

Medigadda Visit: Kaleshwaram Project Called “Man-Made Failure” – Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy

Medigadda | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Medigadda: Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy on Sunday clarified that the ongoing rumours and speculation surrounding the government's visit to Medigadda are completely false and baseless.

Speaking to the media along with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at Medigadda, the minister said that claims suggesting the delegation had come for unrelated meetings were entirely untrue and were being spread with misleading intent.

Uttam Kumar Reddy strongly criticised the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, describing it as one of the biggest man-made failures in independent India. He alleged that serious negligence occurred right from the initial stages of conception, planning, and design of the project.

He said that if the original plan at Tummidihatti, which was initiated before 2014, had been continued, lakhs of acres could have been irrigated at a much lower cost. Instead, shifting the project to Medigadda led to a massive escalation in expenditure and created an enormous financial burden on the state.

The minister stated that wrong decisions and mislead-



ing reports contributed to heavy losses to the state exchequer. He further pointed out that thousands of crores of rupees are now being spent towards repayment of loans taken for the project.

He emphasized that correcting past mistakes and protecting public money remains the primary responsibility of the present government. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the government is committed to restoring the damaged barrage structures and bringing them back into functional use.

He informed that inspection of the Medigadda barrage was carried out under the leadership of Chief Minister Re-

vanth Reddy along with expert teams. Based on the recommendations of technical experts, repair and restoration works will be taken up soon, he added.

The minister reiterated that the government's goal is to make the irrigation project useful for farmers again and ensure that public investment delivers real benefits on the ground.

He assured that the government will continue to function in a transparent and accountable manner, prioritizing public interest and responsible governance in all irrigation-related decisions.

Tummala Says Harish Rao's Future in Darkness, Sparks Political Debate

Hyderabad | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: Senior Congress leader and minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has made strong comments on former minister and BRS leader Harish Rao, stating that his “future in politics is in darkness,” triggering fresh political controversy in Telangana.

Speaking to the media, Tummala alleged that Harish Rao is currently facing growing internal challenges within the BRS party and said recent political developments indicate uncertainty over his role and influence. He claimed that shifting equations within the party and emerging differences among senior leaders are affecting Harish Rao's standing.

Tummala further remarked that key decisions and political strategies within the BRS are now being influenced by a small group, and that several senior leaders are being sidelined. He said this internal situation reflects a weakening organisational structure and rising dissatisfaction among party cadres.

He also alleged that some recent political movements and meetings held by BRS leaders in Delhi have raised questions among the public. According to him, these developments are being closely watched by political observers as they may indicate future realignments within the party.

The minister said that leadership credibility and internal unity are crucial for any political party to survive, adding that “confusion within leadership leads to confusion among the people.”



Tummala's remarks come at a time when Telangana politics is witnessing intense exchanges between ruling and opposition parties over governance, party defections, and leadership changes. His comments are expected to further escalate the ongoing war of words between Congress and BRS leaders.

Responding to political questions in general, Tummala also asserted that the Congress government is focused on welfare and development, and is not

concerned with “political distractions created by opposition parties.”

Meanwhile, BRS leaders are yet to officially respond to the remarks. However, party sources indicated that such statements are part of a broader political narrative aimed at weakening opposition morale.

The remarks have added fresh heat to Telangana's political landscape, which has been witnessing frequent verbal exchanges between senior leaders ahead of key political developments.

Kaushik Reddy Issues Warning to Government Over Key Issues

Hyderabad | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy on Sunday issued a sharp warning to the Telangana government, cautioning that public agitation would intensify if what he described as “anti-people decisions” were not withdrawn immediately.

Speaking to the media, Kaushik Reddy said that people in his constituency and other affected areas were already expressing strong opposition to

several government proposals, particularly those linked to local development and civic projects. He alleged that the government was ignoring public concerns and continuing with decisions that would impact livelihoods and land values.

He warned that if the government failed to respond, a Joint Action Committee (JAC) would escalate protests across the region. He said that mass mobilisations, including padayatras and continuous demonstrations, would be launched in coordination with local or-

ganisations and political groups.

The BRS leader also claimed that attempts were being made to suppress dissent by issuing notices and initiating inquiries against those raising objections. However, he said such measures would not deter him or the public from continuing their protest.

Kaushik Reddy asserted that the issues being raised were directly connected to farmers, local communities, and public welfare. He said any project or decision that threatens agricul-

Minister Seethakka Hails Women Empowerment at Public Meeting in Nasturpally

Nasturpally | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Nasturpally: Women and Child Welfare Minister Seethakka addressed a large public meeting held in Nasturpally as part of the 99-day Praja Palana programme, where she highlighted the government's welfare and development initiatives focused on women, farmers, and weaker sections.

Expressing gratitude to the massive turnout despite the intense summer heat, the minister said that the programme reflects the government's commitment to farmers' welfare and rural development.

She stated that the government is working as a pro-poor, pro-women, and pro-backward classes administration with a strong focus on inclusive development. “We believe that women's progress is Telangana's progress,” she said.

Seethakka informed that since the formation of the present government, 60,000 crore in bank loans have been facilitated for women's self-help groups, enabling financial independence and entrepreneur-



ship. She said that nearly 4.70 lakh small-scale industries have been established by women, contributing to wealth creation and employment generation.

She highlighted that women have been given a major role in procurement centres, with 8,251 procurement centres established across the state, including 3,403 IKP centres, where over 40% are managed by women. She said women have earned nearly 160 crore as commission through procurement activities in the last

year.

The minister reiterated the government's vision of transforming one crore women into entrepreneurs and economically independent individuals. She said initiatives like the Indira Mahila Shakti scheme are bringing qualitative changes in women's lives.

She also noted that women's self-help groups are actively involved in supplying bricks and centering materials for Indiramma housing projects, with 720 brick-making units and 170 centering units already

established, along with skill development training.

Criticising opposition parties, Seethakka alleged that BJP and BRS are attempting to confine women to traditional roles, while the Congress government is empowering them economically and socially.

She said the government has waived 21,000 crore in farmer loans and deposited nearly 1 lakh crore into farmers' accounts. Additionally, 5 lakh insurance coverage under the Indiramma Bima scheme is being provided to families for financial security.

The minister added that 70,000 jobs have been provided within a year and a half despite financial challenges.

She also accused former Chief Minister KCR of prioritizing political defections over public issues, alleging that he ignores public concerns but engages in political meetings.

Seethakka said that the Chief Minister will soon hold a meeting with women's groups to further strengthen their economic empowerment and introduce additional welfare measures.

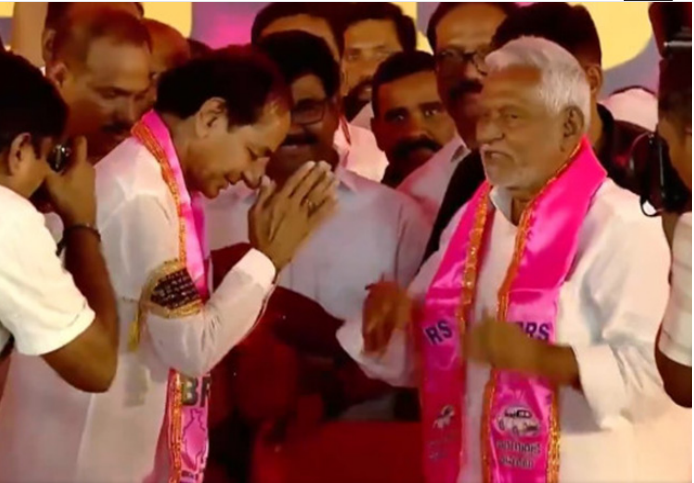
Jeevan Reddy Gets Key Role in BRS After Joining Party

Jagityal | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Jagityal: Senior leader T. Jeevan Reddy, who recently joined the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) after parting ways with the Congress, has been assigned a key organisational responsibility in the party.

BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) made the announcement during a massive public meeting held in Jagityal on Monday. After formally welcoming Jeevan Reddy into the party by covering him with a pink scarf on the dais, KCR declared that he would be appointed as the BRS state general secretary.

KCR said that Jeevan Reddy's long political experience and administrative background would strengthen the party organisation across Telangana. He indicated that the senior leader would be given important responsibilities in



the united Karimnagar region, where he has strong political influence and grassroots connect.

The move is being seen as a significant development within BRS, as Jeevan Reddy has decades of experience in public life, including multiple terms as MLA and service as a minister in united Andhra

Pradesh and Telangana politics.

KCR said leaders like Jeevan Reddy, who have worked closely with the public for years, would play a crucial role in rebuilding and expanding the party structure at the state level. He added that their experience would help in strengthening the party ahead of future

political challenges.

The announcement came during a large-scale rally that saw heavy participation from party cadre and supporters. Several other local leaders also joined the BRS during the event, making it a major organisational event for the party in the district.

Party leaders said Jeevan Reddy's inclusion would help consolidate BRS influence in northern Telangana districts, where organisational strengthening is currently a priority.

The Jagityal meeting also served as a platform for KCR to project renewed political momentum for the party, with emphasis on rebuilding the organisation and expanding its base across the state.

With this appointment, BRS has indicated its strategy of bringing experienced leaders into key roles to strengthen its political structure and prepare for upcoming electoral battles in Telangana.

Harish Rao Leaves for Delhi Amid KCR's Jagityal Sabha Buzz

Hyderabad | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

BRS senior leader and former minister T. Harish Rao's sudden departure to Delhi on the day of party chief K. Chandrashekar Rao's massive public meeting in Jagityal has triggered intense political debate in Telangana. According to party sources, Harish Rao, along with former MP B. Vinod Kumar and Rajya Sabha MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra, travelled to the national capital for consultations with senior legal experts on key pending cases involving the party. The delegation is reported to be discussing legal strategies related to the Kaleshwaram project commission proceedings and cases concerning alleged defections of party MLAs. The timing of the visit has drawn attention, as it coincides with



KCR's much-publicised “Jag-ruti Sabha” in Jagityal, where the party is seeking to regain political momentum and strengthen its cadre base.

Party insiders maintained that the Delhi visit was planned in advance and is strictly focused on legal preparations, especially ahead of expected judicial developments in the

coming weeks. The BRS is currently awaiting crucial court observations on commission reports and related petitions.

However, the absence of Harish Rao—considered one of the party's key strategists—from a high-profile public meeting has sparked speculation in political circles. Opposition parties have attempted to project

the development as internal differences within the BRS, while the party has strongly dismissed such claims.

BRS leaders clarified that Harish Rao's engagement in Delhi reflects his responsibilities in handling sensitive legal matters, and not any political divergence. They further stated that the party remains united under KCR's leadership and focused on strengthening its organisational structure.

Meanwhile, KCR's Jagityal meeting saw large-scale participation, with the party attempting to mobilise support through renewed outreach efforts. The contrasting developments in Jagityal and Delhi have now become a talking point in Telangana's political landscape, adding to the ongoing debate over the BRS's internal dynamics and future strategy.



Minister Jupally Krishna Rao Reviews Tourism and Heritage Projects in Hyderabad

Hyderabad | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Monday conducted a detailed review meeting at the Telangana Tourism Development Corporation (TGTDC) office in Himayat Nagar, Hyderabad, with officials from the tourism, archaeology, and Buddhavanam project departments.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the progress of various ongoing develop-

ment works and discussed strategies to accelerate implementation of key tourism and heritage-related projects across the state. Officials presented detailed reports on the status of infrastructure development, tourism promotion initiatives, and conservation works being undertaken under different schemes. The minister enquired about delays, if any, and instructed officials to ensure timely completion of all pending works.

Special emphasis was placed on the Bud-

dhavanam project, which is being developed as a major spiritual and cultural tourism destination. The minister reviewed the progress of construction activities and directed officials to maintain quality standards while ensuring adherence to project timelines.

He also discussed plans to enhance tourist facilities at important heritage and archaeological sites across Telangana, aiming to boost both domestic and international tourism.

Minister Jupally

Krishna Rao stressed the importance of co-ordinated efforts among departments to improve tourism infrastructure and attract more visitors to the state. He said that tourism has the potential to generate employment opportunities and contribute significantly to the state economy.

Officials informed the minister about various promotional activities being taken up to highlight Telangana's cultural heritage and historical significance at national and international

platforms.

The meeting was attended by TGTDC Chairman Patel Ramesh Reddy, Special Chief Secretary Vani Prasad, Managing Director Gautami, Buddhavanam Special Officer Mallepalli Lakshmaiah, and Archaeology Department Director Arjuna Rao. The minister directed officials to work in a mission mode and ensure that Telangana emerges as a leading tourism destination with world-class facilities and well-preserved heritage sites.



BJP Slams Congress Over Women's Reservation Bill, Targets Revanth Reddy's Remarks

Hyderabad | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: BJP spokesperson of Rani Rudrama on Monday launched a sharp attack on the Congress party, alleging that it has repeatedly failed to ensure women's political empowerment and misled the public on the Women's Reservation Bill.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP office in Hyderabad, she said the entire country had long waited for the implementation of women's reservation, which she described as a historic opportunity to enhance women's representation in politics.

She alleged that Congress and its allies had acted against the interests of women and obstructed key legislative measures in the past. Referring to April 16, she termed it a "dark day" and accused Congress of celebrating while, according to her, denying women their rightful opportunities.

She claimed that Congress, despite being in power for decades, never sincerely worked towards passing the Women's Reservation Bill. She also referred to past legislative attempts during the Deve Gowda and Vajpayee governments, alleging that opposition parties disrupted or blocked the process.

Rani Rudrama further stated that even during the UPA regime under Sonia Gandhi, the bill was not effectively taken forward in the Lok Sabha despite being passed in the Rajya Sabha. She questioned the party's intent, asking why the bill was not introduced for final passage between 2010 and 2014.



She also argued that the current structure of the bill links women's reservation with delimitation and census, as per constitutional provisions, and said that any delay in census implementation should not be politicized.

On delimitation, she said that seat redistribution based on population will not harm the southern states as being alleged, and claimed that new seat allocation would actually benefit them under the central government's plan.

She further accused opposition parties of creating confusion and misleading people on regional representation issues for political gains.

In a strong political attack,

she also targeted Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, alleging that he is treating democracy like a real estate business. She criticised his reported remarks on linking votes with wealth and accused him of undermining the "one person, one vote" principle of the Constitution. She alleged that political families dominate opportunities while restricting others, and demanded an apology to women and the public for what she termed as irresponsible statements.

She concluded by warning that BJP would take the issue to the grassroots level and continue to highlight what it calls anti-women policies of opposition parties.

Basaveshwara Jayanti Celebrated at Ravindra Bharathi; Ministers Emphasise Equality and Social Justice

Hyderabad | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: The 893rd birth anniversary of Mahatma Basaveshwara was celebrated with grandeur at Ravindra Bharathi under the aegis of the Telangana Backward Classes Welfare Department. Ministers Ponnamp Prabhakar and Vokiti Srihari attended the programme as chief guests.

The event was also attended by Zahirabad MP Suresh Shetkar, Police Housing Corporation Chairman Gurnath Reddy, Hyderabad Police Commissioner CV Anand Sajjannar, BC Corporation Chairman Nuthi Srikanth Goud, Fisheries Corporation Chairman Metta Sai Kumar, former MP BB Patil, BC Welfare Department Secretary Balamayadevi, senior officials, and several public representatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar paid rich tributes to Basaveshwara, describing him as a great social reformer who dedicated his life to promoting equality, social justice, and moral values in society.

He said that Basaveshwara's philosophy remains highly relevant even today and urged people to understand and follow his ideals in tune with changing times. He also stated



that the state government has already established a corporation in Basaveshwara's name to further his ideals and welfare activities. The minister announced that the foundation stone for the construction of a Basaveshwara Bhavan will be laid soon. He emphasized that not only the government but also followers and stakeholders of Basaveshwara's philosophy should actively participate in such initiatives.

Ponnamp Prabhakar also mentioned that inspired by Basaveshwara's ideals, Congress

leader Rahul Gandhi had taken forward the message of social unity through the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

He added that the government is committed to educating the younger generation about Basaveshwara's teachings and values, ensuring that his thoughts reach future generations. Highlighting Basaveshwara's contribution, the minister said he dedicated his life to eradicating caste discrimination and promoting the idea that all human beings are equal. His principle of "Kay-

akave Kailasa" teaches the dignity of labour and self-respect through honest work.

He further noted that Basaveshwara's reforms for women's equality remain inspirational even today and his efforts towards uplifting marginalized communities continue to guide modern society.

The minister concluded by calling upon everyone to follow Basaveshwara's principles of equality, justice, and righteousness, and to contribute towards building an inclusive and equal society.

BRS Faces Internal Rift, Says MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy; Comments on Harish Rao and Party Situation

Bhongir | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: Bhongir Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy on Sunday made strong political remarks targeting the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), claiming that internal differences within the party have begun to surface.

Speaking to the media, the MP commented on BRS leader T. Harish Rao's recent Delhi visit and said that the party is currently witnessing internal unrest. He alleged that there are differences among senior leaders regarding recent political developments and party decisions.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy claimed that the entry of senior leader Jeevan Reddy into BRS was not welcomed by



all sections within the party. He further stated that certain leaders within BRS were not supportive of his inclusion and that internal coordination appears weak.

He also made remarks about interactions between senior

leaders, stating that while some leaders visited Jeevan Reddy during his political transitions, others reportedly distanced themselves. He alleged inconsistencies in internal support among top leadership.

The MP further claimed that senior BRS leader and former minister Harish Rao's political activities, including his visit to Delhi, would soon reveal important developments. He suggested that Harish Rao's future political strategy would become clearer in the coming days.

Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy also made a series of political predictions, stating that internal disagreements and leadership dynamics indicate challenges for BRS in the future. He said the party is facing

a difficult phase and alleged that it is gradually losing its earlier strength.

He further commented that some senior leaders who joined BRS in the past have not found the expected position or influence within the party. According to him, this reflects internal dissatisfaction among members. The MP also criticised the party's narrative on opposition parties, alleging that BRS is attempting to project political advantages through recent defections. Concluding his remarks, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said that political developments within BRS indicate instability and claimed that the party is heading towards a challenging phase in Telangana politics.

Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar Hails Welfare Measures at Nasturpally Public Meeting

Nasturpally | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Nasturpally: Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar addressed a large public meeting at Nasturpally, highlighting the achievements of the Congress-led "Praja Palana" government and its welfare initiatives across the state.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that after the Telangana movement and a decade of unfulfilled promises, people voted for change and gave an opportunity to the Revanth Reddy-led government to rule the state. He alleged that the previous government failed to deliver on its commitments, leading to public dissatisfaction.

Ponnamp Prabhakar criticised the opposition for spreading misinformation and attempting to weaken the government instead of offering constructive suggestions. He said that despite such political challenges, the government remains focused on implementing welfare schemes for the poor.

He highlighted that free bus travel for women was launched within 48 hours of the government taking charge, enabling millions of women to travel free of cost. He said that women have collectively benefited from travel worth thousands of crores under the scheme.

The minister said that the government is strengthening the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) through new bus procurement and infrastructure development. He added that efforts are being made to modernise bus stations and improve passenger facilities.

He stated that TSRTC continues to serve as a lifeline for the poor, operating thousands of buses across hundreds of depots and bus stations. He reiterated that the government's priority is the welfare of employees, passenger convenience, and institutional sustainability. Ponnamp Prabhakar also listed key welfare measures including 200 units of free electricity, distribution of fine rice, issuance of new ration cards, and the Indirama housing scheme. He said that 3,500

houses are being sanctioned per constituency and construction is progressing.

He claimed that despite financial challenges, the government has provided over 70,000 jobs and is actively working to improve education and welfare infrastructure, including increased mess charges and teacher recruitment in hostels.

He further said that women empowerment remains a core focus, with initiatives aimed at making one crore women financially independent. He noted that women's self-help groups are being supported in various economic activities.

The minister also referred to agricultural support measures, including distribution of farm equipment and establishment of an oil palm factory in Narmeta, Siddipet district.

Concluding his address, Ponnamp Prabhakar urged people to support Congress programmes and said that despite opposition criticism, the government will continue implementing welfare and development initiatives for the benefit of the public.

Ashok Ameta from Tandraiya Re- ceives Khel Ratna National Award

Hyderabad | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: “Hard work is the true reward of success” — proving this saying right, young sportsperson Ashok Ameta from Tandraiya village in Kathlapur mandal of Jagtial district has brought pride to Telangana by receiving the prestigious Khel Ratna National Award.

Coming from a modest family background, Ashok’s journey has been marked by struggle, perseverance, and determination. Despite facing several hardships and limited opportunities in his native village, he remained committed to his sporting goals and steadily worked towards achieving excellence.

Growing up in a small village with minimal sports infrastructure, Ashok relied mainly on his dedication and self-belief. Even during difficult times when resources were scarce and setbacks frequent, he refused to give up on his dreams. His consistent efforts and disciplined training gradually helped him rise from local competitions to the national level.

Officials and sports personalities present at the event appreciated his inspiring journey, stating that Ashok’s achievement reflects the untapped potential in rural India. His success story is being seen as a motivation for many young athletes from similar backgrounds.

The award ceremony was



held in a grand manner in Hyderabad, where Ashok was felicitated for his outstanding contribution and performance in sports. Dignitaries praised his determination and said his achievement would encourage more youth from rural areas to pursue sports professionally.

Speaking after receiving the award, Ashok expressed gratitude to his family, coaches, and supporters who stood by him during his journey. He said that his success is only the beginning and that he aims to achieve greater milestones in the future and represent the country at international platforms.

His inspiring rise from a small village to a national award stage has become a powerful example of determination overcoming limitations, earning him admiration across the state.

MLA Vemula Veeresham Visits Press Academy, Stresses Journalist Welfare

Hyderabad | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: Government Whip and Nakirekal MLA Vemula Veeresham on Monday visited the Press Academy of office in Hyderabad and reviewed its ongoing initiatives aimed at strengthening journalism in the state.

During the visit, Press Academy Chairman K. Srinivas Reddy warmly received the MLA. Officials briefed him on various training programmes, capacity-building initiatives, and welfare measures being implemented for journalists across the state. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Vemula Veeresham said the government is giving special priority to the welfare of journalists. He described the media as the fourth pillar of democracy, highlighting its key role in bringing public issues and government activities to the notice of people. He appreciated the contribution of journalists in reporting social issues and developmental challenges. “Journalists play a vital role in strengthening democracy by acting as a bridge between the government and the public,” he said. The MLA suggested



that the Press Academy should further expand its training programmes to equip journalists with modern skills, particularly in digital reporting, investigative journalism, and ethical practices. He stressed the need for continuous skill upgradation in the changing media landscape. Vemula Veeresham also emphasized the importance of focusing on journalists working in rural and remote areas. He noted that rural journalists often face several challenges and require better opportunities,

support, and recognition. He further called for strengthening infrastructure and welfare schemes through the Press Academy to benefit working journalists across all districts. The MLA assured that the issues and suggestions raised during the visit would be brought to the notice of the government for appropriate action. The visit concluded with discussions on enhancing coordination between the government and media institutions to further strengthen the journalism ecosystem in the state.

Congress Rejects False Claims on Women’s Bill: H.R. Mohan

Nacharam | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: Congress Party Medchal-Malkajgiri district official spokesperson H.R. Mohan has strongly condemned what he termed as false propaganda being spread by BJP leaders claiming that the Congress party and Rahul Gandhi opposed the Women’s Bill.

Addressing a press conference in Nacharam on Monday, Mohan alleged that the BJP is deliberately trying to create public opposition against the Congress party and mislead women voters across the country. He said the BJP has been making such claims for the past two to three days with the intention of politically damaging the Congress.

He clarified that the Women’s Reservation Bill was not actually introduced in the manner being claimed by the BJP. Instead, he stated that three separate bills were presented in Parliament, including the Constitution Amendment Bill, Delimitation Bill, and Union Territories Laws Amendment Bill, and none of them were the Women’s Bill as being projected in public discourse.

Mohan further stated that the Women’s Reservation Bill was already passed in September 2023 and had received Presidential assent. However, he pointed out that its implementation is linked to the completion of the national census, as clearly mentioned in the provisions of the bill.



He questioned the central government on why the census has not yet been conducted and asked what would happen to SC, ST, and OBC reservations if the bill is implemented without updated population data. He accused the BJP of shifting responsibility and misleading the public while staging protests and burning effigies against the Congress.

Highlighting Congress contributions, Mohan said that women have achieved political representation and progress due to reservation policies introduced by the Congress party

in the past.

He also challenged the BJP to explain what it has done specifically for women’s empowerment and whether women are given adequate representation within the party.

Additionally, he demanded that BJP MP Tejasvi Surya apologise publicly to the people of Telangana for alleged inappropriate remarks on the state’s formation. He warned that if no apology is issued, public anger may prevent BJP leaders from freely moving in Telangana.

The meeting was attended by TPCC Labour Cell Vice President and Medchal District IN-TUC President V.S. Prakash Reddy and Ashwathama Reddy.



CCTV Cameras to Act as Protective Shield: ACP Shankar Reddy

Medchal | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Medchal: CCTV cameras not only help in crime control but also act as a protective shield for public safety, said Medchal Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Shankar Reddy.

He inaugurated 16 CCTV cameras installed at Raj Bolaram Tanda in Ward No. 4 of Ellampet Municipality on Monday. The installation was carried out with 2.5 lakh of personal funds by local councillor Shanti Raju Nayak.

Speaking on the occasion, ACP Shankar Reddy appreciated Councillor Shanti Raju Nayak for fulfilling his promise by installing CCTV cameras with the objective of ensuring public safety. He said such initiatives strengthen community policing and help in preventing crimes at the local level. The ACP emphasized that surveillance systems play a key role in identifying offenders quickly and reducing criminal activities. He added that CCTV footage often serves as

crucial evidence in investigations, enabling police to solve cases efficiently.

He also advised women and children to remain alert and cautious around strangers. He stressed the importance of community awareness and cooperation with police for maintaining law and order.

Officials present at the event said that the installation of CCTV cameras will significantly improve security in the area and act as a deterrent to theft and other offences.

Councillor Shanti Raju Nayak stated that the initiative was taken in response to public demand and assured that more safety measures would be implemented in the future.

Circle Inspector Satyanarayana, Sub-Inspector Manmad, Congress leader Maloth Raju Nayak, and several villagers participated in the programme. Local residents welcomed the initiative and expressed confidence that continuous surveillance would enhance safety and peace in the locality.



Strong Response for Nissan Gravite in Hyderabad; 100 Vehicles Delivered

Secunderabad | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: Nissan vehicles are witnessing growing popularity in Hyderabad, with Vibrant Nissan dealership achieving a milestone by delivering 100 units of the Nissan Gravite in a single event.

The large-scale delivery ceremony was held in Secunderabad and marked a significant moment for the brand’s expansion in the city. Nissan Motor India Managing Director Saurabh Vatsa attended the event as the chief guest.

The Nissan Gravite, a newly introduced 7-seater MPV, has quickly gained traction among customers in Hyderabad. Designed for family-oriented usage, the vehicle offers spacious interiors, enhanced comfort, modern safety features, and modular seating arrangements. Features such as six airbags and advanced safety systems have further increased its appeal among buyers.

Speaking on the occasion, Vibrant Nissan Managing Director Siraj Babu Khan said that delivering 100 Gravite vehicles in a short span is a matter of pride for the dealership. He stated that the strong response

reflects customer trust in the Nissan brand and highlighted that Hyderabad has emerged as a key market for the new model. He added that the dealership aims to strengthen long-term relationships with customers by involving them and their families in delivery celebrations, making the ownership experience more engaging and memorable. Officials said that Vibrant Nissan has been playing a crucial role in expanding Nissan’s presence in Hyderabad and surrounding regions. The dealership’s performance has contributed significantly to increasing the brand’s visibility in the competitive MPV segment. Nissan India, meanwhile, is focusing on strengthening its position in the Indian market through innovative products tailored to local customer needs. The company is also working on enhancing service quality and customer satisfaction as part of its broader growth strategy in the country. The successful delivery event highlights the rising demand for the Gravite model and underscores Nissan’s efforts to expand its footprint in India’s growing automobile market.

Fire Accident at Herithro Pharma Industry in Jinnaram

Jinnaram (Sangareddy) | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Jinnaram: A fire accident occurred on Monday afternoon at Herithro Pharma Industry located in Gaddapotharam Industrial Area of Jinnaram mandal in Sangareddy district, creating panic in the locality.

According to local reports, the fire broke out near the boiler section of the pharmaceutical unit, allegedly due to a short circuit. The flames reportedly erupted suddenly and began spreading rapidly within the premises.

Local residents alleged that the industry did not have adequate fire safety equipment on site,

which allowed the fire to intensify within a short span of time. They said the lack of immediate firefighting measures contributed to the spread of the blaze.

As the fire escalated, workers and nearby industrial units were alerted. Since the affected unit is located adjacent to another major industrial facility, safety teams from the neighbouring industry reportedly released chemical safety measures to prevent the fire from spreading further.

Locals also claimed that the absence of a fire engine at the initial stage worsened the situation, delaying control efforts. This led to concerns over industrial safety preparedness in the area.

Fire service officials later reached the spot and initiated firefighting operations to bring the flames under control. Authorities cordoned off the area as a precautionary measure and ensured that nearby units were safeguarded.

Officials are yet to confirm the extent of damage or whether any injuries were reported. An investigation is expected to be conducted to determine the exact cause of the fire and to assess compliance with safety norms at the industrial unit.

The incident has once again raised concerns over fire safety standards in industrial clusters of Sangareddy district.





Ichoda School Teachers Actively Participate in Badi Bata Programme

Ichoda | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Ichoda: The Badi Bata programme was conducted enthusiastically in Ichoda mandal on Monday, with active participation from teachers of the local Zilla Parishad High School. The initiative aimed at increasing enrolment and creating awareness about school education among parents and students.

Under the leadership of Ichoda High School Headmaster Ramana Reddy, a team of teachers visited several primary schools across the mandal as part of the campaign. The team interacted with students and parents to explain the importance of continuing education at the secondary level.

The teachers visited Addegam SC Colony Primary School, Addegam K, Addegam B, and Ichoda Primary School during the programme. At each school, they held interactive sessions with students and staff, highlighting the academic standards, facilities, and learning environment available at Ichoda High School.

Speaking on the occasion, Headmaster Ramana Reddy said that Ichoda High School is committed to providing quality education along with strong value-based learning. He emphasized that the school focuses not only on academic excellence but also on overall personality development of students.

Sanjay Kumar Targets KTR Over Political Remarks, Sparks Fresh Row

Hyderabad | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: Political heat in Telangana intensified after senior BJP leader Sanjay Kumar launched a sharp attack on BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), accusing him of making misleading statements and engaging in political propaganda.

Addressing the media, Sanjay Kumar said that KTR has been repeatedly attempting to divert public attention from key issues by making "baseless allegations" against opposition leaders. He alleged that such remarks are aimed at gaining political mileage rather than addressing people's concerns.

The BJP leader also criticised the BRS leadership, stating that internal differences within the party are becoming increasingly visible and are affecting its organisational strength. He claimed that several recent political developments indicate growing unrest within the party ranks.

Sanjay Kumar further alleged that during the previous BRS regime, governance issues were overlooked and now the party is trying to shift blame. He said that the public is closely observing the political statements being made by various leaders and will respond accordingly.

He also referred to ongoing legal and political disputes involving KTR and said that repeated controversies are damaging public trust. According to him, leadership should focus on development rather than engaging in confrontational



politics.

The remarks come amid an already charged political atmosphere in Telangana, where ruling and opposition parties have been trading charges over governance, corruption allegations, and defections. Sanjay Kumar's comments are expected to further escalate tensions between the BJP and BRS leadership.

BRS leaders are yet to issue an official response to the latest criticism. However, party sources indicated that they are preparing a counter-attack, terming the remarks as politically motivated and misleading.

Political observers say such exchanges are likely to continue as Telangana witnesses heightened political activity ahead of key organisational and electoral developments. The ongoing war of words between major parties reflects the increasingly competitive nature of the state's political landscape.

Retired Employees Felicitate Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha Over Digital Health Cards

Jogipet | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Jogipet: The Telangana Retired Government Employees Association on Monday felicitated State Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha for the government's decision to issue Digital Health Cards to retired government employees.

The felicitation programme was held at the minister's office in Jogipet, where association members expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the initiative aimed at improving healthcare access for retired staff.

Speaking on the occasion, members of the association said that the introduction of Digital Health Cards is a long-awaited step that will greatly benefit retired government employees by ensuring easier access to medical services and health-related benefits without procedural delays.

They stated that the Telangana government's move reflects its commitment to the welfare of retired employees who have served the state in various departments for several decades. The association members welcomed the initiative and thanked the government for addressing a key demand of the retired workforce.

Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha, while receiving the felicitation, said that the govern-



ment is giving priority to the welfare of retired employees and is working to strengthen the healthcare support system for them. He informed that pilot project works related to the distribution of Digital Health Cards are currently underway in Sangareddy district.

He added that based on the outcomes of the pilot project, the government will soon roll out the scheme across the state and distribute Digital Health Cards to all eligible retired government employees in a phased manner.

The minister emphasized that the initiative aims to provide hassle-free medical services and reduce financial burden on retired employees by streamlining access to health facilities.



Contaminated Food Threatens Public Health; Negligence of Authorities Under Fire

Adilabad | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Adilabad: The growing menace of adulterated and unhygienic food in hotels and restaurants has sparked serious concern among the public, with repeated incidents pointing to a potential health crisis.

In several recent inspections conducted by food safety officials and task force teams, alarming violations have come to light. Authorities reportedly found substandard ingredients, expired spices, and poorly maintained kitchen conditions in multiple eateries.

Officials also discovered that some establishments were storing meat for several days in refrigerators without proper preservation, along with spoiled food items and unsafe chemical additives being used in cooking processes. In certain cases, the reuse of cooking oil multiple times was also observed, raising serious questions about food safety standards.

These findings have triggered widespread fear among citizens, with many now hesitant to dine out, especially during weekends with family and friends. Health experts warn that consumption of such contaminated food can lead to severe food poisoning and long-term health complications.

In the past year, similar incidents have already caused public outrage. One such case from Nirmal district involved around 20 people falling ill after consuming biryani at a hotel, while a young woman reportedly died due to food

poisoning. Despite such incidents, concerns are being raised that effective preventive action remains limited.

Critics allege that inspections are only superficial and follow-up enforcement is weak. They argue that penalties imposed on violators do not deter repeat offences, allowing unsafe food practices to continue unchecked.

Public representatives and citizens have demanded stricter enforcement of food safety regulations, including continuous monitoring of hotels and restaurants. They insist that establishments violating hygiene norms must face stringent action, including suspension of licenses where necessary.

Food safety experts emphasize that only regular inspections, strict enforcement, and accountability of officials can ensure safe food practices. They also stress the need for public awareness regarding food hygiene standards.

As concerns continue to rise, citizens are urging authorities to take immediate and sustained action to protect public health from the growing threat of adulterated food.



Madi Ganesh, Senior Journalist..

Basaveshwara Jayanti Celebrated Grandly at Ravindra Bharathi

Hyderabad | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: The 893rd birth anniversary of Mahatma Basaveshwara was celebrated with grandeur at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad on Sunday. The event witnessed participation from several ministers, public representatives, and senior officials.

State Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Vokiti Srihari, Zahirabad MP Suresh Shetkar, Hyderabad Police Commissioner CV Anand Sajjannar, along with other leaders attended the celebrations and paid tributes to Basaveshwara.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Vokiti Srihari offered his respectful homage to Basaveshwara and highlighted his enduring contribution to society. He said Basaveshwara was a great reformer who promoted the values of equality, justice, and fraternity.

The minister noted that the principle of "Kayakave Kailasa" taught by Basaveshwara carries a powerful message that one's dignity and progress come through honest labour and dedication. He said Basaveshwara's teachings encouraged people to work with sincerity and integrity.

He further stated that Basaveshwara strongly opposed



caste, religious, and social discrimination and called for a unified society. His vision of equality between men and women and his efforts to ensure equal opportunities remain highly relevant even today. Minister Srihari said that Basaveshwara's "Vachanas" continue to inspire social awareness and guide people towards positive transformation in society. He added that in the present context, where certain inequalities still exist, Basaveshwara's ideals are even more significant. He reiterated that the Telangana government is committed to working in line with Basaveshwara's

philosophy by ensuring welfare and equal opportunities for all sections of society. The government, he said, is implementing various welfare schemes aimed at improving the lives of people across all communities. The minister appealed to the public to not restrict Basaveshwara's teachings to books alone but to practice them in daily life. He emphasized that collective responsibility is essential for building a more equal and just society. The programme concluded with tributes to Basaveshwara and a collective call to work towards strengthening equality, harmony, and social justice in society.

Aravind Lauds Chandrababu on Birthday, Credits Visionary Leadership

Hyderabad | April 20, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: BJP MP Dharmapuri Aravind extended warm birthday wishes to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, praising his leadership and long-term vision in transforming Hyderabad and the undivided Andhra Pradesh into a technology and investment hub.

In a social media message, Aravind said Chandrababu Naidu's governance style in the 1990s reflected "clear foresight and strong administrative planning," which helped shape modern infrastructure and attract global investments to the region.

He particularly highlighted the development of Hyderabad's IT ecosystem, stating that initiatives such as Hi-Tech City played a crucial role in positioning the city as a global information technology destination. According to him,



these policies not only attracted multinational companies but also created large-scale employment opportunities for the youth.

Aravind also appreciated Chandrababu Naidu's efforts

in promoting education and skill development, noting that expansion of engineering and professional institutions during his tenure helped strengthen the state's human resource base.

He further remarked that Naidu's governance approach laid emphasis on technology-driven administration and investor-friendly policies, which later influenced development models across several states in

India.

The BJP MP's remarks come as several political leaders across the country extended birthday greetings to the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, acknowledging his long political career and multiple terms in office. Leaders from different parties have been sending wishes, highlighting his contribution to state politics and governance.

Chandrababu Naidu, who has served multiple terms as Chief Minister, continues to remain a significant figure in Andhra Pradesh politics. His leadership is often associated with economic reforms, infrastructure expansion, and IT sector growth. Aravind's comments add to the broader political discourse around Naidu's legacy, with leaders across party lines acknowledging both his achievements and long-standing influence in shaping the region's development trajectory.

Seats in South and West That Could Decide Tamil Nadu’s Political Future

Tamil Nadu’s upcoming election is shaping up to be a closely contested battle where regional dynamics may ultimately determine the outcome. Unlike elections driven by a sweeping wave, this contest appears to be evolving into a seat-by-seat fight. In particular, constituencies in western and southern Tamil Nadu are emerging as decisive battlegrounds.

These regions have historically influenced electoral outcomes, and this time too, political parties are focusing heavily on them. Shifting alliances, new entrants, and internal party conflicts have created uncertainty, making these constituencies critical in shaping the state’s political future.

Why Western Tamil Nadu Is Crucial

Western Tamil Nadu has long been considered politically significant due to its diverse voter base and strong party loyalties. The region includes districts such as Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruppur, Erode, and Dharmapuri, all of which have played key roles in previous elections.

In earlier contests, this region largely favored one alliance, helping it gain an advantage across the state. However, changing political equations, local leadership battles, and emerging voter concerns have made the western belt more competitive. Parties are now working aggressively to consolidate their support in this region, knowing that even a few seats could tilt the balance of power.

The western region also reflects the impact of caste-based politics, industrial development, and urbanization. These factors create a complex electoral environment where local issues often matter more than statewide narratives.

Coimbatore South: A High-Profile Contest

Coimbatore South is one of the most closely watched constituencies in western Tamil Nadu. The seat gained prominence in the last election due to a narrow victory and a high-profile contest involving prominent personalities.

This time, the contest has become even more intense



with strong candidates from multiple alliances. The entry of influential leaders into this constituency signals the importance parties attach to strengthening their presence in the western region.

The outcome in Coimbatore South is expected to indicate whether voters are willing to shift allegiances or continue supporting established players. The seat may also reflect broader trends across urban constituencies in western Tamil Nadu.

Salem West: Impact of Party Divisions

Salem West has emerged as another crucial constituency, particularly because of internal divisions within influential regional parties. Leadership disagreements and factionalism have weakened traditional vote banks, creating opportunities for rival alliances.

This constituency is important not only for local reasons but also for its broader influence across neighboring districts. The results here may show whether internal party conflicts affect voter behavior and whether alliances can effectively capitalize on these divisions.

Salem West is also significant due to its diverse demographic composition, making



it a testing ground for campaign strategies and coalition politics.

Dharmapuri: A Prestige Battle

Dharmapuri is shaping up as a prestige contest involving influential political families and regional leaders. The constituency has traditionally been a stronghold for certain parties, but recent developments have made it more competitive.

The presence of prominent candidates has raised the stakes, turning Dharmapuri into a key battleground. The outcome here could influence the morale of political parties and affect their performance in nearby constituencies.

The seat also reflects the role of local leadership in Tamil Nadu politics. Strong personalities often influence voter decisions, and Dharmapuri may demonstrate the importance of candidate appeal over party affiliation.

Southern Tamil Nadu: A Changing Political Landscape

Southern Tamil Nadu has traditionally leaned toward certain alliances, but the political landscape is changing. Districts such as Madurai, Theni, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli, and Kanyakumari are witnessing intense

competition. The southern region is known for its complex caste equations, strong local leaders, and emerging political forces. This election is expected to test whether traditional loyalties still hold or whether voters are open to change.

Parties are focusing heavily on the south, organizing rallies and deploying senior leaders to strengthen their presence. The region’s outcome could significantly impact the overall electoral result.

Bodinayakkanur: A Leadership Test

Bodinayakkanur in Theni district has become a major battleground due to shifting alliances and leadership changes. The constituency is known for its strong political personalities and loyal voter base.

The contest here will test whether leaders can transfer their support base after changing alliances. It will also reveal how voters respond to political realignments and whether personal influence remains strong.

Bodinayakkanur’s result may also affect nearby constituencies, making it one of the most closely watched seats in southern Tamil Nadu.

Alangulam: Party Loyalty vs Candidate Popularity

Alangulam is another constituency drawing attention due to party switching by prominent leaders. The contest here highlights a recurring question in Tamil Nadu politics: do voters prioritize party symbols or individual candidates?

The seat is expected to witness a tight contest, with both alliances trying to consolidate support among traditional voter groups. The result in Alangulam may offer insights into evolving voter behavior.

Virudhunagar: Testing New Alliances

Virudhunagar has gained importance due to the presence of candidates from emerging alliances and political families. The constituency represents a test case for coalition politics.

Multiple parties competing here could lead to vote splitting, making the contest unpredictable. The seat will indicate whether new alliances can effectively challenge established players.

Virudhunagar also reflects the growing role of regional parties in Tamil Nadu’s political landscape.

Karaikudi: A Multi-Colored Battle



Karaikudi is shaping up as a multi-cornered contest involving several major and smaller parties. Such contests often produce unexpected results, making this constituency particularly important.

The seat will test the strength of traditional parties as well as the appeal of new entrants. Voters in Karaikudi are known to consider local issues, which may influence the outcome.

This constituency could become a deciding factor in southern Tamil Nadu.

Thiruparankundram: A Traditional Stronghold Under Challenge

Thiruparankundram has historically favored certain parties, but this time the contest appears more competitive. The presence of strong candidates from multiple alliances has intensified the battle.

The seat will reveal whether traditional strongholds remain intact or whether voters are willing to shift preferences. The outcome here could signal broader changes in the southern region.

Madurai Central: Urban Voter Dynamics

Madurai Central represents an important urban constituency where multiple

factors influence voter behavior. Issues such as development, employment, and infrastructure play a major role.

The contest here is expected to reflect urban voting patterns and the impact of high-profile candidates. The result may also indicate trends across other urban constituencies in Tamil Nadu.

Key Themes Emerging Across Regions

Several themes are emerging from these constituencies. Alliance politics continues to play a crucial role, with parties relying on coalition partners to strengthen their chances. Caste equations remain influential, particularly in rural areas.

Another important factor is the rise of new parties and candidates. These entrants may not win many seats but could influence outcomes by splitting votes. Leadership changes and party switching are also shaping the electoral landscape.

Urban and rural voting patterns may differ, adding another layer of complexity to the election.

A Seat-by-Seat Election

Tamil Nadu appears headed toward a seat-by-seat contest rather than a sweeping victory for any single alliance. Western Tamil Nadu will determine whether parties can expand their influence, while southern Tamil Nadu will test their ability to retain traditional strongholds. Each constituency carries significant weight, and even small shifts could affect the final outcome.

Conclusion

The battle for Tamil Nadu is becoming increasingly competitive, with western and southern constituencies emerging as decisive battlegrounds. Political parties are focusing their strategies on these regions, aware that the results here could determine the next government. As alliances evolve and new players enter the fray, the election promises to be unpredictable. Ultimately, the outcome may depend not on statewide trends but on carefully contested seats across the south and west.

Rethinking Lok Sabha Expansion: Representation Beyond Population Growth

whether to expand the Lok Sabha and redraw parliamentary constituencies. The argument appears straightforward: the population has grown significantly, and therefore representation in Parliament should increase. However, this issue is far more complex than simple population arithmetic. Expanding the Lok Sabha raises important questions about governance, representation, and the long-term impact of such a decision.

India currently has 543 elected members in the Lok Sabha. Some proposals suggest increasing this number to as many as 800 or more. While this may seem like a logical response to population growth, it is worth considering whether increasing the number of MPs will truly improve democratic representation or governance.

Population Growth and Representation

The demand for expanding the Lok Sabha is largely based on population growth. Since independence, India’s population has increased dramatically, resulting in larger constituencies. Each MP today represents far more citizens than in the early decades after independence.

In earlier times, smaller constituencies were necessary because communication was limited and travel was difficult. Citizens depended heavily on their representatives to address local issues. However, the situation has changed significantly. Advances in technology, better transportation, and improved connectivity have made communication between citizens and representatives easier.

Today, people can contact

their MPs through digital platforms, social media, and other communication channels. This transformation raises the question of whether increasing the number of MPs is still necessary to ensure effective representation.

Representation Beyond Parliament

Another important factor often overlooked in this debate is India’s extensive network of elected representatives at different levels of governance. The country has thousands of local bodies, including Panchayats and urban municipal institutions, with millions of elected representatives.

These local leaders are often more accessible to citizens and handle many day-to-day governance issues. Strengthening these institutions could improve representation more effectively than expanding Parliament.

If the goal is to improve responsiveness and accountability, empowering local governance may offer a more practical solution. Increasing the number of MPs may not necessarily address grassroots issues that are better handled at local levels.

Women’s Representation Debate

Another argument for expanding the Lok Sabha relates to improving women’s representation. With proposals for reserving one-third of seats for women, some believe that increasing the total number of seats will help accommodate these reservations.

However, the issue of women’s representation is more closely linked to political will than to the number of seats. Many countries with smaller legislatures have higher pro-



portions of women representatives. This suggests that parties must prioritize nominating women candidates rather than relying on seat expansion.

India already has strong representation of women at the local level. Reservation policies in Panchayats have brought a large number of women into leadership roles. The challenge now is to create pathways for these leaders to move into state and national politics.

India’s Demographic Turning Point

Another key factor in this debate is India’s demographic

transition. Population growth is slowing, and projections suggest that India’s population will peak in the coming decades before gradually declining.

If Parliament is expanded permanently, India may end up with an oversized legislature even after population growth stabilizes. This raises concerns about making long-term institutional changes based on temporary demographic trends.

A more cautious approach may involve assessing demographic changes over time rather than making immediate

and permanent expansions.

Risks of Expanding the Lok Sabha

Expanding the Lok Sabha is not a temporary decision. Once seats are added, it becomes difficult to reduce them in the future. Political realities make it unlikely that any government would remove constituencies later. Such expansion could also affect the balance of power between states. Changes in seat distribution may influence national politics and federal relations for decades.

Therefore, decisions regarding expansion must consider

long-term consequences. Increasing representation should not come at the cost of efficiency and governance.

Strengthening Governance Instead

Rather than expanding Parliament, policymakers could focus on improving governance mechanisms. Strengthening local bodies, enhancing accountability, and using technology to connect citizens with representatives may be more effective.

Digital grievance systems, public engagement platforms, and transparent governance

processes can improve representation without increasing the number of MPs.

Such reforms could make governance more responsive while avoiding the challenges associated with expanding Parliament.

A Broader Democratic Question

The debate over Lok Sabha expansion raises a broader question about democracy. Representation is not just about numbers; it is also about accessibility, accountability, and effectiveness.

India already has one of the largest democratic systems in the world. Increasing its size may not automatically improve governance. Instead, strengthening existing institutions and improving decision-making processes may deliver better results.

Conclusion

The discussion on expanding the Lok Sabha is important and necessary. Population growth and representation concerns deserve attention. However, increasing the number of MPs may not be the most effective solution.

India is approaching a demographic transition, and permanent expansion could create long-term challenges. Strengthening local governance, improving communication, and enhancing accountability may offer better alternatives.

Ultimately, the focus should shift from simply increasing numbers to improving the quality of representation. A larger Parliament does not automatically guarantee better democracy. The real goal should be to build a system that is more responsive, efficient, and inclusive for all citizens.

Lost in Translation: Rahul Gandhi's Ranipet Rally Speech Gets a Dramatic Makeover on Stage

In what has quickly become one of the most talked-about moments of the Tamil Nadu Assembly election campaign, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's hard-hitting speech at a rally in Ranipet took an unexpected and rather dramatic detour — thanks to a series of puzzling translation errors that significantly altered the tone and meaning of his original remarks.

With Tamil Nadu heading to the polls on April 23, 2026, Rahul Gandhi was in full campaign mode, addressing rallies across the state

and launching a sharp attack on the BJP-AIADMK alliance. Speaking at Ranipet, Gandhi framed the election as a fight to protect Tamil Nadu's political and cultural identity from what he called "Delhi's control." He alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was being steered by external influences, particularly US President Donald Trump, and accused the BJP of attempting to install a "puppet" Chief Minister in the state through the AIADMK.

However, the Tamil translation delivered on

stage by Congress leader K. Selvaperunthagai bore little resemblance to what Gandhi had actually said. What Gandhi described as the BJP telling "the nation a lie" was apparently rendered in Tamil to suggest the nation was thriving. His claim that the Prime Minister lacked confidence was flipped entirely to suggest Modi was brimming with full confidence. His allegation of "selling out India" was softened considerably, and his pointed remarks about US influence were translated in a way that

instead conveyed a sense of national unity. While some portions of the speech, including Gandhi's colourful analogy about Modi jumping and lying down at Trump's command, did survive the translation process relatively intact, the overall tone of the speech was noticeably diluted. The incident caused considerable buzz on social media, with many users finding the contrast between Gandhi's fiery original words and their tame Tamil equivalents both baffling and amusing.

This is not the first time Rahul Gandhi has faced a translation controversy during Tamil Nadu campaigns. A similar situation had unfolded during the 2019 elections, when a Congress translator significantly deviated from Gandhi's original speech, turning compliments into criticisms and causing widespread ridicule. As Tamil Nadu gears up for a high-stakes single-phase election, this episode has added an unexpected layer of colour to what is already a fiercely contested political battle.



Guwahati Drowns in Record April Rains: Flash Floods Paralyse City, Schools Shut as More Downpour Looms

Guwahati woke up to a waterlogged nightmare on Monday after the city recorded its heaviest April rainfall in recent memory, with intense overnight showers bringing large parts of the Assam capital to a complete standstill. The unprecedented downpour has triggered flash flooding across multiple neighbourhoods, forced the closure of all schools, and prompted state authorities to urge residents to exercise extreme caution.

The city received a staggering 117 mm of rainfall in just 24 hours — the heaviest the season has seen so far — as relentless rain lashed Guwahati from Sunday evening through the night for approximately seven to eight continuous hours. The deluge caused severe waterlogging across several areas including Chandmari, Nabin Nagar, Rukmini Nagar, Zoo Road, Ganeshguri, Hatigaon, Beltola Survey, and Anil Nagar. Many of these localities remained submerged well into Monday morning, with residents wading through knee-deep water just to step outside their homes.

Commuters bore the brunt of the chaos, as key roads went under water, vehicles were left stranded, and heavy traffic congestion paralysed movement across the city. The shortage of available transport options added to the misery of those trying to get to work. Low-lying areas were among the worst affected, once again exposing Guwahati's long-standing and inadequately ad-



ressed drainage infrastructure problems. One city resident summed up the frustration felt by many, noting that even ten minutes of rain is enough to submerge entire localities — a problem the city has been battling for years without a lasting solution.

The Assam government responded swiftly by ordering the closure of all government and private educational institutions within the Guwahati Municipal Corporation area for Monday. Assam Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah ap-

pealed for public cooperation and called on citizens to remain alert, acknowledging the gravity of the situation and confirming that authorities were working round the clock to bring things under control.

Other parts of Assam also received rainfall, with Dhubri, Goalpara, Mohanbari, and Golaghat recording moderate showers. Weather forecasters have warned that the situation is far from over. Heavy rain activity is expected to continue over Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Na-

galand through the week and well into late April, with conditions intensifying again from April 24 onwards. Cities including Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Nalbari, Shillong, and Cherrapunji are among the locations likely to experience strong thunderstorm activity in the coming days.

With no immediate relief in sight, residents across Northeast India are being urged to stay prepared as the pre-monsoon weather season continues to flex its force.

Tragedy on the Hills: 15 Dead, 20 Injured as Bus Plunges Down Steep Slope in Udhampur

A horrific road accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district has claimed at least 15 lives and left 20 others injured, sending shockwaves across the region. The tragic incident took place on Monday morning, turning an ordinary journey into an unimaginable nightmare for the passengers on board.

The accident occurred around 10 am near Kagort village in the Ram Nagar area, as a passenger bus was making its way from a remote village to Udhampur. The vehicle was navigating a blind curve on the steep and winding hill road when disaster struck. According to reports, the bus lost control following a tyre burst while attempting a sharp turn, causing it to roll down a rocky slope approximately 100 feet before landing overturned on a lower stretch of the same road. Visuals from the accident site painted a grim picture, with the bus completely crushed

from the impact. Eyewitnesses at the scene told reporters that the bus appeared to be both overloaded and speeding at the time of the accident — factors that may have compounded the severity of the tragedy. The precarious nature of the mountain roads in the region, combined with these conditions, proved fatal.

It was the local residents who first rushed to the scene and began pulling survivors from the wreckage, even before emergency services could arrive. Their swift response helped save several lives. Police and other emergency response teams subsequently joined the rescue operation, working to evacuate the injured and manage the accident site. A total of 15 bodies were recovered from the mangled remains of the vehicle, while 20 injured passengers were rushed to hospital for treatment.

Union Minister Jitendra Sin-

gh swiftly responded to the emergency, reaching out to the local Deputy Commissioner and making arrangements to airlift the most critically injured victims for urgent medical care. The minister confirmed he remained in constant contact with both the local administration and BJP workers on the ground assisting with rescue efforts, adding that heavy casualties were feared and that all possible assistance was being mobilised.

Officials have warned that the death toll could rise further as rescue operations continue. The incident has once again brought the spotlight on the dangerous condition of hilly roads in the region and the urgent need for stricter enforcement of vehicle safety and overloading regulations.

The nation mourns the lives lost in this devastating accident and stands in solidarity with the families of the victims.



Election Eve Shock: I-PAC Halts Bengal Operations, TMC Scrambles to Contain Fallout

Just days before West Bengal heads to the polls, a dramatic and politically explosive development has rocked the Trinamool Congress campaign. The Indian Political Action Committee — better known as I-PAC, the influential political consultancy that has been a key strategic force behind Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's electoral machine — has abruptly suspended all its operations in the state and asked its entire staff to go on a 20-day leave, with immediate effect.

The bombshell was delivered via an internal email sent by I-PAC's human resources department late on Saturday night, informing employees that the decision had been made in view of certain legal issues. The email asked all staff members to proceed on temporary leave until May 11, after which the management would regroup, review the situation, and decide the way forward. The communication went viral by Sunday morning, triggering a political storm across the

state. The move comes in the wake of mounting pressure from central investigative agencies on I-PAC. The Enforcement Directorate had arrested Vinesh Chandel, one of I-PAC's co-founders and directors, in connection with an alleged money-laundering case linked to a coal smuggling scam. Additionally, two family members of I-PAC director Pratik Jain were summoned to New Delhi for questioning. Earlier, in January, the ED had conducted search operations at I-PAC's Kolkata office and at Pratik Jain's residence — an episode that had already stirred enormous controversy when Mamata Banerjee arrived at the premises during the raid and removed certain documents.

The Trinamool Congress moved swiftly to downplay the crisis, issuing an official statement dismissing reports of the operational pause as completely baseless and calling them a deliberate attempt to create confusion on the ground. The

party insisted that I-PAC's team remained fully engaged with the campaign. However, Mamata Banerjee's own remarks at a public rally told a different story. The Chief Minister launched a fierce attack on the BJP and central agencies, accusing them of weaponising investigative bodies during election season to intimidate I-PAC. She went further, offering to absorb all I-PAC staff into the Trinamool Congress, declaring that no one would lose their jobs.

The operational pause primarily affects associate-level staff deployed across constituencies for booth management and voter outreach — the very grassroots machinery that drives last-mile campaign efforts. West Bengal votes on April 23 and April 29, with counting of votes scheduled for May 4. With I-PAC effectively sidelined at this critical juncture, the Trinamool Congress finds itself navigating a significant strategic disruption at the worst possible time.

Flames Before the Fanfare: Fire Breaks Out at Rajasthan's Pachpadra Refinery on the Eve of PM Modi's Inauguration

In a major setback that has sent shockwaves across the country, a fire broke out at the Pachpadra refinery in Rajasthan's Balotra district on Monday — just one day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi was scheduled to formally inaugurate the facility. The incident has forced a postponement of the high-profile inauguration event, casting a shadow over what was meant to be a landmark moment for India's energy sector.

According to officials, the blaze erupted in the CDU — Crude Distillation Unit — section of the refinery on Monday morning. Fire tenders were immediately rushed to the site, and emergency response teams worked urgently to bring the flames under control. Fortunately, no casualties were reported in the initial hours following the outbreak, though authorities confirmed that a thorough assessment of the damage was underway.

The timing of the fire could not have been more dramatic.



With a high-profile inauguration ceremony planned for Tuesday, the incident triggered considerable chaos within the refinery premises as teams scrambled to tackle the blaze alongside the ongoing preparations for the Prime Minister's visit. The fire has also raised serious questions about the safety arrangements in place

at the facility on the eve of such a significant national event. Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma was scheduled to visit the refinery on Monday itself, around 4 pm, to review the situation on the ground. The state administration has been placed on high alert, with officials awaiting a full damage report before mak-

ing further announcements. The Pachpadra refinery is no ordinary project — it is India's first greenfield integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical complex, representing a massive investment of over Rs 79,450 crore. The facility has been long in the making and was widely seen as a transformative development for Rajasthan's economy and India's energy infrastructure. Its inauguration by the Prime Minister was expected to be a landmark occasion, drawing national attention and celebrating years of planning and construction.

With the inauguration now postponed, all eyes are on the investigation into the cause of the fire and the extent of the damage sustained. Authorities have assured that all possible steps are being taken to assess the situation and restore normalcy at the site as swiftly as possible. The incident serves as a sobering reminder of the importance of rigorous safety protocols at critical industrial installations, particularly in the final stages before commissioning.

Explained: The 60-Day Clock That Could Halt Trump’s Iran War

A key legal deadline in the United States may soon determine the future of the ongoing conflict with Iran. Often referred to as the “60-day clock,” this provision comes from the War Powers Resolution of 1973, a law designed to limit a president’s ability to engage in prolonged military action without approval from Congress.

The clock began ticking on March 2, when President Donald Trump formally notified Congress about US military strikes against Iran. Under the law, the president can deploy armed forces without congressional authorization for up to 60 days. After that period, continued military operations require explicit approval from lawmakers.

This sets up a critical deadline around April 28, though some US lawmakers view May 1 as a decisive “inflection point” for the conflict. If Congress does not authorize the war by then, the law technically requires the administration to withdraw US forces or halt operations.

The rule exists to ensure a balance of power between the executive and legislative branches. While the president acts as commander-in-chief, only Congress has the authority to formally declare war. The 60-day provision is meant to prevent prolonged military engagements without democratic oversight.

However, the situation is not



entirely straightforward. There are several ways a president can continue military action even after the deadline. One option is to reinterpret the nature of the conflict—arguing it does not constitute “hostilities” under the law. Another is to rely on past congressional authorizations or claim inherent constitutional powers as commander-in-chief.

Historically, US presidents from both parties have stretched or bypassed the War Powers Resolution. In some cases, administrations have continued military operations by citing national security interests or by avoiding formal definitions that would trigger the law’s limits. In the current scenario, political dynamics also play a crucial role. While some lawmakers have ex-

pressed concern about the lack of congressional approval, others have backed the president’s actions or blocked efforts to restrict his authority. This divide reduces the likelihood of immediate legislative intervention. As the deadline approaches, the 60-day clock represents both a legal constraint and a political test. It could force a debate in Congress on whether to formally support or oppose continued military engagement with Iran. At the same time, it highlights the broader tension between presidential power and legislative oversight in times of conflict.

Ultimately, whether the clock actually stops the war depends less on the law itself and more on how it is interpreted—and whether Congress chooses to enforce it.

Iran Rejects Second Round of Talks with US, Cites “Excessive Demands” and Trust Deficit

Iran has declined to participate in a second round of negotiations with the United States, sharply escalating tensions at a sensitive moment in ongoing diplomatic efforts to extend a fragile ceasefire.

According to Iranian state media, Tehran said it would not proceed with further talks due to what it described as Washington’s “excessive demands,” shifting positions, and repeated contradictions. Iranian officials also accused the US of engaging in a “blame game” and using media statements to pressure Tehran rather than pursuing genuine diplomacy.

A major point of contention remains Iran’s accusation that the US is negotiating in bad faith while simultaneously maintaining military and naval pressure in the region. Tehran has specifically pointed to continued maritime restrictions and recent naval incidents as evidence that Washington is not committed to de-escalation.

Iranian authorities further argued that the memory of recent attacks and ongoing hostilities has made trust-building extremely difficult. They emphasized that these actions cannot be ignored, suggesting



that the current environment is not suitable for meaningful negotiations.

On the US side, officials had indicated expectations for a second round of talks, reportedly to be held in Pakistan, as part of efforts to stabilize the situation and extend the ceasefire. However, Iran’s rejection has now cast doubt on the immediate future of diplomatic engagement. The breakdown comes just days after earlier indirect discussions failed to produce a breakthrough on key

issues, including Iran’s nuclear program, sanctions relief, and maritime security in strategic waterways. Both sides had left those talks without agreement, despite lengthy discussions. The Strait of Hormuz also remains a critical flashpoint. Any disruption in the region continues to raise global concerns due to its importance in international oil trade. Analysts warn that continued tension could have wider consequences for energy markets and regional stability.

While Iran has not fully ruled out future dialogue, its current stance signals deep frustration with the negotiating process. Officials insist that unless core grievances—particularly sanctions and security concerns—are addressed, further talks are unlikely to move forward. For now, diplomacy between the two sides remains stalled, with both countries trading accusations and maintaining firm positions, leaving the future of negotiations uncertain.

Why Trump Was Kept Out of Control Room During Iran Rescue Mission

During a high-risk US military operation to rescue two airmen from Iran, President Donald Trump was reportedly kept out of the main control room, highlighting internal tensions during a critical phase of the mission.

The episode followed the downing of a US F-15E Strike Eagle over Iranian territory in early April 2026. While one crew member was rescued soon after the crash, the second remained stranded for nearly 48 hours, prompting an urgent and complex recovery effort involving special forces and extensive air support.

According to reports, Trump was not allowed to stay inside the central command room where real-time operational decisions were being made. Instead, he was briefed separately by senior officials at regular intervals. The decision was reportedly taken to ensure that the mission environment remained focused and free from potential disruptions during a highly sensitive and time-critical operation. Behind the scenes, the situation was tense. The possibility of US personnel being captured inside Iran raised serious concerns within the administration. Such an outcome could have triggered a major political and diplomatic crisis, adding pressure on leadership during an already volatile conflict.



Despite not being physically present in the control room, Trump remained involved at a broader level. He was continuously updated on developments and later publicly stated that he had directed the mission. The rescue operation ultimately concluded successfully, with both airmen safely extracted from hostile territory after an intense and carefully coordinated effort. The mission itself was one of the most complex in recent military operations, involving coordination between intelligence agencies, air support units, and ground forces. Conducting such an operation inside adversary territory required precision, secrecy, and

rapid decision-making to avoid further escalation. Trump’s exclusion from the control room underscores the balance between political authority and military execution. While the president serves as commander-in-chief, real-time tactical decisions in high-risk missions are typically handled by experienced military professionals who operate in tightly controlled environments.

Overall, the incident highlights how, during critical operations, maintaining operational discipline and clarity often takes precedence, even when it means limiting direct involvement from the highest levels of political leadership.

Tensions in the Strait of Hormuz escalated sharply after the United States Navy fired upon and seized an Iranian-flagged cargo vessel that attempted to move through the strategic waterway despite a declared blockade.

According to reports, the vessel ignored repeated warnings from US forces to stop and comply with inspection orders. After several hours of non-compliance, a US Navy destroyer opened fire on the ship’s engine section, disabling its propulsion system. Following this, American Marines boarded the vessel from helicopters and took control of the ship. The ship, identified as a sanctioned cargo vessel, was reportedly traveling through the Gulf of Oman toward Iranian waters when it was intercepted. US officials claimed the vessel was attempting to evade a naval blockade imposed in the region and was suspected of carrying restricted cargo linked to prior violations.

The operation marks one of the most direct confrontations at sea between the US and Iran in recent years and is the first confirmed seizure since heightened naval tensions began in the region. The Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant portion of global oil trade flows, has become a major flashpoint amid the broader US-Iran conflict. US authorities stated that the action was taken after multiple warnings



were ignored, and described the boarding as a necessary enforcement step to maintain maritime security and uphold sanctions. The seized vessel is now under US control for inspection. Iran, however, strongly condemned the operation, calling it an act of aggression and “armed piracy.” Iranian officials argued that the seizure

violates international maritime norms and further escalates an already fragile situation in the Gulf. Tehran has warned of possible retaliation and accused Washington of deliberately provoking conflict.

The incident has also intensified fears about global energy stability. With the Strait of Hormuz being a critical route

for oil shipments, any disruption in the area can quickly impact international oil prices and shipping routes. As both sides exchange accusations, the situation in the region remains highly volatile, with concerns growing that continued naval confrontations could further widen the conflict beyond diplomatic control.

UAE Seeks Financial Safety Net as Iran War Raises Dollar and Oil Risks

The ongoing US-Iran conflict is not just a military crisis—it is rapidly turning into a financial and energy shock, with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) emerging as one of the most affected economies in the Gulf.

According to reports, the UAE has initiated discussions with the United States to secure a financial “backstop” or emergency support mechanism. This includes the possibility of a currency swap line, which would allow the UAE to access US dollars quickly in case liquidity tightens due to prolonged conflict. The move is largely precautionary but highlights growing concern over financial stability in the region.

The urgency stems from disruptions caused by the war, particularly in oil flows and trade routes. The Strait of Hormuz—a critical global energy artery—has been repeatedly blocked or threatened, severely affecting oil exports and shipping. Nearly 20% of the world’s oil supply passes through this narrow route, making any disruption a major global concern.

As tensions escalate, oil prices have surged and supply chains have been strained, creating ripple effects across global markets. The conflict has already triggered what analysts describe as one of the largest energy disruptions in modern history, comparable to the 1970s oil crisis.

For the UAE, the risks are twofold. First, physical damage to oil and gas infrastructure from attacks has raised reconstruction costs. Second, reduced oil exports and capital outflows could lead to a shortage of dollar liquidity, which is crucial since the UAE’s currency is pegged to the US dollar.

There is also a broader geopolitical dimension. Reports suggest that UAE officials have hinted at exploring alternatives—such as conducting oil trade in Chinese yuan—if dollar access becomes constrained. While not an immediate shift, this signals potential cracks in the long-standing “petrodollar” system that underpins global energy trade.

Meanwhile, the financial burden of the war is mounting across the region. Reconstruction costs for damaged infrastructure in Gulf countries are expected to run into tens of billions of dollars, further straining economies already dealing with disrupted revenues.

In essence, the conflict is evolving into a three-layered crisis: a military confrontation, an energy supply shock, and a financial stability risk. The UAE’s move to seek a dollar backstop reflects growing anxiety that if the war drags on, the economic fallout could spread far beyond the Middle East—potentially reshaping global energy markets and currency dynamics.



Markets End Flat as Geopolitical Uncertainty Keeps Investors on Edge

Indian equity markets closed on a flat note after a volatile trading session, as uncertainty surrounding the US–Iran ceasefire weighed heavily on investor sentiment. Despite extending gains for a second consecutive session, benchmark indices failed to hold intraday momentum due to persistent global concerns and profit booking.

The day began on a mildly positive note, with indices showing early strength supported by selective buying. However, volatility dominated the session as investors reacted cautiously to mixed global cues. Concerns over the fragile ceasefire between the United States and Iran kept market participants wary, limiting upside potential.

As trading progressed, markets witnessed intermittent buying, especially during the late morning session. This helped indices recover from early fluctuations. However, the optimism proved short-lived. By the afternoon, profit booking set in across key stocks, erasing earlier gains and dragging the benchmarks back to unchanged levels by the close.

Broader markets underperformed the benchmarks. The Nifty Midcap index declined around 0.2 percent, while the Smallcap index slipped approximately 0.4 percent, reflecting cautious sentiment among investors in riskier segments.

Sectoral performance remained mixed. Selling pressure was visible in information technology, telecom, and realty stocks, each declining 0.5 percent. On the other hand, sectors such as capital goods, media, power, energy, and PSU banks saw modest gains ranging between 0.5 percent and 1 percent, offering some support to the indices.

Market breadth showed resilience despite the flat closing. A notable number of stocks—nearly 200 on the BSE—touched their 52-week highs, indicating underlying strength in select pockets of the market. Additionally, individual stocks like Sterling and Wilson Renewable Energy stood out, rallying sharply



SIP Investors Stay the Course Despite Decline in Mutual Fund Returns

Retail investors in India are continuing to invest steadily through systematic investment plans (SIPs), even as equity mutual funds have witnessed a noticeable drop in returns. Recent data indicates that while market performance has weakened, investor commitment to disciplined, long-term investing remains strong.

According to an analysis by Kotak Institutional Equities, the average net asset value (NAV) of equity mutual funds has declined by around 14 percent from its peak in September 2024. This downturn reflects a broader correction in equity markets between mid-2024 and early 2026, which has impacted returns across most fund categories.

As a result, many investors who started SIPs between 2022 and 2025 are now experiencing lower or even negative returns, measured through internal rates of return (XIRR). This marks a reversal from the strong double-digit gains seen during the post-pandemic market rally.

Despite this, SIP inflows have remained resilient. Retail investors continue to allocate



funds regularly, signaling confidence in long-term wealth creation rather than reacting to short-term volatility. This steady participation has helped cushion markets against external pressures, including significant foreign investor outflows, which have totaled nearly \$19 billion.

The decline in returns has been more pronounced in certain segments of the market. Small-cap and sectoral or thematic funds have seen sharper corrections compared to diversified or large-cap-oriented schemes. These categories had previously delivered strong gains but are now more vulnerable to market fluctuations.

Overall, the current trend highlights a shift in investor

behavior. Instead of withdrawing investments during downturns, many individuals are sticking to SIPs, reflecting a growing awareness of the benefits of disciplined investing and rupee-cost averaging. This approach allows investors to accumulate units at different price levels, potentially improving long-term returns when markets recover.

In essence, while short-term performance of equity mutual funds has weakened, investor confidence remains intact. The continued flow of SIP investments underscores a maturing retail investor base that is increasingly focused on long-term financial goals rather than short-term market movements.

RBI Relaxes Rupee Trading Curbs, Signals Return to Normalcy in Forex Markets

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has eased some of the stringent restrictions imposed earlier on rupee trading, offering relief to market participants and signaling a gradual return to normalcy in the foreign exchange market. The move comes weeks after the central bank introduced emergency measures to curb excessive volatility in the currency.

Earlier this month, the RBI had implemented a series of strict controls to stabilize the rupee, which had fallen sharply amid global uncertainties and geopolitical tensions. These measures included banning banks from offering non-deliverable forward (NDF) contracts, restricting the rebooking of forex derivatives, and limiting transactions involving related parties. The objective was to curb speculative trading and reduce arbitrage opportunities that were putting pressure on the currency.

In its latest decision, the central bank has rolled back some of these curbs. Banks are now allowed to resume offering certain derivative contracts, and restrictions on rebooking forex deals have been withdrawn. Additionally, the RBI has relaxed rules around offshore derivative transactions, making it easier for market participants to manage their currency exposures.

However, the easing is only partial. The RBI continues to maintain safeguards to prevent excessive speculation. For



instance, transactions involving related parties remain restricted, except in specific cases such as cancellation or rollover of existing contracts on a back-to-back basis with non-resident entities. This ensures that the market remains stable while allowing genuine hedging activities to resume.

The rollback reflects the central bank's confidence that its earlier measures have achieved their intended purpose. The rupee, which had touched record lows near 95 per dollar in March, has since recovered

and stabilized within a narrower range. The unwinding of large arbitrage positions and reduced speculative activity have contributed to this improvement.

Importantly, the RBI has reiterated that these restrictions were temporary in nature. By easing them, the central bank aims to strike a balance between maintaining currency stability and ensuring sufficient market liquidity. The move is also expected to improve sentiment among foreign investors, who were impacted

by higher hedging costs and tighter regulations in recent weeks.

Overall, the decision marks a shift from crisis-driven intervention toward a more normalized policy stance. While risks from global developments remain, the RBI's calibrated approach suggests it is prepared to act flexibly—tightening or loosening measures as needed—to keep the rupee stable and markets functioning smoothly.



Vedanta Demerger to Take Effect May 1; Shareholders to Receive 1:1 Allotment

Vedanta Ltd has announced that its long-awaited demerger plan will come into effect on May 1, marking a significant step in the company's restructuring journey. The move is aimed at simplifying its business structure and unlocking value by creating independent, sector-focused entities.

The company has set May 1, 2026, as both the effective date and the record date for the demerger. Shareholders holding Vedanta stock as of that date will be eligible to receive shares in the newly created companies.

Under the restructuring plan, Vedanta will split its operations into multiple entities, each focused on a specific business vertical. The parent company will continue as Vedanta Ltd, primarily housing its core metals operations, while new companies will be formed to handle businesses such as aluminium, power, iron and steel,

and energy.

A major highlight of the demerger is the share distribution structure. Existing shareholders will receive one share in each of the new companies for every one share they hold in Vedanta Ltd. This 1:1 allotment ensures that investors maintain proportional ownership across all the newly formed entities without needing to make additional investments.

The restructuring also involves realigning assets within the group. Key business units and investments will be transferred to their respective verticals to ensure that each new entity operates with greater clarity and focus. This is expected to improve efficiency and enable better decision-making at the business level.

The demerger plan was originally proposed as part of Vedanta's broader strategy to streamline operations and address

the challenges associated with running a diversified conglomerate. By creating pure-play companies, the group aims to attract more targeted investors and improve valuation transparency.

Market participants view this move as an effort to eliminate the "conglomerate discount," which often affects companies operating across multiple sectors. With clearer structures and focused strategies, each entity is expected to pursue growth opportunities more effectively and independently.

Overall, the implementation of the demerger marks the beginning of a new phase for Vedanta. The move is expected to enhance operational efficiency, boost investor confidence, and potentially lead to better market valuations in the long term as each business unlocks its individual potential.

RBI Eases Rupee Trading Curbs, Signals Gradual Return to Forex Stability

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has rolled back several restrictions on rupee trading that were introduced earlier this month to curb sharp volatility in the currency market. The move indicates a shift from emergency intervention toward restoring normal market functioning, while still maintaining safeguards against excessive speculation.

At the start of April, the RBI had imposed strict controls after the rupee weakened to record lows. These measures included banning banks from offering non-deliverable forward (NDF) contracts to clients, prohibiting the rebooking of cancelled forward trades, and restricting foreign exchange derivative transactions involving related parties. The objective was to limit arbitrage opportunities and speculative activity that were adding pressure on the currency.

In its latest decision, the central bank has withdrawn some of these curbs. Banks are now allowed to resume offering certain derivative products, and the restriction on rebooking cancelled forward contracts has been lifted. Additionally, rules related to offshore derivative trades have been partially relaxed, allowing the cancellation and rollover of existing contracts with non-resident entities on a back-to-back basis.

However, the easing is not a complete rollback. The RBI has retained key safeguards to ensure that speculative trades do



not resurface. Certain restrictions on related-party transactions continue, and limits such as caps on banks' open currency positions remain in place to control excessive risk-taking.

The decision reflects confidence that earlier measures have achieved their intended purpose. The rupee, which had come under intense pressure due to global uncertainties and geopolitical tensions, has since stabilized and recovered mod-

estly from its lows. Improved liquidity and reduced arbitrage activity have helped calm the forex market.

Market participants view the move as a positive step toward improving trading conditions. The easing of restrictions is expected to enhance liquidity, narrow bid-ask spreads, and make hedging easier for businesses and investors. At the same time, the RBI's calibrated approach suggests it will con-

tinue to intervene if volatility resurfaces. Overall, the RBI's action highlights a balanced strategy—tightening rules during periods of stress and gradually relaxing them once stability returns. While global risks remain, especially from geopolitical developments and capital flows, the central bank's measured approach aims to ensure both currency stability and efficient market functioning in the long run.

Inside Big Tech Hiring: Recruiter Reveals Why Even Strong Candidates Get Rejected

Getting hired by big technology companies is often seen as a major career milestone. However, many talented candidates are rejected despite performing well in interviews. A recruiter who conducted more than 200 interviews at a large tech company has shed light on why this happens, revealing that hiring decisions are not always based solely on technical skills.

According to the recruiter, one of the most important yet overlooked stages in the hiring process is the post-interview discussion, commonly known as the “debrief.” After all interviews are completed, panel members gather to share their opinions about candidates. While applicants may believe their performance alone determines the outcome, these dis-

cussions can significantly influence the final decision.

The recruiter explained that even strong candidates sometimes get rejected if one interviewer raises concerns. For instance, a candidate might perform well in most rounds but still fail to receive an offer because one interviewer felt they lacked communication skills, cultural fit, or problem-solving approach. In some cases, subjective factors such as personality, confidence, or even minor misunderstandings can impact decisions.

Another key issue highlighted was the lack of transparency in feedback. Most candidates receive standard rejection emails without any detailed explanation. As a result, applicants often assume they lacked tech-

nical ability, even though the real reason could be unrelated to their skills. The recruiter noted that they had seen many capable candidates turned down for reasons that were not directly connected to job performance.

The recruiter also mentioned the influence of referrals in the hiring process. Candidates referred by employees often receive more attention and may have higher chances of progressing through interview stages. Meanwhile, equally qualified candidates without referrals may struggle to stand out in a competitive pool of applicants.

Additionally, business needs and internal changes can also affect hiring outcomes. Sometimes companies pause hiring, change priorities, or reduce headcount after in-

terviews are completed. In such situations, candidates may be rejected despite performing well, simply because the role is no longer available.

The recruiter emphasized that rejection in big tech hiring does not always reflect a candidate's ability. Many factors beyond performance can influence decisions, making the process unpredictable. They encouraged job seekers not to take rejections personally and to continue improving their skills and applying for new opportunities.

The insights sparked discussion among professionals, with many sharing similar experiences. The overall message was clear: in big tech hiring, success depends not only on talent but also on timing, perception, and internal decision-making.



Security Guard In Hyderabad Performs Duties Under Mosquito Net, Sparks Debate

A video from Hyderabad has gone viral after showing a security guard performing his night-shift duties while sitting under a mosquito net. The unusual scene quickly caught attention online and sparked a wider discussion about the working conditions of security personnel in residential societies.

In the video, the guard is seen seated on a chair during his night duty, completely covered by a mosquito net to protect himself from insect bites. Despite the unconventional setup, he continues to stay alert and carry out his responsibilities. The clip was shared on social media by a user who highlighted the difficult conditions under which the guard was working.

While sharing the video, the user questioned why basic facilities were not provided to security guards, especially when residents live comfortably indoors. The post also raised concerns about the lack of attention given to workers who perform essential duties, particularly during late-night hours and in challenging conditions.

The video quickly gained traction online, with many users expressing concern over the guard's situation. Several people described the scene as troubling and said it reflected the hardships faced by security personnel. Some users suggest-



ed that residential societies should provide better facilities such as proper cabins, fans, and mosquito control measures to improve working conditions.

However, not everyone viewed the situation negatively. A few users pointed out that using a mosquito net could simply be a practical solution, especially in areas with heavy mosquito presence. They argued that the guard may have chosen this method himself to

stay comfortable while working.

The discussion soon expanded into a broader conversation about the dignity of labour and the treatment of workers who ensure safety in residential areas. Many users emphasised that security guards often work long hours, usually outdoors or in small spaces, making them vulnerable to weather conditions and insects.

The viral clip highlighted how small, everyday moments

can bring attention to larger issues. It prompted people to reflect on the working conditions of security personnel and whether more can be done to support them.

While the video captured a simple situation, it sparked meaningful debate about empathy, workplace comfort, and the importance of ensuring better facilities for essential workers who play a crucial role in maintaining safety and security.

Mumbai Woman Claims She Manages Monthly Expenses Under 18,000. Sparks Debate Online

Living in Mumbai is often considered expensive, especially for those living independently. However, a Mumbai-based woman has surprised many after claiming that she manages all her monthly expenses within 18,000. Her budget breakdown, shared in a social media video, quickly went viral and sparked debate online.

The woman, identified as Shreya Gan, said she lives alone in a 1RK apartment and pays 11,500 as monthly rent. Given Mumbai's high housing costs, many viewers were surprised by the relatively affordable rent. She explained that keeping her accommodation costs low helps her manage other expenses more effectively. She also shared details about her utility expenses. According to her, the electricity bill ranges between 300 and 400 per month, while her mobile recharge costs around 300. These minimal utility expenses further contribute to keeping her overall budget under control. For transportation, she said she primarily uses Mumbai's local trains for her daily commute. She occasionally takes auto or taxi rides, bringing her monthly travel expenses to around 500. Her grocery



spending, she added, usually falls between 1,500 and 1,800 per month. In addition to essential expenses, she revealed that she spends about 2,000 on online shopping and approximately 1,000 on miscellaneous costs. When combined, her total monthly expenditure comes to around 17,500 to 18,000, allowing her to live independently within a limited budget.

Her claims quickly drew mixed reactions online. Many users expressed surprise, especially about the low rent and

transportation costs. Some questioned how it was possible to find such affordable housing in Mumbai, while others shared that their rent alone exceeded her total monthly budget. Several users also pointed out that living costs can vary significantly depending on location, lifestyle, and personal habits. Some people appreciated her disciplined budgeting and minimalist lifestyle, noting that careful spending can help reduce expenses even in expensive cities. The discus-

sion soon turned into a broader conversation about affordability in metro cities. Many users shared their own budgeting strategies and experiences of managing finances in Mumbai. While some remained skeptical about the practicality of her budget, others viewed it as an example of smart financial planning. Her viral video ultimately highlighted how different lifestyle choices and spending habits can shape living expenses, even in one of India's most expensive cities.

“No Placements Like India”: Indian Man In Paris Explains Why Job Hunting In Europe Is Tough

An Indian man living in Paris has sparked a conversation online after explaining why finding a job in Europe can be more challenging compared to India. In a video shared on social media, he highlighted the key differences in hiring practices and how job seekers must adapt to a different system.

According to him, one of the biggest differences is the absence of structured campus placements in Europe. In India, many colleges and universities organise placement drives where companies visit campuses, conduct interviews, and hire students directly. This system makes it easier for fresh graduates to secure jobs soon after completing their education. However, he pointed out that such organised placement opportunities are largely unavailable in many European countries.

Instead, job seekers in Europe must rely heavily on independent applications and networking. Candidates are expected to actively search for opportunities, apply through company websites, and connect with professionals in their field. While job fairs and university career events do exist, they usually do not guarantee employment. As a result, the process can take longer and require more effort.

He also emphasised the im-



portance of networking in Europe's job market. Building professional connections, reaching out to recruiters, and maintaining an active presence on platforms like LinkedIn can significantly improve chances of getting noticed. In many cases, referrals and personal connections play an important role in helping candidates move forward in the hiring process. Another difference he highlighted was the interview process itself. European companies often focus on communication skills, personality, and cultural fit in addition to technical knowledge. Candidates are expected to clearly explain their ideas, demonstrate teamwork abilities, and show confidence during interviews. This means academic qualifications alone may not be enough to secure a

job.

The video quickly gained attention online, with many users agreeing with his observations. Several people shared their own experiences of struggling to find jobs abroad despite strong academic backgrounds. Others mentioned that adjusting to a new hiring culture takes time and patience.

His insights highlight that while Europe offers many opportunities, job hunting there requires a different approach. Success often depends on networking, persistence, and communication skills rather than structured campus recruitment. The discussion also served as a reminder for students planning to move abroad to prepare for a more independent and competitive job search process.

Tilak Varma’s Century Powers MI to Dominant Win Over GT

Mumbai Indians finally re-discovered their winning touch in IPL-19, registering a massive 99-run victory over Gujarat Titans at Ahmedabad on Monday, powered by a sensational maiden IPL century from Tilak Varma.

After a poor start to the season with four consecutive defeats, MI looked in deep trouble at 103/4 in 14 overs and were seemingly heading for another loss. However, Tilak Varma produced a stunning turnaround, scoring an unbeaten 101 off just 45 balls, smashing 8 fours and 7 sixes. His explosive finish lifted Mumbai to a commanding total of 199/5 in 20 overs. Namam Dheer also contributed a crucial 45 off 32 balls, while Gujarat’s Kagiso Rabada picked up 3 wickets for 33 runs and Mohammed Siraj reclaimed one wicket. Chasing 200, Gujarat Titans collapsed dramatically for just 100 runs in 15.5 overs. MI’s bowling unit delivered a clinical performance, led by Ashwani Kumar’s brilliant spell of 4/24. Mitchell Santner (2/16), Ghazafar (2/17), and Jasprit Bumrah (1/15) provided strong support as the Titans batting lineup crumbled.



The chase began on a disastrous note for Gujarat when Bumrah struck on the very first ball, dismissing Sai Sudharsan. Hardik Pandya removed Jos Buttler early, while impact player Ashwani Kumar sent back Shubman Gill for 14, breaking the backbone of the innings. Santner further dented Gujarat’s hopes by removing key middle-order batters in quick succession.

Tilak Varma’s innings, however, was the turning point of the match. Coming in under

pressure at 103/4, he initially struggled but then unleashed a brutal counterattack, dismantling Gujarat’s bowling attack. His final 23 balls yielded 82 runs, completely shifting the momentum in Mumbai’s favor.

With this emphatic win, Mumbai Indians not only broke their losing streak but also made a strong statement in the tournament, while Tilak Varma’s maiden IPL century will be remembered as one of the standout performances of the season.

Vijayawada Skater Kaivalya Wins Double Gold at National Championship



Vijayawada’s young skating talent Kopparapu Kaivalya (17) delivered a remarkable performance at the India Skate Games 2026 National Championship, organised by the Roller Skating Federation of India (RSFI), held in Chennai from April 18 to 20.

Competing in the artistic skating category, Kaivalya dominated the junior division by securing two gold medals—one in inline skating and another in solo dance—emerging as the top performer at the national level. His consistent excellence across both events

placed him at the number one position in the country in his category.

The championship witnessed participation from top skaters across India, making Kaivalya’s achievement significant in a highly competitive field. Judges appreciated his technical precision, balance, and artistic expression, which stood out during both routines.

With this double gold victory, Kaivalya has also earned a place in the selection trials for the World Skate Games 2026, scheduled to be held in South



America in October. His selection marks a crucial step toward representing India on the global stage in artistic skating.

Kaivalya, who has been training rigorously over the past several years, is considered one of the promising young athletes in India’s skating circuit. Coaches credited his discipline, dedication, and focus for his consistent improvement and national-level success.

Officials from RSFI congratulated the young skater for his outstanding performance and expressed confidence that he

could make a strong impact in international competitions if selected for the final squad.

Sports enthusiasts in Vijayawada and Andhra Pradesh have also welcomed his achievement, noting that his success brings recognition to emerging talent from the region in non-mainstream sports.

Kaivalya’s performance at the national championship is being seen as a major milestone in his sporting career, and all eyes are now on his upcoming international selection prospects for the World Skate Games 2026.



India Flagged ‘Extremely High Risk’ for Doping: Athletics Integrity Unit Report Raises Concern

India has been classified as an “extremely high risk” country for doping violations by the Athletics Integrity Unit, raising serious concerns over the state of clean sport in the country.

According to the latest assessment by the AIU, India continues to feature among the nations with the highest number of doping-related cases in athletics. The report highlights persistent issues in testing, monitoring, and athlete awareness, placing India in the most critical risk category globally.

The World Athletics-backed AIU evaluates countries based on factors such as the number of positive doping cases, testing frequency, and the effectiveness of anti-doping programmes. India’s placement in the “extremely high risk” bracket indicates systemic challenges that need urgent attention.

One of the key concerns flagged is the high incidence of athletes testing positive for banned substances, particularly at the domestic level. Experts believe that lack of education, easy availability of performance-enhancing drugs, and inadequate supervision contribute significantly to the problem. The findings put pressure on national bodies like the Athletics Federation of India and the National Anti-Doping

Agency to strengthen their anti-doping mechanisms. Measures such as increased testing, stricter enforcement, and comprehensive awareness programmes are being seen as essential steps to address the issue.

The report comes at a crucial time when India is aiming to establish itself as a strong contender in global athletics competitions, including the Olympics and World Championships. Repeated doping violations not only tarnish the country’s reputation but also impact the morale of clean athletes striving for excellence.

Officials have acknowledged the challenge and indicated that steps are being taken to improve the situation. These include expanding testing networks, enhancing education campaigns, and ensuring stricter penalties for offenders.

However, experts caution that meaningful change will require sustained efforts, transparency, and accountability at all levels of the sport. Without systemic reforms, India risks continued scrutiny and possible sanctions in international athletics. The AIU’s classification serves as a wake-up call for Indian athletics, underlining the urgent need to rebuild credibility and promote a culture of clean sport.

“Quit Afghanistan, Play Here”: Rashid Khan Reveals Shocking Offer from Indian Cricket Figure

Afghanistan star spinner Rashid Khan has made a sensational revelation, claiming that he once received an offer from an Indian cricket figure urging him to leave Afghanistan and pursue his career in India.

Speaking in a recent interaction, Rashid said he was told, “Live here, play here,” in what appeared to be a serious proposal to shift base and represent Indian cricket. The leg-spinner, however, made it clear that he turned down the offer without hesitation, choosing loyalty to his home country over personal gain.

Rashid, widely regarded as one of the finest T20 bowlers in the world, has been a key figure in Afghanistan’s rise in international cricket. From humble beginnings to becoming a global T20 superstar, his journey has inspired many young cricketers in the war-affected

nation.

Despite the lucrative nature of the offer, Rashid emphasized that representing Afghanistan has always been his top priority. He stated that playing for his country gives him pride and purpose, something that no other opportunity could replace.

The revelation has sparked discussions in cricketing circles, especially considering the growing influence of franchise leagues like the Indian Premier League, where Rashid has been a consistent performer over the years. His exploits in the IPL have made him a household name in India, further underlining why such an offer may have been made.

While Rashid did not disclose the identity of the individual who approached him, his statement sheds light on the kind of opportunities that

elite players from emerging cricket nations sometimes encounter. It also highlights the ethical and emotional dilemmas they may face when balancing career prospects with national allegiance.

Afghanistan cricket has made remarkable progress in the past decade, with players like Rashid leading the charge on the global stage. His decision to stay committed has not only strengthened the team but also boosted the sport’s popularity back home.

As franchise cricket continues to expand, such stories underline the importance of national identity in the game. Rashid’s stance serves as a reminder that, for many players, wearing their country’s jersey remains the ultimate honour—far above financial incentives or global fame.



“When Was Your Last Match-Winning Knock?”: Hardik Pandya Under Fire Amid MI Struggles

Hardik Pandya is facing mounting criticism during the ongoing Indian Premier League 2026, with former India cricketer Aakash Chopra questioning his impact as a match-winner for the Mumbai Indians.

Ahead of Mumbai’s clash against Gujarat Titans, Chopra made a sharp remark, asking when Pandya last played a decisive, match-winning innings for his team. The comment comes at a time when both the captain and the franchise are struggling to find form this season. Mumbai Indians have endured a poor campaign so far, languishing near the bottom of the points table. The five-time champions have failed to build momentum, losing multiple matches early in the tournament. Pandya’s individual performance has also come under scrutiny, with the all-rounder managing just modest contributions with both bat and ball.

Chopra, speaking on his YouTube channel, acknowledged that Pandya has played useful cameos but stressed the absence of a defining innings—the kind where he single-handedly leads the team to victory. He pointed out that while small contributions are valuable, teams expect their senior players to deliver big, game-changing

performances, especially during difficult phases.

The former opener also hinted that Pandya, given his ability and experience, should step up and take more responsibility. He suggested that Mumbai needs fresh ideas and a fearless approach to revive their campaign. Among tactical changes, Chopra proposed adjustments in the batting order, including promoting players like Sherfane Rutherford to inject momentum into the innings.

Questions have also been raised over Pandya’s captaincy, particularly regarding team combinations and the utilisation of key players like Jasprit Bumrah. Critics believe Mumbai have not been able to extract the best from their star performers this season.

Despite the criticism, Pandya’s credentials as a proven match-winner remain intact, having delivered several impactful performances in the past. However, with Mumbai Indians struggling and expectations high, the spotlight is firmly on the skipper to produce a standout performance and turn the team’s fortunes around. As the tournament progresses, all eyes will be on whether Pandya can silence his critics with a defining knock and lead Mumbai back into contention.

Josh Inglis Set to Join LSG Ahead of MI Clash in IPL 2026

In a timely boost for the Lucknow Super Giants, Australian wicketkeeper-batter Josh Inglis is set to join the squad ahead of their crucial clash against the Mumbai Indians in the ongoing Indian Premier League 2026.

According to reports, Inglis is expected to link up with the LSG camp shortly, providing much-needed reinforcement as the team navigates a competitive phase in the tournament. His arrival comes at a critical juncture, with LSG aiming to

strengthen their batting lineup and maintain momentum in the points table.

Inglis, known for his aggressive stroke play and versatility, has built a reputation as a dependable performer in T20 cricket. His ability to accelerate in the middle and death overs, along with his wicketkeeping skills, makes him a valuable addition to the squad. The Australian has previously impressed in various franchise leagues around the world, and LSG will

be hoping he can replicate that form in the IPL.

Lucknow Super Giants have shown flashes of brilliance this season but have also struggled with consistency. Injuries and availability issues have forced the team management to look for reinforcements, and Inglis’ inclusion is seen as a strategic move to address those concerns.

The upcoming match against Mumbai Indians is expected to be a high-stakes encounter.

Mumbai, despite their own struggles this season, remain a formidable side with experienced players capable of turning games around. For LSG, having a player of Inglis’ calibre could prove decisive in such a contest.

Team management is likely to assess Inglis’ readiness before finalising the playing XI. If included, he could slot into the middle order, providing stability as well as firepower depending on the match situation.

The move also reflects the increasing reliance of IPL franchises on international talent to plug gaps during the long and demanding tournament. With the playoff race heating up, timely additions like Inglis could make a significant difference.

As fans await his debut in LSG colours, all eyes will be on how quickly Inglis adapts and whether he can deliver impactful performances in one of the world’s most competitive T20 leagues.



26 Years of Badri: The Untold Story of Pawan Kalyan's Game-Changing Classic and Its Nearly Different Ending

Two and a half decades have passed since Badri first lit up Telugu cinema screens, and yet the film continues to hold a cherished place in the hearts of fans. Released in 2000, the romantic action entertainer marked a defining moment — not just for Power Star Pawan Kalyan, but also for its debutant director Puri Jagannadh. As the film celebrates 26 glorious years, an intriguing behind-the-scenes story about its climax has resurfaced, reminding us how a single creative decision can shape cinematic history.Badri was

written and directed by Puri Jagannadh in his directorial debut, starring Pawan Kalyan, Amisha Patel, and Renu Desai. The film played a crucial role in expanding Pawan Kalyan's appeal from class audiences, who admired his earlier hits, to a much broader mass audience.The story follows Badri, an ad agency director, whose childhood sweetheart Vennela challenges him to woo another girl — Sarayu — to prove his charm. After winning Sarayu's love, Badri finds himself torn between his two lady-loves, while Sarayu's

fiercely protective brother Nanda (Prakash Raj) threatens to settle scores with him. The film builds towards a beautifully emotional climax that became one of the most talked-about endings in Telugu cinema. But here's the fascinating twist — the climax we all know and love almost never happened. Puri Jagannadh has revealed on multiple occasions that Pawan Kalyan once asked him to change the climax of Badri. When Pawan made this request, Puri asked for some time to think it over. After a couple of

days, when Puri visited Pawan again, Pawan asked whether any changes had been made. Puri said no, explaining that no matter how much he thought about it, the original climax best suited the story. Pawan then revealed that he had simply been testing Puri — and that he actually loved the original ending.It was a classic creative mind game between actor and director, and the outcome was a climax that has moved audiences for generations. Beyond the storyline, the film was a cultural milestone. Its iconic dia-

logue and superhit songs continued to be popular even after two decades, with the soundtrack still featuring on many listeners' playlists today.Music director Ramana Gogula received widespread praise for his work on the film.On a personal note, Pawan Kalyan met Renu Desai on the sets of Badri, and the two eventually got married, though they later parted ways.Badri was more than just a film — it was the birth of an iconic screen persona and a landmark in Telugu cinema that continues to be celebrated 26 years on.



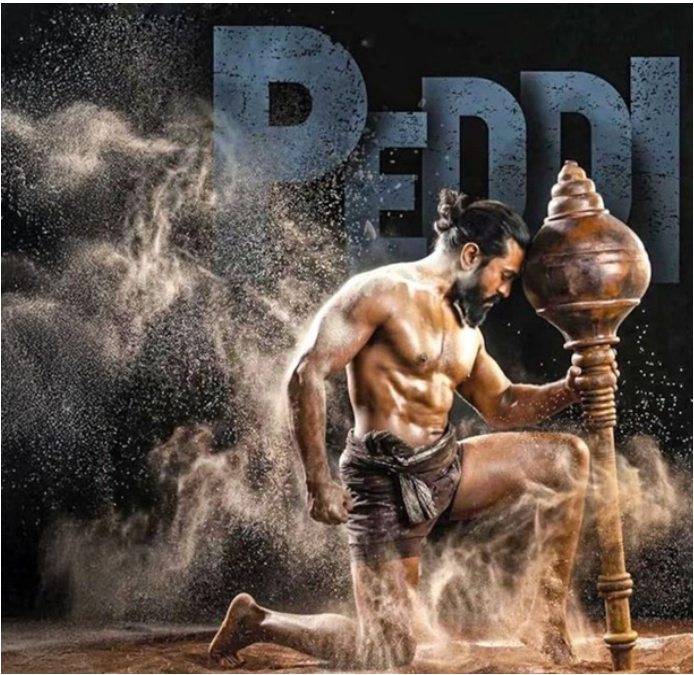
Peddi Postponed: The Staggering VFX Effort Behind Ram Charan's Most Ambitious Film Yet

Ram Charan's highly anticipated sports action drama Peddi has been pushed back from its originally planned April 30 release to June 2026. While the delay may have disappointed eager fans, the reason behind it offers a fascinating glimpse into the extraordinary level of effort being poured into this project — particularly on the visual effects front.

The production team has confirmed that the shoot is yet to be fully wrapped, and pending post-production work left them with no choice but to reschedule the release. However, rather than seeing this as a setback, the makers are treating it as a commitment to quality — and the VFX revelations make that clear.

Frame X VFX, the studio handling the visual effects for Peddi, recently shared an eye-opening detail about the scale of their work. Despite handling only around 4 to 5 minutes of footage from the film's wrestling sequences, the team spent a remarkable three full months completing it. The numbers speak volumes about the painstaking precision that goes into crafting world-class VFX.

Nilesh, the head of Frame X VFX, shed light on why even a short stretch of footage demands so much time and effort. He explained that VFX work is calculated frame by frame, with every single min-



ute of footage containing 1,440 individual frames. The cost and time involved therefore depend entirely on the level of enhancement applied to each of those frames — meaning even a few minutes of action-packed wrestling content can require months of meticulous work.For fans of Ram Charan, this level of dedication should be reassuring. It signals that the makers are leaving no stone unturned to deliver a visually spectacular experience. Rather than rushing the film to meet a deadline, the team is clearly prioritizing the overall

quality of the final product.

Peddi is produced by Vriddhi Cinemas and features Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead. The film's music is being composed by the legendary AR Rahman, adding another layer of excitement for audiences. With a powerhouse cast, a top-tier music director, and a production team willing to invest months into just minutes of footage, Peddi is shaping up to be one of the most ambitious Telugu films in recent memory. The wait, it seems, will absolutely be worth it.

A New Chapter Begins: Director Atlee and Wife Priya Welcome Baby Girl with a Heartwarming Announcement

The Indian film industry is celebrating some wonderful personal news as acclaimed director Atlee and his wife Priya have welcomed their second child — a precious baby girl. The joyful arrival has sent waves of happiness across the film fraternity, with celebrities from across the industry rushing to congratulate the couple.

The couple had first shared their pregnancy news back in January 2026, and ever since, fans and colleagues alike had been eagerly looking forward to this moment. True to his creative instincts, Atlee chose a truly heartwarming and distinctive way to announce the birth of his daughter — sharing the news from the perspective of his firstborn son, Meer. The announcement beautifully conveyed that little Meer now has a baby sister, adding an emotional and endearing touch to what could have been a simple social media post. Interestingly, this sweet style



of announcement mirrors how Bollywood star Deepika Padukone — who had announced her own second pregnancy just a day before — had shared her news as well. The timing of both announcements, coming so close together, has made for a delightful coincidence that fans across social media have been buzzing about.

The congratulatory messages came pouring in from prominent names in the industry. Celebrities including Samantha, Kajal Aggarwal, Ananya Panday, and Nisha Aggarwal were among those who warmly wished the couple on the newest and most precious addition to their family. While personally this is a

time of immense joy for Atlee and Priya, the director is also riding high on the professional front. He is currently in the midst of shooting his ambitious upcoming project Raaka, starring Pan-India sensation Allu Arjun in the lead role. The film is being shot in Mumbai and has already generated massive excitement following the release of its first look, which set social media ablaze and raised expectations to a fever pitch.With a blockbuster in the making and a beautiful new life joining the family, Atlee has every reason to be on top of the world right now. Fans and well-wishers from across the country have flooded social media with love for the couple, making this a truly unforgettable milestone in the director's personal and professional journey.

Here's wishing Atlee, Priya, little Meer, and their newborn baby girl a lifetime filled with health, happiness, and love.

Beyond the Silver Screen: Megastar Chiranjeevi's Generosity Touches Lives in Tollywood

Megastar Chiranjeevi has always been celebrated for his towering presence in Telugu cinema, but it is his warmth and compassion off-screen that continue to win hearts across the industry. True to his reputation as a generous and caring personality, Chiranjeevi has once again stepped forward in a big way to support those around him, proving that his stardom is matched only by the goodness of his heart.

In a recent act of kindness that has moved the Telugu film fraternity, Chiranjeevi extended financial help to makeup artist Sivanath, who was in need of critical heart surgery. The Megastar generously contributed Rs. 10.5 lakh to cover the medical expenses and went a step further by personally visiting Sivanath in the hospital — a gesture that spoke volumes about the genuine bond he shares with the people who work alongside him.

His compassion did not stop there. Chiranjeevi also came to the aid of his former manager KV Narasaiah's wife, who required a bypass surgery. He donated Rs. 9.5 lakh to ensure that the medical treatment could be carried out without financial strain on the family. Such personal attention to those who have served him over the years reflects the deep



sense of loyalty and gratitude that defines Chiranjeevi's character.

Looking beyond individual cases, the Megastar also made broader contributions to the film community. He donated Rs. 10 lakh to charitable trusts associated with the Telugu film industry and an additional Rs. 5 lakh to the Telugu Film Journalists' Association — recognising the role that journalists and industry workers play in keeping the ecosystem alive and thriving.What makes these acts particularly remarkable is their consistency. This is not an isolated gesture or a one-time display of generosity —

Chiranjeevi has a long-standing history of standing by the Telugu film fraternity in times of need. Whether it is a daily wage worker facing a medical emergency or a long-time associate in distress, he has always shown up.

In a world where stardom often comes with a distance from reality, Chiranjeevi remains a grounded and deeply humane figure. His actions serve as a reminder that true greatness lies not just in the roles one plays on screen, but in the lives one touches off it. The Megastar continues to be an inspiration — not just as an actor, but as a human being.

Jyoti Biswas: The Rising Star Lighting Up Ramps, Screens, and Award Stages

In the vibrant world of Indian entertainment, few personalities manage to shine across multiple domains simultaneously — but Jyoti Biswas is doing exactly that. From glamorous brand shoots to show-stopping ramp walks, from Bengali cinema to music albums and short series, this multi-talented actress and model is steadily carving out a name for herself that reaches far beyond regional boundaries.

Jyoti first made her mark in the world of fashion, participating in numerous brand shoots that showcased her striking screen presence and versatile appeal. Over time, she became a sought-after name on the ramp circuit, eventually earning the coveted role of showstopper — a position reserved for those who can command an audience's undivided attention the moment they step onto the runway. Her repeated appearances as a showstopper speak volumes about her growing stature in the fashion world.

On the acting front, Jyoti has made a notable entry into the Bengali film industry, having worked alongside popular star Ankush Hazra — a collaboration that introduced her to a wide and enthusiastic audience. Beyond cinema, she has also been actively building her portfolio through short series and music albums, demonstrating a willingness to explore every creative avenue available to her.

Her journey has not gone unrecognised. Jyoti was recently invited to a prestigious award show held in Vijayawada, where she received an award that acknowledged her growing contributions to the entertainment industry. This recognition adds to a collection of honours she has received over the course of her career, cementing her reputation as a performer who delivers results.

What makes this moment particularly exciting for her fans is the buzz surrounding her entry into Telugu cinema. There is growing talk about Jyoti featuring in an upcoming Telugu film, a development that could open an entirely new chapter in her already promising career and introduce her to one of India's most passionate film-loving audiences.

With talent, determination, and a rapidly expanding body of work, Jyoti Biswas is undoubtedly a name to watch.

