect Initiative at its Gachibowli facility on April 11, bringing together around 200 participants, including Parkinson's patients and their family members.

The initiative served as a platform for interaction between patients, caregivers, and a multidisciplinary team of neurologists, neurosurgeons, rehabilitation experts, and nutritionists.

Discussions focused on disease awareness, early diagnosis, treatment options, nutritional support, and rehabilitation strategies for effective management of Parkinson's disease.

Founder and Chairman Dr. Guru N Reddy highlighted the hospital's commitment to patient-centric care, emphasizing the importance of strong patient-physician relationships. He noted that Parkinson's is a life-altering condition that requires a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach. At Continental Hospitals, each case is reviewed by a team of specialists to arrive at a consensus-driven treatment plan tailored to individual patient needs.

Senior Consultant Neurologist and Movement Disorders Specialist Dr. Chakradhar Reddy elaborated on the wide spectrum of symptoms associated with Parkinson's and stressed the importance of ho-



stic care. Senior Consultant Neurologist Dr. MK Singh pointed out that advancements in diagnosis, medications, immunotherapies, and neuro-modulation therapies have significantly improved disease management outcomes.

Director of the Centre for Endoscopic Neurosurgery Dr. Hrishikesh Sarkar highlighted the effectiveness of Deep Brain Stimulation in treating Parkinson's, noting the hospital's strong track record in delivering successful outcomes through advanced neurosurgical interventions.

A team of specialists, including neurosurgeons, neurologists, physiatrists, gastroenterologists, and nutrition experts, actively engaged with patients during the session. The hospital also showcased its advanced rehabilitation facilities, including pool therapy and robotic rehabilitation, aimed at improving patient mobility and quality of life.

Experts emphasized that lifestyle interventions, physical therapy, balance training, and early rehabilitation play a crucial role in managing Parkinson's. Cognitive behavioral therapy and mindfulness



techniques were also highlighted as effective in addressing anxiety and depression

associated with the condition, reinforcing the need for holistic and continuous care.



CBIT Holds Parent-Teacher Meet

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) organized a Parent-Teacher Meeting for B.E./B.Tech II Semester students, aimed at reviewing academic progress and strengthening communication between parents and faculty.

During the meeting, faculty members presented a detailed analysis of students' attendance and their performance in the first semester. Emphasis was laid on the importance of regular attendance, academic discipline, and continuous improvement to achieve better academic outcomes.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Prof. C. V. Narasimulu highlighted the crucial role of parents in supporting students throughout their academic journey. He stressed that collaboration between parents and faculty is essential for ensuring student success and overall development.

Prof. B. Sreenivas Reddy, First Year Engineering In-charge and Head of the Department of Physics, along with Dr. Swatmaram, Head of the Department of Mathematics, and Dr. K. Ramesh, Head of the Department of Chemistry, shared insights on academic expectations and performance standards. They guided parents on how to monitor and support their wards effectively.

Prof. B. Linga Reddy, Director of Student Affairs and Progression, also addressed the session, outlining various student development initiatives and emphasizing the importance of holistic growth beyond academics.

The meeting provided an interactive platform for parents to engage with faculty members, gain clarity on their wards' academic status, and discuss strategies for improvement. It reinforced CBIT's commitment to fostering a supportive academic environment through active parent-faculty collaboration.

One held in illegal liquor sale case



DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

The Pahadishareef police busted an illegal liquor sale racket and arrested one person during a raid on Saturday.

Officials raided a provision store and caught K Naresh when allegedly selling liquor

without valid permission. During the operation, police seized 47 liquor bottles of various brands.

Police said Naresh had been procuring liquor from authorised wine shops and selling it at higher prices for illegal profit. The case was booked.

CBIT Hosts Talk on CAT & MBA Paths

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

The IETE Student Forum of Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, in association with the Industry Institute Interaction Cell (IIC) and IMS Learning Resources Pvt. Ltd., organized an expert talk on "Understanding CAT & Management Opportunities After Engineering" on April 10 at the SMS Block Seminar Hall, CBIT Campus.

The session aimed to create awareness among engineering students about higher education opportunities in management, with a focus on CAT preparation, MBA career pathways, and prospects in top business schools. The session was delivered by Puneet Sharma, who provided in-depth insights into the CAT



examination structure, preparation strategies, and time management techniques.

The speaker elaborated on various MBA specializations, admission processes, and the importance of developing analytical, verbal, and decision-making skills required for management entrance exams. He also highlighted career opportunities available after pursuing management education from premier institutes.

Students actively partici-

pated in the interactive session, gaining clarity on career planning beyond engineering. The discussion helped them understand preparation timelines, strategies to balance academics with CAT preparation, and the importance of profile building through internships and skill development.

The IETE Student Forum expressed gratitude to Principal Prof. C. V. Narasimulu and Dr. K. Vasanth, Head of

the Department of ECE, for their encouragement and support. Faculty coordinators Dr. B. Neeraja and Dr. K. Sai Krishna were also acknowledged for their guidance and coordination in successfully organizing the event. The session proved to be highly beneficial in enhancing students' awareness of management career opportunities, reflecting CBIT's commitment to industry-oriented guidance and holistic career development.

CBIT Hosts Competitive Coding Course

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT), Hyderabad, successfully conducted a Value Added Course on "Competitive Coding" from February 28 to April 11, 2026, aimed at strengthening students' programming and problem-solving skills.

The course was coordinated by Prof. S. China Ramu, Professor Dr. G. Kiran Kumar, and Associate Professor Dr. Kolla Morarjee, with support from co-coordinators Dr. T. Suvarna Kumari, Sri K. Kiran Prakash, Smt. S. Durga Devi, and Smt. E. Swathi. The organizing team included Smt. Ch. Madhavi Sudha, Smt. M. Naga Jyothi, and Sri P.

Ramesh Babu. Resource persons for the programme were Chitresh Apte and D V Sushmanth Reddy, who provided industry-oriented insights and hands-on training to participants.

The primary objective of the course was to enhance participants' logical reasoning, algorithmic thinking, and coding efficiency. It focused on equipping students with the skills required to solve complex computational problems under time and memory constraints, a key aspect of competitive programming.

The curriculum covered a wide range of topics, beginning with foundational concepts such as introduction to competitive programming, problem-solving approaches,



and core data structures including arrays and hashing. Intermediate modules included array processing patterns, greedy algorithms, binary search techniques, recursion, backtracking, dynamic programming fundamentals, and graph basics.

Advanced sessions introduced students to higher-level concepts such as advanced dynamic programming, tree al-

gorithms, and advanced graph algorithms, preparing them for coding contests and real-world challenges.

The programme received an enthusiastic response from students and served as a valuable platform for bridging academic knowledge with practical coding expertise, reinforcing CBIT's commitment to skill-based learning and industry readiness.

CBIT Hosts Alumni Meet 2026

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) organized the Mechanical and Production Engineering Alumni Meet & Connect 2026, creating a vibrant platform for interaction between alumni, faculty, and students.

The event was conducted under the guidance of Chief Advisor Prof. C. V. Narasimulu, Principal of CBIT and Chairman of IACC, along with Advisor Prof. Suresh Pabboju, Convener of IACC. The programme was coordinated by Dr. G. Laxmahiah, Head of the Mechanical Engineering Department, with Dr. B. V. S. Rao, Assistant Professor, serving as Co-Coordinator.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. C. V. Narasimulu highlighted the importance of alumni engagement, stating that alumni serve as ambassadors of the institution whose



achievements inspire students and contribute significantly to institutional growth.

The event witnessed active participation from alumni representing various graduating batches. They shared their professional experiences, industry insights, and career guidance, offering students a deeper understanding of real-world challenges and emerging trends in

mechanical and production engineering.

Faculty members also presented the department's academic accomplishments, ongoing initiatives, and future plans. Interactive sessions were conducted focusing on internships, career opportunities, and industry expectations, enabling students to gain practical exposure and clarity on

career pathways.

The Alumni Meet & Connect 2026 successfully strengthened the bond between the institution and its alumni network. The programme reinforced CBIT's commitment to fostering collaboration, mentorship, and continuous development through strong alumni engagement.

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

Kumarthi Ravinder, a Community Health Officer who has served in the Government Health Department for over 40 years, was felicitated on the occasion of the 199th birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule. The programme was organized by the Telangana Citizen Council at Ravindra Bharathi on Saturday. On the occasion, Ravinder was honoured with a shawl, memento, and floral garland in recognition of his dedicated and tireless service in the field of public health. His contributions towards spreading awareness and improving community health have earned

him several awards and appreciation over the years.

The event was attended by several prominent dignitaries, including V. Hanumantha Rao, former Pradesh Congress Committee President and former Rajya Sabha Member; Sirikonda Madhusudhana Chary, former Speaker of the Telangana Legislative Assembly; Poornachandra Rao; BC Political Front Chairman B. Balaraj Goud; spiritual scholar Daivagna Sharma; and TCC State President Dr. Raj Narayana Mudiraj. Intellectuals and educationists also participated and extended their greetings.

Born in Rayapalli village in Rajapur Mandal of Mahabub-



nagar district, Ravinder has actively organized rallies and awareness programmes on issues such as drug abuse, tuberculosis, AIDS, heart disease, kidney ailments, and malaria. He has also contributed to environmental protection and initiatives promoting social harmony.

Speakers at the event praised his lifelong commitment to public service and stated that his work reflects the ideals of Mahatma Phule in promoting social welfare and equality. The programme concluded with appreciation for his continued efforts and dedication to society.

City College Invites MBA Faculty

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

Government City College has invited applications from eligible and qualified candidates for the engagement of four Guest Faculty Members for its MBA Programme for the academic year 2026-27.

According to the notification, candidates must possess qualifications as per All India Council for Technical Education norms. Preference will be given to applicants holding a Ph.D., along with UGC-NET or SET qualifications and relevant teaching experience in the field of Management Stud-

ies. Interested candidates are required to submit their applications along with necessary documents, including educational qualification certificates and proof of teaching experience, to the Department of Management Studies.

The last date for submission of applications is April 13, 2026, by 10:00 AM. Officials stated that only candidates meeting the prescribed eligibility criteria will be considered for the engagement.

The recruitment aims to strengthen the academic delivery of the MBA programme and ensure quality teaching standards in line with regulatory guidelines.

Police Conduct Drive in Mangalhat

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad City Police carried out a Community Contact Program in the Mangalhat area under the Golconda Zone on Friday morning, as part of intensified efforts to strengthen public safety and curb anti-social activities.

The operation was conducted between 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police B. Krishna Goud and Assistant Commissioner of Police S. Sudarshan. Officers and staff from Mangalhat Police Station, along with teams from various units including CAR headquarters, actively participated in the drive. A total of 184 police personnel were involved in the coordinated operation.

The program covered several key localities within the

Mangalhat jurisdiction, including Jummerath Bazar, Kunna Pan Shop area, Lala Talim, Takkarwadi, and Lower Dhoolpet, along with surrounding by-lanes. Police teams carried out house-to-house searches and verification checks to identify suspicious activities and ensure maintenance of law and order.

During the operation, authorities seized 28 two-wheelers, liquor bottles amounting to approximately 49.4 litres, 22 empty commercial gas cylinders, 12 domestic gas cylinders, and 79 small gas cylinders. Officials stated that these seizures were part of preventive measures aimed at curbing illegal storage and unlawful activities in the area.

Police officials said the drive was conducted in a systematic and peaceful manner, with the objective of enhancing public confidence and en-



sureing safety. The initiative also served as a deterrent to anti-social elements while promoting stronger coordination between the police and local residents.

Deputy Commissioner of Police G. Chandra Mohan stated that similar community contact programs will be conducted in other sensitive areas to prevent crime and maintain public order across the city.



De-Notification Certificates Distributed to 111 Farmers by District Collector



DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
NANDYAL

District Collector G. Rajakumari announced that long-pending land issues related to dotted lands and 22A-1 prohibited list lands have been resolved, with de-notification clearance certificates distributed to 111 farmers.

The certificates were handed over during a special program held at the PGRS Hall in the Collectorate on Saturday. The event was attended by Joint Collector Kollabattula Karthik, DRO Ramu Naik, RDOs, Tahsildars, and farmers.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stated that a majority of grievances received during the weekly Monday grievance program—nearly 90%—are related to land disputes. Common issues include non-registration of names in online records and incorrect entries.

She clarified that Tahsildars act only as recording authorities and do not have the power to determine land ownership. Instead, ownership is decided based on registered documents and physical possession, and rightful owners' names are recorded accordingly.

The Collector identified family disputes and illegal transactions of government

lands as the primary causes of land conflicts. She warned that the government is taking strict action against illegal buying and selling of assigned lands, citing cancellation of such transactions in Banaganapalle. She emphasized that natural resources such as streams, canals, and tanks are community assets and must be protected from encroachment for future generations.

Historical Background of Dotted Lands

The Collector explained that the issue of dotted lands dates back to the British era, when lands without clear ownership details were marked with "dots" during surveys. To address this, the government introduced the Dotted Lands Regularization Act in 2017. Under this act, lands under cultivation or possession prior to 2005 are being identified and regularized by granting ownership rights to eligible farmers.

Fast-Tracking Pending Cases

Out of around 150 pending applications, 111 cases have been approved, and instructions have been issued to resolve another 280 files at the earliest. Sub-division of lands under a single survey number and speeding up mutation

processes are being undertaken to resolve issues efficiently.

The district aims to resolve land issues of around 26,000 pattadars covering nearly 29,000 acres. The Collector assured that such special drives will be conducted every 15 days to clear pending cases.

Transparency and Anti-Corruption Measures

The Collector warned that strict action will be taken against anyone demanding bribes during the de-notification process and advised people to file complaints through the PGRS system. She reiterated that the entire process is being conducted transparently.

Farmers Express Satisfaction

One farmer reportedly resolved a 49-acre land issue within just six months—something that usually takes years—expressing satisfaction over the swift resolution.

Future Goals

The Collector stated that all remaining cases will be resolved within the next two months, ensuring farmers gain full rights over their lands before the Kharif season. Under the state government's re-survey initiative, the goal is to provide clear land ownership documents to every farmer under the slogan "Mee Bhoomi - Mee Hakku" (Your Land - Your Right).

She also assured that errors in passbooks will be corrected through a dedicated correction module and proper documents will be issued to farmers.

Finally, the Collector personally handed over de-notification certificates to the 111 beneficiaries.

A CAREER WITH COMMERCE - BY 2047

A career with commerce education in India by 2047 will be shaped by the country's goal to become a developed nation ("Viksit Bharat") by its centenary year of independence. The future of commerce is rapidly shifting towards digital innovation, sustainability, and data-driven decision-making, necessitating a shift from traditional accounting roles toward specialized and technologically proficient careers. By 2047, commerce education will act as a pivotal driver for India's developed economy (\$30+ trillion goal), focusing on AI-driven financial technology, sustainable business practices, and entrepreneurship. It will shift from theoretical knowledge to immersive, skill-based learning (STEAMC), fostering ethical, data-savvy leaders capable of global competitiveness.

Core Pillars of Commerce Education in 2047

Multidisciplinary Integration (STEAMC): The future curriculum will merge Commerce with Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAMC). Graduates will be expected to handle "hybrid" roles, such as FinTech experts (Commerce + Engineering) and Sustainable Business leaders (Commerce + Ethics + Science). Integrating AI, blockchain, and Fintech into the curriculum to prepare students for digital-first financial landscapes.

Technological Fluency: Digital literacy will be foundational. Courses will be deeply integrated with Artificial Intelligence (AI), data analytics, blockchain, and predictive modeling to prepare students for a highly automated global marketplace.

Sustainability and Ethical Leadership: As global trade pivots toward green growth, commerce education will emphasize Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles. Future leaders will be trained to balance profitability with social responsibility

and carbon footprint reduction.

Experiential and Skill-Based Learning: Rote learning will be replaced by hands-on training. This includes:

Project Vanijya: An ICAI initiative starting commerce exposure as early as Class VI to foster financial literacy from a young age.

Incubation Centres: Universities will act as hubs for student startups, providing practical entrepreneurship training and venture support.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Fostering a startup mindset through practical, incubator-based learning to promote self-reliance.

Industry-Academia Collaboration: Enhancing employability through curriculum reform, ensuring skills match the evolving needs of the 2047 workforce.

Financial Literacy and Global Competitiveness: Cultivating financial literacy to improve personal income management and promote nationwide investment.

High-Demand Career Pathways by 2047

Chartered Accountants (CA): With a projected demand for 30 lakh CAs by 2047, professionals in this field will play a crucial role in ensuring compliance in a growing economy.

Company Secretaries (CS): Demand is rising rapidly, with expectations for 2 lakh company secretaries by 2047 to manage corporate governance and legal aspects.

Fintech Specialists: Graduates with knowledge of both finance and advanced technology will be high in demand for managing digital currencies, blockchain applications, and online banking.

Data/Financial Analysts: Experts in financial data and market trends will be vital for making informed investment decisions.

Strategic Impact on the 2047 Economy

Role	Impact on "Viksit Bharat"
Entrepreneurship	Driving the growth of MSMEs from 634 lakh (2023) to over 800 lakh by 2047
Global Trade	Preparing professionals to manage an export sector projected to reach \$10 trillion
Financial Inclusion	Ensuring universal financial literacy and participation in digital financial systems
Innovation	Moving India from a service provider to a net-exporter of high-tech and financial services

Sustainable/Ethical Commerce Experts: Roles focusing on sustainable business practices, ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) reporting, and ethical commerce will become critical.

Digital Marketers: Leveraging online platforms for brand growth is a high-demand, tech-driven career path. **Key Skills Required for 2047**

- Analytical Thinking: Ability to interpret data for business strategies.
 - Digital Literacy: Proficiency in AI tools, data analytics, and software.
 - Financial Literacy: Understanding of tax, investment, and wealth management.
 - Leadership & Entrepreneurship: Preparing students to build enterprises and drive economic growth.
- The focus will change from "doing business" to "innovative and sustainable business" by 2047, making commerce education a key component of India's economic expansion. Professionals that are not only financially literate but also technologically adept, moral, and able to adjust to a dynamic, international economy will be in high



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KCR's April 20 Jagital meet to mark Jeevan Reddy's entry into BRS



DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

Arrangements are underway for a major public meeting of BRS President and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) in Jagtial on April 20, where former senior Congress leader T. Jeevan Reddy is set to join the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS).

Ending his 42-year association with Congress, Jeevan Reddy resigned from the ruling party on March 25.

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), on Friday visited the residence of Jeevan Reddy in Jagtial and invited him to join the party on behalf of BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR).

Former minister Koppula Eshwar, along with Jeevan Reddy, district party president Vidyasagar Rao and MLC L. Ramana, inspected the proposed venue near Mote Road in the Jagtial district headquar-

ters on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, Koppula Eshwar said the meeting would be held on a grand scale, with arrangements being made to accommodate a gathering of around one lakh people.

He confirmed that KCR will address the public, which is expected to be a significant political event in North Telangana.

He stated that the event would mark a major boost for BRS, with Jeevan Reddy's entry strengthening the party in the region.

Koppula Eshwar launched a sharp criticism of the Congress government led by A. Revanth Reddy, alleging that the state has "fallen into disorder" within two years of its rule.

He accused the government of failing to implement its promises and said the upcoming Jagtial meeting would serve as a "wake-up call" to the ruling dispensation.

Delimitation based on 2011 Census will harm southern states: Telangana Dy CM Bhatti

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Saturday warned that conducting constituency delimitation solely based on the 2011 Census could adversely impact southern states and even threaten their political relevance.

Speaking at the bicentenary celebrations of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule held at Ravindra Bharathi here, Bhatti said that ignoring caste census data in the delimitation process could alter the political balance in the country, potentially allowing governments at the Centre to be formed without significant representation from southern states.

He alleged that southern states are being financially disadvantaged by the Centre,

claiming that their share in tax devolution has been reduced.

He stated that for every rupee contributed by Telangana, only 37 paise is returned, while states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh receive significantly higher allocations.

He described this as an attempt to weaken southern states that are driving social transformation.

The Deputy CM said the state government is committed to social justice and is awaiting approval from the Centre for the Bill proposing 42 per cent reservation for Backward Classes in education, employment, and politics.

He noted that a caste survey conducted in Telangana found that Backward Classes constitute 56 per cent of the population, and stressed that policies must reflect demographic realities.

He also stated that the government will consider implementing a BC Sub-Plan and continue welfare-focused governance despite challenges.

Bhatti warned that "feudal forces" are attempting to regroup in the state and urged Bahujans to unite in support of the government.

He reaffirmed that the Congress administration led by A. Revanth Reddy is committed to equitable development and social justice.

Highlighting welfare initiatives, he said the government has increased diet charges in hostels and will launch a breakfast scheme for around two million students from June 2. He added that "Young India" residential schools and Telangana Public Schools will be established to provide quality education and promote social equality.

YSRCP MLC alleges Rs 60 crore plantation scam in Nellore

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
NELLORE

YSRCP government. "In the first phase alone, Rs 8.03 crore was paid for 14,741 saplings, with Rs 5,446 spent per plant, including tree guards, while an additional Rs 1.24 crore was estimated just for watering 1,800 plants, amounting to Rs 6,888 per plant for watering alone," he slammed.

The YSRCP MLC charged that contracts were awarded to 25 contractors linked to the ruling party and that works were being executed without adherence to norms, including planting saplings on gravel roads while claiming cement road cutting in tenders, and raising bills even for plants

placed on private lands.

The YSRCP leader further pointed out that in several locations, tree guards were not installed, saplings were planted under electric lines, and unsuitable flowering plants with limited lifespan were being used instead of shade-giving trees. Criticising the timing, he said plantations were being carried out in peak summer without concern for survival, indicating that the objective was only to generate bills.

Chandrasekar Reddy also said the minister's "N-team" of turning corruption into a system in Nellore, citing irregularities across multiple civic

projects, including smart street vending, traffic signals, bio-

Hyderabad advocate dies in tanker crash near Keesara in AP

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

A man was killed in a tragic road accident when a gas tanker toppled onto the BMW car he was travelling in, near the Keesara Toll Gate in NTR district of Andhra Pradesh.

According to reports, the driver of the tanker, heading towards Hyderabad, lost control of the vehicle after a reported brake failure, following which the vehicle hit a divider and overturned, crushing the car.

Rescue operations were launched soon after the toll gate personnel informed the police about the incident. The operations went on for two



hours with the help of cranes and a JCB before the body could be extricated from the crushed car.

The victim was identified as B Srinivas Rao, an advocate from Hyderabad. He was re-

portedly returning to the city from Vijayawada when the incident took place.

With onlookers gathering in large numbers at the spot of the accident, traffic was severely affected.



toilets, garbage transport, silt cleaning, mosquito control, and road works, most of which were allegedly executed through nominated contractors. He contrasted this with the government's treatment of the poor, stating that water connections were cut for non-payment of as little as Rs. 350 while crores were being siphoned off through inflated contracts. He further highlighted penalties imposed on small vendors for minor encroachments, stating that the government is burdening common citizens with taxes while enabling large-scale corruption at the top.

Phule 200th Jayanti observed at Lucknow

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

The 200th birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule was observed at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow under the leadership of the Congress OBC Cell.

Telangana Minister Ponnambhakur paid tributes to Phule by offering floral respects to his portrait. Leaders of the All India Congress

Committee OBC Cell felicitated the minister for conducting caste census in Telangana and for measures taken for welfare and development of backward and weaker sections.

Speaking at the meeting, the minister said the Telangana government is giving importance to backward classes and weaker sections. He said the caste census conducted in the state reflects commitment to-

wards social justice. He stated that a resolution has been passed in the Assembly to implement 42 percent reservations in education, employment and political sectors. Leaders demanded that OBC reservation for women should be included in the women's reservation introduced by the Central government. The meeting also discussed strengthening the Congress OBC Cell in Uttar

Pradesh and raising issues related to social justice, especially OBC share in the women's reservation bill. Congress leaders demanded that caste census should be conducted across the country on the lines of Telangana. Senior leaders including Bhupesh Baghel, former Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, and Ajay Rai, Uttar Pradesh PCC chief, attended the programme.



ICFAI Law School Hosts First Intra Trial Advocacy Competition at IFHE

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
RANGAREDDY

The ICFAI Law School at ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education on Saturday inaugurated the 1st ICFAI Intra Trial Advocacy Competition 2026, setting the stage for an engaging platform focused on developing courtroom and litigation skills among law students.

The two-day event has attracted enthusiastic participation, with students taking part in simulated trial proceedings that assess their legal knowledge, argumentation, advocacy techniques, and witness examination abilities. The competition aims to provide hands-on exposure to real courtroom scenarios.

The inaugural ceremony was presided over by Prof. (Dr.) Pujari Ravisekhara Raju, Director, and Prof. (Dr.) Y. Pratap Reddy, Dean, who underscored the importance of practical legal education in shaping future advocates.

Dr. Sayan Das, Faculty Coordinator, stated that the competition is being conducted for the first time to offer experiential learning and strengthen ad-



vocacy skills among students. Event Convenor Shubham Prakash Singh thanked the IFHE management for their consistent encouragement and support in organizing such initiatives.

The event is being held under the guidance of Dr. A. Arun Kumar, Assistant Dean (Student Activities), in coordination with the Moot Court Society and faculty members. The competition features multiple stages, including preliminary rounds, quarter-finals, semi-finals, and the final round, where participants will argue cases before experienced judges and legal professionals.

The winners will be honoured with trophies, certificates, and cash prizes at the valedictory ceremony sched-



uled for April 12, 2026. The inaugural session concluded with participants gearing up for the upcoming rounds with high enthusiasm.

Guru Nanak Institutions Celebrate 25 Years with Silver Jubilee Logo Launch

SARWABHOWMAG
DNS TRANGAREDDY

Guru Nanak Institutions celebrated their 25th Silver Jubilee with great enthusiasm, unveiling a new logo to mark a significant milestone in their journey of academic excellence and progress.

The institutions—comprising Guru Nanak Institutions Technical Campus, Guru Nanak Institute of Technology, and Guru Nanak University—hosted the celebrations in the presence of management, faculty, students, and distinguished guests. The occasion also featured tributes to the late founder and Chairman, Sardar Tavinder Singh Kohli, whose vision and leadership were credited for building a strong educational foundation. In his memory, the management announced annual awards for meritorious students.

Prominent guests, including Sanket, Dev Vrat Singh, and Ravi Dasari, praised the institutions for their contribution to higher education and encouraged students to develop a research-oriented approach from the early stages of their academic journey.



Addressing the gathering, Sardar G.S. Kohli highlighted the institutions' strong placement record, stating that 1,689 job offers were secured through 234 campus drives. He appreciated the efforts of the Placement Department and noted the participation of leading companies such as TCS, Infosys, Cognizant, Deloitte, and HCLTech.

H.S. Saini, Vice Chancellor and Managing Director, emphasized the importance of innovation, emerging technologies, and future-ready education. He encouraged students to utilize their potential for innovation and assured full institutional support, while also urging faculty to actively guide and mentor students.

Annual reports were presented by senior officials, including Kalairasan, S. Srinath Reddy, and B. Venkata Ramana Reddy, who highlighted institutional achievements and progress. Several academic leaders also addressed the gathering, outlining future plans and development strategies.

On the occasion, meritorious students, faculty, and staff were honoured with awards and mementos for excellence in academics, teaching, research, and service. The Silver Jubilee celebrations reflected the institutions' continued commitment to quality education, innovation, and holistic development, while setting a strong vision for the future.

Unregulated Water Plants Raise Alarm in Shadnagar Amid Summer Surge

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
SHADNAGAR

With temperatures soaring, the demand for drinking water has increased sharply, but concerns are mounting over the rise of unregulated and potentially unsafe water supply units across the Shadnagar constituency.

Several water plants are reportedly operating without proper permissions or adherence to quality standards, supplying water that may not be safe for consumption. Under the pretext of providing purified water, some operators are allegedly distributing untreated or poorly filtered water

in cans, bottles, and sachets, raising serious public health concerns.

Residents question whether the water they consume is truly safe, as experts warn that contaminated water can lead to various illnesses. Despite these risks, authorities, including food safety and other regulatory departments, are being criticized for their slow response and lack of strict enforcement against such illegal operations.

The issue is said to be widespread in areas such as Kondurg, Kothur, Keshampet, Nandigama, Farooqnagar, and Chowdaryguda, where numerous unauthorized RO plants

have emerged. Many operators reportedly extract borewell water, process it inadequately, and supply it through tankers or directly fill it into cans and bottles for sale.

Water cans are being sold at around Rs. 20, and chilled water at nearly Rs. 40, often distributed through autos in residential colonies. Attractive packaging and labels are drawing customers, including households and businesses, even though the actual quality of the water remains questionable.

In many cases, water containers lack essential details such as manufacturing date, batch number, and expiry in-

formation. Hygiene standards are also reportedly poor, with unclean cans and improper handling practices further increasing the risk of contamination. Officials note that setting up a water plant requires approvals from multiple departments, including food safety, health, taxation, and local governing bodies. Proper facilities, including water testing laboratories, involve significant investment. However, many operators are bypassing these requirements by establishing low-cost units without compliance.

Health experts warn that consuming contaminated water can result in throat infec-



tions, cold, cough, and other ailments. They recommend boiling water before consumption and choosing reliable branded water when necessary.

The situation underscores the urgent need for stricter monitoring and enforcement to safeguard public health and ensure access to safe drinking water in the region.

Adopt a Service Mindset for Society, Says MLA Veerlapalli Shankar

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
SHADNAGAR

Shadnagar MLA Veerlapalli Shankar urged people to work with a sense of social responsibility, drawing inspiration from the ideals of renowned social reformer Jyotirao Phule.

The MLA was speaking at the 199th birth anniversary celebrations of Jyotiba Phule, held in Shadnagar under the leadership of Telangana JAC, with participation from various public, employee, and BC organisations. Floral tributes were paid to the statues of Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule near the Mandal Parishad office.

Addressing the gathering, Veerlapalli Shankar highlighted that Jyotiba Phule dedicated his life to eradicating caste discrimination and promoting social equality, setting a lasting example. He stressed that growing self-interest in society should be set aside and people should contribute their time and efforts towards col-



lective welfare. He underlined the importance of education, stating that the contributions of Jyotiba Phule played a crucial role in shaping the present education system. He further noted that the government led by Revanth Reddy is focusing on strengthening education through various reforms and initiatives.

The MLA said integrated schools are being developed across Telangana with substantial investment, along with efforts such as reconstructing historic schools, introducing

breakfast schemes for students, increasing support allocations, and ensuring transparent teacher transfers.

Several leaders, including Telangana JAC Chairman Janardhan, Convenor Nakka Balaraj, Market Committee Director Karunakar, and social leader Badepalli Siddharth, also spoke on the occasion.

The programme was attended by Municipal Chairman Agganoor Basaveshwar, councillors, and leaders from different organisations, marking strong participation from the community.

Sports Give New Direction to Youth: 'Sansad Khel' Begins in Shadnagar

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
RANGAREDDY

Highlighting the role of sports in nation-building, BJP State Executive Member Nelli Srivardhan Reddy stated that sports play a crucial role in empowering youth and shaping their future.

The statement was made during the inauguration of cricket matches at the Shadnagar Municipal Stadium under the 'Sansad Khel' initiative, organized within the Mahabubnagar Parliamentary constituency under the leader-

ship of MP D. K. Aruna. The programme aims to provide a platform for young talent and promote sports at the grassroots level.

The event was formally launched by Nelli Srivardhan Reddy along with Ande Babaiah, Vishnuvardhan Reddy, and Parliament Coordinator Janardhan Reddy. Sports equipment including bats, balls, T-shirts, and caps were distributed to participants.

Speaking on the occasion, Nelli Srivardhan Reddy said initiatives like Khelo India, launched under the leadership

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have revitalized sports across the country and created opportunities for players from rural areas to reach higher levels.

He noted that 'Sansad Khel', inspired by the same vision, serves as an important platform for local youth to showcase their skills. Emphasizing the broader impact of sports, he said they help build discipline, determination, teamwork, and leadership qualities, urging youth to actively engage in sporting activities.



Other leaders, including Ande Babaiah and Vishnuvardhan Reddy, also addressed the gathering, stressing that sports foster unity and competitive spirit among youth. The programme was at-

tended by constituency coordinator Vamsi Krishna, municipal coordinator Rishikesh, and several local leaders and participants, reflecting enthusiastic participation from the youth.

Woman arrested with 870 gm of ganja in Hyderabad

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

A woman was arrested for allegedly possessing ganja chocolates by the Prohibition and Excise team at Katedan in Hyderabad on Saturday, April 11.

Jaya was arrested with 870 gram of contraband. She confessed to bringing the chocolates from Bihar. Police also seized her mobile.

A case has been registered and further investigations are



on. Two days ago, four people were arrested with 26.8 kg of dry ganja worth Rs 13.41 lakh. The drugs were being transported from Bhadrachalam to Hyderabad. The accused were identified

as Vankudothu Vinod, 27, a driver from Kasna Thanda village in Khammam Rural, Vallepu Seshikanth, 23, from Hyderabad's Moosarambagh, Pentam Chandrashekar, 20, from Amberpet in Hyderabad, and Bapanapalli Vijaykanth, 23, a salesman from Gohnaka, Amberpet.

They procured the consignment from one Koppu Raju of Odisha at Rs 3,000 per kg, totalling Rs 78,000, and were transporting it via Yellandu and Lingala Cross Road before they were intercepted.

'Barish Puja' Fraud Gang Busted in Shadnagar, Two Arrested

DECCAN NEWS SERVICE
RANGAREDDY

In a major breakthrough, Shadnagar police have exposed an inter-district gang involved in cheating innocent people under the pretext of performing "Barish pujas" and promising to multiply money. Two accused have been arrested, and ₹.6 lakh in cash, a car, and mobile phones have been seized.

According to police, the victim Makbool Basha, a mechanic from Kanchikacherla in NTR district, was introduced to Koteswara Rao through his acquaintance Krishna. The accused convinced him that ₹.10 lakh could be turned into ₹.30 lakh through special rituals and promised to multiply money. Two accused have been arrested, and ₹.6 lakh in cash along with his friends.

The accused, including Ram Mohan and Venu, picked him up and took him to a location in Paradise Colony. Later, Kanakavalli Brahmaiah alias Anna Reddy and Ravi alias

Madhu joined them and shifted the victim to a villa at CSK Villas. While pretending to perform rituals, they confirmed the cash he was carrying.

At that moment, four masked persons entered the villa, threatened Makbool Basha with weapons, and snatched the cash bag. The victims were then confined inside the villa, and the gang fled the scene.

Based on the complaint, police registered a case and launched an investigation under the supervision of Commissioner K. Sudheer Babu, DCP C.H. Sirisha, and S. Lakshminarayana. The investigation was carried out by Rural Inspector Srinivasulu and CI Seetharam, with the crime team using CCTV footage and technical evidence to trace the accused.

On Saturday, police arrested Kanakavalli Brahmaiah alias Anna Reddy from Malkajgiri and Thodapunoori Mahesh alias Madhusudan Reddy from Kamareddy. During the operation, ₹.6 lakh in cash, a Skoda



car, and two high-end mobile phones were recovered. Police are continuing efforts to apprehend absconding accused Ravi and other gang members.

The case was cracked by a team including Crime DSI Shivareddy, SI Srikant, Head Constables Ravinder and Balaraj, and constables Mohan, Karunakar, Zakir, Raju, and Santosh. Officials stated that rewards would be recommended for the team for their effective investigation.



Indian markets surge for second consecutive week amid US-Iran ceasefire

New Delhi.(Agency)

Indian equity benchmarks closed in green for the second consecutive week, amid huge short covering due to the US-Iran ceasefire. Nifty gained 5.89 per cent during the week and added 1.16 per cent on the last trading day to reach 24,050. At close, the Sensex was up 918 points or 1.20 per cent at 77,550. It gained 5.77 per cent during the week. Bank Nifty overperformed the broader market, closing at 55,912, up 1.99 per cent on Friday. It posted a steep weekly surge of 8.47 per cent. On the weekly timeframe, the Bank Nifty index has formed a strong bullish candle, suggesting continued strength and potential for further upside if momentum sustains. The index is likely to find support in the 53,700-53,000 range, while resistance is placed around the 56,700-57,700 zone, market participants said. Analysts noted that Nifty's movement indicated strong buying participation and reflects a bullish undertone in the market.

From a technical standpoint, the 23,500-23,150 range is likely to act as a key support zone. On the upside, resistance is expected in the 24,500-25,000 band, they said. Meanwhile, India VIX fell by 7.72 per cent to close at 18.85, pointing to reduced volatility and a decline in market fear. However, the volatility remains high, as doubts grow over the sustainability of the US-Iran truce. Sectorally, Nifty realty, capital markets and financial services emerged as the top gainers on a weekly basis up 12.97 per cent, 11.7 per cent and 10.8 per cent, respectively. Broader indices performed in line with the benchmark indices during the week, as the Nifty Midcap 100 added 7.76 per cent, while Nifty Smallcap 100 gained 7.60 per cent. Investors remain keen on developments in the US-Iran negotiations, crude oil price movements and foreign fund flows.

Swiggy co-founder Nandan Reddy steps down amid board leadership reshuffle

New Delhi.(Agency)

Food and grocery delivery company Swiggy said on Friday that its cofounder and head of innovation, Nandan Reddy, will step down from his executive position and also leave his seat on the board.

Reddy, who cofounded Swiggy with Sriharsha Majety and Rahul Jaimini, is leaving the company to start his own venture. Jaimini had exited the company in May 2020. The Bengaluru-based firm said in a stock exchange filing that cofounder and chief growth officer Phani Kishan Addepalli, along with chief financial officer Rahul Bothra, will join its board of directors. Renan De Castro Alves Pinto from Prosus Ventures will also join the board as a nominee director, replacing Roger Rabalais, who is stepping down after transitioning from the Dutch technology investor. In a separate filing, Swiggy said it is making changes to its articles of association to reorganise shareholder rights related to nominating directors to the board. As part of this move, the company has removed the rights previously held by Accel and SoftBank to nominate directors. In July last year, SoftBank's Sumer Juneja and Accel's Anand Daniel had already stepped down from the board. As of December 31, Accel held a 2.8% stake in Swiggy.

The company has also given cofounder and group CEO Sriharsha Majety the right to nominate himself and one more member of the senior management team to the board, which has enabled Bothra's appointment. Addepalli's appointment comes in place of Reddy. Addepalli, who earlier led Swiggy's quick commerce business Instamart, was elevated to cofounder in July 2021. "Nandan has been a vital collaborator and a visionary force throughout Swiggy's evolution—from our beginnings in a single Bengaluru neighbourhood to becoming a nationwide platform serving millions. His steadfast commitment to our culture, innovation, and the consumer experience is woven into our DNA. While his daily presence will be missed, I look forward to the impact of his future endeavours," Sriharsha Majety, group CEO, Swiggy said.

How to double your money in a secured way: Check these post office schemes

New Delhi.(Agency)

The humble post office began offering savings instruments in 1882 with the setting up of the Post Office Savings Bank — barely three years after electricity was introduced in India in the former capital of Calcutta. The great deal of trust that Indians have built around the post office since then remain undiminished to this day. The post office now offers savings instruments which have become a byword for safety of investment, a dimension that is becoming significant as uncertainty grows in the financial markets. Armed with a government guarantee, your money remains safe in these schemes and grows over time. There are schemes that double your money in a predictable time frame. The rate of the interest in small savings schemes can be reset by the Union finance ministry once every three months. Let's have a look at these instruments, which still hold immense significance for those prioritising safety of capital and guaranteed returns above everything else.

Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)

The Kisan Vikas Patra, popularly referred to as KVP, is one of the most popular schemes offered by the post office. Its primary objective is to encourage people to deposit money for long-term savings. It was introduced in April 1988 as a small savings instrument which was designed to double investments over a fixed time period. It was closed in 2011, but the government launched it again in 2014 to boost encourage long-term financial discipline.

Tenure and interest rate in KVP

This scheme doubles your investment in 9 years and 5 months. The annual rate of interest paid now stands at 7.5%. reased capital base.

Gold gains for third consecutive week amid dollar weakness

New Delhi.(Agency)

Gold prices rose 1.65 per cent during the week extending gains for their consecutive week, amid safe haven buying and weakened US dollar easing inflation fears and the start of the US-Iran ceasefire negotiations.

On Friday, MCX gold June futures added 0.02 per cent while MCX silver May futures inched up 0.01 per cent. Currently gold futures stand at Rs 1,52,690, while silver futures at Rs 2,43,300 per kg. The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was at Rs 1,50,327 on Friday up from Rs 1,47,891 seen on Monday market opening, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). Analysts noted that COMEX gold ended at USD 4,787.40 per troy ounce, up 3 per cent on a weekly basis, however a major resistance in ahead of USD 5,000, after which they predicted a strong bull run. Market participants said the dollar came under pressure after the US-Iran truce, as



traders reassessed the outlook for US interest rates. Falling crude oil prices after the de-escalation fuelled hopes of lower inflation and renewed speculation about

US Federal Reserve rate cuts in the medium term. The commodities market navigated the week on a cautiously balanced note, with sentiment shaped by stabilising price action and continued

macro uncertainty, a market participant said, adding that precious metals showed early signs of stability following recent volatility.

Meanwhile, currency movements—particularly in the USD/INR pair—are likely to remain a key driver, with recent rupee strength offering some cushion to domestic commodity prices, he added.

Any reversal in the currency trend, driven by shifts in global risk sentiment or renewed dollar strength, could influence the next phase of price action.

The MCX Gold prices are holding above the key support band of Rs 1,48,000 to Rs 1,46,000, while the immediate resistance is placed around the Rs 1,54,000 to Rs 1,55,000 zone, he added. The MCX Silver prices are holding above the Rs 2,30,000 to Rs 2,25,000 support zone, with deeper support placed near Rs 2,05,000 to Rs 2,00,000, the analyst noted.

Middle East war to cut global growth, spike inflation despite truce: World Bank

The World Bank's baseline estimate now projects growth in emerging markets and developing economies of 3.65 per cent in 2026, compared to 4 per cent in October, dropping as low as 2.6 per cent in an adverse scenario with a longer-lasting war.

Washington.(Agency)

The war in the Middle East will have a cascading impact on the global economy, even if a ceasefire announced by U.S. President Donald Trump takes hold, World Bank President Ajay Banga told news agency Reuters in an interview on Friday.

And the damage will be far deeper if the ceasefire fails and the conflict escalates, he said. Banga on Tuesday said global growth could be lowered by 0.3 to 0.4 percentage point in a baseline scenario, with an early end to the war, and by as much as 1 percentage point if it endures. Inflation could increase by 200 to 300 basis points, with a much higher impact - of up to 0.9 percentage point - if the war continues, he said. The World Bank's baseline estimate now projects growth in emerging markets and developing economies of 3.65 per cent in 2026, compared to 4 per cent in

October, dropping as low as 2.6 per cent in an adverse scenario with a



longer-lasting war. Inflation in those countries was now forecast to hit 4.9 per cent in 2026, up from the previous estimate of 3 per cent. The extreme scenario could see inflation rising as high as 6.7 per cent, according to estimates viewed by Reuters.

The war, which has killed thousands of people across the Middle East, has sent

the price of oil up by 50 per cent while disrupting supplies of oil, gas, fertiliser, helium and other goods, as well as tourism and air travel. The two-week ceasefire announced by Trump appears tenuous, with Israel and Iran continuing strikes. Iran said on Friday that blocked Iranian assets must be released and a ceasefire must take hold in Lebanon before US-Iran talks, scheduled for Saturday in Pakistan, can proceed. Trump said that US warships were being reloaded with ammunition in case the talks failed. The question really is, does this current peace and the negotiations that are going to be happening this weekend - will this lead to a lasting peace and then a reopening of the Strait (of Hormuz)?" said Banga. "If it doesn't lead to that, and if conflict were to break out again, would that have an even larger impact, or longer-term impact on energy infrastructure.

New Delhi.(Agency)

This is one of the biggest money decisions most people ever make. And yet most people make it based on emotion — the feeling that owning a home means you have truly "made it," or the fear that renting means you are throwing money away every month. Neither instinct is entirely right. The truth depends almost entirely on your personal situation, the city you live in, and what you plan to do with the next ten years of your life. Buying a home means taking on a large loan, paying it back over 20 to 30 years, and eventually owning an asset that may or may not have grown in value. Renting means paying someone else each month for the right to live somewhere, with no ownership at the end — but also far fewer costs upfront and much more freedom to move. Neither option is inherently better. They are just different tools for different situations.

The case for buying

When you pay a home loan EMI every month, a portion of that payment is reducing what you owe and building your ownership stake in the property. Over time, you own more and more of it. When you rent, that money goes to your landlord and you own nothing at the end. That is the most basic financial argument for buying. Beyond that, property in India has historically gone up in value. In cities like Bengaluru, Pune, and Hyderabad, prices have risen between five and ten percent per year in growing areas. If you buy in the right location and hold for long enough, the property itself becomes a growing asset. There are also tax benefits. If you take a home loan, you can claim a deduction of up to Rs 2 lakh per year on the interest you pay under Section 24(b) of the Income Tax Act, and up to Rs 1.5 lakh on the principal repayment under Section 80C. For someone in a higher tax bracket, this is a meaningful saving every year.

Finally, owning your home gives you stability. No landlord can ask you to vacate at the end of eleven months. You can paint the walls, renovate the kitchen, and make the space genuinely yours.

The case for renting

Buying a home in India requires a lot of money upfront. A typical down payment is 20 percent of the property value. On a Rs 1 crore flat, that is Rs 20 lakh before you have paid a single EMI. Add stamp duty, registration charges, brokerage, and basic furnishing and you are easily looking at Rs 25 to Rs 30 lakh out of pocket on day one.

FII's trimmed stake in these nine stocks in Jan-March: Check the list; do you own any?

In the Jan-March 2026 period several prominent stocks witnessed FIIs trimming their holdings in them. These represent a wide array of sectors. However, it must be kept in mind that the decline in FII stake in a stock is not necessarily representative of worrying state of affairs in the company.

Kolkata.(Agency)

FIIs have trimmed stake in a few prominent stocks in the Indian equity market in the Q4 period of FY26. The buying of offloading of any stock by FIIs are closely watched in the country and indicators consider it as a significant barometer. If FIIs cut their stake in a particular stock, it is often interpreted as a sign of caution. This can mirror changes in market sentiment, global conditions, or investment strategies. However, it is not necessary that a reduction in stake by FIIs is a signal of the less-than-satisfactory state of affairs in the company. According to data for the Q4 period, the following stocks witnessed a decline in FII holdings by more than 1% on a quarter-on-quarter basis. Let's have a closer look at these stocks.

Stocks in which FIIs trimmed stake

Eternal: FII stake declined from 36.24% in December 2025 to 32.61% in March 2026. Therefore, FIIs reduced their stake by up to 4% in a single quarter.

HDFC Bank: Foreign investors trimmed their stake in the biggest private sector lender in the country HDFC Bank from 47.67% to 44.05%. Vijaya Diagnostic Centre: In this big diagnostic chain, FIIs slashed their holding from 15.1% to 13.38%. DLF: In this real estate giant, FII stake went down from 14.81% to 13.54%. Shree Cement: In this cement stock FII holdings went down from 10.07% to 8.94%. Apollo Hospitals Enterprise: In this healthcare sector leader, FIIs cut their stake from 43.54% to 42.62%.

Emmvee Photovoltaic Power: In this renewable energy company, the stake by foreign investors went down from 3.97% to 2.45%. International

Gemological Institute (IGI): In this company, FII holding declined from 9.61% to 8.6%. Cemindia Projects: In this company, the stake held by foreign investors went down from 8.19% to 7.31%.

What does FII stake reduction signal?

A decline in FII holdings does not indicate anything in particular. It can be assessed from different perspectives. It need not be a worrying signal for investors. Often, foreign investors reduce their holdings to book profits or balance portfolio. Often global economic triggers are a cue. One has to watch if the decline in FII holdings is continuing from quarter to quarter. Such a persistent decline could indicate that major investors are cautious regarding these stocks. They could also be moving investments to other markets altogether.

Buying a car or bike? The hidden truth behind insurance sold at dealerships

When you buy a car or bike, the final bill usually comes as an 'on-road price' that includes insurance. For most buyers, this is accepted without much thought, as it appears to be a standard part of the purchase. But what often goes unnoticed is that this insurance is not mandatory to buy from the dealer.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Buying a car or bike is often one of the milestone purchases people make. The focus is usually on the price, the model, the delivery date. Somewhere in that process, insurance quietly becomes just another item on the bill. It is bundled into the "on-road price", explained briefly, and rarely questioned. But that is where many buyers end up paying more than they should, or worse, buying a policy that does not fully protect them.

BUYING INSURANCE AT THE DEALERSHIP IS NOT AS SIMPLE AS IT LOOKS

At the time of delivery, most buyers are told that insurance is part of the process. In some cases, they are even made to feel that buying insurance from the dealer is necessary to avoid future issues with claims or servicing. But this is not true. Saurabh Vijayvergia, founder and

CEO, CoverSure, said this largely comes down to how insurance is sold at the point of purchase. "Most buyers rely on the dealer's guidance during a high-value purchase, while insurance quietly becomes a commission-led add-on within an OEM-broker ecosystem." In simple terms, insurance is often treated as a product to be sold, not a decision to be made.

WHY DEALERS PUSH THEIR OWN INSURANCE POLICIES

The biggest reason is commercial. Dealers earn commissions on insurance policies sold through their network. Since buyers are already in the process of making a large purchase, insurance becomes an easy add-on. Vijayvergia explained that this creates a clear information gap. "A buyer may be quoted an on-road price of Rs 10 lakh, which includes an insurance premium of Rs

45,000. A similar policy in the open market could cost Rs 30,000-Rs 35,000



or offer better coverage, but the difference is often masked with 'free' add-ons like accessories." This makes it difficult for buyers to compare or question the policy. The scale of the issue is also visible in data. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (IRDAI) Annual Report 2024-25 noted a 14.3% rise in complaints under unfair

business practices, which includes mis-selling at the point of sale.

HOW POLICIES ARE MADE TO LOOK CHEAPER THAN THEY ARE

One of the most common ways this works is by making the premium look attractive upfront. Vijayvergia said dealers often use "premium compression" tactics. This means reducing the visible cost, but weakening the policy in ways that only become clear later. A common example is lowering the Insured Declared Value (IDV), which is the maximum amount you can claim if the vehicle is stolen or completely damaged. A lower IDV reduces the premium slightly, but can cut the claim amount by Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh or more. Another tactic is adding high voluntary deductibles.

NEWS BOX

Iranian Delegation Arrives In Pak For Peace Talks. Welcomed By Asim Munir

Islamabad. (Agency)

An Iranian delegation landed here in the wee hours of Saturday for talks with the US, as the world keeps its fingers crossed for an agreement to end the conflict between the two sides. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, while announcing a two-week ceasefire on Wednesday, had said that the US and Iran would hold talks in Islamabad, tagging the presidents of the US and Iran in his statement on X.

The Iranian delegation led by its Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, along with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, would participate in the Islamabad Talks slated to begin later Saturday, after the arrival of the US delegation led by Vice President JD Vance, which was on its way to Islamabad.

The Pakistan foreign office said the delegation from Iran was received upon its arrival by Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, along with National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir, and Minister for Interior, Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi. A high-powered delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran led by Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, along with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi arrived in Islamabad today to participate in Islamabad Talks," the foreign office said in a statement. Expressing hope that the two sides would engage constructively, Dar reiterated Pakistan's desire to continue facilitating the parties towards reaching a lasting and durable solution to the conflict in West Asia, according to the statement.

The delegation came amid speculation making rounds on social media, casting doubts on the visit by the Iranians due to the strikes by Israel in Lebanon.

Kamala Harris Says She Might Run For President Again In 2028

Washington. (Agency)

Former Vice President Kamala Harris, who was the Democratic Party's nominee for the presidency in 2024, said on Friday that she was considering running for president again in 2028. Harris, making an appearance at a meeting of the National Action Network, a civil rights organization founded by Reverend Al Sharpton, was asked directly by Sharpton if she was going to run again.

"I might, I might. I'm thinking about it, I'm thinking about it," Harris said, as the crowd at the New York City event cheered in response. Harris added that she would consider a run in the context of who, in 2028, could do the best job as president "for the American people." Harris, who served as vice president under President Joe Biden, lost her 2024 presidential bid to President Donald Trump, who won both the popular vote and the Electoral College. Harris had previously served as a U.S. senator and as attorney general of California, among other offices. Harris made an unsuccessful run to be the Democratic Party's presidential nominee in 2020. A run in 2028 for Harris could face challenges among voters who have indicated in polling that they want to see new leaders for the Democratic Party following Harris' loss to Trump. The National Action Network convention drew several potential Democratic candidates, including Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro, former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Illinois Governor JB Pritzker, among others.

'One Nation Under God': What Is Trump's Washington Arch Plan

Tehran. (Agency)

President Donald Trump's plans for a new triumphal arch in the capital, unveiled on Friday, include a towering winged figure with a Lady Liberty-like torch and crown, flanked by two eagles and guarded by four lions — all gilded. The 12-page plan released by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts shows the arch will stand 250 feet tall (76.2 meters) from its base to the tip of the winged figure's torch, with "One Nation Under God" and "Liberty and Justice for All" inscribed in gold atop either side of the monument.

The plan indicates the structure would stand between the Lincoln Memorial in the east and Arlington National Cemetery toward the west and within a traffic circle connecting Washington with northern Virginia. The arch would dwarf the Lincoln Memorial, which stands at 99 feet tall (30.2 meters).

Trump wrote on social media that it "will be the GREATEST and MOST BEAUTIFUL Triumphal Arch, anywhere in the World. This will be a wonderful addition to the Washington D.C. area for all Americans to enjoy for Trump has said he wants to build the arch near the Lincoln Memorial and argued that the nation's capital first sought such a monument 200 years ago."

It was interrupted by a thing called the Civil War, and so it never got built," Trump said in February. "Then, they almost built something in 1902, but it never happened." Trump has said that major cities around the world have such monuments, and Washington is the only one without one. The arch is one of several architectural changes Trump is making in his second term. In addition to building a large ballroom at the White House, he's also made changes to the Oval Office and converted the Rose Garden into a stone-covered patio.

many decades to come!" The arch goes beyond the White House, giving Trump a chance to leave another lasting monument in a city known for them. It would expand on his earlier talk of sprucing up the city by replacing its "tired" grasses, and broken signage and street medians.

Artemis II astronauts return from moon with a splashdown to close out a record-breaking lunar voyage

All eyes were on the capsule's life-protecting heat shield that had to withstand thousands of degrees during reentry.

World. (Agency)

Artemis II's astronauts returned from the moon with a dramatic splashdown in the Pacific on Friday to close out humanity's first lunar voyage in more than a half-century. It was a triumphant homecoming for the crew of four whose record-breaking lunar flyby revealed not only swaths of the moon's far side — never seen before by human eyes — but a total solar eclipse.

Commander Reid Wiseman, pilot Victor Glover, Christina Koch and Canada's Jeremy Hansen hit the atmosphere traveling Mach 33 — or 33 times the speed of sound — a blistering blur not seen since NASA's Apollo moonshots of the 1960s and 1970s. Their Orion capsule, dubbed Integrity, made the plunge on automatic pilot. The tension in Mission Control mounted as the capsule became engulfed in red-hot plasma during peak heating and entered a planned communication blackout. All eyes were on the capsule's life-protecting heat shield that had to

withstand thousands of degrees during reentry. On the spacecraft's only other test flight — in 2022, with no one on board — the shield's charred exterior came back looking as pockmarked as the moon. Like so many others, lead flight director Jeff Radigan anticipated feeling some of that "irrational fear that is human nature," especially during the six-minute blackout that preceded the opening of the parachutes. The recovery ship USS John P. Murtha awaited the crew's arrival off the San Diego coast, along with a squadron of military planes and helicopters.

The astronauts' families huddled in Mission Control's viewing room, where cheers erupted when the capsule emerged from its communication blackout and again at splashdown.

The last time NASA and the Defense Department teamed up for a lunar crew's reentry was Apollo 17 in 1972. Artemis II was projected to come screaming back at 36,170 feet (11,025 meters) per second —



or 24,661 mph (39,668 kph) — just shy of the record before slowing to a 19 mph (30 kph) splashdown. "A perfect bull's-eye splashdown," reported Mission Control's Rob Navias. Artemis II's record flyby and views of the moon

Launched from Florida on April 1, the astronauts racked up one win after another as they deftly navigated NASA's long-awaited lunar comeback, the first major step in establishing a sustainable moon base. Artemis II didn't land on the moon or even orbit it. But it broke Apollo 13's distance record and marked the farthest that humans have ever journeyed from Earth when the crew reached 252,756 miles (406,771 kilometers). Then in the mission's most heart-tugging scene, the teary astronauts asked permission to name a pair of craters after their moonship and Wiseman's late wife, Carroll. During Monday's record-breaking flyby, they documented scenes of the moon's far side never seen before by the human eye along with a total solar eclipse. The eclipse, in particular, "just blew all of us away," Glover said. Their sense of wonder and awe awed everyone, as did their breathtaking pictures of the moon and Earth. original "Star Trek."

Iran delegation reaches Islamabad, says US talks hinge on Lebanon ceasefire, asset release

World. (Agency)

An Iranian delegation arrived in Islamabad in the early hours of Saturday for crucial talks with the United States, raising global hopes for a breakthrough to end the ongoing conflict between the two sides.

The visit follows Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's announcement of a two-week ceasefire earlier this week, during which he said Islamabad would host talks between the US and Iran. The Iranian delegation, led by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf and accompanied by Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, is set to participate in the Islamabad Talks scheduled to begin later in the day. The US delegation, headed by Vice President JD Vance, was also en route to the Pakistani capital at the time. According to Pakistan's foreign office, the Iranian delegation was received on arrival by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, Chief of Army Staff Field

Marshal Syed Asim Munir, and Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi. In a statement, the foreign office confirmed that the "high-powered delegation" from Iran had arrived to take part in the Islamabad Talks. Dar expressed hope that both sides would engage constructively and reiterated Pakistan's intent to facilitate efforts towards a lasting and durable resolution to the conflict in West Asia. The conformation comes amid speculation on social media over whether the Iranian delegation would attend, particularly in light of Israeli strikes in Lebanon. Some reports, citing Iranian media, suggested Tehran's participation hinged on the fulfillment of conditions outlined in the ceasefire agreement. Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency had reported that negotiations would not commence until certain "preconditions" were met. Echoing this, Ghalibaf said two agreed measures, a ceasefire in Lebanon and the release of Iran's blocked assets, were yet to be implemented. "These

two matters must be fulfilled before negotiations begin," Ghalibaf said in a post on X before departing for Islamabad. Meanwhile, the US delegation led by Vance was expected to arrive shortly. Ahead of his departure, Vance said President Donald Trump had provided "clear guidelines" for the negotiations. "As the US president said, if the Iranians are willing to negotiate in good faith, we're certainly willing to extend an open hand. If they're going to try to play us, they're going to find that the negotiating team is not that receptive," he told reporters. The talks are being held during a two-week pause in the US-Israeli war on Iran, which began on February 28 with attacks launched by the US and Israel. Pakistan played a key role in facilitating the dialogue, following Sharif's appeal earlier this week that led to the temporary halt in hostilities. Earlier, Araghchi, in a phone call with Iran's ambassador to Lebanon Mohammad Reza Shiban, stressed that the US must honour its ceasefire commitments.

Iranian delegation flight to Islamabad pays tribute to victims of Minab school strike

Washington. (Agency)

An image from the inside of the flight carrying the Iranian delegation to Islamabad has drawn attention ahead of crucial US-Iran talks, set against a backdrop of ceasefire tensions and fragile diplomatic engagement.

During the journey, Iran's speaker Ghalibaf used the flight to make a symbolic political statement. Inside the aircraft, empty seats were arranged with photographs and personal belongings of victims from the Minab school strike, including children killed in what Iran has charged as a US-Israeli attack. Sharing the image on X, Ghalibaf wrote, "my companions on this flight, Minab 168," referring to the children and staff killed in the February 28, 2026 strike on an elementary school in Minab.

The attack, which Iran says killed at least 165 people, has become a central element of its messaging ahead of the

negotiations. The delegation travelling to Islamabad for talks has been named "Minab 168" in memory of the



victims. Various Iranian Embassies have reshared the image, with some stating: "We will never forget the children of Minab, ever. The United States has repeatedly rejected the allegations that it targeted the school. Former President Donald Trump has previously said Iranian forces are 'very inaccurate' with their munitions, suggesting the incident

may have been misattributed. However, a report cited by The New York Times indicated that a Tomahawk missile strike may have been involved due to a targeting error. The US is the only country involved in the war that uses Tomahawk missiles. Meanwhile, delegations from the United States and Iran are expected to meet in Islamabad for talks on a proposed 10-point ceasefire plan. The Iranian side will be led by Ghalibaf, along with Foreign Minister Araghchi and other officials. US Vice President JD Vance is expected to attend the talks along with special envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner. The Iranian delegation arrived in Pakistan earlier on Saturday and was received by senior Pakistani officials, including Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and military leadership.

Iran demands truce in Lebanon, release of blocked assets ahead of peace talks in Islamabad

Iran's parliament speaker

Mohammad

Bagher Ghalibaf

said both demands

had been

"mutually agreed

upon between the

parties" but had

"yet to be

implemented".

ISLAMABAD. (Agency)

Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf on Friday demanded a ceasefire in Lebanon and the release of his country's blocked assets, ahead of high-level negotiations aimed at ending the war in Iran.

Both had been "mutually agreed upon between the parties" but had "yet to be implemented", Ghalibaf wrote on X. Estimates vary on the value of Iranian assets frozen abroad because of US sanctions, but the UN special rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures, Alena Douhan, put the figure at \$100-120 billion during a visit to Tehran in 2022.

His demand came ahead of the planned ceasefire talks in Pakistan. US Vice President JD Vance, who is traveling to Islamabad for the talks, warned Tehran not to "play" Washington in the scheduled talks. "We're going to try to have a positive negotiation," Vance told reporters as he left for Pakistan, where he is expected to arrive Saturday. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump on Friday said that US warships are being reloaded with weaponry to strike Iran if



talks in Pakistan fail to produce a deal. In an interview with the New York Post, Trump said, "We have a reset going. We're loading up the ships with the best ammunition, the best weapons ever made -- even better than what we did previously, and we blew them apart," the Post quoted Trump as saying. Meanwhile, Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem urged the

Lebanese government to stop giving "free concessions" to Israel ahead of negotiations between the two governments due to begin in Washington next week.

"We will not accept a return to the previous situation, and we call on officials to stop offering free concessions," Qassem said in a written message broadcast on the party's Al-Manar TV, in which he also denounced Israeli strikes that killed more than 300 people in Lebanon on Wednesday as "bloody criminality." European and Arab states have pressured Israel to stop targeting Beirut, a Western diplomat told AFP. The diplomat, who asked to remain anonymous in order to discuss sensitive matters, said there was "ongoing diplomatic pressure from European states, Gulf states and Egypt on Israel to prevent renewed Israeli airstrikes on Beirut" following Wednesday's attack.

10 Indian Nationals Indicted In US Visa Fraud Conspiracy

Boston. (Agency)

Ten Indian nationals have been indicted by a federal grand jury in Boston in connection with a conspiracy to carry out staged armed robberies of convenience stores for the purpose of allowing store clerks to falsely claim they were crime victims on immigration applications. The defendants were previously charged by criminal complaint in March 2026, according to the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts. The accused have been identified as Jitendrakumar Patel (39), Maheshkumar Patel (36), Sanjaykumar Patel (45), Dipikaben Patel (40), Rameshbhai Patel (52), Amitabh Patel (43), Ronakkumar Patel (28), Sangitaben Patel (36), Minkesh Patel (42), and Sonal Patel (42). Authorities stated that while most of the accused were residing unlawfully in various parts of the United States, one had already been deported to India. Two others have been taken into immigration custody. In a statement, the United States Attorney's Office said all 10 defendants were previously charged by criminal complaint and released on conditions. Rameshbhai Patel and Ronakkumar Patel have been taken into immigration custody.

The defendants are subject to deportation upon completion of any sentence imposed. This case stems from an investigation into Rambhai Patel, the organiser of the scheme, and getaway driver Balwinder Singh, both of whom were charged in December 2023 and later convicted. According to the charging documents, in March 2023, Rambhai Patel and his co-conspirators set up and carried out staged armed robberies of at least six convenience/liquor stores and fast food restaurants in Massachusetts and elsewhere.

It is alleged that the purpose of the staged robberies was to allow the clerks present to falsely claim that they were victims of a violent crime on an application for a U non-immigration status (U Visa). A U Visa is available to victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and who have been helpful to law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of criminal. In the course of the alleged staged robberies, the "robber" would allegedly threaten store clerks and/or owners with an apparent firearm before taking cash from the register and fleeing, while the interaction was captured on store surveillance video. The clerks and/or owners would then wait five or more minutes until the alleged "robber" had escaped before calling police to report the "crime." The "victims" are alleged to have each paid Rambhai Patel to participate in the scheme. In turn, Rambhai Patel paid the store owners for the use of their stores for the staged robbery. activity.n May 2025.

Elegant Beauty Turns Heads With Grace

Kayadu Lohar is creating a lot of buzz as her much-awaited Malayalam film Pallichattambi, starring Tovino Thomas and directed by Dijo Jose Antony, has been postponed to April 15, 2026, for the Vishu release. The delay happened due to censor certificate issues and election-related restrictions in Kerala, but the film continues to generate strong interest.

At the same time, Kayadu has caught everyone's attention with her latest photos. Dressed in a soft white saree, she looks graceful and elegant, with minimal makeup and traditional jewelry adding to her charm. The pictures have a calm and classic vibe, showing a more serene and natural side of the actress.

Apart from this Malayalam project, she also has exciting opportunities in Telugu cinema, including The Paradise with Nani. With her growing film lineup and strong screen presence, Kayadu Lohar is quickly becoming one of the promising young faces to watch.



Arya's 'Ranji' First Look Out



The sports action thriller starring Arya has been titled Ranji, with the first look unveiled on the actor's birthday. Directed by Poluru Krishna and produced by Murukumtla Aravind and Vijaya Bharathi under Sri Vijaya Varahi Movies, the film has already completed its first shooting schedule.

The first look showcases Arya in an intense and powerful avatar, generating strong buzz. His simple, casual appearance adds a realistic

touch, hinting at a solid and impactful character.

Vranjana Pandya plays the female lead, while Dasharath, Vasuki, Aadukalam Naren, and Sammita Gandhi appear in key roles. The film boasts a strong technical team with music by Radhan, cinematography by Ram K. Mahesh, art direction by Narni Srinivas, and editing by Anil Pasala.

With an intriguing title and promising first look, Ranji is shaping up to be an engaging sports action entertainer.

Ranveer Singh visits RSS headquarters, meets chief Mohan Bhagwat amid 'Dhurandhar 2' success

Actor Ranveer Singh, whose recent release 'Dhurandhar: The Revenge' has neared ₹1,700 crore globally, visited the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) headquarters in Nagpur on Saturday. He met RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and stayed at the RSS headquarters for around 1.5 hours, according to reports. He also visited the memorial of RSS founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar during the visit.



Film Critics Felicitate Rajasekhar

The Film Critics Association members met actor Dr. Rajasekhar at his residence and extended their congratulations on the success of his recent film Biker. The visit comes as the association prepares to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee (60 years) shortly.

Rajasekhar warmly welcomed the senior journalists, greeting many of them personally and recalling memorable moments from his career. He spoke about his iconic films such as Vandematharam, Thalambraalu, Aahuthi, Ankusham, A Graham, and Magadu, sharing insights into those landmark projects.

He also revealed that he is currently working on two upcoming films, which are yet to be titled, raising curiosity among fans and industry circles.

The delegation included Honorary President Prabhu, President Battula Prasad, General Secretary Suresh Kondeti, senior members A. Bal Reddy and Mohan Goteti, along with executive members Mamidipalli Giridhar, Dheeraja Appaji, and Jilla Suresh. Rajasekhar's wife Jeevitha also interacted with the members during the visit.

Kaalagamanam Pre-Release Held



"Kaalagamanam," starring Raja Birudula, Lavanya Ramarao, and Chinababu, is gearing up for a grand theatrical release on the 17th of this month. Produced under PPR Films and directed by Sudhakar Burri, the film is a youthful love entertainer. The pre-release event was held on a grand note in Hyderabad.

Music director Rajesh Raj Thelu praised the film, stating that it has been crafted beautifully and expressed confidence that audiences will enjoy it. Actor Jabardasth Ramjouli shared that the film presents a fresh love story with a meaningful message, along with entertainment.

Guest Bole Shavali appreciated director Sudhakar Burri for encouraging newcomers and providing opportunities,

wishing the film great success. Hero Raja Birudula thanked the guests and expressed strong belief that the film would connect with audiences, especially the youth.

Heroine Lavanya Ramarao highlighted the importance of such opportunities for newcomers and thanked the director for his support. She also expressed hope that audiences would encourage the film in theatres.

Director-producer Sudhakar Burri said the film was made with passion despite budget limitations, emphasizing that strong content would win audience support. He noted that the film offers both youthful appeal and a meaningful message.

Featuring a large ensemble cast, "Kaalagamanam" promises a blend of love, emotion, and entertainment, with the team confident of making a mark upon its release.



Harudu Trailer Launched

"Harudu is a solid commercial action entertainer. Make sure to watch it in theaters on May 8th; you will definitely enjoy it!" said hero Venkat at the trailer launch.

Actor Venkat, known for films like Sri Seetha Ramula Kalyanam Chootamu Rarandi, Annayya, Prema Kosam, and Siva Rama Raju, is making his comeback with Harudu, a mass commercial entertainer produced under VR Entertainment and directed by Raj Talluri. The film's glimpse had already created buzz, and the newly released trailer has fur-

ther raised expectations. Venkat shared that he took on both acting and production responsibilities for the film and expressed confidence in its content. He highlighted that the film features strong performances, introducing Srihari Paila as the antagonist, and praised the team's efforts. He also noted that the songs shot in Goa and Hyderabad, along with action sequences, would be major highlights.

Director Raj Talluri described the film as a complete team effort and appreciated Venkat's dedication and en-

ergy. He expressed confidence that the story would connect well with Telugu audiences.

Others present, including Praveen and Chandra Mahesh, praised Venkat's dynamic transformation and the film's music and action elements. Music director Mani Jimna, DOP Anand, and the supporting cast also expressed optimism about the film's success.

Featuring a large ensemble cast including Hebah Patel, Ali, Suman, and others, Harudu promises a mix of action, music, and entertainment, set for release on May 8th.

Biker Team Thanks Audience



"We stated that Biker would be a film that makes Telugu cinema proud. We have lived up to that promise. A big thank you to family audiences and youth for embracing it!" said actor Sharwa.

Biker, starring Sharwa and Malavika Nair, with Dr. Rajasekhar in a key role, has emerged as a bumper blockbuster. Directed by Abhilash Reddy and produced by UV Creations, the motocross-based emotional drama has been receiving excellent response from audiences and critics alike. Following its successful run, the team held a

thank-you meet.

Sharwa expressed gratitude to the audience and media, stating that the film's success is driven by strong word-of-mouth and emotional connect. He highlighted the father-son narrative as the film's core strength and praised director Abhilash Reddy, music director Ghبران, and the technical team for elevating the film.

Dr. Rajasekhar credited the director for the film's success and appreciated Sharwa and Malavika Nair for their performances. He encouraged audiences who haven't watched the film to experience it in theatres with their families.

Director Abhilash Reddy

said the film has been widely appreciated for both its technical brilliance and emotional depth. He noted that family audiences are strongly connecting with the story, contributing to its continued success.

Malavika Nair thanked the audience for their support, emphasizing the film's emotional theme centered on family bonds. Actor Nirup also expressed happiness over the positive response and his debut in Telugu cinema.

With strong performances, emotional storytelling, and high technical standards, Biker continues to enjoy a successful run in theatres.

Legendary singer Asha Bhosle suffers cardiac arrest

Legendary singer Asha Bhosle has been admitted to Breach Candy Hospital, the hospital trust said, according to ANI. The 92-year-old reportedly suffered a cardiac arrest. She is currently undergoing treatment, as confirmed by a doctor, said Times Now. Her family has not issued an official statement yet.

