

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 33 °C

L 25 °C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 35 °C

L 26 °C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36 °C

L 26 °C



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**Centre Cancels Ex-IPS Prabhakar Rao's Passport in Phone Tapping Case**

TPN, Correspondent| Hyderabad

In a crucial development in the high-profile phone tapping case, the Central Government has cancelled the passport of former IPS officer Prabhakar Rao. This decisive step comes as investigations into the alleged illegal surveillance activities deepen.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), currently handling the case, has notified Hyderabad police that it has initiated the

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**Rain Alert for Telangana: Weather Department Issues Warnings**

TPN, Correspondent| Hyderabad

The Hyderabad Meteorological Centre has issued an alert for Telangana, predicting light to moderate rains today and tomorrow in several districts. Districts including Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu, Hanmakonda, Warangal, Mahabubabad, Bhadrachalam, Khammam, Suryapet, and Nalgonda are likely to experience rains accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds,

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# Revanth Reddy's Strong Remarks Against Modi at AICC Plenary

- CM Revanth Reddy targets PM Modi
- Accuses Modi of promoting communal divide
- Demands nationwide caste census for fairness
- Criticizes BJP and its ideological roots
- Calls for driving BJP out of Telangana

TPN, Correspondent| Hyderabad

At the ongoing AICC Plenary meeting in Ahmedabad, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy made controversial remarks, sharply criticizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Reddy

accused Modi of fueling divisions between castes and religions, alleging that the Prime Minister aimed to divide the country. He demanded the implementation of a nationwide caste census, emphasizing that the caste count in Telangana was conducted to keep a promise made

to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Further, Reddy accused Modi and the BJP of promoting the ideology of Nathuram Godse, the assassin of Mahatma Gandhi, and working against the principles of Gandhism. He urged the Congress leadership to ensure that the BJP does not gain any foothold in Telangana. Reddy also remarked that just as the British were driven out of the country, the BJP should be ousted, signaling an end to their political dominance in the state. The AICC meeting also saw the participation



of key Telangana Congress leaders, including ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Tummala Nageshwar Rao, and former MLA Sampath Kumar.

# Rahul Gandhi's Sensational Comments on Telangana's Wealth and Caste Census

TPN, Correspondent| Hyderabad

At the AICC meeting in Ahmedabad, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi made bold statements regarding Telangana's wealth distribution and the ongoing caste census.

He praised Telangana for successfully conducting a caste census, claiming that the state had set an example for the nation. However, he pointed out that despite 90% of Telangana's population belonging to OBCs, Dalits, and minorities, the state's

wealth remains concentrated in the hands of corporate sectors.

Gandhi sharply criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi, claiming that while Modi speaks frequently about OBCs and tribals, his actions do not benefit these communities. He accused the BJP of abolishing the SC, ST Sub Plan and criticized their opposition to a caste census. Gandhi vowed to continue the fight for a national caste census and the removal of the 50% cap on reservations.



Additionally, he accused Modi of selling off government-owned enterprises to business

magnates like Adani and Ambani, stating that key sectors such as cement, steel, airports, and mines

- Rahul Gandhi criticizes Telangana's wealth distribution
- Slams Modi for not helping backward classes
- Demands caste census for OBCs, Dalits, minorities
- Accuses Modi of privatizing public sector assets
- Questions Modi's silence on Trump's tariffs

were being handed over to them. Gandhi also questioned Modi's silence regarding tariffs imposed by

former U.S. President Donald Trump, suggesting the Prime Minister's lack of response was concerning.

# Harish Rao Fires at Revanth Reddy Over Governance and Farmer Issues

TPN, Correspondent| Hyderabad

BRS senior leader and MLA Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of failing to deliver on promises and misleading the public. Speaking after participating in a special puja at the Ganesh Gadda temple in Patancheru, Harish Rao compared the former CM K. Chandrashekar Rao's (KCR) vision-driven governance to what he termed Revanth's "death language."

Harish said that while KCR focused on irrigation, lake restoration, and farmer welfare under Mission Kakatiya, Re-



vanth Reddy's language and actions have created fear and disorder. He mocked Revanth's delay in executing projects like Moosi (3 months delay) and Hydra (6 months delay), calling the administration chaotic and ineffective.

Further criticizing Congress's failure to fulfill its promise of ₹15,000 Rythu Bandhu, he pointed out that even the exist-

- KCR's words build, Revanth's destroy
- Harish: Revanth's words, zero action
- Moosi, Hydra projects slammed by Harish
- Farmers duped, no Rythu Bandhu
- CM must apologize to HCU students

ing ₹10,000 scheme from KCR's era is now unavailable.

He alleged that ₹14,000 crore meant for farmers has been diverted, and only 50% of loan waivers are implemented. He also highlighted that unlike KCR, who gave Kalyana Lakshmi cheques to 13 lakh poor girls, Revanth's government is now failing to offer even symbolic support like gold or cash.

Harish Rao demanded CM Revanth apologize to HCU students for filing "false" cases and mocked the internal disarray within Congress, pointing out how Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi ignored Revanth during recent Delhi events.

He concluded by questioning the governance logic—"Is the tail wagging the dog or the dog wagging the tail?"

# "No More Hollow Talks on HCU Lands": Raghunandan Rao Fires Back at KTR

TPN, Correspondent| Hyderabad

BJP MP Raghunandan Rao launched a fiery counterattack against BRS leader KTR, accusing the former ruling party of double standards and historical negligence in the HCU lands controversy. Speaking to the media after a meeting at Chevella MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy's residence, Rao dismissed BRS's current narrative as "hollow words" and exposed what he called the party's "original sin."



He revealed that the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh government had entered into an agreement with Hyderabad Central University (HCU) for 534 acres, of which only 397 acres were registered under HCU's name. The remaining 137 acres were never handed over. Rao alleged

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### Centre Cancels Ex-IPS Prabhakar Rao’s Passport in Phone Tapping Case

process for a Red Corner Notice (RCN) against Rao. A Red Corner Notice is an international request to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition. Authorities believe Rao is currently outside India.

The cancellation of Rao’s passport marks a serious escalation in efforts to bring him back for questioning. A senior officer in the Indian Police Service (IPS), Rao is accused of orchestrating unauthorized phone interceptions during his tenure, raising major privacy concerns and questions of misuse of official power.

Sources suggest that the phone tapping scandal involves several political and administrative figures, prompting widespread public debate on digital privacy and political surveillance.

The Red Corner Notice, once processed, will involve global law enforcement bodies, including Interpol, to assist in Rao’s apprehension. This development comes amid increasing calls for accountability and transparency in handling cases related to illegal surveillance.

As the CBI continues its probe, more revelations are expected in what has become one of the most controversial cases of the year. With the passport now invalid and the RCN process underway, legal pressure on Rao is mounting.

These moves indicate the seriousness with which the Central Government and investigative agencies are pursuing the case, aiming to bring all involved to justice.

### Rain Alert for Telangana: Weather Department Issues Warnings

with winds expected to reach 40-50 km/h. These areas have been placed on orange alert. Other districts like Medak, Warangal, Hyderabad, Nalgonda, and Rangareddy are expected to witness light to moderate rains, with a yellow alert already issued for them. The public has been advised to stay cautious and prepare for potential weather disruptions.

### “No More Hollow Talks on HCU Lands”: Raghunandan Rao Fires Back at KTR

that KCR’s government had allocated 134 acres to TNGOs, depriving the university of rightful land. When the university objected and approached the courts, the BRS government lost the case and now the matter is being contested in the Supreme Court .

Calling on CM Revanth Reddy to prove his commitment to student welfare and transparency, Raghunandan demanded a pending status on all HCU lands be imposed to protect the remaining 2,324 acres, as originally promised. He emphasized that the 400 acres in legal dispute were declared non-private by the court , reinforcing that they belong to the university.

Raghunandan challenged KTR to publicly reveal all details related to the alleged land scam. Telangana BJP MPs, he said, were not “running away” but were standing firmly with the students and would take these issues to the party’s national leadership.

### SIT Holds Review Meeting on Online Betting App Cases



TPN, Correspondent| Hyderabad

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) held a review meeting today to evaluate the progress of cases related to online betting apps registered across the state. The review focused on assessing the current status of ongoing investigations and identifying measures to strengthen enforcement.

The SIT emphasized the need for a systematic and coordinated approach to handle these cases effectively. To streamline the investigation and prosecution process, the team has decided to formulate a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in the near future.

This SOP will serve as a comprehensive guideline for all investigating officers dealing with betting-related cases.

Once the SOP is finalized, the SIT will conduct a dedicated workshop to train and brief officers on the standardized procedures. This initiative is aimed at ensuring consistency, accuracy, and legal soundness in investigations carried out across different jurisdictions.

In addition to the SOP, the SIT plans to establish an Investigative Support Centre within its structure. This center will provide technical and legal guidance to ensure the uniform application of laws and investigative techniques in betting app-related cases.

Officials stated that these steps are crucial to tackling the growing menace of illegal online betting and ensuring that offenders are brought to justice swiftly and effectively.

## KTR’s Open Letter to Centre on Fuel Price Hike

- **KTR demands rollback of fuel price hike**
- **Accuses Centre of financial exploitation**
- **Slams Modi’s handling of fuel taxes**
- **Criticizes government’s fuel policy for exploitation**
- **Calls for transparency in fuel pricing**

TPN, Correspondent| Hyderabad

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) has written an open letter to Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, demanding an immediate rollback of the recent hikes in petrol and LPG gas prices. KTR criticized the Modi government for charging higher petrol rates than countries like Bhutan, Pakistan, and

Sri Lanka, even though India’s fuel prices are among the highest in the world. He claimed that the Centre’s petrol cess was a means to exploit the states and bypass the rightful financial dues to them. In his letter, KTR accused the Modi government of undermining the federal system and misusing the cess revenue for political gains instead of improving in-



frastructure or addressing state needs. He stated that while Telangana and other progressive states contributed significantly to the nation’s economy, they were struggling with a lack of funds, while the central government used cess income to control

state matters. KTR also slammed the central government’s LPG price hikes, which he said were an unbearable burden for poor and middle-class women, especially as the ‘Ujjwala Yojana’ had failed to alleviate their problems. He urged the Centre to reduce

fuel taxes, abolish the cess, and adopt a transparent pricing system based on international crude rates. He also called for the restoration of true cooperative federalism and the removal of financial exploitation through excessive taxation.

## Telangana Partners with Godrej Capital to Empower Women Entrepreneurs and MSMEs

TPN, Correspondent| Hyderabad

In a major boost for small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Telangana, especially women-led ventures, the state government has signed a key Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Godrej Capital, the financial services arm of Godrej Industries. The partnership aims to enhance credit access for underserved segments, with a focus on first-time borrowers and women entrepreneurs.

Under this initiative,

Godrej Capital will offer digital-first lending solutions and customizable financial products through its flagship program ‘Aarohini’, specifically designed to support women-led businesses. The collaboration seeks to fast-track the growth of MSMEs by offering innovative, tech-enabled credit solutions.

Godrej Capital MD & CEO Manish Shah expressed delight over the MoU, stating that Telangana is a priority market. He emphasized their commitment to empowering women entrepreneurs

and facilitating quicker loan approvals.

Telangana’s Principal Secretary for Industries and Commerce, Jayesh Ranjan, highlighted that the new MSME Policy launched by the government focuses on improving credit access for backward segments and encourages partnerships with financial institutions. He said the Godrej Capital alliance would play a pivotal role in MSME growth and women entrepreneurship in the state.

Godrej Capital, through



its subsidiaries, will offer a range of loan products for both businesses and individuals, support-

ing Telangana’s vision of inclusive and digitally driven economic development.

## Green Signal for Amaravati-Hyderabad Greenfield Express Highway

TPN, Correspondent| Hyderabad

In a major development, the Central Home Ministry has given the green signal for the construction of a Greenfield Express Highway connecting Amaravati and Hyderabad, offering a big infrastructural boost for both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Aimed at strengthening connectivity and addressing post-bifurcation issues between the two states, the new highway is part of a broader central



initiative. The project will significantly cut down travel time and improve

logistical efficiency between the two capital cities.

Preparatory work has already begun, and the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) are being finalized. Once ready, the formal execution process will commence. The Central Government is reportedly focused on pushing the project forward swiftly.

Additionally, the Amaravati Ring Road project is also on the verge of being launched, further enhancing the regional road network. The northern segment of the Ring Road has also received preliminary approval, and planning

for that section is underway.

The expressway, once completed, is expected to catalyze economic activity, attract investments, and provide faster transportation for goods and passengers between the two states.

This move is seen as a strategic effort to improve infrastructure and foster regional cooperation post the Andhra Pradesh bifurcation. All eyes are now on how quickly the project progresses in the coming months.

## Supreme Court Expert Committee Visits HCU Land in Gachibowli

TPN, Correspondent| Hyderabad

A Supreme Court-appointed expert committee is set to conduct a field visit to the disputed 400-acre land adjacent to the Hyderabad Central University (HCU) in Gachibowli, to determine whether the area qualifies as forest land or not. The committee will interact separately with university officials, students, and government authorities to collect diverse viewpoints before submitting its detailed report to the apex court.

The dispute began when authorities began

clearing trees in the area as part of a land-levelling effort, prompting environmental concerns and leading some petitioners to approach the Supreme Court. Until a final verdict is issued, the court has halted all developmental activity on the site.

The core question revolves around whether the land fits the legal definition of forest. According to Supreme Court guidelines, forest land should have roughly 100 trees per acre, with significant age and biodiversity. However, forest department sources argue that the trees in



question are young and sparse, and the presence of wildlife is minimal.

On the other hand, the Revenue Department has maintained that the

400 acres are clearly government land and do not belong to HCU. Forest and revenue officials will present documentary evidence to the expert committee.

This visit is expected to be a key step in resolving the long-standing land dispute and deciding the future of the contested territory.



# MLC Kavitha Slams Caste Discrimination, Highlights 'Two Glasses' Practice

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
BRS MLC and Jagruthi leader Kalvakuntla Kavitha made strong and emotional remarks on ongoing caste discrimination in India. Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Kavitha expressed deep concern over the continuing social inequality based on caste.

“It’s unfortunate that caste-based discrimination still exists in our country,” Kavitha said. She cited shocking incidents such as the ‘two-glasses’ system still being practiced

at a tea shop in Banswada, where separate glasses are used based on caste. “Even today, if an opposition leader visits a temple in Rajasthan, the temple is ‘purified’ with rituals as if it was desecrated. There are instances where temples perform milk purification rituals after people from marginalized castes share meals in the premises,” she added.

She criticized the gap between democratic values and ground realities, stating that “equality, liberty, and fraternity” must not remain mere

slogans. “These ideals should reflect in our everyday actions,” Kavitha asserted.

Her remarks come amid growing national debate around caste issues and social justice. The video of her statement has gone viral on social media, drawing both praise and criticism. Kavitha’s outspokenness has reignited discussions around deep-rooted caste biases that still affect parts of Indian society, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.



## Congress MLC Vijayashanthi Demands Action Against Social Media Abuse on Women



**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Congress MLC and veteran actress Vijayashanthi has made strong and heartfelt remarks regarding the abuse of women on social media platforms. Taking to Twitter, she raised serious concerns about the mental harassment and social impact caused by offensive comments and trolling targeting women.

She shared that many women are approaching her, saying, “Ramulamma, we are unable to work due to the toxic environment created online.” Expressing solidarity, Vijayashanthi said every such incident must be reported and resolved promptly.

Highlighting the existing laws and guidelines, she stated that proper implementation is the

need of the hour. She also emphasized the importance of setting up Women Protection Cells in offices to safeguard women’s dignity at workplaces.

Referring to the increasing cases of trolling, she pointed out that many social media posts and comments are not just disrespectful but are deeply hurtful, affecting families and livelihoods. She stressed that these aren’t just individual problems but societal issues that need urgent attention from both the government and tech platforms. Her powerful remarks have resonated with many, as concerns about digital safety for women continue to grow across India. Vijayashanthi urged authorities to take firm action and ensure that online spaces are safer for all.

## Congress Gave HCU Land, Says BJP MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
In a significant political statement, BJP MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy asserted that the Congress government was responsible for allotting land to the University of Hyderabad (HCU) in the past. The remarks came after a meeting of Telangana BJP MPs at Konda Vishweshwar Reddy’s residence to discuss the ongoing HCU land issue.

The meeting was attended by MPs Raghunandan Rao, Etela Rajender, and HCU officials including Registrar and Vice-Chancellor Jagadishwar Rao. Addressing the media post-meeting, Vishweshwar Reddy highlighted several key points discussed.



He mentioned that Congress had al-

located 2,434 acres of land to HCU, but over the years, significant portions have been lost due to multiple reasons. He pointed out that some land was reclaimed by the government, some was allotted to the Gachibowli Stadium, MRO office, Navodaya School, and Municipal Office, while certain portions allegedly ended up in private hands.

The MPs discussed the current status of the land, how much remains, who has been allocated what, and whether a new survey is feasible. Vishweshwar Reddy also confirmed that they are reviewing legal documents related to the land ownership and transfers to bring clarity to the issue.

## Our Waters to Andhra, Our Money to Delhi": Jagadish Reddy Slams Telangana CM



**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
BRS MLA and former minister Jagadish Reddy launched a scathing attack on the Revanth Reddy-led Telangana government, criticizing its silence over the recent occupation of the Nagarjuna

Sagar Dam by Andhra Pradesh forces.

Addressing the media, the Suryapet MLA accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of surrendering Telangana’s interests. “Our waters are going to Andhra, and

our funds to Delhi. Is this Revanth Reddy’s duty?” Jagadish Reddy questioned.

He alleged that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had unlawfully taken control of the Sagar project while Revanth Reddy remained a silent spectator. “To win the favor of Prime Minister Modi through Chandrababu, Revanth Reddy is allowing injustice to Telangana,” he claimed.

Jagadish Reddy’s comments reflect the growing tensions between BRS and the Congress-led government in Telangana, especially over inter-state disputes concerning water sharing and resource control. The incident has sparked political outrage, with the opposition demanding immediate action to protect Telangana’s rights over critical water infrastructure.

## "Billa-Ranga Have No Other Work": Congress MLC Addanki Dayakar's Sharp Remarks on Opposition

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Congress MLC Addanki Dayakar launched a fierce attack on the opposition parties BRS and BJP, accusing them of spreading false narratives to divert attention from the Congress government’s development agenda. Taking to Twitter, Dayakar ridiculed their efforts, claiming that the people are not buying into their baseless propaganda.

He specifically targeted BRS leaders, mocking Harish Rao’s statement that “Telangana is still looking at KCR.” Dayakar countered, saying “KCR is not looking at Telangana, and Telangana too

is no longer looking at KCR.” He added that the absence of BRS leaders during recent MP and MLC elections proves how irrelevant they’ve become.

Responding to internal politics speculations, he dismissed claims about Meenakshi Nataraajan’s disapproval of Revanth Reddy, calling such assumptions “delusional.” He emphasized that the Congress works in unity and any decision by CM Revanth Reddy is made with collective consent. Dayakar highlighted the success of the Fine Rice Scheme, labeling it a historic initiative that the previous BRS government failed

to deliver. He concluded that the only agenda for the “Billa-Ranga opposition duo” is mudslinging and misinformation, while the Congress remains committed to development and social justice, including BC rights and Phule ideals.



## MLA Anirudh Reddy’s Bold Statement: “Ministerial Berth Confirmed for Vakiti Srihari”

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Congress MLA from Jachcherla, Janampalli Anirudh Reddy, made headlines with his fiery comments on Wednesday, addressing the media about alleged differences with Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. Clarifying the situation, he stated that he had no personal issues with the minister, but

only differences with the Revenue Department over administrative matters. Anirudh alleged that the controversial Manhattan land rightfully belongs to the government but was wrongfully allotted during the BRS regime to a person from Nellore. He also made a politically significant prediction, stating that

an upcoming cabinet expansion is imminent, and MLA Vakiti Srihari is certain to receive a ministerial post. He reminded that he had made this prediction during a public meeting in Narayanpet a year ago. Further criticizing the functioning of HYDRA (Hyderabad Revenue Authority), Anirudh recalled how officials refused to provide

an acknowledgment receipt for a complaint he filed. “If there is no receipt, how will we know whether action was taken or not?” he questioned. He also took a jab at HYDRA Commissioner Ranganath, stating that even as an MLA, his call wasn’t answered — questioning the seriousness with which public grievances are addressed.



## Manchu Family Feud Escalates Again: Manoj Makes Serious Allegations



**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
The Manchu family's internal rift has once again grabbed headlines. Actor Manchu Manoj has made sensational allegations against his brother, Manchu Vishnu, reigniting tensions that had simmered since December 2024. Despite police and court interventions that temporarily calmed the situation, fresh unrest broke out when Manoj visited the family farmhouse in Jalpally.

The atmosphere quickly turned tense, prompting the police to deploy preventive security measures. Manoj staged a sit-in protest outside the farmhouse, later addressing the media with emotional claims. Swearing on his mother, he asserted he never fought for property. He accused Vishnu of violating a court order by denying him entry into the house and added that three of his pets remained inside.

Manoj alleged misuse of forged signatures to mislead the court and criticized the delay in police action despite his complaints. He also mentioned visiting the farmhouse on April 2 to celebrate his daughter's birthday but had to leave for Jaipur due to the tense environment. He reminded the public of how he once even cross-dressed for Vishnu's career benefit, questioning why no chargesheet has been filed yet. The family drama continues to stir interest across Tollywood circles.

## Commissioner Sudheer Babu Reviews Route Maps for Hanuman Jayanti Celebrations

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Rachakonda Commissioner Sudheer Babu, IPS, conducted a comprehensive review of the Hanuman Jayanti Utsav route maps to ensure peaceful and smooth celebrations in the city. With the festival approaching, he emphasized that stringent security arrangements must be in place to prevent any law and order issues.

On Wednesday, the Commissioner personally inspected key areas including Karmanghat Hanuman Temple, Kothapet, Champapet, Singareni Colony, Saroornagar Tank Bund Post Office, Gandhi Statue, Dilsukhnagar, and Saraswathi Nagar. During the inspections, he issued important instructions to police officials.

He directed that special precautions be taken in sensitive areas within Rachakonda limits. All processions must be peaceful and



well-coordinated, and police should work in close coordination with devotees and Utsav committee members. He sternly warned that no actions disturbing communal harmony will be tolerated.

The Commissioner urged the public and devotees to celebrate with joy and peace, while extending full cooperation to the police. He was accompanied by L.B. Nagar DCP Praveen Kumar IPS, DCP Special Branch G. Narasimha Reddy, DCP Traffic-2 Srinivasulu, and other senior officials during the inspections.

## Grand Celebrations for NSUI's 55<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day at Gandhi Bhavan

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
The 55th Foundation Day of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Gandhi Bhavan, Hyderabad. Khairatabad DCC President Rohin Reddy hoisted the NSUI flag to mark the occasion. The event was organized under the leadership of NSUI State Vice President Ritesh Rao. National Coordinators Firoz, Akbar, and Vishnuvardhan Reddy attended the celebrations and motivated student leaders with their presence. As part of the event, a blood donation camp was also organized by the NSUI wing at Gandhi Bhavan. Student leaders from various colleges actively participated in the program, reflecting their commitment to public service and student welfare. The event highlighted NSUI's continued dedication to student issues and social responsibility.



# Meerpet Development Projects Lie Neglected, Citizens Demand Action

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**

The Meerpet Municipality in Maheshwaram constituency is under fire from residents for the gross negligence in maintenance of development projects. While crores of rupees were spent on infrastructure like the Rythu Bazaar, Model Market, and Overhead Water Tank, the facilities now stand either abandoned or in shambles. Locals are questioning for whom these structures were built, as they fail to serve their intended purpose.



ly, the overhead tank—meant to quench the thirst of thousands—now stands idle like a lifeless monument.

At Balapur crossroads, the much-hyped Model Market has also fallen into disuse, with locals alleging that it was never made functional. Adding to the woes, trunk lines left incomplete are emitting foul odors, turning colonies into unbearable zones.

Despite collecting heavy taxes from residents, the municipality cites a "budget deficit" as an excuse for inaction. Residents, along with local opposition parties, demand that MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy ensure these taxpayer-funded facilities are made operational. Concerns have also been raised over anti-social activities taking place in these deserted buildings after dark. Locals urge swift action before the situation worsens.

# Ward Boy Caught Drinking on Duty at Erragadda Chest Hospital, Hyderabad

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**

A disturbing incident has come to light at the Erragadda Government Chest Hospital in Hyderabad, where a ward boy was caught consuming alcohol while on duty at the hospital's oxygen plant. The incident has triggered widespread concern and anger among patients and their families, who depend on hospital staff for critical care and support.

### Incident Raises Serious Safety Concerns

The ward boy's actions, witnessed during a crucial shift, have raised serious questions about the safety protocols at the hospital. Consuming alcohol while on duty — particularly in a high-stakes environment like an oxygen plant — can have catastrophic consequences, not just for pa-

tients but also for fellow staff.

### Demand for Accountability and Reform

This shocking behavior has prompted calls for immediate action from health officials. Medical professionals and the public alike are urging the administration to enforce strict disciplinary action against the individual involved and ensure such laps-

es do not recur. Many are also demanding regular monitoring and counseling mechanisms to prevent negligence and promote accountability in government hospitals.

Authorities are expected to launch a formal inquiry and implement preventive measures to uphold safety and professionalism in the hospital environment.

## ₹6.5 Lakh Worth Ganja Seized in Hyderabad: Five Arrested in Multi-Location Raids

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**

In a major crackdown on illegal narcotics, Excise Enforcement and STF teams seized 12.785 kilograms of ganja worth around ₹6.5 lakh during raids at four different locations in Hyderabad.

Based on a tip-off about ganja being smuggled from Andhra Pradesh, the enforcement team led by CI Chandrashekhra Goud conducted raids near PVR Cinema Complex in Moosarambagh and Metro Picket Station. Two suspects, Shaikh Saheb Khan from Visakhapatnam and Mohammad Ali from Hyderabad, were caught red-handed while dealing 9.012 kg of ganja. Two mobile phones were also confiscated from them. Authorities revealed that the duo sourced ganja at low prices from Araku and sold it at higher prices in the city.

In a separate raid at Ameerpet, the SGFC team arrested Chukka Anand Babu from Bapatla, Guntur district, while he was attempting to sell ganja. The accused and the seized contraband were handed

over to Ameerpet Excise Station.

Another raid in Sherlingampally by the Secunderabad Rural GRP led to the seizure of 1.06 kg from Kanemarla Sai Praveen, while 1.113 kg was seized from Adil Pasha. Both were allegedly smuggling ganja from Maharashtra.

All accused have been handed over to respective excise stations for further investigation.



## Contract Professors Protest Demanding Regularization of Jobs

that the Congress party had assured them of job regularization during the election campaign, but no action has been taken so far. They demanded that all contract assistant professors be regularized without any conditions before initiating any new recruitments in universities.

Raising slogans and displaying placards, the professors emphasized their years of dedicated service and experience in academia. They argued that ignoring their contributions and opting for fresh recruit-

ment would be a grave injustice.

The protest, however, was met with police intervention. Authorities detained the protesting professors and moved them away from the site. Despite the arrests, the contract professors vowed to continue their fight until their demands are met. The incident has sparked fresh debates on the treatment of contract employees and the urgency of addressing job security in the higher education sector of Telangana.



**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**

Contract assistant professors working across various universities in Telangana took to the streets demanding permanent employment. The protestors gathered near the Higher Education Council office at

Masab Tank, Hyderabad, voicing their concerns and urging Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Congress government to fulfill their pre-election promises.

The protesting professors stated

# Illegal Sand Transport Surges in Vikarabad's Yalal MandalLocals Demand Strict Action Against 'Sand Mafia'

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**

Rampant illegal sand transportation from the Kokat Kagna river in Yalal mandal has raised serious concerns among locals, as regulatory oversight appears to be entirely missing. With only 10 sand transport permits issued, nearly 30 tractor loads are being moved daily, pointing to large-scale permit violations.

Permits legally allow sand movement between 10 AM and 5 PM, but operations start as early as 6 AM and go on past midnight. Despite rules allowing only 2-3 trips per tractor, some are reportedly making up to 10 trips daily. Even more troubling, sand is being dumped at private locations with-

out proper permissions, bypassing the rules.

Locals say anyone who attempts to question the illegal transport faces aggressive retaliation. The lax monitoring by police and revenue officials is being exploited by the sand transporters, who are bleeding government revenue while misusing provisions meant for public works like roads and drainage.

On Tuesday, tensions flared in Kokat village when locals tried to stop speeding tractors, warning of accident risks. The tractor drivers allegedly behaved aggressively, leading to a heated verbal confrontation. As a result, several sand tractors

were halted for over two hours on the main road.

Residents are demanding urgent intervention from officials to impose strict legal action against those involved in illegal sand mining and restore order.





## Government Reclaims ₹1,200 Crore Worth Land in Kokapet from Encroachers

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
In a major operation, the Telangana state government has reclaimed nearly ₹1,200 crore worth of prime land in Hyderabad's highly sought-after IT corridor, Kokapet. The area, known for its skyrocketing land prices, witnessed illegal encroachments by unscrupulous individuals who had occupied valuable government land and constructed unauthorized structures.

According to revenue officials, about 16 acres of land in Survey Number 100 of Kokapet, near Puppalaguda and within close proximity (2-3 km) to the

Outer Ring Road and Neopolis, had been illegally occupied. Encroachers had set up houses, tin sheds, and even food courts on this high-value land.

Following a review of land records and field inspections conducted as part of a recent survey of vacant government lands in Gandipet mandal, authorities discovered the encroachments. Gandipet Tahsildar N. Srinivasa Reddy visited the site and confirmed the unauthorized permanent and temporary constructions on the land.

Despite issuing notices to vacate the

premises, the occupants did not comply. Consequently, on Tuesday, the revenue department, with the help of local police and enforcement teams, carried out a demolition drive and cleared all illegal constructions.

The recovered land, estimated to be worth ₹1,200 crore, has now been officially taken into government possession. Authorities have warned that strict action will be taken against future encroachments and reiterated the government's commitment to protecting public property, especially in prime real estate zones like Kokapet.



## Lingapur Farmers Protest Demanding Irrigation Water



**TPN,Correspondent|Nirmal**  
Facing severe water shortage for irrigation, farmers from Lingapur village in Kadam mandal of Nirmal district took to the streets, demanding immediate action from the government. Around 500 farmers staged a massive protest on the Nachchana Ellapur road, voicing their distress over crops withering due to lack of water.

With no water supply to sustain their nearly-ready crops, the farmers expressed deep anguish, stating that their livelihoods are at risk. The protest led to a major traffic jam, with vehicles stranded for over an hour, causing serious

inconvenience to commuters. The agitated farmers declared they would not call off the protest until the district collector personally visits the site and assures justice. They also insisted that they will remain at the protest site until the government gives a clear statement and solution regarding irrigation water supply.

Raising slogans and sitting on the roads, the farmers made it clear that they won't back down until their demand for timely water to save their crops is met. The protest reflects the growing unrest among farmers across Telangana over irrigation woes.

## MLA Kadiyam Srihari Escapes Fire Mishap During Shop Inauguration



**TPN Correspondent | Station Ghanpur**  
A major mishap was narrowly averted during the visit of Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari on Wednesday morning. The incident occurred when he attended the inauguration of a shop. As part of the celebrations, the shop organizers lit firecrackers, which unexpectedly led to a fire outbreak. Sparks from the firecrackers fell on the decorative tent above, causing sudden flames to erupt. Quick-thinking locals and police personnel immediately sprang into action and managed to bring

the fire under control before it could escalate. Congress workers present at the event swiftly pulled down the burning tent, preventing further danger. The situation was particularly risky as several large flex banners and nearby commercial shops faced a potential threat from the flames. Fortunately, no injuries or major damages were reported, and those present breathed a sigh of relief. The timely response from the public and officials averted what could have been a disastrous incident.

## GHMC, HYDRA Launch Joint Fire Safety Survey in Summer

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
In view of the increasing risk of fire accidents during the summer season, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and HYDRA (Hyderabad Disaster Response and Awareness) have initiated a joint fire safety survey across the city. The goal is to identify fire-prone hotspots and enforce stringent fire safety protocols in both residential and commercial buildings.

As part of this initiative, teams from GHMC, HYDRA, and the Fire Safety Department will conduct ground-level inspections to ensure compliance with fire safety regulations. This includes checking building layouts, verifying fire safety plans, and ensuring valid Fire NOCs (No Objection Certificates) are in place.



Authorities are also planning awareness programs for building owners and residents to educate them on fire safety measures. Special focus will be given to areas that have reported high numbers of fire incidents over the past two years. Based on this data, an action plan will be developed for prevention and response.

Additionally, fire-prone establishments such as timber depots, scrap yards, and tyre shops located in densely populated residential areas will be identified and brought under strict fire safety monitoring. This proactive approach aims to minimize fire hazards and ensure public safety throughout the summer months.

## Tension in Kammaguda Over Land Dispute, Groups Clash

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
A major land dispute in Kammaguda, Vanasthalipuram, Hyderabad, led to a violent confrontation between two groups, sparking tense scenes in the area. The conflict erupted over a 10-acre land parcel located in Survey Number 240, where both sides claimed ownership.

According to local residents, they had purchased plots and built homes over 20 years ago. They alleged that land grabbers have recently been threatening and intimidating them to vacate the land. The situation escalated on Wednesday when, reportedly, a group of women was brought from MehdiPatnam in bus-



es to pressure the residents.

This provoked the plot owners, who retaliated by setting fire to multiple mo-

torbikes and damaging vehicle windows, including those of the buses in which the women arrived. The altercation turned violent, with both parties engaging in physical attacks.

Eyewitnesses reported chaos in the area, with broken glass, burning vehicles, and residents in panic. Police forces have since been deployed to restore order and prevent further escalation. Authorities are currently investigating the matter, and additional security has been arranged in the locality to ensure peace. Residents are demanding strict action against those involved in the intimidation.

## Mujra Party Busted in Moinabad: 20 Arrested Including 7 Women

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
In a dramatic raid, police busted a Mujra party being held under the guise of a birthday celebration in Moinabad, located in Ranga Reddy district. Acting on a tip-off, police swiftly reached the location and uncovered the illegal gathering.

Officials confirmed that the event was organized as a dance party with women performing, commonly referred to as a Mujra, attracting participants from various places. During the raid, police arrested 20 individuals, including seven women.

A large quantity of alcohol, hookah set-ups, and even ganja were seized from the premises. Preliminary investigation revealed that the organizers had brought in women from other states specifically to conduct such parties in private venues. Cases are being registered against the individuals involved, and authorities are continuing the investigation to trace the network behind these illegal events. This incident has raised concerns about increasing party culture under misleading pretexts in the outskirts of Hyderabad.



## Cannabis Worth ₹41.50 Lakh Destroyed in Khammam

**TPN,Correspondent|Khammam**  
In a significant crackdown on narcotics, 83 kilograms of seized cannabis, valued at approximately ₹41.50 lakh, was incinerated in Khammam district on Wednesday. The destruction was carried out under the supervision of officials from five Prohibition and Excise Police Stations in the district.

According to Deputy Commissioner Janardhan Reddy, who acted as the disposal officer, the cannabis was confiscated in 32 separate cases registered under the jurisdictions of Khammam, Khammam 2, Sathupalli, Madhira, and Nelakondapalli Excise Stations.



Following proper legal procedures and with government approval, the seized contraband was destroyed at AWM

Private Limited, a designated facility located in Gopalpet, Tallada Mandal. Station House Officers (SHOs) from

all five excise stations were present during the burning process to ensure transparency and compliance with environmental and legal standards.

Officials estimate the street value of the destroyed cannabis to be ₹41.50 lakh. This action marks a firm stance by the Khammam district authorities in curbing drug trafficking and ensuring that seized narcotics are disposed of swiftly and responsibly.

The excise department emphasized its continued commitment to eradicate the illegal drug trade and protect public health and safety across the region.



# WORLD HOMEOPATHY DAY APRIL 10

## A Tribute, A Reflection, A Promise

April 10 marks World Homeopathy Day, observed in memory of the great visionary Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of Homeopathy. While it's a tribute to his contribution to the field of medicine, it is also a day for both practitioners and patients to pause and reflect on how this gentle yet powerful system of healing continues to quietly transform lives—especially in today's world where lifestyle disorders and chronic diseases are rampant.

### What is Homeopathy?

Homeopathy is a holistic system of medicine based on the principle of "like cures like." It means a substance that causes symptoms in a healthy person can be used in minute doses to treat similar symptoms in a sick person. It focuses not just on the disease, but on the person as a whole—their physical complaints, emotional state, genetic tendencies, lifestyle, and environment. Like Ayurveda, Allopathy, Siddha, and Unani, Homeopathy is a complete medical science in its own right. Every system of medicine has its strengths and limitations. What makes homeopathy distinctive is its individualized approach, its deep philosophy of healing, and its potential to offer complete, lasting cures without suppressing symptoms.

### Why Homeopathy?

There's a common saying among practitioners: "A homeopath may fail, but not homeopathy." This isn't just rhetoric—it's a reflection of the system's potential when practiced correctly. Homeopathy doesn't treat diseases; it treats people. Instead of chasing symptoms, it aims to find the root cause and restore balance within the individual. This unique approach ensures that treatment is customized, not generalized. Two people with the same diagnosis might receive entirely different remedies based on their personality, symptoms, lifestyle, and mental state. That's the beauty of homeopathy—it sees the person behind the disease.

### What Does a Homeopath Really Do?

When you visit a homeopath, don't expect



**Dr. Maruboina Ramakrishna**  
**BHMS. MD. MCAH**  
**(Asian Homeocare, Vijayawada World Homeopathy Day)**

a 5-minute consultation. We dive deep. From your childhood history, stress levels, food cravings, fears, emotional state, sleep pattern—everything is considered. This helps the homeopath understand not just the 'what' of your illness but the 'why'. What triggered it? What's sustaining it? What needs to be addressed in you so that the disease leaves?

How Does Homeopathy Differ from Other Systems?

### Homeopathy stands apart in several ways:

- **Case-taking:** Consultations are longer and more detailed.
- **Philosophy:** Focus is on treating the individual, not just the illness.
- **Medicine Preparation:** Remedies are derived from natural substances and potentized in a unique way.
- **Dosage and Dispensing:** No bitter pills or painful injections—just sweet, easy-to-take pills.

This method makes homeopathy especially friendly for children, elderly, and even pets. Is Homeopathy Only for Chronic Conditions? Absolutely not. Ho-

meopathy works beautifully for acute conditions too—colds, fevers, diarrhoea, injuries, allergies, and more. In such situations, remedies stimulate the immune system to respond quickly and naturally. So whether your issue is recent or long-standing, homeopathy has something to offer. Can I Take Homeopathy Along with Other Medicines? Yes. Homeopathy can complement conventional treatment. In fact, if you're dealing with a chronic disease—like diabetes, thyroid disorders, arthritis, allergies, or PCOS—and your current medication is only giving partial relief or your reports are not improving despite increasing doses, that's the right time to consider a homeopath. We aim to support recovery, reduce dependency, and in many cases, bring reports back to normal. How Long Should I Wait for Results? Healing takes time, and in homeopathy, patience pays off. Results vary based on how long the condition has been present, your age, lifestyle, and overall vitality. Allergies often require treatment over 4 seasonal cycles. Chronic conditions like asthma, PCOD, psoriasis, or arthritis may take 18–24 months to show significant and lasting improvements. But once cured, the chances of relapse are minimal. Common Myths About Homeopathy—Busted

- **"Homeopathy heats the body." Not true. The remedies balance your system, not overheat it.**
- **"I must stop all other medicines." No. You can continue your existing treatment alongside homeopathy under proper guidance.**
- **"Homeopathy pills are sweet—do they increase sugar levels?" No. The quantity of sugar in the pills is negligible and safe even for diabetics. On this World Homeopathy Day, let's not just remember the founder of this science, but also reflect on the way it has restored health to millions—gently, safely, and naturally. Whether you are a patient looking for lasting relief or a curious mind wondering what homeopathy truly is, take this day as an opportunity to explore, understand, and embrace this remarkable system of healing. Because homeopathy doesn't just treat diseases—it transforms lives.**



## Global Boycotts of US Goods

Across the globe, American products are increasingly becoming the target of consumer boycotts as citizens of various countries protest U.S. foreign policy and political actions—particularly those tied to the Trump administration. These boycotts, while not coordinated under a single umbrella movement, reflect a rising wave of politically motivated consumer activism where purchasing decisions are shaped by geopolitical sentiments. From fast-food chains and tech giants to luxury fashion and entertainment exports, US brands are feeling the ripple effects of international frustration. Protesters in cities like London, Paris, Istanbul, and Kuala Lumpur have been vocal, with rallies targeting not just political leaders like Donald Trump but also high-profile figures such as Elon Musk, symbolizing corporate America's global dominance. At the heart of these boycotts lies a growing realization: consumer culture is inextricably linked to politics. Global consumers are not passive participants; they are politically conscious actors capable of reshaping market dynamics in response to perceived injustices. The call to "vote with your wallet" has grown louder, and it's gaining traction. For Trump, this trend could be a cause for concern. While his domestic base may rally behind protectionism and "America First" rhetoric, the global marketplace plays a critical role in the strength of the US economy. Exports, brand reputation, and cultural influence form key pillars of soft power, and sustained boycotts could erode these assets. Additionally, American corporations may find themselves navigating treacherous terrain—balancing domestic political alignment with international market expectations. In this environment, the Trump brand itself becomes a liability in foreign markets, not just in political spheres but in consumer perception too. This could also indirectly affect the U.S. economy, as declining international sales lead to layoffs, market pullbacks, and reduced investor confidence. What's clear is that these boycotts are more than fleeting gestures; they are part of a broader shift in global consumer behavior, where identity, ethics, and politics increasingly dictate how people shop and what they support. For American leadership, and Trump in particular, ignoring this shift could mean losing not just goodwill abroad, but valuable market ground as well.

# Time to Retire Iran War Talk

The longstanding hostility between Iran and the United States remains entrenched, as both nations continue to navigate a volatile relationship marked by mutual distrust, strategic missteps, and ideological rigidity. Despite occasional openings toward diplomacy, the overarching narrative remains mired in threats and war talk that has dominated the discourse since the George W. Bush and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad era. During that time, the rhetoric was intensely confrontational, with Iran defying American might and the US listing Iran in its "Axis of Evil." These hostilities gave rise to persistent predictions of an impending war, a drumbeat that, although tiresome in its repetitiveness, still incites alarm. The idea of military action against Iran has never been far from the minds of US policymakers, especially within the Republican establishment, where calls for strikes have often been viewed as rational responses rather than radical measures. Activist groups like Code Pink have been marginalized despite their calls for diplomacy and peace. Even during Obama's tenure, fears of war persisted until more moderate Iranian leadership emerged. Still, the media's portrayal of Iran as an existential threat has fed into negative public perceptions—Americans rarely express favorable views of the country, which has deepened the divide be-



tween the people of both nations. The lesson from Iraq's devastating war, a campaign widely regarded as a strategic blunder, should have served as a deterrent. Yet Iran, with a far larger population and complex political landscape, remains under the shadow of similar saber-rattling. Internally,

Iran's leadership lacks a cohesive vision, increasingly seen as prioritizing ideological expansion over national welfare. The Revolutionary Guards' external adventurism, combined with disregard for cultural traditions and a worsening economic crisis, has alienated many Iranians. Power blackouts,

hyperinflation, and sanctions have left the public wondering about the true cost of Iran's nuclear pursuits. On the US side, foreign policy has taken a more eccentric tone. From suggestions of annexing Canada to speculation about military action in the Middle East, unpredictability defines Wash-

ington's posture. Despite this, former President Donald Trump has sought a diplomatic solution, even sending a personal letter to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei via an Emirati intermediary. Khamenei responded by approving indirect talks, now scheduled in Oman, while also issuing a stern warning against aggression. A breakthrough seems possible but precarious, with Trump reportedly setting a two-month deadline for progress. The renewed direct military clash between Iran and Israel, triggered by attacks in April 2024, has shattered whatever restraint previously existed in their proxy conflict. Amid these tensions, figures like US envoy Steve Witkoff have attempted to reopen channels through cautious messaging, even briefly engaging with Iranian officials online over the JCPOA terms. While predictions remain speculative, and skepticism is warranted, even a limited agreement would be preferable to continued escalation. Iran's dire governance rankings reflect systemic dysfunctions that go beyond foreign policy. But any constructive engagement between Washington and Tehran could signal hope—not just for a reset in relations, but for the millions in the region who remain trapped in a cycle of conflict. The world stands to benefit whenever this overdue understanding materializes.



## RBI Cuts Repo Rate by 25 Basis Points to 6% Amid Global Trade Uncertainty



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6%, with the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voting unanimously in favor of the move. The decision, announced on Wednesday, is aimed at supporting economic growth and easing the interest burden on borrowers with home, auto, and other loans. However, this reduction is expected to lower the interest earned on savings for depositors.

This rate cut comes amid growing concerns over the global trade war, particularly the impact of U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs. In light of these challenges, the MPC has also revised its growth forecast for India's GDP in 2025-26, lowering it from 6.7% to 6.5%.

This marks the second consecutive rate cut by the RBI, following a 25 basis point reduction in the previous policy meeting. The committee, led by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, also shifted its policy stance from neutral to accommodative, signaling a more growth-focused approach. This change indicates the RBI's growing concern about the potential impact of the trade war on domestic economic growth, rather than inflation risks. The shift in stance suggests the possibility of further rate cuts in the future to stimulate the economy.

Governor Malhotra highlighted that global uncertainty, particularly the escalating trade tensions, could dampen investment and spending by businesses and households, negatively impacting domestic growth. Additionally, higher tariffs are expected to hurt India's exports.

On inflation, Malhotra noted that while global volatility posed some risks, including currency pressures and imported inflation, the domestic inflation outlook remained relatively stable. Inflation risks are seen as two-sided, with a slowdown in global growth potentially softening commodity and crude oil prices.

Looking ahead, RBI projects India's GDP growth for 2025-26 at 6.5%, with inflation expected to remain at 4% for the year. Despite ongoing global uncertainties, the RBI remains committed to using monetary policy to ensure a balanced and stable economic environment.

## India ends transshipment facility for Bangladesh exports, cites congestion

- Bangladesh-Nepal/Bhutan trade routes unaffected.
- Yunus' China remarks add diplomatic tension.
- Visa, trade issues strain bilateral ties further.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India has withdrawn the transshipment facility extended to Bangladesh due to the significant congestion it was causing at Indian airports and ports, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed on Wednesday. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal clarified that the decision, effective from April 8, 2025, is not intended to affect Bangladesh's trade with Nepal or Bhutan.

The transshipment facility, which had been in place since June 2020, allowed cargo from Bangladesh to transit through Indian land customs stations before being sent to their final destinations using Indian ports and airports. This move was essential for Bangladesh's exports, particularly ready-made items, to third countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar. However, over time, the facility had resulted in logistical delays and congestion, which hindered India's own exports and led to backlogs, prompting the decision to terminate the arrangement.

Jaiswal explained that although the transshipment facility was withdrawn, it would not disrupt Bangladesh's exports to Nepal or Bhutan through Indian territory. He also emphasized that the decision was a logistical one and not



related to any political developments.

The decision follows controversial remarks by Prof. Muhammad Yunus, the Chief Adviser to Bangladesh's interim government, who visited Beijing and advocated for stronger trade ties between China and India's northeastern states using Bangladeshi ports. Yunus' statements, made during a roundtable discussion in China, were met with criticism in India, with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma calling them "offensive and highly condemnable."

While Indian officials have refrained from confirming whether Yunus' remarks influenced the withdrawal of the transshipment facility, the timing of the move, just days before the New Year festivities in Dhaka, has been perceived as a setback to bilateral trade. This development follows ongoing concerns over the limited issuance of Indian visas to Bangladesh's business community, further straining economic ties.

The issue highlights the ongoing complexities in India-Bangladesh relations, with trade, logistics, and diplomatic considerations all playing significant roles.

## Congress Demands Caste Census, Rahul Gandhi Slams Waqf Bill and RSS

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, denounced the Waqf (Amendment) Act, calling it "anti-Constitution" and a direct attack on religious freedoms. Speaking at the AICC session held on the banks of the Sabarmati River, Gandhi raised concerns that the BJP and RSS would soon target the rights of other minorities, particularly Christians and Sikhs, following the passage of the Waqf Bill.

Gandhi claimed that the new law undermines the constitutional rights of religious minorities in India, specifically accusing the government of orchestrating an agenda to curb religious freedoms. He cited an article in an RSS-affiliated magazine that allegedly suggested that the BJP and RSS are now focused on limiting the rights of Christians, with Sikhs potentially being next in line.

In his address, Gandhi also warned of an impending "economic storm," attributing it to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's subservience to U.S. President Donald Trump, especially regarding the imposition of tariffs. He criticized Modi for failing to challenge Trump's actions, referencing a recent meeting between the two leaders where Trump's decision to impose new tariffs on Indian goods went unopposed. "Did you see the photograph of PM Modi hugging Mr. Trump? This time he ordered Modi ji that 'we



will not hug but will impose new tariffs,'" Gandhi remarked. Furthermore, Gandhi took a jibe at Modi's recent interaction with Bangladesh's Chief Advisor Mohammad Yunus, suggesting that the Prime Minister's silence on Yunus' remarks was in stark contrast to his usual bold rhetoric. "Where is the 56-inch chest?" Gandhi quipped, mocking Modi's strength and resolve.

On the issue of caste-based reservations, Gandhi reiterated his support for a national caste census, calling for an expansion of the reservation system and mentioning that Telangana had already made strides in this area. He also emphasized that the Congress party would continue to fight for constitutional values against what he described as an RSS-led push to control India's institutions. "We have truth and the love of the people on our side," he concluded.



## Gold Prices Spiked Amid Global Trade Tensions and US Tariffs

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Gold prices have surged, driven by concerns over a potential global economic slowdown triggered by U.S. President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs on Chinese imports. In India, the price of 24-karat gold has risen to ₹8,972 per gram, while 22-karat gold is priced at ₹8,224, and 18-karat gold stands at ₹6,729 per gram, according to Goodreturns.

The U.S. dollar weakened ahead of the tariff rollout, making gold, priced in dollars, more attractive to foreign buyers. Trump's administration imposed a significant 104% tariff on Chinese imports and outlined plans for a baseline 10% import duty on other goods. China responded defiantly, labeling the move as "blackmail" and vowing to "fight to the end."

Tim Waterer, Chief Market Analyst at KCM Trade, explained that the downward shift in the dollar due to tariff concerns allowed gold to reclaim the \$3,000 level. Despite some volatility, Waterer indicated that gold could reach new all-time highs, citing uncertainty around global growth and inflation as key drivers.

Gold reached a record high of \$3,167.57 on April 3, mirroring the surge in 1980 during the Iranian Revolution when political risks and inflation fears dominated markets. Investor appetite for gold remains strong, with gold-backed exchange-traded funds seeing the largest quarterly inflows in three years, according to the World Gold Council.

However, rising U.S. bond yields capped some of gold's gains, as the 10-year Treasury yield hit its highest level in over a week, reducing the appeal of non-yielding bullion. Looking ahead, market participants are awaiting the release of the U.S. Federal Reserve's meeting minutes and upcoming inflation data, including the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Producer Price Index (PPI), later this week.

Analysts, including Rahul Kalantri, VP of Commodities at Mehta Equities, remain cautious, noting that while gold surged due to short-covering and bargain buying, it lost steam after the U.S. announced the tariff changes. Kalantri suggests that gold could face support at \$2,978-\$2,955 per ounce and resistance at \$3,040-\$3,065 per ounce in global markets, with similar levels for Indian gold prices. Analysts believe that gold's upward trajectory may continue as macroeconomic uncertainties persist.

## India's naval aviation gets a boost: Rafale-Marine jets approved for acquisition

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a major boost to India's naval aviation, the Cabinet Committee on Security, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the purchase of 26 Rafale-Marine fighter jets from French aviation giant Dassault, at an estimated cost of ₹63,000 crore. This acquisition is aimed at enhancing the Indian Navy's offensive capabilities, especially for operations at sea. The jets will be deployed on India's indigenously built aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, and are expected to significantly strengthen the Navy's ability to carry out longer-range precision strikes against both aerial and maritime threats.

The deal, which includes weapons, simulators, training, spares, and maintenance support, will also fea-



ture India-specific modifications. These additions include the integration of India's Astra missile system, setting up a maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) hub, and sourcing components from local suppliers. The Rafale-Marine jets are equipped with advanced armament systems, including the SCALP-EG, a 650-km range cruise missile.

These fighter jets will consist of 22 single-seater and four twin-seater variants, designed to complement the Navy's existing aircraft fleet. The Rafale-Marine's operational features include reinforced landing gear and foldable wings, allowing efficient storage aboard aircraft carriers. This capability will be crucial, as the jets can operate in the constrained space of

a carrier's deck, unlike land-based aircraft that rely on long runways.

While the deal comes at a higher price compared to the IAF's 36 Rafale jets, which were purchased for ₹59,000 crore in 2016, the cost difference is attributed to inflation, the increased exchange rates of the dollar and euro, and a decade gap between the two deals.

Additionally, in case of an emergency, these jets can be deployed to Indian Air Force bases along the northern borders, bolstering the IAF's fleet of Rafale jets. This move represents a significant upgrade to India's naval aviation, as it replaces the Russian-origin MiG-29K jets, some of which have faced operational challenges since their induction in 2011.





## Russia Invites PM Modi to Attend 80th Anniversary of Victory Day Celebrations

- **Event marks 80 years since Nazi Germany’s defeat.**
- **Putin accepted Modi’s earlier India visit invite.**
- **Ties grow stronger in defense and diplomacy.**

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Russia has extended an invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the May 9 celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany in World War II, as confirmed by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko. The invitation has been sent, and preparations for the Prime Minister's visit are currently underway.

Speaking to Russian news agency Tass, Rudenko stated, "Moscow is expecting the Indian Prime Minister at the May 9 parade. The invitation has already been sent, and the visit is being worked out. It should take place this year."

Victory Day, celebrated on May 9, commemorates the signing of the Act of Unconditional Surrender by Germany in 1945, effectively bringing an end to World War II. This year's celebrations will mark the 80th anniversary of that pivotal moment in history, and Russia has invited leaders from several friendly nations to join in the commemorations.

In July 2024, Prime Minister Modi visited Russia for the first time in nearly five years. During this visit, he also extended an invitation to Russian President Vladimir Putin to visit India, an invitation that Putin has accepted. However, the specific dates for Putin's trip to India have yet to be disclosed.

Prime Minister Modi and President Putin maintain a strong diplomatic relationship, characterized by regular communication through telephone calls and in-person meetings, especially during international events. The two leaders' ongoing collaboration underscores the close ties between India and Russia, particularly in areas such as defense, trade, and geopolitical cooperation.

The invitation to Modi to participate in the Victory Day parade reflects the deepening bilateral ties between the two nations and signifies the importance of their strategic partnership on the global stage.

# US Bill Threatens to End Work Visa for Indian Students, Creating Uncertainty for 300,000

TPN Correspondent | US

A proposed bill in the United States Congress is poised to disrupt the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program, a vital work authorization initiative for international students, particularly those in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. This development has caused major concern among the Indian student community in the US, with over 300,000 students potentially impacted.

The OPT program allows international students to gain practical work experience in the US for up to three years after graduation. Indian students are the largest beneficiaries of this program, with nearly 98,000 participants in the 2023-2024 academic year, according to the Open Doors 2024 report. The proposed bill could force these students to leave the US immediately after graduation, disrupting their careers and financial stability, as many rely on OPT to repay hefty student loans.

If passed, the bill would severely limit job opportunities for Indian students, compelling them to seek work in countries with more accommodating post-study policies, like Canada or those in Europe. This could also negatively impact the US job market, especially in STEM fields, where international students play a crucial role in addressing



skill shortages. In response, many students are rushing to secure H-1B work visas, which are sponsored primarily by large tech companies. However, these visas are highly competitive, with a limited number of slots each year. Students are now scrambling to secure job offers that would enable them to apply for an H-1B visa before any changes take effect.

Legal experts, such as Poorvi Chothani of LawQuest, have stressed the urgency of the situation. The OPT program provides stu-

dents up to three years of work experience, but if the bill passes, many may be forced to leave the US immediately after graduation, losing valuable career opportunities.

Amidst this uncertainty, many students have cancelled summer travel plans, fearing they may not be allowed to re-enter the country. Prestigious institutions like Cornell and Yale have unofficially advised international students to avoid traveling home during breaks, further exacerbating the sense of instability.

## Girl Dies, 20 More Including Pawan Kalyan's Son Injured In Singapore School Fire

TPN Correspondent | Singapore

A devastating fire at a shophouse in Singapore's River Valley Road area resulted in the death of a 10-year-old girl and left 20 others injured on Tuesday. Among the injured was the seven-year-old son of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

The fire broke out at a three-storey building that housed educational and enrichment classes for children, including cooking, theatre, and robotics schools. At the time of the incident, 16 children aged six to 10 and six adults were present in the building. The fire spread quickly through the second and third floors of the building, causing severe burns and smoke inhalation among the victims.

The police confirmed that the girl who died later in a hospital was among those rescued, though several others sustained significant injuries. Eyewitnesses described harrowing scenes, with some of the children unconscious, their eyes rolled back, and suffering from burns. Mark Shankar, Pawan Kalyan's



younger son, was injured with burns to his hands and legs and suffered from smoke inhalation but is currently receiving treatment.

The Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) responded swiftly, extinguishing the fire within 30 minutes using three water jets. They evacuated around 80 people from the building and surrounding areas. Approxi-

mately 20 individuals were taken to nearby hospitals for treatment.

A group of construction workers nearby acted quickly during the fire, using scaffolding and a ladder to rescue the trapped children. One of the workers, Subramanian Saranraj, expressed his concern for

the children, saying, "I was scared for the children, because they were so small and couldn't climb out on their own."

The cause of the fire is under investigation, and authorities have not suspected foul play. However, the tragedy has deeply impacted the local community, with many parents anxiously awaiting news about their children's safety.

## Fugitive Businessman Vijay Mallya Loses Appeal Against UK Bankruptcy Order

TPN Correspondent | London

Indian businessman Vijay Mallya lost his appeal against a bankruptcy order issued by London's High Court on Wednesday, concerning a debt of over £1 billion (\$1.28 billion) owed to several lenders, including the State Bank of India. Mallya, who resides in Britain, has been at the center of a prolonged legal dispute with both Indian authorities and financial institutions following the 2012 collapse of his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines.

In 2017, a group of banks obtained a ruling in India that held Mallya responsible for the massive debt tied to Kingfisher Airlines, for which he had personally guaranteed the loan. The judgment, totaling more than £1 billion, was later registered in the UK. This led to a bankruptcy order being issued against Mallya in 2021.

Mallya appealed the bankruptcy order, arguing during a February hearing that the banks had already recovered enough assets to effectively settle the debt. However, Judge Anthony Mann rejected his appeal on Tuesday, stating in his written ruling that "the bottom line... is that the bankruptcy order stands."

Mallya's legal team did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the latest ruling.

In addition to the bankruptcy case, Mallya is also facing extradition to India to stand trial for



fraud charges linked to the collapse of Kingfisher Airlines. His appeal against extradition was rejected in 2020. Despite this, Judge Mann noted in his ruling that the extradition order "has still not been enforced," adding that Mallya continues to resist extradition on other legal grounds that remain unresolved.

Mallya, who was also a co-owner of the Force India Formula One racing team, has been living in the UK since fleeing India in 2016, following allegations of financial mismanagement and defaulting on loans. The legal battle continues as both India and the UK work through the complex proceedings surrounding his case.

## Myanmar In Need Of Relief and Long Term Support After Quake: Thailand

TPN Correspondent | Myanmar

Myanmar remains in dire need of medical assistance, field hospitals, and shelter following the devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck the country on March 28. Thai Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa highlighted the urgency of a coordinated regional relief effort and long-term support for Myanmar, which is still reeling from one of the strongest quakes to hit the region in a century.

The earthquake, which jolted a region home to 28 million people, caused massive destruction. Buildings collapsed, entire communities were flattened, and essential resources like food, water, and shelter became scarce. According to Myanmar's military government, the earthquake claimed 3,645 lives, left 5,017 people injured, and left 148 missing. Nearly 49,000 homes and over 2,100 government buildings were destroyed.

Maris, along with Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan, visited the quake-hit capital Naypyitaw on Saturday to assess the situation. In an interview, Maris emphasized the urgent need for field hospitals, as many existing medical facilities were unable to function at full capacity due to damage from the quake. Temporary shelters, mosquito nets, food, water filters, and clean water supplies are also crucial, with concerns rising about the spread of communicable diseases amid the intense summer heat. The United Nations Office for the Coordination



of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) commended the efforts of over 30 search-and-rescue teams from 13 countries who assisted in the immediate aftermath of the quake. While some teams have now departed, emergency aid continues to arrive, including a fifth batch from China, which brought 91 tonnes of supplies, including tents and mosquito nets.

The earthquake came at a time when Myanmar was already grappling with economic challenges and a civil war triggered by a military coup in 2021. The junta and rebel groups have declared temporary ceasefires to facilitate the relief effort, although tensions remain high.

Maris and his Malaysian counterpart are coordinating efforts for both immediate and long-term assistance, including reconstruction of the devastated areas. Thailand will focus on humanitarian work in Mandalay, while Malaysia will assist in the Sagaing region, both close to the earthquake's epicenter.



# "Markets Rattle Under Global Tariff Tensions; Sensex Sheds 379 Points, Nifty Falls 136 Despite RBI Rate Cut"

Domestic stock markets suffered heavy losses on Wednesday. The escalation of the tariff war between the US and China, negative signals from global markets, and expectations of disruption to the supply chain worldwide have increased negative sentiment in the market. Investors remained cautious even after the RBI cut interest rates as it was not known how long the uncertainty would last. The selling spree continued in the finance, IT, media, metal and pharma sectors. Overall, the Nifty lost 136 points and the Sensex lost 379 points. The India VIX also reached 21.43.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 74,227 in the previous session, opened at 74,103 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 73,673. It reached an intraday high of 74,103. It finally closed



at 73,847, losing 379 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,460, touched a low of 22,353 and a high of 22,468. It closed at 22,399, down 136 points. The

Nifty Bank fell 270 points to settle at 50,240. Of the Nifty50, 18 companies gained while 32 lost. Nestle India, Hindustan

Unilever, Titan, Power Grid, Tata Consumer were the top gainers. Wipro, SBI, Tech Mahindra, LT, Trent suffered the most losses. Meanwhile, the Fear Index India Vicks rose 4.8% to settle at 21.43. Today, all sectoral indices, except FMCG and consumer durables, turned red. Finance, IT, media, metal, pharma, PSU bank, private bank, realty, healthcare and oil indices were volatile.

Market breadth on NSE turned in favour of sellers. Out of 2909 shares traded, 1083 gained and 1747 lost. 19 shares hit 52-week highs and 45 shares hit 52-week lows. 80 shares touched the upper circuit and 52 shares touched the lower circuit. Rupee weakened by 45 paise to settle at 86.69 against the dollar. 21

lakh shares changed hands in NICA. IDBI Bank shares rose after Deepam Secretary said that the disinvestment process is continuing steadily. APL Apollo Tubes issued commercial papers worth Rs 200 crore. ShilpaMedicare has been approved by the USFDA for Verinical tablets. William O'Neill has given a buy rating to Radico Khaitan. Investec has given a buy rating to Vedanta with a target price of Rs 510. 10 lakh shares changed hands in ITC. Shyam Metallic stainless steel sales grew by 13%. Home First Finance has launched a QIP with the aim of raising Rs 1250 crore. Dam Capital has given a buy rating to Affil India with a target price of Rs 1730. RBI has cut the repo rate by 25 basis points.



## RBI Approves Revised UPI Transaction Limits for Person-to-Merchant Payments



Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has been permitted to increase transaction limits for Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments between persons and merchants (P2M), based on evolving user needs.

UPI, a real-time payment system, enables seamless transactions between bank accounts via mobile apps. Currently, the transaction limit for UPI payments, including both Person-to-Person (P2P) and Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transactions, is capped at ₹1 lakh. However, certain P2M transactions already have higher limits, with some set at ₹2 lakh and others at ₹5 lakh, depending on the use case.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra stated that NPCI will revise these limits in consultation with banks and other stakeholders in the UPI ecosystem to address the changing requirements of users. Appropriate safeguards will be introduced to mitigate risks associated with these higher transaction limits. It was emphasized that while P2M payments may see revised limits, P2P transactions will remain capped at ₹1 lakh.

In addition to the UPI update, Governor Malhotra outlined other key developments. The RBI is set to review guidelines related to loans against gold jewellery, aiming to harmonize regulations across regulated entities (REs) while considering their risk-taking capabilities.

Draft guidelines for public comment will be issued soon.

Furthermore, the RBI proposes to make the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) framework 'theme neutral' and available on-demand, promoting continuous innovation within India's rapidly evolving fintech space. The central bank also plans to introduce a draft framework for the securitization of stressed assets and expand the scope of co-lending arrangements among regulated entities.

The RBI's proactive approach to regulating the fintech and lending sectors aims to streamline processes and foster innovation while ensuring the stability of India's financial ecosystem.

## IRDAI Imposes ₹1.06 Crore Penalty on Flipkart for Insurance Norm Violations

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has imposed a total penalty of ₹1.06 crore on Flipkart for violations related to insurance e-commerce and corporate agent regulations. The fine comprises ₹1 crore for breaching the Insurance E-commerce Guidelines, 2017, and ₹6 lakh for selling insurance policies without a valid certificate of registration.

The penalty stems from Flipkart's improper use of its Insurance Self-Network Platform (ISNP), which was initially approved for facilitating direct online solicitation of insurance policies with insurers. However, regulatory investigations revealed that when users clicked on the "buy insurance" button on Flipkart's website, they were redirected to a third-party insurance intermediary's page to complete their purchase. IRDAI found that this redirection was not merely a form of advertisement but an unauthorized method of insurance solicitation, violating regulatory norms.

While Flipkart argued that it only provided advertising space for the intermediary and had no referral agreement, the regulator determined that the financial ar-

rangement went beyond advertising and constituted a violation. Following IRDAI's notice, Flipkart discontinued the redirection.

Additionally, Flipkart faced a ₹6 lakh fine for continuing to sell insurance policies after applying for the renewal of its registration certificate. The IRDAI clarified that the filing of a renewal application does not automatically extend registration, and selling policies without valid registration violated specific regulatory provisions.

IRDAI has directed Flipkart to pay the ₹1.06 crore fine within 45 days and informed the company's board of the decision. Flipkart has the option to appeal the order before the Securities Appellate Tribunal.

Although IRDAI imposed penalties for other violations, including the procurement of a large number of policies by a single individual, it refrained from pressing charges related to governance issues. Flipkart has committed to reviewing the order, maintaining its commitment to regulatory compliance and high governance standards.



# SEBI Forms High-Level Committee to Address Conflict of Interest in Securities Market Regulators



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has established a high-level committee (HLC) to review and address conflicts of interest among the board members and employees of securities market regulators. This decision follows a directive made at SEBI's board meeting last month.

In its circular, SEBI outlined that the committee would thoroughly assess and recommend improvements to the existing framework for managing conflicts of interest, disclosures, and related issues. The goal is to ensure higher standards of transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct among SEBI officials and board members.

The committee will be chaired by Pratyush Sinha, a former Chief Vigilance Commissioner, and will include several distinguished former bureaucrats and experts. Notable members of the committee include Inejit Srinivas, former Secretary at the Ministry of Corporate Affairs; G. Mahalingam, former Whole-Time Member of SEBI; Sarit Jafa, former Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General; Uday Kotak, founder of Kotak Mahindra Bank; and R. Narayanaswamy, former professor at IIM Bangalore.

The committee's mandate includes reviewing SEBI's current policies, identi-

fying any gaps, and recommending a comprehensive framework to mitigate conflicts of interest. It will also explore mechanisms that will allow the public to raise concerns regarding potential conflicts of interest within the securities market regulators.

This initiative is part of SEBI's ongoing efforts to enhance the integrity of the securities market by ensuring that its regulators uphold the highest standards of ethical behavior. The committee's recommendations will be pivotal in shaping future regulations aimed at fostering greater transparency and accountability within the sector.



# Teen Marries 41-Year-Old, Starts Family

In a story that’s both unconventional and heartwarming, a 19-year-old woman named Iyah from the United States has married a 41-year-old man, Rafah, defying societal norms and proving that love truly knows no age. The couple first met at a bar where Iyah was employed, leading Rafah to believe she was older due to her maturity and professional demeanor. It was only later that he learned she was just 19. Despite the 21-year age difference, their bond

grew stronger, culminating in marriage and the start of a family. The couple has since welcomed a child and actively shares their journey through their joint YouTube channel, “That’s So Raf & Iyah.” Their relationship has attracted significant attention online, sparking both criticism and praise. While some social media users have questioned the large age gap and raised concerns about compatibility and power dynamics, many others have come out

in support, celebrating their love and commitment. Supporters argue that as long as the relationship is built on mutual respect, understanding, and consent, age should not be a barrier to love. Iyah and Rafah have openly addressed the backlash, standing by the authenticity of their relationship and showing confidence in their decision to build a life together. Their story challenges traditional expectations that typically favor couples of similar age and highlights the

evolving nature of modern relationships. In an era where social media amplifies both admiration and scrutiny, the couple has embraced their journey with resilience and transparency. Whether viewed as controversial or inspirational, their union has certainly captured the attention of people around the world, reinforcing the idea that real connection often transcends numbers and that love, in its truest form, can emerge in the most unexpected ways.



## Mumbai Tops Uber's List of Forgetful Cities



In a quirky yet revealing roundup, Mumbai has earned the distinction of being India's most forgetful city, according to Uber's latest Lost and Found Index for 2024. The report, based on data gathered from rides across the country, showcases not only the frequency but also the variety of items left behind by riders—and Mumbai's list is both amusing and astonishing. While expected items like mobile phones, wallets, bags, and keys featured prominently, the city's residents also managed to forget some truly unexpected belongings, including a wheelchair, telescope, hair wig, a dog bark control device, and even a hawan kund (a fire altar used in Hindu rituals). In one of the more surprising discoveries, a rider even left behind a gold biscuit, and another forgot their entire wedding saree. Someone managed to misplace 25 kilograms of cow ghee, while another left a cooking stove behind in the cab. These strange but true tales have put Mumbai at the top, displacing Delhi, which had held the title for the past two years. The report also notes that Hyderabad ranked as the least forgetful city in India. Aside from the bizarre items, the most commonly forgotten essentials nationwide include earphones, spectacles, clothing, and even important documents. Uber's annual index not only serves as a humorous reminder of how distracted or hurried people can be during their daily commute but also emphasizes the scale at which such lapses occur. The company encourages users to double-check their belongings at the end of each trip and also provides a lost item feature within the app for recovery assistance. While the findings may seem comical, they underscore how fast-paced life in urban India has become—where even gold biscuits and wedding attire can be left behind in a rush.



## Retired Officer Attacked Over Waqf Bill

A retired Indian Army officer was allegedly attacked by a cab driver and his associates following a heated argument over the Waqf Amendment Bill during a road trip from Lucknow to Kanpur. The incident took place on April 5 in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh. The victim, Colonel Surya Prakash Singh (Retd), currently serving as the head of the District Sainik Welfare Board in Kanpur, had hired a private cab for the journey. According to Singh's complaint, the confrontation began during a political discussion with the driver, identified as Wasim from Begumpurwa in Kanpur. Singh said the situation escalated after he expressed support for the Waqf Amendment Bill, which appeared to provoke the driver. Following the argument, Wasim allegedly stopped the vehicle at the Azad Nagar intersection in Unnao and called his associates. A group of men arrived soon after and reportedly assaulted the retired officer along with the driver. Singh subsequently lodged a formal complaint with the local police against Wasim and the unidentified attackers. Authorities have registered a case and launched an investigation into the matter. The assault, believed to be fueled by ideological differences, has raised concerns over growing intolerance surrounding political and religious opinions. The Waqf Amendment Bill has been a topic of national debate, with strong sentiments on both sides, and this incident underscores the volatility such discussions can provoke. Police officials have confirmed that an inquiry is underway and assured that appropriate legal action will follow based on the evidence and testimonies gathered. No arrests have been made so far. As the investigation progresses, the case continues to draw attention as an alarming example of discourse turning into violence.

## Wife Publicly Assaults Husband Over Joblessness

In a deeply unsettling incident that has gone viral on social media, a woman was captured on camera physically assaulting a man, reportedly her husband, in a public place. The video, which has stirred intense debate online, shows the woman holding the man aggressively by his collar and repeatedly slapping him while berating him for not earning. The altercation took place in front of a shop, and although a crowd gathered around the scene, no one stepped in to stop the violence or even question the woman's actions. The clip clearly captures her shouting that he doesn't contribute financially, using his alleged unemployment as a justification for the assault. The man, visibly passive and humiliated, did not retaliate, further intensifying public sympathy and concern. What shocked viewers even more was the complete lack of intervention from bystanders, raising questions about societal apathy and the perception of male victims in cases of domestic abuse. As the video spread rapidly across platforms like X (formerly Twitter), users expressed outrage, asking, “Who gave her the right?” and emphasizing that violence cannot be tolerated under any circumstance, regardless of gender. Many netizens condemned the



act, calling for accountability and urging that domestic abuse be recognized and addressed with gender neutrality. The incident has reignited conversations around men facing abuse in relationships—an often overlooked issue that remains largely unspoken due to social stigma. Legal experts and activists have

also weighed in, pointing out the urgent need for balanced discourse and protection for all victims of domestic violence. As of now, authorities have not made an official statement on the incident, but growing online pressure could prompt a formal response or investigation in the coming days.

## Texas Lawyer's \$1M Birthday Giveaway



In a gesture that has left the internet stunned, prominent Texas attorney Thomas J. Henry has announced that he will be giving away \$1 million to strangers to celebrate his birthday. The well-known lawyer, often associated with high-profile cases and lavish parties, revealed on Instagram that he is

forgoing the usual extravagant celebrations this year. Instead, Henry said he wanted to mark his birthday—April 5—by doing something meaningful and giving back to the community. In a video message posted to his official social media accounts, he shared that this decision came from a deep sense of

gratitude toward those who have supported him throughout his life and career. The Instagram posts immediately caught fire online, with users praising his selfless act and calling it a rare example of generosity in a world often dominated by materialism and showmanship. While the exact mechanism for how the \$1 million will be distributed has not yet been made public, Henry's announcement sparked massive interest, with thousands of comments flooding in from people all over the country. Many lauded him not only for his charitable mindset but also for using his personal celebration to spotlight the value of kindness and giving. Social media users described the initiative as inspiring and uplifting, with some hoping this might set a trend among other wealthy public figures. Known for his philanthropic efforts in the past, this bold birthday gesture has only cemented Henry's reputation as a generous and socially conscious figure. As the details of the giveaway unfold, many are watching closely to see how this extraordinary promise will be executed. One thing is certain: Thomas J. Henry's birthday celebration has already made a mark far beyond cakes and candles.

## US Woman Marries Andhra Man

In a heartwarming story that has captured the internet's imagination, a woman from the United States traveled all the way to a remote village in Andhra Pradesh, India, to marry the love of her life. Jaclyn Forero, a professional photographer, and Chandan, a young man from Andhra, first connected on Instagram when their relationship began with a simple “Hi.” Despite the cultural differences and a nine-year age gap—Jaclyn being older—the two bonded over genuine conversations and emotional connection. Their long-distance love blossomed over 14 months of virtual dating, filled with shared experiences, heartfelt chats, and growing admiration. What started as a casual conversation eventually turned into a deep and committed relationship. Touched by Chandan's simplicity and authenticity, Jaclyn made the bold decision to travel thousands of miles to meet him in person for the first time—and to marry him. Their meeting in Andhra Pradesh culminated in a beautiful and emotional moment, as they decided to begin their new journey together as husband and wife. Sharing



the news with her followers, Jaclyn posted on Instagram: “14 months together and ready for a BIG new chapter,” signaling their next step as a couple. Their story has since gone viral, winning hearts across the globe for its sincerity and fairytale-like essence. Social media users have been showering the couple



with love and well wishes, calling their bond an inspiring example of love that knows no boundaries—be it geography, culture, or age. The couple's journey has not only become a trending topic but also a reminder that true love can bloom anywhere, even between two people from opposite sides of the world.

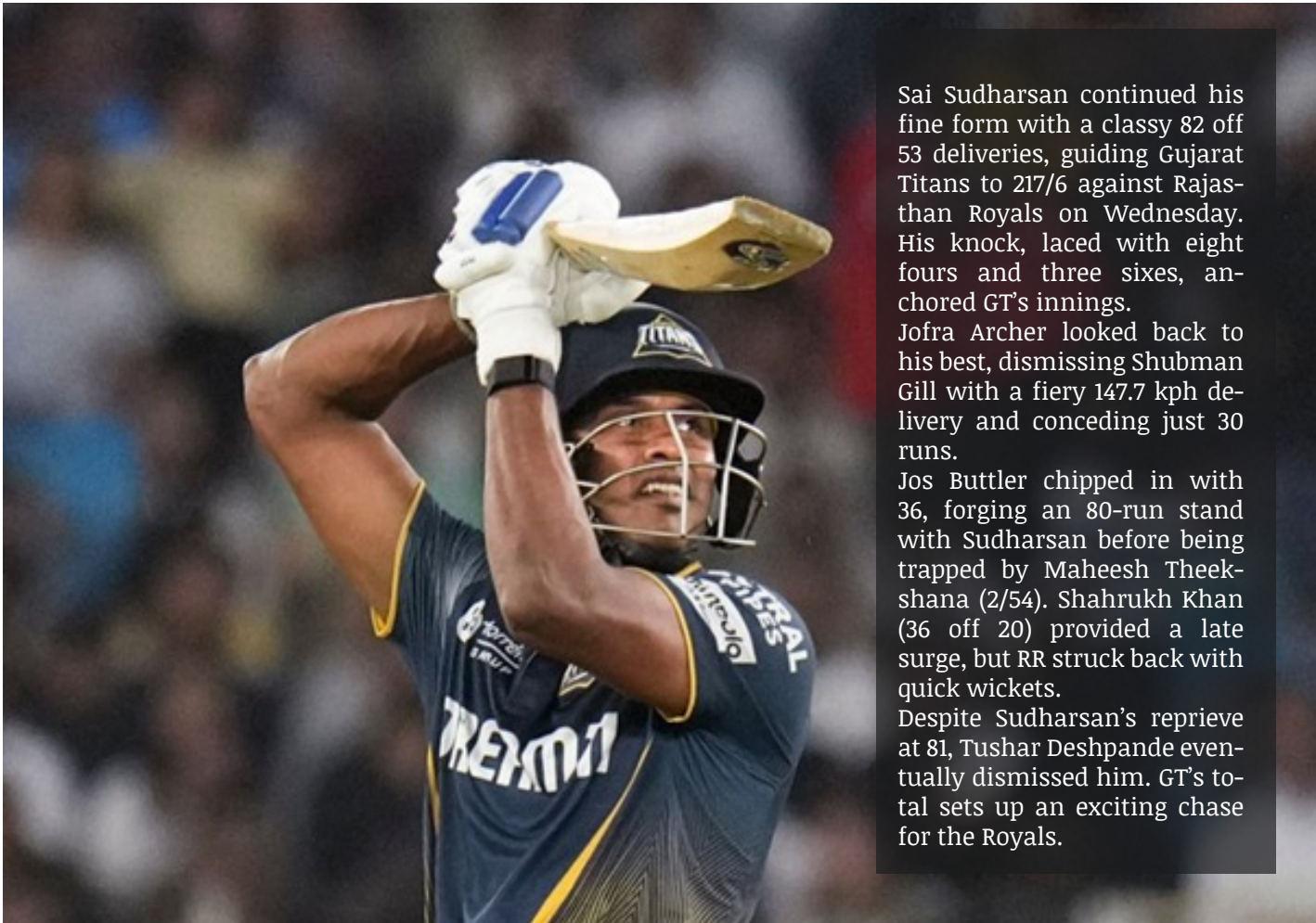




## Much-Awaited Pro Panja League Season 2 to Begin on August 5

The adrenaline-packed Pro Panja League is all set to make its much-anticipated return with Season 2 kicking off on August 5, right after the conclusion of India's Test series against England on August 4. The competition will once again be telecast on Sony Sports Network, bringing top arm wrestlers from across the country into the spotlight. Following a successful debut season, which saw Kochi KD's clinch the title in a nail-biting final, the Pro Panja League will follow a franchise-based IPL-style format across 17 action-filled days. With a strong base already established, the league aims to grow even further this year. According to BARC data, Season 1 attracted over 32 million unique viewers, outperforming many new sports leagues in India. The momentum is now set to continue, with fans eagerly awaiting the clash of power, skill, and strategy on the panja table. Parvinn Dabass, co-founder of the league, expressed enthusiasm over the response the league has garnered. "We were overwhelmed with the response to Season 1. Arm wrestling has grown immensely since then, and Season 2 is going to be even bigger. Athletes are more prepared, and fans can expect unmatched entertainment." He also highlighted the recent Mizoram Mega Matches, where attendance surged between 15,000 to 20,000, reflecting the sport's growing fan base. "This is no longer just a game played at tea stalls—it's now a full-fledged professional sport."

## Sai Sudharsan's 82 Powers Gujarat Titans to 217/6 Against Royals



Sai Sudharsan continued his fine form with a classy 82 off 53 deliveries, guiding Gujarat Titans to 217/6 against Rajasthan Royals on Wednesday. His knock, laced with eight fours and three sixes, anchored GT's innings. Jofra Archer looked back to his best, dismissing Shubman Gill with a fiery 147.7 kph delivery and conceding just 30 runs. Jos Buttler chipped in with 36, forging an 80-run stand with Sudharsan before being trapped by Maheesh Theekshana (2/54). Shahrukh Khan (36 off 20) provided a late surge, but RR struck back with quick wickets. Despite Sudharsan's reprieve at 81, Tushar Deshpande eventually dismissed him. GT's total sets up an exciting chase for the Royals.



### ISPL Sensation Abhishek Dalhor Joins KKR as Net Bowler for IPL

After two stellar seasons in the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL), all-rounder Abhishek Kumar Dalhor has been selected by Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) as a net bowler for the ongoing IPL season. Dalhor, hailing from Ambala, rose to prominence with Majhi Mumbai, the Amitabh Bachchan-owned team, and played a key role in their title-winning campaign in ISPL Season 2. He amassed 324 runs and took 33 wickets in just 19 games, earning accolades such as Player of the Tournament (Season 1) and Best Bowler (Season 2). His inspiring journey—from street tennis-ball cricket to becoming the most expensive player in ISPL history—reflects the league's impact on grassroots cricket.

## Telangana Police Marksmen Bag 7 Medals at National Shooting Championship

Telangana Police shooting players brought pride to the state by winning 7 medals at the 18th All India Police Sports Shooting Championship held at Reoti Ranges, BSF, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, from March 24 to 29, 2025.

In the individual event, PC E. Raj Kumar from 8th Battalion TGSP, Kondapur, won a silver medal in the Big Bore 300 mts Rifle 3 Position (3P) Men's category with a score of 572/600. The women's team – WASI V. Suvarna (CP Warangal), WRHC M. Vijayamma (GRP Secunderabad), and

WPC Ch. Madhavi (CAR Nizamabad) – bagged 3 silver medals in the Big Bore 300 mts Rifle Prone Team Event.

In the men's team event, ARSI K. Srinivas Rao (RBVRR, TGPA), HC K. Shyam Sunder (ISW, Hyderabad), and PC K. Raj Kumar (DAR Kamareddy) secured 3 bronze medals in the same category.

DGP Dr. Jitender, IPS, congratulated and felicitated the medal winners. IGP (Sports) M. Ramesh and DSP (Sports) Ramarao were present



during the event, lauding the players' dedication and performance.



## Uttarakhand CM Flags Off Team for Khelo Masters National Championship

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami flagged off the state contingent for the fourth Khelo Masters National Championship from his Camp Office on Wednesday. The national-level tournament will take place in New Delhi from April 11 to 13 and features competitions across eight disciplines including athletics, football, basketball, hockey, shooting, badminton, table tennis, and volleyball. The Chief Minister extended best wishes to all participants and credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for boosting sports culture and infrastructure across India. He noted that Uttarakhand's new sports policy is focused on supporting athletes through better facilities and opportunities. The Uttarakhand team will participate under the leadership of Dr. Virendra Singh Rawat, Vice President of the Khelo Masters Games Foundation of Uttarakhand. Athletes from three age groups—40+, 50+, and 60+—will represent the state in football, while athletics will include participants from the 40+ and 70+ categories. Several dignitaries and sports enthusiasts were present during the flag-off ceremony, expressing support for the team's success at the national championship.

## Gloves Off, Legacy On: WLF Confirms Return of Bare Knuckle Fighting in Dubai this November



In a bold move that reshaped the global fight calendar, the World League of Fighters (WLF), in partnership with the Dubai Sports Council, successfully hosted Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship (BKFC) 71 and 72 at the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Stadium on April 4th and 5th. The back-to-back events featured 44 elite fighters in two electrifying nights of bare-knuckle action, marking the sport's official entry into the Middle East. Co-founders Rajesh Banga and Sunil Mathew called it a "new legacy for combat sports," as fans embraced the unfiltered brutality and authenticity that bare-knuckle fighting offers. UFC legend Conor McGregor's high-profile attendance gave the event a global boost. With the response exceeding expectations, WLF has now confirmed that Chapter 2 of BKFC in Dubai will return in November 2025. Backed by international icons and the Dubai Sports Council, WLF is on a mission to make the UAE the epicentre of combat sports' most explosive new chapter.

## DSC Girls' U-17 Nationals: Jharkhand Score 6 in Goal Fest

The Dream Sports Championship Football 2025 Girls' U-17 National Finals kicked off on Wednesday with a flurry of exciting matches and standout performances. Jharkhand FA lit up the day with a resounding 6-2 victory over Goa FA at the Utorada Sports Complex. Rashmi Minz opened the scoring, while captain Alka Indwar, Sanjna Oraon, Anamika Sangga (brace), and Shaulina Dang added to the tally in a dominant display. At SAG Benaulim, Kerala FA secured a 2-0 win over Delhi SA with goals from Meenakshi and Anjana Rajesh. Odisha FA edged past Rajasthan FA 1-0, thanks to a 44th-minute strike by Kiran Deep. In the morning session, Assam FA defeated Karnataka FA 2-0. Karina Narah and Serbirika Terangpi were on target for Assam, sealing a strong start in the tournament.







## NTR-Neel Film Enters Key Phase

The much-anticipated collaboration between Jr. NTR and director Prashanth Neel, famed for KGF and Salaar, is gaining momentum. Touted as a massive action drama, the film's production is progressing swiftly. While NTR hasn't been part of the initial shoot, the wait is nearly over—he will join the sets from April 22. This marks a crucial turning point in the project, with excitement peaking among fans eager to see this powerful duo in action. The film, mounted on a grand scale, is set for a pan-India release in multiple languages including Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada,



Malayalam, and more. With both star power and directorial flair in abundance, expectations are sky-

high for what promises to be one of Indian cinema's most explosive cinematic events.

## Rajamouli Eyes RRR Date Again

Director S.S. Rajamouli is reportedly planning to release his highly anticipated film SSMB29, starring Mahesh Babu, on March 25, 2027—the same date his global blockbuster RRR hit theatres in 2022. The action-adventure, touted as India's costliest film with a massive ₹1,000 crore budget, began production in January 2025. Two major schedules have already been completed in Hyderabad and Odisha, featuring stars like Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Prithviraj Sukumaran. The team is currently on a short break, with filming set to resume in Hyderabad later this month. March 25, 2027, lands just ahead of the Good Friday holiday and the Telugu New Year, Ugadi, offering a lucrative extended weekend. While not officially confirmed, the release date speculation has already created buzz across the film industry and fans alike.

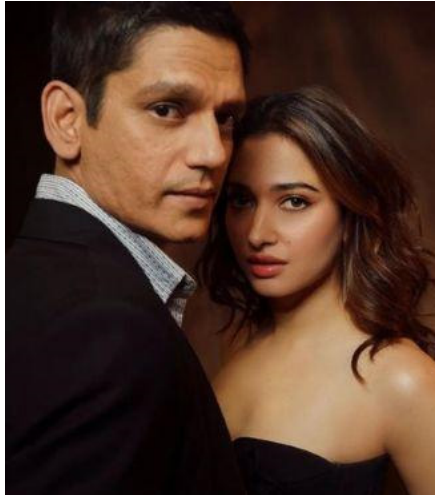


## Dhanush, Mari Selvaraj Reunite For D56



Four years after the critically acclaimed Karnan, Dhanush and director Mari Selvaraj are reuniting for their next film, tentatively titled D56. Announced on April 9, the project marks a powerful comeback for the celebrated actor-director duo. The film is being produced by Ishari Ganesh under the Vels Films International banner. Karnan, released in 2021, was praised for its raw storytelling and intense social themes, with Dhanush delivering one of his finest performances. The news of their reunion has stirred excitement among fans and cinephiles, who expect another hard-hitting narrative. Currently, Dhanush is also filming Tere Ishk Mein with Kriti Sanon, directed by Aanand L. Rai, with music by A.R. Rahman. With D56, Dhanush is all set to add another milestone to his stellar filmography.

## Tamannaah Opens Up on Tough Time



At the trailer launch of her upcoming Telugu film Odela 2 in Mumbai, Tamannaah Bhatia hinted at going through an emotional rough patch, possibly linked to her rumored breakup with Vijay Var-

ma. Though she didn't name anyone, her cryptic response about inner strength and self-reflection spoke volumes. "Jo bhi hume chahiye, woh humare andar hi hota hai," she said, implying that healing comes from within. Meanwhile, in another headline-making revelation, Om Puri's first wife shared that she left the veteran actor during her pregnancy due to his affair, adding a dramatic twist to the late actor's personal history. Both stories have sparked buzz, highlighting how deeply personal moments continue to unfold in the public eye of Indian cinema.

## Raashii Khanna Cheers for Raid 2



Actress Raashii Khanna has joined the growing excitement surrounding Raid 2, starring Ajay Devgn, Vaani Kapoor, and Riteish Deshmukh. After the gripping trailer dropped on April 4, Raashii took to Instagram to share her reaction, calling it "intense and fierce" and added she's "looking forward" to watching it. Directed by Raj Kumar Gupta, Raid 2 is all set to release on May 1 and continues the legacy of its successful predecessor. With powerful visuals and a taut storyline, the film is already generating major buzz. Raashii, who recently starred in The Sabarmati Report, also tagged the lead actors in her post, giving a shoutout to the team as anticipation builds for the action-packed drama.

Urvashi Rautela just set the style bar sky-high as the stunning cover girl of Masala Magazine. Ditching filters for fierce realness, she rocked a glittering golden low-neck gown that shimmered with every move. Adding to the glam was a bold thigh-high slit, a sleek silver necklace, and a voluminous curly high bun that channeled retro diva energy with a chic modern twist. Her look was a perfect mix of elegance, edge, and full-on drama—turning heads and stealing spotlights effortlessly. With this sizzling photoshoot, Urvashi proves once again that she doesn't just follow trends—she creates moments.

## Urvashi Rautela's Golden Glam Bomb

