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### PANCHANGAM

#### Tithi

Sukla Paksha Chaturthi  
Upto : May 01 11:23 AM  
Sukla Paksha Panchami  
Upto : May 02 09:14 AM

#### Nakshatra

Mrigashirsha  
Upto : May 01 02:20 PM  
Ardra  
Upto : May 02 01:04 PM

#### Rahukalam

2:00 PM - 3:37 PM

#### Yamagandam

5:57 AM - 7:34 AM

#### Gulika

9:10 AM - 10:47 AM

#### Dur Muhurat

10:15 AM - 11:06 AM,  
03:24 PM - 04:15 PM

#### Varjyam

10:17 PM - 11:48 PM

### WEATHER

Forecast : Sunny  
Temperature : 37° / 26°  
Humidity : 34 %  
Sunrise : 5:57 AM  
Sunset : 6:50 PM



India, UK close to clinching trade deal as Commerce Minister  
Phyush Goyal wraps up talks in London - P5

## CM Revanth Reddy participated in the birth anniversary of Sri Mahatma Basaveshwara

(Capital Information)

Hyderabad, Apr 30 : Basaveshwara was a revolutionary who laid a foundation to bring many changes in society in the 12th century. It is a great pleasure to release the 10th class results on his birth anniversary. The people's government is working in the spirit of Basavanna

Basaveshwara was a progressive leader who fought against caste, religious and gender discrimination. Inspired with the spirit of Basavanna, Congress introduced Pan-



chayat Raj parliamentary system

Governments should formulate plans so that every per-

son can live with dignity. The system of opposition exists effectively only when they point out the shortcomings in the decisions taken by the ruling party.. A leader of the party held a meeting in Warangal and criticized the Congress.

The state government helped by providing RTC buses when they organized silver jubileations and victory celebrations. People would have appreciated it if the leader praised the good things the government did and raised public issues in the public meeting. (Cont. on Pg 2)



## Awareness Program on "Bhoo Bharati" Concludes

(Capital Information)

Mahabubnagar/Devarakadra, Apr 30 : The concluding session of the Bhoo Bharati awareness program, organized for farmers of Chinna Chintakunta and Kowkuntla mandals, was held near the Kurumurthi Temple in the outskirts of Ammapur village, Chinna Chintakunta mandal.

State Minister for Revenue, Information, Public Relations, and Housing, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, participated as (Cont. on Pg 2)



## Race for Telangana's Top Cop Heats Up as State Government Shortlists Candidates for DGP Post

(Capital Information)

Hyderabad, Apr 30 : With the impending retirement of current Director General of Police (DGP) Dr. Jitender on September 6th, the Telangana state government has officially commenced the selection process for its new police chief. In a significant move, the names of eight senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers have been forwarded to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), setting the stage for a crucial decision that will shape the leadership of the state's police force for the coming years.

The UPSC will meticulously review the service records and qualifications of the shortlisted officers before recommending a panel of three suitable candidates to the state government. The final appointment will then be made by the state from this select group, marking a pivotal moment in Telangana's administrative landscape.

The list of contenders submitted to the UPSC comprises a distinguished group of senior officers, including: Ravi Gupta, C.V. Anand, the incumbent DGP Dr. Jitender, Apte Vinayak Prabhakar, Kothakota Srinivas Reddy, B. Shivdhar Reddy, Dr. Soumya Mishra, and Shikha Goel.

While all eight officers bring a wealth of experience to the table,



reliable sources within the police department suggest that three individuals are emerging as the front-runners in this high-stakes selection process: C.V. Anand, B. Shivdhar Reddy, and Dr. Soumya Mishra. Their relatively longer remaining service periods appear to be a significant factor. C.V. Anand is slated to retire in June 2028, followed by Dr. Soumya Mishra in December 2027, and B. Shivdhar Reddy in April 2026.

Interestingly, the current DGP, Dr. Jitender, is also included in the list submitted to the UPSC. However, with his retirement just months away, his chances of continuing in the top post are considered slim. Similarly, senior IPS officer Kothakota Srinivas Reddy, a former Hyderabad Police Commissioner who is due to retire on August 5th, faces a similar constraint of limited tenure. Ravi Gupta, with his retirement scheduled for December 2024, is also perceived as a less likely choice for the top job.

The potential appointment of Dr. Soumya Mishra would mark a historic milestone for Telangana, as she would become the first woman to hold the esteemed position of DGP in the state. This would not only be a significant step towards gender inclusivity in the higher echelons of the police force but also a powerful symbol of progress.

However, sources indicate that based on the current political and administrative dynamics, the scales might slightly tilt in favor of either C.V. Anand or B. Shivdhar Reddy. Both officers possess extensive experience in various key roles within the police department and are well-regarded within the force.

As the UPSC deliberates on the submitted names and prepares its recommendations, all eyes are on the state government's next move. The final decision is anticipated in the near future, as the administration gears up to welcome a new leader who will be entrusted with the crucial responsibility of maintaining law and order and steering the Telangana police force into a new chapter. The appointment will undoubtedly have a significant impact on the state's security apparatus and its approach to policing in the years to come.

## Telangana Govt ready to spend over Rs 15,000 cr for paddy procurement : Minister

(Capital Information)

Hyderabad, Apr 30 : The Telangana Government is prepared to spend more than Rs 15,000 crore to ensure the smooth and timely procurement of paddy during this Rabi season, in what is being described as one of the largest procurement operations in the country's history.

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N Uttam Kumar Reddy along with Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswar Rao, who held a high-level video conference with all District Collectors here on Wednesday, termed the paddy procurement programme, the most important and prestigious initiative of the government, for the next 15 to 20 days.

With a record Rabi cultivation spread across 54.89 lakh acres and an estimated output of 127 lakh metric tonnes (LMTs), the state government has planned to procure nearly 70 LMTs of paddy through an extensive network of 8,381 procurement centres established across all districts, Uttam said.

"This is the government's most sensitive and high-stakes programme right now. Besides safeguarding the interest of farmers, it is also linked to the government's prestige," he said. "If you face any problem,



speaking to the Civil Supplies Commissioner. If unresolved, call me directly. We are ready to step in at any moment," the Minister told the officials.

He informed officials that more than Rs 15,000 crore is being allocated for procurement, including MSP and bonus payments.

"We must ensure that once the procurement data from PPCs is uploaded, the payment reaches the farmers within 48 hours. I will speak to the Finance Department to ensure immediate release of the bonus amount," Reddy added.

As of April 29, over 23 LMTs of paddy had arrived at procurement centres, and 19.60 LMTs were already purchased from around 2.55 lakh farmers. Pay-

ments worth ₹2,289.81 crore have already been credited to farmers' accounts against a total MSP value of ₹4,545.72 crore, with the remaining under process. A bonus amount of ₹444.20 crore is also being readied, he informed..

The Minister reiterated that payments must be prompt, seamless, and error-free.

Uttam instructed Collectors to take every precaution to protect harvested paddy from rain-fall and heat, ensuring zero spoilage and zero inconvenience to farmers.

In addressing logistics, Reddy said that in locations where godowns are not accessible, paddy must be shifted directly to mills with sufficient capacity.

He directed the Civil Supplies Commissioner to make advance allocations of 10 LMT worth of storage space and intermediate godowns in districts where needed.

The Minister asked Collectors to coordinate with SPs and RTOs to mobilise private lorries and ensure timely transportation of paddy from PPCs to mills.

Labour shortages must be managed locally, and harvester spacing and technical settings must be monitored to maintain quality. "Ensure blowers are active, RPM settings are proper, and the gear snouts are aligned as per guidelines," Uttam said.

Regarding gunny bags, he clarified that Telangana has already positioned 13.71 crore bags and is mobilising another 3.79 crore.

Reddy instructed that gunny bags must only be issued after verifying moisture levels at PPCs, and not handed over directly to farmers in the field to avoid artificial shortages.

Uttam also appreciated the proactive efforts of the Karimnagar Collector in purchasing dryers and urged other districts to adopt similar measures.

In addition to procurement, the Minister reviewed the distribution of free fine rice to ration card holders. (Cont. on Pg 2)

## Permanent solution to land disputes through Bhu Bharati Act : Minister Jupally Krishna Rao

(Capital Information)

Nagarkurnool, Apr 30 : On Wednesday, as part of the awareness conference on the Bhu Bharati Act held at the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society godown in Kodari mandal headquarters and Vasavi Kalyana Mandapam in Kollapur town, Excise, Tourism, and Cultural Affairs Minister Jupally Krishna Rao participated as the chief guest.

Speaking at the event, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao stated that to resolve land issues not addressed by Dharani, the government has implemented the Bhu Bharati ROR Act 2025 on April 14th, coinciding with Ambedkar Jayanti. He emphasized that the Bhu Bharati Act is aimed at offering a permanent solution to land problems and increasing accountability in land ownership, thereby avoiding confusion among farmers.

The minister noted that Dharani failed to resolve many public



land issues, which led the government to introduce the Bhu Bharati Act-2025 as a comprehensive solution. He explained that the new law will simplify services such as transactions, registrations, mutations, prohibited land identification, and changes to the ROR (Record of Rights). Unlike the cumbersome Dharani process, the new system is designed to be more user-friendly.

He elaborated that due to the Dharani system, registration processes used to drag on for months. Before the implementation of the Bhu Bharati Act, farmers and ordinary people faced many hardships due to unresolved land issues. He stressed that land ownership is a matter of pride, self-confidence, and courage. Because land purchases were not reflected in official

records, farmers were denied access to benefits like Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bima. Cultivators were not considered rightful owners unless their names were in Dharani, forcing them to pay bribes for re-registration.

He added that unresolved land problems continue to drive people to government offices, and officials lacked authority under the Dharani system to amend land records. The Bhu Bharati Act now provides justice to farmers who suffered under Dharani. He assured that corrections in passbooks would be made within a stipulated time and that pending applications and sada bainama cases would be resolved under the new law.

The minister urged farmers in the constituency to submit their land-related applications at the Tehsildar offices and then forward the receipts to his WhatsApp number. He promised to take daily prints of the applications



and conduct review meetings with officials to resolve them. He also directed revenue officers to treat all citizens visiting government offices with respect and work diligently to address their issues. District Collector Badavath Santosh stated that the newly introduced Bhu Bharati Act by the state government would provide a permanent resolution to land disputes. He explained that to ad-

dress issues arising from the Dharani system, experts conducted studies in 17 states and, based on comprehensive inputs, framed the ROR Act focusing on the welfare of farmers.

He mentioned that awareness programs are being conducted in every mandal to educate the public about the new law, which replaces Dharani with Bhu Bharati (Land Rights Act).

The Act allows for corrections in land records, land registration, mutations, and resolves pending sada bainama cases. For inherited properties, a detailed inquiry will be held within a fixed time before updating the passbook and resolving land-related disputes. The Act includes a two-tier appeal system: if there are objections to mutations done by the Tehsildar or issued passbooks, one can appeal to the RDO; if unsatisfied with the RDO's decision, further appeal can be made to the District Collector. Beyond that, one can even approach the Land Tribunal.

The Collector stated that free legal aid will be provided to poor farmers during appeals—a unique provision not seen elsewhere in the country. Emphasizing decentralization of powers, he said the government has delegated mutation authority to Tehsildars and RDOs. For transactions like (Cont. on Pg 2)



## Rahul inaugurates open heart surgery unit at Sanjay Gandhi hospital

Amethi (Uttar Pradesh), Apr 30 (UNI) Senior Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday inaugurated the Open Heart Surgery Unit at Sanjay Gandhi Hospital and also inspected the Gun Factory at Munshiganj.

Rahul inspected Indo Russian Rifle Private Limited in Amethi after which his convoy reached Sanjay Gandhi Hospital at Munshiganj where he inaugurated the Open Heart Surgery Unit.

During this, he inaugurated an ambulance service and handed it over to the general public. He also inspected the Indira Gandhi Institute. After this, his convoy left for the airport.

Objectionable posters were put up in Amethi before the Rae Bareilly MP's arrival. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers staged a protest when he reached here.

It may be noted that the former Congress President reached his Parliamentary constituency Rae Bareilly on Tuesday on a two-day visit.

Party sources said he also has a programme to go to Kanpur where he will meet the family of Shubham Dwivedi, who was killed in the Pahalgam terror attack, to express his condolences.

## CM Revanth Reddy participated in the birth anniversary of Sri Mahatma Basaveshwara

(Cont. from Pg 1) The so called leader has been drawing salary and allowances from his houses without coming out. Which law allowed this? As the Leader of the Opposition, he took Rs. 65 lakhs, vehicles and availed police security. People are questioning why he slept in a farmhouse instead of working as the Leader of the Opposition.

What message did he want to give to the people by sleeping in a farmhouse? The opposition leader said the welfare schemes have been stopped. Which of these has been stopped, Rythu Bandhu, Aarogyasri, free electricity, Shaadi Mubarak, Kalyana Lakshmi? We provided free bus travel facilities to women in RTC, jobs to the unemployed.. Don't you see any of this?

The opposition leader should know whether he is in inebriated condition. What do the opposition leaders want to do by making hateful speeches and provoking people with a stomach full of poison? People are wise and they are aware of what they have done.

We will rule for 10 years with the appreciation of people. Let's discuss development and welfare schemes. Ready for debate on Kaleshwaram, free buses, loan waiver, Rythu Bandhu, 60,000 jobs, SC classification and caste census. Which of these should we discuss? KCR should tell. Ready for debate. KCR is spewing venom through his eyes and words.

Has Congress become a villain for giving Telangana? KCR looted Telangana for 10 years and had no right to criticize the Congress. It is the KCR family ruined after losing power and not Telangana.

KCR went to Warangal like "after eating 100 mice, the cat goes on a pilgrimage". KCR is thinking that he went to Warangal to wash away his sins, but he went there and told lies and made another mistake. KCR couldn't even mention my name in the Warangal assembly.

Our government is moving forward with the policy of increasing the state's income in the spirit of Basaveshwara.. and distributing it to the poor. Our job is to do good for the people. You are the one who should do the campaign. You are our brand ambassadors.

# No problems in procurement of Rabi Grain : Collector Ila Tripathi

(Capital Information)

**Nalgonda bureau, Apr 30 :** As per the orders of the state government, the procurement of grain in Nalgonda district is going on smoothly and there are no problems, District Collector Ila Tripathi told State Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy.

On Wednesday, State Civil Supplies, Irrigation and Food Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy held a video conference with the collectors of all districts, civil supplies and officials of the relevant departments from Hyderabad on the procurement of Rabi grain. When asked about the grain procurement undertaken so far in Nalgonda district and the problems faced in the procurement of grain, District Collector Ila Tripathi replied that no problems have arisen in the procurement of grain in Nalgonda district so far. She explained that two hundred percent allocations have been made to each mill so that the rice millers in the district can immediately take the grain on the road.

However, although the mills are unloading the grain to the capacity of the mills, it



would be better if they were given the opportunity to store the grain in the agricultural market godowns, and therefore she requested that permission be given to store the grain in the three agricultural market godowns near Devarakonda.

She revealed that steps will be taken to procure the Rabi grain in the coming days. She said that seven mills have been identified in the district that have not unloaded the grain on time due to various reasons, four of which have been identified as not having the proper capacity, and additional allocations are being given to the remaining three and all the grain is being collected.

The Collector also re-

vealed that they are coordinating with the police and transport departments to overcome the problem of lorries, and that they are coordinating with police officers on the national highway and ensuring that there is no problem. Earlier, State Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the Rabi grain procurement is one of the most important and prestigious schemes of the state government. He directed the district collectors, civil supplies and related department officials to attach utmost importance to the grain procurement for the next 15-20 days and complete the grain procurement without any difficulties.

He said that government



officials and staff at all levels should work hard for 15 days and complete the grain procurement process without any difficulties for the farmers. He said that every farmer should take complete steps to get the support price announced by the government, and also that steps should be taken so that no farmer faces any difficulties at the grain procurement centers, and that preventive measures should be taken to prevent the grain from getting wet, keeping in mind the untimely rains.

If possible, steps should be taken to store the grain in non-alcoholic godowns. He ordered that explanations be given immediately to the negative news appearing in vari-

ous newspapers on the grain procurement. He ordered that at least two grain drying machines be purchased in each district.

He reiterated that the movement of grain from grain procurement centers where there is a possibility of rain should be expedited. He ordered that any problems related to grain procurement should be brought to his attention immediately. He said that the government is ready to provide support price immediately if the tab is entered immediately after purchasing the grain. He instructed the District Collector to pay attention to this matter as there is a possibility of poor grain coming to Nalgonda district from Suryapet.

State Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said that some millers are not unloading the grain at the mills on time due to various reasons, on the pretext of high prices of HNP, RNR and 1638 varieties of grain, and it has come to his attention that they are deducting five to six kg per quintal, and he instructed the millers not to deduct under any circumstances.

Principal Secretary and Commissioner of the State Civil Supplies Department DS Chauhan said that the most important period in grain procurement is till May 15, and the officials should be alert throughout this time and conduct the grain procurement program smoothly. Keeping in mind the temperatures, drinking water and ORS packets should be kept at all the grain purchasing centers.

In-charge Revenue Additional Collector Narayana Amit, Civil Supplies District Manager Harish, District Civil Supplies Officer Venkateshwarlu, District Cooperation Officer Fatya Nayak, Marketing Department AD Chayadevi, and others attended this video conference.

## Former RAW chief to head National Security Advisory Board

New Delhi, Apr 30 (UNI) The government on Wednesday reconstituted the National Security Advisory Board and appointed former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Alok Joshi as its new chairman.

The revamped seven-member board includes several high-ranking military, Naval, Air Force officials, besides top Indian Police Service officials as its members.

This decision was taken at a high-level meeting convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss the escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan and security situation in the country.

The reconstitution of the board is to strengthen security system as the board plays a critical role in providing long-term strategic analysis and policy recommendation to the government on national se-

curity and foreign affairs matters.

The new members of the board are Air Marshal PM Sinha, Lt General AK Singh, Rear Admiral Monty Khanna, and two former Indian Police Service officers -- Rajiv Ranjan Verma and Manmohan Singh. Moreover, B Venkatesh Varma, who served in the Indian Foreign Service, has also been appointed as the member of the seven-member board.

## Permanent solution to land disputes through Bhui Bharati Act : Minister Jupally Krishna Rao

(Cont. from Pg 1) purchase, gift, mortgage, transfer, and partition of land, individuals can book a slot and visit the Tehsildar's office. After verifying that the land is not assigned, POT, or government land, registration will be completed within the deadline.

Tehsildars also have the power to conduct mutations based on inheritance wills, provided a thorough field investigation is conducted before registration. The Collector stated that revenue courts have been reinstated under Bhui Bharati for speedy resolution of land dis-



putes. Comprehensive details, including boundaries, will be linked to patta passbooks along with attached maps. Licensed surveyors will conduct land surveys, and their maps will be reviewed and included in the

official passbooks.

Officials including the RDO, Tehsildar, Agriculture Department personnel, revenue staff, local villagers, and farmers participated in this awareness conference.

## CM Chandrababu Expresses Shock Over the Death of Seven Devotees in Simhachalam Wall Collapse

(Capital Information)

**Amaravati, Apr 30 :** Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed deep shock over the tragic death of seven devotees due to a wall collapse at the Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple in Simhachalam. A large number of devotees had gathered for the darshan of the deity's original form on Wednesday when a section of the queue line wall collapsed following heavy mid-night rains, leading to the

deaths. The Chief Minister described the incident as deeply saddening and directed officials to provide emergency medical treatment to the injured.

Upon learning of the incident, CM Chandrababu held a teleconference with district officials and ministers Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, Dola Bala Veeranjanya Swamy, Anita, Anagani Satya Prasad, MP Bharat, and Simhachalam Temple Trust Chairman Ashok Gajapathi Raju. Ex-

pressing deep sorrow, the CM inquired into the details of the incident and the medical aid being provided to the injured.

He ordered an inquiry by a three-member committee into the wall collapse. Extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, the Chief Minister announced an ex gratia of Rs. 25 lakh each to the families of the deceased. He also directed that a member from each bereaved family be given an outsourcing job under the

Endowments Department. Further, he sanctioned financial assistance of Rs. 3 lakh for each of the injured.

CM Chandrababu assured that the government will stand by the affected families. He also instructed officials to promptly clear the debris at the site to avoid inconvenience to devotees. Noting that thousands of devotees are expected to arrive, he ordered precautionary measures to ensure safety and prevent panic among the public.

## PM Modi to visit Maharashtra, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh

New Delhi, Apr 30 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Maharashtra, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh on Thursday and Friday.

On Thursday, the Prime Minister will inaugurate WAVES 2025, India's first-of-its-kind World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai. The four-day summit with tagline "Connecting Creators, Connecting Countries" is poised to position India as a global hub for media, entertainment, and digital innovation by bringing together creators, startups, industry leaders, and policymakers from across the world, an official statement said on Wednesday.

In line with Prime Minister's vision of leveraging creativity, technology, and talent to shape a brighter future, WAVES will integrate films, OTT, gaming, comics, digital media, AI, AVGC-XR, broadcasting, and emerging tech, making it a comprehensive showcase of India's media and entertainment prowess. WAVES aims to unlock a 50 billion US dollar market by 2029, expanding India's footprint in the global entertainment economy.

At WAVES 2025, India will also host the Global Media Dialogue (GMD) for the first time, with ministerial participation from 25 countries, marking a milestone in the country's engagement with the global media and entertainment landscape.

Modi will visit the Creatosphere and interact with creators, selected from the 32 Create in India Challenges launched nearly a year ago, which garnered over one lakh registrations. He will also visit the Bharat Pavilion.

WAVES 2025 will witness partici-



pation from over 90 countries, with more than 10,000 delegates, 1,000 creators, 300+ companies, and 350+ startups.

During his visit to Kerala on Friday, the Prime Minister will dedicate to the nation Vizhinjam International Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport worth Rs 8,900 crore.

Vizhinjam Port, having strategic importance, has been identified as a key priority project which will contribute in strengthening India's position in global trade, enhance logistics efficiency, and reduce reliance on foreign ports for cargo transshipment. Its natural deep draft of nearly 20 meters and location near one of the world's busiest sea trade routes further strengthens India's position in global trade.

During his visit to Andhra Pradesh on the same day, the Prime Minister will inaugurate, lay the foundation stone and dedicate to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 58,000 crore in Amaravati.

He will inaugurate seven National Highway projects in AP. These projects include widening of various sections of National Highways, construction of Road over Bridge and subway among others. These projects

will further enhance road safety; create employment opportunities; provide seamless connectivity to religious and tourist places like Tirupati, Srikalahasti, Malakonda and Udayagiri Fort among others.

He will also dedicate to the nation railway projects aimed at enhancing connectivity and boosting capacity.

The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of six National Highway projects and one Railway project.

Modi will lay the foundation stone for multiple infrastructure projects that include the Legislative Assembly, High Court, Secretariat other administrative buildings and housing buildings for over 5,200 families, worth over Rs 11,240 crore.

It will also include trunk infrastructure and flood mitigation projects featuring a 320 km world-class transport network with underground utilities and advanced flood management systems, worth over Rs 17,400 crore. The Land Pooling Scheme Infrastructure projects will cover 1,281 km of roads equipped with central medians, cycle tracks, and integrated utilities across the capital city of Amaravati, worth over Rs 20,400 crore.

He will also lay the foundation stone of Missile Test Range at Nagayalanka in Andhra Pradesh worth around Rs 1,460 crore. It will comprise a launch centre, technical instrumentation facilities, Indigenous Radars, Telemetry and Electro-Optical systems enhancing the country's defence preparedness.

Modi will lay the foundation stone of PM Ekta Mall at Madhurawada in Visakhapatnam.



## Awareness Program on "Bhoo Bharati" Concludes

(Cont. from Pg 1) the chief guest and addressed the gathering. The event also saw the presence of Devarakadra MLA G. Madhusudhan Reddy, State Minority Finance Corporation Chairman Obaidullah Kotwal, District Collector Vijayaendra Boyi, Additional Revenue Collector Mohan Rao, Additional Collector for Local Bodies Shivendra Pratap, and other officials.

The dignitaries highlighted the importance of land digitization and the benefits of the Bhoo Bharati initiative for farmers, emphasizing transparency and ease in land records management.

## Telangana Govt ready to spend over Rs 15,000 cr for paddy procurement : Minister

(Cont. from Pg 1)

He said the quality of the rice supplied through the Public Distribution System (PDS) must be ensured and that specific cooking-quality guidelines had been issued.

"This is another important programme of the government. So far it has gone well, but make sure that everyone down the chain is following the guidelines," the Minister said.

The meeting concluded with one-on-one reviews between the Civil Supplies Commissioner D S Chauhan and each District Collector to address pending matters.

Uttam reaffirmed that Telangana's objective was not just to procure large volumes of paddy, but to do so with speed, transparency and dignity. "This drive must become a model for the rest of the country", he added.



## Education Department Officials Honor APO

(Capital Information)

**Nalgonda Town, Apr 30 :** On the occasion of the retirement of Nalgonda DEO Office Assistant Program Officer (APO) Edulla Madhusudhan Reddy, the officers and staff of the District Education Department Office under the leadership of DEO Bikshapati were felicitated and honored. Several education department officials, staff, family members, relatives and teachers of Madhusudhan Reddy participated in the program and honored Madhusudhan Reddy and Jyothi.





## NUDA Chairman Keshavenu visits slums in the city

(Capital Information)

**Nizamabad bureau,** Apr 30 : Nizamabad Urban Development Authority Chairman Keshavenu on Wednesday said that during an inspection of several slum areas across Nizamabad Urban, Executive Engineer Murali Manohar Reddy, AE Wajid Khan, Rashid Khan, Keshavenu identified low-lying areas that get flooded due to heavy rains during the monsoon season.

Rs 100 crores have been proposed to improve the infrastructure in these areas to solve the problems of the infrastructure, saying that all steps will be taken to prevent any problems from arising in the future.

Nuda Chairman Keshavenu requested our Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, government advisor Shabbir Ali, Mahesh Kumar Goud and Bodhan MLA Sudarshan Reddy to kindly sanction the necessary funds for Nuda. We aim to complete as many projects as possible during this monsoon season, and we should ensure that the remaining or pending works are fully completed by the next monsoon season.

We will be ready to go any way we can to build a safe and healthy society for the people of Nizamabad, Keshavenu said on this occasion.

## Workers Are the Pillar of Development : Former MP Nama

(Capital Information)

**Khammam Bureau,** Apr 30 : On the occasion of May Day, former MP Nama Nageswara Rao extended greetings to worker families, emphasizing that labor is crucial to national development.

He stated that workers are the backbone of the economy and urged recognition of their rights. Nama recalled raising labor issues in Parliament and highlighted the BRS government's focus on workers' welfare in Telangana.

He called for coordinated efforts by central and state governments to address ongoing labor challenges and stressed that respecting labor is key to true development.



## SBIT Students' top Performance in JNTUH First Semester Exams

(Capital Information)

**Khammam Bureau,** Apr 30 : SBIT students from various departments—CSE, ECE, EEE, Civil, and Mechanical—performed exceptionally well in the JNTUH B.Tech first semester exams for the academic year 2024-25.

Many students scored above 9.0 CGPA, with some achieving 10/10. Top scorers include J. Dhanya Bharathi (CSE): 10/10, P. Snehalatha (CSE - Data Science): 9.9, D. Nikhitha (ECE): 9.85, S. Sai Bhargavi (EEE): 9.8, D. Pragathi (Civil): 9.65

Pass percentages by department CSE (Data Science): 63.48%, ECE: 81.63%, EEE: 64.17%, Civil: 55.56%

The principal congratulated the students and staff for this academic achievement and expressed commitment to continuing quality education and support for student success.



## Nalanda High School students score 100% in 10th class results

(Capital Information)

**Nizamabad Bureau,** Apr 30 : The students of Nalanda High School in Armour town have scored a huge success in the 10th class results. In the 10th class results released on Wednesday, Nalanda School students have scored 100%.

N. Swejan Reddy Kaligot, 575/ 600,N. Bhavana Reddy, Nadukuda 564/600, B. Sankeerthana, Nadukuda 555/600, SK. Halima, Mamidipalli 554/600,T. Rakshita, Secunderabad 546/600,Ch. Varun Tej, Chengal 542/600 achieved the highest marks. 23 students scored above 500 marks, the Nalanda management said. The management of Nalanda felicitated these students with shawls, flowers and bouquets.

Speaking on the occasion, the management said that it is a matter of pride to be an educational institution that achieves 100% pass rate every year and achieves the highest marks among private schools in Armour Mandal. Teachers, students and their parents participated in this program.

## Kakatiya Olympiad School student secures first rank in state in tenth results

(Capital Information)

**Nizamabad Bureau,** Apr 30 : Kakatiya Olympiad School (KOS) students created a sensation at the state level. S. Krithi of the school secured the state first rank with 596 marks. Chairperson Vijayalakshmi stated that their students secured the best marks in the results released on Wednesday. KOS student Krithi secured 100 percent grade points in all subjects except Hindi and became the state topper.

The Kakatiya management congratulated the student Krithi for this. Directors Ramoji Rao, Tejaswini and Raja praised her for securing the first rank at the state level and bringing good name not only to the educational institution but also to the district.



Later, student Krithi said that she was able to secure the state first rank only due to the excellent education provided by Kakatiya Olympiad School. It was said that directors Ramoji and Tejaswini took special initiatives and encouraged each student to excel. It was revealed that she achieved the first rank due to everyone's hard work.

Similarly, KOS students Nitish scored 591 marks, SNV. Akhil 590, D. Kriti 587, Sai Shreyas, Varshini 586, Adiba Siddiqui, Gautam 585, Jaswant 584, Asta Gaur 583, Bhavani, Yochana 582 marks and achieved more ranks at the state level. With this, the Kakatiya management congratulated the students who excelled in the ten results.

## Chandur Gandhiji Educational Institutions Achieve First Rank in District in Class 10th Results

(Capital Information)

**Nalgonda Town,** Apr 30 : In the Class 10th results announced by the Telangana government on Wednesday, a student of Gandhiji English Medium School in Chandur Municipality, Gudise Amulya Sri s/o Sathaiah, a girl from Kotaiah Guden, secured 590/600 marks and secured the first rank at the district level.

Similarly, the students who scored 579/600 from

Pandiri Shivapriya Reddy, 577/600 from Dhara Hasini, 575/600 from Uppala Renuka, 574/600 from Nakirekanti Hansika, 574/600 from Avula Shivani, 574/600 from Tummala Neha Sri 573/600 from Pendem Shruti, 572/600 from Kuntigorla Ajay Kumar 571/600 from Kaleparthi Pooja Vaishnavi 571/600 from Kaleparthi were felicitated with shawls and mementos by Dr. Kodi Srinivas, the District President of

Trasma and Chairman of Gandhiji Educational Institutions, at a felicitation function held at Gandhiji Educational Institutions on Wednesday.

On this occasion, Dr. Kodi Srinivasulu said that Gandhiji Educational Institutions achieved excellent results with 100% results and thanked the students, teachers and parents who worked hard for these results. All the people of Chandur Municipality congratulate Gandhiji Educational Institutions for achieving the state rank and the first rank in the district.

Gandhiji Educational Institutions Director Sarikonda Venkanna, Principal Satyanarayana Murthy, Pulipati Radhika, teachers, parents of students and students participated in this program.



## Collector felicitated the 18 retiring employees

(Capital Information)

**Khammam Bureau,** Apr 30 : A special 'Prasthanam' (Farewell) program was organized at the Khammam District Collectorate to honor 18 government employees retiring in the month of April. District Collector Mujammil Khan attended the event and expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the dedicated service rendered by the employees over the decades.

Speaking on the occasion, he said, "Those who have tirelessly served the public across various departments deserve special recognition. Their experiences should serve as inspiration for future generations of employees."

The retiring staff shared key milestones and memorable moments from their service journeys. The District Collector personally felicitated them with great respect and appreciation.

The event was attended by other officials, colleagues, and family members of the retirees.

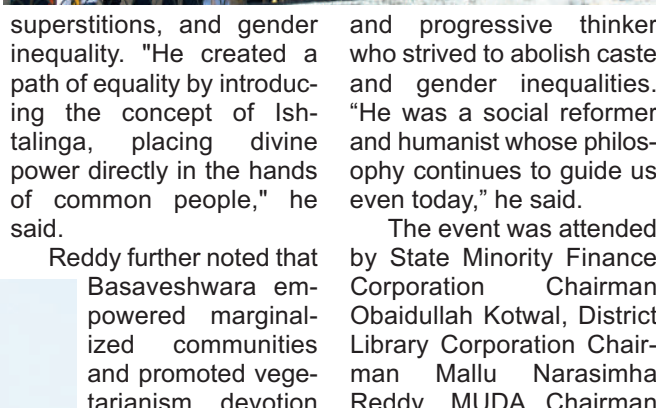


## Basaveshwara's Teachings are an Inspiration for Today's Generation : MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy

(Capital Information)

**Mahabubnagar,** Apr 30 : MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy on Tuesday said that the teachings of 12th-century social reformer Basaveshwara continue to serve as an inspiration for the present generation. He was speaking at the Basaveshwara Jayanti celebrations held at the Green Belt area in Padmavati Colony, Mahbubnagar, where he, along with District Collector Vijayaendra Boie, paid floral tributes to Basaveshwara's statue.

Highlighting Basaveshwara's role in societal transformation, the MLA said that he established the Lingayat faith and challenged deep-rooted caste discrimination, superstitions, and gender inequality. "He created a path of equality by introducing the concept of Ishalinga, placing divine power directly in the hands of common people," he said.



Reddy further noted that Basaveshwara empowered marginalized communities and promoted vegetarianism, devotion through Ishalinga worship, and a vision of a casteless, classless, and harmonious society.

District Collector Vijayaendra Boie described Basaveshwara as a revolutionary leader

and progressive thinker who strived to abolish caste and gender inequalities. "He was a social reformer and humanist whose philosophy continues to guide us even today," he said.

The event was attended by State Minority Finance Corporation Chairman Obaidullah Kotwal, District Library Corporation Chairman Mallu Narasimha Reddy, MUDA Chairman Lakshman Yadav, Market Committee Chairperson Bakkari Anita Madhusudan Reddy, former Municipal Chairman Anand Goud, DCC General Secretary Siraj Khadri, CJ Benahar, Gunda Manohar, BC Welfare Officer R. Indira, and others.

## Remarkable Success by Government Schools for Deaf and Mute Students in 10th Grade Exams

(Capital Information)

**Hyderabad,** Apr 30 : In an inspiring display of determination and resilience, students from government residential schools for the deaf and mute have achieved a 100% pass rate in the 10th-grade examinations. With strong support from the government and the dedicated efforts of teachers and staff, these students overcame their challenges to emerge successful.

Minister Seethakka expressed immense happiness over the achievement, commending the students for their hard work and determination. She also extended heartfelt congratulations to the teachers and staff of the Department for the Welfare of Persons with Disabilities for their unwavering commitment and contribution to this success.



## SCCL CMD N. Balaram meets CS K. Ramakrishna Rao

(Capital Information)

**Singareni Bhavan,** Apr 30 : Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Sri N. Balaram extended his formal greetings to K. Rama Krishna Rao, who has taken charge as the new Chief Secretary of the Telangana State Government, on Wednesday evening at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat.

CMD N. Balaram congratulated Sri Ramakrishna Rao on behalf of the Singareni organization and acknowledged his prior contribution to SCCL's development while serving as Special Chief Secretary, Finance Department, and as a member of the SCCL Board of Directors. He expressed hope that as the Chief Secretary, Ramakrishna Rao would continue to support the growth and progress of the Singareni organization.



## Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Seventh in the Tenth Class Exam Results : Collector Hanumantha Rao

(Capital Information)

**Yadadri Bhuvanagiri,** Apr 30 : District Collector Hanuman Rao said that it was a pleasure to achieve the 7th position of our Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district in the 10th class exams in Telangana state. Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, the District Collector's Office. told district education officer, teacher and teachers who worked hard to come to the 7th position of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.

"We will be given a bicycle to 65 students and students who have scored the highest marks in the district and 65 students and students who have scored the highest marks will be honored." Every student has been calling on the teacher to call for good and the Morning Wakeup call by the teacher, and every student is adopting a student and telling every student how to adopt a student and instructions to the studentThe collector explained that it was done.

Every regular zoom meeting has been issued to the Zonal Education Officer, Principal Young and Teachers, and the backward student who is studying in the tenth grade student who is studying in the tenth grade and spoke to the parents and gave a good instructions on the districtSpecial congratulations to the students and other departments of students and other departments who have cooperated with teachers and staff to teachers and staff.

The parents of the officials and students of the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district have been honored with the shades of Collector Hanuman Rao, who has been constantly working for the seventh -class results in the tenth class results of the state.

## Speed Up Paddy Procurement : Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy

(Capital Information)

**Khammam Bureau,** April 30 : This year, Yasangi (Rabi) paddy was cultivated in 54.89 lakh acres across Telangana, with an estimated production of 137.10 LMT (lakh metric tonnes). Out of this, the government plans to procure about 70.13 LMT through procurement centers. So far, 19.60 LMT has been procured from 2.55 lakh farmers. With higher inflow expected in May, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy instructed officials to accelerate the procurement process.No deductions under the pretext of "shrinking" or "cutting" weights. Bank guarantees mandatory for rice mills. Use intermediate godowns for storage if required. Ensure no shortage of laborers or transport vehicles. District Collectors must closely monitor and enforce compliance by rice mills.Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, Commissioner D.S. Chauhan, Khammam Collector Mujammil Khan, and other senior officials were participated in the Video conference.





# Editorial SC recognizes Right to Digital Access under Article 21

In a landmark judgment aimed at ensuring digital inclusion for the marginalised, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Central Government and financial regulatory bodies to revise digital Know Your Customer (e-KYC) norms to make them accessible for persons with facial disfigurement due to acid attacks and individuals with visual impairments.

A Bench comprising Jus-

tice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan emphasized the constitutional obligation of the State to create a universally accessible digital ecosystem, especially given that welfare schemes, banking, education, and governance services are increasingly delivered through online platforms.

The Court traced this obligation to Article 21 of the Constitution, interpreting the right to life to include access

to digital infrastructure.

Authoring the judgment, Justice Mahadevan stated, "The digital divide, characterised by unequal access to digital infrastructure, skills and content, continues to perpetuate systemic exclusion not only of persons with disabilities but also rural populations, senior citizens, economically weaker communities, and linguistic minorities... Bridging this divide is no longer a matter of pol-

icy discretion but a constitutional imperative to secure dignity, autonomy and equal participation in public life."

The judgment was delivered in response to two writ petitions, Pragma Prasun v. Union of India and Amar Jain v. Union of India highlighting the challenges acid attack survivors and visually impaired individuals face in complying with current e-KYC norms, such as mandatory live photographs, blinking, and head

positioning during identity verification.

The Court held that such digital processes must comply with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and issued twenty directions (to be detailed upon formal uploading of the judgment) to make e-KYC accessible. These include alternative identification methods that ensure dignity and autonomy for those with disabilities.

Justice Mahadevan noted

that persons with disabilities have a statutory right to demand accessibility and reasonable accommodation, and stated that the digital KYC guidelines must be amended to align with universal design principles and accessibility codes.

The Court has now made it clear that access to digital services is not a privilege but a constitutional right, extending the scope of Article 21 to ensure digital equity for all.

## PM announces compensation for those killed, injured in Kolkata fire

Kolkata, Apr 30 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the loss of 14 lives in a fire at Burrabazar in Kolkata's central business district and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the next of kin of each deceased and Rs 50,000 for the injured from the Prime Minister National Relief Fund.

"Anguished by the loss of lives due to a fire mishap in Kolkata. Condolences to those who lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon," the Prime Minister wrote on his official X handle.

"An ex-gratia of Rs. 2 lakhs from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000," he added.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi also mourned the death of the people.

"The news of the death of many people in a terrible fire accident at a hotel in Kolkata is very sad. I express my



deepest condolences to all the bereaved families. Hoping for the injured recovery soon," Rahul wrote on his X handle.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who is currently in Digha for the inauguration of the newly constructed Jagannath temple, called up Mayor Firhad Hakim and the Kolkata Police Commissioner on Wednesday morning to enquire about the devastating fire.

"My heart goes out to the victims of the fire incident that took place at a private hotel (Rituraj) in Burrabazar area," she wrote on her X handle.

"I monitored the rescue

and fire fight operations throughout the night and mobilised maximal fire brigade services in the area. 14 died eventually in total because there were combustible materials stored inside. Investigation has been ordered. My condolences to the victim families and solidarity for all affected," she wrote.

In one of the most devastating fires in recent memory, 14 people lost their lives on Tuesday night at a hotel near Falpatti Machhwa in Burrabazar, central Kolkata. Preliminary investigation has revealed that those killed

were not burned but were choked by the thick smoke within the building. Kolkata police formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the matter.

However, the state BJP president and Union Minister of State, Sukanta Majumdar, has criticised Mamata Banerjee for her indifferent attitude towards the people.

"Today, the Chief Minister is busy with a day-long inauguration programme of Jagannath Dham in Digha. Meanwhile, the death toll from this horrific fire in Kolkata continues to rise. This clearly reveals the insensitivity and failure of the Chief Minister. While the innocent and helpless people are burning and dying in unbearable pain, the Chief Minister is busy exploiting religion for political gains. Year-round appeasement and election-time religious posturing – this, once again, is the clear priority of Mamata Banerjee," Majumdar said.

## Odisha sets target to provide irrigation to 15 Lakh hectares in next five years: CM Majhi

Bhubaneswar, Apr 30 (UNI) Odisha has set a target to provide irrigation to 15 lakh hectares of land over the next five years, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced.

Addressing the State-level Farmers' Day celebrations organized on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, the Chief Minister said that Rs 1,025 crore has been disbursed as assistance under the CM Kisan Yojana.

This financial assistance, he said will benefit 50,16,938 small and marginal farmers, 49,482 landless farming families, and 2,382 tribal farming families in the state for the 2025 Kharif crop season.

Majhi expressed hope that this advance assistance would help farmers in their agricultural activities.

The Chief Minister noted that at the time of independence, India struggled to feed its population of around 33 crore.

Today, however, India is among the leading exporters of agricultural and allied



products.

He credited the transformation in agriculture and farmer welfare to the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who assumed office in 2014.

Majhi appreciated the hard work of Odisha's farmers, acknowledging their role in transforming the state from a grain-deficit region to a grain-surplus one and urged farmers to adopt climate-resilient agricultural practices.

The Chief Minister added that an investment of ap-

proximately Rs 1 lakh crore would be made to achieve the irrigation target of 15 lakh hectares in the next five years.

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, K V Singh Deo, remarked that Akshaya Tritiya is an auspicious day when farmers begin their agricultural activities.

He thanked the Chief Minister for providing advance assistance to the farmers of the state.

## Pro-Pak media accounts' claims about Lt Gen Suchindra false : Govt

New Delhi, Apr 30 (UNI) The government on Wednesday refuted the claims made by some Pakistan-backed social media accounts that Army's Northern Command Commander Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar has been removed from his post after the Pahalgam terror attack.

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in a post on social media platform X said, "Several pro-Pakistan social media accounts falsely claim that Northern Commander Lt Gen Suchindra Kumar has been



removed from his post after the Pahalgam incident".

The PIB further said that Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar has not been removed but is attaining superannuation on April 30 and Lt Gen Pratik Sharma has been appointed as the new Northern Army

Commander in his place.

The PIB on Tuesday on its X handle had said that several Pakistan-backed social media accounts have been deliberately circulating false and misleading propaganda following the Pahalgam terror attack.

## Stalin launches TNECM scheme, eyes Rs 30,000 cr investments

Chennai, Apr 30(UNI) In a yet another major initiative, Chief Minister M.K.Stalin on Wednesday launched the "Tamil Nadu Electronics Components Manufacturing (TNECM) Scheme, which is expected to attract Rs 30,000 crore investments in the sector.

Apart from generating 60,000 jobs, the TNECM scheme is aimed at promoting production of electronic components in the state.

"It is a special initiative dedicated to supporting the production of electronic components", an official release



said.

Noting that Tamil Nadu already holds a leading position at the national level in electronics manufacturing and exports, Mr Stalin said to further encourage value-added manufacturing and at-

tract large-scale investments in semiconductor sub-sectors, the state Government introduced the Tamil Nadu Semiconductor and Advanced Electronics Policy 2024.

This policy has paved the way for Tamil Nadu to emerge as a frontrunner in the production of electronic goods.

In continuation of these efforts to strengthen the electronics manufacturing ecosystem, the Chief Minister today launched this special scheme focused on electronic component manu-

facturing.

To attract companies that benefit under the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the TN Government, through this scheme, will offer incentives that match the subsidies announced under the Union Government's scheme.

Through this initiative, Tamil Nadu is expected to attract investments worth Rs 30,000 crore and generate employment opportunities for 60,000 people.

## "Fear of independent women: indigestion of Hindi literature"

### "A thorn in the eye of Hindi literature : Independent women"

*The Hindi literature world still cannot digest the real independent and enlightened women. They want a female writer of the kind they want. She should write on soft issues, family, society, some psychology, and man-woman relationships. For them, the synonym of modernity or a modern woman is that she can write boldly. In the name of bold writing, this society praises vulgarity in female writers and bestows them with big words. They do all this in the name of women's freedom.*

*Those confused women also consider opposing family, opposing culture, and supporting perverted sexuality as bold and modern and keep strutting like puppets in their hands. It is a pity that they do not know that they are puppets; they are made to write whatever they want, and that too by coating them in the syrup of modern, courageous, bold, independent, enlightened words. Writing of slimy literature, destruction, and negativity is what makes them called bold and enlightened.*

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Those confused women also consider opposing family, opposing culture, and supporting perverted sexuality as bold and modern and keep strutting like puppets in their hands. It is a pity that they do not know that they are puppets; they are made to write whatever they want, and that too by coating them in the syrup of modern, courageous, bold, independent, enlightened words. Writing of slimy literature, destruction, and negativity is what makes them called bold and enlightened.

Even today, enlightened women with independent consciousness are an uncomfortable truth for the

Hindi literary world. Women who are masters of their independent intellect, who think, raise questions, and do not fit into the old mold of submissive female writers—they are still not acceptable to the literary community. Even today, they want such female writers who fit into their prescribed mold: those who write on 'soft' issues—family, society, a little psychology, and some light-hearted male-female relationships.

When 'modernity' is mentioned on the platforms of Hindi literature, it too has a set framework. For them, a "modern" female writer means one who is "bold"—that is, one who serves obscenity in the name of 'bold writin'g. One who is incited in the name of 'sexual' freedom—opposition to the family, mockery of culture, and distortion of relationships—is said to be synonymous with modernity. And this entire trickery is wrapped up with such sweetness that the confused female writers themselves believe this lie to be true. They are filled with pride about how 'bold,' 'independent,' and 'modern' they have become—while they have become mere puppets



in the hands of those literary contractors who make them dance according to their convenience. Sadly, they never have the time to raise this question: whether the lesson of freedom that they are being taught, have those male writers taught the same lesson to the women of their homes as well?

The mindset of the literary society is that women's writing should be limited to a hidden realm of tender emotions, beauty, love, separation, or soft porn. If a woman dares to write seriously on geopolitics, religion, philosophy, spirituality, international relations, sociology, politics, education, economics, or policies, she makes them

uncomfortable. This unbearable thought gets embedded in their minds: "These are the fields of men." Women should only embellish words—they should not raise deep questions. Depth of thoughts, sharpness of analysis, and intellectual boldness—all these are still considered 'male bastions' in the Hindi literary scene.

A woman who neither bows down to the desire of any award nor compromises her ideas in the greed of any platform nor is hungry for the favor of any famous critic, a woman who is alert and firm about her thoughts, values, and character—she is still a dangerous presence for the Hindi literary world. Such a woman being the owner of her own conscience and her independence scares them, irritates them, and makes them uncomfortable. They start awarding her with titles like 'arrogant,' 'insensitive,' 'fanatic,' and 'over-intellectual' so that she can be pushed to the margins. But all their ridicule, all their criticism, is just a trivial noise for that woman, who knows that her war is not against the darkness outside but against the darkness within.

Look at this paradox: those who taught women

the lesson of 'modernity' in the name of sexuality still apply the same criteria of 'purity,' 'decency,' and 'tradition' to the women of their own homes. For them, 'boldness' is only for the women of the outside world. The women of the house should still remain veiled, should remain silent, and should remain modest.

Women who sell their freedom for obscenity, their modernity for self-deception, and their courage for the pseudo-support of patriarchy—they do not actually become a part of any revolution but rather become the new cherries of that patriarchal literary system.

The harsh truth is that "Women's Liberation" has also become a brand today. It is traded, displayed on stage, and distributed as awards.

In fact, the rebellion of a woman with an independent consciousness is very subtle and invisible. It is not expressed in vulgar language, not in negativity, not in outrageous boldness—but in the depth of thought, in the accurate analysis of issues, and in the honesty of her writing.

When she writes on love, she explains the complexity

of compassion. When she writes on politics, she draws a picture of the suffering of the people in the churning of power. When she writes on religion, she breaks the web of superstition and intolerance.

She knows that the true purpose of literature is to reveal the truth—not to become a pawn to power, greed, and the sexual market.

Hindi literature will now have to accept that women are not just symbols of "decoration" or "sensitivity." They now ask questions, analyze, break, and create. And most importantly, they no longer want to become pawns of anyone's agenda.

They have become the creators of their own thoughts, their own pens, and their own future. The sooner the literary society understands this change, the better it will be—otherwise only puppets will keep dancing in their world, and women with independent consciousness will keep making new paths for themselves in history.

"When a woman raises her voice, she does not just speak for herself; she challenges the silence of the entire society."





## Pak should have been taught a lesson within 24 hours after Pahalgam : SS (UBT)

Mumbai Apr 30 ( UNI) Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said here on Wednesday that Pakistan should have been taught a lesson within 24 hours after the Pahalgam attack. Raut said that after the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, it should have been given a reply within the first 24 hours like other countries who take revenge immediately. He said even if a soldier is killed, nations like America, Russia and Israel immediately retaliate. Raut said that the country was told that India has stopped the Indus water, but the water is not stopped like that. "For that, storage capacity will have to be built, Dams will have to be built and this will take 20 years," he said. He criticized the Central government over banning 27 Pakistani YouTube channels. "Is this called revenge", he questioned.

## Pro-Pak slogans 'an act of treason': Ktk CM

Bengaluru, Apr 30 (UNI) Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday termed the raising of pro-Pakistan slogans in Kudupu near Mangaluru as "an act of treason" and said 15 people have been arrested in connection with the mob lynching incident, currently under investigation. "Whoever raises pro-Pakistan slogans, it is wrong – it is an act of treason. An investigation is underway, and 15 people have been arrested in connection with the lynching incident," the Chief Minister told reporters in Bengaluru, responding to questions on the violence that shook the coastal city earlier this week.



The lynching incident, which reportedly occurred following allegations of celebratory sloganeering after a local cricket match, has triggered tension in the region and led to heavy police deployment to prevent any flareup. The police have registered multiple cases and are examining video footage and social media content as part of the probe. The victim has been identified as Ashraf, a resident of Pulpalli village in Wayanad district, Kerala. According to police reports, the incident occurred near the Bhatra Kallurti Temple in Kudupu on April 27 during a local cricket match. An altercation between

Ashraf and an auto-rickshaw driver escalated, leading to a group assault involving over 25 individuals. Ashraf sustained multiple injuries and was declared dead at the hospital.

Home Minister G Parameshwara also addressed the incident, urging the public to maintain peace and harmony. He emphasised that taking the law into one's own hands is unacceptable, regardless of any offensive slogans that may have been uttered. Police have registered a case under Section 103(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which pertains to murders committed by groups of five or more individuals. Investigations are ongoing, with authorities analyzing CCTV footage and mobile data to identify additional suspects.



## Deven Bharti appointed new police commissioner of Mumbai

Mumbai, Apr 30 ( UNI) Devan Bharti will be the new police commissioner of Mumbai, said state home department here on Wednesday. Bharti will take charge as Mumbai Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar is retiring on Wednesday. The Home Department has issued orders stating that the 1994 batch IPS officer Devan Bharti will take charge as Mumbai Police Commissioner.

## Delhi govt decides to enact law to curb fee hike

New Delhi, Apr 30 (UNI) The Delhi government on Tuesday decided to enact a new law to curb school fee hike.

The Delhi Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, during the day approved the Delhi School Fee Fixation (Transparent and Regulation) Bill, 2025. Addressing a press conference after the meeting, Gupta and Education Minister Ashish Sood said that it was a historic decision for Delhi. For the first time, such a decision has been taken for the future of children and the convenience of parents. Now no school will be able to do whatever it wants. Till now, Delhi did not have any such Act to regulate the fees of private schools. Sood said there was no provision against fee hike in the 1973 Act. Criticising the preceding AAP Government, he said it did not take any decision on the vital matter. On the other hand, the future of children is the priority of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government. He said the bill will soon be passed by the Assembly. Gupta said the Delhi government has taken a historic and bold decision in which all 1677 private schools in Delhi will be given guidelines regarding fees. As per the new bill, along with the Directorate of Education, the school management as well as parents will also have a role in deciding the fees.



## Free encroached land without delay, punish bullies : Yogi

Gorakhpur, Apr 30 (UNI) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday directed the officials to immediately clear encroachments on land belonging to the poor and take strict legal action against the culprits, warning that those who exploit the vulnerable will face consequences. Speaking at the Janata Darshan held outside the Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti Bhawan at Gorakhnath Temple, the CM reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to justice and prosperity for every citizen, urging officers to act with transparency, impartiality and sensitivity. During Janata Darshan, he heard the grievances of



around 200 people. Among them was a distressed woman who shared details of a long-standing land dispute. Assuring her, Yogi said, "Don't worry, your problem will be solved and we'll also take care of your journey

home." These compassionate words moved the woman seeking justice to tears. The CM immediately directed the officials to take swift action and assured her that justice would be delivered without

delay. As the woman expressed her gratitude, she also said she did not have the fare to return home. "Don't worry, you will be given the fare to return home," the CM said while directing the temple management to provide the necessary assistance. He directed the officials to ensure speedy and high-quality resolutions of each of the people's issues. As in previous sessions, several

individuals sought financial help for medical treatment. Yogi assured them of full government support. Handling their applications to officials, he directed that treatment cost estimates be prepared promptly and submitted for approval. Some attendees had brought their children, with whom he interacted warmly, blessing them, gifting chocolates and asking about their studies. He began his day with prayers at Guru Gorakhnath's shrine and the samadhi of his Guru, Mahant Avedyanath. He then visited the temple premises, performed Gauseva at the Gaushala and paused at Bhim Sarovar to hand-feed ducks.

## Stick to CWC resolution on Pahalgam attack or face action: Cong warns leaders

New Delhi, Apr 30 (UNI) The Congress on Tuesday directed all its party leaders and functionaries to strictly adhere to CWC resolution adopted on the Pahalgam attack and warned that any deviation from the official line will "attract strict disciplinary action without exception". Congress General Secretary KC Venugopal in a letter said that the "Congress party is deeply anguished by the reprehensible terrorist attack in Pahalgam and stands in unwavering solidarity with the nation during this hour of grief. "At this critical juncture, when our collective resolve is being tested, the Indian National Congress must exemplify unity, maturity and responsibility -virtues that have defined our conduct through decades of national service, in government and in opposition alike," said the letter. He said the unanimous resolution that was passed



by the CWC, chaired by party president Mallikarjun Kharge on April 24 "must serve as the sole basis for all public expressions of the party's stance on the matter". "It is therefore, hereby directed that all comments, statements, and representations - whether by party leaders, spokespersons, media panelists or official handles of the Congress social media department must strictly adhere to the CWC resolution. Any deviation, misrepresentation, or off-the-cuff remark that diverges from the official

line shall be deemed a serious breach of party discipline," it read. The party also instructed all functionaries to "exercise utmost discipline, and consistency in public communication". Venugopal said, "Those authorised to speak on behalf of the party must confine themselves to the CWC's stated position in the resolution passed on April, 24. Any contravention of this directive will invite strict disciplinary action without exception".

## BJP tears into Mamata Banerjee, accuses her of being insensitive

Kolkata, Apr 30 (UNI) The BJP, the main opposition in West Bengal, criticized Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, currently in Digha for the inauguration of the Jagannath temple, accusing her of being insensitive and irresponsible after 14 people died in a devastating hotel fire in Burrabazaar, Kolkata's central business district. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already announced Rs 2 lakh for the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for the injured. In contrast, the state government remains silent. Twelve hours after the fire broke out, the words of condolences from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appear insincere and insensitive," BJP IT chief and co-in-charge for Bengal Amit Malviya wrote on his X handle. "It is unfortunate that such tragic incidents continue to recur in Kolkata due to lack of government maintenance, absence of fire safety equipment, poor urban planning,



and unchecked illegal activities by the promoter lobby," he added. State BJP president and union minister of state for DoNER, Sukanta Majumdar who cut short his stay in Delhi and came back to Kolkata, wrote on his X handle, "The Chief Minister supposedly stayed awake all night in Digha to supervise everything! Following such a horrific fire, the honourable Prime Minister of the country promptly announced financial aid from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. "But the real tragedy for

the people of the state is that the failed Chief Minister could not even make it to Kolkata. Even the failed Fire Minister remained seated by the sea in Digha!" he wrote. "Yet again, ahead of the elections, the Chief Minister is engrossed in the dangerous politics of religion, while the safety of innocent citizens of the state goes to hell! For the failed Chief Minister, festivals, fairs, and spectacles come above all else! Shame!" he wrote. "Lack of proper fire safety measures, and other negligence must have led to the

## Seven devotees killed as wall collapses on them

Visakhapatnam, Apr 30 (UNI) Seven devotees were killed and several others injured when a wall collapsed on them when they were standing in a queue to buy tickets at the famous hill shrine Simhachalam, near here, in the wee hours on Wednesday. Police said that a large number of devotees stood in the queue to buy the Rs 300 ticket to have the glimpse of deity Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy at the famous hill shrine on the devotional occasion Gandhamavasya. The deceased were identified as Patti Durga Swamy Naidu (32), Yedla Venkata Rao (48), Mummapatla Manikantha (28), Gujjari Mahalakshmi (65), Paila Venkata Ratnam (45) Pilla Umamaheshwara Rao (30) and Pilla Sailaja (26). Four of the deceased belonged to one family and they were Pilla Umamaheshwar Rao, a software engineer, his wife Pilla Sailaja, his mother Pilla Paila Venkataratnam and his aunt G Mahalakshmi. Official sources said that thousands of people started reaching the hill shrine after midnight and formed a long queue to buy special darshan tickets. Heavy rain accompanied by gales occurred at the temple resulting in a portion of a 20-foot-long wall caving on them. The injured were admitted to hospital where the condition of two of the injured is said to be critical. Home Minister V Anitha,



District Collector MN Harendhira Prasad, Commissioner of police Shankabratha Bagchi, MP M Sribharat visited the scene of the accident. An SDRF team extricated the victims from the rubble and shifted them to hospitals. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu expressed grief and shock over the death of seven devotees. He announced Rs 25 lakh ex gratia to each of the families of the deceased and Rs 3 lakh for the injured. He held a teleconference with the officials concerned and instructed them to provide the best medical treatment to the injured. The Chief Minister set up a three-member committee to conduct an inquiry into the incident. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed shock over the incident. He said on social media: "Deeply saddened by the loss of lives due to the collapse of a wall in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon". Governor of Andhra Pradesh S. Abdul Nazeer has expressed anguish and profound grief on the loss of seven lives due to the collapse of a wall while they were waiting in the queue line to have darshan of Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy on the occasion of Chandanotsavam in the early hours on Wednesday. The Governor offered his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and directed the district administration to provide better medical care to the injured.

## Two youths arrested for rape of minor girl in Mahoba

Mahoba (UP), Apr 30 (UNI) Two youths were arrested for sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl in the Ajanar area of Mahoba district here in Uttar Pradesh, a police officer said here on Wednesday. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Vandana Singh said that the incident took place late on Tuesday evening when the girl was returning home from the field late in the evening. "Two youths of the same village caught her near the cremation ground and raped her. After committing the crime, the accused fled, threatening to kill the victim along with her family if she complained to the police about the incident. The victim girl is a student of class 8," she said. She said that the girl reached home after a long time and informed her brother about the entire incident. "The victim was taken to the police station, and a complaint was lodged about the incident. The police have registered a case against two youths of the village, Pramod and Prince," she said. The ASP said that the police showed promptness and arrested both the accused and sent them to jail. "The case is being investigated by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Harshita Gangwar," she said.





# International Information

## China issues orange alert for forest fires

Beijing, Apr 30 (UNI) Chinese authorities on Wednesday issued an orange alert, the second highest-level warning, for forest fires in parts of China from May 1 to 5.

The national forest and grassland fire-control command office and the Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) issued the alert for forest fires in parts of Hebei, Shanxi, Henan and Shaanxi during the five-day May Day holiday.

The emergency management departments have been instructed to closely monitor changes in fire hazards, implement early warning and response measures, continuously reinforce fire source control, strengthen emergency preparedness, and effectively address the ongoing severe risk of forest fires.

Forest and grassland fires are among eight major



natural disasters. "Generally speaking, China's forest fires have shown an overall downward trend in recent years," said Yang Xudong, an official with the MEM, on March 21, the International Day of Forests.

Statistics show that, from 1950 to 1989, China averaged approximately 16,000 forest fire incidents annually. This number dropped to around 6,000 between 1990 and 2020, and since 2021, it

has further decreased to less than 1,000 cases per year.

The causes of forest and grassland fires are categorized into natural and human factors, with the latter accounting for over 90 percent of the causes of fire incidents, according to Yang.

China has a four-level warning system for forest fires, with red being the highest followed by orange, yellow and blue.

## IMF Executive Board to meet with Pakistan on May 9 to discuss \$7 billion loan

Islamabad, Apr 30 (UNI) The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Board will meet with Pakistani authorities on May 9 to discuss the country's staff-level agreement for a new \$1.3 billion arrangement under a climate resilience loan programme, along with the first review of Pakistan's ongoing \$7 billion bailout programme.

According to the global money lender, this will be the first "review under the Extended Arrangement Under the Extended Fund Facility", along with a request for an arrangement under the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), as reported by Dawn.

In an affirmation of the meeting, Pakistan's Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb during his visit to Washington had also said that he expected the IMF Execu-



tive Board to approve the programme sometime in early May.

A Board approval would allow for the disbursement of a \$1 billion tranche under the programme secured by Pakistan in 2024. The IMF programme has been instrumental in stabilising Pakistan's fragile economy, offering vital external financing and bolstering market confidence.

The global money lender

and Islamabad had reached an accord in July 2024, under which Pakistan was approved for a three-year, \$7 billion aid package. The new programme was set to allow the country to "cement macroeconomic stability and create conditions for stronger, more inclusive and resilient growth".

The ongoing 37-month EFF programme consists of six reviews over the life of the bailout, and the release of the next tranche of approximately \$1 billion will be contingent on the success of the performance review.

In March, Pakistan and the IMF had concluded the first biannual review of the three-year-loan programme on a positive note, without im-

posing additional revenue measures.

In an end-of-mission statement, mission chief Nathan Porter said: "Programme implementation has been strong, and the discussions have made considerable progress in several areas, including the planned fiscal consolidation to durably reduce public debt, maintenance of sufficiently tight monetary policy to maintain low inflation, acceleration of cost-reducing reforms to improve energy sector viability."

For Pakistan, this is news of significant importance, as its economy is teetering on the verge of bankruptcy, its credit rating has gone down significantly (though there has been a slight improvement as well), private sector investments are next to zero, and public sector units are yielding little benefits.

## High alert temporarily shuts down Islamabad airport's airfield

Islamabad, Apr 30 (UNI) The airfield at Islamabad International Airport (IAP) was briefly closed late Tuesday night after aviation authorities issued a high alert due to an unspecified reason, official sources said.

The alert began at 11:48 p.m. local time Tuesday (1848 GMT) on April 29 and lasted until 12:21 a.m. Wednesday (1921 GMT Tuesday) on April 30, leading to a temporary suspension of outbound flight operations for approximately 33 minutes, the sources told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

During this period, board-

ing procedures for three international flights, PK-233 bound for Dubai, PK-287 for Doha, and PA-210 also heading to Dubai were not initiated, the

sources added.

Authorities have yet to release details about the nature of the high alert.

Despite the brief disruption,

all inbound flights operated according to schedule, and normal airfield operations resumed shortly after the alert was lifted.

Authorities assured passengers that safety protocols were followed to ensure the security of all travelers.

Islamabad International Airport serves as one of Pakistan's key aviation hubs, handling both domestic and international traffic.

The temporary suspension raised concerns among travelers, though services returned to normal shortly after midnight.



## 14 killed in suspected terrorist attack in north Nigeria

Abuja, Apr 30 (UNI) At least 14 people were killed in an attack by suspected terrorists who attacked a community in Borno, one of the restive states in Nigeria's northern region, local authorities said Tuesday.

The terrorists, suspected to be members of the outlawed Boko Haram group, stormed the Chibok community during a third-day prayer for a late district leader Monday evening, shooting indiscriminately and instantly killing seven mourners, Modu Mustapha,

head of the Chibok local government area of Borno, told reporters.



Seven more bodies were recovered Tuesday as local volunteers combed the surroundings in search of casualties. Many others sustained varying degrees of gunshot injuries during the violence, which, according to Mustapha, had the trappings

of Boko Haram attacks. Several houses were set ablaze during the attack.

The local government official said more casualties might be recovered, as volunteers continue to search for more bodies.

Boko Haram has been collaborating with its sister group, Islamic State West Africa Province, in an attempt to establish an Islamist state in northeast Nigeria. The terror groups have also extended their attacks to other countries in the Lake Chad Basin.

## India, UK close to clinching trade deal as Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal wraps up talks in London

London/New Delhi, Apr 30 (UNI) India and the UK are close to clinching a free trade deal, following the talks held between the two sides during the London visit of Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal told a business roundtable in London on Tuesday that "25 of 26 matters have been agreed" upon during the negotiations, Politico quoted him as saying.

Amanda Brooks, director general for Trade Negotiations at the Department for Business and Trade, told reporters that a trade deal with India is close.

However, Minister Goyal had raised outstanding issues in a meeting with UK Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds. These included India's calls for a carve-out from Britain's forthcoming tax

on high-emissions imports like steel and aluminium that the UK government has promised to roll out in 2027, Politico said.

Other issues include the description of Indian territory in the deal and the sunset clause in the pact's parallel investment treaty.

Both nations had begun talks on a bilateral trade deal in early 2022, however, the talks stalled.

After the Labour government came to power last year, Trade Secretary Reynolds travelled to Delhi in February this year to restart the negotiations. A breakthrough in the talks came after India accepted Britain would only offer minor changes to its visa regime, with the two sides closing the mobility chapter of the deal in recent weeks.

Politico quoted a UK offi-



cial as saying that the new rules will lead to "only 100 new visas for Indian workers per year".

A No. 10 spokesperson said on Tuesday afternoon that negotiations were "con-

structive and productive". They added: "We've been clear that we will only sign a deal in our best interest."

Meanwhile, Minister Goyal posted on X on his meetings in the UK.

"Wonderful to be joined by @DavidLammy, Secretary of State for

@FCDOGovUK at the joint India-UK business reception held at Lancaster House. "Addressed the gathering

along with UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade @JReynoldsMP and spoke about the bright future ahead for the India-Great Britain partnership.

"Immensely grateful for the warm and gracious hospitality extended by our UK partners. Looking forward to tangible outcomes of our shared vision.

"It was a pleasure to meet @RachelReevesMP, Chancellor of the Exchequer along with @JReynoldsMP, Secretary of State for Business and Trade, UK.

"Had a fruitful exchange on advancing India-UK economic ties and further building on our strong partnership."

Goyal also met with Mark Tucker, Group Chairman HSBC.

"Exchanged views on sustainable finance, innovation-

led investments, strengthening India's integration with global financial systems & HSBC's plans to expand their presence in India.

"Delighted to learn that Mr. Tucker along with the entire HSBC Board will be visiting our country later this year.

"Under the leadership of PM @NarendraModi ji, India is truly emerging as a global hotspot for investments.

He also addressed the India-UK Business Roundtable.

"Addressed the India-UK Business Roundtable, bringing together prominent business leaders and CEOs from both countries."

"Highlighted opportunities to strengthen economic ties, drive innovation-led growth, and expand investment avenues between India and the UK.

## A panic-stricken Pakistan peddles fake news, claims 'credible intel' of imminent Indian attack

Islamabad, Apr 30 (UNI) A panic-stricken Pakistan has once again resorted to peddling fake news, claiming it has "credible news that India plans to attack Pakistan within 24-36 hours".

The country's Information Minister Attaullah Tarar claimed that India will use the Pahalgam terror attack as a "false pretext" for launching a military offensive against Pakistan.

In a televised statement, the Pakistani Information Minister said: "Pakistan has credible intelligence that India intends to carry out military action against Pakistan in the next 24-36 hours on the pretext of baseless and concocted allegations of involvement in the Pahalgam incident."

Tensions between the two countries escalated on April 22 after terrorists gunned down 26 people in Kashmir's Pahalgam region. The responsibility for the attack was claimed by the Resistance Front, a group linked to the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist organisation.

Repeating its tired old rhetoric, the Pakistani Information Minister said: "Pakistan has been the victim of terrorism itself and truly understands the pain of this scourge."



Calling Pakistan a "responsible state", Tarar added that Islamabad had openheartedly offered a credible, transparent and independent investigation of the attacks by a neutral commission of experts to ascertain the truth.

"Unfortunately, rather than pursuing the path of reason, India has apparently decided to tread the dangerous path of irrationality and confrontation, which will have catastrophic consequences for the complete region and beyond," he said.

Islamabad has entered panic mode as the Pakistan Army – already stretched thin and continuously under attack by BLA fighters in Balochistan and the TTP in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – is reportedly seeing massive resignations from officers after the Indian forces were granted a free hand by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In addition, PM Modi's statement on "hunting down the terrorists till the ends of the Earth" did not go down very well with Pakistan, whose analysts have come up with all kinds of fancy and far-fetched theories regarding "Indian aggression".

The attack was one of the deadliest attacks in J&K, and in response, India has scrapped the Indus Waters Treaty, closed the Attari border, expelled Pakistani nationals except diplomats, declared military advisors at Pakistan's High Commission in New Delhi persona non grata, recalled its own military advisors from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, and thinned its diplomatic staff.

## Bangladeshi Hindu monk Chinmoy Das granted bail by High Court in sedition case

Dhaka, Apr 30 (UNI) Prominent Bangladeshi Hindu leader and former ISKCON priest Chinmoy Das was granted bail by the High Court today, after spending five months in jail in a sedition case.

The bench of Justice Md Atoar Rahman and Justice Md Ali Reza passed the order after holding the hearing on a bail petition filed by Das, head of the Sammilito Sanatani Jagaran Jote.

The Hindu monk is expected to be released from jail following the HC order, unless the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court stays the HC verdict, Advocate Prahlad Debnath, a lawyer for Chinmoy, told The Daily Star.



On April 23, Chinmoy's lawyer Apurba Kumar Bhat-tacharjee prayed to the HC bench to grant bail to his client, saying that Chinmoy is ill and suffering in jail without trial.

Das was arrested without trial in Dhaka on November 25 after a case was filed against him on October 31 last year by BNP member Firoz Khan, accusing him of insulting the Bangladesh national flag at a

Hindu community rally. A court in Chattogram sent him to jail on November 26 and later denied him bail on December 11.

Chinmoy Das, head of the ISKCON-run Pundarik Dham Temple in Chattogram, had spoken out against attacks on minorities across the country since the Aug 5, 2024 overthrow of the Sheikh Hasina government.

The news of his arrest had sparked protests across several districts, including Dhaka, Chattogram, Cumilla, Khulna, Dinajpur, and Cox's Bazar. Protests had been held in ISKCON centres in

India and across the world.

The Hindu monk's arrest attracted considerable attention in international circles, with human rights organisations expressing great concern over the mistreatment of Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh, the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, and the suppression of dissenting voices under the Mohammed Yunus regime.

In addition, the arrest of Das has also raised several concerns about the safety of legal professionals and the fairness of the judicial processes in Bangladesh, due to the courts' appeasement of Islamists, and the government's hold over the judiciary.

## 17 injured in residential area blast in north China city

Taiyuan, Apr 30 (UNI) Seventeen people were injured in a residential complex explosion on Wednesday afternoon in Taiyuan, capital of north China's Shanxi Province, with four in critical condition and three discharged after treatment, according to local authorities.

The blast occurred in the Beiyong



neighborhood of Xiaodian District at around 1 p.m. As of 3 p.m., the fire triggered by the blast had been extinguished.

Rescue teams are conducting door-to-door safety checks in the affected building, and an investigation into the cause of the blast is underway.



Business Information

## TCS ties up with SAP to enable enterprise-wide GenAI and Cloud adoption

(Capital Information) **Hyderabad, Apr 30 :** Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a global leader in IT services, consulting, and business solutions, has expanded its partnership with SAP, a global leader in enterprise applications and business AI, to enable business transformation at scale for SAP customers by leveraging Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI).

Building on their two-decade relationship between both the organizations, this collaboration aims to further drive scalability, agility and innovation, the IT giant said in a release.

TCS and SAP are helping customers accelerate enterprise-wide cloud adoption as part of their 'RISE with SAP'

initiative, facilitating a simpler transition from on-premises to cloud environments.

Through this collaboration, TCS plans to work with



SAP to power a centralized eco-system for its global customers, enhancing service management, end-user experience, and overall customer success.

V Rajanna, president, technology, software and services, TCS, said, "As we

embark on the next phase, we remain committed to creating sustainable value and fostering growth for our customers. Together, we will continue to transform end-user experiences and drive innovation across the enterprise landscape."

TCS plans to establish an Innovation Council, leveraging its Agile Innovation Cloud (AIC) framework to drive innovation in areas such as AI democratization, GenAI, and automation ecosystems to enable innovation at scale for SAP customers.

Additionally, TCS will also leverage its TCS Pace Port™ innovation network spread across 12 major cities worldwide, to ideate, collaborate, and develop solutions with SAP customers.

## CoinSwitch launches INR-based Crypto Futures

Mumbai, Apr 30 (UNI) CoinSwitch, country's largest crypto trading platform has launched INR-based crypto Futures.



This new feature enables Futures trading directly in INR, eliminating the need for USDT conversion, making the overall trading experience more seamless and efficient.

On the announcement, Balaji Srihari, Vice President, CoinSwitch, said that "India is one of the fastest-growing crypto markets in the world and second largest by value received, globally. It deserves solutions that reflect its unique needs and user behavior. With the addition of INR-based crypto futures on CoinSwitch, we're taking a step toward building a platform that's truly tailored for Indian users – removing unnecessary friction and making advanced trading tools more accessible than ever before."

This development stems from a key user insight – trading in INR is more intuitive and relatable for the Indian users as compared to USDT, which is commonly used as the quote currency in the global markets. By eliminating the need to convert INR to USDT, CoinSwitch aims to streamline the trading experience and make futures trading more accessible and user-friendly for the Indian market.

## RBI approves formation of interim Committee of Executives for IndusInd Bank

Mumbai, Apr 30 (UNI) IndusInd Bank on Wednesday in a regulatory filing said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the formation of an interim Committee of Executives to oversee its operations.

The approval came in a situation where the bank is without a Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD&CEO).

Notably, Sumant Kathpalia had resigned from the position of MD and CEO with effect from the close of working hours on April 29.

The committee, comprising Soumitra Sen (Head – Consumer Banking) and Anil Rao (Chief Administrative Officer), will manage the bank's day-to-day affairs under the supervision of an Oversight Committee of the Board, the bank said.



The Oversight Committee will be chaired by the Chairman of the Board and will include the chairs of the Audit Committee, the Compensation and Nomination & Remuneration Committee, and the Risk Management Committee.

"This interim arrangement has been approved by

the RBI via a letter dated April 29, 2025, and will remain in place until a new MD&CEO takes charge or for a period of three months from the date of the previous CEO's departure—whichever is earlier," the bank said in a statement.

The crisis-ridden bank has clarified that it had for-

mally approached the RBI seeking approval for such a transitional mechanism to ensure business continuity and governance standards following the end of the outgoing CEO's tenure.

"The Bank is taking all necessary steps to ensure stability and continuity of its operations while maintaining high standards of governance," the statement said.

Bank's deputy CEO Arun Khurana had also resigned due to the recent accounting discrepancies in the derivatives trading.

The bank has faced multiple headwinds that clouded its near-term outlook with the key concern being a 2.35% overstatement in its derivatives portfolio, stemming from long-standing internal trade accounting discrepancies.

## SEBI cautions public against 'Opinion Trading Platforms'

Mumbai, Apr 30 (UNI) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has cautioned the public against engaging with so-called 'Opinion Trading Platforms', warning that these platforms are neither recognised nor regulated under the current securities market framework.

In a press release issued here on Tuesday, the capital markets regulator noted that several such platforms allow users to trade or enter into arrangements where payouts depend on the outcome of a 'yes/no' proposition, based on whether a certain event occurs or not.

SEBI stated that some of these platforms employ



financial market terminologies such as "profits", "stop loss", and "trading", which may mislead users into believing they are legitimate investment platforms. However, the regulator clarified that such opinion-based trades do not qualify as securities and, hence, fall outside SEBI's regulatory purview.

"Investors/participants should be aware that no investor protection mechanism under securities

market purview shall be available for such investment/participation," the regulator said.

Further, SEBI underlined that these platforms cannot be considered as recognised stock exchanges and are not registered with the regulator. Therefore, if any opinions traded on these platforms qualify as securities, such trading would be illegal and could attract penal action. Recognised stock exchanges have been advised to take appropriate action against such violations, SEBI said, reiterating that trades on these unauthorised platforms will not be entitled to any investor protection mechanisms.

## 82% of workers in India mull changing employers in 2025 : Aon's study

Mumbai, April 30 (UNI) As high as 82% of workers in India are considering changing employers in 2025, a survey of Aon PLC reveals. More than three-fourths of those surveyed in Aon's 2025 Employee Sentiment Study said that they would be willing to sacrifice existing benefits for a better choice of benefits according to a statement issued here on Wednesday.

Global professional services firm Aon surveyed over 9,000 employees spread across U.S., UK, China, India and Australia for the 2025 Employee Sentiment Study.

The study revealed that in India 7% of employees feel undervalued, less than the 13% global average. A startling 82% of Indian workers surveyed in India are either in the process of moving employers or might seek new employment in the next 12 months, compared to 60% across the globe.

"Until recently, very few companies considered how benefits, wellness and healthcare programs could shape their employer brand and employee value proposition. Post-Covid, we are seeing changes as employees increasingly value these programs, and companies are more actively branding and communicating their availability to current and future employees," said Nitin Sethi, head of Talent Solutions for India, at Aon.



# Mental Health: A silent crisis demanding urgent action

Mental well-being can no longer be treated as secondary to physical health. As Government initiatives take shape and public awareness grows, the time has come for a collective, compassionate response to protect our nation's mental health and with it, our future

There is an old saying that a healthy mind leads to a healthy body — I could not agree with it more! Ever since the pandemic, we are witnessing a steep rise in mental health related conditions. It's a matter of grave concern that a large number of people are today suffering from what is termed as unmanageable stress, depression and anxiety. It is equally concerning to note that these ailments are impacting across the age spectrum, be it students, young adults or the elderly.

When we look at the data pertaining to mental health, it is like being hit by a ton of bricks. Such is the extent of this issue that one student is committing suicide every hour in India.

Taking note of the growing suicide deaths in higher educational institutions across the country, the Supreme Court recently formed a National Task Force for a mechanism to prevent student suicide deaths on campuses and address their mental health issues.

The bench said that the National Crime

Records Bureau (NCRB) data for 2021 highlights the grim reality that over 13,000 students lost their lives by committing suicide in the country.

According to the World Health Organisation, depression affects over 300 million people globally, and it is predicted to be the leading cause of disability by 2030.



In 2024, studies in India continue to reveal a significant burden of depression, with estimates indicating that over 56 million people are affected and research points to a rising trend, particularly in rural areas and among certain demographics.

Factors like rapid urbanisation, economic pressures, social isolation, and the pandemic have contributed to the increase. The Bipolar disorder landscape in India is also quite serious, about 1 in 150 persons in the country suffer from it, and quite disturbingly, 70 per cent remain untreated.

It is characterised by low mood, decreased energy, loss of interest,

sleep problems, thoughts or acts of self-harm, along with episodes of mania. Research is now shedding light on the fact that 60 per cent of the people who lose their life to suicide have had a mood ailment such as depression or bipolar disorder. This finding is significant as it points to a series of progressions before this most tragic final step.

When we look deeper into the mental health scenario in India, multiple issues that have a profound impact on mental health — come to the fore.

In the case of the students and the young, many are too busy searching for material things as the entire space for them has become extremely competitive, there is reduced focus on relaxation and unwinding, and as a result burn outs and depression encircle their lives.

In all this, the impact of the internet and social media in aggravating pressures and setting unattainable and overambitious goals — courtesy of peer pressure, is also creating a havoc in the lives of the youth.

In the case of the elderly, we are witnessing the rise in loneliness as their children are either not living with them, due to studies or jobs, or spending much less time because of preoccupations and inability to detach from their busy schedules. There is therefore, a fear of growing old,

along with increasing insecurities — about who will take care of them, when they reach their physical limits due to advancing age.

Since the pandemic, we are witnessing a renewed focus and much greater emphasis on mental health issues. They are now being increasingly considered as much of a priority as many physical issues.

The Indian Government has launched several initiatives to address mental health, including the National Tele Mental Health Programme (Tele MANAS) and the Ayushman Bharat, HWC Scheme.

Tele MANAS provides free, 24/7 mental health support through a toll-free helpline, while the Ayushman Bharat scheme integrates mental health services into primary healthcare. Additionally, the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) and the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) are key components of India's mental healthcare services. For the elderly, the Government has

launched the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE) and the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY).

The NPHCE provides comprehensive healthcare, including mental health services, to senior citizens. AVYAY supports various welfare initiatives for senior citizens, including grant-in-aid for mental health services and awareness programs. Additionally, the National Helpline for Senior Citizens (Elderline) offers support and guidance, including emotional support for those struggling with mental health issues.

It is extremely reassuring that the highest levels of our nation — are aware and alive, to the seriousness of the situation. In fact, our hon'ble Prime Minister has led from the front with his views and possible solutions that can go a long way in addressing this critical subject. In his popular monthly program 'Mann Ki Baat', he highlighted the importance of mental health, especially among the youth in the current era, and spoke

with crystal clarity about the role of physical activity, diet, yoga, along with the use of technology like artificial intelligence to elevate mental health.

This should be seen as a nudge, and it requires a collective approach that involves the families, academia and the community to create an enabling ecosystem that safeguards our students and the generations to follow. These guardrails should both protect and strengthen — protect against the perils of social media, the pressure that it can unleash on the young and innocent, strengthen the two-way communication (candid and unreserved) between the students and their parents/families, strengthen the role of the friends, peers and the community in creating a positive environment that accepts average performance as not the end of the world, and instills the spirit of optimism.



Vijay GarG, Retired Principal

effectively. The educational institutions and their leadership also have to provide an environment where students feel motivated, encouraged and appreciated. Grades and excellence alone are not what life is all about — it's about an honest to self and best possible effort.

It's for all this, that suitable conditions have to be created. This can include counselling, dedicated presence and round the clock availability of experts who can spot the red flags and identify those who need

psychological support and guidance in a timely manner, thereby, ensuring that a decline in mental faculties of the students in their institutions is drastically reduced.

This will play an impactful role in the creation of a quintessential complete establishment — one that focuses not just on the studies but also creates avenues of growth for the all-round development of its students.

In the end, we have to be mindful of the ground realities. Our journey has just started on this very long and arduous path, and it will take multiple approaches to address this key health aspect, that has a huge bearing on our country.

Mental health is a significant component of a 'Swastha Bharat' dream, and has a direct and crucial impact on national creativity and productivity. While factors that contribute to mental ailments will only increase in the coming times, it's our proactive and head-on engagement, that will ensure effective remedies.





# Cinema Information

## HIT 3 will be a memorable theatrical experience : Nani

Natural Star Nani is known for his script selection and making movies in different genres. For the first time in his career, he is doing a cop role in HIT 3 and the movie is gaining huge traction all over. The teaser, trailer highlighted Nani's Arjun Sarkaar character brilliantly, and the anticipation for the movie is huge.

The actor talked to press today as the movie is releasing tomorrow. He expressed his happiness looking at the advance bookings and stated



that even though the movie is "A" rated, he stated that the bookings are good.

He also stated that he loved the way director Sailesh Kolanu designed this film with

all commercial aspects intact. He also explained that violence is not the genre of HIT franchise and HIT 4 might not have this much of violence. He also stated that they have designed it in a way that everyone will enjoy and won't crouch or hide. He once again firmly stated that he won't allow his son to watch it and even others should not.

While that could bring the collections down, Nani stated that the movie will be loved by its target audiences and they are aware of it. He stated that Mickey J Mayer has crafted very different sound for the film and he is happy to listen to the phenomenal BGM work.

He further promised a memorable theatrical experience to everyone and stated that people will love his character very much. He stated that movie will be emotional and it will give a high and adrenaline rush towards the climax.



## Chiru's Vishwambhara to release on this date?

Megastar Chiranjeevi has kept fans waiting to experience Vishwambhara in theatres. This socio-fantasy film, directed by Vassishtha Mallidi, was initially scheduled to release on January 9, 2025, but was postponed.

While there were earlier rumours about a July 24, 2025 release, nothing was officially confirmed. Now, fresh buzz on social media suggests that the makers are aiming for a September 25, 2025 release. Whether this date will be locked or fans will have to wait even longer remains to be seen.

The film's first single, though it caught some attention, didn't create the strong impact many expected. It will be interesting to see how the makers plan their promotional campaign going forward.

Trisha plays the female lead, with Kunal Kapoor as the antagonist. The film also features Aashika Ranganath, Ramya Pasupuleti, Esha Chawla, and Ashrita Vemuganti Nanduri in key roles. MM Keeravaani is composing the music, and the project is being bankrolled by UV Creations.



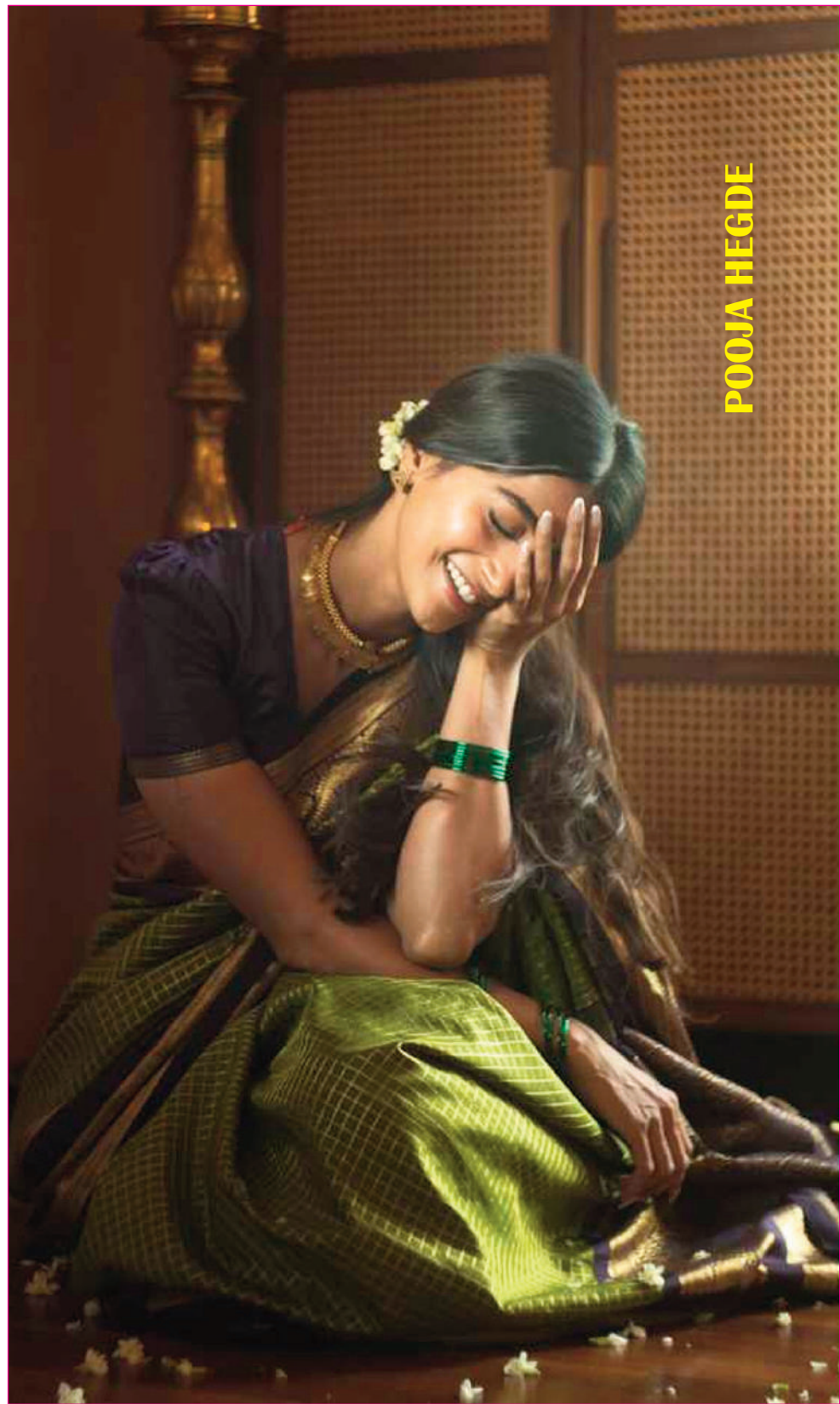
## Latest update on Sukumar-Ram Charan's next

Director Sukumar is currently taking a well-deserved break post the success of Pushpa 2 and will continue to rest for another month.

Known for his meticulous storytelling and blockbuster hits, Sukumar is using this downtime to recharge before diving into his next big project.

Starting in June 2025, he and his dedicated writing team will begin scripting their upcoming film, which is set to feature superstar Ram Charan in the lead role.

Expectations are sky-high for this collaboration, especially after their past successes. Fans are eagerly waiting to see what magic the duo will create this time around.



POOJA HEGDE



RUHANI SHARMA

## More Practical: Rajamouli's Mahabharatha In 3 Parts!

Rajamouli had already revealed his plan to make the Indian adoption of Hindu epic of Mahabharata in multiple parts. This project is going to start at the final end of Rajamouli's career as he says he needs to gain an adequate experience for the same.

Coming to the topic, now, the chief writer for Rajamouli who happens to be his father Vijayendra Prasad has provided a substantial update on the epic Mahabharata.

The Senior writer revealed that he and Rajamouli are planning this project in three parts and the production activities will be starting in the due course, based on the availability of Rajamouli and his lead



actors. In the meanwhile, it can be noted that Rajamouli had already locked the principal cast

and crew of Prabhas, Junior NTR and recently Nani for this mega project. In that case, his potential collaboration with other top star in the country seems more practical if he goes for a three part project.

Earlier it was speculated that Rajamouli would be making it in five parts in order to cover the all key episodes in Mahabharata, but it appears that he has gone with a practical choice of three parts now.

Considering the legacy of Rajamouli and the immense market potential of Mahabharata, no Indian actor would say no to Rajamouli for this mega project. It needs to be seen when this would actually happen.



## Sharwanand & Sampath Nandi's film is titled Bhogi

Charming Star Sharwa joined forces with Sampath Nandi for his 38th film, which is an ambitious PAN-Indian spectacle. The project is bankrolled by senior producer KK Radhamohan under the Sri Sathya Sai Arts banner and presented by Lakshmi Radhamohan. Today the makers officially revealed that Sharwa38 is titled Bhogi.

The title was revealed through a stunning concept video. It is rightly named 'First Spark,' as it ignites intrigue and anticipation. The video reveals the film's essence as director Sampath Nandi narrates a tale steeped in destiny, fire, and transformation. Sharwa, transformed in both physique and spirit, as he steps into a role sculpted from steel and soul.

The shooting begins today on a grand scale in a colossal set constructed in Hyderabad. The production team spent six months to bringing this vision to life, transforming nearly 20 acres of land into a breathtaking backdrop. Bhogi features Anupama Parameswaran and Dimple Hayathi as the leading ladies. Both will play roles that have performance potential.

With an huge production canvas and a vintage setting rooted in the 1960s North Telangana-Maharashtra region, Bhogi will boast top-tier technical excellence. Kiran Kumar Manne is the art director, while the details regarding cinematographer, music director, and editor will be announced shortly.



## Mega hero gives nod to this flop director?

Mega hero Varun Tej has joined hands with Merlapaka Gandhi for a horror-comedy film. Rumored to be titled Korean Kanakaraju, the film is now in the production stage. Ritika Nayak is the female lead. UV Creations, in association with First Frame Entertainment, is producing this Indo-Korean project.

According to a recent report in Telugu media, Varun Tej has agreed to do a film with Radhakrishna. The director's previous film, Radhe Shyam, starring PAN India star Prabhas, was a major disappointment. Post Radhe Shyam's release, the director hasn't made any announcement about his next. There were reports that the filmmaker would collaborate with his debut film hero, Gopichand, but there has been no development.

It is said that Radhakrishna narrated a love story to Varun Tej and that the latter was heavily impressed with the narration. Varun Tej's form has been bad lately, with continuous failures. Mega fans have been asking Varun to attempt love stories, the genre that best suits the actor, and it looks like the Fidaa actor has paid heed to their requests.

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