

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 33 °C L 25 °C	H 35 °C L 26 °C	H 36 °C L 26 °C



Kavitha Praises Jagan 2.0, Fires at Pawan Kalyan in Explosive Interview

TPN, Correspondent| Hyderabad

In a sensational interview given to an English news channel, BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha made bold remarks on the current political dynamics in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Speaking candidly, she showered praise on YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, the former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, describing him as a “fighter with strong opposition qualities” and saying she really likes the energy of Jagan 2.0.

Kavitha noted that Jagan has faced immense struggles in his political journey and is now putting up

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- 400-acre land dispute intensifies
- Central committee inspects HCU area
- BRS submits documents, visuals
- Harish Rao blames state govt
- Final report to Supreme Court

TPN, Correspondent| Hyderabad

The 400-acre land dispute in Kanch Gachibowli, located in the Serilingampally zone of Ranga Reddy district, continues to stir political unrest in Telangana. Amid growing concerns and legal complexities, a Central Empowered Committee (CEC) constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests visited Hyderabad Central University (HCU) to inspect the contentious site.

The CEC’s visit followed the directive of the Supreme Court, which called for a detailed ground-level examination of the area to assess possible environmental violations and land misuse. The committee conducted on-site in-

spections and is preparing a comprehensive report to be submitted to the apex court soon.

Meanwhile, a team of BRS leaders led by former Minister Harish Rao met with the Central Committee and submitted their own detailed report. The report included legal documents, photographic evidence, and video visuals supporting their claims regarding the land.

Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan, Harish Rao alleged that the state government had violated forest conservation laws by sending bulldozers into the area without due process. He claimed that trees were felled without permission from the forest department, resulting

Telangana Land Row: BRS Meets Central Committee Over Gachibowli Dispute

in the death of wildlife in the region. Rao emphasized that according to the WALTA Act, any tree felling requires online approval—a process he says the government blatantly ignored. Harish Rao further accused the current government of bypassing environmental norms, aggravating ecological damage within the HCU vicinity. The BRS submission to the committee also highlighted the alleged administrative negligence of the forest department, which they claim failed to intervene on time.

With inputs from both the Telangana government and BRS leaders, the Central Committee will now analyze the claims and observations before



submitting a final report to the Supreme Court. The decision is expected to

have lasting implications on land governance and environmental policy en-

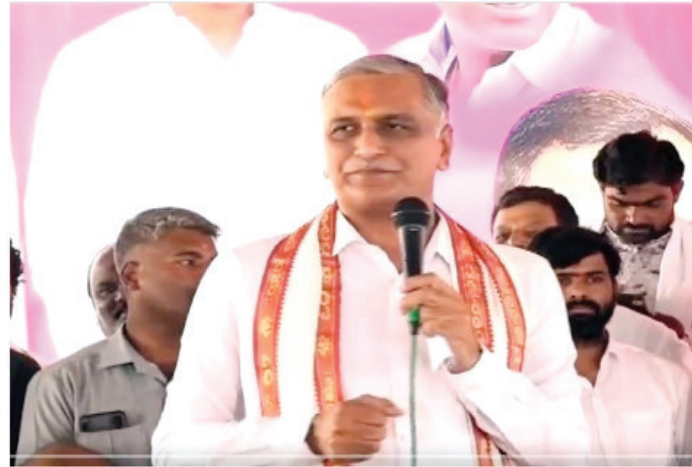
forcement in Hyderabad’s fast-expanding urban zones.

Kanch Gachibowli Land Row: Harish Rao Blames Government for Tree Felling, Animal Deaths

TPN, Correspondent| Hyderabad

The controversy surrounding the 400 acres of land at Kanch Gachibowli in Serilingampally, Ranga Reddy district, continues to intensify. Former minister and BRS leader Harish Rao held a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, accusing the state government of environmental negligence and violating forest laws.

Harish Rao questioned the silence of forest authorities while thousands of trees were allegedly cut down within the Hyderabad Central University (HCU) area. He highlighted that, as per WALTA Act norms, even felling one tree requires prior permis-



sion through an online application. However, the government had not taken any such permissions before deploying 50 bulldozers to flatten the green zone, he alleged.

He further claimed that due to this action, at least three deer were killed.

Drawing a strong comparison, he said, “Bollywood actor Salman Khan was jailed for killing one deer. Now three deer have died here — is CM Revanth not responsible?”

The BRS leader presented visual evidence and documents to the Central

- Thousands of trees cut recklessly
- Forest officials failed to respond
- 50 bulldozers razed green cover
- Three deer reportedly killed
- Harish Rao slams government action

Empowered Committee, which visited the site for a field-level inquiry following Supreme Court directives. He insisted that the state government bypassed all forest protection norms and did not involve the forest department in its actions.

He also slammed the authorities for their double standards: “If a poor

man cuts a single tree, he’s booked. But the government clears acres of trees and the forest officials remain asleep. This is total negligence.”

Harish Rao demanded accountability and a full report to be submitted to the Supreme Court, ensuring justice and protection for both the environment and local residents.

Invest in Telangana Tourism:

Jupally Krishna Rao Urges South Asian Investors



TPN, Correspondent| Hyderabad

Telangana Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao made a strong pitch for investments in the state’s tourism sector during the 20th South Asia Hotel Investment Confer-

ence held at Powai Lake, Mumbai on Thursday. Addressing a gathering of domestic and international investors, the minister highlighted the state’s investor-friendly policies and

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“Young India Police School is My Brand” – Telangana CM Revanth Reddy



TPN, Correspondent| Hyderabad

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy made a bold and defining statement on Thursday, de-

claring the Young India Police School as his personal and political brand. Speaking after inaugurating the newly built school near the Greyhounds

- Revanth inaugurates police school
- Declares school as his identity
- Credits NTR, YSR, Naidu legacies
- Criticizes Telangana movement claims
- Vows youth-focused development

campus in Manchirevula, Ranga Reddy district, Revanth said the initiative would symbolize his legacy as CM.

Drawing parallels with past leaders, he said, “NTR will be remembered for ₹2 per kilo rice, Chandrababu Naidu for developing IT, and YSR for launching Aarogyasri. In the same

way, when people think of the Young India Police School, they will remember me. This is my brand.”

CM Revanth emphasized that the school stands for a new vision — preparing disciplined, service-oriented youth for the future. He underlined the need to build institutions that empower young

minds with a sense of national duty and discipline.

In a veiled criticism of some BRS leaders, he said, “Some claim the Telangana movement as their personal brand and take sadistic pleasure in it. But I want my brand to be one of progress and youth empowerment.”

The school is aimed at nurturing leadership, patriotism, and public service values among the state’s youth, aligning with the CM’s vision of a modern, progressive Telangana. His remarks reflect a clear attempt to shape a distinct political identity, centered on innovation and development.



NIA’s First Statement After Tahawwur Rana Extradition

- 26/11 Mumbai attacks accused Tahawwur Rana extradited from the US to India
- NIA says years of sustained efforts led to the extradition
- US courts, including Supreme Court, rejected all of Rana’s appeals

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Tahawwur Hussain Rana, one of the key conspirators in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks,

has been extradited to India from the United States and landed in Delhi on Wednesday. This marks

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1st Page Cont..

Kavitha Praises Jagan 2.0, Fires at Pawan Kalyan in Explosive Interview

a strong fight as Leader of the Opposition. “I genuinely like him. He’s a solid political fighter and is doing very well as an opposition leader,” she said.

Taking a sharp dig at Pawan Kalyan, she remarked that it’s unfortunate he became the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. “He was once a Leftist in ideology, but now ended up in BJP’s fold,” she criticized, pointing at his inconsistency in political allegiance.

When asked about her political preferences, Kavitha stated that her favorite leader will always be KCR, her father and the founder of BRS. She also appreciated Sonia Gandhi, calling her a good leader with a significant role in national politics.

Regarding Telangana, Kavitha expressed strong confidence in BRS’s continued momentum, saying the party is still very much active and aggressive despite facing challenges.

Her comments come at a time when political alliances and rivalries are reshaping across Telugu states, adding more fuel to the evolving post-election political landscape.

Invest in Telangana Tourism: Jupally Krishna Rao Urges South Asian Investors

vibrant hospitality landscape under the Congress-led government. Jupally emphasized that Telangana’s new tourism policy has created a conducive environment for growth, particularly through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models. He urged South Asian investors to explore opportunities across multiple verticals like temple tourism, eco-tourism, adventure, heritage, medical and wellness tourism.

He assured investors of comprehensive support including attractive incentives and facilitation for project execution. “Our vision is to position Telangana as the top destination for both national and international tourists,” he said.

The state has set an ambitious target of ₹15,000 crore in investments by 2030, aiming to create over 3 lakh employment opportunities and register double-digit growth in tourist inflows. Jupally reiterated Telangana’s commitment to becoming one of the top five tourist-friendly states in India by the end of the decade.

By fostering a culture of innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity in tourism development, the minister expressed confidence that Telangana would soon emerge as a model destination for global tourists and investors alike.

NIA’s First Statement After Tahawwur Rana Extradition

a major development in India’s pursuit of justice for the victims of the deadly attacks that killed 166 people and injured over 238.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), in its first official statement after the extradition, said that Rana’s return to India is the result of “sustained and concerted efforts to bring the key conspirator behind the 2008 mayhem to justice.”

Rana, who was held in judicial custody in the US, had faced extradition proceedings initiated under the India-US Extradition Treaty. The process reached its final stage after the US District Court for the Central District of California ordered his extradition on May 16, 2023.

Following the ruling, Rana filed multiple appeals—including in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the US Supreme Court, and various petitions such as writs of certiorari and habeas corpus—all of which were dismissed.

With full cooperation from the US Department of Justice, the extradition process culminated in Rana being flown to India on a special aircraft. The NIA, along with Indian intelligence agencies, the National Security Guard (NSG), Ministry of External Affairs, and Ministry of Home Affairs, worked in tandem to bring him back.

Rana is accused of collaborating with David Coleman Headley alias Daood Gilani, as well as Pakistan-based terror groups including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Harkat-ul-Jihadi Islami (HUJI), in orchestrating the 26/11 attacks. The attacks targeted prominent locations in Mumbai including the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, and Nariman House.

This extradition is considered a critical breakthrough in India’s ongoing efforts to bring all perpetrators of the 26/11 attacks to justice.

Sridhar Babu’s Powerful Speech at Young India Police School Inauguration

- A historic first for Telangana
- Honoring police with action, not words
- World-class education for police families
- Equal access for all police ranks
- Model institution with stakeholder support



TPN, Correspondent|Hyderabad

At the grand inauguration of the Young India Police School near the Greyhounds Campus in Manchirevula, Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu delivered a heartfelt speech, highlighting the significance of this unique initiative dedicated solely to the children of police personnel.

He proudly declared Telangana as the first and only state in India to launch an educational institution exclusively for the families of police officers — a visionary move that marks a historic milestone.

“Policing is like walking a tightrope. Their sacrifices are immense. If society enjoys peace today, it’s only because of their relentless commitment. Whatever we do for them can never match what they truly deserve,” Sridhar Babu said, honoring

the courage and service of the police force.

The minister reaffirmed the government’s commitment to police welfare, pledging to transform the Young India Police School into one of India’s finest institutions over the next decade. “This school will be developed on par with international standards. Whether the child of a Home Guard or a DGP, every student here will have equal access to high-quality education and holistic development,” he emphasized.

He further highlighted the government’s larger vision to uplift public education and healthcare, bringing them up to par with private institutions. The minister also extended

ed gratitude to the generous donors and promised inclusive development by involving all stakeholders.

Concluding his address, Sridhar Babu expressed confidence that this school would nurture future-ready citizens and become a model institution not just for Telangana, but for the entire country.

Grading for Anganwadi Centers Soon: Minister Seethakka’s Strict Instructions

TPN, Correspondent|Hyderabad

In a decisive move to strengthen child welfare and nutrition in Telangana, Women and Child Welfare Minister Seethakka announced that Anganwadi Centers across the state will soon be assessed and graded based on their performance. The announcement came during a comprehensive review meeting held today.

Minister Seethakka emphasized the need for complete operational efficiency in all centers, aiming for a “Nutrition-Strong Telangana.” She declared that Anganwadi centers earning high grades will be recognized with awards, which will also extend to staff and district officials contributing to that success. Calling for proactive efforts ahead of the up-



coming academic year, Seethakka directed officials to ensure each center is filled with children, stressing that citing a lack of children as an excuse is unacceptable. “Every Anganwadi should have at least 20 children. Centers with low or no enrollment should be relocated to areas with higher demand,” she ordered.

Tough Stand on Quality and Accountability

Warning of strict action for lapses in food quality, Seethakka instructed Anganwadi staff to follow a door-to-door approach, similar to ‘Badi Baata’, to identify and enroll children.

Key concerns highlighted:

- 30 centers have no children.
- 198 centers have few-

- Grading system to be implemented
- Awards for well-performing centers
- Focus on child enrollment rise
- Action on nutrition quality issues
- E-tender mandate for purchases

er than 5 children.

- 586 centers have less than 10.

She criticized some officials for ignoring e-tender rules in purchasing tur dal, instead favoring old contractors through nomination methods. “Why should we face flak for your mistakes?” she questioned sternly, ordering a return to the e-tender process under the district

procurement committees. She further instructed immediate identification and reporting of malnourished children (SAM/MAM) and warned that hiding such cases for image management is damaging to society. She also demanded vigilance against child trafficking, child marriages, and illegal adoptions, calling for strict enforcement of norms.

Minister Tummala Announces New Seed Distribution Program for Farmers Starting June

TPN, Correspondent|Hyderabad

Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has announced a major initiative to benefit farmers across the state. Speaking on Thursday, he stated that a new program titled “Quality Seeds for Every Village” will be launched by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy in the first week of

June. The scheme is being implemented in collaboration with Professor Jayashankar Agricultural University. Under this program, high-quality seeds developed and tested by the university will be distributed directly to farmers. These seeds will be distributed in approximately 12,000 villages, with 3 to 5 progressive and interested farmers from

each village selected to receive them initially. The goal is to encourage seed production at the grassroots level, enabling farmers to become self-reliant in seed availability. The scheme will cover five major crops: paddy, red gram, green gram, black gram, and jowar. An estimated 2,500 to 3,000 quintals of seeds will be distributed to around 40,000 farmers



during the initial phase. Minister Tummala emphasized that this initiative will not only protect farmers from fake seeds but also ensure a 10-15%

increase in crop yields due to the use of quality seeds. Over the next three years, farmers who receive the seeds will produce and sell them at low prices within their own villages, making quality seeds accessible to all farmers locally.

Ultimately, this initiative is expected to increase farmer income and enhance agricultural productivity across the state.

Telangana Government Takes Key Step for Gulf Workers’ Welfare – Committee Formed for Comprehensive NRI Policy

TPN, Correspondent|Hyderabad

With a growing number of Telangana youth migrating to Gulf countries in search of employment, many have fallen victim to fraudulent job offers and exploitation. Numerous tragic incidents have been reported where workers, unable

to cope with harsh conditions abroad, have lost their lives. Recognizing these issues, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had earlier pledged to address the plight of Gulf workers.

Taking a major step towards this promise, the Telangana government has now initiated action

for the welfare of Gulf migrant workers by forming a committee to draft a Comprehensive NRI Policy. A government order (GO) to this effect was issued today by Chief Secretary Shanthi Kumari.

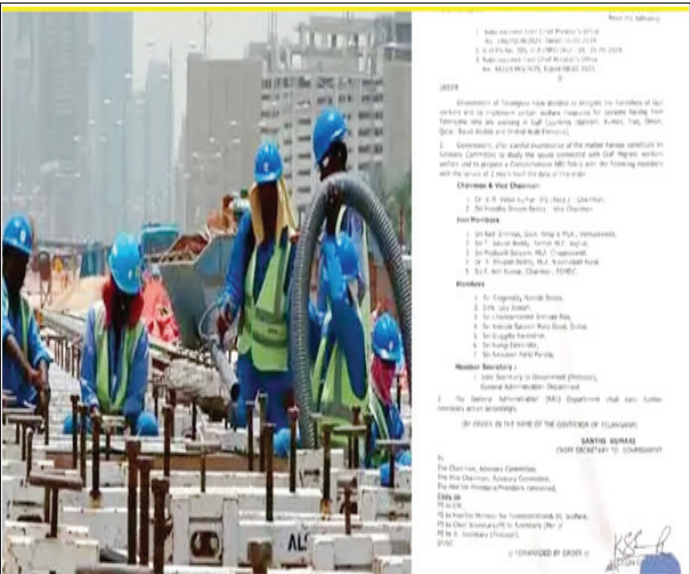
As per the GO, IFS officer Dr. B.M. Vinod Kumar will serve as the Chairman of the Committee,

with Manda Bheem Reddy as the Vice Chairman. The committee comprises 15 members, including Telangana MLAs Aadi Srinivas, Medipally Satyam, Bhupathi Reddy, MLC Jeevan Reddy, TGMDC Chairman Anil Kumar, as well as NRI experts and migrant representatives.

The committee is

tasked with examining the challenges faced by Gulf workers and providing recommendations for a comprehensive migration policy.

This move is expected to strengthen support systems for migrant workers and ensure their rights and welfare are adequately protected.





Minister Uttam's Key Comments on Fine Rice Distribution in Telangana



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
In a significant move aimed at eradicating hunger among the poor, the Telangana government has initiated the distribution of fine rice (sanna biyyam) through the Public Distribution System (PDS). This marks a major shift in ration policy to ensure quality food for economically weaker sections. The government has start-

ed distributing 6 kg of fine rice per person to around 3.10 crore beneficiaries across the state.

While the distribution process has already begun in districts excluding Hyderabad, ministers and local MLAs are actively participating in launching the initiative in various constituencies. In a symbolic gesture, several public repre-

sentatives are also sharing meals with beneficiaries at their homes.

Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy made key remarks on the program, stating that public representatives must engage directly with the people. He pointed out that earlier, 24 lakh metric tonnes of coarse rice were being distributed, whereas now the

government is supplying 30 lakh metric tonnes of fine rice. This transition has led to an increase in expenditure from ₹10,665 crore to ₹13,600 crore, alongside an addition of 29 lakh new ration cards. The minister emphasized that this initiative reflects the government's strong commitment to food security and quality welfare.

Congress MLA Refers to Uttam Kumar Reddy as CM – Video Goes Viral



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
In an embarrassing moment for the Telangana Congress, party MLA Mandu Sameer mistakenly referred to Uttam Kumar Reddy as the Chief Minister instead of the actual CM Revanth Reddy. The incident took place during a press meet at Gandhi Bhavan in Nampally on Thursday. While addressing the media, Sameer said, "As per the directions of AICC leader Rahul Gandhi, our Chief Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy and Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka are working efficiently," accidentally giving the CM title to Uttam.

The slip of the tongue was caught on camera and has since gone viral on social media, sparking reactions from both the public and political opponents. The opposition BRS party seized the opportunity to criticize Congress, mocking that even their own MLAs don't remember who the Chief Minister is. They pointed to this incident as proof of internal confusion and lack of coordination within the ruling party.

This isn't the first time such a mistake has occurred—former MLA Jagga Reddy had earlier forgotten CM Revanth Reddy's name during a public speech. The latest blunder has fueled criticism and become a trending topic in political circles across the state.

No Differences with Revenue Minister: Jadcherla MLA Anirudh Reddy Clarifies

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Jadcherla MLA Anirudh Reddy clarified on Thursday that he has no differences with Telangana Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. Addressing the media, he stated, "My fight is only with revenue officials, not with the minister."

He raised serious allegations regarding the Vamsiram Manhattan project, claiming that the construction was being carried out on 27 acres of government land that was allocated during the previous BRS regime. "I only make allegations when I have evidence. I will continue my fight until that land is reclaimed by the government," he asserted.

Anirudh Reddy also revealed that in the Jadcherla constituency alone, about 700 acres of government land had been encroached upon. He emphasized that his commitment is to protect public resources and ensure government land is not misused, regardless of who is involved. His strong statements have stirred political discussions, especially given their timing amidst ongoing scrutiny over land issues and past government allocations.



Former Bodhan MLA Shakeel Arrested in Hyderabad

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Former Bodhan MLA Shakeel was arrested by Telangana police upon his arrival at Shamshabad Airport from Dubai, where he had been staying. He returned to attend his mother's funeral, and was detained at the airport as part of an ongoing investigation.

As a humanitarian gesture, police granted Shakeel temporary permission to participate in his mother's last rites. However, sources confirm that he will be formally arrested following the completion of the funeral proceedings.

The arrest is linked to a car accident involv-

ing Shakeel's son, which tragically led to the deaths of two individuals. Allegations suggest that Shakeel attempted to shield his son by implicating the family driver in the case, and illegally sent his son to Dubai to avoid legal action.

Authorities claim that Shakeel tampered with evidence and obstructed the investigation, prompting police to initiate his arrest. The case has drawn significant public and media attention, particularly regarding attempts to misuse influence to divert justice. Further legal proceedings are expected to unfold following the arrest.



Tungaturthi MLA Demands Ministerial Post for Madiga Community



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Tungaturthi MLA Mandula Samail has strongly demanded that the Madiga community be given a ministerial berth in the Telangana state cabinet. Speaking to the media at Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday, he stated that he, along with others, met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and appealed for due representation of the Madigas in the cabinet.

He emphasized that only the Congress party can ensure justice for SCs, and highlighted the significance of Scheduled Caste categorization, thanking Governor, CM Revanth Reddy, SC Categorization Sub-Committee Chair-

man Uttam Kumar Reddy, Vice Chairman Damodar Rajanarasimha, and One-Man Commission Chairman Shameem Akhtar for supporting the cause. He added that Article 3 of the Constitution played a pivotal role in this categorization.

The MLA also lauded Rahul Gandhi for launching the "Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan" campaign to protect Sanatan values and constitutional rights across India. He stated that in Telangana, communal and divisive forces will not find ground, and reiterated his commitment to social justice and equal representation for all marginalized communities.

MP Raghunandan Rao Slams BRS Over HCU Land Issue



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
BJP MP Raghunandan Rao came down heavily on BRS leaders, questioning their silence and inaction over the Hyderabad Central University (HCU) land issue during their ten-year rule. He specifically targeted K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) and Harish Rao, asking, "What did the brothers-in-law do for 10 years?"

The issue gained national attention recently after the Supreme Court's Empowered Committee on Environment and Forest visited the Kancha Gachibowli lands within HCU premises. BJP leaders from Telangana met with the committee during its inspection.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Raghunandan Rao accused BRS and Congress of having the same agenda — to sell off valuable public lands. He alleged that during the BRS regime, university lands were carelessly allotted and permissions were given to lay roads through the area without proper authorization.

He ridiculed KTR and Harish Rao, saying they are now pretending to be concerned, but acted like "thieves defending thieves" after being inactive for a decade. The BJP MP questioned their sudden interest in the matter and demanded accountability for what he termed as a massive land scam.

“Harish Rao’s is a One-Sided Love” – MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy’s Sharp Remarks

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
BRS senior leader Harish Rao is in a one-sided love with former CM and BRS chief KCR, but KCR doesn't love him back, said Congress MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, sparking political buzz with his fiery comments. Addressing the media at Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday, Chamala remarked, "Harish Rao has affection for KCR, but KCR has no love for Harish — it's pure one-sided."

He added that he doesn't have the authority to invite Harish Rao into the Congress, but said Harish is free to go anywhere if he chooses to — "but he can't leave his mama (uncle)," he quipped.

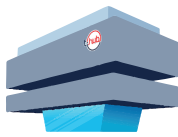
Responding strongly to Harish

Rao's earlier statement that "KCR built Telangana and Revanth Reddy brought it down," Chamala shot back: "Who brought it down? The ones who dragged a surplus state into ₹7 lakh crore debt?"

He went on to contrast Revanth Reddy's governance by highlighting schemes like integrated schools, 200 free electricity units, ₹500 bonus on paddy, farm loan waivers, free bus travel for women, and ₹500 gas cylinders — as signs of building up the state, not tearing it down.

Taking a personal jab, Chamala said, "Harish Rao has eyes but can't see, ears but can't hear — he's in total denial."





CM Revanth Reddy Plays Football with Students at Manchirevula!

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy once again showed his sporty side by playing football with students, this time at Manchirevula. Earlier, he was seen playing with students at Hyderabad Central University, and on Thursday, he repeated the gesture during the inauguration of the newly built Young India Police School in Manchirevula.

The school is constructed within the Greyhounds campus and modeled after Sainik Schools. After reviewing the school's infrastructure and interacting with officials, CM Revanth inaugurated the football ground and joined students for a lively game of soccer.

The video of the Chief Minister playing football has gone viral on social media, winning hearts

once again for his friendly approach toward youth. He was accompanied by Minister Sridhar Babu and local MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy during the event.

This gesture highlights the CM's continued focus on youth engagement, education, and sports development across Telangana.



Family Feud Turns Public

Manoj vs Vishnu in Manchu Household Drama



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
The long-brewing tensions in the Manchu Mohan Babu family have erupted into a full-blown public feud. Actor Manchu Manoj staged a protest outside the Jallapalli farmhouse, demanding entry and accusing his brother, Manchu Vishnu, of stealing his cars and household items. He claimed the incident occurred while he was away in Rajasthan for his daughter's birthday.

Manoj also lodged a complaint with the Pahadi Shareef police, intensifying the already high-voltage drama. The situation prompted Rachakonda Commissioner CP Sudheer Babu to issue a stern warning to both sides, but the conflict remains unresolved.

Insiders suggest that the dispute stems from Manoj's second marriage to Bhuma Mounika in March 2023, which reportedly did not receive the family's approval. Others claim the rift deepened over disagreements surrounding the high-budget film Kannappa, which Vishnu and Mohan Babu allegedly financed by mortgaging family properties — a move Manoj was reportedly against.

Adding fuel to the fire, Manoj alleged that sugar was poured into his generator and that he was denied entry into a school in Tirupati on his mother's birthday. Meanwhile, Mohan Babu secured a High Court order denying Manoj access to the farmhouse. The once close-knit Manchu family now finds itself under intense public scrutiny, with the feud becoming a hot topic in Tollywood and on social media.

STREE Summit 2025: HCSC Leads Empowerment Drive for Women's Safety in Hyderabad

- Empowering women through safety and awareness
- Promoting inclusive spaces for all
- Supporting women entrepreneurs to rise
- Policymakers and experts join forces
- Community-driven safety and equality focus

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
The Hyderabad City Security Council (HCSC) is set to host the second edition of its flagship event, STREE Summit 2025, focused on empowering women in the areas of safety, security, and entrepreneurship. The summit will be held on April 15 from 10 AM at Hotel Taj Deccan, Banjara Hills, and aims to promote inclusive and safe spaces for women and girls, in alignment with the UN Women's global theme: "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment."

The summit will feature panel discussions, keynote talks, interactive workshops, and networking opportunities, bringing together law enforcement, women leaders, entrepreneurs, civil society members, and safety experts. The event seeks to address gender-based safety concerns while encouraging women to take leadership in security initiatives and business ventures.

HCSC Chairperson and Hyderabad

Commissioner of Police, Shri C.V. Anand, IPS, said, "Ensuring women's safety is a moral duty. STREE provides a vital platform to unite efforts and create change." Shri C. Shekar Reddy, Secretary General, HCSC, emphasized the need for collaborative action to promote sustainable empowerment. Smt. Geeta Goti, Jt. Secretary of HCSC Women's Forum, added, "STREE includes communities in building safer futures."

The summit also supports women entrepreneurs, aiming to inspire and equip them to launch or expand their ventures, while focusing on those left behind in the development journey.

For registration and updates, participants can visit HCSC's social media platforms. **About HCSC:** A not-for-profit society, HCSC partners with Hyderabad City Police, government bodies, and communities to enhance city-wide safety through collaborative strategies.

Universal Internet and Smart TV Access for All Telangana Homes: Minister Sridhar Babu

- T-Fiber to power every home
- Smart TVs enable remote education
- T-NxT brand to drive digital future
- 33 districts to get internet access
- 60,000 government offices by 2027

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
In a groundbreaking move toward digital inclusivity, Telangana IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu has announced universal high-speed internet access for every home and office across the state's 33 districts under the T-Fiber initiative. Speaking at the launch of T-Fiber's new corporate headquarters in Begumpet, the Minister emphasized the goal of equitable digital connectivity.

Partnering with local cable operators, the state will ensure last-mile connectivity that includes access to television channels and smart TV-enabled educational content, allowing television screens to function as digital learning monitors in remote areas.

The initiative has already connected



8,891 Gram Panchayats in 424 Mandals, with 7,187 more Panchayats ready for onboarding. In 2024 alone, T-Fiber connected 30,000 government offices—with an ambitious target of 60,000 offices by 2027.

Rebranded as T-NxT, the project signifies Telangana's next-gen digital infrastructure. The event also saw the signing of nine MoUs with business partners to

boost project execution and collaboration.

The Minister unveiled T-Fiber's new logo and launched the Telangana Sovereign Cloud, a secure platform to store sensitive government data within the state's digital ecosystem. A new Vision Document was also released, outlining the strategic roadmap ahead.

"This is about more than just connectivity—it's about enabling transformation," said Sridhar Babu, who officially took charge as Chairman of Telangana Fiber Grid Corporation.

The launch was attended by Bhavesh Mishra, Deputy Secretary (IT), Venu Prasad Panneru, MD of T-Fiber, and other senior officials.

Mock Drill by SCR & NDRF at Moula Ali Yard Simulates Train Accident Scenario

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
A joint full-scale mock drill simulating a train accident was conducted on Thursday at Moula Ali Yard by South Central Railway (SCR) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). The exercise aimed to test readiness and coordination among various emergency response teams in case of a real-life rail disaster.

In the simulated scenario, around 15 passengers were trapped in derailed and sealed coaches due to an unusual incident at Moula Ali Yard. Upon receiving the alert, the Accident Relief Train (ART) team rushed to the site, while the Railway Emergency Control Room informed the 10th Battalion NDRF team from Sheikpet, which also promptly arrived to assist in rescue operations.

Various teams including SCR's Self-Propelled Accident Relief Train/Medical Van units, Civil Defence, Railway Protection Force, Medical, Signal & Telecommunication, Electrical, Engineering, Operating, and Commercial staff participated under the leadership of Inspector Gaurav Yadav from NDRF.

The drill, conducted from 10:20 AM to 12:10 PM, included demonstrations of cold-cutting equipment like sabre saws and abrasive cutters to safely rescue passengers and simulate evacuation from derailed coaches.

Senior officials including Principal Chief Safety Officer Venkat Ramana Reddy and DRM Bharatesh Kumar Jain were present and monitored the exercise. The mock drill emphasized improving preparedness, inter-agency coordination, and real-time disaster response efficiency.



High Security Number Plates (HSRP) Mandatory for All Vehicles in Telangana!



Big update for vehicle owners in Telangana – the state's Transport Department has issued a new GO making High Security Registration Plates (HSRP) mandatory for all vehicles registered before April 1, 2019.

Here are the key details:

- HSRP is now compulsory for all vehicles registered before 01.04.2019.
- Vehicle owners must install HSRP before September 30, 2025.
- Legal action will be taken against owners who fail to comply after the deadline.
- Vehicle owners can book HSRP online via the official website: http://siam.in

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
This move aims to enhance road safety and vehicle identification accuracy. The plates come with features like tamper-proof design, unique laser code, and a non-removable snap lock, making them secure and easily traceable in case of theft or misuse. Make sure to book your slot early to avoid last-minute rush and penalties!

Hyderabad Alert: ₹5,000 Fine for Fixing Motors to Water Pipelines!



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Residents of Hyderabad, here's an important alert! If you install a motor to a water pipeline (nalka) to draw excess water at home — be ready to pay a hefty fine of ₹5,000. The Hyderabad Water Board (HMWSSB) has issued a strict warning against this practice. Managing Director Ashok Reddy stated that anyone caught fixing a motor to the water supply line will face:
- Disconnection of their water connection
- A fine of ₹5,000
Officials explained that using motors creates

water pressure issues and disrupts supply to other households, especially in multi-storey buildings or densely populated colonies. So, to ensure fair water distribution, installing motors directly on pipelines is banned. Authorities will be conducting checks, and violators will face immediate action. Bottom line: Avoid installing motors on municipal water lines — it's illegal, disrupts public supply, and will hit your pocket hard!

Saileshwaram Jatara Begins Tomorrow: Telangana's Amarnath Yatra Draws Devotees

TPN,Corrponent|Hyderabad
The much-awaited Saileshwaram Jatara, revered as Telangana's own Amarnath Yatra, is all set to begin from Friday, April 11, in the heart of the picturesque Nallamala forest. The three-day spiritual festival will continue till April 13, drawing devotees from across Telangana and neighbouring states.

Located in a dense forest valley, nestled between hills, waterfalls, and thick greenery, the Linga form of Lord Shiva, known as Lingamayya Swamy, appears majestic-

ly inside a cave. Reaching the shrine is no simple feat—it requires devotees to trek through rugged terrain, cross streams, and navigate thick forest paths on foot.

The serene sounds of nature, from chirping birds to gushing waterfalls, only enhance the divine ambiance as pilgrims make their way through the wilderness. Owing to the challenging route, this jatara is often referred to as the ‘Adventurous Pilgrimage of Telangana.’

Devotees are allowed entry from 7 AM to 6 PM daily during the festival window. In anticipation of heavy footfall, authorities have stepped up arrangements to ensure the safety and smooth movement of pilgrims. Despite the challenges, devotees believe that a glimpse of Lingamayya in the forest cave is worth the effort.

The Saileshwaram Jatara stands as a unique spiritual journey, blending nature, devotion, and adventure, embodying the spirit of Telangana's deep-rooted traditions.



Farmers Deceived at Miryalaguda Market: Support Price Fraud Sparks Outrage



TPN,Corrponent|Miryalaguda
Farmers in Miryalaguda, Nalgonda district, are reeling under what they call a serious betrayal, as alleged malpractice and lack of government oversight have left them without the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their paddy crop.

Despite months of hard work, farmers say they are being offered as low as ₹2,100 per quintal for fine variety paddy, far below the MSP of ₹2,800 to ₹3,000 fixed by the government. With no clarity on official procurement dates, farmers have been forced to wait anxiously at market yards, where middlemen are exploiting the situation.

Many expressed deep anguish over the government's failure to ensure fair pricing. “We toiled day and

night, hoping for a decent return. But what we're facing is pure exploitation,” said one farmer waiting at the Miryalaguda market.

This issue not only reflects a collapse in procurement planning but also exposes how vulnerable the farming community is in the absence of strict enforcement and transparency. Several farmers demanded immediate action to prevent further losses and ensure they receive the support promised by the state.

As the rabi season continues, calls for urgent government intervention grow louder, with farmers pleading for fair prices, timely procurement, and protection from fraudulent practices plaguing local agricultural markets.

Council Chairman Takes Serious Note of Collector Ila Tripathi’s Decision: Show-Cause Notice Issued

TPN,Corrponent|Nalgonda
Telangana Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy has taken strong exception to the decision made by Nalgonda District Collector Ila Tripathi, who allegedly revoked proposals under the MGNREGA (Employment Guarantee Scheme) submitted by the Chairman.

Sources revealed that the proposals, put forth by Gutha Sukhender Reddy, were cancelled without prior consultation, sparking displeasure at the highest level. Reacting strongly to the move, the Telangana Assembly Secretary has now issued a show-cause notice to Collector Tripathi.

The notice reportedly directs the Collector to personally appear before the Council Chairman and offer an explanation regarding her

actions. The incident has sparked heated discussions in political and administrative circles, particularly within the erstwhile Nalgonda district.

Though full details of the proposal and the cancellation remain unclear, insiders suggest that the issue pertains to developmental works that were crucial for local employment generation. The Council Chairman's sharp reaction indicates the seriousness with which protocol violations are being viewed.

As of now, this issue has become a hot topic in regional political circles, raising questions about coordination between elected representatives and the district administration. Further developments are awaited as the Collector prepares her response.



Ganja Gang Attacks Youth in Chandanagar: Locals in Panic Over Rising Violence

TPN,Corrponent|Hyderabad

Panic struck Chandanagar as a group of intoxicated youths—suspected to be part of a ganja gang—launched a violent assault on two young men riding a bike late Wednesday night. The attackers used rods and sticks, leaving the victims severely injured.

The shocking incident took place under the Chandanagar Police Station limits, where the gang al-



in the neighborhood.

legedly roams colonies, creating nuisance and fear among locals. Residents say this is not the first time such an attack has occurred, and they are increasingly worried about the safety of their families.

Following the attack, local residents rushed the injured youths to a nearby hospital for emergency treatment. Videos and reports from the scene reveal the intensity of the assault and the chaos it caused

The injured victim has lodged a formal complaint at the Chandanagar Police Station. Responding promptly, police have registered a case and begun an investigation into the incident. Authorities are also probing the gang's background and possible connections to illegal narcotics distribution in the area.

With residents living in fear of the “ganja gang” menace, they have appealed to the police department to intensify patrolling and take strict action against those involved. The community hopes for swift justice and restoration of peace in their locality.

HYDRA Commissioner Launches HRCS Website to Safeguard Buyers in Real Estate

TPN,Corrponent|Hyderabad

In a significant step towards safeguarding homebuyers and promoting transparency in real estate, HYDRA Commissioner AV Ranganath launched the official website of Housing Requirements Customized Solutions (HRCS India.com) at a ceremony held in LB Nagar, Hyderabad.

Speaking on the occasion, Ranganath emphasized HRCS's mission to assist customers in identifying the right flats, secure bank loans, and most importantly, verify if land or flats fall within FTL (Full Tank Level) areas—all free of cost. “FTL is a term many were unaware of, including myself, before HYDRA came into existence,” he noted.

HYDRA (Hyderabad District Revenue Authority), established by the Telangana government on July 24, 2023, plays a crucial role in protecting government lands, lakes, nalas, and parks from encroachments. The Commissioner ex-



plained that HYDRA was formed by integrating laws from GHMC, Municipal, Irrigation, and Revenue departments.

He also revealed that a HYDRA Police Station will soon be set up to further strengthen enforcement. “People are often confused about what land belongs to the government and what is private. HYDRA brings clarity and authority to resolve these issues,” he said.

Dismissing allegations that HYDRA's actions have hurt the real estate market, Ranganath stated, “It is unfair to blame HYDRA. The platform actually helps protect genuine buyers and weed out exploitative players.” He added that HYDRA has already been to court and now possesses legal backing to act firmly. “HYDRA will always support those working in the public interest,” he concluded.

Protest by Tribal Groups at Krithika Hospital Demanding Justice for Lakshmi

TPN,Corrponent|Hyderabad

Tensions escalated outside Krithika Hospital today as tribal organizations staged a strong protest, demanding justice for Lakshmi, a tribal woman who succumbed to critical injuries following an alleged murder attempt.

Chanting slogans and holding placards, protestors accused the police of failing to apprehend the culprits, despite repeated appeals. Shockingly, tribal leaders alleged that those behind the attack were the same police officials who had earlier been suspended from LB Nagar Police Station for using third-degree torture. They claimed the assault was orchestrated as retaliation.

Amid emotional scenes, Lakshmi's children broke down, inconsolable after losing their mother. As tensions rose, heavy police forces from Rachakonda and Hyderabad were deployed around the hospital to control the situation.



The protest was called off after the RDO intervened and assured the aggrieved family of government support. Officials reaffirmed an earlier promise of 75 square yards of land to the family and assured that Lakshmi's children's education would be fully sponsored by the state. They also vowed to arrest the culprits and ensure strict punishment. Following this assurance, tribal unions

agreed to end the protest. Lakshmi's body was then shifted to Osmania Hospital mortuary under tight police security.

The incident has sparked outrage across tribal communities, who are demanding a transparent investigation and immediate justice.

Bangladesh's New Regime Must Tread Carefully

The evolving political landscape in Bangladesh following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina has led to a perceptible strain in India-Bangladesh relations, particularly in light of recent diplomatic exchanges. At the BIM-STECS summit in Bangkok on April 4, a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh's Interim Adviser stirred controversy, echoing past instances where bilateral talks at the level of foreign ministers and secretaries have been followed by Bangladeshi press briefings emphasizing contentious issues. These post-meeting statements often highlight Bangladeshi demands while downplaying or outright rejecting Indian concerns, fostering a narrative of Dhaka "standing up" to New Delhi. This approach appears to be aligned with the growing anti-India sentiment reportedly prevailing in parts of Bangladesh's new political order. With the Jamaat-e-Islami allegedly exerting significant influence over the current regime, the country is



witnessing shifts that challenge its foundational secular ethos. These include calls for a revised constitution, efforts to push for an Islamic state, increased hostility toward minorities, renewed ties with Pakistan, and attacks on India's traditional diplomatic and cultural partnerships. Particularly telling was a

moment during a Clinton Foundation event in September 2024, when Prime Minister Yunus publicly introduced Mahfouz Alam as the mastermind behind the "revolution" that removed Sheikh Hasina, acknowledging the movement's orchestrated nature. Such statements — perceived as "loose talk" — risk further



damaging the fragile regional balance and may alienate important international partners. The new leadership in Dhaka must understand that diplomacy requires nuance and maturity, not theatrics or polarizing rhetoric. It is vital for the Yunus government to reassure both domestic and international observ-

ers that Bangladesh remains committed to regional cooperation, secular values, and peaceful coexistence. At a time when South Asia's stability is already under stress, any reckless political posturing or ideological regression could invite economic, diplomatic, and strategic consequences that Bangladesh can ill afford.

India-China Tensions Demand Strategic Prudence

India's evolving relationship with China demands far more than diplomatic pleasantries, argues former National Security Advisor M.K. Narayanan in his analysis of the persistent geopolitical unease between the two Asian giants. Under President Xi Jinping, China has abandoned the relatively conciliatory approach of Deng Xiaoping and is instead leaning into a narrative of historical grievance, seeking to reassert its position as a dominant power with ambitions rooted in the past. This self-perception as a "wronged civilization" fuels aggressive maneuvers along its borders, especially with India, as Beijing increasingly invokes the outdated frontiers of the Qing Dynasty to justify present-day territorial claims. Incidents like the border clashes in Depsang (2013), Demchok (2016), Doklam (2017), and Galwan (2020) are not isolated acts but part of a larger strategic blueprint to pressure India into accepting a skewed status quo. Despite seemingly cordial exchanges between Indian and Chinese leaders, Narayanan warns that such diplomatic warmth must be treated with skepticism, particularly when it lacks substantive shifts in behavior from Beijing. While much of the world may interpret these symbolic gestures as signs of a thaw, India—having faced the brunt of China's assertiveness—must remain wary and not mis-

take sentiment for sincerity. The global community's surprise at recent bilateral overtures only underscores its detachment from the ground realities of Sino-Indian tensions. India, Narayanan suggests, should draw lessons from its past misreadings and adopt a pragmatic approach rooted in strategic preparedness rather than optimistic diplomacy. The relative calm during Hu Jintao's leadership, which hinted at a more balanced and stable relationship, now appears to have been a fleeting interlude rather than a long-term trajectory. In contrast, the current Chinese regime's assertive policies call for India to recalibrate its defense, diplomatic, and economic strategies. Multilateral coordination, military modernization, and internal resilience must become pillars of India's China policy, ensuring that any dialogue is backed by deterrence. Narayanan emphasizes that for genuine peace and cooperation to emerge, China must offer more than rhetorical goodwill—it must prove through consistent actions that it respects the sovereignty and strategic autonomy of its neighbors. Until then, India must proceed with caution, guided by historical experience and grounded in realism. As he aptly concludes, it will take far more than lofty words for the "Elephant and the Dragon" to truly dance in harmony on the world stage.



From One Democracy to Another: A Cautionary Reflection

In this stirring open letter titled An Open Letter from India to America, author Omair Ahmad extends a heartfelt and sobering message across the Atlantic, blending empathy with caution as he reflects on the political descent of two of the world's largest democracies. Addressing Americans not as distant observers but as kin — as friends, colleagues, and kindred spirits — Ahmad draws parallels between India's current democratic backsliding and the turmoil gripping the United States. He writes not in judgment but in solidarity, recounting how India too believed its democracy was indestructible, rooted in its hard-won independence from colonialism and bolstered by decades of people-powered movements. Yet, this illusion crumbled as the country found itself spiraling into authoritarianism and exclusion, and now sees similar patterns emerging in America. The letter points out a harsh truth: that freedom for all inevitably threatens those who built their identity and privilege on the subjugation of others. Ah-

mad reminds readers that every time a society widens its promise of equality, it also disarms those who benefited from inequality — and in retaliation, these forces often cloak themselves in regressive symbols like masculine dominance, casteism, racial segregation, and fascism, which are not alien but interconnected through shared colonial legacies. He invokes the wisdom of Lincoln — "a house divided against itself cannot stand" — as both warning and lament, underscoring that the conflict is not one of policy but of moral foundations: between those who believe in justice and those who do not. The letter ends not with despair, but with an implicit call to remember the value of solidarity, to honor the difficult and incomplete journey of democracy, and to remain vigilant against the allure of exploitation disguised as power. In doing so, it becomes not just a message to America, but a mirror for India — and perhaps a guidepost for all democracies grappling with their contradictions.



‘Kasab Was Served Biryani’: Piyush Goyal Slams Congress

TPN Correspondent | Maharashtra

Union Minister Piyush Goyal has reignited a political controversy by claiming that 26/11 Mumbai terror attacker Ajmal Kasab was “served biryani” during the Congress regime. His remarks come amid the extradition of 26/11 plotter Tahawwur Rana to India from the United States.

Speaking at Mumbai’s Taj Palace Hotel, one of the sites attacked during the 2008 terror strike, Goyal accused the previous Congress-led UPA government of failing to take strong action against the terrorists. “During the Congress government, terrorists attacked this very hotel where we are standing. People died here. However, Congress did not do anything to punish the terrorists. The arrested terrorist Kasab was served biryani,” Goyal said.

Tahawwur Rana, 64, was brought to India on Thursday after the US Supreme Court rejected his final plea against extradition. He faces trial in India for his alleged involvement in planning the deadly attacks that killed over 170 people.

While Goyal’s biryani remark stirred headlines, it is worth noting that former public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam had earlier clarified in 2015 that the story about Kasab being served biryani was fabricated. “Kasab never demanded biryani and was never served by the government. I concocted it just to break an emotional atmosphere which was taking shape in favour of Kasab during the trial,” Nikam had said.

Despite the clarification years ago, the narrative continues to be invoked in political debates. Goyal further said, “It is because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s determination that such terrorists are being brought to justice. Those who harm our country will not be spared. Tahawwur Rana will now face trial and be punished under Indian law.” Rana’s extradition marks a significant step forward in India’s efforts to prosecute those involved in the 2008 attacks.

CJI Khanna to hear pleas against Waqf Act on April 16

- 10 petitions to be heard by a three-judge Supreme Court bench
- Petitioners include AIMIM MP Owaisi, A Raja, Amanatullah Khan
- Act faces challenge for alleged violations of religious rights

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A bench led by Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna, along with Justices PV Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan, will hear 10 petitions challenging the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 on April 16. The matter, listed as item 13, involves a range of petitioners including political leaders and religious organisations. The lead petition was filed by AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi, who called the Act “manifestly arbitrary” and alleged that it discriminates based on religion while violating the Shariat Act. Owaisi argued it strips the Muslim community of the right to manage its own religious institutions.

Among others who moved the top court are DMK MP A Raja, AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan, All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIM-PLB), Indian Union Muslim League, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, Samastha Kerala Jem-iyathul Ulama, and NGO Association for Protection of Civil Rights.

The DMK, in its petition, stated that the Act was passed despite widespread opposition and without proper consideration of objections raised in the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). The party emphasized the law prejudices the rights of 50 lakh Muslims in Tamil



Nadu and 20 crore Muslims across India.

In a press release, AIMPLB spokesperson SQR Ilyas said the amendments infringe upon Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution, which guarantee the freedom to manage religious

and charitable institutions. He accused the government of attempting to assume full control of Waqf properties, thus marginalizing the Muslim community.

The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind termed the Act a “dangerous conspiracy” against religious freedom and a direct attack on the constitutional values of equality and religious rights. Similarly, Samastha Kerala Jamiath ul Ulama, a Sunni Muslim clerics’ body, labelled it a “blatant intrusion” into religious affairs.

AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan, in his plea, asked for the Act to be declared unconstitutional, citing violations of Articles 14, 15, 21, 25, 26, 29, 30 and 300-A of the Constitution.

The Centre has filed a caveat in the Supreme Court, seeking to be heard before any interim orders are passed on the matter.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, passed by Parliament and signed by President Droupadi Murmu, officially came into force on April 8, 2025, as per a notification from the Ministry of Minority Affairs. The bill was passed in the Lok Sabha with 288 votes in favour and 232 against, while the Rajya Sabha passed it with 128 votes supporting and 95 opposing.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had hailed the Waqf Bill as “another major solid step towards social justice.”

STahawwur Rana Extradited, Arrested in Delhi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a major development in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks case, Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a Pakistani-origin Canadian-American, was formally arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) upon his arrival in New Delhi following extradition from the United States. Rana was brought to India on Thursday evening aboard a special flight from Los Angeles. His transfer was executed under tight security, with National Security Guard (NSG) commandos and NIA officers escorting him. Heavy police deployment was witnessed both at the airport and around the NIA headquarters in Delhi to ensure maximum security during the high-profile transfer.

Rana is accused of aiding the 2008 Mumbai at-



tacks, which claimed over 160 lives and injured hundreds. Indian authorities had been pursuing his extradition for years, citing his alleged involvement in the conspiracy hatched by Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives and his close links to David Headley, the Pakistani-American terrorist who had conducted reconnaissance

missions ahead of the attacks. The extradition marks a key milestone in India’s efforts to bring all conspirators of the Mumbai carnage to justice. The U.S. government had approved his extradition last year after prolonged legal proceedings in American courts, which examined the Indian evidence against him.

In an apparent attempt to deflect attention, Pakistan distanced itself from Rana just hours before his arrival in Delhi. The Pakistani government stated that Rana was not their citizen, asserting he had not renewed his Pakistani identity documents in over two decades and is currently a Canadian national. This move is being seen by observers as an effort to minimize diplomatic fallout amid renewed scrutiny over Islamabad’s role in cross-border terrorism.

Centre Hikes Midday Meal Cost



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Centre to Bear ₹954 Crore Extra as PM-POSHAN Costs Rise Due to Inflation The Union government will bear an additional financial burden of ₹954 crore in the upcoming financial year 2025–26 due to a 9.5% hike in food material costs under the PM-POSHAN scheme, formerly known as the Midday Meal Scheme. The Ministry of Education announced this adjustment in response to rising food inflation, aiming to ensure continued nutritional support for schoolchildren.

Effective from May 1, 2025, the per-student per-day material cost for balvatika (anganwadi) and primary school children will increase from ₹6.19 to ₹6.78. For students in upper primary classes, the rate will go up from ₹9.29 to ₹10.17. This increase is expected to improve the quality of meals provided to children in government and government-aided schools across the country. The PM-POSHAN scheme plays a crucial role in addressing classroom hunger, improving nutritional levels among children, and encouraging school attendance, especially in underprivileged communities. The scheme covers over 11 crore children in more than 11 lakh schools and anganwadi

centres across India. The Education Ministry noted that the revision is done annually based on the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW), ensuring that the scheme adapts to economic changes. The last major revision was implemented in 2022. The additional expenditure will be entirely borne by the Central government, without passing the burden onto states. This move reflects the Centre’s commitment to the welfare of schoolchildren and the continued success of one of the world’s largest school feeding programmes.

Experts have welcomed the hike, calling it necessary and timely, but many also argue that further enhancements in infrastructure, meal quality, and nutritional diversity are needed for long-term impact. Advocacy groups have also urged the government to consider increasing allocations for eggs, milk, and other protein-rich items. With this adjustment, the government aims to sustain its nutrition goals and uphold the constitutional right to education and health for children from economically weaker sections. Further guidelines on the revised cost structure and implementation procedures are expected to be issued to states and UTs before the new rates take effect.

Opposition Slams DPDP Act Provision



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The controversial section, they argue, overrides a critical clause in the RTI Act—Section 8(1)(j)—which permits the disclosure of personal information if it is justified by larger public interest. The DPDP Act, which has already received Presidential assent, imposes a blanket prohibition on sharing personal data, even if it concerns public activity or interest. More alarmingly, the DPDP Act removes a vital proviso in the RTI Act that served as a transparency safeguard: “information which cannot be denied to Parliament or a State legislature shall not be denied to any person.” According to the INDIA bloc, this change effectively places government actions beyond public scrutiny.

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi condemned the provision as a “surreptitious, mischievous,

and malicious attempt” to weaken the RTI framework. “This is not just a technical amendment—it’s a direct attack on the citizen’s right to know and hold the government accountable,” he said.

The joint memorandum addressed to Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw urged an immediate rollback of the provision. Opposition leaders stressed that while protecting personal data is important, it should not come at the cost of weakening transparency laws that are essential in a democracy. Priyanka Chaturvedi added that the move could severely hamper journalistic investigations, whistleblower protections, and civil society efforts to expose corruption or misuse of power. “The RTI Act has been instrumental in empowering citizens. Diluting it, especially through another legislation, is both undemocratic and unacceptable,” she remarked.

China being dragged into Ukraine war, says Zelensky

155 Chinese citizens reportedly fighting for Russia



TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has alleged that Russia is deliberately trying to “drag China into the war” in Ukraine, claiming that over 150 Chinese nationals have been recruited to fight against Ukrainian forces. Zelensky stated that Kyiv has the names and passport details of 155 such individuals and accused Beijing of being aware of the recruitment process. “This is yet another indication that Moscow simply needs to drag out the fighting,” Zelensky told reporters in Kyiv. “Such an overt involvement of Chinese citizens in combat operations on the territory of Ukraine is a deliberate step towards expanding the war.” The statement follows Ukraine’s reported capture of two Chinese citizens in the eastern Donetsk region, a development that prompted fresh concerns about the extent of foreign fighters in Russia’s ranks. Kyiv says it is prepared to release the captured Chinese nationals in exchange for Ukrainian prisoners of war currently held in Russia. Zelensky clarified that he does not believe the Chinese government directly dispatched the fighters, but maintained that Chinese authorities were aware of the recruitment process—citing platforms like TikTok and other Chinese social media sites where Russian military recruiters allegedly promote enlistment. A senior Ukrainian official also shared with AFP a document containing the names and passport details of 168 Chinese citizens allegedly serving in the Russian army, adding that further investigations are underway to identify more. China, however, rejected Zelensky’s claims. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian called the accusations “absolutely groundless” and reiterated that Beijing advises its citizens to avoid armed conflicts of any kind. “The Ukrainian side should correctly view China’s efforts and constructive role in pushing for a political resolution to the Ukraine crisis,” Lin said. When asked about the development, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov declined to comment. Meanwhile, China continues to position itself as a neutral party in the ongoing conflict, though its political and economic alignment with Moscow has drawn criticism from the West. NATO has labeled Beijing a “decisive enabler” of Russia’s invasion. Zelensky also mentioned that Washington views the presence of Chinese fighters on Ukrainian soil as “unacceptable,” signaling rising concern within the US over China’s indirect involvement. He further revealed that Kyiv is prepared to spend up to \$50 billion on American military equipment and will be holding discussions with a US delegation next week. The controversy over Chinese nationals fighting for Russia adds a new dimension to the war and raises alarms about the global ramifications of prolonged conflict in Eastern Europe.

India, UK fast-track FTA talks

Ministers reaffirm commitment to deeper trade and strategic ties during London dialogue

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India and the United Kingdom have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and accelerating negotiations towards a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and a Bilateral Investment Treaty. In a joint statement released on Wednesday, Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves emphasized that talks are “continuing at pace” with the goal of unlocking new opportunities for both economies. The statement was issued during Sitharaman’s six-day visit to the UK and Austria, during which she co-chaired the 13th India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) in London alongside Reeves. “Both sides agree that a strong and robust UK-India relationship enhances the resilience of both economies, including through trade, macroeconomic cooperation, supply chain resilience and collaboration on global challenges, both bilaterally and multilaterally,” the joint statement read.



The India-UK FTA talks resumed earlier this year after an eight-month pause. Major sticking points in the negotiations include the UK’s planned Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), set to begin in 2026, and differences on the mobility of professionals. The UK side shared updates on its upcoming Industrial Strategy, with both countries seeing strong potential for collaboration in advanced manufactur-

ing, clean energy, life sciences, defence, financial services, and the creative sectors. The partnership aims to combine India’s growing manufacturing capacity with UK’s research and innovation ecosystem. In a boost to strategic ties, both countries also expressed anticipation for the signing of the India-UK Defence Industrial Roadmap, which will bolster collaboration across key industrial sectors and enhance supply

chain integration. In 2023-24, merchandise exports from India to the UK reached \$12.98 billion, marking a 13.3% annual rise. However, goods exports fell to \$8.4 billion, down 6.10%, according to Ministry of Commerce and Industry data. Given the backdrop of shifting global trade dynamics and protectionist measures, India is seeking to deepen partnerships that can help it navigate future uncertainties and attract fresh investments. The ministers also highlighted their cooperation in the G20 and global financial stability bodies such as the Financial Stability Board (FSB). They stressed the importance of working together on enhancing cross-border payments, climate-related financial risk management, and strengthening the non-bank financial intermediation (NBFI) framework. “We support the ongoing work... to ensure a resilient, inclusive, and stable international financial system,” the statement said, underlining the shared ambition to contribute to sustainable and equitable global economic growth.

Panama Rejects US military Base Proposal

TPN Correspondent | Panama

Panama has firmly rejected the possibility of allowing the United States to reestablish military bases or defense sites within its territory, according to a statement made by Security Minister Frank Abrego during a joint appearance with US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. “Panama made clear, through President Jose Raul Mulino, that we cannot accept military bases or defense sites,” Abrego declared, ending speculation over a poten-



tial renewed US military presence in the Central American country. The statement came during

Hegseth’s official visit to Panama, where broader regional security cooperation and migration control were on the agenda. While no formal proposal for a military base had been publicly disclosed by the US side, Abrego’s emphatic statement suggests Panama was responding to informal discussions or suggestions made behind closed doors. Panama had hosted significant US military infrastructure in the past, most notably the Panama Canal Zone and Howard Air Force Base, until the complete with-

drawal of American forces by the end of 1999 following the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. Since then, Panama has maintained a strong stance on sovereignty and neutrality regarding foreign military presence. Observers see the Panamanian position as a reaffirmation of its longstanding foreign policy principle of avoiding entanglement in military alliances or hosting foreign troops, especially in a region where US influence has historically drawn both cooperation and criticism.

India Pulls Plug on Cargo Route for Bangladesh

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a significant policy shift, India has terminated the trans-shipment facility that allowed Bangladesh to export goods to third countries via Indian ports and airports. The decision, notified by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on April 8, ends a trade route that had supported smooth cross-border flows since June 2020. The now-rescinded circular had permitted Bangladeshi cargo to pass through Indian Land Customs Stations (LCSS) en route to Indian exit points. However, the CBIC clarified that cargo already

in transit would be allowed to exit under the earlier procedure. The move comes amid rising trade tensions globally, with the US imposing fresh tariffs on countries including India and Bangladesh. Indian exporters, especially from the apparel sector, had been pressing for the withdrawal of the facility, citing reduced cargo space, rising freight costs, and airport congestion. “Now we will have more air capacity for our cargo,” said Ajay Sahai, Director General of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), welcoming the decision.



Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Chairman Sudhir Sekhri said daily Bangladeshi truckloads caused delays and inflated air freight charges at Delhi’s IGI Airport. “This made Indian exports less competitive,” he said.

Think tank GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava warned the decision could disrupt regional trade logistics, particularly affecting landlocked nations like Nepal and Bhutan that depend on seamless movement through India and Bangladesh. Under WTO rules, members are obligated to ensure free and efficient transit for goods to and from landlocked countries — a point that may surface in future trade dialogues. The latest move reinforces India’s intent to protect its own exporters while recalibrating trade priorities in the face of shifting global trade dynamics.

IIMA to open Dubai campus in partnership with UAE

New campus to offer one-year global MBA from Sep 2025

TPN Correspondent | Dubai

In a significant move toward expanding global education ties, the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) has signed an MoU with the Government of the United Arab Emirates to establish an international campus in Dubai. The collaboration marks IIMA’s first overseas expansion and is aimed at providing world-class management education to working professionals and entrepreneurs across the globe. The MoU was formally exchanged in Mumbai by Professor Bharat Bhasker, Director of IIMA, and Helal Saeed Almarri, Director General of Dubai’s Department of Economy and Tourism. The event was attended by key dignitaries, including Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, and India’s Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal. The Dubai campus will be developed



in two phases. Initially, the institute will function out of the Dubai International Academic City (DIAC), a major educational hub in the region. In

the second phase, land will be allocated for a permanent IIMA facility, which is expected to be completed by 2029.

The Dubai campus will be a full-time One-Year MBA program, designed specifically for global professionals seeking to enhance their leadership and management capabilities. The course is set to launch in September 2025 and will span five academic terms. The admission process will involve a rigorous two-stage evaluation based on GMAT or GRE scores obtained within the last five years. The program will employ IIMA’s signature case study method of teaching, known for its effectiveness in experiential learning and executive education. This initiative marks a new era for Indian higher education institutions venturing into the global academic space, with IIMA leading the charge by bringing its legacy and expertise to an international audience.

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Long-Term Investing: The Smart Path to Wealth Creation Amid Market Volatility"



High-Growth Potential Sectors for the Future:



1. Automobile Sector : The shift towards electric vehicles (EVs) is driving tremendous growth. Innovation, government support, and rising environmental awareness are fueling this sector's rapid expansion.

2. Pharmaceutical Sector : With increasing awareness around health-



care, advancements in medical technology, and aging populations, the pharma industry is poised for consistent growth in the coming years.

3. Information Technology (IT) Sector : Digital transformation, AI, cloud computing, and cybersecurity are



creating strong tailwinds for IT companies globally. Demand for digital services is expected to grow exponentially.

4. Metals Sector : With rising infrastructure development and industrial growth, demand for metals like steel, copper, and aluminum is expected to remain strong.



Auto Sector

1. Tata Motors: A leader in both commercial and passenger vehicles, Tata Motors has been riding high on strong domestic demand and the EV push. Its JLR (Jaguar Land Rover) arm continues to improve in profitability with growing sales in luxury electric vehicles.

2. Mahindra & Mahindra: M&M has gained significant traction in the SUV segment and agri-machinery. Its focus on electric mobility and rural demand gives it strong long-term potential.

3. Hero MotoCorp: Hero remains a key player in the two-wheeler market, especially in rural India. It's facing stiff competition in the EV space but is slowly ramping up electric offerings.

Pharma Sector

1. Sun Pharma: India's largest pharma company continues to deliver stable growth driven by strong US generics sales and specialty drug launches. It has a robust pipeline in dermatology and oncology.

2. Dr. Reddy's Laboratories: Benefiting from its generics business, especially in the US and emerging markets. Its focus on biosimilars and APIs supports long-term growth.

3. Divi's Laboratories: A global leader in custom synthesis and APIs, Divi's is well-positioned due to global outsourcing trends. It's known for strong margins and consistent performance.

IT Sector

1. Infosys: Despite short-term margin pressure due to global demand slowdown, Infosys maintains strong client relationships and is focusing on digital transformation and AI solutions.

2. TCS (Tata Consultancy Services): The IT bellwether continues to hold leadership in digital services. Long-term deal wins and strong client retention keep TCS a solid bet in IT.

3. ITIMindtree: After the merger, it's showing signs of synergy and growth potential, especially in cloud services and BFSI sector. Near-term volatility persists, but long-term outlook remains strong.

Metal Sector

1. Tata Steel: It's under pressure due to weak steel prices globally, but cost optimization and domestic infrastructure demand may provide support. Watchful on European business drag.

2. JSW Steel: Aggressive expansion plans and better integration give JSW an edge. Domestic demand, especially from infra, supports its growth outlook.

3. Hindalco: Facing global headwinds in aluminum prices, but Novelis (its US arm) and downstream investments are helping improve margins. Long-term demand in EVs and packaging remains favorable.

Investing in the stock market is a smart way to build wealth, and it doesn't have to be complicated. Whether you invest a lump sum or follow a Systematic Investment Plan (SIP), the key to success lies in adopting a long-term perspective. Market volatility—frequent ups and downs—is a normal part of the investment journey. Short-term fluctuations should not cause panic. History shows that investors who remain patient and consistent over 3, 5, or even 10 years are more likely to enjoy significant returns. The power of compounding, combined with time, works in favor of long-term investors.



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nom ic instability, particularly in the United States. This uncertainty has led to increased volatility. However, such situations often present hidden opportunities for thoughtful and strategic investors.

Rather than reacting emotionally, it is wise to diversify investments across sectors. A well- diversified portfolio can help reduce risk and position you for future growth. Focused, long- term investing in high-potential sectors—such as automobiles, pharmaceuticals, IT, and metals—

can lead to solid financial gains over time. In conclusion, stock market investing is most rewarding for those who stay committed and look beyond short-term market movements. With patience, discipline, and the right strategy, long-term wealth creation is not just possible—it's highly probable.

Global Market Outlook:

At present, global markets are facing challenges due to political and eco-

Aadhaar Act set for key amendments to align with DPDP Act, 2023

New Aadhaar app launched with secure, minimal data sharing features

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The central government is planning to amend the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 to bring it in line with the provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023. The move aims to plug existing legal gaps, improve data privacy, and give citizens more control over their personal information, according to officials.

Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, in a video posted on X on Wednesday, said the government is focused on harmonizing the Aadhaar law with the DPDP Act by keeping "user interest at the centre." He emphasized the need for a new legal framework to streamline consent mechanisms and avoid repeated data sharing during authentication processes. "There are variety of programmes and uses where citizens are asked for consent again and again, asked to provide their data every time and at different places, for authentication. We need to have a legal framework to avoid this and ensure citizens get access to services easily," Vaishnaw said.

Officials said the amendment will focus on introducing data minimization and data erasure provisions that are currently mandated by the DPDP Act but not strictly adhered to by agencies using Aadhaar authentication. They also noted that the language of the Aadhaar Act will be made more specific to prevent the reuse of Aadhaar data for unintended purposes. The DPDP Act, passed by Parliament in August 2023, is yet to be fully implemented. Vaishnaw stated that the rules for the Act are nearly finalized and will be notified soon. In line with the upcoming amendments, the



government on Tuesday also launched a new Aadhaar mobile application that enables residents to share only essential data while availing services. The app includes face ID authentication and supports digital verification through QR codes or requesting applications, eliminating the need for physical Aadhaar card photocopies.

Tech policy experts welcomed the move. "Amending the Aadhaar Act to integrate DPDP's principles would be crucial to reducing misuse and improving consent-based data use," said Dhruv Garg, partner at the Indian Governance and Policy Project. He also recommended limiting Aadhaar usage where not necessary. In February this year, the government had expanded Aadhaar use by allowing private companies to perform Aadhaar authentication under the revised Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Amendment Rules, 2025. This was aimed at easing access to services and preventing leakage of welfare benefits. Officials underscored that these combined measures will help prevent misuse of Aadhaar data and promote better privacy practices in both government and private sector usage.

BlackRock Bets Big On Adani With \$250 Million Investment

BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, has become the biggest investor in a \$750 million private bond issuance by the Adani Group, acquiring nearly one-third of the offering. This marks BlackRock's first private placement in India's infrastructure sector and a major show of confidence amid ongoing scrutiny faced by the conglomerate. Sources familiar with the matter said the bonds, issued by Renew Exim DMCC—a wholly owned offshore entity of the Adani family—carry a tenure of 3 to 5 years. The capital will primarily finance the acquisition of ITD Cementation and other infrastructure-led growth initiatives.

The move comes even as Adani Group remains under the lens following a U.S. Department of Justice indictment last November in a bribery investigation. Despite this, BlackRock's participation signals it foresees no major operational risks for the group. "Infrastructure is one of the most exciting long-term investment opportunities," BlackRock



Chairman Larry Fink said earlier in January after the firm's \$12.5 billion acquisition of Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP). This deal significantly expanded BlackRock's global presence in ports, power, and digital infrastructure—sectors that align closely with Adani's long-term focus. Five other institutional investors, mostly American and European including funds managed by Sona Asset Management, also participated in the fundraising. The \$750 million issuance by Renew Exim is Adani Group's second major dollar bond transaction in 2024, following a \$200 million raise in February for its Australia

lian port operations. The recent capital raise is also the largest since the DOJ probe came to light, and signals renewed international investor interest. The acquisition of ITD Cementation, a construction and engineering firm involved in projects such as JNPT and Vizhinjam port, strengthens Adani's infrastructure portfolio. The group had initially purchased a 46.64% stake from the promoters and added another 20.81% through an open offer. Adani officials view BlackRock's involvement as a strong vote of confidence in the conglomerate's financial and operational strength, despite recent headwinds.

Audi Expands EV Network To 6,500+ Points Across India

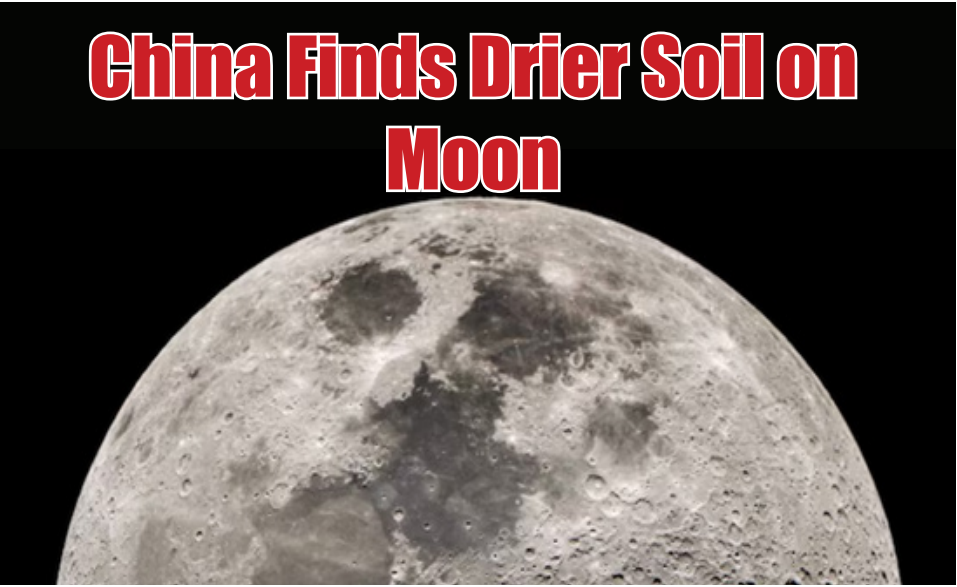
Audi India has significantly strengthened its electric vehicle infrastructure by expanding its 'Charge My Audi' initiative to over 6,500 charging points nationwide. This milestone was achieved under Phase II of the program, aiming to accelerate EV adoption among luxury car owners. The company has onboarded 16 new EV infrastructure partners to enhance accessibility and convenience. More than 75% of these locations are equipped with DC fast-charging capabilities, enabling quicker charging and catering to India's growing EV de-

mand. The Phase-II rollout alone added over 5,500 new charging points, strategically positioned along highways, in urban centers, and at key commercial hubs. With this expansion, the 'Charge My Audi' network now spans across 28 states and union territories, covering over 850 cities and 4,700+ locations. Customers can locate and operate chargers using real-time features through the 'myAudi Connect' app, which includes route planning, charger availability, and start/stop func-

tions. Commenting on the development, Mr. Balbir Singh Dhillon, Head of Audi India, said, "With over 6,500 charging points and a focus on DC fast chargers, we are enhancing convenience, reducing charging times, and expanding accessibility for our customers. The second phase marks a major step forward in enhancing the EV ownership experience." As a value addition, Audi has also extended complimentary charging for all e-tron customers across its network until December 31, 2025. This

benefit is available through its CPO partners and can be accessed via the 'myAudi Connect' app. This latest push reinforces Audi's commitment to driving the shift toward sustainable mobility in India.





In a significant lunar discovery, Chinese scientists have revealed that soil from the far side of the moon is drier than previously thought, containing less than 1.5 micrograms of water per gram—significantly lower than levels recorded on the near side. This insight, based on samples collected by China’s Chang’e 6 mission, deepens our understanding of the moon’s complex composition and geological history. The research team, led by Sen Hu from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, meticulously analyzed five grams of lunar material retrieved from the South Pole-Aitken Basin, one of the oldest and largest impact craters in the solar system. Using advanced electron microscopy, they examined 578 individual particles, identifying a stark difference in water content compared to samples from the near side. This dryness raises new questions about the moon’s formation and the processes that have shaped its two faces over billions of years. Scientists emphasize that understanding the presence and distribution of water on the lunar surface is critical not only for unraveling the moon’s evolutionary

story but also for future space exploration and potential colonization, where water could be a vital in-situ resource. While these early findings are groundbreaking, researchers caution that they are based on a limited sample size and stress the need for further collection missions to develop a more comprehensive picture. China’s successful landing on the far side in 2024 marked a historic milestone in space exploration, as no other country had previously achieved such a feat. With countries like the U.S., India, and Russia also ramping up their lunar missions, the moon remains a focal point of international scientific rivalry and cooperation. As more data emerges from upcoming expeditions, including future Chinese missions, this discovery may influence the trajectory of lunar science, particularly regarding how water is stored and transported on the moon. For now, the findings suggest the moon’s far side may hold more secrets than previously believed, and only through deeper exploration can humanity hope to fully understand our celestial neighbor’s past—and its potential future.

KFC’s Chicken-Flavored Toothpaste Sells Out



In one of the most unexpected brand collaborations to date, KFC has teamed up with Australian dental care company Hismile to launch a limited-edition fried chicken-flavored toothpaste, and, unsurprisingly, it has already sold out. Inspired by the fast-food giant’s iconic blend of 11 herbs and spices, the toothpaste was designed to offer an “irresistible” brushing experience that mimics the sensation of biting into a piece of hot, juicy Original Recipe KFC chicken—while still leaving users with a “fresh and clean” finish. The novelty product quickly captured public attention and social media buzz for its outrageous concept, merging fast food indulgence with daily hygiene in a way few expected. While the collaboration may sound like a stunt, it was very real and highly limited, turning the bizarre idea into an overnight cult favorite. KFC, known for its creative and often quirky marketing campaigns, described the product in a press release as both flavorful and functional, blending a unique senso-

ry experience with the utility of oral care. Though the toothpaste was not released for widespread sale, it became an instant viral hit, with fans rushing to get their hands on it before stocks vanished. Reactions online ranged from amused curiosity to disbelief, with many joking about brushing three times a day—or more—just for the taste. Though there’s no word yet on whether KFC and Hismile plan to restock or expand the product line, the overwhelming response suggests a growing appetite for oddball, experience-driven products that turn everyday routines into novelty moments. This isn’t KFC’s first foray into unconventional products; the brand has previously launched everything from chicken-scented candles to fashion collabs. However, this chicken-flavored toothpaste might just be its most bizarre—and successful—creation yet, proving once again that in the age of viral marketing, anything is possible, even brushing your teeth with fried chicken.

Tamil Nadu Kids Go Viral Globally

A heartwarming video featuring students from a government school in Tamil Nadu has taken the internet by storm, amassing over 100 million views and capturing hearts worldwide. Shared by a teacher from Melur Panchayat Union Kindergarten and Middle School in Therkamoor, the video shows a group of young children—mostly girls and one boy—dancing and singing to the viral Thai song Anan Ta Pad Chaye. Dressed in school uniforms, the children deliver a pitch-perfect rendition of the song, dancing joyfully with infectious energy and enthusiasm. Their flawless timing and genuine happiness have made the video a viral sensation, with social media users praising both their talent and the cultural crossover. One of the standout



performers, a girl named Shivadarshini, has become a particularly beloved figure online, having already gained attention from a previous viral video shared by the same teacher. The clip highlights not just the global nature of internet trends, but also the ability of children to bring joy across borders through music and dance. The Thai

song itself has been trending for weeks on various platforms, with people from around the world jumping on the dance challenge. However, it’s this group of spirited schoolchildren who have truly stolen the spotlight, showing that talent and joy can shine from even the most unexpected corners. Their performance, filled with bright smiles and heartfelt energy, reflects the universal language of music and underscores the power of digital platforms to amplify voices and talents regardless of location. The teacher’s decision to share the video not only gave the children a chance to be seen and appreciated globally but also turned a simple classroom performance into a worldwide celebration of joy, rhythm, and innocence.

Kareena Kapoor’s Bizarre Party Avatar

In a viral moment that’s baffled and amused the internet in equal measure, a Karachi party featured a bizarre digital cameo of Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan—sort of. A poorly animated avatar of the actress was projected on a big screen, grooving awkwardly to loud rave music, supposedly to energize the crowd. Instead of glamming up the scene, the surreal spectacle left partygoers and netizens laughing, confused, and ultimately turning the odd creation into meme fodder. The creator behind the animated Kareena took to Instagram to explain that the track was inspired by the film Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham, particularly Kareena’s iconic character “Pooh.” Claiming the moment was meant to be “chaotic and iconic,” the creator added that he sampled one of her famous lines and wanted to add a unique visual twist for the show. However, the end



result—a glitchy, awkward rendition of Kareena’s likeness awkwardly dancing—missed the glam mark by miles. Social media reactions ranged from light-hearted roasting to genuine confusion, with users questioning both the animation quality and the concept itself. While some found it endearingly chaotic and praised the experimental effort, others couldn’t resist sharing the clip with captions like “Kareena.exe has stopped working.” The incident has sparked debates over digital creativity, celebrity deepfakes, and how far is too far when it comes to virtual appearances. Regardless of where opinions fall, the animated Kareena moment has certainly made its mark—albeit as a cautionary tale of how not to digitally resurrect a Bollywood icon at a rave.

Underwater Pyramid Fuels Atlantis Theorie

A mysterious 90-foot underwater structure known as the Yonaguni Monument, located near Japan’s Ryukyu Islands, has reignited debate among scientists, archaeologists, and history enthusiasts about the origins of ancient

civilizations. Discovered in 1986, this vast stone formation lies 82 feet beneath the ocean and resembles a pyramid with sharply angled steps—features that many believe suggest it was crafted by human hands. What’s most puz-



zling is that geological tests date the monument to over 10,000 years old, a time that predates known human architectural achievements like the Egyptian pyramids or Stonehenge. If confirmed as man-made, this would drastically alter our understanding of when complex societies capable of such engineering feats first emerged—pushing the timeline back to well before the widely accepted start of agricultural civilizations. This has led some to liken Yonaguni to the mythical lost city of Atlantis. Yet, skepticism remains, with many experts

arguing the formation could be the result of natural tectonic activity rather than ancient construction. The controversy recently took center stage on the Joe Rogan Experience podcast, where author Graham Hancock and archaeologist Flint Dibble debated the site’s authenticity, further amplifying public interest. As debate swirls around its origins, the Yonaguni Monument continues to captivate imaginations worldwide, standing as either a naturally occurring wonder—or evidence of a forgotten chapter in human history.

World’s Largest Snake Gathering in Canada

Every spring, a remarkable natural event unfolds in Manitoba, Canada, where the Narcisse Snake Dens become the site of the world’s largest snake congregation. Over 75,000 red-sided garter snakes emerge from limestone sinkholes after months of braving sub-zero temperatures underground. These dens, no bigger than a living room, offer insulation during the region’s frigid winters that can plunge as low as -45°C, making them ideal hibernation shelters. As the weather warms, the snakes surface in vast numbers for their annual mating ritual, forming dense, swirling masses that blanket the ground in a mesmerizing, if somewhat spine-tingling, spectacle. The sheer scale of the gathering attracts thousands of visitors and scientists every year, turning the quiet Canadian landscape into a temporary wildlife tourism hub. The snakes—largely harmless to humans—entwine in what’s known as “mating balls,” where dozens of males compete for a single female, creating a chaotic but fascinating sight. Beyond the visual spectacle, new scientific research has uncovered surprising complexity in their behavior. A study published in “Behavioural Ecology” in late 2023 revealed that some species of garter snakes, like Butler’s garter snakes, display social structures reminiscent of mammals, with groupings organized by age and sex. This challenges the longstanding belief that snakes are solitary creatures and opens new avenues



of research into reptilian social dynamics. The Narcisse Snake Dens not only serve as a critical ecological habitat but also as a living laboratory where scientists can study the interactions, communication, and survival strategies of garter snakes in large populations. For casual observers and researchers alike, this annual phenomenon is a rare and awe-inspiring example of nature’s intricacy—an event where biology, survival, and spectacle converge. As concerns about biodiversity and climate change grow, the Narcisse snake gathering also stands as a reminder of the importance of preserving such unique ecosystems for future generations.

Dhoni Returns as CSK Captain After Gaikwad Injury Blow

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have suffered a major setback ahead of their IPL 2025 campaign, as skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad has been ruled out of the tournament due to an elbow fracture. In a familiar turn of events, legendary former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni will step in to lead the side once again.

CSK head coach Stephen Fleming confirmed the news during a press interaction on Thursday,

stating, “Ruturaj Gaikwad ruled out of IPL with fracture on elbow. MS Dhoni to take over as captain.” Gaikwad, who was appointed full-time captain for the 2025 season, sustained the injury during training. Dhoni’s return to captaincy brings both experience and calm to the squad as CSK aim for another strong season. Fans can now look forward to seeing “Captain Cool” back in action, steering the yellow brigade once more.



Chandigarh Thrash Opponent in U20 NFC Opener



Chandigarh made a resounding start to the Swami Vivekananda U20 Men’s National Football Championship with a dominant win on the opening day. The team stormed to a 4-0 lead by half-time, effectively sealing the match early. Manveer Singh opened the tournament’s scoring in the 15th minute, capitalizing on a loose ball to tap in from close range. He doubled his tally in the 28th minute with

a clinical right-footed finish into the bottom corner. Sahil starred with a brilliant hat-trick, netting in the 39th, 43rd, and 64th minutes. His goals showcased composure and sharp finishing, including a smooth one-on-one and two quickfire close-range strikes. With this emphatic win, Chandigarh has set the tone for the tournament and sent a strong message to their rivals early on.

Anand Backs Gukesh for Norway Chess Clash with Carlsen

Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand has thrown his support behind teenage sensation Gukesh Dommaraju ahead of his much-anticipated showdown with world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen at Norway Chess 2025. The prestigious tournament will be held in Stavanger, Norway, from May 26 to June 6. Speaking at an event hosted by Norway Chess and the Sports Journalists Association of Mumbai (SJAM), Anand expressed confidence in Gukesh, the youngest world champion in chess history. “I expect a very exciting



battle. Gukesh will not lack motivation or determination to go after Magnus,” said Anand. “Magnus, too, is highly driven to face young talents. We have the

perfect storm here.” The face-off promises to be one of the most thrilling duels of the year, as Gukesh looks to challenge Carlsen’s dominance on the global stage.

Rice Shines as Arsenal Stun Real Madrid 3-0



Arsenal took a commanding step toward the Champions League semifinals with a stunning 3-0 victory over defending champions Real Madrid at The Emirates on Tuesday. Declan Rice was the star of the night, netting two sensational free kicks to put the Gunners in control of the quarterfinal first leg.

The third goal came from Mikel Merino, who finished clinically to cap off Arsenal’s dominant performance. Real Madrid looked off the pace from the start, struggling to cope with the hosts’ intensity. One of the few early chances for Madrid nearly turned disastrous, as Eduardo Camavinga almost

scored an own goal after deflecting Antonio Rudiger’s clearance. Thomas Partey tested Thibault Courtois soon after, but the Belgian keeper denied him. With Rice’s brilliance and solid teamwork, Arsenal now carry strong momentum into the second leg at the Santiago Bernabéu.

Rahul’s Masterclass Leads Delhi Capitals to Victory Over RCB



In a thrilling clash held at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, the Delhi Capitals (DC) secured a dominant six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the 24th match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. KL Rahul, leading from the front, played a sensational captain’s knock to guide his team to a convincing victory. Winning the toss, RCB opted to bat first and managed to post a total of 163 for 7 in their allotted 20 overs. Though they started well, the middle-order couldn’t maintain the momentum, leading to a below-par finish. Delhi’s bowlers kept things tight, picking up wickets at regular intervals and denying RCB a late flourish. Chasing 164, Delhi Capitals made their intent clear from the start. KL Rahul an-

chored the innings with an unbeaten 93 off just 53 balls, laced with elegant boundaries and well-timed sixes. His knock was a perfect blend of aggression and composure, taking the pressure off the rest of the batting lineup. Rahul found support from the middle order, and the Capitals comfortably chased down the target in 17.5 overs, finishing at 169 for 4. With this win, Delhi Capitals continue their strong form in the tournament, while RCB are left to reconsider their game plans after another disappointing outing. KL Rahul was rightfully named Player of the Match for his stellar performance. The win has further cemented Delhi’s position on the points table as they continue their march towards the playoffs.

Sindhu Advances, Lakshya Crashes Out in Asia Badminton Opener



PV Sindhu made a strong start at the Badminton Asia Championships, defeating Indonesia’s Ester Nurumi Wardoyo 21-15, 21-19 in 44 minutes. The world No. 17 will face Japan’s Akane Yamaguchi, seeded third, in the pre-quarterfinals. However, it was disappointment for India in the men’s singles. Lak-

shya Sen suffered a first-round exit, losing 18-21, 10-21 to Chinese Taipei’s Lee Chia Hao. HS Prannoy also bowed out, falling 16-21, 21-12, 11-21 to China’s Zu Guang Lu. Kiran George brought some cheer, progressing to the pre-quarters with a 21-16, 21-8 win over Kazakhstan’s Dmitriy Panarin.

In women’s singles, Aakarshi Kashyap, Anupama Upadhyaya, and Malvika Bansod were all ousted in the opening round. In men’s doubles, Hariharan Am-sakarunan and Ruban Kumar comfortably beat Sri Lanka’s Madhuka Dulanjana and Lahiru Weerasinghe 21-3, 21-12 to reach the Round of 16.



Keerthy Suresh’s Bollywood Leap of Faith

Keerthy Suresh, known for her endearing screen presence and strong youth fanbase, has long focused on Tamil cinema while maintaining occasional appearances in Telugu films. Despite once being among the top names in Tollywood, she hasn’t scored a major hit since *Dasara*. Following that, Keerthy continued to prioritize Tamil projects, but her ambitions have now shifted towards Bollywood. Though her debut Hindi film *Baby John* failed to leave an impact at the box office, she’s determined to prove herself in the Hindi film industry. Buzz suggests she has signed an upcoming film opposite Rajkumar Rao. Like many South actresses—such as Ileana, Kajal Aggarwal, Tamannaah, and Shruti Haasan—who tried their luck in Bollywood with mixed results, Keerthy too faces the challenge of standing out in a competitive arena. Whether her graceful persona and talent will help her succeed where others struggled remains to be seen, but her resolve to make it big in Bollywood is



Akhil & Zainab’s Sunset Serenade

Tollywood’s favorite couple, Akhil Akkineni and fiancée Zainab Ravdjee, lit up social media with a tender beachside moment that felt straight out of a romance film. Celebrating Akhil’s 31st birthday, the pair embraced under a golden sunset, their heartfelt hug capturing the essence of love and serenity. Dressed in coordinated yellow

tops and cream-toned bottoms, the duo stood barefoot against the backdrop of gentle waves, exuding intimacy and elegance. The candid photo, likely from a Maldives-esque getaway, instantly resonated with fans, sparking admiration across the internet. No filters, no captions—just raw emotion and an unspoken bond.



Ajith’s Triple Act Misses the Mark

In **Good Bad Ugly**, Ajith Kumar attempts a roaring comeback under the direction of die-hard fan Adhik Ravichandran, but the film ends up as a mixed bag. Riding high on fan anticipation and vintage Ajith vibes teased in trailers, the film delivers action-packed sequences and a stylized narrative, but falters when it comes to emotional depth and coherence. Adhik, who previously wowed audiences with **Mark Anthony**, gives Ajith a platform to shine in multiple shades, but

the script feels stretched and uneven. Trisha Krishnan and the ensemble cast including Arjun Das, Sunil, and Prabhu add star power, yet their roles often feel underwritten. GV Prakash’s music elevates some moments, but overall, the film doesn’t quite land the punch it promises. Despite flashy

visuals and a fan-service approach, **Good Bad Ugly** struggles to balance style and substance, resulting in a film that’s watchable but far from a blockbuster. Verdict: Ajith sparkles, but the story doesn’t.



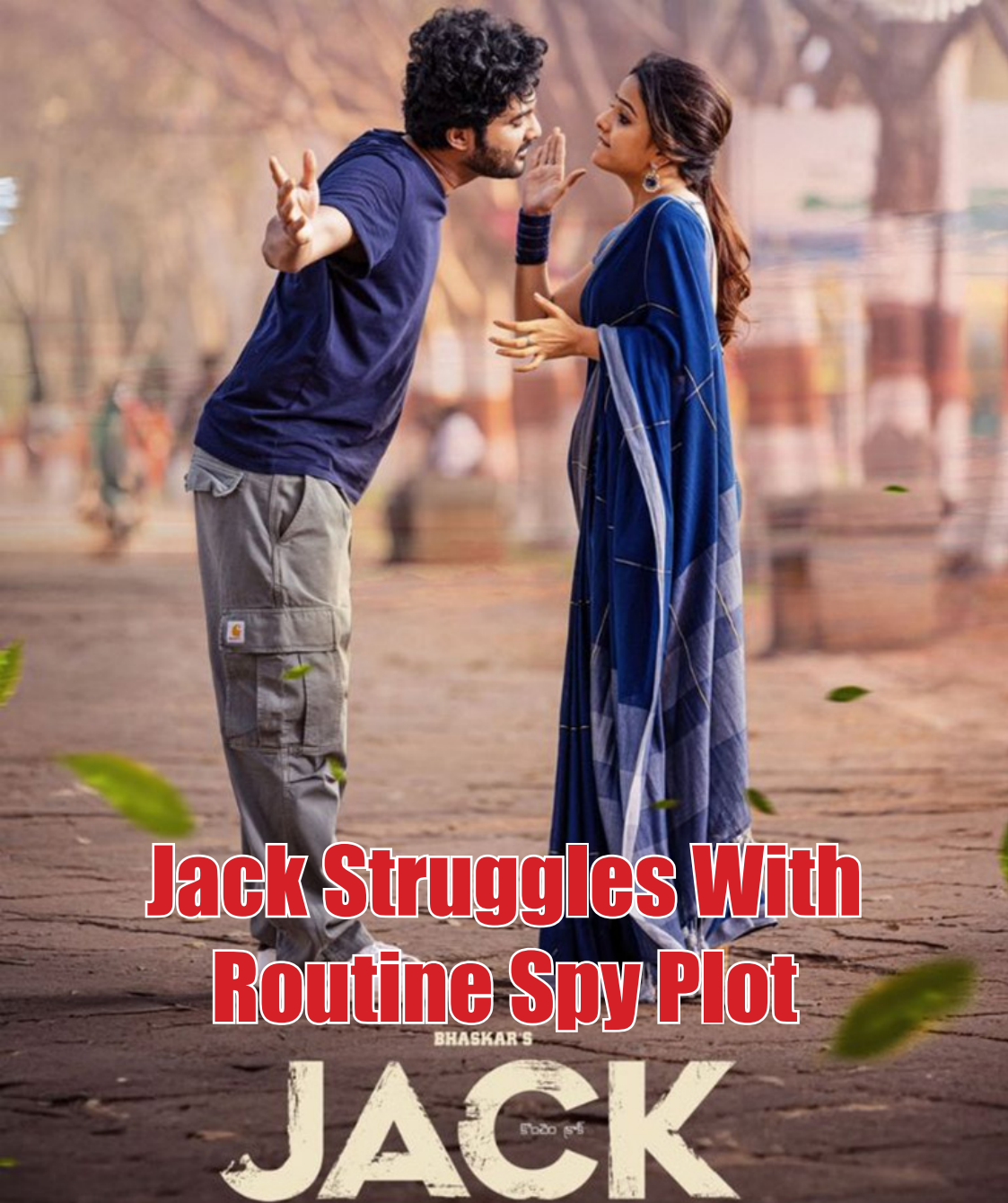
Tabu, Vijay Sethupathi Join Forces

In a major announcement that thrilled cinema lovers, filmmaker Puri Jagannadh revealed his upcoming pan-Indian film starring powerhouse performers Tabu and Vijay Sethupathi. Taking to social media on April 10, Jagannadh shared a photo featuring himself, Tabu, and producer-actor Charmee Kaur, officially welcoming Tabu onboard. He described her as “electric” and “explosive,” calling her role in the film as dynamic as her presence.

The project, dubbed #PuriSethupathi, marks a high-profile collaboration and is produced under the banner of Puri Connects by Jagannadh, Charmee Kaur, and Vishu Reddy. With filming scheduled to begin in June, fans are eagerly awaiting further details. This marks a rare and exciting team-up between two of Indian cinema’s most versatile actors, promising a unique cinematic experience across languages and regions.



Siddhu Jonnalagadda, known for his quirky charm in *DJ Tillu* and *Tillu Square*, returns with *Jack*, directed by Bommarillu Bhaskar and co-starring Vaishnavi Chaitanya. Despite a trailer that promised Siddhu’s signature wit, the film fails to deliver, falling into the trap of a predictable spy thriller. The plot follows Pablo Neruda alias Jack, an aspiring RAW agent who takes matters into his own hands to stop a terrorist conspiracy across major Indian cities. Things take a twist when he mistakenly captures a real RAW officer (Prakash Raj), prompting a private investigation by his father involving a detective’s daughter (Vaishnavi), who also becomes his romantic interest. While the film attempts to blend patriotism, suspense, and romance, the weak screenplay and routine narrative make it an underwhelming watch, raising doubts about whether Siddhu’s charm alone is enough to carry such formulaic storytelling.



Jack Struggles With Routine Spy Plot

BHASKAR'S

JACK

Upasana’s Portable Kitchen for Ram Charan

One meal has to be Indian.” To avoid fire alarms in hotels, they even use the cooker inside the shower area, plugged in carefully for safe, home-cooked comfort food. Interestingly, this practice also inspired her mother-in-law to turn traditional Indian staples into ready-to-use mixes, now a small business venture she began in her 60s. For Ram Charan, it’s not just about taste—it’s about tradition, and Upasana ensures he never misses a bite of home, no matter the timezone.



Upasana Konidela has revealed a charming behind-the-scenes routine from her life with Global Star Ram Charan: she carries a cooker wherever they travel to ensure he gets at least one Indian meal a day. Known for his spiritual discipline

and rooted lifestyle, Ram Charan insists on eating Indian food regardless of where in the world he is. In a recent interview, Upasana opened up about this unique travel ritual, saying, “My husband has to eat Indian food wherever we are in the world.