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'Historic Day as Women's Bill Defeated': CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy termed the reported defeat of the Women's Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha as a "historic and unforgettable day" in Indian political history.

In a tweet, he said, "This is a moment that will remain unforgettable in the history of India." He credited the unity of opposition parties for what he described as preventing a "national crisis."

The Chief Minister praised the leadership of Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, stating that democratic forces and opposition leaders came



together under their guidance to defeat the bill.

"Under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, democratic forces

united under challenging circumstances. He thanked leaders including M. K. Stalin, Mamata Banerjee, Akhilesh Yadav, Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray, Lalu Prasad Yadav, Hemant Soren, Farooq Abdullah, Naveen Patnaik, and Arvind Kejriwal, along with leaders of Communist parties.

"I extend my heartfelt thanks to all alliance leaders who stood united with courage and determination to defeat these black bills," he added.

The statement reflects the Congress party's position on the issue, with leaders asserting that unity among opposition parties played a key role in the outcome.

KTR Blames BJP for Women's Bill Failure

Hyderabad, April 18 | TPN Bureau

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) has blamed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the failure of the Women's Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha, alleging that the ruling party's approach led to the bill not being passed.

Speaking on the issue, KTR said there was widespread support among political parties for providing 33 percent reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies. However, he accused the BJP of complicating the process by linking the bill to the issue of delimitation, which he said created unnecessary hurdles and delayed its passage.

KTR stated that the reservation for women could have been implemented immediately without attaching additional conditions. He argued that bringing delimitation into the discussion diverted focus from the core objective of empower-

ing women through political representation. According to him, this move ultimately resulted in the bill failing to secure the required majority.

He further alleged that the BJP's stand was politically motivated and aimed at postponing implementation while continuing to highlight the issue for political gain. KTR also expressed concerns that linking the bill with delimitation could have implications for southern states, which have often raised objections over representation changes. Describing the development as a missed opportunity, KTR said the Centre should bring a fresh bill ensuring women's reservation without any conditions. He emphasized the need for immediate action to strengthen women's participation in governance.

The issue has sparked political debate, with leaders from various parties expressing differing opinions on the reasons behind the bill's failure and the way forward for women's reservation in the country.



Kavitha Slams BJP Over Women's Bill Failure

Hyderabad, April 18 | TPN Bureau

Kavitha, senior leader of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), has strongly criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the failure of the Women's Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha, terming it a major setback to women's empowerment in the country.

Reacting to the developments in Parliament, Kavitha expressed deep disappointment and anger, alleging that the BJP deliberately stalled the bill by linking it to the issue of delimitation. She described the move as a "calculated political strategy" that derailed a long-pending reform aimed at ensuring greater representation for women in legislative bodies. Kavitha stated that there was widespread consensus across political parties on the need to provide 33 percent reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies. She argued that such a reform could have been implemented immediately within the existing framework, without introducing additional conditions that complicate the process.

According to her, the BJP's approach not only delayed the passage of the bill but also raised concerns about its commitment to women's rights. She alleged that by tying the bill to delimitation, the ruling

party created avoidable obstacles, leading to confusion and ultimately preventing the bill from securing the required majority support.

The BRS leader further emphasized that women in India have been waiting for decades for meaningful political representation, and the latest development has dashed their hopes once again. She said the failure of the bill reflects a missed opportunity to strengthen democratic inclusivity and gender equality in governance.

Kavitha also voiced concerns over the potential implications of linking the bill with delimitation, particularly for southern states. She noted that such a move could impact representation patterns and create regional imbalances, an issue that has already been a point of contention among several states.

Calling for immediate corrective action, Kavitha urged the Centre to bring forward a fresh Women's Reservation Bill without attaching any conditions. She stressed that the focus should remain solely on ensuring fair and timely representation for women in politics. The issue has sparked intense political debate across the country, with leaders from various parties expressing divergent views on the reasons behind the bill's failure and the path ahead for women's reservation in India.



Telangana Seeks Rice Procurement, Dues Release

New Delhi, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and State Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday urged Union Food and Public Distribution Minister Pralhad Joshi to procure 30 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of boiled rice from the state during the ongoing Yasangi (Rabi) season. During a meeting held at the Union Minister's residence in New Delhi, the Telangana leaders informed that paddy produced in the Yasangi season in the state is well-suited for parboiled rice milling. They cited data from the past six seasons to support their claim and highlighted the growing national demand for boiled rice. The Chief Minister stated that the state expects around 90 LMT of paddy production this Yasangi season. He assured that Telangana is ready to supply 30 LMT of boiled rice with 5 percent broken content, along with 5 LMT of raw rice with 10 percent broken content. The proposal received in-principle approval

from the Union Minister, sources said. The Telangana delegation also requested the immediate release of pending dues amounting to 1,468.94 crore related to additional levy procurement from the 2014-15 Kharif season. They emphasized that Telangana is among the leading states in paddy production and procurement and has been ensuring payments to farmers within 48 hours of procurement. The ministers urged the Centre to release the dues to ease financial pressure on the state's civil supplies department. In addition, the Chief Minister appealed for the resumption of fortified rice (FRK) distribution in schools, hostels, and ICDS centres. He noted that the programme, aimed at addressing anemia and nutritional deficiencies among children, had been discontinued recently and should be restarted immediately. Senior officials, including the state's Special Representative in Delhi A. P. Jitender Reddy and Coordination Secretary Advait Singh, along with Union Food Ministry officials, were present during the meeting.

Revanth Reddy Pays Tribute to Radhakrishnan

New Delhi, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy paid tribute to former President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on his death anniversary at his official residence in New Delhi. The Chief Minister offered floral tributes at the portrait of Radhakrishnan and recalled his immense contributions to the nation. He described him as one of India's most distinguished philosophers and educationists, whose legacy continues to inspire generations. Revanth Reddy noted that Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan had also served as India's first Vice President and played a key role in shaping the country's intellectual and academic landscape. "He is a figure every Indian can take pride in," the Chief Minister said. The CM highlighted Rad-



hakrishnan's dedication to education and his efforts in promoting Indian philosophy on the global stage. He said his life remains a guiding force for those working in public service and academia. Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, along with Members of Parliament Vem Narender Reddy,

Anil Kumar Yadav, Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, and Congress leader Rohin Reddy were present on the occasion. They joined the Chief Minister in paying respects and remembered Radhakrishnan's invaluable service to the nation in the fields of education, philosophy, and public life.

Telangana Govt Moves Ahead with Kaleshwaram Repairs

Hyderabad, April 18 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has taken a significant decision to undertake extensive repair works on the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, aiming to restore the functionality of the mega irrigation scheme that plays a vital role in the state's water management.

According to official sources, the government has decided to carry out comprehensive restoration of the key barrages—Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla—after structural concerns were identified in recent months. These barrages are crucial components of the project, and their proper functioning is essential for ensuring uninterrupted irrigation supply to vast agricultural areas. Authorities are

planning to adopt a scientific and systematic approach for the repair works. Expert agencies and technical teams will be engaged to conduct detailed studies, including structural assessments and geotechnical evaluations, before executing the restoration process. The aim is to ensure long-term stability and prevent recurrence of similar issues in the future. The state government is also setting up a high-level monitoring mechanism to oversee the entire repair process. Senior officials have been instructed to ensure transparency and adherence to safety standards while carrying out the works. The project is expected to be taken up in a phased manner, keeping in view weather conditions and technical feasibility. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has reportedly emphasized the need for timely com-

pletion of the repairs, stressing that the project, built with significant public investment, must be revived and fully utilized. He directed officials to coordinate closely with experts and ensure that all corrective measures are implemented effectively. The Kaleshwaram project is considered one of the largest lift irrigation schemes in the world and is a lifeline for lakhs of farmers across Telangana. Restoration of the damaged barrages is expected to restore irrigation benefits, improve water availability, and support agricultural productivity in multiple districts. The decision has also drawn political attention, with various stakeholders closely monitoring the government's efforts to rehabilitate the ambitious project and address concerns related to its construction and maintenance.

Telangana Targets Global Aerospace Hub: Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Sridhar Babu has said that Telangana is aiming to emerge as a strategic aerospace and defence hub, outlining the state government's vision to position itself as a leader in advanced manufacturing and cutting-edge technologies. Speaking on the state's industrial growth plans, the minister highlighted that Telangana is focusing on next-generation sectors such as drones, artificial intelligence-driven avionics, space technologies, 3D printing, and ad-

vanced materials. He said these sectors are expected to play a crucial role in shaping the future of aerospace and defence industries, both nationally and globally. Sridhar Babu noted that the state has already built a strong foundation in aerospace manufacturing, supported by a robust ecosystem of industries, research institutions, and skilled manpower. He pointed out that Hyderabad has emerged as a key hub for precision engineering and high-tech production, attracting investments from major global and domestic

companies. The minister emphasized that the government is implementing policies aimed at encouraging innovation, boosting exports, and attracting foreign investments. He said Telangana offers a business-friendly environment, competitive infrastructure, and strong connectivity, making it an ideal destination for aerospace and defence companies. He further stated that micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are playing a vital role in supporting the aerospace supply chain in the

state. By strengthening these enterprises and integrating them with global value chains, Telangana aims to enhance its competitiveness and expand its industrial footprint. Sridhar Babu also highlighted the importance of skill development, stating that the government is investing in training programs to create a future-ready workforce capable of meeting industry demands. Collaboration between academia and industry is being encouraged to bridge skill gaps and promote research and

innovation. The minister reiterated that Telangana's goal is not only to attract investments but also to become a strategic partner in the global aerospace ecosystem. He said the state is committed to long-term growth, job creation, and technological advancement through sustained efforts in the sector. With a clear vision and proactive policies, Telangana is positioning itself as a key player in the aerospace and defence landscape, aiming to drive economic growth and strengthen its role in high-technology industries.





Remove Remarks on Telangana: Ponnam to Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has urged Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy to take immediate steps to ensure that controversial remarks made by BJP MP Tejasvi Surya are removed from Parliamentary records.

In his appeal, Ponnam Prabhakar stated that he had already requested the Speaker of Parliament a day earlier to expunge the comments made by Tejasvi Surya, who reportedly compared the formation of Telangana to the India-Pakistan partition.

Referring to a recent press conference by Kishan Reddy, the Telangana Minister pointed out that the Union Minister himself acknowledged that Tejasvi Surya had admitted his mistake. In this context, Ponnam Prabhakar called upon Kishan Reddy to take proactive initiative in the matter.

He stressed that such remarks had hurt the sentiments of the people of Telangana and, if left unaddressed, could lead to resentment in the future. "If you do not want to be viewed negatively by the people of Telangana in the coming days, steps must be taken to remove these statements from Parliamentary records," he said. Ponnam Prabhakar further appealed to Kishan Reddy to use his position and influence to formally request the Speaker to delete the objectionable comparison from official records. He emphasized that maintaining respect for the democratic and constitutional process that led to the formation of Telangana is crucial.

The Minister reiterated that prompt action would help prevent misunderstandings and uphold the dignity of Parliamentary proceedings, while also ensuring that public sentiment in Telangana is respected.



Private Bus Gutted in Fire at Kukatpally

Hyderabad, April 18 | TPN Bureau

A massive fire broke out in a private travels bus at Kukatpally in Hyderabad, creating panic among locals and commuters in the area.

The incident reportedly occurred near the busy KPHB locality. The bus was parked when the fire suddenly erupted and quickly spread, engulfing the entire vehicle within minutes. Thick plumes of smoke were seen rising, drawing the attention of passersby and nearby residents.

Fire officials rushed to the spot soon after receiving the alert and launched firefighting operations. After a brief struggle, the flames were brought under control. Fortunately, no casualties or injuries were reported as the bus was unoccupied at the time of the incident.



Preliminary information suggests that a possible electrical short circuit may have caused the fire, though the exact reason is yet to be confirmed. Authorities have initiated an investigation to ascertain the cause and assess the damage.

The incident has raised concerns over vehicle safety and maintenance standards, with locals calling for stricter checks to prevent such mishaps in the future.



Leaders Thank Caste Survey Panel

Hyderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Senior Congress leaders on Friday met members of the expert committee constituted by the Telangana government on socio-economic and caste enumeration, expressing gratitude for their work. TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, and State BC Welfare and Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar visited the residence of committee chairman Justice Sudarshan Reddy and vice-chairman Kanha Ilaiah to thank them for their efforts.

The leaders appreciated the committee for conducting what they described as one of the most comprehensive and systematic surveys in the country on social, economic, and caste-based data. They noted that

Telangana has set an example by undertaking such an exercise in a scientific and transparent manner.

During the interaction, Congress leaders said the state government would carefully consider the recommendations made by the expert panel to address social, economic, and political inequalities in the state.

They further stated that the report was prepared with accuracy, transparency, and methodological rigor, ensuring credible data for policy making. The leaders also felicitated the chairman and vice-chairman in recognition of their contribution. The meeting highlighted the government's focus on inclusive development and its commitment to using data-driven approaches to bridge inequalities across different sections of society.

'Lack of Sincerity Led to Bill's Defeat': Ponnam Prabhakar

Hyderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar on Friday alleged that the BJP-led central government lacked genuine intent to implement the Women's Reservation Bill, which, he said, resulted in its defeat in the Lok Sabha.

Speaking on the issue, he said, "If the Centre had sincerity, the Women's Reservation Bill would have been passed. Its failure in Parliament reflects the lack of commitment."

Prabhakar stated that the Congress party had demanded inclusion of OBC reservation within the Women's Reservation Bill to ensure broader social justice. "Our aim is to bring not just elite women, but also ordinary women into politics. That is why we insisted on an OBC sub-quota," he said.

He accused the BJP of ignoring these demands and adopting a unilateral approach. "The Centre acted stubbornly and failed to consider our suggestions, which ultimately led to the bill's defeat," he added.

Criticizing the linkage of the bill with delimitation, the minister said, "The government unnecessarily complicated the bill by tying it to delimitation

and tried to rush it through within days."

He further remarked, "There was urgency in BJP's actions, but no real commitment towards implementing reservations for women."

Prabhakar also alleged that the move was politically motivated. "These efforts were aimed at electoral gains in states like Tamil Nadu and West Bengal rather than genuine empowerment of women," he said.

Highlighting Congress' stance, he said, "The Congress party has always stood for the voice of the common people and fought strongly in the Lok Sabha on behalf of citizens."

Referring to Telangana's initiatives, he added that the state had conducted a caste survey to ensure social justice based on population data and suggested that a nationwide caste census should be carried out before introducing such legislation.

Reaffirming his party's commitment, Prabhakar said, "Congress remains dedicated to women's reservation and ensuring fair political representation for all sections, especially marginalized communities."

Telangana Seeks Higher Rice Procurement

New Delhi, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and State Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy met Union Food and Public Distribution Minister Pralhad Joshi to discuss paddy procurement for the upcoming agricultural season.

During the meeting, the Telangana leaders requested the Centre to procure 30 lakh metric tonnes of parboiled rice for the 2025-26 agricultural cycle, which includes both the Kharif (Vanakalam) and Rabi (Yasangi) seasons. They emphasized the need for timely procurement to support farmers and ensure smooth market operations in the state.

The Chief Minister and the state minister also informed the Union Minister that the estimated paddy production for the 2025-26 Yasangi season is expected to reach around 90 lakh metric tonnes. They highlighted that the state is witnessing strong agricultural output and requires adequate support from the Centre to handle the increased production.

According to sources, the Telangana delegation stressed that enhanced procurement would not only benefit farmers but also help maintain price stability and strengthen the public distribution system. The meeting assumes significance as paddy procurement



has been a key issue between the state and the Centre in recent years, with Telangana consistently seeking higher procurement targets to match its growing agricultural output.

The Union Minister is understood to have taken note of the state's request, and further discussions are likely to take place at the official level to finalize procurement arrangements for the upcoming season.

BJP Hails Women's Reservation Law

Hyderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao highlighted the significance of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, stating that it marks a historic step toward women's empowerment in India.

Addressing a gathering, he said the legislation provides 33 percent reservation for women in legislative bodies, fulfilling a long-pending demand of women across the country. "For over three decades, women in India have been waiting for this reform. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has now delivered on this important promise," he said.

He noted that the Act, which was passed in 2023 through a Constitutional amendment, is set to be implemented from 2029. According to him, the move reflects the Centre's commitment to strengthening women's participation in governance and decision-making.

Ramchander Rao described the legislation as a "historic decision" that would pave the way for greater representation of women in politics and en-



sure their voices are heard more effectively in lawmaking.

On the occasion, he participated in a sand art programme at Pallavi Engineering College, organized under the leadership of MLC Malka Komuriah and the BJP Telangana State Mahila Morcha. The event was held to express gratitude to the Prime Minister for introducing the landmark legislation. Speaking at the event, he

'BJP Misleading Women on Reservation': Seethakka

Hyderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Minister Seethakka on Friday launched a sharp attack on the BJP, accusing it of misleading women on the issue of reservation and lacking sincerity towards women's empowerment.

Addressing the media, she said, "BJP's double standards on women's reservation have now been exposed." Emphasizing the importance of ethical governance, she added, "Just as the goal is important, the means to achieve it are equally important."

Criticizing the Centre's approach, Seethakka stated, "By linking women's reservation to delimitation, the BJP is deceiving women." She alleged that the move was politically motivated and aimed at gaining electoral advantage rather than ensuring justice.

"The Women's Reservation Bill is being used purely for political gains. The BJP has no



real commitment to women's empowerment," she said.

The minister further claimed that the ruling party's strategy is influenced by upcoming elections. "These are new political dramas keeping Tamil Nadu and West Bengal elections in mind," she remarked, adding that BJP's ideology is inherently anti-women.

Highlighting Congress party's legacy, Seethakka noted, "It was Congress that gave the country a woman Prime Minister and President, and ensured reservations for women in local bodies." Reiterating her demand, she said

United Opposition Saved Democracy': Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy

Hyderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Friday described the reported defeat of the Women's Reservation Bill in the Lok Sabha as a "victory for democracy."

In a press note, the minister said the development would remain a significant moment in India's democratic history. "This clearly shows that when forces committed to protecting democracy unite, even ill-intentioned laws can be stopped," he stated.

He praised the leadership of Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, noting that opposition parties stood together under their guidance to prevent what he termed a "national crisis."

"Under the visionary leadership of Rahul Gandhi and Mal-



likarjun Kharge, the opposition united and saved the country from a major crisis," he said.

Reaffirming his commitment, the minister added, "Our fight for democracy, equality, and protection of the Constitution will continue without pause."

The statement reflects the Congress party's position that unity among opposition parties played a decisive role in blocking the bill and safeguarding democratic values.

'Defeat of Bill a Victory for Democracy': Mahesh Kumar Goud

Hyderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud on Friday termed the reported defeat of the 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha as a "victory for democracy and the Constitution."

In a press statement, he alleged that the Congress party successfully foiled what he described as the BJP's "conspiracy" to introduce delimitation through unconstitutional means.

"The BJP attempted to bring in delimitation to increase seats in North India for political gains. That strategy has now been defeated," he said.

Mahesh Kumar Goud further stated that the fall of the bill has acted as a check on what he called the "authoritarian tendencies" of the BJP government. "With the bill being defeated, the BJP's undemocratic approach has been halted," he remarked.

He reiterated that Congress had supported the Women's Reservation law passed in 2023, which provides 33% reservation for women in legislatures. However, he accused the BJP of attempting to delay its implementation until 2029 by

linking it with delimitation. "Under the guise of amendments, BJP tried to secretly push delimitation. Those attempts have now failed," he said.

Highlighting Congress' demand, he added, "We insisted that caste census should be conducted nationwide before any such constitutional changes. That demand has now prevailed."

Calling it a major political development, he said, "This is a victory for democracy. Congress had already ensured women's reservation in the past and remains committed to its implementation."

He also criticized the BJP for not implementing the Women's Reservation law despite its passage, alleging that the ruling party lacks commitment toward women's empowerment.

"By bringing delimitation along with the bill, BJP has done injustice to women. Introducing such a bill without proper consultation has cost them politically," he added.

Mahesh Kumar Goud asserted that Congress will continue to mount pressure on the BJP to ensure immediate implementation of women's reservation across the country.



BRS Union Backs RTC Strike

Hyderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

BRS Trade Union (BRTU) State President Rambabu Yadav on Friday alleged that workers across Telangana are facing growing distress under the Congress government and announced full support to upcoming protests by various labour groups.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Rambabu Yadav said RTC workers have issued a strike notice for April 22 and assured that BRTU would extend complete support across all 33 districts. "We appeal to our union members to stand firmly with RTC workers in their struggle," he said.

He claimed that multiple sections of workers, including electricity artisans, are already on strike and staging protests across the state. "Despite ongoing agitations, the government has failed to resolve any of their issues," he alleged.

Criticizing the Congress government, he said welfare governance has been replaced by a "strike-driven atmosphere" in the state. He further alleged that promises made during elections, including implementation of PRC for RTC employ-

ees, have not been fulfilled.

Rambabu Yadav credited the previous BRS government led by K. Chandrashekar Rao for providing better facilities and welfare schemes to workers, including insurance support for construction and auto workers.

He also accused the current government led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of failing to honor commitments and instead resorting to pressure tactics. He alleged that workers protesting for their rights are being threatened and that arrests are being made in the name of maintaining law and order.

BRTU General Secretary Marayya also criticized the government, alleging injustice toward the working class and claiming that protests are being suppressed through intimidation.

The union leaders demanded that the government immediately address the 32 issues raised by RTC workers and resolve grievances of all labour sections without conditions.

They warned that if the issues are not resolved, protests could intensify in the coming days, and reiterated their commitment to support workers in their fight for rights.



Kavitha Targets KTR Again with Sharp Remarks

Hyderabad, April 18 | TPN Bureau

K. Kavitha has once again launched a sharp attack on K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), intensifying the ongoing political rift and drawing attention within Telangana's political circles.

Addressing a gathering in Hyderabad, Kavitha questioned KTR's recent political initiatives, particularly his proposed outreach programmes. She criticized the timing of such efforts, asking why there was limited public engagement during the years when the party was in power and why such initiatives are being taken up now.

Kavitha alleged that leaders who failed to stay connected with people while in office are now attempting to rebuild their image through public campaigns. She expressed doubts over the effectiveness of such programmes and said people are unlikely to be convinced by sudden efforts at mass contact.

Highlighting her own political path, Kavitha said she has embarked on a new journey focused on achieving a "social Telangana." She emphasized the need for equal opportuni-

ties and representation for all sections of society, stating that her stand on these issues had led to differences within political circles.

She also referred to the challenges she has faced in recent times, including disciplinary action, but maintained that she remains committed to her political goals. Kavitha asserted that her movement would continue despite obstacles and that she is determined to push forward with her vision.

The former leader further indicated that several political figures are in touch with her and hinted at possible future developments. She suggested that more leaders could extend support to her in the coming days, which may reshape the political landscape.

Kavitha expressed confidence that backing from various social and community groups is strengthening her position. She said such support is encouraging her to continue her efforts and expand her outreach.

Her latest remarks have once again brought internal differences into focus, adding a new dimension to the evolving political scenario in Telangana.

BRS Leaders Burn Effigy, Seek Apology

Hyderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

BRS leaders on Friday staged a protest near Telangana Bhavan, burning the effigy of BJP MP Tejasvi Surya and demanding an immediate apology for his alleged remarks on Telangana in the Lok Sabha.

The protest was led by former Corporation Chairman Allipuram Venkateshwar Reddy, former BC Commission member Kishore Goud, and other party leaders. Protesters raised slogans such as "Down Down BJP" and warned BJP MPs against making "insulting remarks" about Telangana.

Addressing the gathering, Allipuram Venkateshwar Reddy demanded that Tejasvi Surya immediately apologize to the people of Telangana. He questioned how the BJP MP could compare Telangana with Pakistan and termed the remarks as unacceptable.

He also credited former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao for transforming Telangana into a leading state through welfare initiatives, alleging that such comments stem from political



frustration.

Kishore Goud described the remarks as "shameful" and criticized the comparison of Telangana's formation with the country's partition. He said Telangana was achieved after significant sacrifices, including hunger strikes led by its leadership, and warned of strong backlash if such comments are repeated.

He also questioned the silence of other MPs present during the discussion and

warned that continued remarks against Telangana could lead to calls for boycotting the BJP in the state.

BRS Trade Union leader Rambabu Yadav also condemned the comments, stating that comparing Telangana with the nation's partition was inappropriate and offensive.

The protesters warned that if Tejasvi Surya fails to apologize, they would intensify protests and even lay siege to BJP offices in Telangana.

Complaint Filed Against Tejasvi Surya, Says Srinivas Goud

New Delhi/Hyderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Former minister Srinivas Goud on Friday said a formal complaint has been lodged against BJP MP Tejasvi Surya at the Parliament Street Police Station in New Delhi over his alleged remarks on Telangana.

Addressing the media, Srinivas Goud stated, "We have filed a complaint and demanded that a case be registered under five sections. Strict action must be taken as per law."

He strongly condemned the comparison of Telangana with Pakistan, calling it "unacceptable and disrespectful." "Many people sacrificed their lives for the formation of Telangana. Such remarks insult the sentiments of the people," he said. Highlighting the efforts behind statehood, he credited former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao for playing a key role in achieving Telangana by building consensus among various political parties. Srinivas Goud further alleged that Telangana has



faced discrimination even after state formation. "Before statehood, we faced humiliation, and even after achieving it, such statements continue," he remarked. He also raised concerns about unresolved issues, including allocation of funds to Telangana and territorial disputes, claiming that some villages were merged into Andhra Pradesh. "If our MPs were present in Parlia-

ment, they would have strongly confronted such remarks," he added. Issuing a stern warning, Srinivas Goud said, "We will not remain silent if injustice continues. We will form a Telangana Protection Force to respond to those who insult the state." He demanded that Tejasvi Surya apologize to the people of Telangana in Parliament, stating that anything less would not be acceptable.

Bandi Sanjay Slams Opposition Over Women's Bill Defeat

New Delhi, April 18 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar launched a sharp attack on the opposition alliance following the failure of the 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill related to women's reservation in the Lok Sabha.

Reacting strongly, Bandi Sanjay described April 17 as a "dark day" for Indian democracy and termed the development an insult to women across the country. He alleged that the opposition bloc, led by the Indian National Congress, had exposed its "true face" by opposing the bill and blocking women's rightful representation in legislative bodies.

He accused the Congress and its allies of being anti-women and claimed that they deliberately stalled the bill despite long-standing demands for 33 percent reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies. According to him, denying women their share in governance amounts to a serious political wrongdoing. The Union Minister further alleged that parties which opposed the bill were largely "family-run" and could not tolerate the idea of empowering ordinary wom-



en through political representation. He also targeted Rahul Gandhi and A. Revanth Reddy, accusing them of failing to fulfill past promises on women's reservation.

Bandi Sanjay said that despite repeated electoral defeats, the Congress has not changed its approach. He expressed confidence that women voters across the country would respond strongly in future elections and defeat the opposition alliance. Calling for

political accountability, he urged voters in states like West Bengal and Tamil Nadu to reject parties aligned with the Congress. He asserted that the strength of women voters would ultimately determine the political future and send a clear message to those who opposed the bill. The remarks have intensified the ongoing political war of words between the ruling party and the opposition over the Women's Reservation Bill.



BC Welfare Schemes

Reviewed at Secretariat

Hyderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

State BC Welfare Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar held a review meeting at the Secretariat to assess the functioning and pending issues of the Backward Classes (BC) Welfare Department.

The meeting was attended by BC Welfare Secretary Balamaya Devi, BC Gurukulam Secretary Saidulu, Managing Director Mallayya Battu, and Alok Kumar, among other officials.

During the meeting, discussions focused on resolving pending issues within the department and streamlining welfare initiatives. Special attention was given to the selection process of beneficiaries under the BC Overseas Education Fund, ensuring transparency and timely implementation.

The minister also directed officials to expand skill development programs through the BC Corporation, aiming to improve employment opportunities for youth from backward communities.

In recognition of academic excellence, it was decided to felicitate students from BC Gurukul institutions who performed exceptionally well in the recently announced intermediate examination results.

The minister emphasized the need for timely payment of rents for hostels and Gurukul schools to avoid disruptions. He also instructed officials to ensure that students receive textbooks, uniforms, and shoes well before the start of the upcoming academic year.

Further, directions were issued to clear all pending payments under welfare schemes such as Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak without delay.

Additionally, the minister asked authorities to distribute kits to those who have undergone training under the Katamaya Rakshana Kavacham initiative. The review highlighted the government's focus on strengthening BC welfare measures and ensuring efficient delivery of benefits to eligible beneficiaries.



Harish Rao Seeks Full Compensation for Sigachi Victims

Hyderabad, April 18 | TPN Bureau

T. Harish Rao has demanded that the Telangana government immediately release full compensation to the families affected by the Sigachi Industries blast, alleging that the promised financial assistance has not been completely delivered.

Reacting to the issue, Harish Rao said the government had announced 1 crore compensation for each deceased victim following the tragic industrial accident. However, he claimed that several families have not received the full amount even months after the incident, raising concerns over delays and discrepancies in disbursement.

He alleged that the total amount paid so far falls significantly short of the commitment, leaving a substantial gap in compensation. According to him, many families have received only partial payments, which has added to their financial distress during an already difficult time.

The BRS leader also criticized the authorities for including statutory benefits such as provident fund, employee insurance, and other legal en-

titlements as part of the compensation package. He argued that these are mandatory benefits owed to workers and should not be counted as ex gratia relief announced by the government.

Harish Rao further raised concerns over the treatment of victims' families, stating that in some cases, expenses incurred during medical treatment were deducted from the compensation. He also highlighted the difficulties faced by families in obtaining necessary documentation, especially in cases where bodies were not recovered immediately after the incident.

Demanding accountability, he alleged that the accident occurred due to negligence and lack of proper safety measures. He called upon the government to take strict action against those responsible and ensure that justice is delivered. He urged the authorities to release the remaining compensation without delay and provide adequate support to the affected families. The issue has intensified political debate, with calls for transparency and swift action to address the concerns raised by the victims' families.

Team Prashanth Wins Soumith Cricket Tournament

Medchal, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Team Prashanth Kishtapur emerged as the winners of the Soumith Yuvashakti Cricket Tournament, defeating Medchal Dare Devils in the final match held on Friday.

The tournament was organized on the occasion of BJP Med-

chal constituency youth leader N. Soumith Reddy's birthday. The final match witnessed a competitive clash between Medchal Dare Devils and Team Prashanth Kishtapur.

Team Prashanth delivered a strong performance to secure victory over Dare Devils and clinch the tournament title. The winning team was awarded a

cash prize of 25,000, which was presented by Soumith Reddy.

The runner-up team, Medchal Dare Devils, also received a cash prize of 12,500, which was distributed to the team members.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from local youth and cricket lovers, making it a lively sporting occasion in the constituency.



Hyderabad Aims to Become Drug-Free City: CP Sajjanar

Secunderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar, IPS, stated that strict measures are being implemented to transform Hyderabad into a drug-free city. He made these remarks during his visit to the de-addiction centre at Gandhi Hospital on Friday.

During the visit, the Commissioner interacted directly with rowdy sheeters who had tested positive in recent drug tests conducted by the Task Force police. He inquired about their health conditions and the steps being taken to overcome addiction. Sajjanar also spoke with their family members, advising them to provide emotional support and encouragement to help the individuals recover.

He later held discussions with doctors at the centre to understand the counselling processes and treatment methods being administered. Emphasizing the importance of rehabilitation, he noted that



recovery efforts are as crucial as enforcement.

Addressing the media, Sajjanar revealed that drug tests were conducted on 239 rowdy sheeters across the city, out of which 188 tested positive. Currently, 35 individuals are undergoing treatment at the Gandhi de-addiction centre, while the remaining are receiving counselling at other facilities.

He expressed optimism that the 15-day special counselling and treatment program,

launched a week ago, would bring positive changes in the behavior of those undergoing rehabilitation. The Commissioner also stated that advanced drug detection kits have been made available in all police stations across the city. Officials have been instructed to conduct mandatory drug tests on individuals found roaming suspiciously, especially during nighttime.

Highlighting the broader initiative, Sajjanar praised the

Telangana government for establishing 35 de-addiction centres across the state, calling it a model for the nation. He warned that strict legal action would be taken against drug peddlers and individuals who relapse into criminal activities.

He further noted that the H-NEW wing is playing a vital role in controlling drug-related activities and urged citizens and voluntary organizations to cooperate with the police in this mission.

The Commissioner also appreciated the coordination between the medical team at Gandhi Hospital and the police department, calling it a positive step toward effective rehabilitation and law enforcement.

The programme was attended by hospital superintendent Dr. N. Vani, Head of Psychiatry Dr. Suresh, along with other medical professionals and police officials.

Public Urged to Prevent Mosquito Breeding

Secunderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Residents have been urged to actively cooperate in preventing mosquito breeding by ensuring that no stagnant water accumulates in and around their homes. GHMC Entomology Department Supervisor Rajender Reddy highlighted the importance of this precaution, stating that stagnant water becomes a breeding ground for mosquito larvae, which can lead to the spread of diseases among the public.

Speaking on Friday during the "Friday-Dry Day" awareness program conducted in Boggulakunta, Rajender Reddy educated residents on various preventive measures. He emphasized that commonly overlooked items such as old tyres, water coolers, coconut shells, and other discarded containers often collect water and serve as ideal breeding spots for mosquitoes.

He advised every household to regularly inspect their surroundings and ensure that such items are either disposed of properly or kept dry. "Even small amounts of stagnant water can lead to the growth of larvae, which eventually develop into mosquitoes and increase the risk of illnesses," he explained.

As part of the awareness drive, Rajender Reddy also demonstrated how mosquito larvae form in standing water. By showing samples from water collected in different household items, he helped residents visually understand the risks associated with negligence. The demonstration aimed to encourage immediate action and reinforce the importance of regular cleaning practices.

Officials noted that mosquito-borne diseases remain a major concern, especially during warmer months when conditions are favorable for rapid breeding. Preventive measures

at the household level play a crucial role in controlling their spread, they added.

The GHMC has been conducting similar awareness programs across various localities under its "Friday-Dry Day" initiative, which focuses on eliminating stagnant water sources every week. Authorities believe that consistent community participation is essential to effectively tackle the issue.

Residents were also encouraged to report areas with stagnant water to municipal authorities so that timely action can be taken. The campaign underscores the shared responsibility between civic bodies and citizens in maintaining public health and preventing disease outbreaks.

The officials reiterated that simple steps, if followed diligently, can significantly reduce mosquito populations and safeguard communities from potential health risks.

Free Water Booths Offer Relief Amid Heat: ACP Shankar Raju

Secunderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Amid rising temperatures, free drinking water booths are providing much-needed relief to the public, said Traffic ACP G. Shankar Raju. Highlighting the importance of such initiatives during the scorching summer, he noted that even a drop of cool water holds immense value for people battling the heat.

A free drinking water facility (chalivendram) has been set up in the Malkajgiri Traffic Trimulgherry division to serve pedestrians, motorists, and daily commuters. The facility, set up near the Assistant Commissioner of Police office, aims to quench the thirst of those exposed to extreme weather conditions and offer a moment of respite.

The water booth was formal-



ly inaugurated by ACP G. Shankar Raju, who appreciated the efforts behind the initiative. He stated that such service-oriented programs play a vital role in supporting the public, especially during peak summer months when dehydration and heat-related issues are common.

The programme saw partici-

pation from representatives of Hygiene Aqua Solutions and M.V. Automobiles, who extended their support in setting up the facility. Their contribution was acknowledged as a commendable example of corporate social responsibility and community service.

Officials present at the event emphasized that providing

drinking water to the needy is one of the greatest forms of service. They added that such initiatives not only address immediate public needs but also inspire a sense of social responsibility among others.

With temperatures continuing to soar, the water facility is expected to serve as a lifeline for many people, offering cool drinking water and relief from the intense heat. Officials expressed hope that more organizations and individuals would come forward to support similar public welfare activities in the future.

The initiative stands as a reminder of the impact of small yet meaningful acts of service, especially during challenging weather conditions, and is likely to earn appreciation from the local community.

Unidentified Body Found in Gandhinagar

Secunderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

An unidentified man was found dead under the limits of the Gandhinagar Police Station in Hyderabad, leading to the registration of a case and initiation of an investigation by the police. According to official sources, the incident occurred during routine patrol duty. On the night of April 16 at around 8:00 PM, Police Constable V. Vikram Kumar (PC 1589) and Home Guard M. Sridhar Goud (HG 8449) were on BC-I duty, conducting patrols in the area. At about 12:10 AM on April 17, they received information from Chikkadpally BC-I staff regarding a dead body lying on the footpath in New Bhoiguda. The body was spotted in front of Grand Sarvottam Hotel, near Metro Pillar No. B-1031.

Upon receiving the alert, police rushed to the spot and examined the scene. They found the body of a male, aged approximately between 35 and 40 years. The deceased is suspected to be a beggar. He was described as having black hair, a dark complexion, and a normal physique. At the time of discovery, he was wearing a grey



shirt and pants.

Officials noted visible injuries on the face of the deceased, raising doubts about the cause of death. However, the exact reason is yet to be determined pending further investigation and postmortem examination.

Police conducted inquiries in the surrounding areas to establish the identity of the deceased, but no information could be gathered. Subsequently, the body was shifted to the Gandhi Hospital mortuary for

preservation.

Gandhinagar Police Station Sub-Inspector G. Kante Rao registered a case under Crime No. 119/2026, under Section 194 of the BNSS, and began an investigation. The case has been handed over to ASI K.V. Rangareddy for further inquiry.

Police have appealed to the public to assist in identifying the deceased. Anyone with relevant information is requested to come forward and help authorities in the investigation.

CPR Awareness Program Held at Alwal Traffic PS

Secunderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

A special awareness program on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), a life-saving emergency technique, was conducted at the Alwal Traffic Police Station premises as part of the fifth day of the 'Alive Arrive' initiative.

The programme was attended by Traffic Trimulgherry Division ACP G. Shankar Raju and Alwal Traffic Police Station Inspector Pawan Kumar Reddy. Medical expert Dr. Sandeep from Gandhi Hospital, along with traffic sub-inspectors, law and order police, 108 ambulance staff, and auto drivers, also participated in the session.

During the program, around 15 ambulance drivers and police personnel were given hands-on training and live demonstrations on CPR tech-

niques. Doctors explained that in cases of cardiac arrest, the first few minutes before reaching a hospital—often referred to as the "golden hour"—are extremely critical for saving lives.

They highlighted that performing CPR correctly during this crucial period can significantly improve survival chances. By applying proper chest compressions, blood circulation to the brain and other vital organs can be maintained until professional medical help arrives. Officials emphasized that police personnel and ambulance drivers often act as first responders in emergencies, making it essential for them to possess basic life-saving skills such as CPR. The training aimed to equip them with the confidence and knowledge required to act swiftly in critical situations.

Participants were also given



practical training sessions, where they practiced the CPR techniques under expert supervision. Their queries were addressed to ensure clarity and effectiveness in real-life scenarios.

Those who attended the session expressed that the train-

ing would greatly help them perform their duties more efficiently and respond better during emergencies. The initiative is expected to enhance emergency response capabilities and contribute to saving more lives in critical situations.

Stray Dog Attack Injures Four

Mancherial, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Four people, including a pregnant woman and a two-year-old child, were injured in a stray dog attack in Chintalapalli village of Jannaram mandal in Mancherial district on Wednesday.

According to local sources, the victims include a man identified as Gattu Rajayya, along with the pregnant woman and the toddler. All four sustained serious injuries after being attacked by stray dogs in the village. They were initially rushed to a nearby private hospital, but due to the severity of their condition, they were later referred to the Mancherial government hospital for further treatment.

The incident has once again brought attention to the growing menace of stray dog and monkey attacks in rural areas. Despite frequent reports of such incidents in the media, residents allege that authorities have failed to take effective action to address the issue.

Locals claim that officials are hesitant to act due to pressure from animal rights activists, who reportedly oppose measures against stray animals. They also pointed out that even though the Supreme Court has issued directions regarding the management of stray dogs, implementation on the ground remains



inadequate.

Villagers expressed frustration, questioning whether animal lovers prioritize animals over human safety. "If this situation continues, the safety of people in villages will be at serious risk," a resident said.

They urged animal welfare groups to understand the difficulties faced by the public and cooperate with authorities in finding a balanced solution. Residents warned that continued inaction could lead to more injuries and even loss of lives in future attacks.

Locals have demanded immediate intervention from authorities to control the stray animal population and ensure the safety of residents. They also cautioned that if the issue remains unresolved, public protests may intensify in the coming days. Officials are yet to respond to the incident, and villagers are awaiting concrete measures to prevent further attacks.

Collector Urges Faster Paddy Unloading

Nalgonda, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Nalgonda District Collector B. Chandrasekhar has directed rice millers to speed up the unloading of paddy arriving at procurement centres amid rising inflow during the Rabi season.

Chairing a review meeting with rice millers and officials of concerned departments on Friday, the Collector stressed that large quantities of paddy are reaching procurement centres and must be cleared on a war footing. He instructed millers not to delay unloading and ensure that trucks are not held up at mills for any reason.

The Collector urged millers to extend full cooperation to farmers and handle paddy procurement efficiently. He noted that around 3 lakh metric tonnes of paddy is currently available at procurement centres in the district, and an additional 3 lakh metric tonnes is expected within the next 15 days. In view of this, he said millers must operate at full capacity.

He also directed that no unnecessary objections should be raised regarding transportation or logistics and emphasized that farmers should not



face any inconvenience during the procurement process. Officials were instructed to arrange notified lorries for each procurement centre to ensure smooth transportation of paddy to mills.

The administration is taking steps to deploy an adequate number of trucks to clear the existing stock at procurement centres, he said. The Collector assured that issues faced by millers would be addressed positively and asked those who have not yet submitted bank guarantees and miller agreements to do so immediately.

Highlighting weather concerns, he said that due to high

temperatures and possible rains, paddy should be procured quickly to prevent damage. He also instructed procurement centre managers to ensure that only single varieties of paddy are loaded in each consignment and avoid mixing fine and common varieties.

A special drive will be conducted for a week to accelerate paddy unloading operations across the district, he added.

Additional Collector J. Srinivas and other officials also participated in the meeting and gave necessary instructions to millers to streamline the procurement process.



Acute Water Shortage Grips Adilabad Villages

Bureau

Several villages in Telangana's Adilabad district are reeling under a severe drinking water crisis as rising summer temperatures continue to dry up natural water sources, leaving residents struggling for daily needs.

The situation is particularly critical in tribal and remote mandals such as Kerameri, Jainoor, Indravelli, Uttoor and Gadiguda, where wells and borewells have either dried up or are yielding very little water. With no reliable local sources, villagers are being forced to travel long distances to fetch drinking water, often under extreme heat conditions. Women and children are the worst affected, spending hours every day collecting water from far-off locations. In many habitations, streams and small water bodies that usually serve as lifelines during summer have completely dried up, worsening the crisis. The scarcity has not only disrupted daily life but is also affecting livestock and small-scale agriculture in the region.

Local authorities have identified several vulnerable habitations and are attempting to manage the situation through emergency measures. Water

is also being explored in some areas, while officials are also exploring the use of available borewells and nearby sources to ensure minimal supply. However, residents allege that the supply remains irregular and insufficient to meet demand.

Despite the implementation of major drinking water schemes, gaps in infrastructure and distribution are evident in interior regions. Villagers have urged the administration to take immediate and sustained action, including repairing defunct borewells, ensuring regular tanker services, and improving pipeline connectivity.

Officials stated that they are closely monitoring the situation and coordinating efforts to prevent further deterioration. With temperatures expected to remain high in the coming weeks, the crisis may intensify if additional measures are not taken. The ongoing situation highlights the urgent need for long-term solutions such as sustainable water conservation, improved storage systems, and better management of groundwater resources to ensure consistent access to safe drinking water in vulnerable rural areas.

Collector Conducts Surprise Hospital Inspection

Mancherial, April 17 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Kumar Deepak conducted a surprise inspection at the government hospital in Luxettipet municipality of Mancherial district.

During the visit, the Collector interacted directly with patients and inquired about the quality of medical services being provided. He listened to their concerns and gathered feedback on treatment, facilities, and overall hospital functioning. Taking note of the issues raised, Kumar Deepak issued key instructions to the medical staff, directing them to improve services and ensure better patient care. He emphasized the need for accountability and timely treatment, urg-

ing hospital authorities to address shortcomings without delay.

The sudden inspection created alertness among the hospital staff, prompting immediate attention to cleanliness, patient handling, and service delivery. Local residents and patients welcomed the Collector's initiative and expressed satisfaction over his proactive approach. They appreciated the direct interaction and hoped that such inspections would lead to visible improvements in healthcare services.

Many locals also urged the administration to conduct such surprise visits regularly to ensure consistent monitoring and better standards in government hospitals.

HC Pulls Up Officials Over Drinking Water Issue

Hyderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana High Court has expressed strong displeasure over the failure of local authorities in Peddapalli district to provide safe drinking water to residents amid rising summer temperatures.

Hearing a petition related to Ramapalli village, the court questioned officials on whether even basic drinking water facilities, which are a constitutional necessity, could not be ensured for the public. The bench of Justice E.V. Venugopal took serious note of the conduct of the village panchayat secretary.

According to the petition, villagers have been dependent on borewell water for nearly two decades. Though water is being supplied through Mission Bhagiratha tanks, residents alleged that the tanks have not been cleaned for a long time, leading to supply of contaminated water. The situation reportedly worsened as the panchayat secretary allegedly locked access to borewell water and insisted that villagers must pay money to receive clean drinking water. Residents claimed that even those willing to pay were not being properly accommodated, and receipts were being issued ir-



regularly through intermediaries instead of official channels.

Appearing for the petitioner, advocate Bonkuri Praveen informed the court that authorities attempted to mislead by claiming power supply issues disrupted water distribution. However, it was clarified that electricity connections existed but maintenance was neglected. The counsel also pointed out administrative lapses, including the absence of the sarpanch, who is reportedly residing in Karimnagar, and irregular functioning of the panchayat secretary, who is not consistently available in the

village. It was further submitted that despite availability of funds under the 15th Finance Commission, state allocations, and local taxes, officials failed to utilize resources to address the drinking water crisis.

Taking serious note of these issues, the High Court directed district panchayat authorities to take immediate action and ensure supply of clean drinking water to the affected villagers.

The court's intervention comes after residents, frustrated with the ongoing neglect, approached the judiciary seeking relief.

Padma Shri Awardee Inspires Students at CBIT

Hyderabad, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Padma Shri awardee and progressive farmer Chintala Venkat Reddy delivered an inspiring lecture at Chaitanya Bharathi Institute of Technology (CBIT) on sustainable agriculture, encouraging students to adopt eco-friendly farming practices.

The session, themed "Innovative Eco-friendly Farming for a Sustainable Future," witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, and researchers. Venkat Reddy, known for his pioneering work in natural farming, shared his practical experiences in promoting chemical-free cultivation and zero-budget farming methods.

During his address, he highlighted the importance of adopting sustainable agricultural techniques such as drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and the use of organic manure, composting, and vermiculture to improve soil health. He also stressed the need to promote millets and indigenous crops to build climate-resilient agriculture and ensure better nutritional security.



Drawing from his field experience, he explained how sustainable farming not only reduces environmental impact but also enhances farmers' income and long-term productivity. He noted that awareness and training are key to transforming conventional agricultural practices into more sustainable models. The event was conducted under the guidance of Principal Prof. C. V. Narasimulu, with support from academic advisors and faculty members. The Department of Biotechnology, in association with the Bioengineering and Biotechnology Club of CBIT, coordinated the programme.

In his remarks, the Principal appreciated the initiative, stating that such interactive sessions help bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world agricultural practices. He emphasized the importance of exposing students to innovative solutions that address current environmental and agricultural challenges. The programme concluded with an interactive session where participants engaged with the speaker, gaining valuable insights into sustainable farming. The lecture left a strong impact on students, motivating them to explore innovative approaches for a more sustainable agricultural future.

IAF Seeks 1,200 Acres More for Township in Adilabad

Hyderabad, April 18 | TPN Bureau

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has sought an additional 1,200 acres of land in Adilabad district of Telangana for the development of a proposed township linked to defence infrastructure, according to Payal Shankar.

The move is part of broader plans to strengthen aviation and defence-related facilities in the region. Adilabad is being considered a strategic location for expanding such infrastructure, and the proposed township is expected to support operational, residential, and training requirements of defence personnel. Senior IAF officials recently visited Adilabad and held discussions with district authorities regarding land availability and feasibility. During their visit, they inspected potential sites and assessed the scope for expansion to accommodate the proposed project. Officials indicated that existing land identified for aviation purposes may not be sufficient to meet the requirements of a full-scale integrated township. Payal Shankar stated that large-scale defence and aviation projects typically re-

quire extensive land, especially when they include residential quarters, administrative buildings, and training facilities. He noted that the additional land request is aimed at ensuring that all necessary infrastructure can be developed in a planned and efficient manner.

The proposed township is expected to bring significant development to the region, including improved infrastructure and increased economic activity. Local authorities believe the project could generate employment opportunities and enhance Adilabad's importance in the defence sector. Discussions between the state government and defence authorities are ongoing to finalize land acquisition and project details. Officials are also focusing on ensuring smooth coordination to avoid delays in execution.

If the proposal moves forward, it is likely to position Adilabad as an emerging hub for aviation and defence-related activities, contributing to both regional development and national security objectives.

Employees' JAC Urges Govt to Resolve Pending Issues

Hyderabad, April 18 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana Employees, Teachers and Pensioners Joint Action Committee (JAC) has demanded the immediate resolution of pending issues concerning government employees, stating that addressing their grievances remains its primary agenda. JAC Chairman V. Latchireddy and General Secretary V. Rajasekhar said the committee would intensify efforts to exert pressure on the government until employees' demands are fulfilled. They emphasized that long-pending issues affecting employees, teachers, and pensioners need urgent attention.

On Friday, representatives of various employee unions affiliated with the JAC submitted a memorandum to RDO K. Ramakrishna in Hyderabad under the leadership of Latchireddy. Following the submission, the leaders addressed the media and outlined their plan of action. They stated that the initiative was launched to bring employees' concerns di-

rectly to the notice of the government. As part of this effort, the JAC has decided to organize similar representations across the state at mandal and division headquarters to highlight the unresolved issues.

The leaders reiterated that coordinated action would continue until the government takes concrete steps toward resolving the problems faced by employees. They also stressed the need for constructive dialogue between employee unions and authorities to ensure timely solutions.

Several representatives from affiliated unions, including Hanumanth Rao, Nirmala, Darshan Goud, Kumar, Upender Rao, Chandrasekhar Goud, Habeeb Mia, Krupakar Reddy, Moinuddin, C.H. Laxmaiah, Ramulu, Ramesh Paka, Ravi, and Mahesh, were present during the submission of the memorandum.

The JAC expressed hope that the government would respond positively and take swift action to address the concerns raised by employees across the state.



Legal Services Secretary Inspects Eluru District Jail

Eluru, April 17 | TPN Bureau

The Secretary of the Joint West Godavari District Legal Services Authority, K. Ratna Prasad, visited the District Jail in Eluru on Friday following directions from the State Legal Services Authority, Amaravati. During the inspection, he reviewed food quality, hygiene conditions, drinking water facilities, and medical services provided to the inmates.

He interacted with jail authorities and gathered detailed information on the welfare measures being implemented for prisoners. He stated that routine monthly inspections are being conducted as part of the legal services framework to ensure proper living conditions inside prisons.

Ratna Prasad further highlighted that free legal aid is being provided to undertrial prisoners who cannot afford legal representation. He also noted that legal assistance is extended to help prisoners and their families access various central and state government welfare schemes.

Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel Kone Seetharam, Deputy Legal Aid Counsel Varaprasad, Jail Superintendent Narasimha Reddy, and Jailor K. Srinivasa Rao were present during the visit.



TIDCO Housing Refunds Announced: Eluru MLA Badesi Chanti

Eluru, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Eluru MLA and District TDP President Badeti Radhakrishnaiah (Chanti) has clarified that the coalition government is committed to resolving every issue raised during the Praja Darbar. He assured that those who had paid money for TIDCO houses during the previous TDP regime will receive refunds this month. Addressing a Praja Darbar held at the MLA camp office in Powerpet, Eluru, he personally reviewed public grievances from various parts of the constituency and directed officials over phone for immediate action. He stated that the Praja Darbar is being conducted daily and every Friday in a special format to ensure faster resolution of public issues. Major complaints relate to TIDCO houses, house sites, and



pensions. Chanti further announced that eligible beneficiaries will be allotted houses in the third phase and that TIDCO housing units will be distributed by the end of June. Free medical camps and health check-ups are also being conducted regularly for public welfare.

Collector Suspends Digital Assistant for Improper Dress Code in Bapatla

Bapatla, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Bapatla District Collector Dr. V. Vinod Kumar has taken strict action against negligence in government offices, ordering the suspension of a digital assistant who reportedly attended duty wearing night pants.

During a surprise inspection of the 5th ward secretariat in Bapatla town on Thursday, the Collector observed the employee in inappropriate attire and expressed strong dissatisfaction over the lack of basic discipline and office decorum. He questioned how a government employee could report to duty without maintaining proper



employee could report to duty without maintaining proper discipline and office decorum. He questioned how a government employee could report to duty without maintaining proper

dress standards and immediately directed officials to initiate suspension proceedings.

The Collector also reviewed office records and expressed displeasure over delays in grievance redressal. He found 11 petitions pending beyond the deadline and warned staff against negligence in public service delivery. Dr. Vinod Kumar emphasized that the government's priority is timely and efficient public services. He cautioned that strict action will be taken against any official or employee failing to perform duties responsibly.

Kurnool Municipal Commissioner Expresses Gratitude to Public

Kurnool, April 17 | TPN Bureau

Kurnool Municipal Corporation Commissioner P. Vishwanath has expressed heartfelt gratitude to the people of Kurnool, stating that their cooperation in transforming the city's outlook will always be remembered. Addressing the media at the Commissioner's camp office near the old control room on Friday, he said he remains thankful to the public at all times.

He noted that in the last nine months, several initiatives were successfully implemented, including cleanliness drives, greenery improvement under "Kurnool Hariitha Haram," installation of CCTV cameras at garbage points, night-time sanitation works, and awareness programmes. He also highlighted reforms such as IRS, BPAS, PGRS, Dial Your Commissioner, and Open Forum initiatives.



The Commissioner said development works like road expansion, drainage construction, Smart City projects, eat streets, vendor zones, and water pipeline repairs were taken up with strong support from officials, public representatives, media, and citizens. Clarifying his transfer, Vishwanath stated there were no political pressures involved and it was due to personal reasons. He expressed confidence that Kurnool would achieve national-level recognition in the future with continued public cooperation.

Eluru, 17 April 2026 | TPN Bureau

In connection with the murder of Ambati Anudeep, the investigation officer appointed by the state government, Pedavegi Circle Inspector Rajasekhara, was met at his office in Eluru on Friday by Kapu Joint Action Committee (JAC) State President Chandu Janardhan.

During the meeting, Chandu Janardhan urged the police to complete the investigation at the earliest and demanded immediate arrest of all those involved in the crime. He stressed that justice should be delivered without delay in the case that has triggered public concern.

Speaking to the media afterwards, Chandu Janardhan alleged that individuals who had previously come to Ambati Anudeep's residence and threatened him with death have still not been arrested. He also said that since the day of the incident, several doubts and unanswered questions have emerged, but no clarity has been provided so far by the investigation.



He further stated that due to these unresolved issues, the situation has become increasingly suspicious and public confidence in the investigation process is weakening.

Chandu Janardhan announced that a meeting will be held on Sunday evening at the residence of the late Ambati Anudeep in Chatrai village to discuss the future course of action and decide on the next steps. The meeting was attended by Chatrai Jana Sena leader Tummalala Jagan, Anudeep's father Ambati Gopi, JAC leaders A.V. Srinivas, Jagadish, Kadavakolu Sagar, Srinivas, and members of the Chatrai youth leadership. The case continues to draw attention in the region, with demands growing for a speedy and transparent investigation into the murder.

Tirupati Municipal Corporation Launches Special Vehicle for Stray Dog Control

Tirupati, April 17, 2026 | TPN Bureau

Municipal Commissioner N. Mourya stated that all necessary measures are being taken for the control and welfare of stray dogs in Tirupati city. On Friday, she inaugurated a newly procured vehicle designed for capturing stray dogs.

The Commissioner said the vehicle, worth around 13 lakh, has been specially introduced to safely capture street dogs and facilitate their sterilization and vaccination. She added that the vehicle will be operated by a driver and four staff members. She emphasized that the initiative aims to improve public safety while also ensuring animal welfare through proper scientific management of stray dogs. The captured dogs will undergo sterilization and necessary vaccinations as part of the program.



Municipal Engineer Gomathi, Health Officer Dr. Yuva Anvesh, Veterinary Officer Guna Shekhar, DE Ramana, and Sanitary Supervisor Chenchayya were present during the inauguration event.

Collector Dr. A. Siri Calls for Strict GST Compliance in Kurnool District

Kurnool, April 17 | TPN Bureau

District Collector Dr. A. Siri has directed officials to ensure strict GST compliance across Kurnool district and take steps to prevent any delay in tax collection. She said that every industry in the district must have GST registration and instructed departments to verify compliance at all levels.

Chairing a GST coordination meeting at the Collectorate, she stressed improving transparency in revenue collection and strengthening the district's tax base. She ordered verification of GST registration for contractors working under NIDDC Orvakal node, NEDCAP power projects, and other industrial units, in coordination with APIIC officials.

The Collector also directed officials to identify GST-registered and non-registered contractors under construction activities including R&B, Panchayat Raj, APM-SIDC, National Highways, municipalities, and government hospitals. She instructed training programmes for DDOs and implementation of GST TDS monitoring.

Officials informed that the district achieved 11% growth and collected 85% of the GST target last year, ranking fifth in the state. The Collector urged intensified efforts to clear 190 crore pending arrears and strengthen tax compliance mechanisms.



Amir Hamza Attack: A Warning Sign of a Dangerous Power Struggle Within Lashkar-e-Taiba

The recent attack on Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) co-founder Amir Hamza in Lahore has drawn significant attention from security analysts and policymakers across South Asia. At first glance, the incident may appear to be just another episode of violence involving extremist groups in Pakistan. However, a closer examination reveals that the attack is far more significant. It signals a deeper internal turmoil within Lashkar-e-Taiba — one that could lead to heightened instability and potentially more dangerous consequences for regional security, especially for India.

The assault on Amir Hamza is not merely about one individual being targeted. Instead, it reflects the growing tensions and power struggles within Lashkar-e-Taiba, an organization with a long history of militancy and cross-border terrorism. When senior leaders in such organizations are attacked, it often triggers leadership contests, factionalism, and attempts by emerging figures to prove their authority through acts of violence. In many cases, such developments lead to escalation rather than decline.

The Importance of Amir Hamza in Lashkar-e-Taiba

Amir Hamza is not a marginal figure within Lashkar-e-Taiba. He is considered one of the founding members and played a critical role in shaping the organization's ideological foundation. His association with prominent leaders like Hafiz Saeed and Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi dates back to the formative years of the organization.

In the 1980s, Hamza became involved in the ideological and organizational groundwork that later evolved into Lashkar-e-Taiba. He was associated with the Markaz-ud-Dawa wal-Irshad (MDI), which served as the parent body of the group. Through his involvement, Hamza helped develop the ideological narrative that guided the organization's objectives and recruitment efforts.

One of Hamza's most significant contributions was in the field of propaganda and publications. He headed Lashkar-e-Taiba's publica-

tions wing, producing magazines, pamphlets, and other materials designed to spread extremist ideology. These publications were instrumental in recruiting members and strengthening the organization's support base. His writings often glorified militant activity and promoted narratives that portrayed conflict as a religious duty.

Beyond propaganda, Hamza was also involved in fundraising and networking. His influence extended into multiple regions, and he helped build connections with other extremist groups. This combination of ideological influence and operational involvement made him a key figure within the organization.

A Veteran of the Afghan Jihad

Amir Hamza's militant background also includes participation in the Afghan jihad. Like many figures associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba, he gained experience during the Soviet-Afghan conflict. This period played a major role in shaping the ideology and operational capabilities of many militant leaders in the region.

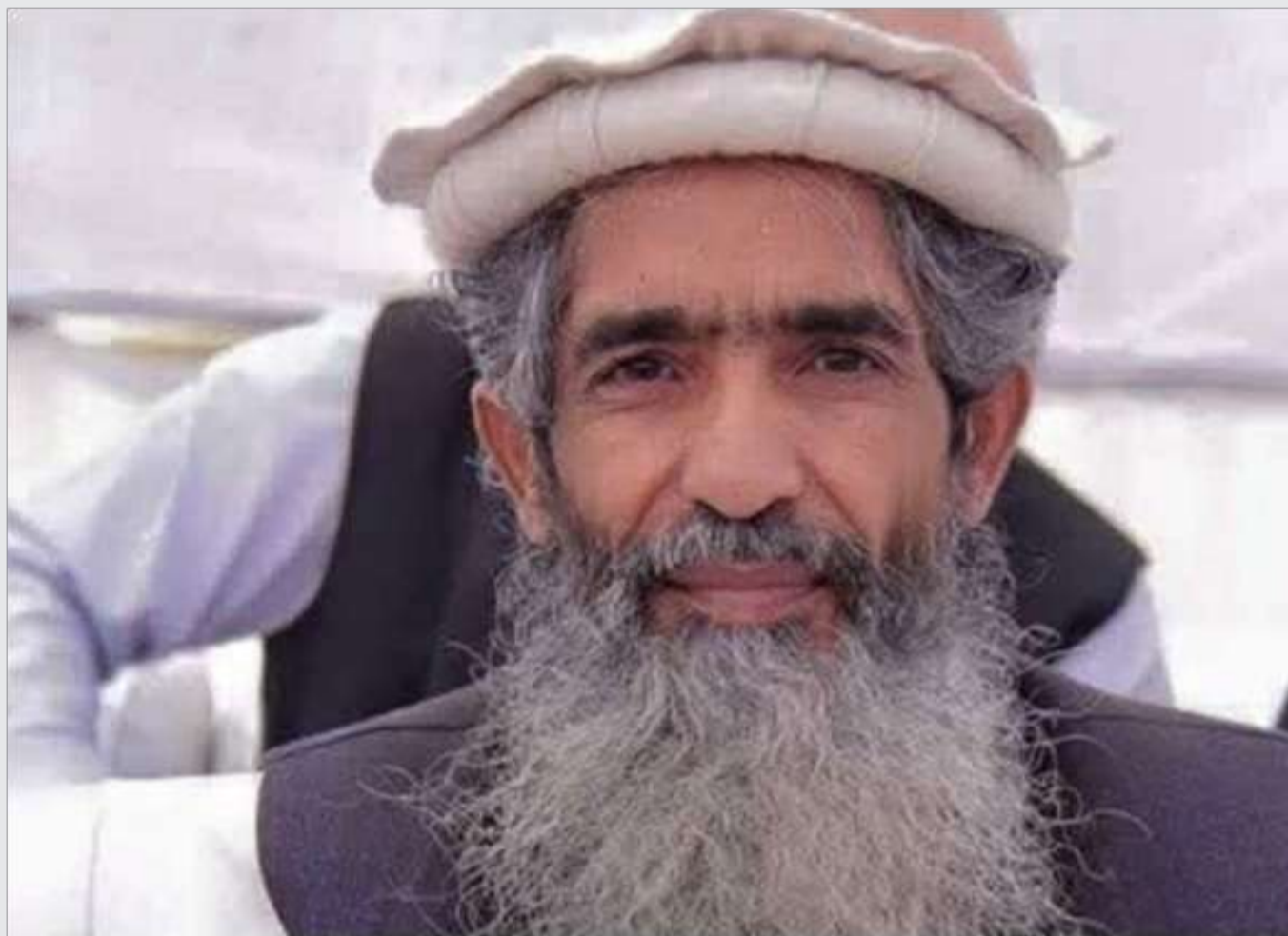
The Afghan conflict served as a training ground for several extremist networks, allowing individuals like Hamza to develop connections with fighters, financiers, and ideological leaders. These networks later became instrumental in supporting cross-border militancy.

Hamza's involvement in these networks enhanced his status within Lashkar-e-Taiba. He was seen not only as an ideologue but also as a veteran with operational experience and international connections.

Internal Tensions Within Lashkar-e-Taiba

Despite its structured appearance, Lashkar-e-Taiba has experienced internal disagreements and rivalries over the years. Leadership disputes, ideological differences, and competition for influence have occasionally surfaced within the organization.

Such tensions often intensify when senior leaders become inactive, detained, or eliminated. In these situations, different factions at-



tempt to assert control. These struggles can lead to fragmentation or increased militancy, depending on how the situation evolves.

The attack on Amir Hamza suggests that Lashkar-e-Taiba may be entering such a phase. With multiple leaders competing for influence, the organization could witness a shift in strategy. Emerging figures may attempt to gain prominence by advocating aggressive operations or high-profile attacks.

The Leadership Vacuum

Leadership transitions in militant organizations are rarely smooth. When influential figures are removed or weakened, a vacuum often emerges. In Lashkar-e-Taiba's case, several developments in recent years have already contributed to instability.

Various leaders have faced arrests, restrictions, or have gone underground. These developments have reduced centralized control and increased the likelihood of factionalism. As a result, younger

leaders may see an opportunity to rise within the ranks.

The attack on Amir Hamza could accelerate this process. If he is unable to play an active role, other leaders may attempt to fill the gap. This competition may lead to increased radicalization, as contenders seek to demonstrate their commitment to the organization's objectives.

Emerging Figures and Growing Rivalries

Recent developments indicate that new leaders have started to emerge within Lashkar-e-Taiba. Some figures have appeared in public statements and videos, issuing threats and attempting to assert authority. Others have reportedly been involved in internal disputes.

Such developments suggest that Lashkar-e-Taiba is undergoing a transition period. During such times, organizations often become more unpredictable. Competing factions may attempt to outdo each other, leading to increased risk of violent actions.

This pattern has been observed in other militant organizations as well. Leadership struggles often lead to escalation, as factions seek legitimacy through violence. This possibility makes the current situation particularly concerning.

Continued Threat Despite Internal Conflict

While internal divisions might weaken Lashkar-e-Taiba temporarily, they do not eliminate the threat. In fact, history suggests that militant organizations often become more dangerous during periods of internal turmoil.

Recent security operations have revealed ongoing efforts by extremist networks to expand their reach. Authorities have dismantled several modules and uncovered plans targeting sensitive locations. These developments indicate that operational capabilities remain intact.

The use of drones, cross-border infiltration, and local recruitment suggests that Lashkar-linked networks continue to function. This high-

lights the resilience of such organizations, even during leadership transitions.

Regional Implications

The implications of these developments extend beyond Lashkar-e-Taiba itself. Internal instability within the organization could impact regional security. Increased competition among factions may lead to attempts at high-profile attacks.

India remains a primary concern in this context. Historically, Lashkar-e-Taiba has targeted Indian cities and institutions. During leadership transitions, emerging leaders may attempt to gain recognition through dramatic operations.

Such actions could escalate tensions between India and Pakistan, complicating diplomatic relations and increasing the risk of conflict.

The Risk of Radical Successors

One of the most concerning aspects of the current situation is the possibility that new leaders may adopt more extreme positions.

Younger commanders often seek to distinguish themselves by advocating aggressive strategies.

This trend has been observed in various extremist organizations. New leaders sometimes abandon restraint and pursue more ambitious objectives. Such developments increase the risk of large-scale attacks.

If Lashkar-e-Taiba experiences such a shift, the consequences could be significant. Increased militancy could destabilize the region and create new security challenges.

A Storm on the Horizon

The attack on Amir Hamza is more than just an isolated act of violence. It represents a deeper transformation within Lashkar-e-Taiba. Leadership struggles, emerging factions, and ideological shifts are creating an uncertain environment.

While internal divisions may weaken the organization temporarily, they also create incentives for aggressive actions. Competing leaders may attempt to prove themselves through high-profile operations.

This makes the situation particularly dangerous. The removal or weakening of one leader does not necessarily reduce the threat. Instead, it may lead to the rise of more radical figures.

The coming months will likely be crucial in determining how Lashkar-e-Taiba evolves. If internal rivalries intensify, the organization could become more unpredictable and dangerous.

In this context, the attack on Amir Hamza appears to be a warning sign. It suggests that Lashkar-e-Taiba is undergoing a period of transformation. Whether this leads to fragmentation or escalation remains uncertain.

However, history indicates that such transitions often lead to increased violence. For regional security, this possibility cannot be ignored.

The attack in Lahore may therefore be just the beginning. Beneath the surface, a larger storm may be forming — one that could reshape the trajectory of Lashkar-e-Taiba and impact the broader region in the months ahead.

Can Donald Trump Face An ICC Arrest Warrant Like Putin And Netanyahu?

The idea that a sitting or former American president could face an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court (ICC) once seemed unimaginable. However, recent developments — including arrest warrants issued against Russian President Vladimir Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — have sparked a global debate: Could Donald Trump also face similar legal scrutiny?

While such a scenario remains unlikely in the immediate future, the question itself highlights how international law is evolving and how even the most powerful leaders are no longer seen as beyond accountability.

The Growing Reach of the International Criminal Court

The International Criminal Court was established in 2002 to prosecute individuals accused of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression. The court steps in when national governments are unwilling or unable to prosecute such crimes themselves. It currently has over 120 member states, though some major powers — including the United States, Russia, and Israel — are not members.

Despite this limitation, the ICC has shown that non-member states are not necessarily beyond its reach. Arrest warrants against Vladimir Putin and Benjamin Netanyahu demonstrated that the court could claim jurisdiction if alleged crimes were committed in territories that fall under ICC authority. This has broadened discussions about accountability for leaders from powerful nations.

Why Trump's Name Is Being

Discussed

Donald Trump's name has entered this conversation due to controversies surrounding U.S. foreign policy decisions, particularly military operations and sanctions. Some analysts argue that if the ICC could pursue leaders of non-member countries, then theoretically, any leader — including a U.S. president — could face scrutiny if alleged crimes fall within the court's jurisdiction.

However, experts caution that comparing Trump directly with Putin or Netanyahu is premature. The situations differ in legal context, evidence, and political circumstances. Moreover, the ICC generally proceeds only when there is a clear legal basis and substantial evidence of serious international crimes.

Legal Obstacles to Prosecuting Trump

There are several major hurdles that make an ICC arrest warrant against Trump unlikely.

1. The United States Is Not An ICC Member

The United States has never ratified the Rome Statute, the treaty that established the ICC. This means the court does not automatically have jurisdiction over U.S. nationals. For the ICC to pursue an American leader, it would need to demonstrate that alleged crimes occurred on the territory of a member state or that the United Nations Security Council referred the case.

Such conditions are rare and politically complicated. Additionally, the United States holds veto power in the UN Security Council, making referral highly unlikely.

2. Political Power And



Global Influence

The United States remains one of the most powerful countries in the world. Unlike smaller nations, it has the diplomatic and economic influence to resist ICC proceedings. In fact, previous U.S. administrations — including Trump's — have imposed sanctions on ICC officials when investigations targeted American personnel or allies.

These actions reflect Washington's long-standing position that the ICC does not have authority over U.S. citizens.

3. Enforcement Challenges

Even when the ICC issues arrest warrants, enforcement depends on member states. For example, Putin continues to travel internationally despite the warrant against him, as not all countries are willing to arrest him.

Similarly, if an arrest warrant were ever issued against Trump, enforcement would depend on whether he traveled to countries willing to execute the warrant.

Comparing Trump With Putin And Netanyahu

The arrest warrants against Putin and Netanyahu changed

the conversation about international justice. The ICC argued jurisdiction based on the territories where alleged crimes occurred — Ukraine in Putin's case and Gaza-related allegations in Netanyahu's situation.

These cases demonstrated that membership in the ICC is not the only factor. Jurisdiction can also arise through territorial connections.

This legal reasoning is why some observers believe that, in theory, any leader — including Trump — could face scrutiny if alleged crimes occurred in

ICC member states.

However, analysts emphasize that such comparisons remain speculative and do not indicate that Trump faces an imminent arrest warrant.

Political Versus Legal Reality

Even if legal pathways exist, political realities often determine outcomes. The ICC relies heavily on international cooperation. When powerful countries resist, enforcement becomes extremely difficult.

Moreover, the United States has historically opposed ICC jurisdiction over its citizens.

Washington has consistently argued that American courts are capable of handling allegations involving U.S. personnel.

This position significantly reduces the likelihood of ICC action against a U.S. president.

Changing Nature Of Global Accountability

Despite these obstacles, the fact that Trump's name is being discussed reflects a broader shift in global politics. International institutions are increasingly willing to examine the actions of powerful leaders.

The warrants against Putin and Netanyahu marked a turning point. They demonstrated that even leaders of major nations could face legal scrutiny.

This shift raises new questions about accountability, sovereignty, and the limits of international law.

The Bottom Line

Could Donald Trump face an arrest warrant like Putin or Netanyahu?

Technically, it is possible under certain circumstances. But in practical terms, it remains highly unlikely. The United States' non-membership in the ICC, its global influence, and enforcement challenges make such a scenario difficult.

However, the mere discussion reflects a changing world. International law is evolving, and the idea that powerful leaders are immune from scrutiny is slowly fading.

While Trump is not facing an immediate threat of an ICC arrest warrant, the conversation itself signals a new era — one where global accountability is expanding and even the most powerful figures are no longer beyond debate.

PM Modi Congratulates Harivansh on Historic Third Term as Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Rajya Sabha and congratulated Shri Harivansh on being elected Deputy Chairman of the Upper House for a historic third consecutive term. The Prime Minister described the achievement as a strong reflection of the House's trust in Harivansh's leadership, experience, and dignified conduct. He emphasized that being elected for three consecutive terms demonstrates widespread respect and confidence in his abilities.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the significance of the occasion, noting that Harivansh's re-election coincided with the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar. He pointed out Harivansh's close association with Chandra Shekhar, recalling that he had worked alongside him and even authored books about his life. This connection, he said, added special meaning to the beginning of

the third term.

Recalling Harivansh's background in journalism, the Prime Minister praised his commitment to high standards and thoughtful writing. He mentioned that he had followed Harivansh's articles during his tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister and appreciated his balanced views and depth of understanding. According to the Prime Minister, Harivansh's writing reflected conviction and strong research, while his personal conduct remained polite and composed.

Prime Minister Modi also spoke about Harivansh's well-known column series on parliamentary conduct, where he discussed the ideal role of Members of Parliament. He noted that these writings remain valuable for new MPs who want to understand parliamentary traditions, responsibilities, and dignity. The Prime Minister remarked that Harivansh's earlier reflections on parliamentary functioning have gained

even more relevance now that he occupies a key leadership position in the Rajya Sabha.

Highlighting Harivansh's disciplined lifestyle and dedication, the Prime Minister praised his punctuality and seriousness toward responsibilities. He pointed out that Harivansh maintains a strong presence in the House and attends proceedings regularly, even when he is not presiding. This commitment, he said, sets an example for all members of Parliament.

The Prime Minister also appreciated Harivansh's engagement with youth across the country. Since assuming office in 2018, Harivansh has conducted hundreds of programs at colleges and universities. These initiatives, the Prime Minister said, reflect his commitment to inspiring young people and encouraging them to contribute to India's development.

During his remarks, the Prime Minister shared an anecdote from Harivansh's visit to the United States in the

1990s. When asked what he wanted to see during the trip, Harivansh reportedly chose to visit universities to understand the education system that contributed to the country's progress. The Prime Minister said this reflected Harivansh's focus on education and national development.

Prime Minister Modi also highlighted Harivansh's effective use of MPLADS funds for long-term development initiatives. These included the establishment of research and study centres, such as centres focusing on Indian languages, earthquake engineering, and river studies. He said these initiatives demonstrated thoughtful planning and a focus on lasting impact.

Other initiatives supported by Harivansh include a business incubation centre and an artificial intelligence centre at educational institutions. The Prime Minister also appreciated his continued connection with grass-



roots communities, noting that he remains closely involved in addressing local concerns.

Sharing his personal experience, the Prime Minister recalled working with Harivansh during the construction of the new Parliament building. He described the

collaboration as productive and noted Harivansh's quick decision-making and attention to detail.

Concluding his remarks, Prime Minister Modi expressed confidence that Harivansh would continue to play an important role in strengthening parliamentary tradi-

tions and guiding the House in the years ahead. He emphasized that the leadership of presiding officers would be crucial as India moves forward in the second quarter of the 21st century.

2,500 For Women, 25 Lakh Loan: Vijay's Big Welfare Push In TVK Manifesto

Actor-turned-politician Vijay has unveiled the Tamilaga-VettriKazhagam (TVK) manifesto for the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, promising a wide range of welfare schemes aimed at women, youth, and fishermen. The manifesto places special emphasis on women voters, who make up nearly half of the state's electorate, making them central to the party's electoral strategy.



Women-Centric Promises Take Centre Stage

Women form the backbone of Vijay's welfare blueprint. One of the most prominent promises is a monthly financial assistance of 2,500 for women, a significant increase from earlier proposals. The party also announced six free LPG cylinders annually, aiming to reduce household expenses and support families facing rising living costs.

In addition to financial support, the manifesto includes several other benefits for women, such as marriage assistance with eight grams of gold and enhanced maternity benefits. The party has also promised targeted skill-development programs and support for women-led self-help groups to increase women's participation in the workforce and improve economic independence.

These announcements highlight Vijay's strategy to strengthen social security for

women while also promoting economic empowerment.

25 Lakh Loan And Economic Support

Apart from direct financial aid, the manifesto also proposes loans of up to 25 lakh aimed at supporting entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities. This initiative is expected to benefit small businesses, women entrepreneurs, and youth looking to start ventures.

The loan scheme is designed to boost economic mobility and encourage job creation, especially in rural and semi-urban areas. By offering access to credit, TVK aims to empower individuals to build sustainable livelihoods and reduce unemployment.

Focus On Youth And Fishermen

The manifesto also highlights welfare schemes for youth and fishermen, two other key voter groups identified by the party. The document

outlines plans for skill development, employment generation, and improved infrastructure to support young people.

For fishermen, the party has proposed targeted welfare initiatives, including financial assistance and measures to improve livelihoods. These promises aim to address long-standing issues faced by coastal communities.

Drug-Free Tamil Nadu And Social Security

Another key pledge in the manifesto is the commitment to building a drug-free Tamil Nadu. The party has highlighted the need for stronger enforcement and rehabilitation programs to tackle substance abuse and protect young people. The manifesto also focuses on expanding social security measures and improving access to essential services. The party has promised to strengthen welfare programs and ensure targeted subsidies for vulnerable groups.

Structured Welfare Blueprint

Released in book format, the manifesto presents Vijay's earlier assurances in a structured manner. The party describes the document as a roadmap for expanding social security, boosting economic growth, and supporting disadvantaged communities.

The emphasis on financial assistance, entrepreneurship, and social welfare signals Vijay's attempt to position TVK as a strong alternative in Tamil Nadu politics.

Electoral Strategy And Political Significance

With women, youth, and fishermen identified as key voter groups, the manifesto reflects a carefully designed electoral strategy. By focusing on welfare schemes and economic empowerment, Vijay aims to build broad-based support ahead of the elections. The announcement also marks a major step in Vijay's political journey as he attempts to transition from cinema to politics. With ambitious promises and a welfare-focused agenda, TVK is positioning itself as a strong contender in the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

Overall, the manifesto highlights Vijay's emphasis on social welfare, economic opportunity, and targeted support for key voter groups, setting the stage for an intense electoral battle in the state.

Allahabad High Court Orders Probe Into Rahul Gandhi Dual Citizenship Allegations

The Allahabad High Court has ordered an inquiry into allegations that Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi holds dual citizenship. The Lucknow bench of the High Court directed the Uttar Pradesh government to investigate the matter or refer it to a central agency for further probe. The directive came while hearing a petition filed by S. Vignesh Shishir, a BJP worker from Karnataka. The petitioner had challenged a January 28 order of a special MP/MLA court in Lucknow, which had earlier rejected his plea seeking registration of an FIR against Rahul Gandhi. The lower court had ruled that it did not have jurisdiction to decide matters related to citizenship.



Foreigners Act, and the Passport Act. The petitioner requested a detailed investigation and registration of a case against the Congress leader.

High Court's Observation

The High Court observed that the seriousness of the allegations warranted an investigation. The bench directed the Uttar Pradesh government to either conduct the inquiry itself or refer the matter to a central agency for further examination. This decision effectively revived the controversy surrounding Rahul Gandhi's alleged dual citizenship.

The case has seen several developments in recent weeks. Earlier, the High Court had transferred the complaint to Lucknow and also reviewed records related to the matter. The petitioner approached the High Court after the Lucknow court dismissed his request for registration of an FIR.

Background Of The Case

The controversy over Rahul Gandhi's citizenship is not new. The issue has surfaced multiple times in the past, with petitions alleging that he declared

British nationality in documents related to a UK-based company. The matter has been under legal scrutiny for several years, with courts seeking clarifications and documents from authorities.

In recent hearings, the High Court had also sought records from the central government and reviewed confidential documents submitted by authorities. The proceedings were sometimes conducted in chambers due to the sensitive nature of the documents involved.

Political And Legal Implications

The High Court's direction to conduct an inquiry could have significant political implications, given Rahul Gandhi's position as Leader of the Opposition and a prominent national leader. However, it is important to note that the court has only ordered an investigation and has not made any findings on the allegations. The inquiry will now determine whether there is any merit to the claims. Depending on the findings, further legal proceedings may follow. For now, the case remains under judicial consideration, and the final outcome will depend on the results of the investigation. The development has triggered political reactions and renewed debate around citizenship laws and eligibility for public office. As the probe moves forward, more clarity is expected on the matter.

MSME Ministry Conducts Packaging Workshop for Toy and Doll Artisans in Varanasi

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP), organized a transformative workshop in Varanasi under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme. The initiative focused on strengthening the traditional dolls and toys sector while equipping artisans with modern packaging techniques to enhance their products' market potential.

The workshop aimed to bridge the gap between traditional craftsmanship and modern market requirements. By introducing artisans to advanced packaging methods, the program sought to improve product presentation, ensure safer transportation, and help artisans reach wider domestic and international markets. Experts emphasized that professional packaging plays a crucial role in increasing the perceived value of handcrafted products and boosting consumer interest.

More than 200 artisans and beneficiaries participated in the workshop, making it a significant step toward skill development and enterprise growth in the region. Partici-

pants received practical guidance on improving packaging aesthetics and adopting professional standards that can help them compete with global brands. The program also created awareness about government support schemes available for toy and doll manufacturers.

A key highlight of the workshop was the distribution of high-quality packaging materials to artisans. This initiative is expected to provide immediate benefits by improving product protection during transit and enhancing visual appeal. The improved packaging standards are likely to help artisans attract more customers and expand their market reach.

The workshop focused on several important outcomes, including improving product aesthetics to boost customer interest, promoting professional packaging standards, and increasing awareness about government initiatives supporting the toy manufacturing sector. These efforts are expected to empower artisans and strengthen the overall ecosystem of traditional crafts.

Varanasi has long been known for its rich cultural her-

itage and traditional craftsmanship. By integrating modern packaging techniques with traditional skills, the initiative aims to position "Made in Varanasi" products as symbols of quality and innovation. This approach is expected to enhance competitiveness in both domestic and global markets.

The Ministry of MSME continues to focus on empowering artisans and strengthening local industries through targeted interventions, skill development programs, and market-oriented support. The workshop represents another step toward enhancing the livelihoods of artisans and promoting sustainable growth in the traditional toys and dolls sector.

Overall, the initiative reflects the government's commitment to supporting artisans, preserving traditional crafts, and creating new economic opportunities through innovation and capacity building. The workshop is expected to provide long-term benefits by improving product quality, increasing market access, and encouraging entrepreneurship among artisans in Varanasi and beyond.

MSME Ministry Signs MoU to Strengthen Data-Driven Logistics Ecosystem

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NICDC Logistics Data Services Limited (NLDS) to enhance logistics efficiency and promote data-driven policymaking for the MSME sector. The initiative aims to strengthen supply chains and improve competitiveness for small businesses across the country.

NICDC Logistics Data Services Limited functions as the digital and data arm of the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation. The collaboration is expected to create a strong digital framework that will enable seamless data exchange between the Ministry of MSME and NLDS through API-based integration. This integration will allow the ministry to access real-time logistics data, improving decision-making and policy planning for MSMEs.

Officials highlighted that access to logistics data can help MSMEs reduce operational inefficiencies, optimize transportation costs, and improve delivery timelines. These improvements are expected to significantly enhance competitiveness, particularly for small



enterprises that often struggle with logistics-related challenges. The initiative also aligns with the government's broader vision of strengthening India's logistics infrastructure and promoting digital transformation across industries.

The partnership is designed to empower MSMEs with comprehensive logistics insights. By leveraging data-driven systems, businesses will be able to track movement of goods, improve planning, and enhance supply chain reliability. These improvements will help MSMEs expand into new markets

and strengthen their presence both domestically and internationally.

The MoU was signed by Smt. Anuja Bapat, Deputy Director General, Office of the Development Commissioner (MSME), and Shri Arvind Devaraj, Chief Operating Officer of NLDS. Senior officials from both organizations were present during the signing ceremony, highlighting the importance of the collaboration.

Officials emphasized that the integration of logistics data with MSME systems represents a major step toward

building a resilient and technology-driven ecosystem. The move is expected to support small businesses by providing actionable insights that can improve operational efficiency and business performance.

The initiative also aligns with the government's ongoing efforts to improve ease of doing business. By simplifying logistics processes and improving transparency, the collaboration is expected to help MSMEs reduce delays, minimize costs, and increase productivity.

The Ministry of MSME reiterated its commitment to supporting small businesses through digital transformation and strategic partnerships. The collaboration with NLDS reflects a broader push toward innovation, efficiency, and sustainable growth within the MSME sector.

Overall, the MoU marks an important step in strengthening India's logistics ecosystem and empowering MSMEs with modern digital tools. By enhancing supply chain efficiency and improving access to logistics data, the initiative is expected to boost competitiveness and support long-term growth for small businesses across the country.

US Surveillance Drone Over Cuba Seen as Strategic Move Targeting China

The United States' deployment of a high-altitude surveillance drone over Cuba has drawn attention from geopolitical analysts, who view the move as part of a broader strategic effort aimed at monitoring China's global energy supply routes. The operation is being described as the fourth move in a larger geopolitical "chess game" involving key maritime chokepoints and trade corridors.

At the centre of the development is the US Navy's MQ-4C Triton drone, a sophisticated surveillance aircraft capable of flying for more than 24 hours at altitudes above 50,000 feet. The drone recently conducted

extended reconnaissance missions around Cuba and the Caribbean region, particularly near major shipping routes. Its advanced sensors allow it to track maritime traffic, gather intelligence, and monitor strategic movements across vast areas.

The drone reportedly focused on the Jamaica Channel, a crucial maritime passage connecting the Panama Canal with the Atlantic Ocean. It also monitored nearby routes such as the Windward Passage and the Yucatan Channel. Although these corridors do not carry the world's largest oil volumes, they remain strategically significant for global

shipping and energy transport. Monitoring these routes allows the US to track maritime movements and maintain strategic awareness in the region.

Analysts believe this deployment fits into a wider US strategy aimed at monitoring China's energy lifelines. China imports a significant portion of its oil, much of which travels through vulnerable maritime chokepoints. By strengthening surveillance across these routes, the United States can potentially influence or monitor energy flows critical to China's economy.

This drone deployment follows other developments

that analysts interpret as part of the same strategy. These include tensions surrounding Iranian oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, increased focus on the Strait of Malacca, and developments involving Venezuela's oil exports. Together, these areas represent major routes connected to China's energy imports.

Cuba's location adds to the strategic importance of the operation. Positioned near key Caribbean shipping lanes, Cuba offers a vantage point for monitoring vessels moving between Latin America, the Atlantic, and the Panama Canal. The surveillance mission may also serve to monitor elec-

tronic intelligence activity and expanding geopolitical influence in the region.

The move reflects a broader shift in global competition, where intelligence gathering and strategic positioning are becoming more important than direct confrontation. As major powers compete for influence over trade routes and energy supplies, surveillance operations like this may become more common.

The US drone flight over Cuba therefore signals more than routine reconnaissance. It highlights growing strategic rivalry and underscores the increasing importance of maritime chokepoints in global geopolitics.



Trump Says Iran Ready To Return "Nuclear Dust": What It Means And Why It Matters

US President Donald Trump has claimed that Iran is prepared to return what he described as its "nuclear dust," referring to the country's stockpile of highly enriched uranium. The statement comes amid ongoing tensions and diplomatic efforts surrounding Iran's nuclear programme, raising questions about what this material is and why it has become a major point of concern.

The term "nuclear dust" is not a technical phrase but rather Trump's description of enriched uranium believed to be buried deep underground at Iranian nuclear facilities. These sites were reportedly targeted during recent military strikes, leaving portions of Iran's nuclear material trapped beneath debris and reinforced underground structures. According to Trump, Iran is now willing to retrieve and return this material as part of potential negotiations.



clear weapons if further processing takes place. This is why the international community has closely monitored Iran's nuclear programme.

Why It Matters

The issue of Iran's enriched uranium stockpile has long been at the centre of global concerns. Western nations, particularly the United States, fear that Iran's growing uranium reserves could eventually be used for nuclear weapons development. Iran, however, has repeatedly stated that its nuclear programme is intended for peaceful purposes such as energy generation and research.

If Iran agrees to return or remove this enriched uranium, it would significantly reduce its nuclear capabilities. Such a move could ease tensions in the region and potentially open the door to broader diplomatic agreements.

Uncertainty Remains

Despite Trump's claim, there

has been no official confirmation from Iran regarding the return of the enriched uranium. Negotiations are believed to be ongoing, and the situation remains uncertain. The process of retrieving material buried deep underground would also be technically complex and require international oversight.

What Happens Next

The future of Iran's "nuclear dust" is likely to remain a central issue in diplomatic talks. If both sides reach an agreement, it could mark a major breakthrough in efforts to control nuclear proliferation and reduce tensions in the Middle East. However, until a formal agreement is reached and confirmed by all parties, the situation remains fluid. The discussion surrounding Iran's nuclear material highlights the continuing geopolitical stakes and the importance of diplomatic engagement in addressing nuclear concerns.

Houthi Threat Forces USS George H.W. Bush To Take Longer Route To Gulf

The United States aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush is taking a significantly longer route to the Middle East to avoid potential threats from Iran-backed Houthi rebels in the Red Sea. The decision highlights rising security concerns in one of the world's most strategically important maritime corridors amid growing tensions linked to the US-Iran situation.



Instead of following the usual route through the Mediterranean Sea, the Suez Canal, and the Red Sea, the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier is sailing around Africa. The vessel was recently tracked off the coast of Namibia, suggesting that it is heading around the Cape of Good Hope before entering the Indian Ocean and proceeding toward the Gulf region. This alternate path is approximately 1.5 times longer than the traditional route.

The longer route is widely seen as a precautionary measure due to rising threats in the Red Sea. Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen have previously launched missile and drone attacks targeting ships and naval assets in the region. These attacks have raised concerns about the safety of vessels passing through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a narrow maritime chokepoint that connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.

The Bab el-Mandeb Strait is one of the world's most critical shipping lanes, with a large volume of global trade and oil shipments passing through it daily. However, its narrow ge-

ography makes vessels particularly vulnerable to missile and drone strikes. The increasing frequency of such threats has made transit through the region riskier, even for heavily protected naval ships.

By choosing the longer route around Africa, the US Navy appears to be prioritising the safety of its high-value asset. While the detour will delay the carrier's arrival in the Middle East, it reduces the risk of confrontation and potential attacks during transit.

The USS George H.W. Bush is expected to join other US naval forces already deployed in the region. The move reflects Washington's broader strategy

of maintaining a strong military presence amid rising geopolitical tensions and concerns over maritime security.

The decision also underscores how non-state actors such as the Houthis are increasingly influencing global shipping and military planning. Their ability to threaten key sea routes has forced even powerful naval forces to reconsider traditional deployment strategies.

As tensions continue in the region, the longer journey of the USS George H.W. Bush highlights the evolving security landscape and the growing importance of safeguarding vital maritime routes.

Former Virginia Leader Justin Fairfax Shoots Wife Dead, Then Kills Self Amid Divorce Battle

Former Virginia Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax allegedly shot and killed his wife before taking his own life at their home in Annandale, Virginia, in what authorities described as a tragic murder-suicide linked to an ongoing divorce dispute. The shocking incident has drawn widespread attention and left the local community stunned.



Police responded to the residence shortly after midnight following a 911 call reportedly made by the couple's teenage son. When officers arrived, they discovered Justin Fairfax, 47, and his wife, Dr. Cerina Fairfax, 49, dead from gunshot wounds inside the home. Their two teenage children were present in the house at the time of the incident but were unharmed.

According to investigators, Fairfax allegedly shot his wife in the basement before going upstairs and turning the gun on himself. Authorities believe the incident stemmed from escalating tensions related to the couple's ongoing divorce proceedings. Officials indicated that the situation appeared to be a domestic dispute that ended in tragedy.

Reports suggest that the couple had been going through a difficult separation for several months. Court filings indicated that Cerina Fairfax had filed for divorce, citing serious marital issues. The legal proceedings had reportedly intensified in recent weeks, with a judge ordering Justin Fairfax to vacate the family home within a specified timeframe.

Authorities also revealed that police had previously responded to domestic-related calls at the residence. These earlier incidents pointed to rising tensions between the couple as their relationship deteriorated. The presence of surveillance cameras inside the home further indicated that the situation had become increasingly strained.

Justin Fairfax was once considered a rising political figure. He served as Virginia's Lieutenant Governor from 2018 to 2022 and was viewed as a potential future candidate for higher office. However, his political career suffered setbacks after controversies and allegations surfaced during his tenure, which significantly affected his public image and future prospects. After his political ambitions stalled, Fairfax largely stepped away from public life. Reports indicated that he had been facing personal and professional challenges in recent years, though details remain limited.

The couple's two children are now reportedly staying with relatives following the incident. Authorities said the investigation is ongoing, but preliminary findings suggest a murder-suicide linked to domestic conflict.

The tragedy has shocked many who once saw Fairfax as a prominent political leader. The incident also highlights the devastating consequences that can arise from unresolved domestic disputes and personal struggles.

"Camel Dreams of Cottonseed": Iran Mocks Trump's 'Big Peace Deal' Claim

Iran has mocked US President Donald Trump's claim that Washington is close to securing a major peace deal with Tehran, using a Persian proverb to dismiss the announcement as unrealistic. The reaction underscores the deep mistrust between the two countries even as diplomatic efforts continue amid rising tensions.

The dispute began after Donald Trump stated that the United States and Iran were "very close" to reaching a peace agreement. He also suggested that Iran was prepared to make key concessions, including handing over enriched uranium — one of the most sensitive issues in ongoing negotiations. Trump expressed optimism that a breakthrough could happen soon and indicated that discussions were progressing in a positive direction.

However, Iran's state broadcaster quickly rejected the claim, sharing a clip of Trump's remarks and accusing him of unrealistic expectations. The broadcaster used a well-known Persian proverb — "The camel dreams of cottonseed, sometimes gulping it down, sometimes eating it grain by grain." The phrase is commonly used to describe wishful thinking or ambitions that are unlikely to materialise.



Iran's reaction suggests that negotiations may not be as advanced as suggested by the US president. The use of the proverb also reflects a cautious stance from Tehran, indicating that it remains skeptical about the possibility of a near-term agreement. Despite the exchange of sharp rhetoric, diplomatic engagement between the two countries is believed to be continuing through intermediaries. However, disagreements over nuclear restrictions, sanctions relief, and security guarantees remain

major obstacles.

The situation highlights the fragile nature of US-Iran relations, where optimism from one side is often met with skepticism from the other. While Trump's comments suggest progress, Iran's response indicates that negotiations are still uncertain and far from final.

For now, the "camel dreams of cottonseed" remark has become a symbol of the ongoing mistrust between Washington and Tehran. As talks continue, whether a peace deal emerges or not will depend on how both sides bridge their long-standing differences.



Gill Leads Gujarat Titans to Victory Over KKR

Shubman Gill led from the front with a captain's innings as the Gujarat Titans defeated the Kolkata Knight Riders in an Indian Premier League 2026 match.

Chasing a competitive target, Gujarat Titans showed composure to secure victory with wickets in hand. Gill anchored the innings with a well-paced knock, scoring a crucial half-century and guiding the team through the chase with confidence. His performance ensured that Gujarat stayed in control despite a few wickets falling during the middle overs.

Earlier, Kolkata Knight Riders posted a challenging total after a steady batting display. Their batters contributed useful runs, but they failed to fully capitalize in the final overs due to disciplined bowling by

Gujarat. The Titans' bowlers maintained tight lines and picked up timely wickets to restrict the opposition.

In reply, Gujarat started on a steady note, with Gill taking responsibility at the top. He combined caution with controlled aggression, building key partnerships and keeping the scoreboard moving. The middle-order batters supported well, ensuring there was no major collapse.

KKR tried to fight back by taking quick wickets, but Gujarat's lower middle order held their nerve and finished the match comfortably in the final overs.

The win gives Gujarat Titans strong momentum in the tournament, while Kolkata Knight Riders will look to improve their performance in upcoming matches.



Why Jasprit Bumrah Hasn't Taken A Wicket In IPL 2026? Irfan Pathan Explains

Mumbai Indians' struggles in IPL 2026 have been compounded by an unusual dip in form from their premier fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah, who is yet to take a single wicket this season. The wicketless run has surprised fans and experts alike, prompting former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan to analyse the reasons behind the slump. Bumrah, widely regarded as one of the best death bowlers in world cricket, has historically been Mumbai Indians' biggest match-winner. However, in IPL 2026, he has failed to make his usual impact despite bowling in crucial phases of matches. His lack of wickets has coincided with Mumbai Indians' disappointing run, with the team struggling to maintain consistency in the tournament. Irfan Pathan pointed out that the primary reason behind Bumrah's struggles is his excessive reliance on slower deliveries. According to Pathan, Bumrah has been bowling too many slower balls this season, which has reduced his wicket-taking threat. He noted that nearly every second delivery from Bumrah has been a slower ball, making him predictable and allowing batters to adjust more comfortably. Pathan also highlighted that Bumrah's average pace this season has dropped to around 130 kmph, which is lower than his usual speed. This decline in pace, combined with frequent slower deliveries, has reduced the element of surprise that typically makes Bumrah dangerous. Pathan suggested that Bumrah should focus more on bowling at higher speeds and use slower balls sparingly to regain his effectiveness. Despite going wicketless, Pathan clarified that

Bumrah's form is not necessarily poor. Instead, he stressed that minor tactical adjustments could quickly change things for the fast bowler. According to him, Bumrah does not need technical changes but simply needs to alter his approach and return to his strengths. Another factor contributing to Bumrah's lack of wickets is the performance of other Mumbai Indians bowlers. Analysts have noted that when bowlers at the other end concede too many runs, batters tend to play cautiously against Bumrah rather than taking risks. In T20 cricket, wickets often come when batters attack aggressively, and if they choose to play safe against Bumrah, his chances of taking wickets naturally decrease. Mumbai Indians' overall bowling struggles have therefore added to Bumrah's wicket drought. Without consistent pressure from the rest of the bowling attack, opposition batters have been able to play out Bumrah's overs carefully and target other bowlers instead. The situation has raised concerns within the Mumbai Indians camp, especially given Bumrah's importance to the team. However, experts believe that his experience and skill set mean he could bounce back quickly. A single breakthrough could help him regain rhythm and confidence. Bumrah's wicketless run has become one of the biggest talking points of IPL 2026, but both fans and analysts expect the star pacer to turn things around soon. With several matches still remaining in the season, Mumbai Indians will be hoping their ace bowler returns to form and helps revive their campaign.

KKR Urged To Drop Ajinkya Rahane As Former India Star Questions Captaincy Call

Kolkata Knight Riders' disastrous start to IPL 2026 has triggered sharp criticism, with former India cricketer Kris Srikkanth urging the franchise to drop skipper Ajinkya Rahane and appoint Sunil Narine as captain instead. The suggestion comes after KKR failed to register a single win in the tournament so far, leaving them stranded at the bottom of the points table.

Rahane, who was entrusted with the leadership role ahead of the season, has struggled both as a batter and captain. Under his leadership, KKR's campaign has failed to take off, with the team managing only one point from a washed-out match against Punjab Kings. The poor run of form has drawn criticism from fans and experts alike, with many questioning the team's strategy and leadership decisions.

Srikkanth, known for his outspoken views, did not hold back while assessing KKR's struggles. He termed the decision to appoint Rahane as captain a mistake and suggested that the franchise should consider making immediate changes. According to him, if Rahane continues to underperform, KKR should look beyond him and hand over captaincy duties to Sunil Narine, who has been one of the team's most experienced and impactful players over the years.

The former India selector also hinted that Rahane's place in the playing XI should not be guaranteed if his performances fail to improve. He emphasized that team management must take tough decisions to revive their campaign, even if it involves replacing the captain mid-season.

KKR's struggles have not



been limited to batting alone. Their bowling unit has also lacked consistency, and the team has failed to capitalize on crucial moments in matches. The repeated setbacks have increased pressure on the management to rethink their approach and make necessary changes.

With the tournament still in its early phase, KKR has time to bounce back. However, the margin for error is shrinking rapidly, and any further losses could severely dent their playoff hopes. The coming matches could prove decisive in determining whether the franchise sticks with Rahane or opts for a leadership change.

As pressure mounts, all eyes will now be on KKR's next move and whether the team management considers Srikkanth's bold suggestion to shake things up.



Who Is Lizlaz? Influencer Who Went Viral After Alleged Virat Kohli 'Like'

Social media erupted after Royal Challengers Bengaluru star Virat Kohli allegedly liked an Instagram post of influencer Lizlaz, sparking massive curiosity among fans. The screenshot of the interaction quickly went viral, triggering memes, jokes, and widespread discussion during IPL 2026.

How Lizlaz Went Viral
The buzz began when fans noticed that Virat Kohli's verified Instagram account had allegedly liked one of Lizlaz's posts. Within minutes, screenshots spread across social media platforms, turning the influencer into an overnight sensation.

The incident also revived the famous "Instagram algorithm" jokes, referencing a past controversy when Kohli had suggested that an accidental like might have been caused by algorithmic activity. Fans quickly picked up on this, flooding social media with humorous reactions and memes.

Interestingly, Kohli does not follow Lizlaz on Instagram, which added to the intrigue and further fueled online discussions. The episode highlighted how closely fans track celebrity social media activity,

especially during high-profile events like the IPL.

Who Is Lizlaz?
Lizlaz is a German-South African influencer, model, and content creator known for her travel and lifestyle content. She was born in South Africa to a German mother and South African father and has built a growing presence on social media. She shares travel vlogs, fashion content, and lifestyle posts, often featuring experiences from different countries. Her content has also included Indian culture and travel experiences, which has helped her gain popularity among Indian audiences.

Lizlaz has built a solid following on Instagram, with thousands of users engaging with her posts regularly. Her growing popularity received a massive boost after the viral interaction involving Kohli.

Connection With Indian Cricket

Another reason for the buzz is Lizlaz's interest in Indian cricket. She has expressed admiration for Virat Kohli in the past and reportedly considers him one of her favourite cricketers. This detail added further intrigue to the viral moment

after the alleged like.

She has also shown interest in India through her travel content and has attended cultural events, including weddings, which she shared on social media. Her engagement with Indian culture has contributed to her increasing popularity among Indian fans.

Internet Reacts
Social media users reacted quickly after the alleged like went viral. Fans shared memes, jokes, and playful comments, with many referencing Kohli's earlier "algorithm" explanation. Others joked about how even a simple social media interaction by a celebrity can create massive headlines.

The incident once again demonstrated how even minor online activity involving a global cricket star can become a trending topic within minutes.

Kohli's Focus On Cricket

While the social media buzz dominated headlines, Virat Kohli has also been in solid form in IPL 2026. His performances have been crucial for Royal Challengers Bengaluru, and he continues to remain one of the most talked-about players in the tournament.



Preity Zinta Finally Reacts To Salman Khan's 12-Year-Old Tweet On Her IPL Team

Punjab Kings co-owner Preity Zinta finally responded to Salman Khan's viral 2014 tweet about her IPL team, creating a nostalgic moment that quickly caught the attention of cricket fans. The interaction resurfaced after Punjab Kings registered an impressive win in IPL 2026, prompting fans to revisit the old post and tag the actress.

The Viral 2014 Tweet

Back in 2014, during the Indian Premier League season, Salman Khan had posted a tweet asking, "Zinta's team won kya?" The simple message quickly gained popularity among fans and eventually became a recurring meme whenever Punjab Kings performed

well.

Although Punjab Kings had lost that particular match at the time, the tweet continued to live on across social media. Over the years, fans repeatedly shared it whenever the team delivered strong performances, turning it into a nostalgic and humorous reference linked to the franchise.

What Happened This Time

In IPL 2026, Punjab Kings secured a convincing victory, which brought renewed excitement among supporters. Preity Zinta took to social media to celebrate the win, praising the team's performance and applauding the players for their effort and determination.

Soon after her post, fans

shared Salman Khan's old tweet once again, tagging Preity Zinta and reminding her of the long-running joke. This time, she finally responded to the viral tweet, replying enthusiastically with "Yes yesyes," acknowledging the moment and delighting fans online.

Her response quickly went viral, with fans celebrating what many described as a "full circle" moment after more than a decade.

Fans Celebrate The Nostalgic Moment

Social media users reacted instantly to Preity Zinta's reply. Memes, jokes, and nostalgic posts flooded platforms, with many fans highlighting the long gap between the original

tweet and her recent response.

Some users also created humorous references to Bollywood dialogues and Salman Khan's films, making the moment even more entertaining. The exchange once again demonstrated how a simple tweet can gain long-lasting popularity and resurface years later.

Punjab Kings' Strong Performance

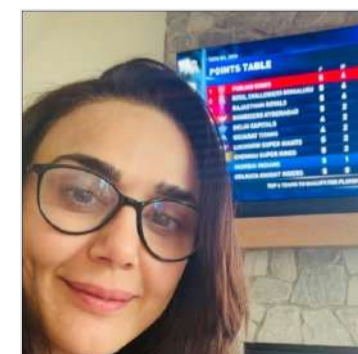
Punjab Kings have looked competitive in IPL 2026, with several players stepping up at crucial moments. The team's improved performance has generated optimism among fans and stakeholders. Preity Zinta has remained actively involved in supporting the team, frequently sharing reactions

and cheering for players during matches. Her enthusiasm and engagement have helped strengthen the connection between the franchise and its supporters.

Bollywood And Cricket Connection

The interaction between Preity Zinta and Salman Khan also highlighted the long-standing connection between Bollywood and cricket. Over the years, celebrities have played a major role in promoting IPL teams, and their social media interactions often become viral moments.

Salman Khan's tweet, despite being more than a decade old, remains one of the most memorable celebrity reactions



associated with the IPL.

A Memorable Social Media Moment

Preity Zinta's response to Salman Khan's 12-year-old tweet added a nostalgic and entertaining moment to IPL 2026. The exchange brought smiles to fans and showcased how so-

cial media can keep memories alive for years. As Punjab Kings continue their campaign, the viral interaction has become another memorable chapter in the team's journey, reminding fans of the fun and excitement that surrounds both cricket and entertainment.

Tamannaah Gets Legal Setback As Madras High Court Dismisses 1 Crore Plea

Popular actress Tamannaah Bhatia has faced a legal setback after the Madras High Court dismissed her appeal seeking 1 crore in damages from a soap manufacturing company. The court's decision has effectively brought the long-standing dispute to a close, delivering an unexpected blow to the actress.

What The Case Was About

The issue dates back to an endorsement deal Tamannaah signed with Power Soaps Limited in 2008. As part of the agreement, the company was allowed to use her images to promote its products for a limited period of one year, which ended in October 2009.

Tamannaah later alleged that the company continued using her photographs even after the contract expired. She claimed that this unauthorized usage of her promotional material resulted in financial and reputational losses.

Following this, the actress filed a civil suit seeking 1 crore in damages.

Court's Earlier Decision

The matter was first heard by a single judge of the Madras High Court in 2017. After reviewing the documents submitted by Tamannaah, the court concluded that she failed to provide sufficient evidence proving that the company had continued using her images after the contract expired. As a result, her plea was dismissed at that stage. Unhappy with the verdict, Tamannaah filed an appeal in 2018, challenging the earlier ruling and seeking compensation once again.

High Court Rejects Appeal

A division bench of the Madras High Court has now upheld the earlier judgment and dismissed Tamannaah's appeal. The court agreed with the previous findings and stated that the actress had not been able to prove unauthor-

ized usage of her images by the company.

The judges concluded that the evidence presented did not convincingly establish that the company had misused Tamannaah's photographs after the contract period. With this ruling, the legal battle has effectively ended in favor of the company.

Importance Of Image Rights In Film Industry

The case gained attention as it highlighted the growing importance of brand endorsements and image rights in the entertainment industry. Celebrities frequently sign endorsement deals, and disputes over usage rights after contract expiry have become increasingly common.

Tamannaah's case is seen as an example of how crucial documentation and evidence are in such disputes. Without strong proof, legal claims in-

volving brand endorsements can be difficult to sustain in court.

Tamannaah's Professional Front

Despite the legal setback, Tamannaah continues to remain busy with multiple film projects and endorsements. She has maintained a strong presence across Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi industries, along with several brand collaborations.

The actress has several upcoming projects lined up and continues to be one of the most sought-after stars in South Indian cinema.

Final Verdict

The Madras High Court's decision marks the end of Tamannaah Bhatia's long-running legal battle over alleged unauthorized use of her images. While the ruling comes as a setback, the actress remains focused on her professional commitments and upcoming releases.



After Long Gap, Trisha Dubs in Her Own Voice for Suriya's Karuppu

Popular actress Trisha Krishnan has taken a significant step for her upcoming film Karuppu, starring Suriya. In a notable development, Trisha has reportedly dubbed in her own voice for the Tamil version of the film after a long gap, creating excitement among fans and industry circles.

Although Tamil is her mother tongue, Trisha has rarely dubbed for her characters in the past. Most of her films across Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada have featured professional dubbing artists lending their voices to her roles. However, for Karuppu, the actress decided to personally dub her character, aiming to bring greater authenticity and emotional depth to the performance. This isn't the first time Trisha has chosen to use her own voice. She had earlier dubbed for select films including AayuthaEzhuthu, ManmadhanAmbu, Mankatha, Samar, and more recently Leo. However, such instances have been rare, making her decision to dub again after a long gap particularly noteworthy.

Reports suggest that director RJ Balaji encouraged Trisha to dub for her character in Karuppu to ensure natural expressions and better emotional connection. The move is expected to enhance the overall impact of her role and add freshness to the film's narrative. Industry insiders believe that Trisha's voice will serve as

a major highlight and strengthen the emotional core of the story.

Karuppu marks an exciting collaboration between Suriya and Trisha, generating considerable anticipation among fans. The film is directed by RJ Balaji and is said to feature Suriya in a powerful role inspired by a protector-like character rooted in rural traditions. The storyline reportedly explores how a heroic figure emerges to safeguard people during difficult times, blending action with strong emotional elements.

The project has already created strong buzz due to its intriguing concept and star cast. Apart from Suriya and Trisha, the film also features several prominent actors in key roles. With music composed by Sai Abhyankkar and production mounted on a large scale, expectations from the film are high. Interestingly, Karuppu also marks a reunion between Suriya and Trisha after many years, further boosting anticipation. Fans are particularly eager to see their on-screen chemistry once again, especially in a film that promises action, emotion, and commercial appeal. With Trisha lending her own voice after a long gap, Karuppu has gained another exciting element ahead of its release. The decision is expected to add authenticity to her performance and enhance the overall cinematic experience, making the film one of the most awaited releases in Tamil cinema.



Yash's Comments On Ravana Go Viral: "His Decisions Were Driven By Beliefs And Ideologies"

Kannada star Yash, who is set to portray Ravana in the highly anticipated film Ramayana, has sparked widespread discussion with his recent remarks about the mythological character. His comments, where he described Ravana as a complex personality driven by beliefs and ideologies, quickly went viral and triggered mixed reactions among audiences.

Yash's Perspective On Ravana

Speaking in a recent interview, Yash explained that he does not view Ravana as merely a cruel villain. Instead, he described him as a layered and complex personality. According to Yash, Ravana made decisions based on his own beliefs and ideological convictions, particularly in his role as a king. The actor also highlighted that Ravana was not just a warrior but a scholar, musician, and devoted follower of Lord Shiva. By pointing out these aspects, Yash emphasized that Ravana's personality had multiple dimensions beyond the traditional portrayal of a one-dimensional antago-

nist. Yash further noted that Ravana's downfall was largely due to his growing arrogance and overconfidence. He explained that every character has its own perspective and that he approached the role by understanding Ravana's mindset rather than simply portraying him as evil.

Mixed Reactions From Public

Yash's comments, however, did not go unnoticed and sparked debate among audiences. Some sections expressed discomfort with presenting Ravana in a sympathetic or layered manner. For many, Ramayana is not just a story but a sacred epic symbolizing the battle between good and evil, where Lord Rama represents righteousness and Ravana represents evil. Critics argued that Ravana's actions, including the abduction of Sita, cannot be justified and warned that portraying him as an anti-hero or glorifying his personality might send the wrong message. These reactions fueled discussions on social media, with people debating the balance between creative freedom



and religious sentiments.

Creative Freedom Vs Traditional Beliefs

On the other hand, many supported Yash's perspective, stating that modern filmmaking often explores characters in greater depth. According to this view, highlighting Ravana's intelligence or strength does not necessarily justify his actions but instead adds layers to storytelling. Supporters believe that presenting Ravana as a complex character could make the narrative more engaging and meaningful. However, some also expressed concerns that excessive glorification might overshadow

the central theme of good triumphing over evil.

High Expectations From Ramayana

The upcoming Ramayana, directed by Nitesh Tiwari, features Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita, and Yash as Ravana. The film is one of the most ambitious Indian cinematic projects and is expected to release in parts, with the first installment planned around Diwali. With the film generating massive buzz, Yash's comments have added further curiosity about how Ravana will be portrayed. Fans are eager to see whether the character will be shown as a



traditional villain or a layered personality with human emotions.

A Debate That Continues

Yash's remarks have opened up an interesting discussion about mythology, storytelling, and cinematic interpretation. While some viewers prefer traditional portrayals, others welcome fresh perspectives on iconic characters. Ultimately, audiences will have to wait until the film's release to see how the makers balance creative storytelling with cultural sensitivity. Until then, Yash's comments on Ravana continue to trend, keeping Ramayana firmly in the spotlight.

Sree Vishnu Launches Gripping Trailer of Arjun Ambati's ParamapadaSopanam Ahead of April 24 Release

Actor Arjun Ambati, known for choosing distinctive and content-driven scripts, is gearing up for the release of his upcoming action thriller ParamapadaSopanam. Directed by Naga Siva, a former associate of star filmmaker PuriJaganadh, the film is slated to hit theatres on April 24. With the release date drawing closer, the makers have stepped up promotional activities. As part of the campaign, talented actor Sree Vishnu officially unveiled the theatrical trailer of the film and extended his best wishes to the entire team. After watching the trailer, Sree Vishnu praised the film's intensity and storytelling. He described the trailer as engaging and packed with suspense, noting that it builds curiosity and promises a gripping thriller ex-



perience. He also expressed confidence in Arjun Ambati's performance and wished him success with the project. Sree Vishnu further appreciated director Naga Siva, calling him a hardworking and talented filmmaker, and conveyed his best

wishes to everyone involved in the film. The trailer offers a glimpse into a compelling narrative filled with action, emotion, and suspense. It also appears to carry a meaningful social message, adding depth to the storyline. Director Naga

Siva seems to have blended commercial elements with strong storytelling, reflecting the influence of his mentor PuriJaganadh's signature "mass and class" style. This is particularly evident in the film's high-energy action se-

quences and visually appealing romantic scenes featuring Arjun Ambati and leading lady Jennifer Emmanuel. The film's music is composed by Davzand, who recently gained attention for delivering a successful album for Ravi Teja's Eagle. The songs released so far, including "ChinniChinniTappulevo" and "BhoomBhoom," have already received a positive response from audiences and performed well on YouTube. With an intriguing trailer, promising performances, and an energetic soundtrack, ParamapadaSopanam has generated considerable buzz ahead of its release. The film is expected to deliver a complete entertainment package, combining action, romance, and meaningful storytelling for audiences across all sections.

Father-Son Emotions Take Centre Stage in Rich Kid, Releasing April 23

The upcoming family entertainer Rich Kid is gearing up for its theatrical release on April 23 under the banner of Sri Manjunadha Cinemas. The film is produced by G. Manjunath Reddy, who also plays the lead role, adding a personal touch to the project.

Directed by ShafiVullah and Anil Derangula, Rich Kid revolves around the emotional bond between a father and son.

While the theme has been explored in cinema before, the makers promise a refreshing narrative and engaging screenplay that aims to offer a new perspective. The film is said to combine heartfelt emotions with humor and music, making it a wholesome entertainment package.

According to the makers, Rich Kid has been designed to appeal to audiences of all age

groups. With its strong emotional core and lighthearted moments, the film aims to connect with families and deliver a meaningful cinematic experience. The directors have focused on presenting the story with care and attention to detail, while producer Manjunath Reddy has ensured quality production values throughout the film.

Manju plays the male lead



opposite Supriya Marla, and their on-screen chemistry is expected to be one of the highlights of the film. The movie also features a strong supporting cast, including RajasekharAningi, ChelliSwapna, Suman Shetty, Ping Pong Surya, Balagam Sanjay, and JabardasthDurga Rao, who bring additional entertain-

ment and emotional depth to the narrative. With its blend of emotions, comedy, and music, Rich Kid is positioned as a complete family entertainer. As the release date approaches, expectations are building for a film that promises to deliver heartfelt moments and engaging storytelling for theatre audiences on April 23.

