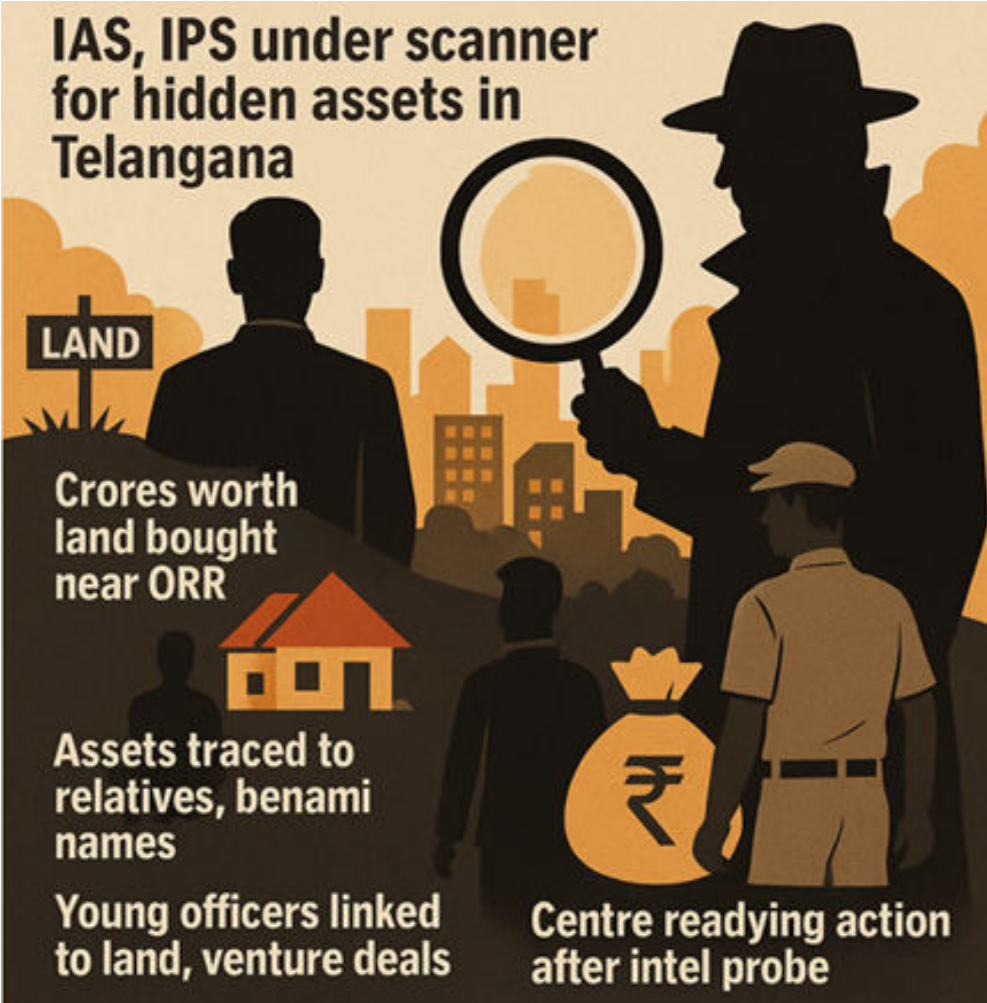


# Central Heat on Telangana Babus' Hidden Wealth

**TPN | V Krishna**  
**Hyderabad, April 23:** The Centre has reportedly initiated surveillance on several IAS and IPS officers serving in Telangana following allegations of illegal accumulation of wealth and disproportionate assets. Central intelligence agencies are said to have begun gathering detailed information about the officers' properties — from the time they entered service to their current holdings — including assets registered under the names of their relatives.

According to sources, many bureaucrats are believed to have acquired vast tracts of land, farmhouses, and villas on the outskirts of Hyderabad, especially around the Outer Ring Road. Acting on complaints reportedly submitted to the Union Home Ministry during the previous government's tenure — some with photographic and video evidence — the Centre has directed intelligence agencies to carry out ground-level verification of asset sources and their present market value.

It is alleged that many officers, especially those from northern states posted in Telangana, were closely associated with influential departments in the past and are now being accused of having acquired large chunks of land with the help of real estate agents, builders, and contractors who benefited from government projects. Intelligence reports suggest that some



of these officers own stakes in major real estate ventures operating in the Greater Hyderabad region under benami names. While bureaucrats are required to submit their immovable asset details annually to the Department of Per-

sonnel and Training (DoPT), several are accused of submitting incomplete or misleading disclosures. There are reports that some officials have listed only properties purchased decades ago, while



## Telangana, Hiroshima Explore Deep Collaboration Opportunities

### CM Revanth Reddy Leads High-Level Delegation

- ◆ Telangana, Hiroshima discuss peace, sustainability
- ◆ CM pitches Telangana as innovation hub
- ◆ Hiroshima Assembly honours Telangana delegation
- ◆ Talks on joint clean energy projects
- ◆ Call for cultural, academic exchange programs



bly Speaker Takashi Nakamoto, during their official visit to Japan. The Telangana delegation engaged in wide-ranging discussions with Hiroshima Prefecture leadership, exploring deep partnerships in areas of sustainability, innovation, industrial development, and peace-building. Speaking at the ceremonial welcome, CM Revanth Reddy lauded Hiroshima for its global leadership in peace and resilience, saying, "Telangana and Hiroshima share values of hope, struggle, and sustainability. Our aim is not just investment, but partnership — to build a greener and more inclusive world."

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accompanied by IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu and senior officials, was accorded a ceremonial welcome by the Vice Governor of Hiroshima Prefecture and Prefectural Assem-

Hon'ble Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accompanied by IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu, paid floral tributes at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park on Tuesday, as part of their official visit to Japan. The leaders solemnly honored the memory of those who lost their lives in the 1945 atomic bombing by visiting the iconic Atomic Bomb Dome — the only structure that withstood the devastation. In a symbolic gesture of peace and global unity, they also paid respects at the bust of Mahatma Gandhi, the



Father of the Nation and apostle of non-violence. The visit underscored Telangana's commitment to peace, resilience, and international collaboration, aligning with the values embodied by Hiroshima and Mahatma Gandhi.

## Bhatti Vikramarka Congratulates Students on Inter Results Release



**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu extended heartfelt congratulations to all students who passed the Intermediate examinations. Speaking at the official results announcement event, he expressed his wishes for the successful students to reach the highest positions in their careers. He also conveyed the greetings of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who is currently on a Japan tour, to the students and their families.

The Deputy CM emphasized the government's continued commitment to the development of the education sector and praised the education department officials for conducting the examinations and result announcement process in a transparent and error-free manner. Sharing key statistics, he noted that in the first-year Intermediate exams, 4,88,430 students appeared, with 66.89% overall pass percentage. Among them, 73.83% of girls and 57.83% of boys cleared the exams. In the second-year exams, 5,08,582 students appeared, with a pass percentage of 71.37%. Girls outperformed boys again, with a 74.21% success rate compared to 57.31% for boys.

He concluded by assuring that the Telangana government would continue to support students and the education system in every possible way, to ensure a brighter future for the state's youth.

## KTR Warns Police in Lagacharla Case: Retirement No Escape

### – BRS leader demands strict action

- KTR demands action against abusive cops
- Police acted like CM's private army
- NHRC slams police brutality in report
- BRS vows continued support for victims
- Will act post-retirement too: KTR

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a scathing attack on the Telangana government over alleged police excesses in Lagacharla, Vikarabad district. Citing the NHRC's (National Human Rights Commission) report that condemned police behavior during land acquisition protests, KTR demanded that the responsible officers be immediately dismissed from service.



Accusing certain police officers of acting like "private soldiers" of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, KTR said that the women of Lagacharla were assaulted, and villagers were tortured during the

clash. He blamed Revanth Reddy, not just as CM but also as local MLA and Home Minister, saying he should be ashamed of the incident. KTR warned that even retired officials won't be spared, stating, "Our government will return in three years. We have noted the names. No matter where they retire, we will take action." He added that if the state fails to act within six weeks, as directed by NHRC, then the role of CM Revanth Reddy and his brother Tirupati Reddy must also be questioned.

The BRS leader said his party has approached the NHRC on behalf of the Kodangal victims and assured continued support to the Lagacharla victims. "Justice will be delivered — today, tomorrow, or later," he declared.

## Fresh Gunfire Erupts Along Telangana-Chhattisgarh Border

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Tension escalated once again near the Telangana-Chhattisgarh border as fresh encounters broke out between security forces and Maoists. The latest gunfire was reported from the Karrigutta area under Venkatapuram Mandal, following intelligence inputs about Maoists planting explosives in the region. In response, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched a massive combing operation. As the forces intensified their search, heavy gunfire was exchanged with suspected Maoist insurgents. Sources indicate that the Maoists were retreating towards Karrigutta, prompting the CRPF teams to advance



swiftly in that direction. Meanwhile, this development comes close on the heels of a major encounter in Jharkhand yesterday, where eight Maoists, including senior leaders, were reportedly killed in crossfire with security forces. The back-to-back operations signal a renewed push by the security establishment to crack down on Maoist presence in sensitive border regions. Authorities have tightened security in the surrounding areas, with continued surveillance to prevent further Maoist movements. Residents in nearby villages have been advised to stay alert as the situation remains tense. Further updates are awaited as the operation continues.

## 26 Killed in Terror Attack on Tourists in J&K's Pahalgam

- ◆ Terrorists targeted tourists based on their non-Muslim identities
- ◆ The attack took place in Baisaran Valley
- ◆ PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah condemn the attack
- ◆ The Resistance Front, claims responsibility for the attack.



**TPN Correspondent | Pahalgam**  
A tragic terror attack unfolded in Pahalgam, South Kashmir, today, leaving 26 tourists dead and several others injured. The attack occurred in the Baisaran Valley, an area accessible only by foot or on horseback. Gunshots were heard from the upper meadows of the

region, and it is believed that the terrorists targeted tourists based on their non-Muslim identities. Military helicopters have been deployed to evacuate the injured. Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly condemned the attack and



1st Page Cont..

## Central Heat on Telangana Babus' Hidden Wealth

intentionally omitting recent acquisitions made through relatives or close aides. Interestingly, the trend is not limited to senior officials. New entrants into the IAS and IPS services are also reportedly joining the race to amass properties. A few young officers are under scrutiny for their alleged involvement in land disputes and for pressuring local business ventures to allocate shares in exchange for administrative favours. One recent incident involved a probationary IPS officer allegedly entangled in a land settlement issue during field training, resulting in the extension of her probationary period after the Centre intervened. A senior IAS officer with over three decades of service reportedly has relatives who own nearly 150 acres near Shamshabad Airport and are involved in real estate development in the area. There are also whispers that a prominent BRS MP has financial interests in the same ventures. Another high-ranking officer is alleged to have acquired ex-

tensive properties along the Shamshabad-Hyderabad corridor. Reports have also surfaced about a senior North Indian IAS officer owning hundreds of open plots and luxury villas around the Outer Ring Road, while another officer is said to have purchased multiple villas in the name of his newlywed spouse. A South Telangana-based officer is rumoured to possess so many high-value plots that he cannot even recall all of them. Apart from real estate investments, some IPS officers are accused of loaning crores of rupees to moneylenders at high interest rates instead of investing in properties, further adding to their illicit wealth. With detailed intelligence reports now submitted, sources confirm that the Centre is preparing for strict action. Surveillance is ongoing, and further investigations are expected to reveal deeper links between bureaucrats and questionable financial activities across the state.

## Telangana, Hiroshima Explore Deep Collaboration Opportunities

**Minister D. Sridhar Babu outlined key areas of cooperation, including:**

- Joint initiatives in clean technology and waste-to-energy projects.
- Collaboration in urban infrastructure, including disaster-resilient design, underground metro systems, and smart city solutions.
- Creation of a Hiroshima-Telangana Automotive & Mobility Corridor focusing on EVs and precision manufacturing.
- Establishment of educational and cultural exchange programs between Hiroshima and Telangana's top institutions.
- Partnerships to promote peace tourism, cultural exhibitions, and Buddhist heritage initiatives.

During the visit, Speaker Nakamoto personally escorted CM Revanth Reddy and Minis-

ter Sridhar Babu through the Prefectural Assembly, even inviting them to his chair as a gesture of honour. Later, the delegation paid floral tributes at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Mahatma Gandhi bust, and visited the Atomic Bomb Dome, symbolizing the shared values of peace and resilience. The visit marks a significant step in building long-term diplomatic, economic, and cultural bridges between Telangana and Japan, highlighting Telangana's proactive global engagement under the TelanganaRising initiative.

## 26 Killed in Terror Attack on Tourists in J&K's Pahalgam

directed Union Home Minister Amit Shah to take all necessary actions. Shah, who spoke to the Prime Minister, is set to visit Srinagar to hold an urgent security review meeting with key agencies. He has also called an emergency meeting in Delhi with senior officials, including the Intelligence Bureau Chief, CRPF Chief, and J&K Police Chief. Home Minister Shah has spoken with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to address the crisis. Sources report that the terror group, Lashkar-e-Taiba's offshoot, The Resistance Front, has claimed responsibility for the attack. The Special Operations Group (SoG) is carrying out a search operation in the

area. The tragic attack is believed to be a targeted assault against non-Muslim tourists. The incident has left the nation in shock, with many expressing outrage at the cold-blooded nature of the attack. Among the victims were Manjunath and Pallavi from Shivamogga, Karnataka. Manjunath was killed after the terrorists confirmed his Hindu identity. Pallavi, devastated, pleaded for her life, but the terrorists spared her, telling her, "You need to be alive to tell this to Modi." The government has set up emergency helplines to assist those affected by the attack, and a swift investigation is underway to bring those responsible to justice.

# Metro Ads on Betting Apps Under Fire: PIL Filed in Telangana High Court

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

A fresh twist has emerged in the ongoing controversy over illegal betting apps in the Telugu states, with Hyderabad Metro Rail Corporation (HMR) now under the spotlight. A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Telangana High Court, accusing the metro service of promoting betting applications through in-train advertisements. The PIL, filed by advocate Nagar Babu, asserts that as a responsible public transport entity, HMR should not be enabling advertisements for unlawful betting apps, which are banned and linked to financial losses and mental health crises, particularly among youth. The petitioner has named the Central Government, Chief



Secretary of Telangana, Director General of Police, Managing Director of Hyderabad Metro Rail, and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as respondents in the case. The High Court, after preliminary hearings, adjourned the matter to April 24 for further proceedings. This development follows increasing scrutiny of promotional activities involving betting platforms, which have already led to FIRs and questioning of several celebrities, influencers, and YouTubers for endorsing such apps. The petition highlights the gravity of the situation, pointing out that many youngsters, having fallen prey to betting app traps, have suffered severe financial setbacks, with some resorting to extreme steps like suicide.

## Telangana to Host Grand Gaddar Film Awards with Full Government Support: Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

The Telangana State Government is gearing up to organize the Gaddar Film Awards in a grand and unprecedented manner, said Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu. Speaking at the Gaddar Awards Jury meeting held at LV Prasad Film Lab, Bhatti emphasized that the awards ceremony should be conducted in such a memorable fashion that it sets a benchmark — "Nabhuto Na Bhavishyati" — never seen before and unlikely to be repeated. He stated that Telangana is fortunate to have birthed a revolutionary icon like Gaddar, who laid the ideological foundation for the state's formation. Bhatti praised Gaddar as a visionary who popularized Telangana culture, struggle, and voice through his art, resonating from children to the elderly. Highlighting the neglect faced by the film industry over the past decade, the Deputy CM

recalled that cinema awards were last presented in 2011. He affirmed that CM Revanth Reddy's government is committed to reviving the film industry by offering not just awards but also housing plots and infrastructure support for industry workers. He stressed the role of media and cinema in promoting societal values and development, asserting that it is the responsibility of rulers to protect and nurture them. The Gaddar Film Awards will also honor individuals who have brought prestige to the film industry, and these recognitions should serve as inspiration for future generations. The Deputy CM urged the jury to ensure the selection process is fair, devoid of bias or favoritism. With over a decade of silence finally broken, Telangana is set to reclaim its cinematic legacy through the globally-focused Gaddar Awards, putting Hyderabad on the international map of prestigious film events.

## Bhoobharati-2025 to Protect Farmers' Rights: Minister Ponguleti



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

Telangana Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy assured that the newly introduced Bhoobharati-2025 Act will act as a protective framework for landowners, especially farmers. Speaking at an awareness conference in Valigonda, the minister stated that the Act will be amended based on public feedback to ensure transparency and accessibility. Unlike the previous Dharani system, which was formulated without structured regulations, Bhoobharati-2025 was crafted after detailed consultations and committee recommendations, keeping farmers' struggles in mind. The Act aims to be more participatory and farmer-friendly. As part of the first phase, the government will implement the Act in four mandals to collect data and address issues. By June 2, efforts will be made to distribute land titles to all eligible citizens. A five-tier grievance redressal mechanism has been introduced, culminating in tribunals if justice is not served at lower levels. A dedicated portal allows complaints to be submitted directly from home, viewable by both the Revenue Secretary and the Minister. Ponguleti emphasized strict action against corrupt officials and urged a non-partisan approach to land distribution, ensuring the Act benefits the poor without political bias.

## Hyderabad MLC Polls Set for Wednesday, All Arrangements in Place

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

The stage is set for the Hyderabad Local Authorities MLC elections, scheduled to be held on Wednesday. Addressing the media, Returning Officer Anurag Jayanti confirmed that all arrangements have been completed for the smooth conduct of the election. The Election Commission has deployed nearly 500 officials for election duty. Two polling centers have been established at the GHMC Head Office, and polling staff have already un-



dergone necessary training. Voting will take place from 8 AM to 4 PM and will

be conducted in a fair and transparent manner.

detailed logistical arrangements in place by the authorities.

follow the preferential voting system. To ensure security, around 250 police personnel will be deployed at the polling centers. Anurag Jayanti emphasized that the administration is fully prepared to conduct the election peacefully and efficiently. He urged voters and officials to adhere to guidelines and contribute to the successful execution of the election process. The Hyderabad MLC polls are being closely watched, given their local significance and the



# Uninterrupted Development a Priority: Minister Jupally

- Ensure continuous development without delays
  - Strict action on rice mill defaulters
- Drinking water supply must be stable
  - Subsidy, zero bills to be ensured

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Telangana Excise, Tourism, and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao emphasized that development programs must continue without disruption and that negligence in their implementation will not be tolerated. He chaired a review meeting at the district collector's office on Tuesday, attended by MLAs Yennam Srinivas Reddy and G. Madhusudan Reddy, Collector Vijayaendra Booi, and other senior officials. The minister directed officials to take proactive steps to prevent drinking water shortages during summer, addressing maintenance lapses despite sufficient water levels in reservoirs. He highlighted the CM's release of ₹1 crore to each district collector for emergency drinking water supply, and said MLAs can utilize SDF funds if needed. On paddy procurement, Jupally ordered officials to issue receipts immediately after weighing grain that meets quality standards. He warned of legal action



against millers who defaulted during the previous Rabi season, failing to deliver rice worth ₹150 crores. The minister also stressed providing complete facilities at procurement centers and ensuring gas cylinder subsidies of ₹500 reach eligible households. He instructed correction of billing and Aadhaar errors affecting zero electricity bills and

subsidy beneficiaries. Tourism projects at Pillalamarri and Koilsagar should be fast-tracked with immediate tenders, he added. MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy raised concerns about forcibly acquired plots at Shilparamam and urged officials to return them to owners or provide compensation if needed.

## Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar Stresses on

## Uninterrupted Water Supply and Welfare Implementation



**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar has directed officials to ensure adequate and uninterrupted water supply across the district, especially during the summer months. Speaking at a review meeting held at the District Collectorate on Tuesday, chaired by Collector Prateek Jain, the Speaker emphasized

timely repairs of borewells and cleaning of Mission Bhagiratha OHR tanks to ensure quality drinking water. The meeting was attended by Chevella MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, MLAs T. Ram-mohan Reddy, B. Manohar Reddy, and Kale Yadayya. The Speaker urged officials to proactively address power transformer issues for farmers and emphasized deliv-

ering welfare schemes like Gruha Lakshmi and Mahalakshmi to all eligible poor beneficiaries. He also highlighted the importance of implementing the Rajiv Yuva Vikas scheme for youth employment and encouraged farmers to cultivate fine rice. He suggested setting up procurement centers for the same and taking measures for protection of water bodies and timely supply of seeds and fertilizers. The Speaker directed swift compensation for crop losses due to unseasonal rains and urged speedy execution of already sanctioned road works. Later, he distributed kitchen equipment to welfare hostels and reviewed hostel facilities through a PowerPoint presentation by DSCWO Malleshham. District Additional Collectors Lingya Naik, Sudheer, and other department officials also participated in the session.

## Ponnam Prabhakar Slams Bandi Sanjay's Communal Remarks, Demands EC Action

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Telangana Minister and Hyderabad MLC election in-charge, Ponnam Prabhakar, came down heavily on Union Minister Bandi Sanjay over his controversial appeal urging Hindu voters to support the BJP in the Hyderabad Local Authorities MLC elections. Speaking at Gandhi Bhavan, Ponnam announced that Congress will file a formal complaint with the Election Commission, demanding immediate action. He criticized Bandi Sanjay's remarks, questioning, "If someone doesn't vote for BJP, are they not a Hindu?" Ponnam accused the BJP of provoking voters using religious sentiments, which goes against the spirit of the Constitution and electoral norms. "In an election with just 112 votes, where MIM holds 50 and Congress 14, how does BJP, with 24 votes, claim a winning chance?" he asked, adding that BRS, which also has 24 votes, chose to boycott the election. Ponnam reiterated that Congress believes in democracy, unlike BJP's "authoritarian mindset." He highlighted the national-level campaign 'Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' to protect constitutional values, stressing that BJP's Hindutva agenda poses a threat to democracy. He also pointed to BJP MP Nishikant Dubey's controversial remarks about the judiciary, demanding his suspension if the party genuinely condemns his words. "You can't instigate on one hand and pretend to condemn on the other," he said.



## Telangana a Role Model for India: TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud



**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud declared that Telangana has emerged as a role model for the nation, owing to its progressive welfare and agricultural policies under Congress rule. Addressing a press meet at Gandhi Bhavan, he highlighted that the entire country is now discussing the state's development strategies, particularly the Rythu Mahotsavam being held to educate farmers on advanced techniques. He slammed the previous BRS government for failing farmers over a decade and said, "They only shed crocodile tears. Congress is the real farmer-friendly government." He recalled tragic farmer suicides during the BRS era, forced paddy sales, and police lathi charges on agitating farmers. Goud hailed initiatives like free distribution of fine rice (Sanna Biyyam), claiming Telangana is the first state in India to do so. He noted the government waived ₹20,616 crore in farm loans, benefiting over 25 lakh farmers and paid bonuses for fine rice cultivation, expanding acreage from 25 to 40 lakh. He also praised the caste census, done as per Rahul Gandhi's vision, and Congress' commitment to 42% reservations for BCs. On irrigation, he urged desilting of Nizamsagar and Sriramsagar to benefit an additional 3.5 lakh acres. Finally, he announced upcoming plans to build an indoor stadium in Nizamabad and revive its legacy as a sports and sugar industry hub.

## Nation Mourns Pahalgam

## Terror Attack; Strong Condemnation from Leaders Across Parties

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
The deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, that claimed the lives of 27 innocent tourists and left 20 critically injured, has sent shockwaves across the nation. Leaders from Telangana, cutting across political lines, have expressed deep anguish and demanded strict action. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed his profound sorrow over the incident. Condemning the brutal act, he said such cowardly attacks cannot break the spirit of the Indian people. He urged the central government to deal firmly with the terrorist elements and prayed for peace to the souls of the deceased.



BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) also reacted strongly, calling the attack a heinous crime against innocent pilgrims. He demanded top-quality medical aid for the injured and financial assistance for the affected families. KTR stressed that both central and state governments must ensure support and send a clear message that terrorism has no place in Kashmir. Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar declared that the government would not spare anyone involved. He said the Modi government is closely monitoring the situation and assured that those responsible will face severe consequences. Meanwhile, The Resistance Front (TRF) has claimed responsibility for the attack. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has directed Home Minister Amit Shah to personally assess the situation on the ground.

## “Only CM-Level Leader Can Be My Rival”: Jeevan Reddy's Bold Statement Stirs Buzz

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Congress senior leader and former minister T. Jeevan Reddy stirred political circles with his sharp remarks on Tuesday, targeting Jagtial MLA Sanjay. Addressing the media, Jeevan Reddy questioned, "What development did Sanjay bring in the last ten years? Will he start now?" He asserted that Sanjay lacks the experience and track record Congress leaders possess.

Highlighting the Congress party's role in dethroning the BRS through public struggle, Jeevan Reddy stated, "My competition is only with a CM-level leader." He recalled contesting against the late Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy during the development phase in the past, suggesting his political stature remains strong.



These comments have become a hot topic within the Congress ranks. Party insiders believe that if the high command responds quickly, internal unrest can be resolved. Supporters of Jeevan Reddy are reportedly upset that he was denied a ticket in the recent Graduates MLC election, suspecting an internal conspiracy against him. With this bold statement, Jeevan Reddy has once again brought internal party dynamics and leadership comparisons into the spotlight, demanding attention from the Congress leadership.

## Chennamaneni Ramesh Must Return MLA Salary: CPI Leader Narayana

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
CPI National Secretary K. Narayana has demanded that former Vemulawada MLA Chennamaneni Ramesh return all the salary and benefits he received during his tenure as an MLA. Speaking to the media, Narayana alleged that Ramesh misled both the judiciary and the central government by contesting elections and serving as an MLA despite not being an Indian citizen.

"He deceived the system by continuing as a public representative even after losing Indian citizenship and utilized the position to benefit in business ventures," Narayana stated. He emphasized that drawing government salary without being a citizen amounts to fraudulent gains and demanded its immediate repayment. Narayana warned that if necessary, he would approach the court to ensure accountability. The Telangana High Court and central authorities have already declared that Ramesh is a German citizen, not an Indian, making his MLA status legally invalid. CPI's strong stance underscores growing pressure on public representatives to uphold transparency and adhere to constitutional norms.





## Watchman Robs Businessman’s House in Kachiguda, Flees with ₹70 Lakh Cash, 1kg Gold

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
A shocking robbery occurred under the Kachiguda Police Station limits in Hyderabad, where a Nepalese watchman drugged a businessman’s family and looted ₹70 lakh cash and 1kg of gold. The incident took place at the residence of Hemaraju, a local businessman. According to police reports, the accused mixed sedatives in food or drinks consumed by the family members. After ensuring they were unconscious, he robbed the valuables and fled the scene, reportedly with the help of a Nepalese domestic worker. The crime came to light early in the morning when neighbours noticed unusual activity and alerted the police. The victims were rushed to a hospital. Police have launched a massive manhunt, checking railway stations, bus stands, and city lodges for the suspect. CCTV footage is being examined as part of the ongoing investigation.

## ED Issues Notice to Mahesh Babu in Surana Group Case

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Tollywood superstar Mahesh Babu has received notices from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the Surana Group and Sai Surya Developers money laundering case. As per reports, the ED issued summons to Mahesh Babu, asking him to appear for questioning on April 27. The notice is related to a payment of ₹5.5 crore allegedly received by the actor for endorsing the Surana Group. The investigation agency is probing financial irregularities and money laundering involving the companies. The ED is reportedly examining whether the funds used for celebrity endorsements were part of the illicit transactions under scrutiny. Further developments are awaited as Mahesh Babu’s appearance before the ED is expected later this month.



## Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police Bust Fake Product Racket, Three Arrested in Delhi

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
The Cyber Crime Police of Hyderabad City arrested three individuals from Delhi for allegedly manufacturing and selling counterfeit skincare and haircare products under a registered brand name. The accused — Nikhil (26), Mohit Sharma (25), and Sonu Kumar (26) — were apprehended in Crime No. 153/2025, filed under the IT Act, BNS, and the Copyright Act. The case was registered after a Hyderabad-based doctor complained about fake soap listings appearing on multiple e-commerce platforms, misleading customers and damaging the company’s reputation and revenue. The accused, in collusion with two absconding individuals, replicated the original products’ design and packaging to sell fake soaps online. Police seized 100 soap bars, a mobile phone, and a laptop. Authorities urge citizens to buy only from verified sources and report cyber fraud via 1930 or cybercrime.gov.in.



## CM Revanth Reddy Reacts to Rahul Gandhi's Letter on Caste Discrimination

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has responded to the letter written by Rahul Gandhi, expressing his thoughts and support for the call to address caste discrimination and the introduction of the Rohith Vemula Act. Speaking from Hiroshima, Japan, where he was visiting the historic city and the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, Revanth Reddy shared that he had read the letter at a significant moment. The Chief Minister noted that he was deeply moved by Rahul Gandhi’s inspirational appeal.

He stated that the words in the letter had a profound impact on him, especially as he was at a place that symbolized peace and nonviolence. He further assured that the thoughts and principles outlined in the letter would guide him in shaping a future that all people could be proud of. Rahul Gandhi, in his letter, had urged for the Rohith Vemula Act to be introduced, drawing attention to the caste-based discrimination that continues to plague society. He also referenced the struggles faced by figures like BR Ambedkar

and Rohith Vemula, emphasizing that it was time to put an end to caste-based oppression and untouchability. Rahul Gandhi stressed that the time to tackle these social challenges had arrived, and no one should have to face caste discrimination anymore. In response, CM Revanth Reddy echoed his support for the cause and expressed his commitment to taking steps towards creating a future free from caste-based discrimination, guided by the ideals shared in the letter.



## Illegal Codeine Cough Syrup Racket Busted in Hyderabad; 3 Arrested, 2 Medical Shop Licenses Cancelled

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
In a joint operation on April 21, 2025, Telangana’s Prohibition & Excise Department and the Drugs Control Administration busted a major illegal supply network of codeine-based cough syrups in Hyderabad. The crackdown began at Ramanthapur, where officials seized 1.050 kg of banned ganja from two suspects. Upon interrogation, they revealed that a woman was selling codeine syrup illegally in Lallaguda, Secunderabad. Acting on this, authorities nabbed Nalla Rajini near Moulali Bridge with 13 bottles

of codeine syrup—without any valid prescription or license. Further probe led to Generic World Medical Shop in Vidyanagar, where a decoy operation revealed over-the-counter sales of codeine syrup without prescription. A total of 80 bottles were seized. Another link was traced to Himalaya Pharma, Old Bowenpally, also violating norms.  
**Arrested:**  
• Nalla Rajini (illegal possession)  
• Anmol Kumar Singhal (Generic World licensee)  
• Dinesh Kumar Goel (Himalaya Pharma licensee)



Both medical shop licenses have been revoked. A case under the NDPS Act has been registered. Authorities urge the public to report suspicious drug activity via toll-free: 1800-599-6969.

## Excise Director Stresses Strict Punishment to Deter Drug Offenders

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Excise Enforcement Director V.B. Kamalasan Reddy emphasized that strict punishments in drugs and ganja-related cases should act as a strong deterrent to prevent repeat offenses. Speaking at an event held at the Hyderabad Commissioner’s office, he praised the exceptional work of Excise officials, particularly those who previously served in Sangareddy, for their efficiency in investigation and



securing convictions. As part of the program, top-performing officers involved in

NDPS case convictions were felicitated with rewards and certificates. Inspector J. Madhuba-

bu, Srinivas Reddy, and seven others were honored for their commendable service. The Director urged the Excise staff to continue their dedicated efforts towards achieving a drug-free Telangana, and highlighted the department’s significant contribution in registering and investigating NDPS cases effectively across the state. Additional Commissioner S.A. Khureshi and several senior STF officers also attended the event.

## Telangana Police Shine at All India Police Badminton Cluster 2025



**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
The Telangana Police Badminton and Table Tennis team

bagged a total of 18 medals (2 Gold, 2 Silver, 14 Bronze) at the 1st All India Police Badminton

Cluster (2024–25) held at Kadantra, Kochi, Kerala, from April 11–15, 2025. DGP Dr. Jitender, IPS congratulated and felicitated the medal winners at a special event in Hyderabad. Among the notable achievers were P. Seetha Reddy, DSP, CID Hyderabad, who clinched multiple medals across Mixed Doubles and Singles events. Other medal winners included officers from various ranks – Addl. SP, DSPs, ACPS, Inspectors, Head Consta-

bles, and WASIs – showcasing an all-round performance in both Table Tennis and Badminton.  
**Medal Tally:**  
• Gold: 2  
• Silver: 2  
• Bronze: 14  
• Total: 18 medals by 12 participants  
IGP (Sports) Sri M. Ramesh, IPS, and DSP (Sports) Sri Ramarao also participated in the felicitation ceremony.

## Visra Junior College Students Excel in Intermediate & JEE Mains 2025



**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Students of Visra Junior College have achieved outstanding results in the Telangana Intermediate Board exams and JEE Mains 2025, according to College Director Dorbala Hariharanath Sharma. In 1st Year MPC, Aakula Aishwarya

scored 466/470, while Dorbala Hrishikesh, Aakula Sravya, and Indira Panigrahi scored 464. In BIPC, N. Sai Tejaswini and Sama Mugdhareddy scored 436/440, and B. Gayatri scored 434. In 2nd Year MPC, V. Shruthi scored 990/1000, Srimainimi 985, and several others scored above 980. The college achieved a 92% pass rate with A Grade marks. In JEE Mains 2025, students like M. Surya Kiran (AIR 2435), D. Vishal (4620), and S.R. Balaji (5518) secured top national ranks. Out of 125 students, 14 achieved significant ranks. The director credited teachers, students, and parents for the success.

## DGP Dr. Jitender Emphasizes Effective Use of CCTNS for Enhanced Crime Detection

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
In a video conference held on Tuesday at the DGP Office, Director General of Police (DGP) Dr. Jitender IPS reviewed the ongoing implementation of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) with all District Superintendents of Police (SPs) and Commissioners across Telangana. Dr. Jitender emphasized the adoption of advanced tools and techniques under the CCTNS to enhance crime detection and criminal tracking across the state. He urged senior officers to lead by example in using the system, highlighting that their active involvement will motivate field personnel to follow suit. The DGP specifically pointed out the importance of digital tools like E-Summons and E-Sakshya as part of the system, explaining that the vast data generated through CCTNS would be invaluable in improving policing efforts. He also noted that the Telangana Police is nationally recognized for its extensive distribution of computers and connected equipment, which supports the infrastructure of CCTNS. Dr. Jitender further highlighted that the evaluation and selection of the best-performing police stations would be facilitated through CCTNS, and instructed all SPs and Commissioners to ensure its effective usage and monitor its implementation at all levels. The video conference also saw participation from Additional Director General of Police (Technical Services), Sri V.V. Srinivasa Rao IPS, and Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order), Sri Mahesh M. Bhagwat IPS, who were present to discuss the progress and challenges in the CCTNS rollout.





## Eatala Rajender Comments on Hyderabad's Growth and India's Economic Rise

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
BJP MP Eatala Rajender made some interesting comments on Hyderabad's role as a hub for genomics, science, and technology. Speaking at the Startup Conclave held at IICT in Hyderabad, alongside Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, Eatala Rajender proudly stated that the city has become a center for various industries, thanks to its growing significance in science and technology. He expressed confidence that Hyderabad, with the support of the central government, is poised to solidify its place as a prominent city in the future. Rajender further praised the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying



that under his governance, India is rapidly advancing on the path of development.

He highlighted that India, once the 11th largest economy in the world, has now risen to become the 5th largest economy under Modi's leadership. Rajender reflected on the past when India struggled to stand on its own without external aid but noted that today, the country is making remarkable strides in various sectors like agriculture and pharma. He also pointed out India's growing youth power, which, according to him, has the potential to drive innovation, with the Modi government backing these efforts. Addressing unemployment, Rajender mentioned that the central government has allocated ₹4 lakh crore in the budget to address job issues.

## State Human Rights Commission Takes Suo-Motu Action on Deaths Due to Electric Shocks



**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
The State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has taken serious note of the rising deaths due to electric shocks in the state. Recently, several fatalities have occurred due to electric shocks while conducting repairs, with people coming in contact with live wires. Additionally, the lack of proper fencing around transformers has led to both human and animal deaths in certain areas. In response to these alarming incidents, the SHRC Chairman has directed the electricity companies to submit a report on these deaths. The Commission has taken suo-motu cognizance based on a report highlighting the fatalities caused by electric shocks. Over the past year, it was revealed that 69 people have lost their lives due to electrical accidents in the state. The SHRC Chairman, Justice Shamim Akhtar, has instructed the Telangana State Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TSSPDCL), CMD, and district collectors to submit a comprehensive report on the matter by June 4. This action aims to address the safety issues related to electrical infrastructure and ensure that necessary precautions are taken to prevent further fatalities due to electric shocks. The Commission's move underscores the importance of public safety and accountability from utility companies.

## Minister Konda Surekha Urges Immediate Measures for Environmental Protection



**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Minister for Environment, Forests, and Endowments, Konda Surekha, emphasized the importance of environmental protection as a responsibility of every citizen. On Tuesday, during the World Earth Day celebrations in Hyderabad, she released the "Earth Day - Students, Youth in Action" poster. Speaking on the occasion, she highlighted that Earth is the foundation for all life forms, providing essential resources like air, water, food, and livelihoods. She expressed concerns over the destruction of natural resources due to environmental changes and human actions. Minister Surekha stressed the need to significantly reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and greenhouse gases. She urged an increase in the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, to protect the planet. The minister pointed out that solar energy will be crucial in the coming days for sustaining the environment. She also mentioned that her department is taking steps to promote the use of solar energy, particularly by utilizing land under the Endowments Department. The minister called for immediate actions to ensure the widespread adoption of solar energy, encouraging everyone to contribute to environmental protection efforts.

## Hyderabad IB Officer Killed in Terror Attack in Jammu and Kashmir



**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
A tragic terror attack occurred on Tuesday in Pahalgam, Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir, where militants targeted a group of tourists. The attack, which took place while the tourists were trekking, resulted in the deaths of 30 people, with 20 others being hospitalized, some in critical condition. Among the deceased, a Telangana resident has been identified. Manish Ranjan, an Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer from Hyderabad, was reported to have died in the attack. According to authorities, Manish Ranjan was serving as an IB officer in Hyderabad. Fortunately, his wife and two children survived the attack and are reported to be safe. The attack has shocked the nation, and the authorities are continuing their efforts to assist the victims and investigate the perpetrators behind this heinous act.

## MP DK Aruna Calls for Comprehensive Investigation into Konda Prashanth Reddy's Murder Conspiracy

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
In a recent development, MP DK Aruna has demanded a thorough investigation into the conspiracy behind the murder of Konda Prashanth Reddy, a resident of Devarakadra. Along with Parliament Convenor Dokur Pavan Reddy, Aruna submitted a complaint to the Director General of Police (DGP) on Tuesday, urging the government to conduct a detailed probe into the matter. Aruna raised concerns about a potential conspiracy regarding Prashanth Reddy's murder, mentioning suspicions of a contract worth Rs. 2.5 crore being placed for his assassination. She also pointed out that there have been reports of surveillance on Prashanth Reddy's movements in and around Devarakadra and Mahabubnagar, indicating possible foul play. She called on the authorities to uncover the individuals behind this conspiracy and take legal action against those involved. According to the latest reports, four suspects are currently under police custody at Boothpur, and investigations are underway to identify the masterminds behind the plot. The police are looking into multiple aspects, including the origin of the suspects and who directed them to carry out the conspiracy.



## BRS Leader Files Complaint with Cyber Crime Police Over Morphed Photos of Party Leaders



**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
BRS Party Khairatabad Constituency In-charge, Sri Manne Govardhan Reddy, has lodged a complaint with the Cyber Crime Police regarding the morphed photos of BRS party leaders being shared online. In his complaint, he stated that the morphed photos of BRS key leaders, including party chief KCR, KTR, and MLC Kavitha, were being circulated in an objectionable manner by Congress party leaders. The complaint also highlighted that these morphed images were being posted on various social media handles, including the Twitter account 'Telangana Gadam,' along with other individual accounts. The BRS leaders have requested the Cyber Crime Police to take immediate action against those responsible for sharing and posting these altered images, which they claimed were intended to defame the party leadership. This incident has raised concerns about the misuse of social media platforms to spread misinformation and defamatory content. The BRS party has called for prompt legal measures to address the issue and safeguard the reputation of its leaders.

## Hyderabad Division of SCR Prioritizes Frontline Running Staff with Enhanced Facilities

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Hyderabad Division, South Central Railway (SCR), organized a guided media tour to showcase the facilities and amenities provided for the frontline running staff involved in train operations at the Crew Booking Lobby and Running Room at Kacheguda Railway Station on April 22, 2025. Shri Lokesh Vishnoi, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Hyderabad Division, emphasized the importance of frontline running staff, including Loco Pilots, Assistant Loco Pilots, and Train Managers, who play a critical role in ensuring the punctuality and safety of train operations. He highlighted that the Kacheguda Running Room is equipped with essential amenities, including comfortable accommodations, healthy meals at subsidized rates, a lounge/reading room, a yoga room for meditation, and several other facilities like shoe-shining machines, clean washrooms, air-conditioned rooms, and fresh

water supply. These provisions are designed to ensure the well-being and alertness of the staff between their shifts. Shri Kamal Kant, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer, detailed the operations at the Crew Booking Lobby, which sees around 300 staff members signing on and off daily. He explained that Loco Pilots, who require high concentration and skill, are provided a conducive environment to rest and rejuvenate in between shifts. The Crew Booking Lobby is also equipped with Integrated KIOSKs for breath analysis, biometric checks, and webcam systems to ensure the safety and smooth operation of trains. Other senior officials, including Shri V.Vidyardhar, Senior Divisional Operations Manager, Mrs. T.Neela Pavani, Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunications Engineer, and Dr. Anirudh Pamar, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, also participated in the event.

## Singareni-RVNL Agreement: A Testament to Federal Spirit and Collaborative Progress in the Energy Sector

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
The Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana, Shri Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, hailed the recent agreement between Telangana's Singareni Collieries and Rajasthan's RVUNL (Rajasthan Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited) for setting up 3,100 MW power plants as a significant example of the spirit of federal cooperation in the country. He emphasized that such collaborations are crucial for bringing about revolutionary changes in the energy sector. In a meeting held with Rajasthan's Electricity Minister, Shri Heeralal Nagar, at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat in Hyderabad, the Deputy CM discussed the future of solar and thermal power agreements between the two states. The meeting aimed to advance the initiatives, includ-



ing the construction of a 1600 MW thermal power plant in Telangana, with plans to lay the foundation for Singareni's 800 MW Ultra-Super Critical Thermal Power Plant in the second week of next month. The construction of this plant has already been entrusted to the central government agency BHEL. Moreover, the two states are set to form a joint venture company to execute the agreement for the establishment of the 3,100 MW power plants. The process for setting up the joint venture company will be expedited. The Deputy CM also mentioned

that land surveys for a 1,500 MW solar power plant in Rajasthan have been completed and that a team will revisit the site to ensure smooth implementation. He stressed the importance of leveraging the geographical advantages of both states to rapidly establish these power plants and achieve energy self-sufficiency. Shri Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu further highlighted Telangana's focus on renewable energy, mentioning plans for 20,000 MW of renewable energy production in the coming years, with a special action plan already in place. Rajasthan Electricity Minister Shri Heeralal Nagar expressed satisfaction with the progress of the project and confirmed that coordination officials have been appointed from RVUNL to oversee its successful implementation.



Constitutional Responsibilities ignored

India’s Rights-First Culture: A Dangerous Imbalance

Codify Fundamental Duties into Law

India’s Fundamental Duties (Article 51A) are not enforceable by law—unlike rights.Parliament can and should pass legislation making certain duties legally binding (like respecting national symbols, not damaging public property, etc.).

**Introduce a “Citizenship Responsibility Act”**

Make basic civic behavior a prerequisite for government schemes or subsidies.Include mandatory civic education modules (in schools, and for government job applicants.Establish penalties for inciting unrest under the false claim of “constitutional rights.”

**Rights Are Not Absolute.**

The misuse weakens democracy rather than strengthening it. The Constitution of India grants Fundamental Rights, but each comes with reasonable restrictions to protect: National sovereignty,Public order,Morality. The rights of others But in reality, what do we often see? Freedom of speech” is used to spread misinformation.Right to protest” turns into arson and destruction of public property. Right to privacy” is weaponized to avoid accountability. Responsibilities Are Forgotten India’s Article 51A of the Constitution lists Fundamental Duties, such as: Respecting the Constitution, Safeguarding public property,Upholding unity and integrity, Developing scientific temper ,Promoting harmony and the dignity of womenYet none



of these duties are enforceable in a strict legal sense. They remain symbolic, not binding—and that’s part of the problem. The opposition, media, and even civil society rarely speak about responsibilities. The narrative is one-sided: “My rights! My rights!” — but never “My duty as a citizen.”


**The Culture of Lawbreaking as Heroism**

India has unfortunately cultivated a dangerous trend:Breaking the law is often seen as “resistance”, “bravery”, or even “revolutionary.” Whether it’s illegal encroachments, blocking highways, public violence, or defyingcourt orders—these are applauded by some political actors and justified in the name

What Needs to Change?	
Political Culture of Selective Constitutionalism Opposition parties (and sometimes ruling ones too) tend to cherry-pick the Constitution:	
What They Promote	What They Ignore
Freedom of Speech	Respect for public order and harmony
Right to Protest	Duty to safeguard public property
Right to Equality	Duty to renounce divisive practices
Right to Education	Duty to value and use that education responsibly
They provoke agitation but not awareness, emotion but not education	

of constitutional rights. This erodes respect for law, democratic institutions, and national discipline.

public benefits (like subsidies or schemes) to basic civic behavior. Enact a Citizenship Responsibility Act that makes



**Dr. Buragadda Srinadha**  
*Author, Former National consultant for NRHM, Ministry of Health, Govt of India*

destruction of public property, communal hate speech, and organized defiance of law p Legal & Legislative Reforms Enforce duties through legislation. For example:Link certain unishable even in the name of “rights.” Make recovery of damages mandatory from protest organizers in case of violence or public loss.

Civic Education

Mandatory constitutional education in schools, colleges, and for first-time voters. National campaigns: “My Nation, My Duty” alongside “My Rights, My Pride.” Political Reforms All parties, especially opposition, must be held accountable for promoting responsible civic behavior. ECI and courts must issue stricter guidelines on protests, demonstrations, and public be-

havior.

**Global Examples: Rights are Earned by Duty**

**Singapore:** Civic discipline is strictly enforced—responsibilities come before rights.

**Japan:** Social order and respect for institutions are deeply embedded in culture.

**China:** Citizens are expected to act in national interest before demanding privileges (although this comes with authoritarian controls, the sense of national responsibility is non-negotiable). India does not need authoritarianism, but it does need accountable freedom.

**In India Rights Are Being Misused as Shields for Lawbreaking**

Illegal encroachments defended as housing rights.Rioting mobs treated as peaceful protestors.Fake narratives and communal provocation circulated under “free speech.”Selective outrage against police or military, but silence on duty toward national unity.

**Final Thought: A Responsible Democracy is a Strong Democracy**

Rights without duties are like freedom without direction. Democracy isn’t just about speaking up—it’s about showing up with discipline. India must remember: you don’t build a nation by breaking laws—you build it by upholding them.

JD Vance in India: Charm, Symbolism, and Subtle Diplomacy

JD Vance’s visit to India may not have ushered in any blockbuster announcements, but its symbolic and strategic weight should not be underestimated. Ostensibly a family visit—thanks to the Vice President’s Indian American wife, Usha Vance, who hails from Andhra Pradesh—the trip was carefully curated, featuring only the most high-profile northern Indian destinations like Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur. Despite skipping her native South, the Vance family’s presence alone offers a curious blend of diplomacy and personal narrative.

Amid Delhi’s April heat, this tightly scheduled tour prioritized must-do moments like a visit to the Taj Mahal and a warm encounter with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Whether detailed trade talks happened or not, the visit has been framed as a success by Vance’s office. Photos of PM Modi bonding with the Vance children echo his trademark style of blending personal warmth with political messaging, a strategy used with other global leaders, from China’s Xi Jinping to Italy’s Giorgia Meloni.



While such optics are often viewed as domestic image-building, they also play into the broader narrative of India’s rising profile in U.S. politics. Indian Americans are an influential voter bloc, and both Democrats and Republicans are keen to highlight their desi connections. Vance’s trip, intentionally or not, reinforces that appeal.

Behind the smiles and sightseeing, the real diplomatic work may have been carried out by Ricky Gill, Senior Director for South and Central Asia at the U.S. National Security Council. A seasoned policy figure, Gill likely advanced discussions on trade tensions and China policy. India remains Washington’s key partner in countering Beijing, though how far New Delhi will lean in that direction remains uncertain.

In a world of unpredictable policy shifts in Washington, India treads carefully. Perhaps the most practical outcome of this visit would be for Vice President Vance to quietly persuade the President to retire the “tariff king” jibes—at least until real progress on trade is made.



Pope Francis’s Legacy: Will the Next Conclave Carry His Reforms Forward?

Before he became Pope, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was a devotee of La Virgen Desatanudos — Mary, the Untier of Knots. The image is fitting for a pontiff who inherited a Church entangled in centuries of theological, financial, and political complications. Over his 12-year papacy, Pope Francis did more than just project a humble image; he took a scalpel to the internal workings of the Vatican.

He pursued an ambitious reorganization of the Vatican bureaucracy, transforming the outdated Congregations into more collaborative Dicasteries. He elevated laypeople and even a nun to leadership roles — a radical shift from the traditionally cardinal-dominated hierarchy. His reformist agenda extended to the Vatican Bank, long plagued by scandals. Francis, who had tackled similar corruption in Buenos Aires, brought the same no-nonsense approach to Rome, using audits and administrative reshuffles to clean house.

Yet his reforms were not universally welcomed. Conservatives within the Church pushed back, especially over his openness to gay Catholics, softened stances on divorced believers, and re-

strictions on the Latin Mass. Some saw these moves as threats to tradition. Pope Benedict XVI, who resigned in 2013 and lived nearly a decade longer, remained a symbolic anchor for these dissenting voices. Francis treaded carefully to maintain peace with the emeritus pope, but also sidelined key conservative figures like Cardinal Raymond Burke and Benedict’s secretary, Cardinal Georg Gänswein.

Now that Francis has passed, the College of Cardinals—over 100 of whom were appointed by him—will gather to elect the next pope. But loyalty to Francis doesn’t guarantee unity. Disagreements over his legacy could splinter his bloc and open the door to a compromise candidate.

While Francis reformed with patience and humility, the conclave may reveal whether those changes have truly taken root. Will the Church continue the path he forged, or will it revert to old patterns? The Vatican, for all its spiritual authority, is still a political arena. And in the shadow of its grandeur, intrigue remains ever present — even as the Church decides who will untie its next set of knots.



# India, Saudi Arabia Eye Energy Partnership

India and Saudi Arabia are stepping up their cooperation in the energy sector, with plans to jointly develop refinery and petrochemical projects, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi revealed during his two-day visit to the Gulf nation. Speaking to Arab News, Modi highlighted the evolving nature of the bilateral relationship, which has expanded from oil trade to deeper strategic and investment-oriented engagements. "India and Saudi Arabia are exploring joint projects in refineries and petrochemicals," he said, emphasizing the potential for energy security and economic growth through these collaborations.

During his arrival in Jeddah, Modi was received by Makkah Region Deputy Governor Prince Saud bin Mishal bin Abdulaziz. The visit marks a significant moment in strengthening ties between one of Asia's fastest-growing economies and one



of the world's top oil exporters. Beyond hydrocarbons, Modi also pointed to forward-looking initiatives that align with global energy transition trends. "We are now working on feasibility studies for electricity grid interconnectivity between India

and Saudi Arabia and the wider region," he noted, underscoring ambitions for a transnational energy framework that could support renewable integration and grid stability across regions. The cooperation reflects a

broader transformation in India-Saudi relations, which has seen increased engagement in sectors such as infrastructure, defense, and technology in recent years. Saudi Arabia is already a key energy partner for India, supplying a significant portion of its crude oil needs. However, both nations are looking to move beyond buyer-seller dynamics to long-term investment and technology partnerships. Modi's visit also includes high-level meetings with Saudi leadership and Indian diaspora engagements. The outcomes are expected to reinforce the India-Saudi Strategic Partnership Council, launched in 2019 to institutionalize bilateral cooperation. As both countries pursue economic diversification and energy transition goals, their growing collaboration could play a pivotal role in reshaping energy flows and fostering sustainable development in the region.



## VP Dhankhar Defends Criticism of SC Ruling

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday defended his recent comments criticizing the Supreme Court for what he termed as judicial overreach, asserting that Parliament remains the supreme authority under the Constitution. His remarks come in the wake of the apex court's landmark ruling that directed the President of India to act within three months on bills forwarded by state legislatures.

Addressing a gathering at Delhi University, Dhankhar reiterated his concerns, stating, "There is no visualisation in the Constitution of any authority above Parliament. Parliament is supreme."

Referring to the court's directive to the President, he said, "We never bargained for democracy for this day. President being called upon to decide in a time-bound manner — and if not, the bill becomes law — this raises serious constitutional questions."

He questioned the notion of constitutional offices being merely ceremonial. "I find it conceivably intriguing that some have recently reflected that constitutional offices can be ceremonial, ornamental. Nothing can be far distanced from a wrong understanding of the role of everyone in this country — constitutional functionary or a citizen," Dhankhar remarked.

His comments follow the Supreme Court's recent decision — a first in India's constitutional history — to impose a time frame for the President's assent on gubernatorial referrals, a move aimed at addressing delays in legislative processes. However, Dhankhar, along with several political observers, viewed it as a potential overstep by the judiciary into the executive domain. The Vice President's statements have sparked sharp reactions from legal experts and opposition leaders, who accused him of undermining judicial independence. Some critics labeled his remarks as "unconstitutional," arguing that constitutional checks and balances are essential to maintain democratic harmony. This ongoing debate highlights the evolving dynamics between the judiciary and executive, raising critical questions about constitutional interpretation, balance of power, and institutional boundaries in India's democracy.



## Pahalgam Terror Attack: 1 Dead, TRF Claims Responsibility

A terrorist attack in the Baisaran Valley near Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, left one tourist dead and at least seven others injured on Tuesday. The Resistance Front (TRF), a Pakistan-linked terror outfit, has claimed responsibility for the assault that has shocked the nation and raised fresh concerns over tourist safety in the Valley.

The attack occurred in Baisaran, a scenic meadow popularly known as "Mini Switzerland", which is accessible only on foot or horseback. The unidentified gunmen, reportedly dressed in camouflage, opened indiscriminate fire on a group of domestic tourists. A survivor recounted the horror, stating her husband was shot in the head, underlining the brutality of the incident.

Local residents were instrumental in the immediate rescue, using ponies to evacuate the injured from the remote location. Security forces quickly cordoned off the area and launched a massive search operation. Medical teams rushed the wounded to hospitals in nearby towns for treatment.

The TRF, considered a shadow group of Lashkar-e-Taiba, later took responsibility for the attack. The incident has drawn widespread condemnation. Former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti denounced the violence, emphasizing Kashmir's tradition of hospitality towards tourists. BJP leader Ravinder Raina blamed the assault on Pakistan-backed terrorists and vowed stern action.

## Shakti Dubey Tops UPSC 2024 Exam

- Shakti Dubey tops UPSC 2024 exam
- 1,009 candidates qualify for services
- Exam held in three stages
- Final merit list now released

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has declared the final results of the Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2024, with a total of 1,009 candidates qualifying for appointment to prestigious services such as the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and various Group 'A' and Group 'B' Central Services. Shakti Dubey has secured the All-India Rank 1, emerging as the topper of this year's examination. The announcement brings an end to months of anticipation for thousands of aspirants across the country. The UPSC CSE selection process

comprises three rigorous stages—the Preliminary Examination, held on June 16, 2024; the Main Examination, conducted between September 20 and 29, 2024; and the Personality Test (Interview), which took place from January 7 to April 17, 2025. Candidates who cleared all stages have now been recommended for various top-level posts in the central administration. Of the 1,009 candidates selected, the category-wise breakdown includes 335 from the General category, 318 from Other Backward Classes (OBC), and 87 from the Scheduled Caste (SC) category. A total of 241 candidates have been



recommended on a provisional basis, while the result of one candidate has been withheld for undisclosed reasons. The final merit list has been prepared by evaluating performance across all three stages. The Civil Services Examination is considered one of the most competitive and prestigious examinations in India, opening pathways to ad-

ministrative roles that directly impact governance and public service. Candidates can view their results and the merit list on the official UPSC website. The success of over a thousand aspirants this year once again underscores the importance of dedication, discipline, and perseverance in India's elite civil service journey.

## Usha Vance Exudes Quiet Luxury in Jaipur



On a cultural stop in Rajasthan following a high-profile meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Usha Vance, Second Lady of the United States, turned heads with her signature minimalist elegance. Accompanied by Vice President JD Vance and

their three children, Usha visited the historic Amber Fort in Jaipur, blending diplomatic grace with chic travel fashion. Radiating understated sophistication, Usha Vance embraced the concept of quiet luxury, opting for a crisp white button-down shirt

paired with a printed A-line midi skirt. The shirt, with its rolled-up sleeves and fitted silhouette, brought classic tailoring into a breezy, resort-inspired aesthetic. Her earth-toned skirt—featuring soft browns and beiges with a delicate print reminiscent of

Amber Fort's intricate frescoes—added depth to the ensemble. The pleated construction gave the look movement, while the mid-rise waist and calf-length hemline offered a practical yet stylish choice for exploring Jaipur's royal architecture.

Completing the look, Usha kept it relaxed yet polished with brown flat sandals, oversized sunglasses, and subtle makeup. Her salt-and-pepper hair, worn loose and naturally styled, enhanced the effortless appeal of the outfit—embodying a blend of casual comfort and quiet confidence. JD Vance, too, opted for a subdued, diplomatic look in a grey blazer over a navy shirt, complemented by beige trousers and tan dress shoes—a smart ensemble in harmony with the setting and occasion. Their three children added a pop of youthful charm to the day's visual story. Youngest daughter Mirabel captured hearts in a floral top and sea-green shorts, perfectly channeling the cheerful spirit of the outing. This appearance by the Vance family not only highlighted the importance of soft diplomacy and cultural engagement but also showcased how fashion





## "Carried Friendly Exchanges": China Condoles Death Of Pope Francis

TPN Correspondent | Beijing

China's foreign ministry extended condolences on Tuesday following the death of Pope Francis, who passed away at the age of 88. The pontiff, known for his reformist approach and global outreach, had a complex but evolving relationship with China during his 12-year tenure leading the Roman Catholic Church.

"In recent years, China and the Vatican have maintained constructive contact and carried out friendly exchanges," foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said. He emphasized that China is open to "making joint efforts with the Vatican to promote the continued improvement of China-Vatican relations."

Diplomatic ties between China and the Holy See were severed in 1951 after the Communist takeover, creating a deep rift in China's Catholic population. Chinese Catholics were forced to align either with the state-sanctioned Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association or with underground churches loyal to the pope. This division affected millions of believers in the country.

However, a significant turning point came under Pope Francis. In 2018, the Vatican and Beijing reached a historic provisional agreement allowing both parties a role in appointing bishops in China. The move aimed to bridge the gap between the state-approved and underground Catholic communities and foster unity within China's estimated 12 million Catholics.

Despite the breakthrough, tensions resurfaced when Beijing unilaterally appointed bishops in 2022 and 2023—most notably in Shanghai—prompting expressions of "regret" from the Vatican. These actions were seen as violations of the delicate 2018 agreement. Nonetheless, both sides agreed to renew the deal again in 2024, signaling a continued willingness to engage in dialogue.

Pope Francis consistently voiced admiration for China and had expressed a strong desire to visit the country, calling it "a great country" and "a promise and a hope for the Church." Though a papal visit never materialized, his diplomatic overtures marked a notable shift in Vatican-China relations.

With his passing, both Beijing and the Vatican now face the challenge—and opportunity—of carrying forward the fragile progress made under his leadership, navigating the complex intersection of faith, diplomacy, and geopolitics.

# Pope Francis's Funeral to Be Held Saturday at St Peter's Square

- His body will lie in an open casket in St. Peter's Basilica from Wednesday to Friday
- Honoring his wishes, he'll be buried in St. Mary Major Basilica in a single wooden casket.
- World leaders, including Donald Trump and Emmanuel Macron, are expected at the funeral.

TPN Correspondent |  
Vatican City

Pope Francis's funeral will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 10:00 AM local time (08:00 GMT) in St Peter's Square, the Vatican has confirmed. The date was set following a meeting of cardinals in Vatican City on Tuesday to discuss the funeral arrangements.

Ahead of the funeral, the late pontiff's body will lie in an open casket inside St Peter's Basilica beginning Wednesday morning, allowing mourners from around the world to pay their respects. The body is currently in the chapel of the Santa Marta residence, where Pope Francis lived throughout his papacy. A procession from Santa Marta to the basilica will begin at 09:00 on Wednesday, led by Cardinal Kevin Farrell, the acting camerlengo, who temporarily oversees the Vatican between papacies.

Following a moment of prayer, the procession will move from Saint Martha's Square through St Peter's Square and into the basilica. Once inside, Cardinal Farrell will conduct a Liturgy of the Word before



opening the basilica to the public. Viewing hours will be from 11:00 to midnight on Wednesday, 07:00 to midnight on Thursday, and 07:00 to 19:00 on Friday. In line with Pope Francis's wishes, there will be no private viewing for cardinals, and his coffin will not be placed on a pedestal.

Saturday's funeral will be presided over by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, dean of the College of Cardinals. Clergy from around

the world—including patriarchs, bishops, and priests—will participate in the service. By 08:30, bishops will gather in the Constantine Wing, priests in St Peter's Square, and cardinals in Saint Sebastian Chapel.

The service will conclude with final commendations and valediction, followed by a nine-day mourning period. Pope Francis requested to be buried in St Mary Major Basilica, making him the

first pope in over a century not to be buried in the crypt beneath St Peter's Basilica. He also asked to be buried in a single wooden casket, reflecting his desire for simplicity.

World leaders, including U.S. President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron, are expected to attend. Pope Francis passed away on Easter Monday at age 88, following a stroke, after years of declining health. Following the funeral, a conclave of cardinals will convene to elect a successor. The dean of the College of Cardinals has 15 to 20 days to summon the cardinals to Rome once the Pope is buried.

Pope Francis died of a stroke on Monday less than 24 hours after appearing in a wheelchair at St Peter's Square to lead an Easter address in front of thousands of worshippers.

His death followed a period of ill health that saw him spend five weeks in hospital with double pneumonia. Born in Argentina, he was elected the first ever Latin American pope in 2013.

## US Slaps Massive Tariffs on Southeast Asian Solar Imports Amid Anti-Dumping Probe

TPN Correspondent |  
Washington

In a dramatic escalation of its trade offensive, the Trump administration has imposed steep new tariffs on solar imports from Southeast Asia, with duties reaching as high as 3,521%. The move follows a yearlong investigation by the U.S. Department of Commerce, which concluded that manufacturers in Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Thailand were unfairly benefiting from Chinese government subsidies and dumping solar products in the American market at artificially low prices.

These new tariffs come on top of an existing 10% baseline tariff previously imposed by President Trump, marking a significant tightening



of trade restrictions that have already disrupted global solar supply chains. The latest action particularly targets Chinese firms that had relocated operations to Southeast Asia in an attempt to skirt earlier trade barriers set during Trump's first term.

The most severe penalty was levied on Cambodia, with tariffs soaring

to 3,521%, largely because the country ceased participating in the Commerce Department's investigation. Vietnam and Thailand face duties of up to 395.9% and 375.2%, respectively. Meanwhile, Malaysia will see a comparatively lower—but still substantial—tariff of 34.4%.

In 2024 alone, the United States imported nearly \$13 billion worth of solar equipment from these four Southeast Asian nations, highlighting the significant potential impact of these measures on both supply and pricing in the U.S. solar industry. Proponents of the new tariffs argue that the move is a crucial step toward reviving American solar manufacturing. Tim Brightbill, lead counsel for the coalition of domestic solar companies behind the petition, called

the outcome "a decisive victory for American manufacturing." He emphasized that the probe confirms long-standing concerns about unfair competition from Chinese-backed firms operating offshore.

The Biden administration initially launched the investigation in response to a petition by the American Alliance for Solar Manufacturing Trade Committee, which represents companies like First Solar, Hanwha Q Cells, and Mission Solar Energy. These new tariffs add to an already complex tariff structure, with levies on some Chinese imports reaching 245%. In response, China has announced retaliatory tariffs of up to 125% on U.S. goods, setting the stage for further trade tensions in the months ahead.

## 'Justice will be done': FBI Director Kash Patel on arrest of Indian terrorist Harpreet Singh in US

TPN Correspondent | US

In a significant breakthrough, the FBI has confirmed the arrest of Harpreet Singh, a gangster-turned-terrorist with alleged links to Pakistan's ISI and the Khalistani terror group Babbar Khalsa International (BKI). Singh, also known by aliases Happy Passia and Jora, was apprehended on April 18 in Sacramento, California, through a joint operation conducted by the FBI and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations (ICE ERO).

Kash Patel, the Indian-American FBI Director, announced the arrest in a public post on social media platform X, stating: "CAPTURED: HARPREET SINGH, part of an alleged foreign terrorist gang here illegally in the United States, who we believe was involved in planning multiple attacks on police stations both in India and the United States." Patel emphasized the coordinated efforts between U.S. agencies and Indian counterparts, adding, "Justice will be done."

Singh has long been on the radar of Indian law enforcement agencies for his role in orchestrating a series of violent acts in Punjab. He is accused of conspiring in multiple attacks on police installations and working closely with Pakistani



intelligence and Khalistani separatist elements to destabilize the region. Indian authorities had earlier issued a Red Corner Notice through Interpol in connection with Singh's activities.

Sources suggest Singh entered the U.S. illegally and had been operating under the radar while continuing to maintain links with extremist networks abroad. His arrest represents a major victory in the ongoing counterterrorism collaboration between India and the United States.

Singh's apprehension is expected to further deepen security cooperation between Washington and New Delhi, especially as both nations confront transnational threats fueled by extremist ideologies and foreign interference. Indian officials have praised the FBI's swift action and are reportedly pursuing his extradition.

## WE WILL HAVE DIRECT TALKS WITH UKRAINE: PUTIN

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signaled a possible shift in his stance toward Ukraine, saying on Monday that he is open to engaging in bilateral talks with Kyiv—marking the first such openness in years. His comments come as the United States intensifies pressure on both Russia and Ukraine to move quickly toward a peace agreement. This week, officials from the U.S., Europe, and Ukraine are set to gather in London after Washington warned that it might pull back its diplomatic efforts unless tangible progress is made. Speaking to reporters, Putin said discussions around ending strikes on Ukrainian civilian infrastructure could be held directly with Ukrainian leaders. "We have a positive attitude towards a ceasefire," Putin stated, referencing Russia's short-lived Easter truce, which lasted 30 hours and was marred by mutual accusations of violations. "We are always open to peace initiatives and hope that representatives of the Kyiv regime feel the same." Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has called on Russia to extend the truce and halt air and drone strikes on civilians, alleging deliberate targeting by Moscow. Putin acknowledged that some recent Russian strikes may have hit civilian facilities, but insisted



they were being used for military operations. "That's what we need to look into. It could be examined bilaterally through dialogue," he added. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov later confirmed Putin's willingness to consider direct talks with Kyiv, as reported by Russia's Interfax agency. Ukraine and Russia haven't held direct negotiations since the early weeks of the war in 2022. Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has warned that American support for negotiations could end within days without signs of progress. Former President Donald Trump echoed that sentiment, saying he would need to see "enthusiasm to end it" from both sides.



## Sensex, Nifty Continue Winning Streak Backed by Banking & FMCG Sectors

Despite mixed signals from international markets, domestic stock markets gained for the sixth consecutive session. They ended with moderate gains on Tuesday. The concerns over the differences between US President Donald Trump and the US Fed Chairman did not affect the Indian markets. On the other hand, the weakening dollar, attractive valuations of domestic company shares, and the start of company results filled positive sentiment among investors. Overall, bank and finance shares supported the indices. It is noteworthy that Nifty rose by 41 points and Sensex rose by 187 points today.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 79,408 in the previous session, opened at 79,728 on Tuesday. It touched an intraday low of 79,253. It reached an intraday high of 79,824. Finally, it closed at 79,595 with a gain of 187 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,185, touched a low of 24,072 and a high of 24,242. It closed at 24,167, up 41 points. The Nifty Bank rose 342 points to settle at 55,647.

In the Nifty50, 22 companies gained and 28 lost. ITC, Hindustan Unilever, HDFC Bank, Jio Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra were the top gainers. IndusInd Bank, Power Grid, Hero Moto, Infosys, Wipro were the biggest losers. Realty, FMCG, consumer durables, and healthcare indices were strong today. PSU bank, pharma, auto, private bank, and metal indices were weak. Oil and IT indices lost ground.

Market breadth on NSE turned in favor of buyers today. Out of 2986 shares traded, 1834 gained and 1059 lost. 71 shares touched their 52-week high and 11 shares touched their 52-week low. 155 shares touched the upper circuit and 46 shares touched the lower circuit.

Jefferies downgraded Bajaj Auto and Hero Moto. Eicher and TVS Motor maintained their buy ratings. Demand for pharma and FMCG shares increased. Jindal Stainless and AB Energy started a new solar project in Odisha's Jajpur. India has stood strong in global markets after Trump's suspension of tariffs. HG Infrashares rose 5% after it became a qualified bidder for the Gujarat battery storage project. 360

One and UBS Wealth Management signed a deal. Cholamandalam Finance shares fell 3% after CLSA cut its target. 10 lakh shares changed hands in M&M Financial. 20 lakh shares changed hands in ITC.

### ITC Limited

ITC reported a net profit of ₹5,020 crore in Q4 FY24, which fell short of market expectations. The company faced challenges due to increased competition from regional players offering lower-priced products, impacting its market share. While the FMCG segment (excluding cigarettes) experienced modest revenue growth, the paperboards and agri-business segments saw declines, attributed to cheaper Chinese imports and restrictions on agricultural exports. Higher input costs also contributed to increased expenses. The company declared a dividend of ₹7.50 per share for FY24.



### Jio Financial Services (JFS)

In Q1 FY25, JFS reported a consolidated net profit of ₹313 crore, marking a 5.72% decline year-on-year. Interest income decreased by 19.8% to ₹162 crore, while total income saw a marginal increase to ₹418 crore, driven by higher net gains on fair value changes. The company has introduced new products, including loans against mutual



funds and digital insurance for vehicles, and launched the beta version of the "Jio-Finance App." Additionally, JFS is expanding into areas like loans against property and securities.

### Hindustan Unilever (HUL)

HUL reported a 2.7% increase in net profit for Q1 FY25, totaling ₹2,538 crore. This growth was driven by a 4% rise in underlying volumes, supported by price reductions and a recovery in the home care segment. Sales grew by 1.6% to ₹15,166 crore. Notably, rural markets outpaced urban growth for the first time in five quarters, aided by easing commodity prices.



### Colgate-Palmolive India



Colgate-Palmolive India reported a 33% increase in net profit for Q1 FY25, reaching ₹364 crore. Sales rose by 13% to ₹1,486 crore, with domestic net sales growing by 13%. The company attributed this performance to price hikes and strong demand, particularly in rural markets, which outpaced urban growth for the second consecutive quarter. The toothpaste segment experienced double-digit growth, driven by high-single-digit volume increases.

## Gold Surges to Record Highs in 2025, Doubling in Less Than Three Years



Gold is on a historic rally in 2025, breaking record after record. Since the start of the year, the yellow metal has surged by 23%, and over the past 12 months, it has climbed a staggering 50%. The price per ounce has now reached \$3,470 as of April 22, marking a 100% jump from \$1,704 on October 10, 2022—an extraordinary rise in just under two and a half years.

This ongoing rally surpasses previous surges in both pace and magnitude. A similar spike was witnessed in 2020, but that upward trend was relatively short-lived. Interestingly, on the same date in 2020—April 22—gold was trading around \$1,700. Prior to that, from September 2018 to September 2020, gold had risen from \$1,200 to \$2,000, a notable gain, though it didn't manage to double in that timeframe.

In India, gold prices are reflecting the global rally. The spot rate today stands at Rs 99,000 per 10 grams, a 100% increase from Rs 50,000 recorded in July 2022. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), the October contract breached the Rs 1 lakh mark for the first time, reaching a high of Rs 1,00,500 per 10 grams—a gain of Rs 1,666 or 1.69% in a single day. Meanwhile, the MCX spot price on April 22 is Rs 98,874, with an intraday peak of Rs 99,358.

Several factors are fueling gold's relentless ascent. The most recent is political tension in the U.S., where President Donald Trump's criticism of Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has unnerved investors, prompting a flight to safe-haven assets. Colin Shah, MD of Kama Jewelry, attributes the latest highs to this rising tension over Fed rate policy.

Beyond that, a range of macroeconomic concerns continue to support gold's bullish trend: geopolitical unrest, global trade disputes driven by Trump's tariffs, a weakening U.S. dollar, and a sell-off in U.S. Treasuries. Amid these uncertainties, gold remains a preferred store of value for risk-averse investors.

## Flipkart to Shift Domicile from Singapore to India, Paving Way for Potential IPO

In a significant strategic shift, Walmart-owned e-commerce giant Flipkart announced on April 22, 2025, that it will relocate its domicile from Singapore to India. The move is widely seen as a precursor to a much-anticipated public listing in the Indian market.



Currently headquartered in Singapore, Flipkart has revealed its intention to realign its holding company structure with its operational base in India. In a statement, the company said, "Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce platform, proudly based and operating in India, has shared its intention to relocate its holding company from Singapore to India."

The company described the decision as a "natural evolution" of its journey, emphasizing the alignment of its corporate structure with India's fast-growing digital economy. "This move represents a natural evolution, aligning our holding structure with our core operations, the vast potential of the Indian economy, and our technology and innovation-driven capabilities to foster digital transformation in India," the statement added.

Flipkart, which has long been preparing for a public listing, has now taken a key step toward making that a reality by bringing its corporate base home. The shift is expected to enhance the company's ability to comply with domestic regulations and ease the pro-

cess of listing on Indian stock exchanges.

"As a company born and nurtured in India, this transition will further enhance our focus and agility in serving our customers, sellers, partners, and communities to continue contributing to the nation's growing digital economy and entrepreneurship," Flipkart said.

This move is likely to resonate positively with Indian regulators and investors, as it reflects a growing trend among major Indian-origin tech firms to anchor their operations more firmly within the country. Analysts believe it will also help Flipkart strengthen its brand as a truly Indian company while gaining strategic advantages in navigating the local market and capital ecosystem.

With this relocation, Flipkart not only prepares itself for a potential IPO but also signals its long-term commitment to the Indian market, reinforcing its role as a key player in the country's digital and retail transformation.

## India Imposes 12% Safeguard Duty on Steel Imports to Protect Domestic Industry

In a significant move to protect the domestic steel industry from a surge in low-priced imports, the Indian government on April 21, 2025, imposed a provisional safeguard duty of 12% ad valorem for 200 days on five key steel product categories. These include Hot Rolled Coils, Sheets and Plates; Hot Rolled Plate Mill Plates; Cold Rolled Coils and Sheets; Metallic Coated Steel Coils and Sheets; and Colour Coated Coils and Sheets, whether or not profiled.



The decision follows recommendations from the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), the investigative arm of the Commerce Ministry. In its findings, the DGTR identified a sharp and significant increase in steel imports, particularly from China, Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam, which posed a serious threat to India's domestic producers.

According to the notification issued by the Department of Revenue, the safeguard duty will apply to imports priced below the government-set thresholds, ranging from \$675 to \$964 per tonne on a cost-insurance-freight (CIF) basis. Imports priced at or above these levels will be exempt.

The investigation into these imports began in December 2024 following a complaint filed by the Indian Steel Association on behalf of major steel producers such as ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India, JSW Steel, Jindal Steel and Power, and Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). The DGTR's re-

port highlighted that import volumes had nearly tripled—from 2.29 million tonnes in FY22 to 6.61 million tonnes during the investigation period (October 2023–September 2024).

Union Steel Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy welcomed the safeguard duty, stating that it would offer "critical relief" to domestic producers, particularly small and medium enterprises, and help restore market balance.

However, the move has drawn criticism from MSME exporters and engineering sector stakeholders. FIEO President S.C. Ralhan argued the duty would raise steel prices to around ₹6,000 per tonne, hurting export competitiveness, especially when the U.S. already imposes a 25% tariff on steel.

Despite the concerns, industry leaders hailed the decision as a necessary step to safeguard India's steel sector and promote self-reliance under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.



# Delta Flight Engine Catches Fire, Evacuated

A Delta Air Lines aircraft preparing to depart from Orlando International Airport caught fire on Monday, prompting the emergency evacuation of all passengers on board. The incident occurred just before Flight DL1213 was scheduled to take off for Atlanta.

The Airbus A330 aircraft had 282 passengers, 10 flight attendants, and two pilots on board. Fortunately, no injuries were reported.

According to Delta and airport officials, the fire originated in the tailpipe of one of the plane's two engines while it was still at the ramp. Airport emergency crews, including the rescue and firefighting team, responded swiftly to the scene.

Visuals shared widely on social media platforms showed smoke and visible flames coming from the aircraft's engine. Passengers were evacuated using emergency slides as a precaution. Delta confirmed that flight crews followed established safety procedures immediately after the fire was detected.

In a statement, Delta said, "Flight crews evacuated the aircraft after flames were seen in the tailpipe of one of the engines. We commend the quick response by our flight and ground teams in ensuring the safety of everyone on board."



The airline added that all passengers were safely moved away from the aircraft and were being accommodated accordingly.

Orlando International Airport authorities also confirmed the situation was swiftly brought under control, and normal operations resumed shortly after the aircraft was cleared from the ramp area.

While investigations are underway to determine the cause of the fire, early reports suggest it may have been a tailpipe flare-up — a rare but known occurrence in aircraft engines.

This incident comes at a time of heightened attention to airline safety, and Delta reiterated its commitment to ensuring the highest standards in operational procedures and passenger security.

Passengers praised the cabin crew's professionalism and quick action during the evacuation, describing the experience as "frightening but efficiently handled."

# AI Agents by CozmoX Reshape Workforces

CozmoX, a UAE-based artificial intelligence startup, has unveiled a new generation of AI-powered agents designed to transform corporate workforces. The company claims these AI bots can handle the workload of up to 100 employees, helping businesses save both time and money.

CozmoX is led by UAE-based Indian CEO Alok Kumar, with co-founder Nuha Hashem emphasizing the efficiency of their AI systems. In a conversation with Khaleej Times, Hashem said that the AI agents are trained on company data and can be deployed in less than a day. "Using data from the past 10 years, we can create one AI employee who can handle tasks typically done by a hundred people," she explained.

These AI agents can carry out functions across multiple departments, including customer support, sales, debt collection, and auditing. They are multilingual, capable of holding conversations in nearly 80 languages, making them ideal for international operations.

CozmoX has already partnered with over 50 companies in the UAE. Some of their clients, including hospitals and public sector organizations, have reported monthly savings between \$30,000 and \$100,000 after adopting the technology. The AI agents are also scalable, with the ability to make



10,000 calls per day — a task that would typically require a large human workforce.

CEO Alok Kumar envisions AI agents becoming a norm in the corporate world. "We're not just offering ready-made agents. We also provide the infrastructure for companies to build their own bots to handle routine, manual tasks," he said.

Despite the impressive capabilities, Kumar and Hashem stress that these AI systems are meant to augment, not replace human employees. They believe AI will enable people to focus on more strategic and creative responsibilities.

With automation on the rise, CozmoX's AI innovation signals a significant shift in how businesses approach efficiency, productivity, and workforce management.

# Elon Musk Reacts to X's Milestone

Tech mogul Elon Musk reacted with a simple "Cool" as X — formerly Twitter — surged to the top spot on India's Apple App Store in the news category. The brief response came after X user @DogeDesigner posted a video celebrating the app's achievement with the caption, "BREAKING: X is now the #1 news app on the AppStore in India." Despite the minimal reaction, Musk's post sparked a flurry of replies ranging from enthusiastic praise to pointed criticism. One user joked, "Mom said stop wasting time on X... now I tell her I'm watching the news," while another called for the app to be geo-blocked in India.

X's rise in India marks a notable comeback for the platform, which has undergone major changes since Musk acquired it in 2022 for \$44 billion. Following the acquisition, Musk rebranded Twitter as X and significantly downsized its workforce, causing an initial dip in ad revenue. However, advertisers



have recently begun returning, especially with Musk's growing influence in the Trump administration, where he now heads the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

In March 2025, Musk's AI venture xAI announced the acquisition of X in a \$33 billion all-stock deal. The merger aims to consolidate the platforms' data, compute power, and personnel to enhance Musk's AI chatbot, Grok. Musk shared the news in a post, stating, "xAI and X's futures are intertwined. Today, we officially take the step to combine the data, models, compute, distribution, and talent."

Despite controversies and staffing upheavals, X appears to be regaining traction globally, with India emerging as a key market. Musk's brief yet viral response reflects his signature online style — concise, cryptic, and widely discussed.

As X continues to evolve under Musk's leadership, its growing dominance in countries like India may signal a broader global shift in how users engage with news and digital media.

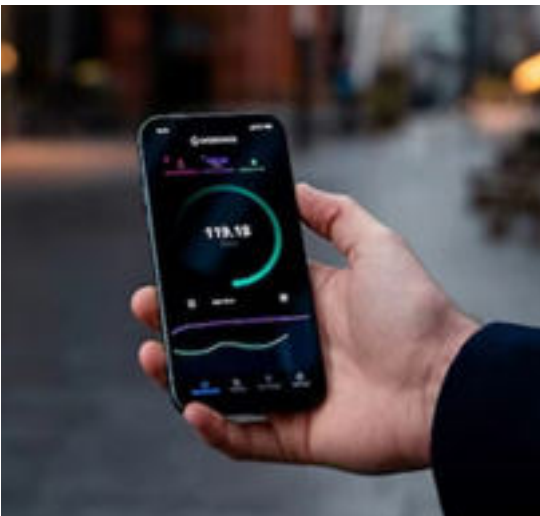
# China Launches Blazing Fast 10G Broadband

In a major leap for global internet infrastructure, China has launched the world's first commercial 10G broadband service in Sunan County, Hebei province. This ultra-fast network, rolled out jointly by Huawei and China Unicom, promises download speeds of up to 9,834 Mbps (nearly 10 Gbps) and upload speeds touching 1,008 Mbps. Even more impressive is its minimal latency—just 3 milliseconds—ideal for real-time applications.

This development positions China at the forefront of next-generation broadband technology, while much of the world—including India—is still expanding 5G coverage. The new service runs on 50G-PON (Passive Optical Network) technology, a significant upgrade over existing fiber-optic systems, enabling faster and more efficient data transmission across long distances.

What does this mean in practical terms? Downloading a 20GB 4K movie, which would take around 7-10 minutes on a typical 1Gbps connection, can now be done in under 20 seconds. This opens up new possibilities for 8K streaming, cloud gaming, AI-driven smart homes, AR/VR applications, and lag-free remote work or education.

According to reports, this is not just a tech showpiece but a fully



commercial rollout available to residents of Sunan County. The government sees this as a model for nationwide deployment, especially in urban centers where smart infrastructure and high-speed internet are vital to digital transformation.

For India, which is still deploying its 5G infrastructure and fiber broadband to semi-urban and rural regions, China's 10G rollout presents a stark contrast and highlights the growing tech gap. However, experts believe this could also act as a catalyst for faster tech adoption and innovation in other countries.

With this achievement, China has set a new benchmark in internet speed and connectivity, and the rest of the world is now watching closely.

# Stray Cow, Bull Trap Woman Indoors



In an unusual and alarming encounter with stray animals, a woman in Faridabad, Haryana, found herself trapped inside her own home when a cow and bull barged into her bedroom, forcing her to hide in a cupboard for two hours.

The incident took place in Dabua Colony's C-Block and involved a woman named Sapna, who was alone at home during the time. According to reports by the Hindustan Times, Sapna was offering morning prayers when the stray animals entered through an open gate and made themselves at home in her bedroom.

The situation quickly escalated when the bull climbed onto her bed, while the cow remained calmly standing in the room. Fearing for her safety, Sapna acted fast and locked herself inside a cupboard, staying hidden and silent to avoid provoking the animals.

As odd noises emerged from the house, neighbors grew curious and soon realized what had happened. Attempts to drive the animals out using shouting, sticks, water, and even firecrackers failed miserably. The uninvited guests appeared entirely unfazed by human efforts to move them.

The bizarre standoff finally ended thanks to a creative neighbor who brought his pet dog to the scene. The dog's aggressive barking spooked the bull and cow, prompting them to flee the house after nearly two hours of chaos.

The incident sheds light on the growing concern over stray animal intrusion in residential areas, especially in densely populated neighborhoods. It also sparked humorous reactions online, with many finding the image of a bull lounging on a bed both absurd and surreal.

# Gold Hits ₹1 Lakh, Memes Explode

Gold prices in India surged to an all-time high on Tuesday, April 22, breaching the ₹1 lakh mark per 10 grams. The sharp spike, fueled by global market trends and economic uncertainties, has made gold more precious than ever—literally. Retail prices, including GST, have already crossed ₹1 lakh in major cities, setting off both serious financial conversations and a wave of laughter online.

The record price quickly became meme fodder on social media. From nostalgic Bollywood clips to hilarious desi-parent reactions, netizens had a field day. One user shared a throwback scene from a Shakti Kapoor movie, joking, "Shakti Kapoor is the best stock market analyst. Predicted gold to hit 1 lakh decades ago."

Another meme showed a worried father saying, "Shaadi toh simple court mein hi hogi (The wedding will be a simple court one now)," capturing how the soaring prices are making Indian parents reconsider extravagant wedding jewelry plans.

The surge in gold rates is being attributed to a mix of factors including global geopolitical tensions, inflation fears, and a shift toward safe-haven assets like gold. Experts say prices could remain elevated in the coming months, especially with upcoming festivals and wedding season boosting demand.

The price jump also sparked real-world concerns, particularly among middle-class families and jewelers. While some customers are rushing to buy before rates rise further, many are postponing their purchases, hoping for a correction.

Despite the economic implications, it's the memes that have taken center stage for now. From gold being treated like a new form of cryptocurrency to families joking about downgrading wedding functions, the internet's humor engine has turned India's gold rush into a moment of comic relief.

As the price of gold glitters more than ever, Indians are laughing through the shock—one meme at a time.





## Jyothi Yarraji Wins Gold in 100m Hurdles at National Federation Senior Athletics

At the National Federation Senior Athletics Competition 2025 in Kochi, Kerala, Olympian Jyothi Yarraji clinched the gold medal in the women's 100m hurdles with a time of 13.23 seconds, surpassing the 2025 Asian Championships



qualification mark of 13.26s. Pragyan Prasanti Sah took silver with 13.40s, while Nithya Ramraj secured bronze at 13.42s. In the men's pole vault, Dev Meena set a new national record of 5.35m, winning gold. M Gowtham (5.15m) and Reegan G (5.10m) won silver and bronze, respectively.

Earlier, Sachin Yadav dominated the men's javelin event, with a throw of 83.86m, securing gold. Yash Vir Singh and Sahil Silwal won silver and bronze. This competition saw impressive performances across events, setting the stage for future international qualifiers.

## Chennaiyin FC Set for Super Cup Clash with Mumbai City

Chennaiyin FC will kick off their Kalinga Super Cup 2025 campaign with a high-stakes round-of-16 clash against Mumbai City FC at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, on Wednesday. The tournament winner secures a 2025-26 AFC Champions League Two Qualifying Play-off berth.

Head coach Owen Coyle has named a strong squad featuring Connor Shields, Wil-

mar Jordan Gil, Daniel Chima Chukwu, and top Indian talent like Irfan Yadwad and Jiteshwar Singh. Gil, last year's top scorer, is one goal behind Sunil Chhetri in the Super Cup's all-time charts. Chennaiyin enters the tie on the back of a 5-2 win over Jamshedpur FC and three weeks of intense training, including a friendly against East Bengal FC.



With no major injury concerns, Coyle emphasized the importance of the AFC spot,

while Shields highlighted the team's readiness to bounce back.

## Bhojpuri & Tamil Teams Shine in GI-PKL as Telugu, Punjabi Share Spoils



In the ongoing Global Indian Pravasi Kabaddi League (GI-PKL) at Gurugram University, Bhojpuri Leopardess and Tamil Lioness registered dominant wins, while Telugu Cheetahs and Punjabi Tigress played out a thrilling tie.

Bhojpuri Leopardess defeated Haryanvi Eagles 37-26, powered by Sindhuja's all-round brilliance. She completed 6 out of 8 raids, scoring 7 raid points. Bhojpuri dominated with 19 raid points, 13 tackle points, and enforced four all-outs.

In the second match, Tamil Lioness thrashed Marathi Falcons 44-23, displaying tactical superiority with 24 raid points and three all-outs. The Falcons faltered defensively as the Lioness cruised to victory.

The league, featuring top women's kabaddi talent, runs till April 30 with matches at Gurugram University. The GI-PKL continues to highlight regional pride and the growing global appeal of kabaddi.

## Mumbai City FC's ISL 2024-25 Season Review: A Fall from Grace



After a stellar 2023-24 ISL campaign where they finished second and lifted the ISL Cup, Mumbai City FC entered the 2024-25 season with high expectations. Once hailed for their fluid attacking football and star-studded squad, the Islanders endured a turbulent season marked by struggles, injuries, and inconsistency, according to the ISL's official website.

Despite boasting a roster filled with top domestic and international talent, Mumbai City FC failed to replicate their previous dominance. Defensive lapses, lack of cohesion, and missed opportunities plagued their campaign. Injuries to key players further derailed their momentum, leading to an underwhelming finish far from title contention.

The campaign has forced the club into a phase of introspection, with fans and management alike demanding answers. A reset could be on the cards as the club looks to rebuild and return stronger next season.

## Alfa Hockey Launches 'VK16 Pink Edition' to Honor Vandana Katariya's Legacy

Alfa Hockey has launched the VK16 - Pink Edition, a special hockey stick named after Vandana Katariya, one of India's most iconic players. This limited-edition stick celebrates her extraordinary legacy and achievements in the sport, particularly her historic feat at the Tokyo 2021 Olympics, where she became the first Indian woman to score a hat-trick in Olympic hockey. The VK16 - Pink Edition is designed to honor her journey and inspire future generations of athletes. Available for purchase, it allows fans and aspiring players to connect with



her legacy on the field. Vandana expressed her gratitude, calling the gesture humbling and emotional, as no player has ever had a stick named after them in the world of hockey. Alfa Hockey's Managing Director, Jitin Mahajan, praised her as a symbol of determination and inspiration for young athletes.

## Wankhede to Host T20 Mumbai League Season 3

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has officially announced that the iconic Wankhede Stadium will host Season 3 of the T20 Mumbai League from May 26 to June 8, 2025. The tournament, featuring eight teams including two new entrants - Mumbai Falcons and South Central Maratha Royals - aims to discover future cricketing stars.

MCA will invite underprivileged children and BMC school students to experience the live action, inspiring them through world-class cricket. T20 Mumbai League previously launched talents like Shivam Dube and Tushar Deshpande. MCA President Ajinkya Naik



and Secretary Abhay Hadap emphasized the significance of hosting the tournament at Wankhede, known for its vibrant cricketing atmosphere. Adding to the excitement, India captain Rohit Sharma has been named the official face of the league. Over 2,800 players have already registered for Season 3.

## Nadal, Duplantis & Biles Shine at 2025 Laureus Awards

Former tennis great Rafael Nadal, along with Paris 2024 Olympic champions Armand Duplantis, Simone Biles, and Rebeca Andrade, emerged as top winners at the 2025 Laureus World Sports Awards, held in Madrid.

Nadal was honoured with the Laureus Sporting Icon Award, receiving a standing ovation from the star-studded audience. Biles and Duplantis were recognized for their outstanding Olympic performances, while Andrade also made headlines with her gymnastics excellence.

The event marked the 25th edition of the prestigious ceremony celebrating global sporting excellence. Surfing legend Kelly Slater was awarded the Laureus Lifetime Achievement Award for his unparalleled impact on the sport. With a mix of legendary names and rising stars, the Laureus Awards once again highlighted the inspirational stories and sporting achievements that transcended borders and disciplines in 2024.







## ‘Thudarum’ Sparks Telugu Title Row



The Telugu film industry, known for warmly embracing dubbed films, is now witnessing a growing discontent over non-Telugu titles. Mohanlal’s upcoming Malayalam film *Thudarum* (meaning “To Be Continued”) is the latest to retain its original title in Telugu, sparking debate over the lack of localization. Critics argue that such titles, which hold no meaning in Telugu, show disregard for the language and audience.

This isn’t a one-off case. Films

like *Ponniyin Selvan*, *Kantara*, *Vettaiyaa*n, and *Empuraan* also stuck with their native titles during Telugu releases. Even *Alappuzha Gymkhana* and *Suriya’s* upcoming *Retro* follow suit.

Industry voices argue that while South Indian industries stand united against Hindi dominance, they must also respect each other’s languages. Many feel Telugu is being sidelined in the pan-India film wave, eroding linguistic inclusivity.

## ED Issues Notice to Mahesh Babu

Superstar Mahesh Babu is making headlines as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has sent notices to him in connection with a money laundering investigation. The case involves Hyderabad-based real estate firms, Sai Surya Developers and Surana Group.

According to reports, Mahesh Babu endorsed the projects launched by these companies, which have now come under scrutiny for cheating buyers. He reportedly received Rs 5.9 crore for the endorsements, with Rs 3.4 crore paid by cheque and Rs 2.5 crore in cash. The cash payment has raised concerns.

The Telangana Police have filed multiple FIRs against Narendra Surana of Bhagyanagar Properties Ltd and Sathish Chandra Gupta of Sai Surya Developers,



accusing them of selling plots in unauthorized layouts, reselling them, and making false promises regarding registrations. The ED is now investigating the payments made to Mahesh Babu as part of its probe.

## Saiee Manjrekar Stuns in Black

Saiee M Manjrekar, last seen as Schitra in *Kalyan Ram Arjun: Son of Vyjayanthi*, may not have seen box-office success with the film, but she’s winning the fashion game hands down.

The actress recently made waves with a sizzling black corset gown that oozed glamour and confidence. Styled with statement brown lipstick gloves and contrasting white heels, Saiee turned heads with her bold and elegant look.

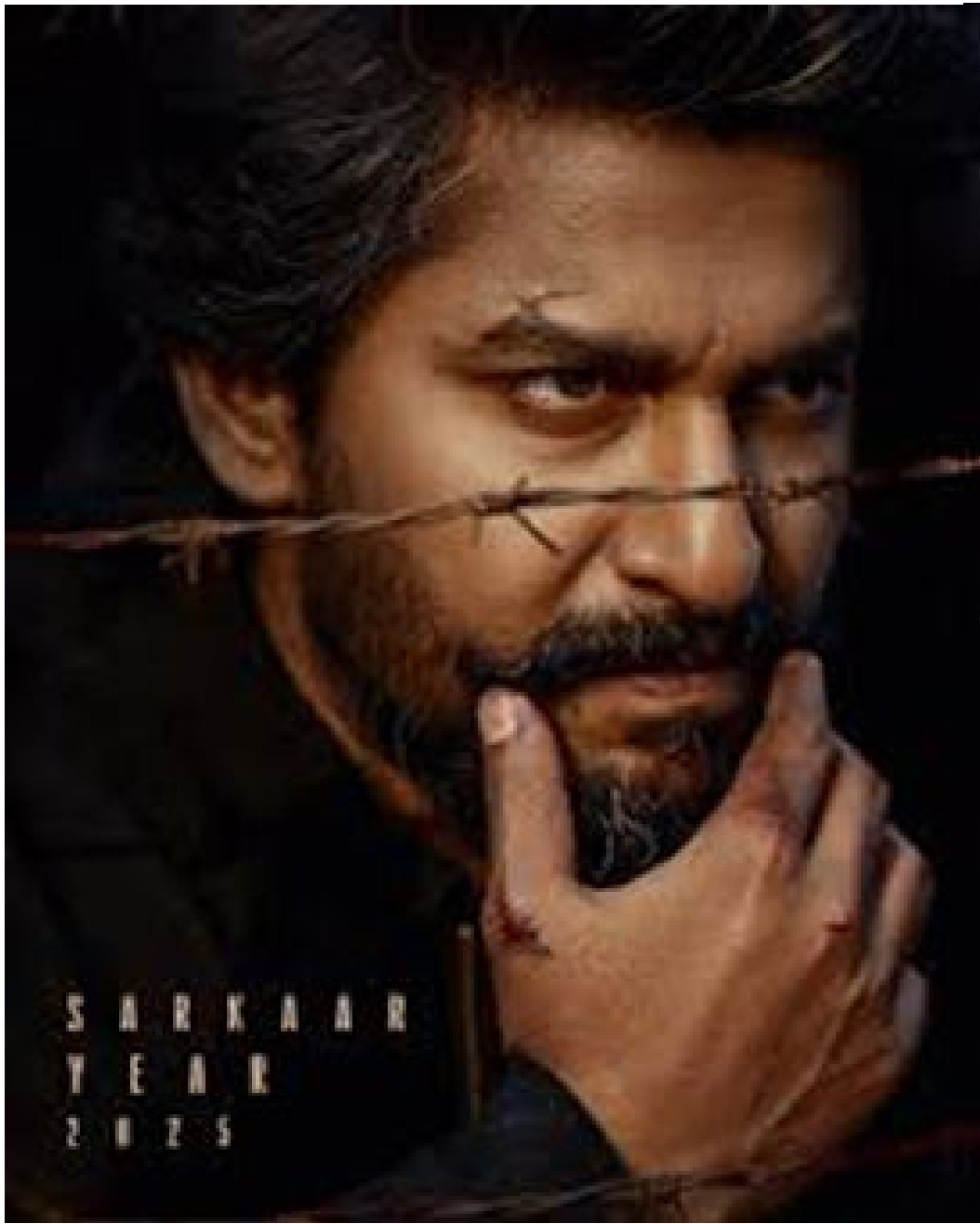
Though her latest film underwhelmed, Saiee’s fashion choices have consistently stood out. Her recent appearance only reaffirmed her status as a rising style icon who’s unafraid to take risks. Whether on-screen or at events, Saiee continues to make powerful impressions with her sartorial flair, turning every appearance into a showstopper moment.



## Nani Says Movie Violence Waning

Actor Nani, currently promoting his upcoming film *HIT 3* slated for release on May 1, acknowledged the rising trend of violence in cinema during a recent interview with Ram Venkat Srikar. Known for his usually softer roles, Nani admitted that *HIT 3* contains a significant dose of violence and accepted that he’s part of a broader trend that has become hard to avoid.

When asked about censorship differences between theatrical releases and OTT platforms—referencing how *Waltair Veerayya* was rated U/A in theatres but A on Netflix—Nani pointed out that intense violence has become normalized. However, he believes that this trend is reaching its end, hinting at a shift in audience preferences and storytelling styles in Indian cinema. Despite his participation, Nani seems hopeful for more balanced content ahead.



## Buchi Babu Clarifies Ram Charan’s Casting



After the massive success of his debut film *Uppena*, director Buchi Babu Sana has teamed up with Ram Charan for his second project, *Peddi*. The film’s teaser has generated tremendous buzz, fueling anticipation for what promises to be another hit.

In a recent interview, Buchi Babu revealed that the story of *Peddi* was first narrated to his mentor, Sukumar, who immediately liked it and suggested that he pitch it to Ram Charan. While

rumors had circulated that Buchi Babu would collaborate with Jr NTR for his second film after *Uppena*, the project didn’t materialize, leading to *Peddi* with Ram Charan.

Buchi Babu also shared his nervous excitement during the teaser’s release, recalling how he was at Charan’s house with both Charan and Megastar Chiranjeevi, feeling immense relief when Chiranjeevi praised the teaser.