



Weather
Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
t° H 36° C L 27° C	t° H 37° C L 28° C	t° H 37° C L 27° C

AB Venkateswara Rao Demand for Justice in Anantha Babu Case

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CM Naidu to Meet Amit Shah

Political discussions about AP's Rajya Sabha candidate

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Cabinet Sub-Committee Reviews Arrangements for PM Modi's Visit

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Polavaram Deadline Advanced by Six Months: Nimmala

- Project to be completed by June 2027 in view of Godavari Pushkaralu
- Diaphragm wall works underway with ₹990 crore allocation
- ₹1200 crore allotted for Polavaram left canal completion

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Fishermen's Guarantee Fund

Govt Responds to *True Point News*

- Fisheries Department launches enumeration
- CM to launch the scheme in Etcherla, Srikakulam district

Unreliable Coastal Lives

- Fishermen await funds during fishing ban
- Many consider migration for survival
- Fishing banned from April 15 to June 15, leaving thousands jobless
- Fishermen await ₹20,000 assurance promised by govt
- Confusion among officials over fund release

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

In response to a report published by True Point News under the headline "Yedi Bharosa," which highlighted the unfulfilled promises regarding the fishermen's guarantee, the coalition government in the state has taken action. The report had pointed out that while Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had promised during the elections to increase the fishermen's guarantee from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000

per year, the scheme had not been implemented, and many fishermen were being forced to migrate due to the fishing ban. Following the news publication, the Fisheries Department has initiated the process of selecting beneficiaries for the Fishermen's Guarantee Scheme, which will provide Rs. 20,000 annually to eligible fishermen. The department has also begun enumeration to ensure proper distribution of the funds. In this context, CM Chandrababu

Naidu is scheduled to visit Etcherla in Srikakulam district on the 26th of this month, where he will officially launch the scheme. During the event, fishermen will be given a fishing ban allowance of Rs. 20,000 each, with the amount to be deposited directly into their accounts. However, there is still no clarity on whether the arrears from the previous guarantee scheme will be paid out, or if the fishermen will receive the current allowance in addition to the past arrears.

Pravasthi Aaradhya Accuses judges of favouritism in 'Padutha Teeyaga'



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Playback singer Pravasthi Aaradhya has made serious allegations against the judges of the popular Telugu singing reality show Padutha Teeyaga, including acclaimed music director M.M. Keeravani, singer Sunitha, and lyricist Chandrabose. She claimed that she was subjected to unfair treatment, body shaming, and emotional distress during her

time on the show. In a statement that has sparked a heated debate, Pravasthi alleged that the judging panel was biased, awarding high marks only to those who performed songs composed by Keeravani. She said this approach sidelined the true talent of many contestants and created an uneven playing field. "It felt like marks were given based on the song choice, not the performance," she said. Pravasthi further revealed that she was insulted for sharing

that she performs at weddings and events to earn a living. According to her, the judges demeaned her for this and made comments that made her feel belittled in front of others on the set. "Just because I sing at functions doesn't mean I'm any less of a singer," she said. What hurt her most, Pravasthi stated, was being body-shamed. She claimed the judges passed humiliating remarks about her physical appearance, which left her mentally disturbed and disheartened. "I was treated like a pest. Despite performing on many stages and singing in Tamil, I've never faced such humiliation," she said, describing the experience as emotionally scarring. She added that a prestigious platform like Padutha Teeyaga, which should uplift upcoming singers, has instead caused her immense pain. Her allegations have shocked fans of the show and sparked online discussions about the treatment of participants in reality TV shows.



Raj Kesireddy Detained in AP liquor scam

- Detained at Hyderabad airport after skipping SIT notices
- Raj Kesi Reddy held by AP police upon arrival from Dubai
- Ignored SIT summons thrice before releasing an audio promising cooperation
- High Court adjourns his bail plea hearing to next week

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Gold Prices Hit Rs. 1,00,000 Mark

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Gold prices reached a historic milestone on Monday, with the price of 10 grams of 99.9% purity gold soaring by Rs. 1,650 to close at Rs. 99,800 in the Delhi bullion market. Including GST, the price touched the Rs. 1,00,000 mark for the first time. This surge marks a Rs. 20,000 increase in gold prices this year alone.

The Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) saw June gold futures touching an all-time high of Rs. 96,875, reflecting the growing trend in the precious metal's value. Analysts attribute the increase to several factors, including the weakening US dollar, international trade tensions, and a global economic slowdown, especially the ongoing US-China tariff war.

Experts believe that these factors are driving investors toward gold, which is considered a safe-haven investment during periods of geopolitical and economic uncertainty. The dollar index has fallen over 10% in the last three months, further boosting gold's appeal. As a result, central banks worldwide are accumulating gold reserves to hedge against market instability.

In international markets, spot gold prices are trading near \$3,400 per ounce, contributing to the upward trend in domestic prices. Additionally, the rise in exchange-traded fund (ETF) investments has also played a significant role in driving the price of gold higher. Silver also saw an increase, with its price rising by Rs. 500 per kg to Rs. 98,500. As the festive season approaches, experts predict that demand for gold could increase further, pushing prices even higher.



Raj Kesireddy Detained...

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a major development in the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam case, Rajasekhar Reddy alias Raj Kesi Reddy, a key accused, was detained by the AP police at Hyderabad airport on Monday. The Special Investigation Team (SIT), which has been probing the scam, took him into custody after he arrived from Dubai.

Kesi Reddy had earlier evaded SIT notices on three occasions, failing to appear for questioning. However, in an audio message released this afternoon, he stated that he would present himself for inquiry at the SIT office between 11 am and 12 noon tomorrow. His announcement came shortly before his arrest, raising eyebrows over the timing of his planned cooperation. The development follows a delay in his anticipatory bail plea hearing in the High Court, which has been postponed to next week. With the court denying interim relief, Kesi Reddy appears to have had limited legal options left.

His arrest also comes soon after YSR Congress Party leader Vijayasai Reddy appeared before the SIT in connection with the same case. Responding indirectly to comments made by Vijayasai, Raj Kesi Reddy said he had remained silent so far due to legal constraints but asserted that “the truth will come out soon.”

Kesi Reddy’s detention marks a key step in the ongoing investigation into the high-profile liquor scam that has rocked Andhra Pradesh politics.

Polavaram Deadline Advanced by Six...

TPN Correspondent | Rajahmundry

The Andhra Pradesh government has advanced the target date for the completion of the prestigious Polavaram irrigation project. While Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had earlier set the deadline for December 2027, State Irrigation Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu on Monday revealed that the government now aims to complete the project six months ahead—by June 2027—coinciding with the Godavari Pushkaralu.

Addressing the media in Rajahmundry, Nimmala Ramanaidu said that key milestones in the project have already been achieved. “As of now, 202 meters of the diaphragm wall have been completed. The full diaphragm wall is expected to be finished by December 2025,” he stated. He added that ₹990 crore has been allocated for the diaphragm wall’s construction.

Highlighting the government’s commitment to fast-track progress, the Minister also mentioned that ₹1200 crore has been earmarked for the completion of the Polavaram left canal. Additionally, ₹366 crore has been sanctioned for canal repairs this summer.

Criticizing the previous administration, Ramanaidu remarked that YSRCP ministers, including former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, had failed to properly understand or prioritize the project. “Polavaram never received focused attention under the previous government. We are determined to set that right,” he said.

Three Judges Transferred from AP, Telangana High Courts

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Three judges from the High Courts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have been officially transferred to other states, following the latest orders issued by the Central Government in line with the recommendations of the Supreme Court Collegium.

From the Telangana High Court, Justice K. Surender has been transferred to the Madras High Court, while Justice P. Srisudha has been moved to the Karnataka High Court. Additionally, Justice K. Manmadha Rao, who has been serving in the Andhra Pradesh High Court, has also been transferred to the Karnataka High Court.



earlier by the Collegium to ensure balanced distribution of judicial resources and better adminis-

tration across High Courts. With the latest government orders, the transfer process has been officially completed and the judges are expected to assume charge in their new postings soon.

Alongside these transfers, several other judicial movements were also finalized across the country. Justice Hemant Chandan Goud of Karnataka High Court has been transferred to Madras High Court, Justice Krishnan Natarajan to Kerala High Court, Justice Sanjay Goud to Gujarat High Court, and Justice Dixit Srikrishna Sripad to the Odisha High Court.

These decisions form part of the ongoing efforts to streamline judicial functioning and ensure more equitable distribution of judicial talent across the nation’s high courts.

Prasanna Venkatesh Honoured with Prestigious Prime Minister’s Award

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a proud moment for Andhra Pradesh, V. Prasanna Venkatesh, Secretary of APSWREIS, has been awarded the prestigious Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration – 2023. The recognition was conferred by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 17th Civil Services Day celebrations held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on Monday. The award was presented as part of the Government of India’s “Viksit

governance brought state welfare schemes closer to marginalized sections and improved living standards in remote areas.

One of the key initiatives under his leadership was the “Akshaja” programme, a district-wide campaign aimed at eradicating anemia among women and adolescent girls. The initiative, particularly impactful in tribal mandals, focused on delivering targeted healthcare support to pregnant and postpartum women, ensuring nutritional awareness and medical follow-up.

Thanks to such impactful interventions, Eluru district was ranked among the top 10 districts in India under the Prime Minister’s Award selection. The award underlines the success of locally driven, need-based governance models and highlights the potential of district administrations in shaping India’s development



Bharat” initiative, which recognizes IAS officers who demonstrate transformative governance and contribute significantly to public service delivery and sustainable development. Prasanna Venkatesh was chosen for the award for his exceptional work as the first Collector of the newly created Eluru district, where he served from January 2022 to July 2024. His people-first approach and innovative

trajectory.

Speaking after receiving the award, Prasanna Venkatesh expressed his gratitude to the central government and reiterated his commitment to public service. “This award is a recognition of the collective efforts of the district administration and the community. I remain dedicated to delivering efficient, inclusive, and compassionate governance,” he said.

Minister Narayan Completes Two-day Gujarat Tour



TPN Correspondent | Gujarat

Minister Narayan and his team continued their tour of Gujarat on the second day of their visit. In the morning, the Minister visited the Jindal Solid Waste Management Plant in Gaspur. The team observed the plant’s process of converting solid waste into electricity and paver blocks. Officials briefed the Minister on the waste decomposition process, which helps manage the large quantities of waste generated daily. Later, the Minister and his team traveled to Ahmedabad, where they inspected the iconic Narendra Modi Stadium. Officials from the Gujarat Sports Department briefed the Minister on the unique process involved in constructing the stadium in just 9 months.



Common Devotees Suffer in Heat at Srikalahasti Temple

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

Amid soaring summer temperatures, devotees at the renowned Srikalahasti Swamy Temple are facing serious discomfort and potential health risks due to inadequate facilities, particularly for those exiting the temple after darshan. Despite repeated appeals and media reports highlighting the issue, the temple authorities’ response has been limited and ineffective, leading to growing criticism from the public.

Devotees enter the temple through the first gate and exit through the fourth gate, located at the rear side of the temple complex. However, between the fourth gate and the outer exit, there is no proper shelter or sun protection, forcing ordinary devotees — including senior citizens and children — to walk long distances under the blazing sun.

Although the authorities claimed to have responded by installing metal railings along the path, this solution has backfired. The metal structures heat up rapidly under direct sunlight, making them dangerously hot to touch. With no adequate shade or water facilities, the path has become almost unbearable during peak afternoon hours, and several devotees have reportedly experienced symptoms of heat exhaustion and sunstroke.

In sharp contrast, VIP visitors — who enter from Sri Gnanabhika Sadan — are provided with shaded walkways and additional comforts. This disparity in treatment has not gone unnoticed. Many devotees are openly expressing frustration at what they see as preferential treatment for VIPs at the expense of regular pilgrims.

“Everyone comes here to seek blessings. Why should only VIPs be protected from the heat? We are humans too,” lamented one elderly devotee. There is growing demand for immediate action from the temple management. Devotees are urging the authorities to ensure equal and humane treatment for all pilgrims by arranging shaded walkways, water distribution points, and proper seating for rest. Until such steps are taken, the temple management may continue to face public outrage for what many believe is negligence towards the very people who sustain the spiritual sanctity of the temple.

Minister Gottipati Launches Development Programs in Addanki



TPN Correspondent | Addanki

Power Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar visited Addanki and launched several key development projects in Santamaguluru mandal. The Minister inaugurated the NTR Park and a Water Plant, both constructed with an investment of Rs. 10 lakhs. These projects are part of the government’s ongoing efforts to improve infrastructure and provide better amenities for local communities.

In addition, newly constructed CC roads worth Rs. 30 lakhs were opened, improving connectivity and road conditions in the area. Minister Ravi Kumar also took significant steps towards strengthening the local education system. He inaugurated 6 new classrooms at a government school built with an investment of Rs. 78.17 lakhs, aimed at providing better facilities for students.

During his visit, Minister Ravi Kumar

highlighted the ongoing recruitment of 16,347 teacher posts through DSC (District Selection Committee), which aligns with the government’s commitment to improving educational standards. He remarked that so far, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has issued the highest number of DSC notifications.

Ravi Kumar also took the opportunity to criticize the previous administration, saying that it was the YSR Congress Party (YCP) that stood by teachers during difficult times. He pointed out that Jagan Reddy’s government had caused mental distress to teachers, and emphasized that the current coalition government is working towards providing appropriate positions for teachers and employees.

In his speech, the Minister assured the audience that under the leadership of Minister Lokesh, the education system will continue to be strengthened.

Heat Wave Expected to Intensify in Telugu States

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

The Meteorological Department has issued a weather alert for the Telugu states, predicting a significant rise in temperatures over the coming days. Officials have stated that temperatures could reach as high as 40 degrees Celsius, bringing with it intense heat and humidity. The scorching sun is expected to persist during the day, while scattered rain showers may provide some relief at night.

Temperatures have already surpassed 35°C in many areas, making it increasingly difficult for people to venture outside during the afternoon hours. Despite signs of occasional rain, the sun remains oppressive during the day, with a dry spell following every



shower. The Visakhapatnam Meteorological Department confirmed that the dry conditions would continue, with temperatures expected to be 2 to 3 degrees higher than usual. There is

also a possibility of thunderstorms and gusty winds in some regions.

In addition to the heatwave, farmers are grappling with untimely rains, which have caused significant damage to crops. Recently, heavy rains, along with hailstorms and strong winds, damaged 300 acres of paddy crops in Ayyavaripalli and Velugom-mala villages. The unseasonal weather has also affected maize and mango orchards, leaving farmers with severe losses just before harvest. In these villages, 412 farmers are waiting for government assistance to cope with the damages.



Pope's Death Deeply Saddening says YS Jagan

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, the Chief of the YSR Congress Party (YCP) and former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, expressed profound sorrow over the death of Pope Francis, the head of the Catholic Church. In a statement, Jagan conveyed his heartfelt condolences, describing the news of the Pope's passing as deeply saddening.

Jagan lauded Pope Francis for his remarkable leadership of the Catholic Church, highlighting the transformative changes that took place under his tenure. He acknowledged the Pope's historical achievement as the first Latin American to be elected to the papacy, noting the indelible impact he had on millions of Christians worldwide.

Describing Pope Francis not only as a religious leader but as a humanitarian, Jagan emphasized his tireless efforts for world peace and his compassion for the poor and marginalized. He praised the Pope's humility and humanity, which resonated deeply across the globe. In his message, Jagan expressed his prayers for the eternal peace of Pope Francis, noting that his absence would be felt profoundly, especially within the global Catholic community.

YCP leader Rajeev Reddy arrested for objectionable comments against CM

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

The coalition government has intensified its crack-down on objectionable and defamatory content being spread through social media and digital platforms. In a significant move, YCP leader Kakutur Rajeev Reddy from Nellore district was arrested for allegedly making objectionable comments against Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

Rajeev Reddy, a resident of Pathapadu village in Chaserla mandal, is accused of making personal attacks on Chandrababu through social media posts. The matter came to light after local leaders lodged a complaint, prompting swift action by the police.

Despite being a member of the ruling YSR Congress Party, Rajeev Reddy was not spared, signaling the coalition government's stern approach to handling defamatory or misleading online content, irrespective of political affiliation. The police have registered a case and taken him into custody for further investigation.

Officials have clarified that posting false, derogatory, or personal remarks—especially against constitutional authorities or government leaders—will not be tolerated. The arrest has been widely seen as part of a broader move to curb digital abuse and maintain accountability on public platforms, even if it means acting against one's own party members.

This development serves as a warning to all political and non-political figures to exercise restraint and responsibility in public discourse, especially on sensitive digital platforms.

CM Naidu to Meet Amit Shah

- Political discussions about AP's Rajya Sabha candidate
- BJP's cabinet expansion and possible ministerial berth for AP
- Annamalai likely to replace Sai Reddy for Rajya Sabha
- TDP and Jana Sena's roles in Union Cabinet expansion

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Politics in Andhra Pradesh is heating up as Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu prepares to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other key Union ministers in Delhi. The meeting, which is likely to take place tomorrow, will focus on a range of state-related issues and ongoing projects, particularly ahead of Prime Minister Modi's visit to the state on May 2. The meeting's importance is magnified by the BJP's strategic plans for expanding the central cabinet and reshuffling positions in Rajya Sabha.

During his visit to Delhi, Chandrababu is expected to meet with the Minister of Water Resources and the Minister of Law, but the



discussions with Amit Shah are expected to be the most politically significant. The BJP is reportedly looking to nominate a new candidate for the Rajya Sabha

seat vacated by Sai Reddy, a former YSRCP leader. Tamil Nadu BJP leader Annamalai is being touted as the likely candidate to fill this seat, with speculation

also suggesting that Annamalai could be appointed to a Union Ministerial post.

As the BJP pushes ahead with its plans for cabinet expansion, the political maneuvering around Jana Sena and TDP has become crucial. While two TDP leaders from AP currently hold positions in the Union Cabinet, Jana Sena has yet to secure a ministerial berth. The discussions in Delhi will likely determine whether Jana Sena will be given a seat in the expansion or if the TDP will secure another post.

The BJP's focus on Tamil Nadu Assembly elections in 2026 adds another layer of importance to these decisions. The party seems to be weighing its options carefully and could make major announcements following the talks with Chandrababu, especially concerning Annamalai's political future and the Rajya Sabha seat from AP. As the political climate in Andhra Pradesh heats up, all eyes are now on the outcome of these crucial meetings.

Vasamsetty Reveals why Jagan held a Grudge Against RRR

TPN Correspondent | Krishna

Labour Minister Vasamsetty Subhash made serious allegations against former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, claiming that Jagan fostered deep-seated bias even against his own party leaders, particularly MP Raghurama Krishnam Raju. Speaking during Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's birthday celebrations at Gandigunta in Uyyuru mandal of Krishna district on Sunday, the minister shared personal experiences from his time in YSRCP.

Vasamsetty revealed that Jagan's displeasure towards Raghurama intensified simply because the latter did not address him as "Sir" and once sat with his legs crossed in his presence. "Jagan held that as a personal insult and carried that grudge through-

out," Vasamsetty remarked. He also criticized Jagan's style of governance, saying he operated the administration from a dark room with just four individuals, keeping even senior party leaders in the dark.

The minister further recalled that during his ten-year stint with YSRCP, he was promised the MLC post. "When I was told I'd have to go to Dhanunjay Reddy and bow before Jagan to get the MLC nomination, I was shocked," he said. Vasamsetty added that when he questioned the practice, he was told that another minister from his own district, Venu, had also done the same.

He accused Jagan of arrogance and said the former Chief Minister assumed he would return to power despite growing dissatisfaction within his own party. "Many YSRCP leaders themselves



voted against Jagan, unable to tolerate his attitude anymore," he stated.

Vasamsetty also attacked Jagan's unfulfilled promises, citing the Budameru flood relief, where Jagan had promised ₹1 crore in aid but failed to deliver. He further criticized Jagan for lacking a

spirit of service, despite accumulating wealth during his tenure. The minister's comments have added to the ongoing political friction, exposing deeper rifts within the opposition and raising questions about leadership practices in the previous government.

Even before the Waqf Bill became an Act...

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

Former Rajya Sabha member N. Tulasi Reddy and Awaaz State President S. Abdul Subhan have raised serious concerns over the Waqf Bill Amendment Act, alleging that proposals to grant 99-year leases to corporates were prepared even before the Bill became law. Speaking at a "round table meeting" held at the Kadapa Press Club on Monday, the leaders accused the Centre of trampling on the constitutional rights of minorities.

The meeting, organized by the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and CPM Kadapa District Committee, was chaired by CPM District Secretary G. Chandrasekhar. Both Reddy and Subhan emphasized that the BJP government at the Centre, along with BJP-led state governments, had been attempting to



seize Waqf properties without proper documentation. These properties, many of which were held by Nawabs from 1000 years ago, are being targeted under the guise of "buyer-user" arrangements. They also criticized the lack of administrative records, making such actions appear uncivilized.

The leaders noted that Muslim religious institutions' properties had long been protected by Justice Sachar Committee recommendations, but these measures were never implemented. The government's actions, they argued, are part of a broader agenda of undermining minority rights, with the rise of Hindutva fascism posing a threat to the secular fabric of the nation. The leaders warned that if this trend continues, India may face the loss of its democratic values and the rise of dictatorship.

Further, they criticized the BJP's exclusion of women from religious boards, citing this as a direct violation of Article 14 of the Indian Constitution. The leaders also accused the Centre of targeting those who oppose its policies, including Rahul Gandhi and Supreme Court judges, with sedition cases.

Vidadala Rajani Asked to Leave anti-Waqf Amendment Rally

TPN Correspondent | Palnadu



Former Minister Vidadala Rajani faced an uncomfortable situation in Chilakaluripet, Palnadu district, after being asked to leave a rally organized by the Muslim community protesting against the Waqf Amendment Act passed by the central government. The incident occurred on Sunday as Muslims gathered for a peaceful demonstration opposing the controversial amendment.

The rally, which began at Kalamandir Center and progressed towards Chautra Center, saw participation from various members of the Muslim community. Former Minister Rajani joined the rally midway to express solidarity with the protesters. However, her presence sparked objections from the rally participants, who were keen on keeping the event apolitical.

Organizers conveyed to Rajani that while they appreciated support, they wanted the rally to remain free from any political affiliations. They expressed concern that her partici-

pation could lead to the rally being misinterpreted as politically motivated. Responding to these concerns, the police intervened and requested the former minister to leave the rally.

Rajani, however, engaged in a brief argument with the police, stating that similar protests were happening across the country and that political leaders were participating in them. The rally organizers countered her statement, emphasizing that their protest was strictly a community-driven initiative with participation from Muslims of all political backgrounds, and that they did not wish for any single party or leader to be associated with it.

Left with no option, Rajani exited the rally along with local YSRCP leaders. Before departing, she addressed the media and reiterated her support for the Muslim community's opposition to the Waqf Amendment Act. The incident has since sparked discussions over the role of politicians in public protests and the boundaries between solidarity and politicization.

Cabinet Sub-Committee Reviews Arrangements for PM Modi’s Visit

- Prime Minister Modi to visit Amaravati on May 2, 2025
- Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting held to review tour arrangements
- 5 lakh people expected to attend the public meeting
- Senior officials focus on security, roads, and helipads for the visit

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
A Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting was held today to review the arrangements for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Amaravati on May 2, 2025. The meeting was attended by several key figures, including Nandendla Manohar, Payyavula Keshav, Ponguru Narayana, CS Vijay Anand, and other senior officials such as GAD Political Secretary Mukesh Kumar Meena and Pradyumna. The Government Coordination Committee has been formed, compris-

ing senior IAS and IPS officers to ensure the seamless execution of the arrangements. These officials have already started working on airport preparations, with special emphasis on setting up helipads, ensuring smooth public meeting premises, and developing necessary roads for access to the venue. Security arrangements are also a top priority, with the government aiming to ensure the safety and convenience of the attendees. An estimated 5 lakh people are expected to attend the public meeting, and

the government is making extensive arrangements to accommodate the large crowd. These include provisions for clean water supply, parking, and other essential facilities. The Ministers-Officers Coordination Committee is continuing its discussions to ensure that all logistical details are addressed. During the meeting, Minister Narayana stated that the Prime Minister is expected to arrive at 3 pm on May 2nd, with the public meeting scheduled from 4 pm to 5 pm. During the visit,



PM Modi will also inaugurate the reconstruction work of Amaravati. Seven main roads leading to the venue have been identified, and responsibilities have been assigned to various officials to ensure smooth traffic flow and crowd management. The government is also planning to

invite opposition parties to the event, just as they have done in the past, to ensure broad political participation. Arrangements are expected to continue with full coordination among all stakeholders to make the Prime Minister’s visit a resounding success.

Lab Boost for Eluru Schools with ₹2 crore equipment

MP Putta Mahesh Kumar hands over science kits to 50 government high schools

TPN Correspondent | Eluru
Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar has fulfilled a major promise by providing ₹2 crore worth of laboratory equipment to government high schools across the Eluru Parliament constituency. The initiative aims to encourage scientific learning and give students the opportunity to experience subjects through hands-on experiments. Following his assumption of office, MP Mahesh Kumar had visited several government schools and learned from principals that the lack of lab facilities was affecting the quality of education, especially in science subjects. In response, he committed to addressing the issue using his MP Local Area Development funds. True to his word, lab kits worth ₹4 lakh each were recently handed over to 50 selected high schools at a formal event held at Zilla Parishad High School. The program was attended by MLA Badeti Radhakrishnaiah, In-charge Collector P. Dhatri Reddy, SP K. Pratap Shiva Kishore, DEO Venkata Lakshmmamma, and other officials. Each school received over 250 pieces of equipment covering physics, chemistry, mathematics, and social sciences. The objective is to promote a practical approach to learning and inspire stu-



dents to pursue science-related fields. Students, parents, and educators expressed their gratitude to MP Mahesh Kumar, praising the move as unprecedented. Many teachers stated that the long-standing issue of conducting experimental classes without proper tools has now been addressed, enabling a more effective learning process. Principals have also welcomed the MP’s announcement that the remaining schools in the constituency will be covered in the next phase. The timely initiative is expected to bring lasting improvements in science education across the region.

MLA Vasantha Moves High Court Over Hafizpet land



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
TDP MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad has filed a petition in the Telangana High Court against Hydra, alleging that Hydra unlawfully acquired his land located in Hafizpet. The MLA claimed that the land was taken over without proper legal procedures and that the structures pres-

ent on the land were also demolished by the company. In his petition, Vasantha Krishna Prasad accused Hydra of violating land ownership rights and demanded that immediate steps be taken to provide appropriate compensation for the demolished property. He alleged that despite owning the land legally, authorities proceeded with forceful occupation and destruction of property without notice or consent. The MLA urged the court to direct Hydra to halt all further activity on the disputed land and to ensure justice is served in the matter. The case is expected to come up for hearing, and legal observers say the issue could have broader implications if similar cases of unauthorized land possession emerge. The High Court is likely to seek responses from the concerned parties, including municipal authorities and Hydra, before issuing any directives.

311 petitions received at PGRS in Eluru

Collector Vetriselvi urges swift and quality resolution of public grievances



TPN Correspondent | Eluru
District Collector K. Vetriselvi has emphasized the importance of timely and efficient grievance redressal, urging officials to treat each petition received under the PGRS (Prajha Grievance Redressal System) as their own concern. Speaking during the PGRS program held on Monday at the Godavari Conference Hall of Eluru Collectorate, the Collector disclosed that a total of 311 petitions were received from the public. Addressing the district officials, she stated that negligence in resolving public issues would not be tolerated. “Each petition reflects a citizen’s trust in the administration. It is our duty to ensure quality solutions are delivered swiftly,” she said. She directed the officials to thorough-

ly examine each petition pertaining to their respective departments and ensure resolution within the stipulated timeframe. Collector Vetriselvi also stressed the need for departments to provide clear and quality endorsements upon resolving petitions. She encouraged the officials to approach public grievances with empathy and determination, aiming to create a responsive and accountable administrative system. Joint Collector P. Dhatri Reddy, District Revenue Officer V. Visveswara Rao, SE Corporation ED M. Mukkunti, Special Deputy Collectors K. Bhaskar and Srinivasa Rao, and Assistant Director of Survey MD. Ansari were among the officials present during the program.

Nadendla Receives Grand Welcome in Eluru

TPN Correspondent | Eluru
Civil Supplies Minister and Eluru District In-charge Nadendla Manohar received a rousing welcome upon his arrival in Eluru on Monday. The Minister is in the district to participate in a series of developmental programs and review progress on ongoing works. As he reached the Eluru bypass, he was warmly welcomed by a host of Jana Sena Party leaders and supporters. Among those who greeted him were Joint West Godavari District President Kotikalapudi Govinda Rao (Chinababu), Graduate MLC Perabathula Rajasekharam, and RTC Zonal Chairman and Eluru Constituency Jana Sena In-charge Reddy Appala Naidu. Several other key leaders including State Secretary and Denduluru Coordinator Ghantasala Venkatalakshmi, Gopalapuram Jana Sena In-charge Doddigarla Suvana Raju, and Nujivee-



du Jana Sena In-charge Burma Phani were also present and played an active role in organizing the welcome. Minister Nadendla Manohar is expected to visit several parts of the district and interact with officials and local leaders to push forward development plans. The enthusiastic reception signals strong grassroots support for the Minister and the Jana Sena Party in the region.

Vallabhaneni Vamsi Faces Setback as HC Postpones Bail Verdict

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Former Gannavaram MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi, who has faced a series of legal challenges since the end of the previous YSRCP government in Andhra Pradesh, has been dealt another blow after the High Court postponed its decision on his bail petition. The petition pertains to one of three ongoing cases against him, including the land encroachment case. During today’s hearing,

the government lawyer informed the court that they would need time to provide a response regarding Vamsi’s petition. As a result, the court has adjourned the matter for a week, meaning that Vamsi will have to wait longer before a decision is made regarding his release. Vamsi, who has been in police custody for the past several weeks, filed the bail petition on the condition that he would fully cooperate with the ongoing investigation.

However, despite his request, the government has yet to provide a response, causing a delay in the decision-making process. In addition to the land encroachment case, Vamsi is facing serious charges related to the attack on the Gannavaram TDP office, the kidnapping of key witness Satyavardhan, and attempts to tamper with evidence. The police have filed PT warrants in all three cases, further complicating his situation.

As a result, the court has extended his remand several times. The High Court has already extended his remand in the Gannavaram TDP office attack case, despite Vamsi’s attempts to secure bail. With the police opposing his release, Vamsi’s prospects for bail appear uncertain. Until the High Court announces a verdict, which is now expected next week, Vamsi will remain in custody.



Usha Vance in India, but to Skips AP Visit

U.S. Vice President JD Vance arrives in India with wife Usha and children
Usha Vance’s roots traced to Vadluru in AP’s West Godavari
No visit planned to her ancestral village due to official constraints
Vance family to tour Jaipur and Agra after meeting PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
U.S. Vice President JD Vance and his wife Usha Vance have arrived in India on an official visit, marking their first trip to the country since Donald Trump assumed office four months ago. The couple, accompanied by their three children, landed in Delhi earlier today and are set to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of their diplomatic schedule. While the visit is packed with high-level meetings and sightseeing, it comes as a mild disappointment to residents of Vadluru, a village in the West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. Usha Vance’s ancestral roots trace back to this village, where her family lived before migrating to the United States. The villagers of Vadluru, who had hoped for a personal visit from Usha Vance, were left disheartened after learning that no stop in Andhra Pradesh was planned. Many in the community had performed special prayers for JD Vance’s electoral success, and were eagerly looking forward to welcoming Usha as a sign of



shared pride. However, due to the tightly scheduled nature of the Vice President’s diplomatic itinerary, the Vance family will not be traveling to Andhra Pradesh. Instead, after meeting with Prime Minister Modi, the family will proceed to visit

iconic heritage sites in Jaipur and Agra, before concluding their India trip on April 24. Although disappointed, locals in Vadluru remain hopeful that Usha Vance may return for a more personal visit in the future, free from the bounds of an official delegation.

Cricket betting case filed against YSRCP leader Tataji



TPN Correspondent | West Godavari
The Palakollu Town Police have registered a case against YSRCP leader and former DCMS chairman Yadla Tataji and his brother Nageshwar Rao in connection with an online cricket betting racket. The two are currently abscond-

ing, according to police officials. The racket, which was being operated from Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, and Hyderabad, came to light following a raid conducted by the police in Palakollu. Acting on credible information, the police carried out a search in a private

building near the Penumadam bypass road within the town limits, where they found evidence of the betting operations. Narasapuram DSP Srivedha briefed the media on the case, stating that two individuals, Y. Murali and M. Venkata Rao, were arrested during the operation. The police seized ₹33,000 in cash, two laptops, and two mobile phones from the accused. According to DSP Srivedha, Tataji and Nageshwar Rao have allegedly been running the cricket betting business for the past ten years. The police have launched a manhunt with two special teams to apprehend the absconding brothers. The incident has created a stir locally, given the political background of the accused. Further investigations are underway.

TTD Issues Notices to Visakha Sarada Peetham

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati
In a significant development, the Visakha Sarada Peetham Math in Tirumala has been served notices by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) over the construction of a building that allegedly violates TTD regulations. The building in question was reportedly constructed during the previous government’s tenure without proper approvals. Several Hindu Dharma Protection Associations raised objections to the construction and approached the Andhra Pradesh High Court, seeking action against what they claimed was an illegal structure within the sacred hill town of Tirumala. After hearing the arguments, the High Court recently ruled in favor of TTD, strengthening its authority over managing and regulating constructions in Tirumala. Following the court’s verdict, TTD has taken steps to enforce the ruling. Notices were issued today to the Visakha Sarada Peetham, instructing them to vacate the building within fifteen days and hand over the property to TTD. The TTD estate department, in its notice, cited violations of existing rules governing construction on Tirumala hills and stated that any structure found to be unauthorized is liable for demolition. The court’s judgment clearly emphasized that no exceptions should be made when it comes to unauthorized constructions and that even religious institutions are expected to adhere strictly to the legal and regulatory framework established to protect the sanctity of Tirumala. The development has sparked discussions across religious and administrative circles, with many awaiting the Peetham’s response.



Labor shortage in agriculture can be reduced with mechanization

TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram
Dr. P.V. Satyanarayana, Director of Research at Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, emphasized that mechanization in the agricultural sector could significantly reduce the current labor shortage. Speaking at the ongoing Zonal Research and Extension Advisory Council Meetings in Vizianagaram, he pointed out that the introduction of advanced farming tools and machinery could ease the dependency on manual labor. The two-day event, which began on April 21, is being held at the Zilla Parishad Conference Hall in Vizianagaram and involves agricultural scientists and officers from the Anakapalle, Visakhapatnam, Vijayanagaram, and Srikakulam districts. In his inaugural address, Dr. Satyanarayana highlighted that quality agricultural management training is being provided in these regions and praised the university’s efforts in introducing improved crop varieties. He also mentioned the potential for growth in agricultural production, particularly in districts like Visakhapatnam and Vijayanagaram, with special focus on crops such as maize. The conference will continue with discussions aimed at boosting agricultural productivity in the region.

AB Venkateswara Rao Demand for Justice in Anantha Babu Case

AB Venkateswara Rao meets family of slain driver Veedhi Subramanyam
Demands re-investigation into YSRCP MLC Anantha Babu’s murder case
Accuses ex-MLA Dwarampudi of influencing police

TPN Correspondent | Kakinada
Former IPS officer AB Venkateswara Rao, who once headed the intelligence wing under the TDP government and was twice suspended during the YSRCP regime, has now turned his focus on seeking justice in high-profile cases from the previous government’s tenure. After receiving a clean chit from courts, AB has grown politically active and continues to highlight controversial cases that unfolded during YS Jagan Mohan Reddy’s rule. On Monday, AB Venkateswara Rao visited the family of Veedhi Subramanyam, a driver who was brutally murdered in a case involving YSRCP MLC Anantha Babu. The retired officer accompanied the victim’s family to the Superintendent of Police’s office in Kakinada, urging officials to reopen the investigation. He assured the family of his full support and stated that he would take the issue to higher authorities if justice was delayed. AB alleged that former YSRCP MLA Dwarampudi Chandrasekhar Reddy had influenced the police to protect those involved in the murder. “The case was manipulated from the beginning. The charge sheet itself was built on the narrative



of the accused, not the truth,” he claimed, adding that the investigation was steered to suit the political interests of the ruling party at the time. He further criticized the manner in which the YSRCP government allegedly shielded Anantha Babu. “They crossed every limit to save him. The entire probe was nothing but a script to cover up the truth,” AB said. He also pointed out the lack of progress in other alleged scams, like the Dwarampudi rice case, and hinted at launching protests if the victims of such cases continued to be ignored. AB Venkateswara Rao, who has already hinted at his political entry, appears determined to build public momentum by championing unresolved cases linked to the previous regime.

Online Gaming Claims Life of Anther Youth

TPN Correspondent | Sathya Sai District
A tragic incident has come to light from Hindupuram in Andhra Pradesh’s Sathya Sai district, where a 23-year-old youth ended his life after falling into a debt trap due to his addiction to online gaming. The deceased, Jayachandra from Paideti village in Parigi mandal, had reportedly taken a loan of ₹3 lakh and was unable to repay it. According to police reports, Jayachandra had studied up to a degree and had been running a dairy business in his village for the past two years. He used to procure milk from local farmers, but over time accumulated a debt of ₹3 lakh towards them. Simultaneously, he developed a serious addiction to online games, which led to further financial losses. With mounting pressure and no way out, he shut down his dairy business a month ago. On Saturday, Jayachandra told his family that he was going to Ben-



galuru in search of a job. However, that night, he died by suicide by falling under a moving train near Guddam area near Hindupuram town limits. Upon receiving the alert, police reached the spot, recovered the body, and informed his family. In a heartbreaking detail, police revealed that Jayachandra had written a warning message on his shirt before taking the extreme step. The message read: “Don’t play online games.” A case has been registered and an investigation is underway. This incident once again highlights the growing dangers of unregulated online gaming and the toll it can take on young lives.

Tripura Governor participates in Mukkanti Seva

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati
Tripura Governor N. Indrasena Reddy, accompanied by his family, took part in the sacred Mukkanti Seva at the renowned Srikalahasti Swamy Temple. The temple’s executive officer T. Bapireddy received the Governor and facilitated his participation in the special Rahuketu puja and Rudrabhishekam rituals. Following the pujas, the Governor had a special darshan of Srikalahasti Swamy and Sri Gnana Prasunamba. At the Sri Mrityunjaya Swamy Sannidhanam, Deputy Executive Officer N. R. Krishna Reddy honoured the Governor with a she-shavastra and presented a framed

image of the temple’s Tirtha Prasad as a token of reverence. The visit was marked by tradition-



al Vedic chants as Vedic scholars invoked blessings for the Governor and his family. Devasthanam AEO Vidyasagar Reddy, Superintendent and CSO Nagabhushanam Yadav, along with other temple officials and staff, participated in the ceremonial proceedings.

Global Outrage as U.S. Imposes Controversial Tariffs, Defying WTO Rules

Calling out American trade illegality

The international community has been jolted by the United States’ decision to impose reciprocal tariffs, a move widely criticised as a blatant violation of World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. Announced on April 2, 2025, the tariffs have been temporarily paused for 90 days—except in the case of China—but the political and economic fallout is already spreading across global markets and diplomatic circles.



The U.S., under President Donald Trump, has framed the tariffs as necessary to address what it calls “unfair trade practices” by several countries. However, legal experts and governments worldwide argue that the decision undermines the very foundation of the rules-based multilateral trading system. The most-favoured-nation (MFN) principle, a core element of WTO agreements, requires countries to treat all trading partners equally. The unilateral U.S. move is seen as a direct breach of this principle.

Singapore’s Prime Minister Lawrence Wong was among the first global leaders to denounce the policy. “The imposition of reciprocal tariffs is a complete repudiation of the MFN principle,” he said, warning that such actions could unravel decades of progress in multilateral trade cooperation. Other nations have echoed

similar sentiments. Brazil accused the United States of violating its trade obligations and flouting WTO norms. China, which was immediately targeted by the new tariffs, has retaliated by imposing its own set of duties on American imports and has formally lodged a complaint with the WTO.

Japan also released a statement condemning the U.S. action, describing it as a contradiction of international trade commitments. Canada, meanwhile, has not only criticised the tariffs but has also introduced retaliatory measures, specifically targeting U.S. automobiles and auto parts. In parallel, Ottawa has filed a legal challenge at the WTO to contest the legality of the U.S. tariffs.

These responses reflect a growing unease among na-

tions that rely on a stable, predictable trade framework. Experts warn that if a major economic power like the United States continues to ignore global trade rules, it could trigger a domino effect of protectionist measures and retaliations, weakening the WTO’s authority and fueling economic uncertainty.

While some countries have chosen to remain quiet or tread cautiously, others are using this moment to rally support for upholding international law. For now, the 90-day pause offers a brief window for diplomatic engagement, but if the U.S. proceeds with its tariff regime, it may face deeper isolation in the global trading system.

The world is watching closely, with the future of multilateral trade cooperation hanging in the balance.

PM Modi’s Saudi Visit: IMEC, Strategic Diplomacy, and Shifting Global Alliances

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to embark on a crucial two-day visit to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia this week, marking his first trip to the Kingdom in his third term. With global attention fixed on the region, the visit carries weight far beyond traditional diplomacy. It comes amidst rising geopolitical turbulence—from wars in Gaza and Ukraine to shifting power equations driven by trade realignments and regional tensions.



At the heart of Modi’s agenda is the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), a transcontinental infrastructure project announced during the G20 Summit in New Delhi in 2023. IMEC envisions a modern Silk Route that links India to Europe via the Middle East, passing through the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Israel before reaching Greece and Italy. The corridor promises to reduce shipping costs by up to 30% and cut transport time by nearly 40%, enhancing global trade resilience and offering a compelling alternative to China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

However, IMEC’s progress has faced serious roadblocks, most notably the eruption of the Israel-Hamas conflict following the October 7, 2023 attacks. The war, along with declining Arab public support for Israel, complicated the region’s political landscape and cast doubt on the corridor’s viability. Saudi-

di-Israel normalisation, once viewed as essential for IMEC, stalled abruptly.

Despite these setbacks, India has worked behind the scenes to keep IMEC alive. According to Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, while regional instability has slowed coordinated progress, individual countries are moving forward with infrastructure development, particularly in energy connectivity and transport. India’s diplomatic efforts have included engaging all key players—Israel, Saudi Arabia, the U.S., Jordan, and Egypt—to maintain dialogue and de-escalate tensions.

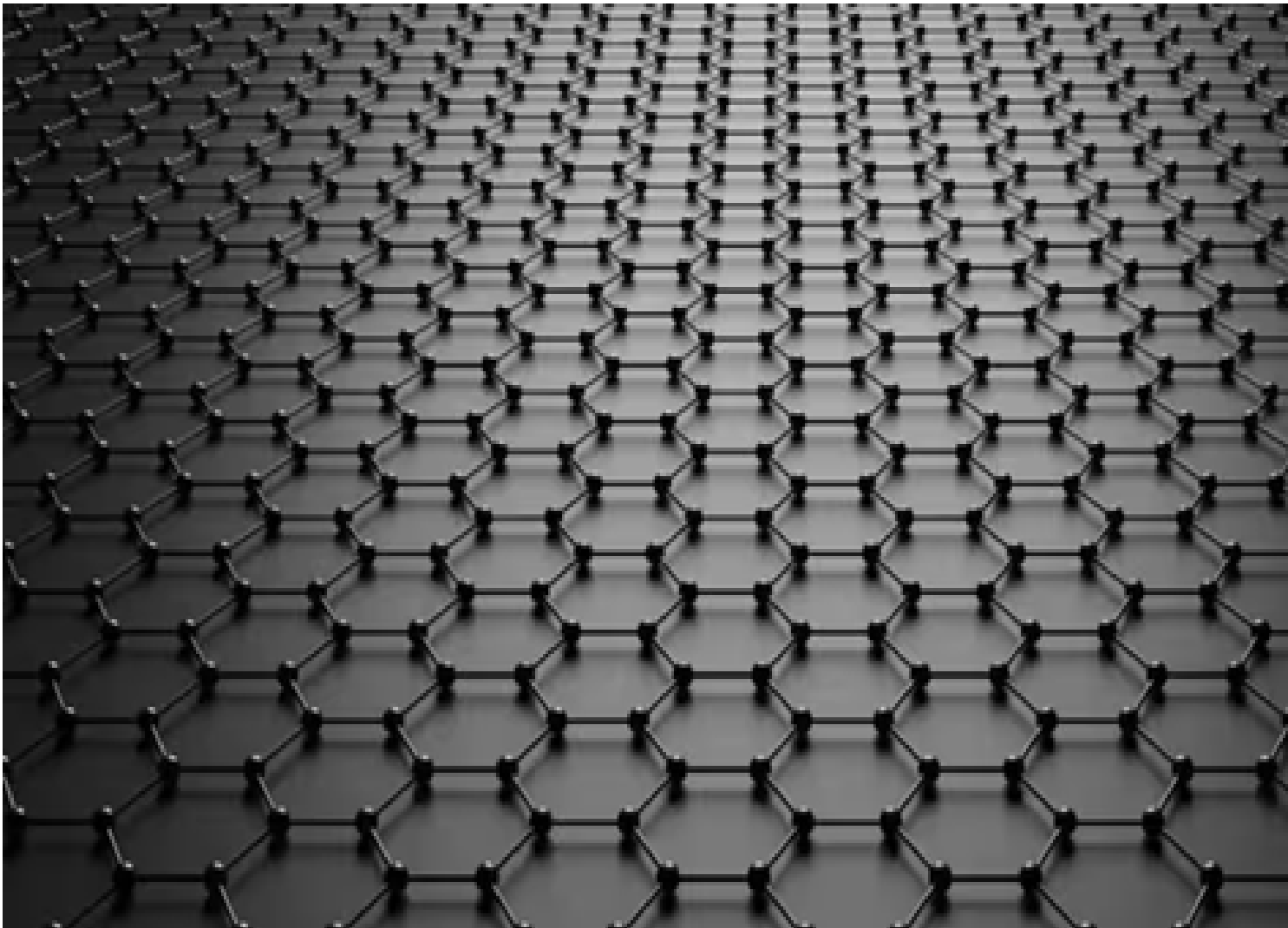
Saudi Arabia stands at the core of IMEC. Politically influential, centrally located, and backed by investment power, the Kingdom is a vital partner. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s Vision 2030 aligns closely with IMEC’s goals. Projects

like NEOM—Saudi’s futuristic Red Sea city—depend on the corridor for access to materials, talent, and global markets. Indian companies are already contributing to NEOM’s development.

For India, IMEC presents a strategic opportunity to bypass chokepoints like the Suez Canal, enhance its role in global supply chains, and offer a non-coercive trade alternative to China’s BRI. Modi’s meeting with MBS will aim to solidify this vision—not just with trade deals, but by embedding a long-term strategic partnership grounded in mutual benefit and shared geopolitical priorities.

As the world navigates uncertainty, IMEC could become the flagship of a new era in global cooperation—with India and Saudi Arabia leading the way.

Graphene: Powering India's Next Leap in Drones and Energy Storage



In a remote border village, a surveillance drone crash-lands—its lithium-ion battery drained, mission unfinished. Now imagine a different outcome: the same drone recharges in under five minutes, doubles its range, and performs flawlessly in both sub-zero Himalayan temperatures and the scorching Thar desert. This isn’t science fiction—it’s the promise of graphene, a material poised to revolutionize India’s drone and energy

future.

Graphene: The Supermaterial of Tomorrow

Graphene is a single layer of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice. Discovered in 2004, it is 200 times stronger than steel, incredibly light, thermally stable, and highly conductive. While its applications span across industries—from electronics

to biomedicine—its most transformative potential lies in energy storage, especially batteries.

Beyond Lithium-Ion: The Graphene Battery Advantage

Traditional lithium-ion batteries have powered the rise of electric vehicles (EVs) and drones, but they are nearing their technological limits—slow charging, overheating, limited lifes-

pan, and dependence on rare, environmentally costly metals.

Graphene-based batteries offer a game-changing alternative:

- Rapid Charging:** Recharge in minutes, not hours—ideal for mission-critical drones or EVs on long routes.
- Higher Energy Density:** Store more power in smaller, lighter batteries, extending drone flight time and EV range.
- Extreme Temperature Resilience:** Operate reliably in India’s harshest climates—from freezing heights to arid deserts.
- Longer Lifespan:** Capable of 5,000+ charge cycles, reducing maintenance costs.
- Environmental Benefits:** Less reliance on rare earths and improved recyclability reduce ecological impact.

Why Drones Are the Ideal Launchpad

Battery limitations are a primary constraint on drone performance. Every extra gram saved or extra minute gained is a tactical advantage. Graphene batteries could cut turnaround times to under 10 minutes and enhance endurance, payload capacity, and operational safety—critical for defense, emergency response, and agriculture.

The Global Graphene Race—and India’s Challenge

While nations across Europe, East Asia, and North America invest heavily in graphene R&D, India risks falling behind. Despite having the raw materials, academic talent, and massive market demand, India’s graphene innovation remains trapped in labs, with little industrial translation.

What India Must Do

- India must seize this opportunity with a National Graphene Battery Mission—a collaborative effort across academia, defense, and industry. The focus should be:
 - Establishing pilot production units in tech hubs.
- Using defense and drone sectors as anchor adopters.
- Fast-tracking integration into two-wheelers and surveillance drones.
- Supporting IP development and commercialization.

Conclusion

Graphene batteries are more than just advanced energy storage—they are strategic assets. In drones, EVs, and national security, the material promises independence and leadership. India may have missed the lithium wave, but with graphene, we have a rare chance to leap ahead. **The question is simple:** Will India lead the graphene era—or watch others do it first?



Govt Warns of New Fake Rs 500 Notes

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has sounded a high alert regarding the circulation of high-quality counterfeit Rs 500 currency notes in the market. These fake notes are reportedly so accurate in design and print that they closely resemble genuine notes, making detection challenging for both the public and financial institutions.

According to officials, the MHA has already alerted key investigative and financial agencies, including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), National Investigation Agency (NIA), and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). These agencies are now coordinating efforts to trace the origin and spread of the counterfeit currency.

Authorities have warned that these fake notes pose a serious threat to India's economy and national security, especially given their near-perfect resemblance to real currency. The problem is exacerbated during fast transactions, where individuals may not examine notes closely.

However, experts have pointed out one critical flaw in the fake notes that can help citizens spot them. In the counterfeit version, there is a spelling error in the phrase "RESERVE BANK OF INDIA"—the letter "E" in "RESERVE" is mistakenly printed as "A," making it "RASARVE BANK OF INDIA."

The government urges all citizens and businesses to carefully inspect Rs 500 notes during transactions, particularly when accepting cash from unfamiliar sources. Anyone who suspects possession of counterfeit currency is advised to report it immediately to the nearest police station or bank.

The investigation is ongoing, and authorities are working to trace the counterfeit note's source and distribution network. In the meantime, public awareness remains the first line of defense against the spread of fake currency.

Ex-Karnataka DGP Killed by Wife

In a shocking case of domestic violence, former Karnataka Director General of Police (DGP) Om Prakash was allegedly murdered by his wife, Pallavi, at their HSR Layout residence in Bengaluru. The incident occurred on Sunday and came to light after the couple's son, Kartikesh, filed a police complaint.

According to police sources, the 68-year-old retired IPS officer was killed following a heated argument. Pallavi reportedly threw chilli powder in his face, then stabbed him multiple times. A broken bottle and knife were recovered from the crime scene. Prakash was rushed to St John's Hospital but succumbed to his injuries.

Immediately after the attack, Pallavi is said to have made a video call to a friend, stating, "I have killed the monster." Their daughter, Kriti, who allegedly convinced her father to return home days earlier, has also been detained for questioning.

Kartikesh claimed his father had recently moved out due to threats from Pallavi, and was staying at his sister's home. "My mother had been threatening to kill him for the past week," he stated. "My sister



Kriti brought him home against his will."

Investigators are probing several angles, including long-standing family disputes and mental health issues. A key point of contention is reportedly a land property in Dandeli. Police also revealed that Pallavi had filed earlier complaints at the HSR Layout police station and had even staged a protest when her concerns were not addressed.

Further complicating the case, Pallavi is undergoing treatment for schizophrenia, raising questions about her mental state at the time of the murder. Police are awaiting a psychological assessment and continue to question both Pallavi and Kriti while legal proceedings unfold.

The investigation is ongoing to determine whether the crime was premeditated and to establish the extent of each family member's involvement.

Rahul Gandhi Slams EC in Boston Visit

During his visit to Boston, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi launched a sharp critique of the Election Commission of India (ECI), alleging serious irregularities in the Maharashtra assembly elections. Speaking at a public event, Gandhi claimed that the voter turnout figures provided by the ECI defied logic and hinted at electoral malpractice. Gandhi referred specifically to the 2019 Maharashtra elections, alleging that voter turnout between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm surged implausibly. "The Commission claimed that around 65 lakh votes were cast in just two hours. That's physically impossible unless people stood in queues until 3 am," he said, questioning the authenticity of the final turnout numbers and describing the Election Commission



as "compromised." These comments, made on foreign soil, have triggered a strong backlash from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which accused Gandhi of maligning India's democratic institutions. BJP spokespersons labeled him a "habitual defam-

er" who repeatedly questions national credibility in international forums. "Rahul Gandhi has once again chosen to insult India abroad. This isn't criticism; it's a deliberate attempt to discredit Indian democracy and its constitutional bodies," said a BJP leader in response. The Election Commission has not officially responded to Gandhi's remarks, but sources within the poll body reportedly dismissed the claims as baseless and politically motivated. Gandhi's remarks have reignited debate over the role of politicians airing domestic issues on foreign platforms, especially in an election year. With India gearing up for general elections in 2026, the controversy may become another flashpoint in the BJP-Congress rivalry.

Air Force Officer Attacked in Bengaluru



A disturbing case of road rage unfolded in Bengaluru, where Indian Air Force officer Wing Commander Bose was allegedly assaulted by a group of men while being driven to the airport by his wife, Squadron Leader Madhumita, also an Air Force officer. The incident occurred near the DRDO colony in CV Raman Nagar.

In a video recorded after the assault, Bose, with visible injuries and blood on his face, narrated the horrifying experience. He said a motorcyclist stopped their vehicle, began abusing them in Kannada, and reacted aggressively after spotting the DRDO sticker on their car.

"When they saw the DRDO sticker, they began abusing both of us. I got out of the car, and the biker hit me with a key on the forehead. Then, he threw a stone which struck me again," said Bose. He emphasized the irony of being attacked despite serving in the armed forces and protecting citizens.

As the situation escalated, more people allegedly joined the attack, further abusing the couple. Fortunately, Squadron Leader Madhumita managed to drive her husband to a police station. However, Bose expressed frustration over the lack of immediate response from authorities. "God help us... Tomorrow, if law and

order don't help us, I will retaliate," he warned in his emotional statement.

Police later confirmed that the primary accused shown in Bose's video has been arrested. While an official complaint had not yet been filed at the time, authorities stated they had identified Madhumita and were attempting to get a full account of the incident. It remains unclear whether the attack was entirely unprovoked or if there was any preceding conflict. The investigation is ongoing, and the case has raised serious concerns about safety and law enforcement response for military personnel and civilians alike.

CAB Seeks Ban on Bhogle, Doull at Eden

In a dramatic turn of events during the IPL 2025 season, the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) has urged the BCCI to bar renowned commentators Harsha Bhogle and Simon Doull from covering matches at Kolkata's iconic Eden Gardens. The move comes after both commentators criticized the stadium's pitch preparation and suggested Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) consider relocating due to lack of curator cooperation.

According to a RevSportz report, the CAB has sent a formal letter to the BCCI, accusing Bhogle and Doull of overstepping by commenting against Eden Gardens curator Sujan Mukherjee. The duo reportedly supported KKR's concern that the curator was not preparing pitches aligned with the team's needs—especially ones favoring spin.

Simon Doull, speaking on Cricbuzz, had said, "If the curator is not listening to the home team's requirements, then maybe the franchise should move elsewhere. His job is not to give opinions, but to prepare pitches as per franchise needs." Harsha Bhogle

echoed the sentiment, stating that teams should have some say in home pitch conditions to suit their bowlers.

However, CAB strongly defended curator Mukherjee, arguing he strictly follows BCCI regulations, which prohibit franchises from dictating pitch preparation. KKR captain Ajinkya Rahane had reportedly requested spin-friendly surfaces to benefit bowlers like Varun Chakravathy and Sunil Narine, but the curator has consistently produced balanced or pace-friendly tracks, leading to high-scoring games.

While the BCCI has yet to respond officially, sources suggest Bhogle and Doull may be absent from the commentary panel for KKR's clash against Gujarat Titans at Eden Gardens on Monday. The situation gains added significance with the IPL 2025 final scheduled at the same venue on May 25.

The incident raises questions about boundaries in commentary and the autonomy of curators under league regulations.





Israel Cancels Visas for 27 French Lawmakers Amid Rising Diplomatic Tensions

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Israel has cancelled the visas of 27 French left-wing lawmakers and local officials just two days before their planned visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories, the group announced on Saturday, April 19, 2025. The delegation, which included members of France's Ecologist and Communist parties, had intended to travel on a five-day mission starting April 20, aimed at promoting international cooperation and peace.

The cancellation follows recent incidents where Israel also barred two British Labour Party MPs and, earlier this year, European lawmakers Rima Hassan and Lynn Boylan from entering the country. The move further strains diplomatic ties as France signals potential recognition of a Palestinian state in the near future.

Israel's interior ministry justified the decision by citing a law that permits authorities to deny entry to individuals believed to act against the interests of the Israeli state.

In a statement, the French delegation condemned the visa revocation as "collective punishment," saying, "For the first time, two days before our departure, the Israeli authorities cancelled our entry visas that had been approved one month ago." They called on French President Emmanuel Macron to intervene, stressing the action marks a "major rupture in diplomatic ties."

Among those affected were National Assembly members François Ruffin, Alexis Corbière, and Julie Ozenne, as well as Communist Party Deputy Soumya Bourouaha and Senator Marianne Margate. Other members included left-leaning mayors and local lawmakers.

The group said they were officially invited by the French consulate in Jerusalem and insisted the purpose of the trip was peaceful and constructive. They demanded a meeting with President Macron and urged the French government to respond firmly to Israel's actions.

Tensions between France and Israel have escalated in recent weeks, particularly after Macron announced that France could recognize a Palestinian state as early as June, possibly at an international conference. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denounced the proposal, calling it a "huge reward for terrorism."

Pope Francis, Leader Of Roman Catholics, Dies At 88 On Easter

- Passed away on Easter Monday after recent health struggles.
- Will be buried at Santa Maria Maggiore, declining traditional Vatican rites.
- Cardinals to convene soon for conclave to elect new pope.

TPN Correspondent | Vatican City

Pope Francis, the first Latin American pontiff and a transformative figure in the modern Catholic Church, has died at the age of 88, the Vatican announced Monday. His death came on Easter Monday at 7:35 a.m. local time, just a day after he greeted worshippers from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica during Easter Sunday celebrations.

Cardinal Kevin Farrell, speaking on Vatican TV, confirmed the pontiff's passing, describing it as a profound loss for the global Church. "The Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the house of the Father," he said.

Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Argentina, Francis was elected pope in 2013 following the historic resignation of Pope Benedict XVI. As the first Jesuit and first pope from the Americas, he became known for his humility, concern for the



poor, and efforts to make the Church more inclusive.

His papacy was marked by health challenges. Most recently, he had been hospitalized with double pneumonia and mild kidney failure. Despite his ailments, he made a brief public appearance from his hospital balcony in

March and later resumed duties at the Vatican.

Francis had previously undergone colon surgery in 2021, a hernia operation in 2023, and had a lung partially removed in his youth. He also struggled with chronic knee pain, often using a wheelchair.

The pope will be buried at Rome's Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica, fulfilling his wish to rest outside the Vatican. He declined the traditional three-coffin burial, opting instead for a simpler zinc-and-wood casket.

During his 12-year papacy, Francis issued major teaching documents, traveled to over 65 countries, created 900 saints, and brought significant reforms to the Vatican. He also encouraged compassionate dialogue on sensitive issues like LGBTQ+ rights and women's roles in the Church.

With his passing, the Church now prepares for a conclave, where cardinals will gather in the coming weeks to choose his successor. Until then, Cardinal Farrell will oversee Vatican operations as camerlengo.

Pope Francis leaves behind a legacy of humility, reform, and a deep commitment to social justice..

China returns new 'expensive' Boeing aircraft as 125% import duty prevails on all US imports

TPN Correspondent | US

In a striking move underscoring the intensifying global trade war, China's Xiamen Airlines has returned a newly delivered Boeing 737 MAX aircraft to the United States, citing high import tariffs as the reason. According to a report by Reuters on Monday, April 21, the aircraft was turned back due to steep duties on American imports, part of the escalating tariff battle between the U.S. and China.

The development comes amid a turbulent phase in U.S.-China trade relations, following U.S. President Donald Trump's aggressive tariff hike policies. The Chinese government recently imposed a 125% import tariff on all U.S. goods, making it economically unviable for airlines and other businesses to accept American products. In retaliation, the United States increased tariffs to 145%



on Chinese imports, escalating the standoff between the world's two largest economies.

Boeing Co., based in the U.S., is a global leader in both commercial aviation and defense manufacturing. However, its operations in China—once a major growth market for the aviation giant—have been significantly impacted by geopolitical tensions and

trade restrictions. The decision by Xiamen Airlines, a prominent Chinese carrier, to reject the U.S.-made aircraft highlights the ripple effects of the ongoing tariff war on international business and supply chains.

This is not the first time Boeing's relationship with China has come under strain. In recent years, Chinese regulators have been slow

to recertify the 737 MAX after its global grounding in 2019. Combined with rising political tensions and increasing efforts by China to support its domestic aircraft manufacturing industry—such as the COMAC C919—American aerospace exports to China are facing mounting hurdles.

The return of the aircraft also symbolizes the challenges that U.S. companies face in navigating trade policy shifts and tariff-related uncertainties. Experts warn that such protectionist measures may not only hurt bilateral trade but could also disrupt the global aviation supply chain, increase aircraft costs, and potentially delay fleet upgrades for airlines worldwide.

As the trade war intensifies, industry observers are closely watching how Boeing, and the broader aviation sector, adapt to the shifting dynamics of international commerce.

'AI will cause mass unemployment': Bill Gates, Barack Obama warn in grim forecast

TPN Correspondent | Ottawa

Artificial intelligence (AI) is accelerating at an unprecedented pace, and global leaders like Bill Gates and Barack Obama are sounding the alarm on its potential to reshape the global job landscape. In recent public appearances, both the Microsoft co-founder and the former U.S. President expressed concerns about the disruption AI could bring—especially in replacing millions of jobs that were once considered secure.

Bill Gates, while acknowledging AI's power to drive innovation and solve complex global issues, called it "a bit scary." He predicted a future where access to intelligence—like that of top doctors or expert teachers—could become virtually free and ubiquitous,



thanks to AI advancements. "Great medical advice, great tutoring... these things will become commonplace,"

Gates said, underlining that AI could help address shortages in healthcare and education. However, he questioned

what this would mean for traditional work: "Should we work two or three days a week? What will jobs even look like?"

Gates also emphasized that while some human activities, like playing baseball, would remain untouched, AI will eventually take over many tasks including manufacturing, logistics, and food production. "It's profound because it solves problems, but it brings massive change," he added.

Echoing these thoughts, Barack Obama warned that AI is evolving even faster than previous technological revolutions. "AI will be more impactful and come faster than any prior wave of change," Obama said, adding that it's no longer just blue-collar jobs at risk—high-paying white-collar roles are now

vulnerable too.

"Today's AI models can already code better than 60-70% of software developers," Obama noted. He predicted that while elite professionals may harness AI to improve productivity, many routine and mid-level roles may be eliminated altogether.

Obama raised deeper societal concerns, asking: "How do we ensure people can still earn a living? How do we find meaning and purpose in an AI-driven world?" The debate sparked widespread conversation online, with users questioning whether machines can truly replicate the human touch in fields like healthcare and education. As AI integration becomes inevitable, both leaders urge proactive thinking to prepare for the seismic shifts ahead

Dalal Street Cheers Inflation Drop, Global Positivity – Nifty Nears Record, Sensex Up 855 Points

Domestic stock markets rallied on Monday. They ended with huge gains. Positive signals from global markets, absence of major geopolitical tensions, start of corporate earnings season, and decline in retail and wholesale inflation contributed to this. Banking and finance shares led the benchmark indices. Today, Nifty gained 273 points and Sensex gained 855 points.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 78,553 in the previous session, opened at 78,903 on Monday. It touched an intraday high of 78,776. It reached an intraday low of 79,635. It finally closed at 79,408, with a gain of 855 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,945, touched a low of 24,189 and a high of 23,903. It closed at 24,125, up 273 points. The Nifty Bank rose 1,014 points to settle at 55,304.

In the Nifty50, 39 companies gained and 11 lost. Tech Mahindra, Trent, IndusInd Bank, Power Grid, Hero Moto were the top gainers. Adani Ports, HDFC Life, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, Asian Paints lost the most. Small and midcap indices rebounded strongly today. Finance, PSU banks, oil, IT, realty, auto, metal, pharma, media, healthcare indices were mixed. FMCG index rose slightly.

Market breadth in NSE today turned in favor of buyers. Out of 3014 shares traded, 2251 gained. 683 lost. 93 shares touched 52-week highs and 16 touched 52-week lows. Upper circuit reached 166 and lower circuit reached 54.

Infosys shares rose by 3.7%. Some rating agencies have given it a buy and accumulate rating. Adani will increase data center investment to \$ 10 billion as demand for AI increases. Gensal Engineering's losses increased further. Today, it lost another 5%. Just Dial shares rose 13% as the company's net profit rose 61% to Rs 584 crore in Q4. Suzlon Energy and Inox shares rose after the gov-

ernment proposed to make wind turbines mandatory in India. Banks are worried that margins will shrink as the RBI is likely to cut interest rates more times in the next fiscal. Muthoot Finance declared an interim dividend of Rs 26 per share. International Gemological's net profit rose 12% to Rs 141 crore. 10 lakh shares changed hands in ITC. Gold prices hit a record high on the back of trade war and dollar depreciation. 17 lakh shares changed hands in Max Finance.

1. Hero MotoCorp
Hero MotoCorp, India's leading two-wheeler manufacturer, has

shown a strong performance with improving sales driven by rural recovery and festive demand. In recent quarters, the company posted double-digit growth in revenue and profit, supported by a robust product lineup and growing interest in its electric two-wheeler segment. Hero's focus on premium bikes and its EV strategy (under the "Vida" brand) are expected to contribute to future growth.


2. Bandhan Bank
 **Bandhan Bank**

Bandhan Bank is showing signs of stabilization after a challenging phase. The bank reported strong improvement in its net profit, aided by rising interest income and lower provisioning. Asset quality has improved with a decline in gross and net NPAs. The bank continues to expand its reach in retail and MSME segments. With a solid capital base and controlled credit costs, Bandhan is well-positioned for growth.

3. KFin Technologies (KFinTech)


KFin Technologies is a tech-driven financial services provider focusing on investor solutions across mutual funds, pensions, and corporate regis-

tries. The company has consistently reported strong revenue and profit growth, with high EBITDA margins indicating operational efficiency. With increasing digital adoption in financial services and a growing investor base in India, KFin is poised for scalable growth.

4. Elecon Engineering
Elecon is a leading  player in industrial gears and material handling equipment. Though revenue saw a minor decline recently, profit margins improved due to better cost control and operational efficiency. A robust order book, especially in the material handling segment, ensures future visibility. The company's diversification into automation and exports supports a stable long-term outlook.

5. Goodluck India (Goodluck Steel)
Goodluck India continues to deliver steady financial performance in the steel processing and engineering segment. Revenue and profit have grown consistently, supported by demand for precision-engineered steel products. Its diversified product portfolio and expansion plans are likely to support future growth. The company also benefits from increasing demand in infrastructure, auto components, and industrial sectors. 

Vodafone Idea Shares Surge Over 10% as Government Boosts Stake to Nearly 49%



Telecom firm Vodafone Idea (Vi) witnessed a sharp rally on Monday, with its share price soaring over 10% to ₹8.04 apiece, following a significant move by the Government of India (GoI) to increase its stake in the company from 22.60% to 48.99%. This increase came after the government converted a portion of Vi's spectrum payment dues—valued at ₹36,950 crore—into equity.

The stock has now been on a positive streak for five consecutive trading sessions, gaining over 12.92% in that period.

Government Stake Hike: What It Means

This latest equity conversion is expected to lower Vodafone Idea's statutory liabilities, strengthening its financial position and boosting commercial viability. Analysts see this move as part of the government's broader effort to prevent a duopoly in the Indian telecom market, currently dominated by Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel.

As a result of this transaction, Vodafone UK's shareholding in Vi has decreased from 24.4% to approximately 16.1%, while the Aditya Birla Group's stake dropped

from just over 14% to 9.4%.

This is not the first time the government has converted Vi's dues into equity. In February 2023, the GoI had earlier converted ₹16,130 crore of outstanding dues—related to interest from deferred AGR and spectrum payments—into equity as well.

Mounting Debt and Financial Outlook

As of the December 2024 quarter, Vodafone Idea's total debt rose to ₹2.17 lakh crore, up from ₹2.03 lakh crore a year earlier. This increase was primarily due to growing statutory liabilities. Of the total debt, a staggering ₹2.14 lakh crore was owed to the government, while ₹2,300 crore came from banks and financial institutions.

Analyst View: High Risk, High Reward?

Citi has maintained a 'Buy' rating on Vodafone Idea, with a target price of ₹12, implying a potential upside of nearly 67% from the last session's close. The brokerage noted that while the investment remains high-risk, the government's increased stake significantly strengthens Vi's stability.

India's Leather and Footwear Exports Jump 25% to \$5.7 Billion in FY25

Expected to Surpass \$6.5 Billion This Year

India's leather and footwear industry is witnessing a strong export resurgence, with shipments rising by nearly 25% year-on-year to reach USD 5.7 billion in FY 2024-25, according to the Council for Leather Exports (CLE). The exporters' body shared the figures on Monday, highlighting robust global demand across both traditional and emerging markets.

With sustained momentum, exports are expected to exceed USD 6.5 billion in the current fiscal year, CLE projected, citing increasing orders from developed economies such as the United States and the European Union, along with significant interest from countries in Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

"The export environment remains positive. Demand is healthy in both developed and developing countries, and our manufacturers are scaling up capacity and product innovation to meet it," CLE Chairman Rafeeque Ahmed stated. He added that India is becoming a preferred sourcing hub for global brands looking to diversify beyond China and



Southeast Asia.

The sector's strong performance was driven by robust growth in leather footwear, non-leather footwear, leather garments, and accessories. Non-leather footwear, in particular, saw a surge in global interest due to rising sustainability trends and consumer preference for eco-friendly products.

In recent years, the government has rolled out several policy measures to support the leather industry, including production-linked incentives (PLI), enhanced duty drawback rates, and

financial assistance for technology upgrades under schemes like the Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP). These initiatives have helped improve production efficiency and quality standards, boosting India's competitiveness in the global market.

Ahmed also noted the growing importance of design, branding, and value-added manufacturing, with many Indian companies investing in research and development, automation, and green manufacturing processes.

The CLE plans to organize more international trade fairs and B2B events to promote Indian leather goods globally and attract investments into domestic manufacturing clusters.

With favorable trade policies, expanding global demand, and improving manufacturing capabilities, India's leather and footwear industry is on track to surpass its export targets, reinforcing its position as a key player in the global fashion and lifestyle supply chain.

India needs to create 8 to 10 million jobs annually: PM's Principal Secretary Mishra

Highlighting the urgent need to create 8 to 10 million jobs annually in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Principal Secretary, PK Mishra, emphasized the importance of students equipping themselves with both technical knowledge and practical skills. Speaking at a recent event, Mishra pointed out that India's fast-growing economy demands a workforce capable of meeting the challenges of various sectors, from technology to manufacturing, and that bridging the skill gap is crucial for sustaining economic growth.

According to Mishra, India's youth population offers significant potential to drive the country's development, but skills enhancement is vital to unlocking this potential. He urged students to not only focus on academic education but also to acquire vocational and practical expertise that aligns with the needs of the modern workforce. By doing so, they will be better prepared to



tackle the challenges of an ever-evolving job market, he added.

Skill development plays a central role in Prime Minister Modi's vision for India's future. Mishra noted that industries in India are undergoing rapid transformation, with advancements in sectors such as information technology, artificial intelligence, robotics, and renewable energy. The demand for professionals with a diverse set of skills is on the rise, making it essential for young people to be adaptable and continuously upgrade their knowledge.

In this context, Mishra also emphasized the need for industry-academia collaboration to ensure that the educational curriculum aligns with the evolving needs of the job market. He encouraged universities and colleges to work closely with industries to design courses and training programs that are both relevant and forward-thinking.

Furthermore, Mishra underlined that fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation is critical for job creation. By encouraging the youth to take up entrepreneurial ventures, the country can generate new employment opportunities and contribute to the overall economic development.

As India strives to build a strong and resilient economy, skilled labor will be at the heart of this journey, and students must be proactive in embracing the skills necessary for future success.

Saransh Goila’s Life-Changing Visa Rejection

Celebrity chef Saransh Goila recently opened up about a major setback that unexpectedly shaped his journey to success. In an Instagram video where he shared a recipe for the Indian dish Arbhi Tuk, Saransh revealed how a US visa rejection in 2011 ended up being a turning point in his life.



Back in June 2011, Saransh had plans to fly to Los Angeles and chase his dreams of working with the Food Network. He wanted to merge his twin passions for cooking and acting, and had saved up just enough money for the trip. But things didn’t go as planned — his US visa application was denied.

“Maybe it was because I was unmarried and jobless,” he joked in his post, recalling how crushed he felt after the rejection. It wasn’t his first roadblock either — Saransh had already faced several rejections while trying to break into the food content industry in Mumbai in 2010.

However, fate had other plans. Just a month later, he received an unexpected call for an audition with FoodFood TV channel. The op-

portunity came from an email he had sent the previous year during his early struggles. That audition changed his life — he was selected for Mahachallenge, a show he would eventually go on to win.

Through the show, he also met his culinary idol, Chef Sanjeev Kapoor, and gained national recognition. Then, in March 2012 — just nine months after his initial visa denial — Saransh was invited to the US to represent Indian cuisine.

When he went for the visa interview this time, the consulate officer asked why he was previously rejected. Saransh, now a celebrated chef and a judge on MasterChef Australia, had come full circle — his rejection had led him to the path he was truly meant to walk.

Maye Musk Celebrates 77th Birthday in Mumbai

Maye Musk, mother of tech billionaire Elon Musk, celebrated her 77th birthday in Mumbai on April 19, and received a heart-warming surprise from her son. Taking to social media platform X (formerly Twitter), Maye shared a photo of the life-sized floral arrangements Elon sent her, expressing her gratitude in a touching message.



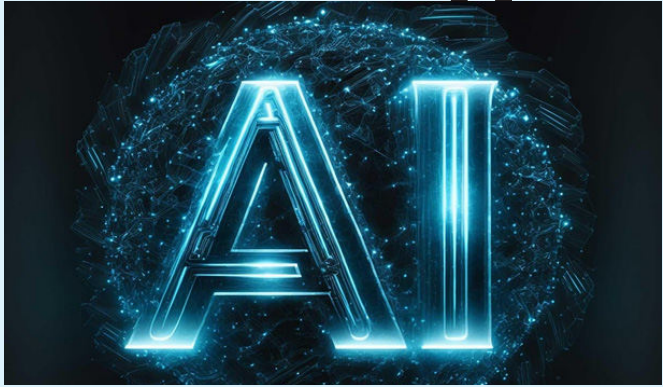
“Thank you @elon-musk for sending these beautiful birthday flowers to me in Mumbai,” she wrote. Elon, in response, commented, “Love you, Mom. Thanks for everything.”

Maye, a renowned former supermodel and respected dietitian, marked her special day by posting photos of her previous milestone birthdays every five years alongside her children. Known for her elegance and resilience, Maye has built a successful career spanning over five decades in the fashion and health industries.

Born in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, in 1948, Maye Musk has graced the covers of globally acclaimed magazines like Vogue, Sports Illustrated, Harper’s Bazaar, and WWD. Her career has

consistently defied age norms, with her modeling resurgence in later years being especially inspiring. Apart from her modeling accolades, she holds two Master’s degrees — one in dietetics and another in nutritional science. She was also awarded an honorary doctorate in dietetics from the University of Toronto, highlighting her contributions to health and wellness education. Her Mumbai birthday celebration, complete with elegant floral displays from Elon, added a charming international twist to the occasion. Known to support her son’s ventures and appearances, Maye continues to be an influential figure in her own right, inspiring generations with her poise, intellect, and achievements.

Meta Blocks Apple AI on iOS Apps



In a new twist to the ongoing rivalry between tech giants, Meta has blocked Apple Intelligence features from functioning on its iOS apps, including Instagram, Facebook, and Threads. The move prevents iPhone users from accessing Apple’s AI tools like Writing Tools and Genmoji while using Meta platforms.

The change was first noticed by Brazilian blog Sorcererhat Tech, which highlighted how expected Apple features—such as text proofreading and summarizing via long-press options—were not available within Meta apps. These tools are part of Apple Intelligence, the company’s AI system that enhances user experience across iOS devices.

Typically, third-party apps get access to Apple Intelligence tools by default unless developers actively choose to disable them. According to a report by 9to5Mac, Meta has opted out. This decision also affects other Apple-exclusive features, like adding Memoji and keyboard stickers in Instagram Stories, which have been quietly removed.

Meta, on the other hand, has been investing heavily in its own AI ecosystem. Its in-house Llama model powers multiple features across WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram—ranging from AI-generated text to image creation and video editing. Notably, Instagram added AI video editing via Meta’s Movie GenAI model last December.

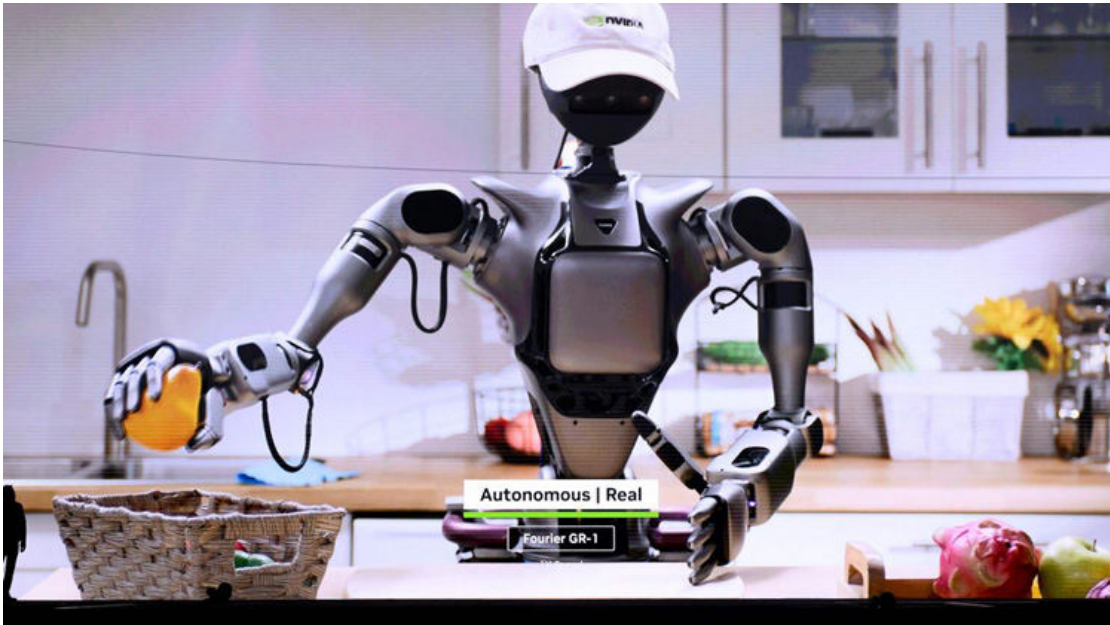
Meta AI is also the default search assistant across its apps, and it uses platform data to improve the accuracy and performance of its Llama-based tools. This ongoing development suggests Meta is intent on promoting its own AI services while sidelining competitors like Apple.

Interestingly, Apple and Meta were once in discussions to integrate Meta’s Llama model into Apple Intelligence, but the deal reportedly fell apart due to privacy concerns, as noted by The Wall Street Journal.

This latest move adds fuel to the longstanding competition between the two companies, especially over user privacy, app monetization, and control of data ecosystems. For now, iPhone users won’t be able to use Apple’s AI features inside Meta apps—a clear sign that the battle for AI dominance is heating up.

Nvidia Navigates US-China Tech Tensions

Nvidia, the world’s most valuable semiconductor company and the backbone of the AI revolution, finds itself in the middle of a new-age tech cold war. Under intense pressure from Washington to restrict sales of advanced chips to China, the company is now forced to reassess its global strategy. The trouble began when the U.S. government, under the Trump administration, imposed new licensing requirements on Nvidia’s China-focused H20 AI chips, including in regions like Hong Kong and Macau. This sudden move ended shipments and rendered billions of dollars in inventory unsellable, dealing Nvidia a financial blow of approximately \$5.5 billion. What began as a gaming company decades ago took a transformative turn in the 2010s when researchers found Nvidia’s parallel processing GPU architecture ideal for training large language models (LLMs). This breakthrough turned Nvidia into the foundation of the AI revolution, powering everything from generative AI to autonomous vehicles. However, geopolitical tensions are now threatening that dominance. As the U.S. seeks to curb China’s access to cutting-edge AI technology, Nvidia is forced to pivot ag-



gressively toward domestic and allied markets. The firm’s China strategy—once a key driver of revenue—has suddenly become a liability.

For Nvidia, this is not just a supply chain disruption; it’s a strategic inflection point. The company must now innovate within tighter geopolitical guardrails while

navigating intense global competition in semiconductor manufacturing and AI development. As the U.S. doubles down on controlling AI capabilities and chip technologies, Nvidia’s future may hinge on its ability to adapt quickly—shifting focus toward safer markets and deepening collaborations with allies. But with the AI race accelerating globally, the clock is ticking.

Six Cousins, One Grand Wedding

In a country where weddings are often grand, extravagant affairs, a family in Haryana’s Hisar district has captured national attention for doing things differently—and sensibly. Two farmer brothers, Rajesh Punia and Amar Singh Punia from Gawar village, hosted a unique two-day wedding marathon for their six children, proving that celebrations don’t need to be costly to be memorable.

Held on April 18 and 19, the event brought together relatives, neighbors, and well-wishers to witness the union of the Punia family’s next generation. On the first day, Rajesh and Amar Singh’s two sons got married. The following day, the family’s four daughters were married in a shared ceremony. All six weddings were held under one mandap, with a single stage, a common guest list, and one beautifully decorated venue.

By combining resources, the family significantly reduced expenses without compromising on tradition or festivity. The move, shared widely on social media, has been hailed as a shining example of smart budgeting and strong family bonds. One wedding card sufficed for all six weddings, further trimming the costs.

“We grew up together, our children grew up



together, and now they’ve stepped into married life together,” said Rajesh Punia. “It made sense to celebrate this important milestone as one family.”

Photos and videos from the celebrations quickly went viral, showing joyful rituals, colorful attire, and emotional moments—just like any big Indian wedding, but with a practical twist. Netizens praised the family’s down-to-earth approach, especially in an

era where big-budget weddings often make headlines for lavish spending.

This Haryana family’s collective celebration is being seen as a refreshing alternative to over-the-top weddings, inspiring many with its message: unity and joy don’t need to come with a hefty price tag. In the heart of rural India, six cousins tied the knot in one unforgettable, budget-wise celebration that proved simplicity can still be grand.

Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025 to Feature Global Javelin Stars



The Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025 is set for May 24 at Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru. As a World Athletics Gold event, it aims to enhance India's position in the global athletics arena. Along with host Neeraj Chopra, the competition will feature top javelin throwers like Julius Yego, Anderson Peters, Thomas Rohler, and Curtis Thompson, with more athletes to be confirmed.

Chopra expressed his excitement, highlighting how this event fulfills a long-time dream of hosting an international javelin competition in India. He shared his joy about competing alongside global athletes and the opportunity for Indian fans to witness world-class performances. Chopra believes the event will inspire the next generation of athletes, fostering growth in Indian sports.

Gujarat Titans Outclass KKR with 39-Run Win in Clinical Show



A thoroughly *clinical performance* from the *Gujarat Titans (GT)* saw them *secure a 39-run win* over the *Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)*, as they expertly assessed a tricky Eden Gardens pitch and executed their plans to perfection.

After a *cautious start* in the powerplay, GT didn't lose their nerve. *Shubman Gill (72)* and *Sai Sudharsan (64)* showed class and composure, building a solid foundation that pushed GT to a *competitive 198/3* in 20 overs.

In reply, KKR looked alive for a brief spell during the powerplay, but the Titans *struck back* with spin. Once the slower bowlers came into the attack, KKR's innings lost momentum. *No batter managed* to anchor the chase, and regular wickets saw them fall well short at *159/8*.

This win will boost GT's confidence as they showcased *strong game awareness, patience, and bowling discipline*, keeping their playoff hopes alive in the IPL 2025 season.

India's First Marathon Joggler to Star at World 10K Bengaluru

Ketan Abhonkar, a mechanical engineer from Pune, is set to grab attention at the World 10K Bengaluru on April 27, not just for running, but for juggling—the rare art of running while juggling three balls. Abhonkar, India's only known marathon joggler, will be showcasing this demanding sport, which combines endurance and coordination. Recognised in over 32 countries, juggling is still largely un-



known in India. The 10K race also marks a milestone for Abhonkar—it's the final event needed to complete the Procarn Slam, awarded to runners who finish all four major Indian distance races in one season. With over 30,000 participants expected at the event, Abhonkar's unique feat aims to put juggling in the spotlight and inspire more Indians to explore this one-of-a-kind discipline.

Indian Women's Hockey Team Departs for Australia Tour Ahead of FIH Pro League



The Indian women's hockey team departed for Perth on Sunday night to play a five-match series in Australia. The 26-member squad, led by midfielder Salima Tete, with Navneet Kaur as vice-captain, views this tour as a key preparatory step ahead of the FIH Pro League 2024-25 European leg, starting in June. The team will first face Australia A on April 26 and 27, followed by three games against world No. 5 Australia on May 1, 3, and 4, all at Perth Hockey Stadium. Tete called it a "proud moment" to lead the team and highlighted the tour as a valuable test for tactics and team cohesion. Kaur emphasised the squad's unity and focus on improving areas like finishing and transitions. The tour marks an important international test for India as they build toward a competitive Pro League season.

Jyothika Sri Dandi Likely to Miss World Relays



India's top quarter-miler Jyothika Sri Dandi is unlikely to feature in the upcoming World Relays Championships in Guangzhou, China, after the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) rejected her entry for the National Federation Senior Athletics Championships beginning today in Kochi. AFI mandates participation in at least one domestic event, including the Indian Grand Prix, as a prerequisite for the Kochi meet. Jyothika, currently in rehabilitation for a quadriceps injury, admitted she mistakenly submitted her entry despite not intending to compete. "It was a mistake on my part," she told The Tribune. With the Kochi meet serving as a qualifier for the Asian Championships in Gumi, South Korea, her chances for both international events now appear slim. Sharuk Khan, U-20 national record holder in the 3000m steeplechase, also had his entry rejected, citing a failure to check the official circular. In total, over 40 entries have been disqualified by the AFI, highlighting the strict enforcement of eligibility norms ahead of key international competitions.

Day 2 Highlights from U-20 National Wrestling Championship in Kota

Day 2 of the Under-20 National Wrestling Championship in Kota delivered thrilling action across freestyle, Greco-Roman, and women's categories at the Raghuraj Indoor Sports Complex. Organised by the Rajasthan State Wrestling Association and the Wrestling Federation of India



(WFI), the day featured bouts in 10 weight categories. The championship began with weigh-ins at 7 AM, with bouts running non-stop from 9 AM to 7 PM. Deputy CM Diya Kumari added prestige to the event by attending and encouraging the young wrestlers. In freestyle, standout winners included Anuj (Rajasthan, 61kg), Vivek (UP, 74kg), and Vishal (Haryana,

97kg). The Greco-Roman segment saw Anil More (Services, 55kg) and Yogesh (Delhi, 67kg) clinch golds. Haryana dominated women's wrestling, with golds from Vineeta (50kg), Neha (57kg), and Harshita (72kg). The tournament concludes tomorrow with the final bouts across 3 freestyle, 3 women's, and 4 Greco-Roman categories, as India's brightest young wrestlers aim to finish strong.

Is It for Sport or Spectacle? Edwin Moses Questions India's 2030 CWG Bid

Olympic legend Edwin Moses has raised sharp questions over India's intent to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games and bid for the 2036 Olympics, asking whether these efforts are truly aimed at developing sports or merely projecting prestige. Speaking to PTI, the two-time Olympic champion questioned why a country of over a billion people struggles to consistently produce world-class athletes. "Is it just to have an event or to really develop sports?" he asked, pointing to the lack of coaches, infrastructure, and grassroots investment. Moses warned against staging high-profile events where "people who have nothing to do with sports sit on the front row," criticising such superficial involvement. India has submitted an Expression of Interest for the 2030 CWG, is pursuing the 2036 Olympics, and is bidding for the 2031 AFC Asian Cup. But Moses believes the focus must shift to nurturing athletes.



He also urged the new IOC President Kristy Coventry to ensure fair compensation for Olympic athletes, especially those in sports like athletics, who remain underpaid compared to peers in professional sports. Without unionisation, Moses said, track and field risks being left behind.



Tollywood Stars Eye July Comebacks

This July is shaping up to be crucial for Tollywood as three major stars—Nithiin, Ravi Teja, and Chiranjeevi—gear up for comeback releases after recent flops. Nithiin, struggling since *Bheeshma*, is banking on *Thammudu*, directed by Venu Sriram, releasing on July 4. His last film *Robinhood* was a major disappointment. Ravi Teja, too, is aiming to bounce back with *Mass Jathara*, directed by Bhanu Bhogavarapu and set to release on July 18. He hasn't seen much success post-*Dhamaka*. Meanwhile, Megastar Chiranjeevi is preparing for *Vishwabharata*, hoping to break free from his recent slump. Though its release date



isn't confirmed, a July window is expected. With all three needing a hit, July 2025 promises to be an unexpected high-stakes month in Tollywood.

Rana Daggubati Shines at WrestleMania

Rana Daggubati has made history by becoming the first Indian celebrity to appear at WWE's iconic *WrestleMania*. His presence at *WrestleMania 41*, held in Las Vegas, thrilled wrestling fans and created a buzz across Indian entertainment circles. Rana attended the event on Day 2, looking stylish in a white shirt and black jacket. During the broadcast, commentators highlighted his Netflix series, saying, "Rana is in the house. Rana Naidu is streaming on Netflix. Massive family member of WWE." In a statement, Rana shared his excitement: "Being at *WrestleMania 41* is surreal—WWE has been part of all our childhoods. Representing India on this global stage, with both WWE and Rana Naidu on Netflix, feels like a full-circle moment." This milestone marks Rana's growing international presence and crossover appeal.



Suriya's Retro: Make-or-Break in Telugu

Suriya, a beloved Tamil star in Telugu states, is facing a critical test with his upcoming film *Retro*, set to release on May 1. Despite earlier hits like *Ghajini*, *24*, and *Singam*, he hasn't secured a lasting foothold in the Telugu market like Rajinikanth or Vijay. Following the massive failure of *Kanguva*, his popularity in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana declined sharply. While Kangu-

va's Telugu rights sold for over Rs. 22 crore, *Retro* managed only Rs. 10 crore—a clear dip in market confidence. Director Karthik Subbaraj is yet to score a Telugu hit, and lead actress Pooja Hegde has been off the local radar. To add to the pressure, *Retro* clashes with Nani's *HIT 3*. For Suriya, this film is not just a release—it's a crucial opportunity to reclaim lost ground.



Vijay's Kingdom Faces Likely Delay

Kingdom, Vijay Deverakonda's most expensive pan-India project, may miss its scheduled May 30 release. Despite the team's efforts to stay on track, insiders hint that a delay is inevitable.



Dubbing is currently underway, with Vijay recently beginning voice work and sharing behind-the-scenes glimpses. However, the biggest hurdle appears to be the background score. Composer Anirudh Ravichander, tied up with multiple projects, is struggling to allocate time for *Kingdom*'s re-recording—a key element for a film of this scale.

Releasing in May is critical,

as June is packed with biggies like *Kubera*, *Thug Life*, and *Kannappa*. A crowded box office could affect *Kingdom*'s performance, especially in a multilingual market. For now, fans await clarity, hoping quality won't be sacrificed for speed.



Pragya Jaiswal's Stylish Summer Rise

Pragya Jaiswal is enjoying a career high after her impressive performance as Kaveri in the blockbuster *Daaku Maharaja* alongside Nandamuri Balakrishna. The film's success has reignited her career and landed her in the spotlight once again. Recently, Pragya turned heads in a breezy blue-and-white crop top and mini skirt combo—perfect summer fashion with minimal styling and maximum comfort. Ditching heavy accessories, she effortlessly nailed the casual glam look. Her professional calendar is just as hot. She will next be seen playing an IAS officer, Saranya Bachupally, in *Akhanda 2*, reuniting with Balakrishna. She's also set to appear in *Tyson Naidu*, starring opposite Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas. With style and substance on her side, Pragya Jaiswal is turning heads both on-screen and off this summer.

Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi Holds Strong

Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi, starring Nandamuri Kalyan Ram and Vijayashanthi, is proving to be a strong box office performer. Blending family emotions with intense action, the film ends with a surprising climax that's winning over audiences. Kalyan Ram's commitment to diverse roles pays off again, as the film collected Rs 12.85 crore in its opening weekend. With no major releases to compete with, it has become the top choice for moviegoers. Directed by Pradeep Chilukuri, the film's appeal spans generations, making it a solid weekend entertainer. From a business angle, the film was already in



a safe zone thanks to lucrative pre-release deals. Its non-theatrical rights—covering digital, satellite, and audio—were sold at a premium, ensuring profitability even before hitting theatres. *Arjun*'s run continues steady and strong.