

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 35° C

L 21° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 36° C

L 23° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 23° C



SRH

Pulls Off Historic Chase Victory

The 24-year-old smashed a 40-ball century for SRH in a 246-run chase against the Punjab Kings at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad.

IPL 2025 points table: Find the latest updated standings of the Indian Premier League after the Lucknow Super Giants vs Gujarat Titans encounter on April 12.

Abhishek Sharma's unbeaten 136 for Sunrisers Hyderabad is the highest score by an Indian in IPL history.

PLAYZONE

“Govt Junior Colleges Rival Private Institutions”



- Intermediate results mark highest pass percentage in a decade
- Record-breaking success in vocational streams
- Minister Nara Lokesh's reforms revolutionize government junior colleges

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Intermediate exam results have revealed a dramatic transformation in the performance of government junior colleges across Andhra Pradesh, highlighting the successful implementation of reform-driven initiatives under Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh. In a trend-setting shift, government junior colleges are now competing on par with private institutions — a feat long considered improbable. This year's Intermediate results stand as historic. In Intermediate second year, government junior colleges recorded a 69% pass rate, the highest in a decade. In first year, 47% of students passed, the second-highest in ten years. Across all colleges, the overall pass percentages reached 70% in first year and a record 83% in second

year. Parvathipuram Manyam district emerged as a top performer, recording 70% pass rate in the first year and 81% in the second year, while Visakhapatnam lagged with the lowest pass percentages at 34% and 55%, respectively. The vocational stream also registered record achievements. 64% of students passed in the first year, and 82% in the second year, marking the highest vocational pass rates in a decade. Minister Lokesh's reforms have played a pivotal role in this transformation:

- Reintroduction of free textbooks and notebooks under the Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidyarthi Mitra scheme
- Launch of the Dokka

Seethamma Mid-Day Meal Scheme for Intermediate students

- Promotions for 217 principals in 2024 after a 5-year gap
- Introduction of centralized assessment and teacher performance reviews
- Extended college hours from 9 AM to 5 PM
- Implementation of a 100-day support program for academically weak students
- Regular parent-teacher meetings, progress cards, and WhatsApp updates for parents
- A “Take Care” system to track student progress and attendance

These reforms underscore Lokesh's commitment to revamping government education and ensuring quality learning outcomes statewide.

Minister Narayana Accuses YSRCP of Misleading Public on TTD Cowshed Deaths

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana has come down heavily on the YSR Congress Party, accusing it of spreading false narratives about cow deaths in Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) cowsheds. He targeted former TTD chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, alleging that Reddy was deliberately trying to spark religious discord and damage the institution's credibility with baseless claims. Speaking to reporters, Narayana said that Karunakar Reddy, known for his previous controversial statements on Lord Venkateswara, was once again attempting to stir controversy by floating exaggerated figures on cow deaths. “They're going as far as to malign sacred cows, revered by crores of devotees, by pushing completely unfounded allegations,” he said. According to Narayana, cows in the TTD gosals typically die due to natural causes such as old age, delivery-related complications, or illness—amounting to around 10 deaths per month. “In the last three months, 40 such cases were reported, which aligns with data from previous years,” he clarified. He rejected claims that 100 cows had died in a short span,

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Padma Shri Vanajeevi Daripalli Ramaiah Passes Away at 75

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

A wave of sorrow has swept across Khammam district following the demise of Padma Shri awardee and renowned environmentalist Daripalli Ramaiah, fondly known as Vanajeevi Ramaiah. The 75-year-old passed away in his sleep late Friday night. When family members tried to wake him on Saturday morning,

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Big Shock for YCP - Janasena Gets First Municipality in AP

- Jana Sena Gets Nidadavolu municipality in the constituency of Minister Kandula Durgesh
- YCP's no-confidence motion against Chairman Bhupathi Adinarayana rejected by District Collector
- Jana Sena gains control without a single councilor, marking its first municipal victory in AP

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Gorantla Madhav Arrested Illegally, Says Ponnnavolu Sudhakar Reddy

- Former MP arrested for protesting objectionable posts by ITDP employee
- Ponnnavolu: “Anyone's blood will boil after seeing those posts”
- Allegations of illegal arrest and custodial torture surface

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## Big Shock for YCP - Janasena Gets First...

TPN Correspondent | Nidadavolu

In a surprising political turn, the Jana Sena Party (JSP) has won its first municipality in Andhra Pradesh, securing the Nidadavolu municipality, which falls under the constituency of State Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh. The victory is significant as it comes despite Jana Sena not having a single councilor in the municipality prior to the win.

The Nidadavolu municipality, which had been dominated by the YCP in the 2021 municipal elections with 27 out of 28 wards, witnessed a dramatic shift when several YCP councilors joined Jana Sena after the 2024 general elections. Among those who defected were Municipal Chairman Bhupathi Adinarayana and nine YCP councilors, who switched their allegiance to the Jana Sena in the presence of Minister Kandula Durgesh.

However, the YCP attempted to destabilize the new formation by submitting a no-confidence motion against Chairman Adinarayana on the 20th of the month. The motion was supported by 17 YCP councilors. But, a twist unfolded when three of the YCP councilors who had signed the motion later joined the Jana Sena, reducing the strength of the YCP to just 14 councilors.

In the process of verifying the signatures on the no-confidence motion, discrepancies were found in the names of two councilors, including the 8th and 14th ward representatives. Additionally, councilors from the 1st, 8th, and 10th wards gave a letter opposing the motion. This further weakened the YCP's position, as the required strength to pass the no-confidence motion—15 votes—was no longer attainable.

As a result, the District Collector, P. Prashanthi, rejected the no-confidence motion, confirming the victory of the Jana Sena Party. This move effectively placed the Nidadavolu municipality under Jana Sena control, marking a major political achievement for the party.

Minister Kandula Durgesh's strategic political maneuvering and the shift in councilor loyalty were instrumental in Jana Sena's success in securing the municipality. This victory is a significant milestone for the party, which is working to expand its presence in the state.

## Gorantla Madhav Arrested Illegally, Says Ponnaveolu Sudhakar Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Senior advocate and YSRCP legal cell president Ponnaveolu Sudhakar Reddy has strongly condemned the arrest of former Hindupur MP Gorantla Madhav, calling it “completely illegal and vindictive.” He alleged that Madhav was arrested not for any wrongdoing, but for protesting against deeply offensive social media posts targeting him.

According to Ponnaveolu, the controversy began when Chebrolu Kiran, identified as an ITDP employee, allegedly shared derogatory and defamatory posts about Madhav. These posts were widely circulated across thousands of social media channels and were even celebrated by some groups, further escalating public anger.

“Anyone's blood will boil upon seeing the content shared by Chebrolu Kiran,” Ponnaveolu said, questioning why no immediate action was taken against the individual responsible. “Only after intense public backlash was a case filed — and even that seemed like a formality,” he added.

Ponnaveolu stated that Madhav had peacefully expressed his protest against this biased approach by the authorities. Instead of investigating the original offensive content and its creator, the police allegedly targeted Madhav, leading to his illegal arrest and custodial harassment.

He asserted that the incident reflects a dangerous misuse of law enforcement, where voices raised against injustice are silenced through intimidation.

TDP leaders have demanded Madhav's immediate release and a fair investigation into the posts made against him. The issue has sparked widespread concern in political and legal circles, with calls growing for the government to uphold constitutional rights and due process.

## Former CJI NV Ramana Reflects on His First Job and the Role of Journalism

- NV Ramana shares insights on his first job as a journalist.
- Emphasizes respect for the profession and factual reporting.
- Calls for unity among journalists and continued self-improvement.

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Former Chief Justice of India, NV Ramana, shared his early career journey and thoughts on journalism during a media interaction on Saturday. Ramana revealed that after completing his degree, he decided to join a Telugu daily in Vijayawada as a sub-editor. He recalled showing a novel he had written to the paper, which led to an offer to work as a reporter instead. Ramana worked as a journalist in Vijayawada for several years, a time when there were only 10 journalists in the city. Ramana emphasized that respect for the profession is crucial. He highlighted the significant role journalists play in providing entertainment, knowledge, and joy to society, and stressed the importance of maintaining commitment to one's work. He urged journalists to consider the impact of their words and ensure that the news they present is factually accurate, impartial, and free from derogatory language.



Commenting on the current state of journalism, Ramana expressed concern about the tendency of newspapers to publish imagined stories rather than factual news. He urged journalists to gain a complete understanding of the subjects they cover and to focus on presenting facts to maintain public trust. Ramana also addressed the fragmented nature of the journalism community, criticizing the existence of multiple journalist associations and calling for

greater unity within the profession. Drawing a parallel between journalism and the medical profession, he noted that journalists must work diligently around the clock to deliver news. He pointed out that 99% of journalists face financial hardships, with only a few leading luxurious lives. Ramana concluded by encouraging journalists to enhance their knowledge and uphold respect for their peers in this competitive field.

## Minister Nara Lokesh slams YSRCP over ‘false propaganda’ on TTD Goshalas

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Minister Nara Lokesh on Saturday condemned what he described as “baseless and malicious propaganda” being spread on social media regarding alleged cow deaths in the goshalas managed by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD).

In a sharp post on X (formerly Twitter), Lokesh said there was “no truth” to the claims and accused the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) of peddling falsehoods for political mileage.

“TTD has clarified the facts. Devotees are urged not to believe this false narrative, which YSRCP has pushed to mislead and provoke,” Lokesh said in his tweet.

Calling the allegations “shameful and unacceptable,” Lokesh said that spreading lies about sacred institutions like the TTD for political gain was a serious affront



to devotees and religious sentiments.

The controversy began after unverified videos and posts circulated online alleging neglect and deaths of cows in TTD goshalas. The TTD, which oversees temple administration and associated activities including goshalas, has already issued a statement refuting the claims and appealed to the public not to fall for misinformation.

## Eluru Range IG Reveals Facts Behind Pastor Praveen's Death

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Eluru Range Inspector General Ashok Kumar held a key press meet on Saturday to reveal the findings in the sensational death case of Pastor Pagadala Praveen, whose demise stirred widespread speculation across the Telugu states. The IG provided a detailed account of events leading up to the pastor's death, supported by CCTV footage and forensic evidence.

According to the IG, Pastor Praveen left Hyderabad and was seen interacting with six individuals during his journey. He made

stops at two wine shops and a petrol station, where he was recorded making UPI payments. CCTV footage showed the pastor meeting these people and also documented minor accidents at three different locations along the route. The bike he was riding had visible damage, including a broken headlight, following these incidents.

The IG revealed that Pastor Praveen was using his bike's right indicator due to the headlight malfunction. When he reached the accident site, the footage and investigation showed that his two-wheeler was traveling at 70 kmph and slipped on a grav-

el-covered patch of road. He fell into a crescent-shaped pothole, causing the bike to overturn and land on him, leading to fatal injuries.

IG Ashok Kumar stated that a post-mortem confirmed the presence of alcohol in Pastor Praveen's system. All relevant CCTV footage has been sent for forensic analysis, and a report has been submitted corroborating the sequence of events.

Responding to widespread rumors and misinformation surrounding the pastor's death, the IG stated that notices have been issued to individuals who spread false narratives.

## Minister Narayana...

*Continued from page 1*

calling it a deliberate misinformation campaign aimed at tarnishing both the TTD and the state government. The minister said that over 260 staff members are employed to manage the gosalas, which have seen significant infrastructure upgrades, including modern sanitation practices, under the current administration.

Narayana also pointed out that postmortem examinations for cows that die naturally were never a practice under any government, countering criticism from opposition leaders. “Karunakar Reddy, who once declared himself an atheist, has no moral authority to comment on temple matters,” he said.

Ramping up his attack, Narayana alleged that Karunakar Reddy was involved in various irregularities during his stint as TTD chairman, including scams related to plasma TVs, ticket distribution, and the mismanagement of temple prasadam during the pandemic. He accused Reddy of siphoning off temple funds and manipulating systems for personal gain.

The minister also linked the latest controversy to efforts by Reddy to shield a former TTD official, Haranath Reddy, who was dismissed over misconduct. “This campaign of lies is just a smokescreen to protect someone who has already been held accountable,” Narayana said.

## Gundlakamma Gates Damaged for Sand Mining In YCP Regime - Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar

TPN Correspondent | Prakasam Dist

Irrigation Minister Gottipati Ravikumar came down heavily on the previous YSRCP government, alleging that the gates of the Gundlakamma Project were deliberately damaged to facilitate large-scale illegal sand mining. During his inspection visit to Ballikurava in Addanki constituency of Prakasam district, he stated that crores worth of sand had been illegally mined during the former regime, severely affecting the integrity of the irrigation system.

He stated that the coalition government prioritized the revival of the project and allocated necessary funds for repairs and maintenance. The minister instructed the committee members of the irrigation associations to complete dredging and repair works before the dry season concludes, ensuring water accessibility for farmers in the upcoming agricultural season. Minister Ravikumar assured that the Gundlakamma region's farmers and surrounding villages would be safeguarded from any further neglect. He emphasized the critical need to restore the canal system to its full functionality and directed the department to expedite the process.

Highlighting the revival efforts, he said that 3 TMC of water has already been stored in the reservoir. Additionally, 20 lakh fish fry have been released into the waters to support the livelihoods of local fishermen and families dependent on the project.

He reiterated that the current administration is committed to correcting the wrongs committed by the previous government and restoring confidence among the farming and fishing communities that rely on Gundlakamma. “This project is not just a source of irrigation but a lifeline for thousands,” he stated.

## Girls Dominate Intermediate 2025 Results, Krishna Dist Leads With Highest Pass Percentage

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada



Girls outshone boys in the Intermediate Public Examination (IPE) 2025, with the results marking the best academic performance in a decade. HRD Minister Nara Lokesh released the results on Saturday, praising the students' dedication and recent educational reforms.

The overall pass percentage stood at 83% in the second year and 70% in the first year. Out of 4,22,030 second-year students, 3,51,521 passed, while 3,42,979 out of 4,87,295 cleared the first year. Girls led with 86% pass rate in the second year and 75% in the first, ahead of boys at 80% and 66%, respectively.

In vocational courses, the success continued—84% of girls passed in the second year and 71% in the first year, compared to 67% and 50% among boys. District-wise, Krishna district topped with 93% in the second year, followed by Guntur (91%) and NTR district (89%). Chittoor (74%), Anakapalli, and Alluri Sitarama Raju (73%) reported the lowest pass rates. Among streams, MPC, MEC, and BiPC showed over 83% success, while CEC, HEC, and others ranged from 61% to 69%.

Institution-wise, BC Residential Junior Colleges led with 97%, followed by AP Residential (96%) and AP SW Residential Colleges (94%). Government Junior Colleges showed notable improvement with 69%.



# Minister Kollu Ravindra Accuses YCP of Creating Division for Political Gain



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

AP Excise and Mines Minister Kollu Ravindra has sharply criticized the YSRCP leadership, accusing them of deliberately fostering division between castes, religions, and regions for political gain. Ravindra condemned media outlets like Sakshi Channel and its newspaper for spreading false narratives intended to incite hatred and division, particularly targeting Christians and Muslims in the state. Addressing the issue of false claims surrounding the death of cows in the SV Goshala, Ravindra lashed out at former TTD Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy for allegedly trying

to tarnish the reputation of the TTD (Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams). He expressed his displeasure with Reddy's baseless allegations about the deaths of 100 cows at the facility, calling it a malicious attempt to discredit the TTD. Ravindra also highlighted Reddy's controversial past, accusing him of undermining TTD's religious integrity by promoting anti-religious views while serving as the Chairman. He referenced Reddy's actions, such as advertising anti-religious content and conspiring to alter the sacred seven hills of Tirumala, alleging that Reddy's motivations were politically driven. The Minister further warned that the YSRCP was exploiting sensitive issues

like the death of Pastor Praveen Pagadala to provoke religious tensions in the state. He accused the party of using these incidents for political leverage, including the manipulation of the Muslim community with double standards in Parliament regarding the Waqf Bill. Ravindra called on the police to monitor the activities of YSRCP leaders, urging them to prevent the deliberate provocation of religious sentiments. He concluded by announcing plans to file a formal complaint with the Press Trust of India (PTI) against YSRCP leader Jagan Mohan Reddy and Sakshi media for their role in spreading divisive propaganda.

- If Caste and Religion Are Created... Minister Kollu Ravindra's Strong Warning
- Minister slams false propaganda over cow deaths at SV Goshala
- Warns of legal action against media outlets inciting religious tensions

# TTD Chairman BR Naidu Refutes Bhumana's Allegations of Cow Deaths

TPN Correspondent | Tirumala

TTD Chairman BR Naidu has strongly refuted the allegations made by YSRCP leader Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, who claimed that a large number of cows had died in the SV cowshed under the TTD's care. Naidu dismissed the accusations as "false propaganda" and criticized the attempt to use such claims for political gain. Bhumana Karunakar Reddy had expressed concern over the alleged deaths of cows at the TTD, pointing out that such incidents were an indication of the trust's inability to handle the sacred events they undertake. In response, BR Naidu stated that the allegations were untrue and lacked any factual basis. He expressed disappointment over the use of the deaths of cows, which might occur due to natural causes such as illness, old age, or accidents, as a tool for political propaganda. Naidu emphasized the significance of cows in Hinduism,

noting that they have been revered as sacred beings since Vedic times. He further criticized the unethical practice of using photographs of cows that had died elsewhere, falsely attributing them to TTD's cowsheds. Naidu expressed his outrage at the idea of politicizing the sacred service of cow care, often referred to as "Godi service." In his statement, the TTD Chairman urged the public to be cautious about such rumors and not to be misled by politically motivated attempts to tarnish the reputation of the TTD. Naidu called on devotees to reject such smear campaigns and continue supporting the service with devotion and trust.



# MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy Mocks Kakani with Sharp Satire over Silence

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Nellore Rural MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy launched a blistering satire on former minister and YSRCP leader Kakani Govardhan Reddy, questioning his sudden silence after past displays of bravado. Somireddy, known for his sharp political jibes, ridiculed Kakani's past statements and suggested that his disappearance from the spotlight indicates fear of legal consequences. Addressing media representatives, Somireddy said, "You called me a tiger and hit your thigh... where have you gone now?" referring to Kakani's aggressive posturing during previous political confrontations. "You said you wouldn't run away under any circumstance, that you'd stand and fight... then why this silence?" he questioned, directly challenging the former minister. Somireddy didn't stop there. In a mocking tone, he added, "If you go to jail, your friend Vallabhaneni Vamsi will be there. You won't feel lonely." The comment alludes to political speculation around pending legal troubles for



Kakani and his close association with fellow YSRCP leader Vamsi, who is also under scrutiny. The satirical remarks from Somireddy come amid increased political tension in Nellore district, where allegations and counter-allegations between TDP and YSRCP leaders continue to heat up. His comments are being seen as a direct provocation to force a response from Kakani, who has so far remained silent in recent weeks. Political observers say this verbal attack is part of a broader strategy to highlight the legal issues faced by some YSRCP leaders while boosting the morale of TDP cadres ahead of upcoming political activity in the region.

# BJP Accuses Congress of Insulting Ambedkar, Launches Statewide Awareness Drive

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

BJP National Vice President and MP D.K. Aruna accused the Congress party of insulting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and undermining his ideals. Speaking as the chief guest at a workshop in Vijayawada, she claimed that Congress not only defeated Ambedkar in elections but has also continuously disrespected his contributions to the nation. During the workshop, Aruna and other senior BJP leaders criticized the Congress for misleading the public, particularly during election campaigns. She specifically referred to Congress's false claims about the BJP's supposed intention to alter the Constitution, which were ultimately rejected by the people. BJP State President and MP Daggubati Purandeshwari, who presided over the meeting, highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's admiration for Ambedkar's vision of social justice. She noted that Modi has often credited the Constitution for enabling his rise from a backward class to the position of Prime Minister. She further pointed out that while Congress governments had amended the Constitution for political gain, BJP amendments have focused on welfare and inclusivity. Purandeshwari also reminded the audience of the BJP's efforts to honor Ambedkar, citing the establishment of the Panch Teerth initiative and the installation of



his portrait in Parliament. She took aim at Congress leaders like D.K. Shivakumar, accusing them of making misleading statements regarding reservations and constitutional changes. "Ambedkar was humiliated by the same party that now claims to respect him," she remarked. In a bid to spread Ambedkar's ideals and expose Congress's actions, the BJP announced that Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations would take place from April 13 to 25. The party plans to conduct awareness programs in villages throughout the state. Key BJP leaders, including Somu Veerajulu, Dayakar Reddy, Gudise Devanand, Ayyaji Vema, R.D. Wilson, and Nagalakshmi, attended the meeting.

# Film Club Needs Immediate Overhaul - Ganta Srinivasa Rao

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

TDP MLA and former minister Ganta Srinivasa Rao has called for an immediate cleanup of the Vizag Film Club, criticizing the mismanagement that has occurred since the YSRCP government took charge in 2019. Speaking about the situation, Ganta expressed concern over the irregularities surrounding the club's recent elections, which he said were marred by improper notifications and mismanagement. Ganta revealed that the film club currently has 1,500 members and emphasized that despite its potential, the club's administration has failed to meet the expectations of the industry and its stakeholders. He stressed the need for a proper infrastructure for the club, urging the government to allocate land for a dedicated building to facilitate film-related activities. The MLA also pointed out that Visakhapatnam holds a special place in the film industry's history. He mentioned that numerous film personalities have expressed a strong interest in developing the city as a key location for filmmaking, underscoring its sentimental significance to the industry. Ganta emphasized that this presents a unique opportunity for the government to capitalize on by promoting the city as a major film hub. Additionally, Ganta urged that the government take immediate action to establish the necessary infra-

structure to support the growing demands of the film industry in Vizag. He stressed the importance of making the city an attractive destination for filmmakers and industry professionals, thereby boosting both the local economy and cultural influence. With the right investments and planning, Ganta believes that Vizag could emerge as a vital center for film production in the region.



# JSP Demands Apology from Kavitha for Inappropriate Comments on Pawan Kalyan

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana Jana Sena has strongly criticized BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha over her recent comments about Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena leader Pawan Kalyan. Kavitha had claimed that Pawan Kalyan is not a serious politician and lamented that he "unfortunately" became the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. In response, Telangana Jana Sena party in-charge Shankar Goud has demanded that Kavitha issue a public apology for her remarks. He stated that Kavitha has no moral standing to criticize Pawan Kalyan, given her own political history. Addressing the media, Shankar Goud said, "No one has the right to talk about Pawan Kalyan in such a disrespectful manner. Kavitha, who was involved in the liquor scam and even went to jail, should not speak out of turn." He further warned that Kavitha should "keep her mouth in check" and avoid making unwarranted comments about the respect-

ed leader. Goud's comments reflect growing tensions between the Jana Sena and the BRS party, as political discourse in Telangana heats up ahead of upcoming elections. He emphasized that any further disrespect towards Pawan Kalyan would not be tolerated by the party. Political observers believe that these remarks are likely to escalate the ongoing rivalry between the two parties, especially given the significance of Pawan Kalyan's role in Andhra Pradesh politics.





# Concordia University, St. Paul and Exxeella Education Group Empower Thousands of Students through Strategic Partnership

- Over 10,000 international students recruited to CSP through partnership
- CSP launches new Online MBA program during India visit
- Grand event at FNCC Hyderabad draws 300+ recruitment consultancies

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Concordia University, St. Paul (CSP), in collaboration with Exxeella Education Group, has celebrated a landmark achievement of recruiting over 10,000 international students

since the start of their partnership, significantly widening access to global education for aspiring students. The milestone was marked during the visit of Veronica Mashek, CSP's Senior International Student

Recruiter & Partnership Manager, to India. As part of her official visit, CSP launched its much-anticipated Online MBA program, designed to deliver flexible and high-quality education tailored for the international market. To promote this initiative, CSP and Exxeella Education Group hosted a grand event at FNCC, Hyderabad, which witnessed an impressive turnout of over 300 recruitment consultancies from across India. The scale and enthusiasm at the event highlighted the growing interest in international education, particularly in CSP's evolving offerings. The CSP delegation



conducted an in-depth presentation showcasing the university's programs, with a special focus on the newly introduced Online MBA. The event also featured an interactive quiz competition, adding a dynamic and engaging element to the proceedings.

Winners were honored with first, second, and third prizes, designed to encourage students to explore their academic options abroad. Veronica Mashek and the CSP team expressed



heartfelt gratitude to the Chairman and the team of Exxeella Education Group for their consistent efforts and partnership. They acknowledged Exxeella's critical role in helping students across India and beyond realize their dreams

of international education. This impactful collaboration continues to shape the lives of thousands of students, reinforcing CSP's commitment to making global education accessible and aspirational.

## MJP BC Junior Colleges outshine in Inter results, Says Minister Savita

**TPN Correspondent | Amaravati**  
State BC Welfare Minister S. Savita lauded the outstanding performance of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule (MJP) BC Junior Colleges in the Intermediate Public Examination 2025, stating they delivered results "comparable to corporate institutions."



She congratulated students, teachers, and staff, emphasizing that the results reflect the government's commitment to empowering BC students through quality education. Minister Savita highlighted that Gudibanda (girls) in Sri Sathya Sai district and Kota (boys) in Tirupathi district achieved 100% pass rates in both first and second-year exams. Overall, MJP BC Junior Colleges posted a 98% pass rate in second-year (1,578 out of 1,608 students passed) and 92.40% in the first-year (1,779 out of 1,925 students cleared the exams), significantly exceeding the state averages of 83% and 70%, respectively. In the second year, seven colleges — including Betamacharla, Neravada, Sodam, Doravarisatram, Nellimarla, and the aforementioned Gudiban-

da and Kota — achieved 100% results. Two of these also accomplished the same in the first year. **Exceptional student performances were also noted:**

- B. Diwakar scored **984/1000 in MPC (2nd year)**
- K. Kavithabhai scored **982/1000 in BiPC**
- M. Manoj scored **463/470 in MPC (1st year)**
- G. Meghana, G. Dastagiri, and CH Rani scored **435/440 in BiPC**

MJP colleges outperformed other government institutions: APRJC (96%), Social Welfare (94%), Tribal Welfare (91%), KGBVs (84%), Model Schools (82%), and GJs (69%). Minister Savita said these results reflect Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision and reaffirm MJP BC Junior Colleges as models of academic excellence for backward class students.

## False Campaign on TTD Cow Deaths Is YCP's Religious Conspiracy: Nettem Raghuram

**TPN Correspondent | NTR District**  
TDP NTR District President and former Minister Nettem Sri Raghuram alleged a major conspiracy by YSRCP to incite religious hatred and tarnish the reputation of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). Addressing a press conference in Jaggayyapet, he strongly criticized former TTD Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy for falsely claiming that 100 cows died at the SV Goshala. Nettem accused Bhumana of acting under the direction of Jagan Mohan Reddy to hurt the sentiments of crores of devotees. "This is a deliberate misinformation campaign. Bhumana, an atheist who once insulted Lord Venkateswara Swamy, was appointed as TTD Chairman only to enable such propaganda," he said. Refuting the allegations, Nettem clarified that on average, 10 cows die every month due to natural causes like old age and disease — a trend consistent with data from the last five years. He said only 40 cow deaths occurred in the last three months and the photos shared by Bhumana were from unrelated locations. He emphasized that over 2,668 cows are geo-tagged and monitored daily, and the cowshed is regularly cleaned with modern facilities. "Post-mortems are conducted only in suspicious deaths. Registers for births and deaths are maintained daily," he added. Nettem further alleged that during his tenure, Bhumana was involved in scams like plasma TV, ticket black marketing, and dollar theft, and even misused prasadam during the COVID period.

# Dr. Bondada Raghavendra Rao Extends Support for Heart Transplant Surgery

- Bondada Group Chairman donates Rs. 25,000 for critical heart surgery
- Aid transferred to patient's family via Indian Bank, Avanigadda branch
- Villagers applaud Dr. Raghavendra Rao's consistent humanitarian efforts

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
The compassionate side of Dr. Bondada Raghavendra Rao, Chairman of the Bondada Group of Companies, has come to the forefront once again. Demonstrating his commitment to social responsibility, Dr. Rao provided financial assistance of Rs. 25,000 to support a heart transplant surgery for Bachu Kutumbarao of Dakshina Chiluvolulanka village in Avanigadda mandal. Kutumbarao, who has been undergoing treatment at NIMS Hospital in Hyderabad, was in urgent need of a heart transplant. Understanding the

family's financial constraints, Dr. Raghavendra Rao promptly came forward with assistance. The donated amount was directly deposited into the Indian Bank account of Kutumbarao's wife, Smt. Madhavi, at the Avanigadda branch, ensuring a swift and transparent transfer. This noble gesture has drawn widespread appreciation from the residents of Dakshina Chiluvolulanka and surrounding villages. Locals have lauded Dr. Bondada for his continued service mindset and readiness to support those in need, especially during times of medical emergencies. Dr. Raghavendra Rao, known not only for his corporate leadership but also for his philanthropic



ic efforts, has time and again contributed to social causes, particularly in the fields of education and healthcare. This latest instance adds to his growing legacy of community service and benevolence.

As word spreads of his support to the Kutumbarao family, many have taken to social media and local forums to express gratitude and admiration. Villagers have described his assistance as a beacon of hope, and a reminder that timely help can make



a life-saving difference. Dr. Bondada's contribution is seen as yet another testament to the role individuals and corporations can play in uplifting society through meaningful interventions.

# AMC Chairperson Regalla Lakshmi Anitha Meets MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni)

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
Newly appointed Chairperson of the Thiruvur Agricultural Market Committee (AMC), Regalla Lakshmi Anitha, paid a courtesy visit to Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) on Saturday. Accompanied by her husband, Gampalagudem Mandal Party President Regalla Veera Reddy, she expressed gratitude for the confidence reposed in her by the leadership. The meeting took place at the Vijayawada Parliament Office (NTR Bhavan) located in Guru Nanak Colony. Alongside the Regalla couple, AP State Organic Products Certification Authority Chairman Shawala Devadattu and District Telugu Farmers Association President Cherukuri Rajeshwar Rao also joined the visit. Speaking on the occasion, Regalla Lakshmi Anitha thanked MP Kes-



ineni Sivanath for the opportunity to lead the AMC, assuring that she would fulfill her duties with commitment and responsibility. MP Chinni congratulated her on the appointment and emphasized his continued support for the development of agriculture and rural economy in the region. The event was attended by a large contingent of party leaders and local representatives including Gampalagudem Sarpanch Kota Pullamma, Gampalagudem Telugu Youth President Manikon-

da Ramakrishna (M.R.K.), A. Kondur Mandal Party President Gaddi Krishna Reddy, former AMC Chairman Alavala Ramesh Reddy, former ZPTC Krishna Rao, and former Left Canal Nagarjuna Sagar Chairman Y. Pullaiah Chowdary. Other notable attendees included TDP leaders Buraga Narayana, N.T. Venkateswara Rao, Peekala Nayak, Bimla Nayak, and Korlamandaraju. The gathering reflected growing grassroots support and party unity in the region following the recent appointments.

the coalition's dedication to strengthening rural infrastructure. Later, the MLA inaugurated a newly laid CC road in VN Puram Colony, completed at a cost of ₹27 lakh. Several local leaders and officials, including Mandal Parishad Vice President Kommaraju Sudheer, Sarpanch Dopalapudi Vijayalakshmi, MPTC Moram Nagarani, and Panchayat Secretary

## Donors' Support Key to Village Development: Yarlagadda Venkat Rao

**TPN Correspondent | Gannavaram**  
Government Whip and Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkat Rao emphasized the vital role of donors in rural development, urging more citizens to come forward and contribute to village progress. On Saturday evening, he laid the foundation stone for a new Panchayat office in B. B. Gudem village of Gannavaram mandal, which will be constructed at an estimated

cost of ₹40 lakh through local donations. Addressing the gathering, Yarlagadda commended the sons of Vemuri Gopala Rao for donating three cents of land for the building, and Dr. B. R. L. Prasad for contributing ₹20 lakh. He also appreciated the villagers' collective donation of another ₹20 lakh, calling it a commendable effort that could inspire similar initiatives across the state. He noted that while the

government is committed to rural development, limited resources and procedural delays can hinder progress. "If donors step in and support us, our coalition government will extend all necessary permissions and assistance," he assured. Yarlagadda recalled how the state government responded to public concerns by sanctioning funds to rebuild the dilapidated Gannavaram-Agripalli road. He affirmed

the coalition's dedication to strengthening rural infrastructure. Later, the MLA inaugurated a newly laid CC road in VN Puram Colony, completed at a cost of ₹27 lakh. Several local leaders and officials, including Mandal Parishad Vice President Kommaraju Sudheer, Sarpanch Dopalapudi Vijayalakshmi, MPTC Moram Nagarani, and Panchayat Secretary



Shiva Nagaraju, attended the event. Donors and prominent TDP leaders from the region also participated, making the program a symbol of public-private cooperation for village progress.



## MLA Arani Srinivasulu’s Praja Darbar Receives Overwhelming Public Response in Tirupati



- 49 petitions submitted by citizens at the latest Praja Darbar held at the MLA’s residence.
- Issues related to Municipal Corporation, Revenue, Police, TTD, and Electricity departments addressed.
- MLA directs officials to prioritize resolutions and forward requests to concerned departments.

### TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

The Praja Darbar initiative organized by Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu continues to receive strong public support, with citizens expressing appreciation for the MLA’s commitment to addressing their grievances. The latest session, held on Saturday morning at the MLA’s residence, saw a proactive turnout and a total of 49 petitions submitted by locals. Of the petitions received, 15 were directed to the Municipal Corporation, one to the Revenue Department, nine to TTD, two to the Police Department, four to the Electricity Department, and three to the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund (CMRF). The remaining petitions included requests related to outsourcing jobs and fee concessions in colleges.

MLA Arani Srinivasulu personally received the petitions and instructed the officials to resolve all issues on a priority basis. She emphasized the importance of ensuring that every grievance is addressed with urgency and that the people’s trust in public systems is upheld. The Praja Darbar was attended by Municipal Corporation Deputy Commissioner Amariah, Electricity Department AE Rajani, Secretariat staff, NDA coalition leaders, activists, Veeramahilas, and a large number of local residents. The collaborative approach between the people and officials is being praised as an effective model of governance, with many locals expressing satisfaction over the swift resolution of their concerns through the MLA’s intervention.

## MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy Warns Bhumana Over TTD Cow Deaths



### TPN Correspondent | Nellore

TTD Governing Council Member and Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy has issued a stern warning to those spreading false propaganda about the deaths of cows at Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD). She directly condemned YSRCP leader Bhumana Karunakar Reddy for his baseless claims that over 100 cows died in TTD cowsheds, calling it a malicious and fabricated lie. In a strongly worded statement, MLA Prashanthi clarified that the deaths occurred due to natural causes such as old age, and stressed that devotees should not be misled by edited photos or politically motivated narratives. She expressed deep anger over morphed images of dead cows being circulated with the intent to defame one of the most sa-

cred institutions in the state. She emphasized that the TTD Goshala is home to thousands of cows, where around 260 employees work round the clock to ensure their safety, hygiene, and care. “Deaths of old cows are a natural biological reality and attributing conspiracy to them is nothing but an insult to the deity and to the faith of millions,” she said. MLA Prashanthi Reddy also warned that those who malign TTD and the sanctity of cows — who are considered equivalent to a crore gods in Hindu belief — will have to face divine and legal consequences. She urged the state government to initiate legal proceedings against those responsible for spreading lies and disturbing religious harmony.

## Janasena Captures Nidadavolu Municipality in Landmark Political Shift

### TPN Correspondent | Nidadavolu

In a significant political development, Nidadavolu Municipality has officially come under the control of Jana Sena, marking it as the party’s first municipality in the state. This landmark achievement was made possible through the strategic efforts of Andhra Pradesh Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh, whose behind-the-scenes political maneuvering transformed a party with zero seats into a municipal powerhouse. Originally, YSRCP held 27 of the 28 councilor seats, with the remaining one belonging to TDP. However, with Minister Durgesh’s leadership and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan’s popular poli-

cies, the tide turned. First, 13 councilors including the chairman, vice chairman, and 11 others from YSRCP defected to Jana Sena, citing support for the coalition’s vision. Including the lone TDP councilor and Minister Durgesh’s ex-officio vote, Jana



Sena’s strength rose to 15, giving the party a clear majority. A no-confidence motion filed earlier by YSRCP councilors on April 3 failed due to this unexpected shift. As a result, Jana Sena successfully claimed the municipal chairman post, turning Nidadavolu into a symbol of the party’s growing influence and strategic execution. Addressing the media, Minister Kandula Durgesh praised the party cadre for their hard work and emphasized that this victory was not just political but a mandate for the people’s development. He assured that under the coalition government, Nidadavolu would witness rapid progress and inclusive governance, aligning with the people-first vision of the NDA.

## IDPS Tadepalligudem Students Shine at Global 'Rangotsav' Art Competition



### TPN Correspondent | Tadepalligudem

Students of International Delhi Public School (IDPS), Tadepalligudem have once again made the nation proud by excelling at the International Level ‘Rangotsav’ Art Competition for the academic year 2024-25. This prestigious global event attracted young artists from countries like Dubai, Bhutan, Tanzania, Malaysia, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar, apart from enthusiastic participation across India.

Demonstrating extraordinary artistic flair, IDPS students secured 2 Second Place awards, 1 Fourth Place award, along with the prestigious Eccentric Performer Award and 2 Creativity Artist Awards. In addition, the school’s vibrant team earned 20 Spectacular Performance Awards, along with several medals and consolation prizes, making it a celebration of talent and dedication. The competition, which saw participation from students ranging from LKG to Grade X, provided a platform for showcasing creativity across borders, and the IDPS students seized the moment with finesse. Their vibrant expressions, imaginative strokes, and commitment to artistic excellence stood out among thousands of entries worldwide. Principal N Uma Srinivas expressed immense pride in the students’ accomplishments, stating, “It’s a moment of honor

for the school to witness such young talents achieving at the international level. This success reflects the school’s commitment to nurturing creativity and holistic development in every student.” With continued encouragement and expert mentoring, IDPS Tadepalligudem is shaping a generation of young artists who not only dream big but also achieve big on the global stage.



## Kadapa District Records Moderate Improvement in Inter Results But Shock at Kamalapuram Govt College

### TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

The Intermediate Public Examination results released on Saturday brought a mixed response for Kadapa district, showing slight progress in overall rankings but also revealing serious concerns in certain institutions. The district secured 21st rank in the state in first year and 22nd in second year, a marginal improvement from last year. In the first year, 15,301 students appeared, of which 9,295 cleared, resulting in a 61% pass rate—an increase from last year’s 24th rank. In the second year, 9,688 out of 12,878 students passed, registering a 75% pass rate. The vocational stream recorded a 71% success rate, reflecting steady aca-

ademic performance. Girls outperformed boys significantly across both years. In the second year, girls achieved an 81% pass rate compared to boys’ 75%, while in the first year, girls had 71% and boys only 64%. This continues the



trend of female students dominating Intermediate results in recent years. However, the results also exposed glaring disparities in education standards, particularly at the Kamalapuram Government Junior College. In a shocking outcome, all 33 first-year students from the college failed. Of the 14 second-year students, only two passed. Principal Khaja Parveen confirmed the dismal results and expressed deep concern over the performance. While the overall district performance shows signs of improvement, the complete failure at Kamalapuram highlights the urgent need for academic review and targeted support to ensure no student is left behind in future examinations.

## Tragic Electric Shock Incident Claims Three Lives in Rajanagaram: MLA Bathula Consoles Families

### TPN Correspondent | Rajanagaram

A tragic accident occurred near Kapavaram village in Korukonda mandal of Rajanagaram constituency on Saturday morning, where three workers died due to electrocution while handling a grain-loading conveyor belt at Ganapathi Rice Mill. The victims—Jajula Venkanna, Akula Nani, and Birth Satyanarayana—were electrocuted when the equipment accidentally came in contact with 11KV high-tension wires. Upon learning of the incident, Rajanagaram MLA Bathula Balamakrishna immediately rushed to the site, consoled the grieving families, and inquired into the details of the accident. Speaking to the media, the MLA expressed deep sorrow over the unfortunate loss of lives and assured the affected families of complete support from both the government and his personal end. MLA Bathula announced that, on behalf of the government, Rs. 5 lakh compensation will



be provided to each of the deceased’s families. Additionally, after discussions with the rice mill management, it was agreed that Rs. 15 lakh per family will be provided as compensation by the mill. He stated that the tragedy was deeply painful and urged the families to remain strong during this difficult time. He instructed the relevant authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and submit a detailed report, while also directing immediate relief measures to be extended to the families. The incident has left the local community in shock and mourning, as officials begin probing the cause and accountability of the accident.

## Pithapuram Boxers Shine with Two Medals at State-Level Boxing Championship

### TPN Correspondent | Pithapuram

Boxers from Pithapuram constituency in Kakinada district brought pride to their region by clinching medals at the 7th State-Level Youth Women’s Boxing Championship, held at the Visakhapatnam Port Stadium under the aegis of the Andhra Pradesh Boxing Association. Under the guidance of Dronacharya Awardee I. Venkateswara Rao, and trained by coach P. Lakshmana Rao, young talents J. Aishwarya Surya Deepika and A.S.S. Vaishnavi stood out among tough competition. Deepika secured a silver medal in the 80+ kg open category, while Vaishnavi impressed with a bronze medal in the 70 kg category. The performance of these young athletes was met with enthusiastic applause and admiration from Pithapuram constituency alliance

leaders, along with District Sports Development Officer B. Srinivas Kumar and former Andhra Pradesh Olympic Association Vice-President K. Padmanabham, who extended their heartfelt congratulations. The achievements have sparked a wave of encouragement across the local sporting community, with many hailing the commitment of the athletes and the support from experienced coaches. This success marks a promising sign for future state and national-level performances by Pithapuram’s rising boxing stars.





# Empowering Pasmanda Muslims

The Waqf Amendment Act marks a turning point for Pasmanda Muslims, offering not just legal reform but long-overdue recognition. For the first time, the All India Pasmanda Muslim Mahaz was invited to present its views before the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Waqf—a historic acknowledgement of a marginalised voice.

At its core, the Amendment focuses on better governance of waqf properties while preserving the foundational Islamic concept of waqf. It ensures that religious and historical sites like mosques, dargahs, cemeteries, and Karbalas remain untouched, safeguarding their cultural and spiritual significance.

A key feature of the Act is the provision for a comprehensive survey of waqf properties (auqaf). This aims to document assets clearly, prevent encroachments, and enhance administrative accountability. The Muslim majority in Waqf Boards and Councils remains intact, ensuring community-led decision-making.

One controversial change is the removal of the “Waqf by User” clause, which allowed long-used properties to be designated as waqf without formal declaration. While the change aims to reduce legal ambiguity and misuse, properties already recognised under this clause will retain their status.

The Act’s broader goal is to curb mismanagement and corruption within Waqf institutions. It introduces stricter oversight, promoting transparency and rebuilding community trust. Efficient administration will



enable waqf assets to serve their original purpose—community welfare.

Crucially, the reform has the potential to transform the lives of economically weaker Muslims, especially Pasmanda groups. Better-managed waqf funds can support educational scholarships, build schools, and offer higher education opportunities—

particularly for girls from financially strained families.

Skill development centres using waqf land can offer training in modern trades like IT, healthcare, and tailoring, increasing employability. Enhanced revenues can also fund self-employment schemes and microfinance, helping artisans and labourers build sustainable liveli-

hoods.

Housing and healthcare, two pressing needs among Pasmanda Muslims, can be addressed through low-cost housing initiatives and free clinics powered by waqf resources. These steps would significantly raise the standard of living for underprivileged families.

The Waqf Amendment Act thus signals a shift from symbolic inclusion to tangible empowerment. For the Pasmanda Muslim community, it is not just a legislative milestone but an affirmation of their place in the national conversation. This recognition must now translate into continued advocacy and equitable development, ensuring waqf resources uplift those most in need.

## RBI Cuts Rates, Boosts Lending Push



The Reserve Bank of India’s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has cut the repo rate by 25 basis points, bringing it down from 6.25% to 6%. This marks the second consecutive rate cut and the first for FY2025-26. The move signals the RBI’s shift from a ‘neutral’ to an ‘accommodative’ stance, indicating potential for further rate reductions or a continued status quo depending on economic trends.

The decision reflects the RBI’s twin objectives: reviving slowing economic growth and keeping inflation under control. The central bank has revised India’s GDP growth forecast for FY26 to 6.5%, down from 6.7%. At the same time, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation projection has been eased from 4.2% to 4%, suggesting improving price stability.

Inflation has been on a steady decline in recent months. From a peak of 5.2% in December 2024, it fell to 3.6% by February 2025, marking a cumulative drop of 1.6%. Even food inflation, which has a direct impact on household expenses, has decreased to 3.8%, its lowest level in 21 months. These favourable numbers give the RBI room to ease monetary policy without risking inflationary flare-ups.

The rate cut is expected to reduce the cost of bor-

rowing for banks, which can now access funds more cheaply from the RBI. In turn, this move is designed to push banks to lend more aggressively to consumers and businesses, spurring demand and investment in the economy.

The policy shift is also a clear response to persistent concerns over weak private consumption and sluggish industrial growth. Lower interest rates may revive credit off-take in key sectors such as housing, automobiles, and MSMEs, which are critical to job creation and overall economic momentum.

Additionally, by adopting an ‘accommodative’ stance, the RBI is keeping policy flexible and open to further rate cuts should economic conditions warrant. This proactive approach may offer a buffer against global uncertainties or domestic shocks that could impact the growth trajectory.

With inflation contained and growth in need of a boost, the RBI appears to be aligning its policy tools toward stimulating the economy without compromising price stability. The latest measures send a clear signal to markets, businesses, and households that the central bank is committed to supporting recovery while remaining vigilant on inflation.

## India Must Respond to US Tariffs

When former US President Donald Trump imposed a steep 26% tariff on Indian imports, he justified it as “reciprocal.” He claimed he was being “kind,” implying that the actual duty should be 52%. While the tariff hike has been paused, the Indian government has remained surprisingly silent, neither protesting the move nor explaining why it’s unjustified. The facts tell a different story from Trump’s logic. In the last year, India imported \$42 billion worth of goods from the US — about 1.1% of India’s \$3.9 trillion GDP. In contrast, US imports from India stood at \$87 billion — only 0.3% of its \$29 trillion GDP. That means the US enjoys a larger share of our economy than we do of theirs. If parity is the goal, India’s exports to the US should reach \$300 billion — over three times the current amount. Instead, India is being disproportionately generous. With lower per capita income and a growing domestic industry, India needs more protection, not less, to help local businesses achieve scale. The Modi government appears to have taken Trump’s rhetoric at face value. Rather than pushing back, India has yet to demand fairer terms or retaliate with equal duties. A 26%

counter-tariff would be a justified response if US duties on Indian goods continue. More than retaliation, this is a moment of opportunity. India should use the crisis to swiftly expand trade relations with other countries. We can seek lower trade barriers and mutually beneficial agreements to offset potential losses from US restrictions. A time-bound, reviewable framework for such deals can boost bilateral gains and diversify our trade network. While short-term disruptions are inevitable, especially in sensitive industries, India must be ready to adapt. Our past shows we’ve borne short-term hardship for long-term strategic gains — from non-alignment during the Cold War to facing sanctions post-nuclear tests. What is concerning now is the government’s silence. India should assertively demand more access to the US market and push for equal economic participation. The principle is not just trade parity, but national dignity. We are not against the US, but we must make it clear that India cannot be bullied or blackmailed. In this trade war, silence is surrender. It’s time India speaks — not just in defense, but with purpose, pride, and principle.







## Nagendran Replaces Annamalai as TN BJP Chief

In a significant political reshuffle ahead of the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has appointed Nainar Nagendran as the new president of its Tamil Nadu unit. The announcement follows the party's decision to realign with the AIADMK under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), marking a strategic shift in the BJP's approach in the state.

Nagendran, a three-time MLA from Tirunelveli, replaces K. Annamalai, who served as state president during a period marked by aggressive outreach but strained ties with the AIADMK. Nagendran was the sole candidate to file his nomination on Friday and is now tasked with steering the BJP's campaign for the upcoming state elections.

At a public event celebrating the leadership change, Annamalai congratulated Nagendran, calling him a seasoned leader and expressing full support. "We know our goal and path — we will uproot the DMK from Tamil Nadu with the strongest NDA alliance in 2026," Annamalai declared to loud applause from party workers.

State BJP Vice President Narayanan Thirupathy also hailed the leadership transition. "Nagendran is a versatile man, rich in political culture. The cadre is thrilled. Under his presidency, we believe the BJP will scale new heights in Tamil Nadu," he said.

Nagendran's appointment coincides with the BJP's formal reunion with the AIADMK, a move that is expected to strengthen the NDA's prospects in the state. The two parties had parted ways in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, largely due to Annamalai's outspoken criticism of AIADMK icons like M.G. Ramachandran and J. Jayalalithaa.

Nagendran's political roots in the AIADMK, where he previously served as a minister, are seen as an asset in mending ties between the two allies. His experience and existing rapport with AIADMK leaders are expected to smooth over the past discord and present a united front.

For the BJP, the leadership change signals a shift from confrontation to coalition-building. With the NDA back together in Tamil Nadu and elections a year away, the party is betting on Nagendran's leadership and alliance politics to gain ground in a state where national parties have traditionally struggled for dominance.

# Tamil Nadu Enforces 10 Bills Post-SC Verdict

In a significant move following a Supreme Court ruling, the Tamil Nadu government has officially notified ten Acts in the state Gazette, marking a decisive step in the ongoing power tussle between the Raj Bhavan and the State. These Acts, which had earlier been readopted by the State Assembly after initial refusal or inaction by the Governor, were deemed to have received assent as per the Supreme Court's recent verdict.

A large number of these Acts deal with the appointment of Vice-Chancellors (V-Cs) in state-run universities—an area that has been a longstanding point of contention between the Governor and the elected government. The new legislation effectively curtails the powers of the Governor-Chancellor in this domain, transferring authority to the State government. This shift is part of a broader push by the DMK-led government to assert greater auton-



omy in higher education administration.

One of the notable Acts included in the notification is the Tamil Nadu Fisheries University (Amendment) Act, 2020, which renames the university as The Tamil Nadu Dr. J. Jayalalithaa Fisheries University, honoring the late AIADMK

leader and former Chief Minister.

The Supreme Court had earlier ruled that the Governor cannot indefinitely delay assent to Bills passed by the legislature. In its verdict, the apex court emphasized that once the legislature readopts a Bill that has been returned by the Governor, the Gov-

ernor is constitutionally obligated to either grant assent or forward it to the President. In this case, since the Governor had forwarded the Bills to the President without granting assent, and no action was subsequently taken by the President, the Court ruled that the Bills were deemed to have received assent. Legal and political experts see the development as a landmark in the evolving relationship between the Governor and the State legislature, especially in opposition-ruled states. The Tamil Nadu government's move is seen as a bold assertion of federal principles and legislative supremacy. With the notification of these Acts, the government is expected to move swiftly in appointing Vice-Chancellors without waiting for gubernatorial approval, setting a precedent that could influence other states engaged in similar disputes with Governors over administrative powers.

## ED Moves to Seize National Herald Assets



In a major step forward in its money laundering probe related to the National Herald case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday issued possession notices for immovable assets worth Rs 661 crore. The properties, linked to the Con-

gress-affiliated Associated Journals Limited (AJL), had earlier been provisionally attached as part of the investigation.

The ED confirmed that necessary documentation for taking over the

properties has been submitted to the concerned registrars in each location. In addition to the legal filings, the agency has also physically posted notices on the properties, seeking vacation of the premises and facilitating the agency's takeover.

These locations are key assets under scrutiny in the ongoing investigation against AJL, a company with long-standing ties to the Indian National Congress.

The ED also served a separate notice to Jindal South West Projects Limited, which currently occupies the 7th, 8th, and 9th floors of the Herald House property in Bandra, Mumbai. The notice demands that the occupant vacate the premises, clearing the way for the ED to take official possession.

The National Herald case has remained politically charged, involving top Congress leaders, including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, who have been questioned in connection with the alleged misappropriation of assets and money laun-

dering. The probe revolves around the acquisition of AJL's assets by a company called Young Indian, in which senior Congress leaders reportedly hold a majority stake.

The ED had provisionally attached the properties in previous stages of the investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), claiming that assets worth hundreds of crores were illegally acquired through financial manipulation. This latest move signals the agency's intent to escalate proceedings and enforce action on ground, converting provisional attachments into formal takeovers. Legal experts say this could trigger further court battles, especially as the Congress party has repeatedly denied wrongdoing and claimed the case is politically motivated.

The ED's notice issuance comes amidst a broader crackdown on alleged financial irregularities involving political entities and is expected to spark a fresh round of political confrontation in the weeks ahead.

## India Firm on Fair Trade Talks

In a strong statement reflecting India's firm stance on trade negotiations, Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and S. Jaishankar emphasized that India will not be pressured into hasty agreements, even amid shifting global dynamics triggered by the United States' recent policy changes.

Speaking at the Italy-India Business, Science, and Technology Forum, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal responded to former US President Donald Trump's move to pause reciprocal tariffs on India for 90 days. This window has been seen as an opportunity for fast-tracking a bilateral trade agreement between the two nations.

Goyal, however, made it clear that India would not compromise under pressure. "We never negotiate at gunpoint. While favourable time constraints encourage faster progress, any deal will be concluded only if it secures the interests of our country and its people," he asserted.

He reiterated that India's ongoing trade discussions with countries including the US, UK, and European Union are progressing steadily. "Our focus remains India First, aligned with our broader vision of achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047 during the Amrit Kaal," Goyal added.

"We are certainly geared up for a high degree of urgency. There's a window and we're keen to deliver results. But our trade deals are complex and require mutual understanding," Jaishan-



kar stated.

Reflecting on past US-India negotiations, Jaishankar remarked, "We spoke for four years during the first Trump administration. They had a view of us, but frankly, we have our view of them too. That mutual understanding was missing back then."

On the EU trade talks, Jaishankar addressed criticism about prolonged negotiations, saying, "It's not that we've been talking for 30 years non-stop — there were long periods when talks were dormant. These are inherently protracted processes." The ministers' remarks underscore India's evolving but steadfast approach: willing to engage but not at the cost of national interest.

## Three Killed in Murshidabad Waqf Protests

At least three people have lost their lives in fresh violence that broke out in West Bengal's Murshidabad district on Saturday, as protests over the contentious Waqf (Amendment) Act escalated. The latest fatalities have deepened tensions in the region and drawn sharp political responses.

According to officials, two persons — a father and son identified as Hargobind Das and Chandan Das — were killed in a brutal mob attack in Dhulian, Shamsheganj. The incident, reportedly communal in nature, marks one of the most severe episodes of violence since protests began.

A third casualty was confirmed on Saturday afternoon. Izaz Ahmed Sheikh, a 17-year-old who had sustained bullet injuries during a police firing in Suti on Friday, succumbed to his injuries at a local hospital. The death has further fuelled anger among protestors, who allege excessive use of force by law enforcement agencies.

A senior police official told The Hindu, "Two deaths have been reported in communal clashes. One person injured in police firing died today." Authorities are yet to make any arrests in connection with the killings, though investigations are underway.

The protests stem from growing opposition to the Waqf (Amendment) Act, recently passed by



the Parliament. Critics of the law claim it infringes on minority rights and grants excessive control over religious endowments. Demonstrations have been particularly intense in Muslim-majority pockets of the state, including Murshidabad, which has seen repeated incidents of unrest this week.

Visuals from Jangipur, another protest-hit area, showed vehicles set ablaze and streets strewn with debris. Law and order have reportedly deteriorated in multiple pockets, prompting deployment of additional police forces and rapid action units.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee took to social media to reiterate her government's stance. "We have made our statement on this matter clear — we do not support this law. This law will not be implemented in our state.





# Trump opens door to Iran deal, warns of consequences if talks fail

TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a significant foreign policy move, U.S. President Donald Trump has expressed openness to a renewed nuclear deal with Iran but warned of “great danger” if negotiations fail. This comes as the U.S. and Iran prepare for talks in Muscat, Oman, on Saturday, focused on curbing Tehran’s rapidly advancing nuclear program.

Trump’s envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi are expected to lead their respective delegations. While Trump claimed the discussions would be direct, Iran has indicated they will likely proceed through intermediaries, with Omani officials shuttling messages between separate rooms.

“I want Iran to be a wonderful, great, happy country, but they can’t have a nuclear weapon,” Trump said aboard Air Force One. His administration believes Iran is in a weakened position due to regional setbacks, including the degradation of proxy forces like Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis by Israeli and U.S. forces, as well as increasing economic pressure from sanctions.

Iran’s nuclear capabilities have significantly progressed since Trump withdrew from the Obama-era 2015 deal. Iran now possesses uranium enriched up to 60%, near weapons-grade level, and enough material to potentially produce multiple nuclear weapons. The U.S. is pushing for a tougher deal that goes beyond the previous agreement, aiming for full dismantlement of Iran’s nuclear enrichment and strategic missile capabilities.

National Security Advisor Mike Waltz has stated that the U.S. red line remains weaponisation, while Witkoff hinted at possible flexibility, stating that the administration could accept continued enrichment if weaponisation is prevented.

Iran’s President Masoud Pezeshkian reiterated that Tehran does not seek nuclear weapons and suggested openness to foreign investment, including from the U.S., if a deal is reached. This marks a shift from previous Iranian policies that restricted American business presence.

As negotiations begin, both sides face complex challenges. Trump seeks a foreign policy win, while Iran faces internal and external pressures. Whether these talks will succeed depends on the scope of U.S. demands and Iran’s willingness to compromise without further escalation.

# Trump Replaces Obama’s Portrait with Painting of Himself

## Surviving Assassination Attempt at White House

- Painting shows Trump defiant after July 2024 rally shooting in Pennsylvania.
- Video of installation posted with Trump’s chant: “fight, fight, fight.”
- Critics protest; Trump allies, including Rep. Greene, cheer the change.

TPN Correspondent | US

In a move steeped in symbolism and controversy, U.S. President Donald Trump has replaced the official White House portrait of former President Barack Obama with a dramatic painting of himself surviving an assassination attempt. The new artwork, now displayed in the grand entrance hallway of the White House, depicts Trump with his fist raised defiantly, moments after the July 2024 attempt on his life during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

The 78-year-old Republican leader has shifted Obama’s portrait—originally unveiled in 2022 by then-President Joe Biden—to a different location, where George W. Bush’s portrait previously hung. Bush’s portrait has now been moved to a less prominent spot near the staircase.

The new Trump painting, which captures what many of his supporters view as a defining mo-



ment in his re-election campaign, has been accompanied by a brief video posted on social media platform X. The video, captioned “Some new artwork at the White House,” shows staff installing the gold-framed portrait while Trump’s rallying cry “fight, fight, fight” plays in the background.

The decision underscores Trump’s long-standing rivalry with Obama, which began during the 2016 presidential campaign and was marked by Trump’s promotion of the debunked “birther” conspiracy theory questioning Obama’s citizenship. Their public tensions have continued ever since, with

frequent jabs exchanged in speeches and interviews.

While it is customary for presidential portraits to be hung after a president leaves office, Trump has never been one to follow tradition. He has previously displayed a framed copy of his Fulton County mugshot near the Oval Office and a bronze sculpture of his assassination attempt reaction at Mar-a-Lago. White House Communications Director Steven Cheung dismissed backlash over the portrait swap in typically blunt fashion, replying to one critic on X with, “Pipe down, moron.” Meanwhile, staunch Trump supporter Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene praised the new display, posting a side-by-side comparison with Obama’s portrait and writing, “Much better.”

The White House Historical Association, which oversees the tradition of presidential portraits since 1965, has yet to comment on the unconventional reshuffling.

# Earthquake of 5.8 Magnitude Strikes Pakistan; Tremors Felt in Jammu & Kashmir

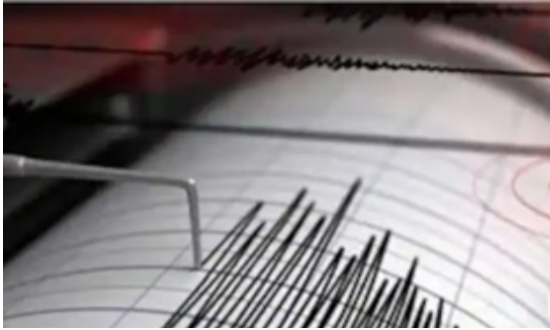
TPN Correspondent | Srinagar

An earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale struck on Saturday afternoon, with its epicentre located in the Pakistan region. Mild tremors were reported across parts of Jammu and Kashmir, though no immediate reports of damage or casualties have surfaced.

According to Mukhtar Ahmad, Director of the Meteorological Department, the quake occurred at 1:00:55 PM IST. The seismic activity was pinpointed at latitude 33.63°N and longitude 72.46°E, occurring 10 km beneath the Earth’s surface.

While the epicentre lay within Pakistan’s territory, the tremors were felt across the border in the Kashmir Valley, which lies in a highly seismically active zone. The region is historically prone to earthquakes due to its location on major tectonic fault lines.

The latest event revives memories of the



devastating earthquake on October 8, 2005, which measured 7.6 on the Richter scale and had its epicentre in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). That quake claimed over 80,000 lives on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC), and caused extensive damage in parts of Afghanistan, Tajikistan, India, and China’s Xinjiang region.

The 2005 disaster remains one of the deadliest earthquakes of the decade. Official figures from Pakistan estimate the death toll between 73,276 and 87,350, with some reports suggesting the number could have ex-

ceeded 100,000. In India, 1,360 people were killed, and thousands more were injured. The event also left over 3.5 million people homeless and about 138,000 injured.

In recent years, the Chenab Valley region—especially Doda and Kishtwar districts—has experienced frequent seismic activity. Several residential and government buildings in these areas have sustained structural damage, rendering many uninhabitable.

Experts have repeatedly urged authorities and residents to adopt earthquake-resilient construction practices in both the Kashmir Valley and the Chenab region. Traditional structures made of wood and mud were historically more resilient to tremors. However, modern concrete buildings, though widespread, are more vulnerable unless built to seismic safety standards. With ongoing tremors and past experiences, experts emphasize preparedness and resilient infrastructure as essential for minimizing future earthquake-related losses.

# Georgia Becomes First US State To Introduce Bill Against Hinduphobia

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a historic move, the state of Georgia has introduced a groundbreaking bill to formally recognize Hinduphobia and anti-Hindu bigotry within its legal framework. If enacted, the legislation would amend Georgia’s penal code to explicitly define Hinduphobia and mandate law enforcement agencies to account for it in hate crime investigations and enforcement of anti-discrimination laws.



Senate Bill 375 is a bipartisan effort, backed by Republican Senators Shawn Still and Clint Dixon, alongside Democratic Senators Jason Esteves and Emanuel D. Jones. The proposed bill defines Hinduphobia as “a set of antagonistic, destructive, and derogatory attitudes and behaviours towards Hinduism,” and seeks to ensure that such bias is taken seriously under Georgia’s existing legal protections.

The Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA), which has worked closely with lawmakers on this effort, hailed the bill as a historic first. “Georgia becomes the first state to introduce such a bill, and if passed, will make history once again,” CoHNA said in a statement. The organization thanked the sponsoring senators for addressing the growing concerns of Hindu communities both in Georgia and across the United States. This bill builds upon a resolution passed by Georgia’s House of Representatives in April 2023, which condemned Hindupho-

bias and recognized Hinduism as one of the world’s oldest religions, with a global following of over 1.2 billion people. That resolution, led by Republican Representatives Lauren McDonald and Todd Jones, was celebrated by Hindu American communities, particularly in Forsyth County—home to one of Georgia’s largest populations of Hindu and Indian-American residents.

According to a 2023–2024 Pew Research Center Religious Landscape Study, approximately 2.5 million Hindus live in the United States, accounting for 0.9% of the national population. Georgia alone is home to more than 40,000 Hindus, most of whom reside in the Atlanta metropolitan area. If passed, Senate Bill 375 would mark a significant step toward recognizing and combating religious discrimination against Hindus, while also setting a precedent for other U.S. states to follow in addressing rising concerns over anti-Hindu sentiment.

# Indian-Origin NJ Councillor Charged in Mafia-Linked Gambling Racket

TPN Correspondent | New York

Anand Shah, a 42-year-old Indian-origin municipal councillor from New Jersey, has been charged in connection with a major mafia-run gambling operation, according to New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin. Shah, a two-term councillor in Prospect Park — a suburb of New York — is among 39 individuals facing charges including racketeering, illegal gambling, money laundering, and other serious crimes.

The charges were announced following a series of coordinated raids at 12 locations across New Jersey, including four poker clubs. Authorities say the criminal network was associated with the notorious Lucchese Crime Family, one of the major Italian-American mafia organisations in the United States.

Shah, who oversaw finance, economic development, and insurance for the borough, has been accused of managing illegal poker games and an online sports betting operation tied to the crime family. His alleged involvement has sparked concern about corruption in local government. “The arrest of a sitting council member only adds fuel to the fire of public distrust in elected officials,” Platkin said during a press briefing.



The gambling network reportedly operated behind the façade of legitimate businesses such as restaurants and private social clubs, generating nearly \$3 million in revenue. Platkin emphasised that the reality of organised crime is far from the glamorised version seen in pop culture. “This isn’t about romanticised mob life. It’s about illegal activity — money, power, and the threat of violence,” he said.

Another Indian-origin individual, Samir S. Nadkarni, 48, from Longwood, Florida, was also charged. He was described as a “sports-book sub-agent and poker host” within the operation.

The Lucchese-linked syndicate allegedly ran gambling machines and sports betting rings, exploiting loopholes and using social clubs as fronts.





# India's auto component industry to hit USD 145 billion by 2030, exports to triple

India's apex policy think tank, NITI Aayog, has laid out an ambitious roadmap to propel the country's automotive components industry to USD 145 billion in production by 2030, with exports expected to triple from USD 20 billion to USD 60 billion. The projections are part of a new report titled "Automotive Industry: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains", released by the think tank on Friday.

The report delivers a comprehensive overview of the Indian automotive sector, outlining a strategic vision that balances opportunities, challenges, and a clear pathway to enhance global competitiveness. It emphasizes India's potential to emerge as a key player in the glob-

al automotive value chain, especially as the industry pivots toward electrification and advanced technologies.

## Key Highlights of the Report:

**Global Position:** India is currently the fourth-largest automobile producer globally, behind China, the USA, and Japan, manufacturing close to 6 million vehicles annually.

**Global Market Snapshot:** The global auto component market stands at USD 2 trillion, with USD 700 billion in exports. India's current share in this export market is a modest 3%.

**Growth Potential:** The report identifies a major opportunity in engine components, drive transmission, and steering systems—segments that

currently dominate global trade but where India's share remains only 2-4%.

**Strategy Framework:** The interventions proposed are divided into fiscal and non-fiscal categories, tailored around four types of components based on complexity:

**Emerging & Complex Conventional & Complex**

**Conventional & Simple**

**Emerging & Simple**

**Fiscal Measures:**

**Operational expenditure (Opex) support**

**Skill development programs**

**R&D incentives**

**Intellectual Property (IP) transfers**

**Cluster-based infrastructure development**

**Non-Fiscal Measures:**

**Industry 4.0 adoption**

**Simplifying regulatory**

**procedures**

**Enhancing flexibility in labour norms**

**Promoting international collaboration**

**Supplier discovery mechanisms**

**Challenges Ahead:**

Despite significant strengths such as a cost-competitive workforce and strong domestic demand, India's GVC (Global Value Chain) integration remains moderate. Key challenges identified include:

**High operational costs**  
**Infrastructure bottlenecks**

**Low R&D investment**  
**Limited presence in high-precision component manufacturing**

NITI Aayog's report asserts that with the right policy push and strategic investments, India can



substantially elevate its share in global automo-

tive exports, aligning with the broader goals of 'Make

in India' and economic self-reliance.

## Gold skyrockets ₹6,250 to breach ₹96,000 level as U.S.-China trade war intensifies



Gold prices in India surged to an all-time high on Friday (April 11, 2025), driven by strong domestic demand and global safe-haven buying amid escalating U.S.-China trade tensions. In the national capital, the price of gold rose by a whopping ₹6,250, reaching a historic ₹96,450 per 10 grams, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

This sharp rally follows Wednesday's close, where gold of 99.9% purity was priced at ₹90,200 per 10 grams. Similarly, gold of 99.5% purity jumped from ₹89,750 to ₹96,000 per 10 grams, marking one of the steepest single-day increases in recent history.

Silver prices also mirrored this trend, climbing ₹2,300 to touch ₹95,500 per kg. The spike in silver

prices followed the global momentum and was partially influenced by the closure of domestic bullion markets on Thursday for Mahavir Jayanti.

Analysts attribute the surge to increasing geopolitical uncertainties and the growing appeal of gold as a safe-haven asset. "Gold extended its record-setting rally...to hit fresh lifetime highs near ₹93,500 on MCX, defying rupee strength," said Ja-teen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst at LKP Securities.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures for June delivery also hit a record ₹93,736 per 10 grams, rising ₹1,703.

Globally, spot gold reached a peak of \$3,237.39 per ounce before stabilizing at \$3,222.04. Meanwhile, Comex gold futures in Asian trading soared to \$3,249.16 per ounce.

Kaynat Chainwala, AVP

of Commodity Research at Kotak Securities, noted that safe-haven demand has intensified amid fears of a prolonged trade war. The Trump administration's recent decision to impose tariffs of up to 145% on Chinese imports prompted a retaliatory 125% duty from China, rattling global markets.

The weakening U.S. dollar, which dropped below the 100-mark, also added momentum to gold's upward trajectory.

Investment bank UBS stated that ongoing trade disputes, economic uncertainties, and geopolitical risks are expected to further fuel the demand for gold, making its long-term outlook increasingly bullish. Central banks, it noted, are continuing to purchase gold at record levels, a trend unlikely to slow in the face of global instability.

## Developed world more reliable trading partner than China: Piyush Goyal

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday, April 11, 2025, expressed India's strategic inclination to strengthen trade partnerships with European and North American nations, while maintaining a cautious and reserved approach toward economic engagement with China.

Speaking at the Global Technology Summit hosted by Carnegie India, Goyal emphasized that India's trade policies will prioritize collaboration with developed countries that adhere to principles of fairness, transparency, and mutual benefit. "Our effort is to integrate our economies with the developed world, who believe in fair play, who believe in honest business practices, and where we get an equal opportunity to do business and invest," he stated.

Goyal highlighted the limited Chinese investments in India, stating that even when Chinese firms had the opportunity to invest, their involvement remained minimal. "Nor are we encouraging any significant investment coming in from China at all at the moment,"



he added.

Reinforcing India's cautious stance, Goyal criticized countries with high per capita incomes—implicitly referring to China—labeling themselves as "developing" nations. "If countries with a per capita income of \$50,000 or more choose to call themselves developing nations, then obviously it is going to cause angst," he said, reiterating India's decision to stay out of the China-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) as a prudent move.

Addressing India's trade negotiations with the United States, Goyal refrained from committing to a fixed timeline for the bilateral trade agreement, noting that any deal must serve India's

national interests. "We aspire for indicative timelines, but at the end of the day, it has to be a win-win for both sides... Just to meet a deadline, you cannot compromise national interest."

On the European front, Goyal criticized the European Union's climate-related and non-trade demands as unrealistic and obstructive. "Unless they get that out of their system, they will find it very difficult to get a trade agreement with anybody whatsoever," he remarked.

His statements reflect India's evolving foreign trade strategy: safeguarding national interests while aligning with trusted global partners and distancing itself from unreliable or opaque economies.

## U.S. Defense Department terminates \$5.1 billion in IT contracts with Deloitte

In a major cost-cutting move, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has ordered the immediate termination of multiple IT services contracts worth a combined \$5.1 billion. The contracts, held by major consulting firms including Accenture and Deloitte, were deemed by the Pentagon to be non-essential expenditures.

The directive, outlined in a memo dated April 10 and released publicly on April 11, 2025, highlights a shift in the Department of Defense's approach to outsourcing and consultant dependency.

Hegseth stated that the terminated contracts "represent non-essential spending on third-party consultants" for tasks that could be performed internally by Pentagon personnel.

"These terminations represent \$5.1 billion in wasteful spending... and nearly \$4 billion in estimated savings," the memo



read. It marks one of the largest single cost-cutting actions taken under Hegseth's leadership.

The decision comes amid increasing scrutiny over defense budget allocations and growing calls from lawmakers and watchdog groups to reduce reliance on costly external contractors for services that do not directly support military readiness or operations.

According to defense officials, many of the cancelled contracts were for IT consulting, project

management, and digital transformation services. While these services have been used to modernize various systems, Hegseth argued that the Pentagon has sufficient in-house capability to manage the majority of these functions.

Sources within the Defense Department say the review leading up to the cancellations was part of a broader audit launched earlier this year, aimed at identifying redundancies and inefficiencies in defense spending.

Industry groups and affected contractors have yet to issue formal responses, but analysts predict significant pushback, particularly from firms that stand to lose long-term federal revenue streams. The decision could also impact the private defense consulting market, which has grown substantially in recent years.

Hegseth, who has championed greater efficiency and accountability within the department, emphasized in the memo that funds saved from these terminated contracts would be redirected toward core defense initiatives and modernization programs that directly enhance national security.

The move is expected to generate both praise and criticism as debates continue around defense budgeting, fiscal responsibility, and the role of private contractors in U.S. military operations.

## TCS Q4 Profit Slips 1.68% Despite Revenue Growth

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India's largest IT services company, reported a net profit of ₹12,224 crore for the quarter ending March 2025, marking a 1.68% decline compared to ₹12,434 crore in the same period last year. Despite the dip in quarterly profits, TCS achieved a major milestone by crossing the \$30 billion mark in annual revenue for FY25, underlining its sustained growth and strong global presence. The company's revenue from operations for the March quarter stood at ₹64,479 crore, registering a 5.29% year-on-year increase from ₹61,237 crore reported in the corresponding period of the previous financial year. The rise in revenue reflects ongoing demand



for digital transformation services, though it was partially offset by cost pressures and slower discretionary IT spending from global clients.

The marginal drop in profits despite revenue growth indicates challenges such as rising operational expenses, wage revisions, and foreign exchange headwinds. North American and European markets, which account for a significant portion of TCS's business, have seen cautious client spending amid economic uncertainty, contributing to

margin pressure.

TCS's performance also highlights its focus on expanding key business areas like cloud services, artificial intelligence, and industry-specific digital solutions. The company continues to build on its strong portfolio across banking, financial services, retail, and health-care sectors, while also adapting to global tech trends and client needs. As one of the first IT majors to report its Q4 earnings, TCS's results set the tone for the rest of the Indian tech industry. Analysts will be closely watching management commentary in upcoming earnings calls for insights into deal pipelines, attrition rates, hiring strategies, and the outlook for FY26.



## Eagle Snatches, Returns PSC Hall Ticket

In a scene straight out of a movie, an eagle in Kerala's Kasaragod district created panic just minutes before the start of a crucial Public Service Commission (PSC) exam by swooping down and snatching a candidate's hall ticket — only to return it just in time. The incident took place on the morning of April 10, 2025, at the Government UP School in Kasaragod, where around 300 candidates had gathered to write the 7:30 a.m. exam. Among them was an aspirant who had arrived early to revise. As he sat down beside the parish hall, he placed his hall ticket next to him on the bench — unaware that a twist of fate was about to unfold. Without warning, an eagle swooped down from above, grabbed the hall ticket in its beak, and flew up to a window ledge high above the exam center. What followed was a mix of disbelief, tension, and helplessness as the candidate



looked on in horror. Officials and other examinees were equally shocked. Some bystanders urged the candidate to throw stones to scare the eagle into dropping the ticket. But the candidate, fearing that the bird might fly away completely, decided against any drastic action. He watched anxiously as precious minutes passed and the final bell for the exam neared. In what felt like a miracle, the eagle eventually loosened

its grip and let the hall ticket flutter down from its perch — just in time. The relieved candidate retrieved it and was allowed to proceed with the exam, making it to his seat just as the exam was about to begin. The unusual incident quickly became the talk of the town, adding a feather of a different kind to the PSC exam story — and giving everyone involved a tale they won't forget any time soon.

## Monkey Hugs Tharoor, Naps Peacefully

In a heart-warming encounter straight out of a storybook, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor had an unexpected visitor at his home — a monkey that ran toward him, hugged him, and then dozed off peacefully on his lap. Sharing the extraordinary moment on social media platform X, Tharoor described how the monkey approached him out of the blue. After receiving a couple of bananas as a friendly treat, the animal nestled comfortably against Tharoor's chest and fell asleep, much to the amusement and surprise of onlookers. Tharoor posted pictures of the calm and cuddly guest, leaving netizens both touched and entertained. Many users praised the tender interaction and the MP's gentle handling of the animal. The post quickly went viral, spreading smiles across timelines and adding yet another memorable chapter to Tharoor's eclectic public life.



## AI Memes Mock Trump's Tariff Strategy

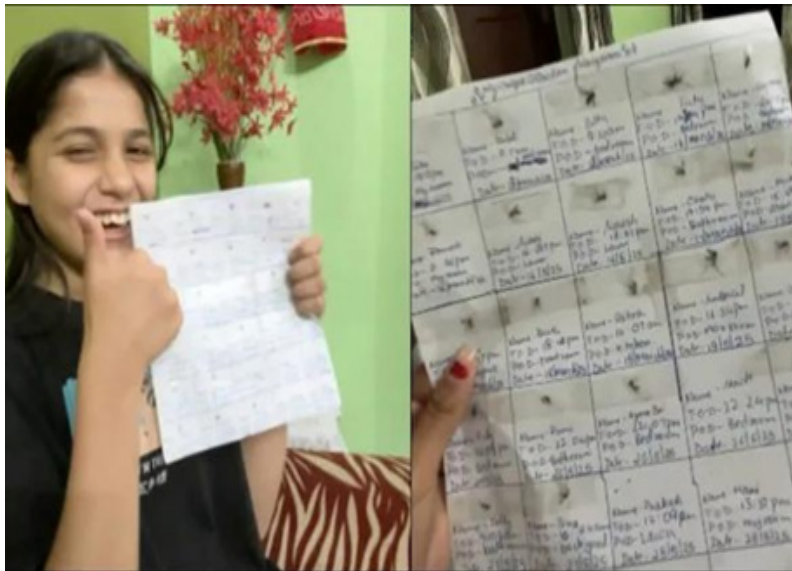
Chinese social media users have flooded platforms with AI-generated videos and memes that poke fun at U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs on Chinese imports. The viral content showcases a satirical portrayal of Trump and other prominent figures, such as Elon Musk and JD Vance, working on factory production lines—an apparent jab at Trump's push for U.S. reindustrialization. One of the most shared videos, reposted by PhoenixTV, shows Trump and Musk working on a Nike sneaker assembly line, while another depicts Vance assembling an iPhone, wearing a red cap devoid of the MAGA logo. The AI videos humorously imagine a future where Americans return to manual labor, illustrating the fallout from the escalating trade war with China. These videos also depict the impact of Trump's tariff policies, portraying scenes of overweight Americans working in factories, assembling Tesla products. The satire questions the feasibility and effectiveness of Trump's "Make America Great Again" mantra, which includes bringing manufacturing jobs back to the U.S. In addition to the viral videos, Chinese officials and social media users

have used AI memes to further mock Trump's tariffs. One meme, shared by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning, humorously claimed that Trump's MAGA hats have become over 50% more expensive due to his tariffs. While the U.S. has exempted certain tech products like smartphones and laptops from these tariffs, the broader trade war continues to escalate. China retaliated with a 125% tariff on U.S. goods, intensifying tensions between the world's two largest economies. The new exemptions may provide relief to U.S. tech companies, including Apple, Nvidia, and Dell, but the overall impact of the 145% tariffs on Chinese imports remains significant. The growing meme culture highlights the ongoing, heated nature of the U.S.-China trade conflict, with both sides taking jabs at each other's policies.



## Girl Goes Viral for Collecting Dead Mosquitoes

A girl's unusual hobby of collecting dead mosquitoes has gone viral on social media, sparking both fascination and amusement. The video, posted by Akansha Rawat on Instagram, shows the girl taping dead mosquitoes to sheets of paper and categorizing them by name, time, and place of death. The clip has quickly garnered over five million views, with viewers left both perplexed and impressed by this bizarre collection. The video begins with the cameraperson introducing the girl's eccentric hobby, saying, "People have such strange hobbies, and hers is the strangest of them all." The camera then reveals a sheet of paper covered with dead mosquitoes, each labeled with names such as 'Sigma Boi,' 'Ramesh,' 'Babli,' and 'Tinku.' The girl's dedication to this activity has left her friends both amazed and concerned, with one even calling her a "psycho." As the video spread across the internet, many users com-



mented on the strange nature of the hobby. Some humorous responses included: "The entire mosquito community is in fear" and "She is indirectly roasting all men," referring to the male names given to the female mosquitoes, known for their blood-sucking habits. While some found the hobby amusing, others questioned its peculiar nature, with one user commenting on the "Ritual Death Notes" and another

remarking on the difficulty of life for the mosquitoes. The video has created a flurry of reactions, showcasing just how bizarre hobbies can go viral on the internet. The video's viral success has sparked a debate about eccentricity in hobbies, with many acknowledging the girl's unique way of dealing with her mosquito encounters while humorously engaging the online community.

## Woman Travels 6,500 KM Weekly for Studies

At Sedillo, a 30-year-old woman from Mexico, travels more than 6,500 kilometers every week for her education. Despite living in Santiago, Mexico, with her husband, Sedillo commutes to New York for her college studies. She travels to New York once a week, covering a distance of over 3,000 kilometers each way, and returns the same day. This routine means she is spending more than 6,500 kilometers every week solely for her education.

Interestingly, Sedillo says that traveling to New York weekly is more cost-effective than living there. Despite the long distance and high travel expenses, including flight, accommodation, and food costs, she finds it more economical to make the trip rather than stay in New York full-time. Since January, she has spent approximately ₹1.7 lakhs (around \$2,200) on travel, accommodation, and food.

Sedillo's decision to take this route, rather than staying in New York full-time, has proven financially beneficial for her. Her weekly commute is a strategic choice, helping her save money while pursuing her academic goals. Despite the challenging travel schedule, she remains committed to her education, believing that this is the best approach for her financial situation.

This remarkable story of perseverance and planning has drawn attention for its unconventional approach to balancing education and financial considerations. While many might wonder why she doesn't just stay in New York, Sedillo's unique solution highlights the importance of



making decisions that work best for one's individual circumstances, even if it means undertaking a long and costly commute each week.



# ICC Mulls WTC Points System Overhaul



The International Cricket Council (ICC) is reportedly set to deliberate significant changes to the World Test Championship (WTC) points system during meetings in Zimbabwe this weekend, according to a report by The Guardian. However, the controversial plan to introduce a two-division format in Test cricket is likely to be put on hold. Currently, the WTC awards 12 points for a win, six for a tie, and four for a draw, regardless of the strength of the opposition or venue. This uniform system has drawn criticism, especially from within the 'Big Three' – India, England, and Australia – who argue that they are disadvantaged as they frequently play competitive series among themselves. Under the proposed revamp, the ICC is considering a bonus points system that could reflect the margin of victory, similar to rugby union. Points may also be weighted based on opponent strength and awarded additionally for away wins, aiming to make the rankings more reflective of performance difficulty. The next WTC cycle will begin in June 2025 with India's tour of England for a five-match series, shortly after the WTC final between South Africa and Australia at Lord's. South Africa's progression to the final has sparked debate, as they reached the summit without facing England or Australia, primarily winning against teams like West Indies, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. The ICC will also discuss the issue of over-rate penalties, which has significantly impacted team standings. England, in particular, have been hit hard – losing 22 points due to slow over-rates, which dragged them down to sixth place in the current cycle, despite having the third-best win percentage of 51.5%. These potential changes signal ICC's intent to address fairness and competitiveness in Test cricket, though radical structural reforms like the two-tier system may have to wait.



Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) pulled off one of IPL's greatest run chases, defeating Punjab Kings (PBKS) by 8 wickets in a thrilling match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium. PBKS set a daunting target of 245/6, thanks to a fiery knock from Shreyas Iyer. But SRH's young sensation Abhishek Sharma stunned everyone with a breathtaking 112 off 49 balls, smashing boundaries at will. Travis Head backed him up brilliantly with a quickfire 89. Together, they dismantled the PBKS bowling attack and finished the chase in just 18.5 overs. This victory marks SRH's second-highest successful run chase in IPL history, establishing them as a force to reckon with in the 2025 season. The match was a showcase of fearless batting and remarkable composure under pressure, as SRH delivered a performance fans will remember for years.

# Pakistan Shines in WC Qualifiers

As the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2025 enters a decisive phase, Pakistan's women's team has emerged as a strong contender, securing two convincing victories and expressing confidence ahead of their remaining matches. The hosts began their campaign with a 38-run win over Ireland, followed by a six-wicket triumph against Scotland. These back-to-back victories have placed Pakistan in a favorable position as the tournament progresses toward its conclusion on April 19. Speaking after the win over Scotland, Pakistan captain Fatima Sana emphasized her team's growing composure and the importance of maintaining steady partnerships under pressure. Pakistan's success has been built on all-round team efforts, with key contributions from both batters and bowlers. The depth and balance within the squad have given the team a solid foundation to tackle tougher opponents, including a crucial clash with West Indies. The ICC Women's World Cup Qualifier is currently being hosted in Pakistan from April 9 to 19, featuring six teams – Pakistan,



West Indies, Bangladesh, Ireland, Scotland, and Thailand. The top two teams from this event will earn a spot in the Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, scheduled to take place in India later this year in October and November. With high stakes and only a few matches remaining, Pakistan aims to maintain momentum, knowing that consistent team performance will be key to qualification. Captain Fatima Sana's leadership and the squad's unified approach are shaping up to be critical factors in their campaign's success.

# Udayan Mane Leads with Grit

Olympian and 12-time title winner Udayan Mane fired a determined four-under 68 in the third round of the Indorama Ventures Open Golf Championship 2025, taking a two-stroke lead with a total score of 14-under 202 at the Kalhaar Blues and Greens Golf Club in Ahmedabad. Mane, who hails from Pune and is a former PGTI Order of Merit champion, displayed great mental fortitude on Friday. Despite starting the day with a double-bogey, the 34-year-old quickly recovered to post an eagle, five birdies, and a bogey. His composed performance has put him in prime position to end a three-year title drought. Trailing him is Khalin Joshi from Bengaluru, who also has a strong pedigree with six titles and a past stint as PGTI No. 1. Joshi carded a solid three-under 69 on the penultimate day, highlighted by four birdies and a single bogey, keeping himself in the hunt at 12-under 204. Joshi, who shares a long competitive history with Mane dating back

to their junior golf days, is aiming to snap his own winless run of over two years. Abhinav Lohan from Faridabad posted a matching 68 to claim third place at nine-under 207, while Chandigarh's Angad Cheema followed closely behind in

fourth with a round of 70 and an aggregate of eight-under 208. Local favorite Varun Parikh brought in a 69 to finish the day in tied eighth at five-under 211, ensuring Ahmedabad representation among the top contenders.



# Pant Reveals Strategy After LSG Win

After sealing a hard-fought six-wicket win over Gujarat Titans (GT) at the Ekana Stadium, Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) skipper Rishabh Pant shared his strategy behind the bowling approach that helped his side restrict GT to a modest total in the death overs. Chasing 181, LSG's batting was powered by Nicholas Pooran and Aiden Markram, who played crucial roles in the successful chase. While GT bowlers did well to drag the match into the final over, the home side held their nerve to secure a vital victory. Reflecting on the match at the post-game presentation, Pant

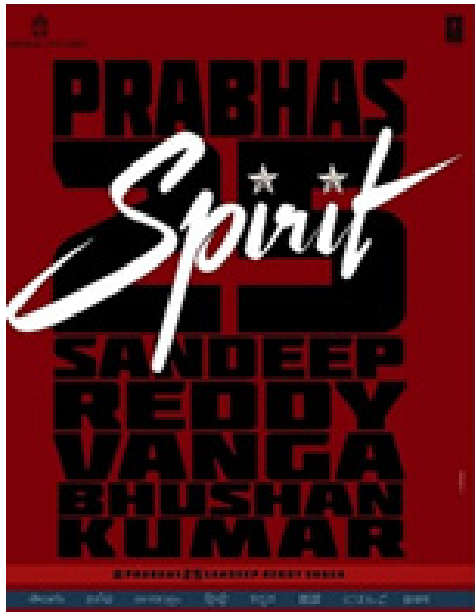
said, "Definitely feeling happy. We just follow the same path, believe in our ability, and take one game at a time. The idea was to bowl yorkers and slower deliveries into the wicket. Bowlers executed the plan well and helped pull the game back. Though the start wasn't ideal, the comeback was amazing." On his own improving form, Pant remarked, "The more time I spend at the crease, the better I feel. I'm getting there with each match." He also reserved special praise for Nicholas Pooran, stating, "We're lucky to have him. You'd rather have a guy like that on your team than against you. His batting has

been phenomenal." In the first innings, GT looked set for a big total after an impressive 120-run stand between Shubman Gill (60 off 38) and Sai Sudharsan (56 off 37). However, a flurry of quick wickets derailed their momentum. GT eventually posted 180/6, losing wickets in clusters post the openers' dismissal. Key contributors like Jos Buttler (16), Sherfane Rutherford (22), and Rahul Tewatia (0) failed to capitalize. LSG, with this win, continues to build momentum at home and looks increasingly confident heading into the business end of the season.





## Prabhas' Spirit Gears Up for Shoot



Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga is deep into pre-production for his much-anticipated film *Spirit*, starring Prabhas in the lead. The latest update reveals that casting is in full swing, with several talented actors being considered for key roles. Described as a gripping cop thriller with Sandeep's signature storytelling style, the film's screenplay took nearly six months to develop. The shoot is expected to begin in September or October 2025.

Prabhas will undergo a striking physical transformation for the role, adding intrigue to his already highly anticipated performance. Interestingly, *Spirit* will feature actors from both the USA and Korea, hinting at an international flavor. Produced by Bhushan Kumar, along with Sandeep and Pranay Reddy Vanga, the film is already creating buzz. After *Spirit*, Prabhas will team up with Ranbir Kapoor for *Animal Park*.

## Kalyan Ram Shines in Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi



The trailer for *Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi*, starring Nandamuri Kalyan Ram, was launched at a grand pre-release event in Hyderabad with Jr. NTR as chief guest. The event drew a massive crowd and emotional reactions. Veteran actress Vijayashanthi said the story, centered on a mother-son bond, deeply moved her: "This film is about sacrifices a son makes for his mother. The climax will leave you stunned." She revealed that she

suggested a few script changes before fully committing herself. Kalyan Ram expressed confidence: "Some films we forget after watching, but this one will stay with you. It's close to my heart." Jr. NTR praised the film's emotional core and Kalyan Ram's performance: "It's like seeing what would happen if Vijayashanthi's Karthavyam character had a son. The last 20 minutes hit hard because of Kalyan Anna."

## Rakul Preet Stuns in Saree Glam



Rakul Preet Singh turned the fashion heat up as she graced the cover of HT City Showstopper magazine, channeling mermaid vibes with her bold ethnic style. Dressed in a printed saree paired with a silver bralette and a statement choker, Rakul looked every bit

the modern-day glam icon. In another look, a soft pink drape added a dreamy touch to her photoshoot, highlighting her versatility. But beyond the exquisite outfits, it was Rakul's effortless confidence and poise that truly stood out. From shimmering crop tops to

bold accessories, she blended tradition with a modern edge, redefining saree fashion in a way only she can. Her looks struck the perfect balance between elegance and edginess, making a strong case for re-inventing ethnic wear with fresh, fearless flair.

## 'Raama Raama' from Vishwambhara Ignites Devotion

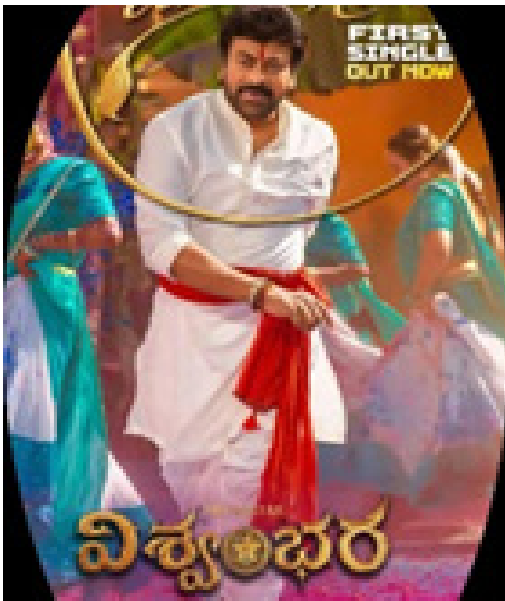
On the auspicious occasion of Hanuman Jayanthi, the makers of *Vishwambhara* unveiled their first single, *Raama Raama*, a soul-stirring spiritual anthem. Featuring Megastar Chiranjeevi as a devout follower of Lord Hanuman, the track reinforces the film's spiritual core and divine undertones.

Composed by Oscar-winning maestro MM Keeravaani, the song is a powerful blend of classical Indian melodies and cinematic orchestration. It begins with soothing vocals and soft instrumentals, gradually intensifying with layered percussion and culminat-

ing in Chiranjeevi's fervent chant of "Jai Shri Ram."

Known for his devotion off-screen, Chiranjeevi's portrayal promises to bring an emotional depth to his role as a Hanuman devotee. The lyrical video has already struck a chord with fans, with visuals reflecting spiritual grandeur.

*Raama Raama* is not just a song—it's a devotional experience, setting the tone for the magnum opus *Vishwambhara*.



## Vaishnavi Chaitanya's Struggle Post-Baby

Vaishnavi Chaitanya shot to fame with the blockbuster *Baby*, a surprise box office sensation that nearly touched ₹100 crores. Her performance as a conflicted young woman caught between two lovers received immense praise, earning her widespread recognition. However, sustaining that success has proven to be a challenge. Following *Baby*, Vaishnavi starred in *Love Me - If You Dare*, backed by Dil Raju. Despite the banner's strong reputa-

tion, the film bombed at the box office. Hoping for a turnaround, she took on a quirky role in *Jack* alongside Siddhu Jonnalagadda, where she played a "lady detective." Though the concept intrigued many, the film failed to connect with audiences. Now, all eyes are on Vaishnavi's next move. Can she bounce back and recapture the magic of *Baby*? The industry and her growing fanbase are watching — and hoping.

## Jaya's Heartfelt Welcome to Aishwarya

An emotional throwback video from the 2007 Filmfare Awards is winning

hearts online. The clip shows Jaya Bachchan warmly welcoming Aishwarya Rai into

the Bachchan family before her marriage to Abhishek Bachchan. Accepting an award on stage, Jaya said, "I am going to be a mother-in-law all over again to a wonderful, lovely girl who has great values, great dignity and a lovely smile. I welcome you to the family. I love you." The heartfelt moment left Aishwarya visibly teary-eyed, with Amitabh Bachchan also present in the audience. Jaya had previously praised Aishwarya on *Koffee With Karan*, calling her dignified, graceful, and a perfect fit for the Bachchan family. Despite recent rumours about tension in Aishwarya and Abhishek's marriage, the couple has maintained silence. Amitabh Bachchan had requested privacy, dismissing speculation with a firm yet respectful message to the public.

