

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 35° C

L 21° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 36° C

L 23° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 23° C



**Pawan Kalyan rushes to Singapore as son Mark undergoes treatment for burn injuries**

**Doctors say Mark is stable, smoke inhalation effects under observation**

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh State Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan flew to Singapore late Tuesday night after learning that his younger son, Mark Shankar, had been hospitalised with burn injuries and complications from smoke inhalation. Upon landing in Singapore, Pawan Kalyan headed straight to the hospital, where Mark was receiving emergency care. By Wednesday morning (IST), hospital authorities confirmed that the boy had been shifted from the emergency ward to a regular room and was in a stable condition. Doctors briefed the Deputy CM on Mark's treatment, stating that while the burns on his hands and legs are healing, they are closely monitoring his lungs for the impact of smoke exposure. A battery of tests is being carried out to evaluate his respiratory health, and hospital sources said the next three days will be critical for observation and recovery. The exact cause of the incident that led to the injuries has not been made public by the family. According to Pawan Kalyan the boy was affected by both external burns and internal complications due to inhaling smoke, suggesting an accidental fire-related episode. Supporters of Pawan Kalyan and the Jana Sena Party have taken to social media, expressing concern and offering prayers for Mark's quick recovery. The family has appealed for privacy during this time, while medical teams continue to monitor the situation closely.

Scripted Drama by YCP

# Home Minister Anitha, Police Officers Slam Jagan's Remarks

- Anitha says helicopter episode was staged by YCP for sympathy
- Police Officers Association demands Jagan withdraws provocative comments
- Ramagiri SI Sudhakar defends police force, slams threats to uniformed staff



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha on Wednesday came down heavily on YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, calling the recent helicopter episode in Sri Sathya Sai district a "pre-planned political stunt." Speaking during her review visit in Srikakulam, she alleged that despite Jagan enjoying Z+ security, including 1,100 police personnel and 250 stationed at the helipad, the YSRCP falsely claimed there was no protection. "A helicopter deemed unfit took off just 15 minutes later—this appears clearly scripted to gain public sympathy," she said. Anitha also reminded people of the YSRCP's track record, accusing the party of spreading fear through violence, attacking opposition leaders, and threatening police

during its rule. She assured that the current government is committed to transparency and law and order. "We will not tolerate anyone defaming the police or disturbing peace. Legal action will be taken against those spreading provocative content," she warned. Her comments were echoed by the Andhra Pradesh Police Officers Association, which expressed strong resentment against Jagan's controversial remarks about the police. Association President Srinivas Rao demanded a public apology from Jagan, calling his statements demoralizing and disrespectful to the entire police force. "If no apology is issued, we will pursue legal action," he warned. Rao emphasized that the police function constitutionally and should not be used as political targets. Meanwhile, Ramagiri Sub-

Inspector Sudhakar Yadav strongly responded to Jagan's statement that he would "remove the uniforms" of police officers if voted to power. In a public video, Sudhakar questioned, "Is a police uniform a banana peel to be thrown away?" He clarified that police uniforms are earned through hard work and competitive exams, not gifted by politicians. "We wear this uniform with pride and will continue to serve with honesty," he said. Sudhakar also highlighted irregularities in the recent Ramagiri MPP elections and warned that intimidating lower-level staff like police officers is dangerous to democracy. He appealed to CM N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and the DGP to provide full protection to all government employees facing political threats.



**CM Naidu Lays Foundation Stone for New Home in Amaravati**

- New house to come up on 5-acre plot behind Velagapudi Secretariat
- CM participates in foundation ceremony with family
- Lokesh calls it a symbol of commitment to rebuild Amaravati

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has laid the foundation stone for the construction of his new residence in Amaravati, marking an emotional and symbolic moment for his family and supporters of the capital. The ceremony took place on Tuesday at a 5-acre site located next to the E9 road behind the Velagapudi Secretariat. Chandrababu Naidu was accompanied by his wife Nara Bhuvaneshwari, son and Minister Nara Lokesh, daughter-in-law Brahmani, and grandson Devansh during the event. The Chief Minister had purchased this land from a local farmer in December last year, and the registration was completed recently. The new residence will be a G+1 structure spread over 1,455 square yards, with construction targeted for completion within a year. The prestigious project has been entrusted to SRR Construction Company, which has been tasked with both design and execution.



**Kasireddy Skips SIT Hearing For the 3rd Time Despite HC Orders**

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

YSRCP IT Advisor Kasireddy Rajasekhara Reddy has once again failed to appear before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the liquor scam, despite receiving three consecutive notices and a clear directive from

the High Court to cooperate with the investigation. Kasireddy had challenged the first two SIT notices in the High Court, seeking relief from personal appearance in connection with the alleged liquor scam.

2 PAGE |

Focus Shifts to Uttarandhra

# Sidiri Appalaraju and Duvvada Srinivas Next in Line?

- Palasa MLA Gauthu Sirisha presses for arrest of Sidiri Appalaraju
- Kinjarapu family pushing for action against MLC Duvvada Srinivas
- Political heat builds up in Uttarandhra after Central Andhra crackdown

TPN T. Rajasekhara | Srikakulam

After a string of arrests and cases filed against YSRCP leaders in Krishna and Guntur districts, political focus has now shifted to Uttarandhra. There is growing speculation that former minister Sidiri Appalaraju and YCP MLC Duvvada Srinivas could be the next to face action. The development comes amid reports that Palasa MLA Gauthu Sirisha and the Kinjarapu family are mounting pressure on the government for swift legal steps against the two YSRCP leaders. Following the alliance government's rise to power, several YCP leaders and sympathizers active on social media have been targeted with strict action. Arrests of figures like Posani Krishnamurali and Dorugadda Anil,



along with multiple cases against ex-ministers Perni Nani, Kodali Nani, Jogi Ramesh, and former MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi, have stirred political circles. While Vamsi has already been arrested and others secured anticipatory bail, most of these actions were limited to



Central Andhra until now. Sources indicate the government is now turning its political strategy toward Uttarandhra. Former Minister Appalaraju, from Srikakulam, reportedly has three cases pending and is said to be keeping a low profile, fearing arrest. MLA

Sirisha is alleged to be directly pursuing his arrest, especially after previously filing a complaint against YCP social media abuse in Visakhapatnam. On the other hand, MLC Duvvada Srinivas is facing cases for derogatory remarks against Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan. He is considered the primary political rival of Minister Achchannaidu in Nimmada, having actively challenged him during the last local elections. With Duvvada currently entangled in a family dispute, the Kinjarapu family sees this as a strategic moment for legal action. Alliance workers in Central Andhra claim the crackdown has cooled tempers locally, while leaders in Uttarandhra now demand similar action in their region. The government's intent to close pending cases quickly is seen as part of a broader political reset.



## CM Naidu Lays Foundation Stone...

Continued from page 1

Known for handling major projects in the past, the company was chosen for its track record and expertise. It is reported that CM Chandrababu himself will oversee the progress of the construction.

This house is intended to be more than just a residence. In a heartfelt message, Minister Nara Lokesh described the occasion as deeply emotional for the family. "This is not just our home... it is a symbol of our commitment. Amaravati has not been forgotten. We are rebuilding it stronger, more determined, and more beautiful than ever. Our capital is reborn again... and so is the spirit of our Andhra Pradesh," Lokesh stated on social media.

Apart from his homes in Hyderabad and Naravaripalle, Chandrababu is also said to be constructing a residence in Kuppam.

## Kasireddy Skips SIT Hearing...

Continued from page 1

However, the court recently dismissed both petitions, firmly instructing him to attend the inquiry and assist in the probe as a witness.

Following the High Court's ruling, the SIT served a third notice to Kasireddy, summoning him for questioning on Wednesday. However, he failed to turn up, marking his third consecutive absence.

Sources in the SIT confirmed that officials are now reviewing legal options and deliberating on the next course of action in light of Kasireddy's continued non-compliance. While the notices were issued under standard procedure, authorities may now consider stricter legal steps, including issuing a warrant or seeking contempt proceedings, depending on further legal consultations. Kasireddy's repeated absence has drawn criticism from political quarters and raised questions about obstruction of justice. With the investigation gaining momentum, SIT officials are determined not to let the liquor scam probe be derailed by lack of cooperation from key individuals.

# PM Modi Clears ₹1,332 Crore Renigunta-Katpadi Railway Doubling Project



- **Union Cabinet approves new railway line works benefitting AP and TN**
- **₹1,332 crore sanctioned for Renigunta-Katpadi doubling project**
- **Project to boost industry and tourism in Rayalaseema, Tirupati, and Vellore**

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Bringing festive cheer to the people of Andhra Pradesh, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved a significant infrastructure project—doubling of the Renigunta-Katpadi railway line. The project, estimated to cost ₹1,332 crore, is expected to benefit the entire Rayalaseema region, including major districts like Tirupati and Chittoor, as well as Vellore in Tamil Nadu. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav announced the Cabinet's decision and emphasized the strategic importance of the project despite the relatively short dis-

tance. He said the 104-kilometre railway line that includes the Tirupati-Pakala-Katpadi section will play a key role in improving connectivity, reducing congestion, and boosting economic activity in the region. "This is not just a doubling project; it's a developmental milestone. It will enhance travel comfort, enable faster movement of goods, and support tourism around Tirupati, a globally renowned spiritual hub," Vaishnav stated. He highlighted that the doubling work will also contribute to industrial growth, especially in the Chittoor-Vellore belt, by facilitating easier transportation

of raw materials and finished goods. The Union Minister further noted that the project strengthens inter-state rail infrastructure and reflects the Centre's commitment to balanced regional development. Both Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu stand to benefit significantly from the improved connectivity. The doubling work is expected to begin shortly, and the Railway Ministry has been tasked with ensuring timely execution. Once completed, the project is expected to not only ease travel time for passengers but also serve as a catalyst for local employment and economic upliftment.



## Minister Lokesh Directs Officials to Release Mega DSC 2025 Notification Without Delay

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a significant move bringing relief to thousands of unemployed youth across Andhra Pradesh, Education Minister Nara Lokesh has instructed officials to immediately prepare and release the Mega DSC 2025 notification. During a high-level review held on Tuesday, he emphasized the urgency of the process and directed the Education Department to proceed without legal complications to recruit 16,347 teacher posts.

Minister Lokesh reviewed key reforms in the education sector, including 10th and Intermediate exam results, and asked officials to ensure their timely release via the recently launched 'Manamitra' app. He also called for the swift preparation of an alternative GO to replace GO-117 and demanded that it be ready as early as possible. Officials informed the minister that 48% of school textbooks have already been printed. Lokesh directed the completion of the remaining stock before schools reopen. He also approved teacher transfers in Kasurba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas during the summer break, ensuring a seamless academic transition.

Looking ahead, the minister outlined plans for the construction of a central library, a training academy, and an education museum in Amaravati. He stressed the need for transparent teacher promotions and transfers and instructed officials to complete all education department reforms by the end of June. He also discussed the Supreme Court's verdict on special education posts and urged officials to take prompt steps for its implementation.



## AP Unveils Mission to Create 30K Women Entrepreneurs in Urban Areas

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The state has taken a decisive step toward transforming urban self-help group (SHG) members into full-fledged entrepreneurs through the launch of the Livelihoods & Entrepreneurship Acceleration Plan (LEAP). The initiative, aimed at empowering 30,000 women across the state, was formally launched on Tuesday at the Fortune Grand Hotel, Tadepalli.

The programme, led by MEPMA Mission Director N.M. Tej Bharat, in association with the India SME Forum, seeks to provide structured support for marketing, branding, and upscaling of women-led businesses. "Thousands of women in SHGs are making soaps, paper plates, incense sticks and more, but it's time we help them grow beyond survival businesses," said Tej Bharat. "LEAP is a time-bound plan set to be completed by June 8, with a focus on sustainable livelihoods and enterprise development," he added.

President and Director General of India SME Forum, Sushma Morthania, highlighted the goal of transforming 10,000 existing traders into large-scale entrepreneurs while nurturing 20,000 new women entrepreneurs. "This initiative is about creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem at the grassroots, we'll bring in skill mapping, business mentoring, and facilitation of funding and markets," she said. The state has already extended Rs 16,000 crore in loans to urban SHGs in the past nine months. MEPMA's data shows 99% of 2.74 lakh SHGs covering 28.7 lakh women have been digitally mapped, enabling focused intervention.

## CM Naidu Reviews Revenue Generation, Calls for AI-based Tax Enforcement



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu conducted a high-level review meeting on Wednesday to assess the government's revenue streams and strategize on increasing income across departments. Top officials from the Finance and Revenue departments participated in the discussion, which focused on enhancing the state's financial health.

The Chief Minister reviewed the current tax collections, non-tax revenue, and other sources of income. Expressing concern over existing gaps, Chandrababu emphasized the need to maximize revenues without burdening the public. He instructed officials to work proactively to boost collections in sectors such as property tax, registration fees, commercial taxes, and excise. In a major push toward innovation, Chandrababu suggested the use of Artificial Intelligence and data analytics to detect tax evasion and irregularities. "We must leverage technology to track

high-value transactions and unreported assets. AI tools can identify patterns that manual systems miss," he said. The CM also called for strict enforcement of rules to prevent revenue leakages and directed departments to ensure better compliance through digitization and automation. He advised officers to study best practices from other states and adopt effective methods that suit Andhra Pradesh's framework. Further, Chandrababu instructed that monthly performance reports on revenue targets be submitted to his office. "The government's development goals are tied to financial discipline and income enhancement. Every department must contribute to this effort," he stated. The meeting also included discussions on land monetization, user charges for public services, and optimization of government assets. The CM reiterated his commitment to building a financially robust Andhra Pradesh and called upon officials to act with integrity, urgency, and innovation.



## Minister Manohar Orders Closure of Civil Supplies Outlet at AP Bhavan in Delhi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a surprise inspection at the Civil Supplies Department-run rice outlet in AP Bhavan, New Delhi, Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar expressed serious displeasure over irregularities in rice distribution and ordered immediate closure of the shop. Accompanied by Civil Supplies Secretary Saurabh Gaur and AP Bhavan Resident Commissioner Lav Agarwal, the minister inspected the premises and personally checked the quality and weight of the rice bags being sold. During the inspection, Manohar found that a rice bag labelled 26 kg contained only 25 kg. Additionally, he pointed out that the weighing machine was malfunctioning and the rice being sold was of poor quality with high starch content. "This is unacceptable. The rice being sold here is not up to standard. There's a clear weight discrepancy, and the quality is subpar. I have ordered the seizure of this shop immediately," said Minister Nadendla Manohar. "We will take steps to set up a proper ration store under the AP Civil Supplies Department within a month. Citizens deserve quality rice and essential goods at fair prices, and we will ensure that," the minister said.

The minister's inspection has triggered a larger review of Civil Supplies outlets and their functioning, particularly outside the state. Officials have been directed to ensure strict compliance with weight and quality standards and to take immediate corrective action wherever irregularities are found. The new ration store to be set up at AP Bhavan is expected to stock quality rice and essential commodities, ensuring transparency and accountability in service delivery.

# Dr. Prabhavathi Evading Investigation, Not Cooperating With Inquiry - RRR

- **MLA Raju slams doctor's "I don't remember" responses during police inquiry**
- **Questions how an MBBS graduate can claim ignorance of basic injury details**
- **Demands full transparency and accountability in the ongoing probe**

TPN Correspondent | Undi

Undi MLA And Deputy Speaker of the House Raghuramakrishnam Raju expressed serious concern over the behavior of Dr. Prabhavathi during the ongoing police investigation. Speaking to the media, he said, "Dr. Prabhavathi is clearly not cooperating with the in-

quiry. Her replies are evasive, and she appears to be deliberately avoiding key questions." Raju pointed out that during questioning, Dr. Prabhavathi claimed she "did not know or remember" crucial information related to the case. "She says she's only a gynecologist, but anyone with an MBBS degree has basic medical knowledge.



This kind of response is unacceptable and raises suspicion," he added.

He questioned how a doctor with professional experience could forget fundamental medical understanding, especially when it pertains to in-

juries. "If this is how she is handling a legal probe, one has to wonder how she earned her professional reputation. The public has every right to question such conduct," Raju asserted.

The MLA alleged that

Dr. Prabhavathi was using technicalities and selective amnesia to dodge accountability. "This is not how a responsible individual behaves during a legal inquiry. She should remember that her qualifications come with responsibility, not immunity," he warned.

Raghuramakrishnam Raju concluded by demanding a transparent and thorough investigation, stating that no one should be spared if found guilty. "The law must take its course. Truth must prevail, and Dr. Prabhavathi must come clean."

## If YCP Returns to Power, We'll Strip the Police of Their Uniforms - Ambati Rambabu

TPN, Correspondent | Amaravati

In a sensational outburst, YSRCP leader and former minister Ambati Rambabu launched a scathing attack on the Andhra Pradesh police, alleging that the law enforcement machinery has been completely compromised under the TDP-led government. Speaking at a press meet, he declared, "If YCP comes to power, we will strip the police of their uniforms."

Rambabu accused the police department of selectively favoring officers who "threaten and scare" YSRCP leaders, claiming that genuine complaints filed by their party members are routinely ignored. "There are postings only for those who terrorize our leaders. If we file a complaint, they won't even register a case," he said.

Targeting Assembly Speaker Gorantla Buchaiah Chowdary and TDP's leadership, he stated that even former minister Chintakayala Aunty (referring to MLA Anita) had no actual control over police transfers. "Anita does not have the power to transfer even a Sub-Inspector," he remarked, al-



leging that "before Anita Mai, it's Nara Lokesh who is leading from behind the scenes."

The comments come amid rising political tension in the state, with both YSRCP and TDP exchanging serious accusations ahead of the elections. Rambabu's remarks are being seen as a direct threat to the existing police structure, sparking condemnation from ruling party members and calls for clarification from the Election Commission.

This isn't the first time Ambati Rambabu has stirred controversy with strong words, but his latest comments have escalated friction between the opposition and the administration. Political analysts say the YSRCP is sharpening its rhetoric to energize its cadre and project victimhood in the face of recent enforcement actions.

## "J-Branded Liquor Took Thousands of Lives During YSRCP Rule: Kollu Ravindra"

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra came down heavily on the previous YSRCP government, accusing it of completely dismantling the state's excise structure and pushing thousands into liver and kidney failures with substandard liquor branded under "J brands." Speaking at the state-level excise officers' meeting held at Padmavati University, Tirupati, the minister stated that former



CM Jagan Mohan Reddy, who came to power with promises of prohibition, had instead taken control of the entire liquor busi-

ness—from distilleries to retail shops—under a manipulated system cloaked in a so-called "new excise policy." Minister Ravindra

said, "Thousands of people died suffering from liver and kidney problems due to the low-quality J-branded liquor distributed under the YSRCP regime. The liquor policy was run like a monopoly." He added that the new coalition government, committed to reform, has introduced a transparent excise policy, where liquor shop allocations were done through a public draw. He assured that the new system emphasizes accountability, health, and public wel-

fare. The minister also announced the formation of 'Eagle Teams' tasked with curbing ganja smuggling and illegal transportation across Andhra Pradesh. These specialized units, Ravindra said, will play a key role in restoring law and order and ensuring the state is free from the drug menace. The meeting concluded with a call to all excise officers to enforce the new policy with integrity, keeping public health and transparency as top priorities.

## "No One Will Be Spared": YS Avinash Reddy Slams Govt Over Ahmed Basha's Arrest

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

Kadapa MP YS Avinash Reddy made strong remarks on Wednesday while visiting former Deputy Chief Minister Amjad Basha in Kadapa, following the controversial arrest of Basha's brother Ahmed Basha. Accompanied by District YSRCP President Ravindranath Reddy and Kadapa Mayor Suresh Babu, Avinash condemned the incident and alleged political vendetta.

Avinash accused the coalition government of indulging in "demonic pleasure" by arresting YSRCP leaders under false and fabricated cases. "They brought Ahmed Basha like a terrorist to Mumbai... Is this justice? This cruelty will not be forgotten," he fumed. He issued a stern warning: "No one will be spared. Those harassing YSRCP cadre through illegal cases will be held accountable. Everything is being noted." He criticized

the TDP leadership for allegedly celebrating the arrest, calling it a shameful and provocative act.

The MP claimed that the police were acting under political pressure, and asserted that the aim of the current administration is to systematically destroy the YSRCP structure in Kadapa. He reassured Basha's family that the party stands in full support and will fight this battle legally and politically. Avinash's fiery com-



ments have intensified the political tension in Kadapa, a district already witnessing high political drama post the elections.

With YSRCP strongly opposing the coalition's actions, the region could be gearing up for a prolonged political face-off.

## HC Rejects Kakani Govardhan Reddy's Anticipatory Bail in Quartz Mining Case



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a significant legal setback to senior YSRCP leader and former minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy, the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Wednesday dismissed his anticipatory bail plea in connection with the illegal quartz mining case registered in

Podalakur. The court also declined to stay police action, stating that it would not intervene in the ongoing investigation.

Kakani had moved the High Court with two petitions—one seeking anticipatory bail and the other urging the court to quash multiple FIRs filed against him. While the

court postponed the hearing on the quash petition by two weeks, it made it clear that police are free to proceed with the investigation as per law.

Facing allegations related to unauthorized mining and transport of quartz, Kakani has already received three police notices under various sections linked to mining violations. Despite these, he has reportedly remained inaccessible, complicating his legal situation further.

His legal team argued that the police were acting under political pressure and that the FIRs were motivated. However, the court did not accept these arguments at this stage, asserting that due process must be followed.

The ruling comes as enforcement agencies ramp up action on alleged

irregularities linked to the previous government, placing added pressure

on the YSRCP leadership ahead of crucial political developments.

## TDP Reins Should Be Handed Over to Lokesh: SVSN Varma's Remarks Spark Buzz

TPN Correspondent | Kakinada

In a statement that's creating political ripples once again, former Pithapuram MLA SVSN Varma has openly called for the reins of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) to be handed over to Minister Nara Lokesh. Speaking during a Prajadarbar at the Kakinada district TDP office, Varma said the party needs fresh leadership and appealed to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to make Lokesh the "charioteer" of the party's future.

Varma, who previously stirred debate by suggesting that Lokesh be made Deputy Chief Minister, reiterated his faith in Lokesh's leadership. He credited the Yuva-galam Padayatra for injecting new energy into the party ranks, stating it played a significant role in strengthening TDP's connect with the people and its recent successes. "There's a need to chart out a 2047 vision for TDP. Lokesh is the right leader to lead the party into the future," Varma said, urging party activists



to rally behind Lokesh's leadership. Currently, Nara Lokesh serves as the National General Secretary of the party, while

CM Chandrababu Naidu continues as the National President. Palla Srinivasa Rao is the AP State President of TDP.

# AP Showcases Tourism Potential at Mumbai Investment Meet

**TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh**  
Andhra Pradesh took a significant step to attract big-ticket investments in the tourism and hospitality sectors by engaging with top industry players during the 20th South Asia Hotel Investment Conference at The Westin, Powai Lake in Mumbai.

Leading a delegation from the state, Tourism and Culture Minister Kandula Durgesh held discussions on Wednesday with representatives of over 20 prominent national and international hotel and travel brands. These included Marriott, Hilton, Accor, IHCL, IHG, Chalet, Lemon Tree, Blackstone, Royal Orchid, Imagicina World Entertainment, and Ambuja Neotia, among others.

During the interactions, the Minister invited investors to explore Andhra Pradesh's potential for developing high-end resorts and hospitality infrastructure in cities like Visakhapatnam, Amaravati, Tirupati, and Rajahmundry. He described Andhra Pradesh as an emerging tourism destination, backed by strong government support and investor-friendly policies.

"This is the right time to invest in Andhra Pradesh. The government is committed to



offering industry-standard incentives and a smooth approval process for tourism projects," Durgesh said.

He also highlighted the state's growing appeal due to its cultural richness, natural beauty, and enhanced connectivity. Several companies expressed interest in evaluating project opportunities in the state.

The Andhra delegation also interacted with stakeholders, hotel developers, operators,

and investors from across South Asia as part of the three-day event.

Tourism Secretary Ajay Jain, AP Tourism Development Corporation MD Amrapali Kaata, and Tourism Authority's Investment Promotion Nodal Officer Satyaprabha were part of the official team, which plans to follow up with potential investors over the coming months.

# Nara Lokesh Inaugurates Srilakshmi Narasimhaswamy Park in Mangalgiri

**Park developed at a cost of Rs. 1.06 crore in SLN Colony**  
**Spread across 0.35 acres with modern amenities**  
**30+ parks and ponds to be developed in a phased manner**

**TPN Correspondent | Mangalgiri**

Minister Nara Lokesh inaugurated the newly developed Srilakshmi Narasimhaswamy Park in SLN Colony, Mangalgiri, on Wednesday. The park, constructed over 0.35 acres, was developed at a cost of Rs. 1.06 crore to provide a green, recreational space for local residents.

Addressing the gathering, Lokesh emphasized the government's commitment to enhancing urban living standards through the creation of more public spaces. He assured residents that more than 30 parks and ponds across the Mangalgiri constituency

would be taken up for development in a phased manner. These initiatives aim to improve the environment and promote healthier lifestyles.

The newly inaugurated park features landscaped walking paths, seating areas, children's play zones, and aesthetic lighting, making it a vibrant community spot. Lokesh interacted with local families during the event and encouraged them to actively participate in maintaining such community assets.

He reiterated that the government is focused on sustainable development and urban beautifi-



cation, and that similar efforts will be replicated across various parts of the constituency. Residents expressed their gratitude for the park, which they believe will significantly improve the

quality of life in SLN Colony. The inauguration marks another step in transforming Mangalgiri into a model constituency with inclusive infrastructure and eco-friendly development.

## Lanka Dinakar Reviews Progress of 20 Principles Program in Machilipatnam

**TPN Correspondent | Machilipatnam** : A review meeting on the progress of the 20 Principles Program was held on Wednesday at the Zilla Parishad Convention Hall in Machilipatnam under the leadership of Krishna District Collector Balaji. The session focused on the implementation of key Central Government welfare schemes across the district. 20 Principles Program Chairman Lanka Dinakar, Rashtra Gowda Corporation Chairman Veeranki Gurumurthy, and Machilipatnam Urban Development Authority Chairman Matta Prasad were present as chief guests. The officials assessed the advancement of flagship schemes such as the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, Amrit Scheme, and the Employment Guarantee Sche-

me. Lanka Dinakar stated that the Central Government is committed to the welfare of the people of Andhra Pradesh through various impactful programs. He revealed that an action plan has been drawn up to ensure 80% of the targeted work under these schemes is completed within the next three months. He added that the progress of these welfare initiatives will be reviewed quarterly to identify and resolve any delays or shortcomings. "We are determined to ensure 100% utilization of welfare funds, ensuring that every rupee reaches the people," Dinakar affirmed. The meeting underscored the importance of coordination among departments to fast-track development and maximize the benefits of Central Government initiatives in the district.

## YCP MLC Duvvada Srinivas Offers Prayers at Tirumala

**TPN Correspondent | Tirumala**

YCP MLC Duvvada Srinivas had darshan of Sri Venkateswara Swamy at Tirumala on Wednesday morning during the VIP break. Accompanied by Madhuri, he offered prayers and took part in the divine rituals at the hill shrine.

After completing the darshan of the Kaliyuga deity, Duvvada Srinivas was blessed by Vedic scholars at the Ranganayakula Mandapam. In accordance with the temple tradition, officials presented him with the sacred tirtha prasada of Lord Venkateswara. The MLC expressed his devotion and reverence for the deity, stating that he sought blessings for the well-being of the people and progress of the state.



## Vallabhaneni Vamsi's Remand Extended in Gannavaram TDP Office Attack Case

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**

In a significant setback for YCP leader and former Gannavaram MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi, the CID court has extended his remand in connection with the Gannavaram TDP central office attack case. The court issued an order on Wednesday, remanding Vamsi and nine other prisoners until April 23.

CID officials produced Vamsi before the court, along with the other remand prisoners, in connection with the ongoing investigation into the attack on the TDP office. Vamsi's legal troubles have been escalating, with multiple cases now pending against him. This remand extension comes just a day after another court, the Vijayawada SC and ST court, extended his remand in the Satyavardhan kidnapping case. The remand in that case has been extended until April 22.

Vamsi, who was once a prominent figure in the

Telugu Desam Party (TDP), has seen his political career take a downward turn amid these legal challenges. The attack on the TDP office in Gannavaram, a key incident in the region, has led to his arrest, along with several other individuals involved in the case.

The CID investigation into the Gannavaram TDP office attack continues to unfold, with authorities seeking further details on the role of Vamsi and others in the incident. The extension of his remand reflects the seriousness of the charges against him and the ongoing efforts of law enforcement to gather crucial evidence.

Vamsi's legal battles are far from over, as the former MLA faces intense scrutiny in multiple cases. The extended remand, now lasting until April 23, will keep the political landscape in Gannavaram and surrounding areas tense, as the public awaits further developments in this high-profile case.

## Uppalamma Thalli's Blessings Essential for Gannavaram's Progress: MLA Yarlagadda

**TPN Correspondent | Gannavaram**

Government Whip and Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkat Rao on Wednesday offered prayers to Goddess Uppalamma Thalli and sought divine blessings for the development of the Gannavaram constituency. Participating in a religious ceremony held at Chandrala village in Kasaraneni Raja Mylavaram mandal, Yarlagadda joined TDP leaders and locals in the installation of the idol of Uppalamma Thalli-Yellamma Thalli in a local agricultural field.

As part of the ceremony, a traditional wedding ritual of the deity was conducted, followed by an anna samaradhana. Speaking on the occasion, Yarlagadda said that the blessings of Uppalamma Thalli are essential for the happiness and prosperity of the people of the constituency. He expressed confidence that with divine grace, Gannavaram would

witness overall development and growth.

The MLA performed special pujas and interacted with devotees and community members who took part in the event. He emphasized that along with government efforts, the spiritual and cultural unity of the people contributes significantly to the progress of the region.



After completing the rituals and sharing a meal with the attendees, Yarlagadda departed for Vijayawada. The event was attended by several TDP leaders including Alla Gopalakrishna, Gundapaneni Uma Prasad, Kommareddy Rajesh, Dutta Srimannarayana, and Katuru Vijayawada Bhaskar, among others.

# Another Complaint Filed Against Director Ram Gopal Varma

**TPN Correspondent | Rajahmundry**  
Controversial filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma has once again landed in legal trouble, with a fresh complaint filed against him at the Rajahmundry 3 Town Police Station. The complaint, lodged by Rashtriya Praja Congress founder president Meda Srinivas, alleges that Varma has been inciting acts of religious and social terrorism.

Addressing the media after filing the complaint, Srinivas accused Varma of deliberately creating unrest in society through his provocative comments and content, which he claimed are aimed at disturbing communal harmony. "This is not just about cinema

or creative freedom — it's about using influence to spread hatred and division. We demand strict action under relevant sections of the law," he stated.

The complaint seeks police investigation into Varma's recent statements and projects, urging authorities to register a case and proceed with legal action. Srinivas said his party would not remain silent if public sentiments and social peace are being tampered with under the guise of free expression.

The Rajahmundry police have acknowledged receipt of the complaint and are said to be reviewing the material submitted. So far, no FIR has been registered, but officials have indicated

that they will examine whether the allegations warrant formal proceedings. This isn't the first time Ram Gopal Varma has courted controversy. Known for his unfiltered opinions and bold portrayals in films and social media posts, Varma has frequently drawn criticism from various quarters, including political, religious, and social groups.

The Rashtriya Praja Congress has stated that if the police fail to act, they will escalate the matter through legal channels and public campaigns. As of now, Ram Gopal Varma has not responded to the allegations.



## Private Hospitals in Eluru Flouting Norms, Endangering Public Safety



- Rampant rule violations by mushrooming private hospitals
- No parking, fire safety, or minimum patient facilities in many centers
- Officials accused of turning a blind eye to blatant violations

TPN B. K. Kishore | Eluru

The unchecked proliferation of private hospitals in Eluru district is raising serious concerns over public health and safety. Many of these hospitals are being run in violation of basic norms, with authorities allegedly ignoring repeated complaints and lapses in enforcement. Several private hospitals are operating out of rented buildings in narrow bylanes, with three to four facilities functioning from a single structure. These establishments not only lack designated parking spaces, causing severe traffic

congestion, but also flout fire safety norms—many without access for fire engines in case of emergencies. Worse, in some buildings, laboratories are being set up dangerously close to urinals, staircases, and other unhygienic areas. Hospital beds far exceed sanctioned numbers, while permissions obtained from departments like Health, Fire, Police, and Pollution Control are often limited to paperwork with no actual compliance. Sources say certain medical shop owners are converting their premises into hospitals, hiring fee-based doctors

who overprescribe medicines. Meanwhile, some doctors from the newly opened district medical college and the general hospital are reportedly practicing at these private centers after duty hours, fueling their rapid expansion. Despite clear rules requiring approvals from multiple departments—including health, pollution control, and municipal authorities—hospital administrators often understate bed numbers to pay lower fees, later adding more beds unofficially. Basic patient facilities remain poor in many of these hospitals, further endangering lives. Alarming, buildings housing several hospitals do not have fire extinguishers or emergency exits. If an accident were to occur, the risk of casualties would be high due to poor access and absence of safety systems. Locals have repeatedly urged officials to conduct inspections and enforce action, but enforcement remains lax. With complaints mounting, the public is demanding immediate intervention. It remains to be seen whether authorities will step in to ensure private hospitals prioritize safety and compliance over profit.

## Groom Arrested for Attempting to Marry Two Minor Sisters



TPN Correspondent | Satya Sai Dist

A young man who planned to marry two minor sisters was arrested after their wedding invitation went viral on social media, prompting swift action from police and ICDS officials. According to authorities, the accused, Gangaraju from Gummaiah Garipalli village in Gorantla mandal, was engaged to two underage girls, K. Srilakshmi and K. Aishwarya from Bagepalli town in Chikaballapur district, Karnataka. Shockingly, the girls are sisters and both minors. Their wedding was scheduled for April 10 at Ranga Mahal in Gorantla town. Gangaraju had printed and distributed the wedding invitations, which sparked public outrage after circulating widely online. ICDS Supervisor Rajitha, upon noticing the viral card,

launched an inquiry and confirmed the girls' minor status. She subsequently filed a complaint with the police. Gorantla police summoned both families for questioning. During the investigation, it was revealed that the groom had decided to marry both girls with the consent of their parents. ICDS officials counseled the families, stressing that child marriage is a punishable offense and marrying two minors is illegal. Despite repeated counseling sessions for Gangaraju, his brother Amaranath, and their mother Gangulamma, the family was adamant about proceeding with at least one of the marriages. As a result, police registered a case against Gangaraju, his brother, his mother, and the mother of the girls, Susheela, under sections BNS 132, 351(3), read with (5). Gorantla Circle Inspector B. Shekhar confirmed the arrests and said the investigation is ongoing.

## YCP Leaders Meet Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy in Tirupati, Raise Concerns on Welfare Delivery

TPN Ch. Sekhar | Tirupati

YSRCP leaders and well-wishers met former minister Peddireddy Ramachandra Reddy at his residence in Tirupati, where they discussed local issues and party strengthening efforts in the Satyavedu region. Joint Chittoor District Kriya Srilata Secretary T Rakesh Kiran and retired district judge Doraswamy were among those who called on the senior leader. Peddireddy, who is currently recovering from a hand injury, welcomed the visitors and inquired about their well-being. Several YSRCP leaders from Satyavedu mandal also took part in the meeting. Speaking during the interaction, YSRCP leader Kota voiced concern that despite the party's promises, the poor in various mandals, particularly in backward areas like Satyavedu, are still awaiting the benefits of welfare



schemes. He urged the former minister to ensure that the party stays committed to its assurances and strengthens its presence on the ground. Kota stressed that YSRCP must focus on party membership drives and grassroots engagement, especially ahead of upcoming political developments. He also highlighted that many YCP leaders across regions are facing bitter experiences, and there is a need to extend support to the needy, regardless of political affiliations. The leaders expressed confidence in Peddireddy's guidance to rebuild trust and ensure inclusive development in the region.

## Home Minister Anitha Reviews Law & Order in Uttarandhra, Focuses on Ganja Crackdown

TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha conducted a high-level review meeting with senior police officials from the Uttarandhra region on Wednesday, focusing on law and order, narcotics control, and public safety. The meeting emphasized the government's firm commitment to cracking down on illegal activities, especially ganja cultivation and smuggling. Speaking to the media, Anitha revealed that ganja worth ₹4 crore had been seized in Srikakulam district over the past nine months. She said the government is using drone surveillance to monitor cultivation zones and trafficking routes, stressing that strict action is being taken under the Preventive Detention (PD) Act against those involved. "We are determined to eliminate narcotics from the source. Drones are helping us track movements in real time," she stated. As part of her Uttarandhra tour, the Home Minister an-



- ₹4 crore worth of ganja seized in 9 months
- Drones being used to track illegal ganja activity
- Plans to set up cyber crime police stations in all districts

nounced that five 'Shakti' teams have been deployed in every district to strengthen women's safety and rapid response. She also highlighted legal services being extended to the public through Friendly Police programs. Anitha added that surveillance through CCTV cameras has been strengthened in schools, colleges, and hostels to protect youth from falling into addiction. On cyber safety, she noted that although there are currently

only three cyber crime police stations in the state, the government—under CM Chandrababu Naidu's leadership—plans to establish one in every district soon. Anitha clarified that even though former CM Jagan Mohan Reddy holds no opposition status, the government continues to provide him with Z+ category security. She also praised the efforts of the Srikakulam SP in maintaining law and order across the district.

## CM's Visit to Agiripalli Must Be a Grand Success - Minister Kolusu

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

Housing, Information and Civil Relations Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy has appealed to the public and officials to make Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's upcoming visit to Agiripalli a grand success. On Wednesday, Minister Kolusu, along with District Collector K. Vetriselvi, District SP K.P.S. Kishore, District Joint Collector P. Dhatri Reddy, Nujiveedu Sub-Collector Smaran Raj, and other key officials, reviewed the arrangements for the CM's visit. The Chief Minister will visit Agiripalli on April 11 to participate in a state-level program marking the birth anniversary

of Mahatma Jyothirao Phule, the revered social reformer who fought for social justice. A public meeting is also scheduled as part of the visit. Minister Kolusu stated that he intends to present several important issues concerning the Nuzvidu constituency to the Chief Minister during this visit. He highlighted the potential of large ponds in the region,



which, if provided with lift irrigation, could help irrigate around 25,000 acres of agricultural land. The Minister also noted that he had previously spoken with the Telangana Irrigation Minister regarding water supply and worked persistently to address the issue. He plans to explain the Minor Irrigation Rehabilitation Plan to the CM and emphasize the need for development of the NSP canal. Additionally, Kolusu will urge the Chief Minister to approve the construction of a ring road around Nuzvidu to ease traffic congestion and boost connectivity in the region.

## Collector Visits Krishna Udupale Colony, Calls for Separate Panchayat Resolution



TPN Correspondent | Gokavaram

East Godavari District Collector P. Prashanthi visited Krishna Udupale Colony in Gokavaram mandal on Wednesday evening to review the living conditions of Polavaram project-displaced families. Accompanied by local officials, she assessed key issues faced by nearly 5,000 residents rehabilitated from 18 villages of Devipatnam mandal.

The Collector emphasized the need to transfer Aadhaar and ration cards to Gokavaram mandal to ensure uninterrupted access to welfare schemes. During her interaction, she proposed that the residents conduct a Gram Sabha and pass a resolution suggesting a name for the formation of a new village panchayat. P. Prashanthi explained that once the resolution is sent to the government, administrative mechanisms like a village secretariat, ration shop, and other basic facilities can be set up. She noted that only with official recognition as a separate panchayat can the colony access central and state government grants to support its development.

Addressing issues raised by residents, the Collector acknowledged sanitation challenges under the current jurisdiction of Krishnadupalem Gram Panchayat and assured appropriate action. Local MLA Jyothula Nehru, who accompanied the officials, said he is committed to resolving the concerns of the displaced families. The visit included District Gram Panchayat Officer V. Shanthi Mani, DWAMA PD A. Naga Maheshwara Rao, Gokavaram Tahsildar M. V. Sai Prasad, MPDO M. Govind, Devipatnam Tahsildar, and other officials. Further action will be initiated following the outcome of the proposed Gram Sabha resolution.

## MLA Divya Inaugurates Free Cancer Screening Camp in Tuni



TPN Correspondent | Tuni

A free cancer screening camp for women was inaugurated by Government Whip and Tuni MLA Yanamala Divya at the Vasavi Charitable Trust building on Kavalapadu Road in Tuni mandal. The event was jointly organized by Vikasa Tarangini, Vasavi Vanitha Club, and Avoga Vasavi Club under the guidance of Tridandi Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji and with the support of Vasavi International Governor Manepalli Bangaraju. The medical initiative was conducted under the banner of Mahila Arogya Vikas.

MLA Divya lit the ceremonial lamp to inaugurate the camp and appreciated the organizers for their service-oriented efforts. Addressing the gathering, she said that women and youth are the pillars of a progressive society. She urged women to prioritize health and make use of screening services to detect diseases early. Highlighting previous initiatives like the job fair for youth, she stressed the importance of both employment and health awareness. Former MLA Raja Ashok Babu, along with TDP leaders Yanamala Rajesh, Sur-

la Loveraju, and municipal leaders including Kucharlapati Rupadevi, Inuganti Satyanarayana, and Kusumanchi Shobharani, also participated. Several community leaders including Policetty Ramalingeswara Rao, Bodapati Srinu, Chodiseti Ganesh, and others extended their support to the event. The camp witnessed an enthusiastic response from women in the region, reaffirming the need for continued focus on preventive health initiatives.

# WORLD HOMEOPATHY DAY APRIL 10

## A Tribute, A Reflection, A Promise

April 10 marks World Homeopathy Day, observed in memory of the great visionary Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of Homeopathy. While it's a tribute to his contribution to the field of medicine, it is also a day for both practitioners and patients to pause and reflect on how this gentle yet powerful system of healing continues to quietly transform lives—especially in today's world where lifestyle disorders and chronic diseases are rampant.

### What is Homeopathy?

Homeopathy is a holistic system of medicine based on the principle of "like cures like." It means a substance that causes symptoms in a healthy person can be used in minute doses to treat similar symptoms in a sick person. It focuses not just on the disease, but on the person as a whole—their physical complaints, emotional state, genetic tendencies, lifestyle, and environment. Like Ayurveda, Allopathy, Siddha, and Unani, Homeopathy is a complete medical science in its own right. Every system of medicine has its strengths and limitations. What makes homeopathy distinctive is its individualized approach, its deep philosophy of healing, and its potential to offer complete, lasting cures without suppressing symptoms.

### Why Homeopathy?

There's a common saying among practitioners: "A homeopath may fail, but not homeopathy." This isn't just rhetoric—it's a reflection of the system's potential when practiced correctly. Homeopathy doesn't treat diseases; it treats people. Instead of chasing symptoms, it aims to find the root cause and restore balance within the individual. This unique approach ensures that treatment is customized, not generalized. Two people with the same diagnosis might receive entirely different remedies based on their personality, symptoms, lifestyle, and mental state. That's the beauty of homeopathy—it sees the person behind the disease.

### What Does a Homeopath Really Do?

When you visit a homeopath, don't expect



**Dr. Maruboina Ramakrishna**  
**BHMS. MD. MCAH**  
**(Asian Homeocare, Vijayawada World Homeopathy Day)**

a 5-minute consultation. We dive deep. From your childhood history, stress levels, food cravings, fears, emotional state, sleep pattern—everything is considered. This helps the homeopath understand not just the 'what' of your illness but the 'why'. What triggered it? What's sustaining it? What needs to be addressed in you so that the disease leaves?

How Does Homeopathy Differ from Other Systems?

### Homeopathy stands apart in several ways:

- **Case-taking:** Consultations are longer and more detailed.
- **Philosophy:** Focus is on treating the individual, not just the illness.
- **Medicine Preparation:** Remedies are derived from natural substances and potentized in a unique way.
- **Dosage and Dispensing:** No bitter pills or painful injections—just sweet, easy-to-take pills.

This method makes homeopathy especially friendly for children, elderly, and even pets. Is Homeopathy Only for Chronic Conditions? Absolutely not. Ho-

meopathy works beautifully for acute conditions too—colds, fevers, diarrhoea, injuries, allergies, and more. In such situations, remedies stimulate the immune system to respond quickly and naturally. So whether your issue is recent or long-standing, homeopathy has something to offer. Can I Take Homeopathy Along with Other Medicines? Yes. Homeopathy can complement conventional treatment. In fact, if you're dealing with a chronic disease—like diabetes, thyroid disorders, arthritis, allergies, or PCOS—and your current medication is only giving partial relief or your reports are not improving despite increasing doses, that's the right time to consider a homeopath. We aim to support recovery, reduce dependency, and in many cases, bring reports back to normal. How Long Should I Wait for Results? Healing takes time, and in homeopathy, patience pays off. Results vary based on how long the condition has been present, your age, lifestyle, and overall vitality. Allergies often require treatment over 4 seasonal cycles. Chronic conditions like asthma, PCOD, psoriasis, or arthritis may take 18–24 months to show significant and lasting improvements. But once cured, the chances of relapse are minimal. Common Myths About Homeopathy—Busted

- **"Homeopathy heats the body." Not true. The remedies balance your system, not overheat it.**
- **"I must stop all other medicines." No. You can continue your existing treatment alongside homeopathy under proper guidance.**
- **"Homeopathy pills are sweet—do they increase sugar levels?" No. The quantity of sugar in the pills is negligible and safe even for diabetics. On this World Homeopathy Day, let's not just remember the founder of this science, but also reflect on the way it has restored health to millions—gently, safely, and naturally. Whether you are a patient looking for lasting relief or a curious mind wondering what homeopathy truly is, take this day as an opportunity to explore, understand, and embrace this remarkable system of healing. Because homeopathy doesn't just treat diseases—it transforms lives.**



## Global Boycotts of US Goods

Across the globe, American products are increasingly becoming the target of consumer boycotts as citizens of various countries protest U.S. foreign policy and political actions—particularly those tied to the Trump administration. These boycotts, while not coordinated under a single umbrella movement, reflect a rising wave of politically motivated consumer activism where purchasing decisions are shaped by geopolitical sentiments. From fast-food chains and tech giants to luxury fashion and entertainment exports, US brands are feeling the ripple effects of international frustration. Protesters in cities like London, Paris, Istanbul, and Kuala Lumpur have been vocal, with rallies targeting not just political leaders like Donald Trump but also high-profile figures such as Elon Musk, symbolizing corporate America's global dominance. At the heart of these boycotts lies a growing realization: consumer culture is inextricably linked to politics. Global consumers are not passive participants; they are politically conscious actors capable of reshaping market dynamics in response to perceived injustices. The call to "vote with your wallet" has grown louder, and it's gaining traction. For Trump, this trend could be a cause for concern. While his domestic base may rally behind protectionism and "America First" rhetoric, the global marketplace plays a critical role in the strength of the US economy. Exports, brand reputation, and cultural influence form key pillars of soft power, and sustained boycotts could erode these assets. Additionally, American corporations may find themselves navigating treacherous terrain—balancing domestic political alignment with international market expectations. In this environment, the Trump brand itself becomes a liability in foreign markets, not just in political spheres but in consumer perception too. This could also indirectly affect the U.S. economy, as declining international sales lead to layoffs, market pullbacks, and reduced investor confidence. What's clear is that these boycotts are more than fleeting gestures; they are part of a broader shift in global consumer behavior, where identity, ethics, and politics increasingly dictate how people shop and what they support. For American leadership, and Trump in particular, ignoring this shift could mean losing not just goodwill abroad, but valuable market ground as well.

# Time to Retire Iran War Talk

The longstanding hostility between Iran and the United States remains entrenched, as both nations continue to navigate a volatile relationship marked by mutual distrust, strategic missteps, and ideological rigidity. Despite occasional openings toward diplomacy, the overarching narrative remains mired in threats and war talk that has dominated the discourse since the George W. Bush and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad era. During that time, the rhetoric was intensely confrontational, with Iran defying American might and the US listing Iran in its "Axis of Evil." These hostilities gave rise to persistent predictions of an impending war, a drumbeat that, although tiresome in its repetitiveness, still incites alarm. The idea of military action against Iran has never been far from the minds of US policymakers, especially within the Republican establishment, where calls for strikes have often been viewed as rational responses rather than radical measures. Activist groups like Code Pink have been marginalized despite their calls for diplomacy and peace. Even during Obama's tenure, fears of war persisted until more moderate Iranian leadership emerged. Still, the media's portrayal of Iran as an existential threat has fed into negative public perceptions—Americans rarely express favorable views of the country, which has deepened the divide be-



tween the people of both nations. The lesson from Iraq's devastating war, a campaign widely regarded as a strategic blunder, should have served as a deterrent. Yet Iran, with a far larger population and complex political landscape, remains under the shadow of similar saber-rattling. Internally,

Iran's leadership lacks a cohesive vision, increasingly seen as prioritizing ideological expansion over national welfare. The Revolutionary Guards' external adventurism, combined with disregard for cultural traditions and a worsening economic crisis, has alienated many Iranians. Power blackouts,

hyperinflation, and sanctions have left the public wondering about the true cost of Iran's nuclear pursuits. On the US side, foreign policy has taken a more eccentric tone. From suggestions of annexing Canada to speculation about military action in the Middle East, unpredictability defines Wash-

ington's posture. Despite this, former President Donald Trump has sought a diplomatic solution, even sending a personal letter to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei via an Emirati intermediary. Khamenei responded by approving indirect talks, now scheduled in Oman, while also issuing a stern warning against aggression. A breakthrough seems possible but precarious, with Trump reportedly setting a two-month deadline for progress. The renewed direct military clash between Iran and Israel, triggered by attacks in April 2024, has shattered whatever restraint previously existed in their proxy conflict. Amid these tensions, figures like US envoy Steve Witkoff have attempted to reopen channels through cautious messaging, even briefly engaging with Iranian officials online over the JCPOA terms. While predictions remain speculative, and skepticism is warranted, even a limited agreement would be preferable to continued escalation. Iran's dire governance rankings reflect systemic dysfunctions that go beyond foreign policy. But any constructive engagement between Washington and Tehran could signal hope—not just for a reset in relations, but for the millions in the region who remain trapped in a cycle of conflict. The world stands to benefit whenever this overdue understanding materializes.

## RBI Cuts Repo Rate by 25 Basis Points to 6% Amid Global Trade Uncertainty



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6%, with the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voting unanimously in favor of the move. The decision, announced on Wednesday, is aimed at supporting economic growth and easing the interest burden on borrowers with home, auto, and other loans. However, this reduction is expected to lower the interest earned on savings for depositors.

This rate cut comes amid growing concerns over the global trade war, particularly the impact of U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs. In light of these challenges, the MPC has also revised its growth forecast for India's GDP in 2025-26, lowering it from 6.7% to 6.5%.

This marks the second consecutive rate cut by the RBI, following a 25 basis point reduction in the previous policy meeting. The committee, led by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, also shifted its policy stance from neutral to accommodative, signaling a more growth-focused approach. This change indicates the RBI's growing concern about the potential impact of the trade war on domestic economic growth, rather than inflation risks. The shift in stance suggests the possibility of further rate cuts in the future to stimulate the economy.

Governor Malhotra highlighted that global uncertainty, particularly the escalating trade tensions, could dampen investment and spending by businesses and households, negatively impacting domestic growth. Additionally, higher tariffs are expected to hurt India's exports.

On inflation, Malhotra noted that while global volatility posed some risks, including currency pressures and imported inflation, the domestic inflation outlook remained relatively stable. Inflation risks are seen as two-sided, with a slowdown in global growth potentially softening commodity and crude oil prices.

Looking ahead, RBI projects India's GDP growth for 2025-26 at 6.5%, with inflation expected to remain at 4% for the year. Despite ongoing global uncertainties, the RBI remains committed to using monetary policy to ensure a balanced and stable economic environment.

## India ends transshipment facility for Bangladesh exports, cites congestion

- Bangladesh-Nepal/Bhutan trade routes unaffected.
- Yunus' China remarks add diplomatic tension.
- Visa, trade issues strain bilateral ties further.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India has withdrawn the transshipment facility extended to Bangladesh due to the significant congestion it was causing at Indian airports and ports, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed on Wednesday. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal clarified that the decision, effective from April 8, 2025, is not intended to affect Bangladesh's trade with Nepal or Bhutan.

The transshipment facility, which had been in place since June 2020, allowed cargo from Bangladesh to transit through Indian land customs stations before being sent to their final destinations using Indian ports and airports. This move was essential for Bangladesh's exports, particularly ready-made items, to third countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar. However, over time, the facility had resulted in logistical delays and congestion, which hindered India's own exports and led to backlogs, prompting the decision to terminate the arrangement.

Jaiswal explained that although the transshipment facility was withdrawn, it would not disrupt Bangladesh's exports to Nepal or Bhutan through Indian territory. He also emphasized that the decision was a logistical one and not



related to any political developments.

The decision follows controversial remarks by Prof. Muhammad Yunus, the Chief Adviser to Bangladesh's interim government, who visited Beijing and advocated for stronger trade ties between China and India's northeastern states using Bangladeshi ports. Yunus' statements, made during a roundtable discussion in China, were met with criticism in India, with Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma calling them "offensive and highly condemnable."

While Indian officials have refrained from confirming whether Yunus' remarks influenced the withdrawal of the transshipment facility, the timing of the move, just days before the New Year festivities in Dhaka, has been perceived as a setback to bilateral trade. This development follows ongoing concerns over the limited issuance of Indian visas to Bangladesh's business community, further straining economic ties.

The issue highlights the ongoing complexities in India-Bangladesh relations, with trade, logistics, and diplomatic considerations all playing significant roles.

## Congress Demands Caste Census, Rahul Gandhi Slams Waqf Bill and RSS

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, denounced the Waqf (Amendment) Act, calling it "anti-Constitution" and a direct attack on religious freedoms. Speaking at the AICC session held on the banks of the Sabarmati River, Gandhi raised concerns that the BJP and RSS would soon target the rights of other minorities, particularly Christians and Sikhs, following the passage of the Waqf Bill.

Gandhi claimed that the new law undermines the constitutional rights of religious minorities in India, specifically accusing the government of orchestrating an agenda to curb religious freedoms. He cited an article in an RSS-affiliated magazine that allegedly suggested that the BJP and RSS are now focused on limiting the rights of Christians, with Sikhs potentially being next in line.

In his address, Gandhi also warned of an impending "economic storm," attributing it to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's subservience to U.S. President Donald Trump, especially regarding the imposition of tariffs. He criticized Modi for failing to challenge Trump's actions, referencing a recent meeting between the two leaders where Trump's decision to impose new tariffs on Indian goods went unopposed. "Did you see the photograph of PM Modi hugging Mr. Trump? This time he ordered Modi ji that 'we



will not hug but will impose new tariffs,'" Gandhi remarked. Furthermore, Gandhi took a jibe at Modi's recent interaction with Bangladesh's Chief Advisor Mohammad Yunus, suggesting that the Prime Minister's silence on Yunus' remarks was in stark contrast to his usual bold rhetoric. "Where is the 56-inch chest?" Gandhi quipped, mocking Modi's strength and resolve.

On the issue of caste-based reservations, Gandhi reiterated his support for a national caste census, calling for an expansion of the reservation system and mentioning that Telangana had already made strides in this area. He also emphasized that the Congress party would continue to fight for constitutional values against what he described as an RSS-led push to control India's institutions. "We have truth and the love of the people on our side," he concluded.



## Gold Prices Spiked Amid Global Trade Tensions and US Tariffs

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Gold prices have surged, driven by concerns over a potential global economic slowdown triggered by U.S. President Donald Trump's sweeping tariffs on Chinese imports. In India, the price of 24-karat gold has risen to ₹8,972 per gram, while 22-karat gold is priced at ₹8,224, and 18-karat gold stands at ₹6,729 per gram, according to Goodreturns.

The U.S. dollar weakened ahead of the tariff rollout, making gold, priced in dollars, more attractive to foreign buyers. Trump's administration imposed a significant 104% tariff on Chinese imports and outlined plans for a baseline 10% import duty on other goods. China responded defiantly, labeling the move as "blackmail" and vowing to "fight to the end."

Tim Waterer, Chief Market Analyst at KCM Trade, explained that the downward shift in the dollar due to tariff concerns allowed gold to reclaim the \$3,000 level. Despite some volatility, Waterer indicated that gold could reach new all-time highs, citing uncertainty around global growth and inflation as key drivers.

Gold reached a record high of \$3,167.57 on April 3, mirroring the surge in 1980 during the Iranian Revolution when political risks and inflation fears dominated markets. Investor appetite for gold remains strong, with gold-backed exchange-traded funds seeing the largest quarterly inflows in three years, according to the World Gold Council.

However, rising U.S. bond yields capped some of gold's gains, as the 10-year Treasury yield hit its highest level in over a week, reducing the appeal of non-yielding bullion. Looking ahead, market participants are awaiting the release of the U.S. Federal Reserve's meeting minutes and upcoming inflation data, including the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Producer Price Index (PPI), later this week.

Analysts, including Rahul Kalantri, VP of Commodities at Mehta Equities, remain cautious, noting that while gold surged due to short-covering and bargain buying, it lost steam after the U.S. announced the tariff changes. Kalantri suggests that gold could face support at \$2,978-\$2,955 per ounce and resistance at \$3,040-\$3,065 per ounce in global markets, with similar levels for Indian gold prices. Analysts believe that gold's upward trajectory may continue as macroeconomic uncertainties persist.

## India's naval aviation gets a boost: Rafale-Marine jets approved for acquisition

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a major boost to India's naval aviation, the Cabinet Committee on Security, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the purchase of 26 Rafale-Marine fighter jets from French aviation giant Dassault, at an estimated cost of ₹63,000 crore. This acquisition is aimed at enhancing the Indian Navy's offensive capabilities, especially for operations at sea. The jets will be deployed on India's indigenously built aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, and are expected to significantly strengthen the Navy's ability to carry out longer-range precision strikes against both aerial and maritime threats.

The deal, which includes weapons, simulators, training, spares, and maintenance support, will also fea-



ture India-specific modifications. These additions include the integration of India's Astra missile system, setting up a maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) hub, and sourcing components from local suppliers. The Rafale-Marine jets are equipped with advanced armament systems, including the SCALP-EG, a 650-km range cruise missile.

These fighter jets will consist of 22 single-seater and four twin-seater variants, designed to complement the Navy's existing aircraft fleet. The Rafale-Marine's operational features include reinforced landing gear and foldable wings, allowing efficient storage aboard aircraft carriers. This capability will be crucial, as the jets can operate in the constrained space of

a carrier's deck, unlike land-based aircraft that rely on long runways.

While the deal comes at a higher price compared to the IAF's 36 Rafale jets, which were purchased for ₹59,000 crore in 2016, the cost difference is attributed to inflation, the increased exchange rates of the dollar and euro, and a decade gap between the two deals.

Additionally, in case of an emergency, these jets can be deployed to Indian Air Force bases along the northern borders, bolstering the IAF's fleet of Rafale jets. This move represents a significant upgrade to India's naval aviation, as it replaces the Russian-origin MiG-29K jets, some of which have faced operational challenges since their induction in 2011.



## Russia Invites PM Modi to Attend 80th Anniversary of Victory Day Celebrations

- **Event marks 80 years since Nazi Germany’s defeat.**
- **Putin accepted Modi’s earlier India visit invite.**
- **Ties grow stronger in defense and diplomacy.**

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Russia has extended an invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the May 9 celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany in World War II, as confirmed by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko. The invitation has been sent, and preparations for the Prime Minister's visit are currently underway.

Speaking to Russian news agency Tass, Rudenko stated, "Moscow is expecting the Indian Prime Minister at the May 9 parade. The invitation has already been sent, and the visit is being worked out. It should take place this year."

Victory Day, celebrated on May 9, commemorates the signing of the Act of Unconditional Surrender by Germany in 1945, effectively bringing an end to World War II. This year's celebrations will mark the 80th anniversary of that pivotal moment in history, and Russia has invited leaders from several friendly nations to join in the commemorations.

In July 2024, Prime Minister Modi visited Russia for the first time in nearly five years. During this visit, he also extended an invitation to Russian President Vladimir Putin to visit India, an invitation that Putin has accepted. However, the specific dates for Putin's trip to India have yet to be disclosed.

Prime Minister Modi and President Putin maintain a strong diplomatic relationship, characterized by regular communication through telephone calls and in-person meetings, especially during international events. The two leaders' ongoing collaboration underscores the close ties between India and Russia, particularly in areas such as defense, trade, and geopolitical cooperation.

The invitation to Modi to participate in the Victory Day parade reflects the deepening bilateral ties between the two nations and signifies the importance of their strategic partnership on the global stage.

# US Bill Threatens to End Work Visa for Indian Students, Creating Uncertainty for 300,000

TPN Correspondent | US

A proposed bill in the United States Congress is poised to disrupt the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program, a vital work authorization initiative for international students, particularly those in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. This development has caused major concern among the Indian student community in the US, with over 300,000 students potentially impacted.

The OPT program allows international students to gain practical work experience in the US for up to three years after graduation. Indian students are the largest beneficiaries of this program, with nearly 98,000 participants in the 2023-2024 academic year, according to the Open Doors 2024 report. The proposed bill could force these students to leave the US immediately after graduation, disrupting their careers and financial stability, as many rely on OPT to repay hefty student loans.

If passed, the bill would severely limit job opportunities for Indian students, compelling them to seek work in countries with more accommodating post-study policies, like Canada or those in Europe. This could also negatively impact the US job market, especially in STEM fields, where international students play a crucial role in addressing



skill shortages. In response, many students are rushing to secure H-1B work visas, which are sponsored primarily by large tech companies. However, these visas are highly competitive, with a limited number of slots each year. Students are now scrambling to secure job offers that would enable them to apply for an H-1B visa before any changes take effect.

Legal experts, such as Poorvi Chothani of LawQuest, have stressed the urgency of the situation. The OPT program provides stu-

dents up to three years of work experience, but if the bill passes, many may be forced to leave the US immediately after graduation, losing valuable career opportunities.

Amidst this uncertainty, many students have cancelled summer travel plans, fearing they may not be allowed to re-enter the country. Prestigious institutions like Cornell and Yale have unofficially advised international students to avoid traveling home during breaks, further exacerbating the sense of instability.

## Girl Dies, 20 More Including Pawan Kalyan's Son Injured In Singapore School Fire

TPN Correspondent | Singapore

A devastating fire at a shophouse in Singapore's River Valley Road area resulted in the death of a 10-year-old girl and left 20 others injured on Tuesday. Among the injured was the seven-year-old son of Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan.

The fire broke out at a three-storey building that housed educational and enrichment classes for children, including cooking, theatre, and robotics schools. At the time of the incident, 16 children aged six to 10 and six adults were present in the building. The fire spread quickly through the second and third floors of the building, causing severe burns and smoke inhalation among the victims.

The police confirmed that the girl who died later in a hospital was among those rescued, though several others sustained significant injuries. Eyewitnesses described harrowing scenes, with some of the children unconscious, their eyes rolled back, and suffering from burns. Mark Shankar, Pawan Kalyan's



younger son, was injured with burns to his hands and legs and suffered from smoke inhalation but is currently receiving treatment.

The Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) responded swiftly, extinguishing the fire within 30 minutes using three water jets. They evacuated around 80 people from the building and surrounding areas. Approxi-

mately 20 individuals were taken to nearby hospitals for treatment.

A group of construction workers nearby acted quickly during the fire, using scaffolding and a ladder to rescue the trapped children. One of the workers, Subramanian Saranraj, expressed his concern for

the children, saying, "I was scared for the children, because they were so small and couldn't climb out on their own."

The cause of the fire is under investigation, and authorities have not suspected foul play. However, the tragedy has deeply impacted the local community, with many parents anxiously awaiting news about their children's safety.

## Fugitive Businessman Vijay Mallya Loses Appeal Against UK Bankruptcy Order

TPN Correspondent | London

Indian businessman Vijay Mallya lost his appeal against a bankruptcy order issued by London's High Court on Wednesday, concerning a debt of over £1 billion (\$1.28 billion) owed to several lenders, including the State Bank of India. Mallya, who resides in Britain, has been at the center of a prolonged legal dispute with both Indian authorities and financial institutions following the 2012 collapse of his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines.

In 2017, a group of banks obtained a ruling in India that held Mallya responsible for the massive debt tied to Kingfisher Airlines, for which he had personally guaranteed the loan. The judgment, totaling more than £1 billion, was later registered in the UK. This led to a bankruptcy order being issued against Mallya in 2021.

Mallya appealed the bankruptcy order, arguing during a February hearing that the banks had already recovered enough assets to effectively settle the debt. However, Judge Anthony Mann rejected his appeal on Tuesday, stating in his written ruling that "the bottom line... is that the bankruptcy order stands."

Mallya's legal team did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the latest ruling.

In addition to the bankruptcy case, Mallya is also facing extradition to India to stand trial for



fraud charges linked to the collapse of Kingfisher Airlines. His appeal against extradition was rejected in 2020. Despite this, Judge Mann noted in his ruling that the extradition order "has still not been enforced," adding that Mallya continues to resist extradition on other legal grounds that remain unresolved.

Mallya, who was also a co-owner of the Force India Formula One racing team, has been living in the UK since fleeing India in 2016, following allegations of financial mismanagement and defaulting on loans. The legal battle continues as both India and the UK work through the complex proceedings surrounding his case.

## Myanmar In Need Of Relief and Long Term Support After Quake: Thailand

TPN Correspondent | Myanmar

Myanmar remains in dire need of medical assistance, field hospitals, and shelter following the devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck the country on March 28. Thai Foreign Minister Maris Sangiampongsa highlighted the urgency of a coordinated regional relief effort and long-term support for Myanmar, which is still reeling from one of the strongest quakes to hit the region in a century.

The earthquake, which jolted a region home to 28 million people, caused massive destruction. Buildings collapsed, entire communities were flattened, and essential resources like food, water, and shelter became scarce. According to Myanmar's military government, the earthquake claimed 3,645 lives, left 5,017 people injured, and left 148 missing. Nearly 49,000 homes and over 2,100 government buildings were destroyed.

Maris, along with Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan, visited the quake-hit capital Naypyitaw on Saturday to assess the situation. In an interview, Maris emphasized the urgent need for field hospitals, as many existing medical facilities were unable to function at full capacity due to damage from the quake. Temporary shelters, mosquito nets, food, water filters, and clean water supplies are also crucial, with concerns rising about the spread of communicable diseases amid the intense summer heat. The United Nations Office for the Coordination



of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) commended the efforts of over 30 search-and-rescue teams from 13 countries who assisted in the immediate aftermath of the quake. While some teams have now departed, emergency aid continues to arrive, including a fifth batch from China, which brought 91 tonnes of supplies, including tents and mosquito nets.

The earthquake came at a time when Myanmar was already grappling with economic challenges and a civil war triggered by a military coup in 2021. The junta and rebel groups have declared temporary ceasefires to facilitate the relief effort, although tensions remain high.

Maris and his Malaysian counterpart are coordinating efforts for both immediate and long-term assistance, including reconstruction of the devastated areas. Thailand will focus on humanitarian work in Mandalay, while Malaysia will assist in the Sagaing region, both close to the earthquake's epicenter.

# "Markets Rattle Under Global Tariff Tensions; Sensex Sheds 379 Points, Nifty Falls 136 Despite RBI Rate Cut"

Domestic stock markets suffered heavy losses on Wednesday. The escalation of the tariff war between the US and China, negative signals from global markets, and expectations of disruption to the supply chain worldwide have increased negative sentiment in the market. Investors remained cautious even after the RBI cut interest rates as it was not known how long the uncertainty would last. The selling spree continued in the finance, IT, media, metal and pharma sectors. Overall, the Nifty lost 136 points and the Sensex lost 379 points. The India VIX also reached 21.43.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 74,227 in the previous session, opened at 74,103 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 73,673. It reached an intraday high of 74,103. It finally closed

at 73,847, losing 379 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,460, touched a low of 22,353 and a high of 22,468. It closed at 22,399, down 136 points. The

Nifty Bank fell 270 points to settle at 50,240. Of the Nifty50, 18 companies gained while 32 lost. Nestle India, Hindustan

Unilever, Titan, Power Grid, Tata Consumer were the top gainers. Wipro, SBI, Tech Mahindra, LT, Trent suffered the most losses. Meanwhile, the Fear Index India Vicks rose 4.8% to settle at 21.43. Today, all sectoral indices, except FMCG and consumer durables, turned red. Finance, IT, media, metal, pharma, PSU bank, private bank, realty, healthcare and oil indices were volatile.

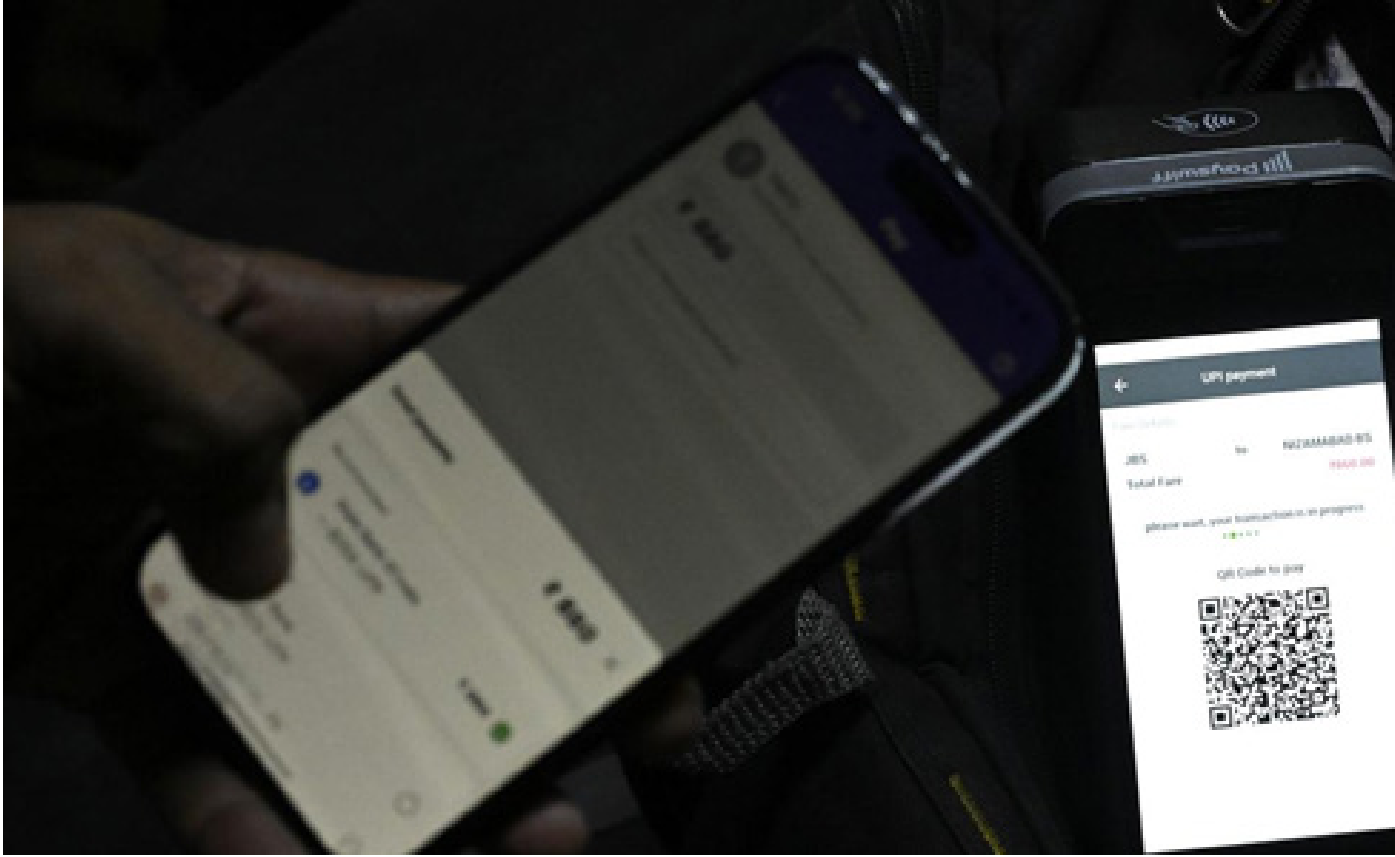
Market breadth on NSE turned in favour of sellers. Out of 2909 shares traded, 1083 gained and 1747 lost. 19 shares hit 52-week highs and 45 shares hit 52-week lows. 80 shares touched the upper circuit and 52 shares touched the lower circuit. Rupee weakened by 45 paise to settle at 86.69 against the dollar. 21

lakh shares changed hands in NICA. IDBI Bank shares rose after Deepam Secretary said that the disinvestment process is continuing steadily. APL Apollo Tubes issued commercial papers worth Rs 200 crore. ShilpaMedicare has been approved by the USFDA for Verinical tablets. William O'Neill has given a buy rating to Radico Khaitan. Investec has given a buy rating to Vedanta with a target price of Rs 510. 10 lakh shares changed hands in ITC. Shyam Metallic stainless steel sales grew by 13%. Home First Finance

has launched a QIP with the aim of raising Rs 1250 crore. Dam Capital has given a buy rating to Affil India with a target price of Rs 1730. RBI has cut the repo rate by 25 basis points.



## RBI Approves Revised UPI Transaction Limits for Person-to-Merchant Payments



Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has been permitted to increase transaction limits for Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments between persons and merchants (P2M), based on evolving user needs.

UPI, a real-time payment system, enables seamless transactions between bank accounts via mobile apps. Currently, the transaction limit for UPI payments, including both Person-to-Person (P2P) and Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transactions, is capped at ₹1 lakh. However, certain P2M transactions already have higher limits, with some set at ₹2 lakh and others at ₹5 lakh, depending on the use case.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra stated that NPCI will revise these limits in consultation with banks and other stakeholders in the UPI ecosystem to address the changing requirements of users. Appropriate safeguards will be introduced to mitigate risks associated with these higher transaction limits. It was emphasized that while P2M payments may see revised limits, P2P transactions will remain capped at ₹1 lakh.

In addition to the UPI update, Governor Malhotra outlined other key developments. The RBI is set to review guidelines related to loans against gold jewellery, aiming to harmonize regulations across regulated entities (REs) while considering their risk-taking capabilities.

Draft guidelines for public comment will be issued soon.

Furthermore, the RBI proposes to make the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) framework 'theme neutral' and available on-demand, promoting continuous innovation within India's rapidly evolving fintech space. The central bank also plans to introduce a draft framework for the securitization of stressed assets and expand the scope of co-lending arrangements among regulated entities.

The RBI's proactive approach to regulating the fintech and lending sectors aims to streamline processes and foster innovation while ensuring the stability of India's financial ecosystem.

## IRDAI Imposes ₹1.06 Crore Penalty on Flipkart for Insurance Norm Violations

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has imposed a total penalty of ₹1.06 crore on Flipkart for violations related to insurance e-commerce and corporate agent regulations. The fine comprises ₹1 crore for breaching the Insurance E-commerce Guidelines, 2017, and ₹6 lakh for selling insurance policies without a valid certificate of registration.

The penalty stems from Flipkart's improper use of its Insurance Self-Network Platform (ISNP), which was initially approved for facilitating direct online solicitation of insurance policies with insurers. However, regulatory investigations revealed that when users clicked on the "buy insurance" button on Flipkart's website, they were redirected to a third-party insurance intermediary's page to complete their purchase. IRDAI found that this redirection was not merely a form of advertisement but an unauthorized method of insurance solicitation, violating regulatory norms.

While Flipkart argued that it only provided advertising space for the intermediary and had no referral agreement, the regulator determined that the financial ar-

rangement went beyond advertising and constituted a violation. Following IRDAI's notice, Flipkart discontinued the redirection.

Additionally, Flipkart faced a ₹6 lakh fine for continuing to sell insurance policies after applying for the renewal of its registration certificate. The IRDAI clarified that the filing of a renewal application does not automatically extend registration, and selling policies without valid registration violated specific regulatory provisions.

IRDAI has directed Flipkart to pay the ₹1.06 crore fine within 45 days and informed the company's board of the decision. Flipkart has the option to appeal the order before the Securities Appellate Tribunal.

Although IRDAI imposed penalties for other violations, including the procurement of a large number of policies by a single individual, it refrained from pressing charges related to governance issues. Flipkart has committed to reviewing the order, maintaining its commitment to regulatory compliance and high governance standards.



# SEBI Forms High-Level Committee to Address Conflict of Interest in Securities Market Regulators



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has established a high-level committee (HLC) to review and address conflicts of interest among the board members and employees of securities market regulators. This decision follows a directive made at SEBI's board meeting last month.

In its circular, SEBI outlined that the committee would thoroughly assess and recommend improvements to the existing framework for managing conflicts of interest, disclosures, and related issues. The goal is to ensure higher standards of transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct among SEBI officials and board members.

The committee will be chaired by Pratyush Sinha, a former Chief Vigilance Commissioner, and will include several distinguished former bureaucrats and experts. Notable members of the committee include Inejit Srinivas, former Secretary at the Ministry of Corporate Affairs; G. Mahalingam, former Whole-Time Member of SEBI; Sarit Jafa, former Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General; Uday Kotak, founder of Kotak Mahindra Bank; and R. Narayanaswamy, former professor at IIM Bangalore.

The committee's mandate includes reviewing SEBI's current policies, identi-

fying any gaps, and recommending a comprehensive framework to mitigate conflicts of interest. It will also explore mechanisms that will allow the public to raise concerns regarding potential conflicts of interest within the securities market regulators.

This initiative is part of SEBI's ongoing efforts to enhance the integrity of the securities market by ensuring that its regulators uphold the highest standards of ethical behavior. The committee's recommendations will be pivotal in shaping future regulations aimed at fostering greater transparency and accountability within the sector.

# Teen Marries 41-Year-Old, Starts Family

In a story that’s both unconventional and heartwarming, a 19-year-old woman named Iyah from the United States has married a 41-year-old man, Rafah, defying societal norms and proving that love truly knows no age. The couple first met at a bar where Iyah was employed, leading Rafah to believe she was older due to her maturity and professional demeanor. It was only later that he learned she was just 19. Despite the 21-year age difference, their bond

grew stronger, culminating in marriage and the start of a family. The couple has since welcomed a child and actively shares their journey through their joint YouTube channel, “That’s So Raf & Iyah.” Their relationship has attracted significant attention online, sparking both criticism and praise. While some social media users have questioned the large age gap and raised concerns about compatibility and power dynamics, many others have come out

in support, celebrating their love and commitment. Supporters argue that as long as the relationship is built on mutual respect, understanding, and consent, age should not be a barrier to love. Iyah and Rafah have openly addressed the backlash, standing by the authenticity of their relationship and showing confidence in their decision to build a life together. Their story challenges traditional expectations that typically favor couples of similar age and highlights the

evolving nature of modern relationships. In an era where social media amplifies both admiration and scrutiny, the couple has embraced their journey with resilience and transparency. Whether viewed as controversial or inspirational, their union has certainly captured the attention of people around the world, reinforcing the idea that real connection often transcends numbers and that love, in its truest form, can emerge in the most unexpected ways.



## Mumbai Tops Uber's List of Forgetful Cities



In a quirky yet revealing roundup, Mumbai has earned the distinction of being India's most forgetful city, according to Uber's latest Lost and Found Index for 2024. The report, based on data gathered from rides across the country, showcases not only the frequency but also the variety of items left behind by riders—and Mumbai's list is both amusing and astonishing. While expected items like mobile phones, wallets, bags, and keys featured prominently, the city's residents also managed to forget some truly unexpected belongings, including a wheelchair, telescope, hair wig, a dog bark control device, and even a hawan kund (a fire altar used in Hindu rituals). In one of the more surprising discoveries, a rider even left behind a gold biscuit, and another forgot their entire wedding saree. Someone managed to misplace 25 kilograms of cow ghee, while another left a cooking stove behind in the cab. These strange but true tales have put Mumbai at the top, displacing Delhi, which had held the title for the past two years. The report also notes that Hyderabad ranked as the least forgetful city in India. Aside from the bizarre items, the most commonly forgotten essentials nationwide include earphones, spectacles, clothing, and even important documents. Uber's annual index not only serves as a humorous reminder of how distracted or hurried people can be during their daily commute but also emphasizes the scale at which such lapses occur. The company encourages users to double-check their belongings at the end of each trip and also provides a lost item feature within the app for recovery assistance. While the findings may seem comical, they underscore how fast-paced life in urban India has become—where even gold biscuits and wedding attire can be left behind in a rush.



## Retired Officer Attacked Over Waqf Bill

A retired Indian Army officer was allegedly attacked by a cab driver and his associates following a heated argument over the Waqf Amendment Bill during a road trip from Lucknow to Kanpur. The incident took place on April 5 in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh. The victim, Colonel Surya Prakash Singh (Retd), currently serving as the head of the District Sainik Welfare Board in Kanpur, had hired a private cab for the journey. According to Singh's complaint, the confrontation began during a political discussion with the driver, identified as Wasim from Begumpurwa in Kanpur. Singh said the situation escalated after he expressed support for the Waqf Amendment Bill, which appeared to provoke the driver. Following the argument, Wasim allegedly stopped the vehicle at the Azad Nagar intersection in Unnao and called his associates. A group of men arrived soon after and reportedly assaulted the retired officer along with the driver. Singh subsequently lodged a formal complaint with the local police against Wasim and the unidentified attackers. Authorities have registered a case and launched an investigation into the matter. The assault, believed to be fueled by ideological differences, has raised concerns over growing intolerance surrounding political and religious opinions. The Waqf Amendment Bill has been a topic of national debate, with strong sentiments on both sides, and this incident underscores the volatility such discussions can provoke. Police officials have confirmed that an inquiry is underway and assured that appropriate legal action will follow based on the evidence and testimonies gathered. No arrests have been made so far. As the investigation progresses, the case continues to draw attention as an alarming example of discourse turning into violence.

## Wife Publicly Assaults Husband Over Joblessness

In a deeply unsettling incident that has gone viral on social media, a woman was captured on camera physically assaulting a man, reportedly her husband, in a public place. The video, which has stirred intense debate online, shows the woman holding the man aggressively by his collar and repeatedly slapping him while berating him for not earning. The altercation took place in front of a shop, and although a crowd gathered around the scene, no one stepped in to stop the violence or even question the woman's actions. The clip clearly captures her shouting that he doesn't contribute financially, using his alleged unemployment as a justification for the assault. The man, visibly passive and humiliated, did not retaliate, further intensifying public sympathy and concern. What shocked viewers even more was the complete lack of intervention from bystanders, raising questions about societal apathy and the perception of male victims in cases of domestic abuse. As the video spread rapidly across platforms like X (formerly Twitter), users expressed outrage, asking, “Who gave her the right?” and emphasizing that violence cannot be tolerated under any circumstance, regardless of gender. Many netizens condemned the



act, calling for accountability and urging that domestic abuse be recognized and addressed with gender neutrality. The incident has reignited conversations around men facing abuse in relationships—an often overlooked issue that remains largely unspoken due to social stigma. Legal experts and activists have

also weighed in, pointing out the urgent need for balanced discourse and protection for all victims of domestic violence. As of now, authorities have not made an official statement on the incident, but growing online pressure could prompt a formal response or investigation in the coming days.

## Texas Lawyer's \$1M Birthday Giveaway



In a gesture that has left the internet stunned, prominent Texas attorney Thomas J. Henry has announced that he will be giving away \$1 million to strangers to celebrate his birthday. The well-known lawyer, often associated with high-profile cases and lavish parties, revealed on Instagram that he is

forgoing the usual extravagant celebrations this year. Instead, Henry said he wanted to mark his birthday—April 5—by doing something meaningful and giving back to the community. In a video message posted to his official social media accounts, he shared that this decision came from a deep sense of

gratitude toward those who have supported him throughout his life and career. The Instagram posts immediately caught fire online, with users praising his selfless act and calling it a rare example of generosity in a world often dominated by materialism and showmanship. While the exact mechanism for how the \$1 million will be distributed has not yet been made public, Henry's announcement sparked massive interest, with thousands of comments flooding in from people all over the country. Many lauded him not only for his charitable mindset but also for using his personal celebration to spotlight the value of kindness and giving. Social media users described the initiative as inspiring and uplifting, with some hoping this might set a trend among other wealthy public figures. Known for his philanthropic efforts in the past, this bold birthday gesture has only cemented Henry's reputation as a generous and socially conscious figure. As the details of the giveaway unfold, many are watching closely to see how this extraordinary promise will be executed. One thing is certain: Thomas J. Henry's birthday celebration has already made a mark far beyond cakes and candles.

## US Woman Marries Andhra Man

In a heartwarming story that has captured the internet's imagination, a woman from the United States traveled all the way to a remote village in Andhra Pradesh, India, to marry the love of her life. Jaclyn Forero, a professional photographer, and Chandan, a young man from Andhra, first connected on Instagram when their relationship began with a simple “Hi.” Despite the cultural differences and a nine-year age gap—Jaclyn being older—the two bonded over genuine conversations and emotional connection. Their long-distance love blossomed over 14 months of virtual dating, filled with shared experiences, heartfelt chats, and growing admiration. What started as a casual conversation eventually turned into a deep and committed relationship. Touched by Chandan's simplicity and authenticity, Jaclyn made the bold decision to travel thousands of miles to meet him in person for the first time—and to marry him. Their meeting in Andhra Pradesh culminated in a beautiful and emotional moment, as they decided to begin their new journey together as husband and wife. Sharing



the news with her followers, Jaclyn posted on Instagram: “14 months together and ready for a BIG new chapter,” signaling their next step as a couple. Their story has since gone viral, winning hearts across the globe for its sincerity and fairytale-like essence. Social media users have been showering the couple



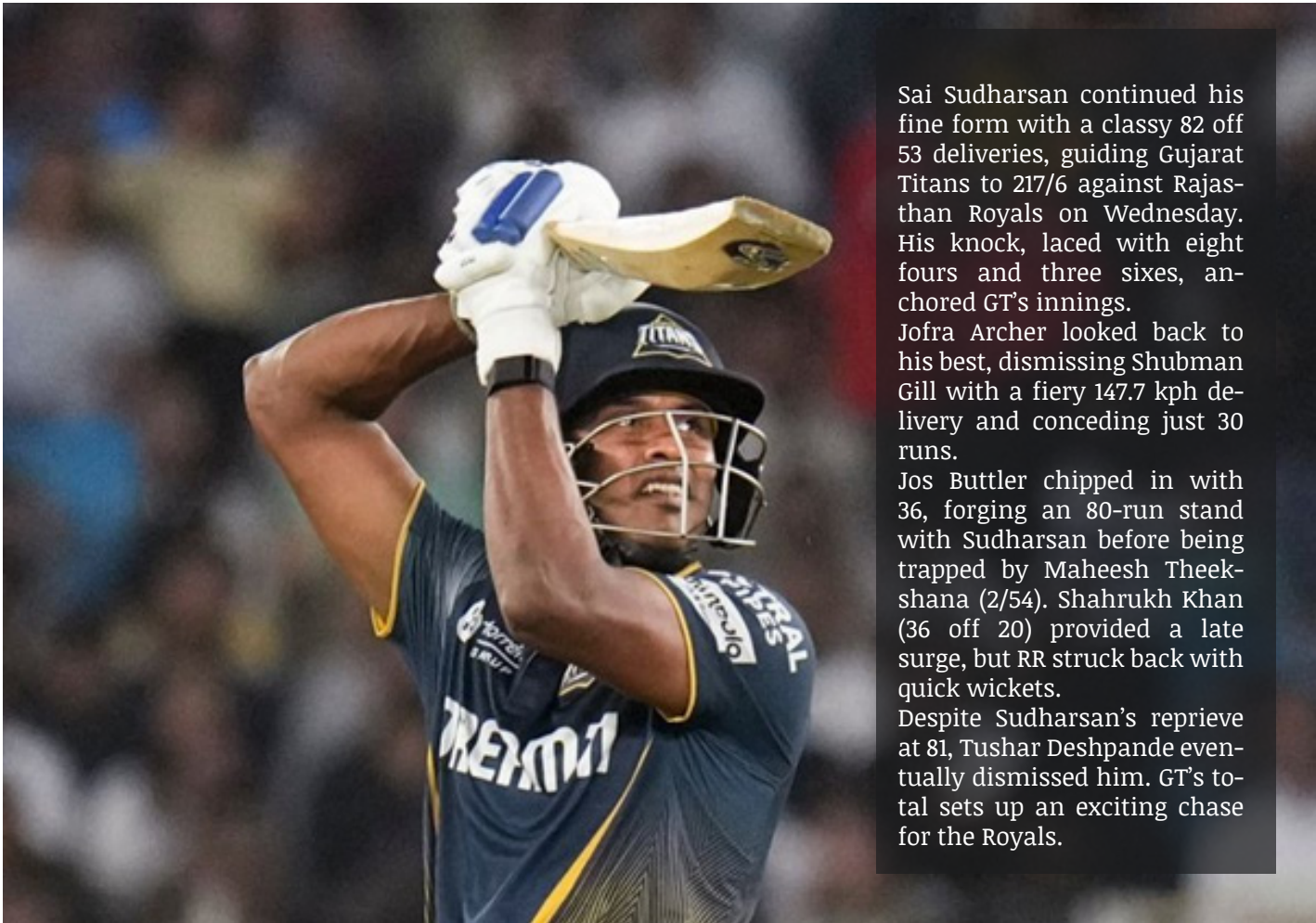
with love and well wishes, calling their bond an inspiring example of love that knows no boundaries—be it geography, culture, or age. The couple's journey has not only become a trending topic but also a reminder that true love can bloom anywhere, even between two people from opposite sides of the world.



## Much-Awaited Pro Panja League Season 2 to Begin on August 5

The adrenaline-packed Pro Panja League is all set to make its much-anticipated return with Season 2 kicking off on August 5, right after the conclusion of India's Test series against England on August 4. The competition will once again be telecast on Sony Sports Network, bringing top arm wrestlers from across the country into the spotlight. Following a successful debut season, which saw Kochi KD's clinch the title in a nail-biting final, the Pro Panja League will follow a franchise-based IPL-style format across 17 action-filled days. With a strong base already established, the league aims to grow even further this year. According to BARC data, Season 1 attracted over 32 million unique viewers, outperforming many new sports leagues in India. The momentum is now set to continue, with fans eagerly awaiting the clash of power, skill, and strategy on the panja table. Parvinn Dabass, co-founder of the league, expressed enthusiasm over the response the league has garnered. "We were overwhelmed with the response to Season 1. Arm wrestling has grown immensely since then, and Season 2 is going to be even bigger. Athletes are more prepared, and fans can expect unmatched entertainment." He also highlighted the recent Mizoram Mega Matches, where attendance surged between 15,000 to 20,000, reflecting the sport's growing fan base. "This is no longer just a game played at tea stalls—it's now a full-fledged professional sport."

## Sai Sudharsan's 82 Powers Gujarat Titans to 217/6 Against Royals



Sai Sudharsan continued his fine form with a classy 82 off 53 deliveries, guiding Gujarat Titans to 217/6 against Rajasthan Royals on Wednesday. His knock, laced with eight fours and three sixes, anchored GT's innings. Jofra Archer looked back to his best, dismissing Shubman Gill with a fiery 147.7 kph delivery and conceding just 30 runs. Jos Buttler chipped in with 36, forging an 80-run stand with Sudharsan before being trapped by Maheesh Theekshana (2/54). Shahrukh Khan (36 off 20) provided a late surge, but RR struck back with quick wickets. Despite Sudharsan's reprieve at 81, Tushar Deshpande eventually dismissed him. GT's total sets up an exciting chase for the Royals.



### ISPL Sensation Abhishek Dalhor Joins KKR as Net Bowler for IPL

After two stellar seasons in the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL), all-rounder Abhishek Kumar Dalhor has been selected by Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) as a net bowler for the ongoing IPL season. Dalhor, hailing from Ambala, rose to prominence with Majhi Mumbai, the Amitabh Bachchan-owned team, and played a key role in their title-winning campaign in ISPL Season 2. He amassed 324 runs and took 33 wickets in just 19 games, earning accolades such as Player of the Tournament (Season 1) and Best Bowler (Season 2). His inspiring journey—from street tennis-ball cricket to becoming the most expensive player in ISPL history—reflects the league's impact on grassroots cricket.

## Telangana Police Marksmen Bag 7 Medals at National Shooting Championship

Telangana Police shooting players brought pride to the state by winning 7 medals at the 18th All India Police Sports Shooting Championship held at Reoti Ranges, BSF, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, from March 24 to 29, 2025.

In the individual event, PC E. Raj Kumar from 8th Battalion TGSP, Kondapur, won a silver medal in the Big Bore 300 mts Rifle 3 Position (3P) Men's category with a score of 572/600. The women's team – WASI V. Suvarna (CP Warangal), WRHC M. Vijayamma (GRP Secunderabad), and

WPC Ch. Madhavi (CAR Nizamabad) – bagged 3 silver medals in the Big Bore 300 mts Rifle Prone Team Event.

In the men's team event, ARSI K. Srinivas Rao (RBVRR, TGPA), HC K. Shyam Sunder (ISW, Hyderabad), and PC K. Raj Kumar (DAR Kamareddy) secured 3 bronze medals in the same category.

DGP Dr. Jitender, IPS, congratulated and felicitated the medal winners. IGP (Sports) M. Ramesh and DSP (Sports) Ramarao were present



during the event, lauding the players' dedication and performance.



## Uttarakhand CM Flags Off Team for Khelo Masters National Championship

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami flagged off the state contingent for the fourth Khelo Masters National Championship from his Camp Office on Wednesday. The national-level tournament will take place in New Delhi from April 11 to 13 and features competitions across eight disciplines including athletics, football, basketball, hockey, shooting, badminton, table tennis, and volleyball. The Chief Minister extended best wishes to all participants and credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for boosting sports culture and infrastructure across India. He noted that Uttarakhand's new sports policy is focused on supporting athletes through better facilities and opportunities. The Uttarakhand team will participate under the leadership of Dr. Virendra Singh Rawat, Vice President of the Khelo Masters Games Foundation of Uttarakhand. Athletes from three age groups—40+, 50+, and 60+—will represent the state in football, while athletics will include participants from the 40+ and 70+ categories. Several dignitaries and sports enthusiasts were present during the flag-off ceremony, expressing support for the team's success at the national championship.

## Gloves Off, Legacy On: WLF Confirms Return of Bare Knuckle Fighting in Dubai this November



In a bold move that reshaped the global fight calendar, the World League of Fighters (WLF), in partnership with the Dubai Sports Council, successfully hosted Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship (BKFC) 71 and 72 at the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Stadium on April 4th and 5th. The back-to-back events featured 44 elite fighters in two electrifying nights of bare-knuckle action, marking the sport's official entry into the Middle East. Co-founders Rajesh Banga and Sunil Mathew called it a "new legacy for combat sports," as fans embraced the unfiltered brutality and authenticity that bare-knuckle fighting offers. UFC legend Conor McGregor's high-profile attendance gave the event a global boost. With the response exceeding expectations, WLF has now confirmed that Chapter 2 of BKFC in Dubai will return in November 2025. Backed by international icons and the Dubai Sports Council, WLF is on a mission to make the UAE the epicentre of combat sports' most explosive new chapter.

## DSC Girls' U-17 Nationals: Jharkhand Score 6 in Goal Fest

The Dream Sports Championship Football 2025 Girls' U-17 National Finals kicked off on Wednesday with a flurry of exciting matches and standout performances. Jharkhand FA lit up the day with a resounding 6-2 victory over Goa FA at the Utorada Sports Complex. Rashmi Minz opened the scoring, while captain Alka Indwar, Sanjna Oraon, Anamika Sangga (brace), and Shaulina Dang added to the tally in a dominant display. At SAG Benaulim, Kerala FA secured a 2-0 win over Delhi SA with goals from Meenakshi and Anjana Rajesh. Odisha FA edged past Rajasthan FA 1-0, thanks to a 44th-minute strike by Kiran Deep. In the morning session, Assam FA defeated Karnataka FA 2-0. Karina Narah and Serbirika Terangpi were on target for Assam, sealing a strong start in the tournament.





## NTR-Neel Film Enters Key Phase

The much-anticipated collaboration between Jr. NTR and director Prashanth Neel, famed for KGF and Salaar, is gaining momentum. Touted as a massive action drama, the film's production is progressing swiftly. While NTR hasn't been part of the initial shoot, the wait is nearly over—he will join the sets from April 22. This marks a crucial turning point in the project, with excitement peaking among fans eager to see this powerful duo in action. The film, mounted on a grand scale, is set for a pan-India release in multiple languages including Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Kannada,



Malayalam, and more. With both star power and directorial flair in abundance, expectations are sky-

high for what promises to be one of Indian cinema's most explosive cinematic events.

## Rajamouli Eyes RRR Date Again

Director S.S. Rajamouli is reportedly planning to release his highly anticipated film SSMB29, starring Mahesh Babu, on March 25, 2027—the same date his global blockbuster RRR hit theatres in 2022. The action-adventure, touted as India's costliest film with a massive ₹1,000 crore budget, began production in January 2025. Two major schedules have already been completed in Hyderabad and Odisha, featuring stars like Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Prithviraj Sukumaran. The team is currently on a short break, with filming set to resume in Hyderabad later this month. March 25, 2027, lands just ahead of the Good Friday holiday and the Telugu New Year, Ugadi, offering a lucrative extended weekend. While not officially confirmed, the release date speculation has already created buzz across the film industry and fans alike.

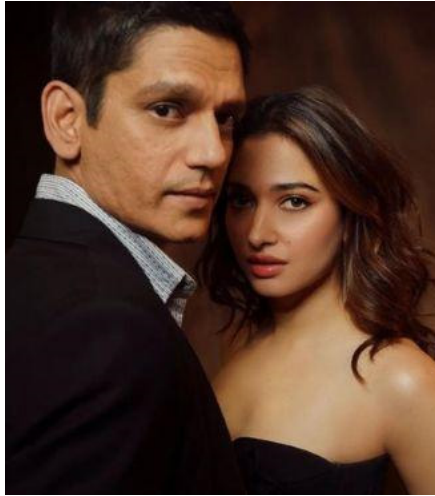


## Dhanush, Mari Selvaraj Reunite For D56



Four years after the critically acclaimed Karnan, Dhanush and director Mari Selvaraj are reuniting for their next film, tentatively titled D56. Announced on April 9, the project marks a powerful comeback for the celebrated actor-director duo. The film is being produced by Ishari Ganesh under the Vels Films International banner. Karnan, released in 2021, was praised for its raw storytelling and intense social themes, with Dhanush delivering one of his finest performances. The news of their reunion has stirred excitement among fans and cinephiles, who expect another hard-hitting narrative. Currently, Dhanush is also filming Tere Ishk Mein with Kriti Sanon, directed by Aanand L. Rai, with music by A.R. Rahman. With D56, Dhanush is all set to add another milestone to his stellar filmography.

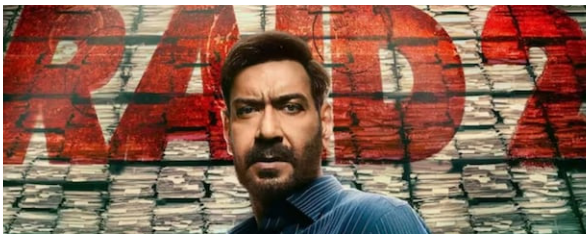
## Tamannaah Opens Up on Tough Time



At the trailer launch of her upcoming Telugu film Odela 2 in Mumbai, Tamannaah Bhatia hinted at going through an emotional rough patch, possibly linked to her rumored breakup with Vijay Var-

ma. Though she didn't name anyone, her cryptic response about inner strength and self-reflection spoke volumes. "Jo bhi hume chahiye, woh humare andar hi hota hai," she said, implying that healing comes from within. Meanwhile, in another headline-making revelation, Om Puri's first wife shared that she left the veteran actor during her pregnancy due to his affair, adding a dramatic twist to the late actor's personal history. Both stories have sparked buzz, highlighting how deeply personal moments continue to unfold in the public eye of Indian cinema.

## Raashii Khanna Cheers for Raid 2



Actress Raashii Khanna has joined the growing excitement surrounding Raid 2, starring Ajay Devgn, Vaani Kapoor, and Riteish Deshmukh. After the gripping trailer dropped on April 4, Raashii took to Instagram to share her reaction, calling it "intense and fierce" and added she's "looking forward" to watching it. Directed by Raj Kumar Gupta, Raid 2 is all set to release on May 1 and continues the legacy of its successful predecessor. With powerful visuals and a taut storyline, the film is already generating major buzz. Raashii, who recently starred in The Sabarmati Report, also tagged the lead actors in her post, giving a shoutout to the team as anticipation builds for the action-packed drama.

Urvashi Rautela just set the style bar sky-high as the stunning cover girl of Masala Magazine. Ditching filters for fierce realness, she rocked a glittering golden low-neck gown that shimmered with every move. Adding to the glam was a bold thigh-high slit, a sleek silver necklace, and a voluminous curly high bun that channeled retro diva energy with a chic modern twist. Her look was a perfect mix of elegance, edge, and full-on drama—turning heads and stealing spotlights effortlessly. With this sizzling photoshoot, Urvashi proves once again that she doesn't just follow trends—she creates moments.

## Urvashi Rautela's Golden Glam Bomb

