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No Mercy for Drug Offenders, Says CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Monday issued a stern warning against drug abuse, stating that the government will take stringent action and spare no one, irrespective of their influence or status, if found involved in narcotics cases.

Inaugurating the "Spandana" response teams at the Integrated Command and Control Centre, the Chief Minister expressed serious concern over the rising drug menace and its link to crimes against women and girls. He noted that drug addiction has become a major factor behind atrocities and stressed that strict enforcement is essential to curb such crimes. "Whether they are politicians, celebrities, or from influential families, no one will be spared," he asserted.



Referring to recent arrests of elected representatives in drug-related cases, he said punishing offenders, regardless of their stature, would send a strong message to society. Drawing a comparison, he cited the situation in Punjab, where drug abuse has severely impacted youth, warning that Telangana must act decisively to avoid similar

consequences.

The Chief Minister highlighted measures taken by the government, including the formation of the Eagle Force to crack down on drug trafficking and the expansion of rehabilitation centres. He also called on peace committees to focus on drug awareness alongside maintaining communal harmony and suggested that stu-

dents submit self-declarations against drug use during school admissions.

Emphasizing women's safety, Reddy said the state is prioritizing protection through initiatives like SHE Teams, "Stand With Her," and the newly launched "Spandana" teams, which provide round-the-clock support and immediate psychological assistance to victims.

He reiterated that ensuring safety for women and children is critical for development. The Chief Minister also outlined welfare initiatives, including housing in women's names, financial support to self-help groups, free bus travel, and livelihood opportunities.

Reaffirming Telangana's growth vision, he said achieving a \$1 trillion economy by 2034 and \$3 trillion by 2047 depends on empowering and protecting women across the state.



UDID Evaluation Centre Inaugurated at Niloufer Hospital

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Seethakka on Monday inaugurated a Unique Disability ID (UDID) evaluation centre at Niloufer Hospital, marking a significant step towards providing dignified and inclusive services for persons with disabilities.

Speaking at the program, the minister said the UDID card is not just an identity document but a symbol of dignity, rights, and empowerment. "Each UDID card opens the door to a better life and strengthens social recognition for persons with disabilities," she stated.

The minister revealed that the state government has invested around Rs 20 crore to procure advanced medical equipment for accurate disability assessment. So far, 13 UDID centres have been established across Telangana, with seven more set to be launched soon. A total of 792 modern medical devices have been distributed across all 33 districts to enhance diagnostic capacity.

She noted that earlier, the absence of proper equipment led to challenges in identifying

disabilities. However, the government has now introduced scientific and precise evaluation methods. Special autism screening is being conducted at Niloufer Hospital, with around 730 autism certificates issued so far. Recognizing the rising prevalence of autism, the government has procured additional equipment worth Rs 10 lakh to strengthen early detection.

The centre, developed with SERP funds, is equipped with modern facilities and aims to deliver respectful and efficient services. Through the UDID portal, authorities certify 21 categories of disabilities and link beneficiaries to rights-based welfare schemes. Around 74,000 UDID cards have already been issued in the state.

The minister urged medical professionals to deliver services with empathy, emphasizing that accurate diagnosis is key to ensuring welfare benefits reach the deserving. She reiterated that the government remains committed to empowering persons with disabilities through inclusive policies and services.

Fewer Registrations, Higher Revenue in Telangana

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana's real estate sector is witnessing an unusual trend in the 2025-26 financial year, with property registrations declining but government revenue rising significantly. Data shows that by December, around 12.5 lakh property documents were registered across the state, compared to nearly 13 lakh during the same period last year — a drop of about 50,000 registrations.

Despite this decline, revenue from stamps and registrations increased by nearly Rs 600 crore. The primary reason for this growth is the revision of market values implemented by the state government in early 2026. With higher benchmark values, even fewer transactions are generating more revenue through increased stamp duty and registration charges.

Another contributing factor is the growing preference for home loans. Buyers are increasingly declaring actual market values of properties during registration to secure higher loan amounts from banks. Earlier, many registrations were done at minimum guideline values, but this trend is now shifting toward realistic pricing.

High-value property sales



have also surged in key areas of Hyderabad such as Kokapet, Kondapur, and Nanakramguda, where luxury homes priced above Rs 1 crore are seeing strong demand. According to industry estimates, while transaction volumes dipped slightly, higher-value deals drove an overall revenue growth of about 11 percent.

Between April and December 2025-26, the state earned approximately Rs 11,300 crore from registrations, compared to Rs 10,600 crore during the same period last year, marking a growth of over 6.6 percent. Officials believe that continued investment inflows under the "Telangana Rising" initiative could further boost revenues in the coming months.



CM Reviews Assembly Development Works

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy chaired a review meeting at the Legislative Council Conference Hall to assess proposed development works in the Assembly premises. The meeting was attended by Council Chairman Gutta Sukender Reddy and Assembly

Speaker Prasvad Kumar.

During the review, the Chief Minister directed officials to upgrade the Assembly premises on par with Parliament standards, ensuring enhanced dignity and functionality. He stressed the need to improve privacy for members and proposed setting up a dedicated club for legislators in the Public Gardens. He also

suggested developing walking tracks and sports facilities for members. Officials were instructed to ensure that the Central Hall is ready by the next Assembly session. The CM emphasized protecting heritage structures within the premises and called for strengthening security measures to maintain safety and decorum.

Telangana Exports Surge, IT & Pharma Lead Growth

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana has recorded impressive growth in exports, emerging as a key contributor to India's external trade. According to the Reserve Bank of India's latest report, the state's export value rose sharply from \$14,026 million in 2023-24 to \$19,123 million in 2024-25, registering a robust growth of nearly 36 percent. This surge has helped Telangana secure the seventh position among top exporting states in the country. Experts attribute this growth primarily to the strong performance of IT and pharmaceutical sectors. Hyderabad, a major hub for both industries, has played a crucial role in driving exports. Software services, IT products, bulk drugs, formulations, and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) form the backbone of the state's export portfolio.

In addition to IT and phar-

ma, Telangana has diversified its export base. Engineering goods, chemicals, and aerospace components are gaining traction in global markets. Agricultural exports such as seeds, rice, and cotton are also contributing steadily, ensuring balanced growth across sectors.

While states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu continue to dominate export rankings, Telangana's rapid rise stands out. Analysts note that the combination of a strong IT ecosystem and a robust pharmaceutical industry gives Telangana a competitive edge over many states.

Overall, the state's export performance reflects its growing industrial strength and economic resilience. With continued policy support and global demand, Telangana is poised to climb higher in the list of India's top exporting states in the coming years.

Telangana Emerges as IT Growth Powerhouse

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana is rapidly strengthening its position as one of India's leading IT hubs, with Hyderabad at the center of this transformation. Driven by proactive policies and strong leadership, the state's IT sector has witnessed remarkable growth in recent years, emerging as a key pillar of the economy.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, the government has focused on making IT a major growth engine. Strategic initiatives such as global investment outreach, policy reforms, and industry collaboration have strengthened Telangana's IT ecosystem and enhanced investor confidence.

The state is targeting IT exports of over Rs 3.6 lakh crore and 11 lakh direct jobs for the 2025-26 financial year. In just two years, the sector has recorded growth exceeding 40 percent, surpassing national averages. Employment has also surged from 9.5 lakh in 2023 to over 10.2 lakh in 2024—



25, with further expansion underway. Additionally, nearly 25 lakh indirect jobs are being supported across sectors like real estate, hospitality, and transportation.

Hyderabad has gained global recognition as a top destination for Global Capability Centres (GCCs), with over 300 such centers operating in the city. The government is actively promoting the state at international forums like the World Economic Forum to attract further investments.

Major investments in data centers and emerging technologies are shaping the next

phase of growth. Agreements worth tens of thousands of crores have been signed with leading firms, expected to generate thousands of jobs. The city is also advancing in artificial intelligence, positioning itself as a hub for innovation.

Beyond traditional IT, Telangana is promoting creative industries through animation, gaming, and multimedia policies. With strong digital infrastructure and forward-looking governance, Telangana's IT boom is not just boosting the economy but also creating opportunities and a brighter future for millions.

Power Demand Surges in Telangana Amid Rising Heat

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Power demand in Telangana is witnessing a steady surge, driven by rising temperatures, expanding agriculture, and increasing industrial and domestic consumption. The state has been consistently recording high electricity usage, even approaching national benchmarks despite its smaller size.

Officials said peak demand touched 18,548 MW on March 27 before easing to 13,187 MW by April 24, with daily consumption at 266.92 million units. The agriculture sector remains the largest contributor, with an estimated 29 lakh official pump sets and up to 35 lakh including unofficial connections. Seasonal patterns show sharp spikes during Kharif and Rabi cycles, with demand rising from 11,509 MW in May 2025 to over 16,000 MW in peak monsoon months, and

again climbing during Rabi.

Compared to larger states like Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, Telangana's demand levels remain significantly high, underlining rapid economic and agricultural growth.

To manage peak shortages, power distribution companies have adopted an innovative "power borrowing" model. Agreements with utilities such as Uttar Pradesh allow Telangana to draw up to 3,000 MW daily, to be repaid later with an additional 5 percent power. Similar talks are underway with Madhya Pradesh for 500 MW.

Despite rising demand, authorities maintain that supply remains stable. With further increases expected, the state is strengthening infrastructure and planning ahead to ensure uninterrupted electricity for all sectors.



Grand welcome for BJP State President Ramchander Rao

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao received a grand welcome at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad, on Monday evening after returning from Tirumala,

where he offered prayers on the occasion of his birthday.

Senior party leaders, spokespersons, and functionaries greeted him with flower bouquets and conveyed birthday wishes. A large number of party cad-

res, local leaders, and supporters gathered at the airport, raising slogans and creating a festive atmosphere. Following his arrival, Ramchander Rao proceeded in a huge rally from the airport to the BJP state office at Nampally. Supporters lined

the route, extending greetings and showing enthusiasm.

Several senior leaders, corporators, and party workers participated in the program, marking a strong show of support for the state president.

State Speeds Up Indiramma Housing, Empowers Collectors

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Monday announced a series of measures to accelerate the implementation of the Indiramma Housing Scheme, with a focus on decentralization and transparency.

Addressing a review meeting on housing and revenue issues, the minister said district collectors would be given enhanced powers to ensure faster execution of the scheme. He directed officials to conduct weekly reviews with housing departments and coordinate closely with public representatives to avoid bottlenecks.

The minister clarified that housing sanctions under the scheme would be a continuous process. Applicants who had

not applied earlier can still receive houses if they meet eligibility criteria. He also revealed that special officers would be appointed for erstwhile districts to streamline implementation and resolve local issues efficiently.

Highlighting progress, the minister said that around 3,500 houses have been sanctioned per constituency without political bias, urging legislators to ensure speedy construction by beneficiaries. He instructed officials to reallocate houses if selected beneficiaries fail to proceed with construction. Immediate release of pending bills for beneficiaries who completed basement stages was also ordered. The government will also focus on completing unfinished double-bedroom housing units initiated earlier and ensure basic amenities such as drinking water, elec-

tricity, and drainage. In urban areas facing land constraints, beneficiaries will be allowed to construct G+1 houses ranging between 400 and 600 square feet.

On revenue matters, the minister emphasized that comprehensive land surveys would provide a permanent solution to land disputes. He noted that pilot projects involving survey-based registrations are already underway, with survey map numbers and unique land IDs being issued after registration. He further stated that Revenue Divisional Officers (RDOs) would have final authority in resolving applications related to "sada bainamas" to expedite the process. Plans are also underway to construct new Tehsildar offices in a phased manner and modern sub-registrar offices in every district headquarters.

Women's Safety Key to Development: CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Monday emphasized that ensuring safety and security for women and children is fundamental to a nation's development. Speaking at the ICCC programme, he said countries that prioritize protection for women and children witness faster progress.

The Chief Minister highlighted that India granted voting rights to women soon after independence, crediting leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru for promoting gender equality. He noted that despite progress, challenges and discrimination against women still persist.

Reddy said the Telangana government has taken multi-



ple initiatives to strengthen women's safety, including She Teams, the "Stand With Her" programme, and the newly launched "Spandana" response teams that provide round-the-clock support to victims. He stressed that timely intervention during critical

"golden hours" can save lives and restore confidence among victims.

Highlighting welfare measures, he said Indiramma houses are being allotted in women's names and self-help groups have been empowered through financial assistance

and employment opportunities. He added that free bus travel for women and large-scale bank linkages have enhanced their economic independence.

The Chief Minister also raised concerns over rising drug abuse, linking it to crimes against women and children. He said the government has constituted special enforcement teams to curb narcotics and warned of strict action against offenders, regardless of their status.

Reaffirming his commitment, Reddy said Telangana aims to become a model state where women's safety, empowerment, and dignity are ensured at all levels.

Uncertainty Looms Over Farmers Ahead of Kharif Season

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummalala Nageswara Rao on Monday expressed serious concerns over growing uncertainty among farmers ahead of the upcoming Kharif season, attributing the situation to unclear policies and proposed international trade decisions by the Centre.

In a press statement, the minister warned that a potential India-United States trade agreement could severely impact domestic agriculture, stating that such a move would "hurt farmers' interests" and lead to falling crop prices. He pointed out that even preliminary reports about the agreement have already triggered a sharp decline in market rates, with maize prices dropping by nearly 30 percent and soybean and cotton prices falling by around 20 percent.

The minister noted that agriculture supports nearly 45 percent of the country's population, making it essential for policy decisions to be taken with clarity and caution. However, the absence of clear guidelines from the Centre has left both farmers and state governments in confusion, particularly at a crucial time when crop planning and investment

decisions are usually finalized.

He further highlighted that if the trade agreement materializes, increased imports of products like DDGS (animal feed) and soybean oil from the United States could reduce domestic demand for maize and soybean. This, he warned, may force farmers to shift cropping patterns, causing financial stress, especially in states like Telangana where these crops are widely cultivated.

Criticizing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) system, the minister said that without legal backing, farmers continue to suffer due to market fluctuations. He alleged that the Centre has failed to procure crops effectively, forcing states to bear the burden of purchasing produce at MSP, leading to significant financial strain.

The minister also raised concerns over delays and lack of clarity in fertilizer supply ahead of the season. He accused the Centre of not consulting states on key decisions, calling it a violation of cooperative federalism.

He urged the Centre to provide legal status to MSP, ensure timely fertilizer supply, consult states, and reconsider trade policies to safeguard farmers' livelihoods.

Spandana Teams Launched to Boost Women's Safety

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Seethakka on Monday lauded the launch of "Spandana" response teams aimed at ensuring the safety and protection of women, children, and girls across the state.

The minister said the initiative, launched under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is designed to provide immediate assistance to victims of harassment and violence. "Spandana teams will act as a rapid response police force, offering timely protection to those in distress," she stated. Highlighting the importance of swift action, Seethakka noted that victims often face severe emotional distress and require urgent support. "In many cases, immediate intervention can save lives. The 'golden hours' after an incident are critical in ensuring victims receive medical care and protection," she said.

She added that Telangana Police have been working efficiently in addressing crimes against women, ensuring both the arrest of offenders and timely legal action. Stressing that justice delayed is justice



denied, the minister said the government is committed to delivering swift justice in such cases. Seethakka also called for greater awareness and education, urging the inclusion of lessons on respecting women and understanding legal consequences in school curricula. "Along with punishment, edu-

cation and sensitization are equally important," she said.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, she emphasized that Telangana aims to create a safer environment where women can work and live freely, while also increasing their participation in the state's development.

Hyderabad Emerging as Global Healthcare Hub: CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Monday said Hyderabad is rapidly emerging as a global healthcare destination, while addressing the inauguration of a new Apollo hospital facility. He recalled that the first Apollo Hospitals was established in Chennai 46 years ago under the leadership of Prathap C. Reddy, who played a pioneering role in transforming India's private healthcare sector. "Today, the Apollo brand gives confidence to millions of people," the Chief Minister said, congratulating the organisation for setting high standards in medical services. Reddy highlighted the government's efforts to promote medical tourism in Hyderabad. He said the state has urged the Centre to facilitate direct flights from Middle Eastern countries to cater to international patients.

Plans are also underway to establish a world-class "Health City" and create green channels in coordination with airport authorities to ensure faster transportation of patients to hospitals. Emphasizing Telangana's strength in the pharmaceutical sector, he noted that COVID-19 vaccines were produced in the city and nearly 40 percent of the country's bulk drugs are manufactured here. He praised Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha for his commitment to public healthcare. The Chief Minister assured that the government would extend full support to investors, ensuring safety and a business-friendly environment. "Telangana stands for growth and opportunity. We invite global investors to come and invest," he said, reiterating the state's vision to become a leading healthcare and investment hub.



Telangana Reviews High-Speed Rail Corridor Plans

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

A high-level review meeting on proposed high-speed railway corridors was held at the Secretariat, chaired by Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Monday. The meeting focused on key corridors, including Hyderabad-Pune-Mumbai,

Bharat Future City-Chennai, and Bharat Future City-Bengaluru. Officials from multiple departments participated, including Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, senior R&B officials, railway officers, and representatives from NHSRCL, HMDA, MAUD, and HMRL. During the meeting, officers presented detailed updates

through a PowerPoint presentation, explaining the scope, feasibility, and expected benefits of the projects. Particular emphasis was placed on the Hyderabad-Pune-Mumbai corridor, for which the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has already been completed. The minister reviewed progress and stressed the importance of coordination

among departments to ensure timely execution. He directed officials to address challenges related to land acquisition, infrastructure integration, and inter-agency approvals. The proposed high-speed rail corridors are expected to significantly enhance connectivity between major economic hubs, reduce travel time, and boost

industrial growth. Officials noted that such projects could transform regional transportation and strengthen Telangana's position as a key logistics and investment destination. The government is closely monitoring developments and aims to move forward with the next phases after detailed evaluations and approvals.

VH Demands Caste Census, Raises BC Concerns

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau
Former MP V Hanumantha Rao (VH) on Monday addressed a press meet, raising strong concerns over the absence of caste enumeration in the upcoming census and its impact on Backward Classes (BCs). He said the issue of injustice to BCs became evident during Rahul Gandhi's padyatra and added that he recently met the Congress leader to discuss the matter. VH stated that without proper caste data, BC communities would struggle to achieve fair political representation and growth. Emphasizing that electoral victories depend largely on BC

votes, he alleged that their contributions are often overlooked. He questioned the purpose of a census without caste data and demanded inclusion of an OBC column. VH also urged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to take up the BC issue seriously and called upon BC organizations to unite and raise their voice. While clarifying that his stance is not against women, he stressed the need for equitable representation for all sections. He added that his fight for BC rights would continue and appreciated the state government's initiative of providing sewing machines in constituencies



BRS Holds Silver Jubilee Review Meet

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau
A special meeting of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) began at Telangana Bhavan on Monday under the presided over by party chief K. Chandrashekar Rao, marking the conclusion of the party's silver

jubilee celebrations. The meeting was attended by working president K. T. Rama Rao, along with state executive members, district presidents, MPs, MLAs, MLCs, and former public representatives, reflected a strong show of unity within the party.



Telangana Targets Germany for Overseas Jobs

Hyderabad, date | TPN Bureau
Hyderabad: State Labour and Employment Minister G. Vivek Venkataswamy has asked officials to focus on Germany as a priority destination for overseas employment, aiming to create more job opportunities for youth from Telangana. Chairing a review meeting of the Telangana Overseas Manpower Company at the Secretariat, the minister discussed strategies to expand global placements. He highlighted the need for strengthening skill development programmes, particularly through "training the trainers," and called for the immediate appointment of qualified foreign language instructors. The minister observed that Germany presents significant employment prospects for both skilled workers and graduates from the state. He urged the agency to proactively connect job seekers with overseas opportunities and streamline placement processes. To enhance support for candidates, officials were directed to gather consistent feedback

from individuals already working abroad and submit regular reports. This, he said, would help identify gaps and improve assistance mechanisms for future candidates. Emphasising the importance of cultural readiness, the minister noted that each country has distinct social and workplace practices. He instructed officials to include cultural orientation as part of the training modules to ensure smoother adaptation for candidates moving overseas. The minister also asked TOMCOM to prepare structured, target-driven plans for recruitment and training aligned with international demand. He stressed the need to improve operational efficiency and maintain high standards in delivering services. Highlighting Telangana's potential, Vivek Venkataswamy said the state should emerge as a model for other regions in facilitating overseas employment. He reiterated that with proper training, language skills, and support systems, youth from Telangana can successfully tap into global job markets.

BJP Eyes Power in Telangana, Says Ramchander Rao

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: N. Ramchander Rao on Monday expressed confidence that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is steadily moving towards forming the government in Telangana, citing growing public support and enthusiastic cadre participation. Addressing a media conference, Rao said he had never celebrated his birthday on such a large scale in his political career, and thanked party workers for their overwhelming reception at the airport and later at the party office following his visit to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams. He described the celebrations as just the beginning, adding that the "real festival" would be the day BJP comes to power in the state. Taking a swipe at rival parties, Rao remarked that current political trends in Telangana were unusual, where leaders' appearances at assemblies or even party offices become major news. He emphasized that people expect leaders who are consistently accessible and dedicated to public service, pointing to Narendra Modi as



an example of committed leadership. Rao also announced that the Prime Minister will soon address a massive public meeting at Parade Grounds in Hyderabad, which he said would mark a turning point in Telangana politics. He asserted that public sentiment is shifting towards the BJP, predicting a decline in the influence of parties like the Congress and BRS. Calling upon party cadres, he urged leaders from all wings—including women, youth, SC, ST, OBC, and minor

ity morchas—to work in unison and ensure large-scale participation in the upcoming rally. He maintained that the BJP is gaining strength at the grassroots level and expressed confidence that the party would perform strongly in upcoming elections, including civic bodies like GHMC. Rao concluded by thanking party workers for creating a festive atmosphere and reaffirmed the party's commitment to winning public trust through continuous service.

BRS Calls for Party Revamp, Slams Centre and State Over Telangana Issues

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Senior leader K. T. Rama Rao on Monday outlined key points from a high-level party meeting addressed by K. Chandrashekar Rao, marking the party's formation day and setting the tone for its future political strategy. KCR extended greetings to party leaders and cadres on the occasion and thanked all those who contributed to the Telangana movement. Reflecting on the early days of the party, he elaborated on the difficult socio-political conditions that existed prior to the formation of Telangana and recounted the 25-year-long struggle that ultimately led to statehood. He highlighted how resignations and political positions were strategically used during the movement.

The former Chief Minister also detailed the governance model implemented after Telangana's formation, emphasizing welfare and development initiatives. He cited schemes like Rythu Bandhu as landmark programs that directly supported farmers. However, he criticized the current administration led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, alleging delays in financial assistance to farmers and a resurgence of agrarian distress in the state. KCR expressed concern over issues such as power cuts, farmer suicides, seed and fertilizer shortages, and delays in paddy procurement. He accused the government of failing to ensure timely procurement and questioned the need for prolonged deliberations on such matters. He also pointed to declining conditions in sectors like Singareni and alleged that Telangana, once a model state, is now witnessing



misgovernance. The meeting strongly condemned remarks made in Parliament by BJP MP Tejasvi Surya, who reportedly compared the formation of Telangana to that of Pakistan. KTR criticized both BJP and Congress MPs from the state for remaining silent on the issue, calling it an insult to the self-respect of Telangana's people. He stated that he personally spoke to Surya and conveyed strong objections, following which the MP issued a clarification. On organizational matters, KCR announced a major restructuring of the party. All committees, except the state executive, have been dissolved, and new appointments will be

made soon. Training programs for party workers from the grassroots to the state level are also being planned. Membership drives, both online and offline, will be launched shortly. The party also passed resolutions demanding unconditional paddy procurement across the state and warned of statewide protests if demands are not met. Additionally, it resolved to intensify efforts toward women's reservation and strengthen affiliated wings. KTR also launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of indulging in personal criticism rather than policy-based governance, and urged him to maintain the dignity of his office.

AP Inter Advanced Supplementary Exam Fee Deadline Extended

Tadepalli, April 27, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Board of Intermediate Education, Andhra Pradesh, has extended the deadline for payment of examination fees for the Intermediate Advanced Supplementary Examinations (IPASE May 2026). The new last date for fee payment is April 30, 2026. Secretary of the Board, Sri P. Ranjith Basha, IAS, announced

that students appearing for the examinations scheduled in May 2026 and their parents should take advantage of this final extension. He advised students to ensure timely payment through their respective colleges. He further clarified that no further extension will be granted beyond April 30 under any circumstances. Students have been instructed to complete the fee payment within

the stipulated deadline to avoid inconvenience. The Board urged all junior colleges to inform students immediately and facilitate smooth completion of the process. The notification aims to ensure that eligible candidates are able to appear for the supplementary examinations without missing the opportunity.



New MLCs Take Oath in Legislative Council

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukender Reddy administered the oath of office to Minister Azharuddin and Kodandaram as Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs). The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Coun-

cil Deputy Chairman Banda Prakash Mudiraj, PCC President Mahesh Babu and Vivek. MP Vem Narendar Reddy, along with government whips, MLCs, and MLAs, were also present. The event marked a significant development in the state's legislative proceedings.



Bhongir MP Hits Back at BRS Leadership

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy on Monday launched a sharp attack on the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), responding strongly to recent remarks made by its leadership. Targeting party chief K. Chandrashekar Rao, the MP alleged that the former Chief Minister remains disconnected from ground realities and is unaware of current developments in the state and country. He accused KCR of failing to respond to controversial remarks made by his daughter K. Kavitha, questioning whether his silence implied acceptance.

Kiran Kumar Reddy also refuted claims that opposition MPs remained silent in Parliament, stating that Congress members had raised their voices in protest. He further alleged that BRS had previously facilitated the election of BJP MPs for political reasons. The MP criticized BRS for focusing on past achievements instead of addressing present public issues. He said the Congress government is committed to governance and public welfare, while urging BRS to play a constructive opposition role. Calling for clarity, he demanded that KCR respond to the allegations raised by Kavitha before commenting on other issues.

Telangana Pushes for CBI Probe into Kaleshwaram Project

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has decided to intensify efforts to secure a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation into alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project. Acting on legal advice, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to formally write to the CBI seeking an immediate investigation. He also instructed ministers to seek an appointment with the CBI Director and, if required, personally present a memorandum requesting a detailed inquiry. The decision follows a recent review meeting attended by the Chief Minister and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, where the current legal and administrative status of the issue was discussed. During the meeting, senior Supreme Court advocate Abhishek Singhvi briefed the government on possible legal options and

helped outline the next course of action. According to legal inputs shared during the discussion, there are currently no pending cases in courts related to the Kaleshwaram issue, which means there are no legal hurdles preventing a central agency probe. It was also clarified that the High Court had not raised objections to the constitution of the Justice P.C. Ghosh Commission or its findings, providing further scope for additional investigation if required. Senior officials and policy-makers, including Vem Narendar Reddy, Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao, and other top bureaucrats, participated in the meeting, some through virtual mode. The government is now preparing to take the matter forward at the national level, aiming to ensure a comprehensive and transparent investigation into the project.

Summer Power Demand Review: Minister Sets Key Targets

Amaravati, April 27, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Minister for Power Gottipati Ravi Kumar reviewed the performance of senior officials of the electricity department in Amaravati. The meeting was attended by CMDs of the three DISCOMs and the Joint Managing Director of Transco. He noted that summer demand is expected to rise to 275-285 million units per day and directed officials to ensure uninterrupted supply. He stressed that there

should be no power cuts during peak season and instructed officials to prevent breakdowns through better planning and maintenance. The Minister also asked the department to reduce reliance on power purchases and increase domestic generation capacity. He reviewed the progress of RDSS, PM Surya Ghar, and PM Kusum schemes and directed faster implementation. Field-level inspections were emphasized to improve execution efficiency.



BJP Telangana Chief Ramchander Rao's Birthday Celebrated

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

The birthday of BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao was celebrated grandly at the party's state office on Monday, marked by service activities and enthusiastic participation from party leaders and workers. As part of the celebrations, a free eye camp and blood donation drive were organized at a welfare association hall in Tarnaka, Secunderabad. Similar service initiatives, including medical and blood donation camps, were conducted across the state, receiving a positive response from the public. Later, party leaders and cadres gathered at the BJP state office for cake-cutting celebrations, creating a festive atmosphere. Several senior leaders, including General Secretary Dr. N. Goutham Rao, State Secretary O. Srinivas Reddy, and spokesperson N.V. Subhash, attended the event along with other leaders and staff. Currently on a visit to Tirumala, Ramchander Rao expressed gratitude to well-wishers and party workers for their wishes and service activities conducted on the occasion.



Dana Kishore Meets Minister Seethakka

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Dana Kishore, who recently assumed charge as Special Chief Secretary of the Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department, met Minister Seethakka at Praja Bhavan. During the meeting, the minister congratulated Dana Kishore and expressed confidence that his experience would strengthen rural development initiatives. She emphasized the need to focus on comprehensive rural growth, strengthening the Panchayati Raj system, and delivering efficient services to people. She also directed officials to accelerate welfare programs, improve infrastructure, and ensure better implementation of schemes aimed at uplifting rural communities.



Illegal Shed Construction Raises Concerns

Quthbullapur, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Residents of Dulapally in Quthbullapur have raised concerns over an alleged illegal shed construction near Kompally Circle, opposite Ashoka La Maison. Locals claim that the structure is being built openly without necessary permissions, violating town planning regulations. The construction, reportedly ongoing for the past 20 days along the main road from Dulapally to Kompally, has sparked anger among residents. They question why authorities have not taken action despite the visible violations. Locals have also expressed suspicion over possible negligence or inaction by officials, demanding immediate intervention. They urged town planning authorities to halt the construction and initiate strict action as per rules to prevent further violations and ensure compliance with regulations.

Collector Warns Against Illegal Adoption, Launches Awareness Drive

Nalgonda, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Nalgonda District Collector B. Chandrasekhar has warned that illegal adoption is a punishable offense and strict action will be taken against those violating adoption laws. Speaking at an official event on Monday, the Collector inaugurated a special help desk at the District Collectorate to promote awareness on legal adoption procedures. The initiative is part of the state government's "PrajaPalana-Pragati" 99-day programme, under which a week-long campaign on child safety, protection, and anti-drug awareness is being conducted from April 27 to May 2. Addressing officials and the public, the Collector emphasized that individuals wishing to adopt children must strictly follow legal procedures and approach the Women and Child Welfare Department. He cautioned that any form of illegal adoption would invite stringent legal consequences. Citizens were advised to contact the District Welfare Officer's office or the District Child Protection Unit for guidance and support regarding adoption. To strengthen awareness, the Collector directed officials to set up help desks not only at the Collectorate but also at public places such as bus stands and railway stations. He further instructed authorities to organize awareness programmes in key towns including Miryalaguda, Devarakonda, Haliya, Nakrekal, Chityal, Nagarjunasagar, and Chandur, particularly in densely populated areas. At the village level, Village Child Protection Committees have been tasked with educating people about the importance of legal adoption through Gram Panchayats. Officials aim to ensure that prospective adoptive parents are well-informed about lawful procedures, thereby preventing exploitation and safeguarding children's rights.



BJP SC Morcha Holds Executive Meeting in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) SC Morcha convened its newly formed state executive meeting at the party's state office on Monday under the leadership of state president N. Ramchander Rao. The meeting was chaired by SC Morcha state president Kanthi Kiran. Addressing the gathering, Kanthi Kiran congratulated the newly appointed office-bearers and outlined the roadmap for strengthening the organization. He called upon leaders to work with commitment and integrity for the growth of the BJP and to enhance their individual credibility to secure positions in legislative bodies. He stressed the need to focus on issues faced by Scheduled Castes in the state and work actively towards their resolution. He also urged party leaders to continue their struggle until the implementation of the SC Declaration promised by the Congress during the Chevella Assembly elections. Emphasizing unity, he advised leaders to work closely with senior members and not be distracted by minor issues, ensuring continuous efforts for party development. The meeting witnessed participation from SC Morcha state office-bearers and executive members. On the occasion, the newly appointed leaders felicitated Kanthi Kiran in recognition of his leadership.



BRS Marks 26th Foundation Day in Quthbullapur

Quthbullapur, April 27 | TPN Bureau

The 26th foundation day of the BRS party was celebrated with enthusiasm at Suchitra Circle in Quthbullapur on Sunday. Senior leader Veerareddy Narendra Reddy hoisted the party flag to mark the occasion. Telangana activist and senior leader Sampath-Madhav Reddy attended as the chief guest and recalled the party's founding ideals. He urged cadres to work collectively to further strengthen the party in the future. Several leaders, including Kishan Rao, Kunta Siddhiramulu, and others, along with women leaders, participated. A large number of party workers attended, making the event a grand success.



Fuel Queues Return, Officials Deny Shortage

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Long lines and "No Stock" signs were reported at several fuel stations across Hyderabad on Sunday evening and Monday, raising concerns among commuters just days after similar disruptions earlier this month. Many petrol pumps reportedly ran out of fuel by Sunday night, leading to heavy crowds from early Monday, with customers waiting for hours to refill. Drivers of LPG-run autorickshaws were among the worst affected, claiming extended delays, in some cases up to six hours, to access fuel. The situation caused inconvenience to daily commuters and transport operators across the city. However, the Telangana Civil Supplies Department clarified that there was no actual shortage of petrol or diesel in the state. Officials urged the public not to rely on rumours circulating on social media, stating that adequate stocks were available to meet demand across transportation and agriculture sectors. Under the supervision of Commissioner M. Stephen Raveendra, the department said it was working closely with oil marketing companies to ensure uninterrupted supply. According to official figures, fuel supply until 4 pm on Monday stood at 7,443 kilolitres of petrol and 11,081 kilolitres of diesel, totaling 18,524 kilolitres. Meanwhile, industry sources indicated that rising international crude oil prices have put pressure on oil companies, with bulk buyers reportedly paying significantly higher rates. They cautioned that panic buying by the public could worsen temporary disruptions. Despite official assurances, some outlets continued to report shortages, particularly of diesel. Telangana has an extensive fuel distribution network, with thousands of retail outlets supplied by major companies such as Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum, and Bharat Petroleum. Authorities reiterated that supply levels remain stable and appealed to citizens to avoid unnecessary stockpiling.



Deputy CM's PRO Madhusudhan Passes Away

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Maraboyina Madhusudhan, Chief Public Relations Officer to Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, passed away on Monday following a severe cardiac arrest. He was undergoing treatment at a private hospital after complaining of chest pain when his condition worsened. Doctors shifted him to Apollo Spectra Hospital, where he suffered another cardiac arrest during treatment and was declared dead. His sudden demise has shocked colleagues and the media fraternity. Madhusudhan had earlier served as a senior journalist with leading media organizations such as Eenadu and Andhra Jyothi, earning a reputation for integrity and dedication to the profession. He is survived by his wife and a son. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka expressed deep grief over his passing, describing him as an honest and committed journalist who upheld the values of the profession. He extended condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for strength and courage for them during this difficult time, assuring support in their hour of need.

CM Revanth Reddy Condoles Madhusudhan's Demise

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed deep shock over the sudden demise of Maraboyina Madhusudhan, Chief PRO to Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka. He said the untimely death was deeply distressing and recalled Madhusudhan's dedicated service as a journalist in reputed newspapers and as a committed public relations officer. The Chief Minister conveyed heartfelt condolences and extended his sympathies to the bereaved family.



Minister Ponnamparthi Pays Tribute to Journalist Madhusudhan

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Ponnamparthi paid floral tributes to the mortal remains of senior journalist and Chief PRO to Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, Maraboyina Madhusudhan, at Apollo Spectra Hospital on Monday. The minister also consoled the bereaved family and expressed deep shock over his sudden demise. He recalled Madhusudhan as a close friend since student days and a dedicated professional who served both journalism and public relations with sincerity. Prabhakar conveyed his heartfelt condolences and prayed for the departed soul, urging strength and courage for the family during this difficult time.

Probe Sought in 2BHK Allotments

Quthbullapur, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Senior Congress leader A.R. Sadu Yadav has demanded a comprehensive inquiry into alleged irregularities in 2BHK housing allotments at Bahadurpally under Dundigal Circle. Addressing the media, he said reports of malpractice have surfaced and called for a transparent probe to establish the facts. He rejected allegations that such activities are being carried out in the name of the Congress party, stating they are baseless. Yadav noted that the 2BHK housing scheme was initiated during the previous BRS government and questioned whether genuine beneficiaries received the houses. He alleged that many allotments may have favored BRS workers and urged the formation of a special committee to investigate. He further stated that any wrongdoing, if proven, should lead to cancellation of ineligible allotments. He assured that the Congress would act firmly against any irregularities and continue working for the welfare of the people.





Ramchander Rao Seeks Action Over Insult to Hindus

Tirumala, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao visited the sacred Tirumala Lord Sri Venkateswara Temple on Monday and offered prayers. Speaking to the media, he demanded strict action against those allegedly insulting Hindus and stressed that govern-

ments should function with a focus on public welfare. He also appreciated the arrangements at Tirumala, noting that the quality of prasadam and overall management systems were satisfactory.His remarks come amid ongoing discussions on religious sentiments and governance priorities.



PonnamPrabhakar Offers Prayers at Srisailem

Srisailem, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Minister PonnamPrabhakar visited the sacred Srisailem Lord MallikarjunaSwamy Temple along with his family and offered special prayers. During the visit, the minister prayed for abundant rainfall in the state, prosperity in agriculture, and good health

and happiness for all citizens. He also sought blessings for the smooth implementation of welfare schemes and development programs undertaken by the government. The temple visit was marked by traditional rituals, with the minister expressing hope for continued progress and well-being across the state.

Bhatti Vikramarka Urges Public to Join Census 2027

Khammam, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti VikramarkaMallu participated in the Self-Enumeration process as part of Census 2027, emphasizing the importance of accurate data collection for effective governance. On Monday morning, at the PrajaBhavan camp office in Khammam, the Deputy CM personally completed his self-enumeration by registering his details through the official online portal. By doing so, he encouraged citizens across the state to actively take part in the census process. Speaking on the occasion, Bhatti Vikramarka highlighted that every family must ensure their details are correctly recorded. He stated that accurate participation in Census

2027 would help the government deliver welfare schemes efficiently and ensure that benefits reach the right beneficiaries without gaps. The Deputy CM also noted that the self-enumeration system simplifies data collection and makes the process more transparent and accessible to the public. He urged people to make use of the online facility and complete their registration responsibly. Officials including District Collector TS Divakar, Chief Planning Officer Srinivas, and Technical Assistant Himavarsa were present during the program. Authorities reiterated that public cooperation is key to the success of Census 2027 and to strengthening the delivery of government services across Telangana.



Collector Conducts Surprise Inspection of PHC

Medchal, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Medchal-Malkajgiri District Collector Manu Choudhary conducted a surprise inspection of the Urban Primary Health Centre in Medchal on Monday to review medical services.During the visit, the Collector inspected various departments and inquired about the number of patients visiting the hospital daily. He directed officials to ensure better healthcare services for all patients. The medicine storage area was also examined, where he personally checked stock levels and verified expiry dates of tablets, stressing that only quality medicines should be distributed.Interacting with hospital staff, the Collector sought feedback on infrastruc-



ture needs. Staff requested additional washroom facilities for patients and employees. Responding positively, he asked officials to submit proposals and assured that steps would be taken soon for construction. Deputy TahsildarAnusha, Revenue Inspector Kumar, and medical and health department staff accompanied the Collector during the inspection.



BRS Foundation Day Celebrated

Medchal, April 27 | TPN Bureau

The foundation day of the Bharat RashtraSamithi (BRS) was celebrated with enthusiasm across Medchal district on Monday. Party leaders and workers hoisted flags at various locations, including the Medchal town center, marking the occasion.

Former District Library Chairman Bhaskar Yadav recalled that the party was founded by K. Chandrashekar Rao with the goal of achieving a separate Telangana state. He highlighted the struggles undertaken for statehood and credited the leadership for realizing that vision. Bhaskar Yadav also expressed concern over the pace of development under the current Congress government, alleging a slowdown since it came to power.

Several leaders, including Dayanand Yadav, Vishnu Chari, and others, along with party workers, participated in the celebrations.

BRS Marks 25th Foundation Day in Jangaon

Jangaon, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Former minister ErrabelliDayakar Rao hoisted the party flag at the BRS district office in Jangaon on Monday, marking the 25th foundation day of the Bharat RashtraSamithi (BRS). Addressing party leaders and cadres, Dayakar Rao said the party has completed 25 years of its journey and described BRS as a movement that “broke the chains of oppression” to achieve a separate Telangana state. He credited K. Chandrashekar Rao for leading the struggle with determination and securing statehood against all odds. He stated that beyond achieving Telangana, the party also

played a key role in preserving the region’s culture and traditions while steering the state towards rapid development during its decade-long rule. “BRS is a symbol of self-respect for the people of Telangana,” he said, adding that the party’s contributions cannot be separated from the state’s progress. Highlighting welfare initiatives introduced during BRS governance, he pointed to schemes such as enhanced pensions, financial assistance for marriages under Kalyana Lakshmi, and farmer-focused programs like RythuBandhu and RythuBima. He also noted efforts to provide drinking water to households and irrigation facilities to farmers. Taking a swipe at the current Congress government,

Dayakar Rao alleged that several promises made to the people remain unfulfilled. He questioned the delay in implementing financial assistance schemes for women and higher pensions, accusing the government of failing to deliver on its commitments. He further claimed that development in the state has slowed down and that internal differences within the ruling party are affecting governance. Expressing confidence in the party’s future, he asserted that BRS would return to power and once again lead Telangana on the path of development. Party leaders from state, district, and constituency levels, including representatives from Station Ghanpur and Palakurthi, participated in the program.

‘One Ward Everyday’ Drive Begins

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

The Cyberabad Municipal Corporation has rolled out a new initiative titled “One Ward Everyday,” aimed at improving grassroots governance and civic service delivery. As part of the programme, Commissioner G. Srijana will conduct daily inspections across wards to assess infrastructure, identify issues, and ensure timely resolution. The initiative was launched with a field visit in the Serilingampally zone, covering areas in Ameenpur circle and RC

Puram. Officials reviewed key aspects such as street lighting, drainage systems, sanitation concerns, and overall civic amenities. The programme is expected to span all three zones of the corporation, covering a total of 76 wards. During Monday’s inspection, officials interacted with residents and representatives of resident welfare associations (RWAs) to understand local concerns. At Kakatiyanagar Park in Ramachandrapuram, residents requested installation of a streetlight meter and better

maintenance of the park. They also suggested relocating the circle office to the MPDO building in RC Puram. Authorities also discussed plans to construct a first floor for the local community hall, also known as MahilaBhavan. In addition, development works at Rayasamudram Lake were reviewed, with funding support already approved by Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority. Officials said the initiative would help ensure closer monitoring and faster resolution of civic issues.

Arrangements in Place for Sri NarasimhaJayanti at Banjara Hills Temple

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

The Hare Krishna Golden Temple has announced comprehensive arrangements for the celebration of Sri Nar-

asimhaJayanti on April 30. The festival, also known as Sri NarasimhaChaturdasi, commemorates the divine appearance of Lord Narasimha, an important incarnation in Hindu tradition. Temple authorities stated that the shrine is among the oldest Sri Lakshmi NarasimhaSwamy temples in the city, with a history be-

lieved to date back to the 8th century CE. The presiding deity is revered as a Swayambhu (self-manifested) form, appearing on an UdbhavaShila in a rare standing posture



Court Orders Unlocking of Disputed Land

Quthbullapur, April 27 | TPN Bureau

A significant development took place in a land dispute at Dundigal under Gandimaisamamandal in Quthbullapur, after court intervention led to the removal of official restrictions on a contested property. The issue pertains to land in Survey No. 166/9/2 at Bowrampet village, where locals had alleged encroachment and lodged a complaint during a Prajavani grievance program at the MedchalCollectorate. Acting on the complaint, revenue authorities had taken control of the land, locking the compound wall and placing no-

tices pending inquiry. Challenging this action, landowner SargariJivender Reddy approached the High Court. The court questioned the legality of locking the property solely on the basis of an inquiry and observed that such action was not justified without proper legal grounds. Following the court’s orders, revenue officials removed the notices and unlocked the premises on Monday, restoring possession to the landowner. The incident has sparked local discussion, highlighting concerns over administrative actions and legal procedures in land disputes.



MLA Felicitates Telangana Activists

Hyderabad, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Uppal MLA BandariLakshma Reddy on Monday felicitated Telangana movement activists at a program held in Nacharam, marking the BRS foundation day celebrations. The MLA, along with local corporator Shanti Sai Jan Shekhar, hoisted the party

flag and honored activists who played a key role in the Telangana movement. Speaking on the occasion, he credited K. Chandrashekar Rao as public representatives to day. Several senior leaders and party members participated in the event, appreciating the contributions of activists and celebrating the party’s journey.

Vigilance Teams Inspect

Karimnagar, April 27 | TPN Bureau

Vigilance and enforcement authorities carried out extensive inspections in Jagtial Municipality on Monday, following recent raids by the Anti-Corruption Bureau over alleged irregularities in property assessments. Nearly 60 officials, organized into eight teams, conducted checks across the municipal area, focusing primarily on the revenue department. The exercise centered on verifying building assessments and the accuracy of property tax calculations. During the inspections, teams physically measured both commercial and residential buildings to compare actual dimensions with those recorded in official

municipal data. Preliminary findings pointed to mismatches between on-ground measurements and existing records, raising concerns about possible undervaluation of properties and loss of revenue. The back-to-back action by vigilance authorities and the ACB has intensified scrutiny on the functioning of the civic body. Officials are now reviewing documents and cross-checking data to identify lapses and fix accountability. Meanwhile, local residents have demanded strict action against those found responsible for any irregularities. Authorities stated that the verification process is ongoing and appropriate measures will be taken based on the findings of the inquiry.

ACB Catches Bapatla Municipal RI Red-Handed in Bribery Case

Bapatla, April 27 | TPN
Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials caught Municipal Revenue Inspector Shaik Imam red-handed while accepting a bribe of 25,000 in Bapatla on Monday. He had allegedly demanded 60,000 from a resident for transferring house tax records into his name, including an official fee and personal bribe.
ACB DSP Pratap said the trap was laid after a complaint from the victim, and the accused was caught at a tea stall on Suryalanka Road. Following the raid, panic spread among municipal staff, with several employees fleeing the office. The accused has been booked and will be produced before the ACB court. Officials



warned against corruption and urged citizens to report bribery demands.

Indrakeeladri Sends Silk Offerings for Annavaram Kalyanotsavam

Vijayawada / Annavaram, April 27 | TPN
On the auspicious occasion of the celestial wedding festivities (Kalyanotsavam) of Sri Veera Venkata Satyanarayana Swamy at Annavaram, silk garments were ceremonially presented from the Sri Kanaka Durga Temple atop Indrakeeladri in Vijayawada on Sunday evening with great devotion and grandeur. Continuing a long-standing tradition between the two major pilgrimage centres, an official delegation from Indrakeeladri Temple visited the Ratnagiri shrine at Annavaram carrying the silk offerings and puja materials meant for the deity. The delegation was led by Temple Trust Board Chairman Borra Radhakrishna (Gandhi) along with his spouse, and Executive Officer V.K. Seena Naik along with his spouse. They were

warmly received by the Annavaram temple authorities with traditional honours and mangala vadyams.
The silk garments were formally offered to the presiding deity Sri Satyanarayana Swamy as part of the ceremonial rituals conducted during the Kalyanotsavam. Later, Vedic scholars under the supervision of Annavaram EO Chakradhara Rao offered Vedic blessings to the visiting team from Vijayawada. Temple officials from both sides exchanged views on religious traditions and festival practices. Trust Board members Avvaru Srinivasa Rao and P. Raghava Raju, Chief Priest R. Srinivasa Sastri, and other temple staff participated in the event, which highlighted the deep spiritual connection between Indrakeeladri and Annavaram temples.

Collector Calls for Speedy Completion of Jaladhara Works and Self-Enumeration Process

Kurnool, April 27 | TPN
District Collector Dr. A. Siri directed officials to expedite works under the Jaladhara-Jalaharati scheme and ensure timely completion of all sanctioned activities. She held a video conference with district and mandal-level officers on Monday from the Collectorate Conference Hall, reviewing progress of irrigation works, labor mobilization under the VBJ Ramji scheme, census operations, and land re-survey activities. The Collector observed that only Krishnagiri and Alur mandals had shown satisfactory progress in identifying works related to farm ponds and percolation tanks, while several other mandals

including Adoni, Kurnool, and Mantralayam were lagging behind. She instructed officials to identify repairable structures and submit reports immediately. She stressed the need to increase labour participation under employment schemes and improve coordination among MPDOs, APOs, and field assistants. She also directed officials to accelerate the self-enumeration registration process under census operations by involving all departments. On land re-survey, she ordered swift completion of e-KYC verification and correction of errors in draft patadar passbooks. Officials from multiple departments participated in the review meeting.

PIN POINT

Passengers Stranded as Bus Runs Out of Fuel Near Ibrahimpatnam

Vijayawada: Passengers of a Verma Travels bus from Hyderabad were left stranded near Ibrahimpatnam after it ran out of diesel. The driver allegedly fled the scene, switching off his phone. With no response from the management, distressed passengers waited as police arrived at the spot.

Alliance Govt Releases Water to Tanks for Farmers' Welfare

Bukkapatnam, April 27 | TPN

Reiterating that farmer welfare is the core agenda of the alliance government, Puttaparthi MLA Smt. Palle Sindhura Reddy stated that irrigation water is being supplied to tanks even during the peak summer season, fulfilling promises made to farmers. She said the government has once again demonstrated its commitment by releasing water based on farmers' needs rather than election cycles.
On Monday, water was released from the Marala Reservoir in Bukkapatnam Mandal to Jilledu Banda and Gunjepalli tanks in Mudigubba Mandal of Dharmavaram



constituency. The programme was jointly inaugurated by MLA Palle Sindhura Reddy, former Minister Dr. Palle Raghunatha Reddy, and Dharmavaram TDP in-charge Paritala

Chalivendras Fail to Meet Public Thirst Needs

Vijayawada, April 27 | TPN

Several chalivendrams (free drinking water kiosks) set up across Vijayawada city to provide relief during the intense summer heat are not serving their intended purpose, as many of them are found either empty or functioning without proper cooling arrangements. These kiosks were established to ensure safe and accessible drinking water for pedestrians, commuters, street vendors, and daily wage workers who are exposed to extreme temperatures throughout the day. However, in several busy areas, including parts of Vijayawada West constituency, the water cans installed at these centres are either not being refilled regularly or are found completely dry.
In some locations, though water is available, it is not chilled, reducing its effectiveness during peak heat conditions. This has led to growing dissatisfaction among the public, who feel that the initiative



is suffering due to lack of maintenance and supervision. Chalivendrams are considered a vital public welfare measure during summer, especially as heat waves increase the risk of dehydration and heat-related health issues. Medical experts stress that timely access to cool drinking water can significantly reduce such risks.

Citizens are urging municipal authorities to ensure strict monitoring, regular refilling of water cans, and proper functioning of cooling systems. They also emphasize the need for accountability so that these public welfare structures serve their real purpose instead of remaining symbolic installations during the crucial summer months.

Public Grievance Redressal Programme Addresses Issues

Chittoor/ Tirupati, April 27 | TPN

The Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programmes held in Chittoor district and Tirupati Municipal Corporation on Monday collectively addressed public issues through direct interaction with officials.
In Chittoor district, the police PGRS programme received 72 petitions from citizens across various categories including land disputes, monetary issues, family conflicts, cybercrime, harassment, theft, and service-related grievances.

District SP Tushar Dudi, IPS, who attended the programme at Palamaner DSP office, personally interacted with petitioners and directed officials to take immediate action. He stressed priority resolution for issues concerning women, senior citizens, and vulnerable groups. Additional SP S.R. Rajasekhar Raju and DSP Venkatanarayana also conducted grievance sessions in Chittoor town. 27 Petitions Submitted at Tirupati Municipal Corporation
At the Tirupati Municipal Corporation, In-charge Com-

missioner Sharada Devi stated that 27 petitions were received under the "Dial Your Commissioner" and PGRS programme. Of these, 23 were submitted in person and 4 via phone. Complaints included water supply issues, encroachments, mosquito menace, illegal constructions, and delays in BPS and LRS applications. Officials were directed to conduct field inspections and ensure speedy resolution. Across both programmes, authorities reiterated their commitment to accessible governance and prompt grievance redressal.

Tirupati Showcases Green Vision at Global Climate Forum in South Korea

Tirupati, April 27 | TPN

Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) Chairman Dollars Divakar Reddy and Vice Chairman R. Govinda Rao represented Tirupati at the "World Climate Cities Forum" held in Yeosu, South Korea, highlighting the city's ongoing efforts toward sustainable and eco-friendly urban development. The international forum focused on climate action, environmental protection, and building sustainable cities. TUDA Chairman Divakar Reddy presented Tirupati's initiatives aimed at increasing green cover, improving solid waste management systems, and promoting energy-efficient transport solutions. He emphasized the city's vision of becoming a model for climate-resilient urban development while retaining its spiritual significance.
He also held discussions with global delegates on adopting best practices in environmental conservation and expressed Tirupati's willingness to collaborate



with international cities in implementing sustainable infrastructure projects. Vice Chairman R. Govinda Rao interacted with mayors, urban planners, and environmental experts from various countries, studying innovative approaches to transform urban and rural regions into smart, clean, and technolo-

gy-driven cities. The TUDA delegation stated that the insights gained from the forum would be utilized to strengthen environmental initiatives in the Tirupati region, aiming to place the city among globally recognized sustainable urban centers.

Helmet is Life Shield, Not a Fine Avoidance Tool Says Bapatla SP

Bapatla, April 27 | TPN

Bapatla District SP B. Umamaheswar appealed to two-wheeler riders to treat helmets not as a tool to avoid traffic fines but as a vital "life shield" that protects them from fatal head injuries. As part of the Shiro Raksha - Prana Raksha awareness campaign, he interacted with motorists at Masjid Center and Hi Restaurant junctions in Chirala on Monday. He stressed that most road accident deaths occur due to head injuries and said it is irrational to hesitate in buying a hel-

met worth a few hundred rupees while spending lakhs on a vehicle. He reiterated that helmets must be worn even for short-distance travel. The SP said 630 awareness programs, 55 bike rallies, and direct counseling of over 25,000 motorists have been conducted across the district. Police personnel and government staff had earlier set an example by wearing helmets themselves. DSP Moin and other officers participated in the program. The SP also appreciated riders who were already following helmet safety norms.



Prakasam Athletes Shine with Gold Medals in National and International Events

Darsi, April 27 | TPN

Prakasam district athletes brought laurels at national and international platforms with outstanding performances. A. Ravi Naidu, Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Sports Authority, congratulated Velidi Sri Maruthi Prasanna Kumar, a 10th-grade student of Vennuru ZP High School, Kondepi mandal, for winning gold in Senior

Division Shot Put at the National Special Olympics Bharat Athletics Championship held in Rohtak, Haryana.
In another achievement, Reddy Rama Tulasi of Ongole and her husband Aditya Kumar secured two gold medals each in Triple Jump and Javelin Throw at the World Masters Sports Championship held in Thailand from April 17 to 19, 2026.

PIN POINT

Food Donation Marks Sardar Abhinand Yadav Birth Anniversary

Guntur: On the 41st birth anniversary of late Sri Pasham Sardar Abhinand Yadav, Founder of Versatile Services Trust distributed food packets, clothes, rice, and snacks to the needy near the Naidupeta dumping yard. Trust Chairman Pasham Srikrishnadevaraya Yadav and members highlighted his legacy of service and urged continued support for the poor.

Invitation Extended for Sri Vedanarayana Swamy Brahmotsavams

Nagalapuram: Temple officials of Sri Vedanarayana Swamy Temple visited MLA Koneti Adimulam and formally invited him to the Brahmotsavams scheduled from May 1 to May 9 in Nagalapuram, Tirupati district. Temple Inspector Chengalrayulu, Chief Priest Nagaraja Bhattacharya and others presented the invitation card and offered blessings to the MLA and his family.

BJP Leaders Meet Telangana State President in Tirupati

Tirupati: After darshan of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala, AP BJP Vice President Kola Anand and party leaders met Telangana BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao in Tirupati and conveyed birthday greetings. Leaders felicitated him with Lord Srikalahastiswara Swamy prasadam and Seshva Vastram. State General Secretary Nagothu Ramesh Naidu and other leaders participated in the programme.

42 Held in IPL Cricket Betting Racket Bust in Bapatla

Bapatla, April 27 | TPN

Bapatla District Police busted a cricket betting racket operating during the ongoing IPL season and arrested 42 individuals, including 12 sub-bookies and 30 bettors, in coordinated raids across Epurupalem, Vetapalem, Chirala, and Cherukupalli limits.
Acting on instructions of District SP B. Uma Maheshwar, special teams led by CCS DSP P. Jagadeesh Naik conducted the raids and seized 51,400 in cash, 25 mobile phones, one car, and one motorcycle. Police said the accused were conducting bets through WhatsApp groups and phone

calls, wagering on match outcomes and run-based categories such as "Fancy" and "Favourite."
SP Uma Maheshwar stated that key bookies operating from other districts and states have been identified and efforts are underway to apprehend them. He warned that youth are increasingly falling into betting traps, leading to financial loss and criminal activity. He appealed to the public to treat IPL as entertainment and avoid gambling. Police reiterated that strict legal action will be taken against anyone involved in betting activities, online or offline.



Urgent Need for Temporary Open Shelters in Andhra Pradesh to Protect Vulnerable Children

B.V.S. Kumar
Former Chairman
Child Welfare Committee
Krishna district

As part of safeguarding child rights under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, as amended in 2021, the primary responsibility of rescuing vulnerable children, ensuring their care, rehabilitation, and reunification with families' rests with the State Government.

As mandated under the Act, every district must have a Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and a Child Welfare Committee (CWC), which are empowered to pass orders relating to the care, protection, rehabilitation, and restoration of children in need. Rescued children, identified by Childline services, NGOs, Police, and the Department of Women and Child Welfare are required to be produced before the CWC and temporarily accommodated in licensed Open Shelters until they are safely reunited with their families or rehabilitated in suitable Child Care Institutions.

Following the reorganization of districts in Andhra Pradesh from 13 to 26, the Government issued G.O. Rt. No. 38 dated 12.04.2023, sanctioning the establishment of JJBs, CWCs, and District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) in the 13 newly created districts.

Accordingly, the Department

of Juvenile Welfare, Correctional Services and Welfare of Street Children, Government of Andhra Pradesh, has issued a notification dated 22.12.2025 for the appointment of Chairpersons for Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) and Social Worker Members for Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) across all 26 districts of the State. The interviews for these positions were conducted by the duly constituted Selection Committee from 4th April 2026 to 20th April 2026. The Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards are expected to commence functioning in the respective districts shortly.

While these statutory bodies are expected to pass orders on production of vulnerable children before them in temporary Open Shelters for safety and to take steps to reunite them with their parents or to place them in some licensed Child Care Institution as a part of rehabilitation, a critical gap remains here.

There are no Temporary Open Shelters for boys and girls in several new district headquarters. This poses significant challenges in implementing CWC orders, especially during emergencies and night rescues, as children must be transported to distant

neighbouring districts for temporary accommodation. Such delays can adversely affect the safety, well-being, and timely rehabilitation of rescued children.

In light of these concerns, there is an urgent need for the Government of Andhra Pradesh to:

- Establish Temporary Open Shelters in all newly formed district headquarters
- Ensure separate facilities for boys and girls
- Collaborate with local NGOs and the Department of Women Development and Child Welfare for effective management
- Further, until such shelters are established, the Government should identify and officially notify "Places of Safety" at district headquarters to facilitate immediate placement of rescued children, ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act and minimizing hardship to children and their families.

Timely intervention in this regard will significantly strengthen the child protection system in the State and uphold the rights and dignity of vulnerable children.

Public life demands restraint, dignity and a sense of responsibility. Politicians are expected to disagree sharply, but without abandoning propriety. Yet recent remarks by senior political leaders show how quickly public discourse can slip from debate into insult. What should have been discussions on governance and policy are increasingly turning into personal attacks, sensational accusations and reckless statements.

Two recent controversial comments by prominent politicians have once again highlighted this decline in standards. These were not merely isolated slips of the tongue or harmless political rhetoric. They reflected a larger problem, the growing erosion of civility in Indian politics, where outrage often replaces reason and provocation becomes a substitute for ideology.

Political leaders occupy positions of trust and influence. Their words shape public opinion and often set the tone for national conversation. When they indulge in irresponsible remarks, the damage extends far beyond a news cycle. It weakens democratic institutions and encourages supporters to normalize hostility and division.

The language used in politics today has become increasingly coarse. Instead of discussing unemployment, inflation, education or healthcare, public attention is diverted toward personal controversies and provocative statements. Leaders often attack each other's families, personal lives or identities rather than policies. Such behaviour reduces politics to spectacle and leaves governance in the background. This trend is dangerous because it lowers public expectations. Citizens begin to accept abuse as normal political conduct. The focus shifts from accountability to entertainment. Elections become contests of outrage rather than contests of ideas. This harms democracy because democracy depends on informed debate, not verbal warfare. The judiciary has repeatedly reminded politicians to be more tolerant and "thick-skinned." Public figures must learn to face criticism and should not rush to courts over every perceived insult. Criticism and adverse comments are part of public life, and politicians should not turn courts into battlegrounds for political rivalry.

This advice is both practical and necessary. Defamation cases filed by politicians against



rivals are clogging already burdened courts. Many such cases are less about genuine damage to reputation and more about silencing opponents or gaining sympathy. Political disagreements are increasingly dressed up as legal disputes over "hurt sentiments," consuming judicial time that should be reserved for more serious matters.

A healthy democracy requires leaders who can absorb criticism without treating every attack as a personal injury. Sharp criticism, satire and public scrutiny are essential tools of accountability. Citizens must be free to question their leaders, and leaders must have the maturity to respond with arguments rather than anger.

Unfortunately, many politicians display the opposite tendency. Once in power, they become less tolerant of jokes, criticism or dissent. They seek protection from public scrutiny while continuing to use aggressive language against opponents. This double standard weakens trust in leadership.

Propriety is not simply about politeness; it is about maintaining standards that protect institutions. It includes decorum, appropriateness and the willingness to respect both opponents and democratic processes. When politicians ignore propriety, they signal that rules and conventions are

optional.

This concern is not new. Earlier debates around public appointments also raised questions about propriety, particularly when decisions appeared to ignore convention or legal norms. Even if an action is technically legal, it can still violate the spirit of institutional integrity. The larger fear is that once governments stop respecting conventions, they may also begin to ignore broader constitutional principles. That same logic applies to public speech. If leaders feel free to insult, provoke and demean without consequence, the decline spreads downward. Party workers imitate them, television debates become louder and social media grows more toxic. Civility disappears from the political ecosystem.

There is also an important distinction between criticism and abuse. Genuine criticism focuses on actions, policies and decisions. Abuse targets identity, family or private life. Democracies flourish through criticism, not humiliation. Leaders should encourage scrutiny of their work, not suppress it through intimidation.

Some argue that politicians also deserve protection from false accusations and malicious attacks. That is true. Freedom of speech cannot mean freedom to spread lies or hatred. But legal protection should not become a shield

against legitimate dissent. The balance must favour open debate, especially during elections when citizens need the fullest possible information.

Political culture must therefore change from within. Leaders should recognise that dignity enhances authority, while recklessness weakens it. They must learn that responding calmly to criticism demonstrates strength, not weakness. Public office demands thicker skin and greater humility.

Indian politicians could also learn from examples elsewhere, where leaders often respond to satire with humour rather than outrage. A mature democracy is one where criticism is tolerated and even valued as part of public accountability. Governance improves when leaders listen rather than react defensively.

Ultimately, propriety is not a luxury, it is a democratic necessity. Citizens deserve leaders who elevate public conversation, not degrade it. The measure of political leadership lies not only in winning elections, but also in preserving the dignity of democratic life.

When politicians lose their sense of propriety, democracy itself pays the price. Restoring civility is not about softening politics; it is about strengthening institutions and ensuring that public debate remains worthy of the people it is meant to serve.

MAMATA'S LAST BID AND BJP'S BHABANIPUR PUSH SET STAGE FOR HIGH-STAKES CLASH

West Bengal politics has once again turned into a high-voltage battle, with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) locking horns over the crucial Bhabanipur Assembly constituency. What appears to be a by-election is, in reality, a larger political test of prestige, power and survival for both sides.

For Mamata Banerjee, Bhabanipur represents more than just another constituency. It is her political home turf and, more importantly, her path to continuing as Chief Minister after losing the Nandigram seat in the 2021 Assembly election. Though the Trinamool Congress (TMC) secured a sweeping victory across West Bengal, Mamata herself suffered a narrow defeat against former aide-turned-rival Suvendu Adhikari in Nandigram. That defeat created a constitutional necessity—she had to win a by-election within six months to remain Chief Minister.

Bhabanipur quickly became the centre of this political drama. Mamata had earlier represented the constituency and enjoyed strong support there. It was considered the safest seat for her political comeback. TMC MLA Sovandeb Chattopadhyay vacated the seat to make way for her, turning the

bypoll into a symbolic referendum on Mamata's leadership.

But the BJP was determined not to allow an easy return. Instead of treating Bhabanipur as a routine contest, the party transformed it into a prestige battle. It sought to challenge Mamata directly in her own stronghold, hoping to create political pressure and question her authority even after the TMC's state-wide victory.

The BJP's strategy was clear. It aimed to convert Mamata's bypoll into a larger narrative of legitimacy. The party argued that a Chief Minister who lost her own seat should not be given a smooth passage back into office. By making Bhabanipur a high-profile contest, BJP attempted to project itself as the principal challenger in Bengal and keep political momentum alive after its defeat in the Assembly elections.

The campaign soon moved beyond local issues and became a clash of political narratives. For TMC, it was about protecting Bengali pride and defending Bengal from what it described as outside interference by the BJP-led Centre. For the BJP, it was about exposing what it called TMC's misgovernance, corruption and political violence.

Mamata's campaign focused



heavily on emotional and symbolic appeal. She projected herself as the protector of Bengal's identity and repeatedly accused the BJP of trying to destabilise the state through central agencies and political pressure. Her message was simple: Bhabanipur was not just electing an MLA, but defending Bengal's self-respect.

The BJP, on the other hand, framed the contest as a democratic necessity. It argued that Mamata should face serious scrutiny rather than enjoy a

ceremonial victory. The party intensified its campaign, hoping to make the election closer than expected and send a message that the opposition remained strong.

This battle also revealed the changing political nature of Bengal. Once dominated by ideological debates between the Left and Congress, the state has increasingly shifted toward personality-driven politics. Elections are now often seen as direct contests between Mamata Banerjee and the



BJP's central leadership. Bhabanipur became another chapter in that larger confrontation.

There was also a deeper strategic concern for Mamata. A weak victory or worse, an upset would damage her authority within the party and strengthen BJP's claim that her political dominance was fading. For a leader who has built her image on personal credibility and direct mass connection, symbolic victories matter immensely.

For BJP, even a respectable performance would serve its long-term goals. It would reinforce the idea that Bengal is no longer a one-party political space and that TMC's dominance can be challenged seat by seat. The party hoped Bhabanipur would help preserve its relevance and organisational energy after the Assembly setback. The election also drew attention because of the heavy political mobilisation around it. Campaigning was intense, public rhetoric was sharp and

both parties treated the bypoll like a mini-assembly election. The national media followed every move closely, reflecting how one constituency had become a national political battleground. Ultimately, Bhabanipur was never just about numbers. It was about perception. Mamata needed a convincing victory to restore complete political authority after Nandigram. BJP needed a strong challenge to prove that its Bengal project was still alive. History eventually showed that Bhabanipur strongly favoured Mamata. She won the seat by a huge margin, re-entering the Assembly and securing her continuation as Chief Minister. But the larger political story remained significant—the BJP had succeeded in turning a constitutional formality into a major political contest. The Bhabanipur push and Mamata's last bid reflected the fierce new reality of Bengal politics, where every election is treated as a battle for narrative control. Victory is no longer measured only in seats, but in symbolism, perception and political momentum.

In that sense, Bhabanipur was not just a by-election. It was a referendum on leadership, resilience and the future direction of West Bengal politics.

INDIA, NEW ZEALAND SIGN HISTORIC FTA

LUXON CALLS IT ‘ONCE-IN-A-GENERATION’ DEAL

India and New Zealand on Monday signed a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA), with New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon calling it a “once-in-a-generation agreement” that will significantly strengthen trade, investment, and people-to-people ties between the two countries.

The agreement was signed at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and New Zealand’s Minister for Trade and Investment Todd McClay. The deal is being seen as a major milestone in bilateral relations and is expected to boost economic cooperation across multiple sectors.

One of the biggest highlights of the agreement is that Indian exporters will now get 100 percent duty-free access to the New Zealand market for over 8,000 products. This is expected to benefit sectors such as textiles, leather, footwear, engineering goods, marine products, and processed food, giving Indian businesses stronger global opportunities.

In return, India has offered market access across nearly 70 percent of tariff lines, covering most of the bilateral trade



between the two nations. However, sensitive sectors such as dairy, edible oils, sugar, onions, and some agricultural products have been kept outside the agreement to protect Indian farmers and domestic industries.

The FTA is also expected to

double bilateral trade to nearly 5 billion dollars over the next five years. New Zealand has additionally committed to investing up to 20 billion dollars in India over the next 15 years. These investments are expected in sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, manufac-

turing, start-ups, and emerging technologies.

The services sector is another major beneficiary. Indian professionals will gain improved access across more than 100 service sectors including IT, telecom, construction, tourism, and audiovisual ser-

vices. New Zealand has also announced a dedicated annual quota of 5,000 temporary work visas for Indian professionals.

Indian students are also expected to benefit greatly. The agreement offers post-study work rights of up to three years for STEM graduates and even longer for doctoral students, making New Zealand a more attractive destination for higher education.

Christopher Luxon described the pact as a historic step that would help New Zealand diversify its trade relationships and strengthen long-term economic stability. He said India’s fast-growing economy offers major opportunities for New Zealand businesses.

Piyush Goyal called the agreement a defining moment in India’s global trade strategy and said it would create major opportunities for farmers, youth, women, and MSMEs.

Talks for the FTA had first started in 2010 but were stalled for years before being revived in 2025. With the final agreement now signed, both nations see it as a major strategic partnership that goes far beyond trade and reflects stronger cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.



PM MODI PREDICTS BJP WIN IN BENGAL, SAYS HE WILL RETURN FOR OATH-TAKING CEREMONY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday expressed strong confidence that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will form the next government in West Bengal after the 2026 Assembly elections, declaring that he would return to the state after May 4 for the oath-taking ceremony of the new BJP government.

Addressing his final election rally in Jagatdal ahead of the conclusion of campaigning, PM Modi said the massive public support he witnessed during his rallies and roadshows across Bengal had convinced him that people were ready for political change.

“I will return after May 4 for the oath-taking ceremony of the BJP government,” Modi said, sending a strong political message as the state heads into the final phase of voting. He described his campaign journey across Bengal as a “Tirtha Yatra,” saying he felt honoured and blessed by the affection and enthusiasm shown by the people.

The Prime Minister launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC), accusing them of corruption, political violence, and weakening democratic institutions in the state. He claimed that Bengal was witnessing a strong “wave of change” and that the BJP was receiving overwhelming support from voters across regions.

Modi alleged that under TMC rule, law and order had deteriorated and democratic values had been damaged. He said the people of Bengal were looking for freedom from what he called “jungle raj” and were ready to vote for development,

security, and transparent governance.

The BJP has been aggressively campaigning to unseat Mamata Banerjee’s government, with PM Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah leading several high-energy rallies across the state. The party is hoping to make major gains in both urban and rural constituencies by focusing on anti-inflation and local dissatisfaction.

The Prime Minister also highlighted BJP’s promises for women, youth, and border communities, especially in politically sensitive areas like the Matua belt. He said the BJP government would bring stronger welfare delivery, employment opportunities, and better governance if voted to power.

TMC, however, has dismissed BJP’s claims and remains confident of retaining power. Mamata Banerjee has accused the BJP of using central agencies and polarising politics to influence the election, while insisting that Bengal will reject outside interference.

The 2026 West Bengal Assembly election is being seen as one of the most closely watched political battles in the country. Voting is taking place in two phases, with counting scheduled for May 4.

As the campaign reaches its final stage, PM Modi’s oath-taking prediction has intensified the political atmosphere, turning the election into a direct prestige battle between the BJP and Mamata Banerjee’s TMC.

Whether the Prime Minister returns for an oath-taking ceremony or an election review will be decided when Bengal’s voters deliver their verdict next week.



Kejriwal Refuses to Appear Before Judge, Calls It ‘Satyagraha’ in Liquor Policy Case

New Delhi | April 27, 2026 | TPN

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday intensified his stand in the Delhi liquor policy case by refusing to appear before Delhi High Court Judge Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, calling his decision an act of Satyagraha inspired by Mahatma Gandhi’s principles.

Kejriwal, in a letter addressed to Justice Sharma, said his hope of getting justice from her court had been shattered after she refused to recuse herself from hearing matters linked to the excise policy case. He stated that neither he nor his legal counsel would appear before her in the ongoing proceedings.

In a public post and video statement, the former Delhi Chief Minister said he had taken the decision with “complete respect for the judiciary” and not as an act of defiance against the institution. He clarified that his faith in the judiciary remained intact, but his confidence in receiving justice in this particular case had been deeply affected.

Kejriwal said the hearings in Justice Sharma’s court did not satisfy the principle that “justice must not only be done but must also be seen to be done.” He added that continuing to participate in the proceedings would not achieve anything meaningful and would go against his conscience.

Describing his move as a peaceful protest based on Gandhian ideals, Kejriwal said he was prepared to face any legal consequences for his decision. He also informed the court that he would challenge Justice Sharma’s refusal to step aside from the case through appropriate legal channels.

However, he clarified that he would continue to appear before Justice Sharma in other matters not involving the central government, the BJP, the RSS, or the Solicitor General, indicating that his objection was specific to the liquor policy case.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma had earlier rejected Kejriwal’s plea for recusal, stating that judicial integrity cannot be put on trial by litigants. She said a judge’s impartiality is presumed unless there is strong evidence to prove otherwise and that recusal cannot be based on personal apprehensions or political perceptions.

The judge remarked that while stepping aside would have been the easier option, she chose to decide the issue on merit to protect institutional integrity. She said a litigant cannot be allowed to create a situation that lowers the dignity of the judicial process.

The development marks a major escalation in the Delhi excise policy case, with Kejriwal now framing his legal battle as both a constitutional and moral struggle.

Raghav Chadha, Six MPs Join BJP as Party Targets Opposition Unity

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday welcomed former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Raghav Chadha and six other Rajya Sabha MPs into its fold, while taking a sharp political dig at the opposition alliance. Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju described the move as “goodbye to the tukde-tukde INDI alliance,” signalling that the opposition bloc had suffered a major setback.

Rijiju said the seven MPs had maintained parliamentary discipline and had never engaged in abusive or disruptive conduct in the House. He stated that their decision to leave AAP and align with BJP reflected growing dissatisfaction within the opposition camp. BJP leaders projected the defections as both a political gain and a symbolic collapse of opposition unity.

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat also took cognisance of the merger request submitted by Chadha and the six MPs. Following this development, BJP’s strength in the Upper House reportedly increased to 113 seats, while the NDA crossed the 140-seat mark in the 244-member House. AAP, on the other hand, was left with only three Rajya Sabha MPs, marking a significant weakening of its parliamentary presence.

Raghav Chadha had resigned from AAP on April 24 and joined the BJP along with six colleagues. In a video statement released later, he defended his decision, saying he was “the right man in the wrong party.” He also alleged that AAP had become a “toxic work environment” where honest voices were being silenced.

Chadha claimed he had not entered politics to build a career, but to serve the public, and accused the party of being controlled by corrupt and compromised individuals. He said his decision was driven by principles and the need to remain true to public service.



AAP strongly rejected these allegations and accused Chadha of betrayal. Party leaders said he had been given every opportunity, including major leadership roles and the distinction of becoming one of the youngest Rajya Sabha MPs. They alleged that his move was part of a planned conspiracy with the BJP.

The phrase “tukde-tukde” has long been used by BJP leaders to attack rivals and critics, portraying them as divisive or anti-national. By using it again in this context, BJP sought to frame Chadha’s defection as proof of the weakening opposition front ahead of future electoral battles.

Nominations for Padma Awards 2027 Open, Last Date for Submission is July 31



The Government of India has invited nominations and recommendations for the Padma Awards 2027, one of the country’s highest civilian honours, with the submission process already underway from March 15, 2026. The last date for filing nominations is July 31, 2026.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, all nominations and recommendations for the Padma Awards will be accepted only through the online Rashtriya Puraskar Portal. The awards will be announced on the occasion of Republic Day in January 2027.

The Padma Awards include three categories — Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri. Instituted in 1954, these honours are given annually to recognise exceptional achievements and distinguished service in various fields such as art, literature, education, sports, medicine, social work, science and engineering, public affairs, civil service, trade, and industry.

The awards are intended to honour individuals who have made outstanding contribu-

tions to society through excellence and dedication in their respective fields. The government stated that all persons are eligible for these awards,

regardless of race, occupation, position, or gender.

However, government servants, including employees working in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), are generally not eligible for Padma Awards, except for doctors and scientists, who remain eligible for consideration.

The Centre has reiterated its commitment to transforming the Padma Awards into “People’s Padma” by encouraging wider public participation in the nomination process. Citizens have been urged to submit recommendations, including self-nominations, to ensure deserving individuals from across the country receive recognition.

Special emphasis has been placed on identifying unsung heroes from women, weaker sections of society, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Divyang persons, and those engaged in selfless social service. The government said

efforts should be made to honour people whose work often remains unnoticed despite having a major impact on society.

The nominations must include complete details in the prescribed format available on the portal. This includes a citation in narrative form of up to 800 words, clearly describing the distinguished achievements and exceptional service of the person being recommended.

Officials said detailed information regarding the awards, rules, and statutes is available under the “Awards and Medals” section on the Ministry of Home Affairs website, as well as on the Padma Awards Portal.

The government hopes that broader participation from citizens will help ensure the awards truly reflect the spirit of public service and national contribution across all sections of society.

MICHAEL JACKSON’S ‘SECOND FAMILY’ REVERSES STAND

Sixteen years after publicly defending Michael Jackson against allegations of sexual abuse, members of the Cascio family—once known as the pop star’s “second family”—have now accused him of repeated abuse and grooming during their childhood. The dramatic reversal has reignited controversy around Jackson’s legacy, especially as his new biopic Michael has just been released in theatres worldwide. The Cascio family shared a close relationship with Jackson for over two decades. Their father, Dominic Cascio, worked as a manager at a New York hotel where Jackson often stayed, and the friendship soon grew into a deep personal bond. Jackson frequently visited their New Jersey home, took the children to his Neverland Ranch, travelled with them on tours, and spent holidays with the family.

Because of this closeness, the Cascios were often described as Jackson’s “second family.” In 2010, about a year and a half after Jackson’s death, Dominic and Connie Cascio appeared on Oprah Winfrey’s talk show along with three of their children—Eddie, Frank and Marie Nicole. During the interview, they strongly defended Jackson against longstanding sexual abuse allegations. When Oprah directly asked whether there had ever been any inappropriate behaviour, the siblings clearly responded, “Never.” Eddie had then described Jackson as a victim of false accusations and said he had been unfairly targeted. Now, 16 years later, the family says that statement was a lie. In a lawsuit and in interviews, the siblings have al-



leged that Jackson repeatedly sexually abused them and that they were “groomed” from a young age to protect

him and defend him publicly. They said they were turned into his “soldiers,” trained to reject any accusations made

against him. One of the siblings, Aldo, claimed Jackson began abusing him when he was just sev-

en years old. He alleged that the abuse started in Jackson’s bedroom while he was playing a Game Boy and continued for years. He said that although he later understood the behaviour was wrong, he felt trapped by Jackson’s fame, power and emotional control. The siblings stated that the abuse took place at multiple locations, including Jackson’s home, on family trips and during international tours. They also said they remained silent for years because they were overwhelmed by his celebrity status and believed no one would support them. Some of them said they only fully recognised the abuse after watching the 2019 documentary Leaving Neverland, which featured similar allegations from two other men. The Jackson estate has strongly denied the accusations, calling the lawsuit a

“desperate money grab.” Lawyers for the estate pointed out that the same family had defended Jackson for over 25 years and accused them of trying to seek large financial compensation. Reports suggest that in 2020, the family had reached a private settlement with Jackson’s estate worth around \$16 million over five years. However, their allegations have now become public again through the new legal action. The issue has gained further attention because Jackson’s new biopic avoids covering the abuse allegations and focuses only on the earlier years of his career. With fresh claims now emerging from one of the families once closest to him, the debate over Michael Jackson’s life, legacy and truth behind the accusations has once again returned to the global spotlight.

ISRAELI STRIKES FORCE RESIDENTS TO FLEE SOUTH LEBANON AS CEASEFIRE WEAKENS

Fresh Israeli airstrikes in southern Lebanon have killed at least 14 people and forced residents to flee several border towns, raising fears that the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah is rapidly collapsing. According to Lebanon’s health ministry, the strikes left 14 people dead and 37 others injured, including two children and two women. The attacks marked one of the deadliest days since the recent US-mediated ceasefire came into effect, showing how tensions continue to rise despite diplomatic efforts.



response. Hezbollah, however, rejected Israel’s claims and accused Tel Aviv of repeatedly violating the ceasefire first. The group said it would continue attacks on Israeli troops in Lebanon and towns in northern Israel as long as Israeli forces remained active in the region. The renewed violence has deepened the humanitarian crisis in southern Lebanon, where thousands of families had already been displaced by months of fighting. Many residents who had recently returned to their homes after the ceasefire are now being forced to leave once again. Large plumes of smoke were seen rising from several villages as airstrikes intensified. Roads leading north were crowded with civilians trying to escape, carrying basic belongings and searching for temporary shelter. The ceasefire, brokered with US involvement, was expected to reduce cross-border attacks between Israel and Hezbollah

and provide relief to civilians on both sides. However, repeated accusations of violations by both parties have weakened trust and made the truce increasingly unstable. Since the latest phase of conflict began, thousands of people in Lebanon have been killed, including civilians, medical workers and Hezbollah fighters. Israel has also reported casualties among its soldiers and civilians due to Hezbollah attacks. International observers fear that continued escalation could trigger a much larger regional conflict. Diplomatic efforts are still underway, but with both sides refusing to back down, hopes for lasting peace remain uncertain. For residents of southern Lebanon, the immediate concern is survival. With homes destroyed, repeated displacement and constant fear of fresh attacks, many families now face an uncertain future in a conflict that shows little sign of ending.

IRANIAN MP SAYS PAKISTAN NOT A SUITABLE INTERMEDIARY

An Iranian lawmaker has publicly questioned Pakistan’s role as a mediator in the stalled negotiations between Iran and the United States, saying Islamabad is “not a suitable intermediary” and lacks the credibility needed for such sensitive diplomacy. The remarks come at a time when Pakistan has been trying to position itself as a bridge between Tehran and Washington in efforts to revive indirect talks and reduce rising regional tensions. However, the latest criticism from Tehran signals growing distrust over Islamabad’s neutrality and effectiveness in handling the diplomatic process. The criticism was made by an Iranian Member of Parliament who argued that Pakistan has repeatedly shown signs of leaning toward US interests rather than acting as an independent and balanced mediator. According to the lawmaker, mediation requires trust, consistency and strategic neutrality—qualities he suggested Pakistan currently lacks. The MP reportedly said Pakistan tends to prioritize the interests of US President Donald Trump and often shifts its



diplomatic position depending on external pressure. This, he argued, weakens its credibility in the eyes of Iranian policymakers and makes it difficult for Tehran to fully trust Islamabad’s role in negotiations. Pakistan had recently hosted efforts aimed at restarting talks between Iran and the US, with senior Iranian diplomat Abbas Araghchi visiting Islamabad for consultations with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other top officials. However, no major breakthrough emerged from those meetings, and the expected second round of talks failed to materialize. Araghchi later travelled to

Oman, where he met Sultan Haitham bin Tariq to discuss broader regional tensions, including the Strait of Hormuz and stalled diplomatic engagement with Washington. The shift in focus suggested that Tehran may now be placing greater trust in Oman’s traditional mediation role than in Pakistan’s newer efforts. The talks between Iran and the United States remain stuck over major issues such as Iran’s nuclear programme, sanctions relief, reopening Gulf shipping routes and guarantees against future military action. Washington is seeking stronger commitments on nu-

clear restrictions, while Tehran insists on security assurances and an end to economic pressure. Pakistan has continued to insist that it remains committed to helping bridge the gap between both sides. Officials in Islamabad maintain that diplomatic engagement is still possible and that their efforts are aimed at preventing wider conflict in the region. However, Iran’s public criticism could complicate those ambitions. Analysts say such remarks reflect deeper concerns within Tehran that Pakistan’s close ties with both Washington and Gulf allies may limit its ability to act as a fully trusted negotiator. The situation also carries wider regional significance. With tensions affecting oil routes, Gulf stability and ongoing violence in Lebanon, the failure of diplomacy could have consequences far beyond Iran and the United States. For now, Pakistan’s dream of becoming a major peace broker faces a serious challenge. With Tehran openly questioning its role, the path toward renewed US-Iran dialogue appears even more uncertain.

ELDERLY SIKH MAN ASSAULTED IN CANADA IN SUSPECTED HATE CRIME

An elderly Sikh man was allegedly assaulted in Woodstock, Ontario, in what Canadian police are treating as a hate-motivated attack, sparking outrage within the Sikh community and renewed concerns over rising racial hostility in the country. The incident took place on April 22 when the man was walking along a sidewalk near Turtle Island School. According to Woodstock Police, a youth approached him, pushed him and shouted racist abuse, including telling him to “get out of my country.” Police said the victim was specifically targeted because of his ethnicity and that the assault was completely unprovoked. Videos of the incident, which quickly spread on social media, showed the accused repeatedly using abusive language and threatening the elderly man. The footage triggered widespread anger, with many users demanding strict action and stronger protection for minority communities facing hate crimes. Fortunately, police confirmed that the victim did not suffer physical injuries, though the emotional impact of the public assault has drawn serious concern. After the attack, the suspect reportedly fled by jumping a fence into the premises of Turtle Island School before leaving the area. Authorities later arrested the youth, who now faces multiple charges and was held



in custody for a bail hearing. Police also confirmed that no students at the school were harmed during the incident. In an official statement, Woodstock Police strongly condemned the incident, saying, “Acts of hate have no place in our community.” The department urged residents to report such cases and said it remains committed to ensuring all members of the community feel safe and protected. The World Sikh Organisation (WSO) also reacted sharply, calling the attack “unacceptable” and expressing deep concern over what it described as part of a broader pattern of anti-Sikh hate in Canada. The

organisation urged better institutional response and stronger reporting mechanisms to deal with such incidents more effectively. The case has once again highlighted growing concerns about racism and hate crimes targeting visibly identifiable Sikh Canadians, particularly those who wear turbans and maintain traditional appearance. Community leaders say such incidents create fear and insecurity, especially among elderly members who may feel more vulnerable in public spaces. Canada has faced repeated criticism over rising hate crimes against South Asian

and Sikh communities in recent years. Advocacy groups argue that stronger awareness, faster legal action and better public accountability are necessary to prevent such attacks from becoming normalised. For many in the Sikh community, this latest incident is not just an isolated assault but a reminder of a larger issue of intolerance that continues to surface despite Canada’s multicultural image. As legal proceedings begin against the accused, the focus now shifts to justice for the victim and broader questions about how communities and institutions respond to hate-driven violence.

White House Dinner Shooting Scare Raises Security Questions but Averts Tragedy

WASHINGTON | APRIL 27 | TPN The shooting scare at the White House Correspondents’ Dinner at the Washington Hilton has triggered serious questions about presidential security, but officials and experts are also calling the Secret Service response a “success story” for preventing what could have become a major national tragedy. The incident took place during the high-profile annual dinner attended by US President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance, cabinet members, journalists and top officials. A suspected gunman managed to get close to the main security screening area before opening fire near the entrance of the venue. Panic spread quickly inside the ballroom as Secret Service agents shouted warnings and began immediate evacuation procedures. According to reports, the suspect allegedly fired at a Secret Service agent with a shotgun near a security checkpoint at the Washington Hilton. One officer was hit in a bullet-resistant vest and survived, while the suspect was quickly subdued and arrested before reaching the main ballroom where Trump and other senior officials were present. President Trump and

First Lady Melania Trump were safely evacuated from the event without injury. Security experts say the most important takeaway is not that the suspect got close, but that he was stopped before he could reach the protected zone. Former FBI officials noted that the Secret Service functioned exactly as it was designed to—detect, isolate, protect and neutralise. In high-risk events involving multiple senior leaders, the goal is not perfection but rapid response under pressure. The Washington Hilto has long been considered a sensitive security venue due to its history and its regular hosting of major political events. It is also the same hotel where former President Ronald Reagan was shot in 1981. Because the White House Correspondents’ Dinner gathers top political leadership and media figures in one place, security for the event is treated almost like a national security operation. However, the incident has also exposed vulnerabilities. Reports suggest the suspect had booked a room at the hotel and was able to move within public areas of the building before approaching the secured zone. Critics argue that the hotel’s functioning as a public commercial property creates risks that are

difficult to fully eliminate compared to a dedicated government venue. Some Trump allies have used the incident to renew calls for a secure White House ballroom, arguing that such high-profile gatherings should be moved to a fully protected government-controlled location rather than a public hotel. Supporters say this could reduce security gaps and make presidential protection more reliable. President Trump later praised law enforcement for doing a “fantastic job” and confirmed that the suspect had been apprehended. Though shaken, he indicated that canceling such events permanently would be a victory for fear and that the dinner could be rescheduled. The suspect is expected to face federal charges, including assault and attempted murder of a federal officer. Investigators believe the attack may have been politically motivated and that Trump administration officials were likely the intended targets. While the security breach has raised alarms, the swift Secret Service response may have prevented a far more dangerous outcome. In that sense, officials argue, the operation was not a failure—but proof that the system worked when it mattered most.

SENSEX JUMPS 639 POINTS, NIFTY NEAR 24,100

Indian equity benchmarks ended higher on Monday, breaking a three-day losing streak as buying across sectors lifted investor sentiment and global cues turned more supportive.

The Sensex surged by 639 points to close at around 77,300, while the Nifty climbed nearly 195 points to settle close to the 24,100 mark. The recovery came after a weak spell in recent sessions, with investors stepping in to pick up stocks at lower levels.

Market participants attributed the rebound to improved global risk appetite and easing concerns over geopolitical tensions. Positive developments related to international diplomacy helped calm crude oil fears, which had recently weighed on sentiment. This shift encouraged broad-based buying across sectors.

The rally was not limited to frontline stocks alone. Mid-cap and smallcap indices also outperformed, rising around 1.5% to 1.9%, indicating strong participation from broader markets. This suggests renewed confidence among retail and institutional investors after days of cautious trading.

Sector-wise, buying was seen across IT, pharma, energy and metals, while banking stocks also contributed to the upward move. Analysts noted that the market's bounce was also aided by short-covering, as traders who had bet on further declines rushed to exit positions.

One of the key highlights of the session was the strong performance of select heavy-weight stocks, which helped lift the overall indices. Several stocks also touched fresh 52-week highs during the day, reflecting underlying strength in specific sectors despite recent volatility.

However, analysts remain cautious about the sustainability of the recovery. Concerns around global inflation trends, crude oil prices and foreign investor flows continue to linger. Market experts suggest that while short-term momentum has turned positive, volatility is likely to persist. The recent three-day decline had been driven by global uncertainties, foreign fund outflows and concerns over high crude oil prices. Monday's recovery, therefore, is being seen more as a technical rebound rather than a clear shift in trend.

Investors are now closely watching upcoming economic data, global cues and corporate earnings for further direction. Any sustained rally, analysts say, will depend on consistent inflows and stability in global markets.

For now, the rebound offers temporary relief to investors after a volatile week, but caution continues to dominate the broader outlook as markets navigate uncertain global conditions.



RELIANCE SHARES JUMP 3% AFTER Q4

Reliance Industries (RIL) shares rose around 3% in Monday's trade after the company reported its Q4 earnings, with investors reacting positively to stronger-than-expected revenue growth and continued optimism from brokerages despite weakness in the core oil-to-chemicals (O2C) business.

The stock outperformed broader markets during the session, reflecting renewed buying interest after recent volatility. The rally came even as the company posted a decline in profit for the March quarter, highlighting a mixed but better-than-feared performance.

According to market data, Reliance's consolidated net profit fell in the single-digit to low double-digit range year-on-year, largely due to pressure in its energy segment. However, revenue grew strongly, rising close to 13% year-on-year, supported by robust performance in retail and digital services.

The O2C division remained the key weak spot, impacted by lower refining margins, higher input costs and global energy volatility. Analysts noted that this segment continues to face structural pressure, which weighed on overall earnings.

In contrast, Reliance's consumer-facing businesses provided support. The telecom arm, Jio, continued to show steady subscriber growth and healthy profitability, while the retail business posted stable expansion across formats, helping offset weakness in traditional energy operations.

Brokerages largely maintained a positive stance on the stock despite the earnings miss. Several research houses highlighted that while near-term earnings remain under pressure, Reliance's long-term growth story is intact due to its diversified portfolio spanning telecom, retail and emerging new energy ventures.

Analysts also pointed to potential future triggers such as a possible listing of Jio Platforms and continued expansion in digital and green energy segments. These factors, they believe, could re-rate the stock over the medium to long term.

Market experts said the stock's reaction reflects investor confidence in Reliance's structural transformation from a traditional refining-led company to a consumer and technology-driven conglomerate. This shift is increasingly cushioning the impact of cyclical downturns in the energy business.



However, caution remains in the near term. Weakness in global crude-linked margins, geopolitical uncertainties and volatile refining spreads continue to pose challenges for the O2C segment, which still contributes a significant portion of earnings.

Despite these risks, the broader sentiment around the stock remains constructive. Investors appear to be focusing more on long-term growth drivers rather than short-term earnings fluctuations.

Overall, the Q4 performance reinforced a familiar theme for Reliance Industries—temporary pressure in core energy operations offset by strong momentum in consumer and digital businesses, keeping long-term investor confidence intact.

PAYTM SHARES RECOVER AFTER RBI MOVE ON PAYMENTS BANK

Paytm parent One97 Communications saw its shares recover sharply on Monday, nearly wiping out early losses after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the banking licence of Paytm Payments Bank, triggering a volatile trading session for the fintech major.

The stock had fallen nearly 8% in early trade as investors reacted to the regulatory action. However, buying at lower levels helped the counter rebound strongly during the day, with losses narrowing significantly by the close.

The RBI's decision to cancel the licence of Paytm Payments Bank followed concerns over regulatory non-compliance and operational issues. The move effectively shuts down the banking arm, marking the end of its independent banking operations. Despite the initial negative reaction, market sentiment improved as analysts assessed that the impact on Paytm's core business remains limited. The payments bank had already been operating under severe restrictions for over a year, and most of its key functions had been gradually separated from the main Paytm platform.

Brokerage houses largely maintained a positive stance on the stock, arguing that the regulatory action does not materially disrupt Paytm's primary revenue streams. The company has already shifted toward a partner-led model for payments and banking-related services, reducing its direct exposure to the now-closed entity. Market experts said the recovery in the stock reflects investor confidence that the development is more of a formal regulatory closure rather than a fresh financial shock. They also pointed out that Paytm's core businesses—digital payments, merchant services and financial distribution—continue to operate normally.

However, concerns remain around regulatory overhang and long-term margin pressure. The shift away from an integrated banking model could limit profitability expansion and increase dependency on partner banks and third-party financial institutions.

The broader sentiment around the stock remains mixed. While some investors see the dip as a buying opportunity given improving operational clarity, others remain cautious due to ongoing regulatory scrutiny in the fintech sector. Despite the volatility, Paytm's ability to recover most of its losses during the session highlights the underlying strength of its core business narrative and continued interest from institutional investors. As the dust settles, market focus is expected to shift toward execution, regulatory clarity and the company's ability to sustain growth in its payments and financial services ecosystem without its banking arm.



MOBIKWIK SHARES JUMP 15% AFTER RBI APPROVES NBFC LICENCE

Shares of One MobiKwik Systems surged nearly 15 percent on Monday after the company announced that it had received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) licence, marking a major step in its expansion beyond digital payments.

The stock rallied sharply during the trading session, with shares trading around 231.7 apiece in afternoon trade, as investors welcomed the regulatory approval and the company's stronger push into lending and broader financial services.

MobiKwik said the RBI approval represents a significant milestone in its journey to deepen its financial services offerings. The licence will allow the company to launch a dedicated lending arm called MobiKwik Financial Services Private Limited (MFSP), a wholly owned subsidiary focused on regulated lending operations.

The company stated that the new NBFC platform will help it expand its lending capabilities, design innovative credit products, and serve a wider base of consumers and merchants with greater efficiency and control. By bringing lending operations in-house, MobiKwik is also expected to improve margins and reduce dependence on external lending partners.

MobiKwik, known primarily for its digital wallet and payments platform, has gradually expanded into financial product distribution, including credit, insurance and investment services. The NBFC licence now gives it the ability to directly participate in lending, which is seen as a more profitable and scalable business segment.

Executive Director, Co-founder and CFO Upasana-Taku described the approval as a "pivotal step" in the company's evolution into a scaled financial services platform. She also highlighted that the approval came in under four months, calling it a strong endorsement of the group's credibility and regulatory trust.

Market analysts believe the development could significantly strengthen MobiKwik's long-term growth prospects. Direct lending allows better control over underwriting, customer experience and profitability compared to the earlier partner-led model.

The positive market reaction also reflects broader investor confidence in fintech companies that successfully diversify beyond payments into higher-margin financial services. As competition intensifies in India's digital payments space, lending and credit products are becoming critical for sustained profitability.

However, analysts also caution that execution will be key. Regulatory compliance, risk management and loan quality will determine how effectively MobiKwik can scale its NBFC business without compromising financial stability.

Still, Monday's sharp rally suggests investors are betting on the company's next growth phase. With RBI approval now in place, MobiKwik's transformation from a payments-focused platform into a full-stack fintech player appears to be gaining strong momentum.

The stock's strong move has also placed it among the top gainers of the day, with market participants closely watching how quickly the company can operationalise its lending business in the months ahead.



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HINDUSTAN ZINC SHARES JUMP 7% AS CEO SIGNALS DEMERGER WORK MAY BEGIN IN FY27

Hindustan Zinc shares surged nearly 7 percent on Monday after the company's CEO indicated that groundwork for a possible business demerger could begin in FY27, reviving investor interest and boosting sentiment around the Vedanta group firm.

The stock climbed sharply during the trading session and was seen trading around 627, up more than 6 percent in late afternoon trade. The rally came after CEO Arun Misra said the company is revisiting its earlier demerger proposal, though the immediate focus remains on parent company Vedanta's broader restructuring process.

According to Misra, some preliminary work for the Hindustan Zinc demerger may start in FY27, suggesting that the proposal is once again part of the company's long-term strategic roadmap. The earlier plan had faced obstacles, but the latest comments indicate renewed momentum.

The company had previously proposed splitting its operations into separate verticals to unlock value and improve operational focus. However, the proposal had faced resistance, particularly from the government, which remains a significant shareholder in the company. Concerns were raised over minority shareholder interests and the structure of the proposed split.

With Vedanta currently moving ahead with its own major demerger process, market participants believe Hindustan Zinc may get a clearer path to revisit its restructuring plans once the parent company completes its transition. Another major positive trigger for investors was the company's strong confidence in its silver business. Misra stated that silver could contribute nearly 50 percent of EBITDA going forward, highlighting the growing importance of the segment in Hindustan Zinc's future earnings profile.

This shift is significant because Hindustan Zinc has traditionally been viewed mainly as a zinc and lead producer. A stronger silver business could improve margins, diversify revenue streams and strengthen investor confidence in long-term profitability. Analysts also see the potential demerger as a value-unlocking move. Separate listed entities could allow investors to better assess the company's individual business segments rather than valuing the company as a combined metals player. This often leads to improved market valuations. The company is also targeting aggressive long-term growth. It aims to double production capacity by 2030, with major expansion plans in zinc, lead and silver operations. This broader growth strategy is adding to the positive sentiment around the stock.

Despite the excitement, analysts caution that execution remains key. Regulatory approvals, shareholder alignment and clarity on the final structure will determine how quickly the demerger process can move forward. Still, Monday's sharp rise shows that investors are clearly responding to the possibility of strategic restructuring and stronger earnings visibility from silver. For now, Hindustan Zinc's demerger hopes and expansion plans have given the stock fresh momentum, turning it into one of the day's top gainers and placing it firmly back on investor watchlists.



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RISHABH PANT FACES CRITICISM OVER POORAN SUPER OVER CALL, LANGER DEFENDS DECISION

Lucknow Super Giants captain Rishabh Pant faced strong criticism after the team's dramatic Super Over defeat against Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL 2026, with many questioning his decision to send Nicholas Pooran to bat against Sunil Narine in the crucial moment.

The match at the Ekana Stadium ended in a tie, forcing the season's first Super Over. LSG sent Nicholas Pooran and Aiden Markram to bat, while KKR handed the ball to experienced spinner Sunil Narine. The move immediately backfired as Narine bowled Pooran on the very first ball. Markram was dismissed soon after, and LSG managed just one run in the Super Over—one of the shortest and lowest totals in IPL history.

KKR chased the target on the very first ball, with Rinku Singh sealing the win instantly and leaving LSG stunned.

The decision to send Pooran attracted criticism because of his known poor record against Narine. Cricket fans quickly



pointed out that in the Caribbean Premier League in 2014, Narine had bowled a maiden Super Over against Pooran, where the batter failed to score and was dismissed. That memory made the decision appear even more questionable.

Social media was flooded with criticism aimed at Pant, with many fans calling it a major tactical error. Some argued that another power-hitter should have been chosen instead of Pooran, especially considering the high-pressure

situation and the known matchup history.

However, LSG head coach Justin Langer defended the call after the match. He said the team was fully aware of Pooran's past struggles against Narine but still believed he was the best option because of his experience and ability against quality spin bowling.

Langer explained that Pooran has faced Narine more than most players in world cricket and was trusted for that reason. He added that backing

senior players during difficult times is important and insisted that Pooran remains one of the best T20 batters in the game.

The coach also admitted that Pooran is currently low on confidence but said the team continues to support him. According to Langer, confidence returns through preparation and trust, and the coaching staff is helping him work through the rough patch.

The loss added further pressure on Pant and LSG, who are already struggling in IPL 2026. With the team near the bottom of the points table, criticism of Pant's captaincy has increased after every defeat.

For Pant, the Super Over decision has now become one of the biggest talking points of the season. While the team management continues to back him, fans believe a different choice might have changed the result.

In a tournament where small decisions decide big outcomes, LSG's gamble on Pooran proved to be a costly one.

RCB Crush DC

Royal Challengers Bengaluru registered a dominant nine-wicket victory over Delhi Capitals in a one-sided IPL 2026 clash at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi. Delhi Capitals' batting lineup collapsed dramatically under relentless pace bowling, getting bowled out for just 75 runs in 16.3 overs. The RCB pacers ran riot, with Josh Hazlewood delivering a stunning spell of 4/12 and Bhuvneshwar Kumar chipping in with 3/5, dismantling the opposition with

sharp swing and accuracy. Delhi were in deep trouble early, losing six wickets for just eight runs during a disastrous powerplay. Amid the collapse, Abishek Porel showed some resistance with a fighting 30, while David Miller added 19 runs. However, the rest of the batting unit failed to make an impact, with most falling for single-digit scores. Chasing a modest target of 76, RCB made light work of the total, reaching it in just 6.3 overs. They lost only one wicket, that

of Jacob Bethell for 20. Devdutt Padikkal played a blazing knock of 34 not out off just 13 balls, smashing three fours and three sixes to seal the game quickly. He was well supported by Virat Kohli, who remained unbeaten on 23 off 15 balls as the duo ensured a comfortable finish. Earlier, RCB captain's decision to bowl first after winning the toss proved spot on, as their bowlers set up a comprehensive win, later completed emphatically by the batters.



PAKISTAN EXPERT LEFT STUNNED BY VAIBHAV SOORYAVANSHI'S IPL HEROICS

Rajasthan Royals' teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi continues to amaze the cricket world, with even experts from Pakistan left in disbelief over his explosive performances in IPL 2026. One Pakistan-based cricket analyst jokingly suggested that the youngster should be "tested in a lab" because his batting looked too unreal to be human. At just 15 years old, Vaibhav has become one of the biggest stories of the season. His fearless batting, powerful stroke-play and remarkable consistency against top international bowlers have made him one of the most talked-about players in the tournament. He is also among the leading contenders for the Orange Cap this season. His stunning rise has now crossed borders. During a cricket discussion show in Pakistan, noted cricket expert Dr Nouman Niaz openly expressed his admiration for the young Indian batter and made a dramatic remark that quickly went viral.

"He should be sent to some lab, he probably has some AI chip installed in him. He is un-

real," Niaz said while discussing Vaibhav's incredible batting form. He added that the teenager's strike rate and fearless shot-making made him appear almost "non-human."

The comment was made in a humorous and appreciative tone rather than criticism, reflecting just how unbelievable Vaibhav's performances have looked this season. Niaz also pointed out that when a player is smashing bowlers at such a young age with such confidence, it naturally creates amazement among cricket experts.

Vaibhav's recent innings against Sunrisers Hyderabad especially grabbed global attention. The youngster smashed a breathtaking century in just 36 balls, becoming one of the fastest Indian centuries in IPL history. His aggressive intent from the very first over left both fans and former cricketers stunned.

Several cricket legends have praised his fearless style. Former India batter Mohammad Kaif described his batting as "gully cricket," highlighting the natural aggression and

freedom with which he plays. Even opposition players have admitted admiration for the teenager's confidence and timing.

Social media also exploded after the Pakistan expert's "AI chip" remark. Many fans found it hilarious, while others took it as proof of how special Vaibhav's talent truly is. Supporters said such praise from across the border shows the impact the youngster is making on the global cricket stage.

Despite the jokes, the larger message remains clear—Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is no ordinary teenage cricketer. His maturity, power and match awareness at such a young age have made him one of the brightest emerging stars in world cricket.

For Rajasthan Royals, his form has been a massive position in IPL 2026. For Indian cricket, he represents a glimpse into the future.

And if experts are joking that he has an AI chip installed, it may simply be because cricket fans are struggling to believe that someone so young can be this good.

RASHWIN REVEALS SHOCK CONDITION FOR MS DHONI'S RETURN TO CSK IN IPL 2026

Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has made a surprising prediction about MS Dhoni's return for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in IPL 2026, suggesting that the legendary wicketkeeper-batter may only play if the franchise is officially out of the playoff race.

Dhoni has not featured in any of CSK's first eight matches this season due to a calf strain suffered before the tournament began. Although he has been training with the team and working on his recovery, he has not yet been declared match-fit. His continued absence has raised major questions among fans about whether he will return at all this season. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Ashwin said he believes Dhoni would avoid making a rushed comeback while CSK still have realistic hopes of qualifying for the playoffs. According to him, Dhoni would likely step in only if the team is mathematically eliminated and the pressure of qualification is gone. Ashwin explained that if CSK remain in contention, the team management may prefer to continue with the current combination rather than bring back Dhoni at a physically demanding stage. But once the playoff race is effectively over, Dhoni could return to play a few matches,



both for the fans and to guide the younger players.

This statement has sparked major discussion among cricket followers, especially because Dhoni's presence remains one of the biggest emotional factors around CSK every season. Even though he is no longer captain, his leadership influence inside the dressing room continues to be enormous.

Ashwin had earlier predicted that Dhoni might feature in only two matches this IPL season. He also noted that Dhoni has been seen training and spending time on the ground, but match fitness and long-term physical management re-

main the key concerns.

CSK's struggles this season have made Dhoni's absence even more noticeable. The team has faced inconsistency in both batting and bowling, and fans have repeatedly called for the veteran star's return to provide stability and leadership during pressure situations. However, team management has remained cautious, making it clear that Dhoni will only return when he is fully fit. There is no intention to rush him back simply because of fan demand or the team's difficult position in the points table. For CSK supporters, every update around Dhoni becomes

major news, especially with speculation continuing over whether this could be his final IPL season. His return, even for a few matches, would carry emotional significance beyond just results. Ashwin's comments have therefore added a fresh twist to the ongoing Dhoni comeback story. If his prediction proves correct, fans may have to wait until CSK's playoff hopes are officially over before seeing their iconic star back on the field.

Until then, the mystery around Dhoni's IPL 2026 season continues to dominate conversations around Chennai Super Kings.

ROHIT SHARMA SET FOR RETURN AS MI STAR STEPS UP TRAINING AHEAD OF SRH CLASH

Mumbai Indians have received a major boost ahead of their next IPL 2026 clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad, with star opener Rohit Sharma likely to return after missing three matches due to a hamstring injury.

Rohit had suffered the injury during Mumbai Indians' match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on April 12, forcing him to retire hurt and miss important games against Punjab Kings, Gujarat Titans and Chennai Super Kings. His absence was strongly felt at the top of the order as MI struggled for consistency in batting. Now, reports suggest that Rohit has significantly increased the intensity of his training and is close to full fitness. According to team sources, he has completed gym sessions and batting drills without any pain or discomfort, giving Mumbai Indians physios confidence that he could be available for selection in the upcoming match against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Rohit also attended an optional training session after MI's heavy defeat to Chennai Super Kings and looked comfortable during net practice. He was seen batting fluently and spending quality time in the



nets alongside captain Hardik Pandya, Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma, raising hopes of his immediate comeback. His return could be crucial for Mumbai Indians, who are going through a difficult IPL 2026 campaign. The team has struggled to find a stable opening combination in Rohit's absence. Quinton de Kock initially replaced him and even scored a brilliant century, but the top order has remained inconsistent overall.

Ryan Rickelton, another opening option, has also failed to provide regular starts, forc-

ing the team to constantly reshuffle combinations. Rohit's presence would not only strengthen the batting unit but also bring valuable experience during a phase where MI are fighting to stay alive in the playoff race.

Earlier, MI bowling coach Paras Mhambrey had also hinted at positive progress, stating that Rohit was "working on it" and looked fit around the nets. However, the final decision on his return is expected to depend on one last fitness assessment before the SRH match.

For fans, Rohit's comeback carries added importance because Mumbai's campaign has lacked momentum without one of their most experienced players. His leadership presence, even without the captaincy, remains a major influence inside the dressing room.

As MI prepare for a must-win encounter against Sunrisers Hyderabad, Rohit's likely return could provide exactly the boost the team needs. If declared fit, his comeback may prove to be a turning point in Mumbai Indians' fight to keep their IPL 2026 season alive.



RISING STAR

MEET KAUR

SAMYUKTHA’S ‘THE BLACK GOLD’ SHOOT WRAPPED

Actress Samyuktha’s upcoming female-oriented pan-Indian action film *The Black Gold* has officially completed its shoot, with the makers confirming that exciting updates about the project will be announced soon.

The film, which was first announced in October 2025, marks Samyuktha’s maiden heroine-centric pan-Indian action project. In the movie, she will be seen in a powerful and intense role as a determined cop, making it one of the most anticipated films in her career.

The makers recently shared the update that the entire shooting process has been wrapped up successfully. While the official release date has not yet been announced, they assured fans that major announcements regarding the film will be revealed shortly, creating strong excitement among movie lovers.

Directed by Yogesh KMC, *The Black Gold* is being produced by RazeshDanda and Sindhu Maganti under the banners of Hasya Movies and Maganti Pictures. The film is expected to be a high-voltage commercial action entertainer with a fresh narrative and strong emotional depth.

Samyuktha’s first-look posters had already created strong buzz earlier, showing her in a fierce and bold avatar with an intense action backdrop. Her character is expected to present a new side of the actress, far different from her previous



romantic and family-oriented roles.

The film also features a strong supporting cast including Murali Sharma, Rao Ramesh, Nasser, and Manish Wadhwa in key roles, adding further strength to the project. Their presence is expected to enhance the scale and emotional intensity of the story.

Music for the film is composed by Sam CS, known for delivering impactful background scores for action dramas. The technical team is also expected to play a major role in giving the film its pan-Indian appeal and cinematic scale.

Industry insiders believe *The Black Gold* could be a major turning point for Samyuktha, especially as female-led ac-

tion films continue gaining strong acceptance among audiences across multiple languages.

The movie is planned for release in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi, making it a true pan-Indian venture aimed at a wide audience base.

With the shoot now complete and post-production work progressing, fans are eagerly waiting for the teaser, trailer, and official release date announcement.

For Samyuktha, *The Black Gold* represents not just another film, but a bold new chapter in her career—and with the makers promising big updates soon, expectations are rising rapidly.

RAM CHARAN’S ‘PEDDI’ LOCKS JUNE 25 RELEASE DATE

Mega Power Star Ram Charan’s much-awaited film *Peddi* has officially locked its theatrical release date, with the makers confirming that the big-budget rural sports drama will hit cinemas worldwide on June 25, 2026.

Directed by BuchiBabu Sana, the film is currently in its final stage of production, with shooting nearing completion. The release date was confirmed in an unexpected and exciting moment during the Telugu pre-release event of Dhanush’s film *Kara*, where director BuchiBabu Sana was present as a guest.

As soon as BuchiBabu stepped onto the stage, fans shifted their attention completely to *Peddi*, loudly demanding an update on Ram Charan’s film. Despite initially trying to maintain suspense and teasing that a “big treat” was coming in June, the director eventually gave in to the crowd’s pressure and officially announced that *Peddi* would release on June 25, 2026.

The spontaneous reveal in-



stantly thrilled fans, turning the event into a celebration for *Peddi*. Social media was flooded with excitement as the announcement quickly went viral among Ram Charan’s followers.

Peddi stars Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead and is being positioned as a rural sports action drama with strong emotional and commercial appeal. The film is one of the most an-

anticipated Telugu releases of 2026 and marks Ram Charan’s major project following *Game Changer*.

The movie also features a strong supporting cast including Kannada superstar Shiva Rajkumar, JagapathiBabu, and Divyendu Sharma in key roles. Music for the film is composed by Oscar-winning music director A.R. Rahman, adding even more scale and expectations to

the project.

The film was originally planned for an earlier release but was postponed to allow more time for production and post-production work. With the shoot now almost wrapped up, the focus is expected to shift fully toward promotions, which are likely to begin on a grand scale soon.

The June 25 release also sets up a possible box-office clash with AkhilAkkineni’s *Lenin*, which is reportedly scheduled for release around the same period, making the month even more exciting for Telugu cinema fans.

With BuchiBabu Sana promising a powerful cinematic experience and Ram Charan leading the project, expectations are extremely high. Fans are now eagerly waiting for the teaser, trailer, and full-scale promotions leading up to what could be one of the biggest Telugu releases of the year.

For now, one thing is certain—*Peddi* is officially arriving on June 25, and the countdown has begun.

MEHREEN PIRZADA TIES THE KNOT WITH ARSH AULAKH IN PRIVATE TRADITIONAL CEREMONY

Actress MehreenPirzada has entered a new phase of her life, tying the knot with ArshAulakh in an intimate traditional wedding ceremony held in the scenic hill town of Chail, Himachal Pradesh. The actress shared the joyful news with fans through beautiful wedding pictures on social media, instantly making it a trending topic among film lovers.

The couple officially got married on the morning of April 26, 2026, in the presence of only close family members and a few close friends. Choosing privacy over a grand public celebration, Mehreen and Arsh kept the wedding low-key, with no prior announcements before the ceremony.

The wedding followed traditional customs and was held in a peaceful and elegant setting surrounded by the natural beauty of Himachal Pradesh. Mehreen looked graceful in a pastel pink traditional outfit, while ArshAulakh complemented her in matching ethnic attire. The photos shared online captured several candid and emotional moments from the ceremony, winning admiration from fans across social media.

Mehreen posted the wedding



pictures with a simple caption mentioning the date “26.04.26” along with heart emojis, letting the images speak for themselves. The understated announcement added to the emotional charm of the moment and was warmly received by her followers.

Soon after the post went live, congratulatory messages poured in from fans, friends, and members of the film indus-

try. Several celebrities including HansikaMotwani, NidhiAgerwal, and Srinidhi Shetty extended their wishes to the newly married couple, celebrating the happy occasion online.

Mehreen, known for her performances in films like *Krishna GaadiVeeraPremaGaadha*, *F2: Fun and Frustration*, and *F3*, has built a strong fan base in Telugu cinema and beyond.

Her wedding has therefore become major entertainment news, especially among her followers who have closely followed her personal and professional journey.

This wedding also marks a fresh beginning after her earlier engagement to politician BhavyaBishnoi was called off a few years ago. Since then, Mehreen had largely kept her personal life private, making this sudden wedding announcement a pleasant surprise for many.

ArshAulakh, who maintains a low public profile, has largely stayed away from the media spotlight. This added to the curiosity and excitement around the wedding announcement, with fans eager to know more about the couple’s relationship. The actress is also preparing for her upcoming film projects, and this happy milestone adds another memorable chapter to her life and career.

With the wedding pictures going viral and fans showering blessings, MehreenPirzada’s intimate ceremony has become one of the most talked-about celebrity moments of the week, blending love, tradition and elegance in the most beautiful way.

TAMIL PRODUCERS TAKE BOLD STEPS TO RESHAPE FILM INDUSTRY

The Tamil Film Producers Council (TFPC) has taken two major decisions aimed at improving the functioning of the film industry and addressing long-standing issues related to film production and release patterns. The council announced that from now on, producers will focus on stricter control over production costs and ensure more disciplined planning during filmmaking. Rising budgets and uncontrolled spending have become serious concerns in recent years, affecting both small and medium-scale producers. The new move is expected to bring better financial balance and reduce unnecessary pressure on filmmakers.

Another key decision involves regulating film releases and improving coordination between theatrical and OTT platforms. Producers have expressed concerns over the growing challenges caused by delayed theatrical runs, uncertain OTT release windows, and distributor pressure. The council believes a more balanced system is needed to protect producer interests while also supporting theatres and digital platforms. Industry insiders say the increasing dominance of OTT platforms has changed the traditional business model of Tamil cinema. Many producers feel that rigid release



conditions and extended waiting periods before OTT premieres are hurting revenue opportunities, especially for smaller films that depend on faster recovery of investment.

The TFPC has reportedly taken a firm stand against the proposed eight-week OTT release window being pushed by

some theatre owners and distributors. Producers argue that such restrictions limit their flexibility and directly impact their financial planning. They insist that the right to decide release strategy should remain with the producers.

The council’s latest decisions are being seen as an ef-

fort to bring structural reform to an industry facing changing audience habits, rising production expenses, and strong competition from streaming platforms. Several filmmakers believe these reforms are necessary to ensure long-term sustainability.

Producers also stress that better planning and responsible budgeting will help improve the quality of films by allowing resources to be used more effectively instead of being lost in unnecessary spending. This could particularly benefit new filmmakers and content-driven cinema.

The decisions have received attention across the South Indian film industry, as many believe similar challenges exist beyond Tamil cinema as well. If implemented successfully, these reforms could become a model for other regional industries facing the same struggles.

While official implementation details are still expected, the announcement itself has created strong discussion among producers, exhibitors, and digital distributors.

For now, the message from Tamil producers is clear—they are ready to protect their industry, adapt to changing times, and take stronger control over how films are made and released in the future.