

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

HANDS UP BY CM REVANTH REDDY ON FINANCES

CM's Comments on Telangana's Financial Situation

“Even if you cut me, the revenue is not more than ₹18,500cr” – CM Revanth Reddy to employee unions.

“Will you cut, cook and eat me? Even then it will be ₹18,500cr only”

“Do you want me to increase fuel prices or essential commodities?”

“I am travelling by economy, not even first class in flights to avoid wasteful expenditure”

“We are not able to raise loans”

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Mr. Revanth Reddy, the Chief Minister of Telangana, has lashed out at the employees who are demanding wages and other solutions. He has spoken out about the financial situation of the state. “We are getting 18,500 crores monthly, and we need 22,500 crores. What to do?” he questioned. Now, questions are surfacing on social media about Chief Minister Mr. Revanth Reddy. “Does he not know the financial situation of the state before coming to power? How come he promised those schemes? To win, they will promise schemes, but after coming to power, they will explain the financial situation, as if they just got this knowledge. This is not fair,” said one government employee in a comment. It seems Mr. Revanth Reddy is lashing out on every issue. As Chief Minister,

he has to balance everything and answer to everyone. Due to the negativity created by the failed real estate sector, he seems to have become frustrated. His partial failure to fulfill the loan waiver promise and delays in paying Rythu Bharosa have caused anger among farmers. However, there is no indication that Mr. Revanth Reddy has failed completely, but issues do exist. The situation with the Hydra scheme has given the opposition a chance to campaign against him. But, not accounting for all these issues, simply lashing out at the employees for their demands is not a good sign for Mr. Revanth Reddy, many opine. Lambasting employees, unions, and others will likely lead to more negativity, which is a fact according to history. Though it is true that leaders cannot express their anger in such situations, they must resolve the issues — that is

why they are made heads of state. We can witness the same approach from leaders in recent times regarding financial matters. People give a mandate thinking that someone is capable of running the state in any condition. However, avoiding problems by explaining the situation is not a solution. Across the world, such leaders have stepped down in such situations. But, there is no indication that Mr. Revanth Reddy needs to lash out at associations, nor is there any need for him to step down from power. There is still plenty of time to change the situation and overcome all the problems, despite the poor financial situation. Many of Mr. Revanth Reddy's followers still believe that he can overcome these challenges and become a successful Chief Minister. Let time decide everything, and later, the people will decide.



Telangana Is Not Bankrupt, It's Your Corrupt Congress Party That Is

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
BRS Working President KT Rama Rao will address the media at Telangana Bhavan today afternoon, focusing on the state's finances and the latest comments made by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy regarding the financial situation of Telangana. KTR has expressed his strong disagreement with the CM's statements and has vowed to expose the Congress government's failed economic policies. Taking to X, KTR vehemently countered CM Revanth Reddy's remarks, which suggested that the state was facing a financial crisis. “Telangana State is not bankrupt,

Mr. Cheap Minister. It is you and your corrupt Congress party that is intellectually bankrupt and morally bereft,” KTR posted, making his stance clear on the ongoing debate surrounding the state's fiscal health. KTR's remarks come in response to the Chief Minister's earlier comments, where he highlighted the financial challenges the state government is currently facing and lamented the gap between the state's monthly income and required expenditures. The statement, however, did not sit well with the BRS leadership, with KTR now preparing to shed light on what he perceives as the Congress government's failures in managing the state's finances. The media briefing by KTR is expected to address key issues such as the fiscal deficit, the state's debt burden, and the effectiveness of the Congress-led government's policies in tackling financial challenges. The BRS working president is also likely to discuss the mismanagement and corruption charges he believes have plagued the Congress administration. As tensions rise over the state's economic situation, KTR's address will surely add fuel to the ongoing political battle, with the BRS party positioning itself as the more competent force to handle Telangana's economic future.



We Will Change
Telangana's Face:
Gadkari

₹2 lakh crore highway projects planned in next 3-4 years

₹1 lakh crore worth of greenfield expressways already under way

Travel time to major cities to be cut in half, jobs to rise

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has announced that the central government will undertake national highway projects worth ₹2 lakh crore in Telangana over the next 3 to 4 years. Speaking at a public meeting after inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for ₹3,900 crore worth of highway projects in Sirpur Kagaznagar, Gadkari said these initiatives will transform the state's infrastructure and economy. He revealed that ongoing greenfield expressway works

2

PAGE

India Set to Become 4th Largest Economy

India to surpass Japan to become 4th largest economy.

IMF forecasts India's GDP at \$4,187.017 billion in FY26

Just ahead of Japan's \$4,186.431 billion.

India's GDP expected to cross \$5 trillion by 2027

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India is rapidly emerging as a global economic powerhouse. According to the latest World Economic Outlook - April 2025 released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India is set to overtake Japan to become the world's fourth largest economy in 2025. This milestone is another significant achievement in India's economic trajectory. The IMF report projects India's nominal GDP to reach \$4,187.017 billion (approximately Rs. 348 lakh crore) in fiscal year 2025 (FY26). Japan's GDP for the same period is expected to be \$4,186.431 billion (approximately Rs. 347.9 lakh crore).

2

PAGE

TGSRTC Management Writes to Employees, Urges to Call Off Strike

Management appeals to employees to cooperate.

Clarifies commitment to welfare despite financial challenges.

Reminds employees about payments of PRC, DA, and RPS bonds.

Warns against strike, citing potential damage to organization.

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad:

In response to the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) staff preparing for a strike, the company management has issued a letter urging them to reconsider. The management emphasized its commitment to the welfare of employees despite the financial difficulties faced by the state government and the RTC.

2

PAGE



1st Page Cont..

India Set to Become 4th Largest Economy

with India surpassing Japan by a small margin, marking the rise to fourth place. India is currently the fifth largest economy until 2024. Looking ahead, the IMF expects India's rise to continue. By 2028, India is projected to surpass Germany, becoming the third largest economy in the world. India's GDP is forecasted to reach \$5,584.476 billion, while Germany's GDP will

be \$5,251.928 billion. The report also highlights that India will cross the \$5 trillion mark by 2027. The leading economies of the world remain unchanged, with the United States (\$30.5 trillion) and China (\$19.2 trillion) holding the top two positions. These rankings are expected to remain stable until the end of this decade, according to the IMF's projections.

TGSRTC Management Writes to Employees, Urges to Call Off Strike

The letter highlighted the financial challenges TGSRTC is currently undergoing but reassured employees that there is no compromise on their welfare. It reminded the staff of the successful payment of long-pending PRC and DA dues, as well as the Rs. 280 crore related to RPS-2013 bonds. The management also noted that salaries have been paid on the first day of each month for the past three and a half years. The management expressed concern over the potential damage a strike could cause, both to the company and the employees, as it could set back the recovery process. Recalling the strike in 2019 and the subsequent challenges posed by the Covid pandemic, it was pointed out that the RTC's survival depended heavily

on the collective efforts of the employees. Further, the letter made it clear that the management is working closely with the state government to resolve the issues of the employees. Both Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar have conveyed similar sentiments. The management urged employees to prioritize the RTC's well-being over any selfish interests and warned that going on strike would cause serious losses for both the organization and the employees. The management concluded by reminding employees of their responsibility to ensure that the public does not face transport-related issues and asked them to work together for the RTC's growth and success.

We Will Change Telangana's Face: Gadkari

worth ₹1 lakh crore are already underway in Telangana. These projects, once completed, are expected to drastically reduce travel time, enhance logistics, and generate significant employment. "This is a step that will change the face of Telangana," he asserted. Gadkari noted that the national highway network in Telangana has nearly doubled from 2,511 km in 2014 to around 5,000 km today. "We have already completed ₹1.5 lakh crore worth of works, and now another ₹2 lakh crore will be invested. This is just the beginning," he added. **He highlighted key expressway projects, including:**
Indore-Hyderabad Expressway (₹17,000 crore): 136 km in Telangana, expected to be completed by March 2026. Will cut travel time from 20 hours to 10 hours.
Surat-Chennai Expressway (1,100 km): 78 km in Telangana; will cut Surat-Chennai travel time from 28 hours to 17 hours.
Suryapet-Devarapalli Expressway (₹8,000 crore): 164 km in Telangana, linking Hyderabad to Visakhapatnam and reducing travel time from 12 to 6 hours.
Nagpur-Vijayawada Expressway (₹16,000 crore):

401 km in Telangana, reducing travel time from 13 hours to 6 hours.
Hyderabad-Panaji Corridor (₹20,000 crore): 90 km in Telangana; Hyderabad to Panaji travel time will fall from 15 hours to 7 hours. Gadkari also promised to link pilgrimage centers like Bhadrachalam, Basara, and Medaram with national highways and assured that work on the Jagtial-Karimnagar highway widening will begin soon. He said these developments will ease road connectivity with Maharashtra as well. Addressing the needs of backward districts like Komaram Bheem Asifabad, he emphasized the importance of improving water, power, transport, and infrastructure. He offered to help desilt dams and tanks in Telangana free of cost, drawing on his experience in Maharashtra's Vidarbha region. Urging a shift toward green energy, Gadkari advocated for the use of electric and CNG vehicles to reduce pollution and transportation costs. The event was attended by Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Telangana R&B Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, and several other leaders.

TGSRTC Workers Hold Rally, Announce Strike from Wednesday

- Hundreds of TGSRTC workers rally demanding fulfillment of election promises.
- Unions warn of strike from May 7 if no formal talks are held.
- Demands include pay scales, merger with the state government, and no privatisation of RTC.



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a show of strength, hundreds of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) workers took to the streets on Monday, May 5, staging a rally from RTC Kala Bhavan to RTC Bhavan. The workers are demanding that the state government fulfil its election promises. They raised slogans like "Bus ka payya nahin chalega" and warned that if the government does not engage in genuine talks, they will go ahead with their planned strike from May 7. The union leaders expressed frustration after a meeting

with Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar. While he invited them for talks, the union leaders said the government's vague approach to dialogue was not enough. They emphasized that the state government should first specify the date, time, and venue for discussions, and that agreements should be signed by the labour department as intermediaries. Demands of the Union: The primary demand of TGSRTC unions is the merger of RTC workers with the state government. Despite the previous BRS

government's order just before the 2023 elections, the process remains unresolved. The unions are also demanding the implementation of the 2021 and 2025 pay scales and payment of arrears. Workers want elections to be held within the RTC workers' unions and the recruitment of more staff to address the shortage, with 16,000 workers having retired. Union leaders further expressed concerns about the overwork due to staff shortages, as current employees are

reportedly working 15-hour shifts instead of the mandated 7.5-8 hours. Opposition to Privatisation: The unions strongly oppose privatisation efforts and demand that the state government prevent private companies like Olectra and ABN AMRO from operating electric buses. They argue that the RTC should take over the electric bus operations to receive a Rs 40 lakh subsidy per bus, as opposed to the Rs 1.2 crore cost of purchasing them. Divided Leadership: Interestingly, some union leaders met with the transport minister on Monday, submitting a representation on the issues. However, this move was met with hostility from other union members, as those who attended were not directly involved in the strike notice. This division has added fuel to the ongoing protests. As the workers prepare for their strike, tensions remain high, and the outcome of the talks remains uncertain.

No Strike, Come for Talks: Ponnam Calls on RTC Unions

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has urged the RTC trade unions to resolve their issues through talks rather than resorting to a strike. Meeting with several RTC union leaders in Hyderabad, Ponnam assured that the government is committed to addressing the problems faced by the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC), with a focus on protecting the organization, worker welfare, and improving passenger services. The minister emphasized that RTC is gradually recovering from losses, and the government has already implemented measures like clearing long-pending dues, making compassionate appointments, and initiating new recruitments. He expressed concern that a strike at this stage would harm both the organization and



the public. Ponnam also criticized the previous government for neglecting RTC, pointing out that they did not purchase new buses or offer new job opportunities in the last decade. Under the Congress regime, he highlighted that significant funds were paid to RTC employees to address long-pending financial matters.

Allu Aravind Visits Sritej After Hospital Discharge

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Film producer Allu Aravind visited Sritej, who was recently discharged from KIMS Hospital, and inquired about his health during a visit to the rehabilitation center. He met with doctors to discuss Sritej's progress and expressed his happiness over the positive developments in Sritej's recovery. Aravind mentioned that his entire family is eagerly waiting for Sritej's full recovery and is encouraged by the steady progress he is making. He also conveyed his relief after doctors confirmed that Sritej is cooperating well



with his treatment. In an act of generosity, Allu Arjun and the Pushpa film unit had already deposited Rs 2 crore into Sritej's account to support his medical expenses. Aravind expressed optimism, hoping that Sritej will soon be back to his usual self, like every child in the family, bringing joy to those around him.

DNB PG Medical Courses at RTC Hospital

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) has approved the introduction of Diplomate of National Board (DNB) Postgraduate (PG) Medical Courses at TGSRTC Hospital in Tarnaka, Hyderabad. The approval brings a significant boost to the medical services provided at the hospital, which serves the health needs of RTC employees. **Seven Seats Across Three Departments:** NBEMS has sanctioned a total of seven seats in three specialized medical departments: 3 seats in General Medicine, 2 in General Surgery, and 2 in Orthopaedic Surgery. **Admissions Criteria:** Admis-



sions to the three-year PG courses will be based on NEET scores, while the two-year Diploma courses will be filled through DNB-PDCEET. **Academic Year:** The courses are set to begin in the next academic year, marking a new chapter in the institution's healthcare services.

MD VC Sajjanar expressed his delight over the approval of the DNB PG courses, highlighting that this step will enhance

the hospital's ability to provide high-quality medical care for RTC employees. He emphasized that the training of quality doctors through these courses would further strengthen medical services at the hospital. The TGSRTC management has developed the Tarnaka Hospital as a super-specialty hospital, aiming to provide comprehensive and state-of-the-art healthcare to its employees. With the introduction of these PG courses, the hospital's medical infra-

structure will continue to improve.

The TGSRTC management has also praised Medical Administrator Dr. Srinivas and other key personnel for their role in securing the approval for the DNB PG courses. MD VC Sajjanar, along with RTC officials, felicitated Dr. Srinivas, former OSD Dr. Saidi Reddy, and doctors Sushmita, Pramod Kumar, Pradeep Kumar, and Raj Kumar for their efforts in making this achievement possible. The event was attended by ED Munishekhhar, CPM Usha Devi, Hospital Superintendent Dr. Shailajamurthy, and several other officials at the Hyderabad Bus Bhavan on Monday.

Bandi Sanjay’s Strong Remarks on Naxals and Caste Census in Peddapalli

- Bandi Sanjay condemned Congress for advocating talks with violent Naxals.
- He called for Naxals to surrender and join society.
- Sanjay criticized Telangana’s caste census as inaccurate.
- He highlighted Rs. 12 lakh crore spent by the Centre on Telangana’s development.

TPN Correspondent | Peddapalli

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay, made a series of sharp comments during his visit to Peddapalli, condemning the Congress party’s stance on Naxals and the caste census issue. He strongly criticized the Congress party for advocating talks with Naxals, highlighting the long history of violence they have inflicted on innocent people, including law enforcement officials. Sanjay stressed that there was no point in holding talks with those responsible for bloodshed and emphasized the need for the Naxals to drop their guns and surrender.

Bandi Sanjay further pointed out the shortcomings of the Telangana state government in conducting a proper caste census, accusing them of merely conducting a survey which failed to capture accurate data. He highlighted that the Modi government is



committed to correcting these discrepancies by conducting a comprehensive caste census to address the issues of the backward classes (BCs) effectively. During the media interaction, Sanjay refuted Congress’s claims that the Centre had not allocated funds to Telangana. He provided evidence of over Rs. 12 lakh crore spent on the state’s development, including significant investments in highways and railways. He also criticized the Congress for diverting attention from their own failures

by spreading misinformation.

The BJP leader’s comments come at a time when tensions over Naxal-related violence and the caste census have intensified in the state. He questioned the Congress’s ability to lift the Naxal ban while they simultaneously seek support from Naxal sympathizers. Sanjay concluded his speech by demanding the Naxals surrender and join mainstream society, urging civil rights leaders like Professor Haragopal and Varavara Rao to convince them to lay down their arms.

Harish Rao Holds Congress Responsible for Farmer Deaths



TPN Correspondent | Siddipet

Former Minister T Harish Rao on Monday blamed the Congress government for the deaths of four farmers at paddy procurement centres, calling it a result of negligence and delays. Rao, speaking to the media after inspecting rain-damaged paddy at an agricultural market in Siddipet, accused the government of causing unnecessary hardships for farmers, forcing them to wait for days under harsh conditions.

Rao criticized Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for focusing on events like Miss World while farmers continued to struggle at procurement centres. He demanded that the government announce an ex-gratia of Rs. 5 lakh to the families of the deceased farmers.

The former Minister pointed out that farmers were forced to sleep at procurement centres to protect their produce from rain and theft, highlighting the lack of tarpaulins, gunny bags, paddy cleaners, and hamalis as contributing factors to the problem. Rao also questioned the delay in arranging necessary resources, such as hamalis and lorries, to transport paddy to rice mills.

He accused officials and millers of unfairly deducting 5 to 8 kg per quintal, citing moisture and quality issues, which he described as a grave injustice to farmers. He also pointed out that Congress leaders, who had previously visited procurement centres when in opposition, were now avoiding them as the government failed to address farmers’ problems.

Rao demanded the immediate procurement of soaked paddy to prevent further damage and criticized the government for delays in payments. He claimed that, despite Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao’s assertion that payments would be made within 48 hours, farmers had yet to receive their dues even after 10 days of procurement.

Rao also accused the Congress of betraying farmers by not fulfilling promises such as loan waivers and Rythu Bharosa benefits. He interacted with farmers at the procurement centres to learn more about the difficulties they were facing and the extended wait times.

MLA Gets Gulf Job Offer Call, Scam Exposed

TPN Correspondent | Jagityal

A bizarre incident unfolded in Jagityal district when local MLA Adi Srinivas received a phone call offering him employment in the Gulf, exposing a travel scam that had been cheating unemployed youth in the region. The call, intended for an unsuspecting job seeker, was part of a larger fraudulent operation run by a travel agency without proper licenses.

According to police, a man named Naveen from Rangampet in Sarangapur mandal was operating the travel agency. He had been promising fake employment opportunities abroad, particularly in Gulf countries, and collecting money from innocent aspirants. To carry out the scam, Naveen employed a young woman to make phone



calls to potential targets.

In an unexpected twist, one of the phone numbers dialed by the woman turned out to belong to MLA Adi Srinivas. Unaware of

who she was speaking to, the woman spoke about job offers in the Gulf and is said to have shown anger when questioned. Realizing it was a scam, MLA Srinivas immediately reported the incident to the police. Following his complaint, police launched a swift investigation. On Sunday, they raided Naveen’s travel agency and discovered that it had been operating without any official permission. A case was registered, and Naveen was arrested. The agency has since been shut down.

Authorities have warned people not to fall for such fraudulent employment promises and urged them to verify the legitimacy of any travel or placement agencies before making payments or sharing personal information.

Dasoju Sravan Files Complaint Against Congress

Over Fake Social Media Campaign

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

BRS MLC Dasoju Sravan Kumar has lodged a formal complaint with the Cyber Crime Station (CCS) in Gachibowli, accusing the Congress party of running a malicious and orchestrated social media campaign against former Minister and senior MLA T Harish Rao. Sravan demanded immediate action against those responsible for spreading false and defamatory content, emphasizing that such tactics would not diminish Harish Rao’s public stature.

Speaking to the media after filing the complaint, Sravan stated that ever since the BRS silver jubilee celebrations, which garnered significant public response, Congress leaders, particularly Revanth Reddy and his ministers, had resorted to spreading misinformation. He attributed their actions to political insecurity and fear of the BRS leadership. The complaint alleged that Congress was circulating fake paper clippings and using paid social media networks to malign Harish Rao. Sravan called these ac-



tions unethical and legally punishable. He also questioned whether Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy would take action against his own party’s actions, as he had previously emphasized the importance of tackling cybercrime. In response, Harish Rao warned that legal action would be initiated against the Congress party unless they ceased their defamatory social media campaign. He accused Congress of using diversion tactics and mudslinging in an attempt to cover up their failure to deliver on promises. “We will expose their lies and take punitive legal action,” Harish Rao declared, condemning the party’s actions as shameful.

Etala Rajender Slams Congress for indulging in “divert politics”

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Malkajgiri MP Etala Rajender held a media conference at the BJP Telangana state office where he raised serious concerns regarding the inefficiency and mismanagement of the Congress government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Rajender accused the government of failing to meet its promises and neglecting the needs of various sectors, including contractors, employees, and farmers.

The MP highlighted the plight of contractors, who are still waiting for payment of bills ranging from Rs. 10 to 20 lakh. He criticized the government for leaving contractors in financial distress, forcing them to give 10 percent commissions while not receiving the payments owed to them. Rajender also pointed out that government employees, including police and RTC staff, are unable to access their savings or secure loans, while retired employees are deprived of their pensions. He further slammed the government’s handling of pensions, accusing them of canceling old pension schemes and neglecting applications for new ones. Additionally, Rajender criticized the Congress for not honoring promises like providing Kalyana Lakshmi cheques to newlywed women and prioritizing Congress workers over deserving families for housing under the Indiramma scheme.

On the agricultural front, Rajender expressed deep concern over the plight of farmers, especially with the untimely rains causing losses at grain procurement centers. He demanded immediate action from the gov-



ernment to purchase the soaked grain and support farmers in distress.

The MP also noted the ongoing development projects in the state funded by the central government, such as the Uppal and Amberpet flyovers, which aim to ease traffic congestion. He urged the state government to complete these projects quickly and address the issues of inadequate infrastructure in certain areas like Nalgonda and Jeedimetla. Rajender also recommended that the Kompally area expressway be included in the center’s development plans.

In his attack on the Congress government, Rajender accused them of diverting attention away from real issues by indulging in “divert politics.” He stressed that the BJP-led Modi government is focused on development, with substantial funding allocated for national highways and flyovers, thereby addressing Hyderabad’s traffic woes.

The MP also mentioned the Congress government’s failure to prioritize the welfare of students, farmers, and the poor, calling attention to their neglect of fee reimbursement dues, Arogyasri dues, and salaries for Safai workers. Rajender concluded by emphasizing that the Congress government has failed to serve the needs of the people, and the BJP stands as a more competent alternative.

Gowda Sangam Leaders Discuss Building Plans with TPCC Chief

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a significant meeting at Gandhi Bhavan, Gowda Sangam leaders, along with representatives of various castes and BC leaders, gathered with TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud to discuss the construction of a new Gowda Sangam building in Khammam. The meeting focused on securing funds for this important project, which aims to serve future generations and provide a central space for the community. During the discussions, TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud assured the Gowda Sangam leaders that he would take responsibility for providing the necessary funds to facilitate the construc-



tion of the building. Minister Ponnampalagan also participated in the talks, expressing his support for the project. “I feel proud to be born as a Gowda,” said Goud, emphasizing the importance of political em-

powerment for the Gowda community. He highlighted that the new Gowda Sangam building would be an invaluable asset for the community in Khammam, offering a permanent space for cultural and social activities.

Goud also stressed the need for unity among BCs and Gowdas to ensure their collective growth and progress. He stated that, under Rahul Gandhi’s leadership, the Congress party has made significant strides in supporting BC communities, particularly through the caste census. “As per Rahul Gandhi’s orders, CM Revanth Reddy, Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, and other ministers have conducted the caste survey with trans-

parency,” he added.

The ongoing caste survey has revealed that BCs make up 56 percent of the population, a statistic that Goud believes further proves the Congress party’s commitment to social justice for BCs. He pointed out that social justice for BCs is only possible through the Congress party’s leadership. Reflecting on his time as President, Goud mentioned his efforts to introduce a BC declaration in Kamareddy, further highlighting the Congress party’s achievements in promoting BC welfare. He also noted the significance of the caste survey and SC classification, which he considers major accomplishments for Telangana Congress.

CM Reviews Arrangements for Miss World 2025 Pageant in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy chaired a high-level review meeting at the Integrated Command Control Center (ICCC) on Monday, May 5, to discuss arrangements for the upcoming Miss World 2025 pageant, which will be held in Hyderabad from May 10 to 31. The chief minister emphasized the importance of hosting the event with dignity and ensuring that the image of Telangana captures global attention. Revanth Reddy ordered stringent security measures for hotels where foreign guests would be staying, especially around key locations like Gachibowli stadium, Charminar, Lad Bazaar, Chowmohalla Palace, and the Secretariat. He instructed police to implement elaborate arrangements to ensure the safety of all participants and guests. The Miss World 2025 pageant will feature young women from 116 countries, and the chief minister urged the authorities to provide exceptional hospitality to all guests without any shortcomings. He also highlighted the presence of nearly 3,000 media representatives from India and abroad, and suggested that Telangana's rich culture and traditions be showcased to leave a lasting impression on them. To ensure smooth operations, Revanth Reddy directed the departments, especially tourism, to work in coordination with the relevant officials. Each programme during the



event will have a designated nodal officer to oversee the arrangements. He also instructed that necessary transport and facilities be provided for the contestants to visit famous tourist attractions such as Charminar, Laad Bazaar, and the Telangana Thalli statue. The chief minister emphasized that precautions must be taken to avoid traffic congestion and power outages in areas hosting the Miss World events. He urged the authorities to be prepared for any unforeseen situations and advised that alternative plans be in place. In line with the contestants' visit to local attractions, Revanth Reddy also proposed arrangements for the Miss World participants to visit the DW-CRA Bazaar run by women's self-help groups under the Indira Kranthi Padham (IKP) initiative and watch the IPL semi-finals at the Uppal stadium. In light of weather concerns, he re-

quested that the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and the Hyderabad Disaster Response Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRAA) remain on high alert, particularly in the event of strong winds or rains during the pageant. The chief minister also encouraged inviting public representatives and celebrities from various fields to attend the inauguration ceremony of the pageant on behalf of the government. Additionally, he proposed that students from government-run BC, SC, ST, and minority welfare residential schools, model schools, and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) be given the opportunity to witness the pageant for a day. Revanth Reddy also suggested decorating Hyderabad with arches and hoardings throughout the Miss World 2025 pageant period to create excitement and anticipation for the grand event.

Major Drug Seizure in Hyderabad: Ganja and MDMA Recovered

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
In a series of successful drug busts, authorities have seized a total of 1.360 kg of ganja, along with high-value personal belongings, as well as 5 grams of MDMA, following raids in different areas of Hyderabad.

Ganja Seizure in Quthbullapur:



A professional interior artist, who was also involved in selling ganja and drugs, was arrested by the STFB team in Quthbullapur's Shiva Reddy Nagar area. During the raid, 1.360 kg of ganja, a bike worth Rs. 2.5 lakh, and a mobile phone valued at Rs. 1.5 lakh were seized. The accused, Sharif, has been taken into custody. SI Balaraju confirmed that the drugs, along with the bike and phone, worth ap-

proximately Rs. 1 lakh, were handed over to the excise station for further proceedings. A case has also been filed against another individual, Akhil, in connection with the case.

MDMA Drug Seizure in Golconda:



In another operation, the HDFB team conducted raids in the Golconda TSS PDCL Maruti Langar House area, leading to the seizure of 5 grams of MDMA. Mohammed Suleman, who was involved in drug sales, was arrested during the operation, with two mobile phones and a bike also seized. A case has been filed against Shakeel from Bengaluru in connection with the MDMA seizure. The drugs and evidence were handed over to the Golconda excise station for further action. The authorities continue to take stringent measures to curb the growing drug menace in the city. Further investigations are ongoing to identify other possible suspects and networks involved in these illegal activities.

Road Safety Summer Camp 2025 Inaugurated at Traffic Training Institute

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
On May 5, 2025, Sri D. Joel Davis, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Hyderabad, inaugurated the Road Safety Summer Camp – 2025 for children at the Traffic Training Institute in Goshamahal, Hyderabad. The camp aims to raise road safety awareness among children, helping to reduce fatalities caused by road accidents. It is designed for children aged 10 to 15 years and covers a broad range of topics including traffic awareness, road safety, dance, music, painting, handwriting improvement, and personality development. The inauguration event was attended by key officials, including Sri R. Venkateshwarlu, IPS, DCP-III, Traffic, Hyderabad; Sri N. Ashok Kumar, DCP-II, Traffic, Hyderabad; Sri U. Ravinder Reddy, Addl. DCP-Traffic III, Hyderabad; and Smt. D. Dhana Laxmi, ACP, Traffic-V, Hyderabad. Also present were corporate and cultural leaders such as Sri Dilip Kumar, Department Manager and Zonal Sales Head, Telangana, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Pvt. Ltd., Smt. Saroj Bala of Aryan Dance Academy, and Sri Ananth Raj from Raj Events, along with other instructors and facilitators who supported the event. The primary objective of the camp is to create road safe-



ty awareness among young minds, which is essential for preventing accidents and saving lives. Sri D. Joel Davis emphasized the importance of instilling safe road practices in the younger generation, as they will play a key role in promoting safety in their communities. The camp is expected to have a lasting impact, equipping children with vital knowledge and skills to navigate the roads safely and responsibly. The organizers have requested all media outlets, including print, electronic media, and FM stations, to give wide publicity and telecast the event, underlining its significance for public safety. Through this initiative, the Traffic Police Department aims to foster a culture of safety and responsibility among the citizens of Hyderabad.

Man Found Dead in Mathuranagar

Police Investigate Possible Dog Attack

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A shocking incident occurred in Mathuranagar when a local man, Pawan Kumar, was found dead in his home after being bitten by his own pet dog. The discovery was made by his concerned friend, who, unable to reach Pawan over the phone on Sunday night, visited his house. Upon entering, the friend found Pawan's body lying in a pool of blood in the hall, with the pet dog nearby, showing signs of blood in its mouth. Disturbed by the sight, the friend immediately went to the Mathuranagar Police Station to report that Pawan had been bitten by his dog. The police arrived on the scene and registered a case. Investigations are ongoing to determine whether the dog's bites caused the death or if someone else may have been involved in the incident. Despite the postmortem being com-



pleted, police are unable to confirm the cause of death definitively and are reviewing nearby CCTV footage to gather more information. Multiple dog bites were observed on the body of the deceased, raising further questions. Authorities are also exploring whether anyone attempted to wake up Pawan after the incident or whether the dog bit him while he was already unconscious. The investigation is ongoing, and more details are expected to emerge as police continue their inquiries.

Job Seeker Duped by Cyber Fraudsters in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
A 37-year-old man from Hyderabad was duped of Rs 1.3 lakh by cyber fraudsters who lured him with the promise of an online part-time job. The victim, seeking additional income, was contacted by scammers who assured him of daily payments upon completion of online tasks. The fraudsters initially convinced the man to complete a free registration process, directing him to a website where he began performing the tasks. However, the scammers continued to demand payments for

each commercial ad he worked on, leading the victim to repeatedly pay the required amounts. After realizing that he was being scammed, the victim approached the Sanathnagar police station and reported the fraud. A case has been registered, and the police have launched an investigation into the matter. Authorities are urging the public to be cautious of such fraudulent schemes and to report any suspicious activity immediately to prevent further incidents.

DCA Cracks Down on 66 Corporate Hospital Pharmacies in Telangana



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
The Telangana Drugs Control Administration (DCA) has issued show cause notices to 66 corporate hospital pharmacies across the state, following reports of several discrepancies in their operations. The move comes as part of a state-wide crackdown to ensure the proper functioning of pharmacies and to maintain the quality and safety of medicines. On Monday, May 3, DCA officials sealed medical device stocks worth Rs 70,000 at a hospital in Hyderabad's Kukatpally area. The action was prompted by a series of irregularities discovered during inspections. These included the dispensing of prescription medicines without a registered pharmacist, failure to maintain and produce sales bills, selling drugs without a prescription from a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP), and stocking expired

drugs alongside saleable ones. The DCA's director general, Shah Nawaz Qasim, has urged the public to report any suspected illegal activities related to drugs, including the manufacturing of narcotics and psychotropic substances, in residential, commercial, or industrial areas. He also encouraged reporting any other concerns related to pharmaceutical practices. For public complaints or concerns, a toll-free number, 1800-599-6969, has been set up and is operational from 10:30 am to 5:00 pm on all working days. DCA is conducting a special drive to identify and address irregularities at pharmacies and hospitals throughout Telangana. This is part of their ongoing efforts to enforce strict regulatory measures and ensure public safety in the healthcare sector.

Earthquakes Shake Northern Telangana



Minor tremors felt in Karimnagar, Sircilla, Jagityala, Nirmal, and Peddapalli

TPN Correspondent | Karimnagar

A series of minor earthquakes rattled several northern districts of Telangana on Tuesday, causing widespread panic among the residents. The tremors were most intensely felt in Karimnagar, Rajanna Sircilla, Jagityala, Nirmal, and Peddapalli districts, where locals were caught

off guard as the earth shook for several seconds. In Karimnagar district, the tremors were particularly strong, with people in areas such as Choppadandi, Gangadhara, and Ramadugu mandals reporting that their houses and buildings shook noticeably. Some residents mentioned experiencing two separate trem-

ors, leading to heightened anxiety and confusion. The unexpected earthquake caused panic among the locals, prompting many to rush out of their homes in fear of aftershocks or potential damage. In addition to the distress in Karimnagar, some areas of Nirmal district also reported feeling the tremors, further adding

to the uncertainty. While the authorities are yet to provide official statements on the magnitude or potential impact, residents have expressed concern over the possibility of future tremors and the safety of their homes. Emergency services are closely monitoring the situation, while locals are advised to remain alert.

Bigg Boss a harmful show misleading the youth: CPI Narayana



TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

CPI National Secretary K. Narayana has once again targeted the controversial reality show Bigg Boss and the upcoming beauty pageants in Hyderabad, condemning both for promoting harmful societal trends. Speaking at a media conference in Tirupati, Narayana expressed deep concern that Bigg Boss was misleading the youth and tarnishing the art sector. He sharply criticized the show for its portrayal of unmarried contestants sleeping in the same bed, describing it as promoting "cheap prostitution" under the guise of entertainment. Narayana revealed that he had been actively trying to ban Bigg Boss for some time and had approached the police and district court without success. However, his petition was eventually heard by the High Court, which issued notices to the show's organizers and host, Nagarjuna. Narayana expressed hope that the court would deliver a verdict in favor of stopping the program for the greater good of society. Additionally, Narayana condemned the beauty pageants planned in Hyderabad, alleging that they reduce women to mere objects of display. He argued that these contests exploit women's beauty to sell products, further degrading them. Drawing a comparison between Bigg Boss and beauty pageants, he described both as programs that demean women and are harmful to Indian culture and family values. He emphasized that Indian culture, with its focus on respect and sacred values, should remain an ideal for the world.

Father Kills Two Children and Commits Suicide in Sangareddy

TPN Correspondent | Sangareddy

A horrific tragedy unfolded in Malkapur village, Kondapur mandal, in Sangareddy district, where a father killed his two daughters and then took his own life. The shocking incident has left the local community in disbelief. According to initial reports from locals and police, Subhash, a resident of Malkapur, had two daughters – Marin, 13, and Aaradhya, 10. In a chilling act, Subhash hanged his two children at their home before ending his own life in a similar manner. Local sources suggest that Subhash's wife had left the home a few days ago, and it is believed that his frustration over her absence may have triggered the tragic event. However, the exact cause behind the incident remains unclear. The police have filed a case and are currently investigating the reasons behind this devastating act.

Rowdy Elements Rampage at Deep Roots High School in Jeedimetla

TPN Correspondent | Medchal

In a shocking turn of events, rowdy elements have wreaked havoc at Deep Roots High School, located in Qutbullapur village, within the limits of the Jeedimetla Police Station. The owner of the school building, Venkat Reddy, is accused of destroying the school's furniture and walls, and even damaging CCTV cameras late last night during the summer vacation. The school had entered into a 15-year agreement with Reddy for the building, but tensions escalated when Reddy reportedly pressured the school management to vacate before completing the four-year term. Taking advantage of the summer break, he allegedly orchestrated the destruction of the school's property,



causing severe damage. The school management had previously been subjected to threats from Reddy, who had also been involved in misleading the Pet Basheerabad police in the past. The situation took a turn for the worse when Reddy hired men to attack the school management. The school management promptly reported the matter to

the Jeedimetla police, who acted swiftly to apprehend those responsible for the destruction. Jeedimetla police have registered a case against Venkat Reddy under various sections and are currently investigating the matter. The school management hopes for a swift resolution and justice in the case.



Man Attempts Suicide Over Loan Recovery Threats

TPN Correspondent | Medchal

A 45-year-old man attempted suicide in Shivalaya Nagar, Suraram PS area, Medchal District, after facing repeated threats from lenders demanding the repayment of borrowed money. In a distressing act, Srinivas poured petrol in front of the lenders' house and set himself on fire. Srinivas sustained serious injuries from the fire and was immediately rushed to Gandhi

Hospital for medical treatment. Authorities have registered a case and are investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident. The incident highlights the severe pressure some individuals face due to financial constraints and the aggressive tactics employed by lenders. The police are also looking into the nature of the threats made to Srinivas and whether they contributed to his extreme decision.



Husband Bites and Eats Wife's Nose in Shocking Incident

TPN Correspondent | Nadia

A shocking and horrifying incident in Nadia district, West Bengal, has left the nation in disbelief. A man named Bapan Sheikh allegedly bit off and ate his wife, Madhu Khatun's nose, following a disturbing claim that he had always wanted to do so because he found her nose beautiful. The incident, which occurred in the early hours of May 2nd, has sparked outrage and widespread condemnation. According to local reports, at around 3 a.m., neighbors heard Madhu Khatun screaming for help from her home. Upon reaching her residence, they found her severely bleeding from her nose. When questioned, she revealed the horrific act, stating that her husband had bitten off her nose after claiming he would do so if given the chance. Madhu's cries for help led to her hospitalization for treatment, where she recounted the incident to the authorities. The matter was further escalated when Madhu Khatun, accompanied by her mother, filed a police complaint. The police acted swiftly, arresting Bapan Sheikh. The incident has stirred a nationwide debate on the disturbing behavior, with many expressing their horror at such extreme actions and criticizing the senselessness of the attack. The case is under investigation, and authorities are working to uncover further details about the couple's relationship and the motive behind this brutal act. The incident has shocked the community, and condemnation continues to pour in from all corners of the country.



Medchal-Malkajgiri Collector Suggests

Revenue Conferences as Permanent Solution to Land Issues

TPN Correspondent | Medchal-Malkajgiri

Medchal-Malkajgiri District Collector Goutham has proposed that revenue conferences, part of the Bhu Bharati Pilot Project, be utilized as a permanent solution to address land-related issues in the district. The revenue conferences aim to tackle the challenges faced by farmers and the general public regarding land disputes. During the event, Collector Goutham emphasized the importance of leveraging these conferences to resolve land issues under the newly introduced Land India Act. He actively engaged with farmers, addressing their concerns and clearing doubts about the Bhu Bharati Act. Goutham ensured that their applications were processed efficiently and instructed officials to categorize the applications by issue type for quick resolution. The Collector stressed the need for a smooth application process, urging officials to check for pending applications on the Dharani



portal and resolve them through online channels. This initiative is intended to make the process more accessible and efficient for farmers and the public. The revenue conference was attended by farmers, members of the public, and key revenue officials, including Law Officer Chandravathi, Keesara RDO Upender Reddy, and MRO Ashok. Collector Goutham's efforts aim to create a platform for citizens to address their land-related problems and seek prompt resolutions.

Congress Leaders Demand Protection of Constitution

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Medchal Malkajgiri District Congress Party President Harivardhan Reddy condemned the actions of the central government, accusing it of humiliating and insulting the Constitution. He made these remarks during the "Jai Babu Jai Bhim Jai Samvidhan" rally, which took place from the statue of Rajiv Gandhi in Alwal to the statue of Indira Gandhi. The rally was organized by Congress leaders, including AICC Secretary Vishnunath, Harivardhan Reddy, Mynampally Hanumantha Rao, Bandi Ramesh, and Parameshwar Reddy, who rallied for the protection of the Constitution. Speaking at the event, Harivardhan Reddy expressed concern over Union Home Minister Amit Shah's alleged disrespect towards the Constitution, claiming that there were attempts being made to change what he described as India's "greatest treasure." Reddy also recalled Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, a nationwide march aimed at uniting the country and safeguarding the Constitution. He emphasized that the responsibility to protect the

Constitution lies with every citizen, calling for collective action against the policies of the ruling BJP. He warned that if the BJP's approach did not change, the people would teach the party a lesson in future elections. The Congress leaders further accused the BJP of pursuing policies that could harm the sovereignty

of the nation. They expressed concern about what they described as a conspiracy against national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Reddy also took a dig at the BRS, accusing its leadership of misleading the public through social media, claiming that the government's development and welfare programs were being deliberately ignored. He reassured the people that the Telangana government is committed to good governance, as seen through the phased implementation of the six guarantees to benefit the public.

The rally concluded with a call for unity in protecting the Constitution and ensuring that it remains untarnished by political motives.



Delhi’s EV Policy 2.0 Needs Realistic Timelines for a Sustainable Transition



The Delhi government is preparing to roll out its second-generation electric vehicle (EV) policy, aimed at significantly increasing the share of EVs on the city’s roads. Initially scheduled for April 15, the policy’s implementation has been postponed for three months to allow time for crucial revisions.

As one of the world’s most polluted cities, Delhi’s high levels of particulate matter — largely emitted by vehicles — have long posed a serious public health threat, comparable to the impact of COVID-19, according to recent studies. Recognising this,

the government has taken a targeted approach to reduce vehicular pollution, beginning with the 1998 mandate to shift public transport to compressed natural gas (CNG). Despite delays due to infrastructure bottlenecks, the move laid the groundwork for the 2020 EV policy.

The new policy builds on these efforts and introduces more ambitious goals, including phasing out internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. Reportedly, the draft policy targets 27% of new vehicle registrations in Delhi to be electric by 2027. It proposes a phased ban on new registra-

tions of CNG auto-rickshaws from August 2025, and petrol, diesel, and CNG two-wheelers from August 2026. Vehicles over 10 years old, including CNG autos, taxis, and buses, are also set for retirement. However, the most critical flaw lies in the proposed timeline. A rapid phase-out without sufficient infrastructure and planning could mirror the delays faced during the CNG transition. EVs demand a more complex ecosystem, including widespread charging infrastructure and battery-swapping stations, especially in residential, commercial, and public spaces. Effective coordi-

nation among agencies such as the Power Ministry, PWD, DDA, and MCD will be essential. Additionally, Delhi’s extreme climate adds to the challenge, with high temperatures risking EV battery performance and safety. A rushed transition risks being more disruptive than beneficial, especially for those dependent on older vehicles, for whom limited data exists. While the EV policy’s ambition is commendable, a phased, realistic rollout that balances environmental urgency with infrastructure readiness and social equity is essential for long-term success.



Record April GST Collections Reflect Rising Compliance and Export Momentum

India’s Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections for April 2025 have once again set a new record, continuing a trend that began with the introduction of the indirect tax system in 2017. The gross GST revenue stood at ₹2.37 lakh crore, reflecting a 12.6% year-on-year increase. After accounting for refunds, the central government’s net intake was over ₹2.09 lakh crore — a 9.1% rise compared to last April.

This robust performance underscores a significant improvement in tax compliance, supported by faster refund processes and widespread fintech adoption. India’s fintech adoption rate, now at 87% — well above the global average — has especially benefited small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that typically operate with limited working capital. The formalisation of the MSME sector, catalysed by the pandemic-era digital shift, has helped broaden the tax base and enhance regulatory oversight.

GST collections have more than doubled over the past seven years, rising from ₹1.03 lakh crore in April 2018 to ₹2.37 lakh crore in April 2025. A particularly notable aspect of this April’s performance was the 86% jump in refunds issued to exporters and a 20.8% rise in GST from imports. These trends align with a sharp improvement in India’s manufacturing outlook, as reflected in the HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI), which rose to a 10-month high of 58.2 in April.

The PMI survey revealed a surge in new export orders, marking the highest growth in international demand in over 14 years. Countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, West Asia, and the Americas drove this demand, likely in anticipation of the U.S. ending its 90-day tariff pause on July 9. With U.S.-China trade tensions escalating, India is emerging as a preferred sourcing destination. Notably, Apple announced that it aims to source most iPhones for the U.S. from India.

While this offers a timely boost to India’s manufacturing sector — which saw just 4% growth last fiscal — long-term resilience will depend on strengthening domestic demand and securing favourable terms in ongoing global trade negotiations.

Spain’s Blackout Is a Wake-Up Call for India’s Renewable Future

Spain and Portugal’s recent massive blackout is a stark reminder that even developed nations aren’t immune to power grid failures. For India, this isn’t new — the 2012 grid collapse left 400 million people without power. As India rapidly expands its renewable energy capacity, this is a critical moment to focus not just on power generation, but on ensuring grid reliability and resilience.

India’s energy transition is impressive. Of the 34 gigawatts of new capacity added last year, 85% came from renewables, including 24 gigawatts from solar alone. The country aims to add 300 gigawatts more by 2030, largely through private investment and entrepreneurial innovation. From rooftop solar panels in rural markets to billion-dollar investments by global firms like Brookfield and ALTERRA, the momentum is strong.

However, Spain’s blackout offers an important lesson: integrating large amounts of renewables into the grid is complex. Variable energy sources like solar and wind can cause instability, especially when grid infrastructure isn’t upgraded in parallel. Worse, authorities often lack accurate data on self-installed solar units,

complicating power forecasting and grid balancing.

India faces a similar risk. Many solar systems operate off-grid or contribute power back to the network unpredictably. Without comprehensive tracking and planning, this growing sector could strain the system. Already, estimates show discrepancies — as seen in Spain, where solar capacity may be underreported by over 10 gigawatts.

Additionally, corporate governance in the sector needs attention. The recent crisis at Gensol Engineering, which lost 70% of its value amid regulatory investigations, reveals the fragility of unregulated growth.

India’s energy needs will only grow. Per-capita consumption is just a fraction of China’s, and closing that gap will require enormous new capacity. But a blackout-free future depends on smart planning, strong regulations, and significant investment in grid infrastructure — estimated between \$107 billion and \$500 billion. Renewables are essential, but without a stable grid and reliable data, India risks repeating the very mistakes it’s hoping to avoid.



Caste Census: A Step Towards Real Social Justice, Not Political Optics



On the birth anniversary of Dr B.R. Ambedkar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his government’s commitment to social justice and equity. A landmark decision to conduct a caste census is central to this vision — a data-driven step aimed at empowering India’s marginalised communities, not dividing them.

Historically, caste enumeration began in 1881 and continued until 1931. Although data was collected in 1941, it was never published. Post-Independence, from 1951 to 2011, only Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were counted, leaving Other Backward Classes (OBCs) excluded.

In contrast to the BJP’s consistent stand on the issue, the Congress party’s record reflects a pattern of tokenism. Indira Gandhi dismissed caste census proposals. Rajiv Gandhi delayed implementing the Mandal Commission report and failed to grant constitutional status to the OBC Commission — a move later accomplished under Modi’s leadership.

Congress-led governments promised caste surveys but faltered. The 2011 Socio-Economic Caste

Census (SECC) under UPA was riddled with over eight crore errors and its findings were never made public. State-level surveys under Congress rule, like in Karnataka and Telangana, were marked by inefficiency and political fear. In Karnataka, the findings of a ₹165 crore caste survey remained buried for nearly a decade, only to be quietly withdrawn in 2025.

Unlike these half-hearted efforts, the BJP’s initiative integrates the caste census with the decadal population census under Article 246 — lending it legal weight and scientific credibility. Far from creating vote banks, this move aims to ensure representation for marginalised groups, aligning with Dr Ambedkar’s vision of equitable opportunity for all. The caste census isn’t about reinforcing caste identities, but about using accurate data to drive inclusive development. In doing so, the Modi government redefines social justice — from a tool of political expediency to a foundation for meaningful upliftment. It is a step toward building a more equal and united India, where empowerment is backed by data and delivered with intent.

PM Modi Chairs Key Meeting on CBI Director Appointment; Praveen Sood Likely to Get Extension

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a crucial meeting on Monday at the PMO in New Delhi to deliberate on the appointment of the next Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The high-level selection committee included Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi.

The meeting was held amid reports that the current CBI Director, Praveen Sood, is likely to receive a one-year extension. Sood's current tenure is set to end on May 25, 2025.

As per the rules laid out by the 2019 Supreme Court directive, the CBI Director is appointed for a fixed two-year term, which can be extended up to a maximum of five years. The appointment committee, comprising the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India, and the Leader of the Opposition, is empowered to select the candidate and must approve any transfer during the tenure.

Praveen Sood, a 1986-batch IPS officer of the Karnataka cadre, took over as CBI Director in May 2023, succeeding Subodh Kumar Jaiswal. With nearly four decades of experience in law enforcement, Sood has held several critical positions throughout his career. Notably, he served as an advisor to the Government of Mauritius and has handled high-profile investigations



involving inter-state and international ramifications, including cybercrime and white-collar offenses.

During his tenure, Sood has been known for driving complex investigations involving politically sensitive and economically significant cases. His leadership in strengthening the agency's technical capabilities and focus on financial crime has drawn attention within law enforcement and political circles alike.

The extension, if confirmed, would signal continuity in the leadership of India's premier investigative agency at a time of high-profile legal and political scrutiny. Sources say the committee found no compelling reason to appoint a new director at this juncture, given Sood's performance and institutional stability.

The final decision on the extension is expected to be formalized shortly, pending official communication from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.



Amit Shah Chairs Meet To Review Implementation Of 3 New Criminal Laws In Delhi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high-level review meeting on Monday in New Delhi to assess the implementation progress of three newly introduced criminal laws aimed at modernising India's justice system. The meeting, held at the Ministry of Home Affairs, included key participants such as Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, and Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora.

The three laws under review are the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam. These reforms mark a significant shift from colonial-era legal frameworks and are designed to transition India's criminal justice system from a focus on punishment to one centered on justice. The overarching theme for their implementation is "Secure Society, Developed India – From Punishment to Justice."

Highlighting state-level initiatives aligned with the central reform, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, during an earlier event on Sunday, launched MedLEaPR (Medico-Legal Examination and Postmortem Reporting) at the Delhi Secretariat. This digital platform is a step toward enhancing efficiency, transparency, and reliability in medico-legal documentation—crucial for timely justice delivery.

Gupta explained that MedLEaPR addresses long-standing issues such as delays, data discrepancies, and coordination gaps in criminal investigations and postmortem reporting. "These problems have long plagued the justice system. MedLEaPR integrates digital tools to ensure accurate, efficient, and tamper-proof reporting," she said.

The system is directly linked to the goals of the new criminal laws, which emphasize evidence-based and technology-supported judicial processes. By digitizing medical and legal procedures, authorities aim to eliminate manual errors and strengthen forensic and investigative credibility in court proceedings.

The three new laws were conceptualized under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to modernize India's legal architecture. Their successful rollout is expected to set the foundation for a more just, transparent, and responsive legal system that prioritizes citizen safety and rule of law.

The meeting concluded with directions to all stakeholders to ensure swift adoption of digital tools and comprehensive training for officials involved in the justice process.

'Punjab won't give single drop of water to Haryana': Resolution moved in Punjab Assembly

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Amid rising tensions over water-sharing between Punjab and Haryana, the Punjab Assembly on May 5, 2025, passed a strongly worded resolution declaring that not a single drop of water from Punjab's share would be diverted to its neighboring state. The resolution, introduced by Water Resources Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal during a special session, received unanimous support, including from the Leader of Opposition, Partap Singh Bajwa.

Goyal, while reading the resolution, accused the BJP-led governments in Haryana and at the Centre of attempting to deprive Punjab of its rightful water using the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB). "The BJP is con-



spiring to snatch Punjab's water through unconstitutional moves," he stated, alleging that a BBMB meeting was called illegally to transfer water to Haryana.

The resolution highlighted Punjab's efforts in improving canal water distribution. "Until 2021, only 22% of Punjab's fields received canal water. Today, 60% of the fields bene-

fit from it. Every drop of water is crucial," it noted, underlining that Punjab cannot afford to release more water to any other state.

Goyal further stated that Punjab, in a humanitarian gesture, had already released 4,000 cusecs of water to Haryana on April 6 for drinking needs. "Our Gurus taught us to help the thirsty. That is why this water is being given. But not even a drop more will be provided," he emphasized.

The resolution also refuted Haryana's claim of needing 8,500 cusecs, arguing that its population of 3 crore only requires 1,700 cusecs for drinking and essential use. "Haryana has already used 103% of its allotted share by March 31.

India Makes Global Breakthrough with Genome-Edited Climate-Smart Rice Varieties

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a historic achievement, Indian scientists have developed two new climate-resilient rice varieties using cutting-edge genome editing technology. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled the new varieties—"DRR Dhan 100 (Kamala)" and "Pusa DST Rice 1"—which promise 25% higher yields and reduced water usage, positioning India as the first country in the world to release genome-edited (GE) rice for cultivation.

Developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, and the Indian Rice Research Institute, Hyderabad, these rice varieties mark a significant leap in agricultural innovation. Notably, they are not genetically modified (GM), as they contain no foreign DNA. This means they are free from the regulatory and public concerns typically associated with GM crops.

Minister Chouhan praised the ini-

tiative, calling it a "classic example" of how science can simultaneously boost production and conserve the environment. The varieties are expected to save over 7,500 million cubic meters of water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, equivalent to 32,000 tons. Their cultivation across 5 million hectares could yield an additional 4.5 million tons of rice.

The varieties were developed using the CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing system, focusing on precision breeding.



Karnataka Launches Caste Census of Scheduled Castes from May 5 to 17

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka government has commenced a comprehensive caste-wise census of Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the state, running from May 5 to 17. The initiative, aimed at gathering detailed demographic data of all SC sub-castes, is being led by a single-member commission headed by retired High Court judge Justice H. N. Nagamohan Das.

Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah emphasized the importance of the exercise in ensuring equitable internal reservations within the SC community. "We have started a caste-wise census of Scheduled Castes today. Justice Nagamohan Das is leading the commission to provide an accurate report for internal reservation," he stated.



Karnataka has 101 castes listed under the Scheduled Castes category,

including major sub-groups like Left-Hand, Right-Hand, Lamani, Korama, and Koracha. The Chief Minister not-

ed that previous data, including that from the Sadashiva Commission, relied heavily on the outdated 2011 Census and lacked specificity regarding sub-caste distinctions.

"Many people simply wrote 'SC' in forms without specifying their sub-caste, leading to confusion between groups such as Adi Dravida and Adi Karnataka, who have been classified both ways in records," he explained. This ambiguity, he said, made it difficult to implement internal reservations fairly and effectively.

The move follows a Supreme Court ruling on August 1, 2024, which authorized states to make internal reservations within Scheduled Castes. Using this legal backing, Karnataka has initiated a fresh effort to collect accurate

and current caste data.

To ensure thoroughness, the government has trained around 65,000 teachers as enumerators who will conduct door-to-door surveys. Each group of 10 to 12 enumerators will be monitored by a supervisor to maintain data quality and consistency.

Additionally, from May 19 to 20, special camps will be organized for individuals who missed the house visits. Residents will also have the option to self-declare their caste details online until May 23.

"This data is vital for ensuring fair internal reservation and will guide future policy decisions for the upliftment of SC communities," Siddaramaiah concluded.

Putin Condemns Pahalgam Attack, Accepts Modi's Invitation for India-Russia Summit

TPN Correspondent | Russia

In a phone call on Monday, Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed his full support for India's fight against terrorism, condemning the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, that claimed 26 civilian lives. Putin, who was among the first global leaders to condemn the attack on April 22, conveyed his condolences to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the loss of innocent lives.

A statement from India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed that Putin called the attack "barbaric" and reiterated the importance of bringing the perpetrators and their supporters to justice. Both leaders agreed on the need for an uncompromising global fight against terrorism in all its forms. The conversation also covered bilateral relations,



with both leaders reaffirming their commitment to further strengthening the special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia. Modi also extended an invitation to President Putin for the annual India-Russia summit, scheduled to

take place in India later this year. The Russian president accepted the invitation with gratitude, as confirmed by a Kremlin statement. In the call, Putin expressed his sincere condolences for the deaths of Indian citizens in the

Pahalgam attack, calling it a barbaric act of terrorism. Both leaders agreed that such acts of violence must not go unpunished and emphasized the necessity of international cooperation in counterterrorism efforts.

Furthermore, the leaders discussed the broader scope of India-Russia ties, underscoring their resilience in the face of external influences and their continuous, dynamic development in all areas. The call also marked an opportunity to celebrate the enduring partnership between the two nations, which continues to thrive despite external pressures.

Prime Minister Modi took the opportunity to offer his congratulations to President Putin on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of Victory Day, underscoring the long-standing ties between the two countries.

Hindu Monk Chinmoy Krishna Das Now Charged With Murder Of Chittagong Lawyer



TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Chinmoy Krishna Das, a prominent Hindu leader and spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sammilito Sanatani Jagaran Jot, was shown arrested on Monday in connection with the murder of Chittagong court lawyer Saiful Islam Alif. The lawyer was allegedly hacked to death outside the court premises on November 7, 2024. The arrest was granted by Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate S M Alauddin during a virtual hearing following a police application.

According to Public Prosecutor Mofizul Haque Bhuiyan, investigators submitted four separate applications to show Das as arrested in multiple cases. The court approved one of those applications related to the Alif murder, while hearings for the remaining three are scheduled for Tuesday.

Das, who had already been in custody since November 25, 2024, had earlier been arrested on sedition charges. The sedition case, which involved allegations of disrespecting the national flag during a Hindu rally in Chittagong, drew widespread international condemnation. His repeated bail pleas were denied by local courts. On April 30, the Appellate Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court stayed a High Court order granting him bail, reinforcing the state's case against him.

The arrest and ongoing legal proceedings against Das have sparked massive protests by the Hindu community in Bangladesh, especially in light of the broader political instability gripping the country since August 2024. That month saw the ousting of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the formation of an interim government led by economist-turned-politician Muhammad Yunus, amid violent demonstrations.

Since the regime change, human rights observers and minority groups have reported an increase in targeted violence against the Hindu community. The abduction and murder of Bhabesh Chandra Roy, a senior Hindu leader with the Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Committee, on April 18 is among the most recent incidents fueling unrest.

India has taken a firm stance on the issue, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi raising concerns about the safety of Hindu minorities during his meeting with Yunus at the BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok. New Delhi continues to accuse the interim administration of enabling the "systematic persecution" of Hindus in Bangladesh.

The 'Highly Secretive Process' To Elect New Pope



TPN Correspondent | Vatican City

During the upcoming conclave, cardinals will gather in the Sistine Chapel to select a successor to Pope Francis. This process, conducted in secrecy, could span several days. Here's a breakdown of how the election unfolds:

Preparations:

A total of 133 cardinal electors, those under the age of 80, will participate after two withdrew

due to health reasons. They will move into the Santa Marta guesthouse at the Vatican, where they will remain for the duration of the conclave, forbidden from communicating with the outside world, recording proceedings, or revealing secrets on pain of excommunication.

On the first day, the electors attend a morning mass at St. Peter's Basilica. At 4:15 p.m. (1415 GMT), they gather in the Pauline Chapel for prayers, invoking the Holy Spirit's

guidance. They then move to the Sistine Chapel, where the election will take place. Before starting, the chapel is thoroughly swept for any secret recording devices.

The Election:

Each elector swears an oath of secrecy before the voting begins. The "extra omnes" command ensures that only the cardinals remain in the chapel.

Ballots are distributed, and three cardinals are selected as scruti-

neers. They, along with three infirmarii to collect votes from the sick, and three revisers to oversee the process, are responsible for the election's integrity. The ballot paper reads "Eligo in Summum Pontificem" ("I elect as supreme pontiff") with a blank space for the name of the candidate.

Cardinals walk to the altar, presenting their ballots while swearing an oath: "I call as my witness Christ the Lord, who will be my judge, that my vote is given to the one who before God I think should be elected."

The ballots are placed in a silver urn. Scrutineers mix and count the votes, ensuring there are no discrepancies. If no candidate gains a two-thirds majority, the process is repeated in further rounds.

Concluding the Election:

Once a new pope is chosen, the results are signaled by white smoke, whereas black smoke indicates no winner. After several rounds, if necessary, only the top two candidates are considered for a final vote. When a pope is elected, he is asked, "Do you accept your canonical election as Supreme Pontiff?" Upon accepting, the cardinal is officially the new pope.

Trump Announces 100% Tariff on Foreign Films, Citing National Security Threat

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On Monday, President Donald Trump unveiled plans for a sweeping 100% tariff on films produced overseas, claiming that the US movie industry was in a rapid decline. Through a post on Truth Social, Trump argued that other countries were using incentives to lure filmmakers and studios away from the United States, which he called a "concerted effort" by foreign nations and a "National Security threat."



reduce" the number of US films it imports as part of a larger trade war between the two economic giants. In April, China's film administration issued a statement saying that the US government's tariffs on Chinese goods were damaging the image of American films in China, which has long been a significant market for Hollywood.

Since returning to the White House in January, Trump has continued his aggressive trade policies, leading to heightened tensions with China and other countries. His administration's tariff policies have sent shockwaves through global markets, with this new film tariff proposal likely to escalate the ongoing trade disputes. Additionally, Trump has paused his global tariffs, except for China, until July.

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, in response to Trump's announcement, confirmed the action, saying "we're on it" in a post on X. However, it remains unclear whether the tariff will target only foreign production companies or also American companies producing films abroad.

Trump's declaration comes nearly a month after China announced it would "moderately

Israel Expands Gaza Offensive, Approves Aid Distribution Plan

TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's security cabinet has approved a gradual expansion of the military offensive against the Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza. This decision comes as the Israeli military has already begun issuing tens of thousands of call-up orders for its reserve forces, with army chief Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir confirming the initiative in a statement on Sunday.



Israeli history.

Following an incident in which a missile launched by the Iranian-backed Houthi militia fell near Israel's Ben Gurion Airport, Netanyahu addressed the situation in a video message, stating that the security cabinet would meet to discuss "the next stage" of Israel's operation in Gaza. Netanyahu reaffirmed the goal of the operation: increasing pressure on Hamas, bringing hostages back home, and ultimately defeating the militant group.

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) resumed ground operations in Gaza in March after a US-backed ceasefire collapsed, which had temporarily halted fighting for two months. The recent military moves represent an intensification of the campaign that began in retaliation for Hamas' deadly attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. That attack killed 1,200 Israelis and led to the kidnapping of 251 people, marking the deadliest day in

The ongoing military campaign has resulted in the deaths of more than 52,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities. The conflict has also devastated the Gaza Strip, where the 2.3 million residents face severe shortages of food, water, and medical supplies.

In addition to expanding military efforts, the security cabinet also approved a new plan for distributing humanitarian aid to Gaza. However, it remains unclear when or how these supplies will be allowed into the besieged enclave. Israel currently controls around a third of Gaza's territory and has faced increasing international pressure to lift the blockade imposed in March. The Israeli government has justified the blockade by claiming that Hamas has seized or sold aid meant for civilians, a charge that the group has denied.

Nifty, Sensex Rally as Global Tensions Ease and Corporate Results Shine"

Domestic stock markets surged on Monday. They gained heavily. This is due to the easing of international tensions. On the other hand, expectations that India and the US trade talks will proceed smoothly contributed to this. The results of the respective companies also filled the positive sentiment. With this, Nifty rose by 114 and Sensex by 294 points. Nifty, which closed at 24,461 today, is the first consecutive gain in 2025. It has increased 12 times in the last 16 sessions. FIIs continued investment has become key for this.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 80,501 in the previous session, started at 80,661. It touched an intraday low at 80,651. It reached an intraday high at 81,049. Finally, it closed at 80,796 with a gain of 294 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,419, touched a low of 24,400 and a high of 24,529. It closed at 24,461, up 114 points. The Nifty Bank fell 195 points to settle at 54,919.

In the Nifty50, 38 companies gained and 12 lost. Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports, Trent,

Shriram Finance, Bajaj Finserv were the top gainers. Kotak Bank, JSW Steel, ONGC, SBI, Titan were the biggest losers. Mid and smallcap stocks gained ground today. Auto, oil, finance, FMCG, healthcare, metal, consumer durables, pharma, realty, media, and IT indices were in a good shape. Banking indices were down.



Market breadth turned in favor of buyers on NSE today. Out of a total of 2984 shares traded, 2023 gained, 865 lost. 29 shares touched the 52-week high and 32 shares touched the 52-week low. 94 shares touched the upper circuit and 66 shares touched the lower circuit.

Coforge's net profit in the fourth quarter rose 21.2% to Rs. 261 crore from Rs. 215 crore. The rupee strengthened 32 paise against the dollar and settled at 84.24. CLSA has given an underperform rating to JSW Steel with a target price of Rs 825. It is noteworthy that Ambit Company has given a buy rating to Marico with a target price of Rs 766. RR Cable consolidated profit increased by 64 percent and

revenue by 26 percent. CLSA has maintained its outperform rating on SBI with a target price of Rs 1050. Tatvachintan Pharma has received an export order. Kota Mahindra Bank has been downgraded to hold from outperform by CLSA. BMW Industries has received an order worth Rs 1764 crore from Tata Steel. Capri Global's net profit has decreased from Rs 82.5 crore to Rs 177 crore. 18 lakh shares of IDFC Bank have changed hands. Prabhudas Leeladhar has given a Buy rating to UTI Asset Management with a target price of Rs. 1300.

ITC Ltd



FMCG, Cigarettes, Hotels, Paper, Agri-business. Diversified portfolio across defensive and growth sectors. Consistent profitability; strong brand value in cigarettes and packaged

foods. Demerger of ITC Hotels to unlock shareholder value. Focus on FMCG expansion, rural demand recovery, and digital initiatives. Positive long-term potential due to defensive nature and steady earnings.

Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL)
City Gas Distribution.Monopoly



INDRAPRASTHA GAS LIMITED ly in NCR gas distribution. Low debt levels and consistent dividend payout. Strong government backing for natural gas adoption. Benefiting from the push toward clean energy. Volume growth expected from urban expansion and new vehicle conversions.

Kalyan Jewellers (KALYANKJIL)



Retail – Jewellery. Strong brand presence across India and the Middle East. Aggressive store expansion and strong wedding-season sales. Healthy same-store sales growth and margin improvement. Gold price volatility may impact near-term demand. Long-term positive due to brand strength and formalization of jewellery sector.

Gujarat Gas Ltd (GUJGAS)



GUJARAT GAS

City Gas Distribution (CNG, PNG). One of India's largest city gas distributors. High industrial customer base in Gujarat. Efficient operations and capex-driven growth. Margins may be under pressure due to

volatile gas prices. Long-term potential from rising urban gas demand and infrastructure expansion.

Power Grid Corporation of India

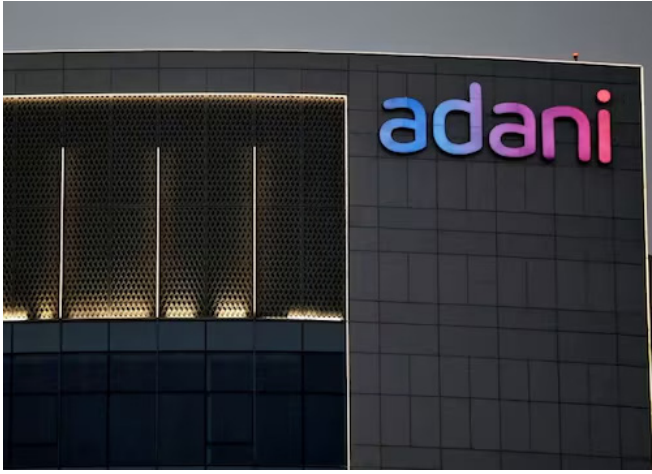
Power Transmission (Government PSU). Backbone of India's power grid; quasi-monopoly in



power transmission. High operating margins and regulated returns. Regular dividends and strong balance sheet. Steady performance expected; moderate growth with government push for renewables and grid modernization. Safe long-term investment due to defensive characteristics.

Adani Total Gas, Adani Power Among Other Group Stocks Zoom Up To 14%

Adani Group stocks are experiencing a significant rally in today's trading session, with Adani Total Gas leading the charge, surging over 14%. Other notable performers include Adani Green Energy and Adani Enterprises, which have gained 7.87% and 7.01%, respectively. This surge comes after reports emerged that representatives from the Adani Group, led by billionaire Gautam Adani, met officials from former US President Donald Trump's administration. The discussions reportedly focused on seeking the dismissal of criminal charges against Adani, which has fueled optimism among investors.



Other stocks such as Adani Ports & SEZ (ADANIPORTS), Adani Power (ADANIPOWER), and Ambuja Cements (AMBUJACEM) have also posted substantial gains, reflecting a broad-based rally in the group's shares.

These gains follow recent legal developments, with Adani and his nephew, Sagar Adani, facing criminal charges related to bribery for securing Indian power supply contracts. However, representatives of the group are reportedly arguing that the charges do not align with US political priorities and should be reconsidered. This has triggered hopes that a resolution may be on the horizon. As discussions continue, the market remains optimistic, with Adani Group stocks experiencing one of their strongest rallies in recent times, despite the ongoing legal proceedings.

The sharp rise in stock prices reflects market reactions to this ongoing legal development. Adani Energy Solutions (ADANIENSOL) is also seeing a solid 4.33% increase, currently trading at ₹946.4, with its 52-week range spanning from ₹588 to ₹1,348. Meanwhile, Adani Enterprises (ADANIENT) has seen a sharp 7.01% rise, reaching ₹2,455. The stock fluctuated between ₹2,025 and ₹3,743 over the past

year, highlighting the volatility within the group.

Adani Green Energy (ADANIGREEN), another major gainer, is trading at ₹976.45, reflecting a 7.87% increase. The stock's 52-week range spans from ₹758 to ₹2,174, further indicating the growth potential in this segment of Adani's portfolio.

India's Retail Vehicle Sales Increase by 2.95% in April 2024, Led by Strong Demand Across Segments



India's automobile retail sales saw a modest rise of 2.95% in April 2024, reaching 22,87,952 units, with various festivals such as Chaitra Navratri, Akshay Tritiya, Bengali New Year, Baisakhi, and Vishu contributing to a positive end to the month. In comparison, the same month last year recorded a total of 22,22,463 units, according to the Federation of Automotive Dealers Associations (FADA).

The growth was led by increased sales across most vehicle categories, except for commercial vehicles (CV), which saw a 1% decline. Notably, two-wheelers, three-wheelers, passenger vehicles (PV), and tractors registered significant growth, with respective increases of 2.25%, 24.5%, 1.5%, and 7.5%. Two-wheeler sales stood at 16,86,774 units, up from 16,49,591 units in April 2023, while PV retail sales

reached 3,49,939 units, a 1.55% rise from the previous year.

FADA President C.S. Vigneshwar attributed the uptick in sales to a combination of factors, including strong rural demand driven by favorable agricultural conditions and ongoing wedding season demand. The two-wheeler segment, in particular, showed robust growth, with a 2.25% year-on-year rise and a notable 11.84% month-on-month acceleration. This performance is reflective of stable demand amid a mixed economic backdrop, including challenges such as high financing costs and new emission norm-related price adjustments.

In the PV segment, a 1.55% year-on-year increase was seen despite limited new model introductions. However, PV sales showed a slight decline of 0.19% month-on-month,

reflecting cautious consumer sentiment and high inventories at dealerships. The continued demand for SUVs helped sustain volumes, although entry-level customers remained cautious.

The commercial vehicle segment saw a slight dip, with sales declining 1.05%, while the three-wheeler segment witnessed a significant 24.5% increase, and tractor sales grew 7.56%.

Looking ahead, FADA expects a steady but muted retail environment for May, with sustained demand in the two-wheeler and tractor segments, while PV sales may hold steady amid cautious buyer sentiment. The commercial vehicle market faces challenges but may benefit from upcoming infrastructure projects and OEM incentives.

Airtel Launches 'Business Name Display' Solution to Boost Customer Engagement for Enterprises



Bharti Airtel's B2B arm has unveiled a new solution, 'Business Name Display' (BND), aimed at helping businesses display their brand name on the recipient's mobile screen during outgoing calls. This industry-first solution is designed to enhance customer engagement by enabling enterprises to clearly identify their calls as legitimate, thereby building trust with their customers.

The BND service has been successfully piloted with over 250 businesses from various sectors, including banking, retail, food delivery, mobility, quick commerce, and logistics. In the past 30 days, these businesses have utilized more than 1.5 million phone numbers to make a total of 12.8 million calls. Airtel reported a noticeable increase in customer engagement during this period, which highlights the potential of BND to transform communication between enterprises and their customers.

The new service allows businesses to display their brand names on the recipient's mobile screen during calls, a feature that helps customers distinguish legitimate business calls from potential spam or fraud. This innovation is expected to improve the overall customer experience and ensure that businesses can effectively communicate with their clientele without their calls being ignored or marked as spam.

Airtel Business emphasized that the solution will provide businesses with better control over their caller ID, further strengthening their brand recognition. The company believes that by offering this service, it will help enterprises foster a greater level of customer trust, ensuring that important communications, whether for customer support or sales, are more likely to be answered.

The launch of BND aligns with Airtel's ongoing efforts to provide innovative solutions that empower businesses and drive growth in the digital communication space. With the growing importance of customer engagement and the rise in fraudulent calls, this new service marks a significant step toward improving business-to-customer interactions in India.

Content Creator Flags Alleged Swiggy Scam, Sparks Conversation on Delivery Loopholes

A recent Instagram reel by content creator Tvisha Tuli has gone viral after she alleged a disturbing scam involving a Swiggy delivery partner. Tvisha claims she encountered a payment fraud that exposed a potential loophole in the food delivery ecosystem, raising questions about platform accountability and delivery partner integrity.

In her post, Tvisha shared that she had ordered pizzas via Swiggy when she received a call informing her that the delivery partner had met with an accident. She was told the restaurant would fulfill the order directly—a claim that immediately raised her suspicions. When she called the restaurant to confirm, they clarified that they only deliver via aggregator platforms like Swiggy and Zomato, never directly.

Sensing foul play, she contacted Swiggy, which informed her that the order could not be fulfilled and that a refund would be issued. However, things took a strange turn when a man appeared at her home shortly afterward—with the exact same order—and asked her to pay via a personal QR code, since her original transaction had already been refunded.

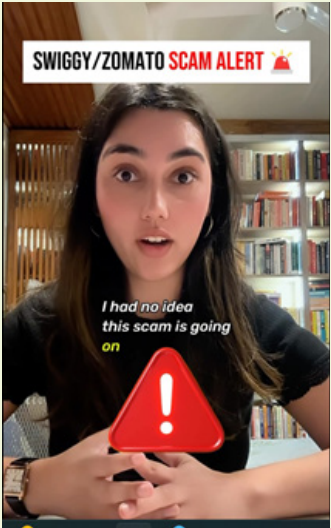
Alarmed, Tvisha once again reached out to the restaurant. The manager warned her not to pay the delivery person and explained that such scams were becoming increasingly common, saying, “Aaj kal bahot common scam chal raha hai [These scams are very common nowadays].”

In her caption, Tvisha detailed how some delivery partners allegedly exploit the system: by marking orders as undelivered, they trigger a refund, then complete the delivery themselves and collect the payment directly from the customer. This allows them to pocket the full amount—cutting out both the restaurant and the platform.

She emphasized that her post was not meant to defame any brand but to raise awareness and protect both customers and businesses from this emerging scam.

Swiggy responded publicly in the comments, acknowledging the seriousness of the situation and requesting Tvisha to share her order ID via private message so they could investigate further.

The incident has reignited concerns over delivery fraud and platform oversight in India’s rapidly growing food tech sector.



Salt Cravings? Could Signal Hormonal Imbalance, Says Nutritionist’s



Frequent salt cravings may not just be a sign of dehydration or an unhealthy diet, according to renowned nutritionist Nmami Agarwal. In a recent Instagram post, Agarwal revealed that these cravings could actually point to an underlying hormonal imbalance, particularly low levels of aldosterone, a hormone responsible for regulating salt and water balance in the body.

Agarwal, who is known for her expertise in nutrition and health, addressed common myths around salt cravings, explaining that the desire for salty foods can go beyond mere snacking habits. “Your body could be hinting at low aldosterone levels,” she wrote in her post, shedding light on this often-overlooked issue.

She also listed several symptoms that should raise concern for individuals who constantly crave salt. These symptoms include persistent salt cravings, low blood pressure, dizziness or lightheadedness, and unexplained fatigue. Agarwal stressed that these signs shouldn’t be ignored and advised

anyone experiencing them to consult a healthcare professional.

In her post, Agarwal made it clear that cravings are not something that should be accepted as normal. “Cravings are your body’s way of whispering what it needs. Start listening,” she urged her followers, highlighting the importance of paying attention to the body’s signals and addressing potential health concerns before they worsen.

For those who experience persistent cravings or related symptoms, Agarwal suggests getting electrolytes and hormone levels checked to ensure everything is functioning properly. While salt cravings can sometimes be linked to dehydration, she explained, it’s crucial not to rule out other hormonal causes that might need professional intervention.

This insightful post serves as a reminder for individuals to take their health seriously and be proactive in identifying potential issues before they become more serious health concerns.

Apple’s iPhone 18 Series May Follow Staggered Release Strategy in 2026

Apple’s iPhone 18 series, which is expected to launch in 2026, could break away from the company’s usual tradition of releasing all models simultaneously. According to a new report, Apple is considering a staggered release strategy for its iPhone 18 lineup, which could see some handsets arrive later than usual.

Traditionally, Apple unveils new iPhone models around September each year. However, sources suggest that starting in 2026, the company may release the premium iPhone 18 models—such as the iPhone 18 Pro, iPhone 18 Pro Max, and iPhone 18 Air—around the fall, likely in September. Meanwhile, the base iPhone 18 and the new iPhone 18e variant could be launched later in spring 2027, potentially around March or April.



The shift in strategy could be attributed to multiple factors, including Apple’s plan to introduce a foldable iPhone model alongside the Pro and Air variants. The staggered release would allow Apple to better manage resources and manufacturing capacity. By spreading out the launch, the compa-



ny could reduce the number of workers needed at any given time, helping streamline production.

Additionally, this staggered release plan might help boost sales by keeping customer interest high over a longer period. As part of its efforts to reduce its manufacturing dependence on

China, Apple is reportedly planning to carry out production trials for the iPhone 18 and iPhone 18e in India, particularly at Tata’s new plant.

Leaks also suggest that the iPhone 18 series will feature significant upgrades, including the use of 2nm TSMC chipsets, with all models expected to come equipped with 12GB of RAM. The iPhone 18 Pro and iPhone 18 Pro Max may also sport a hole-punch style camera cutout instead of the traditional Dynamic Island, marking another step toward an all-screen display.

As Apple continues to innovate, these developments are setting the stage for an exciting new era in iPhone design and release strategies.

YouTube Pilots New Two-Person Subscription Tier in India and Other Regions

YouTube has launched a new subscription tier, currently in a pilot phase in India, France, Taiwan, and Hong Kong, allowing two users to share a Premium or Music Premium membership at a discounted rate. This move is part of YouTube’s ongoing efforts to expand its subscription services and reduce its dependence on advertising revenue.

Under the trial, the two-person Premium plan in India is priced at ₹219 per month, while the Music Premium plan costs ₹149 per month. To qualify for the shared membership, both users must be at least 13 years old, have a Google account, and be part of the same Google family group. This initiative is designed to appeal to couples, roommates, or others sharing a household who wish to split the cost while maintaining individual user profiles.

A YouTube spokesperson confirmed the new offering, stating: “We’re exploring new ways to offer more flexibility and value to our Premium members, including testing a two-person Premium option, allowing two people to share a subscription at a lower price.”



Currently, individual YouTube Premium plans in India are priced at ₹149 per month, with student plans at ₹89 and family plans at ₹299. For Music Premium, the rates are ₹59 for students, ₹119 for individuals, and ₹179 for families. The new two-person plan is a significant step toward making YouTube’s premium services more accessible and affordable.

The move mirrors similar subscription models from other streaming platforms, such as Spotify’s Duo plan, which also offers discounted pricing for two users. YouTube has been actively working to increase its subscrip-

tion base, including a significant price hike in India in August 2024, with some plans rising by up to 58%. Additionally, the company has ramped up efforts to combat ad blockers globally.

As part of its broader subscription strategy, YouTube has also rolled out the Premium Lite service in select countries, offering ad-free viewing for a lower cost but excluding certain features like music videos and background play.

This new two-person plan could be a significant step for YouTube as it continues to diversify its revenue streams.

Apple Watch Saves Life with Timely Emergency Alert After User Collapses

Apple has once again proven its life-saving capabilities, this time through the Apple Watch. A Reddit user, Taylor, recently shared his experience of how the smartwatch contacted emergency services and helped save his life when he faced severe breathing issues and collapsed at a park.

In his Reddit post, Taylor recounted how he began experiencing sudden breathing difficulties while walking through an almost-empty parking lot. He felt lightheaded and dizzy, struggling to breathe, before eventually blacking out and falling to the ground. At this moment, the Apple Watch’s fall detection feature was activated, recognizing the hard fall and immediately contacting emergency services.

Taylor later revealed that he had been dealing with a cold and cough, attributing his symptoms to the changing seasons or possibly even Covid. “I was walking to my Jeep when things suddenly worsened. I felt dizzy and seriously winded, barely making it to the back of my vehicle before I blacked out,” he shared in his post.



Thanks to the Apple Watch’s automatic response, emergency personnel were notified immediately, which led to a timely rescue. Taylor expressed his gratitude on Reddit, acknowledging the quick action of both the smartwatch and emergency services in preventing a potentially worse outcome.

This incident highlights the importance of safety features like fall detection, which are designed to automatically alert emergency services if the wearer is incapacitated. Apple Watch’s

health-related features, including fall detection and heart monitoring, have gained recognition for their ability to assist in medical emergencies, offering peace of mind to users.

This life-saving incident serves as another reminder of how wearable technology can have a crucial role in safeguarding users, especially during health crises. The Apple Watch continues to demonstrate its potential to not only monitor health but to act as a vital tool in life-threatening situations.

SRH’s Playoff Hopes End as Delhi Capitals’ Path Becomes Tougher in Rain-Interrupted IPL 2025 Match

The much-awaited IPL 2025 encounter between Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) and Delhi Capitals (DC) was called off due to heavy rain, leaving SRH’s playoff aspirations dashed and making DC’s road to qualification even more difficult. Despite the disappointing weather, the match had earlier seen an intriguing contest, with both teams facing high stakes.

After winning the toss, SRH opted to bowl first, hoping to capitalize on the conditions and put pressure on the DC batting lineup. The Sunrisers’ bowlers, led by their captain, made an early breakthrough, with the SRH skipper dismissing Karun Nair,



Abishek Porel, and Faf Du Plessis in quick succession. This early success gave SRH the perfect start, but DC slowly began to rebuild.

Delhi Capitals managed to reach 133/7 in their allotted 20 overs, with key contributions from Ashutosh Shar-

ma and Tristan Stubbs. Both scored 41 runs each, anchoring the innings and providing much-needed stability after early wickets. However, SRH’s bowlers kept the pressure on, with Pat Cummins standing out, claiming three important wickets and stifling the opposition’s progress.

The SRH bowlers’ efforts didn’t stop there. Axar Patel was dismissed by Harshal Patel, while Jaydev Unadkat made a key breakthrough by removing KL Rahul. Meanwhile, a run-out dismissed Vipraj Nigam, further hurting DC’s chances of posting a competitive total. Eshan Malinga then dismissed Ashutosh Sharma,

ensuring SRH stayed in control.

Despite the disciplined bowling performance, rain played spoilsport, causing the match to be called off. As a result of the no result, SRH were officially eliminated from the play-off race, unable to make up ground in the points table. For DC, the situation became even more precarious as they now need to win 2 out of their remaining 3 matches to keep their playoff hopes alive. With the weather affecting the match, both teams were left frustrated, with SRH ruing their missed opportunity and DC scrambling to stay in contention.

India Retains Top Spot in ODIs and T20Is, Australia Dominates Test Rankings



India has maintained its dominance in the white-ball formats, retaining the top position in both the ODI and T20I rankings in the latest ICC annual men’s update, which was released on Monday. However, India slipped one spot in the Test rankings, now standing at fourth, as Australia continues to rule the longer format.

In the ODI rankings, India strengthened its hold on the number one spot, bolstered by a victorious ICC Champions Trophy campaign, improving their rating from 122 to 124. New Zealand, who were the runners-up in the Champions Trophy, moved up to second place, overtaking Australia, who now occupy the third spot. Sri Lanka made a significant jump to fourth place, fueled by their impressive performances at home, including ODI series wins against India and Australia. Pakistan dropped to fifth, while South Africa fell to sixth. Afghanistan also climbed up, moving to seventh, leaving England behind in eighth. West Indies, with a five-point increase, rose to ninth, pushing Bangladesh to 10th.

India also remains at the top in the T20I rankings, with their lead over second-placed Australia reduced from 10 to 9 points. For the first time, the annual T20I rankings now feature 100 teams,

with countries having played at least eight T20Is in the past three years. England, the 2022 T20I World Cup champions, remain in third, while New Zealand, West Indies, and South Africa hold the fourth, fifth, and sixth positions, respectively. Sri Lanka continues its rise in T20Is, now in seventh, overtaking Pakistan, who fell to eighth.

In the Test rankings, Australia retains its top position, although its lead has been narrowed from 15 to 13 points. England, under the leadership of Ben Stokes, made a significant jump to second place, surpassing South Africa and India, who dropped to third and fourth, respectively. Australia leads with 126 rating points, while England now holds 113. South Africa and India have 111 and 105 points, respectively. The rest of the top 10 in Test rankings remains unchanged, with New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, West Indies, Bangladesh, and Zimbabwe completing the list.

As of now, only 10 teams are ranked in the Test table, with Ireland needing to play one more Test in the next 12 months to qualify for a ranking, while Afghanistan must play three additional matches to join the list.

Casper Ruud Claims Maiden Masters 1000 Title at Madrid Open with Victory Over Jack Draper

Casper Ruud claimed the most significant trophy of his career, securing his first-ever Masters 1000 title at the Madrid Open on Sunday. The Norwegian, a three-time Grand Slam runner-up, triumphed in a thrilling final, defeating Jack Draper 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 in a two-and-a-half-hour battle at the Manolo Santana Stadium.

Ruud, who had reached six previous major finals without capturing a title, celebrated his win by joking that seven was his lucky number. “This was my seventh big final, so seven is a lucky number, I guess,” Ruud laughed after the match. “It was worth the wait in the end. I’ve never really been too close in any of the finals when I look back – I’ve lost the majority of them in straight sets.”

The victory marked a significant breakthrough for Ruud, who had struggled in big finals, including a loss to Novak Djokovic in the 2022 ATP Finals. Reflecting on his long-awaited triumph, Ruud expressed a mix of relief and joy. “I know,



based on the last years that I’ve had on tour, how tough it is to do well at the biggest tournaments, and I’ve never been able to get over the finish line as a champion, but today I was able to,” he said.

Draper, who was aiming for his first clay court title and had previously won the Indian Wells title in March, showed his resilience despite the loss. “Congratulations to Casper on this win, you really deserve it – you were braver than me in the key moments,” Draper acknowledged. “This sport is brutal, but I will keep trying. I think this loss will make me better.”

Ruud, ranked 15th, showcased his composure and power after a shaky start, eventually breaking Draper in the final moments to claim the victory. With the win, Ruud now adds the prestigious Madrid Open to his list of accomplishments, while Draper, who pushed him to the limit, reflected on the tough loss as the beginning of his own journey toward greatness.

Naomi Osaka Clinches First WTA Title at L’Open 35 de Saint-Malo

Naomi Osaka, a four-time Grand Slam champion, marked a triumphant return to tennis by securing her first WTA title since becoming a mother in 2023. Osaka defeated Slovenia’s Kaja Juvan 6-1, 7-5 in the final of the L’Open 35 de Saint-Malo, a WTA 125 tournament held on clay courts.



The 27-year-old Japanese player, who last won a WTA title at the 2021 Australian Open, described the victory as “ironic” since she had once considered clay her least favorable surface. Reflecting on her win, Osaka shared on social media: “Kinda ironic to win my first trophy back on the surface that I thought was my worst. That’s one of my favourite things about life though, there’s always room to grow and evolve.”

This victory comes as a significant milestone for Osaka, who took a break from tennis following the birth of her child in July 2023. Her journey back to the top has been eagerly watched by fans and analysts alike, and this win not only marks her return to the WTA circuit but also solidifies her continued evolution as a player.

Osaka, who was once ranked world No. 1, is now set to compete in the main draw of the French Open later this month, as she aims to build on her momentum and make a strong

statement in one of tennis’ most prestigious tournaments.

With this win, Osaka has proven her resilience and ability to adapt, even after a break from the sport. Her achievement at Saint-Malo has rekindled hope for her future success on the WTA Tour.

Kidambi Srikanth, Young Indian Shuttlers Eye Turnaround In Form At Taipei Open

Battling a challenging period of inconsistent form, Kidambi Srikanth, along with several promising young Indian badminton players, will be aiming to make a strong impact at the USD 240,000 Taipei Open, set to begin in Taipei on Tuesday. Srikanth, a former world No. 1, has been grappling with injuries and poor form, which has caused him to slip to No. 61 in the latest BWF World Rankings. Despite his struggles, the 32-year-old, who earned a silver medal at the 2021 World Championships, remains hopeful of turning things around. Last year, he participated in 14 tournaments, with his best performance being a semifinal finish at the Swiss Open in March. This year, Srikanth’s best result came at the Thailand Masters Super 300, where he reached the quarterfinals.

Srikanth will begin his campaign against compatriot S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian, a 2022 World Junior Championships silver medalist who made a notable upset by defeating former world No. 2 Anders Antonsen at the Swiss Open in March.

The 20-year-old Ayush Shetty, a bronze medallist at the 2023 World Junior Championships, will also be aiming for a strong showing. Shetty, who reached the semifinals at the Orleans Masters, will face third seed Lee Chia Hao from Chinese Taipei in



his first match.

Other Indian shuttlers looking to make an impact include 2023 National Games gold-medallist Tharun Manneppalli, who will take on Japan’s Shogo Ogawa, and Meiraba Luwang Maisnam, who will meet seventh-seeded Canadian Brian Yang.

In the women’s singles, Anupama Upadhyaya and Unnati Hooda will face each other in an all-Indian opening-round clash. Anupama enters the tournament on a high after a win at the Sudirman Cup, while Anmol Kharb and Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj, both promising young talents, will also compete in the tournament.

Aakarshi Kashyap, who will face Hung Yi-Ting in her opening match, and Rashmi Ganesh and Sania Sikkandar, who will compete in women’s doubles, round out the list of Indians to watch.



NTR and Prashanth Neel’s Dragon: Behind the Madness of India’s Next Mega Action Spectacle

Dragon, the much-hyped pan-India action drama starring NTR and directed by Prashanth Neel, is shaping up to be one of the most ambitious films in Indian cinema. Currently in its second shooting schedule in Karnataka, the film is creating a massive buzz with each passing update.

A special behind-the-scenes moment from the sets went viral today after Prashanth Neel’s wife, Likitha Reddy, shared a candid glimpse on Instagram. Captioning the photo with, “A mad set with my mad man,” Likitha offered fans a peek into the intense and passionate energy that Neel brings to the project. The image shows the director deeply focused as he monitors a shot on set, while Likitha is seen sitting just behind him, offering quiet support in the midst of the cinematic chaos.

With Mythri Movie Makers’ Naveen Yerneni and Ravi Shankar backing the project, Dragon is being made on a massive budget, promising scale and spectacle on par with global standards. Known for blockbusters like KGF and Salaar, Neel is expected to deliver a high-octane, visually gripping narrative tailored around NTR’s commanding presence.



While the makers remain tight-lipped about the plot, Dragon is widely anticipated to be a power-packed action drama rooted in intense emotions and stylized storytelling. There is considerable buzz around Rukmini Vasanth playing the female lead, although no official confirmation has been made yet.

The music of Dragon is being composed by Ravi Basrur, whose thundering back-

ground scores in KGF and Salaar played a key role in elevating those films to cult status. Expectations are sky-high for the same magic in Dragon.

Slated for a global theatrical release on June 25, 2026, Dragon is set to be a defining moment in the careers of both NTR and Prashanth Neel. With a dream combo, massive scale, and sky-high anticipation, this “mad set” is undoubtedly laying the groundwork for a cinematic storm.

Siddu Jonnalagadda’s Jack to Premiere on Netflix on May 8

Following the massive success of DJ Tillu and Tillu Square, actor Siddu Jonnalagadda returned to the big screen with high expectations for his latest film, Jack. However, despite the buzz and star power, the action-comedy entertainer directed by Bommarillu Bhaskar failed to impress at the box office and was labeled a commercial disappointment.

Now, in a welcome update for fans who missed its theatrical run, Netflix has officially announced the OTT release date for Jack. The film is set to premiere on the platform on May 8, exactly one month after its theatrical release. The movie will be available to stream in five languages — Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam — making it accessible to a wide audience across India.

Jack stars Siddu Jonnalagadda in the titular role, with Vaishnavi Chaitanya, known for her breakout role in Baby,



playing the female lead. Veteran actor Prakash Raj also plays a prominent role in the film. Despite its underwhelming theatrical performance, the film may find a second life on OTT, where comedies and action entertainers often gain

renewed attention.

The film was produced by seasoned filmmaker BVSN Prasad, under his banner Sri Venkateswara Cine Chitra. The music for Jack is a combined effort by Achu Rajamani, Sam CS, and Suresh Bobbili, contributing to a dynamic and varied soundtrack.

With its release on Netflix, Jack will look to capture the attention of digital audiences, who have previously supported Siddu Jonnalagadda’s unconventional and entertaining characters. Whether Jack can replicate that magic on OTT remains to be seen, but it’s certainly one of the more anticipated Telugu releases on streaming this month.

Fans of Siddu and regional cinema can mark their calendars for May 8, as Jack joins Netflix’s growing library of South Indian films.

Suhas Unleashes His Fiercest Look Yet in Tamil Debut Mandaadi

Actor Suhas, best known for his powerful performances in Telugu cinema, is turning heads with his intense and rugged look in his Tamil debut, Mandaadi. Produced by RS Infotainment and directed by Selfie fame Mathi-maran Pugazhendhi, Mandaadi is a gritty sports-action drama set against a raw coastal backdrop. The film features a compelling face-off between Soori, who plays the protagonist, and Suhas, cast as the central antagonist.

The film marks a significant milestone for Suhas, as he ventures into Kollywood with what is arguably the most massy and transformative look of his career. In the recently released first-look poster, Suhas appears almost unrecognizable—sporting grey hair, a traditional lungi, and an intense gaze. Standing on a windswept beach with his team, the “Tsunami Riders,” he exudes power and menace. The gritty background, including a beached boat, adds to the film’s realistic tone and promises a story deeply rooted in struggle and resilience.



Another striking poster showcases Suhas and Soori navigating their own boats, locked in a steely-eyed stare that hints at an epic showdown. The visuals suggest that Mandaadi is not just a sports drama, but a layered tale

of survival, emotional conflict, and power dynamics.

Suhas’s character, while antagonistic, appears to be emotionally rich and complex—far from the typical villain stereotype. His transformation and raw screen presence have already stirred excitement among fans and critics alike.

Soori, known recently for his shift towards serious, content-driven cinema, continues to build his reputation with strong, grounded roles. His dynamic with Suhas is expected to be a major highlight of the film.

Mandaadi also boasts a stellar supporting cast including Sathyaraj, Ravindra Vijay, and Achyuth Kumar, who bring additional gravitas to the film’s narrative.

With high production values, powerful performances, and a unique blend of sports and emotion, Mandaadi is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated Tamil films of the year.

Kiran Abbavaram’s Thriller KA Wins Best Film At Dadasaheb Phalke Film Festival 2025

The Telugu thriller KA, which released in October last year, has earned widespread critical acclaim and now adds a prestigious accolade to its list of achievements. Directed by debutant brothers Sujith and Sandeep, KA has won the Best Film Award at the Dadasaheb Phalke Film Festival 2025. The film, which impressed both audiences and critics, stars Kiran Abbavaram in the lead role and is now streaming on ETV Win.



Celebrating the win, ETV Win shared on social media: “KA bags the Best Film Award at the Dadasaheb Phalke Film Festival 2025! From festival fireworks to award spotlights, this Diwali release just keeps shining! @Kiran_Abbavaram nailed hearts...Debut directors Sujeeth & Sandeep ruled minds #KATheFilm. Watch now on @etvwin.”

Set in the quiet, fog-shrouded mountain village of Krishnagiri, KA follows the story of Vasudev, a postman played by Kiran Abbavaram. Orphaned and raised in an institution, Vasudev finds solace in the letters he delivers—until girls in the village begin disappearing. When his love interest, Satyabhama, is targeted, Vasudev is thrust into a sinister mystery, uncovering dark secrets behind the village’s tranquil facade.

The film opens with an eerie

interrogation scene, where Vasudev is questioned under hypnosis using a ticking clock—setting the tone for a psychological thriller packed with suspense. As memories surface, the film slowly builds towards a gripping climax, where even the title KA is revealed to hold deep symbolic meaning.

Kiran Abbavaram has been widely praised for his performance, with strong support from co-stars Nayan Sarika and Tanvi Ram. The film is produced by Chinta Gopalakrishna Reddy, with Chinta Vineesha Reddy and Chinta Rajashekar Reddy as co-producers under KA Productions, led by CEO Rahasya Gorak. The cinematography by Viswas Daniel and editing by Sree Varaprasad contribute to the film’s haunting aesthetic.

KA continues to capture viewers’ attention not only for its gripping narrative but also for its cinematic craft — making it a must-watch thriller on OTT.

Half of the Industry Celebrities Are Sold: Prakash Raj

Prakash Raj Slams Silence in Bollywood, Urges Artists to Speak Up

Actor Prakash Raj, known for his candid views on politics and society, has once again sparked debate with his strong remarks on the silence of Bollywood celebrities on political issues. In a recent interview, the outspoken actor criticized the film industry for its reluctance to speak up, especially during times when, according to him, freedom of expression is under threat.



Raj asserted that the industry is divided — “half of them are sold out, and the other half are too afraid to speak because they lack the strength.” He recounted a personal conversation where a friend told him, “You have the strength to speak, but not everyone does.” While acknowledging the fear many artists face, Raj said he couldn’t condone silence. “In the future, history may forgive those who committed crimes, but not those who stayed silent,” he emphasized.

The veteran actor believes that artists and filmmakers have a moral obligation to raise their voices, particularly when governments attempt to stifle dissent. He accused powerful regimes of deliberately trying to suppress dialogue and urged the creative community to resist such pressure and use their platforms to highlight uncomfortable truths.

Raj also weighed in on the recent controversy surrounding the ban

of the film Abir Gulaal, which features Pakistani actor Fawad Khan. The film was pulled following the Pahalgam attack, but Prakash Raj firmly opposed the ban, stating, “No film should be banned, whether it has a political message or not—unless it promotes something heinous like child abuse or pornography.”

His remarks have quickly gone viral, igniting fiery discussions online. While some applauded his courage and honesty, others criticized him for being divisive or overly political. Regardless, Raj remains unshaken in his belief that silence in the face of injustice is inexcusable, especially from public figures who hold influence.

His comments once again highlight the ongoing tension between art, politics, and freedom of expression in India’s entertainment industry.