

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 26° C

KTR Calls BRS a ‘Public Garage’ and Prepares for Elkaturthi Rally

Rajatotsav Sabha set for April 27.

40,000 vehicles and 100 medical teams planned.

KTR emphasizes peaceful party celebrations.

BRS leaders honor Pahalgam victims with silence.

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

Telangana’s BRS working president, K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), hailed Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao (KCR) for elevating the state’s stature to Himalayan levels. During his visit to Elkaturthi to inspect the arrangements for the BRS Rajatotsav Sabha, KTR stated that the party had become a “public garage,” with people turning to the BRS and the Pink Flag in times of distress.

KTR announced that the Rajatotsav Sabha, scheduled for April 27, would be held in Warangal and would be the largest public gathering ever organized by the party. Addressing the



media, he mentioned that all arrangements were in place to ensure comfort for the attendees, including provisions for 40,000 vehicles, 10 lakh water bottles, and 10 lakh packets of buttermilk. Additionally, 100 medical teams would be available for any emergencies. He also pointed out that the state government had been cooperating in organizing the event and confirmed that 200 generators had been set up to ensure uninterrupted power supply. KTR emphasized that this event was

not about political confrontation but a peaceful celebration of the party’s annual day. In a solemn moment, KTR, along with other party leaders, paid respects to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack with a two-minute silence. KTR’s statements reflect the growing significance of the BRS in Telangana politics and the party’s preparations to showcase its strength at the Rajatotsav Sabha.



CM Revanth Reddy Files Petition in High Court

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has filed a petition in the High Court seeking to quash the case pending against him. The case pertains to a defamation suit filed by BJP leader Kasam Venkateshwarlu in the Nampally Magistrate Court over a speech made by Revanth Reddy during election campaigning last year in Kothagudem. In his speech, Revanth Reddy allegedly claimed that if the BJP returned to power, they would remove reservations. The BJP leader filed the defamation case, and the

court has already recorded the testimonies of witnesses. Audio and video clips of the controversial speech were presented by the petitioner’s lawyer in court. In his petition, CM Revanth Reddy has asked the High Court to quash the case and issue an interim order to stop the Nampally court from continuing with the proceedings. He also requested exemption from attending the hearings. The petition is set to be heard tomorrow, and the outcome is eagerly awaited. This case adds to the ongoing political discourse and legal battles involving prominent political figures in Telangana.

Hyderabad MLC Election: Voting Concludes , All Eyes on Congress Votes

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

The polling for the Hyderabad Local Authorities Constituency MLC election concluded smoothly today. The voting began at 8 AM and ended by 4 PM. Out of the total 112 eligible voters, 88 cast their votes, marking a strong turnout despite the BRS (Bharat Rashtra Samithi) staying away from the poll.

According to election officials, among the voters were 66 of the 81 corporators and 21 out of 31 ex-officio members. While the BRS refrained from voting, BJP, AIMIM, and Congress members participated actively, raising political temperatures in the city.

The key candidates in the fray are Mirza Riyaz Ul Hassan Effendi from AIMIM and Gautam Rao from BJP. The vote counting is scheduled for April 25, and with the reduced voter pool and close margins, the outcome is expected to be tight. Political analysts highlight the absence of BRS votes and the active participation of Congress corporators and ex-officio members as factors adding suspense to the final result. Congress, currently in power in Telangana, is seen as the potential deciding factor. Which direction the Congress votes swung remains the big question. In this election, a candidate needs more than 50% of the 88 votes polled to win. Speculation around cross-voting has intensified, as even a single vote can tip the balance in such a closely contested race.

All eyes are now on April 25, when the counting will reveal not just the winner, but also deeper political undercurrents in the Hyderabad civic landscape.

Telangana leads national oil palm production.

14 companies permitted for expansion.

Subsidies up to ₹50,918 per acre.

Top districts: Bhadradri Kothagudem, Khammam.

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

In a significant move to boost oil palm cultivation, the Telangana Government has allocated ₹348 crore for the 2024–25 fiscal year to promote oil palm farming and expand its reach across the state. This initiative is aimed at providing higher prices for farmers and enhancing the profitability of oil palm farming. With plans in place for the cultivation of 1 lakh acres, the government is targeting the expansion of oil palm production in various districts. Since Congress assumed power,

Telangana Govt. Allocates ₹348 Crore for Oil Palm Expansion



11,685 farmers have cultivated oil palm across 39,258 acres, and efforts are underway to educate and encourage farmers to take up this profitable crop. The Horticulture Department is organizing awareness programs to drive

this initiative forward. Telangana has emerged as a leader in oil palm farming, with neighboring Andhra Pradesh also contributing significantly to the national output. The Central Government has rec-

ognized districts such as Bhadradri Kothagudem, Khammam, Siddipet, Jangaon, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri, and Mahabubabad for oil palm cultivation, with TG Oiled expanding its operations in these areas. The price of crude palm oil has surged from ₹12,534 per ton to ₹21,000, with experts forecasting further increases. In addition, the government has granted permits to 14 companies to expand oil palm cultivation in 31 districts across Telangana. To support farmers, subsidies are offered for the cultivation, drip irrigation, and the management of orchards, up to ₹50,918 per acre. Key Districts Leading in Oil Palm Cultivation include Bhadradri Kothagudem, Khammam, and Siddipet, while districts like Sangareddy and Medak are lagging behind.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Condemns Pahalgam Terror Attack

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka expressed his deep shock and condemnation over the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which has claimed the lives of 28 people. The tragic incident has sent shockwaves across the country, with several political leaders offering their condolences and condemning the attack. Taking to Twitter, Bhatti Vikramarka made a strong statement, stating that such inhuman acts should have no place in the world. He expressed his profound grief over the loss of innocent lives and the injuries sustained by many others. “The loss of innocent lives and the suffering caused to families is deeply distressing,” Bhatti wrote, while strongly condemning the terrorist attack.



He further extended his sympathy to the victims’ families and wished a speedy recovery to those injured in the attack. His comments reflect the state’s stance against violence and terrorism, underlining the importance of peace and humanity in the face of such brutal incidents. The attack in Pahalgam, a popular tourist destination, has left the nation in mourning as political leaders across party lines have called for stronger actions to curb terrorism and ensure the safety of civilians.

Aghori Srinivas Transferred to Jail After Arrest in UP

Five-hour interrogation at Narsingi ACP office

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Aghori Srinivas Mata, who gained notoriety across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in a short span, has been arrested by the Mokila police and transferred to Hyderabad from Uttar Pradesh. Following a five-hour-long interrogation at the Narsingi ACP office, she was remanded and shifted to jail.

According to police sources, the arrest was made swiftly based on a complaint registered at the Mokila Police Station. A film producer had accused the self-styled godwoman of cheating his sister out of ₹10 lakh in the name of a “Moni Puja.” The police confirmed that Srinivas was arrested, medically exam-



ined, and then produced before the Rajendranagar court, which remanded her for 14 days. He was subsequently transferred to the Sangareddy sub-jail. However, a bizarre situation unfolded when the accused reportedly



Nagaland Officials Praise Telangana’s Prajavani Initiative

TPN, Correspondent|Hyderabad

Telangana’s Congress government has received praise from Nagaland government officials for its innovative Prajavani program, which allows citizens to directly voice their concerns and issues to the government. The initiative, which takes place at the Mahatma Jyothibapule Praja Bhavan, has been highly appreciated for its approach to addressing public grievances.

The Nagaland government officials who visited Telangana recently took the opportunity to observe the Prajavani system in action at the Prajabhavan. During their visit, they were briefed on the program’s structure by G. Chinnareddy, Vice Chairman of the State Planning Commission, and Divya Devarajan, the Nodal Officer for the Prajavani program.

Impressed by the effectiveness of the program,



the Nagaland officials expressed their admiration for how it operates and benefits the public. They praised the initiative as a successful model for addressing people’s problems and ensuring transparent governance. The officials stated that they would recommend implementing a similar system in Nagaland to address local issues and promote a closer relationship between the government and citizens.

₹145 Crores Allocated for Medaram Maha Jatara 2026: Minister Seethakka Emphasizes Early and Quality Planning

TPN, Correspondent|Hyderabad

Telangana government has earmarked ₹145 crore for the upcoming Medaram Maha Jatara in February 2026, one of the largest tribal religious gatherings in the world. Minister Seethakka, who holds the portfolios of Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Rural Water Supply, and Women & Child Welfare, chaired a high-level review meeting with district officials, urging for early, well-coordinated, and permanent infrastructure developments to ensure a seamless experience for devotees.

During the review held at the Mulugu Collectorate under the leadership of Collector Divakar, officials from various departments presented their action plans. Minister Seethakka emphasized that unlike previous years, preparations should start at least six months in advance, avoiding last-minute rush and ensuring quality work. With the Godavari Pushkaralu also scheduled next year, she called for a holistic and integrated plan involving all departments.

Highlighting the spiritual and cultural significance of the event, Seethakka likened the Medaram Jatara to the Kumbh Mela in terms of scale and importance. She directed officials to focus on beautifying the Gadde surroundings, and allocate



₹5 crore for setting up amenities near Jampanna Vagu, offering resting spaces for elders and children. She also mentioned that ₹50 crore leftover from the previous event would be utilized this time.

The minister stressed on identifying essential infrastructure needs, ensuring drinking water, sanitation, and cleanliness, and learning from past challenges using CCTV footage analysis. Police have been instructed to prepare well in advance to prevent any untoward incidents. Officials including ITDA PO Chitra Mishra, Additional Collectors Mahender G, Sampath Rao, DSP Ravinder, and RD Officer Venkatesh attended the meeting.

Power Demand Dips Sharply in Telangana, Settles at 10,500 MW



TPN, Correspondent|Hyderabad

In a surprising turn of events, Telangana has witnessed a significant drop in power demand, which has now decreased to 10,500 megawatts from a recent high of 17,162 MW recorded on March 20. The sudden decline is attributed to a combination of cooler weather conditions and the end of the Yasangi (Rabi) agricultural season.

The recent rainfall has brought relief from the intense heat, leading people to reduce the usage of air conditioners, fans, and coolers. Additionally, with the end of the farming season, the need for agricultural power supply has also dropped, easing the overall demand.

Over the past four days, power usage has remained consistent at around 10,539 MW,

marking a significant downward trend. Despite the overall dip, Hyderabad continues to register higher electricity consumption compared to other districts in the state. The GHMC (Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation) area alone recorded a demand of 3,900 MW, up from 3,300 MW last month.

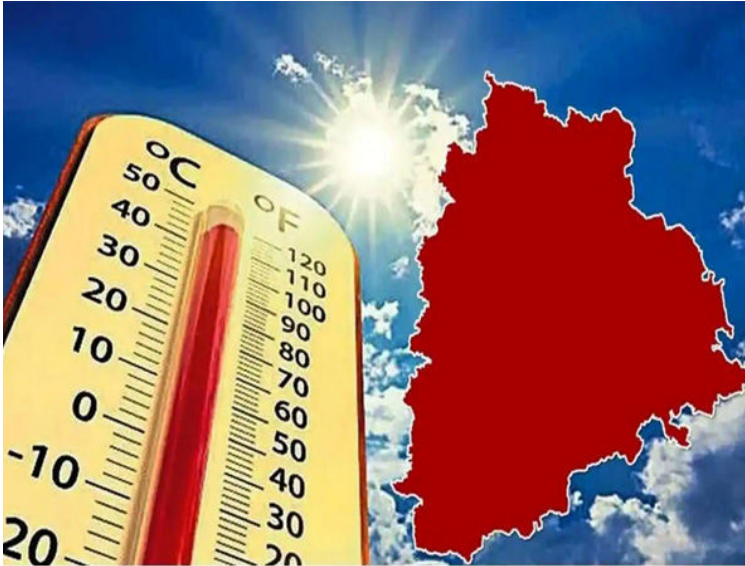
To maintain uninterrupted and quality power supply, Power Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and senior electricity officials have been actively monitoring the situation. Southern Telangana Power Distribution Company CMD Musharraf Farooqui has been conducting regular meetings in areas like Old City and Secunderabad to ensure that field staff are alert and prepared. Instructions have been issued to avoid any interruptions in feeder-level power supply across all circles.

Red Alert in Three Telangana Districts as Heatwave Intensifies

TPN, Correspondent|Hyderabad

Telangana is bracing for a severe heatwave over the next three days, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issuing Red Alerts for three northern districts—Adilabad, Karimnagar, and Nizamabad—as temperatures are expected to soar above 44°C accompanied by intense heatwave and dry winds.

After a brief respite from scattered showers, summer is tightening its grip across the state. The IMD has warned that daytime heat will be intense, especially in northern Telangana, and nights are also expected to remain unusually warm, offering little relief. In response to the forecast, officials have advised residents in red alert areas to avoid going outdoors during peak afternoon hours, stay hydrated, and take necessary precautions to prevent heat-related illnesses. Apart from the three red alert districts, Orange Alerts have been issued for most other regions of the state, excluding Sangareddy, Vikarabad, Hyderabad, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, and Rangareddy, which are expected to experience slightly milder conditions.



Authorities are urging people to remain vigilant, particularly vulnerable populations like children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions. Public health teams and disaster management authorities have been asked to stay prepared for emergencies arising from heat-related issues.

Stay indoors during peak heat hours (12 PM to 4 PM), wear light clothing, and consume plenty of fluids. The next few days are crucial, and adhering to safety guidelines could prevent heatstroke and other complications.

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Aghori Srinivas Transferred to Jail After Arrest in UP

demanding to be kept in the same jail and barracks as her wife, Varshini. Police officials stated that she allegedly threatened harm if her wish was not granted, creating a commotion during her transfer. Following her controversial marriage to Varshini, multiple complaints were filed against her in various police stations across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Acting on the orders of the Telangana Chief Minister, four special police teams were formed to track her down. She was eventually located in Uttar Pradesh and brought to Hyderabad under tight security. The Cyberabad Commissionerate police revealed that they have not received just one or two complaints, but dozens, and are planning to file multiple cases to ensure she remains in custody. They added that further investi-

gation into her previous activities may uncover more instances of fraud. Due to uncertainty about her gender identity, a medical examination was conducted, following which she was identified as a transgender person and transferred to the Cherlapally jail (Chenchelguda). In the wake of her arrest, the police have urged all victims who may have been cheated by Aghori Srinivas Mata to come forward and lodge complaints. Officials confirmed that she has now been taken into custody under a PTI warrant and will be interrogated further in connection with other cases. Netizens have raised questions about whether this marks the end of the Aghori Srinivas Mata saga, which had captivated public attention with its many twists and turns.

Congress Whip Adi Srinivas Appeared Before CID Yesterday in Ramesh Babu Citizenship Case

TPN, Correspondent|Hyderabad

Congress leader and Government Whip Adi Srinivas appeared before the CID yesterday in connection with the case filed against former Vemulawada MLA Chennamaneni Ramesh Babu. CID officials had earlier issued notices to Srinivas, requesting him to present evidence supporting his allegations. Srinivas had filed a petition in the High Court, claiming that Ramesh Babu contested elections using forged documents, despite not holding valid Indian citizenship. The court recently ruled in favor of Srinivas, nullifying Ramesh Babu’s election. Additionally, Ramesh was directed to pay ₹25 lakhs to Srinivas and ₹5 lakhs to the Legal Services Authority. In continuation of the legal battle, Srinivas lodged a formal com-

plaint with the CID on March 17, urging action against Ramesh Babu for illegally contesting and serving as an MLA. Based on this, CID registered a case and issued a notice to Srinivas to submit supporting documents.



Responding to the notice, Srinivas appeared before CID officials yesterday and submitted the required evidence. Speaking to the media, he stated: “Justice has begun to prevail. I hope Ramesh Babu is held accountable and punished according to the law.” This development has garnered political attention as it highlights concerns regarding election integrity and proper verification of candidates’ credentials. CID is expected to take further steps in its investigation based on the submitted material.

Intelligence Failure Behind Pahalgam Terror Attack: MIM Chief Asaduddin Owaisi



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

MIM President Asaduddin Owaisi strongly condemned the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, attributing the tragedy to a serious intelligence failure. The attack, which claimed the lives of nearly 30 civilians, including tourists, has sparked outrage across the country.

Speaking on the incident, Owaisi said, "This is a blatant failure of the intelligence system. It is shocking and deeply disturbing that

tourists, including some foreigners, lost their lives in such a merciless assault." He stated that this incident is even more grave than the Pulwama attack, highlighting the scale and ruthlessness of the assault carried out by terrorists. Owaisi demanded that the central government treat the situation with utmost seriousness and take strong measures to prevent such security lapses in the future. He added that this tragedy underscores the urgent need for better surveillance, coordinated intelligence, and preventive actions in vulnerable regions like Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the government to introspect and take accountability, ensuring that similar incidents are not repeated. The Pahalgam attack has reignited concerns over the security preparedness in high-risk zones and raised critical questions about the effectiveness of the intelligence apparatus. With political leaders from across the spectrum expressing grief and anger, the onus is now on the government to assure the nation of a swift and thorough response.

India Will Avenge Pahalgam Terror Attack: MP Etela Rajender

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

BJP MP Etela Rajender expressed deep anguish over the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, which claimed the lives of at least 28 civilians. Speaking to the media on Wednesday, the Malkajgiri MP strongly condemned the attack and assured that India will not remain silent. He stated:

"The Pahalgam terrorist attack is heart-breaking. After the abrogation of Article 370, Jammu & Kashmir has become an inseparable part of India. Tourism was thriving again, but such inhuman acts by terrorists are unacceptable."

Etela emphasized that India's patience should not be mistaken for weakness, warning that the country will pay back with interest. He said the blood of innocent victims will not go in vain and that the Indian government will definitely take revenge.

He reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to national security and men-



tioned that Kashmir's integration is irreversible. "This is a time for unity and resolve. The nation stands with the victims and their families," he added.

Etela concluded by saying that those responsible for the attack will face severe consequences, and such cowardly acts will only strengthen India's determination to eliminate terrorism from its soil.

Modi, Amit Shah Won't Spare Terrorists: BJP MLA Raja Singh



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

In the wake of the Pahalgam terrorist attack in Jammu & Kashmir, Goshamahahal BJP MLA T. Raja Singh made strong remarks, stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah will not spare the perpetrators under any circumstances. Condemning the brutal attack that claimed 28 lives, Raja Singh paid tribute to the deceased and wished for a speedy recovery of the injured. He released a statement calling the incident inhuman and cowardly, blaming Pakistan-backed terrorists for the violence.

"After the abrogation of Article 370, Kashmir has been progressing peacefully. The Central government is making all efforts for the development of the region," he said. He accused Pakistan of conspiring to disrupt peace in Kashmir and assured that Modi and Shah will act firmly to bring the culprits to justice. "They will not leave any stone unturned until every last terrorist involved is hunted down," Raja Singh asserted.

The BJP MLA highlighted that this attack is a direct challenge to India's sovereignty and peace, and called for stronger retaliation. He reiterated full support to the central leadership's fight against terrorism, and said the nation stands united in this moment of grief and anger.

BRS MP Mallu Ravi Criticizes BJP and Modi Government, Highlights Development Plans

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

BRS MP Mallu Ravi has strongly criticized the BJP and the Modi government for their alleged neglect of poor citizens and their failure to address key issues in Telangana. He remarked that while people desire Revanth Reddy to remain CM for another 10 years, BRS leaders are promoting the notion that KCR should be the state's next chief minister.



In a press conference, Ravi raised questions about the party leadership, asking whether an SC or ST leader would be chosen as the next party president. He also forecasted that the BRS and BJP would form an alliance for the upcoming elections. Ravi highlighted the BRS government's development

track record over the past 10 years, promising that more achievements would be unveiled in the next four years. He pointed out that despite the Modi government cutting the budget for welfare schemes, the UPA government had successfully launched food security schemes. He insisted that the budget for the poor should be increased and that Congress MPs would push for it.

Ravi also criticized BJP MPs from Telangana, including Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay, for failing to secure funding for key projects such as the Musi River cleaning and Metro rail projects. He predicted that the BJP would fail to win even eight seats in the upcoming elections, citing a lack of development in the state.

New Land Policy 'Bhoo Bharati' to Solve Public Grievances: Adi Srinivas

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

Telangana Government Whip and Vemulawada MLA Adi Srinivas stated that the newly introduced 'Bhoo Bharati' land registration policy will resolve long-standing land and public issues, which worsened under the previous government's Dharani system. Speaking at a Bhoo Bharati awareness meeting held at Hanumajipet Rythu Vedika in Vemulawada Rural Mandal, Srinivas, along with District Collector Sandeep Kumar Jha, addressed the farmers and local residents. Adi Srinivas recalled the difficulties faced by farmers and citizens under the Dharani portal, especially due to the absence of an assigned committee for the last 10 years. He said many farmers were left in limbo over land rights, access, and ownership.

"To overcome these issues, CM Revanth Reddy, Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, along with experts and senior officials, conceptualized and introduced the Bhoo Bharati Act," Srinivas explained.

He expressed confidence that Bhoo Bharati



will bring transparency, accessibility, and fairness in land dealings. The new system aims to rebuild trust among farmers and citizens by simplifying processes and reducing bureaucratic hurdles.

The MLA emphasized the government's commitment to land reforms and reassured that no farmer will be left behind under the

new act. The initiative is being taken up as part of the Congress government's promise to undo past irregularities and deliver justice to landowners and cultivators.

The event saw good participation from local farmers, officials, and community leaders who engaged in discussions and cleared their doubts about the new system.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Visits Talari Chandrayya's Residence

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

In a recent visit to Kohid Mandal, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar along with District Collector Manu Chowdhury and other officials, had a meal at the residence of Talari Chandrayya, a beneficiary of the Sanna Biyyam Scheme. The scheme, which aims to provide subsidized rice to the citizens, has been lauded by local families, including Talari Chandrayya's, who expressed how it has significantly benefited them.

During the visit, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar inquired about the quantity of Sanna Biyyam they are receiving now, as well



as the improvements compared to previous conditions. He highlighted that the Telangana government has launched this prestigious program to ensure every citizen gets to consume Sanna Biyyam, beginning from the Ugadi festival.

The Minister praised the hospitality of Mallavva, Talari Chandrayya's wife, and acknowledged their modest living conditions, residing in a reed hut. The Minister assured them that they would be provided an Indiramma house as part of

government welfare programs. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar further discussed various schemes such as new ration cards, 200 units of free electricity, free bus travel for women, and the increase in mess charges for Gurukulas. He emphasized that the Sanna Biyyam initiative is a historic decision, unique to Telangana, and should be a model for other states.

Prabhakar urged people not to politicize such welfare programs and reiterated that the government is continuously striving to bring justice and support to the people.

BRS MLC Kavitha Pays Tribute to Pahalgam Attack Victims, Slams Congress

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

In a solemn gesture, BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha and BRS leaders paid tribute to the victims of the recent Pahalgam terror attack by observing a two-minute silence at the Peddapalli BRS office. Speaking to the press afterward, Kavitha delivered a scathing critique of both the Congress and BJP. Kavitha began by recalling how the Singareni workers' warning once forced the central government to reconsider Telangana, emphasizing BRS's pivotal role in the state's formation. She expressed disappointment in the Congress for dismantling the Rythu Bandhu initiative, causing sig-



nificant hardship for farmers, particularly those in Peddapalli district.

She also accused Congress of taking credit for the 80,000 job notifications issued un-

ship to safeguard Telangana's true interests, claiming that only BRS represents the state's vision.

der KCR's government, stating that 50,000 of these jobs were already allocated. Kavitha slammed the Congress for never saying "Jai Telangana," implying that the current government lacks a genuine connection to the state's interests. In a sharp attack on Bhatti Vikramarka, she stated that under his leadership, Congress was "subjugating Singareni to the Centre."

Kavitha concluded by stressing the need for BRS leadership to safeguard Telangana's true interests, claiming that only BRS represents the state's vision.

Vega Jewellers Launches South India’s Biggest Akshaya Tritiya Jewellery Festival in Hyderabad

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Vega Jewellers in Jubilee Hills has unveiled South India’s grandest jewellery celebration this Akshaya Tritiya, offering unmatched deals on Gold, Diamond, and Polki jewellery. The festival promises an opulent experience while upholding the spirit of prosperity the occasion is known for. In a first-of-its-kind offer, customers purchasing Gold jewellery will pay only the 24kt

pure gold rate, with zero wastage and zero making charges. For Diamond jewellery, a flat rate of ₹47,999 per carat is offered, again with zero wastage. Polki jewellery lovers can also rejoice with zero making charges and zero wastage across collections. This limited-period festival is positioned to redefine value and trust in luxury jewellery shopping. The management at Vega Jewellers continues to uphold its legacy of elegance,

transparency, and superior craftsmanship. As Akshaya Tritiya marks new beginnings and wealth, Vega Jewellers invites patrons to celebrate with jewellery that mirrors their blessings. With such rare offers, this event is expected to draw jewellery enthusiasts from across the region. Visit Vega Jewellers at Jubilee Hills to experience the sparkle of tradition blended with modern-day magnificence.



ARK Reflections IAS Celebrates Success with 25 Top Ranks in UPSC CSE-2024



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
ARK Reflections IAS Academy, Ashok Nagar, Hyderabad, has achieved a milestone in the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2024, with 25 of its students securing prestigious ranks, including five under the Top 100, as announced in a press conference today. Academy Chairman Gummi Ram Reddy, Managing Director Pakala Madhu Sudhan Reddy, and Chief Mentor Dr. Gadiyaram Vivekananda proudly revealed the achievement, emphasizing their long-term vision to produce 100 IAS and IPS officers by 2030. Among the successful candidates, standout ranks include

AIR 15, 46, 62, 68, and 99, paving the way for their entry into the Indian Administrative Service. Other notable ranks achieved include AIR 146, 218, 232, 346, 430, 520, 944, and more. The academy attributed this success to focused mentoring and personalized guidance. Students Preethi (AIR 263) and Sai Bhargava (AIR 798) expressed gratitude to the academy and staff during the press meet, acknowledging their crucial role in their journey. The management dedicated the success to the dedication of students, parents, and the academy’s faculty, aiming to inspire future aspirants across the country.

Telangana Hosts Southern States Cyber Coordination Meet to Tackle Rising Cybercrime

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
The Telangana Police organized the Regional Quarterly Meeting of the Southern State DGSP Coordination Conference, bringing together top police officials from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Puducherry. The meeting focused on strengthening interstate collaboration to combat cybercrime and enhance cybersecurity frameworks. Presided over by Dr. Jitender IPS, DGP Telangana, the conference addressed critical issues including interstate and international coordination, collaboration with banking and telecom sectors, cybercrime training, legal delays, and public awareness. Emphasis was also placed on tackling the growing misuse of cryptocurrency in cybercrimes, and the need for innovative investigation methodologies. Smt. Shikha Goel IPS, DG CID & Director of Telangana Cyber Se-



curity Bureau (TGCSB), stressed the importance of adopting AI-based tools and sharing actionable intelligence across states. Sri Rajesh Kumar IPS, CEO of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), reiterated I4C’s commitment to equipping states with cutting-edge cybercrime-fighting tools. A key outcome was the decision to establish a regional coordination cell among the southern states for faster investigations, real-time intelligence sharing, and improved justice delivery. Senior officers from participating states joined virtually, reaffirming their commitment to a unified and resilient digital ecosystem for the region.

5.260 Kg of Ganja Seized in Two Separate Cases in Hyderabad – Three Arrested

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

In two separate anti-drug operations, the Excise Department teams from Secunderabad DTF and STF-D seized 5.260 kg of ganja and arrested three individuals. Authorities also confiscated a car and five mobile phones from the accused.

First Case:

Based on a tip-off, the Secunderabad DTF team intercepted a car near Bowenpally and recovered 4.140 kg of ganja hidden in the car’s boot. The accused, identified as Malavath Rajender and Indal Rathod from Nirmal, had allegedly



purchased the ganja at a lower price from Adilabad outskirts and brought it to Hyderabad for resale. During the interrogation, the duo admitted to making multiple trips in the past for similar illegal sales.

Second Case:

Acting on specific information, the STF-D team led by SI Jyothi raided the area near

Botanical Park, Kondapur, and arrested Narayan Choudhary from West Bengal. Ganja and a mobile phone were seized from him. The accused was handed over to the Sherlingampally Excise Police Station.

All arrested individuals and seized items were handed over to the respective excise

stations. The operations were carried out under the leadership of CI Soujanya, Sis Shivakrishna, Jyothi, and constables Raju Ravi, Sunitha, Lekha Singh, Rajeshwar, Chandrasekhar, Kashirao, and Shashilu. Excise Superintendent Srinivas Rao appreciated the teams for their swift and effective action.

Miyapur: Delivery Agents Attack Residents After ID Dispute in Gated Community



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

Tension prevailed at My Home Jewels Apartments in Miyapur after a group of over 100 Zomato and Zepto delivery agents allegedly launched an attack on residents following an altercation over identity verification at the gate.

The issue began when a delivery boy was questioned for not carrying a valid ID while attempting to enter the apartment complex. After completing his delivery, the individual reportedly alerted a large group via WhatsApp, leading to a mob of delivery agents arriving at the premises. They allegedly locked all three gates of the gated community and attacked residents.

Residents claimed that the group behaved inappropriately, with school-going children and women being subjected to abusive and drunken behavior. Mahesh, Vice President of the My Home Jewels Resident Welfare Association, condemned the violence, saying, “Assaulting residents for questioning ID is unacceptable. Authorities must take this seriously.”

The Miyapur Police intervened swiftly and registered a case against six individuals, who were later taken into custody.

Resident Alekhya emphasized the need for companies like Swiggy, Zomato, and Zepto to ensure that all delivery agents carry proper ID cards. She urged for stricter verification protocols and called for preventive action to avoid such incidents not just in gated communities but across all residential areas.



Cash for Certificates

Fake Birth Certificate Racket Busted in Malakpet

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

A fake birth certificate racket operating in the Malakpet area of Hyderabad has been busted by the Central Task Force Police, exposing a network aiding illegal Bangladeshi immigrants with forged documents.

According to police, a six-member gang, including two Bangladeshi nationals — Mohammad Hasibul and Rohan Shah — was involved in producing and supplying counterfeit birth certificates. The gang primarily targeted Bangladeshi migrants who had illegally crossed the border into India via Kolkata and settled in Hyderabad. Operating within the Malakpet Police Station limits, the gang provided these fake documents in exchange for money, helping immigrants to falsely claim Indian identity. The Task Force acted on credible intelligence and arrested six suspects so far.

Authorities suspect the involvement of more individuals in the racket and are currently investigating the extent of the scam, including how many fake certificates were issued and to whom.

The case raises serious concerns about national security and document integrity, with police intensifying efforts to identify other beneficiaries and collaborators. The investigation is ongoing, and more arrests are expected as officials delve deeper into the network.

Police have urged citizens to report suspicious activities involving document forgery to help safeguard identity systems and national interests.

Two Held with 110 Vials of Mephentermine Sulphate Injections Worth ₹1.32 Lakh in Hyderabad

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

The Commissioner’s Task Force, South Zone Team, in coordination with Moghalpura and Chandrayangutta Police, apprehended two individuals for illegally procuring and selling Mephentermine Sulphate injections, a Schedule-H drug, without a valid prescription or license. The accused in Case I is Md. Jibran Ahmed alias Sameer Goli (30), a resident of Moghalpura, Hyderabad. He reportedly used the drug for bodybuilding and began sourcing it online from IndiaMart, New Delhi at ₹324 per vial. Recognizing the high demand, he started selling it at inflated prices near Gowlipura Market to earn easy money.



In Case II, Ahmed Qureshi (30) of Balapur, RR District, also a gym-go-

er, was caught selling the same injections illegally in the Barkas area.

He is a repeat offender, previously involved in a similar case under Moghalpura PS limits.

Police seized 110 vials worth ₹1.32 lakh, and the duo was caught based on credible information. The drugs were being sold without any medical supervision, posing serious health risks including cardiac arrest and high blood pressure.

Both cases have been registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The arrests were made under the supervision of Inspector S. Raghavendra, along with Sis M. Mahesh, K. Narsimulu, G. Anjaneyulu, N. Naveen, and other Task Force staff. Further investigation is underway.

Congress Appoints PCC Observers for Telangana Districts

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
In a recent announcement approved by AICC Incharge of Telangana, Ms. Meenakshi Natarajan, several leaders have been appointed as PCC Observers for various districts across the state. This decision is effective immediately, with observers tasked with overseeing district-level activities and ensuring timely execution of assigned duties. The observers have been instructed to coordinate with district-level leaders, including DCC Presidents, Ministers, MPs, MLCS, MLAS, and former leaders. Additionally, they will be working closely with AICC/PCC Delegates, Local Body Representatives, and Heads of frontals/departments/Cells to ensure the completion of all tasks outlined during the orientation meeting. In her communication, Ms. Natarajan congratulated the appointed observers and emphasized the importance of commitment and sincerity



in fulfilling the responsibilities. Further directions and relevant documents will be provided to the observers through the group for reference. This move is seen as part of the Congress party's effort to strengthen its presence and coordination at the grassroots level in Telangana as it prepares for upcoming political challenges.

Fake "Laika Bitcoin" Scheme Busted in Keesara – Victims Duped in Crores



TPN,Correspondent|Medchal
A major cryptocurrency scam has come to light under the Keesara Police Station limits, where fraudsters lured people with promises of high returns through a so-called "Laika Bitcoin" chain investment scheme. The scam involved convincing investors that a ₹10,000 investment

would yield ₹30,000 returns, claiming it was part of a growing cryptocurrency chain system. Victims were misled with the promise of double profits on their investments within a short span, typical of a Ponzi-style trap. One of the complainants, who invested ₹11 lakh, approached the police after the website linked to the scheme suddenly went offline and he realized he had been duped. Along with him, others identified as Srirangam, Veerendra, and Brahma Chari also fell prey to the fraudulent operation and lodged complaints with local authorities. Following the complaints, Keesara police registered a case and have launched an investigation into the cyber fraud. Authorities are now tracking down those behind the scam and have warned the public to be cautious of similar online investment traps, especially those offering unrealistic returns. The police are also appealing to other victims of the "Laika Coin" scam to come forward and share details to assist in the ongoing investigation.

Bathukamma Celebrations to Be Held at Restored Bathukamma Kunta from Next Year – HYDRA Commissioner

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
In a significant announcement, HYDRA Commissioner A.V. Ranganath confirmed that from next year onwards, Bathukamma festivities will be held at the rejuvenated Bathukamma Kunta in Bag Amberpet, Hyderabad. The development work had earlier faced legal hurdles, which have now been resolved following a favorable verdict from the City Civil Court on Tuesday. Commissioner Ranganath officially launched the restoration and beautification works at the site on Wednesday, performing a ceremonial puja in the presence of local residents. Speaking on the occasion,

he said the pond will be restored and beautified on a war footing, with the target to complete all works before the next Bathukamma festival. The initiative includes cleaning, landscaping, and creating public-friendly spaces around the Kunta, making it a cultural hub for local festivals. He also urged residents to cooperate with the development activities, which they wholeheartedly supported, pledging full assistance to the Commissioner. This move is being seen as a step towards reviving local traditions while also ensuring sustainable urban development. The Bathukamma Kunta is expected to become a

MP Chamakura Kiran Kumar Reddy Meets SCR GM, Pushes for MMTS to Yadagirigutta

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Bhuvanagiri MP Chamakura Kiran Kumar Reddy met South Central Railway (SCR) General Manager Arun Kumar Jain to formally request the extension of the MMTS rail service from Hyderabad to Rayagiri (Yadagirigutta). The proposal aims to enhance connectivity to Telangana's spiritual hub, Yadadri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple, and support daily commuters between Hyderabad and surrounding regions.



The MP stressed that this rail connection would immensely benefit both devotees visiting the temple and workers commuting to the city, making travel more affordable and accessible. He assured that he would

take up the matter with both Central and State Governments to push for its approval. The MP also discussed pending railway infrastructure issues such as underpass bridges, train schedule ad-

justments, and completion of works at Bhuvanagiri, Aleru, Jangaon, and Ramanapet. He reiterated his recent interventions in Parliament and shared that he had already raised these matters with the Union Railway Minister. Khammam MP Raghurama Reddy and Warangal MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavaya were also present at the meeting, showing collective support for enhancing rail infrastructure and ensuring faster completion of pending projects across Telangana.

Two Hyderabad Hospitals Seized for CM Relief Fund Billing Scam



TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
In a significant crackdown on medical fraud, two private hospitals in Ranga Reddy district have been seized and their licenses revoked for submitting fake bills to misappropriate funds from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). The MMV Indira Multispeciality Hospital, located under the Sarornagar Police Station limits, and Hiranya Multispeciality Hospital at Balapur crossroads, under the Mirkpet Police Station, were found to be involved in large-scale irregularities. Medical authorities reported that these hospitals submitted fabricated medical bills to the CMRF for reimbursement, thus committing fraud. District health officials, upon in-

vestigation, identified financial discrepancies and immediately took action. Both hospitals were sealed, and the licenses cancelled as per the directives issued following the inquiry. Authorities are now pursuing legal action against the hospital managements and have warned other institutions against indulging in similar practices. The health department also emphasized that it will continue stringent inspections to protect public welfare and ensure that government aid reaches the genuine needy patients. The police and medical officials have urged the public to report any suspicious hospital practices to help curb corruption in healthcare.



Key Transfers in Telangana Irrigation Department – Anil Kumar Appointed ENC (General)

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
The Telangana government has issued key transfers in the Irrigation Department, appointing senior officials to new positions to streamline administrative operations. As per the orders released by Rahul Bojja, Principal Secretary of the Irrigation Department, G. Anil Kumar, who was serving as Engineer-in-Chief (Administration), has now been transferred and appointed as Engineer-in-Chief (General). This move comes in the wake of administrative requirements and takes immediate effect. With this appointment, Anil Kumar will now assume full responsibilities as ENC (General), shifting from his previous role with additional duties. In another major development, T. Srinivas, the Chief Engineer of Adilabad, has been entrusted with full additional responsibilities as the Engineer-in-Chief (O&M). The post was vacant following Anil Kumar's transfer. Furthermore, the vacant position of Chief Engineer (Enquiries), which resulted from these movements, has now been assigned to Mohd. Anjad Hussain. The department has directed the respective officials to take charge immediately, ensuring smooth functioning and continuity in key irrigation-related projects across the state. These changes are seen as crucial in enhancing administrative efficiency and managing ongoing water infrastructure works more effectively.

VC Sajjanar's Heartfelt Message to Students After Inter Exam Results

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
Following the announcement of the Telangana Inter examination results, TGSRTC Managing Director VC Sajjanar issued a crucial emotional appeal to students, emphasizing that failing an exam is not the end of life. His message came in response to the tragic suicides of five students who reportedly took the extreme step after not clearing their Intermediate exams. Taking to Twitter, Sajjanar expressed deep sorrow over the incidents and urged students to see failure as a stepping stone, not a full stop. "Exams are not the measure of your life's worth. Marks and ranks do not define your future," he stated. He highlighted that many successful people have faced setbacks in academics but rose to greater heights through perseverance. "If you fail, work harder, identify your mistakes, and try again. Life always gives another chance—but not if you end it," he said. Addressing parents, he urged them to support their children unconditionally, avoid comparisons, and help them recognize their unique strengths. "Let them know failing an exam doesn't mean they've failed in life," he stressed. His message resonated widely across social media, with many praising the timely reminder and compassionate guidance at a critical time for students.

Narayankhed MLA Alleges BRS Conspiracy Behind Viral Audio Clip

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad
In a dramatic turn of events, Narayankhed MLA Sanjeeva Reddy has alleged that the viral audio clip featuring his voice was distorted and circulated maliciously, with the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) being behind the move. Speaking at a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, alongside leaders Kalva Sujatha and Lingam Yadav, the MLA said that a phone conversation about drinking water issues with a person named Mamidi Mahesh was selectively edited and misrepresented. "They're mixing my comments about job-related topics with unrelated matters and making it viral,"



he claimed. Reddy expressed concern that even reputed media hous-

dedicated and iconic venue for the state's most beloved floral festival,

celebrated predominantly by women across Telangana.

es were playing the edited audio, and questioned the intent behind the act. "How can I predict government decisions beforehand? They're twisting my words," he said, describing the entire episode as a calculated conspiracy by BRS. Known for his straightforward talk, Reddy dismissed the controversy, asking, "Why so much drama for my direct way of speaking?" He emphasized that he fears no one, and plans to lodge a complaint with the police against those responsible for spreading the doctored audio. The incident has added fuel to the ongoing political tensions in Telangana, as the state gears up for key elections.

Empowering Women In Courts Is Essential

Last month, March, we celebrated International Women’s Day with grand events and powerful speeches. There were large-scale talks about women’s empowerment, and political leaders proudly spoke about how much the nation has progressed. But shortly after, a disturbing piece of news came to light that cast a dark shadow over all those celebrations. In a village in Chhattisgarh, although women were elected as public representatives, it was their husbands who took the oath and began carrying out the duties. This happened in broad daylight, in a democratic nation that has completed 75 years of independence—and shockingly, right around Women’s Day. It’s truly disheartening. Sadly, this is not an isolated case. Across many parts of the country, women are still not given the space and respect they deserve. The idea of gender equality often remains limited to words. While we have made some progress in providing women with political representation, we are still far from ensuring true empowerment. Many promises are yet to be implemented in spirit and practice.

When we turn to the judiciary, the situation becomes even more worrying. Women



are entering the legal profession in growing numbers and proving their capability. Many are excelling as lawyers, especially in handling sensitive cases like sexual harassment and in supporting victims. Yet, when it comes to actual representation in the judiciary—especially at higher levels—the numbers tell a grim story. For instance, as of 2023, only 11.5% of High Court judges are women. In subordinate courts, the number has grown from 27.6% in 2018 to 36.3% in 2023, which is a positive sign. Similarly, in High Courts, the percentage of women judges rose slightly from 10% in 2018 to 13.4% by 2023. But when we look at the Supreme Court, women make up just 9.4% of the bench—only 3 out of 32 judges. Back in 2018, it was even worse, at just 4%. Some High Courts like those in Punjab,



Haryana, Delhi, and Mumbai have relatively higher numbers of women judges. But in others—like Patna, Orissa, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh—the numbers are alarmingly low. Some courts have just one woman judge, and some have none at all.

One of the barriers lies in the rule under Article 233 of the Constitution of India, which requires seven years of con-

tinuous legal practice to be eligible for appointment as a district judge. But what is often ignored is the additional societal burden that women carry. Many women lawyers have to take breaks or reduce their working hours due to family responsibilities—caring for children, elderly parents, or in-laws. This reality makes “continuous practice” a difficult standard for many women to meet, thus limiting their chances of being appointed as judges. What’s most disappointing is that in all these 75 years of independent India, we have never had a woman Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. This glaring gap reflects the deep-rooted bias and systemic issues within the judiciary. It’s time for the Supreme Court and its Collegium to introspect and take concrete steps toward ensuring fair representation. Transparency in appointments is crucial, and the existing system has been criticized for lacking it. If the central government and the judiciary truly wish to support women’s empowerment, they must act decisively—not just talk. Mere token gestures and speeches during Women’s Day are not enough. Unless real changes are made, all these efforts will continue to feel like nothing more than empty promises.



Pahalgam Attack: A Stark Reminder of Kashmir's Fragile Peace

The recent terror attack in Pahalgam has brutally shattered the region’s calm, serving as a grim wake-up call for both policymakers and citizens. This ruthless strike, which claimed the lives of 26 innocent people and injured 17 others, is far more than a tragic incident — it is a direct assault on India’s stability and global standing.

This was not a random act of violence. It was a deliberate, coordinated strike, launched in a region known for its natural beauty and growing tourist footfall. The timing was no coincidence either. It occurred while U.S. Vice President JD Vance was on a visit to India, underscoring the attackers’ intention to send a strong, defiant message to the international community.

Beyond the tragedy and human loss, the attack exposes a more alarming reality — the evolving face of militancy in Kashmir. According to intelligence sources, around 60 foreign terrorists are currently active in the Valley. Alarmingly, nearly half are affiliated with The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy group for the banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba. While

TRF tries to present itself as a more “indigenous” movement, its operations, funding, and strategic planning trace back to the same old networks of cross-border terrorism.

The use of such shadow groups is a tactical shift — an effort to mask foreign involvement and circumvent global anti-terror watchlists. By adopting softer names and local narratives, these outfits aim to mislead both domestic sentiment and international observers. But their intentions remain deadly clear.

The Pahalgam massacre is not just a law-and-order issue. It is a signal that complacency, poor intelligence coordination, and underestimation of evolving threats are becoming as dangerous as the bullets themselves.

India must now act with clarity and conviction. This means not just bringing the perpetrators to justice, but also strengthening border security, dismantling support systems within, and holding external actors accountable. The cost of inaction is no longer hypothetical — it’s measured in the blood of innocents.

Wanted: A grand bargain with China India’s Strategic Dilemma: Between Washington and Beijing



In a world teetering on the edge of geopolitical realignment, the poetic chaos W.B. Yeats captured in The Second Coming — “Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold...” — feels strikingly relevant. As the global order spins into uncertainty, India finds itself caught in the turbulence, facing difficult strategic choices, especially in light of Donald Trump’s return to the White House.

Under previous administrations, India’s foreign policy leaned heavily into strategic alignment with the United States. Multipolarity, multi-alignment, and polycentrism were the buzzwords, masking what was, in effect, the most pro-American posture in India’s history. But that era is rapidly evolving. Trump’s transactional approach to diplomacy, favoring one-on-one deals over multilateralism, renders old clichés obsolete.

The U.S. is already reshaping its approach to global crises. Hints of a Ukraine settlement are emerging, while Washington’s negotiations with Iran have swiftly moved to expert-level talks. Now, all eyes are on the looming U.S.-China trade showdown. Yet, both Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are holding back — no phone calls, no back chan-

nels. Beijing’s recent warning against appeasement and compromise signals rising tensions, especially with threats of retaliation for countries that undercut Chinese interests.

For India, this rhetoric is double-edged. On one side lies the comfort of U.S. strategic backing against China; on the other, the risk of being marginalized if Trump cuts a bilateral deal with Beijing that overlooks New Delhi’s concerns. Analyst Ashley Tellis has suggested that Trump may not see India as a major player in the U.S.-China rivalry — a sobering possibility for Indian policymakers who’ve invested deeply in the U.S. relationship.

Yet amid all this, a glaring omission remains: India’s reluctance to even attempt a strategic rapprochement with China. While New Delhi courts Washington — even tweaking nuclear liability laws to favor U.S. companies — it hasn’t shown a fraction of that energy toward designing a coherent, long-term framework for stability with Beijing. As global dynamics shift rapidly, India must ask itself whether continuing to hedge bets or boldly pursuing a grand bargain with China better serves its national interest.



Censoring History: The Uneasy Truth Behind the Phule Film Controversy

With the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) recommending 12 cuts to the film Phule, India seems to be moving toward a future where the historical oppressors are rebranded as victims. This growing discomfort with honest portrayals of caste realities echoes an Orwellian distortion of truth: war is peace, freedom is slavery, ignorance is strength.

The CBFC’s objection to scenes showing Brahmins attacking Savitribai Phule reflects a larger agenda—an attempt to sanitize history. During the Peshwa rule, the untouchables faced brutal oppression. When Savitribai dared to educate girls in Pune, she was harassed and attacked by upper-caste Brahmins. Even Anandi Gopal Joshi, India’s first female doctor, faced opposition from her own Brahmin community. Why, then, is the truth suddenly unbearable?

In the 2019 biopic Anandi Gopal, a scene depicting Brahmin neighbours throwing garbage at Anandi for seeking education was met with little resistance. Perhaps because it showed conflict within the community itself, it was seen as less threatening. But Phule, which centers on Brahmin opposition to lower-caste empowerment, appears to have crossed an

invisible line.

The problem isn’t just what the CBFC censors—it’s what it allows. When Chaava portrayed the atrocities of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb against Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, it didn’t provoke concerns about fueling anti-Muslim sentiment. So why the anxiety over Phule possibly stirring anti-Brahmin sentiment?

This selective outrage reveals an unease with truth-telling. When censorship protects dominant groups, it stops being regulatory and becomes complicit. Director Anant Mahadevan’s defense—“I’m a staunch Brahmin, why would I malign my community?”—only underscores the issue. You can’t claim pride in your caste while rejecting its historical accountability.

Instead of erasing uncomfortable facts, we must confront them. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” India must move beyond defensive narratives and toward honest reckonings. Truth may be uncomfortable, but without it, there can be no justice. The caste question isn’t just historical—it’s deeply contemporary. And the fight for truth-telling has only just begun.



Testament to Love: JD Vance at Taj

US Vice President JD Vance, currently on a four-day visit to India, visited the iconic Taj Mahal on Wednesday along with his wife, Usha Vance, and their three children—Ewan, Vivek, and Mirabel. The family spent about an hour exploring the monument, widely regarded as the ultimate symbol of love. In the visitor's diary, Mr. Vance penned a heartfelt note: "The Taj Mahal is amazing. A testament to true love, human ingenuity, and a tribute to the great country of India." The Vance family arrived in Agra from Jaipur, where they were welcomed at the airport by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The Chief Minister later shared his greetings on social media, stating, "A warm wel-

come to Hon'ble US Vice President Mr JD Vance and his family to Uttar Pradesh, the sacred heartland of India, renowned for its timeless devotion, vibrant culture and spiritual legacy." The convoy's route from the airport to the Taj Mahal was transformed into a celebration of Indo-US ties. Colorful rangolis, sand art, and large welcome hoardings adorned key junctions, while hundreds of school-children lined the streets waving the US and Indian flags. The 12-km stretch to the monument via Shilpgram was placed under heavy security, with a joint presence of Indian forces and US security teams who had been stationed in the city for the past three days.

At the monument, the Vance family appeared relaxed and cheerful as they admired the marble mausoleum commissioned by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal. This visit marks an important cultural moment during JD Vance's India tour, coming at a time when the US and India continue to deepen strategic and diplomatic ties. The emphasis on cultural appreciation and family engagement during his stay highlights the softer aspects of diplomacy and mutual respect between the two nations. After the visit, the Vance family returned to the Agra airport to continue their itinerary, which includes further diplomatic engagements in New Delhi.

Bangladesh Condemns J&K Terror Attack

Bangladesh has strongly condemned the recent terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, which left 26 people dead, including tourists from 14 Indian states and two foreign nationals. In an official statement issued on social media platform X by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh expressed deep condolences and reiterated its commitment to the global fight against terrorism.

"Bangladesh strongly condemns the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir in India resulting in the tragic loss of innocent lives. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and express solidarity with those affected by this mindless violence," the statement read.

The country's interim government Chief Adviser, Professor Muhammad Yunus, also personally conveyed his condolences. Addressing Prime Minister Modi, he stated, "Excellency: Please accept my deepest condolences over the loss of life resulting from the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. We strongly condemn this heinous act and reaffirm Bangladesh's resolute stand against terrorism."

Bangladesh's condemnation followed similar statements from global powers including the US, UK, Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, France, Italy, Israel, UAE, Iran, and neigh-



boring countries like Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. However, some foreign policy analysts questioned the delay in Bangladesh's response compared to other nations who reacted immediately after the attack. The brutal attack occurred in Baisaran, a popular tourist destination near Pahalgam, often called "mini-Switzerland" for its lush meadows and scenic views. Terrorists reportedly questioned tourists about their religion before shooting them at close range. The Resistance Front (TRF), widely recognized as a proxy of the Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba, claimed responsibility. The attack comes amid increased tourist activity in Jammu and Kashmir, which has contributed to local economic growth.

PM Chairs Key Meet on Pahalgam Attack



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired an emergency meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) at his residence on Wednesday to discuss the devastating terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, that claimed 26 lives. This meeting brought together key national security figures including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. The attack, carried out in the Baisaran meadow—a popular tourist destination near Pahalgam—has been described as one of the deadliest in the Kashmir Valley since the 2019 Pulwama attack. According to reports, terrorists opened fire on a group of tourists, target-

ing men after asking about their religion. Among the victims were people from 14 Indian states and two foreign nationals. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval briefed the Prime Minister on the ground situation. The Resistance Front (TRF), a known proxy of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for the massacre, prompting a wave of outrage and calls for retaliation across the country. Amit Shah, who was in Srinagar earlier in the day, rushed to Delhi to attend the high-level CCS meeting. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh issued a firm statement, assuring the public that the government will respond swiftly and appropriately. "We will not only bring the perpetrators to justice but also go after those who

planned and conspired this cowardly act," he said, without naming Pakistan directly. Prime Minister Modi, who cut short his visit to Saudi Arabia and returned early Wednesday, took to social media to condemn the attack. In an emotional message on X (formerly Twitter), he said, "Those behind this heinous act will not be spared... Our resolve to fight terrorism is unshakeable." Referring to past responses, Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar reminded that India had responded decisively after the Uri and Pulwama attacks with surgical and air strikes. "Wherever they are—across the LoC or international boundary—we will get them," he said, reaffirming India's aggressive stance on cross-border terrorism.

Fadnavis: Masterminds Won't Be Spared

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has strongly condemned the gruesome terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, calling it a "cowardly" act meant to instill fear and derail India's progress. Speaking after the tragic incident that killed 26 people—among them six from Maharashtra—Fadnavis declared that the country would respond firmly and ensure the masterminds are held accountable. "I condemn the cowardly attack in Kashmir. These terrorists aim to make us stop in our tracks, but India will not be intimidated. The attackers and those behind them will face a fitting response," he said in a statement to NDTV.



The attack, which took place at the scenic Baisaran meadow near Pahalgam on Tuesday, is the deadliest in the Valley since the 2019 Pulwama terror strike. Heavily armed terrorists opened fire on a group of tourists, after reportedly asking about their religion. One survivor recounted how a gunman told her, "Nahi maareng. Tum Modi ko jaake bolo" (I won't kill you. Go and tell Modi). The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the banned Pa-

kistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), has claimed responsibility for the massacre. The victims included 25 Indians and one Nepalese national. Several others were injured.

Fadnavis took to X (formerly Twitter) to express his sorrow and solidarity: "My heartfelt tributes to those who lost their lives. Deepest condolences to the bereaved families. We stand firmly with them in this tragic hour." He also revealed that the Maharashtra government is coordinating closely with Jammu and

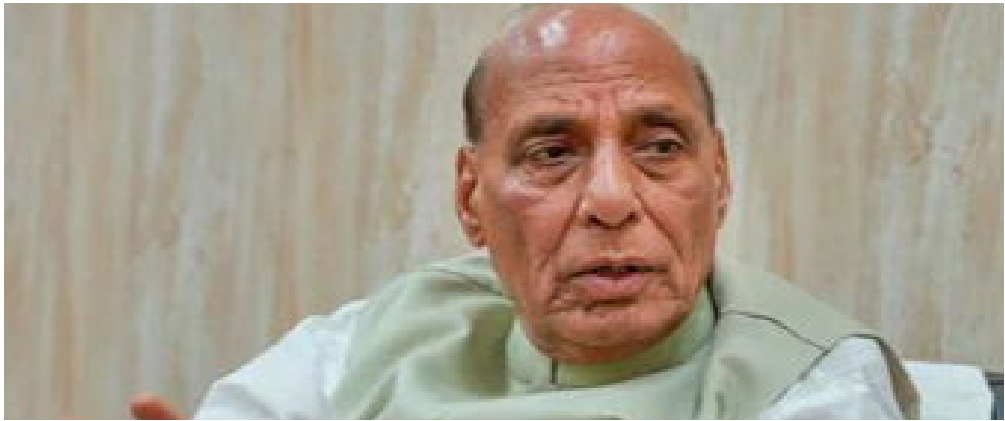
Kashmir authorities. "I spoke with Divisional Commissioner Vijaykumar Bidari and received a detailed briefing," he said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who cut short his Saudi Arabia visit, returned to Delhi and immediately chaired a high-level security meeting. "Those behind this heinous act will not be spared. Our fight against terrorism is unwavering," PM Modi said. As the nation mourns, calls for justice grow louder, and India's top leadership signals a tough and targeted response to those responsible for the brutal act.

"Rajnath Singh Vows Strong Retaliation"

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has strongly condemned the horrific terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam and assured the nation of a "loud and clear response" to those responsible. The attack, which took place on Tuesday at Baisaran meadow, claimed 26 lives—including two foreigners and two locals—marking one of the deadliest assaults in the region since the 2019 Pulwama strike. Addressing the nation on Wednesday,

Rajnath Singh said, "Terrorists targeted a particular religion in this cowardly act. Every Indian stands united in grief and anger. I assure my fellow citizens that the government will take all necessary and appropriate actions in response." He emphasized that India's retaliation would not be limited to those who carried out the attack. "We will reach not only the perpetrators but also the masterminds be-

hind them," Singh said, indicating a broader crackdown on the terror networks and their supporters. The Defence Minister's comments came as part of the government's heightened security and diplomatic efforts following the tragic event. The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for the massacre, which has drawn global condemnation and sparked calls for decisive action.



Terror Strikes Pahalgam: 26 Killed in Worst Attack in India Since 2008

Pak Army Chief's "Jugular Vein" Speech Viral Again After J&K Terror Strike

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a horrifying act of violence, at least 26 people were killed and 17 others injured after terrorists opened fire on tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam district on Tuesday. The attack, which took place in the scenic Baisaran Valley — often called "mini Switzerland" — marks the deadliest assault on civilians in India since the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

According to police, the victims included 25 Indian nationals and one Nepali tourist. Eyewitnesses and survivors shared harrowing video footage showing bodies lying on the grass as people cried out for help. Many of the victims were families visiting the picturesque region, which had recently seen a revival in tourism.



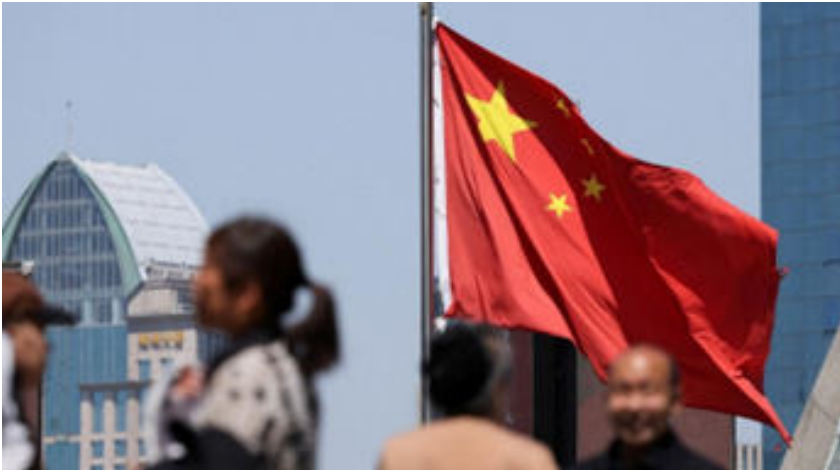
Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who returned early from an official visit to Saudi Arabia, condemned the attack, stating that those responsible for the "heinous act will be brought to justice." Security agencies have since launched a massive operation to track down the perpetrators.

The Resistance Front (TRF), a known proxy of the banned Pakistan-based Lash-

kar-e-Taiba (LeT), has claimed responsibility for the attack via a social media post. The group expressed anger over the reported settlement of more than 85,000 non-locals in the region, accusing the government of attempting to alter Kashmir's demographic balance. However, official confirmation of TRF's involvement is still awaited from the Indian government.

This brutal assault came just days after Pakistan's Army Chief, General Asim Munir, reignited tensions with provocative remarks about Kashmir. Speaking at the Overseas Pakistanis Convention in Islamabad on April 16, Munir described Kashmir as Pakistan's "jugular vein" and emphasized unwavering support for what he called the "heroic struggle" of Kashmiris. He also defended the two-nation theory that led to the 1947 Partition, drawing sharp criticism from Indian officials.

The attack has reignited security and diplomatic tensions between India and Pakistan, with calls for stronger counter-terrorism measures and international condemnation of cross-border terrorism. As the investigation unfolds, the nation mourns the loss of innocent lives in a region long plagued by conflict.



China to Launch Shenzhou-20 Mission with Three Astronauts and Life Science Experiments

TPN Correspondent | Beijing

China is set to launch its Shenzhou-20 crewed space mission on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 5:17 p.m. local time (2:47 p.m. IST), according to a statement by Chinese state media on Wednesday. The mission will send three astronauts to the Tiangong space station as part of the country's expanding efforts in space exploration.

The crew for the Shenzhou-20 mission includes veteran astronaut Chen Dong, along with Chen Zhongrui and Wang Jie. The primary goal of this mission is to carry out an in-orbit crew rotation with the Shenzhou-19 team, who are scheduled to return to Earth on April 29 at the Dongfeng landing site.

In addition to the rotation, the Shenzhou-20 astronauts will undertake a series of key tasks during their stay at the space station. These include conducting scientific and applied research experiments, installing equipment designed to shield the station from space debris, and executing extravehicular activities to attach external payloads and components.

One of the most notable aspects of the mission is its focus on life science research. The spacecraft will carry zebrafish, planarians (a type of flatworm known for its regenerative abilities), and streptomyces — a genus of bacteria known for producing antibiotics. These organisms will be used in three separate experiments aimed at studying biological responses to microgravity and long-duration spaceflight. Such studies are critical for future missions, especially as space agencies worldwide eye long-term stays on the Moon and Mars.

Chinese space officials emphasized the importance of the mission at a press conference aired on national broadcaster CCTV, noting that the experiments and installations will contribute to both scientific advancement and operational safety aboard Tiangong.

The Shenzhou-20 launch marks another milestone in China's rapidly growing space program, which has become a cornerstone of national pride and global competition in space exploration. With every successful mission, China inches closer to establishing itself as a major player in the new space race.



Chinese citizens working at drone production site in Russia: Ukraine President Zelenskyy

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has alleged that Chinese citizens are working at a drone production facility in Russia, raising new concerns about Beijing's potential indirect involvement in Moscow's war against Ukraine. The revelation came during a news conference in Kyiv on Tuesday, further intensifying diplomatic tensions between Ukraine and China.

Zelenskyy hinted that Russia may have acquired Chinese drone technology without formal government approval, suggesting that the transfer could have occurred through unauthorized agreements with Chinese nationals. "We believe that it may be that Russia stole—or made a deal with these citizens outside of



official agreements with the Chinese leadership—these technologies," he said.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry followed up by summoning Chinese Ambassador Ma Shengkun, formally expressing its "serious concerns" over what it described as the participation of Chinese nationals in Russia's military production efforts. In a state-

ment, Deputy Foreign Minister Yevhen Perebyinis urged Beijing to take concrete steps to halt any support for Russia's aggression, which China has repeatedly denied providing.

This marks a shift in tone from Ukraine, which previously maintained a more cautious approach toward Beijing. Zelenskyy recently claimed that China was supplying Russia with weapons and gunpowder—an accusation strongly rejected by Chinese authorities.

Zelenskyy also claimed earlier this month that Russia was attempting to recruit Chinese nationals via social media platforms to fight in Ukraine. While he acknowledged that it remains unclear whether these actions were sanctioned by Beijing, he emphasized

that Kyiv was actively gathering intelligence on the matter.

On Tuesday, the Ukrainian president said he had ordered the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) to share relevant intelligence with the Chinese government. "Separately, I asked the SBU to transfer broader information to the Chinese side regarding Chinese citizens who work at the drone factory," he noted.

China's foreign ministry responded on Wednesday, rejecting the accusations as "groundless" and criticizing what it called "political manipulation." As diplomatic strains deepen, the allegations emerge at a critical moment in U.S.-led international efforts to end the war, placing China under growing scrutiny over its relationship with Russia.

Putin Reportedly Offers Ceasefire Along Current Front Line in Ukraine Amid U.S. Talks

TPN Correspondent | United Kingdom

Russian President Vladimir Putin has allegedly offered to halt Russia's invasion of Ukraine along the current front lines, the Financial Times reported Tuesday, citing sources familiar with recent discussions. The reported offer came during a meeting with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff in St. Petersburg earlier this month, as part of ongoing efforts to bring an end to the war, now in its third year.

According to the FT report, Putin signaled that Moscow might be willing to relinquish claims to parts of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions — all areas where Russian forces currently maintain a partial presence. However, this would come in exchange for significant concessions from the United States.

The Kremlin's demands reportedly include U.S. recog-



nition of Russian sovereignty over Crimea, which was annexed in 2014, as well as formal guarantees that Ukraine will not join NATO. These long-standing goals have been central to Russia's geopolitical agenda since before the 2022 invasion.

The proposal surfaces as former U.S. President Donald Trump, currently campaigning to return to office, pushes to fulfill his campaign pledge to end the war. Trump has frequently criticized continued

U.S. military aid to Ukraine and suggested he could broker a peace deal quickly if reelected.

However, Kyiv remains steadfast in its demand for a full restoration of Ukraine's internationally recognized borders — including Crimea — as a non-negotiable condition for peace. This stance is strongly supported by most European allies, despite mounting global fatigue over the prolonged conflict. U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has called

Ukraine's position "unrealistic," suggesting a more pragmatic approach may be necessary to end the bloodshed. The Biden administration has not publicly confirmed any change in policy or reaction to the reported talks.

While the FT report has not been officially confirmed by Moscow or Washington, it suggests a potential turning point — or at least a test — in diplomatic efforts to halt one of Europe's most devastating conflicts since World War II.

Strong 6.2 Magnitude Earthquake Strikes Marmara Sea, Rattling Istanbul

A powerful 6.2 magnitude earthquake struck the Marmara Sea near Istanbul's western Silivri district on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, sending shockwaves through Türkiye's largest city and prompting residents to flee into the streets in panic.

Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya confirmed the quake, which occurred at 12:49 p.m. local time (0949 GMT), and stated it was widely felt across the surrounding provinces. According to Türkiye's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), the main quake was followed by a series of aftershocks, ranging in magnitude from 4.4 to 4.9.

By 3:12 p.m., a total of 51 aftershocks had been recorded, with the strongest registering at 5.9 magnitude, Yerlikaya said. He noted that the initial quake occurred at a depth of approximately seven kilometers and lasted for about 13 seconds.

As buildings trembled, frightened residents rushed outdoors. Near the iconic Galata Tower, a visibly shaken decorator, fleeing from a fourth-floor apartment, said, "I just felt earthquake, I've got to get out," declining to share his name.

Despite the chaos, city officials and the Istanbul Governor's Office reported no immediate injuries or structural collapses. "Until now, we have no information about any buildings collapsing," authorities said, while urging caution and advising residents to stay away from potentially weakened structures.

The Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality echoed these reassurances on X, stating, "No serious cases have been reported so far following the earthquake in Istanbul."

Mixed Global Cues, Strong IT Buying Drive Markets Higher

Domestic stock markets performed well for the seventh consecutive session. They gained heavily on Wednesday. The benchmark indices, which reached highs in the beginning, came under pressure after some time. Investors took profits in banking and finance shares, which reached daily lows. The indices recovered again due to mixed signals from global markets, the release of company results, and increased buying in shares of pharma, healthcare and IT sectors. The strength of US tech companies affected IT companies here. Overall, Nifty rose by 161 points and Sensex by 520 points. The Nifty closed above 24,300 is a positive.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 79,595 in the previous session, opened at 80,142 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low at 79,506. It reached an intraday high at 80,254. Finally, it closed at 80,116 with a gain of 520 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,357, reached a low of 24,119 and a high of 24,359. It rose by 161 points in total and closed at 24,328. The Nifty Bank fell by 277 points and settled at 55,370.

In the Nifty50, 39 companies gained and 11 lost. HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra,

Tata Motors, Wipro, Infy were the top gainers. HDFC Bank, Kotak Bank, Grasim, SBI, Eicher Motors were the top losers. The midcap index performed well today. The IT index rose by 4.34%. Auto, pharma, healthcare, realty, metal, FMCG did not fare well. Profit booking was seen in consumer durables, private bank, PSU bank, finance, media shares.

Market breadth was almost equal for buyers and sellers on NSE today. Out of a total of 2931 shares traded, 1516 gained. 1340 lost. 50 shares reached their 52-week high and 7 shares reached their 52-week low. 124 shares touched the upper circuit and 41 shares touched the lower circuit.

The rupee weakened by 23 paise against the dollar today to settle at 85.42. Nomura has given a reduce rating to M&M Financial with a target price of Rs. 230. After almost two months, the IPO buzz has started in the market. Ather Energy shares are set to be listed on the stock exchanges on May 6. Jefferies has given a hold rating to Havells with a target price of Rs 1,800. Morgan Stanley has given an overweight rating to AU Small Finance Bank with a target price of Rs 750. NBCC has bagged projects worth Rs 65 crore in Odisha and Hyderabad. HSBC has maintained a buy rating on Mahindra & Mahindra. 35 lakh shares of Canara Bank changed hands in a block deal. UBS has giv-

en a buy rating to Cholamandalam Investment with a target price of Rs 1,950. 10 lakh shares of ITC changed hands.

Hero MotoCorp
Hero MotoCorp reported a 12% year-on-year increase in profit after tax (PAT) to ₹1,203 crore for Q3 FY25, with revenue from operations reaching ₹10,211 crore. The company declared an interim dividend of ₹100 per share. However, challenges have emerged, including the resignation of key executives and a decline in market position, slipping to third place in two-wheeler sales behind Honda and TVS. Additionally, its investment in Ather Energy faces valuation concerns amid a scaled-down IPO.

Torrent Pharmaceuticals
In Q1 FY25, Torrent Pharma's net profit rose by 21% year-on-year to ₹457 crore, and revenue increased by 10% to ₹2,859 crore. Despite these strong results, the stock declined by over 4%, as analysts adjusted target prices following a significant run-up in the stock over the past three months. The company faces challenges in Brazil due to floods but anticipates growth in Germany through new tender



wins and potential improvements in the U.S. market with upcoming product launches.

Alkem Laboratories
As of April 2025, there are no significant new updates available for Alkem Laboratories. The company continues its operations in the pharmaceutical sector, focusing on its existing product portfolio and market presence.

Astral Ltd.
Currently, there are no notable recent developments reported for Astral Ltd. The company maintains its position in the building materials in-

dustry, with ongoing activities in its established business segments.

ICICI Lombard General Insurance
ICICI Lombard reported a 2% decline in Q4 FY25 profit to ₹5.10 billion, primarily due to a 25.5% increase in claims paid and changes in premium accounting regulations. Despite this, gross premiums grew by 10% to ₹69.04 billion, with the retail health insurance segment expanding by approximately 30% and the motor segment by 18%. Analysts remain optimistic, with Sharekhan maintaining a 'Buy' rating and a target price of ₹2,550, citing strong investment income and improved underwriting performance.

World Bank lowers India's FY26 growth forecast to 6.3%

The World Bank on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, revised India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal year down to 6.3%, a sharp 0.4 percentage point cut from its earlier projection of 6.7%. The downward revision comes amid growing concerns over global economic weakness and domestic policy uncertainty, as outlined in the World Bank's latest South Asia Economic Focus report.

According to the report, India's economic momentum in the fiscal year 2024-25 has been slower than expected, primarily due to a slump in private investment and public capital expenditure, both of which fell short of government targets. These factors have tempered what was initially anticipated to be a stronger post-pandemic recovery.

"In India, growth in FY24/25 disappointed because of slower growth in private investment and public capital expenditures that did not meet government targets," the World Bank noted in its twice-yearly regional economic outlook.

The report attributes part of this slowdown to tightening global financial conditions and weakening external demand, which have impacted exports and investor sentiment. Domestically, challenges such as delays in infrastructure projects, regulatory bottlenecks, and inflationary pressures have further contributed to a cautious investment environment.

Despite the downgrade, In-

dia remains one of the fastest-growing major economies globally, with growth still projected to outpace many advanced and emerging markets. However, the World Bank emphasized the need for policy clarity, faster implementation of infrastructure and welfare programs, and sustained fiscal support to maintain growth momentum.

The revised forecast comes at a time when India is grappling with balancing inflation control, stimulating domestic demand, and boosting job creation. The country's central bank has maintained a cautious monetary stance, aiming to contain inflation without stifling growth.

As global economic uncertainties persist, including geopolitical tensions and fluctuating commodity prices, the path ahead for India's economy will require careful policy navigation and targeted investments to reignite private sector confidence.

The World Bank's latest assessment serves as a reminder of the challenges that lie ahead and the critical importance of structural reforms in securing a stable and inclusive growth trajectory for India.

HCL Technologies Shares Surge Over 7% After Strong Q4 Results and Robust Deal Wins

Shares of HCL Technologies soared more than 7% on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, following the company's announcement of strong financial results for the January-March quarter of fiscal year 2024-25. The stock emerged as the top gainer on both the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty during morning trade, jumping 7.42% to ₹1,589.95 on the BSE and 7.43% to ₹1,590 on the NSE.

The rally came after HCL Technologies reported an 8.1% rise in consolidated net profit for the fourth quarter, reaching ₹4,307 crore, compared to ₹3,986 crore in the same period last year. The growth was attributed largely to large-scale deal wins totaling approximately ₹25,500 crore (\$3 billion), which significantly boosted investor sentiment.

In a regulatory filing, the company stated that revenue from operations for the March quarter rose 6.1% year-on-year to



₹30,246 crore, up from ₹28,499 crore in Q4 of FY24. The operating margin for the quarter stood at 17.9%, reflecting solid execution and cost efficiency.

"We had a very strong quarter — the second highest in terms of deal bookings after the September 2023 quarter," said HCL Technologies CEO and Managing Director C Vijayakumar. "The \$3 billion in net new bookings this quarter was well-distribut-

ed across service lines, geographies, and industry verticals."

He further highlighted that the company's services business grew 0.7% sequentially and 2.7% on a year-on-year basis.

For the full fiscal year ending March 31, 2025, HCL Technologies reported a net profit of ₹17,390 crore, marking an 11% increase over ₹15,710 crore in FY24. Annual revenue rose 6.5% to ₹1,17,055 crore.

The strong financial performance and robust pipeline of new contracts underscore HCL Tech's growing competitiveness in the global IT services sector, even amid a challenging macroeconomic environment. With solid fundamentals and continued deal momentum, the company is well-positioned for sustained growth in the upcoming quarters.

Luxury Goods Above ₹10 Lakh to Attract 1% TCS: Sitharaman

Buyers of high-end luxury items priced above ₹10 lakh will face a 1% Tax Collected at Source (TCS) at the point of sale, the Income Tax Department announced in an official notification. The new rule applies to a wide range of luxury goods, including wristwatches, designer handbags, antiques, paintings, sculptures, sunglasses, home theatre systems, premium shoes, and sportswear.

This move, which was first introduced in the Union Budget of July 2024 and scheduled for implementation from January 1, 2025, has now officially come into force. It extends the TCS framework beyond high-value motor vehicles to include other premium and lifestyle products that cater to India's affluent consumers.

The purpose of this expanded tax regime is to enhance financial transparency and accountability in luxury transactions. By



mandating a TCS on high-value purchases, the tax authorities aim to trace the sale of such goods and cross-check them with the declared income of purchasers. This could help flag potential cases of tax evasion where individuals may be spending disproportionately compared to their reported earnings.

For instance, if a buyer purchases a luxury wristwatch worth ₹12 lakh, the seller will collect ₹12,000 as TCS and depos-

it it with the government. This amount will reflect in the buyer's Form 26AS and Annual Information Statement (AIS), ensuring that tax authorities are alerted to high-value spending.

Experts say this step is part of a broader effort to widen the tax base and improve compliance. It also reflects the government's increasing reliance on data analytics to monitor financial behavior and match lifestyle with income declarations. Businesses selling such goods will now be required to ensure proper documentation and timely remittance of the collected tax.

While this new rule adds a minor cost burden to luxury buyers, its greater significance lies in tightening the net around undeclared income and black money. As consumption patterns evolve, tax authorities are working to ensure that fiscal oversight keeps pace with rising affluence and spending habits in India.

New Bride Becomes Face of Tragedy

A heart-wrenching image from the Pahalgam terror attack has come to symbolize the devastating violence that struck the scenic region of south Kashmir. A newlywed woman, with wrists adorned in traditional red and white chooda bangles, was seen holding her lifeless husband — a moment of love turned into horror, now seared into the nation’s memory. The couple was reportedly on their honeymoon when terrorists opened fire on a group of tourists at a popular site in Pahalgam on Tuesday. The brutal assault left at least 26 dead, including two foreign nationals from the UAE and Nepal, as well as two locals. Several others were critically injured. In a chilling video that has gone viral, the grief-stricken woman is seen pleading for help: “We were having bhelpuri when they came. They shot my husband. Please save my husband!” Her silent anguish in a widely shared photograph has triggered an outpouring of grief and fury across social media. Social media users expressed their heartbreak and rage, turning the image into a rallying symbol. “Her silence is louder than her cries,” one post read. Others created posters with the message: Never Forget, Never Forgive. Some users used the tragic moment to criti-



cize the film Abir Gulaal, featuring Pakistani actor Fawad Khan, while others condemned Pakistan for allegedly harboring terrorists. A user from Balochistan called Pakistan a “terrorist state,” amplifying the call for global scrutiny. In a moving interview, Pallavi from Karnataka — who lost her husband Manjunath in the attack — recounted the horror. “He died in front of me. I couldn’t even react,” she said. Their son Abhijeya was with them at the time. As India mourns yet another terror strike, Prime Minister Modi has vowed justice for the victims, while netizens continue to rally around the powerful image that now defines the tragedy of Pahalgam.

Student Hits Lecturer Over Phone

A shocking incident at a private engineering college near Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, has sparked outrage after a female student assaulted a woman lecturer for confiscating her mobile phone. The altercation, which occurred on April 21, came to light after a video of the incident went viral a day later.



According to reports, the confrontation began when the lecturer asked the student to stop talking loudly on the phone during class hours. When the student ignored the warning, the lecturer confiscated her phone. This triggered a violent reaction from the student, who allegedly hurled verbal abuse before removing her footwear and striking the lecturer in front of other students. One of the witnesses recorded the incident on a mobile phone, and the video quickly spread online, drawing widespread criticism. Social media users condemned the student’s behavior, calling it a sign of deteriorating respect for educators in academic institutions. Many expressed deep concern over the rising indiscipline among students. “Today’s generation doesn’t tolerate correction. Let them learn the hard way,” one user commented. Another wrote, “Such behavior should not be ignored — strict action must be taken to maintain decorum on campuses.” Despite the uproar, the college management re-

portedly chose not to take disciplinary action against the student. According to sources, the decision was influenced by a request from the student’s parents, citing concern for her future. Meanwhile, the Bheemili police confirmed they were aware of the incident but had not received a formal complaint from either the lecturer or the college authorities. While the student was reportedly cautioned by the college, many online are demanding her suspension or dismissal. “Issue a Transfer Certificate with a note on misconduct,” one user urged. The incident has reignited discussions on campus discipline, teacher safety, and the need for firm institutional response to student violence. As the video continues to circulate, netizens are calling for swift justice and stronger protections for educators.

UPSC Rank 533 Sparks Internet Frenzy

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has released the final results for the 2024 Civil Services Examination, with 1,009 candidates clearing one of the toughest exams in the country. While Shakti Dubey from Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, secured the top rank, another name has been stealing the spotlight online — Poorva Choudhary, who achieved an All India Rank of 533. Interestingly, Poorva’s sudden internet fame has less to do with her rank and more with her appearance. Social media users have been captivated by her looks, with several posts praising her “face card” — a slang term for someone’s photogenic appeal. Memes, fan edits, and congratulatory



comments have flooded platforms like Instagram and X. The buzz began when Poorva’s sister, Navya Saharan, shared a heartfelt Instagram post celebrating her achievement. The video compilation included several candid moments and a photo of Poorva standing in front of the UPSC headquarters, triggering a wave of reactions and admiration online. Among the 1,009 successful candidates this year, 725 are men and 284 are women. Poorva’s viral moment highlights how aspirants, beyond their academic achievements, are increasingly becoming social media sensations — especially during high-stakes results seasons. While some netizens expressed

light-hearted admiration, others applauded her for managing to crack one of the world’s most competitive exams. “Beauty with brains,” wrote a user. Another commented, “Even rank 533 can trend if the face card is strong!” However, the viral fame also sparked debates, with a few voices questioning the focus on appearance rather than merit. “Let’s not reduce UPSC achievers to just looks,” one commenter noted. Regardless of the opinions, Poorva Choudhary has captured the internet’s attention, symbolizing not just academic success, but also how personality and social media presence can shape public perception in today’s digital era.

Indian Girl’s Post Sparks Debate on Life Abroad



A Reddit post by a 21-year-old woman from Gujarat has stirred intense debate online after she candidly compared her life in India to that of her cousin living in the UK. Shared in the r/nri community under the username Bubbly-Damage4746, the post explores the sharp contrast in freedom, opportunity, and quality of life between the two young women. Both cousins grew up together in India until age 14, when one moved to Wales with her family. Despite the distance, they maintained a close bond through regular video calls. However, as they entered adulthood, their paths diverged significantly. The woman in Gujarat described her struggles in pursuing electrical engineering after scoring 86% in her Class 12 board exams. While she managed to enter a mid-tier college, she found internships hard to come by. Her most recent stint involved 10-hour workdays with

a modest stipend of Rs 12,000 per month. She also spoke of the emotional burden of academic pressure and societal expectations, especially after failing to crack the JEE. Adding to her frustration were the social limitations placed on her as a woman — her family doesn’t permit her to travel alone due to safety concerns. In stark contrast, her cousin in the UK is studying Aerospace Engineering at the University of Bath, has completed two well-paid internships with reasonable hours, and even turned down an offer from ISRO to stay in the UK. She’s part of her university’s F1 student club and has traveled to several European countries, including Italy and Hungary. The post resonated with thousands online, drawing both empathy and critique. Many agreed on the glaring disparities in professional opportunities and personal freedom between India and the West.

Mother Mocking Son’s Anxiety Sparks Outrage

A video shared on Instagram has drawn massive backlash after a woman was seen mocking her son’s apparent anxiety episode, dismissing his distress as mere “nautanki” (drama). The clip quickly went viral, sparking concern among mental health professionals and parents alike, with many calling it a troubling example of insensitivity and poor parenting. In the video, the young boy is visibly distressed while doing his homework, struggling to breathe and on the verge of tears. Despite his evident discomfort, his mother records the moment and offers no comfort. Instead, she coldly remarks, “You were breathing fine while playing earlier,” downplaying what appears to be a possible anxiety attack. The child, trying to explain himself,

says, “Meri saans atak atak ke chal rahi hai (I’m unable to breathe properly),” indicating he might be experiencing a panic or anxiety-related episode. He even mentions having had similar breathing issues while playing outside earlier, but his mother continues to dismiss it, reinforcing the idea that he is overreacting. The woman posted the video with the caption “nautanki,” further trivializing the situation. While she may have intended it to be humorous or relatable, the internet responded with swift condemnation. Mental health experts weighed in on the clip, emphasizing the importance of recognizing symptoms of anxiety in children. Many users called the behavior not just dismissive, but damaging, especially given the growing mental



health challenges faced by children today. Social media users slammed the mother for prioritizing online attention over her child’s emotional well-being. “This is not content, this is a cry for help being ignored,” one comment read. Another user pointed out, “Mocking a child’s distress is not parenting; it’s cruelty.” As the video continues to circulate, it has reignited conversations about mental health awareness, especially among children, and the responsibility adults have in handling such situations with care and understanding.

Anchor Stays Calm as Quake Hits Live

In a gripping moment caught live on air, a 6.02-magnitude earthquake struck Turkey during a television broadcast, leaving viewers stunned and anchor Meltem Bozbeyoglu’s composure going viral. The incident occurred on Wednesday while Bozbeyoglu was presenting live on CNN Turkey. As the tremors began to shake the newsroom, the anchor momentarily paused, visibly reacting to the quake. However, despite the unsettling jolt, she quickly regained her focus and continued delivering the news with remarkable poise. “A very strong earthquake is happening right now. A very strong earthquake is being felt in Istanbul,” she calmly reported, as the set visibly trembled around her. Her ability to maintain professionalism in the face of an un-



folding natural disaster earned widespread praise on social media, with many hailing her as a symbol of journalistic grit and calm under pressure. The earthquake, confirmed by Turkey’s emergency management agency, was one of several that struck the region on Wednesday, with the strongest measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale. Although centered near Istanbul, trem-

ors were felt across western Turkey, triggering car alarms and prompting residents to evacuate buildings as a precaution. Fortunately, there were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage. However, the quakes caused widespread anxiety, especially in Istanbul—a city that straddles the seismic boundary between the European and Asian tectonic plates. The incident has sparked conversations about disaster preparedness in media environments and the resilience of professionals in high-pressure moments. As Turkey continues to monitor seismic activity in the region, the viral clip remains a powerful reminder of both nature’s unpredictability and human presence of mind.

Klaasen, Manohar Rescue SRH After Top-Order Collapse

Sunrisers Hyderabad posted 143/8 against Mumbai Indians, thanks to a gritty partnership between Heinrich Klaasen and Abhinav Manohar after a disastrous start in their IPL clash on Wednesday. SRH crumbled to 35/5 early on a flat pitch, showing little resistance. Klaasen then anchored the innings with a superb 71 off 44 balls, including nine fours and two sixes. He shared a crucial 99-run stand for the sixth wicket with impact sub Abhinav Manohar, who contributed a steady 43 from 37 deliveries. The SRH top order fell without pressure, reflecting the side's ongoing struggle—currently second-last on the points table. A bizarre moment added to the drama when MI's Ishan Kishan walked despite not edging a delivery, prompting the umpire to reverse a wide call into a dismissal.



Hockey India Stands with Victims of Pahalgam Terror Attack

Hockey India has extended heartfelt condolences to the victims of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, expressing solidarity with the affected families.



“In this moment of deep sorrow, the hockey fraternity across the nation mourns the loss of innocent lives and prays for peace and healing,” read an official statement. The attack, which claimed multiple lives and left many injured, has sparked nationwide outrage. Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited the injured at GMC Anantnag, while Defence Minister Rajnath Singh condemned the act and reaffirmed India's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism. “We will not only bring the perpetrators to justice but also those behind the scenes. A strong response will follow,” Singh said. The nation continues to mourn the tragedy, as calls for swift justice and tighter security measures grow louder.

BCCI Pays Tribute to Pahalgam Terror Attack Victims During IPL Match

In a heartfelt tribute, the BCCI honoured the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack during IPL match 41 between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Mumbai Indians at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium. A 60-second silence was observed before the game, allowing both in-stadium and broadcast audiences to join in mourning. Players, officials, and commentators wore black armbands as a mark of respect, while team captains expressed condolences and condemned the attack at the toss. In a solemn gesture, the match was held without cheerleaders, music, fireworks, or DJ activities to maintain a dignified atmosphere.



BCCI Honorary Secretary Devajit Saikia stated,

“We stand hand in hand with the bereaved families and condemn this cowardly act.” The tribute reflected cricket's unifying spirit and the nation's shared grief in the wake of the tragic incident.

Five Indian Women Chess Stars Join 64 Squares 2025 Batch

Five Indian women chess players, including International Master (IM) Vantika Agrawal, have been selected for the 2025 cohort of the 64 Squares Initiative — a joint effort by Pravaha Foundation and chess startup MGD1. The fellowship offers Rs 1 crore in support to cover training, tournament participation, and international exposure. Joining Vantika are WFM Shubhi Gupta, WFM Charvi Anilkumar, WIM Sarayu Velpula, and WIM Sahithi Varshini. Vantika, an Ar-

juna Awardee, was previously supported in 2023 and has since become an International Master, earning individual and team golds at the 2024 Chess Olympiad. The initiative is focused on elevating women's chess in India, and the new batch reflects its growing impact. Supported players have already contributed to India's success at global events, including a silver medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games and a strong showing at the 2024 Olympiad.



Dev Sets National Record, Misses Asian Qualifier

Dev Meena experienced both triumph and heartbreak on Day 2 of the National Federation Senior Athletics Championship in Kochi. The Madhya Pradesh athlete clinched gold in the pole vault and bettered his own national record by clearing 5.35 metres. However, he fell short of the Asian Championships qualifying mark of 5.51m set by the Athletics Federation of India. Meena had previously set the record at 5.32m during the Uttarakhand National Games in Dehradun. “I wanted to raise the bar but there was light drizzle and I didn't follow my coach's advice,” a disappointed Meena said.



In the women's 400m, Rupal edged past Tamil Nadu's Vithya, who led early but faded late. Rupal clocked 52.55s to take gold,

followed by Vithya (52.81s) and Sneha K (53.00s), as all top six finishers dipped under the Asian qualifying mark of 53.80s.

BAI Eyes Ex-India Stars for Coaching Roles

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) is looking to rope in former India internationals, including Parupalli Kashyap, as part of its coaching setup. A list of 11 names has been sent to the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for approval. BAI secretary general Sanjay Mishra emphasized that selected candidates will begin by working with junior teams at the National Centre for at least three months before progressing to senior roles. “We want them to be part of the coaching set-up. Some are already involved. We received over 40 applications,” Mishra said.

He added that bringing in Indian coaches is vital to revive traditional strengths like deception and net play, which have faded over time. The move

aims to strengthen the grassroots and ensure continuity in India's badminton development pipeline.





Nidhhi Agerwal Channels Royal Grace



As fans eagerly await Hari Hara Veera Mallu: Part 1 – Sword vs Spirit, actress Nidhhi Agerwal has captivated the internet with a regal new photoshoot. Dressed as her character Panchami, Nidhhi wore a pink silk saree and matching blouse, exuding timeless elegance. Styled with open hair, traditional bangles, and classic earrings, she struck graceful poses against a black backdrop—evoking the grandeur of a historical epic. The visuals strongly hint at the rich, period vibe promised by the long-awaited film. Although it's been two years since her last Telugu film Hero, Nidhhi continues to stay connected with fans through social media. This latest shoot offers a glimpse into her return to the big screen, building excitement for a project that has been in development for nearly three years.

Nani's Take on Review Culture

As debates flare over film reviews affecting Tollywood's box office, actor-producer Nani offered a thoughtful perspective. In a recent interview, he addressed the rising call for a review ban, stating that in today's social media era, stopping reviews is impossible. "Who do you stop? Why do you stop?" he asked. Nani suggested that reviewers should share opinions without prematurely labeling films as disasters. "It's fine to say a scene didn't work. But calling a movie a flop after the morning show isn't fair. If it's truly bad, people will know in ten days," he explained.



His comments resonate amid changing audience habits—fewer theater visits, faster OTT releases, and reliance on word-of-mouth. Nani's stance promotes balance: embrace opinions but let films breathe before passing final judgment.

Pawan Kalyan Set to Clear Backlog

Powerstar Pawan Kalyan is gearing up to wrap up his long-pending film projects, bringing relief to producers eagerly awaiting his dates. With three unfinished films—Hari Hara Veera Mallu, OG, and Ustaad Bhagat Singh—pressure has been mounting, especially since the first two are already sold to OTT platforms.



month, starting with Hari Hara Veera Mallu, which needs just a few more days of shooting. Next, he'll shift focus to Sujeeth's OG, aiming to wrap it quickly. From July, he's expected to begin filming Ustaad Bhagat Singh under Harish Shankar. With a structured schedule in place, Pawan seems determined to become "guilt-free" by completing all three films.

Understanding the urgency,

Pawan recently met with producers Mythri Movie Makers and DVV Danayya to discuss timelines. He plans to return to sets within a

Small Films Gear Up for April Finale

As April comes to a close, small-budget films are stepping into the spotlight, hoping to break the box office lull. With IPL 2025 in full swing and recent theatrical releases lacking spark, moviegoers have been less active at the cinemas.

This week, three new films—Sarangapani Jathakam, Chaurya Patham, and Gymkhana—are set to release. Among them, Sarangapani Jathakam has drawn attention due to its director, Indraganti Mohanakrishna, known for crafting light-hearted emotional dramas. The film stars Priyadarshi in the lead, with Venneela Kishore playing a significant role.

While these films may not boast star power or massive promotions, they aim to win over audiences with strong content and relatable storytelling. As the summer box office battle unfolds, all eyes are on whether these small films can make a big impact.



Taapsee Pannu's Powerful Saree Comeback

Taapsee Pannu is back in the spotlight, and she's making it count. Known for disappearing between projects, the actress now returns with her upcoming film Woh Ladki Hai Kahaan?, where she plays ACP Komal Sharma.

Ahead of the release, Taapsee stunned fans with a bold new look—draped in a rich brown saree paired with a corset blouse. The ensemble exuded strength and elegance, reflecting the commanding

character she's set to portray. It's been some time since her last Telugu film Mishan Impossible, which didn't create much buzz. But Taapsee appears unshaken. With this striking appearance, she signals a fresh chapter—one driven by intention and confidence. Her fashion-forward statement isn't just about style; it's a reminder that she's ready to own the screen once again.



Planetary Alignment Needed for Kalki 2

In a light-hearted comment during a Chennai event, director Nag Ashwin joked that Kalki 2 would release only when all eight planets align. While clearly humorous, his remark reflects the complexity of mounting a sequel to such a massive project. When asked about the sequel's timeline, Ashwin replied, "I don't know. The last time three or four planets aligned, Kalki 1 released. Maybe next time, when seven or eight align, Kalki 2 will be ready." Kalki has become a global success, with its scale and impact making it a pan-world cinematic event. Naturally, expectations for the sequel are sky-high, adding immense



pressure on the makers. Ashwin emphasized that the team would begin shooting only when fully prepared, signaling a careful and ambitious approach to the highly anticipated follow-up.