

A portrait of a woman with dark hair, wearing a pink and white saree and a gold necklace. She has a bindi on her forehead and is looking slightly to the side.

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The seal of the Government of Telangana is a circular emblem. It features a central illustration of a temple gopuram (tower) with a lion standing on top. The text "GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA" is written in English around the top inner edge of the seal. Below it, the name "తెలంగాణ ప్రభుత్వము" is written in Telugu script, and "حکومتِ تلنگانہ" is written in Urdu script. The seal is placed on a document that also contains the text "సంఖ్య: 100" (Number: 100) and "తేదీ: 10/05/2024" (Date: 10/05/2024).

Full implementation of the Women's Reservation Bill, stressing that inclusive representation is essential for balanced policymaking. He added that women's leadership would bring fresh perspectives to governance and accelerate development across sectors such as education, health, and welfare. The leader reiterated that the bill is a tribute to the strength and resilience of Indian women and a step toward building an equal and progressive society. Political leaders across the country have been debating the timing and implementation of the bill, with several voices calling for its swift enforcement. Meanwhile, supporters view it as one of the most significant reforms in India's democratic history.



No Privatization of DISCOMs: Govt to Set Up Committee to Resolve Power Employees' Issues

With the declaration of JEE Main Results 2026, attention now shifts to higher education admissions, competitive exams, and career planning for successful candidates across Telangana.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Lays Foundation for 21.30 Lakh Check Dam Works in Siddipet

Siddipet District | TPN Bureau | April 12

Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Marripump Check Dam feeder channel works at Koochanpalli village in Husnabad mandal of Siddipet district, with an estimated cost of 21.30 lakh on Saturday. The minister formally launched the development works in the presence of local representatives including village sarpanch Madapa Padma Jaipal Reddy, Market Committee Chairman Tirupati Reddy, and other public representatives and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar highlighted

the government's ongoing focus on strengthening rural infrastructure and irrigation facilities to support farmers and improve agricultural productivity. He said that multiple development initiatives are being implemented simultaneously across the Husnabad constituency. He recalled that agricultural equipment distribution programmes were recently conducted in Chigurumamidi mandal, along with inspections of the proposed Telangana Model School site. The minister said that such initiatives are aimed at strengthening both education and agriculture in rural areas. Referring to irrigation-related development, he stated that along with the newly launched check dam works in Koochanpalli, development and inspection works

are also underway for various village tanks including Kotha Cheruvu, Yellamma Cheruvu, and Palle Cheruvu. He added that repair works of sluice gates and related irrigation structures are also progressing. The minister further informed that agricultural machinery distribution programmes are actively continuing in Husnabad, benefiting farmers by improving access to modern equipment. He also mentioned that urban forest development works in Husnabad are progressing at a fast pace, contributing to environmental improvement in the region. On the education and infrastructure front, Ponnam Prabhakar said that engineering college works and transport department office constructions are underway. He also announced plans for the de-

velopment of an industrial corridor in Husnabad to enhance employment opportunities for local youth. Additionally, he stated that a four-lane road network is being developed around Husnabad to improve connectivity and support future growth. The minister expressed confidence that Husnabad constituency will develop as a model region in Telangana through coordinated efforts in irrigation, infrastructure, education, and industrial development. Local leaders and officials participating in the event welcomed the initiative and expressed hope that the new check dam works will significantly benefit irrigation needs of nearby agricultural lands, ensuring better water availability for farmers in the region.



700 Crore CBG Plant Launched in Siddipet to Boost Green Energy and Jobs

Siddipet District | TPN Bureau | April 12

A ground-breaking ceremony was held on Sunday for the establishment of a Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plant at Narmetta in Nangunur mandal of Siddipet district. The project is being developed by Juno Joule Biofuels Private Limited with a massive investment of 700 crore, marking a significant step towards clean energy and sustainable industrial development in Telangana.

The event was attended by Telangana IT and Industries Minister Shri D. Sridhar Babu, who participated as the chief guest and formally launched the project works. The minister highlighted the importance of promoting green energy initiatives that reduce environmental pollution while creating large-scale employment opportunities. According to project details, the CBG plant is expected to generate employment for around 1,400 people. Notably, about 30 percent of the



jobs will be reserved for women, reflecting the government's focus on inclusive and gender-balanced employment growth. The project will be implemented in a cluster-based model in three phases. A total of 10 CBG plants will be established, each with a production capacity of 100 tonnes per day. In Phase 1, three plants will be set

up, followed by three more in Phase 2, and four plants in Phase 3, completing the full cluster expansion. Officials stated that the project will use sustainable raw materials such as paddy straw, cattle dung, and poultry waste for the production of biofuel gas. This will not only help in waste management but also

promote circular economy practices in rural and agricultural sectors.

Minister Sridhar Babu noted that such projects align with Telangana's vision of becoming a leader in renewable energy and industrial innovation. He emphasized that the CBG initiative will support farmers by creating a new market for agricultural residue while also contributing to cleaner fuel alternatives.

The plant is expected to reduce carbon emissions significantly and provide an eco-friendly energy solution for the future. Officials and company representatives present at the ceremony expressed confidence that the project will transform the region into a hub for green energy production.

Local leaders welcomed the initiative, stating that it will bring long-term economic benefits, strengthen rural livelihoods, and open new avenues for sustainable industrial growth in Siddipet district.

Hyderabad | TPN Bureau | April 12

The Telangana government has directed officials to expedite the rehabilitation works of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIS), aiming to restore full operational capacity of its three major barrages—Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla—at the earliest. Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy held a high-level review meeting at the Secretariat with senior officials of the Irrigation Department, representatives of the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS), design consultants, and executing agencies including L&T. The Minister stressed that the repair and rehabilitation works must be fast-tracked under a strict time-bound programme.

He stated that statutory bodies such as the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) and the Vigilance Commission have already identified serious defects in the design, planning, and execution of the barrages.

He noted that similar structural issues exist across all three barrages, requiring comprehensive corrective measures.

The Minister directed that the next two working seasons—2027 and 2028—should be treated as crucial for completing the rehabilitation works. He expressed confidence that Annaram and Sundilla could be fully restored within the planned timeline, while Medigadda could be made partially operational in parallel.

As part of the rehabilitation strategy, the government has finalised AFRY India in collaboration with IIT Mumbai as the design consultant. The Minister instructed the design team to work round the clock, seven days a week, and submit designs at the earliest for approval by the Central Water Commission (CWC).

He emphasised that all necessary geotechnical, geophysical, soil, and hydraulic modelling studies must be completed on priority. CWPRS, Pune has

been directed to treat the project as its top priority and ensure continuous site presence during the testing phase.

A high-powered Steering Committee has also been constituted under the convenorship of Col. Parikshit Mehra to monitor and coordinate rehabilitation works. The committee will meet twice a week, with the Minister reviewing progress periodically, including through virtual meetings if required.

Executing agencies have been instructed to reactivate site camps, ensure logistics support, and facilitate uninterrupted field operations. The Minister also stressed that all testing activities must be jointly witnessed by designers, CWPRS officials, department engineers, and agency representatives with proper documentation.

Senior officials including the Irrigation Secretary, Engineer-in-Chief, and technical advisors participated in the review meeting.

KTR Announces Statewide Padayatra, Signals TRS Revival Push

Hyderabad, April 12, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao on Sunday announced that the party is preparing for a major statewide padayatra and indicated that the party may revert to its old name, Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), as part of its strategy to regain lost political ground in the state.

Addressing party leaders and cadre at Telangana Bhavan, KTR said the proposed padayatra will be aimed at re-connecting with people at the grassroots level and strengthening the party's organisational structure across all districts. He stated that the party leadership is committed to rebuilding public trust and reviving its earlier support base.



He also hinted at a possible return to the TRS identity, the original name under which the party led the Telangana statehood movement. According to

him, discussions within the party are ongoing regarding the rebranding exercise, though a final decision will be taken at an appropriate time

after consultations with senior leadership.

Political observers see the announcement as a strategic move by the BRS leadership to re-energise its cadre following recent electoral setbacks and to reassert its presence in Telangana's political landscape. The padayatra plan is expected to mirror earlier mass outreach campaigns aimed at mobilising support across rural and urban constituencies.

KTR said the party's focus will be on exposing the failures of the ruling Congress government and highlighting BRS achievements during its tenure in power. He alleged that governance issues and unmet promises have created public dissatisfaction, which the BRS intends to channel through its statewide outreach programme.

He further stated that the party will intensify organisational activities in every constituency and strengthen booth-level networks ahead of future elections. The leadership believes that direct interaction with people will help address grievances and rebuild confidence in the party.

Party sources indicated that the padayatra schedule and route details will be finalised soon, with senior leaders expected to participate alongside KTR. The programme is likely to cover key districts across Telangana in phases.

With the announcement, the BRS appears to be entering a new phase of political repositioning, combining mass outreach with possible organisational rebranding as it prepares for upcoming electoral battles in the state.

DGP Inaugurates 1,229 Crore Police Residential Complex in Telangana

Hyderabad, April 13 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) Shivadhar Reddy on Sunday inaugurated a massive police residential complex built at a cost of 1,229 crore, marking a major step in strengthening infrastructure for police personnel in the state.

The newly inaugurated facility is designed to provide modern, comfortable, and secure housing for police officers and staff across different ranks. Officials said the project reflects the government's commitment to improving the living standards of the police force, which plays a crucial role in maintaining law and order.

Speaking on the occasion, the DGP highlighted that the



residential complex has been developed with world-class amenities, ensuring a better

quality of life for personnel who work under demanding conditions. He said that im-

proved housing facilities would also contribute to better efficiency and morale among the police force.

The complex includes well-planned residential quarters, internal roads, water supply systems, power backup arrangements, and recreational facilities. Authorities stated that the infrastructure has been designed to accommodate a large number of police families, reducing accommodation shortages faced in urban and district areas. Officials of the Telangana State Police Housing Corporation, which executed the project, said the construction was completed in phases with a focus on quality standards and timely delivery. They added that similar residential projects are being planned in other parts of the state to further strengthen po-

lice welfare infrastructure.

The inauguration event was attended by senior police officials, engineers, and government representatives, who praised the initiative as a significant milestone in police modernization efforts.

The DGP also emphasized that the Telangana police force is undergoing continuous modernization, not only in terms of technology and operational capabilities but also in welfare measures. He noted that providing dignified housing is essential for ensuring a motivated and disciplined force.

With the completion of the 1,229 crore residential complex, the state aims to address long-standing accommodation challenges and enhance overall welfare support for police personnel serving across Telangana.

CBITMUN 2026 Concludes with a Grand Closing Ceremony, Celebrating 15 Years of Legacy.

The 15th edition of the Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology Model United Nations (CBITMUN 2026) concluded with a spectacular closing ceremony held on April 12 at the prestigious Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre, marking the successful culmination of three days of diplomacy, debate, and collaboration.

The conference has drawn participation from over 350 delegates representing institutions across India and abroad, creating a diverse and dynamic platform for the simulation of global affairs who actively participated across six dynamic committees: UNGA-DISEC, UNHRC, HCC, IMF, International Press, and the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Each committee served as a platform for rigorous discussion, negotiation, and policy formulation, reflecting the spirit of global diplomacy.

The closing ceremony was a moment of pride and reflection, as members of the core committee addressed the gathering. In their speeches, they expressed sincere gratitude to all participants, organizers, and supporters who contributed to the resounding success of CBITMUN 2026. They emphasized the enthusiasm, intellectual depth, and collaborative spirit displayed by delegates throughout the conference.

The Core Committee extended heartfelt thanks to the Principal, Prof. C. V. Narasimhulu, for his unwavering support and encouragement. Special appreciation was also conveyed to Dr. Shagufta Parween, Head of the Department of English, and Dr. Rahul, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, for their constant guidance and mentorship in ensuring the seamless execution of the event.

The conference successfully blended serious deliberation with a vibrant and memorable experience for all involved. As the ceremony concluded, the core committee reflected on the remarkable 15-year legacy of CBITMUN, acknowledging its growth into a nationally recognized platform for youth diplomacy and discourse. Reaffirming their commitment to uphold this legacy, they assured that CBITMUN will return stronger in the coming years. With that promise, CBITMUN 2026 came to a fitting close, celebrating not just the success of this edition, but also a proud legacy of 15 years of excellence.



OU Students Protest Against Remarks on Minister Seethakka, Demand Withdrawal of Allegations

Hyderabad, April 12 | TPN Bureau

A protest erupted at Osmania University (OU) on Saturday as Congress student leaders strongly condemned alleged inappropriate remarks made by BRS leader Manne Krishank against Telangana Minister Seethakka, demanding an immediate withdrawal of his comments.

The demonstration was held near the Arts College on the OU campus, where students gathered in support of Minister Seethakka and raised slogans criticizing the statements made by the opposition leader. The protest was led by Congress student leader D. Saleem, who termed the remarks "irresponsible and misleading" and urged Krishank to retract his statements without delay.

Speaking to the media during the protest, Saleem clarified that there was no irregularity in the procurement of mobile phones distributed to Anganwadi teachers under the state government's welfare initiative. He stated that the procurement was carried out transparently under the centrally sponsored Poshan Abhi-



yan scheme.

According to him, the central government had allocated funds for the program, and based on those allocations, the state purchased mobile phones at a cost lower than the budgeted amount of 11,800, securing them at approximately 11,650 per device. He emphasized that the initiative was implemented in a cost-effective manner without any financial misappropriation.

Saleem further alleged that the current Congress government has been working to modernize Anganwadi services by

integrating technology and ensuring better delivery of welfare services to beneficiaries. He also contrasted the present administration's approach with the previous BRS regime, claiming that the current government has taken more proactive steps to support frontline workers.

He reiterated that spreading misinformation about welfare schemes undermines the credibility of government proams aimed at empowering women and child development workers. The student leader insisted that such allegations not only

mislead the public but also demoralize Anganwadi staff who are actively engaged in grassroots service delivery.

Several student leaders and Congress supporters participated in the protest, calling for responsible political discourse and urging leaders to avoid making baseless accusations that could create confusion among the public.

The protest concluded peacefully, with participants reaffirming their support for Minister Seethakka and demanding accountability from those making public statements.

Twin Sisters Shine in Inter First Year Results with Outstanding Scores

Medchal, April 12 | TPN Bureau

Twin sisters from Medchal have brought pride to their family and district by securing exceptional marks in the Intermediate First Year examinations, the results of which were announced on Sunday.

Bhavya, who pursued the MPC stream, scored an impressive 465 out of 470 marks, showcasing remarkable consistency across subjects. Her twin sister Bhavana, enrolled in the BiPC stream, also delivered an outstanding performance by securing 436 marks out of 440.

Both sisters have emerged as top performers in their respective streams, earning praise for their dedication and academic excellence. Their achievements are being widely appreciated by family members, relatives, friends, and well-wishers, who have expressed joy over their success.

According to family sources, the twins have always been academically inclined and maintained a disciplined study routine. Teachers also noted that both students consistently performed well throughout their



academic year, reflecting their strong commitment and focus.

Education experts have highlighted that such performances demonstrate not only individual talent but also the importance of a supportive learning environment at home and school. The twins' success has become a talking point in their locality, inspiring other students preparing for competitive examinations and board-level assessments.

School authorities congratulated Bhavya and Bhavana, stating that their results are a testament to hard work and perseverance. They also en-



couraged other students to take inspiration from the duo and aim for similar excellence in future academic pursuits.

The achievement has added to the festive atmosphere in their household, with celebrations continuing since the announcement of results. The family expressed gratitude to teachers and mentors who guided the students throughout their academic journey.

With this remarkable performance, the twin sisters have set a high benchmark in the Intermediate First Year results, marking a proud moment for Medchal district.



Rising Commercial Gas Cylinder Prices Burden Common People, Allegations of Black Market Sales Surface

Nacharam, April 12 | TPN Bureau

The recent rise in commercial gas cylinder prices has become a heavy burden on common people, especially affecting small businesses and street vendors, according to locals in Nacharam.

In an incident reported near HMT Kaman, a tea stall vendor explained how the cost of tea has been increased from 10 to 15 due to a sudden spike in gas cylinder prices. When questioned by customers, the shop owner stated that the price of a commercial gas cylinder has reportedly increased drastically in the local market, forcing small vendors to raise their rates.

He alleged that while the actual market price of a cylinder is around 2,300, it is being sold in the black market for nearly 6,000, making it difficult for small business owners to sustain their operations. According to him, intermediaries and certain agencies are creating artificial scarcity and selling cylinders at inflated prices.

The vendor expressed frustration over what he described as a lack of control over black marketing practices, claiming

that even though central authorities assure adequate gas supply for several months, local irregularities are driving up costs. He also criticized the lack of strict monitoring by civil supplies officials, alleging inaction against those involved in illegal sales.

Local consumers and business owners have demanded strict action against agencies involved in black marketing of gas cylinders. They urged civil supplies authorities to conduct inspections, identify illegal distributors, and take immediate action, including cancellation of licenses where violations are found.

Residents also expressed concern that rising input costs are directly impacting daily essentials like tea and snacks, making life more expensive for ordinary citizens. They appealed to authorities to stabilize prices and ensure fair distribution of gas cylinders without exploitation.

The situation has sparked concern among small traders, who say they are being forced to pass on increased costs to customers, further affecting affordability for the general public.

Medchal, April 12 | TPN Bureau

Workers at the Jawaharnagar dumping yard are continuing to face unresolved issues, and the recognized union has failed to address their concerns, alleged KVR Baseline Resource Employees President P. Narayana during a general body meeting held on Sunday.

The meeting was organized under the leadership of Medchal district BRTU president Sambu Prabhakar. Speaking on the occasion, Narayana said that employees working under KVR Baseline Private Limited at the Jawaharnagar dumping yard have been struggling with multiple workplace-related



problems, including welfare and service-related grievances, which remain unattended.

He strongly criticized the recognized union for its alleged inaction, stating that it

Dumping Yard Workers' Issues Must Be Resolved, Says Union Leader

Reflective Stickers Made Mandatory for Vehicle Fitness Certification in Telangana

Hyderabad, April 12, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has made reflective stickers and QR-code based marking systems mandatory for all transport vehicles seeking fitness certification, in a major step aimed at improving road safety and night-time visibility on highways and urban roads.

Under the new rules, vehicles without approved reflective tapes or QR-verified stickers will not be issued or renewed fitness certificates by transport authorities. The system has been introduced to curb the use of substandard materials and ensure uniform safety standards across the state.

According to officials, the re-



flexive marking system will apply to a wide range of transport vehicles, including goods carriers, buses, and other commercial vehicles. Each sticker will carry a QR code linked to a central transport database, allowing enforcement authorities to verify authenticity in-

stantly during inspections.

The initiative is part of broader road safety reforms under the Transport Department, which has been tightening compliance norms in recent months. Authorities said the move is expected to significantly reduce night-time acci-

dents caused by poor visibility of stationary or slow-moving vehicles. The QR-based system also ensures traceability, as only empanelled manufacturers approved by the government are permitted to supply and install the reflective materials. Each installation will be recorded digitally along with vehicle details, photographs, and certification data. Officials further clarified that a limited grace period will be provided for recently fitted vehicles, after which full compliance will become compulsory for obtaining fitness certificates. Strict action will be taken against dealers and vendors violating pricing or quality norms.

Transport department sources said the system will be monitored through digital ver-

ification tools integrated with departmental databases. Inspecting officers will be able to scan QR codes during roadside checks to confirm validity in real time. Road safety experts have welcomed the move, stating that improved visibility measures are crucial in reducing accidents, especially on highways where heavy vehicles are often difficult to spot at night. The government has also warned that vehicles without proper reflective markings will be deemed unfit for road operation, reinforcing strict enforcement of the new guidelines.

With this rollout, Telangana joins a growing number of states adopting technology-driven safety mechanisms to enhance compliance and reduce road fatalities.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Inspects School Site and Distributes Farm Equipment in Karimnagar

Karimnagar, April 12 | TPN Bureau

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Saturday visited Chigurumamidi mandal headquarters in Husnabad constituency, where he inspected a proposed site for a Telangana Public School and later participated in the distribution of agricultural equipment and welfare benefits to farmers and beneficiaries.

During his visit, the Minister examined the premises of a government high school where the state government is planning to establish a Telangana Public School under its new education model. Officials informed him that the proposed school will be developed on four acres of land with modern infrastructure and will offer integrated education from Class 1 to Intermediate level.

The Minister directed officials to ensure that the campus design includes primary

school, high school, and junior college facilities within a single complex. He stressed the importance of creating a well-planned educational environment that supports rural students with improved access to quality education and better infrastructure.

Later, at the Chigurumamidi Rythu Vedika, Ponnam Prabhakar participated in a programme under the SMAM (Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation) scheme for the 2025-26 financial year. As part of the initiative, 24 farmers were distributed advanced agricultural equipment worth 40.80 lakh.

The equipment included rotavators, balers, power sprayers, and other modern farming tools aimed at reducing manual labor and increasing agricultural productivity. The Minister said the government is giving priority to farm mechanisation after a long gap and ensuring that farmers receive timely support

based on their needs.

He also encouraged farmers to apply for government assistance if they require additional machinery. He noted that demand for balers is particularly high and assured that requests will be considered based on priority and necessity.

Ponnam Prabhakar further stated that paddy procurement centres have been set up across the state and are functioning smoothly. He said there are no major issues in the procurement process and the government is committed to ensuring fair and timely payments to farmers.

Highlighting agricultural diversification, the Minister urged farmers to consider oil palm cultivation as a sustainable option. He said that oil palm farming is being promoted due to its stability and lower risk from wildlife damage. He also suggested that farmers with larger landholdings explore the crop and visit

processing units to understand its benefits.

The Minister added that irrigation works and canal projects are being expedited, including progress on the Gouravelli project. He assured that pending canal works will be completed soon and payments will be cleared in a phased manner. He also appealed to farmers to cooperate with land acquisition for irrigation development.

Welfare schemes such as Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak are being implemented without delay, he said, adding that the government is also working to resolve long-pending land issues in Rekonda in consultation with the Chief Minister.

The programme was attended by Additional Collector Ashwini Tanaji Wakade, RDO Mahesh, market committee chairman Tirupathi Reddy, revenue officials, and several public representatives.



Karimnagar, Warangal Register Steady Growth in Intermediate Results

Karimnagar, April 12, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Karimnagar and Warangal districts have shown steady academic improvement in the recently announced Telangana Intermediate examination results, reflecting consistent performance trends in both first-year and second-year streams.

According to education officials, students from these districts have continued to maintain strong pass percentages compared to several other regions, indicating gradual but stable academic growth over the years. The performance has been attributed to improved teaching standards in junior colleges, better exam preparedness, and focused academic support programmes implemented by the Intermediate Education Department.

In Karimnagar, students performed particularly well in both MPC and BiPC streams, with a noticeable rise in the number of students securing first division marks. Warangal district also recorded similar progress, with several government and private junior colleges reporting improved overall results this year.

Officials noted that targeted interventions such as remedial classes, digital learning tools, and special coaching for slow learners have contributed to the positive trend. Faculty members in government junior colleges said that regular assessments and structured revision schedules helped students perform better in the final examinations. Education experts observed that districts like Karimnagar and Warangal are gradually emerging as strong academic centres in Telangana, outside Hyderabad. They added that



consistent infrastructure upgrades in schools and colleges, along with increased enrolment, have played a key role in improving outcomes. Students who excelled in the examinations expressed satisfaction with their results, attributing their success to disciplined study routines and guidance from lecturers. Parents and college management also welcomed the improved performance, calling it a positive sign for rural and semi-urban education development.

Officials further state that the state's overall intermediate results have shown balanced performance across districts, with some regions outperforming the state average in specific streams. They added that continued focus on quality education and skill-based learning will be essential to sustain this growth.

With steady academic progress in districts like Karimnagar and Warangal, education authorities are hopeful that Telangana will see even stronger results in the coming years, strengthening its position in higher education outcomes at the state level.

Kiran Kumar Reddy Slams KTR, Defends Congress Governance at Press Meet

Bhongir | TPN Bureau | April 12

Bhongir Lok Sabha Member Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy launched a sharp attack on BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) during a press meet held on Saturday, strongly defending the Congress government and countering allegations made against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

Speaking to the media, the MP said he strongly condemns the remarks made by KTR against the Chief Minister. He alleged that KTR has been making baseless and misleading statements and accused him of speaking "without facts and responsibility."

Kiran Kumar Reddy claimed that the BRS party has faced repeated electoral defeats and said that the people have already rejected the party's leadership. He further remarked that the previous BRS regime had mismanaged the state fi-

nances, leading to what he described as a massive debt burden.

The Congress MP said Telangana was formed as a surplus state, but later accumulated significant debt during the previous government's tenure. He credited Congress governments for key national and state-level infrastructure projects, including major airports, metro rail connectivity, and water supply systems in Hyderabad. He alleged that several developmental initiatives were either stalled or poorly executed under the previous regime, while the current government is working to revive and complete pending projects such as river development works and urban infrastructure upgrades.

Kiran Kumar Reddy also criticized KTR's political remarks on the Congress leadership, stating that such comments reflect frustration over losing power. He said the Congress government is focused

on development and governance, while also maintaining coordination with the Centre for state progress.

Referring to infrastructure growth in Hyderabad, he said the Congress party has historically played a key role in bringing drinking water projects and metro rail connectivity to the city. He also mentioned that the government is now planning future-oriented projects like the "Future City" development vision.

The MP further alleged irregularities and questioned the wealth accumulation of certain political families, stating that people are aware of the ground realities. He added that the Congress party remains confident about its governance and future electoral success. He concluded by stating that the Congress government is working with a clear mandate for development, and dismissed KTR's press statements as politically motivated and irrelevant.

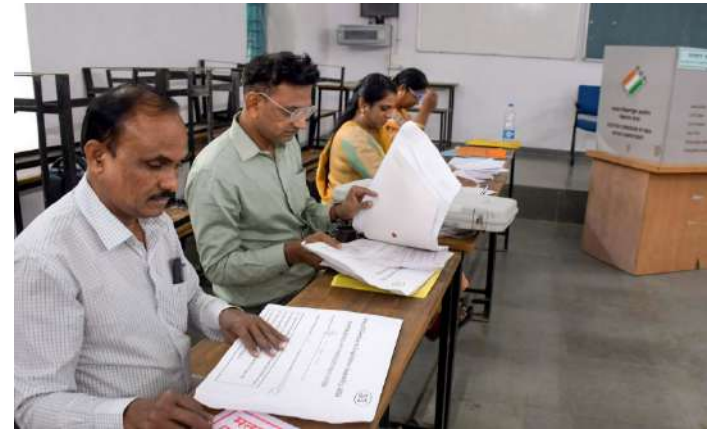


Booth Level Agent-2 System Gains Importance in SIR Exercise

Hyderabad, April 12, 2026 | TPN Bureau

The Booth Level Agent-2 (BLA-2) system is emerging as a crucial component for political parties in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, with election authorities emphasizing stronger grassroots participation to ensure accuracy and transparency in voter data.

Under the SIR framework, each political party is required to appoint Booth Level Agents at every polling station to closely coordinate with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) during the voter verification and updating process. The inclusion of BLA-2s is expected to further strengthen booth-level monitoring and improve the



reliability of electoral roll corrections.

Election officials have stated that BLAs and BLA-2s play a key role in identifying discrepancies, verifying voter details, and ensuring that eligible voters are not left out of the updated rolls. Their presence at

the booth level also helps reduce errors during door-to-door verification and data mapping exercises conducted by BLOs.

According to the guidelines, political parties must submit detailed lists of their appointed BLA-2 representatives, in-

cluding names, contact details, photographs, and specimen signatures, to the election machinery. This is aimed at ensuring accountability and seamless communication between election staff and party representatives.

Officials involved in the SIR process said that the revision exercise is one of the most significant voter roll updates in recent years, designed to ensure an accurate and inclusive electoral database. They noted that the involvement of both BLOs and BLAs/BLA-2s is essential for maintaining transparency and preventing duplication or omission of voter records.

The Election Commission has also urged political parties to complete appointments at the earliest, as field-level veri-

fication work is already underway across several constituencies. Preparatory mapping and household surveys are being carried out in multiple phases as part of the exercise.

Political analysts believe that the introduction of the BLA-2 system reflects an effort to deepen political participation at the booth level while strengthening checks and balances in the electoral process. However, they also point out that the effectiveness of the system will depend on the active involvement and cooperation of party representatives on the ground.

With SIR expected to play a key role in upcoming elections, booth-level coordination between officials and political parties is being seen as critical to ensuring a clean, updated, and credible voter list.

Nalgonda Police Bust VIPS Group Investment Fraud, Arrest 10 Agents

Nalgonda, April 12 | TPN Bureau

In a major crackdown on an alleged large-scale financial fraud, Nalgonda Rural Police have arrested 10 agents linked to the VIPS Group of Companies for cheating investors with false promises of high returns and cash-back schemes. The main accused, Vinod Tukaram Khute, CEO of the company, along with several directors, is currently absconding.

According to police, the accused allegedly collected hundreds of crores from the public through multiple investment models, including membership schemes, referral commissions, trading plans, property cashback offers, and merchant QR-based systems. The company reportedly lured investors by promising unusually high returns and assured profits, but failed to deliver any repayments.

The fraud came to light when the accused attempted to launch a new scheme called "WAVE" at a meeting near Lakshmi Gardens in Nalgonda town on April 11. They allegedly persuaded existing investors to reinvest 1 lakh each, claiming earlier investments would also be returned. Acting on credible information, police reached the spot and detained the suspects. Ten mobile phones used in the operation were seized.

Police said VIPS Group initially started as a digital wallet platform in 2016 and later expanded into a

multi-level marketing structure, creating fake hierarchies such as executives, presidents, and directors to expand its network. The company allegedly operated a pyramid-style investment model with no genuine business activity, relying entirely on new investor inflows.

Several investors across Telangana and other states are believed to have been affected by the scheme. Authorities have booked the accused under relevant sections of IPC and financial fraud laws, including provisions related to cheating, criminal conspiracy, and deposit protection violations.

The arrested individuals have been identified as agents operating across Hyderabad, Nalgonda, and surrounding mandals. Police have intensified efforts to trace the absconding main accused and other top-level operators of the network.

Officials have urged the public to remain cautious of online investment schemes promising high returns, warning that such platforms often operate fraudulent pyramid structures. They advised citizens to verify financial schemes before investing and report suspicious activities to the nearest police station.

The case is being investigated under the supervision of the Nalgonda DSP, with police commending the Rural and II Town teams for their swift action in preventing further losses.



Coastal Patrol Intensified to Check Illegal Fishing Boats

NELLORE | APRIL 12, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

A Special Boat Patrolling Task Force has intensified coastal surveillance in Andhra Pradesh waters to prevent illegal entry of mechanized fishing boats from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The initiative is being carried out under the directions of District Collector Himanshu Shukla and SP Dr Ajitha Vejendla.

The joint task force, comprising officials from Fisheries, Coastal Security Police, Forest Department, and local fishermen, has

been conducting daily patrols from Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour. On Sunday, three patrol boats were deployed to monitor different coastal stretches.

The first patrol covered areas from Juvvaladinne to Tummalapenta and Taticherlapalem, while the second team monitored nearly 25 km between Krishnapatnam Port and Koduru. The third patrol operated from Krishnapatnam Port up to White Kuppam near SDSC SHAR.

Each patrol team included police personnel, fisheries officials, and trained boat crew members, ensuring

strict vigilance across vulnerable zones. Authorities said these measures are aimed at protecting local fishermen from net damage, illegal fishing, and potential attacks by intruding vessels.

Officials confirmed that no unauthorized boats from neighboring states were detected during the patrol. Continuous monitoring is being maintained to ensure maritime security. The task force has urged fishermen and coastal residents to report any suspicious movements immediately by dialing 112, assuring strict action against violators and safeguarding livelihoods.



Balakrishna Attends NUDA Chairman's Son's Wedding

TIRUPATI | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

Hindupur MLA and actor Nandamuri Balakrishna attended the wedding ceremony of NUDA Chairman Kotamreddy Srinivasulu Reddy's son, Prajayasena Reddy, held at Taj Hotel in Tirupati on Sunday morning. The groom, Prajayasena Reddy, tied the knot with

Jahnvi in a grand ceremony attended by several prominent leaders and well-wishers. Among the dignitaries present were Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy, MLA of Sarvepalli, and Pulivarthi Nani, MLA of Chandragiri, along with other coalition leaders. The wedding witnessed a large gathering of political figures, family mem-

bers, and invitees, reflecting the significance of the occasion. Leaders extended their heartfelt wishes to the couple and blessed them for a happy and prosperous married life. The event also served as a platform for interaction among key political leaders, highlighting unity and cordial relations within the alliance.



Grievance Forum at Tirupati Collectorate on April 13

TIRUPATI | APRIL 12, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

District Collector Dr S. Venkateshwar announced that the Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) programme will be held at the Tirupati Collectorate on April 13, urging citizens to make use of the opportunity to resolve their issues.

The programme will be conducted from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, with officials from all departments present to receive and address public complaints. Similar grievance forums will also be organized at division and mandal levels for wider reach. The Collector advised applicants to carry complete details and relevant documents related to their grievances. Those who have already submitted petitions should bring their acknowledgment slips for reference. Citizens can also check the status of their complaints by calling the helpline number 1100 or by registering



petitions online through the Meekosam portal.

He stated that updates regarding grievance redressal will be communicated through

SMS and WhatsApp, while official notices will be sent via registered post.

Emphasizing transparency and efficiency, the Collector ap-

pealed to the public to utilize the PGRS platform effectively to ensure timely resolution of their problems.



Gangamma Jatara Poster Unveiled in Tirupati

TIRUPATI | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu on Sunday unveiled the poster, invitation, and publicity material for the upcoming Tatayyagunta Gangamma Jatara, scheduled to be held from May 5 to May 13.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said the festival will commence on the night of May 5 with traditional rituals and conclude on May 13 with the Viswaroopa Darshan. He added that the main celebrations will be held in a grand manner on May 12, attracting large numbers of devotees from across Rayalaseema and neighboring states like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Temple governing body chairman Mahesh Yadav stat-

ed that elaborate arrangements are being made to ensure smooth conduct of the jatara. He emphasized that all efforts are being taken to provide hassle-free darshan to devotees, giving priority to common pilgrims.

The MLA said various government departments will work in coordination to ensure that devotees face no inconvenience during the festival. He also stressed that the event will be conducted beyond political lines, focusing on tradition and public participation.

Several leaders from TDP, Jana Sena, and BJP attended the programme, along with temple committee members and local representatives, marking a strong start to the preparations for the annual religious festival.

BJP BLA-2 Workshop Held with Enthusiasm in Jaggampeta

KAKINADA | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organized a grand BLA-2 (Booth Level Agents) workshop in Jaggampeta constituency of Kakinada district, witnessing enthusiastic participation from party cadres.

The event, held at Parinaya AC Function Hall, saw the presence of key leaders including MLC Somu Veeraj, district president Bikkina Visweswara Rao, and BLA-1 leader Kambala Srinivasa Rao. Around 240 booth agents, along with leaders and workers from Rajanagaram, Gokavaram, and Polavaram areas, attended the



programme.

Addressing the gathering, Visweswara Rao emphasized that booth-level workers are

the backbone of the party and called upon them to reach every voter with information about central government

schemes. Somu Veeraj highlighted the importance of strengthening voter enrollment and ensuring accuracy in

electoral rolls, stating that BJP's growth depends on grassroots efforts.

Kambala Srinivasa Rao underlined the crucial role of BLA-2 agents in election management and voter list monitoring. Notably, within a week of taking charge as BLA-1, he facilitated the appointment of nearly 240 booth agents, earning praise from party leadership.

Leaders described him as a "war room warrior" for his dedication and coordination. The workshop energized party cadres, with leaders asserting that BJP is gearing up strongly for the upcoming electoral battle.

"Punish My Son Legally, Not Otherwise," Pleads Accused's Mother

KADAPA | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

In a deeply emotional appeal, Sujatha, mother of murder accused Avula Venkatesh, urged authorities to ensure that her son is punished strictly as per law and not subjected to any extrajudicial action. She made this statement while addressing the media at the Kadapa Press Club.

The case relates to the sensational murder of a student, Keerthana, from Kazipet K Agraharam, which has sparked widespread outrage across the state. Sujatha said she was unaware of any relationship between her son and the victim. However, she mentioned that a letter found in his possession indicated a possible love affair.

According to her, on the day of the incident, Venkatesh returned home shortly after going out and appeared distressed. She claimed he told her that he had gone to question Keerthana over personal issues, during which a confrontation took place. She added that her son alleged the girl threatened self-harm, and in the ensuing struggle, the fatal incident occurred.

Maintaining that her son is innocent, Sujatha said she could not believe he committed such a grave act. However, she stated that if he is found guilty, he should face legal punishment. She appealed that no other form of punishment be inflicted and said if otherwise, she too should be held accountable along with her son.



Keerthana Murder Sparks Outrage, Leaders Demand Strict Action

KADAPA | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

The brutal murder of Keerthana in Khajipet Agraharam has drawn strong condemnation from political leaders, with Kadapa MP Y. S. Avinash Reddy and former Mydukur MLA Raghuram Reddy expressing deep anguish over the incident.

The leaders visited the victim's family and offered condolences, interacting with family members who narrated the tragic sequence of events with grief. As a gesture of support, they handed over financial assistance of 2 lakh to the bereaved family and assured continued backing from the YSR Congress Party.

Speaking to the me-

dia, Raghuram Reddy criticized the current administration, alleging that governance systems have weakened, leading to inadequate safety for women. He said such incidents reflect a serious lapse in law and order.

MP Avinash Reddy emphasized the need for stringent measures to prevent recurrence of such crimes. He urged the government to ensure that harsh punishments are imposed on offenders to create a strong deterrent against such heinous acts.

Both leaders called for swift justice and stressed that strict action against the accused is essential to restore public confidence and ensure the safety and security of women in the state.



Strict Punishment Assured in Keerthana Murder Case

KADAPA | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

Mydukur MLA Putta Sudhakar Yadav has assured that the accused in the murder of Keerthana will face strict legal punishment, while extending full support to the victim's family.

The MLA visited Khajipet Agraharam village in Kadapa district and consoled the bereaved family. After paying tributes to the deceased student, he described the incident as "brutal and deeply disturbing," stating that such a crime has shaken him personally.

He added that steps are being initiated to ensure such crimes are not repeated in the future.

Referring to directions from Nara Lokesh, the MLA stated that strict legal action would be taken against all those involved in the case. He assured that the police have been instructed to act swiftly and ensure the accused is punished at the earliest through due legal process.

Putta Sudhakar Yadav also reiterated that the government stands firmly with the victim's family and will extend all eligible assistance and welfare support. He emphasized that justice will be delivered and confidence restored among the public through decisive action in the case.

He said incidents of this nature had not occurred earlier in his constituency and emphasized that firm measures would be taken to prevent recurrence.



Serial Murder-for-Gain Cases Cracked in Tirupati

Tirupati, April 12, 2026 | TPN Bureau:

In a major breakthrough, Tirupati district police have solved a series of sensational "murder-for-gain" cases targeting lone women. District SP L. Subbarayudu, IPS, revealed that a special investigation team, led by Additional SP (Crimes) A. Srinivasulu, successfully cracked four major cases, including two murders in Tiruchanur, one robbery in Tirupati Crime PS limits, and another murder in Pichatur police station limits. The accused, initially identified as P. Viswanath alias Prashanth, was later confirmed to be an inter-state most wanted criminal, A.M. Azeez alias Abdul Azeez, also known as "Karnataka Azeez." He had escaped from Kerala police custody in 2018 and had been evading arrest since then. Police con-

firmed his involvement in at least 21 cases across Karnataka, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh.

During interrogation, shocking details emerged about his modus operandi. Using a fake identity, he worked in hotels and built local contacts. With the help of an accomplice, Rajamma from Vedurukuppam, he carried out crimes using an autorickshaw. Police arrested Rajamma and recovered stolen property worth approximately 21.5 lakh, including 127.5 grams of gold and 48 grams of silver ornaments, along with the vehicle used in the crimes.

The SP appreciated the efforts of the investigation team and awarded them cash rewards and commendation certificates. He reiterated that strict action would continue against such criminals to ensure public safety in the district.

IBM Opens Office in Vizag, Lokesh Welcomes Move

Visakhapatnam, April 12 | TPN Bureau

Global technology giant IBM has established a new office in Visakhapatnam, marking another significant step in the city's emergence as a major IT destination. The company has set up its operations in a leased facility at Lansum Square building near Isukathota Junction, in collaboration with co-working space provider Sprout.

Popularly known as the "City of Destiny," Visakhapatnam is steadily transforming into a global IT hub. The entry of IBM adds to the growing list of multinational companies already operating in the city, in-

cluding Google, Infosys, and Cognizant. This expansion reflects the increasing attractiveness of Vizag as a preferred destination for technology investments.

According to company representatives, the newly launched facility is expected to accommodate around 502 employees. The office will initially function from the rented space, but IBM has already approached the state government with plans to establish a permanent campus spread across 30 acres in the future. This move is likely to generate more employment opportunities and further boost the local economy.

Welcoming IBM's entry into Visakhapatnam, Andhra

Pradesh IT and Human Resources Development Minister Nara Lokesh expressed his support through a post on the social media platform X. He highlighted that the arrival of global firms like IBM reinforces the state government's vision of developing Vizag into a world-class IT hub.

Industry experts believe that such investments will not only strengthen the city's IT ecosystem but also enhance infrastructure, skill development, and overall economic growth in the region. With more global companies showing interest, Visakhapatnam is poised to become one of India's leading technology corridors in the coming years.

Jana Sena Flag Hoisted Amid Enthusiasm in Tirupati

TIRUPATI | APRIL 13, 2026 | TPN BUREAU

Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu on Sunday ceremonially hoisted the Jana Sena party flag in Parvathi Nagar of Jeevakona, drawing a large gathering of party workers and supporters. The programme was organized under the leadership of local leader Sudhakar, with enthusiastic participation from cadre, turning the area into a sea of supporters. Addressing the gathering, the MLA emphasized that strengthening the Jana Sena Party should be the primary goal of every leader and worker. He stated that efforts are underway to hoist the party flag in every division under the municipal corporation limits and to further strengthen the party ahead of the upcoming corporation elections. He added that the party is committed to coalition principles while



expanding its grassroots presence. Highlighting membership growth, the MLA said the active membership enrollment drive is receiving an overwhelming response. He urged those who have not yet enrolled to immediately take membership and actively contribute to the party's growth.

Jana Sena district president Pasupuleti Hariprasad called upon party workers to take the vision of Pawan Kalyan to the people. Several party leaders and workers participated in the programme, expressing confidence that Jana Sena will emerge stronger in all divisions in the coming days.

Temple Committee Role is a Blessing: MLA Prasanthi Reddy

Nellore, 12 April 2026 | TPN Bureau:

The oath-taking ceremony of the Sri Kanakadurga Amma-vari Temple Committee was held in a grand manner at Durga Nagar, located on the outskirts of Buchireddypalem town. Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prasanthi Reddy attended the event along with MLC and Nellore Parliamentary Constituency TDP President Beeda Ravichandra.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Prasanthi Reddy stated that getting an opportunity to serve in a temple committee is a result of good deeds from pre-

vious births. She emphasized that temple administration should strictly follow traditions and Agama Shastra principles.

She congratulated the newly appointed committee members and advised them to work with dedication for the development of the temple. The MLA urged the members to uphold spiritual values and ensure smooth functioning of temple activities.

The event witnessed participation from local leaders of the Telugu Desam Party and alliance parties, along with a large number of devotees and residents of Durga Nagar.

Utilize Public Grievance Redressal Platform: Commissioner

Tirupati, April 12 | TPN Bureau:

Tirupati Municipal Corporation Commissioner N. Mourya, IAS, has urged citizens to make effective use of the public grievance redressal platform conducted every Monday at the municipal office. According to an official statement, the Public Grievance Redressal Forum will be held on April 13 (Monday) from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Tirupati Municipal Corporation office. In addition, the "Dial Your Commissioner" program will be organized from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM, providing an opportunity for citizens to directly communicate their



concerns. Residents can also register their complaints by calling 0877-2227208 during the

specified time. The Commissioner stated that these initiatives are designed to ensure

quick resolution of public issues and improve civic administration. Citizens attending the program are advised to submit their petitions along with a copy of their Aadhaar card and provide a valid contact number for further communication. Proper details in the application will help officials process grievances efficiently. The Commissioner appealed to the people of Tirupati to actively participate and take advantage of this platform to get their issues resolved promptly. She assured that all grievances received through these channels will be reviewed carefully and necessary action will be taken without delay.

MLA Arani Srinivasulu Distributes Buttermilk to Walkers

Tirupati, 12 April 2026 | TPN Bureau:

Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu distributed free buttermilk to walkers at Vinayaka Sagar on Sunday morning at 7 AM. The program was organized by Walkers International as part of a summer relief initiative.

Around 500 walkers were provided with buttermilk during the event. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA highlighted that buttermilk is highly beneficial in protecting people from the scorching summer heat. He encouraged everyone to adopt walking as a daily habit to maintain good health and fitness.

During the interaction, members of the Walkers Association informed the MLA about damaged play equipment for children in Vinayaka



Sagar Park. Responding immediately, Arani Srinivasulu directed officials to take up repairs without delay.

The MLA also felicitated the organizers of the program for their efforts in promoting public health and community welfare.

The event was attended by Walkers International repre-

sentatives including Arcot Krishna Prasad, Sambasiva Reddy, Balaji, Krishnamurthy, C.S. Ramaswamy, Shanthi, Someshwar, Yoga Master Venkateswarlu, Sai Baba Reddy, Venkateswara Raju, Shankar Naidu, along with alliance leaders Ratnam, Alwar Murali, Dudi Ramesh, Yuvraju Reddy and others.

Asha Bhosle Passes Away at 92, Nation Mourns End of a Musical Era

Legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle passed away at the age of 92 in Mumbai, bringing to a close an extraordinary musical journey that spanned more than eight decades. One of India's most celebrated and versatile voices, her demise has left the film and music industries in deep sorrow. She reportedly breathed her last at a private hospital in Mumbai after suffering from age-related health complications. Family members confirmed that her final rites will be performed on Monday at Shivaji Park, where close relatives,

members of the film fraternity, and admirers are expected to gather to pay their last respects. Asha Bhosle was widely regarded as one of the greatest playback singers in Indian cinema history. Known for her remarkable range and adaptability, she sang in multiple genres including classical, folk, pop, ghazals, and cabaret numbers. Over her illustrious career, she recorded thousands of songs in several Indian languages, earning her a unique place in the world of music. Born into the famous Mangeshkar family, she began her

singing career at a very young age and gradually carved her own identity in the industry, separate from her equally legendary sister Lata Mangeshkar. Her collaboration with leading music directors across generations produced countless evergreen hits that remain popular even today. Her voice became synonymous with innovation in Bollywood music, often bringing freshness and modernity to film songs. From soulful melodies to peppy dance numbers, she mastered every style with effortless brilliance, making her one of the most

sought-after singers for decades. The news of her passing has triggered an outpouring of grief from across the country. Film personalities, musicians, and political leaders have expressed their condolences, describing her as a towering figure whose contribution to Indian culture is irreplaceable. With her passing, an iconic chapter in Indian music comes to an end. However, Asha Bhosle's timeless songs and unmatched legacy will continue to inspire generations of artists and music lovers for years to come.



ED in Overdrive: Fresh Raids and Probes Trigger Political Heat in West Bengal

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has intensified its operations in West Bengal, launching a series of fresh raids and investigations across multiple cases, marking what officials describe as an "overdrive" phase in the state. The central agency's renewed action has triggered sharp political reactions, further escalating tensions between investigative bodies and state leadership. According to official sources and ongoing probe updates, the ED has been conducting coordinated searches and summons in cases linked to alleged recruitment irregularities, land-related frauds, illegal coal mining, PDS diversion, and suspected hawala transactions. The agency has reportedly widened its scrutiny to include senior officials, political figures, and corporate entities as part of money laundering investigations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

In recent weeks, multiple high-profile locations across Kolkata and other districts have witnessed search operations. These actions are part of a broader crackdown that began earlier this year and has now accelerated with new evidence trails



and financial linkages being examined. Officials suggest that digital records, property documents, and financial transactions are being closely analysed to trace the flow of alleged proceeds of crime. The ED's actions have also included issuing fresh summons to individuals connected to ongoing cases, while some properties have been temporarily attached as part of preventive enforcement measures. The agency is also investigating alleged hawala networks that are believed to have facilitated the movement of unaccounted funds across states. Political reactions have been swift, with opposition parties alleging targeted action, while central agencies maintain that all steps are being taken strictly under legal provisions. The situation has further intensified the already strained political atmosphere in West Bengal,

where disputes between state authorities and central investigative agencies have repeatedly surfaced in recent years. Sources indicate that the ED's current phase of operations is focused on consolidating evidence gathered from multiple cases into a unified financial trail analysis. This includes linking recruitment scams, mining irregularities, and land fraud cases to potential organized financial wrongdoing. Officials emphasize that investigations are still at various stages and no final conclusions have been drawn. However, the scale and frequency of recent actions suggest a significant escalation in enforcement activity. As probes continue, West Bengal remains a key focus area for central agencies, with further developments expected as the ED expands its investigations in the coming weeks.

Shivraj Chouhan Appointed BJP Observer for Bihar Leadership Poll

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has appointed Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan as the central observer for the election of the party's legislative leader in Bihar, setting in motion the process of selecting the state's next chief minister.

According to party sources, the decision was taken by the BJP Parliamentary Board as part of its organisational procedure to oversee the selection of the BJP legislature party leader in the state. With this appointment, Chouhan will supervise consultations with newly elected BJP MLAs and coordinate the internal election process that will decide the next leadership in Bihar.

The move comes at a crucial political juncture, as the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) prepares for a leadership transition in the state. Senior leaders from the BJP and its alliance partners are expected to participate in discussions, following established coalition practices. The observer's role is to ensure a smooth, transparent, and con-



sensus-driven selection of the legislative party leader.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, a senior BJP leader and Union Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, has earlier served multiple terms as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. Known for his organisational experience and administrative background, he has been frequently entrusted with key party responsibilities, especially during government formation exercises in

various states.

Party insiders indicate that the Bihar leadership selection process is expected to move quickly, with meetings of BJP MLAs likely to be held shortly. Once the legislature party leader is chosen, he or she will be formally invited to stake a claim to form the government in the state. The appointment also highlights the BJP's strategy of deploying senior and experienced leaders as observers during crucial state-level

transitions. This ensures coordination between central leadership, state units, and alliance partners within the NDA framework. Political observers say the development signals the beginning of an important phase in Bihar politics, as the ruling alliance prepares for a new government formation process. Further announcements regarding the legislative party meeting and leadership selection are expected in the coming days.

Modi Seeks Opposition Support for Women's Reservation Bill; Kharge Raises Concerns

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written to leaders of all political parties, seeking their support for the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill, also known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, which proposes to reserve one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies for women. The Bill is expected to be taken up in the upcoming special session of Parliament ahead of its proposed implementation timeline linked to the 2029 general elections.

The Prime Minister emphasized that the legislation represents a historic step towards strengthening women's partic-



ipation in India's democratic system and urged parties to rise above political differences to ensure its smooth passage. He noted that the unanimous

support received during the earlier passage of the Bill in Parliament reflects a shared national commitment towards gender equality in politics.

However, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge responded to the Prime Minister's outreach, questioning the lack of detailed information on the implementation process and the government's approach to delimitation. He stated that meaningful discussion requires clarity and transparency, and urged the Centre to engage in broader consultations with all stakeholders before moving forward.

The exchange has further intensified the political debate surrounding the Bill, with both the ruling alliance and opposition parties staking strong positions on the issue of women's representation in legislatures.

While the government is pushing for early consensus, the opposition has demanded procedural clarity and structured dialogue.

The Women's Reservation Bill, which was passed in 2023, remains one of the most significant constitutional reforms aimed at enhancing gender balance in political representation. The current political discourse highlights both its importance and the challenges involved in its implementation.

As Parliament prepares for a crucial session, the issue is expected to remain at the centre of national political attention in the coming days.



Vijay Skips Poll Rallies, DMK Jabs 'Work-From-Home' Campaign

Actor-turned-politician and Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay has cancelled several scheduled election rallies during the peak campaign phase of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, triggering sharp political reactions from rival parties, particularly the ruling DMK.

According to reports, multiple campaign events planned across key constituencies, including Chennai, Cuddalore, Villivakkam, Tiruchirappalli and Pudukcherry, were either postponed or called off in recent days. While TVK has not issued detailed official reasons, party sources cite security concerns, logistical difficulties, and crowd management issues following earlier incidents as contributing factors.

The repeated cancellations have sparked a political debate, with DMK leaders taking a dig at Vijay's reduced ground presence. Party representatives mocked the campaign style as a "work-from-home" approach, suggesting that direct voter engagement is essential during the crucial final phase of elections. DMK leaders also contrasted their own intensive grassroots campaigning with

what they described as "intermittent appearances" by the TVK chief. The remarks have added further heat to an already intense electoral battle in the state.

Meanwhile, TVK candidates are reportedly adjusting their local strategies, relying on party symbols, cut-outs, and cadred outreach programs in Vijay's absence. In several constituencies, cadres have intensified door-to-door campaigns to maintain momentum.

Party insiders, however, maintain that Vijay is expected to return to active campaigning in the final stretch before polling, and that the current strategy is aimed at ensuring safety and better coordination. The Tamil Nadu election campaign is witnessing high-voltage political exchanges among major parties including DMK, AIADMK, BJP and TVK, with star power and grassroots mobilisation both playing a crucial role. With just days left for polling, all eyes remain on how TVK balances its campaign visibility challenges against Vijay's mass appeal, which continues to be a major factor in the electoral narrative.

Bengaluru, Karnataka | TPN Bureau

The Karnataka unit of the Indian National Congress is facing renewed internal turbulence after senior minority leader K. Abdul Jabbar resigned from his post as the head of the party's minority wing, citing "deep disappointment" and growing dissatisfaction within the organisation. The development comes in the aftermath of the Davanagere South by-election, which has triggered a series of internal disputes and leadership concerns within the state unit.

According to party insiders, the resignation reflects longstanding frustration among minority leaders over decisions taken during the electoral process, particularly the re-

ported denial of a ticket to a minority candidate in the Davanagere South constituency. The issue is believed to have created unrest not only at the local level but also across several minority-focused party structures in Karnataka.

In his resignation communication, Jabbar expressed that minority leaders felt increasingly sidelined in organisational decision-making and election strategy. He also pointed to a lack of adequate consultation with the minority wing during key political discussions, which, according to him, weakened coordination during the by-election campaign.

The Davanagere South by-poll has emerged as a politically sensitive contest, exposing fault lines within the

Congress party's internal structure in Karnataka. Several leaders have reportedly raised concerns about coordination gaps, factional differences, and inconsistent campaign planning. The internal assessment submitted to the party high command is also said to have flagged these issues, intensifying scrutiny on state-level leadership. Political observers note that the resignation adds to a series of challenges for the Congress in Karnataka, where balancing community representation and internal unity remains a recurring concern. The minority wing has traditionally played a significant role in shaping electoral outcomes in several constituencies, making this development particularly

significant for the party's or-

They have also emphasized



organisational stability. Party leaders, however, maintain that the situation is being reviewed at the highest levels and that corrective steps will be taken to address concerns raised by different groups.

that internal differences will not impact the overall functioning of the party in the state. The resignation of Jabbar is expected to trigger further discussions within the Karnataka Congress leader-

US–Iran Peace Talks Collapse in Islamabad, No Breakthrough: JD Vance

United States Vice President JD Vance announced that high-level peace talks between the US and Iran held in Islamabad have ended without any breakthrough after marathon negotiations lasting nearly 21 hours. He stated that Iran “chose not to accept our terms,” leading to the collapse of the latest diplomatic effort aimed at easing tensions between the two nations.

The discussions, hosted in Pakistan, were the most significant direct engagement between Washington and Tehran in years and were focused on resolving disputes related to Iran’s nuclear programme and broader regional security concerns. Despite extended negotiations involving senior officials from both sides, key differences remained unresolved. According to JD Vance, the US delegation presented what he described as a “final



and best offer,” seeking a firm commitment from Iran not to pursue nuclear weapons development. However, Iranian rep-

resentatives reportedly refused to provide binding assurances, resulting in a deadlock.

Following the breakdown, both delegations returned without agreeing on a roadmap for further dialogue. The

US side maintained that it had negotiated in good faith, while expressing disappointment over the outcome. Officials also indicated that future steps will depend on Iran’s willingness to reconsider its position. The talks were seen as a crucial attempt to stabilize escalating tensions in the region, especially amid ongoing geopolitical instability and concerns over energy security routes such as the Strait of Hormuz. JD Vance emphasized that the United States remains open to diplomacy, but only on terms that ensure long-term security guarantees. He added that the failure of the talks places responsibility on Iran for rejecting the proposed framework. While both sides have not completely ruled out future negotiations, the current stalemate underscores the deep mistrust and strategic differences that continue to dominate US–Iran relations.



US-Iran Talks Collapse in Islamabad After Marathon Negotiations

The United States and Iran have failed to reach an agreement after 21 hours of high-level negotiations held in Islamabad, Pakistan, marking a significant setback in ongoing efforts to resolve tensions over Iran’s nuclear programme and regional security issues.

US Vice President JD Vance, who led the American delegation, announced that Tehran had “chosen not to accept our terms” and confirmed that Washington was leaving with its “final and best offer.” He said the US had clearly outlined its red lines, particularly demanding a firm commitment from Iran not to pursue nuclear weapons capabilities.

Iranian officials, meanwhile, maintained that they had not expected a breakthrough in a single round of talks and accused the US of making “unreasonable demands.” They insisted that several proposals were presented during what were described as “substantive discussions,” but key differences could not be bridged.

The talks, hosted in Islamabad with Pakistani mediation, were seen as a rare direct diplomatic engagement between

the two nations after years of strained relations. Despite intensive back-and-forth discussions involving senior officials from both sides, no agreement or framework for future negotiations was announced.

JD Vance stated that the outcome was “bad news for Iran more than the United States,” adding that Washington remains open to further dialogue if Iran is willing to meet core conditions. The breakdown raises concern over the fragile ceasefire environment and broader regional stability, as both sides continue to exchange strong political statements. Analysts say the failure highlights deep divisions over Iran’s nuclear ambitions, sanctions relief, and strategic control of key regional waterways. Pakistan, which facilitated the talks, has not yet commented on the outcome, but diplomatic sources indicated that indirect communication channels between the two sides may still remain active.

The situation remains fluid, with international observers watching closely for any renewed diplomatic engagement or escalation in tensions.



“We Leave With Our Final, Best Offer”: JD Vance on Failed US–Iran Talks

US Vice President JD Vance has said that Washington is returning home with its “final and best offer” after marathon negotiations with Iran ended without a breakthrough in Islamabad. The high-level diplomatic talks lasted nearly 21 hours and concluded with both sides failing to reach any agreement on key issues, particularly Iran’s nuclear programme and broader security commitments. Addressing the media after the talks, Vance stated that the United States had clearly laid out its position and negotiating limits, including what he described as “red lines” that could not be crossed. He emphasized that Washington had made maximum efforts to present a workable framework for peace, but Iran had chosen not to accept the terms offered. “The bad news is that we have not reached an agreement, and I think that’s bad news for Iran much more than it’s bad news for the United States of America,” Vance said, underlining the US position that the responsibility for the breakdown lay with Tehran. He further added that the US delegation had been consistent in its demands, particularly regarding Iran’s commitment not to pursue nuclear weapons capability. According to Vance, this remains a core objective of US foreign policy and a non-negotiable condition for any future agreement. Despite long hours of discussions and multiple rounds of negotiations facili-

tated in Islamabad, no consensus could be reached. Diplomatic sources indicated that both sides remained firm on their respective positions, with little movement on critical sticking points. Vance described the American proposal as a “final and best offer,” suggesting that the US was not planning to revise its current position further. He said it would now be up to Iran to decide whether it is willing to accept the framework or allow the diplomatic process to stall further. The talks, hosted in Pakistan, were considered one of the most significant direct engagements between the two countries in recent years. International observers had viewed them as a potential turning point in easing long-standing tensions, but the outcome has instead reinforced uncertainty over the future of US–Iran relations. Iranian representatives, meanwhile, reportedly maintained that Washington’s demands were excessive and lacked sufficient guarantees on economic relief and sanctions easing. The differing interpretations of the negotiations have further deepened mistrust between the two sides.

With the talks ending in deadlock, attention now shifts to whether backchannel diplomacy or renewed negotiations can revive the process. For now, however, both nations appear to be preparing for continued strategic and political standoff rather than immediate compromise.



US–Iran Peace Talks Collapse After Marathon Negotiations in Islamabad

A high-stakes round of peace negotiations between the United States and Iran has collapsed after nearly 21 hours of continuous talks held in Islamabad, marking another setback in long-running efforts to reduce tensions between the two nations. Both sides have blamed each other for the failure, with sharp disagreements over key conditions preventing any breakthrough.

According to diplomatic sources, the discussions were described as intense but ultimately unproductive, as negotiators failed to bridge gaps on core issues related to sanctions relief, regional security commitments, and compliance verification mechanisms. The talks were expected to lay the groundwork for a phased de-escalation framework, but instead ended without any agreement or joint statement.

US representatives maintained that they had placed what they called a “final and balanced offer” on the table, aimed at ensuring stability while addressing longstanding security concerns. However, officials indicated that Iran declined to accept the proposed

terms, leading to the breakdown of negotiations.

On the other hand, Iranian officials strongly rejected this characterization, stating that the US demands were “unreasonable and one-sided.” They argued that the proposals failed to guarantee economic relief in a meaningful way and placed excessive restrictions on Iran’s strategic autonomy. Iranian media sources also described the talks as heavily tilted and lacking mutual respect.

US political figure JD Vance commented on the outcome, calling it “bad news” and stating that Iran had chosen not to accept the conditions presented. His remarks quickly drew international attention, adding political weight to the already sensitive diplomatic failure.

The negotiations, held under tight security in Islamabad, were seen as one of the most significant attempts in recent months to revive dialogue between the two adversaries. However, deep mistrust, competing regional interests, and unresolved nuclear-related concerns continued to dominate the

discussions.

Analysts say the collapse of the talks could further strain already fragile geopolitical stability in West Asia. The absence of a diplomatic channel may also increase the risk of escalation, particularly in regions where both countries maintain strategic influence.

Efforts had reportedly been underway for weeks to organize the Islamabad meeting, with intermediaries hoping that neutral ground could help facilitate compromise. Despite initial optimism, negotiators ultimately found themselves locked in familiar positions, leading to the breakdown.

With the talks ending in failure, uncertainty now surrounds the next possible step. Diplomatic observers suggest that while backchannel communications may continue, a formal restart of negotiations could take time unless one side shifts its stance significantly.

For now, the collapse of the Islamabad talks underscores the continuing complexity of US–Iran relations and the challenges facing international mediation efforts aimed at restoring dialogue between the two long-standing rivals.

“US Navy Warships Transit Strait of Hormuz Amid Rising Regional Tensions”

In a significant naval development, two United States warships have crossed the Strait of Hormuz, marking the first such transit since the escalation of hostilities involving Iran, according to official reports. The strategic passage, one of the world’s most critical oil shipping routes, has once again drawn global attention amid heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

The transit is being viewed as a carefully monitored military movement, reflecting the US Navy’s continued operational presence in the region. The Strait of Hormuz, located between Oman and Iran, serves as a vital maritime chokepoint through which a large share of global crude oil shipments pass daily. Any escalation in this region is closely



ly watched by international markets and defense analysts.

Military sources indicated that the US warships moved through the strait under standard naval protocols, maintaining communication and coordination with regional maritime authorities. While no immediate confrontations

or incidents were reported, the move is seen as a signal of strategic positioning by Washington amid ongoing tensions with Tehran.

The transit comes at a time when relations between the United States and Iran remain strained due to disagreements over nuclear negotiations,

sanctions, and broader security concerns in the Gulf region. Analysts suggest that such naval movements are intended to ensure freedom of navigation while also demonstrating deterrence capabilities.

Iran has previously expressed opposition to in-

creased Western military presence in the Gulf waters, often describing it as destabilizing. However, the United States maintains that its naval operations in the region are aimed at protecting international shipping lanes and ensuring uninterrupted global energy flow. Defense experts note that the Strait of Hormuz remains one of the most sensitive maritime corridors in the world, with nearly a fifth of global oil consumption passing through it. Any military activity in the area carries the potential to impact global oil prices and investor sentiment.

The latest transit is expected to be followed closely by both regional powers and international observers, as it comes during a period of fragile diplomacy and ongoing strategic rivalry in West Asia.



Swami Vivekananda Statue Unveiled in Seattle Marks Historic Cultural Milestone

In a landmark moment symbolising growing India–US cultural ties, the first life-size statue of Swami Vivekananda was unveiled at Westlake Square in downtown Seattle on Saturday. The bronze statue marks the first instance of a US city government hosting a monument dedicated to the revered Indian philosopher and spiritual leader.

The statue was jointly unveiled by Seattle Mayor Katie Wilson and India’s Consul General in Seattle, Prakash Gupta, in the presence of community leaders and members of the Indian diaspora. Located in one of the city’s busiest public spaces, which attracts over 400,000 visitors daily, the installation is expected to become a major cultural landmark.

Crafted by Indian sculptor Naresh Kumar Kumawat, the statue has been gifted by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) as part of its global cultural diplomacy initiative. It reflects Vivekananda’s message of universal brotherhood, harmony among religions, and spiritual enlightenment.

Speaking on the occasion, dignitaries highlighted Seattle’s inclusive character and its

significance as a global technology and cultural hub, making it an ideal location for the installation. The event also featured cultural performances by Indian artists, showcasing traditional dance and music.

The unveiling ceremony also underlined Vivekananda’s historic connection with the United States, recalling his iconic address at the 1893 World Parliament of Religions in Chicago, where he introduced Indian spiritual philosophy to the Western world.

Local authorities noted that the statue will serve as a symbol of peace, interfaith dialogue, and shared values between nations. Members of the Indian-American community expressed pride over the installation, calling it a moment of recognition for India’s spiritual heritage on global soil.

The installation is being seen as part of broader efforts to strengthen people-to-people ties and deepen cultural cooperation between India and the United States.

With its prominent location and powerful symbolism, the Swami Vivekananda statue is expected to stand as a lasting reminder of his enduring global legacy.

Markets Snap 6-Week Slump with Strong Rally

Indian equity markets witnessed a sharp turnaround, ending a prolonged six-week losing streak and registering their best weekly performance in over five years. The strong rebound reflects renewed investor confidence amid improving global cues and stabilizing macroeconomic conditions. The benchmark BSE Sensex surged by over 4,000 points during the week, while the Nifty 50 climbed decisively past the 24,000 mark. The nearly 6 percent weekly gain marked the biggest rise since early 2021, signaling a broad-based recovery across sectors after weeks of sustained decline. A key trigger for the rally was easing global uncertainty, particularly a cooling of geopolitical tensions that had earlier weighed heavily on investor sentiment. The softening of crude oil prices played a crucial role, as

it reduced inflationary pressures and improved India's macroeconomic outlook. Lower oil prices are generally positive for the domestic economy, given the country's dependence on imports. Another major factor behind the rebound was a slowdown in selling by foreign institutional investors. After weeks of continuous outflows, the pace of withdrawals eased significantly, while domestic institutional investors stepped in with strong buying support. This shift helped stabilize the markets and encouraged retail participation. The rally extended beyond large-cap stocks, with broader markets showing even stronger momentum. Midcap and smallcap indices recorded notable gains, indicating widespread participation across segments. Several stocks in these categories delivered

double-digit returns, highlighting the return of risk appetite among investors. Sector-wise, gains were seen across the board. Realty stocks emerged as top performers, driven by strong demand expectations and improving liquidity conditions. Capital goods and automobile sectors also posted impressive gains, supported by optimism around economic growth and consumption trends. Additionally, consumer durables and infrastructure-related stocks attracted buying interest during the week. The Indian rupee also strengthened against the US dollar, adding to the positive sentiment. A firmer currency often reflects stable capital flows and confidence in the domestic economy, further supporting equity markets. Despite the strong recovery, market experts remain cautiously optimistic. They

believe the sustainability of the rally will depend on global developments, including geopolitical stability and commodity price trends. Upcoming corporate earnings and economic data releases are also expected to influence investor sentiment in the near term. While the recent surge has helped markets recover a significant portion of earlier losses, benchmark indices are still below their recent peaks. This suggests that volatility may persist, and investors are likely to remain watchful. Overall, the week marked a decisive shift in market direction, with equities bouncing back strongly after a period of weakness. The focus now turns to whether this momentum can be sustained, as markets navigate a complex mix of global and domestic factors in the weeks ahead.



Forex Reserves Rebound to \$697 Billion

India's foreign exchange reserves have staged a strong recovery, rising sharply to \$697 billion after weeks of sustained pressure, signaling improved stability in the country's external financial position. According to the Reserve Bank of India, the reserves jumped by over \$9 billion for the week ending April 3, reversing a steep decline seen in the previous week. The rebound comes as a relief amid recent global uncertainties and currency pressures that had weighed on the reserve position. The recovery follows a significant drop in late March, when reserves had fallen to around \$688 billion. The decline was largely attributed to central bank interventions aimed at stabilizing the rupee during a period of heightened volatility triggered by global geopolitical tensions. The RBI had been actively selling dollars in the foreign exchange market to curb excessive depreciation of the currency. A major contributor to the latest rise was a sharp increase in gold reserves, which surged

by more than \$7 billion during the week. Gold continues to play a crucial role as a safe-haven asset, especially during uncertain global conditions. In addition, foreign currency assets — the largest component of forex reserves — also registered a healthy increase, reflecting gains in major global currencies and improved valuation. India's forex reserves had earlier touched an all-time high of over \$728 billion in February 2026. However, the onset of global tensions, particularly in West Asia, led to a phase of depletion as the central bank stepped in to manage currency volatility and maintain financial stability. Despite the recent fluctuations, India's reserve position remains robust by global standards. Forex reserves act as a critical buffer against external shocks, helping the country manage import bills, stabilize the currency, and maintain investor confidence. They also provide the RBI with the flexibility to intervene in currency markets when required. The latest rebound indicates that underlying macroeconom-

ic fundamentals remain strong. It also reflects the resilience of India's external sector, even in the face of global headwinds such as rising oil prices and capital outflows. Economists believe that maintaining a healthy level of reserves is essential for ensuring economic stability, especially for an import-dependent country like India. Adequate reserves not only support the rupee but also enhance the country's ability to withstand sudden global financial disruptions. Looking ahead, the trajectory of forex reserves will depend on multiple factors, including global commodity prices, capital flows, and the RBI's currency management strategy. While short-term fluctuations are expected, the overall outlook remains positive, supported by stable economic growth and strong financial fundamentals. The sharp rebound in reserves thus marks a positive development, reinforcing confidence in India's ability to navigate global uncertainties while maintaining macroeconomic stability.



Rupee Ends Lower, Extends Weekly Gains

The Indian rupee ended marginally weaker at 92.68 against the US dollar, but still managed to post its second consecutive weekly gain — a trend seen for the first time in nearly six months, signaling improving currency stability amid volatile global conditions. The domestic currency declined by 17 paise on the final trading day of the week after giving up early gains. It opened stronger and even touched an intra-day high of around 92.41 before slipping due to profit-taking and persistent market uncertainty. Despite the dip, the broader weekly trend remained positive, reflecting a gradual recovery in sentiment. Forex traders attributed the rupee's movement to a mix of domestic policy actions and global developments. The Reserve Bank of India played a key role in supporting the currency through recent measures aimed at curbing volatility. The central bank had imposed limits on banks' foreign exchange positions, which resulted in increased dollar selling in the domestic market and provided support to the rupee. Another important factor aiding the currency was the unwinding of speculative positions in the forex market. Traders reduced arbitrage trades following regulatory tightening, which helped stabilize demand-supply dynamics for the dollar. This easing of speculative pressure contributed to the rupee's recovery over the past two weeks. Global cues also influenced



currency movements. A decline in crude oil prices offered some relief to the rupee, as lower oil costs reduce India's import bill and ease pressure on the current account. However, uncertainty surrounding geopolitical developments, particularly in West Asia, continued to keep markets cautious and limited the rupee's gains. The dollar index, which measures the strength of the US currency against a basket of major currencies, remained relatively firm during the week. This capped further appreciation in the rupee, as a stronger dollar typically weighs on emerging market

currencies. On the domestic front, positive momentum in equity markets provided additional support. Benchmark indices like the BSE Sensex and Nifty 50 recorded strong gains during the week, attracting investor interest and boosting overall sentiment. Market experts noted that while the rupee's short-term outlook has improved, volatility is likely to persist. Factors such as global oil price trends, capital flows, and geopolitical developments will continue to influence currency movements in the near term. The recent back-to-back

weekly gains mark a significant shift after a period of sustained pressure on the rupee. Analysts believe that continued policy support from the central bank, along with easing global risks, could help the currency stabilize further. Overall, the rupee's performance reflects a delicate balance between supportive domestic measures and challenging external factors. While the marginal decline on the day highlights ongoing uncertainty, the broader recovery trend suggests that the currency is gradually regaining strength.

Neomile Cuts Stake in Ratnaveer Engineering

In a significant market transaction, Neomile Growth Fund has trimmed its holding in Ratnaveer Precision Engineering, reflecting ongoing portfolio reshuffling among institutional investors amid evolving market conditions. The fund offloaded over 7 lakh shares, representing more than a 1 percent stake in the company, through a bulk deal on the stock exchanges. The shares were sold at an average price of around 145 per share, taking the total transaction value to over 10 crore. Following the sale, Neomile's stake in the company has reduced, indicating a partial exit rather than a complete withdrawal. Despite the fund's stake reduction, the deal saw strong buying interest from other investors. Market participant

Anant Jain acquired a sizable portion of shares in the same session at a slightly higher price, suggesting continued confidence in the company's long-term prospects. Such counter-buying often reflects differing investment strategies among market participants. Shares of Ratnaveer Precision Engineering witnessed volatility during the trading session after the bulk deal announcement. However, the stock managed to close higher, supported by strong volumes and sustained investor interest. The price action indicates that the market absorbed the supply without significant downward pressure, which is generally seen as a positive sign. Ratnaveer Precision Engineering operates in the stainless steel products segment and caters to diverse indus-

tries through its range of offerings, including washers, sheets, pipes, and solar mounting components. The company has been gaining traction in the midcap space, supported by steady business growth and increasing demand from both domestic and international markets. The stake sale highlights a broader trend in the equity markets, where institutional investors are actively rebalancing their portfolios. Funds often reduce exposure in certain stocks either to book profits or to reallocate capital into other opportunities. Such moves do not necessarily indicate a negative outlook on the company but rather reflect strategic investment decisions. At the same time, the entry of new or existing investors at competitive prices reinforces

confidence in the company's fundamentals. Bulk deals involving both selling and buying typically signal liquidity in the stock and can attract further market participation. Market experts note that increased institutional activity, including stake sales and acquisitions, is a sign of a dynamic market environment. As investors reassess valuations and sectoral opportunities, such transactions are likely to remain a key feature in the coming weeks. Overall, Neomile Growth Fund's partial stake sale in Ratnaveer Precision Engineering underscores the ongoing churn in the market. While one investor reduces exposure, another steps in with confidence, reflecting the balanced and evolving nature of investment strategies in the current economic landscape.



RCB Outclass Mumbai Indians by 18 Runs in Wankhede Thriller

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) produced a commanding all-round performance to defeat Mumbai Indians (MI) by 18 runs in a high-scoring encounter at the Wankhede Stadium, strengthening their position in the early phase of the IPL 2026 season.

Batting first after losing the toss, RCB posted a massive total of 240/4 in 20 overs, powered by explosive contributions from their top and middle order. The innings saw aggressive stroke play from Phil Salt and Virat Kohli at the top, followed by a blazing cameo from skipper Rajat Patidar, who accelerated the scoring rate with a quickfire knock. Tim David added the finishing touches in the death overs to push RCB beyond the 240-run mark.

Chasing a daunting target of 241, Mumbai Indians got off to a steady start but soon lost momentum as RCB's bowling at-



Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya in the middle order, MI struggled to maintain the required run rate.

Sherfane Rutherford provided late fireworks with a powerful unbeaten knock, but his efforts went in vain as Mumbai finished at 222/5 in 20 overs, falling short by 18 runs.

RCB's bowlers held their nerve in crucial phases, especially during the middle overs, where they restricted MI's scoring opportunities and picked up key wickets to break partnerships.

The match was played on a batting-friendly pitch that witnessed a run-fest, but RCB's superior execution in both batting and bowling proved decisive. With this victory, RCB continue their strong start to the season, while Mumbai Indians will look to regroup after suffering another setback at home. Cricket fans were treated to a thrilling contest featuring big hits, fast scoring, and late drama, but it was RCB who ultimately walked away with a well-earned win.



Prasidh Krishna's Four-Wicket Burst Powers Gujarat Titans to Commanding Win Over LSG

Lucknow, April 12: Gujarat Titans continued their strong run in IPL 2026 with a dominant seven-wicket victory over Lucknow Super Giants at the Ekana Stadium, powered by a clinical bowling performance from Prasidh Krishna and a composed batting display from the top order.

Batting first, LSG struggled to build momentum against disciplined Gujarat bowling. Despite a few starts from their top and middle order, the hosts failed to convert them into big partnerships. The Titans' pace attack, led by Prasidh Krishna, kept applying pressure through tight lines and sharp variations. Prasidh was the standout performer, finishing with impressive figures of 4/28, breaking the backbone of LSG's batting lineup and restricting them to 164/8 in 20 overs.

His wickets came at crucial stages, ensuring LSG never got the chance to accelerate in the death overs. The spell also earned him widespread praise and the Player of the Match recognition for his match-defining impact.

Chasing 165, Gujarat Titans got off to a steady start before their senior batters took control of the game. Skipper Shubman Gill anchored the innings with a fluent half-century, while England star Jos Buttler provided aggressive support at the other end. The duo stitched together a crucial partnership that effectively took the game away from LSG.

Their 84-run stand set the foundation for an easy chase, as both batters rotated strike smartly while also punishing loose deliveries. Even as LSG tried to introduce variations in their bowling attack, the Titans remained composed and in control of the required run rate.

The finishing touches were applied calmly by the middle order, guiding Gujarat to 165/3 in 18.4 overs with eight balls to spare, sealing a comprehensive victory.

The result highlighted Gujarat Titans' balanced squad strength, with both their bowling and batting units firing in unison. While Prasidh Krishna's fiery spell dismantled LSG's innings, the batting unit ensured a smooth finish without unnecessary pressure.

With this win, Gujarat Titans strengthened their position in the IPL 2026 standings, while LSG were left to reflect on missed opportunities with the bat. The match once again underlined the importance of early breakthroughs and controlled chasing in high-pressure T20 encounters.



Shreyas Iyer's Calm Command Draws MS Dhoni Comparisons After SRH Clash

In a high-voltage IPL 2026 encounter that once again highlighted his growing stature as a leader, Punjab Kings skipper Shreyas Iyer delivered a composed and tactically sharp performance against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), earning widespread praise from fans and cricket experts alike. The match not only strengthened PBKS's strong run in the tournament but also reignited comparisons between Iyer and former India captain MS Dhoni, particularly for his calm decision-making under pressure.

Adding weight to the discussion, Indian cricket stalwart Rohit Sharma had earlier remarked that he "sees a glimpse of MS Dhoni in Shreyas Iyer the way he leads his team," highlighting the young captain's maturity and instinctive understanding of the game. The statement has since gone viral again following PBKS's strong showing against SRH.

Facing a dangerous SRH lineup known for its explosive batting at the top, Iyer's leadership stood out as he rotated bowlers smartly and kept a tight grip on the game during crucial phases. His field placements and timely bowling changes helped PBKS restrict SRH's momentum, eventually paving the way for a comfortable victory.

Batting-wise, Iyer also played a stabilizing role in the chase, ensuring that Punjab Kings maintained control even when SRH bowlers attempted to stage a comeback. His ability to absorb pressure and guide the innings calmly was widely appreciated.

Former players and commentators also pointed out that Iyer's leadership evolution has been consistent over the years—from his early days with Delhi Capitals to his current commanding role at Punjab Kings. His experience across franchises appears to have shaped him into a more rounded captain capable of handling diverse match situations.

With PBKS continuing their strong campaign this season, Shreyas Iyer's leadership is becoming one of the defining narratives of IPL 2026. If his current form and tactical maturity are any indication, Punjab Kings could well emerge as serious contenders for the title, guided by a captain increasingly being spoken of in the same breath as MS Dhoni.

"BCCI Warns of Strict Action After Anti-Corruption Protocol Breach in IPL Match"

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has taken a serious note of an alleged anti-corruption protocol breach during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match between Rajasthan Royals and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, stating that "there has to be action" following the incident.

According to reports, Rajasthan Royals' team manager Romi Bhinder was spotted using a mobile phone while seated in the dugout during the high-voltage contest. The incident was captured on television cameras and quickly went viral on social media, triggering concerns over a possible violation of the Players and Match Officials Area (PMOA) protocol.

As per IPL regulations, mobile phone usage is strictly prohibited inside the dugout during matches to maintain the integrity of the game and prevent any possibility of unauthorized communication. While team managers are permitted to carry phones in the dressing room, the dugout is considered a restricted zone under anti-corruption guidelines. Reacting to the development, officials of the Board of Control for Cricket in India confirmed that the matter will be thoroughly examined by the Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU). The board emphasized that any breach of protocol, intentional or otherwise, cannot be ignored and will be dealt with strictly after a detailed investigation.

Preliminary inputs suggest that Bhinder may face disciplinary action ranging from a formal warning to a possible suspension, depending on the findings of the match referee and the ACU report. The IPL Governing Council is also expected to review the case before announcing a final decision.

The incident has sparked widespread debate within cricketing circles regarding enforcement of anti-corruption measures in high-pressure environments like the IPL. Officials have reiterated that the league maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards any violation that could compromise the fairness or transparency of the competition. Further action will be decided after the completion of the investigation and submission of the official report.

"BCCI Launches Probe After Anti-Corruption Protocol Breach in RR vs RCB Clash"

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has reacted strongly to an alleged breach of anti-corruption protocol during the IPL 2026 match between Rajasthan Royals (RR) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), stating that strict action will follow once the investigation is completed. The incident has once again brought the spotlight on the league's stringent integrity rules and monitoring systems.

According to reports, Rajasthan Royals' team manager Romi Bhinder was seen using a mobile phone while sitting inside the dugout during the high-profile encounter. The visuals, captured during the live broadcast, quickly went viral on social media, triggering



concerns over a potential violation of the Players and Match Officials Area (PMOA) regulations. The PMOA zone is a highly restricted area under IPL anti-corruption guidelines, where electronic communication devices are tightly controlled to prevent any unauthorized contact or information exchange.

As per IPL rules, while team officials are allowed to carry mobile phones inside the dressing room for operational purposes, the dugout and on-field team benches fall under restricted surveillance zones



Gaikwad Urged to Increase Strike Rate After Slow Start in IPL 2026

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain Ruturaj Gaikwad has come under scrutiny after a sluggish start to his IPL 2026 campaign, with experts and team analysts urging the right-handed opener to take more risks and improve his scoring tempo at the top of the order. Gaikwad, who has been a key figure in CSK's batting lineup since taking over leadership duties, has struggled to provide the explosive starts expected in modern T20 cricket. His recent outings have reflected a cautious approach, with his strike rate falling below the team's desired powerplay benchmark.

As a result, CSK's top order has failed to build strong early momentum in several matches this season. According to reports, the team management has emphasized the need for a more aggressive mindset, especially during the powerplay overs when fielding restrictions offer scoring opportunities. The message to Gaikwad has been clear—while stability is important, the modern T20 format demands higher intent and quicker acceleration from openers. Cricket experts have echoed similar views, pointing out that Gaikwad's natural game is based on timing and placement rather than high-risk hitting. However, in the current IPL setup, analysts believe he must adapt his approach to balance consistency with aggression.

Former players have suggested that he is currently "caught in a tactical dilemma," where he neither accelerates early nor anchors deep enough to control the innings effectively. Despite the criticism, CSK continues to back their skipper, acknowledging his ability and past performances. Gaikwad has previously delivered match-winning knocks and has been one of the franchise's most reliable batters in recent seasons. However, the team's inconsistent start in IPL 2026 has put additional pressure on the top order to perform. The coaching staff is reportedly working with Gaikwad to refine his shot selection and encourage a more attacking mindset during the first six overs. With CSK aiming to bounce back strongly in the tournament, his role at the top remains crucial. As the season progresses, all eyes will be on whether Gaikwad can strike the right balance between caution and aggression, and lead CSK's batting unit with a more dynamic approach in upcoming matches.

Harish Shankar Unveils ‘Gods and Soldiers’ TRAISER: A Mass Action Entertainer Set for Big Impact

The much-anticipated Tamil-Telugu bilingual film “Gods and Soldiers”, produced under the banner of Rough Note Production, has completed its shooting and is now moving swiftly into post-production. Directed by acclaimed filmmaker and cinematographer Vijay Milton, the film is shaping up as a high-voltage commercial entertainer blending action, emotion, and social relevance.

In a major promotional boost, the team released a special video titled “TRAISER,” which was unveiled by sensational director Harish Shankar through his social media platforms. The release has already created strong buzz among audiences, with the teaser receiving

attention for its powerful mass appeal, intense action blocks, and emotional depth.

Director Vijay Milton expressed his gratitude for the support received from Harish Shankar, stating that the encouragement has added great value to the film’s promotion. He highlighted that “Gods and Soldiers” is crafted on a grand scale with a strong emotional backdrop while maintaining a commercial storytelling style designed to engage both Tamil and Telugu audiences.

Speaking about the film, Vijay Milton said the project features talented actors in fresh and unique roles. Actor Aari Arujunan will be seen playing a police officer for the first time in his career, marking a

significant transformation in his on-screen image. Popular actor Raj Tarun is making his Tamil debut with this bilingual venture, further adding cross-industry appeal to the film.

Actor Bharath plays a crucial emotional role that is expected to be one of the film’s highlights. Meanwhile, Amu Abhirami and Kishore are also part of important supporting characters that strengthen the narrative. The director added that every cast member has delivered strong performances, contributing to the film’s overall impact.

A special attraction of the film is the inclusion of independent music artist Vedan, known for his distinctive voice and socially conscious songs.

His presence is expected to bring a unique cultural and musical layer to the film, enhancing its emotional resonance.

The film has been shot extensively across multiple locations, capturing a wide range of visual landscapes to support its storytelling. With post-production work progressing at a fast pace, the makers are preparing for a grand release soon.

Produced by Rough Note Production, “Gods and Soldiers” is designed as a complete entertainer combining action, emotion, and socially relevant themes, aiming to appeal strongly to audiences across Tamil and Telugu cinema markets.



Karmastalam Poster Unveils Arvind Krishna’s Fierce Mythic Warrior Avatar

The makers of the upcoming multilingual film Karmastalam have unveiled a powerful new poster and behind-the-scenes making video, offering a glimpse into a visually rich mythological action spectacle starring Arvind Krishna. The reveal has generated strong buzz among film enthusiasts for its striking imagery and grand scale storytelling approach.

The newly released poster presents Arvind Krishna in a fierce warrior avatar, set against a dense, mystical forest backdrop. His rugged, blood-streaked appearance and intense expression highlight a character forged through struggle and destiny. He is seen holding a glowing divine staff in one hand while gripping a thick vine with the other, symbolizing a blend of supernatural power and raw human survival instinct. Behind him stands a massive stone-like creature with glowing emerald eyes, adding a mythical and supernatural layer to the composition. The surrounding visuals of swirling leaves, flowing water, and deep jungle terrain suggest an epic narrative rooted in ancient lore and elemental forces.

Directed by Rocky Sherman and presented by Roy Films, Karmastalam is shaping up as a high-intensity myth-adventure drama. The recently released making video further amplifies expectations, showing

casing Arvind Krishna’s rigorous physical preparation, action rehearsals, and horse-riding sequences. The behind-the-scenes footage emphasizes the scale of production and the commitment of the cast and crew in bringing this ambitious vision to life.

Producer Roy Films is backing the project on a grand scale, while music is composed by Sai Karthik, promising a powerful auditory experience to complement the film’s visual grandeur. The film also features a notable ensemble cast including Chunky Panday, Archana Shastri, Prince, Divi, Kalakeya Prabhakar, Venkatesh Mummidi, Vinod Alwa, Balagam Sanjay, Dil Ramesh, Naga Mahesh, Killi Kranthi, and Mitali Chauhan, among others.

The film is being made as a multilingual release in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam, aiming to reach a wide pan-Indian audience. With every promotional update, Karmastalam continues to build anticipation as a visually immersive and emotionally charged cinematic experience.

Currently in its final stages of production, the team is gearing up for a grand theatrical release soon, positioning Karmastalam as one of the most awaited mythological action films in the pipeline.

Aamir Khan–Shraddha Kapoor Comedy Drama Rumours Spark Buzz in Bollywood

Bollywood is once again abuzz with fresh casting speculation as reports suggest that superstar Aamir Khan and actress Shraddha Kapoor may be coming together for an upcoming comedy-drama film. Though there is no official confirmation yet, the rumoured project has already generated strong interest among fans and industry circles.

According to recent reports, the film is said to revolve around the life of a prominent businessman and will be made as a light-hearted comedy-drama with emotional undertones. In this speculated storyline, Shraddha Kapoor is expected to play the role of Aamir Khan’s wife, marking a fresh and unexpected on-screen pairing for the two popular actors. The project

is reportedly being developed by filmmaker and producer Rahul Mody, though the makers have remained tight-lipped about the casting.

The rumours have been circulating widely on social media and entertainment portals over the past few days, adding to the curiosity around the potential collaboration. Fans have expressed excitement over the possibility of seeing two contrasting acting styles come together—Aamir Khan known for his intense, performance-driven roles, and Shraddha Kapoor admired for her emotional and romantic portrayals.

Shraddha Kapoor, who was recently seen working on multiple projects, continues to be one of the most

sought-after actresses in Bollywood. Meanwhile, Aamir Khan has been selective with his film choices in recent years, focusing more on meaningful and content-driven cinema.

Industry sources, however, emphasize that the project is still in the discussion stage and no official announcement has been made by either actor or the production team. As a result, the film remains firmly in the “rumour” category for now.

Interestingly, this is not the first time both stars have been linked to major projects together. Over the years, Shraddha Kapoor has been considered for several big-banner films, while Aamir Khan continues to be associated with high-profile, experimental storytelling ventures.

Until an official confirmation arrives, the Aamir Khan-Shraddha Kapoor pairing remains one of Bollywood’s most talked-about speculative collaborations, keeping fans eagerly waiting for clarity on what could be a surprising cinematic combination.



Harish Shankar’s “9 vs 19” Comment Goes Viral, Sparks Industry Buzz

Sensational filmmaker Harish Shankar has once again grabbed attention with his candid remarks at a recent film event, where he opened up about the struggles behind his directorial journey. Known for delivering mass entertainers like Gabbar Singh, the director shared an emotional insight into how many projects in his career never reached the finishing line, despite extensive pre-production work. During the event, Harish Shankar revealed that while only nine of his films have made it to the big screen, nearly nineteen projects were halted at different stages due to various reasons. His statement—highlighting the “9 completed vs 19 stopped” reality—quickly went viral on social media, sparking discussions among film circles about the unpredictable nature of the industry.

The director explained that



filmmaking involves far more than what audiences see on screen. Many projects, he said, move forward with scripts finalized, actors locked, and even schedules prepared, only to be stalled due to production challenges, financial con-

straints, or changes in circumstances. He emphasized that such setbacks are an inseparable part of a filmmaker’s journey.

Harish Shankar also reflected on the emotional toll of these stalled projects, noting

that every unfinished film carries its own story and effort. Despite setbacks, he maintained that each experience has contributed to his growth as a filmmaker, making him stronger and more resilient.

His remarks have triggered

widespread conversation in the Telugu film industry, with many acknowledging the unseen struggles behind commercial cinema. Fans also expressed support, appreciating his honesty in speaking openly about failures in an industry often dominated by success narratives.

The discussion further gained traction as Harish Shankar continues to be a prominent name in Telugu cinema, especially after his successful collaborations and high-profile projects. His upcoming film with major stars is already generating expectations, and this latest statement has only added to public curiosity about his creative journey. By highlighting the “9 vs 19” contrast, Harish Shankar has unintentionally shed light on the uncertain nature of filmmaking, where success is visible but setbacks often remain hidden.

Allu Aravind’s Light-Hearted Comment on Mrunal Thakur’s Marriage Creates Buzz

Veteran producer Allu Aravind has sparked fresh discussion in the Telugu film industry with his humorous remarks about actress Mrunal Thakur during a recent film promotional event. His comments, made in a light-hearted tone, quickly went viral on social media and became a trending topic among fans.

At the success meet of the film Dacoit, starring Adivi Sesh and Mrunal Thakur, Allu Aravind praised the actress for her performance and growing popularity in Telugu cinema. While appreciating her work, he jokingly expressed a wish that she should marry someone from the Telugu film industry and settle in

Hyderabad. His intention, he said humorously, was to ensure that she continues to work more frequently in Telugu films.

The producer also recalled a similar “blessing” he had given earlier to actresses Lavanya Tripathi, who later married actor Varun Tej, adding a playful reference that drew

laughter from the audience. He further remarked that such blessings often turn into reality, making his comment even more widely discussed online.

The video clip of his statement has since gone viral, with fans and social media users reacting with mixed humor and curiosity. While many treated it as a casual,

fun moment at a celebratory event, others began speculating about Mrunal Thakur’s personal life and future plans, fueling unnecessary rumours across platforms.

Mrunal Thakur, who has been gaining strong recognition in Telugu cinema with films like Sita Ramam and Hi Nanna, has not re-

sponded to the speculation, as the comment was clearly made in a non-serious, jovial context.

Industry observers note that such remarks are common during film promotional events in the Telugu industry, often intended to entertain audiences rather than make serious statements.

Meanwhile,

Mrunal continues to focus on her upcoming projects, including her growing lineup of films in both Telugu and Hindi cinema. The episode has once again highlighted how quickly light-hearted comments from public events can turn into viral discussions in the age of social media.

