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Speculation Grows Over Prashant Kishor's Telangana Role

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

Political strategist Prashant Kishor is once again in the spotlight, with reports suggesting he has shifted focus back to election strategy following recent developments in Bihar politics. Known for his influential role in multiple election campaigns, Kishor had earlier played a crucial part in the 2019 victory of the YSR Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh.

During that campaign, he worked closely with party chief Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, contributing extensively in areas such as poll management, social media strategy, campaign content, and candidate selection. He was also present alongside Jagan Mohan Reddy when the election results were announced, marking a significant political moment. However, after the party came to power, Kishor distanced himself from his organisation, Indian Political Action Committee



(I-PAC).

In a shift from strategist to politician, Kishor later launched his own outfit, the Jan Surraaj Party, and contested in Bihar. Despite deploying his signature campaign techniques, the party reportedly failed to secure electoral success, drawing criticism and sparking debate over his effectiveness as an independent political leader.

Amid this backdrop, fresh reports indicate that Kishor recently visited Hyderabad and is believed to have met K. Chandrashekar Rao, president of the Bharat RashtraSamithi (BRS), at his Erravelli farmhouse. Though there is no official confirmation, party sources suggest discussions may have revolved around a possible election strategy partnership, with speculation even

pointing to a high-value deal.

Unconfirmed reports further claim that Kishor conducted a survey across Telangana, indicating that the BRS has yet to regain significant political momentum. Internal challenges, leadership dynamics, and public perception of past governance are said to be key concerns highlighted in the findings. At the same time, welfare schemes introduced by the ruling Indian National Congress government are reportedly receiving a positive response among sections of the public, though administrative concerns persist.

While these developments remain speculative, they have triggered intense political debate in the state. Observers believe that if such a collaboration materialises, it could play a crucial role in shaping the BRS's future electoral strategy and efforts to rebuild its public image ahead of upcoming elections.



Govt Pushes HILT Policy with Stakeholder Consensus

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka-Mallu on Friday said the government is moving ahead with the Hyderabad Industrial Lands Transformation (HILT) policy in a democratic manner, balancing the interests of industries, the city, and the state's long-term development.

Chairing the Revenue Resource Mobilisation Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat, Vikramarka said all stakeholder views would be considered before finalising the policy guidelines. Ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, D. Sridhar Babu, and Jupally Krishna Rao, along with senior officials and representatives from industrial estates, attended the meeting.

With rising concerns over pollution levels, several industrial representatives suggested relocating polluting industries beyond the Outer Ring Road (ORR). Responding positively, the Deputy CM said the government is open to such proposals and is examining them carefully. He also noted that under the Undeveloped Land (UDL) policy, industrial development should be taken up through joint efforts of the Centre, state, and private stakeholders.

Suggestions were also made to develop new industrial parks between the ORR and the proposed Regional Ring Road (RRR), drawing inspiration from global models. Vikramarka welcomed the idea, assuring that decisions would be taken after due deliberation. He clarified that the government's in-

tent is not to trouble industries but to ensure planned urban growth.

Minister Sridhar Babu emphasized the need to balance industrial growth with environmental sustainability, adding that the government remains flexible on policy implementation. He also highlighted provisions in the upcoming industrial policy, including mandatory dormitory facilities for workers.

Industrial representatives largely welcomed the HILT policy. D. Srinivas Reddy of the Cherlapally Industries Association said the policy is being implemented transparently, with conversion charges ranging from 30% to 50% based on road width. He requested the government to provide infrastructure, housing, and a transition period of six months for industries relocating beyond the ORR.

Representatives from Uppal and Jeedimetla industrial areas sought reduction in conversion charges and development of new industrial zones without heavy subsidies. Minister Jupally Krishna Rao directed officials to compile comprehensive land data, including vacant and encroached lands.

The sub-committee also decided to implement revised land market values from the first week of May. Vikramarka stressed that all decisions must be executed effectively to enhance state revenue, warning against any negligence.

Senior officials, including Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao and Finance Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultan, participated in the meeting.

Kavitha's Grand Political Launch Set to Redefine Telangana Landscape

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

All arrangements are in place for Kalvakuntla Kavitha's much-anticipated political party launch, set to mark a significant moment in Telangana's political landscape. The event will be held at the Adhya Convention Centre in Munirabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri district, transformed into the "Professor Jayashankar Sabha Pranganam," a sprawling venue designed to host a massive gathering.

Kavitha, founder of Telangana Jagruthi and a prominent figure in the Telangana movement, is set to unveil her new political party aimed at creating an independent platform to safeguard the state's interests and strengthen political representation. The venue, spread across nearly 20 acres, has been elaborately decorated with entry gates named after Telangana icons including Ka-



loji Narayana Rao, Rani Rudrama Devi, Chakalillamma, and Maroju Veeranna, reflecting strong cultural symbolism.

As per the schedule, Kavitha will begin her day at 7:30 AM

with a rally from her Banjara Hills residence to the Martyrs' Memorial at Gun Park, where she will pay tributes before proceeding to the venue. She is expected to arrive at around

9:30 AM. The party name announcement and flag unveiling are scheduled for 10:00 AM, followed by her keynote address, which is expected to last over an hour and outline her political vision and roadmap.

Organisers are expecting nearly 50,000 cadres from all 33 districts, turning the event into a major show of strength. Extensive arrangements have been made to manage the crowd and ensure smooth conduct of the programme.

Adding a distinct cultural dimension, a grand feast featuring 34 traditional Telangana dishes has been arranged for party workers and guests. Dedicated dining halls named after prominent personalities such as Suravaram Pratap Reddy, Sammakka-Sarakka, and Shoaibullah Khan have been set up at the venue.

Telangana Flavours Take Centre Stage at Kavitha's Party Launch

The menu reflects Telangana's rich culinary heritage,

with a wide range of non-vegetarian and vegetarian dishes. Popular items include talakayakura, boti fry, Telangana mutton curry, natukodipulusu, bommidayalapulusu, and Hyderabad chicken dum biryani, along with mirchikasan and egg iguru. The vegetarian spread features bagara baingan, yam fry, spinach curry, mango dal, aloo tomato curry, sarvapindi, makkagarelu, and jonnarotte.

Staples such as bagara rice, white rice, sambar, pachhipulusu, avakaya, papad, curd, and raita will also be served, along with cooling beverages like buttermilk and ragiambali. Desserts including shahitukda, jalebi, and butterscotch ice cream complete the elaborate spread. With a blend of political significance, cultural pride, and large-scale mobilisation, the event is expected to draw widespread attention as Kavitha embarks on a new journey to carve out her own political space in Telangana.

Kavitha Set to Unveil New Party, Eyes Political Reset

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

A new chapter in Telangana politics is set to unfold as K. Kavitha prepares to launch her political party at a massive public meeting in Medchal on Saturday. The announcement is being viewed as a significant development amid shifting political equations in the state.

Kavitha, who heads Telangana Jagruthi, is expected to outline her political agenda and vision, positioning the party as a platform rooted in Telangana self-respect and regional aspirations. The launch event at Muneerabad is anticipated to draw thousands of supporters from across the state, reflecting her grassroots network built over the years.

Political observers say the move could influence the existing dynamics involving the Bharat RashtraSamithi (BRS), Indian National Congress, and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). While Kavitha has stated that she is forming the party independently after differences with BRS, speculation continues over the broader political

implications of her entry.

The new party is expected to focus on mobilising Backward Classes (BC), Other Backward Classes (OBC), youth, and women voters. Analysts suggest that even a modest vote share could impact electoral outcomes in closely contested constituencies, making the party a potential "X-factor" in future elections.

Kavitha has also extended an open invitation to leaders across party lines to join her initiative, indicating the possibility of political realignments in the coming months. Her remarks on the current political scenario and criticism of major parties signal an attempt to position herself as an alternative regional force.

With Telangana having witnessed the rise and fall of several regional outfits in the past, the success of Kavitha's venture will depend on its ability to translate public sentiment into sustained political support. As the state watches closely, the Medchal assembly is expected to mark a key turning point in Telangana's evolving political landscape.



HC Relief for KCR, KTR, Harish Rao

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

In a major relief to senior BRS leaders, the Telangana High Court has quashed cases filed against former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), party Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), and senior MLA T. Harish Rao in connection with the 2011 "Million March" protest at Tank Bund in Hyderabad.

The cases stemmed from the large-scale agitation held dur-

ing the Telangana statehood movement, when tensions escalated at Tank Bund, leading to clashes and damage to public property. Police had registered cases against several leaders, including KCR, KTR, and Harish Rao, naming them as accused in the incidents.

During the hearing, counsel representing the petitioners argued that the leaders had no direct involvement in the alleged acts and were wrongly implicated in the case. The defense maintained that there was insufficient evidence link-

ing them to any unlawful activities during the protest.

After considering the arguments, the High Court ruled in favor of the petitioners and dismissed the cases against the three leaders. The court observed that there was no substantive material to proceed with the charges.

The verdict brings significant legal relief to the BRS leadership, closing a long-pending case linked to one of the most prominent protests during the Telangana movement.



Governor Attends Sansad Khel Mahotsav in Mahabubnagar

Mahabubnagar, April 24 | TPN Bureau

The Shiv Pratap Shukla attended the Prime Minister Sansad Khel Mahotsav-2026 as the Chief Guest, held at the District Stadium Grounds in Mahabubnagar. The event was organised under the leadership of D. K. Aruna.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor appreciated the initiative, highlighting the importance of sports in promoting physical fitness, discipline, and national integration among youth. He encouraged participants to pursue sports with dedication and uphold the spirit of healthy competition.

During the program, the Governor distributed awards and medals to the winners and congratulated all participants for their enthusiasm and sporting spir-

it. He noted that such events provide a valuable platform for young talent from rural and urban areas alike to showcase their abilities.

MP D. K. Aruna expressed gratitude to the Governor for gracing the occasion and reiterated her commitment to promoting sports activities in the constituency. She stated that the Sansad Khel Mahotsav aims to identify and nurture grassroots talent while encouraging youth participation in constructive activities.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from athletes across the district, with competitions held in multiple disciplines. Local officers, public representatives, and sports enthusiasts were present, making the program a grand success.

Bandi Sanjay Backs RTC Workers

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar has extended strong support to RTC workers amid ongoing unrest, urging union leaders not to succumb to government pressure and to continue their fight for justice.

Sanjay visited the mortal remains of RTC driver Shankar Goud, who recently died, and paid his respects. Expressing concern over the situation, he demanded that the state government immediately address the legitimate demands of transport workers and take steps to prevent further tragic incidents.

He emphasized that the time has come to resolve long-pending issues of RTC employees and cautioned that yielding to political pressure would be detrimental to their interests. "The BJP will stand firmly with the workers and fight on their behalf," he asserted.

At the same time, the Union Minister appealed to employees not to resort to extreme steps such as suicide, stating that such actions only deepen the suffering of families. He assured that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would provide full support to RTC workers and continue to raise their concerns.

The statement comes amid heightened tensions over workers' demands, with political leaders increasingly weighing in and calling for an early resolution through dialogue and collective efforts.



BJP Chief Condoles RTC Driver's Death

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

N. Ramchander Rao, president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Telangana, expressed deep shock and grief over the death of RTC driver Kola Shankar Goud from the Narsampet depot in Warangal district.

In a condolence message, Ramchander Rao described the incident as extremely tragic and conveyed heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family. He prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace and for the family to find strength to endure the loss.

Appealing to RTC employees, he urged them not to lose hope or take extreme decisions such as suicide. "No problem is worth losing one's life. Issues can be resolved through dialogue and collective effort," he stated.

Reassuring support, the BJP leader said the party would stand firmly with RTC workers



during this difficult period. He emphasized that the BJP is committed to fighting for the rights and welfare of RTC employees and will continue to raise their concerns at all levels.

Ramchander Rao further called on workers to remain strong and united, assuring

Minister Reviews Paddy Seed Strategy

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister Tummalanageswara Rao on Friday conducted a key review on fine paddy varieties to be cultivated in the upcoming Kharif season, emphasizing the need to ensure availability of high-yielding seeds with strong market demand. During a meeting held at the Secretariat with Agriculture Commission Chairman Kodanda Reddy, commission members, scientists, and officials, the minister discussed seed selection, availability, and crop planning. Officials informed that varieties such as BPT-5204, RNR-15048, HMT Sona, Jai Shreeram, KNM-1638, WGL-44, WGL-962, and JGL-1798 are being prepared for the season. The minister noted that last year, the availability of as many as 33 fine varieties created marketing challenges for farmers, with some failing to fetch better prices. To avoid repetition, he directed officials to limit the number of varieties and focus only on those offering higher



yields and better demand. He instructed coordination with civil supplies authorities to plan seed distribution based on procurement targets of both state and central governments. Awareness programmes on selected varieties will be held during Rythu Utsavams from May 4 to 9, and seeds must be ready for farmers by May 15.

Tummala also directed the Seed Corporation and private companies to ensure adequate supply of the identified varieties, and suggested a meeting with seed firms to streamline availability. Criticizing the Centre's Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy, the minister said it unfairly shifts the procurement burden onto states. He de-

manded that the Centre procure all crops for which MSP is announced, noting that states like Telangana bear an additional annual burden of Rs 2,000-Rs 3,000 crore to protect farmers from losses. He added that MSP declarations alone are insufficient without ensuring farmers receive those prices in the market.

VAHAN Portal Gains Traction in Vehicle Registration Services

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

The Transport Department has accelerated the digitisation of vehicle-related services with the rollout of the VAHAN Portal, developed by the National Informatics Centre. The initiative aims to streamline processes and enhance transparency in registration services across the state.

According to officials, the implementation is being carried out in a phased manner to ensure a smooth transition and avoid disruption in public services. As of April 23, a total of 68,846 temporary vehicle registrations have been generated through the platform, reflecting growing adoption among users. The portal's "fancy number" module has already been made operational, enabling citizens to reserve preferred registration numbers online.

So far, 1,880 such reservations have been completed, ensuring a fair and transparent allotment process without manual intervention. In addition, 23,705 vehicles have been assigned Permanent Registration (PR) numbers through the system, marking significant progress in digitising core transport services. Officials noted that the online system reduces paperwork, minimises delays, and enhances efficiency for both applicants and the department. The Transport Department expects the platform to stabilise fully within the next 15 days, after which all services will function seamlessly. Authorities expressed confidence that the VAHAN portal will significantly improve citizen experience by offering faster, more transparent, and hassle-free vehicle registration services.

Deputy CM Calls for talks Amid RTC Tensions

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday urged RTC employees and union leaders to resolve issues through talks, stressing that human life is invaluable and should never be lost over disputes.

Speaking during talks with RTC Joint Action Committee (JAC) leaders at the State Secretariat, Vikramarka expressed deep sorrow over the death of RTC driver Shankar Goud. He said the loss has devastated the victim's family and called for collective efforts by both the government and unions to ensure such incidents are not repeated.

"Problems, however complex, can always be resolved through discussions. Taking extreme steps is not a solution," he said, appealing to workers to remain calm and patient. He reiterated that the present administration is a



"people's government" committed to addressing concerns without hostility.

Highlighting the importance of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (RTC), Vikramarka said it is one of the largest public sector institutions in the state and plays a crucial role, especially for poor and women commuters. He emphasized the need to strengthen the organisation rather than weaken it.

Telangana IPS Reshuffle Ahead of May

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

In a significant administrative overhaul, the Telangana government on Friday announced the transfer and posting of several senior IPS officers, signaling a strategic repositioning of top brass ahead of May. The orders, issued under G.O.Rt.No. 535 by Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, will come into effect from May 1, 2026. The reshuffle covers crucial departments including Home, Vigilance, Intelligence, and city policing.

Among the key appointments, Shikha Goel (1994 batch), currently serving as Director General of Vigilance & Enforcement, has been named Principal Secretary to the Government Home Department. She will continue to hold full additional charge of the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau and the Forensic Science Laboratory.

Dr. Tarun Joshi (2004 batch), who is presently the Director of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, has been posted as Commissioner of Police for Future City. He replaces G. Sudheer Babu, who is set to retire on

April 30. Devendra Singh Chauhan (1997 batch) will take over as Director General (Vigilance & Enforcement) and Ex-Officio Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, moving from his role as Additional DGP (Personnel).

Avinash Mohanthy (2005 batch), currently Commissioner of Police, Malkajgiri, has been appointed Director General of the Drugs Control Administration and Director of Prohibition & Excise, while also holding additional charge as ACB Director. B. Sumathi (2006 batch), IGP of the Special Intelligence Bureau, will now serve as Commissioner of Police, Malkajgiri.

In the intelligence wing, Sri Kartikeya (2006 batch), IGP Intelligence, has been given additional charge of the Special Intelligence Bureau. Shahnawaz Qasim (2003 batch) has been posted as IGP, Multi Zone-II, along with additional responsibility of IGP (Personnel).

The reshuffle reflects the government's focus on strengthening governance and internal security.

Leaders Express Grief Over RTC Driver's Death

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

The death of RTC driver Shankar Goud has sparked widespread grief, with leaders expressing deep condolences and urging employees to remain calm during the ongoing unrest. Telangana Minister Seethakka conveyed shock over the incident, stating that losing the sole breadwinner of a family is an immeasurable tragedy. In her message, the minister assured that the government would stand firmly with the bereaved family during this difficult time. She

prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace and for the family to find strength to cope with the loss. At the same time, she appealed to RTC employees not to take extreme steps in moments of distress, emphasizing that such decisions could push more families into hardship.

Reiterating the government's commitment, she said that the issues faced by RTC workers are being taken seriously and efforts are underway to resolve them through discussions. "Your problems are our problems, and we are committed to finding a lasting solu-

tion," she stated.

Meanwhile, Mahesh Kumar Goud, president of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee, also expressed profound sorrow over the death of Shankar Goud, a driver from the Narsampet depot. He stressed that suicide is not a solution to problems and called for resolving issues through dialogue. Both leaders urged employees to stay strong and assured that the government is working towards addressing their concerns while ensuring the welfare and safety of the RTC workforce.

Uttam Calls for Mission-Mode MSP Procurement

Hyderabad, April 23 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has directed officials to accelerate Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations and streamline logistics to ensure smooth paddy procurement during the ongoing Rabi marketing season.

Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat, the minister stressed the need to shift into "mission mode" to avoid delays and provide farmer-friendly services during peak arrivals. He noted that paddy procurement has gained momentum in nearly 20 districts, while it is yet to begin in 13 districts due to delayed translocation. Officials were instructed to prepare in ad-



vance for the expected surge.

Highlighting the preparedness of the machinery, Uttam Kumar Reddy said arrangements are in place to procure up to 90 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of paddy. More than 5,000 procurement centres are already operational, with plans

Around 16 crore gunny bags have also been readied to support daily procurement operations.

The minister directed officials to deploy paddy cleaners and dryers at procurement centres to tackle moisture-related issues. He emphasized the need for adequate manpower, timely quality testing, and smooth weighing processes.

He also called for strengthened transport arrangements to ensure prompt lifting of procured paddy and ordered strict monitoring at inter-state borders to prevent inflow from neighbouring states. Officials were instructed to ensure timely payments to farmers and maintain seamless coordination among departments to avoid any backlog during the season.

TPCC Leader Slams Bandi Sanjay Over RTC Issue

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

TPCC General Secretary Chananani Dayakar launched a sharp attack on Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar during a press conference held at Gandhi Bhavan, accusing him of indulging in “cheap politics” over the ongoing RTC workers’ issue.

Dayakar criticized Sanjay for allegedly politicising the death of RTC driver Shankar Goud, questioning whether such sensitive matters should be used for political gain. He said the state government, led

by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, had responded promptly within 24 hours and constituted a sub-committee of ministers to address the concerns of RTC employees.

Reiterating the government’s commitment to worker welfare, Dayakar stated that several measures are being taken, including providing corporate-level healthcare services to RTC staff. He also noted that the government has announced financial assistance of Rs 10 lakh to the bereaved family and is considering offering a government job.

Accusing Sanjay of provoking workers, Dayakar alleged

that such statements could incite unrest among employees. He further remarked that while the Union Minister failed to effectively raise Telangana-related issues in Parliament, he was attempting to gain attention through controversial remarks.

The TPCC leader emphasized that the government is actively working to resolve the legitimate demands of RTC workers through dialogue. He also appealed to employees not to resort to extreme steps, assuring them that the government stands firmly with them during this difficult period.



Feast of Flavors Marks New Party Launch

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

Following the announcement of a new political party, organizers have planned an elaborate traditional feast to welcome party workers and guests with authentic Telangana cuisine. A total of 34 varieties of dishes have been carefully prepared for the grand midday meal, reflecting the region’s rich culinary heritage.

The non-vegetarian menu features a wide range of flavorful dishes, including head curry, boti fry, Telangana-style mutton curry, country chicken pulusu, and fish pulusu. The highlight of the spread is the famous Hyderabad chicken dum biryani, accompanied by mirchi ka salan and egg iguru, promising a delightful experience for meat lovers.

Vegetarian options have also been given equal importance. Guests will be served bagara baingan masala curry, yam fry, spinach curry, mango dal, aloo tomato curry, colocasia pulusu,

and traditional rasam. These dishes aim to cater to diverse tastes while preserving local authenticity.

Special Telangana delicacies such as makka garelu, jonna roti, sarvapindi, boorelu, and ariselu have been included to showcase the cultural essence of the region. Alongside these, staple items like bagara rice, white rice, sambar, chutneys, dosa, pickles, mirchi bajji, raw pulusu, papad, curd, and raita will also be served.

To complement the meal, refreshing drinks like butter-milk and ragi ambali will be available for attendees. The dessert section promises a sweet ending with butterscotch ice cream, shahi tukda, and jalebi.

The grand menu reflects not only hospitality but also a strategic effort to connect with people through familiar flavors, making the party’s launch event both memorable and culturally rooted.



Ex-Minister Slams Govt Over Cooperative Polls

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

Former Agriculture Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy has strongly criticised the state government over its reported move to appoint members to Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies instead of conducting elections, calling the decision “undemocratic.”

In a press statement, he alleged that the Congress government was attempting to hand over these bodies to party workers through nominations, fearing defeat if elections were held. He termed the Cabinet’s decision as a “backdoor approach” to avoid electoral accountability. Niranjan Reddy further accused the government of failing farmers on multiple fronts since coming to power. He claimed that promised financial assistance under farmer support schemes had been delayed repeatedly, leaving farmers in distress. He also alleged that tenant farmers and agricultural labourers were being neglected.

Raising concerns over insurance, he said claims under the farmer’s insurance (Rythu

Bima) scheme were pending in large numbers, forcing affected families to wait for support. He added that farmers were once again struggling with irregular power supply for agriculture and were not receiving adequate fertilisers such as urea on time.

The former minister also criticised the introduction of an app-based system for fertiliser distribution, stating that it was causing inconvenience to farmers. He alleged that even after bringing produce like paddy to markets, farmers were not being assured Minimum Support Price (MSP), leading to further hardship.

Referring to the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government led by K. Chandrashekar Rao, he said farmers had benefited from schemes like Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, 24-hour free power supply, and large-scale procurement.

Demanding immediate elections to cooperative societies, he challenged the government to prove its commitment to democracy and farmers’ welfare.

Preethi Reddy Denies BJP Entry Rumours

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

Preethi Reddy, daughter-in-law of former minister Chamakura Malla Reddy, has dismissed speculation about her entry into the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), clarifying that she is not joining the party.

Rumours had been circulating that Preethi Reddy was preparing to enter active politics and might contest as a Member of Parliament candidate from the BJP. The buzz intensified after she visited the party’s office, leading to widespread assumptions about her possible political move.

Responding to the speculation, Preethi Reddy stated that she has no plans to join the BJP



at present. She explained that her recent meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi was solely in connection with the inauguration of an AI City University initiative and not related to any political affiliation.

HILT Policy to Be Implemented Democratically: Bhatti

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu on Friday said the government aims to implement the Hyderabad Industrial Lands Transformation (HILT) policy in a transparent and democratic manner, focusing on the overall development of the city and the state.

Speaking at a Cabinet Subcommittee meeting on revenue resource mobilisation held at the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Secretariat, Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the policy was introduced keeping public and industrial interests in mind. Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, D. Sridhar Babu, and Jupally Krishna Rao, along with industrial estate representatives, attended the meeting.

The Deputy CM noted that while some industrial representatives suggested shifting polluting industries beyond the Outer Ring Road Hyderabad due to rising air pollution, the government would proceed after considering all stakeholders’ views. He emphasised that there is no intention to inconvenience indus-



tries, but rather to ensure planned growth under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He also suggested consultations with all industrial associations located within the ORR limits to speed up HILT policy implementation. The government, he said, would incorporate inputs from industrial stakeholders before finalising guidelines. Minister Sridhar Babu highlighted that the state is open to reforms under the HILT policy while ensuring industries operate efficiently without causing pollution. He added that the new industrial policy man-

dates dormitory facilities for workers. Industrial representatives welcomed the policy. D. Srinivas Reddy of Cherlapally Industries Association said the HILT framework is broadly acceptable and urged the government to provide adequate infrastructure, including housing for workers, in industrial parks beyond the ORR.

The sub-committee also directed registration authorities to implement revised market values of lands from the first week of May. Officials were instructed to ensure strict execution of decisions aimed at boosting state revenue.



NGRI Submits SLBC Tunnel Safety Report

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

A comprehensive safety survey report on tunnelling works of the Srisaillam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) was submitted to Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy at the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Secretariat on Friday.

The report, prepared by the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), outlines critical safety measures to be followed during tunnel excavation. It was handed over by NGRI senior scientist Satyanarayana during a review meeting held at the Secretariat.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister appreciated NGRI’s efforts and stressed that worker safety remains the government’s top priority. He said the report was aimed at preventing recurrence of past mishaps during tunnelling operations and ensuring adherence to strict safety protocols.

The study utilised advanced technologies such as seismic imaging and electrical resistivity tomography to identify potential risk zones, water seep-

age areas, and structural stress points along the tunnel route. Officials said these findings would guide safe and efficient excavation practices.

The minister also reviewed the progress of SLBC restoration works and noted that excavation activities are moving at a steady pace. So far, 151.50 metres of tunnelling has been completed with the support of electric loaders and heavy dumpers.

He further stated that the government plans to deploy advanced machinery sourced from national and international firms to accelerate work, with a target of excavating up to 200 metres per month from both ends.

Additionally, Uttam Kumar Reddy suggested that NGRI extend its expertise to geotechnical studies for the restoration of key barrages under the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, including Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla.

Senior officials, including ENC Ramesh Babu and tunnelling expert Parikshit Mehra, attended the meeting.

Panel Submits Irrigation Reform Plan to Minister

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Commission has submitted a comprehensive note on minor irrigation reforms and tank restoration to Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy.

The report focuses on reorganisation of minor irrigation systems, formation of tank protection committees, and large-scale desilting of water bodies to enhance storage capacity. The proposal was prepared under the leadership of Commission Chairman M. Kodanda Reddy after a series

of consultations with officials from the irrigation and agriculture departments, experts, and representatives of WALAMTARI.

During the discussions, participants stressed the need for a sustainable institutional mechanism to ensure long-term protection of tanks. They also highlighted the importance of desilting to improve water retention, groundwater recharge, and irrigation efficiency.

Based on these deliberations, the Commission prepared a detailed report outlining the structure of tank protection committees and guidelines for implementing desilting works. The report has

been formally submitted to the minister with a request to take necessary action for its implementation.

Commission members K.V. Narasimha Reddy, Bhavani Marikanti, Gadugu Gangadhar, Sunil, and Ram Reddy Gopal Reddy, along with Member Secretary Gopal and senior officials from concerned departments, participated in the process.

The Commission stated that the initiative aims to ensure long-term benefits for farmers through better water management and conservation of irrigation resources, reaffirming the government’s commitment to strengthening the agricultural sector.





24 Stolen Bikes Recovered, Two Arrested

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

The Dundigal police busted a bike theft gang and recovered 24 stolen two-wheelers, thanks to extensive analysis of CCTV footage. The operation was revealed during a press meet addressed by Qutbullapur DCP Koti Reddy at the Dundigal Police Station. Police arrested two accused, identified as B. Naveen (23), an Uber driver, and T. Srinivas (25), a watchman. According to officials, the duo was involved in multiple bike thefts across Dundigal, Pet Basheerabad, Suraram, Jagadgirigutta, and other areas. The stolen vehicles, estimated to be worth around Rs 12 lakh, were seized from the accused. Investigations revealed that the duo used duplicate keys to start the bikes and later sold them through their acquaintances. Police also recovered some vehicles from receivers linked to the gang.

Authorities stated that around 200 CCTV cameras were analyzed during the investigation, which ultimately led to the arrest of the accused at Gandimaisamma junction. Cases related to these thefts were registered across nine police station limits.

Speaking on the occasion, DCP Koti Reddy urged vehicle owners to adopt safety measures and act responsibly. He advised installing GPS tracking systems in valuable vehicles to prevent theft. He also emphasized that CCTV surveillance played a crucial role in cracking the case.

The accused have been remanded to judicial custody. The operation was carried out under the supervision of senior officials, including Medchal ACP Shankar Reddy and Dundigal CI Satish, along with other police personnel.

Pastor Devadanam Felicitated for 52 Years of Service

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

A felicitation function was held in honour of Rev. Dr. G. Devadanam, founder of Christ Gospel Baptist Church, marking his 52 years of dedicated service in Christian ministry. The event took place at the church premises in HB Colony, Nacharam, under the leadership of Rev. Sriram Timothy, president of the Uppal Constituency Pastors' Fellowship.

Addressing the gathering, Pastor Devadanam reflected on his spiritual journey, stating that he had resigned from a central government job after receiving a divine calling to serve as a pastor. Over the past five decades, he has extended support to numerous underprivileged families, orphans, and those in distress, earning widespread respect within the community. Speakers at the event highlighted his humanitarian efforts, noting that he had contributed significantly to the welfare of poor children and marginalized sections.



They also recalled the support extended by late former MLA Bandari Rajireddy, who facilitated the allocation of nearly 2,000 square yards of land for the construction of the church.

Church members expressed deep gratitude for Rajireddy's contribution, stating that his services would always be remembered. Several prominent religious leaders, including Rev. Dr. B. Timothy, Bishop Aashirvadam, Bishop Zakaria, Bishop Raju, and Rev. Jeevaratnam, along with church committee members, participated in the programme. The event concluded with prayers and messages appreciating Pastor Devadanam's lifelong commitment to faith and social service.



MLA Extends Aid to Ailing Resident

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

K. P. Vivekanand, MLA of Qutbullapur, extended timely support to a resident facing health and financial difficulties, reinforcing his commitment to public welfare. Residents of Ayodhya Nagar under Gajularamaram division met the MLA at his office in Chintal, highlighting their struggles with medical issues and lack of financial resources. Responding promptly, Vivekanand contacted officials at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) over the phone and facilitated immediate admission of the patient for treatment. In addition, the MLA ensured that all necessary details were provided to

process a Letter of Credit (LOC) from the government to support medical expenses. Demonstrating swift action, an LOC worth Rs 1.25 lakh was sanctioned for the treatment of Hanmanth and handed over to his family through local leaders of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). Local party leaders and community members appreciated the MLA's proactive response during a time of crisis. Several leaders, including Sampath Madhava Reddy, Veera Reddy, Narendra Reddy, and others, were present during the occasion. The initiative highlights the importance of timely intervention and grassroots-level support in addressing public health emergencies.

Call for Justice to Netakani Community

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

Members of the Netakani Students' Association have alleged injustice in the recently released caste-wise population survey by the state government, claiming that the Netakani community was excluded. The association has called for unity among community members to address the issue.

State president Sayini Prasad Netha launched a wall poster at Osmania University Arts College announcing a round table meeting titled "Netakani Round Table Meeting - Future Action Plan," scheduled for April 26 at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram.

Speaking on the occasion, Prasad questioned the omission of the Netakani caste in the survey and alleged it was a deliberate act of injustice. He



stated that the meeting would gather opinions from the community and outline a phased movement from village to district level. Leaders urged all members

of the Netakani community to participate in the movement, irrespective of political or organizational affiliations, to collectively demand rightful recognition and justice.

Jalateertham Launched to Provide Relief Amid Summer Heat

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

In response to the intense summer heat across Telangana, the World Arya Vysya Mahasabha has launched a free drinking water distribution programme titled "Jalateertham" in Hyderabad. The initiative aims to provide immediate relief to the public by ensuring access to safe drinking water during peak summer conditions.

The programme was inaugurated by Bandaru Subbarao, following the guidance of Global President Tanguturi Ramakrishna. As part of the first phase, around 20,000 water bottles are being distributed across key locations in the city. Organisers stated that the service will continue uninterrupted until the end of the summer season.

The initiative is sponsored by Koutike Vittal, who emphasised the importance of such humanitarian efforts. "Providing water during extreme heat is one of the most essential services. Survival without water



is impossible, and such initiatives make a meaningful difference," he said, reaffirming his support for future service activities.

Launched as the first major service activity by the Telangana State - Hyderabad Tirumala Group of the Mahasabha, the programme reflects a broader commitment to community welfare. Leaders announced plans to conduct at least one service-oriented initiative every month.

Mahasabha leader Chaklam Ramanaiah stated that the

Tirumala Group would actively participate in all service programmes aimed at public welfare. Telangana State Senior Citizen Forum President Singiri Konda Narasimha and other members also attended the launch event.

Marking the occasion of Vasavi Mata Jayanthi, organisers announced that the water distribution drive will be extended during the upcoming procession in Secunderabad, ensuring wider outreach and support to the public during the ongoing heatwave.



GHMC Installs 840 QR Codes to Address Public Grievances

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

In a move to enhance citizen services and ensure quicker resolution of complaints, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has installed around 840 QR codes across the city under the PP-PP initiative.

The QR codes have been set up in key public utility areas across Shamshabad, Rajendranagar, Charminar, Khairatabad, Golconda, and Secunderabad zones. These include shopping malls, theatres, function halls, and other high-footfall locations, enabling citizens to easily register their grievances.

Through this digital system, residents can directly submit complaints, feedback, and suggestions to the concerned authorities by simply scanning the QR codes. Officials stated

that all received complaints will be reviewed promptly and addressed within a stipulated timeframe, ensuring accountability and efficiency in service delivery.

The initiative aims to bring greater transparency in governance while encouraging active public participation in civic administration. By simplifying the complaint registration process, GHMC hopes to bridge the gap between citizens and authorities and provide faster solutions to everyday issues. Officials have urged citizens to make the best use of this convenience by reporting problems immediately through the QR system. They expressed confidence that the initiative will significantly improve grievance redressal mechanisms and contribute to better urban management in Hyderabad.

OU to Host Phule-Ambedkar Jayanti Celebrations

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

Organisers have called for grand participation in the birth anniversary celebrations of Jyotirao Phule and B. R. Ambedkar, scheduled to be held on April 28 at the Arts College of Osmania University.

The event poster was unveiled on Friday at the Arts College premises. The programme will be conducted at 1

PM under the chairmanship of Naganamoni Chennaramulu Mudiraj. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Konda Nageshwar Rao urged Backward Classes (BC), Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Adivasi, and minority communities to unite to safeguard the Constitution and resist attacks on Dalit-Bahujan sections. He expressed hope that the celebration would serve as a platform for advancing social justice.

Dr. Avvaru Venu Kumar called on both the Centre and state governments to sincerely implement 42 per cent reservations for BCs. DBSA State Coordinator Jangili Darshan emphasized collective efforts towards achieving Bahujan political empowerment.

The programme is being jointly organised by several groups, including BC Federation, BC Intellectual Forum, the 42% BC Reservation Strug-



gle Committee, Osmania University student unions, DBSA, PDSU, BC JAC, AIOBCSF, and Sabbanda Shakti. Organisers have appealed to leaders, students, and members of BC, SC, ST, Adivasi, and minority communities to attend in large

numbers and make the event a success. Former IAS officer T. Chiranjeevulu will attend as the chief guest, while noted academic Kancha Ilaiah will be the keynote speaker. Other distinguished guests include former High Court judge Justice Chandrakumar, former DGP Dr. J. Purna Chandra Rao, Prof. Ram Shepherd, Prof. Ramulu, Dr. K. Veeraswamy, Pebbeti Mallikarjun, and Dr. Naliganti Sharath Chamar.



Modern Facilities Inaugurated

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

Qutbullapur Deputy Commissioner of Police N. Koti Reddy visited the Suraram Police Station on Thursday and inaugurated a range of newly developed infrastructure aimed at improving both public service delivery and staff welfare.

During the visit, the DCP formally opened separate rest rooms for women and male personnel, a dedicated court records room, and facilities for visitors including a drinking water refrigerator and a shaded waiting area. A shuttle court set up within the station premises for staff recreation was also inaugurated.

Following the inauguration, Koti Reddy conducted a detailed inspection of the police station's functioning. He reviewed the maintenance of records, including case files and documentation, and assessed the overall quality of services

being provided to the public.

Emphasizing the importance of efficiency and professionalism, the DCP instructed officers and staff to discharge their duties with greater commitment and responsiveness. He highlighted that improved infrastructure should translate into better policing standards and enhanced public trust.

Senior officials, including Medchal ACP Shankar Reddy, Qutbullapur ACP Bala Gangireddy, Gajularamaram Traffic CI Narsimha Rao, and Suraram SHO Sudheer Krishna, were present during the visit. Several Sub-Inspectors, Assistant Sub-Inspectors, and other police personnel also participated in the programme.

The initiative reflects the department's focus on strengthening basic facilities and ensuring a supportive work environment for police staff while improving citizen-friendly services at the station level.

Telangana to Acquire Full Stake in Metro

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has issued a Government Order (GO) approving the acquisition of a 100 per cent equity stake held by Larsen & Toubro in L&T Metro Rail (Hyderabad) Limited (LTMRHL), marking a major step in the takeover of the Hyderabad Metro Rail Phase-I project by Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL).

The decision follows recommendations of a Cabinet Subcommittee made during its meeting on April 10, 2026, based on proposals submitted by the Managing Director of HMRL. The GO also permits the state to avail a loan from the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), execute necessary agreements, and undertake related actions for the acquisition. According to the order, an interest-free loan of Rs 900 crore, valued at a net present value of Rs 366.92 crore as of April 30, 2026, will not be deducted from the total purchase consideration of Rs 15,000

crore. The government clarified that no indemnity will be sought from L&T regarding property tax dues payable to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), citing provisions in the concession agreement that establish government ownership of the project site. However, specific indemnities will be obtained from L&T on identified liabilities, including Rs 123.95 crore in stamp duty dues, Rs 163.74 crore in labour dues, Rs 15.38 crore linked to tariff implementation payable to Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL), and Rs 75.12 crore in advertisement tax dues to GHMC. The GO further allows LTMRHL to grant a power of attorney to L&T to represent the company in ongoing court cases. It also notes that change-in-law claims, including viability gap funding (VGF), will continue with LTMRHL, with further action subject to decisions by the Telangana and Central governments.

Tension Erupts at Venture Over Land Dispute

Mancherial, April 24 | TPN Bureau

Tension prevailed at a private real estate venture near Suraram village in Luxettipet mandal of Mancherial district after a dispute broke out between plot owners and developers over alleged irregular land registrations.The incident occurred at the Nakshatra Infra Developers venture located 20 the national highway. According to sources, the conflict began when certain portions of land originally earmarked for internal roads were allegedly registered in the names of other individuals by some directors of the firm, without informing the existing plot holders.Aggrieved by what they termed as a serious violation of layout norms and their ownership rights, several plot owners gathered at the site and staged a protest. In a dramatic turn of events, they demolished compound walls that had reportedly been constructed across the designated road areas, using stones and manual tools.

The affected landowners expressed strong anger over the alleged injustice, stating that the blocked pathways caused significant inconvenience and raised concerns about the legality of the transactions. They demanded immediate intervention by authorities and strict action against those responsible.Local police were alerted to the situation and reached the spot to bring the situation under control. Efforts are being made to prevent further escalation and to mediate between the parties involved.Officials indicated that a detailed inquiry may be conducted to verify the layout permissions, registrations, and any violations committed by the developers. Meanwhile, the situation remains tense but under control, with police maintaining a watch in the area.

The incident has once again highlighted the need for transparency in real estate dealings and strict adherence to approved layouts to avoid disputes and protect the interests of buyers.

Rural Self-Employment Centre Inaugurated in Nagarkurnool

Nagarkurnool, April 24 | TPN Bureau

A Rural Self-Employment Training Centre aimed at empowering youth was inaugurated in Nagarkurnool district on Thursday with the support of Union Bank of India. The facility was jointly launched by State Minister Jupally Krishna Rao and Member of Parliament Mallu Ravi. Speaking on the occasion, Mallu Ravi highlighted that creating self-employment opportunities for rural youth is a key priority of the government. He said the centre would provide essential skill training, guidance, and financial support to help young people establish sustainable livelihoods. The MP emphasized that such initiatives are crucial for strengthening the rural economy and reducing unemployment. He noted that equipping youth with practical skills and access to resources would enable them to become self-reliant

and contribute to local development.

Minister Jupally Krishna Rao also underscored the importance of promoting entrepreneurship in rural areas, stating that the government is committed to supporting programmes that enhance income generation and improve living standards.

Officials said the centre would offer various training modules tailored to local needs, helping beneficiaries gain hands-on experience in different trades. The initiative is expected to play a significant role in fostering rural development and encouraging youth to explore self-employment avenues rather than depending solely on traditional job markets.

The inauguration was attended by local officials, bank representatives, and community members, who welcomed the initiative as a positive step toward inclusive growth in the region.

15 Booked in Moneylending Crackdown

Adilabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

Police in Adilabad on Friday carried out simultaneous raids on the houses of suspected illegal moneylenders across the district, registering cases against 15 persons in seven mandals.

The operation was conducted under 15 police station limits, with 15 special teams deployed for coordinated action. Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan said authorities received multiple complaints alleging that moneylenders were charging exorbitant interest rates and forcing farmers and borrowers to mortgage agricultural lands for loans.

During the raids, police seized several incriminating documents, including promissory notes, cheque books, stamp papers, and property sale deeds. Officials believe these materials were used to enforce illegal lending practices and exert pressure on borrowers.

The SP issued a stern warning, stating that strict legal action would be taken against individuals found engaging in usurious lending. He emphasized that exploitation of vulnerable farmers and rural borrowers would not be tolerated.

Cases have been registered against Naiyini Sudarshan of Khurshid Nagar in Adilabad town; Katakam Raju and Srinivas of Devapur in Talamadugu mandal; Kunti Linganna and Durga Reddy of Mavala; Gangareddy of Tejapur; Srinivas and Jumberath Rahul of Nera-digonda; Uplanchi Nagesh and Uplanchi Gambheer of Kap-parla in Tamsi mandal; Gothi Sundhar Singh, Gitte Maruthi, Kadam Sudarshan and Kadam Saikrishna Siddanth of Ichoda; and Dahele Pavan of Mannur in Gudihathnoor mandal.

Police said further investigation is underway to identify additional offenders and uncover the extent of illegal financial activities in the region.



RTC Strike Called Off After Govt Assurances

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

The indefinite strike by the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) employees was called off late Friday night following marathon talks with the state government at the Secretariat, bringing relief to commuters across Telangana. Bus services are set to resume from Saturday morning.

The breakthrough came during a crucial meeting chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, with discussions lasting over seven hours. The strike, which began on April 22 in support of 32 demands, had entered its third day before an agreement was reached.

According to officials, the government agreed to resolve 31 of the 32 demands raised by the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of RTC unions. However, more time was sought on the implementation of Pay Revision Commission (PRC) scales, citing the financial burden on both the corporation and the state.



Key issues discussed included the merger of TGSRTC with the government, implementation of the 2021 and 2025 PRC recommendations, and restoration of employee unions that were abolished in 2019. Ministers Ponnampallabharathi, D. Sridhar Babu, G. Vivek Venkateswamy, and Aduri Laxman also participated in the negotiations.Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the government was engaged in multiple commitments, including the Budget session and other legislative matters, but remained committed to addressing employees' concerns. He also expressed grief over the death of an RTC employee during the

agitation.

Earlier, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced a rehabilitation package for the family of deceased driver Kola Shankar Goud. The government assured Rs 10 lakh financial assistance, a job for an eligible family member, and housing support, while local MLA Donthi Madhava Reddy announced an additional Rs 5 lakh aid.

With assurances on most demands and a commitment to address the remaining issue, the JAC withdrew the strike, restoring normalcy in public transport services across the state.

Driver Booked for Using Fake Number Plate

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

City traffic police, in coordination with Tolichowki police, have booked a 43-year-old man for using a fake registration number plate on his two-wheeler to evade traffic penalties and mislead enforcement authorities.

The accused, Mohammed Moinuddin, a resident of Toli-

chowki, was found displaying a false number plate instead of the original registration on his vehicle. According to police, he deliberately used the fake number to avoid traffic challans and also to escape finance recovery agents.

During verification, officials discovered that multiple challans had been wrongly issued against the actual owner of the vehicle bearing the gen-

uine registration number. This misuse caused inconvenience and legal complications for the rightful owner.

Police have registered a case against the accused and initiated further investigation. Officials warned that strict action will be taken against individuals resorting to such practices to bypass traffic rules and enforcement systems.

Intensive Search for Missing Man in Godavari

Mancherial, April 24 | TPN Bureau

A massive search operation is underway in the Godavari River near Thimmapur village in Jannaram mandal of Mancherial district, following the disappearance of a local man, Guda Mallesh. The incident has triggered concern among residents, with police launching an extensive effort to trace his whereabouts.

According to officials, Mallesh went missing under unclear circumstances while near the river. Acting swiftly on the information, a large-scale search was initiated under the leadership of Luxettipet Circle Inspector

Ramanamurthy. More than 100 police personnel, along with local villagers, have joined hands in combing the riverbanks and surrounding areas.Search teams are meticulously scanning key locations, including river ghats, rocky patches, and areas with strong currents where a person could potentially be trapped. Authorities have also deployed drone cameras to enhance visibility and cover a wider area, significantly accelerating the search process. Family members of Mallesh are in deep distress, anxiously awaiting any news about his safety. Police officials have assured them that every possible

effort is being made to locate him at the earliest. The investigation is also focusing on gathering details about the circumstances leading to his disappearance.Local residents have been urged to cooperate with authorities and report any relevant information that may help in tracing Mallesh. "Even the smallest clue could be crucial," a police official stated, emphasizing the importance of public support in such situations.As the search continues, hope remains that Mallesh will be found soon. Authorities have reiterated their commitment to intensifying efforts until there is clarity on the case.



Railway Employee Reported Missing in Lalaguda

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

Police in Lalaguda have registered a missing case after a railway employee failed to return home after leaving for duty earlier this month.According to police, Pradeep Chandra, an employee working at the Lalaguda Railway Workshop, left his residence on the morning of April 17, informing his family that he was heading to work. However, he did not reach his workplace and has been untraceable since then.Family members, along with relatives, searched for him at nearby locations and acquaintances' houses but were

unable to find any clues about his whereabouts. Following this, his brother Vishnu Chandra lodged a complaint at the local police station.Police officials stated that this is reportedly the third time Pradeep Chandra has gone missing after leaving for duty. Family members also informed authorities that he has been struggling with alcohol addiction, which may be a contributing factor in his disappearance.Based on the complaint, Lalaguda police have registered a missing case and initiated an investigation. Efforts are underway to trace the employee and ensure his safe return.

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Matsya Temple Brahmotsavam Begins in Telangana

Bureau

Brahmotsavam festivities commenced on Friday at Telangana's only temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu's Matsya (fish) incarnation, attracting devotees and history enthusiasts alike.

The shrine, dedicated to Matsya, is known for its rare significance and deep-rooted spiritual and historical heritage. Inscriptions displayed within the temple premises suggest that the temple dates back to ancient times and has strong links with regional rulers and local traditions.

According to Sri Raja Sanjay Gopal Saincher, founder family member and chairman of the temple, the architecture reflects a blend of classical styles, intricate carvings, and mythological depictions, particularly of the Matsya Avatar.

The Matsya Temple in Matsya is believed to have saved the Vedas during a great deluge, symbolising preservation of knowledge and dharma.

Historical records indicate that the temple received patronage from multiple dynasties over centuries, aiding its development as a prominent spiritual centre. The inscriptions also highlight its importance to nearby villages, where it has long served as a hub for religious and cultural activities.

The Brahmotsavam celebrations began with traditional rituals and will feature special processions, religious ceremonies, and active participation from devotees. Organisers expect large gatherings throughout the festival period, reflecting the temple's enduring legacy and cultural significance in the region.

IMD Warns of Warmer Nights as Heatwave Intensifies

Hyderabad, April 24 | TPN Bureau

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned of warmer nights this summer as Telangana continues to experience one of the most intense heat spells of the season, with several districts recording temperatures above 44°C.According to data, Hyderabad recorded the

highest night-time temperature in the country on Thursday at 28.5°C, highlighting rising heat stress even after sunset. Friday marked the beginning of the second severe heatwave spell this month, with districts such as Mancherial, Nirmal, and Peddapalli registering around 44.3°C. Across the state, temperatures ranged between 41°C and 44°C.In Hyderabad, the mercury touched

41.6°C, with most Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) areas recording between 40°C and 41.5°C. Key hot-spots included Jubilee Hills, Mehdiapatnam, Musheerabad, and Secunderabad.Amid the scorching heat, parts of Telangana also witnessed scattered thunderstorms. Data from the Telangana Development Planning Society (TGDPs) showed moderate rain-

fall in Rangareddy district, with Keshampet receiving 25.3 mm and Sangam 15.8 mm. Other areas such as Sirpur, Lingal, and Uppal recorded lighter showers. In Hyderabad, eastern localities experienced brief spells of rain lasting 30-45 minutes. Secunderabad recorded 3.8 mm of rainfall, while Kapra received 2.5 mm, with most other areas witnessing minimal precipita-

tion.The IMD has issued a yellow alert for Saturday across several districts, including Adilabad, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad, Jagtial, Rajanna Sircilla, Mulugu, Bhadradri Kothagudem, Khammam, Sangareddy, Medak, and Kamareddy, warning of thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph at isolated places.



Beyond Turnout The Real Story Behind Bengal’s 92 % Vote

West Bengal’s Assembly elections have produced one of the most striking political developments in recent years, a record voter turnout of more than 92 percent. At first glance, many political observers quickly jump to a familiar conclusion: high turnout means anti-incumbency, and therefore trouble for the ruling party. However, this old political formula no longer works so simply. In today’s India, turnout figures alone do not tell the full story. What matters more is who voted, why they voted, and which social groups were most actively mobilised.

West Bengal’s massive turnout is not just a sign of political enthusiasm; it reflects deeper social, emotional, and structural changes in Indian democracy. The Election Commission even described it as the highest turnout since Independence, with figures crossing 91.78 percent and later touching nearly 92.72 percent across constituencies. This makes it a historic election, but history must be interpreted carefully.

One of the most important factors behind this turnout surge is the growing political power of women voters. Across India since 2024, female voter participation has steadily increased, often surpassing male turnout by several percentage points. This shift has significantly influenced election outcomes. In states where welfare schemes focused on women have been strong, higher female turnout has often helped incumbents rather than hurting them.

Traditional political wisdom suggested that high turnout automatically reflected public anger against the ruling government. But recent election trends show something different. Women

voters tend to reward governments that deliver direct benefits such as financial assistance, healthcare support, education access, and welfare schemes. This creates a stable support base for ruling parties, especially where such schemes are trusted and visible.

In Bengal, this pattern becomes even stronger. Many men from the state migrate to cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Surat for work, while women remain in their home districts and become the more consistent voting presence. This naturally increases female influence at the booth level. More importantly, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has built a particularly strong political relationship with women voters.

Schemes like LakshmirBhandar are not seen merely as government policies—they are part of everyday household survival. Welfare support directly affects family economics, especially for women managing homes and children. This has helped the Trinamool Congress create a reliable political foundation that many outside observers underestimate. As a result, a high turnout in Bengal may actually strengthen the incumbent rather than weaken her.

This does not mean the BJP has failed to grow. In fact, the BJP has steadily expanded its support in Bengal and significantly narrowed the gap with the Trinamool Congress. It has moved closer to the 40 percent vote-share mark, which would once have seemed impossible. However, electoral growth does not automatically translate into victory.

Mamata Banerjee continues to benefit from two major political advantages: strong support among women voters and consolidated minority votes. This combination

makes Bengal highly competitive but not easily available to the opposition. The BJP may have grown as a challenger, but growth is different from actually breaking the ruling coalition.

This is why analysts argue that Mamata begins with an advantage, not because she is unbeatable, but because her political base remains stronger than critics often admit. There is clear evidence that the challenger has expanded, but there is still limited proof that the incumbent’s core alliance has cracked.

Another major reason behind the unusually high turnout is the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls conducted by the Election Commission. This exercise reportedly removed nearly 91 lakh names from Bengal’s voter lists, significantly reducing the total electorate.

Mathematically, when the denominator becomes smaller, turnout percentages naturally rise. This happened earlier in Bihar as well, where post-SIR turnout also increased. Some observers therefore argue that part of Bengal’s record turnout is statistical rather than purely political.

But SIR is not just about arithmetic, it is also about psychology. When families feel that names were unfairly removed or that documentation may threaten their voting rights, anxiety grows. This creates anger, urgency, and emotional mobilisation. In some areas, this fear may work against the BJP if voters associate the process with political targeting.

Many reports also suggest that migrant workers returned home specifically because they feared losing not just their vote, but their broader sense of citizenship. Once such fear enters family discussions, voting becomes more than a civic duty, it be-



comes a matter of identity and security.

This emotional factor is powerful. People who travelled long distances from other cities were highly unlikely to stay away from polling booths after making that effort. Social media discussions also reflected this concern, with many voters openly linking turnout to fears over voter list deletions and “nagrikta” or citizenship anxieties.

Security arrangements also played a major role. Heavy deployment of central forces created a stronger sense of safety at polling booths. In a state where elections are often associated with tension and local intimidation, the visible presence of security forces can significantly increase voter confidence.

Fear and hope often work

together in elections. Some people vote because they want change; others vote because they fear losing what they already have. In Bengal, both emotions were active at the same time. Welfare beneficiaries wanted continuity, opposition supporters wanted change, and many ordinary citizens simply wanted to protect their democratic rights. This is why a turnout figure like 92 percent cannot be read as a simple victory signal for either side. It reflects grievance, loyalty, fear, gratitude, identity politics, and political mobilisation all at once. West Bengal remains perhaps the most intensely politicised electoral society in India. Party networks are strong, communities remain highly alert, identity debates are constantly active, and local grievances quickly be-

come political action. Voters do not treat elections casually—they participate with seriousness and emotional investment. The larger lesson goes beyond Bengal itself. Indian elections are increasingly being shaped by quieter but more powerful forces than television debates suggest. Women are emerging as independent political decision-makers. Welfare is becoming a form of political trust. Administrative exercises like voter roll revision are shaping not just participation but perception. And political parties are learning how to turn insecurity into mobilisation.

This means turnout must now be read through gender and welfare politics as much as through caste and religion. The old formulas of election-night commentary are col-

lapsing because democracy itself is changing.

A record turnout is not a prediction; it is a signal. It tells us that voters are engaged, anxious, alert, and determined. If women voters remain firmly behind Mamata Banerjee and welfare trust stays strong, high turnout may strengthen the ruling party. But if anger over corruption, fatigue, and anti-incumbency has spread deeper than expected, the same turnout could signal change.

That is why instant verdicts are dangerous. Bengal’s turnout is not a prophecy. It is a field report from a changing democracy, one where the silent voter is no longer silent, and where the future of elections may depend less on loud speeches and more on quiet shifts inside homes, especially among women.

Pakistan’s Costly Spin Machine in Washington

Pakistan may be struggling with debt, inflation, and repeated IMF bailouts, but when it comes to shaping its image in Washington, it is spending millions of dollars without hesitation. Behind closed doors, Islamabad has built a powerful and expensive lobbying network in the United States, one designed not just to improve its image, but to secure political access, influence decision-making, and protect strategic interests.

This “spin network” includes lobbying firms, public relations agencies, legal consultants, think tanks, and diaspora-linked pressure groups. Together, they help Pakistan maintain influence in American political circles, despite economic troubles at home and serious international criticism over terrorism, governance failures, and military dominance.

The most recent evidence of this network became visible during the first half of 2025, when Pakistan aggressively increased spending on US lobbying efforts. One of the key firms involved was Javelin Advisors, which received \$200,000 in just six months. Another major legal and lobbying channel, working through Seiden Law, reportedly handled a contract worth \$1.5 million to help Pakistan’s embassy build connections with the White House, National Security Council, and senior US departments.

This is striking because Pakistan remains under severe financial pressure. The country has repeatedly sought IMF support, faces heavy debt obligations, and continues to struggle with inflation and foreign exchange shortages. Yet, even in such conditions, large sums are being directed toward influence operations abroad

rather than domestic economic relief.

At the centre of this effort is not just diplomacy, but strategic narrative-building.

One of the most prominent figures mentioned is Stephen Payne, head of Linden Strategies, who reportedly played a key role in helping Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir gain access to the White House. His role was not limited to arranging meetings. He was also involved in shaping messaging, including the unusual suggestion that Pakistan support Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize. This shows that lobbying is not only about meetings, it is about constructing stories that appeal to political leaders and their ambitions.

Pakistan’s influence network also includes firms like Orchid Consulting, Squire Patton Boggs, Qorvis Holding, and Goddard Gunster Strategies. Each plays a different role. Some focus on legal advocacy, some on media messaging, while others help promote Pakistan’s security and foreign policy arguments in Washington.

For example, Squire Patton Boggs reportedly worked on reducing tariff pressures and pushing Pakistan’s position on Kashmir. It also attempted to deny any “China angle” during Operation Sindoor and promoted claims that India was involved in assassinations in the US and Canada. Meanwhile, Qorvis handled public relations work, including promoting Pakistan’s support for Trump’s Nobel Peace Prize narrative and praising his role in preventing escalation between India and Pakistan.

This was especially important during Operation Sindoor, when India launched military action and tensions rose sharply. During that period, Paki-



stan’s embassy reportedly reached out to nearly 60 officials through emails, calls, and briefing materials prepared by these firms. The goal was clear: ensure that Pakistan’s version of events reached decision-makers quickly and repeatedly.

Lobbying in Washington is legal, and many countries use it. The issue here is scale and effectiveness. Pakistan, despite being much smaller economically than India, reportedly outspent India by nearly three to one in such influence-building activities during 2025. That reflects not just spending priorities, but also a better understanding of how to work the American political system.

This is not a new phenomenon

Even after the September 11 attacks, when Pakistan faced

global suspicion over its links to extremist groups and the Taliban, its lobbying backchannels remained highly effective. Despite criticism over harbouring al-Qaeda elements, Pakistan still secured a massive five-year US aid package worth \$3 billion.

President George W. Bush publicly accepted Pakistan’s assurances about helping de-Talibanise Afghanistan and bringing Osama bin Laden to justice. Years later, bin Laden was found living near an army facility in Abbottabad, exposing the weakness of those assurances. Yet, the diplomatic relationship had already been protected. That was not simply diplomacy—it was strategic influence management.

Stephen Payne himself claimed he once helped defuse a nuclear crisis after General

Pervez Musharraf reportedly panicked during the India-Pakistan military standoff following the Parliament attack. According to that account, quick access to the White House helped calm tensions and possibly saved Musharraf politically. Whether fully accepted or not, such stories show how deeply embedded these lobbyists became in critical moments.

Beyond formal firms, Pakistan also benefits from a wider support ecosystem.

Groups like the Pakistan American Public Affairs Committee (PAKPAC), professional associations such as APPNA (Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America), and issue-based organisations working on Islamophobia, Kashmir, or Palestine all contribute to shaping

broader perceptions.

Many of these are legitimate advocacy platforms. However, some also connect with groups like Friends of Kashmir and even Khalistani-linked organisations, which critics argue are vulnerable to influence by Pakistani intelligence networks. These overlapping issue-based alliances create stronger pressure networks across universities, media, protests, and policy circles.

Palestine activism, anti-Israel campaigns, and diaspora politics also create opportunities for coalition-building. These are often not directly controlled by Islamabad, but they can still support narratives that weaken India’s position or strengthen Pakistan’s diplomatic messaging.

China also plays a role. Reports suggest that Chinese and

Pakistani diplomatic messaging in the US often works in parallel, especially when promoting narratives that serve both governments strategically.

The real lesson here is not simply that Pakistan spends money on lobbyists. It is that it understands narrative warfare. In modern geopolitics, influence is not built only through military strength or economic size. It is built through stories, who tells them first, who repeats them more effectively, and who gets heard by the right people. Pakistan has invested heavily in making sure its version reaches the American political class before others do. India, despite being economically larger and diplomatically stronger in many areas, often struggles with bureaucratic delays and weak strategic communication. Embassy outreach is frequently slow, outdated, or reactive rather than proactive. The article argues that this should not be handled through intelligence agencies but through professional diplomatic training and transparent strategic communication. Narrative warfare today is constant. It does not begin during crises, it is built every day through policy papers, media appearances, lobbying dinners, conferences, and personal networks. Pakistan’s “spin network” may be expensive, but from its perspective, it is worth every dollar. It helps protect military interests, soften criticism, influence US responses, and maintain relevance in Washington despite deep domestic instability. In the end, diplomacy is no longer just about embassies and formal speeches. It is about access, perception, and persuasion. Pakistan has understood that clearly. The bigger question is whether others are learning fast enough.

Fuel Supply Stable Amid West Asia Tensions

Govt Urges Calm as Ports, Travel, and Citizen Safety Remain Unaffected

As tensions continue in West Asia, the Government of India has assured citizens that fuel supply, port operations, and travel services remain stable across the country. In a media briefing held at the National Media Centre in Delhi, officials from the Ministries of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and External Affairs shared updates on fuel availability, maritime safety, and the welfare of Indians living in the Gulf region.

The government urged citizens not to panic-buy petrol, diesel, or LPG, stating that all efforts are being made to ensure uninterrupted supply. Retail fuel outlets across India are operating normally, and there is no shortage of petrol or diesel. To reduce pressure on LPG demand, people have been encouraged

to use PNG, electric cook-tops, and other alternate fuels.

Since April 1, over 17.83 lakh 5 Kg Free Trade LPG cylinders have been sold across the country, mainly to support migrant workers. On April 23 alone, more than 81,000 such cylinders were sold. Domestic LPG supply has been prioritised, and no distributor has reported running out of stock.

The government also said 100 percent supply is being maintained for domestic LPG, PNG, and CNG used in transport. Commercial LPG supply has been increased to around 70 percent of pre-crisis levels, with priority given to hospitals, educational institutions, and key industries such as pharma, agriculture,

steel, and automobiles.

To strengthen clean fuel access, PNG connections are being expanded rapidly. Since March 2026, about 5.27 lakh PNG connections have been activated, while infrastructure for another 2.60 lakh connections is ready. This takes the total PNG connection capacity to 7.87 lakh. Nearly 5.97 lakh new customers have also registered for PNG. On the maritime front, the Ministry of Ports confirmed that all Indian seafarers in the Gulf region are safe, and no incident involving Indian-flagged vessels has been reported in the last 24 hours. Port operations across India remain normal with no congestion reported. More than 2,700 Indian seafarers have already been safe-

ly brought back to India.

The Ministry of External Affairs said it is closely monitoring the Gulf and West Asia situation and remains focused on the safety of Indians abroad. Indian embassies and consulates are operating 24x7 helplines and helping citizens with travel, safety, and consular support.

Flight services are also improving. Since February 28, around 12.38 lakh passengers have travelled from the region to India. Limited commercial flights are operating from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Iraq, and Israel. In Iran, over 2,400 Indians have already been helped to leave through land routes. The government said it remains fully prepared and asked citizens to trust official information and avoid rumours during the ongoing crisis.



PM Modi Says Phase 1 Voting Shows Wave of Change in Bengal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the massive voter turnout in the first phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections clearly signals a strong “wave of change” and reflects growing support for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the state.

Nearly 92 percent of the 3.60 crore eligible voters turned up to cast their votes in the first phase of polling, making it one of the highest voter turnouts in Bengal’s electoral history. Reacting to the strong participation, PM Modi said the people of Bengal have sent a clear message that they want change and are ready to bring the BJP to power.

Speaking after the first phase of voting, the Prime Minister praised the enthusiasm shown by women, youth, and first-time voters. He said such a large turnout is proof that democracy is strong and that people are eager to shape the future of the state through their votes.

Modi also said the peaceful conduct of polling was a positive sign and congratulated the Election Commission for managing the process smoothly. West Bengal elections have often been associated with violence and tension, but he noted that this phase remained largely peaceful, which he described as encouraging for democracy.



Taking a direct attack at the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) government led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Modi said the “temple of democracy” had been crushed under the present administration. He accused the state government of corruption, poor governance, and allowing political violence to dominate public life. The Prime Minister alleged that people were tired of fear, corruption, and lack of opportunities, and were now looking for a government that could provide development, jobs, and security. According to him, the BJP has become the symbol of that hope for the people of Bengal. He also issued a sharp warning to what he called “TMC goons,” saying that after the election results on May 4, they would have “no place to hide.” His strong remarks underlined the BJP’s aggressive campaign strategy in one of the country’s most politically intense state

elections.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also echoed similar confidence, claiming that the BJP could win more than 110 seats in the first phase itself. He said the record turnout reflected public anger against the ruling government and showed that voters were ready for political change. The TMC, however, rejected the BJP’s claims and accused Modi of using political drama to influence voters. Party leaders said Bengal would once again stand with Mamata Banerjee and called the BJP’s confidence overconfidence.

With more phases of polling still ahead, the battle for Bengal remains intense. But for the BJP, the first phase turnout has become a major talking point and a sign of rising momentum. For PM Modi, the message is simple: high voter turnout means people want change, and he believes that change will bring BJP to power in West Bengal.

162 GST Officials Transferred After Delhi CM Rekha Gupta’s Surprise Inspection

Chief Minister of Delhi, Rekha Gupta’s surprise visit to the State GST office has led to one of the biggest administrative reshuffles in recent months, with 162 officers and staff members transferred following serious concerns over absenteeism, discipline, and delays in taxpayer services.

The action came after the Chief Minister made an unannounced inspection of the GST office on April 8. During the visit, she reviewed office operations, checked attendance records, and directly interacted with both officials and taxpayers to understand the ground-level situation. According to officials from the Chief Minister’s Office, several staff members, including senior officers, were found absent during working hours. This raised major concerns about discipline and compliance with attendance rules. Taxpayers present at the office also complained about repeated visits for routine work, delayed services, and poor officer availability, pointing to serious inefficiencies in the department’s functioning. Following the inspection, Rekha Gupta expressed strong displeasure and ordered strict action. She directed officials to enforce punctuality and attendance norms more seriously, verify biometric attendance records, and improve service delivery systems immediately. The Chief Minister



made it clear that negligence in public service would not be tolerated.

Acting on her instructions, the Delhi government ordered a large-scale transfer of officials who had been posted in the same positions for a long time. In total, 162 officers and staff members were shifted.

The transfers include 3 Assistant Commissioners, 58 Section Officers (Grade-I), 22 Assistant Section Officers (Grade-II), 74 Senior Assistants (Grade-III), and 5 Junior Assistants (Grade-IV). Officials described it as one of the largest department-level reshuffles in recent times. Government sources said this action is part of a broader campaign to improve administrative discipline across departments

through surprise inspections and compliance reviews. Earlier assessments had already flagged issues such as absenteeism, procedural delays, and poor service standards in several government offices.

The Chief Minister has repeatedly stressed that public service delivery standards cannot be compromised and that accountability must apply equally at every level of administration. Her government believes such strict action is necessary to restore efficiency and public trust. The reshuffle is expected to reset the functioning of the GST department and improve taxpayer experience. Officials said the goal is not just punishment, but building a system where citizens receive faster, smoother, and more transparent services.

The move has also sent a strong message to other departments that regular attendance, discipline, and accountability are now top priorities under the current administration.

For many taxpayers, the decision is being seen as a welcome step. If implemented effectively, it could lead to better governance and faster resolution of routine GST-related work. With this large-scale transfer, CM Rekha Gupta has made it clear that administrative negligence will face direct consequences, and public service must remain the top priority.

After Winning Bengal, I Will Take Over Delhi

Mamata Banerjee Signals National Push as BJP Hits Back

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has made a bold political statement during the ongoing Assembly election campaign, declaring that after securing victory in Bengal, her next focus will be Delhi. Her strong remark has intensified the political battle between the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Addressing a rally in Kolkata’s Chowringhee area, Mamata said she would work to unite all Opposition parties and challenge the BJP at the national level. She made it clear that her goal is not to grab power at the Centre, but to remove the BJP from Delhi completely. She said, “I will take over Delhi once I win Bengal. I do not want the seat of power; I want the complete dismantling of the BJP in Delhi.”

Mamata also said that defeat-



ing the BJP in Bengal is certain and that the same fight must continue in Delhi. She described her political struggle as a fight against injustice and for people’s rights. Stressing her emotional connection to Bengal, she said she was born in the state and would spend her final days there, showing that Bengal remains her politi-

cal and personal priority.

During the speech, she also targeted the BJP over alleged political interference in administration. She claimed that she has noted the names of people working for the BJP and accused the party of placing officials based on political loyalty rather than merit. She said the BJP cannot defeat the TMC because her party fights for the people and stands against injustice.

Her statement quickly drew a response from Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who dismissed it with sarcasm. Reacting to Mamata’s “Delhi” remark, Shah said, “There is nothing left here. How will she come to Delhi?” His comment reflected the BJP’s confidence as the high-stakes Bengal election continues. The BJP has been aggressively campaigning in West Bengal, hoping to

end Mamata Banerjee’s long rule in the state. The first phase of polling saw record voter turnout, with both BJP and TMC claiming public support. Mamata’s statement is being seen as more than just an election speech; it is a direct signal of her national ambitions. While she has often played a key role in Opposition unity, this is one of her strongest declarations yet about challenging the BJP beyond Bengal. As the election battle grows sharper, her “Bengal first, Delhi next” message has become a major political talking point. Whether it turns into reality will depend first on the Bengal results. For now, Mamata Banerjee has made one thing clear: her fight is not just for Bengal, but also for the future political direction of India.

CJI Surya Kant Hails Record Bengal Turnout as Democracy in Action

Chief Justice of India, Surya Kant expressed pride over the massive voter turnout in the first phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections, calling it a strong sign of democracy in action. With polling crossing 92 percent, the turnout has become one of the highest in the state’s electoral history and has drawn attention from both political leaders and the judiciary.

Speaking during a hearing in the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Surya Kant said he felt “very proud” seeing such a huge number of people coming out to vote. He remarked that when citizens actively participate in elections, the democratic system becomes stronger and more meaningful. His comments quickly became a major talking point during the high-stakes Bengal polls.

According to Election Commission data, voter turnout in

the first phase reached around 92.88 percent across 152 constituencies, making it the highest participation level in West Bengal since 2011, when Mamata Banerjee ended the Left Front’s 34-year rule. The turnout was much higher than the 85.55 percent recorded in the 2011 Assembly elections and significantly above the 79.8 percent seen during the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

The Chief Justice also appreciated the largely peaceful conduct of polling, especially in a state where elections have often been linked with violence and tension. Though a few isolated incidents were reported, the overall process remained smooth and orderly, which was seen as a positive development for free and fair elections.

Political parties immediately tried to interpret the high turnout in their favour. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said



the large participation reflected a “wave of change” and suggested that people were ready to bring the BJP to power in Bengal. The Trinamool Congress, on the other hand, said the turnout showed strong support for Mamata Banerjee and confidence in her leadership.

Election officials also praised the public response and said such participation

proves people’s trust in democracy remains strong. Special attention was given to women voters, youth, and first-time voters, who turned out in large numbers across districts.

The high turnout also came after the Election Commission’s Special Intensive Revision of voter lists, which had led to major political debate. Despite concerns and controversies around voter rolls, the final participation numbers showed that voters were determined to exercise their democratic right. For many observers, the Chief Justice’s statement carried special significance because it reflected judicial confidence in the democratic process during a politically sensitive election.

As West Bengal moves into the next phases of polling, the record turnout has already become one of the biggest stories of the election season.

Dr Pemmasani Highlights India’s Telecom Transformation at COAI DIGICOM Summit 2026

NEW DELHI, April 24|TPN Bureau

Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development Dr Pemmasani Chandrasekhar inaugurated the COAI DIGICOM SUMMIT 2026 in Delhi, themed “India’s Techade: Accelerating and Shaping the Digital Future.” He said India’s telecom sector has undergone a major transformation and is now entering a new phase driven by 6G, Artificial Intelligence and Quantum technologies. He noted that strong collaboration between government and industry is essential for future growth. Highlighting reforms under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said the Telecommunications Act, 2023, is the first major



overhaul in nearly 140 years, offering clear authorisation frameworks, consumer protection and support for emerging technologies. He said reforms such as AGR rationalisation, spectrum planning, and the Gati Shakti Sanchar portal have improved the ease of doing business. BharatNet, he

added, is the world’s largest rural broadband project connecting over 2.6 lakh Gram Panchayats. Dr Pemmasani highlighted India’s rapid 5G rollout with over 5.1 lakh base stations and 400 million users. India now has 1.22 billion subscribers, low tariffs, and high data consumption. The sector

recorded 3.72 lakh crore revenue in FY25 with strong FDI inflows. On manufacturing, he noted 12,195 crore PLI support, 42 approved companies, 65,000 crore sales, and 12,000 crore exports. Telecom R&D projects worth 542 crore are being supported under TTDF. He also outlined anti-fraud systems such as Sanchar Saathi, ASTR, Chakshu, and the Digital Intelligence Platform, which have helped prevent large-scale financial fraud. Calling for stronger innovation, he said Indian telecom companies spend less than 1% on R&D compared to global peers. He stressed the need for greater investment to achieve Bharat 6G Vision and urged the industry to match India’s growing opportunities.

Iran’s “Cultural Detox” Jibe at Trump Over His “Hell-Hole” Remark on India

A diplomatic controversy erupted after former US President Donald Trump reshared a post describing India and China as “hell-holes” while criticizing America’s birthright citizenship laws. His repost triggered strong reactions from India and unexpectedly sharp criticism from Iran, whose Mumbai Consulate mocked Trump and advised him to take a “cultural detox” trip to India.

The controversy began when Trump reposted comments made by conservative radio host Michael Savage during a podcast discussing US immigration laws. Savage argued against birthright citizenship and used offensive language for immigrants from countries like India and China. He referred to these nations as “hell-holes” and claimed that people travel to the US in the final months of pregnancy just to secure American citizenship for their children. He also called Indian and Chinese immigrants



“gangsters with laptops,” making the remarks even more controversial. Trump’s decision to repost the message was widely seen as his endorsement of those views. Soon after, Iran’s Consulate General in Mumbai responded strongly on social media.

Sharing a video showcasing Maharashtra’s rich culture, natural beauty, and historical heritage, the consulate sarcastically suggested that Trump needed a “one-way cultural detox.”

In its post on X, the consulate wrote, “Maybe someone should book a one-way cultural detox for Mr Trump, it might just reduce the random bakwaas.” It added in Hindi, “Kabhi India aa kedekho, phirbolna,” meaning “Come to India first, then speak.” The statement quickly went viral and attracted widespread attention online for its sharp and humorous tone. The use of the phrase “cultural detox” was seen as a direct attack on Trump’s lack of understanding of India’s diversity and civilizational depth. By highlighting Maharashtra’s traditions and landscapes, Iran tried to show that India is far from the image painted by Trump’s repost. India also strongly objected to the remarks. Without directly nam-

ing Trump, the Ministry of External Affairs described the comments as “uninformed, inappropriate and in poor taste.” MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the remarks did not reflect the reality of India-US relations, which are based on mutual respect and shared interests. He added that the comments were clearly offensive and did not match the strength of the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Following the backlash, the US Embassy attempted to soften the damage by clarifying that Trump believes India is a “great” country and that its leadership is led by “a very good friend” of his. However, the clarification did little to calm the controversy, as many felt the original repost had already revealed his position.

The issue also sparked political debate within India. Opposition leaders questioned why stronger public condemnation had not come earlier and accused the government

of being too soft in responding to a direct insult to the country’s image.

Iran’s reaction added an unusual international dimension to the controversy. At a time when global diplomatic relations are highly sensitive, Tehran’s public defense of India stood out. It also showed how statements made on social media by world leaders can quickly create international political fallout. The incident highlights how language in diplomacy matters. A single repost turned into a diplomatic row involving three countries, with issues of immigration, national pride, and international respect all becoming part of the debate. In the end, Iran’s message was simple but powerful: before judging India, come and see it for yourself. The phrase “Kabhi India aa kedekho” became more than a social media line—it became a sharp reminder that stereotypes and careless words can carry serious diplomatic consequences.



US Announces \$10 Million Reward for Iran-Backed Iraqi Militia Leader Abu Waala al Wa'eli

The United States has placed a reward of up to \$10 million for information leading to the arrest or identification of Hashim Pinyan Rahim al-Saraji, widely known as Abu Waala al Wa'eli, a senior Iraqi militia leader with strong links to Iran. Washington considers him a major threat due to his alleged role in attacks on US forces and diplomatic missions in Iraq and Syria.

Abu Waala al Wa'eli is the secretary-general of Kata'ib Sayyid al Shuhada (KSS), an Iraqi armed group backed by Iran and closely aligned with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The group is believed to be one of Tehran’s important regional allies, helping expand Iranian influence across Iraq and Syria while targeting American military and political interests.

The reward was announced through the US State Department’s Rewards for Justice programme, which focuses on individuals linked to terrorism and threats against the United States. Along with the cash reward, the US has also offered relocation support for anyone who provides useful information, showing how seriously it views Wa'eli’s role.

According to US officials, KSS has been involved in several attacks on American military bases, embassies, and personnel. The group has also been blamed for violence affecting Iraqi civilians and for helping coordinate operations with other Iran-backed militias during the ongoing US-Iran conflict.

Before leading KSS, Abu Waala was a member of Kata'ib Hezbollah, another powerful Iran-backed Shiite militia that the US has long considered a

terrorist organisation. His activities during that period reportedly led to his arrest and imprisonment in the United States, although he was later released in 2010.

When the Syrian civil war began, some members of Kata'ib Hezbollah broke away and formed Kata'ib Sayyid al Shuhada. Abu Waala became one of its top leaders and helped expand the group’s presence in both Iraq and Syria. The group grew stronger after the rise of ISIS in 2014. Its fighters became part of Iraq’s Popular Mobilisation Committee under the 14th Brigade, giving the militia more influence within the country’s security structure while still maintaining close ties with Iran.

The US says KSS operates under guidance from Iran’s Quds Force, the foreign operations wing of the IRGC. Abu Waala is believed to have strong links with senior Quds Force commanders, making him an important figure in Iran’s wider regional strategy.

In 2023, the US officially designated him as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist for supporting attacks against American personnel and helping strengthen Iran-backed militant networks.

The timing of the new reward reflects Washington’s growing pressure on Iranian proxy groups in the region. By targeting leaders like Abu Waala, the US aims to weaken Tehran’s influence and improve security for American forces stationed in Iraq.

The \$10 million bounty sends a clear message: the US is prepared to go after not only Iran, but also the militia leaders working as its most powerful allies in the region.

Trump’s Final Message to Iran

US President Donald Trump has issued a strong new warning to Iran, making it clear that while he has no intention of using nuclear weapons, Tehran must move quickly if it wants peace with Washington. His statement comes at a time of rising tensions in the Middle East, with the United States increasing its military presence and global concern growing over the conflict.

Speaking at the White House, Trump said the US had already caused major damage to Iran using conventional military force and saw no need for nuclear weapons. He stated that America had “decimated” Iran without using nuclear arms and added that such weapons should never be used by any country.

At the same time, Trump warned Iran not to mistake this decision for weakness. Through his social media platform, he said “the clock is ticking” for Tehran and stressed that while the US had plenty of time, Iran did not. He claimed Iran’s military had been badly weakened, its leadership shaken, and the US naval blockade around the country had become stronger than ever.

One of the biggest concerns

in the current standoff is the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world’s most important oil shipping routes. A large portion of global oil and gas exports passes through this narrow waterway. Iran has reportedly blocked access in response to the war and increased US pressure, creating serious worries for international trade and energy markets.

Trump also gave direct military orders regarding the area. He instructed the US Navy to destroy any Iranian boats found laying mines in the Strait of Hormuz. This followed reports of suspicious Iranian naval activity and fears of attacks on commercial shipping.

The impact has already been felt in global markets. Oil prices have risen sharply, with Brent crude crossing major levels due to concerns about supply disruptions. Countries that depend heavily on imported oil are watching the situation closely, as higher prices can lead to inflation and economic pressure.

To strengthen America’s military position, the USS George H.W. Bush aircraft carrier was sent to the region, becoming the third major US aircraft carrier operating near Iran. This move significantly

increases US military power in the area and sends a strong signal to Tehran.

Meanwhile, possible peace talks between the US and Iran remain uncertain. Although discussions were expected, there has been no major progress so far. Both sides continue to exchange warnings instead of moving closer to a diplomatic solution.

Trump has made it clear that he is not rushing for a quick agreement. He says any deal must be strong and beneficial for the United States, not simply a fast settlement. His strategy appears to be maximum pressure through military strength, economic restrictions, and political warnings, while still leaving the door open for negotiations.

The message from Washington is simple: there will be no nuclear strike for now, but there will also be no easing of pressure. Trump believes Iran has already been weakened enough through military action and economic blockade.

In the end, this is both a warning and an ultimatum. The US is avoiding nuclear escalation, but Iran is being told that time is running out. If Tehran wants peace, Trump’s message is clear—it must act now, before the situation becomes even more dangerous.



US Spent Massive Missile Stockpile in Iran War

The recent US-Iran war has highlighted a major concern for Washington—not just the financial cost of war, but the rapid depletion of its advanced missile stockpile. In just 38 days of fighting, the United States used thousands of high-end weapons worth billions of dollars, raising serious questions about its military readiness for future conflicts.

According to Pentagon estimates cited by NDTV and international reports, the total cost of the war ranged between \$28 billion and \$35 billion, nearly \$1 billion per day. In the first two days alone, the US reportedly spent around \$5.6 billion on weapons and military operations. This makes it one of the most expensive short-term military campaigns in recent years.

One of the most heavily used weapons was the JASSM-ER missile, a long-range precision strike missile used to hit targets from a safe distance. The US fired nearly 1,100 of these missiles during the conflict, almost equal to its remaining stockpile of around 1,500. Each JASSM-ER costs about \$1.1 million, making it a major part of the war’s expenses.

The military also launched over 1,000 Tomahawk cruise missiles, another key long-range weapon. Tomahawks are critical for US operations worldwide, especially in any future conflict involving China. Each missile costs around \$3.6 million, and after the Iran

war, only about 3,000 are believed to remain in stock.

Air defence systems were also heavily used. The US fired more than 1,200 Patriot interceptor missiles to defend against Iranian missile and drone attacks. These interceptors cost over \$4 million each. Interestingly, the US produced only around 600 Patriot missiles in all of 2025, meaning the war consumed nearly double one year’s production in just a few weeks.

Other weapons like Precision Strike Missiles and ATACMS were also used in large numbers, further reducing US military reserves. These weapons are important for future conflicts involving Taiwan or Europe.

Experts say replacing these stockpiles will take years. Some estimates suggest rebuilding supplies of Tomahawks, Patriots, and JASSM-ER missiles could take up to six years depending on production speed and defence budgets. The war also exposed a cost imbalance. Iranian drones can cost as little as \$50,000, while shooting them down with expensive US systems may cost millions per missile. The bigger lesson is clear: modern wars are not just won by military strength, but by the ability to keep producing weapons. The Iran war proved that even the world’s strongest military can quickly face shortages when conflict becomes long and expensive.

Ami Bera Slams Trump’s “Hellhole” Remark on India

US Congressman Ami Bera strongly criticised President Donald Trump after he reposted controversial remarks describing India and China as “hell-holes.” The comments triggered backlash from Indian officials, lawmakers, and the Indian-American community.

The remarks were originally made by conservative radio host Michael Savage during a discussion on birthright citizenship and immigration. He used offensive language for immigrants from India and China and referred to both countries as “hellholes.” Trump’s decision to repost the com-

ments was seen as support for those views.

Ami Bera, the longest-serving Indian-American member of the US Congress, called the remarks offensive, ignorant, and disrespectful. He said such words were beneath the dignity of a US President.

As the son of Indian immigrants, Bera shared his own family’s story to explain why the comments were hurtful. He said his parents came to America legally in search of better opportunities. His mother worked as a public school teacher for 35 years, and his fa-

ther was an engineer. They raised their family with values of hard work, education, and service.

Bera explained that he studied in California’s public schools, became a doctor, and later entered politics to serve the public. He said his life reflects the true American Dream—where immigrants work hard, contribute to society, and build a better future for their children. According to Bera, immigrants do not weaken America; they strengthen it. He stressed that the United States was built by people from many countries who came with hope

and helped shape the nation.

India also reacted strongly, calling the remarks inappropriate and in poor taste. Officials said such comments do not reflect the strong relationship between India and the US.

Many Indian-Americans also condemned the statement, saying it was insulting and harmful. Bera’s response turned the debate into something bigger than politics. His message was clear: America’s strength comes from its diversity, and immigrants are a central part of that story—not a problem to be insulted.



Nifty Falls Below 23,900 as IT Stocks Trigger Sell-Off

Indian stock markets extended their losing streak for the third straight session on April 24, with benchmark indices closing sharply lower amid heavy selling in IT stocks and concerns over rising crude oil prices. Investor sentiment remained weak throughout the day as global tensions and disappointing corporate guidance added pressure to Dalal Street.

The Sensex closed 982.71 points lower, falling 1.27 percent to settle at 76,681.29, while the Nifty dropped 275.10 points or 1.14 percent to end at 23,897.95, slipping below the important 23,900 mark. This marked one of the sharpest single-day declines in April and reflected broad-based weakness across sectors. For the week, both the Sensex and Nifty lost nearly 2 percent each, ending their two-week gaining streak.

The market opened on a weak note and continued to slide during the session. One of the major reasons behind the decline was the sharp rise in crude oil prices. Brent crude crossed \$106 per barrel due to escalating tensions in West Asia, raising concerns about inflation, higher import costs, and pressure on the Indian rupee. Since India depends heavily on imported oil, rising crude prices often create anxiety in sectors such as aviation, transport, and manufacturing.

However, the biggest drag on the market came from the IT sector. The Nifty IT index fell more than 5 percent, hitting its lowest level since June 2023. Infosys led the losses, with its shares plunging nearly 7 percent after weak future guidance disappointed investors. Other major IT companies such as HCL Tech, TCS, and Tech Mahindra also declined sharply, dragging the entire market lower.

Among the top losers on the Nifty were Infosys, HCL Tech, TCS, Tech Mahindra, and Sun Pharma. On the other hand, a few stocks managed to stay positive. Hindalco, Coal India, Nestle, SBI, and Trent were among the gainers, offering limited support to the broader market. Coal India emerged as one of the strongest performers despite the overall weakness.

Broader markets were also affected, though the damage was relatively smaller. Nifty Midcap and Smallcap indices both fell by nearly 1 percent. Several sectors including healthcare, consumer durables, realty, telecom, pharma, and media ended lower by around 1 percent each.

Interestingly, despite the market fall, more than 100 stocks on the BSE touched their 52-week highs. Companies such as Nestle, AU Small Finance Bank, Glenmark Pharma, Adani Ports, Tor-

rent Power, and CG Power were among those showing strong momentum. This indicated that while benchmark indices were weak, selective buying continued in fundamentally strong stocks.

Stock-specific action remained strong. Himadri Speciality Chemical gained around 5 percent after reporting a 29 percent rise in fourth-quarter profit. Adani Energy Solutions rose 4.5 percent despite mixed market sentiment, supported by robust quarterly earnings. However, Waaree Energies fell after reports of anti-dumping duties by the US on Indian solar imports, while Sun Pharma declined over 3 percent due to reports of a possible \$13 billion bid for Organon.

Market experts believe that the current weakness is more related to global uncertainty than domestic economic weakness. Analysts say investors are in a “risk-off” mood



due to rising oil prices, geopolitical tensions, and concerns over foreign fund flows.

Technical analysts suggest that Nifty has slipped below its important 20-day exponential moving average, which had earlier acted as strong support. Immediate support is now seen in the 23,600–23,550 range. If the index falls below this zone, it may slide further toward 23,350 and even 23,150 in the short term. On the upside, the 24,200–24,250 range is expected to act as immediate resistance.

Overall, the day reflected caution and nervousness in the market. Investors are now closely watching crude oil prices, geopolitical developments, and corporate earnings for further direction.

Unless global risks ease and oil prices cool down, market rallies may continue to face selling pressure in the coming sessions.



JPMorgan Turns Cautious on India as Valuations and Oil Risks Rise

Global brokerage firm JPMorgan has downgraded Indian equities from “overweight” to “neutral” and reduced its year-end 2026 Nifty target by 10 percent, from 30,000 to 27,000. The move reflects rising concerns over high market valuations, surging crude oil prices, and weaker corporate earnings growth.

India’s stock market has been under pressure due to global uncertainty and foreign investor caution. According to JPMorgan, one of the biggest risks is the sharp rise in crude oil prices caused by tensions in West Asia and the ongoing Iran conflict. Brent crude has crossed \$100 per barrel, creating inflation concerns for oil-importing countries like India. Higher crude prices increase imports costs, weaken the rupee, and affect sectors such as automobiles, consumer goods, aviation, and financial services. This can reduce corporate profits and slow down economic growth. JPMorgan believes these oil-related risks may continue to

impact investor confidence in the coming months.

The brokerage had already lowered its earnings estimates for FY2027 by 2 to 10 percent across several domestic sectors including energy, auto, consumer, and financials. It also cut its MSCI India earnings growth forecast for 2026 and 2027, showing weaker expectations for company profits. Another major reason for the downgrade is valuation. Even after recent corrections, Indian equities still trade at a premium compared to other emerging markets like China, Brazil, Mexico, and South Africa. JPMorgan believes these markets offer better value and similar growth opportunities, making India less attractive for global investors seeking cheaper investment options.

The firm also pointed out that India has limited exposure to fast-growing global sectors such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors, robotics, and data centres. Compared to countries with stronger presence in these industries, India may see slower

earnings growth. JPMorgan also highlighted “market dilution” as a concern. Frequent IPOs, QIPs, and stake sales are increasing the supply of shares in the market, which reduces the impact of strong domestic investments like SIP inflows and retail buying.

So far in 2026, the Nifty has fallen around 8.5 percent, while the Sensex is down nearly 10 percent from earlier highs. This reflects both global risks and weaker market sentiment. Despite the downgrade, JPMorgan remains positive on selected sectors like financials, defence, power, hospitals, materials, and consumer discretionary. It remains cautious on IT and pharmaceuticals. Its base-case target for Nifty is now 27,000, while the bull case remains 30,000. In the bear case, the index could fall to 20,500. The message is clear: India’s long-term growth story remains strong, but short-term risks require investors to stay cautious and focus on quality investments rather than broad market rallies.

Alkem Labs Shares Drop Nearly 5% After CEO Vikas Gupta Resigns

Shares of Alkem Laboratories fell nearly 5 percent on April 24 after the company announced the resignation of its Chief Executive Officer, Vikas Gupta. The sudden leadership change created concern among investors, leading to sharp selling in the stock during the trading session.

Alkem Laboratories shares were trading at around Rs 5,261, down 4.7 percent in late afternoon trade. Despite the day’s sharp fall, the stock has remained mostly flat over the past one year, performing slightly better than the Nifty 50, which declined around 1.5 percent during the same period. The company currently has a market capitalisation of more than Rs 63,000 crore.

The decline came after the company informed stock exchanges that CEO Vikas Gupta had formally resigned from his position. According to the regulatory filing, Gupta has decided to step down to pursue new professional opportunities. However, he will continue in his role until June 30, 2026, to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities and support the management during the leadership handover.

In his resignation letter, Gupta described his time as CEO as “a profound honour” and said he was proud of the company’s progress during his tenure. He highlighted Alkem’s stronger market position, improvements in business performance, and progress in advancing its research and development pipeline. He also assured full cooperation during the transition period before his final exit. Vikas Gupta had joined Alkem Laboratories from rival pharmaceutical giant Cipla, where he headed the India



formulations business. He is known for his strong understanding of the Indian pharmaceutical market and also held senior positions at companies like Glenmark and Ranbaxy. His appointment at Alkem was seen as a major strategic move due to his deep industry experience and leadership background. Market participants often react strongly to leadership changes in major companies, especially when a CEO exits unexpectedly. Investors usually see such resignations as a sign of uncertainty, particularly when no immediate long-term replacement is announced.

This appears to be one of the main reasons behind the sharp fall in Alkem’s share price. The pharmaceutical sector has also been closely watched by investors due to rising competition, regulatory challenges, and pressure on profit margins. In such an environment, stable leadership becomes especially important for maintaining investor confidence. Although Alkem has clarified that the transition will be smooth and Gupta will remain in office for two more months, the market’s immediate reaction shows that investors are cautious about the company’s next leadership de-

cision. Analysts believe that the company’s future performance will depend not only on financial results but also on how effectively it manages this transition. A strong successor and clear strategic direction could help restore confidence and stabilize the stock. For now, the focus remains on who will replace Gupta and whether Alkem can maintain business momentum without disruption.

The sharp fall in shares reflects a common market reality—leadership matters, and even temporary uncertainty at the top can trigger strong investor reactions.

IDBI Bank Shares Jump 8% After FM Confirms Divestment Will Continue

Shares of IDBI Bank rose sharply by up to 8 percent on April 24 after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman confirmed that the government will continue with the divestment process of the lender. Her statement boosted investor confidence and helped the stock touch a one-month high of Rs 79.90 during the trading session.

Sitharaman made the announcement while speaking on the sidelines of a State Bank of India event in Pune. Addressing concerns over delays in the stake sale, she said the reasons had already been publicly explained earlier and clearly stated, “We will still go on” with the divestment. Her reassurance came as relief for investors after uncertainty around the stake sale had earlier caused pressure on the stock.

At around 1:11 PM, IDBI Bank shares were trading

nearly 2.6 percent higher at Rs 75.65, while trading volumes surged significantly. Nearly 36 million shares changed hands on the NSE, which was about 14 times higher than the trading volume recorded during the same time on the previous day. This showed strong investor interest following the Finance Minister’s remarks.

The government and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) are jointly planning to sell a 60.72 percent stake in IDBI Bank. This includes the government’s 30.48 percent stake and LIC’s 30.24 percent holding. Currently, the government owns 45.48 percent in the bank, while LIC holds 49.24 percent, taking their combined ownership to 94.71 percent.

The strategic sale process has been under discussion for a long time. In October 2022, the government and LIC had invited Expressions of Interest



(EoI) for the majority stake sale. Multiple preliminary bids were received in January 2023, after which the shortlisted bidders underwent security clearance from the Ministry of

Home Affairs and “fit and proper” assessment by the Reserve Bank of India. Later, financial bids were invited.

However, the process faced a major hurdle when the finan-

cial bids submitted by potential buyers were reportedly below the reserve price fixed by the inter-ministerial group on disinvestment. Because of this, there were reports that the gov-

ernment might cancel the current bids and ask for revised financial offers from the interested parties. Among the reported bidders for IDBI Bank’s strategic sale are PremWatsal, Fairfax and Emirates NBD. The government is said to be evaluating the next steps carefully, especially as disinvestment remains an important part of its broader fiscal strategy. Apart from the IDBI Bank issue, Sitharaman also spoke about the banking sector more broadly. She said a high-level banking committee would discuss matters such as consolidation among state-owned banks and whether banks should be allowed to tie up with more than one insurance company under an open architecture model for bancassurance. However, she clarified that the Finance Ministry had not yet placed any final proposal on bank consolidation.

The government is relying on disinvestment and asset monetisation to create fiscal space, especially amid global uncertainty and rising economic pressure due to the West Asia crisis. IDBI Bank remains one of the most important strategic sales in this plan. The strong rise in IDBI Bank shares shows how sensitive markets are to policy clarity. Investors had been worried that delays or cancellation of the divestment process could weaken future prospects. Sitharaman’s clear statement has temporarily eased those concerns and restored optimism around the stock. For now, all eyes remain on whether the government invites revised bids or moves forward with the current short-listed buyers. Either way, the divestment of IDBI Bank remains one of the most closely watched transactions in India’s banking sector.

Pilot’s Message Inspires Passengers Returning for TN Polls

As Tamil Nadu went to the polls for its Assembly elections on April 23, a heartwarming moment aboard a flight captured the spirit of democracy and quickly won hearts across social media. A pilot's simple but powerful message to passengers highlighted how seriously many people take their right to vote, even travelling long distances just to cast their ballot.

The now-viral video showed Captain Pradeep Krishnan addressing passengers before landing. Instead of the usual routine announcement, he asked a meaningful question: how many of them were travelling home specifically to vote in the Tamil Nadu elections? What followed was a remarkable sight, nearly every passenger raised their hand.

The moment reflected something larger than just travel plans. It showed the deep civic commitment of people, especially non-resident Indians and working professionals living outside their home state, who made special efforts to return and participate in the democratic process. The clip quickly spread across Instagram and other social media platforms, with viewers praising both the pilot and the passengers for their sense of responsibility.

Captain Pradeep Krishnan's



message was simple yet inspiring. He reminded passengers that voting is not just a right, but also a duty. His words created a shared emotional moment inside the aircraft, turning an ordinary flight into a symbol of active citizenship. In a time when voter apathy is often discussed, this spontaneous response from passengers served as a refreshing remind-

er that many citizens still value the power of their vote.

Tamil Nadu's 2026 Assembly election has drawn significant attention because it is shaping up to be a major political contest. With strong competition between the ruling DMK, the AIADMK-led opposition, and actor-politician Vijay's Tamila-gaVettriKazhagam (TVK), the election has become one of the

most closely watched state polls in the country. Several key constituencies have emerged as major battlegrounds, increasing public interest and voter enthusiasm.

For many people living outside Tamil Nadu, returning home to vote meant taking leave from work, spending money on travel, and making personal sacrifices. Yet, the

overwhelming response on the flight showed that these challenges were worth it. Voting was not seen as an inconvenience, but as an important personal responsibility.

Social media users praised the passengers for setting an example. Many called it "true democracy in action," while others appreciated the pilot for using his platform to encourage civic participation. Some users even said such messages should become common across flights during election season to remind citizens of the importance of voting.

The video also highlighted the emotional connection people maintain with their home state. Even when living elsewhere for work or studies, many still feel strongly about participating in decisions that shape their families, communities, and future.

In the end, the pilot's message was more than just an announcement, it became a celebration of democracy. It showed that elections are not only fought on political stages and campaign rallies, but also in small personal decisions made by ordinary citizens.

Sometimes, the strongest message about democracy comes not from politicians, but from a full flight of passengers quietly raising their hands.



74-Year-Old Woman’s Solo China Trip Wins Hearts

A 74-year-old British woman's solo journey across China has become a heartwarming story of kindness, friendship, and unexpected human connection. Her experience touched thousands online after locals and even strangers stepped forward to help her during her month-long adventure across the country.

The woman, Gill, has already travelled alone to 72 countries and spent years volunteering in different parts of the world. Her independent spirit and confidence made her story remarkable, but what truly moved people was the warmth she received from ordinary Chinese citizens during her travels.

The journey began with an earlier friendship. Gill had met Xiao Yue, a university student from Hezhou in Guangxi Province, while both were volunteering in Phuket. They stayed in touch, and later, Gill informed Xiao through email that she would be visiting China as part of her solo travel plans.

When Xiao learned that Gill's second stop would be Guilin, a city close to where she lived, she decided to personally meet her and help her explore the area. For two days, Xiao became both guide and friend, showing Gill some of Guilin's most famous tourist attractions, including Elephant Trunk Hill and Decai Hill. They also enjoyed local rice noodles together and clicked several photographs during their sightseeing.

While spending time with Gill, Xiao noticed something touching. Unlike younger travellers who rely heavily on smartphones, Gill was not comfortable using ride-hailing apps and did not depend much on mobile technology. She was often worried that her phone battery would run out, which reminded Xiao of her own grandmother.

This small detail made Gill feel even more familiar and lovable to Xiao. She saw not just a tourist, but someone who reminded her of family. That emotional connection inspired her to do something more.

Concerned that Gill might face difficulties while travelling alone through multiple Chinese cities, Xiao posted an online message asking people to help her if they happened to meet the elderly traveller dur-

ing her trip. Her request quickly gained attention, and many people responded positively, ready to support Gill wherever she went.

Gill's travel plan covered several major cities across both northern and southern China, including Guangzhou, Guilin, Chengdu, Xi'an, Hangzhou, Xiamen, Shanghai, and Beijing. Managing such a long journey alone at the age of 74 impressed many social media users, who praised her courage and adventurous spirit.

As her journey continued, Gill reached Zhangjiajie in Hunan Province on April 7 and 8. To make travel easier, she joined a tour group and was accompanied by a bilingual local guide named Lv Yan.

According to Lv, everyone in the group took special care of Gill. Fellow travellers welcomed her warmly, helped her whenever needed, and genuinely enjoyed her company. Lv shared that the entire group liked her very much, showing once again how strangers can create comfort far from home.

The story quickly spread online and touched many people because it highlighted something simple yet powerful, the kindness of strangers. In a world often focused on conflict and division, Gill's experience showed that human warmth can cross borders, languages, and cultures.

Many internet users praised the innate kindness of the people who helped her, while others admired Gill for continuing to travel fearlessly at an age when many people hesitate to even travel alone within their own country.

Her story became more than just a travel anecdote. It became a reminder that age does not have to limit adventure, and that genuine kindness can be found in unexpected places.

For Gill, China was not just another destination on her travel list, it became a place where strangers treated her like family. For readers around the world, her journey offered something equally valuable: hope that kindness still exists, often in the most ordinary moments.

Sometimes, the most memorable part of travel is not the places we visit, but the people who make us feel welcome there. Gill's journey proves exactly that.

Is Bengaluru Really Chaotic? Foreigner’s Viral Video Challenges the City’s Image

Bengaluru is often described as India's most chaotic city—famous for endless traffic jams, crowded roads, and fast-paced urban life. Social media frequently paints the IT capital as a place of constant noise, confusion, and congestion. But a foreign visitor has now sparked a fresh debate by sharing a completely different perspective, suggesting that Bengaluru may not be as chaotic as many people believe.

The visitor, Len Cook, posted an Instagram video titled "Is Bangalore really chaotic?" in which he questioned the common stereotype surrounding the city. Instead of showing traffic gridlock or overcrowded streets, his video captured a normal day on a fairly busy Bengaluru street—shops open, pedestrians walking, vehicles moving, and people going about their routines in an orderly and calm manner.

In the video, Cook directly addressed what he called "Myth No. 2: Chaos." He explained that many people believe Bengaluru is constantly chaotic, crowded, and overwhelming all the time. But while standing on an ordinary street, he asked viewers a simple question: "Does this look like an absolute chaotic mess right now?" His answer was clear—no.



He pointed out that even though the area had regular business activity, traffic, and people moving around, the environment still felt peaceful. According to him, not every part of the city feels hectic every moment of the day. Busy streets can still feel surprisingly calm depending on the location and time.

Cook, whose Instagram bio mentions that he sold his belongings to restart life in India, has been sharing observations about Indian cities and daily life. In the caption of this particular video, he wrote, "Myth busted: This isn't chaos. Even busy streets can be surprising-

ly calm. Not every moment is pure madness." His statement quickly caught attention online and led to strong reactions from both residents and viewers across the country.

As expected, social media users had mixed opinions.

Some people strongly agreed with Cook and appreciated his attempt to challenge exaggerated online narratives. Many locals said Bengaluru has many peaceful neighborhoods and that not every part of the city reflects the heavy traffic seen near major IT hubs. One user commented, "Amazing sir, thank you for exploring my hometown Bengaluru," while

another wrote, "Some places are even calmer at certain times of the day."

However, not everyone agreed

Several users argued that Cook's video did not show the full reality of Bengaluru, especially during peak traffic hours. They pointed out that areas near tech parks, business districts, and major roads often experience serious congestion, particularly in the evenings. One user responded, saying that Bengaluru is definitely chaotic in IT zones and feels far more crowded today than it did a decade ago.

Others tried to explain the

city's complexity rather than choosing one side. One comment noted that Bengaluru has experienced massive population growth over the past two decades, adding nearly five lakh people every year. With rapid urban expansion and an enormous number of vehicles, some level of traffic and disorder is natural. Yet, that does not mean the entire city is always chaotic.

The discussion reflects a larger truth about Bengaluru, it is a city of contrasts. It is both a fast-moving tech hub and a place with quiet residential pockets. It can be frustratingly crowded during rush hour and surprisingly peaceful during off-peak hours. Much depends on where you are and when you are there.

Cook's video became popular not because it denied Bengaluru's traffic problems, but because it reminded people that stereotypes often oversimplify reality. Cities are more complex than viral posts and internet jokes suggest.

In the end, his message was simple: Bengaluru is not just chaos. It is a city with both movement and calm, pressure and peace.

Sometimes, all it takes is one honest video from a visitor to make people look at their own city differently.

Woman’s Acne Transformation Video Inspires Thousands Through Tearful Nights of Pain, Doubt, and Silent Struggles

A woman's powerful acne transformation video has taken social media by storm, touching thousands of viewers with its honesty, vulnerability, and inspiring message of self-healing. More than just a beauty transformation, the viral clip became a story about emotional strength, patience, and learning to love oneself through difficult times.

The woman, who shared her journey online, posted a before-and-after video showing the dramatic improvement in her skin after struggling with severe acne. What made the post stand out was not just the visible transformation, but the deeply personal caption that accompanied it. She wrote about "the nights I cried," referring to the emotional pain, frustration, and self-doubt she experienced during her acne

journey. The words struck a chord with many people who had faced similar struggles.

Acne is often seen as a simple skin issue, but for many people, it affects much more than appearance. It can impact confidence, social life, and mental health. The woman's video highlighted this hidden side of the struggle. Her transformation was not only about clearer skin but also about rebuilding self-esteem after months or even years of emotional stress.

In the video, viewers could see old clips and photos showing inflamed skin, visible breakouts, and moments when she looked emotionally exhausted. These were followed by recent clips where her skin looked healthier and her confidence visibly stronger. The contrast made the transforma-

tion even more powerful and relatable. Social media users quickly flooded the comments section with support and admiration. Many praised her courage for showing the "real" side of acne instead of only posting perfect results. Others shared their own experiences, saying they too had cried over acne, avoided mirrors, or felt judged because of their skin. The post became a space where people connected through shared struggles rather than just beauty standards. Some viewers also offered practical advice. One user suggested that healthy skin often begins with internal health, writing that maintaining a good diet and keeping the gut healthy can make a major difference. Others spoke about consistency in skincare, stress management, and patience, reminding peo-

ple that healing takes time and there are no instant solutions. What made the video especially meaningful was its honesty. In a world where filters and edited images dominate social media, showing acne openly can feel like an act of bravery. The woman chose transparency over perfection, and that honesty made people trust and connect with her story even more. The transformation also served as a reminder that progress is often slow and emotional. Skin healing is rarely immediate. It involves trial and error, frustration, and moments of giving up. Her caption reflected that reality. By mentioning the nights, she cried, she gave voice to something many people silently experience but rarely discuss.

Experts often note that acne can be triggered by multiple



factors such as hormones, stress, lack of sleep, and diet. Managing it often requires both skincare and lifestyle changes. The emotional side is equally important, as confidence can suffer deeply during the process. Many users called the video motivating because it showed hope. It reminded people currently struggling with acne that improvement is possible and that their current

situation is not permanent. Several comments simply thanked her for posting it, saying it made them feel less alone. The internet often celebrates dramatic transformations, but this one stood out because it felt real. It was not about makeup tricks or instant beauty fixes. It was about healing, resilience, and accepting oneself during the hardest moments. In the end, the woman's

viral video became more than a skincare success story. It became a message of emotional recovery. Her journey showed that behind clearer skin was a stronger person who had survived insecurity, tears, and self-doubt. Sometimes, the most beautiful transformation is not what happens on the face, but what happens in confidence and self-worth. Her story proved exactly that.

Kohli, Padikkal Power RCB to Victory

A commanding batting display by Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal powered Royal Challengers Bengaluru to an impressive win over Gujarat Titans in a high-scoring encounter in the Indian Premier League on Thursday.

Chasing a competitive target, RCB got off to a steady start before Kohli took control of the innings with his trademark composure and precision. The veteran batter anchored the chase brilliantly, mixing caution with aggression as he found gaps and punished loose deliveries. His innings not only sta-

bilized the chase but also set the platform for an emphatic finish.

Padikkal complemented Kohli perfectly at the other end, showcasing his elegant stroke play and timing. The left-hander played a fluent knock, keeping the scoreboard ticking and ensuring the pressure never mounted on RCB. The duo stitched together a crucial partnership that effectively took the game away from Gujarat.

Earlier, Gujarat Titans posted a challenging total on the board, riding on contributions from their top and middle order. However, their

bowling attack struggled to contain the RCB batters, especially during the middle overs where Kohli and Padikkal accelerated with ease.

Despite a few breakthroughs, Gujarat bowlers failed to build sustained pressure. Their inability to pick wickets at regular intervals proved costly, as RCB maintained control throughout the chase. The fielding effort too lacked sharpness at key moments, allowing RCB to capitalize fully.

With this victory, RCB strengthened their position in the points table and

gained crucial momentum in the tournament. Kohli's return to form and Padikkal's consistency will be a major boost for the team as they push for a playoff spot.

On the other hand, Gujarat Titans will need to reassess their bowling strategies and execution, especially in defending totals under pressure. The loss exposes gaps that the team must address quickly to stay competitive in the league. Overall, it was a clinical performance from RCB, driven by experience and youthful flair, as they outplayed Gujarat in all departments.



R Ashwin Questions Hardik's Captaincy Blunder Against CSK

Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has strongly criticised Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya for a major tactical mistake during MI's heavy defeat against Chennai Super Kings in IPL 2026. According to Ashwin, Hardik made the wrong decision at the toss itself, which gave CSK a big advantage and eventually cost Mumbai the match.

Mumbai Indians suffered their biggest-ever defeat against Chennai Super Kings, losing by a massive 103 runs at the Wankhede Stadium. CSK posted a strong total of 207/6 in 20 overs, while MI collapsed for just 104 runs in 19 overs. It was one of Mumbai's worst performances this season and raised serious questions about both their batting and captaincy.

Ashwin pointed out that Hardik's biggest mistake came when he won the toss and chose to bowl first. According to him, Wankhede Stadium becomes much easier for batting in the second innings only un-

der certain conditions, and the surface on that day clearly looked dry and better suited for batting first. By sending CSK in to bat, Hardik gave the opposition the chance to put scoreboard pressure on MI.

Ashwin said that when a captain wins the toss, he should first read the pitch correctly before making a decision. In this case, he felt Hardik failed to do that. He said the captain "handed the advantage to the opposition" by choosing the wrong option at the toss. Once CSK got a strong total on the board, Mumbai were always under pressure.

He also questioned Hardik's bowling decisions during the death overs. Instead of using specialist bowlers more effectively, Hardik chose to take important overs himself. Ashwin suggested that in such high-pressure situations, the captain should focus more on strategy than trying to be the hero with the ball.

CSK took full advantage of

MI's mistakes. Their batters played confidently and the bowlers later dominated Mumbai's fragile batting line-up. MI never looked settled during the chase and kept losing wickets at regular intervals.

This loss added more pressure on Hardik Pandya, who has already faced criticism this season for both his form and leadership. Mumbai Indians have managed only a few wins so far, and experts believe the team needs quick improvement if they want to stay in the playoff race.

Ashwin's comments reflect what many fans also felt—that the match may have been lost before the chase even began. A poor toss decision, weak bowling strategy, and a batting collapse combined to turn the game into a one-sided contest.

For Hardik Pandya, the message is clear: captaincy decisions matter, and even one wrong call at the toss can change the entire match.

Concussion Sub Row Clouds Mumbai Indians' Heavy Loss



Mumbai Indians found themselves in the middle of a major controversy during their heavy 103-run defeat against Chennai Super Kings in IPL 2026 after being accused of misusing the concussion substitute rule.

The issue began when all-rounder Mitchell Santner injured himself while taking a diving catch to dismiss CSK batter Kartik Sharma off Jasprit Bumrah's bowling. Santner immediately looked in pain, clutching his shoulder, and had to leave the field. Soon after, Mumbai Indians requested a concussion substitute and brought in Shardul Thakur as his replacement. This decision quickly triggered debate among fans and experts.

Under IPL rules, a concussion substitute is allowed only when a player suffers a head or neck injury, and the condition must be medically verified before approval. However, in Santner's case, television visuals mainly showed a shoulder injury, and he was later seen

sitting in the dressing room with ice on his shoulder. This led many to question whether the substitution was genuinely for concussion symptoms or simply a way to strengthen the team with an extra player.

Another major point of debate was whether Shardul Thakur could be considered a like-for-like replacement for Santner. Santner is a spin-bowling all-rounder, while Shardul is a pace-bowling all-

rounder. Critics argued that the replacement did not match the original player closely enough, which goes against the spirit of the concussion substitute rule. Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene later responded to the controversy. He explained that Santner had not only hurt his shoulder but had also hit his head and neck while taking the catch. According to Jayawardene, Santner later com-

plained of dizziness and felt unstable, which led the team to send him for a scan. Based on that medical concern, MI requested the concussion substitute, and the final approval was given by the match referee and umpires.

Jayawardene said the decision was not made casually and that the officials had full authority to accept or reject the request. He also joked that Santner would be disappointed that his batting was considered similar to Shardul's.

Despite the controversy, the substitution did little to change Mumbai's fortunes. CSK dominated the game completely, posting 207/6 before bowling MI out for just 104. The incident has now sparked a larger discussion about how concussion rules are applied in the IPL and whether stricter transparency is needed. For many fans, the question remains simple: was it a genuine medical substitution or a tactical move disguised as one?



Sachin Tendulkar's Birthday Post Wins Hearts

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar celebrated his 53rd birthday with a simple yet heartwarming family moment that quickly went viral on social media. The "Master Blaster" shared a special post featuring his mother, wife Anjali, and his pet dog, reminding fans that happiness often lies in life's simplest moments.

Sachin posted a picture on social media with his mother, whom he lovingly called "Aai," his wife Anjali, and their pet dog, whom he jokingly referred to as the "trouble maker." Along with the picture, he wrote, "Perfect start to my day with Aai, Anjali and the trouble maker! What more could a man ask for?" The emotional caption instantly connected with fans and cricket lovers across the world.

The post quickly went viral, with thousands of fans liking, sharing, and commenting on the touching family moment. Many admired how one of the greatest cricketers of all time chose to celebrate his special day not with glamour, but with the people closest to him.

Earlier in the day, a large number of fans had gathered outside Sachin's Mumbai residence to wish him on his birthday. As always, the cricket icon warmly interacted with them, cut cakes, clicked selfies, and signed autographs. His humble behaviour once again showed why he continues to be one of the most loved personalities in

Indian sport.

Born on April 24, 1973, Sachin Tendulkar is widely regarded as one of the greatest cricketers in history. Known as the "God of Cricket," he holds countless records that still remain untouched. He is the highest run-scorer in international cricket with 34,357 runs and is the only player to score 100 international centuries.

He also holds the record for the most Test matches played (200), most ODI appearances (463), and remains the first male cricketer to score a double century in One Day Internationals. His remarkable career lasted more than two decades and inspired generations of cricketers around the world.

Even after retirement, Sachin remains one of the most respected voices in cricket. Fans continue to celebrate not just his records, but also his humility, discipline, and connection with people.

This birthday post once again showed that behind the cricket legend is a simple family man who values love, peace, and togetherness. For many fans, that one line, "What more could a man ask for?," became the perfect reminder that true happiness is often found at home, surrounded by family.

On his 53rd birthday, Sachin Tendulkar proved once again that greatness is not just about records, it is also about staying grounded.

KKR Coach Admits Releasing Shreyas Iyer Was a Mistake



Kolkata Knight Riders' former head coach Chandrakant Pandit has finally spoken about the franchise's controversial decision to release Shreyas Iyer after their IPL 2024 title-winning season. Pandit admitted that letting Iyer go "didn't work" for the team and said KKR clearly missed his leadership and presence.

Shreyas Iyer had led Kolkata Knight Riders to the IPL 2024 championship, helping the team lift their third title. Despite that success, KKR decided not to retain him ahead of the next season. The decision surprised many fans and experts, especially because Iyer had played a major role as captain in building the title-winning side.

After leaving KKR, Shreyas joined Punjab Kings for a huge amount of Rs 26.75 crore and

was appointed captain there. Meanwhile, KKR handed leadership responsibilities to Ajinkya Rahane and entered the 2025 season as defending champions.

However, things did not go as planned for Kolkata. The team struggled badly throughout the season and failed to defend their title, finishing in eighth

place. Their campaign lacked consistency, and many believed the absence of a strong leader like Shreyas Iyer was one of the major reasons behind the poor performance.

Speaking about the decision, Chandrakant Pandit admitted that the move backfired. He said, "Unfortunately, we missed him. It didn't work for

us." His statement confirmed what many fans had been saying since the release—that KKR underestimated Iyer's importance to the team.

Pandit explained that while teams often make strategic decisions during retention and auction planning, not every decision gives the expected result. In this case, releasing their title-winning captain turned out to be a mistake.

Shreyas was not only important with the bat but also brought calmness, tactical awareness, and strong dressing-room leadership. His captaincy was widely praised during KKR's successful 2024 campaign, where the team looked balanced and confident under pressure.

At Punjab Kings, Iyer has continued to impress with both leadership and batting form, further strengthening the be-

lief that KKR let go of a key player too early.

The admission from Pandit is significant because franchises rarely openly accept mistakes in retention decisions. His honesty has sparked fresh debate among fans about how teams value leadership compared to auction strategy and financial planning.

KKR's case has become a strong reminder that captaincy is not just about on-field decisions. A leader shapes team culture, confidence, and performance over an entire season.

For Kolkata Knight Riders, releasing Shreyas Iyer may remain one of their biggest recent regrets. And for Pandit, the lesson is clear—sometimes the most valuable player is not just the one who scores runs, but the one who leads the team when it matters most.

Two-Day Fan Park in Mangalagiri



that this program became possible due to the initiative taken by Minister Nara Lokesh. He appreciated the support ex-

tended for promoting sports and creating better opportunities for young players and fans in the region.

He further highlighted that 120 teams are participating in the Mangalagiri Premier League, which reflects the

growing enthusiasm for cricket among local youth. He said the objective of these sporting events is to encourage sportsmanship and provide a strong platform for young talent.

In another major announcement, he revealed that the Andhra Premier League will be held at Mangalagiri Stadium starting from June 5. This is expected to bring greater attention to the region and further strengthen Mangalagiri's position as a sporting hub.

MP Sana Satish Babu also assured that steps will be taken to develop Mangalagiri as a modern center for all kinds of sports, not just cricket. He said the vision is to transform the town into an innovative sports destination that supports athletes and promotes a strong sporting culture.

With the Fan Park and the upcoming Andhra Premier League, Mangalagiri is set to become a major attraction for cricket fans and sports lovers across the state.



Nithiin to Romance RitikaNayak in Upcoming Family Drama

Actor Nithiin is set to begin a new chapter in his career with an upcoming family drama, and reports suggest that rising actress RitikaNayak has been chosen as the female lead. After facing a series of box-office disappointments in recent years, Nithiin is now being extra careful with his script choices and is focusing on strong, content-driven projects.

Over the past three years, four of Nithiin's films failed to make a strong impact at the box office. As a result, the actor has reportedly been rejecting several scripts and taking time before committing to new projects. Even his much-discussed film Yellamma, which many believed he would headline, did not materialize for him.

Now, a fresh project with a new director seems to have caught his attention. Sources say the young filmmaker recently narrated a story to Nithiin, and the actor was impressed enough to give it the green signal. The film will be produced under the banner of Sithara Entertainments, one of the leading production houses in Telugu cinema. The official launch of the movie is expected to take place by the end of this month.

The film is said to be a family entertainer with strong emotional elements, a genre that has often worked well for Nithiin in the past. While the title and full cast details are yet to be announced, the buzz around the project has already created excitement among fans.

RitikaNayak, who gained attention with AshokaVanamloArjunaKalyanam, is reportedly being finalised as the heroine. She later earned wider recognition with Mirai, which helped strengthen her place in Tollywood. She is also working on major upcoming projects with Varun Tej, including Korean Kanakaraju and Power Peta. Landing a film opposite Nithiin adds another important project to her growing career.

The Nithiin-Ritika pairing is being seen as a fresh on-screen combination, and many believe it could bring a new appeal to the film. Since both actors are known for their natural performances, expectations are high for this family drama.

For Nithiin, this project could be an important comeback opportunity. Fans are hoping that with the right script, strong production support, and a fresh pairing, the actor can return to winning form.

More details regarding the title, director, and shooting schedule are expected to be revealed soon.

Salman Khan– Vamshi Paidipally Film Locked for Eid 2027 Release

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has officially announced his much-awaited film with Telugu director VamshiPaidipally, and fans will have to wait a little longer as the big-budget entertainer is set for release during Eid 2027. Salman asked fans not to be disappointed by the long wait and assured them that the film would be worth it. Sharing the excitement on social media, he said, "Don't be disappointed that the release is far away... this film will match your expectations." His message quickly created buzz among fans across Bollywood and Tollywood. The film marks a major collaboration between Salman Khan and VamshiPaidipally, who is known for directing successful films like Maharshi, Oopiri, and Varisu. This will be one of Vamshi's biggest Bollywood projects and also a significant pan-India venture.

The movie is being produced by leading Telugu producer Dil Raju under his prestigious banner. Actress Nayanthara has been confirmed as the female lead, making this a fresh and exciting pairing opposite Salman Khan. The combination of Salman, Nayanthara, VamshiPaidipally, and Dil Raju has already raised expectations among movie lovers.

The shooting of the film officially began on Friday, and the team also shared a special behind-the-scenes video on social media to mark the occasion. The video gave fans a first glimpse of the project and increased anticipation surrounding the film.

Though the title of the movie has not yet been revealed, reports suggest that it will be a grand



commercial entertainer packed with action, emotions, and strong family elements—something that suits Salman Khan's festive Eid releases perfectly. Salman has a long history of delivering blockbuster films during Eid, and this upcoming project appears to be another attempt to return strongly to that successful formula. His recent films have faced mixed responses, so this project is being seen as an important comeback vehicle.

For VamshiPaidipally, directing a superstar like Salman Khan in Hindi cinema is also a major milestone. His track record with big stars and emotionally driven commercial films makes him a strong choice for such a large-scale project. Nayanthara's presence adds further excitement, especially since she continues to expand her reach across industries after her successful Bollywood debut.

The announcement has already generated huge interest among fans, and many are calling it one of the most exciting collaborations of 2027.

With shooting now underway and Eid 2027 officially locked for release, Salman Khan's next big entertainer is already one of the most talked-about upcoming films in Indian cinema.



Faria Abdullah Scores Double Release on May 1 On Screen in One Film and Behind the Voice in Another Release

Actress Faria Abdullah is all set for a special double celebration on May 1 as two different films connected to her will hit the screens on the same day. In one film, she appears in an important acting role, while in the other, she has lent her voice as a dubbing artist.

Faria, who made a strong mark in Tollywood with her unique screen presence and distinctive voice, continues to explore different sides of cinema. While many know her for dubbing her own roles, she has now also stepped into dubbing for other actresses, adding another skill to her growing career.

One of the films releasing on May 1 is GayapaddaSimham, where Faria plays an important role. Though she is not the main heroine in the film, she says her character is much more than just a guest appearance and carries significance in the story. Faria is known for choosing roles based on character strength rather than screen time, and this project reflects that same approach.

The second release is Jetlee, directed by Ritesh Rana. In this film, Faria has not acted on screen but has provided dubbing for the heroine, Riya Suman. This marks a fresh and interesting move in her career as a dubbing artist.

Interestingly, both films are arriving on the same day, making it a rare "double dham-aka" for the actress. While it is common for actors working in multiple languages to have two releases on the same day, it is unusual for one film to feature an actress as a performer and the other to showcase her as a voice artist.

Faria shares a good professional bond with director Ritesh Rana after working with him earlier in MathuVadalara 2. Because of that connection, she agreed to dub for Jetlee when he approached her. A recently released promotional video related to the dubbing work has also received a positive response from audiences for its fun and entertaining tone.

Fans are now hoping both films perform well at the box office. If GayapaddaSimham succeeds, it could bring Faria more strong acting opportunities. On the other hand, if Jetlee gets noticed, she may receive more offers as a dubbing artist too.

Either way, May 1 promises to be an important day for Faria Abdullah. Whether on screen or behind the microphone, she is proving that talent can shine in many forms.



RISING STAR

MONIKA MISHRA

Annu Kapoor Clarifies Tamannaah Remarks

Veteran Bollywood actor Annu Kapoor has finally responded to the controversy surrounding his comments about actress Tamannaah Bhatia, saying that his words were misunderstood and that he had no disrespectful or wrong intentions toward her.

The controversy began after Annu Kapoor made remarks about Tamannaah while speaking about her popular song "Aaj Ki Raat" from Stree 2. During the conversation, he praised her dance and appearance, saying she dances well and has a "milky body" and fair complexion. His comments quickly went viral on social media, with many users calling them inappropriate and disrespectful.

Several people criticised the actor for focusing on Tamannaah's physical appearance and accused him of using language that sounded objectifying. The backlash grew rapidly, and many demanded an apology from the senior actor.

Now, Annu Kapoor has issued a clarification, saying that people misunderstood what he meant. He explained that if he had said the same thing in English instead of Hindi, perhaps nobody would have reacted so strongly.



According to him, changing the language does not change the meaning.

He said there is a clear difference between appreciating someone's beauty and looking at them with bad intentions. Kapoor stressed that he was only admiring Tamannaah's beauty and performance and that there was no vulgar thought behind his statement.

He further said that he has no wrong feelings toward Tamannaah and never intended to insult or disrespect her. He added that if Tamannaah herself felt hurt because of his comments,

he would even be ready to apologize personally.

In a strong statement, Annu Kapoor said he would not hesitate to touch Tamannaah's feet if that was needed to express his sincerity. He said since there were no bad thoughts in his heart, apologising in such a way would not be a big issue for him.

His statement has now sparked mixed reactions. While some people believe he was simply expressing admiration in his own style, others still feel public figures must be more careful while speaking about women, especially when discussing appearance.

So far, Tamannaah Bhatia has not publicly responded to either the original comments or Annu Kapoor's clarification.

The incident has once again opened discussion around how celebrities speak in public and where the line should be drawn between praise and inappropriate comments.

For Annu Kapoor, the message is clear—his intention may have been admiration, but the way it was expressed created controversy. His clarification now aims to close the matter by making it clear that he never meant disrespect.

RakhiSawant Sparks Fresh Controversy with Comments on Priyanka Chopra's Marriage

Bollywood actress RakhiSawant has once again found herself at the center of controversy after making remarks about global star Priyanka Chopra and her marriage to singer Nick Jonas. Known for her bold and often headline-making statements, Rakhi's latest comments have created a strong reaction on social media and among Priyanka's fans. During a recent interview, Rakhi revealed that she is planning to get married for the third time, which itself surprised many people. While speaking about relationships and marriage, she brought up Priyanka Chopra's marriage to Nick Jonas and made some sharp comments that quickly went viral. Rakhi referred to the age difference between Priyanka and Nick, pointing out that Priyanka married someone younger than her. She said that many young boys aged 16 and 17

also follow her, but she is not interested in younger men. She added that she is "not Priyanka Chopra" to trap a young boy and marry him, saying she prefers men closer to her own age. These remarks immediately sparked criticism online. At the same time, Rakhi also praised Priyanka's beauty and appearance. She said Priyanka still looks very young and even appears younger than Nick Jonas. This created a mixed reaction, as some people felt Rakhi was complimenting Priyanka while also indirectly mocking her marriage choices. Fans of Priyanka Chopra were quick to defend the actress. Many social media users called Rakhi's comments unnecessary and disrespectful, saying Priyanka is happily married and should not be dragged into unwanted controversy. Supporters also pointed out that Priyanka



and Nick have always handled public attention with dignity and have built a strong relationship despite constant public scrutiny. Priyanka Chopra, one of India's biggest international stars, married American singer and actor Nick Jonas in 2018. Their marriage attracted global attention because of their celebrity status and age difference, but the couple has often spoken openly about their strong bond and mutual respect. At present, Priyanka is busy with several Hollywood films and web series,

along with major Indian projects. Reports also suggest she is playing a powerful role in the upcoming SS Rajamouli-Mahesh Babu film, which has further increased excitement among fans. So far, Priyanka Chopra has not responded to RakhiSawant's comments. However, the controversy continues to trend online, with many waiting to see whether Priyanka will react or choose to ignore the remarks. For RakhiSawant, controversy is nothing new. Her outspoken nature often keeps her in the spotlight. But this time, her comments about Priyanka Chopra's personal life have once again raised questions about where the line should be drawn between bold opinions and unnecessary personal attacks.