



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

H 36° C

L 26° C

Unseen Favoritism in Himayat Sagar Buffer Zone?



Big farmhouses and convention centers cropping up in Himayat Sagar buffer zone

Ruling party leaders allegedly behind controversial constructions

Hydra officials accused of ignoring constructions in buffer zone

Survey numbers indicate multiple illegal constructions on government land

Public raising questions over inaction by authorities in the region

V. KRISHNA KUMAR | TPN
Hyderabad, April 22: There have been rising allegations regarding the construction of large farmhouses and convention centers within the Himayat Sagar buffer zone. These structures, reportedly on plots ranging from 12 to 20 acres, have raised questions among the public about whether there is favoritism involved. Many believe that leaders from the ruling party are behind these developments, as the properties in question are reportedly surrounded by high walls, CCTV cameras, and dense trees, making them inaccessible to the public. The controversy stems from the fact that while Hydra officials, responsible for demolishing encroachments in areas like Himayat Sagar, have acted swiftly against private properties in other parts of the city, these larger constructions appear to have

escaped their scrutiny. The properties in question have been built on Survey Numbers 52/A, 52/1, 52/17, 53/17, all of which fall within the buffer zone, as per the Dharani portal records. In the past two years, 56 constructions have been completed or are in progress within this zone, yet authorities have been unwilling to provide information regarding their ownership. Despite repeated inquiries, local residents report that when they approach the authorities for details about these properties, they are met with lame excuses and refusals to provide any relevant records. It is believed that these structures belong to influential leaders, with some claiming that these are connected to senior figures in the ruling party. The situation is leading many to

2 PAGE

Telangana Shines at World Expo 2025: CM Revanth Invites Japan to Invest

Telangana First State at World Expo

CM Invites Japan to Invest

Future City to Host Industries

Telangana, Japan Strengthen Bilateral Ties

Skill University Boosts Youth Employment

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy showcased the state's vast investment potential on the global stage at the prestigious World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan. Representing India as the first participating state, Telangana's "Rising Telangana" delegation met with global business leaders and industrialists to attract international investments. Highlighting the state's investor-friendly ecosystem, CM Revanth emphasized Telangana's strong governance, advanced infrastructure, and innovative industrial policies. He invited Japanese companies to "Make in Telangana" and leverage the Indian and global markets from Hyderabad. "Telangana is proud to be the first Indian state to participate in the World Expo 2025. This marks a new chapter



in Indo-Japan relations," said Revanth. He proposed long-term partnerships and collaborative innovations between Telangana and Japan. A key highlight was the announcement of the Future City project being developed across 30,000 acres near Hyderabad. The city will focus on eco-friendly energy, smart mobility, circular economy,

2 PAGE

KTR Demands Apology from CM Revanth over Lagacharla Incident

- KTR Demands CM's Public Apology
- NHRC Confirms Human Rights Violations
- Congress Government Slammed Over Abuse
- Lagacharla Farmers Win First Victory
- BRS Reaffirms Commitment to Telangana

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad
BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) made a strong demand on Monday, urging Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to issue an unconditional public apology to the farmers of Lagacharla. This comes in the wake of the National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) report, which highlighted violations in the controversial Lagacharla incident involving tribal farmers and women. Taking to Twitter, KTR expressed gratitude to the NHRC for its timely report and criticized the Congress-led government for its oppressive actions. He stated that the commission had validated BRS's earlier allegations



that the Revanth Reddy government and state police used "iron-fist tactics" against vulnerable tribal communities in Lagacharla. KTR remarked that the report serves as a warning to all in power who think they are above the law. "Governments may come and go, but abuse of power should never be tolerated," he said. Calling the NHRC report a moral victory for

2 PAGE

Judges Transferred in AP, Telangana High Courts

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

The judiciary in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana witnessed significant reshuffling as seven High Court judges have been transferred across various states, following the recommendations of the Supreme Court Collegium. The official transfer orders were issued on Monday. From the Telangana High Court, Justice Kasoju Surrender has been transferred to the Madras High Court, while Justice Perugu Sree Sudha has been posted to the Karnataka High Court. In the Andhra Pradesh High Court, Justice Kumbhajadala Manmadhar Rao has also been moved to the Karnataka High Court. **Additionally, from the Karnataka High Court, multiple judges have been reassigned:**

- Justice Hemanth Chandangoudar to Madras High Court
- Justice Krishnan Natarajan to Kerala High Court
- Justice Sanjay Gowda to Gujarat High Court
- Justice Deekshit Krishna Shripad to Orissa High Court

These transfers are part of regular judicial administrative procedures aimed at enhancing the efficiency and functioning of various High Courts across the country. The transfers ensure balanced allocation of judicial expertise and help maintain judicial standards across the Indian judiciary.



Rythu Mahotsavam Begins Grandly in Nizamabad

Rythu Mahotsavam Starts With Grandeur
Ministers, Farmers Attend In Large Numbers
150+ Stalls On Modern Farming
Organic, Profitable Farming Key Focus
Turmeric Board, Farmer Payments Announced

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

The much-anticipated Rythu Mahotsavam, a three-day mega agricultural fair, commenced with grandeur at the Giriraj Government Degree College Grounds in Nizamabad. The festival, organized by the Telangana State Agriculture Department, was inaugurated by Agriculture Minister Thummala Nagewara Rao, accompanied by key ministers and senior officials. Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Jupally Krishna Rao, Government Advisors Mohammed Shabbir Ali and Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, MLAs,



MLCs, district collectors, IAS officers, and agriculture department officials participated in the inaugural ceremony.

2 PAGE

Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy announced that Telangana is fully prepared for a record Rabi paddy procurement, with 8,329 centres equipped with all required infrastructure. Speaking at the Telangana Rythu Mahotsavam, he said the Rabi target is 70.13 LMT, adding to 153.5 LMT from the Vanakalam season, making Telangana the top paddy contributor in India. Storage facilities of 64.65 LMT are ready, and 25 LMT is currently vacant. Trained Agriculture Extension Officers and a three-tier appeal system ensure quality and transparency. Weather alerts and mobile dryers help prevent losses from unseasonal rains. Uttam reaffirmed the Congress Government's pro-farmer commitment, highlighting the distribution of free fine rice to 84% of Telangana's population. He also announced revival plans for the Pranahita-Chevella project, check dams, and desilting works to irrigate an additional 1 lakh acres. The event emphasized delivering real results over publicity.





Bhuharathi Pilot Mandals to Resolve Land Issues by June 2

- Pilot Projects Finish By June 2
- Village Officers Deployed For Surveys
- Free Revenue Services For Farmers
- Bhoodhaar Card For Every Land-owner

Hyderabad/Nalgonda/Ranga Reddy, April 21, 2025

Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced that all land-related issues in the state will be systematically resolved through the Bhuharathi Act, which aims to benefit poor, underprivileged, and farming communities. Attending awareness programs on



the Telangana Bhuharathi 2025 Act at Chandampet in Nalgonda and Ibrahimpatnam in Ranga Reddy, the minister explained that four mandals are currently being developed as pilot projects, and the process will be completed by the end of April. Starting June 2, land disputes in these pilot mandals will be permanently resolved.

From May 1, each district will have one pilot mandal, and village-level revenue applications will be accepted from June 2 onwards. Over 10,695 Village Administration Officers and 6,000 licensed surveyors will be deployed to support the process. Farmers will not have to pay a sin-

gle rupee for resolving issues, and each landholder will receive a unique “Bhoodhaar Card”, similar to Aadhaar, with a unique land account number. The minister also clarified that Sadabainamas (unregistered deeds) will be addressed transparently, with 9.26 lakh applications already under review. Future registrations will mandate survey maps.

Land mapping, D-limitation of forest lands, and issues from resettlements will also be addressed. The minister emphasized the government's commitment to solving people's problems with action, not promises.

1st Page Cont..

Unseen Favoritism in Himayat Sagar Buffer Zone?

question why Hydra officials, who have previously demolished properties belonging to celebrities like actor Nagarjuna, have not taken similar action in this case. The Chief Minister had previously made strong statements about demolishing constructions in buffer zones and FTL areas, pledging that no one, not even those in power, would be spared. However, people are now raising questions about the double standards being applied in this situation, and whether these influential leaders are receiving special

treatment. The public is increasingly frustrated by what they see as inconsistent enforcement of rules, particularly in the case of constructions within sensitive environmental zones like the Himayat Sagar buffer area. As the controversy grows, many are demanding that Hydra officials address these alleged violations and ensure that the law is applied fairly to all, regardless of political affiliations. The growing skepticism surrounding these developments continues to fuel public discourse and unrest.

KTR Demands Apology from CM Revanth over Lagacharla Incident

the protesting tribal farmers and women, KTR congratulated them for their resilience and reiterated BRS's commitment to safeguarding Telangana's democratic and human rights. He stressed that CM Revanth, who also holds the Home portfolio, should take moral responsibility

ty and apologize to the affected community without delay. The incident, which drew criticism from various civil society groups, has now become a political flashpoint with BRS intensifying its campaign against the ruling Congress government.

Rythu Mahotsavam Begins Grandly in Nizamabad

Over 150 stalls representing modern farming tools, high-yield seeds, organic techniques, livestock breeds, and food products became a major attraction for farmers from five districts. Agricultural scientists, progressive farmers, and technical experts offered valuable guidance on sustainable and profitable farming practices. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Thummala said the Mahotsavam aims to empower farmers with knowledge on organic farming, advanced technology, and crop diversification. He also expressed gratitude to the Centre for approving a Turmeric Board for the district and urged it to support turmeric-based industries. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to farmers' wel-

fare, citing ₹33,000 crore in crop loan waivers and upcoming Rythu Bharosa payments. He also announced plans for compensation to crop loss victims, and emphasized the uniqueness of Telangana's extensive paddy procurement system and timely payments. Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy stressed the need for such agricultural expos in every district and detailed irrigation project updates including desilting works and pending Kaleshwaram packages. District in-charge minister Jupally Krishna Rao, along with other leaders, assured continued welfare schemes despite financial constraints. Collectors urged farmers to maximize the opportunity for learning and innovation through the Mahotsavam.

Telangana Shines at World Expo 2025: CM Revanth Invites Japan to Invest

and will include a Japanese-backed industrial park with Marubeni Corporation. He also detailed upcoming infrastructure like the 370 km Regional Ring Road, dry ports for exports, and dedicated zones for electric vehicles, semiconductors, aerospace, and energy storage.

CM Revanth called for learning from Tokyo and Osaka in revitalizing the Musi River through a 55 km urban greenway. Minister Sridhar Babu and top officials also highlighted Telangana's strengths in IT, biotech, aerospace, and skill development through the upcoming Young India Skills University.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Launches Mega Job Fair in Madhira

- 5,000 Youth Employed in One Day
- Multi-Tier Employment Strategy Unveiled
- New Knowledge City in Hyderabad
- Skilling, Tech Education for All
- Youth Urged to Stay Drug-Free

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

Deputy Chief Minister Mall Bhatti Vikramarka inaugurated a massive Job Mela in Madhira, offering employment opportunities to over 5,000 youth in a single day. Emphasizing the government's focus on employment, he criticized the past decade's failures in providing sufficient job opportunities despite the long struggle for a separate Telangana state. Bhatti detailed the three-tier employment strategy led by CM Revanth Reddy's cabinet. First, government jobs, with 56,000 already filled and 30,000 more underway. Second, facilitating investments by multinational corporations (MNCs) through global outreach, including Rs. 1.80 lakh crore worth MoUs signed in Davos and more expected from CM Revanth's current Japan visit. The third tier involves Rajiv Yuva Vikasam, with Job Melas



and skilling programs. Bhatti announced a new Knowledge City in Hyderabad to generate jobs for 5 lakh youth. Recognizing the role of education, he also highlighted a Rs. 11,600 crore investment for 60 Young India International Schools, offering free, quality education from Class 4 to Intermediate. He urged the youth to stay away from drugs and antisocial forces, emphasizing that each job is a stepping stone, not the final destination. Job Melas are a tool to drive youth toward positive and productive futures, he said.

Kavitha Vows to Stand by BRS Cadre, Slams Congress Rule

TPN,Correspon-

den|Hyderabad BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha assured party workers of unwavering support and promised to act as a bridge between them and party chief KCR, during a spirited address at a meeting of BRS leaders, cadres, and Telangana activists in Bhadrachalam. Kavitha stated that every worker's issue would be brought to KCR's notice and resolved. Emphasising the responsibility to protect the hard-won Telangana, she accused the Congress Government of betraying the state, claiming that its policies are pushing Telangana backwards. “Despite having three ministers from Khammam, not even three paise reached the district,” she said, slamming the government's failure to fulfill promises like the Athmeeya Bharosa scheme for the poor. She questioned the Congress' usage of loans and criticized Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka for allegedly spreading lies. She said ₹10,000 crore borrowed against prime land hasn't reached farmers, as 60% have yet to get loan waivers or benefits under Rythu Bharosa. Calling the Congress a party that used BRS to return to power in 2004, she recalled the sacrifices during the Telangana movement and accused current Congress leaders of being anti-Telangana. Kavitha warned of a possible by-election in Bhadrachalam, branding the current MLA a traitor. Earlier in the day, Kavitha offered special prayers at the Bhadrachalam Sri Sitaramachandra Swamy temple, receiving traditional honors from priests. She concluded by calling on BRS workers to unite and expand the party's strength, asserting that only BRS can truly safeguard Telangana's future.



Etela Slams BRS, Congress for MLC Boycott; Urges Vote for BJP's Gautam Rao

TPN,Corre-

sponden|Hyderabad BJP MP Etela Rajender came down heavily on the BRS and Congress for boycotting the Hyderabad Local Authorities MLC election, calling the move “anti-democratic” and a betrayal of the people's mandate. Addressing a press conference at the party's state office, he said denying the right to vote undermines democratic values and questioned how these parties would justify seeking votes in the future. Etela urged all eligible public representatives to vote for BJP candidate Dr. Gautam Rao, stating that the election is a battle between a nationalist BJP and family-run parties like BRS and Congress. He emphasized Hyderabad's need for peace and development, accusing the opposition of promoting backdoor politics and indirectly supporting MIM's agenda. He also showcased the BJP-led Centre's contributions to Hyderabad's development—flyovers, MMTS expansion, and railway station modernization—highlighting that all key infrastructure projects are backed by central funds, not the state. On security, he recalled the bomb blasts in Gokul Chat and Lumbini Park and praised recent court verdicts punishing the guilty, stating BJP is the only party committed to the city's safety. Etela called on corporators and public representatives to defy the boycott call and “vote with conscience.” He was joined by BJP leaders Dr. Gautam Rao, Prakash Reddy, Rani Rudrama, and others at the press meet, reiterating their stand for democracy and national integrity.



Rain Alert for 16 Telangana Districts Today

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

The Telangana Meteorological Department has issued a rain alert for 16 districts across the state today, urging citizens to stay cautious. Districts such as Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Hanamkonda, Ranga Reddy, and Hyderabad are expected to witness moderate rainfall. Other districts on alert include Medchal, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak, Mahabubnagar, Nagarkurnool, and Wanaparthy. Notably, Narayanpet and Gadwal are likely to experience hailstorms, according to weather



officials. Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh is also on high alert, with the State Disaster Management Authority forecasting strong winds in 51 mandals. Of these,

31 mandals may witness severe gusty winds, while 20 mandals are expected to face moderate winds. Light to moderate rains are also expected in some parts of both states over the next three days. On Sunday, several areas in YSR Kadapa, Kurnool, Prakasam, Palnadu, and Nandyal districts in Andhra Pradesh received rainfall. Authorities advise residents in the affected districts to take necessary precautions, avoid travel during heavy rains, and stay tuned to official updates for further alerts and safety instructions.

Telangana Farmers Didn't Know Farming: TPCC Chief Sparks Row



TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud has stirred controversy with his remarks during the Rythu Mahotsavam event held in Nizamabad. He claimed that Telangana farmers did not originally know how to farm and that farmers from Andhra Pradesh had come to the region and taught them agricultural practices.

Referring to the historical context, Mahesh Kumar stated that after the construction of the Nizamsagar Project in 1923, farmers from Prakasam, Krishna, and Guntur districts migrated to areas like Banswada, Bodhan, and Dichpally, where they settled and introduced agricultural techniques to the local farmers.

These statements have triggered widespread criticism from Telangana farmers and youth. Many have condemned the remarks, asking whether Telangana farmers were incapable of farming before the arrival of Andhra settlers. Critics argue that such statements insult the legacy and struggles of Telangana farmers who have played a crucial role in shaping the state's agrarian identity.

Leaders and citizens alike are demanding an explanation, stating that it is highly disrespectful to undermine the contributions of Telangana's native farmers—especially in a state forged through a prolonged and passionate struggle for self-respect and recognition.

Without Media, I'd Be Limited to Karimnagar: Bandi Sanjay's Striking Remarks

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, made candid and compelling remarks during a recent media interaction, acknowledging the powerful role of media in his political rise. "If not for the media, I would have remained confined to Karimnagar," he stated, highlighting how media coverage helped him gain visibility across Telangana. He expressed serious concern over the growing misuse of YouTube channels under the guise of journalism. He criticized individuals who, lacking real journalistic experience, engage in character assassination and blackmail, often targeting families. He urged the Telangana State Government to take strict action against such practices, which are damaging the image of genuine journalists.

Sanjay also appealed to journalist unions and press club bodies to stand firm against such elements. At the same time, he emphasized the need to support authentic YouTube platforms that address public issues and contribute positively to society. He voiced concern over the poor working conditions and low salaries of journalists in the state and held the government responsible for their welfare. If the BJP comes to power, Sanjay promised to provide housing, health cards, and insurance for all journalists, ensuring they live with dignity and respect.



Drone Row: Telangana High Court Quashes FIR Against KTR

Medigadda not a restricted zone, says court

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

In a significant legal relief to K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), the Telangana High Court has quashed the FIR filed against him in connection with flying a drone over the Medigadda barrage. The case, initially registered at Mahadevpur Police Station, accused KTR and others of flying a drone and visiting the project site without prior permission, based on a complaint filed by an irrigation department official.

KTR had approached the High Court challenging the FIR. During the hear-



ing, senior advocate T.V. Ramana Rao, appearing for KTR, argued that the Medigadda barrage is not a prohibit-

ed or restricted zone, and the FIR was filed due to political vendetta.

On the other hand, the public prosecutor argued that flying a drone could pose a threat to dam security. After hearing arguments from both sides, the High Court ruled in favor of KTR and quashed the FIR, stating the action did not warrant a criminal case.

In a related development, the FIR filed at Utnoor Police Station against KTR in a separate incident was also dismissed by the court, offering a twin legal victory to the BRS leader.

Congress Humiliated Ambedkar at Every Step: Bandi Sanjay

Union Minister slams Congress during Ambedkar Jayanti seminar

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Monday launched a scathing attack on the Congress party, accusing it of repeatedly insulting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution. Speaking at a seminar organized by the BJP's Karimnagar district unit at Shubhamangal Gardens on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, Bandi Sanjay made strong remarks against the opposition party. He said that no one in Indian history faced as many

insults as Dr. Ambedkar, yet he rose above them all with unwavering commitment to education, social justice, and empowerment of the marginalized. "Despite facing humiliation at every stage, Ambedkar transformed his struggles into stepping stones for the betterment of society," Sanjay noted. He accused the Congress of systematically marginalizing Ambedkar, both during his lifetime and after, by undermining his legacy and suppressing his contributions. He praised Ambedkar as a visionary who laid



the foundation for modern India and inspired generations through his tireless fight for equality.

The Union Minister reiterated the BJP's commitment to

Ambedkar's ideals, emphasizing that the party continues to uphold constitutional values and social justice for India.

Transfers Cleared in SERP After 10 Years – Minister Seethakka's Green Signal

Staff reshuffle to boost rural development momentum

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

The Telangana government has cleared the way for general transfers in the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) after nearly a decade, following instructions from Minister Seethakka. On Monday, officials issued a GO permitting 100% transfers within SERP, bringing much-awaited relief to employees who had long been stuck in the same locations.

Currently, SERP employs 3,974 staff members, many of whom have been serving in the same positions for years, which reportedly led to a decline in efficiency and project pace. Responding to repeated appeals from employees, the government approved the mass transfer initiative, aiming to rejuvenate operations and field-level performance.

Minister Seethakka emphasized that the restructuring will help in accelerating poverty alleviation efforts and women empowerment programs, especially those focused



on self-employment and wealth creation through women's self-help groups.

Recent reports revealed that numerous Project Managers, DPMs, APMs, and Community Coordinators were concentrated in specific locations, particularly at the SERP central office, causing imbalance in resource allocation.

With the GO now in effect, SERP is set to undergo a major reshuffle, expected to reinvigorate the organization's mission across Telangana's districts.

Good News for Telangana Farmers: Minister Tummala Assures Turmeric MSP

Farmers will prosper with proper support: Agriculture Minister



TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao delivered a positive message to farmers, stating that Minimum Support Price (MSP) for turmeric will empower farmers and restore their dignity. He made these remarks on Monday at the Rythu Mahotsavam held in Nizamabad, alongside ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Jupally Krishna Rao.

Speaking at the event, Minister

Tummala emphasized that no other state in India matches Telangana when it comes to farmer welfare schemes. He praised Nizamabad as the turmeric capital of the state and assured that the government is committed to supporting farmers in the region.

Highlighting the government's pro-farmer initiatives, he said, "Telangana is the only state that has implemented loan waivers up to ₹2 lakh in a single phase for farmers." He acknowledged the temporary halt in the Rythu Bharosa scheme due to unavoidable reasons but assured that the remaining beneficiaries will soon receive funds directly into their accounts.

Minister Tummala's assurance comes as a morale boost for farmers in the region, particularly turmeric growers, who have been demanding fair support prices for their produce.

Expel BJP MP Nishikant Dubey Permanently: Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Demands

Hate-filled remarks insult constitutional values

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has demanded the permanent expulsion of BJP MP Nishikant Dubey from the party and sought criminal action against him for repeatedly making hate-driven and inflammatory comments. Taking to social media platform 'X' on Monday, the minister strongly condemned Dubey's remarks.

Ponnam alleged that MP Dubey has been targeting individuals holding constitutional positions, including former Election Commissioner Quraishi, with personal and communal comments, attempting to provoke religious tensions. He demanded that Prime Minister Modi and the BJP high command take strict action against such divisive behavior.

"If no action is taken against him, it will be evident that Dubey's com-



ments have the backing of the Prime Minister and BJP leadership," Ponnam asserted. He also criticized the BJP for routinely disrespecting constitutional institutions, stating that such behavior has become a dangerous norm for the party.

The minister's remarks come amid growing outrage over Nishikant Dubey's recent statements, which opposition leaders have widely condemned as deeply communal and undemocratic.



Kishan Reddy Questions Congress, BRS Support for MIM in Hyderabad MLC Elections

Centre Minister slams parties for indirect backing

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

In a sharp criticism of Congress and BRS, Union Minister Kishan Reddy questioned why both parties were supporting the MIM (Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen) party in the Hyderabad Local Body MLC elections. Despite the fact that both Congress and BRS chose to stay away from the elections, Reddy alleged that they were indirectly support-

ing the MIM party.

Kishan Reddy strongly condemned their stance, asking why these parties were softening their approach towards MIM and giving them a free run. He further accused the Congress and BRS of strategically staying away from the elections to help the MIM win, which Reddy believes is a political maneuver.

By questioning their motives, Reddy highlighted the complicated political dynamics in Hyderabad, calling out both Congress and BRS for supporting a party known for its controversial stances.

The MLC election saw a heated political debate, and Reddy's comments further escalated tensions in the local political arena.

Main Accused Raj Kasireddy Arrested at Hyderabad Airport in AP Liquor Scam



TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

In a major breakthrough in the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam case, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) has arrested Raj Kasireddy, the main accused, at Hyderabad's Shamshabad Airport. After evading multiple summons issued by the SIT, Kasireddy was finally taken into custody upon his arrival from Dubai. He is currently being transported to Vijayawada for further interrogation.

The SIT had issued several notices to Kasireddy, urging him to cooperate with the investigation, but he remained elusive. Despite stating that he would cooperate with the probe, he instead sought anticipatory bail. In response, the SIT increased surveillance and intercepted him at the airport, leading to his arrest.

The liquor scam is under active investigation, with allegations pointing towards financial irregularities during the tenure of the previous Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government. The SIT has already questioned key individuals, including Raj Kasireddy's father and YSRCP leader V. Vijayasai Reddy. Kasireddy's dramatic arrest at the airport has added a new twist to the case, as authorities prepare to question him extensively. His evasion and sudden return from Dubai have raised serious questions about the scale and depth of the scam. Further developments are expected as the investigation progresses.

Hyderabad: Major e-Cigarette Racket Busted Near Schools, Over 1200 Units Seized

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

In a major crackdown, the Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TGANB) and Hyderabad City Police have busted a widespread racket involving the illegal sale of banned e-Cigarettes and Vapes near educational institutions in Abids, Hyderabad. The operation revealed the involvement of two brothers, Sadiq Lalani and Anil Lalani, in the sale of these products to minors and youth through an elaborate distribution network, including WhatsApp groups, delivery apps, and hawala transactions. Surveillance near key schools and colleges like Little Flower School, St. Mary's Jr College, and others led officials to uncover a WhatsApp group "SID" with 500 members, where e-Cigarette products were promoted and sold using UPI, Wallets, and bank transfers.

In total, 1217 e-Cigarettes worth ₹25 lakhs and ₹18,440 in cash were seized along with foreign currency (USD 225, CAD 100) from Sadiq's residence. Suppliers from Delhi and Mumbai, courier services (DTDC), and apps like Uber and Rapido were used for logistics.

A case (Cr.No. 98/2025) has been filed under PECA-2019, COT-PA-2003, and Section 77 of Juvenile Justice Act, with 13 juveniles identified as customers.

TGANB appeals to the public to report such activities via toll-free number 1908 or tsnabho-hyd@tspolice.gov.in.



BRS Silver Jubilee Public Meeting Will Go Down in History: Former Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

As the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) completes 25 years since its inception, a grand Silver Jubilee public meeting is scheduled to be held on April 27 in Warangal district. Former Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav reviewed the arrangements for the event along with key party leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, Talasani said, "This event will go down in history. It's not just a party celebration but a tribute to the tireless movement for the rights of Telangana people."

He recalled that while the Telangana movement began in 1969, it was revived in full force when K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) founded the TRS (now BRS) in 2001, with the goal of achieving statehood for Telangana.

"KCR not only led the fight for a separate state but also made Telangana a model for the entire country in terms of development and welfare," he said. Talasani also took a swipe at the current Congress government, accusing it of pushing the state backward in just over a year.

"Within just one and a half years, the Congress regime has dragged the state into decline," he alleged.

He emphasized that the BRS remains a protective force for all sections of society, and that the party will continue to stand strong with the people.

"BRS and KCR are like a protective shield for the people of Telangana," Talasani asserted.



TDP MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad Moves High Court Over Land Demolition

Alleges illegal action by Hyderabad Development Authority

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

In a significant development, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad has approached the High Court, alleging illegal demolition of his property by Hyderabad Development Authority (HYDRA). The MLA filed a petition claiming that HYDRA unjustly took possession of his land in Hafeezpet without proper notice or legal procedure.

Vasantha Krishna Prasad stated that existing constructions on his land were demolished without prior intimation, causing significant loss. He demanded that HYDRA be held accountable and made to pay compensation for the damages. In his plea, he emphasized that no notices were served



to him before the demolition, which he termed as a gross violation of legal norms. Addressing the media, the TDP MLA expressed hope that justice would be served once Chief Minister Revanth Reddy returns from his foreign tour. "I have complete faith that the CM will do justice in this matter," he said. He also questioned the urgency behind HYDRA's actions, highlighting that the demolition was carried out on a court holiday, which raised further doubts over the legality of the operation.

The High Court is expected to take up the matter for hearing soon.

Tension at Osmania University as Contract Assistant Professors Arrested

Professors demand regularisation; protests continue for third day



TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

High tension prevailed at Osmania University on Monday as police detained several con-

tractual assistant professors protesting for job regularisation. The incident occurred on the third consecutive day of

protests, as around 1,270 contract faculty members from 12 universities across Telangana are demanding immediate regularisation of their services.

The protesting assistant professors have been staging sit-ins, urging the government to fulfill its promises. However, police intervened and arrested the demonstrators, citing lack of permission for the agitation. The move triggered unrest on campus, with students and faculty members expressing solidarity with the detained professors. The contract teachers alleged that despite years of

dedicated service, the government has not taken any steps towards regularising their positions, forcing them to launch this protest. They also stated that they will continue their agitation until their demands are met.

Meanwhile, tensions remain high at Osmania University, with additional police forces deployed to maintain law and order. The assistant professors have urged the Telangana government to respond promptly and resolve the issue to avoid further disruption in academic institutions across the state.

Newborn Delivered in RTC Bus Gets Lifetime Free Bus Pass – TSRTC Honours Staff for Humanitarian Gesture

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

In a heartwarming incident, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has rewarded staff members who helped a pregnant woman safely deliver a baby girl inside a moving bus. The incident occurred on the Hyderabad-Kollapur Express Bus, where the woman, Suvarna, experienced labor pains near Adirla village in Peddakothapally mandal while returning home after a medical check-up in Nagarkurnool.

Quick to act, conductor Raj Kumar, private hire bus driver Venugopal, and ASHA worker Malli Kanthamma, who was



accompanying the woman, immediately stopped the bus, evacuated all passengers, and ensured a safe delivery inside the vehicle. The newborn was later shifted to a local govern-

ment hospital along with the mother using a 108 ambulance. As a mark of appreciation, TSRTC Managing Director VC Sajjanar felicitated the three for their compassionate service. He also announced a

lifetime free bus pass for the newborn and a one-year free deluxe and super luxury bus pass for ASHA worker Malli Kanthamma.

During the same felicitation ceremony held at the Bus Bhavan, Group-1 ranker Gorla Sumashree, who secured 179th rank and is the daughter of former RTC conductor Krishniah (who passed away during the COVID pandemic), was also honoured for her achievement. The event was attended by TSRTC Executive Director Munishekhar, Chief Personnel Manager Usha Devi, and depot managers from Hyderabad-2 and Wanaparthy.

Union Minister Kishan Reddy Appears Before Nampally Court in Threat Case

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy appeared before the Nampally Court on Monday as a witness in a case related to threats he received from suspected ISI terrorists during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Speaking to the media outside the court, Kishan Reddy said that during the 2019 general elections, he had received a threatening phone call from unidentified individuals linked to Pakistan-based ISI. He had immediately lodged a complaint with the Cyber Crime Police and also reported the matter to the Hyderabad City Police Commissioner.

"Back then, I received threatening calls from ISI terrorists. I lodged a formal complaint, and the police registered a case. Today, I appeared in court as a witness in connection with that case," Kishan Reddy explained. He further stated that such attempts to intimidate public representatives would never deter him from serving the people and upholding the nation's integrity. The case continues to be under investigation and legal proceedings are ongoing.



GM Arun Kumar Jain Presents ‘Employee of the Month’ Safety Awards to 6 South Central Railway Staff

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad

South Central Railway (SCR) General Manager Shri Arun Kumar Jain conducted a safety review meeting at the Coordination Conference Hall, Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad, on April 21, 2025. During the meeting, he presented the "Employee of the Month – Safety Awards" for March 2025 to six vigilant railway employees.

The awardees, representing various safety-critical roles such as Station Masters, Point Men, Track Maintainers, and Technicians, were recognized for their alertness and timely action in preventing unsafe conditions. The recipients included two from the Secunderabad Division, three from Vijayawada, and one from Guntur Division.

Additional General Manager Shri Neeraj Agarwal and Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) of all six SCR divisions – Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur,

and Nanded – participated via video conference.

Applauding their commitment, the GM stated that such recognition en-



courages other staff to remain vigilant and work with integrity. He stressed on conducting special safety drives, especially in track maintenance and loading/unloading operations. Emphasis was also laid on fire safety, staff duty rosters, crew amenities, and the progress of fencing works to improve operational safety and punctuality.

Jain concluded by urging timely completion of fencing near vulnerable areas to prevent unauthorized access by animals and vehicles.

Pope Francis’ Death an Irreplaceable Loss to the World: Khammam Bishop Dr. Sagili Prakash Expresses Grief

TPN,Corresponden|Khammam
The news of Pope Francis’ demise has deeply saddened Khammam Bishop Dr. Sagili Prakash, who described it as an irreparable loss to the world. Expressing his heartfelt grief, Bishop Prakash recalled that the Pope had recently delivered an Easter message to the faithful, warmly greeting them with “Brothers and Sisters, Happy Easter.” Calling Pope Francis a symbol of com-

passion and truth, he said the Pope always stood firmly against injustice and showed deep concern for the poor and marginalized. Millions around the world saw him as an inspiration for peace, love, and humanity, he added. The Bishop lauded the Pope’s efforts in raising his voice against income inequality, climate change, and the death penalty. He also recalled the Pope’s humanitarian gesture in 2016, when he washed

the feet of refugees of different faiths outside Rome — a moment that reflected his message of universal brotherhood. Prakash, who was appointed Bishop during Pope Francis’ tenure, said meeting the Pope in person was a memorable moment, praising his warmth and kindness. He prayed for the Pope’s soul to rest in peace, calling his passing a huge spiritual and moral void for the global community.



Special Pujas Performed at Sri Lalitha Tripura Sundari Temple by Excise Officials

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad
Special pujas were performed at the Sri Lalitha Tripura Sundari Temple located within the Telangana Excise Bhavan premises on the occasion of the temple’s 15th anniversary celebrations. Prohibition & Excise Commissioner C. Hari Kiran and Enforcement Director V.B. Kamalasan Reddy took part in the rituals on Monday. Marking the anniversary, traditional rituals such as Ganapati Puja, Mandapa Puja, and Chandi Yagam were conducted. The celebrations witnessed participation from several employees of the Excise Department, who were served annadanam (community meal). On the concluding day, the Commissioner and Director offered special prayers to the deity and received blessings from temple priests, who honored them with shalwas. They also performed circumambulation (pradakshina) around the homagundam and inaugurated the prasadam distribution. Temple committee members Vijayalakshmi, Vijaya, and Krishna Priya organized the Chandi Yagam and other arrangements. Additional and Joint Commissioners Khureshi, Suresh, KAB Shastri, Deputy Commissioners P. Dasharath and Raghuram, Assistant Commissioners, Superintendents, and staff from the Excise Department also participated and sought the blessings of the goddess.

“Recognition Comes Through Hard Work” – Enforcement Director Rewards 50 Excise Staff



TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad
Enforcement Director V.B. Kamalasan Reddy emphasized the importance of dedication and effective fieldwork in gaining recognition within the Excise Department. At a felicitation event held on Monday at Abkari Bhavan, he presented cash rewards to 50 officers from the Enforcement, STF, DTF, and Excise wings for their outstanding performance. Director Kamalasan Reddy highlighted that effective case detection, timely charge-sheet filing leading to convictions, recovery and disposal of seized assets, and apprehension of interstate offenders significantly contribute to the department’s reputation. He noted that these rewards were made possible after multiple discussions with the government, aimed at encouraging personnel who demonstrate excellence in their duties. Particularly lauding the team efforts in Sangareddy and the arrests of notorious criminals like ganja don Sangeetha Sahu and others from Odisha, the Director urged staff to intensify their efforts and focus on cracking major cases. The event was attended by Joint Commissioner Khureshi, Medak Assistant Commissioner G. Srinivasa Reddy, and STF team leaders Nandyala Anji Reddy, Pradeep Rao, Tula Srinivasa Rao, and Tirupati Yadav.

Safe Roads Are the Priority of People’s Government: Minister Komatireddy Reviews R&B Projects



TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad
Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy emphasized that constructing safe, pothole-free roads is the top priority of the people’s government. He chaired a high-level review meeting with senior officials of the Roads and Buildings Department at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar State Secretariat. During the meeting, key infrastructure initiatives like HAM

(Hybrid Annuity Mode) roads, National Highway development, and the Regional Ring Road (RRR) project were reviewed. The Minister directed consultants to immediately prepare detailed estimates for 5,189 km of roads identified under HAM Phase-I. Focusing on the RRR project, Komatireddy instructed NHAI officials to expedite compensation payments to farmers who lost land in the northern segment. He also advised the department to prepare proposals for the 2025-26 annual plan for national highways. The Minister stated that a comprehensive cabinet-level review of HAM roads would take place after Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s return from his foreign tour, following which work will commence. “Our goal is to ensure well-connected rural and urban areas through safe, pothole-free roads,” Komatireddy affirmed, reiterating the government’s commitment to public welfare and sustainable infrastructure.

Hyderabad to Host Bharat Summit–2025 with Global Focus on ‘Justice and Equality’

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad
The Telangana state government is gearing up to host a prestigious international event — Bharat Summit–2025 — in collaboration with the Samruddhi Bharat Foundation. Scheduled for April 25 and 26, the summit will be held at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC), commemorating the 70th anniversary of the historic Bandung Conference that laid the foundation for the Non-Aligned Movement. Over 450 delegates from more than 100 countries are expected to attend, including



corporate leaders, key ministers, policymakers, scholars, civil society leaders, and representatives from 25 global think tanks. With such diverse and high-profile participation, Hyderabad is once again poised to capture the attention of the

global community. Key political figures including AICC Chief Mallikarjun Kharge, MPs Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, along with ministers, senators, party leaders, and domain experts will be participating in bilateral discussions and

thematic sessions. Under the central theme “Global Justice”, the summit aims to address pressing global challenges such as democratic backsliding, rising inequalities, and shifting geopolitical landscapes. It seeks to chart a path toward economic, social, and political justice through inclusive dialogue and international cooperation. Former External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, in an interview with India Today Global, stated that the summit reflects the Indian National Congress’s vision for equitable global progress.

Good News for Flood-Affected Villages – ₹42.11 Crores Released for Infrastructure Development



TPN,Corresponden|Matkal
In a major relief to the flood-affected villages submerged by the Jurala back-

waters, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy has announced the release of ₹42.11 crore for the development of basic in-

frastructure at the Anugonda RR (Rehabilitation and Resettlement) Centre. The announcement brings fresh hope to displaced families, many of whom have waited decades for proper resettlement. The funds will be used to establish internal drainage systems, roads, street lighting, parks, playgrounds, schools, and community halls in the newly designated plots for the affected families. Local RR village heads confirmed the allocation, stating that a committee has been formed to assess current conditions and plan the necessary facilities accordingly.

During a press meet at the Maktal AMC office on Monday, leaders and presidents of RR villages affected by the submergence of 13 villages in Jurala, Sangam Mandal, and Bhootpur reservoirs shared their views. They recalled how villages such as Anugonda, Ankenpally, and Dadampally were declared rehabilitation villages in 2007 under GO 1050, due to the Jurala project built decades ago for drinking and irrigation purposes. This initiative is expected to accelerate long-pending development and provide dignified living conditions for displaced families.

“CM Abroad, Ministers Competing for Helicopters” – Harish Rao Slams Congress Govt on Farmers’ Issues

TPN,Corresponden|Hyderabad
BRS senior leader and former minister Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on the Congress-led state government, accusing it of neglecting farmers while ministers are busy flying in helicopters. Speaking to the media on Monday regarding crop losses due to unseasonal rains, he criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s administration for failing to support farmers in crisis.

Harish Rao alleged that Rs. 13,000 crore under Rythu Bandhu—Rs. 8,000 crore for Kharif and Rs. 5,000 crore for Rabi—has not been disbursed. He further claimed that although the Congress promised a complete farm loan waiver, only 45% of loans have been waived so far, and that too incompletely. He expressed concern over the widespread damage to crops across 13 districts due to untimely rains and blamed

the government for its lack of response. “While farmers suffer, ministers are competing for helicopters instead of visiting fields and reassuring farmers,” he remarked. Slamming the CM’s Japan tour during a crisis, Harish demanded that the Agriculture Minister and Deputy CM immediately assess crop losses and compensate affected farmers with ₹20,000 per acre to provide timely relief.



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. Sau-

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.

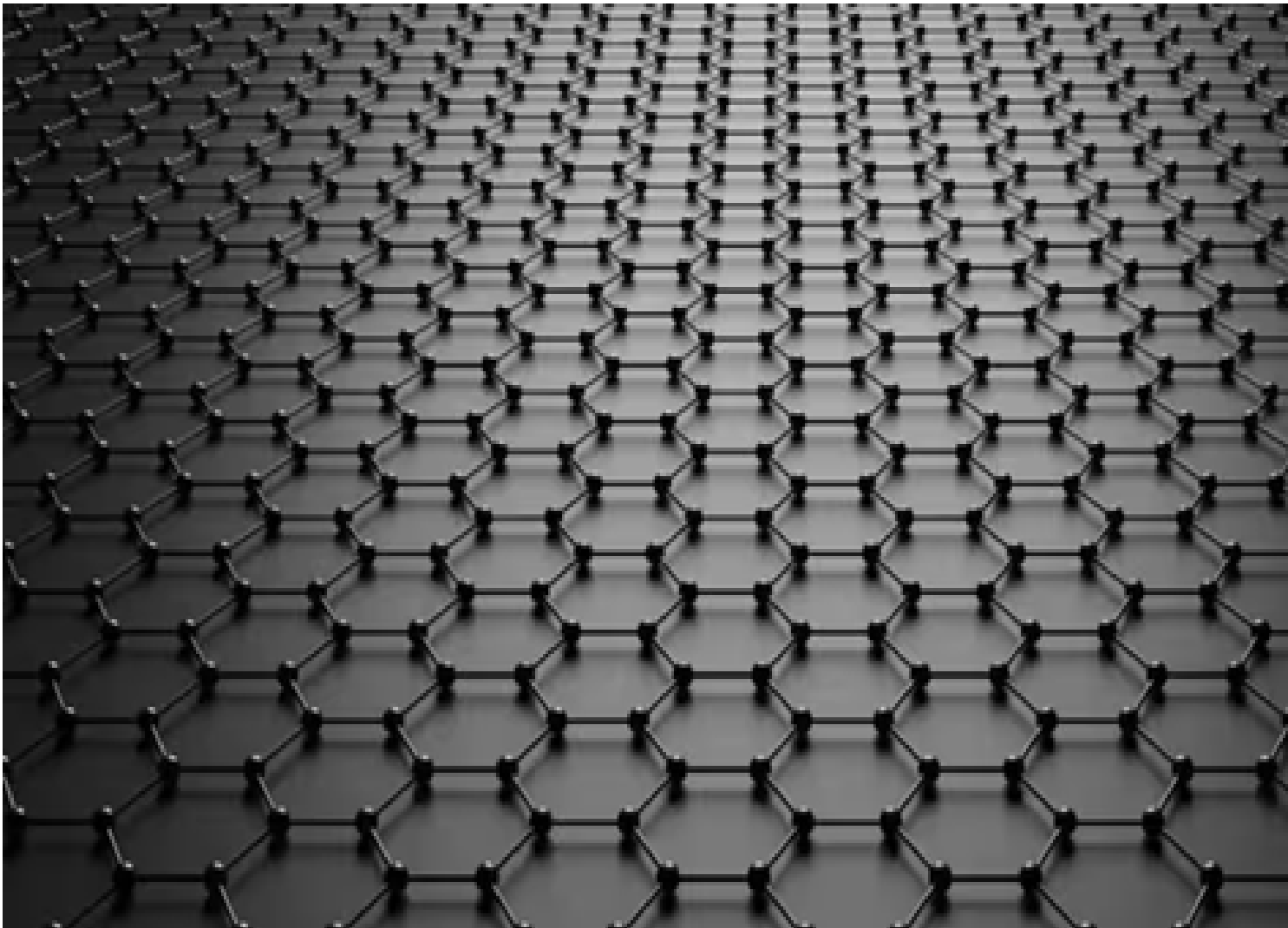
Saudi Arabia stands at the core of IMEC. Politically influential, centrally located, and backed by investment power, the Kingdom is a vital partner. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s Vision 2030 aligns closely with IMEC’s goals. Projects

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-

pens, 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.



NURTHY NAIDU PAADAM
Stock Market Analyst
+91 988 555 9709



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 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.



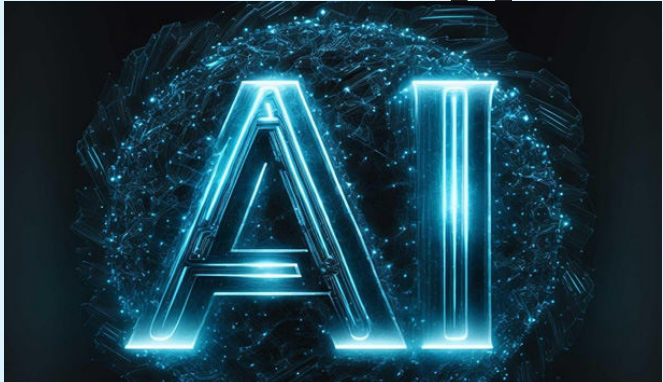
“Thank you @elon-musk for sending these beautiful birthday flowers to me in Mumbai,” she wrote. Elon, in response, commented, “Love you, Mom. Thanks for everything.”

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.

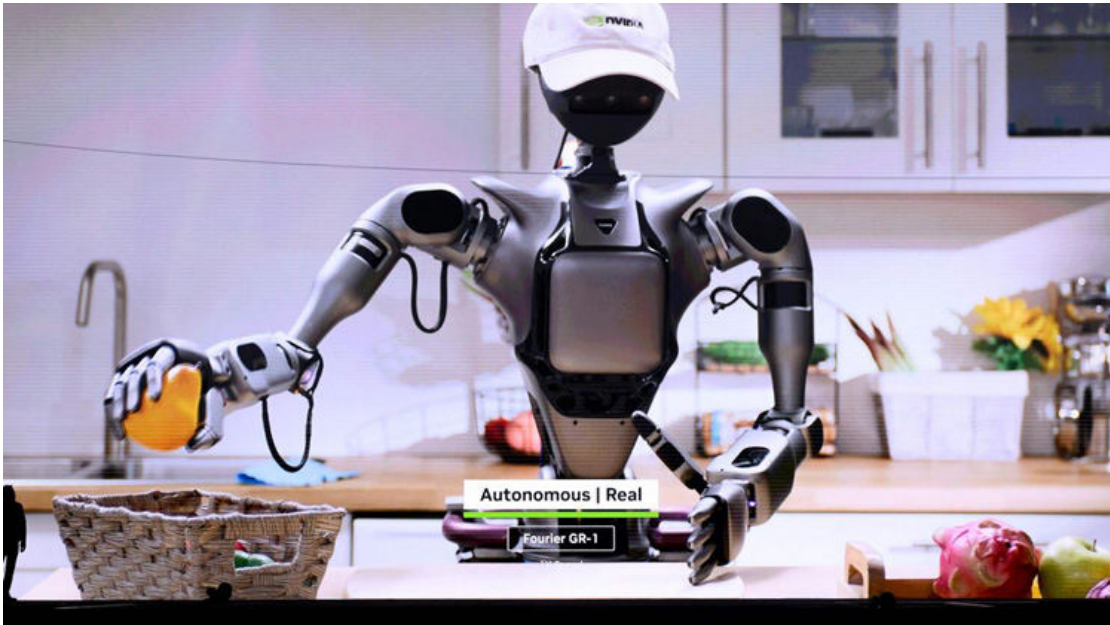
Meta AI is also the default search assistant across its apps, and it uses platform data to improve the accuracy and performance of its Llama-based tools. This ongoing development suggests Meta is intent on promoting its own AI services while sidelining competitors like Apple.

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-Dharmam. Meanwhile, Megastar Chiranjeevi is preparing for *Vishwabharathi*, 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.