



# NIA's First Statement After Tahawwur Rana Extradition

- 26/11 Mumbai attacks accused Tahawwur Rana extradited from the US to India
- NIA says years of sustained efforts led to the extradition
- US courts, including Supreme Court, rejected all of Rana’s appeals
- Rana accused of conspiring with David Headley and Pakistan-based terror groups

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Tahawwur Hussain Rana, one of the key conspirators in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, has been extradited to India from the United States and landed in Delhi on Thursday. This marks a major development in India’s pursuit of justice for the victims of the deadly attacks that killed 166 people and injured over 238. The National Investigation Agency (NIA), in its first official statement after the extradition, said that Rana’s return to India is the result of

“sustained and concerted efforts to bring the key conspirator behind the 2008 mayhem to justice.” Rana, who was held in judicial custody in the US, had faced extradition proceedings initiated under the India-US Extradition Treaty. The process reached its final stage after the US District Court for the Central District of California ordered his extradition on May 16, 2023. Following the ruling, Rana filed multiple appeals—including in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the US Supreme Court, and various petitions such as writs of certiorari and habeas corpus—all of which were dismissed. With full cooperation from the US Department of Justice, the extradition process culminated in Rana being flown to India on a special aircraft. The NIA, along with Indian intelligence agencies, the National Security Guard (NSG), Ministry of External Affairs, and Ministry of Home Affairs, worked in tandem to bring him back. Rana is accused of collaborating with David Coleman Headley alias Daood Gilani, as well as Pakistan-based terror groups including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Harkat-ul-Jihadi Islami (HUJI), in orchestrating the 26/11 attacks. The attacks targeted prominent locations in Mumbai including the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, and Nariman House. This extradition is considered a critical breakthrough in India’s ongoing efforts to bring all perpetrators of the 26/11 attacks to justice.



# CM Naidu Stresses Need For Ground-level Execution of Approved Investments

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday underscored that the real success of attracting investments lies not just in signing MoUs but in ensuring that approved projects begin production as scheduled. Chairing the fifth meeting of the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) at the Secretariat, the Chief Minister directed officials to closely track the implementation of each approved project. He insisted that every industry must be asked for a firm timeline on when production will begin and that its phase-wise progress must be monitored regularly. The SIPB gave the green light to investment proposals from 17 companies, amounting to Rs 31,167 crore across sectors such as Infrastructure and Construction, food processing, IT, and energy. These projects are expected to generate 32,633 jobs. The Chief Minister asked for a detailed update at the next SIPB meeting on how many of these units have begun operations and how many jobs have actually been created. He also instructed officials to develop a

portal that transparently displays job creation data, with information on which company has provided how many jobs and to whom. Minister for Education, IT, and Electronics Nara Lokesh, who participated in the meeting, urged the Chief Minister to consider allotting land to IT companies at nominal rates to boost investment in the sector. The Chief Minister responded positively and instructed officials to amend the state’s IT policy to facilitate this move. Since the formation of the NDA-led government in the state, five SIPB meetings have been held, approving investments worth Rs 4,71,379 crore from 57 organisations, with an estimated employment potential of 4,17,188 jobs. In contrast, the previous government held only five SIPB meetings in five years. Among the projects approved on Thursday were Mahamaaya Industries Limited in Vizianagaram district (Rs 2,063 crore, 1,000 jobs), Premier Energies Limited at MP SEZ, Naidupet (Rs 4,200 crore, 1,500 jobs), and LG Vendors at Sri City in Tirupati district (Rs 839 crore, 692 jobs), along with approvals for 14 other companies.



# YS Jagan Alleges Police Threatened MPTCs, Slams Chandrababu’s Governance

- Former CM accuses police of threatening MPTCs and acting unfairly during elections
- Claims Chandrababu government is using police “worse than watchmen”
- Asserts YSRCP won 39 out of 50 MPP seats held under fair conditions

2 PAGE |



# Mark Shankar Returns Home Safely, Chiranjeevi Credits Anjaneyaswamy’s Grace

Megastar Chiranjeevi says Mark Shankar still needs time to fully recover. Attributes the child’s survival to divine grace on the eve of Hanuman Jayanti. Thanks the public for prayers and blessings on behalf of Pawan Kalyan’s family.

2 PAGE |

# LIQUOR SYNDICATES THRIVE IN ELURU DISTRICT WITH POLITICAL PATRONAGE

- Liquor shops in Eluru and rural areas operating 24/7, violating sale hours
- ATL (Any Time Liquor) and illegal belt shops booming across mandals
- Political leaders, including MLAs, allegedly backing liquor syndicates
- Liquor sold at Rs 10–30 above MRP, shop owners pooling money for public reps
- Excise, police officials remain inactive despite widespread violations



TPN B. K. Kishore | Eluru

The liquor business in Eluru district has become a free-for-all, with licensed shops and belt shops flouting all regulations under the nose of authorities. With the state’s new liquor policy enabling auctions to private individuals, traders have formed syndicates and are running their businesses round the clock, earning crores of rupees daily. Eluru and surrounding mandals like Chintalapudi, Kaikaluru, Jangareddygudem, and Nujiveedu are witnessing a surge in liquor sales, aided by the rise of ATL (Any Time Liquor) counters that operate beyond permitted hours. While official timings restrict liquor sales from 10 AM to 10 PM, several licensed shops remain open even past midnight. Behind these outlets, makeshift counters continue sales throughout the night, often without any permit rooms.

2 PAGE |





# Mark Shankar...

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Megastar Chiranjeevi shared a heartfelt update on Thursday, confirming that Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's son, Mark Shankar, has safely returned home. In an emotional post on social media platform 'X', Chiranjeevi said, "Our child Mark Shankar has come home. However, he still needs to recover."

With Hanuman Jayanti being observed this week, Chiranjeevi expressed deep spiritual gratitude for what he described as a divine rescue. "On Friday is Hanuman Jayanti. With the grace and blessings of our caste god Anjaneyaswamy, the Lord saved our child from a great tragedy and stood by us," he wrote.

Chiranjeevi also conveyed heartfelt thanks to the public, acknowledging the widespread concern and support shown by people from across the states. "Everyone in our villages and areas prayed for the well-being of Mark Shankar. Your blessings gave us strength," he said.

He extended gratitude on behalf of himself, Pawan Kalyan, and the entire family, saying, "We are truly thankful to everyone who kept Mark Shankar in their prayers and wished for his speedy recovery."

The megastar's message offered a sense of relief and hope to fans and well-wishers of the Mega family, many of whom had been anxiously awaiting positive news about Mark Shankar's condition. While the child is now back home, Chiranjeevi clarified that his recovery journey is still ongoing, and further prayers and support would be deeply appreciated.

As the family marks Hanuman Jayanti with renewed faith, they continue to stand strong, holding on to the belief that divine grace and collective goodwill will ensure Mark Shankar's full recovery.

# CM Naidu Orders Crackdown on Dog Menace as Dog Bite Cases Cross 7 Lakh Since 2022



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Following the tragic death of a child in a stray dog attack on April 6 in Guntur, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has ordered an intensified crackdown on the stray dog menace across Andhra Pradesh. Expressing deep concern during a high-level review meeting, the CM directed officials to fast-track Animal Birth Control (ABC) and Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV) efforts in all urban local bodies (ULBs).

Data from the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) reveals a shocking 7,05,555 dog bite cases in the state since 2022, with 59,725 cases already reported in

the first three months of 2025 alone. Despite the scale of the issue, only 68,192 of the estimated 3,43,656 stray dogs in the state have been sterilized.

Principal Secretary of Municipal Administration and Urban Development, S. Suresh Kumar, instructed all ULB commissioners to immediately implement the ABC program as per the ABC Rules, 2023. High-risk areas, schools, slums, residential colonies, and public institutions are to be prioritized. He stressed the importance of expediting fund release for service providers and ensuring proper documentation of sterilization, vaccination, and post-surgical care. Kumar also urged public

awareness campaigns in collaboration with NGOs and appealed to citizens to avoid feeding stray dogs in public spaces and prevent open garbage dumping.

The Director of Animal Husbandry, who serves as the Member Secretary of the Animal Welfare Board and State ABC Monitoring Committee nodal officer, has been tasked with coordinating efforts between municipal bodies and animal welfare groups. The CM also ordered the immediate recruitment of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and Assistant Directors to ensure swift implementation of control measures, emphasizing community involvement for lasting impact.

## YS Jagan Alleges Police...

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

YSRCP chief and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has once again made sharp allegations against the Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition government, accusing it of misusing the police force and creating fear among elected representatives. Addressing YSRCP leaders and activists of the undivided Kurnool district, Jagan said the police had threatened Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) members, forcing them to approach the court for protection. He said, "MPTCs pleaded for police protection as they feared for their lives. The court responded by directing the police to escort them to the election hall. However, in Ramagiri, the police behaved unfairly and failed to implement the court's orders properly."

Continuing his attack, Jagan accused the government of manipulating local body elections to suppress the YSRCP's strength. "MPP elections were postponed in seven areas where the ruling alliance sensed defeat. Still, elections were held in 50 places under fair conditions and YSRCP won in 39," he noted.

Lashing out at Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Jagan predicted that he would not secure even a single-digit tally in the upcoming elections. "If anyone behaves arrogantly, believing they have power, God and the people will respond in kind," he said, accusing Chandrababu of lacking dignity and governance sense. Referring to his previous controversial statements against the police, Jagan reiterated his stance by saying the current government is using the police force "worse than watchmen." He slammed the state's administration, calling it a "Red Book rule" and accused the government of cheating every section of society, especially after presenting two budgets without fulfilling promises.

# LIQUOR SYNDICATES THRIVE...

Continued from page 1

Adding to the issue, belt shops—illegally attached to licensed outlets—have flooded rural areas. Despite the blatant violations, excise and police officials remain indifferent. Sources reveal that this inaction is due to political pressure, as several MLAs and ruling party leaders are allegedly supporting these illegal setups.

Eluru district alone houses 144 private liquor shops and 20 bars, while Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district has 169 shops and 10 bars. Combined, these districts reportedly register liquor sales worth Rs 8 to 11 crore per day.

What's more alarming is the organized syndicate operation. Liquor is being sold at Rs 10 above MRP in licensed shops and Rs 20–30 extra per quarter in belt shops. Shop owners reportedly share Rs 2 per bottle with local political representatives, resulting in substantial daily kickbacks.

With the liquor trade turning into a powerful underground economy backed by political clout, officials appear reluctant to act, and in some cases, are suspected of collusion.

## APSAC to be Strengthened for Real-time Disaster Response, Says Nara Lokesh



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh said the Andhra Pradesh Space Applications Centre (APSAC) would be strengthened and made more efficient. The Minister held a review meeting with APSAC officials at his residence in Undavalli.

During the meeting, officials briefed him on various ongoing and upcoming projects of APSAC. Asserting the importance of timely and accurate data, Nara Lokesh stated that APSAC should play a key role in providing real-time information to the government during disasters such as floods and cyclones. He directed the department to work in close coordi-

nation with the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority.

He also stressed the need for seamless coordination among all government departments and called for the use of GIS data analytics to identify and address problems effectively. The Minister suggested that quality and accurate GIS data be sourced from reputed agencies such as ISRO and Google.

IT, Electronics, and Communications Secretary Katamaneni Bhaskar, IFS Special Secretary B. Sundar, and scientists A. Kannan, G. Prasad Rao, Vani, and Sudheer were among those present at the meeting.



## Centre Pushes for UNESCO Tag, Sustainable Development at Gandikota Geo-heritage Site

TPN Correspondent | YSR Kadapa

In a key move toward conserving India's geological treasures, V.L. Kantha Rao, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Mines, visited the Gandikota Geo-heritage site in YSR Kadapa district on Thursday. The visit included a review meeting with stakeholders held at the Adventure Sports Complex in Gandikota, aimed at enhancing conservation and promoting sustainable geo-tourism. The event, hosted by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Andhra Pradesh State Unit, was organized in collaboration with multiple departments including the Department of Mines & Geology, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Ministry of Tourism, APTDC, and the district administration.

Speaking on the occasion, Kantha Rao explained the importance of sustainable development and high-

lighted efforts underway to seek UNESCO recognition for Gandikota as a geo-heritage site of global importance. He also advocated for collective stakeholder coordination and encouraged the use of 'Bhuvirasat,' a dedicated app for India's geo-heritage conservation.

Presentations by GSI's Snigdha Ghatk and APTDC officials outlined Gandikota's geological and tourism potential, while ASI's Janhvi Sharma recommended submission of a proposal to classify Gandikota as a mixed natural-cultural heritage site, warning against unregulated anthropological activity.

Local MLA Ch. Adinarayan Reddy requested the sustainable development of Gandikota and nearby areas. The Ministry of Tourism assured that key infrastructure works would be implemented by December 2026.

## AP Govt to Introduce Common Entrance Test for Nursing Admissions

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a significant move to reform nursing education, the state government has decided to streamline the admissions process, establish a statutory examination board, and review the tuition fee structure, aiming to ensure quality education and transparency. The announcements followed a three-hour meeting chaired by Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav with representatives from the Andhra Pradesh Nursing College Management Association at Dr. NTR Medical University on Thursday.

For the first time, a Nursing Common Entrance Examination (NCEE) will be introduced from the academic year 2025–26, with the exam scheduled for the second week of June each year. The admission process will begin in April and conclude by July, shifting the academic calendar forward from the usual November start. "This is a student-friendly reform aimed at reducing delays and irregularities

in admissions," Minister Yadav said.

Over 13,000 students enroll annually in B.Sc Nursing programs across the state. Currently, admissions are made through marks-based selection or competitive exams like NEET and EAMCET. The new online NCEE will apply to students with BIPC backgrounds, and similar reforms will soon apply to GNM (General Nursing and Midwifery) admissions, with a statutory Board of Examinations proposed to oversee the process.

Nursing college representatives raised concerns over the low annual fee structure Rs. 15,000 for GNM and Rs. 19,000 for B.Sc Nursing saying it hinders quality education. The Minister assured a comprehensive review of the fee regulations.

The association also flagged confusion caused by 52 existing GOs regulating nursing colleges, many with overlapping or contradictory provisions. Minister Yadav directed officials to draft a unified GO within three months to streamline regulations.

## Minister Narayana Urges Municipalities to Prioritize Public Services

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana on Thursday directed municipal commissioners across Andhra Pradesh to prioritize essential public services and strengthen urban governance. Speaking at a workshop held at the School of Planning and Architecture, Narayana stressed the importance of improving sanitation, tax efficiency, and service delivery in rapidly growing urban areas.

The Minister highlighted a ₹500 crore increase in tax revenue this year and praised municipal officials for their efforts. He emphasized that while revenue must grow, it should not burden the poor. Instead, the focus must be on improving solid and liquid waste management, clean drinking water supply, road maintenance, and street lighting.

Applauding Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's move to allow municipalities to retain their own revenue, Narayana termed it a significant step towards empowering local bodies. He cautioned against diverting funds to non-essential infrastructure and urged focus on citizen welfare. Referring to the recent dog bite incident in Guntur, the Minister announced a 200-day target for statewide dog sterilization, assuring government support to municipalities for necessary infrastructure.

Drawing from his previous term, Narayana cited Nellore Municipality's success in achieving a ₹40 crore surplus without raising taxes, by plugging leakages and improving efficiency. He also stressed the need for mechanization and adoption of best practices from cities like Bengaluru. The Minister noted that 85 lakh tonnes of legacy waste must be cleared by October 2, following CM's orders.



## MP Purandeswari Condemns Jagan's Remarks on Police, Demands Apology

- **BJP MP Purandeswari criticized YS Jagan for his objectionable comments on police personnel**
- **She stated that police officers earn their jobs through merit and dedication**
- **Demanded an immediate apology from Jagan to the entire police force, including 5,000 women officers**

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

BJP State President and MP Daggubati Purandeswari strongly condemned former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's recent comments targeting the police department. Addressing the media, she expressed deep disapproval over Jagan's remarks, stating that the police force works tirelessly to maintain law and order and deserves respect, not ridicule or threats. Purandeswari emphasized that every police officer has earned their position through personal merit, rigorous training, and years of hard work, not through favors or political influence. She asserted that the integrity of the police must not be questioned for po-



litical gain, especially by those who have held positions of high responsibility. "It is not acceptable for someone like Jagan to single out such officers and speak as if they should be punished or beaten," she remarked. Purandeswari noted that comments of this nature can demoralize officers who risk their lives daily to ensure public safety. She highlighted that the Andhra Pradesh police force includes over 5,000 women officers, whose contributions are vital and commendable. She firmly demanded that YS Jagan

issue a public apology to the entire police force. "Insulting those who uphold the law is a dangerous precedent. Such irresponsible statements harm the morale of the department and shake the confidence of the people in law enforcement," she added. Purandeswari also reminded that the role of police is foundational in a democratic society, and politicians should be cautious in their words and actions. She reiterated BJP's support for the police force and stated that the party stands by every officer working for the welfare and safety of citizens.

## Minister Kollu Ravindra Demands Criminal Case Against Jagan for Police Remarks

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

State Minister Kollu Ravindra strongly condemned former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's recent controversial statement against the police, demanding that a criminal case be filed for threatening to "strip the police naked and beat them." Speaking at a press meet held at the TDP office in Tirupati Parliament segment, he questioned the appropriateness of such language coming from a leader who served as Chief Minister for five years. Ravindra alleged that during the YSRC regime, the police department was systematically weakened, and now, when the same force is performing its duties professionally, Jagan



has resorted to public intimidation. "If the police act impartially, Jagan will not come out," he said, referring to ongoing investigations into financial irregularities under the previous government. He reminded that under the YSRC's rule, even small public gatherings or opposition events were suppressed through house arrests. In contrast,

the present government is respecting democratic norms and allowing due process. Ravindra stated that delays in some cases were due to thorough probes, and attempts to seek anticipatory bail raise suspicions about the involvement of certain individuals. Criticizing YSRC for politicizing a recent family dispute-related death in Anantapur, he said such "corpse politics" should be avoided. He also slammed Jagan's earlier visit to Delhi where he accused the new government of failing on law and order. "Despite such allegations, Andhra Pradesh has secured the second position among developing states. This is proof of CM Chandrababu Naidu's performance and commitment to development," Ravindra said.

## Botsa Satyanarayana Condemns Remarks on YS Bharathi

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Former Minister and opposition leader in the Legislative Council, Botsa Satyanarayana, came down heavily on Chetru Kiran for his alleged inappropriate remarks against YS Bharathi, the wife of YSRC chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Speaking to the media, Botsa demanded that those making such offensive comments about women should be immediately expelled from the Assembly. Botsa asserted that personal attacks, especially against women, have no place in democratic institutions. "Anyone who makes derogatory remarks about women, regardless of party affiliation, should be removed from public forums like the Assembly. Such behavior is completely unacceptable," he stated. Referring to the recent controversy surrounding Nara Bhuvaneshwari, Botsa clarified that no member from the YSRC made any insulting remarks about her within the Assembly. "We had already said that if such comments had been made, it would have been entirely wrong and we would have condemned them," he added.



He reiterated that political debates must remain issue-based and respectful, and urged all parties to maintain dignity and decency, especially when referring to women. Botsa's comments come amidst increasing political tensions in the state as election campaigning intensifies, and personal remarks have begun to dominate public discourse. His statement is seen as an attempt to draw a clear line between political rivalry and personal insult, especially when it concerns women in public life.

## Lookout Notice Issued for Kakani Govardhan Reddy in ₹250 Cr Quartz Mining Case

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Former minister and YSRC leader Kakani Govardhan Reddy is on the run after being named in a massive illegal quartz mining and transportation case. The police have registered a case



against him involving unauthorized export of quartz and pulverizer materials worth over ₹250 crore, along with large-scale illegal use of explosives. Despite being issued summons thrice to appear for inquiry, Kakani failed to respond. Following this, his anticipatory bail petition was dismissed by the Andhra Pradesh High Court, while a separate quash petition has been postponed for two weeks. Police say his current whereabouts are unknown. Alongside Kakani, four more accused

in the case are absconding. In response, search operations have intensified across major cities including Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Chennai. To prevent Kakani from fleeing the country, police have issued a lookout notice and alerted all airports and seaports. His details have been shared with immigration authorities nationwide as efforts continue to locate and apprehend him. The case has drawn major public and political attention due to its scale and the involvement of high-profile individuals.

## Minister Satyakumar Yadav Slams Revanth Reddy Over Remarks Against PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Minister Satyakumar Yadav launched a scathing attack on Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy over his controversial remarks comparing Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Nathuram Godse. Condemning the statement, Satyakumar questioned Revanth's political maturity and accused him of making such comments only to divert public attention from his failures. Labeling Revanth as an incompetent Chief Minister, Satyakumar alleged that he has not been able to fulfill the promises made to the people of Telangana. "To cover up his inefficien-



cy, he is dragging Modi's name unnecessarily and comparing him with Godse. This is not just shameful—it reflects his desperation," he said. He went further to mock Revanth's position as CM, claiming that he is clinging to power and speaking recklessly just to secure his seat. "Revanth Reddy is trying to save a position that can be lost even if he sneezes. His words have no weight, and his leadership has no direction," Satyakumar remarked. The AP Minister also criticized Revanth for repeatedly making baseless and provocative statements to stay relevant. "It has become his habit to distract the people with outrageous claims whenever he's cornered. His political behavior is more about noise than governance," he added. Targeting Revanth's loyalty to the Gandhi family, Satyakumar said that even stalwarts like Nehru, Indira, Rajiv, Sonia, and Rahul Gandhi could not stop the BJP's growth. "What can Revanth do, who drinks from the elbow of the Gandhi family?" he quipped, ridiculing the Telangana CM's alignment with the Congress high command.

## CPI Narayana Fires Back at YS Jagan Over Police Remarks

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

CPI National Secretary K. Narayana launched a scathing counter to former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's recent remarks on the police force. Expressing strong disapproval, Narayana questioned Jagan's intentions and slammed his history of misusing the police while in power. "What exactly does Jagan want to see by stripping the police of their clothes? What will he do by stripping their clothes?" Narayana asked in a tone laced with sarcasm. He alleged that during Jagan's tenure as Chief Minister, police officers were reduced to the level of "peons," acting on his personal instructions rather than following the law. Narayana also recalled how a former Chief Minister was arrested without any solid evidence, accusing Jagan of using the police force for political vendetta. He urged police officers not to bend to the whims of politicians, stressing that fear of transfers or po-

litical pressure should never override duty and constitutional responsibility. He called Jagan's comments unacceptable and deeply insulting to the police force, emphasizing that such statements could damage morale and undermine the integrity of law enforcement agencies. CPI has strongly condemned YS Jagan's remarks, asserting that the police deserve respect for their service and should not be used as tools for personal or political gain.



## Relief for Posani Krishna Murali in AP High Court

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Actor and political commentator Posani Krishna Murali received temporary relief from the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Thursday in connection with a case registered against him by Sullurpet police. The case, which included charges under Section 111 and other provisions related to the indecent depiction of a woman, came under sharp judicial scrutiny. Posani had filed a quash petition seeking dismissal of the case, citing misuse of legal provisions and procedural lapses. Hearing the plea, the High Court directed the police not to take any further action against Posani until further orders. The court expressed serious displeasure over the actions of the investigating officer Murali Krishna, stating that he failed to comply

with its earlier directives. The bench raised questions about how sections related to indecent portrayal of women were applied in this case and found the inclusion of such sections questionable. In a strong move, the court issued a Form 1 notice to the officer and directed him to file a counter reply explaining his conduct. The court has adjourned the next hearing to April 24. The development marks a significant reprieve for Posani, who has been vocal in both political and public spheres, often attracting legal controversies for his statements.





# Minister Kandula Durgesh Urges Investors to Explore AP’s Hospitality Potential

**TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh** Tourism and Culture Minister Kandula Durgesh has appealed to national and international investors to explore the immense opportunities available in Andhra Pradesh’s growing hospitality and tourism sector. Speaking to the media on Thursday, the Minister highlighted that several renowned companies have already shown keen interest in investing in the state. Minister Durgesh emphasized that Andhra Pradesh, with its rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and a long coastline, has immense potential to become a top tourism hub in

the country. He added that the state government under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is committed to developing world-class infrastructure, ensuring investor-friendly policies, and offering seamless support for businesses. “Tourism is not just about travel—it is about creating employment, boosting local economies, and building a global image for the state. Our focus is to build premium hospitality and tourism experiences that attract both domestic and foreign visitors,” said Durgesh. He noted that the government is

working on multiple tourism circuits including heritage, spiritual, eco-tourism, and coastal tourism, which will open up new investment avenues. The Minister also said that a single-window clearance system is in place to ease the process for prospective investors. Stressing on the recent interest shown by reputed hospitality brands, Durgesh revealed that discussions are ongoing for several large-scale projects, which could significantly boost local employment and revenue. He assured that the state will extend full cooperation to investors and



called upon entrepreneurs to seize Andhra Pradesh’s transformation into the opportunity and become a part of a premier tourism destination.

## Mangalagiri 100-Bed Hospital to Set National Benchmark – Minister Nara Lokesh

Foundation stone to be laid on 13th April at Chinakakani by Minister Lokesh  
Hospital to be constructed in 1.15 lakh sq. ft. with Rs. 52.20 crore investment  
Lokesh fulfills 30-year public demand made during his Yuvagalam Padayatra



**TPN Correspondent | Guntur** Fulfilling a three-decade-long dream of the people of Mangalagiri, Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh will lay the foundation stone on April 13 for a state-of-the-art 100-bed hospital at Chinakakani. The hospital, which will be built on 7.35 acres of land, is planned as a model healthcare facility for the country, incorporating modern infrastructure and services on par with corporate hospitals. The upcoming hospital will span 1,15,000 square feet and is being developed with an investment of Rs. 52.20 crore. The G+1 structure will house departments including Medical, Surgical, Orthopedic, Gynecology, General Medicine, and General Surgery. Additionally, the hospital will feature three operation theatres, a dialysis center, a thalassemia ward, and a de-addiction outpatient center. The design also allows scope for future expansion. Minister Lokesh has reviewed the blueprints and facilities multiple times and instructed officials to complete the construc-

tion within a year. He emphasized that the staff should be provided a peaceful and efficient work environment. The project is a fulfillment of the promise Lokesh made during his Yuvagalam Padayatra to upgrade the Mangalagiri Government Hospital to a 100-bed facility. This proposal was later approved in the cabinet meeting held on October 23, 2024, after the formation of the NDA government. The original government hospital, inaugurated in 1986 by former CM N.T. Rama Rao, had declined over the years and was reduced to providing only outpatient services. The hospital has since been relocated to Chinakakani, with the old site allotted to the YVC Cancer Hospital. Minister Lokesh is also steering other major developmental initiatives in Mangalagiri, including housing pattas for 3,000 families, and integrated underground infrastructure projects. With a vision to make Mangalagiri a national model in development and welfare, he is executing 26 development schemes across the constituency.

## MLA Yarlagadda Inaugurates New Cement Roads and Drainage Works in Ramavarapadu

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada** Government Whip and Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkat Rao emphasized that special focus has been laid on the comprehensive development of road infrastructure in Gannavaram constituency. On Thursday evening, he inaugurated newly constructed cement roads and drainage systems in Syndicate Bank Colony, Ramavarapadu village, Vijayawada Rural Mandal. As part of his visit, MLA Yarlagadda inspected key areas including Syndicate Bank Colony, Ramalayam Street, and NTR Park Road. During his interaction with local residents, he received several complaints about the lack of street lighting in the outer areas of the colony. Responding immediately, he instructed the Panchayat Secretary to ensure the installation of street lights without delay. Speaking at the event, Venkat Rao reiterated his commitment to the development of the Gannavaram constituency. He stated that he is working in close coordination



with officials to resolve public issues efficiently. Highlighting ongoing efforts, he informed that old roads in several villages are being reconstructed and that proposals have been submitted for the enhancement of drainage systems. The MLA also reminded that, as promised during the elections, proposals have been sent to the government for the construction of a bridge across the Eluru canal

to connect Ramarapadu and Nirmanur villages. He noted that this issue was also raised in the state assembly. The program witnessed the participation of TDP constituency observers Vadranam Haribabu, TDP leaders Kolla Anand Kumar, village sarpanch Nabiganikonda, Pattapu Chanti, sub-sarpanch Nagaraju, Bommasani Aruna, Ravi, and others.

## Chief Minister to Visit Agiripalli on April 11<sup>th</sup> , Minister Kolusu Reviews Arrangements

**TPN Correspondent | Eluru Dist** State Information and Public Relations Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy announced that Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will visit Agiripalli in Nuzvid mandal of Eluru district on Friday. As part of the preparations, the minister reviewed the arrangements at the market yard on Thursday along with District SP K. Pratap Shiva Kishore and Joint Collector P. Dhatri Reddy. Minister Kolusu informed that the Chief Minister will arrive in Agiripalli at 10:30 AM. He will begin his visit by meeting caste workers at their workplaces to understand their living and working condi-



tions. The CM will then interact with the public in a dedicated public forum to hear grievances and suggestions directly from the people. Following the public interaction, the Chief Minister is also scheduled to attend a meeting with party workers in the constituency.

Minister Parthasarathy urged all stakeholders and officials to make the visit a grand success. The minister also mentioned that several local issues will be brought to the Chief Minister's notice, including the difficulties faced by mango farmers in Nuzvid constituency, the need for improved road infrastructure, the proposal to supply irrigation water through lift irrigation from reservoirs, and the development of the historic Lakshmi Vyagreswara Swamy Temple. The visit is expected to strengthen the government's commitment to grassroots governance and citizen engagement in the region.

## Protests Erupt Over SI Misconduct at A Konduru Police Station



**TPN Correspondent | NTR District** Tension prevailed at A Konduru police station in NTR district on Thursday following an alleged altercation between Sub-Inspector Challa Krishna and SFI NTR District President Kumar Nayak. The incident, which occurred during an attempt to resolve a land dispute, led to a massive protest by tribal community members demanding action against the SI. The confrontation began when a group of siblings from Chaitanya Nagar Thanda village approached Konduru police station to file a complaint over a land-related family dispute. Kumar Nayak, accompanied by Telugu Desam Party village president Ramesh Babu, reportedly intervened to mediate and calm the situation. According to Nayak, SI Challa Krishna re-

acted aggressively, making inappropriate remarks and questioning his presence at the station. The SI allegedly said, “My son is fighting near the station. Who are you, my son?” in a dismissive tone. Nayak claimed that the SI grabbed his shirt, tore it, and forcibly dragged him out of the station, further escalating tensions. Soon after, tribal elders and leaders organized a protest in front of the police station, demanding the immediate suspension of SI Challa Krishna. Protesters, including men and women from nearby tribal hamlets, expressed their anger and vowed not to leave the premises until action is taken. Speaking during the dharna, Kumar Nayak declared that the issue was not personal but a question of dignity and justice for the tribal community. He urged authorities to conduct a fair investigation and take strict action against the SI for misusing his position and insulting a public representative. The incident has sparked outrage in the local area, and senior police officials are expected to intervene to defuse the situation and address the protesters’ demands.

## Officials Must Lead in Realizing Swarnandhra @ 2047 Vision: Jayalakshmi, Dr. Lakshmi Sha



**TPN Correspondent | NTR District** District Special Officer G. Jayalakshmi and District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha emphasized the key role officials must play in achieving the ambitious goals outlined in the Swarnandhra Vision-2047, designed to make Andhra Pradesh a leading economy by 2047. They were addressing a special workshop held at Tummalapalle Kalakshetra on Thursday, aimed at educating officials from district to ward level on the government’s vision. Jayalakshmi, the chief guest at the event, said that officials should act

as “charioteers of development” by aligning their work with the ten guiding principles of Swarnandhra-2047. She stressed the importance of optimal local resource utilization and planned development efforts to make every citizen a stakeholder in the process. Highlighting innovations in agriculture and industry, she encouraged identifying and supporting role models in various sectors. She also elaborated on the P4 policy, which integrates government, private, public, and people’s participation, calling on officials to adopt financially stable families

(Margadarshi) to mentor and uplift vulnerable families (Golden Families). The goal, she stated, is to eradicate poverty within five years through active community involvement. Collector Dr. Lakshmi Sha noted that the vision targets a 15% annual growth rate and seeks to make NTR district No.1 in all sectors. He presented current statistics showing the district ranks 2nd in services, 5th in industry, and 23rd in agriculture. Urging intensified efforts in all sectors, he underlined the ten core principles, including poverty eradication, job creation, water security, skill development, and deep tech advancement. Economist Prof. M. Prasad Rao and Mohammed Takwiuddin, retired Additional Director General of the Center for Good Governance, provided detailed insights through presentations on achieving Swarnandhra and Vikasit Bharat 2047 goals.



## ₹47,450 crore allocated in budget for BC welfare, Says Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy



**TPN Correspondent | Eluru**  
State Housing and Information Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy announced that the Andhra Pradesh government is actively formulating a BC Protection Act to ensure long-term welfare and development of Backward Classes. Speaking to the media in Agiripalli on Thursday, after reviewing the arrangements for Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's visit on April 11, the Minister said the government is committed to uplifting the downtrodden sections of society. He stated that ₹47,450 crore has been earmarked in the current budget for BC welfare. Highlighting targeted benefits, he revealed that 200 units of free electricity are being provided to handloom workers, and 500 units to power loom units. Additionally, 10% reservation in quarry allocations for Vadderas and liquor shops for Geeta workers' families has been implemented. Parthasarathy stressed that education, employment, and entrepreneurship are being prioritized alongside welfare,

aiming for long-term, sustainable development. "We want at least one entrepreneur to emerge from every SC, ST, and BC family," he said, noting that these communities make up 70–80% of the population. The Minister also highlighted the P4 program, modeled on the spirit of Janmabhoomi, where affluent NRIs adopt poor families in their native villages. "They're supporting children's education and creating job opportunities," he said. He further announced that eligible poor families will be provided a house next door, and accused the previous government of weakening the Poor People's Housing Scheme. To strengthen it, an additional ₹50,000 is being given for BC and SC housing, and ₹75,000 for STs, adding ₹3,500 crore to the government's financial burden. Additional welfare updates include raising Nai Brahmins' remuneration in temples from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000, and a ₹10,000 stipend for fishermen during the fishing ban period.

## TDP Activist Chebrolu Kiran Kumar Arrested for Indecent Comments on YS Bharathi Reddy

**TPN Correspondent | Guntur**  
In a swift response to a controversial video that went viral, TDP activist Chebrolu Kiran Kumar was arrested by Guntur district police for making inappropriate comments against YS Bharathi Reddy, the wife of YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. The comments, made on social media, triggered widespread condemnation and prompted immediate action from both the TDP high command and the Andhra Pradesh government. On the instructions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Kiran Kumar was suspended from the party, reflecting the leadership's strong stance against misogynistic or personal attacks on political families, regardless of party affiliation. Simultaneously, law enforcement officials traced Kiran Kumar's cell tower location and apprehended him in the Ibrahimpatnam area of NTR district.

The TDP leadership, taking a firm stand, clarified that such indecent behaviour will not be tolerated under any circumstances. In the aftermath of his arrest, Kiran Kumar released a video expressing regret. "If my words have hurt anyone, I sincerely apologize. I made the remarks in a moment of anger and had no intention to cause harm," he said. However, the apology did little to influence the party's decision. CM Chandrababu Naidu had earlier warned party cadre and leaders not to make derogatory remarks about women, especially those belonging to rival political families. The video not only created a storm on social media but also drew sharp criticism from across the political spectrum, forcing the TDP to act quickly to contain the fallout and send a clear message about maintaining dignity and discipline within the party.



## Re-survey Being Implemented with Precision: Minister Anagani Satya Prasad

**TPN Correspondent | Amaravati**  
State Revenue, Registration and Stamps Minister Anagani Satya Prasad extended warm greetings to landowners and survey department employees on the occasion of National Survey Day, emphasizing the significance of the re-survey currently underway across Andhra Pradesh. He stated that the re-survey is being carried out with great enthusiasm and commitment, reflecting the government's serious intent to bring transparency and justice to land records management. "Survey staff are working hard, walking across fields and boundaries, ensuring

that farmers' and landowners' rights are safeguarded," the Minister noted. Minister Satya Prasad criticized the previous government's handling of the re-survey, alleging that it was riddled with er-



rors and mismanagement, which led to confusion and disputes. He asserted that the current administration has taken it upon itself to rectify those mistakes and bring clarity and legal assurance to landowners through a systematic and accurate resurvey process. He commended the survey department employees for playing a key role in this ambitious initiative and urged them to continue their work with the same dedication. The re-survey, he emphasized, is a cornerstone of the state's efforts to ensure rightful ownership and protect rural livelihoods.

## MLA N. Eswar Rao Launches "Uyala" Cradle Program in Ranasthalam



**TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam**  
A humane and impactful initiative under the banner of "Uyala" was launched at CHC-Kondamulagaon in Ranasthalam mandal on Thursday, organized by the ICDS Project – Women and Child Welfare Department. The program was inaugurated by Etcherla MLA Sri N. Eswar Rao, who participated as the chief guest and

extended support to the effort aimed at protecting infant lives. The core message of the "Uyala" program is: "If you don't want the baby, put it in the cradle and save it." The initiative appeals to individuals facing unwanted pregnancies to safely place their newborns in a designated cradle rather than abandoning them in unsafe places like garbage bins or thorny bushes. The Women and Child Welfare Department will then take responsibility for these infants, sheltering them in children's homes and facilitating legal adoption by willing and eligible parents. Addressing the gathering, MLA N. Eswar Rao emphasized the need for social responsibility in safeguarding children. He lauded the department's initiative and encouraged the community to support

and spread awareness about this compassionate option. He also visited the CHC's milking parlours and distributed fruits to mothers and children, while elaborating on the importance of exclusive breastfeeding for infants up to six months. The event witnessed the participation of several local leaders and officials including PC Jagannadham Naidu, Dannana Sathhibabu, former CHC chairman Velicheti Suresh, Hospital Director Dannana Swamy Naidu, MPTC Dannana Vamsi, Dannana Ravindra, and others. The program was coordinated by ICDS CDPO Smt. Ch. Jhansi. The "Uyala" cradle scheme reflects the state's commitment to child welfare and offers a life-saving alternative in critical situations.

## "Without Our Farm, We Have No Life": Kothapalem Farmers Protest Land Acquisition

**TPN Ch. Sekhar | Tirupati Dist**  
Farmers of Kothapalem village in Buchinaidu Kandriga mandal, Tirupati district, have raised a strong voice of protest against the government's attempt to acquire their farmlands for industrial use under the APIIC's VCIC South Block project. With visible anguish, they expressed that the land in question has been their sole means of livelihood for over five decades. The farmers alleged that the District Collector's office has proposed to acquire around 2,700 acres in and around Kothapalem for industrial development. Among these, the villagers insist that 35 acres of patta lands, which fall outside the APIIC boundary and across the Pig Canal, are being wrongly included in the acquisition zone. "We have water access, grow two crops a year, and live entirely off these lands. If the government snatches it away, what do we have left?" questioned one of the farmers emotionally. They also ex-



plained that several disabled and elderly people in their families depend on this farmland, and relocating them or stripping them of their sustenance would be devastating. The farmers have made a direct appeal to the government to remove their cultivated lands from the acquisition plan and instead focus on barren lands nearby. They warned that if their plea goes unheard and the land is forcibly taken, they would have no option but to end their lives by drinking pesticides in their own fields. The protest saw the active participation of farmers, elderly villagers, and the disabled, who jointly urged the authorities to reconsider the impact of the proposed project on their lives and allow them to continue farming on the land they call home.

## Efforts on to Resolve Field-Level Revenue Issues - Collector Anand

**TPN Correspondent | Nellore**  
District Collector M. Anand assured that all necessary efforts will be made to resolve revenue issues emerging at the field level by escalating them to the government where required. He made these remarks during an awareness seminar on revenue matters held at the Thikkana premises of the Collectorate on Thursday morning. The event saw the participation of Joint Collector K. Karthik, Kandukuru Sub-Collector Sripooja, DRO Udayabhaskar Rao, and RDOs from across the district. Tahsildars and revenue staff took part in a detailed discussion, raising a variety of issues impacting field operations. Topics discussed included land allotments for industries and educational institutions, removal of private patta lands from prohibited list 22A, survey and resurvey problems, regularization of structures on unobjectionable government lands, technical issues in web land, assignment land distribution, mutations, POT and



Inam Acts, and complications during land registration. Collector Anand and JC Karthik carefully examined each issue and offered practical suggestions. They emphasized that unresolved legal and technical concerns would be brought to the government's attention for timely intervention. Collector Anand stressed the importance of resolving revenue disputes strictly as per the law. He highlighted that accurate mutations could prevent up to 99% of revenue problems. He urged all Tahsildars and staff to be well-versed with existing revenue regulations and take a focused approach to each case. He added that complex issues should be immediately brought to his notice or to the JC's for quicker redressal.

## Foundation Stones Laid for ₹23 Cr Development Projects in Tanuku: Minister Gottipati

**TPN Correspondent | Tanuku**  
Power Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar and Roads & Buildings Minister BC Janardhan Reddy, who is also the in-charge minister for West Godavari, laid foundation stones for a slew of development works worth ₹23 crore in Tanuku on Thursday. The ministers inaugurated CC roads and side drains across various wards of Tanuku Municipality, aimed at improving connectivity in poor and underdeveloped residential areas. They also inaugurated a 33/11 KV substation in Velpur, assuring uninterrupted and quality electricity supply for local residents. Minister Gottipati revealed that two substations have been sanctioned for the Tanuku region to strengthen power infrastructure. Criticizing the previous government, Min-

ister Gottipati said the YSRCP regime was riddled with corruption, especially in the Tanuku TDR bond deals, where leaders were fined crores of rupees. He accused them of destroying the entire system, causing immense hardship to the people due to the lack of road and basic infrastructure in both municipal and rural areas. He emphasized that since the coalition government came to power, every effort is being made to revive and improve public systems. "We have cleaned up the municipal system and are paving the way for development through systematic planning," he added. Minister BC Janardhan Reddy echoed the same sentiments, stating that restoring public trust and ensuring grassroots-level



development are the coalition's top priorities. The visit and inaugurations mark a significant step forward for Tanuku's urban development, especially in addressing long-standing issues in poor and neglected neighborhoods.



# Bangladesh's New Regime Must Tread Carefully

The evolving political landscape in Bangladesh following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina has led to a perceptible strain in India-Bangladesh relations, particularly in light of recent diplomatic exchanges. At the BIM-STECS summit in Bangkok on April 4, a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh's Interim Adviser stirred controversy, echoing past instances where bilateral talks at the level of foreign ministers and secretaries have been followed by Bangladeshi press briefings emphasizing contentious issues. These post-meeting statements often highlight Bangladeshi demands while downplaying or outright rejecting Indian concerns, fostering a narrative of Dhaka "standing up" to New Delhi. This approach appears to be aligned with the growing anti-India sentiment reportedly prevailing in parts of Bangladesh's new political order. With the Jamaat-e-Islami allegedly exerting significant influence over the current regime, the country is



witnessing shifts that challenge its foundational secular ethos. These include calls for a revised constitution, efforts to push for an Islamic state, increased hostility toward minorities, renewed ties with Pakistan, and attacks on India's traditional diplomatic and cultural partnerships. Particularly telling was a

moment during a Clinton Foundation event in September 2024, when Prime Minister Yunus publicly introduced Mahfouz Alam as the mastermind behind the "revolution" that removed Sheikh Hasina, acknowledging the movement's orchestrated nature. Such statements — perceived as "loose talk" — risk further



damaging the fragile regional balance and may alienate important international partners. The new leadership in Dhaka must understand that diplomacy requires nuance and maturity, not theatrics or polarizing rhetoric. It is vital for the Yunus government to reassure both domestic and international observ-

ers that Bangladesh remains committed to regional cooperation, secular values, and peaceful coexistence. At a time when South Asia's stability is already under stress, any reckless political posturing or ideological regression could invite economic, diplomatic, and strategic consequences that Bangladesh can ill afford.

## India-China Tensions Demand Strategic Prudence

India's evolving relationship with China demands far more than diplomatic pleasantries, argues former National Security Advisor M.K. Narayanan in his analysis of the persistent geopolitical unease between the two Asian giants. Under President Xi Jinping, China has abandoned the relatively conciliatory approach of Deng Xiaoping and is instead leaning into a narrative of historical grievance, seeking to reassert its position as a dominant power with ambitions rooted in the past. This self-perception as a "wronged civilization" fuels aggressive maneuvers along its borders, especially with India, as Beijing increasingly invokes the outdated frontiers of the Qing Dynasty to justify present-day territorial claims. Incidents like the border clashes in Depsang (2013), Demchok (2016), Doklam (2017), and Galwan (2020) are not isolated acts but part of a larger strategic blueprint to pressure India into accepting a skewed status quo. Despite seemingly cordial exchanges between Indian and Chinese leaders, Narayanan warns that such diplomatic warmth must be treated with skepticism, particularly when it lacks substantive shifts in behavior from Beijing. While much of the world may interpret these symbolic gestures as signs of a thaw, India—having faced the brunt of China's assertiveness—must remain wary and not mis-

take sentiment for sincerity. The global community's surprise at recent bilateral overtures only underscores its detachment from the ground realities of Sino-Indian tensions. India, Narayanan suggests, should draw lessons from its past misreadings and adopt a pragmatic approach rooted in strategic preparedness rather than optimistic diplomacy. The relative calm during Hu Jintao's leadership, which hinted at a more balanced and stable relationship, now appears to have been a fleeting interlude rather than a long-term trajectory. In contrast, the current Chinese regime's assertive policies call for India to recalibrate its defense, diplomatic, and economic strategies. Multilateral coordination, military modernization, and internal resilience must become pillars of India's China policy, ensuring that any dialogue is backed by deterrence. Narayanan emphasizes that for genuine peace and cooperation to emerge, China must offer more than rhetorical goodwill—it must prove through consistent actions that it respects the sovereignty and strategic autonomy of its neighbors. Until then, India must proceed with caution, guided by historical experience and grounded in realism. As he aptly concludes, it will take far more than lofty words for the "Elephant and the Dragon" to truly dance in harmony on the world stage.



## From One Democracy to Another: A Cautionary Reflection

In this stirring open letter titled An Open Letter from India to America, author Omair Ahmad extends a heartfelt and sobering message across the Atlantic, blending empathy with caution as he reflects on the political descent of two of the world's largest democracies. Addressing Americans not as distant observers but as kin — as friends, colleagues, and kindred spirits — Ahmad draws parallels between India's current democratic backsliding and the turmoil gripping the United States. He writes not in judgment but in solidarity, recounting how India too believed its democracy was indestructible, rooted in its hard-won independence from colonialism and bolstered by decades of people-powered movements. Yet, this illusion crumbled as the country found itself spiraling into authoritarianism and exclusion, and now sees similar patterns emerging in America. The letter points out a harsh truth: that freedom for all inevitably threatens those who built their identity and privilege on the subjugation of others. Ah-

mad reminds readers that every time a society widens its promise of equality, it also disarms those who benefited from inequality — and in retaliation, these forces often cloak themselves in regressive symbols like masculine dominance, casteism, racial segregation, and fascism, which are not alien but interconnected through shared colonial legacies. He invokes the wisdom of Lincoln — "a house divided against itself cannot stand" — as both warning and lament, underscoring that the conflict is not one of policy but of moral foundations: between those who believe in justice and those who do not. The letter ends not with despair, but with an implicit call to remember the value of solidarity, to honor the difficult and incomplete journey of democracy, and to remain vigilant against the allure of exploitation disguised as power. In doing so, it becomes not just a message to America, but a mirror for India — and perhaps a guidepost for all democracies grappling with their contradictions.





## ‘Kasab Was Served Biryani’: Piyush Goyal Slams Congress

TPN Correspondent | Maharashtra

Union Minister Piyush Goyal has reignited a political controversy by claiming that 26/11 Mumbai terror attacker Ajmal Kasab was “served biryani” during the Congress regime. His remarks come amid the extradition of 26/11 plotter Tahawwur Rana to India from the United States.

Speaking at Mumbai’s Taj Palace Hotel, one of the sites attacked during the 2008 terror strike, Goyal accused the previous Congress-led UPA government of failing to take strong action against the terrorists. “During the Congress government, terrorists attacked this very hotel where we are standing. People died here. However, Congress did not do anything to punish the terrorists. The arrested terrorist Kasab was served biryani,” Goyal said.

Tahawwur Rana, 64, was brought to India on Thursday after the US Supreme Court rejected his final plea against extradition. He faces trial in India for his alleged involvement in planning the deadly attacks that killed over 170 people.

While Goyal’s biryani remark stirred headlines, it is worth noting that former public prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam had earlier clarified in 2015 that the story about Kasab being served biryani was fabricated. “Kasab never demanded biryani and was never served by the government. I concocted it just to break an emotional atmosphere which was taking shape in favour of Kasab during the trial,” Nikam had said.

Despite the clarification years ago, the narrative continues to be invoked in political debates. Goyal further said, “It is because of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s determination that such terrorists are being brought to justice. Those who harm our country will not be spared. Tahawwur Rana will now face trial and be punished under Indian law.” Rana’s extradition marks a significant step forward in India’s efforts to prosecute those involved in the 2008 attacks.

# CJI Khanna to hear pleas against Waqf Act on April 16

- 10 petitions to be heard by a three-judge Supreme Court bench
- Petitioners include AIMIM MP Owaisi, A Raja, Amanatullah Khan
- Act faces challenge for alleged violations of religious rights

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A bench led by Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna, along with Justices PV Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan, will hear 10 petitions challenging the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 on April 16. The matter, listed as item 13, involves a range of petitioners including political leaders and religious organisations. The lead petition was filed by AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi, who called the Act “manifestly arbitrary” and alleged that it discriminates based on religion while violating the Shariat Act. Owaisi argued it strips the Muslim community of the right to manage its own religious institutions. Among others who moved the top court are DMK MP A Raja, AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan, All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), Indian Union Muslim League, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, Samastha Kerala Jem-iyathul Ulama, and NGO Association for Protection of Civil Rights.

The DMK, in its petition, stated that the Act was passed despite widespread opposition and without proper consideration of objections raised in the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). The party emphasized the law prejudices the rights of 50 lakh Muslims in Tamil



Nadu and 20 crore Muslims across India.

In a press release, AIMPLB spokesperson SQR Ilyas said the amendments infringe upon Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution, which guarantee the freedom to manage religious

and charitable institutions. He accused the government of attempting to assume full control of Waqf properties, thus marginalizing the Muslim community.

The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind termed the Act a “dangerous conspiracy” against religious freedom and a direct attack on the constitutional values of equality and religious rights. Similarly, Samastha Kerala Jamiath ul Ulama, a Sunni Muslim clerics’ body, labelled it a “blatant intrusion” into religious affairs.

AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan, in his plea, asked for the Act to be declared unconstitutional, citing violations of Articles 14, 15, 21, 25, 26, 29, 30 and 300-A of the Constitution.

The Centre has filed a caveat in the Supreme Court, seeking to be heard before any interim orders are passed on the matter.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, passed by Parliament and signed by President Droupadi Murmu, officially came into force on April 8, 2025, as per a notification from the Ministry of Minority Affairs. The bill was passed in the Lok Sabha with 288 votes in favour and 232 against, while the Rajya Sabha passed it with 128 votes supporting and 95 opposing.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had hailed the Waqf Bill as “another major solid step towards social justice.”

## STahawwur Rana Extradited, Arrested in Delhi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a major development in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks case, Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a Pakistani-origin Canadian-American, was formally arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) upon his arrival in New Delhi following extradition from the United States. Rana was brought to India on Thursday evening aboard a special flight from Los Angeles. His transfer was executed under tight security, with National Security Guard (NSG) commandos and NIA officers escorting him. Heavy police deployment was witnessed both at the airport and around the NIA headquarters in Delhi to ensure maximum security during the high-profile transfer.

Rana is accused of aiding the 2008 Mumbai at-



tacks, which claimed over 160 lives and injured hundreds. Indian authorities had been pursuing his extradition for years, citing his alleged involvement in the conspiracy hatched by Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives and his close links to David Headley, the Pakistani-American terrorist who had conducted reconnaissance

missions ahead of the attacks. The extradition marks a key milestone in India’s efforts to bring all conspirators of the Mumbai carnage to justice. The U.S. government had approved his extradition last year after prolonged legal proceedings in American courts, which examined the Indian evidence against him.

In an apparent attempt to deflect attention, Pakistan distanced itself from Rana just hours before his arrival in Delhi. The Pakistani government stated that Rana was not their citizen, asserting he had not renewed his Pakistani identity documents in over two decades and is currently a Canadian national. This move is being seen by observers as an effort to minimize diplomatic fallout amid renewed scrutiny over Islamabad’s role in cross-border terrorism.

## Centre Hikes Midday Meal Cost



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Centre to Bear ₹954 Crore Extra as PM-POSHAN Costs Rise Due to Inflation The Union government will bear an additional financial burden of ₹954 crore in the upcoming financial year 2025–26 due to a 9.5% hike in food material costs under the PM-POSHAN scheme, formerly known as the Midday Meal Scheme. The Ministry of Education announced this adjustment in response to rising food inflation, aiming to ensure continued nutritional support for schoolchildren.

Effective from May 1, 2025, the per-student per-day material cost for balvatika (anganwadi) and primary school children will increase from ₹6.19 to ₹6.78. For students in upper primary classes, the rate will go up from ₹9.29 to ₹10.17. This increase is expected to improve the quality of meals provided to children in government and government-aided schools across the country. The PM-POSHAN scheme plays a crucial role in addressing classroom hunger, improving nutritional levels among children, and encouraging school attendance, especially in underprivileged communities. The scheme covers over 11 crore children in more than 11 lakh schools and anganwadi

centres across India. The Education Ministry noted that the revision is done annually based on the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW), ensuring that the scheme adapts to economic changes. The last major revision was implemented in 2022. The additional expenditure will be entirely borne by the Central government, without passing the burden onto states. This move reflects the Centre’s commitment to the welfare of schoolchildren and the continued success of one of the world’s largest school feeding programmes.

Experts have welcomed the hike, calling it necessary and timely, but many also argue that further enhancements in infrastructure, meal quality, and nutritional diversity are needed for long-term impact. Advocacy groups have also urged the government to consider increasing allocations for eggs, milk, and other protein-rich items. With this adjustment, the government aims to sustain its nutrition goals and uphold the constitutional right to education and health for children from economically weaker sections. Further guidelines on the revised cost structure and implementation procedures are expected to be issued to states and UTs before the new rates take effect.

## Opposition Slams DPDP Act Provision



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The controversial section, they argue, overrides a critical clause in the RTI Act—Section 8(1)(j)—which permits the disclosure of personal information if it is justified by larger public interest. The DPDP Act, which has already received Presidential assent, imposes a blanket prohibition on sharing personal data, even if it concerns public activity or interest. More alarmingly, the DPDP Act removes a vital proviso in the RTI Act that served as a transparency safeguard: “information which cannot be denied to Parliament or a State legislature shall not be denied to any person.” According to the INDIA bloc, this change effectively places government actions beyond public scrutiny.

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi condemned the provision as a “surreptitious, mischievous,

and malicious attempt” to weaken the RTI framework. “This is not just a technical amendment—it’s a direct attack on the citizen’s right to know and hold the government accountable,” he said.

The joint memorandum addressed to Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw urged an immediate rollback of the provision. Opposition leaders stressed that while protecting personal data is important, it should not come at the cost of weakening transparency laws that are essential in a democracy. Priyanka Chaturvedi added that the move could severely hamper journalistic investigations, whistleblower protections, and civil society efforts to expose corruption or misuse of power. “The RTI Act has been instrumental in empowering citizens. Diluting it, especially through another legislation, is both undemocratic and unacceptable,” she remarked.



## China being dragged into Ukraine war, says Zelensky

155 Chinese citizens reportedly fighting for Russia



TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has alleged that Russia is deliberately trying to “drag China into the war” in Ukraine, claiming that over 150 Chinese nationals have been recruited to fight against Ukrainian forces. Zelensky stated that Kyiv has the names and passport details of 155 such individuals and accused Beijing of being aware of the recruitment process.

“This is yet another indication that Moscow simply needs to drag out the fighting,” Zelensky told reporters in Kyiv. “Such an overt involvement of Chinese citizens in combat operations on the territory of Ukraine is a deliberate step towards expanding the war.”

The statement follows Ukraine’s reported capture of two Chinese citizens in the eastern Donetsk region, a development that prompted fresh concerns about the extent of foreign fighters in Russia’s ranks. Kyiv says it is prepared to release the captured Chinese nationals in exchange for Ukrainian prisoners of war currently held in Russia.

Zelensky clarified that he does not believe the Chinese government directly dispatched the fighters, but maintained that Chinese authorities were aware of the recruitment process—citing platforms like TikTok and other Chinese social media sites where Russian military recruiters allegedly promote enlistment.

A senior Ukrainian official also shared with AFP a document containing the names and passport details of 168 Chinese citizens allegedly serving in the Russian army, adding that further investigations are underway to identify more.

China, however, rejected Zelensky’s claims. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian called the accusations “absolutely groundless” and reiterated that Beijing advises its citizens to avoid armed conflicts of any kind. “The Ukrainian side should correctly view China’s efforts and constructive role in pushing for a political resolution to the Ukraine crisis,” Lin said.

When asked about the development, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov declined to comment. Meanwhile, China continues to position itself as a neutral party in the ongoing conflict, though its political and economic alignment with Moscow has drawn criticism from the West. NATO has labeled Beijing a “decisive enabler” of Russia’s invasion.

Zelensky also mentioned that Washington views the presence of Chinese fighters on Ukrainian soil as “unacceptable,” signaling rising concern within the US over China’s indirect involvement. He further revealed that Kyiv is prepared to spend up to \$50 billion on American military equipment and will be holding discussions with a US delegation next week.

The controversy over Chinese nationals fighting for Russia adds a new dimension to the war and raises alarms about the global ramifications of prolonged conflict in Eastern Europe.

# India, UK fast-track FTA talks

Ministers reaffirm commitment to deeper trade and strategic ties during London dialogue

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India and the United Kingdom have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and accelerating negotiations towards a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and a Bilateral Investment Treaty. In a joint statement released on Wednesday, Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves emphasized that talks are “continuing at pace” with the goal of unlocking new opportunities for both economies.

The statement was issued during Sitharaman’s six-day visit to the UK and Austria, during which she co-chaired the 13th India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) in London alongside Reeves.

“Both sides agree that a strong and robust UK-India relationship enhances the resilience of both economies, including through trade, macroeconomic cooperation, supply chain resilience and collaboration on global challenges, both bilaterally and multilaterally,” the joint statement read.



The India-UK FTA talks resumed earlier this year after an eight-month pause. Major sticking points in the negotiations include the UK’s planned Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), set to begin in 2026, and differences on the mobility of professionals.

The UK side shared updates on its upcoming Industrial Strategy, with both countries seeing strong potential for collaboration in advanced manufactur-

ing, clean energy, life sciences, defence, financial services, and the creative sectors. The partnership aims to combine India’s growing manufacturing capacity with UK’s research and innovation ecosystem.

In a boost to strategic ties, both countries also expressed anticipation for the signing of the India-UK Defence Industrial Roadmap, which will bolster collaboration across key industrial sectors and enhance supply

chain integration.

In 2023-24, merchandise exports from India to the UK reached \$12.98 billion, marking a 13.3% annual rise. However, goods exports fell to \$8.4 billion, down 6.10%, according to Ministry of Commerce and Industry data.

Given the backdrop of shifting global trade dynamics and protectionist measures, India is seeking to deepen partnerships that can help it navigate future uncertainties and attract fresh investments.

The ministers also highlighted their cooperation in the G20 and global financial stability bodies such as the Financial Stability Board (FSB). They stressed the importance of working together on enhancing cross-border payments, climate-related financial risk management, and strengthening the non-bank financial intermediation (NBFi) framework.

“We support the ongoing work... to ensure a resilient, inclusive, and stable international financial system,” the statement said, underlining the shared ambition to contribute to sustainable and equitable global economic growth.

## Panama Rejects US military Base Proposal

TPN Correspondent | Panama

Panama has firmly rejected the possibility of allowing the United States to reestablish military bases or defense sites within its territory, according to a statement made by Security Minister Frank Abrego during a joint appearance with US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.

“Panama made clear, through President Jose Raul Mulino, that we cannot accept military bases or defense sites,” Abrego declared, ending speculation over a poten-



tial renewed US military presence in the Central American country. The statement came during

Hegseth’s official visit to Panama, where broader regional security cooperation and migration control were on the agenda. While no formal proposal for a military base had been publicly disclosed by the US side, Abrego’s emphatic statement suggests Panama was responding to informal discussions or suggestions made behind closed doors.

Panama had hosted significant US military infrastructure in the past, most notably the Panama Canal Zone and Howard Air Force Base, until the complete with-

drawal of American forces by the end of 1999 following the Torrijos-Carter Treaties. Since then, Panama has maintained a strong stance on sovereignty and neutrality regarding foreign military presence.

Observers see the Panamanian position as a reaffirmation of its longstanding foreign policy principle of avoiding entanglement in military alliances or hosting foreign troops, especially in a region where US influence has historically drawn both cooperation and criticism.

## India Pulls Plug on Cargo Route for Bangladesh

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a significant policy shift, India has terminated the trans-shipment facility that allowed Bangladesh to export goods to third countries via Indian ports and airports. The decision, notified by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on April 8, ends a trade route that had supported smooth cross-border flows since June 2020.

The now-rescinded circular had permitted Bangladeshi cargo to pass through Indian Land Customs Stations (LCSS) en route to Indian exit points. However, the CBIC clarified that cargo already

in transit would be allowed to exit under the earlier procedure. The move comes amid rising trade tensions globally, with the US imposing fresh tariffs on countries including India and Bangladesh. Indian exporters, especially from the apparel sector, had been pressing for the withdrawal of the facility, citing reduced cargo space, rising freight costs, and airport congestion.

“Now we will have more air capacity for our cargo,” said Ajay Sahai, Director General of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), welcoming the decision.



Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Chairman Sudhir Sekhri said daily Bangladeshi truckloads caused delays and inflated air freight charges at Delhi’s IGI Airport. “This made Indian exports less competitive,” he said.

Think tank GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava warned the decision could disrupt regional trade logistics, particularly affecting landlocked nations like Nepal and Bhutan that depend on seamless movement through India and Bangladesh.

Under WTO rules, members are obligated to ensure free and efficient transit for goods to and from landlocked countries — a point that may surface in future trade dialogues.

The latest move reinforces India’s intent to protect its own exporters while recalibrating trade priorities in the face of shifting global trade dynamics.

# IIMA to open Dubai campus in partnership with UAE

New campus to offer one-year global MBA from Sep 2025

TPN Correspondent | Dubai

In a significant move toward expanding global education ties, the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) has signed an MoU with the Government of the United Arab Emirates to establish an international campus in Dubai. The collaboration marks IIMA’s first overseas expansion and is aimed at providing world-class management education to working professionals and entrepreneurs across the globe.

The MoU was formally exchanged in Mumbai by Professor Bharat Bhasker, Director of IIMA, and Helal Saeed Almarri, Director General of Dubai’s Department of Economy and Tourism. The event was attended by key dignitaries, including Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum,



Crown Prince of Dubai, and India’s Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal.

The Dubai campus will be developed

in two phases. Initially, the institute will function out of the Dubai International Academic City (DIAC), a major educational hub in the region. In

the second phase, land will be allocated for a permanent IIMA facility, which is expected to be completed by 2029.

IIMA’s flagship offering at the Dubai campus will be a full-time One-Year MBA program, designed specifically for global professionals seeking to enhance their leadership and management capabilities. The course is set to launch in September 2025 and will span five academic terms.

The admission process will involve a rigorous two-stage evaluation based on GMAT or GRE scores obtained within the last five years. The program will employ IIMA’s signature case study method of teaching, known for its effectiveness in experiential learning and executive education. This initiative marks a new era for Indian higher education institutions venturing into the global academic space, with IIMA leading the charge by bringing its legacy and expertise to an international audience.



# Long-Term Investing: The Smart Path to Wealth Creation Amid Market Volatility"



## High-Growth Potential Sectors for the Future:



**1. Automobile Sector :** The shift towards electric vehicles (EVs) is driving tremendous growth. Innovation, government support, and rising environmental awareness are fueling this sector's rapid expansion.

**2. Pharmaceutical Sector :** With increasing awareness around health-



care, advancements in medical technology, and aging populations, the pharma industry is poised for consistent growth in the coming years.

**3. Information Technology (IT) Sector :** Digital transformation, AI, cloud computing, and cybersecurity are



creating strong tailwinds for IT companies globally. Demand for digital services is expected to grow exponentially.

**4. Metals Sector :** With rising infrastructure development and industrial growth, demand for metals like steel, copper, and aluminum is expected to remain strong.



## Auto Sector

**1. Tata Motors:** A leader in both commercial and passenger vehicles, Tata Motors has been riding high on strong domestic demand and the EV push. Its JLR (Jaguar Land Rover) arm continues to improve in profitability with growing sales in luxury electric vehicles.

**2. Mahindra & Mahindra:** M&M has gained significant traction in the SUV segment and agri-machinery. Its focus on electric mobility and rural demand gives it strong long-term potential.

**3. Hero MotoCorp:** Hero remains a key player in the two-wheeler market, especially in rural India. It's facing stiff competition in the EV space but is slowly ramping up electric offerings.

## Pharma Sector

**1. Sun Pharma:** India's largest pharma company continues to deliver stable growth driven by strong US generics sales and specialty drug launches. It has a robust pipeline in dermatology and oncology.

**2. Dr. Reddy's Laboratories:** Benefiting from its generics business, especially in the US and emerging markets. Its focus on biosimilars and APIs supports long-term growth.

**3. Divi's Laboratories:** A global leader in custom synthesis and APIs, Divi's is well-positioned due to global outsourcing trends. It's known for strong margins and consistent performance.

## IT Sector

**1. Infosys:** Despite short-term margin pressure due to global demand slowdown, Infosys maintains strong client relationships and is focusing on digital transformation and AI solutions.

**2. TCS (Tata Consultancy Services):** The IT bellwether continues to hold leadership in digital services. Long-term deal wins and strong client retention keep TCS a solid bet in IT.

**3. ITIMindtree:** After the merger, it's showing signs of synergy and growth potential, especially in cloud services and BFSI sector. Near-term volatility persists, but long-term outlook remains strong.

## Metal Sector

**1. Tata Steel:** It's under pressure due to weak steel prices globally, but cost optimization and domestic infrastructure demand may provide support. Watchful on European business drag.

**2. JSW Steel:** Aggressive expansion plans and better integration give JSW an edge. Domestic demand, especially from infra, supports its growth outlook.

**3. Hindalco:** Facing global headwinds in aluminum prices, but Novelis (its US arm) and downstream investments are helping improve margins. Long-term demand in EVs and packaging remains favorable.

Investing in the stock market is a smart way to build wealth, and it doesn't have to be complicated. Whether you invest a lump sum or follow a Systematic Investment Plan (SIP), the key to success lies in adopting a long-term perspective. Market volatility—frequent ups and downs—is a normal part of the investment journey. Short-term fluctuations should not cause panic. History shows that investors who remain patient and consistent over 3, 5, or even 10 years are more likely to enjoy significant returns. The power of compounding, combined with time, works in favor of long-term investors.



MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM  
Stock Market Analyst  
+91 988 555 9709

nom ic instability, particularly in the United States. This uncertainty has led to increased volatility. However, such situations often present hidden opportunities for thoughtful and strategic investors.

Rather than reacting emotionally, it is wise to diversify investments across sectors. A well- diversified portfolio can help reduce risk and position you for future growth. Focused, long- term investing in high-potential sectors—such as automobiles, pharmaceuticals, IT, and metals—

can lead to solid financial gains over time. In conclusion, stock market investing is most rewarding for those who stay committed and look beyond short-term market movements. With patience, discipline, and the right strategy, long-term wealth creation is not just possible—it's highly probable.

## Global Market Outlook:

At present, global markets are facing challenges due to political and eco-

## Aadhaar Act set for key amendments to align with DPDP Act, 2023

*New Aadhaar app launched with secure, minimal data sharing features*

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The central government is planning to amend the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 to bring it in line with the provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023. The move aims to plug existing legal gaps, improve data privacy, and give citizens more control over their personal information, according to officials.

Union Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, in a video posted on X on Wednesday, said the government is focused on harmonizing the Aadhaar law with the DPDP Act by keeping "user interest at the centre." He emphasized the need for a new legal framework to streamline consent mechanisms and avoid repeated data sharing during authentication processes. "There are variety of programmes and uses where citizens are asked for consent again and again, asked to provide their data every time and at different places, for authentication. We need to have a legal framework to avoid this and ensure citizens get access to services easily," Vaishnaw said.

Officials said the amendment will focus on introducing data minimization and data erasure provisions that are currently mandated by the DPDP Act but not strictly adhered to by agencies using Aadhaar authentication. They also noted that the language of the Aadhaar Act will be made more specific to prevent the reuse of Aadhaar data for unintended purposes. The DPDP Act, passed by Parliament in August 2023, is yet to be fully implemented. Vaishnaw stated that the rules for the Act are nearly finalized and will be notified soon.

In line with the upcoming amendments, the



government on Tuesday also launched a new Aadhaar mobile application that enables residents to share only essential data while availing services. The app includes face ID authentication and supports digital verification through QR codes or requesting applications, eliminating the need for physical Aadhaar card photocopies.

Tech policy experts welcomed the move. "Amending the Aadhaar Act to integrate DPDP's principles would be crucial to reducing misuse and improving consent-based data use," said Dhruv Garg, partner at the Indian Governance and Policy Project. He also recommended limiting Aadhaar usage where not necessary. In February this year, the government had expanded Aadhaar use by allowing private companies to perform Aadhaar authentication under the revised Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Amendment Rules, 2025. This was aimed at easing access to services and preventing leakage of welfare benefits. Officials underscored that these combined measures will help prevent misuse of Aadhaar data and promote better privacy practices in both government and private sector usage.

## BlackRock Bets Big On Adani With \$250 Million Investment

BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, has become the biggest investor in a \$750 million private bond issuance by the Adani Group, acquiring nearly one-third of the offering. This marks BlackRock's first private placement in India's infrastructure sector and a major show of confidence amid ongoing scrutiny faced by the conglomerate.

Sources familiar with the matter said the bonds, issued by Renew Exim DMCC—a wholly owned offshore entity of the Adani family—carry a tenure of 3 to 5 years. The capital will primarily finance the acquisition of ITD Cementation and other infrastructure-led growth initiatives. The move comes even as Adani Group remains under the lens following a U.S. Department of Justice indictment last November in a bribery investigation. Despite this, BlackRock's participation signals it foresees no major operational risks for the group.

"Infrastructure is one of the most exciting long-term investment opportunities," BlackRock



Chairman Larry Fink said earlier in January after the firm's \$12.5 billion acquisition of Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP). This deal significantly expanded BlackRock's global presence in ports, power, and digital infrastructure—sectors that align closely with Adani's long-term focus.

Five other institutional investors, mostly American and European including funds managed by Sona Asset Management, also participated in the fundraising. The \$750 million issuance by Renew Exim is Adani Group's second major dollar bond transaction in 2024, following a \$200 million raise in February for its Austra-

lian port operations.

The recent capital raise is also the largest since the DOJ probe came to light, and signals renewed international investor interest. The acquisition of ITD Cementation, a construction and engineering firm involved in projects such as JNPT and Vizhinjam port, strengthens Adani's infrastructure portfolio. The group had initially purchased a 46.64% stake from the promoters and added another 20.81% through an open offer. Adani officials view BlackRock's involvement as a strong vote of confidence in the conglomerate's financial and operational strength, despite recent headwinds.

## Audi Expands EV Network To 6,500+ Points Across India

Audi India has significantly strengthened its electric vehicle infrastructure by expanding its 'Charge My Audi' initiative to over 6,500 charging points nationwide. This milestone was achieved under Phase II of the program, aiming to accelerate EV adoption among luxury car owners. The company has onboarded 16 new EV infrastructure partners to enhance accessibility and convenience. More than 75% of these locations are equipped with DC fast-charging capabilities, enabling quicker charging and catering to India's growing EV de-

mand.

The Phase-II rollout alone added over 5,500 new charging points, strategically positioned along highways, in urban centers, and at key commercial hubs. With this expansion, the 'Charge My Audi' network now spans across 28 states and union territories, covering over 850 cities and 4,700+ locations. Customers can locate and operate chargers using real-time features through the 'myAudi Connect' app, which includes route planning, charger availability, and start/stop func-

tions.

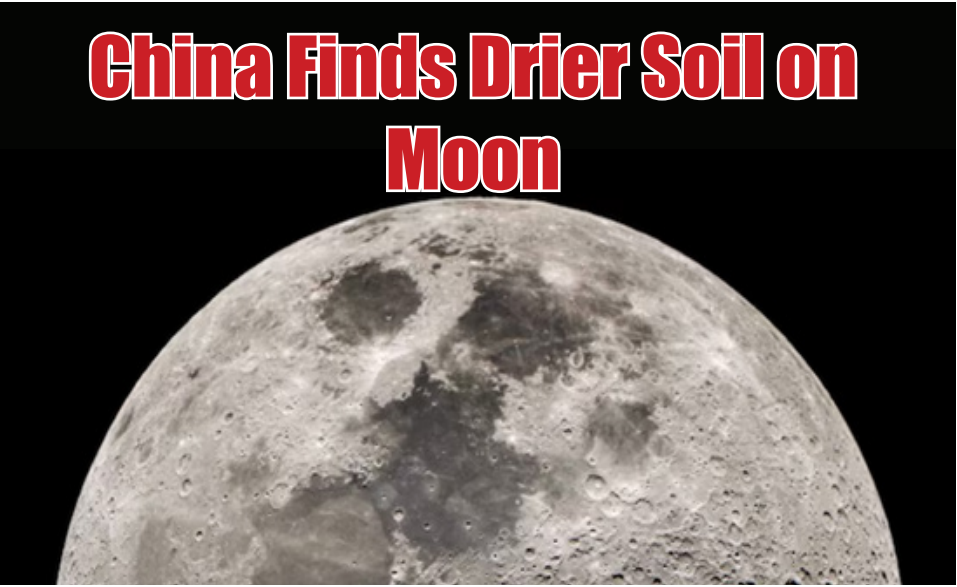
Commenting on the development, Mr. Balbir Singh Dhillon, Head of Audi India, said, "With over 6,500 charging points and a focus on DC fast chargers, we are enhancing convenience, reducing charging times, and expanding accessibility for our customers. The second phase marks a major step forward in enhancing the EV ownership experience." As a value addition, Audi has also extended complimentary charging for all e-tron customers across its network until December 31, 2025. This

benefit is available through its CPO partners and can be accessed via the 'myAudi Connect' app.

This latest push reinforces Audi's commitment to driving the shift toward sustainable mobility in India.







In a significant lunar discovery, Chinese scientists have revealed that soil from the far side of the moon is drier than previously thought, containing less than 1.5 micrograms of water per gram—significantly lower than levels recorded on the near side. This insight, based on samples collected by China’s Chang’e 6 mission, deepens our understanding of the moon’s complex composition and geological history. The research team, led by Sen Hu from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, meticulously analyzed five grams of lunar material retrieved from the South Pole-Aitken Basin, one of the oldest and largest impact craters in the solar system. Using advanced electron microscopy, they examined 578 individual particles, identifying a stark difference in water content compared to samples from the near side. This dryness raises new questions about the moon’s formation and the processes that have shaped its two faces over billions of years. Scientists emphasize that understanding the presence and distribution of water on the lunar surface is critical not only for unraveling the moon’s evolutionary

story but also for future space exploration and potential colonization, where water could be a vital in-situ resource. While these early findings are groundbreaking, researchers caution that they are based on a limited sample size and stress the need for further collection missions to develop a more comprehensive picture. China’s successful landing on the far side in 2024 marked a historic milestone in space exploration, as no other country had previously achieved such a feat. With countries like the U.S., India, and Russia also ramping up their lunar missions, the moon remains a focal point of international scientific rivalry and cooperation. As more data emerges from upcoming expeditions, including future Chinese missions, this discovery may influence the trajectory of lunar science, particularly regarding how water is stored and transported on the moon. For now, the findings suggest the moon’s far side may hold more secrets than previously believed, and only through deeper exploration can humanity hope to fully understand our celestial neighbor’s past—and its potential future.

## KFC’s Chicken-Flavored Toothpaste Sells Out



In one of the most unexpected brand collaborations to date, KFC has teamed up with Australian dental care company Hismile to launch a limited-edition fried chicken-flavored toothpaste, and, unsurprisingly, it has already sold out. Inspired by the fast-food giant’s iconic blend of 11 herbs and spices, the toothpaste was designed to offer an “irresistible” brushing experience that mimics the sensation of biting into a piece of hot, juicy Original Recipe KFC chicken—while still leaving users with a “fresh and clean” finish. The novelty product quickly captured public attention and social media buzz for its outrageous concept, merging fast food indulgence with daily hygiene in a way few expected. While the collaboration may sound like a stunt, it was very real and highly limited, turning the bizarre idea into an overnight cult favorite. KFC, known for its creative and often quirky marketing campaigns, described the product in a press release as both flavorful and functional, blending a unique senso-

ry experience with the utility of oral care. Though the toothpaste was not released for widespread sale, it became an instant viral hit, with fans rushing to get their hands on it before stocks vanished. Reactions online ranged from amused curiosity to disbelief, with many joking about brushing three times a day—or more—just for the taste. Though there’s no word yet on whether KFC and Hismile plan to restock or expand the product line, the overwhelming response suggests a growing appetite for oddball, experience-driven products that turn everyday routines into novelty moments. This isn’t KFC’s first foray into unconventional products; the brand has previously launched everything from chicken-scented candles to fashion collabs. However, this chicken-flavored toothpaste might just be its most bizarre—and successful—creation yet, proving once again that in the age of viral marketing, anything is possible, even brushing your teeth with fried chicken.

## Tamil Nadu Kids Go Viral Globally

A heartwarming video featuring students from a government school in Tamil Nadu has taken the internet by storm, amassing over 100 million views and capturing hearts worldwide. Shared by a teacher from Melur Panchayat Union Kindergarten and Middle School in Therkamoor, the video shows a group of young children—mostly girls and one boy—dancing and singing to the viral Thai song Anan Ta Pad Chaye. Dressed in school uniforms, the children deliver a pitch-perfect rendition of the song, dancing joyfully with infectious energy and enthusiasm. Their flawless timing and genuine happiness have made the video a viral sensation, with social media users praising both their talent and the cultural crossover. One of the standout



performers, a girl named Shivadarshini, has become a particularly beloved figure online, having already gained attention from a previous viral video shared by the same teacher. The clip highlights not just the global nature of internet trends, but also the ability of children to bring joy across borders through music and dance. The Thai

song itself has been trending for weeks on various platforms, with people from around the world jumping on the dance challenge. However, it’s this group of spirited schoolchildren who have truly stolen the spotlight, showing that talent and joy can shine from even the most unexpected corners. Their performance, filled with bright smiles and heartfelt energy, reflects the universal language of music and underscores the power of digital platforms to amplify voices and talents regardless of location. The teacher’s decision to share the video not only gave the children a chance to be seen and appreciated globally but also turned a simple classroom performance into a worldwide celebration of joy, rhythm, and innocence.

## Kareena Kapoor’s Bizarre Party Avatar

In a viral moment that’s baffled and amused the internet in equal measure, a Karachi party featured a bizarre digital cameo of Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan—sort of. A poorly animated avatar of the actress was projected on a big screen, grooving awkwardly to loud rave music, supposedly to energize the crowd. Instead of glamming up the scene, the surreal spectacle left partygoers and netizens laughing, confused, and ultimately turning the odd creation into meme fodder. The creator behind the animated Kareena took to Instagram to explain that the track was inspired by the film Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham, particularly Kareena’s iconic character “Pooh.” Claiming the moment was meant to be “chaotic and iconic,” the creator added that he sampled one of her famous lines and wanted to add a unique visual twist for the show. However, the end



result—a glitchy, awkward rendition of Kareena’s likeness awkwardly dancing—missed the glam mark by miles. Social media reactions ranged from light-hearted roasting to genuine confusion, with users questioning both the animation quality and the concept itself. While some found it endearingly chaotic and praised the experimental effort, others couldn’t resist sharing the clip with captions like “Kareena.exe has stopped working.” The incident has sparked debates over digital creativity, celebrity deepfakes, and how far is too far when it comes to virtual appearances. Regardless of where opinions fall, the animated Kareena moment has certainly made its mark—albeit as a cautionary tale of how not to digitally resurrect a Bollywood icon at a rave.

## Underwater Pyramid Fuels Atlantis Theorie

A mysterious 90-foot underwater structure known as the Yonaguni Monument, located near Japan’s Ryukyu Islands, has reignited debate among scientists, archaeologists, and history enthusiasts about the origins of ancient

civilizations. Discovered in 1986, this vast stone formation lies 82 feet beneath the ocean and resembles a pyramid with sharply angled steps—features that many believe suggest it was crafted by human hands. What’s most puz-



zling is that geological tests date the monument to over 10,000 years old, a time that predates known human architectural achievements like the Egyptian pyramids or Stonehenge. If confirmed as man-made, this would drastically alter our understanding of when complex societies capable of such engineering feats first emerged—pushing the timeline back to well before the widely accepted start of agricultural civilizations. This has led some to liken Yonaguni to the mythical lost city of Atlantis. Yet, skepticism remains, with many experts

arguing the formation could be the result of natural tectonic activity rather than ancient construction. The controversy recently took center stage on the Joe Rogan Experience podcast, where author Graham Hancock and archaeologist Flint Dibble debated the site’s authenticity, further amplifying public interest. As debate swirls around its origins, the Yonaguni Monument continues to captivate imaginations worldwide, standing as either a naturally occurring wonder—or evidence of a forgotten chapter in human history.

## World’s Largest Snake Gathering in Canada

Every spring, a remarkable natural event unfolds in Manitoba, Canada, where the Narcisse Snake Dens become the site of the world’s largest snake congregation. Over 75,000 red-sided garter snakes emerge from limestone sinkholes after months of braving sub-zero temperatures underground. These dens, no bigger than a living room, offer insulation during the region’s frigid winters that can plunge as low as -45°C, making them ideal hibernation shelters. As the weather warms, the snakes surface in vast numbers for their annual mating ritual, forming dense, swirling masses that blanket the ground in a mesmerizing, if somewhat spine-tingling, spectacle. The sheer scale of the gathering attracts thousands of visitors and scientists every year, turning the quiet Canadian landscape into a temporary wildlife tourism hub. The snakes—largely harmless to humans—entwine in what’s known as “mating balls,” where dozens of males compete for a single female, creating a chaotic but fascinating sight. Beyond the visual spectacle, new scientific research has uncovered surprising complexity in their behavior. A study published in “Behavioural Ecology” in late 2023 revealed that some species of garter snakes, like Butler’s garter snakes, display social structures reminiscent of mammals, with groupings organized by age and sex. This challenges the longstanding belief that snakes are solitary creatures and opens new avenues



of research into reptilian social dynamics. The Narcisse Snake Dens not only serve as a critical ecological habitat but also as a living laboratory where scientists can study the interactions, communication, and survival strategies of garter snakes in large populations. For casual observers and researchers alike, this annual phenomenon is a rare and awe-inspiring example of nature’s intricacy—an event where biology, survival, and spectacle converge. As concerns about biodiversity and climate change grow, the Narcisse snake gathering also stands as a reminder of the importance of preserving such unique ecosystems for future generations.



# Dhoni Returns as CSK Captain After Gaikwad Injury Blow

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have suffered a major setback ahead of their IPL 2025 campaign, as skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad has been ruled out of the tournament due to an elbow fracture. In a familiar turn of events, legendary former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni will step in to lead the side once again.

CSK head coach Stephen Fleming confirmed the news during a press interaction on Thursday,

stating, “Ruturaj Gaikwad ruled out of IPL with fracture on elbow. MS Dhoni to take over as captain.” Gaikwad, who was appointed full-time captain for the 2025 season, sustained the injury during training. Dhoni’s return to captaincy brings both experience and calm to the squad as CSK aim for another strong season. Fans can now look forward to seeing “Captain Cool” back in action, steering the yellow brigade once more.



# Chandigarh Thrash Opponent in U20 NFC Opener



Chandigarh made a resounding start to the Swami Vivekananda U20 Men’s National Football Championship with a dominant win on the opening day. The team stormed to a 4-0 lead by half-time, effectively sealing the match early. Manveer Singh opened the tournament’s scoring in the 15th minute, capitalizing on a loose ball to tap in from close range. He doubled his tally in the 28th minute with

a clinical right-footed finish into the bottom corner. Sahil starred with a brilliant hat-trick, netting in the 39th, 43rd, and 64th minutes. His goals showcased composure and sharp finishing, including a smooth one-on-one and two quickfire close-range strikes. With this emphatic win, Chandigarh has set the tone for the tournament and sent a strong message to their rivals early on.

# Anand Backs Gukesh for Norway Chess Clash with Carlsen

Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand has thrown his support behind teenage sensation Gukesh Dommaraju ahead of his much-anticipated showdown with world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen at Norway Chess 2025. The prestigious tournament will be held in Stavanger, Norway, from May 26 to June 6. Speaking at an event hosted by Norway Chess and the Sports Journalists Association of Mumbai (SJAM), Anand expressed confidence in Gukesh, the youngest world champion in chess history. “I expect a very exciting



battle. Gukesh will not lack motivation or determination to go after Magnus,” said Anand. “Magnus, too, is highly driven to face young talents. We have the

perfect storm here.” The face-off promises to be one of the most thrilling duels of the year, as Gukesh looks to challenge Carlsen’s dominance on the global stage.

# Rice Shines as Arsenal Stun Real Madrid 3-0



Arsenal took a commanding step toward the Champions League semifinals with a stunning 3-0 victory over defending champions Real Madrid at The Emirates on Tuesday. Declan Rice was the star of the night, netting two sensational free kicks to put the Gunners in control of the quarterfinal first leg.

The third goal came from Mikel Merino, who finished clinically to cap off Arsenal’s dominant performance. Real Madrid looked off the pace from the start, struggling to cope with the hosts’ intensity. One of the few early chances for Madrid nearly turned disastrous, as Eduardo Camavinga almost

scored an own goal after deflecting Antonio Rudiger’s clearance. Thomas Partey tested Thibault Courtois soon after, but the Belgian keeper denied him. With Rice’s brilliance and solid teamwork, Arsenal now carry strong momentum into the second leg at the Santiago Bernabéu.

# Rahul’s Masterclass Leads Delhi Capitals to Victory Over RCB



In a thrilling clash held at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, the Delhi Capitals (DC) secured a dominant six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the 24th match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. KL Rahul, leading from the front, played a sensational captain’s knock to guide his team to a convincing victory. Winning the toss, RCB opted to bat first and managed to post a total of 163 for 7 in their allotted 20 overs. Though they started well, the middle-order couldn’t maintain the momentum, leading to a below-par finish. Delhi’s bowlers kept things tight, picking up wickets at regular intervals and denying RCB a late flourish. Chasing 164, Delhi Capitals made their intent clear from the start. KL Rahul an-

chored the innings with an unbeaten 93 off just 53 balls, laced with elegant boundaries and well-timed sixes. His knock was a perfect blend of aggression and composure, taking the pressure off the rest of the batting lineup. Rahul found support from the middle order, and the Capitals comfortably chased down the target in 17.5 overs, finishing at 169 for 4. With this win, Delhi Capitals continue their strong form in the tournament, while RCB are left to reconsider their game plans after another disappointing outing. KL Rahul was rightfully named Player of the Match for his stellar performance. The win has further cemented Delhi’s position on the points table as they continue their march towards the playoffs.

# Sindhu Advances, Lakshya Crashes Out in Asia Badminton Opener



PV Sindhu made a strong start at the Badminton Asia Championships, defeating Indonesia’s Ester Nurumi Wardoyo 21-15, 21-19 in 44 minutes. The world No. 17 will face Japan’s Akane Yamaguchi, seeded third, in the pre-quarterfinals. However, it was disappointment for India in the men’s singles. Lak-

shya Sen suffered a first-round exit, losing 18-21, 10-21 to Chinese Taipei’s Lee Chia Hao. HS Prannoy also bowed out, falling 16-21, 21-12, 11-21 to China’s Zu Guang Lu. Kiran George brought some cheer, progressing to the pre-quarters with a 21-16, 21-8 win over Kazakhstan’s Dmitriy Panarin.

In women’s singles, Aakarshi Kashyap, Anupama Upadhyaya, and Malvika Bansod were all ousted in the opening round. In men’s doubles, Hariharan Am-sakarunan and Ruban Kumar comfortably beat Sri Lanka’s Madhuka Dulanjana and Lahiru Weerasinghe 21-3, 21-12 to reach the Round of 16.





## Keerthy Suresh’s Bollywood Leap of Faith

Keerthy Suresh, known for her endearing screen presence and strong youth fanbase, has long focused on Tamil cinema while maintaining occasional appearances in Telugu films. Despite once being among the top names in Tollywood, she hasn’t scored a major hit since *Dasara*. Following that, Keerthy continued to prioritize Tamil projects, but her ambitions have now shifted towards Bollywood. Though her debut Hindi film *Baby John* failed to leave an impact at the box office, she’s determined to prove herself in the Hindi film industry. Buzz suggests she has signed an upcoming film opposite Rajkumar Rao. Like many South actresses—such as Ileana, Kajal Aggarwal, Tamannaah, and Shruti Haasan—who tried their luck in Bollywood with mixed results, Keerthy too faces the challenge of standing out in a competitive arena. Whether her graceful persona and talent will help her succeed where others struggled remains to be seen, but her resolve to make it big in Bollywood is



## Akhil & Zainab’s Sunset Serenade

Tollywood’s favorite couple, Akhil Akkineni and fiancée Zainab Ravdjee, lit up social media with a tender beachside moment that felt straight out of a romance film. Celebrating Akhil’s 31st birthday, the pair embraced under a golden sunset, their heartfelt hug capturing the essence of love and serenity. Dressed in coordinated yellow

tops and cream-toned bottoms, the duo stood barefoot against the backdrop of gentle waves, exuding intimacy and elegance. The candid photo, likely from a Maldives-esque getaway, instantly resonated with fans, sparking admiration across the internet. No filters, no captions—just raw emotion and an unspoken bond.



## Ajith’s Triple Act Misses the Mark

In *\*Good Bad Ugly\**, Ajith Kumar attempts a roaring comeback under the direction of die-hard fan Adhik Ravichandran, but the film ends up as a mixed bag. Riding high on fan anticipation and vintage Ajith vibes teased in trailers, the film delivers action-packed sequences and a stylized narrative, but falters when it comes to emotional depth and coherence. Adhik, who previously wowed audiences with *\*Mark Anthony\**, gives Ajith a platform to shine in multiple shades, but

the script feels stretched and uneven. Trisha Krishnan and the ensemble cast including Arjun Das, Sunil, and Prabhu add star power, yet their roles often feel underwritten. GV Prakash’s music elevates some moments, but overall, the film doesn’t quite land the punch it promises. Despite flashy

visuals and a fan-service approach, *\*Good Bad Ugly\** struggles to balance style and substance, resulting in a film that’s watchable but far from a blockbuster. Verdict: Ajith sparkles, but the story doesn’t.



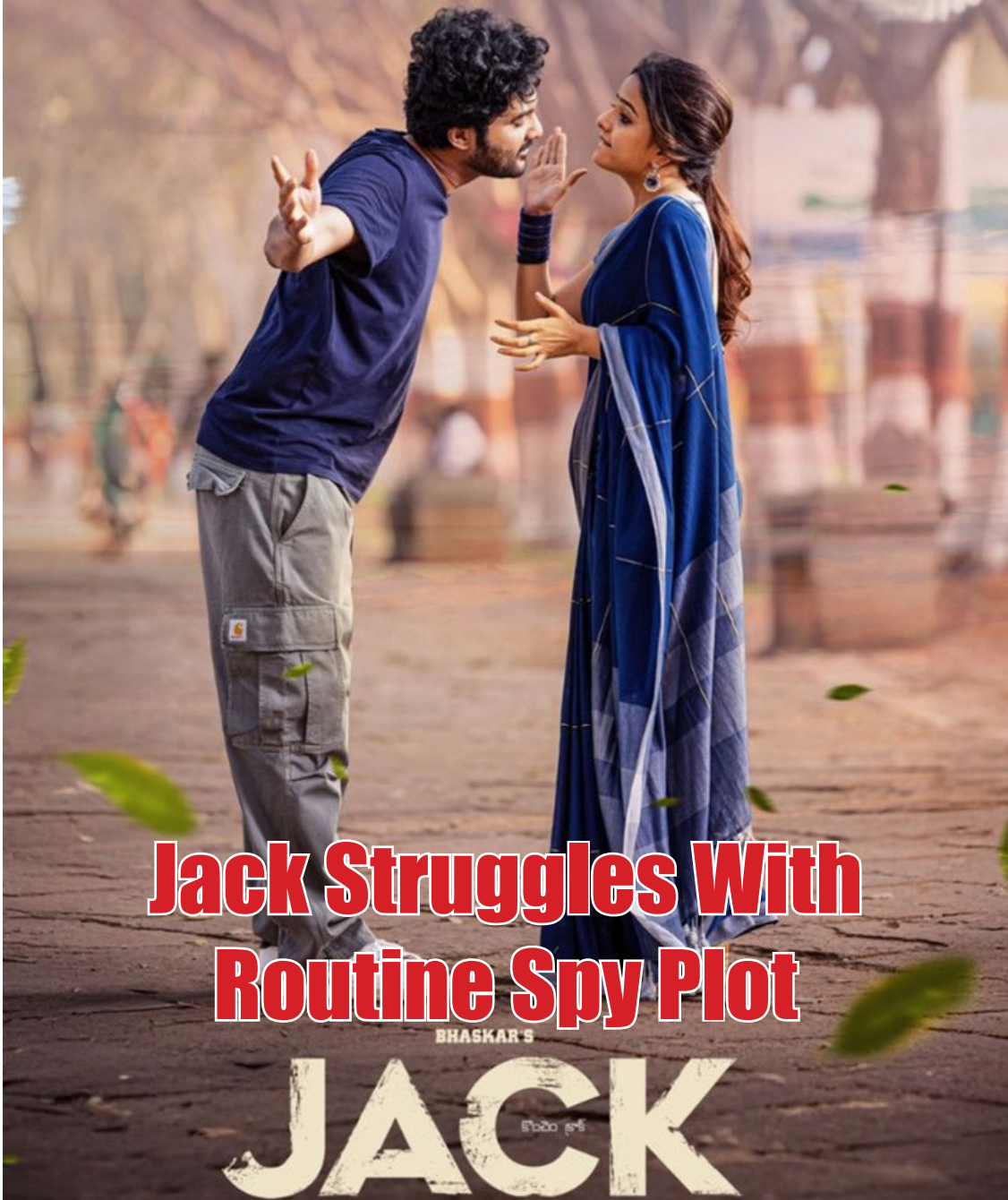
## Tabu, Vijay Sethupathi Join Forces

In a major announcement that thrilled cinema lovers, filmmaker Puri Jagannadh revealed his upcoming pan-Indian film starring powerhouse performers Tabu and Vijay Sethupathi. Taking to social media on April 10, Jagannadh shared a photo featuring himself, Tabu, and producer-actor Charmee Kaur, officially welcoming Tabu onboard. He described her as “electric” and “explosive,” calling her role in the film as dynamic as her presence.

The project, dubbed #PuriSethupathi, marks a high-profile collaboration and is produced under the banner of Puri Connects by Jagannadh, Charmee Kaur, and Vishu Reddy. With filming scheduled to begin in June, fans are eagerly awaiting further details. This marks a rare and exciting team-up between two of Indian cinema’s most versatile actors, promising a unique cinematic experience across languages and regions.



Siddhu Jonnalagadda, known for his quirky charm in *DJ Tillu* and *Tillu Square*, returns with *Jack*, directed by Bommarillu Bhaskar and co-starring Vaishnavi Chaitanya. Despite a trailer that promised Siddhu’s signature wit, the film fails to deliver, falling into the trap of a predictable spy thriller. The plot follows Pablo Neruda alias Jack, an aspiring RAW agent who takes matters into his own hands to stop a terrorist conspiracy across major Indian cities. Things take a twist when he mistakenly captures a real RAW officer (Prakash Raj), prompting a private investigation by his father involving a detective’s daughter (Vaishnavi), who also becomes his romantic interest. While the film attempts to blend patriotism, suspense, and romance, the weak screenplay and routine narrative make it an underwhelming watch, raising doubts about whether Siddhu’s charm alone is enough to carry such formulaic storytelling.



## Jack Struggles With Routine Spy Plot

BHASKAR'S

JACK



Upasana Konidela has revealed a charming behind-the-scenes routine from her life with Global Star Ram Charan: she carries a cooker wherever they travel to ensure he gets at least one Indian meal a day. Known for his spiritual discipline

and rooted lifestyle, Ram Charan insists on eating Indian food regardless of where in the world he is. In a recent interview, Upasana opened up about this unique travel ritual, saying, “My husband has to eat Indian food wherever we are in the world.

## Upasana’s Portable Kitchen for Ram Charan

One meal has to be Indian.” To avoid fire alarms in hotels, they even use the cooker inside the shower area, plugged in carefully for safe, home-cooked comfort food. Interestingly, this practice also inspired her mother-in-law to turn traditional Indian staples into ready-to-use mixes, now a small business venture she began in her 60s. For Ram Charan, it’s not just about taste—it’s about tradition, and Upasana ensures he never misses a bite of home, no matter the timezone.