

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 26° C

NIA probes Tahawwur Rana’s links with Dubai-based individual who knew of 2008 Mumbai attack

Focus on Rana’s ties with Headley, ISI, and Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Rana held in high-security NIA cell under 24-hour watch.

Charged with conspiracy, murder, terrorism, and forgery.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) continued its interrogation of Tahawwur Hussain Rana, one of the key conspirators in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, for a second consecutive day on April 12, 2025. Sources confirmed that Rana is being questioned in connection with his involvement in the attacks, which left 166 people dead and over 238 injured.

Rana, a Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman, was brought to India following his extradition from the U.S. after spending years in custody for his role in the attacks. The NIA is probing his connections, particularly focusing on his interactions with David Coleman Headley (also known as Daood Gilani), a co-conspirator and U.S. citizen, who is currently incarcerated in the United States. Investigators are looking into



multiple leads, including phone calls exchanged between Rana and Headley, to understand the full scope of the conspiracy.

The questioning also extends to Rana’s alleged links with key individuals, including a contact in Dubai who is believed to have been aware of the plot to carry out the attacks in Mumbai. The NIA is also delving into Rana’s connections with Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and his association with the terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), which was behind the attacks.

The 64-year-old is being held in a highly secure cell at the NIA’s headquarters in New Delhi, un-

der 24-hour surveillance. Investigators are particularly interested in his travels across northern and southern India, just days before the Mumbai attacks, to understand the planning that preceded the carnage on November 26, 2008.

Rana has been charged with conspiracy, murder, committing a terrorist act, and forgery. The NIA’s investigation also highlights the role of Pakistan-based terror groups, including Harakat-ul Jihadi Islami (HuJI), in orchestrating the attacks. Rana’s 18-day custody was granted by a Delhi court, which also mandated regular medical checks and access to legal counsel.

Gujarat Ministers Slam Kejriwal, Akhilesh Over ‘Fake’ Class X Exam Result Claims



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Gujarat ministers on Sunday strongly criticized opposition leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Akhilesh Yadav for sharing what they claimed were misleading posts on social media regarding the state’s Class X board exam results. The controversy erupted after both leaders posted on X (formerly Twitter) citing reports that suggested not a single student passed the exam in 157 schools in Gujarat—despite the fact that this year’s results are yet to be declared.

Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav shared what appeared to be a dated news article from 2023 with the headline: “Zero student passed Class 10 in 157 schools.” His accompanying caption read, “The Gujarat model has failed... Not a single student passed the 10th board exam in 157 schools in Gujarat. We will remove BJP and save the future.”

Shortly after, Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal echoed the sentiment, posting: “This is the Gujarat model. This is the BJP model they want to apply across the country. They want to keep the nation uneducated. Tell me one state where BJP governs and hasn’t ruined education. Now they

want to destroy Delhi’s education system too.”

However, the Gujarat government was quick to push back. Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi condemned the posts, calling them a blatant spread of misinformation. “The Gujarat Board results haven’t even been released yet, and yet these leaders are circulating fake news. This is a clear attempt to manipulate public sentiment and drag children into political mudslinging,” Sanghavi wrote on X.

Echoing his concerns, Gujarat’s Minister of State for Education, Praful Pansheriya, called the act “despicable,” and said such tactics reflected the desperation of “failed leaders.”

Several social media users also flagged the posts, pointing out that Gujarat’s Class X results are expected only in May.

The incident has sparked debate around political misinformation, especially when it involves sensitive topics like student performance and education standards. The Gujarat government has urged the public to rely on official updates rather than misleading political narratives.

Tensions Escalate as Kuki Protest Blocks Meitei Pilgrimage to Thangjing Hill in Manipur

TPN Correspondent | Manipur

Tensions flared in Manipur’s Churachandpur district on Sunday as members of the Kuki-Zo community staged a protest at Thangjing Hill, blocking members of the Meitei community from performing their annual pilgrimage to the sacred site. The demonstrators, arriving in large numbers via vehicles, held a sit-in at the hill to prevent any attempts by Meiteis to access the area.



The move follows a strong warning issued by several Kuki organizations on Saturday, which stated that any attempt by the Meitei community to climb Thangjing Hill would be “opposed tooth and nail.” The warning came amid growing ethnic tensions in the region and a lack of political resolution between the Kuki-Zo groups and the Indian government.

In response, the Meitei Heritage Society issued a statement condemning the threats, calling them a “blatant violation of constitutional rights,” particularly the freedom of movement and religious expression. The society urged the Indian state to uphold the rule of law and protect citizens’ rights regardless of their ethnic background.

Thangjing Hill is revered by Meiteis and is traditionally visited in April as part of a religious pilgrimage. However, Kuki groups argue that the area lies within their land and that it falls within a “buffer zone” established due to ongoing conflict and the lack of

a political settlement. They emphasized that any attempt by Meiteis to cross into this zone would be seen as a provocation and that any consequences would be the responsibility of those who breached the boundary.

Six Kuki-Zo organizations issued a joint statement reinforcing that, until a political agreement is reached, the Meitei community has “no jurisdiction” to enter the area.

In anticipation of possible confrontations, security has been ramped up across key locations in Bishnupur and Churachandpur districts, including sensitive flashpoints such as Moirang and Phougakchai Ikhai. Security forces remain on high alert to prevent any escalation, with the region already witnessing sporadic ethnic violence in recent months.

The standoff highlights the fragile peace in Manipur and the urgent need for a long-term resolution between communities to prevent further unrest.

Rahul Gandhi To Be In Alwar Amid Row Over Temple Purification

Ram Temple ‘Purification’ Sparks Political Storm in Alwar Ahead of Gandhi’s Visit

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A political storm is brewing in Alwar, Rajasthan, after former BJP MLA Gyan Dev Ahuja “purified” a Ram temple using Ganga water following a visit by Congress Dalit leader Tika Ram Jully. The act, widely condemned as casteist, has triggered a fierce backlash and set the stage for heightened political tension, particularly ahead of Rahul Gandhi’s planned visit to Alwar on Monday — coinciding with Ambedkar Jayanti.

The incident has enraged Dalit communities, with several groups planning protests across Alwar district, demanding a public apology from Ahuja. However, the former BJP leader has refused to express regret and claimed there was no caste angle to his actions. He instead criticized the Congress for “politicizing religion” and said Congress leaders lacked the moral authority to attend temple ceremonies, citing their boycott of the Ram temple consecration in Ayodhya earlier this year.

Sensing the potential damage to its Dalit vote bank, the BJP swiftly suspended Ahuja from the party and issued him a show-cause notice. Party insiders said the move was aimed at containing the fallout and avoiding further alienation of Scheduled Caste voters in the region.

Congress, meanwhile, sees an opportunity to consolidate Dalit support. With two out of six Assembly seats in Alwar reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates, the region holds significant political



weight. The controversy may also influence voter sentiment in neighboring constituencies.

Rahul Gandhi, speaking ahead of his visit, accused the BJP of having an “anti-Dalit mindset” and reiterated that India must be governed by the Constitution, not texts like the Manusmriti, which he said treats Bahujans as second-class citizens. His remarks are expected to resonate strongly with marginalized communities as Congress positions itself as the defender of social justice.

Congress leaders, including Tika Ram Jully, have condemned Ahuja’s act as a deliberate insult to Dalits. As political temperatures rise, Alwar is bracing for a high-stakes showdown that could reshape caste dynamics ahead of the upcoming elections.

Tamil Nadu Governor In Fresh Controversy Over “Jai Shri Ram” Slogan

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a landmark judgment this week, the Supreme Court of India strongly criticized Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi for withholding assent to ten key bills passed by the state legislature. The apex court termed the Governor's actions as “illegal,” “arbitrary,” and lacking “good faith.”

The verdict marks a significant moment in the ongoing power tussle between the elected state government and the Governor, with the court firmly siding with the democratic process and legislative authority.

The Supreme Court ruled that the Governor's refusal to act on the bills was not justified and went against constitutional norms. “The Governor did not act in good faith,” observed the bench, highlighting that his inaction delayed important legislative measures without valid reason.

In its ruling, the court set aside the Governor's decision to withhold assent and clarified that all ten bills in question shall now be considered “deemed to be cleared” from the date they were re-submitted to the Governor for a second time. This provision, grounded in Article 200 of the Constitution, allows the Governor to return a bill once for reconsideration. If the state legislature passes it again, the Governor is constitutionally bound to give assent.

This judgment effectively restores the legisla-



tive intent of the Tamil Nadu government and removes the blockade that had stalled several critical policy initiatives.

Despite the clarity of the court's verdict, there has been no official response from the office of Governor RN Ravi so far.

The Supreme Court's decision is expected to have far-reaching implications for Centre-State relations and could serve as a precedent for similar situations in other states where Governors are accused of delaying or obstructing the legislative process.

Political observers and legal experts have welcomed the ruling as a reinforcement of constitutional values and a reminder that Governors, as appointed officials, must respect the decisions of elected governments and act within the boundaries of the law.

Pause, review, repeal RTI-destroying amendment: Cong to Ashwini Vaishnaw

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Days after Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw assured that the Digital Personal Data Protection Act would not interfere with legal disclosures, including those under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the Congress party on Sunday called for a pause, review, and eventual repeal of recent amendments to the RTI Act, 2005.

The appeal was made in response to Vaishnaw's April 10 letter to Congress MP Jairam Ramesh, who had earlier raised concerns about the implications of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act on transparency and accountability. Ramesh, the party's general secretary in charge of communications, had written to the minister on March 23, questioning the amendment's compatibility with citizens' right to information.

Vaishnaw, in his reply, cited the landmark Supreme Court judgment in the Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) vs Union of India case, which held that the right to privacy is a fundamental component of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. He emphasized that the new data protection law carefully balances privacy with the public's right to access information, and maintains that it does not override legitimate legal obligations for information disclosure.

Despite the clarification, the Congress remains unconvinced. In a statement released Sunday,



the party reiterated its demand for a rollback of the changes made to the RTI Act, arguing that the amendment could potentially shield public authorities from scrutiny and reduce transparency in governance.

“The government must pause, review, and repeal the amendment to ensure that the RTI Act continues to empower citizens, not restrict them,” the statement said.

Activists and transparency advocates have echoed similar concerns, warning that the scope of the new Digital Personal Data Protection Act could be misused to deny information under the pretext of protecting personal data.

As debate continues, the clash between privacy rights and transparency obligations remains at the center of a growing national conversation about the balance between individual liberties and public accountability in the digital age.

Tensions Erupt in Agra After Meat Found in Mosque, 60 Booked for Protests



TPN Correspondent| Delhi

Tensions flared in Agra's Mantola area on Friday after a packet of animal meat was discovered inside the historic Jama Masjid just before the weekly congregational prayers. The incident, which police say was a deliberate act by a man named Nazruddin, sparked protests demanding severe punishment.

According to police, the protest began shortly after Friday prayers concluded. A crowd gathered outside the mosque, angered by the act of desecration, and called for swift and harsh action against the accused. As the situation escalated, police deployed over 100 personnel to the area and used mild force to disperse the protesters.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Sonam Kumar confirmed that a First Information Report (FIR) has been registered against Nazruddin, who is accused of placing the meat inside the mosque. Additionally, around 60 individuals have been named in connection with the protest and the disruption that followed.

CCTV footage from the mosque played a crucial role in the investigation. It reportedly showed Naz-

ruddin arriving at the site on a scooty late Thursday night, entering the mosque premises, placing the packet down, and then leaving. The incident was discovered the next morning, just before Friday prayers, leading to immediate unrest in the locality.

Police traced the scooty to a nearby meat shop and questioned the shop owner, which eventually led to Nazruddin's identification and arrest. He is a resident of the Teela Nandram area in Agra and was taken into custody on Friday.

Additional Police Commissioner Sanjeev Tyagi stated that the matter is being taken very seriously and will be investigated under the National Security Act (NSA). “We are looking into whether Nazruddin acted alone or had accomplices. The intent behind his actions is also under scrutiny,” Tyagi said.

Security has been tightened around the Jama Masjid to maintain law and order. Authorities have appealed to the public not to believe or spread rumours, emphasizing the need for peace and restraint. Meanwhile, forensic tests are underway to confirm the exact nature of the meat that was found.

SIT Formed to Probe Sexual Harassment Allegations Against IAS Officer in Nagaland

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Nagaland Police has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate allegations of sexual harassment against senior IAS officer Reny Wilfred. The officer, currently serving as Joint Secretary in the Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN), is accused of misconduct by multiple employees of the agency.

According to police officials, a preliminary enquiry was conducted following the complaints, which revealed grounds for a cognizable offence under sexual harassment laws. Based on the findings, an FIR was registered on April 2 to initiate a formal criminal investigation.

“The preliminary enquiry revealed the commission of a cognizable offence of sexual harassment, warranting an in-depth criminal investigation,” police



said in a statement.

The formation of the SIT underscores the seriousness of the allegations and aims to ensure a fair and transparent probe. Senior officials have stated that the investigation will be handled with sensitivity and due process.

Reny Wilfred, in his response to

the developments, denied the allegations and termed the case a politically motivated attempt to target him. “This is a clear political move to fix me. I have always maintained professional conduct and am confident the truth will come out during the investigation,” he said.

The case has stirred attention

within administrative and political circles in Nagaland, especially given the seniority of the officer involved and the high-profile nature of the institution he serves. The Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland plays a key role in policy-making and promoting economic development in the state.

The police have assured that the investigation will be thorough and impartial, and they have urged all parties involved to cooperate with the SIT. Meanwhile, pressure is mounting from civil society and women's rights groups who are calling for accountability and protection of workplace dignity.

As the investigation progresses, the state government is likely to face questions about administrative oversight and the handling of workplace harassment complaints within government departments.

India keen on interim trade deal with US in pause period: Jaishankar

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India is looking to secure an interim trade agreement with the United States within the 90-day window following the pause on reciprocal tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump. A senior government official confirmed this development, stating that an agreement is achievable within the set timeframe, provided both parties find it mutually beneficial.

According to the official, the broad contours of the deal will be finalized within the 90 days, and the Terms of Reference (ToR) have already been signed. The official also emphasized that India is ahead of other countries in negotiations with the US, highlighting the country's proactive approach in advancing the trade talks.

The announcement follows US President Trump's decision to temporarily halt recip-



rocal tariffs, which had escalated tensions between the two nations. This pause has opened the door for India and the US to explore a potential agreement that could address existing trade concerns and foster deeper economic cooperation.

India has been seeking to resolve trade issues with the US, which has imposed tariffs on a variety of goods, including steel and

aluminum, while India has retaliated with tariffs on American products. The ongoing trade talks are seen as a step toward resolving these tensions and establishing a framework that benefits both sides.

The senior official did not elaborate on the specific details of the interim agreement but indicated that significant progress had already been made. The timeline of 90 days aligns with the broader efforts to reset the economic relationship between the two countries, focusing on trade issues and strengthening economic ties.

The interim agreement, if signed, is expected to be a precursor to a larger trade deal between India and the US. As both countries continue their discussions, the outcome of these talks will likely shape the future of US-India trade relations, with the goal of fostering a more balanced and mutually advantageous economic partnership.

AAP vs BJP War of Words Over Delhi CM Rekha Gupta’s Husband Sparks Political Row

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A fresh political controversy erupted in Delhi as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) accused current Chief Minister Rekha Gupta of being a “rubber stamp” leader, alleging undue interference by her husband Manish Gupta in official government affairs. The BJP swiftly hit back, defending Gupta and accusing AAP of hypocrisy.

The row began on Saturday when Delhi’s Leader of Opposition, Atishi, raised objections over the alleged participation of Manish Gupta in an official government meeting involving senior officers from key departments such as the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Public Works Department (PWD), and Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB).

Taking the matter further on Sunday, AAP’s Delhi president Saurabh Bharadwaj called Rekha Gupta a “rubber-stamp CM” and accused the BJP of disrespecting democratic norms by installing weak, symbolic leaders in office. “Only those who have taken the constitutional oath have the authority to issue directions in government meetings. What official position does her husband hold?” he asked, claiming this amounts to a “mockery of democracy.”

Bharadwaj alleged that experienced leaders were being sidelined by the BJP in favour of figurehead leaders controlled by others, branding Gupta a “parchi mukhyamantri” (CM on paper).

In response, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva dismissed the allega-



- AAP labels her a “rubber-stamp CM” and questions his authority.
- BJP defends Gupta, calls AAP’s claims politically driven.
- BJP counters by citing Sunita Kejriwal’s past influence under AAP rule.

tions as politically motivated. “There is nothing unlawful in a family member being present during a discussion. AAP is using this issue as a tool in its internal power tussle between Atishi and Bharadwaj,” he claimed.

Sachdeva also countered by pointing to the previous AAP government under Arvind Kejriwal, questioning why AAP never objected when officials allegedly referred to

Sunita Kejriwal, the former CM’s wife, as “Madam CM.”

As tensions continue to rise in the Capital’s political corridors, the incident underscores the ongoing power struggle between the ruling BJP and opposition AAP in Delhi, with both sides accusing each other of undermining democratic governance and ethical conduct.

Cooperative movement suffered due to policy inaction in past, were almost dead: Shah



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, while addressing a state-level cooperative conference in Bhopal on April 13, 2025, took a veiled dig at previous Congress-led governments, accusing them of letting the cooperative movement in India “almost die” due to outdated laws and lack of reforms. Shah credited the revival of the sector to the decisive steps taken by the Modi government.

“The cooperative movement remained stagnant for decades. No significant legal updates were made, and the sector was left in shambles. It is only after 75 years of independence that Prime Minister Narendra Modi established a separate Ministry of Cooperation to give it the attention it deserves,” Shah said.

During the event, a major agreement was signed between the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and the Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Dairy Federation (MPSCDF) to enhance milk production in the state and promote cooperative dairy networks.

Shah emphasized that the cooperative model had long suffered due to lopsided growth—flourishing in some states while collapsing in oth-

ers—because of the absence of dynamic and modern cooperative laws. He said that under the Modi government, model bylaws have been introduced and widely accepted by states, giving primary cooperative societies a new lease on life.

He praised Madhya Pradesh for being the first state to computerize Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), and urged for swift adoption of cooperative dairies to ensure fair pricing for farmers. Shah highlighted that less than 1% of the state’s milk production currently comes from cooperatives, and stressed the importance of expanding the cooperative model to cover at least 50% of villages in the next five years.

The minister also announced initiatives like seed cooperatives and Ayushman Bharat-linked medicine distribution through PACS, which he said are boosting farmer incomes. “The Modi government is standing like a rock behind the cooperative movement. Through seed, organic, and export cooperatives, farmers now have global access and receive fair profits directly,” Shah said.

He called the NDDB-MPSCDF partnership a “golden opportunity” for Madhya Pradesh to lead the country in cooperative development.

Murshidabad Violence: 12 More Arrested as Protests Over Waqf Amendment Act Continue, Death Toll at 3

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Twelve more people were arrested on Sunday in connection with the violent protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act in West Bengal’s Murshidabad district, police said. The arrest count has now reached 150 as authorities attempt to bring the situation under control following days of unrest that have left three people dead and several others, including police personnel, injured.

According to officials, the situation in the violence-hit areas of Suti, Dhulian, Samserganj, and Jangipur remained peaceful on Sunday, with no fresh incidents reported. Security forces continued to maintain a heavy presence in sensitive areas, conducting patrols, checking vehicles on major roads, and monitoring for any signs of renewed tension.

“Overnight raids were conducted, and 12 more individuals were arrested for their

alleged involvement in the violence. Prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) remain in effect. Internet services have also been suspended to prevent the spread of misinformation,” a senior police officer said.

The violent protests erupted on Friday in reaction to the recently passed Waqf (Amendment) Act, which has sparked outrage among sections of the Muslim community, who claim the law threatens their religious and property rights. During Friday’s protests, demonstrators torched police vehicles, pelted stones at law en-



forcement personnel, and blocked roads. The unrest continued sporadically into Saturday.

Among the fatalities were a father and son, Harogobindo Das and Chandan Das, found stabbed to death in their home in Jafrabad, Samserganj. On Saturday, 21-year-old Ijaz Momin succumbed to bullet injuries sustained during Friday’s clashes at Sajur More in Suti.

At least 18 policemen were injured during Friday’s violence.

Director General of Police Rajeev Kumar visited Samserganj late Saturday and held high-level meetings with senior officers to assess the law and order situation. “The investigation into the violence is ongoing, and more arrests are expected,” police officials confirmed.

Authorities continue to appeal for calm as the region remains tense but stable.

Actor Vijay Joins Legal Battle Against Waqf Amendment Act, Files Petition in SC



TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Amid mounting criticism and legal challenges from political leaders, civil rights groups, and minority organisations, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president and popular actor Vijay has filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the recently enacted Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

Vijay is the latest public figure to oppose the legislation, aligning himself with a broad coalition of voices that claim the law is discriminatory and infringes on the fundamental rights of the Muslim community. His legal intervention reflects growing unrest over the Act, which critics argue could be used to undermine the autonomy and protection of waqf properties across the country.

The Waqf Amendment Act, passed in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha earli-

er this month, was signed into law by President Droupadi Murmu on April 5. It aims to reform the management of waqf properties by enhancing transparency, streamlining registration and dispute resolution processes, and empowering administrative mechanisms. However, the Opposition contends that it opens the door for government overreach and risks dispossessing legitimate waqf landholders.

Actor Vijay joins a long and growing list of petitioners challenging the Act, including AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi, Congress MPs Mohammad Jawed and Imran Pratapgarhi, AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan, DMK MP A Raja, and Azad Samaj Party chief Chandra Shekhar Azad. Key Muslim organisations such as the Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind, All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), Indian Union Muslim League, and NGOs like the Association for Protection of Civil

Rights have also moved the apex court.

In contrast, some groups have filed intervention applications in the Supreme Court defending the Act, arguing that it aligns with constitutional principles and does not violate the rights of any religious group.

Despite being passed with a majority in both Houses of Parliament — 288 in favour and 232 against in the Lok Sabha, and 128 versus 95 in the Rajya Sabha — the legislation has ignited a nationwide debate, especially after violent protests in states like West Bengal, Assam, and Tripura.

With high-profile legal figures and public personalities now entering the fray, the Supreme Court’s hearing on the matter is expected to become a major constitutional and political showdown in the coming weeks.

Delhi govt to set up Atal canteens near construction sites, slums

TPN Correspondent| New Delhi

In a significant move aimed at addressing hunger and food insecurity in the national capital, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced on Saturday the launch of 100 subsidised canteens under the name “Atal Canteen,” in honour of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. These canteens will be set up near major construction sites and slum areas to ensure easy access to nutritious meals for those in need.

Speaking to media persons during a Hanuman Jayanti visit to a temple in Shalimar Bagh, CM Gupta said, “We will open 100 Atal Canteens so that no one remains hungry in Delhi. These canteens will be located near areas where daily wage workers and underprivileged residents

live and work.” The initiative, a key poll promise of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is expected to be operational by December 25—Vajpayee’s birth anniversary. Gupta, who also holds the finance portfolio, has allocated ₹100 crore in the 2025–26 Budget for the project.

As part of the preparation for this rollout, the Chief Minister also inaugurated an automatic chapati-making machine at a private social organisation in Shalimar Bagh. The machine has the capacity to produce 1,200 chapatis per hour. These rotis will be used to prepare food packets to be distributed among the needy, Gupta explained.

A senior Delhi government official, requesting anonymity, clarified

that the food served at Atal Canteens will not be free, but highly subsidised. “People will pay a nominal amount, likely around ₹5 per plate. However, the final pricing will be decided after approval from the competent authority,” the official said.

The Atal Canteen model is already in place in BJP-ruled Haryana, and Delhi’s version aims to replicate its success. The initiative is expected to benefit thousands of people, especially daily wage earners and slum residents, by providing affordable and hygienic meals.

With this move, the Delhi government hopes to take a concrete step toward eliminating hunger and ensuring food security for the city’s most vulnerable populations.



Delhi Man Falls To Death From Flyover After Speeding Car Rams Scooter: Cops



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A tragic accident occurred in outer Delhi on Saturday evening, claiming the life of a 23-year-old man after a speeding car crashed into a stationary scooter on the Peeragarhi Flyover. According to police, the impact of the collision flung the man off the flyover, resulting in fatal injuries.

The incident took place around 7:45 PM and was reported by Jaipur Golden Hospital in Rohini, where the victim was rushed following the crash. The identity of the deceased has not been made public yet.

The man was traveling with two friends on a scooter, returning home after playing a cricket match at Delhi Technical University. All three were residents of Palam Colony in Delhi. According to a police statement, the accident happened when the scooter was brought to a halt on the flyover because one of the pillion riders received a video call from his family.

“While the three were stationary, a speeding white car rammed into their scooter. The force of the

collision threw one of them off the flyover. He sustained critical injuries and was later declared dead at the hospital,” said the statement.

The other two friends suffered injuries but are currently reported to be in stable condition and undergoing treatment.

A case has been registered at the Mangolpuri Police Station, and an investigation is underway. Authorities are examining CCTV footage from the area to determine the sequence of events and to identify the car and the driver responsible for the crash.

The police are urging any witnesses to come forward with information that may assist in the investigation. Meanwhile, the victim’s family and friends are left mourning a life lost too soon due to reckless driving.

This incident adds to the growing concerns over road safety and the dangers of speeding in the capital. It serves as a grim reminder of the consequences of negligence on the road.

Delhi Police Bust International Drug Racket, Arrest Two Foreign Nationals

TPN Correspondent| New Delhi

In a significant breakthrough, the Delhi Police on Friday announced the dismantling of an international drug cartel operating in the national capital. As part of the operation, two foreign nationals—one from Nigeria and the other from Uganda—were arrested, and narcotics worth over ₹1 crore were seized.

The crackdown was conducted under the ambit of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, a nationwide campaign aimed at eliminating drug abuse with a policy of zero tolerance. The police said that the drug syndicate was primarily targeting college students and young people across Delhi, making their activities particularly dangerous and far-reaching.

Acting on specific intelligence, a team from the police’s Anti-Narcotics Cell laid a trap and successfully nabbed the accused. Upon searching them, the authorities found a substantial quantity of high-grade narcotics. According to police sources, the drugs were intended for distribution at parties, nightclubs, and student gatherings in and around the city.

During interrogation, the suspects reportedly revealed that they were part of a larger net-

work smuggling drugs into India through various channels. The cartel is believed to have international links and has been operating covertly for some time, avoiding detection until now.

A senior police official stated, “The arrest of these two individuals has dealt a serious blow to the cartel. We are currently tracing their local contacts and international suppliers. More arrests are expected as the investigation progresses.”

The Delhi Police emphasized their commitment to keeping the city free from narcotics, particularly in areas where students and youth are vulnerable. They urged the public to remain vigilant and report suspicious activities, reiterating that the fight against drug abuse requires community support along with strong enforcement.

The operation marks another success under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, which aims to curb both the supply and demand of illegal substances in India. Authorities confirmed that the accused are being booked under stringent provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and further investigations are underway to uncover the full extent of the cartel’s operations.



Delhi Draft EV Policy 2.0 Offers ₹30,000 Subsidy for Women

Major Push Towards Cleaner Mobility

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi government is preparing to launch its revised Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2.0, with a key highlight being a ₹30,000 incentive for women residents purchasing electric two-wheelers. This subsidy, aimed at encouraging clean mobility and empowering women, will be offered on a conditional basis to the first 10,000 eligible applicants who hold a valid driving licence.

According to the draft policy reviewed by Hindustan Times, an incentive of ₹10,000 per kWh of battery capacity—capped at ₹30,000—will be provided. This initiative is part of a larger plan to increase the adoption of EVs across the national capital and reduce dependency on fossil fuels.

The earlier Delhi EV Policy, launched in 2020, expired in August 2023. Since then, it has been under extension, with the updated policy expected to be rolled out by mid-April after cabinet approval. While the exact mechanism for disbursing the ₹30,000 subsidy is yet to be disclosed, officials confirmed that several other incentives are being introduced to support wider EV adoption.

Beyond the women-centric two-wheeler subsidy, the policy proposes additional financial support for electric goods vehicles. Electric three-wheeler goods carriers (L5N) will be eligible for up to ₹45,000, while



four-wheeler goods carriers (N1 category) could receive incentives of up to ₹75,000. Interest subvention schemes will also be available across vehicle categories.

Vehicle scrapping incentives form another key component. Owners who scrap fossil fuel two-wheelers less than 12 years old will receive ₹10,000. Those scrapping old ICE auto-rickshaws will be eligible for ₹20,000. Moreover, CNG auto-rickshaws completing 10 years of registration during the policy period must be replaced with electric alternatives, with a ₹1 lakh incentive per replacement.

The draft also recommends a complete halt to registration of diesel, petrol, and CNG goods carrier three-wheelers starting August 15, 2025. Other provisions include setting up 18,000 EV charging points across the city, EV-ready parking spaces in new buildings (20%) and existing buildings (5%), and mandating EVs for households purchasing a third vehicle.

This ambitious policy signals a bold step toward making Delhi a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable city.

Municipal Corporation of Delhi to elect new Mayor, Deputy Mayor on April 25



TPN Correspondent| Delhi

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has officially announced that elections for the posts of Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be held on April 25, 2025. This announcement was made through a notice issued by the MCD Secretary’s Office on Friday.

The elections will be conducted during the MCD’s ordinary meeting scheduled for the same day, with voting expected to take place at 2 p.m. The process is a part of the regular civic administration cycle and is keenly awaited amid ongoing political

tensions within the MCD.

As per official sources, the nomination process will begin on April 15. Interested candidates will have until April 21 to file their nominations for both posts. The electoral process is likely to see participation from all major political parties, including the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), both of whom have been locked in a fierce political contest in the civic body.

This announcement comes at a time when the MCD has witnessed multiple sessions of cha-

os and confrontation. Recent meetings of the MCD House have seen intense clashes between AAP and BJP councillors, adding further anticipation and political heat around the upcoming elections.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor hold significant roles in overseeing the administration and functioning of the city’s civic services. Their leadership can greatly influence policy decisions related to sanitation, infrastructure, public health, and urban development in Delhi.

While the current term of the

sitting Mayor is drawing to a close, political observers are closely watching how the new leadership might shift the dynamics of the MCD, especially in the run-up to the next round of civic and assembly elections.

As Delhi continues to evolve as a mega-urban centre, the MCD elections are expected to reflect not just the city’s political mood but also shape its governance priorities for the year ahead. All eyes are now on April 25, when the results of the voting will reveal the new civic leadership of the national capital.

Himanta Biswa Sarma Meets Jeet Adani to Discuss ₹50,000 Crore Investment in Assam



TPN Correspondent | Chhattisgarh

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma held a high-level meeting with Adani Group Director Jeet Adani on Sunday to discuss the implementation of the conglomerate's ₹50,000 crore investment proposal, announced during the Advantage Assam 2.0 business summit held in February this year.

Taking to social media platform X (formerly Twitter), CM Sarma shared details of the meeting, expressing optimism about the swift execution of the investment plans across multiple sectors in the state.

“During #AdvantageAssam2, the Adani Group made a ₹50,000 crore investment commitment. Today, along with my senior officers, we had an in-depth meeting with Mr Jeet Adani, Director of Adani Group, and his team to operationalise this commitment,” he posted.

The investment is expected to span a wide range of development projects, including the construction of an aero-city, luxury hotels, a cement manufacturing plant, and critical infrastructure projects aimed at accelerating Assam's economic growth.

The Chief Minister underlined that the Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed during the summit should soon translate into action on the ground, bringing transformative changes to the region's economy and infrastructure.

The Adani Group's massive investment commitment was first made public by Chairman Gautam Adani during the inaugural session of the Advantage Assam 2.0 summit. The initiative aims to position Assam as a strategic investment destination in India's northeast, tapping into sectors like logistics, energy, manufacturing, tourism, and urban infrastructure.

The Sunday meeting is seen as a significant step toward turning the summit promises into tangible projects, with both the state government and the Adani Group actively engaging in implementation strategies.

With the groundwork now being laid out for these large-scale investments, the state is hopeful that these initiatives will not only boost industrial growth but also create jobs and improve infrastructure across Assam.

Rajasthan Government Defends Waqf Amendment Law in SC Amid Legal Challenges

TPN Correspondent | Jaipur

The BJP-led Rajasthan government has moved the Supreme Court to defend the recently amended Waqf law, which has come under legal scrutiny from multiple quarters, including a prominent petition by AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi. The petitions are scheduled for a hearing before the apex court on Wednesday.

Shiv Mangal Sharma, Rajasthan's Additional Advocate General, stated that the state holds a significant portfolio of Waqf properties and therefore has a “substantial stake” in the matter. He emphasized that the state has requested the court not to make any decisions without considering its perspective.

“The Rajasthan government has substantial Waqf properties. So after due deliberation, the state has decided to file a petition saying no decision be taken without hearing them out,” Sharma told NDTV.

Sources have indicated that other states may also follow suit by filing similar petitions to express their interests in the matter.

In its application to the court, the Rajasthan government underscored its role as the primary authority in administering and regulating Waqf properties within the state. It described the amended Waqf law as a transparent and constitutionally valid reform designed to prevent the arbitrary declaration of government or private lands as Waqf property.

The state argued that such arbitrary claims in the past have disrupted public development and infrastructure projects. The new law addresses this concern through a key provi-

sion: a mandatory public notice and objection mechanism that must be followed before any land is classified as Waqf property.

The Rajasthan government also pointed out that the legislation was passed with unanimous backing from a Joint Parliamentary Committee. The committee had sought input from over 284 stakeholders, including State Governments, Waqf Boards, and legal experts.

Rejecting allegations that the amendment infringes on religious freedom or violates the principles of equality enshrined in Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution, the state maintained that the law respects fundamental rights and aims to bring more accountability and transparency in Waqf land dealings.

The legal battle is set to be closely watched, as it could set a precedent for how Waqf properties are regulated across the country.



Karnataka Doctor Assaulted After Woman Claims She Was Inappropriately Touched

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

A doctor was allegedly assaulted at the Vijayapura District Hospital in Karnataka after a pregnant woman accused him of inappropriate behavior during a medical scan. The incident, which occurred on April 9, has triggered tensions within the hospital and led to a temporary disruption of medical services.

According to reports, the woman, who had gone for a routine scan, later informed her husband that the radiologist conducting the procedure had touched her inappropriately. Acting on her complaint, the husband, accompanied by a friend, stormed into the hospital and physically attacked the doctor involved.

The doctor, a postgraduate student in the radiology department, has firmly denied the allegations, stating that he was merely performing his professional duties. He claimed that certain physical contact is often necessary while conducting a scan, especially to ensure the patient is properly positioned for accurate results.

The assault led to immediate outrage among the hospital staff, with several doctors staging a protest within the premises. They demanded increased security and protection while on duty, emphasizing



ing that such incidents could discourage professionals from performing their work effectively.

“Conducting a scan without any physical contact is practically impossible in many cases. We cannot be attacked for doing our job,” said one of the protesting doctors.

The incident disrupted medical services at the hospital for a few hours, affecting patients and hospital operations.

Police have launched an investigation into the matter. Statements from both the

doctor and the patient's family are being recorded, and hospital CCTV footage is also being examined to determine the exact sequence of events.

Authorities have appealed for calm while the investigation is underway. The incident has reignited debates around the safety of healthcare workers and the need for clear protocols and awareness in sensitive medical procedures.

As the probe continues, both the medical community and the public await clarity on what truly transpired during the scan.

Amid Bengal Tension, Stone-Throwing At Waqf Act Protest In Assam's Silchar

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Saturday. A demonstration in the Cachar district's Silchar town escalated when a section of protesters began pelting stones at police, prompting security forces to use lathicharge to disperse the crowd and bring the situation under control.

The protest rally, which began peacefully in the morning, was organized against the Waqf Amendment Act that was cleared by Parliament just a week ago. Protesters marched through Silchar, carrying placards and raising slogans, calling the legislation “anti-Islamic” and demanding its immediate withdrawal. They warned of an intensified agitation if the law was not rolled back.

However, violence erupted later when a

group of unruly youths reportedly joined the rally and began throwing stones at police personnel. The clash disrupted normalcy in parts of Silchar, including Chamragudam, Berenga, and Old Lakhipur Road.

Cachar Superintendent of Police Numal Mahatta said that the police had to resort to “reasonable force” to contain the situation. “Initially, the rally was peaceful, but some miscreants tried to incite violence. We acted swiftly and brought the situ-



ation under control. Around 300 to 400 people were present. All those responsible for disturbing the peace will face legal action,” he said.

One of the protesters condemned the violence, stating, “We had planned a peaceful protest. We oppose the Waqf Amendment Act, but we don't support stone-pelting. Those who attacked the police were not with us, and we welcome legal action against them.”

Ironically, just a day earlier, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had praised the state's peaceful handling of protests against the Act. He lauded Assam Police and minority leaders for maintaining calm, highlighting the administration's proactive efforts to prevent unrest following Friday prayers.

8 Killed In Fire Accident At Cracker Factory In Andhra Pradesh

TPN Correspondent | Chhattisgarh

A tragic fire accident at a firecracker manufacturing unit in Andhra Pradesh's Anakapalli district claimed the lives of eight people, including two women, on Sunday. At least seven others were injured in the incident, with several reported to be in critical condition.

The accident occurred at a factory where fireworks were being produced, though the exact cause of the blaze is still under investigation. Authorities suspect that improper handling of explosive materials or a short circuit may have triggered the devastating fire.

State Home Minister V Anitha confirmed the casualties and said, “Eight people, including two women, died and several others were injured in the fire accident.” She added that rescue and relief operations were underway and that the injured were being rushed to nearby hospitals for urgent medical attention.

“Details are still awaited, and we are working to gather complete information from the site,” Anitha told PTI.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu

expressed deep shock over the incident. In an official statement, he directed the Home Minister and local district officials to ensure that the injured receive the best possible medical care. He also extended condolences to the families of the deceased and promised that the state government would support them during this difficult time.

A team of senior officials and forensic experts has been deployed to the site to investigate the cause of the fire and assess whether there were any violations of safety norms. Firecracker units, especially in rural and semi-urban parts of India, are often prone to such accidents due to inadequate safety measures and improper storage of explosive materials.

This incident has once again raised concerns over safety regulations in firework manufacturing units across the country, with calls for stricter enforcement of safety protocols to prevent such tragedies in the future.

As the state mourns the loss of lives, the administration is expected to announce compensation for the victims' families and take necessary action against those responsible for any negligence.



Trump’s tariff policies spell global economic turbulence


Trump’s tariff policies are sounding the alarm bells for what could very well escalate into a full-blown trade war, potentially triggering a global economic disaster or a severe recession. There is a general perception, particularly within government circles, that these tariffs imposed by the United States will not significantly impact India. However, this assumption is far from the truth.

The reality is that India will not remain insulated from the ripple effects of these protectionist measures. While the impact may not be immediately visible, the country’s economic growth is likely to become unstable in the foreseeable future. Even when growth resumes, it may neither be steady nor robust, it could be sluggish, if not outright crippling. The contri-

bution of individual states to the national economy is bound to take a hit, as their local economies are poised to slow down under external pressures.

One of the major fallouts of the US tariff regime will be a likely increase in unemployment across sectors, accompanied by a spike in inflation. These twin evils, joblessness and rising prices will directly affect the common man. The already low incomes of the middle and lower-income groups will shrink further, pushing them into greater financial distress. Their struggle for survival will become more acute, and savings, already meagre, will dwindle from their pockets.

With governments facing economic stress and public discontent, public spending is bound to rise. This would



**Yanamala
Ramakrishnu**
*Authour, Former
Finance Minister*

be an attempt to compensate for the economic pain felt by citizens due to sluggish growth and income stagnation. People’s expectations from the state will increase, but fulfilling them in a fiscally constrained environment will only add to the government’s debt burden. Simultaneously, the pressure of personal loans on individuals is worsening the economic fragility of households.

The volatility in global markets triggered by these tariffs could lead to a sudden fall in stock markets, which in turn will erode the value of people’s investments and hard-earned savings. Trump’s tariff-driven policy moves, what I call Trump’s Tariff Trumpets (TTTs) are in fact severe blows to the global economic system.

India, and more specifically its states, including Andhra Pradesh, cannot remain untouched by this whirlwind. If governments do not address the situation with foresight and effective policy responses, the fallout could derail national developmental visions such as Swachh Bharat and others. But if approached with the right strategies, the crisis could be transformed into an opportunity for course correction and structural reforms.

Failing to act decisively, however, will only exacerbate inequality and deepen poverty. Under such circumstances, economic development will remain a distant dream. TTTs are not mere trade barriers they are ticking time bombs that threaten the very foundation of equitable and sustainable development.

A Tribute to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar – A Visionary Beyond His Time

- **Pandit Nehru made a historical wrong by not appointing Dr. Ambedkar as minister of education.**
- **Congress’s Failure to Honor Dr. Ambedkar: A Nation’s Unfinished Acknowledgment**

Tribute to one of the greatest minds and visionaries our nation has ever produced—Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. A jurist, an economist, a social reformer, and above all, a tireless advocate for justice and equality.

But while we celebrate him as the Father of the Indian Constitution, if Dr. Ambedkar had been appointed as India’s first Education Minister by Nehru the shaping the destiny of India’s youth right from beginning would have been different.

Pandit Nehru’s decision : A Historical Wrong

History often remembers great leaders for what they did—but it must also reflect on what they failed to do.

One such missed opportunity was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru’s decision not to appoint Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as India’s first Education Minister. In doing so, a man who understood the grassroots crisis of illiteracy, who lived through the social exclusion that millions of Indians still face, and who stood as a symbol of the transformative power of education, was sidelined from the very ministry that could have reshaped the destiny of India’s youth.

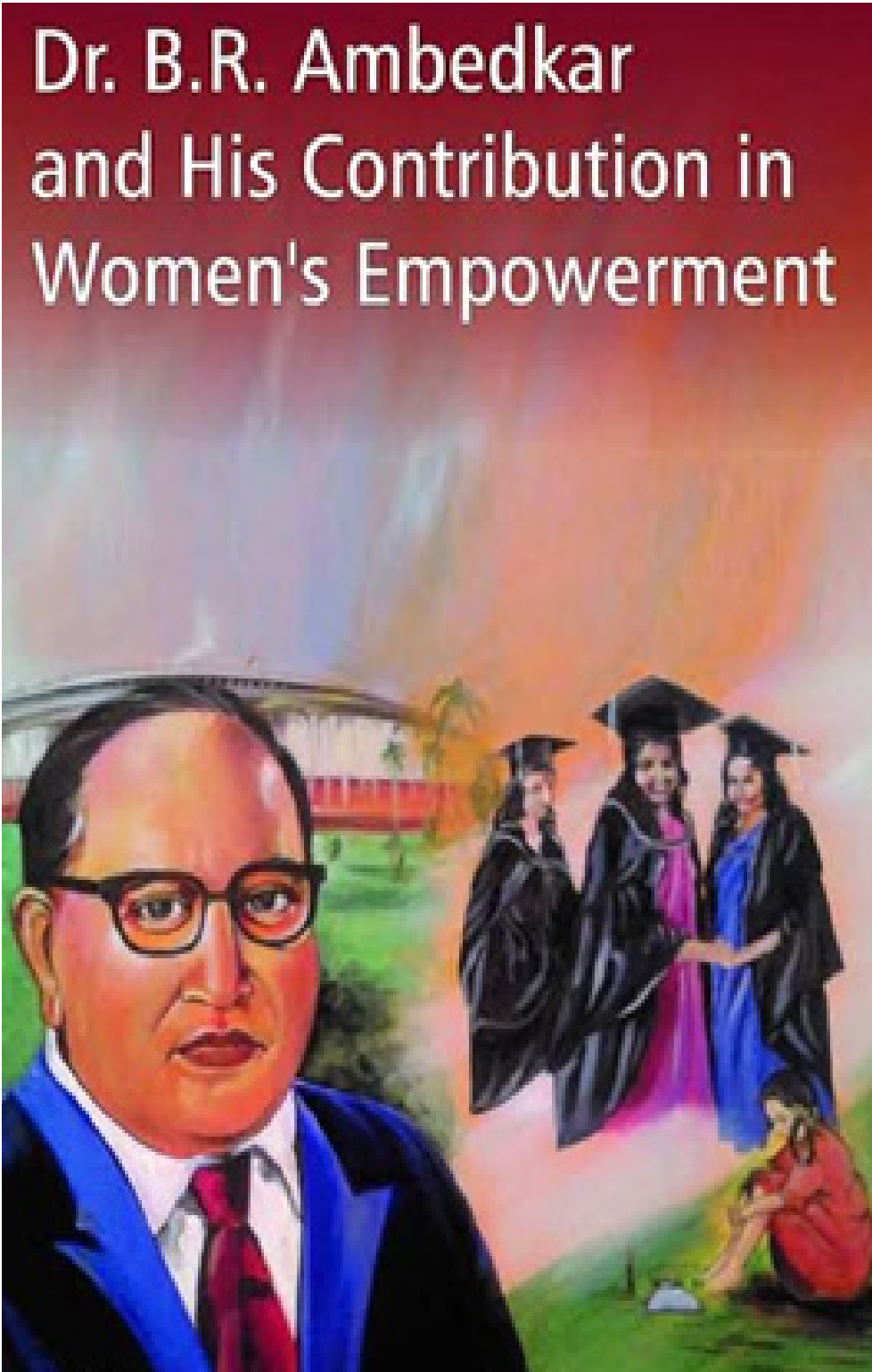
Instead of placing one of the most educated, visionary minds in charge of national education, India handed the reins to others who—while competent—did not carry Ambedkar’s lived experience of marginalization or his urgency for educational justice.

This was not just a political oversight—it was a historical wrong.

Ambedkar didn’t just believe in education—he embodied its power to liberate. His life was a testament to how knowledge could break chains of caste and poverty. Had he been given the responsibility, India’s education system might have focused earlier on equity, social inclusion, and empowerment, not just literacy and bureaucracy.

Today, as we look at the gaps that persist in our education system—whether it’s caste-based inequality, dropout rates, or the urban-rural divide—we must also look back and ask: What if Dr. Ambedkar had led us from the very beginning?

It’s time we not only honor his memory—but also acknowledge the oppor-



tunities that were denied to him, and through him, denied to generations of Indians.

Imagine a man who had lived through the caste oppression... who rose against all odds to earn multiple doctorates from the world’s top universities... who believed with all his heart that education is the ultimate tool of liberation.


With his unmatched intellect, his deep grasp of the grassroots realities of Indian society, and his unwavering belief in the transformative power of learning, Ambedkar would have been the ideal architect of India’s post-independence education policy. He knew that true freedom was in-

complete without the education of the masses—especially the marginalized.

In 1947, India needed not just freedom—it needed direction. It needed someone who understood why millions of children couldn’t read, why girls weren’t in school, and why caste still chained the human mind. That someone was Dr. Ambedkar.

Had he been given charge of shaping India’s educational foundations, perhaps our schools would have been more inclusive, our textbooks more empowering, and our youth more awakened—sooner, stronger, freer.

Dr. Ambedkar once said, “Cultivation



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh
*Authour, Former National
consultant for NRHM,
Ministry of Health,
Govt of India*

of mind should be the ultimate aim of human existence.” His vision went beyond literacy—he wanted education that liberates, dignifies, and uplifts.

We honor his legacy, let us not just remember him as the chief architect of our Constitution, but also as the educationist India could have—and should have—fully embraced.

Let us commit ourselves to his dream: an India where every child, regardless of background, has the right to quality education—and a fair shot at dignity and opportunity.

Instead, while he gave India its Constitution, his revolutionary vision for education remained largely unrealized in his lifetime. Had his ideas shaped the foundation of our schools and universities, India might have seen an earlier and deeper social awakening—an educational revolution that reached every village and every child, regardless of caste or class.

Congress’s Failure to Honor Dr. Ambedkar: A Nation’s Unfinished Acknowledgment

History will never forget that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar gave India its most powerful instrument of justice—the Constitution. Yet, it must also remember that the political establishment, particularly the Congress party, failed to fully honor him when it mattered most.

Despite his monumental intellect and unwavering commitment to the nation, Dr. Ambedkar was not given a cabinet portfolio befitting his vision

and capabilities. He was made Law Minister, yes—but not given charge of education, economy, or social justice—areas where his expertise was unmatched.

Even more telling is the fact that he was denied the Bharat Ratna during his lifetime. This highest civilian honor was awarded to him posthumously in 1990—34 years after his death—a delay that speaks volumes about how the ruling establishment undervalued his legacy during the early decades of independent India.

This wasn’t just a political slight—it was a failure to recognize a man who had dedicated his life to the upliftment of the most oppressed, to the building of institutions, and to the preservation of democratic values.

Ambedkar wasn’t just a Dalit icon—he was a national visionary. And if the Congress truly believed in equality, inclusion, and justice, it should have been the first to recognize his unmatched contributions in real time, not decades later when the public demand became too loud to ignore.

Today, India remembers Ambedkar not because he was honored by power—but because he empowered the voiceless. It’s a legacy far greater than any title or position—and one that history has finally begun to correct, even if too late.

Ambedkar’s Resignation speech: An important Testimony to Nehru’s narrow Vision

Pandit Nehru, while celebrated as a statesman, cannot be absolved of how Ambedkar was politically cornered and eventually pushed out of the cabinet. The Congress leadership’s discomfort with Ambedkar’s radical vision for caste annihilation, social equality, and educational reform created an environment where he was never fully supported—and often isolated.

Ambedkar wasn’t given the Education Ministry, despite being one of the most qualified individuals in the country—someone who had studied at Columbia and the London School of Economics, and who deeply understood India’s grassroots problems. Had Nehru truly wanted to transform India’s education system, Ambedkar was the obvious choice. He wasn’t chosen.



Himanta, Jeet Adani Discuss Assam Investment

In a significant follow-up to the Advantage Assam 2.0 business summit held in February, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma met with Jeet Adani, Director of the Adani Group, to discuss the operationalisation of the conglomerate’s massive Rs 50,000 crore investment proposal in the state. The meeting, which included senior state officials and members of the Adani leadership team, aimed to push forward projects in multiple sectors, including infrastructure, hospitality, aviation, and cement manufacturing.

Taking to social media platform X, the Chief Minister shared details of the discussion and expressed optimism about the investment commitment translating into tangible development soon. “During AdvantageAssam2, the Adani Group made a Rs 50,000 crore investment commitment. Today, along with my senior officers, we had an in-depth meeting with Mr Jeet Adani and his team to operationalise this commitment,” Sarma stated.

The state government is hopeful that the Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed during the summit—covering the development of an aero-city, luxury hotels, a major cement plant, and various infrastructure projects—will be implemented without delay. These projects are expected to generate employment, boost economic activity, and enhance Assam’s status as an investment destination in the northeast.

The massive investment push by the Adani Group had originally been announced by Chairman Gautam Adani during the inaugural session of the summit. He had committed the funds towards building long-term assets and infrastructure in Assam, signalling the group’s intent to play a transformative role in the state’s economic growth.

The Assam government views this partnership as a game-changer for the region. By attracting private capital and global investors, initiatives like these are intended to turn Assam into a logistics and industrial hub in the eastern corridor of India. The meeting between Sarma and Jeet Adani comes at a time when the state is keen to leverage its geographic advantages and improve connectivity, tourism, and manufacturing.

As groundwork begins and formalities move ahead, the focus will be on translating commitments into on-ground execution that can deliver real economic benefits for the people of Assam.



Actor Vijay Joins Waqf Act Challenge

Tamil actor and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president Vijay has approached the Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, joining a growing list of petitioners from across the country who claim the law infringes upon fundamental rights. The amended legislation, passed by Parliament earlier this month and signed into law by President Droupadi Murmu on April 5, has triggered a wave of political and legal opposition.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, was passed in the Rajya Sabha on April 4 with 128 votes in favour and 95 against, following its clearance in the Lok Sabha, where 288 members supported it while 232 opposed. The law seeks to overhaul the management of waqf properties by enhancing administrative powers and introducing new mechanisms for survey, registration, and dispute resolution. However, critics argue that these changes centralize authority, facilitate undue government interference, and threaten the autonomy of Muslim religious endowments.

Actor Vijay’s entry into the legal battle adds a

new dimension to the growing controversy. As a popular figure in Tamil Nadu, his move is seen not just as a legal step but also as a political signal from his recently launched party, which has been positioning itself as a defender of constitutional rights and social justice.

Among others who have challenged the law in court are AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi, Congress MPs Mohammad Jawed and Imran Pratapgarhi, AAP’s Amanatullah Khan, and Azad Samaj Party leader Chandra Shekhar Azad. Several influential Muslim organizations such as the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind, and Samastha Kerala Jamiatul Ulema have also voiced strong objections. They argue the amendments are arbitrary, discriminatory, and undermine community rights. Meanwhile, some groups have filed intervention applications in support of the Act, maintaining that it aligns with constitutional principles and does not violate any community’s rights. As the case unfolds, the Supreme Court’s verdict will be closely watched across legal, political, and religious spheres.

Governor’s ‘Jai Shri Ram’ Remark Sparks Row

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi has once again stirred political controversy, this time for reportedly urging students to chant “Jai Shri Ram” during a recent event. The remark, made in an educational setting, has triggered strong reactions from opposition parties, academics, and civil society groups, who have accused the Governor of promoting religious slogans in violation of the Constitution’s secular framework. The State Platform for Common School System-Tamil Nadu (SPCSS-TN), a well-known academic advocacy group, issued a sharp statement condemning the Governor’s actions, asserting that he had clearly violated Article 159 of the Constitution, which mandates that a Governor uphold constitutional values without bias. The organisation called for his immediate removal, claiming that his encouragement of religious slogans in an official context breaches the secular duty of the office.

The political backlash was swift. Congress leader Sasikanth Senthil criticized the Governor, suggesting that his actions were calculated and meant to provoke



the State Government, especially in light of recent legal setbacks. “After being slammed by the Supreme Court and bypassed by the Tamil Nadu Government, the Governor is now resorting to these public stunts to stay relevant and spark outrage,” Senthil said in a social media post. The controversy follows closely on the heels of a major Supreme Court verdict that rebuked Governor Ravi for de-

laying assent to ten bills passed by the State Assembly. The Court ruled that the Governor’s actions were arbitrary and not in good faith, further instructing that the bills be treated as passed from the date they were re-submitted by the Assembly.

The Governor’s invocation of “Jai Shri Ram”—a slogan associated with political and religious movements—has reignited the broader debate over the constitutional role of Governors and the expectation of religious neutrality in public office. Critics argue that while personal beliefs are a right, promoting religious slogans in state functions or educational institutions crosses a line, especially in a diverse and secular country like India. As the issue escalates, political leaders and civil rights advocates continue to press for accountability, demanding that constitutional offices remain above partisan or religious messaging. The Raj Bhavan has not responded to the allegations yet, leaving the public and media awaiting clarification or official comment on the Governor’s controversial remarks.

Pastor John Jebaraj Held in POCSO Case

In a disturbing case that has shocked many, John Jebaraj, a pastor of Kings Generation Church in Coimbatore, was arrested in Kerala’s Munnar for allegedly sexually assaulting two minors. The 37-year-old, known for his significant social media following, had been absconding for months and was apprehended by the Central All Women Police Station, Coimbatore.

Jebaraj was arrested last evening and produced before a court earlier today, which remanded him to judicial custody. He faces serious charges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, with specific sections pertaining to aggravated sexual assault invoked against him.

According to police sources, the incidents in question took place during a party hosted by Jebaraj at his residence in Coimbatore in May last year. One of the survivors reportedly revealed the traumatic



experience to a family member recently, prompting a formal complaint to be filed with the Central All Women Police Station.

Acting on the complaint, the Coimbatore City Police formed multiple special teams to track down Jebaraj, who had been evading arrest. A lookout circular was also issued to prevent him from fleeing the country. His arrest was finally made possible after investigators traced his movements to Munnar, where he was taken

into custody without incident.

A senior police official confirmed that a minor girl had lodged a complaint with the Child Welfare Committee, and further investigations are ongoing. “We are gathering all evidence and testimonies related to the case. More details may emerge as the investigation progresses,” the officer said.

The incident has drawn widespread condemnation, with renewed calls for stringent enforcement of child protection laws and greater oversight of individuals in influential positions. The arrest comes on the heels of another high-profile case involving Pastor Bajinder Singh in Punjab, who was recently sentenced to life imprisonment for rape.

The case against Jebaraj is expected to unfold over the coming weeks, with police urging any other potential victims to come forward.

Waqf Act Sparks Unrest in States

The recent amendments to the Waqf Act, 2025, have sparked widespread protests across India, with Kerala and West Bengal emerging as major flashpoints. In Kerala, the unrest was led by the Solidarity Youth Movement and the Students Islamic Organisation of India (SIO), both affiliated with Jamaat-e-Islami. Demonstrations reached a peak on April 9 near Karippur Airport in Kozhikode, where protesters displayed controversial images of Islamist figures, including leaders of Hamas and ideologues like Hassan al-Banna and Sayyid Qutb. These visuals drew strong criticism from the BJP, which accused the groups of promoting extremist ideologies under the guise of protest. Responding to the outrage, Kerala Police launched investigations into the incident, as political tensions heightened.

Meanwhile, West Bengal witnessed more intense and violent demonstrations, particularly in Murshidabad district. Clashes erupted in towns such as Suti, Samserganj, and Jangipur, leading to the deaths of at least three individuals and injuries to several others, including police officers. Protesters vandalized public property, set vehicles on fire, and disrupted railway operations by blocking tracks and pelt-

ing stones at trains. In response, the Calcutta High Court directed the deployment of central forces to curb the violence and restore order. Authorities also arrested over 130 individuals in connection with the unrest.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee responded firmly, stating that the Waqf (Amendment) Act will not be implemented in West Bengal. She appealed for peace and warned political actors against exploiting the issue to fuel communal tension. On the other hand, BJP leaders condemned the state government’s handling of the crisis, accusing it of being lenient on those responsible for the violence.

The ongoing protests reflect the deep unease and opposition among sections of the Muslim community, who view the amendments as a threat to the autonomy and integrity of Waqf properties. The developments in both Kerala and West Bengal underscore the growing challenge for the central and state governments to address minority concerns while maintaining law and order. As the protests continue, the political and social ramifications of the amended Waqf Act are expected to remain a contentious issue in the months ahead.



Russian missile attack on Ukraine’s Sumy: More than 30 people killed, at least 84 injured

- Missiles reportedly used cluster munitions for maximum damage.
- Sumy, near Russian border, seen as key military zone.
- Ukraine shares evidence with ICC; war crimes probe underway.



TPN Correspondent | [Ukraine](#)

In the deadliest strike on Ukraine this year, two Russian ballistic missiles devastated the northern city of Sumy on Sunday, killing at least 32 people and injuring over 80, according to Ukrainian officials. The brutal attack, which occurred on Palm Sunday, drew widespread condemnation from Ukrainian leaders and prompted fresh calls for international action against Moscow.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy posted a harrowing video on social media showing bodies lying on the street near a charred bus and destroyed cars. “Only scoundrels can act like this. Taking the lives of ordinary people,” Zelenskyy said, adding that the strike targeted civilians on a religious holiday when many were heading to church.

The Russian government has not issued a statement regarding the attack, and Reuters noted that no immediate response was received from Russian authorities.

Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said the missiles struck a busy street where people were out in vehicles, on foot, or in nearby buildings. He labeled it a “deliberate destruction of civilians” on a day of religious significance. Zelenskyy’s chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, revealed that

the missiles used in the attack contained cluster munitions, further indicating a deadly intent to cause maximum civilian casualties.

Sumy, a city of around 250,000 people located just 25 kilometers from the Russian border, has previously been a military hub for Ukrainian operations. Though Kyiv’s cross-border offensives into Russia last year were largely repelled, the region remains a sensitive target.

Maryana Bezuhla, a Ukrainian lawmaker known for her candid criticism of the military leadership, suggested on Telegram that the strike may have followed a leak regarding a potential troop gathering in the area. However, this claim remains unverified.

This attack comes just weeks after another missile strike on Kryvyi Rih—Zelenskyy’s hometown—that killed 20 people, including nine children.

Ukraine’s Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha confirmed that Kyiv is sharing detailed evidence of the strike with international partners and institutions. The International Criminal Court in The Hague, which Ukraine joined officially this year, is currently investigating such incidents as potential war crimes under international law.

Elon Musk's 'Top Secret' Note Sparks Buzz at White House Meeting with Trump



TPN Correspondent | [Washington](#)

A seemingly ordinary notepad with a cheeky message scribbled on it has sparked viral speculation after being spotted during a high-level cabinet meeting at the White House. The image in question shows tech billionaire Elon Musk seated with a name card bearing his name, a White House-branded notepad, and the words “Top Secret” written in bold blue ink—underlined twice and punctuated with two exclamation points.

Captured during an April 10 meeting led by U.S. President Donald Trump, the image quickly circulated on social media, drawing widespread amusement and theories about Musk’s intentions. Users on platform X (formerly Twitter) were quick to speculate whether it was a genuine leak or just another one of Musk’s signature pranks.

“Elon knows the games the media plays, so he decided to mess with them by writing ‘Top Secret’ on his notepad, knowing they’d be snapping pics,” one user posted alongside the viral image. Musk himself responded with a laughing emoji, seemingly confirming the note was a light-hearted jab.

The internet erupted with reactions. “Elon is such a troll and I love him for it,” wrote one user. Another added, “Oh, Elon... forever the class clown in a room full of serious faces. It’s like he brought invisible ink to a spy convention.” Someone even joked, “The last page in the notepad should say ‘Bottom Secret’...”

While the viral moment drew plenty of laughs, the cabinet meeting itself had serious undertones. It was convened amid Trump’s recent announcement of sweeping tariffs on over 60 nations and trading blocs, a move expected to have significant economic repercussions.

Musk, who now serves as the head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), presented a bold projection during the meeting—claiming that his department is on track to save the U.S. government \$150 billion in fiscal year 2026 by curbing fraud and improving operational efficiency.

However, reports suggest that Musk may soon step back from his formal role at DOGE. According to Politico, Trump and Musk have discussed a possible transition, with Musk potentially continuing in an informal advisory capacity while refocusing on his core businesses like Tesla, SpaceX, and X.

As always, Musk’s presence—whether through policy or pranks—continues to leave a mark on Washington.

Zelenskyy Condemns ‘Filthy Scum’ Putin After Deadly Missile Strike

TPN Correspondent | [Russia](#)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy launched a scathing condemnation of Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday, calling him a “filthy scum” following a brutal ballistic missile strike that killed at least 31 people in the northern Ukrainian city of Sumy. The attack, which occurred on Palm Sunday, targeted residential areas, schools, and public roads at a time when residents were attending church services.

Among the dead were two children, and over 84 others were injured, including at least 10 children, making it the deadliest assault on Ukrainian civilians since 2023. The missiles slammed into civilian zones, obliterating homes, damaging educational institutions, and leaving scenes of horror on what was supposed to be a day of peace and worship.

Zelenskyy shared a video of the aftermath on X (formerly Twitter), showing bodies lying near destroyed vehicles and burning buildings. “A horrific Russian ballistic missile strike on Sumy. Russian missiles hit an ordinary city street, ordinary life – residential buildings, educational insti-



tutions, cars on the street... And that’s on the day when people go to church – Palm Sunday,” Zelenskyy wrote.

“According to preliminary information, dozens of civilians were killed and wounded. Only filthy scum can act like this – taking the lives of ordinary people,” he added, expressing his condolences to the victims’ families and calling for a firm global response. The Ukrainian president urged the international community, including

the United States and European nations, to step up pressure on Russia, emphasizing that peace cannot be achieved through diplomacy alone when missiles continue to fall.

“The world must respond firmly,” Zelenskyy said. “Russia wants exactly this kind of terror and is dragging this war out. Without pressure on Russia, peace is impossible... Talks have never stopped ballistic missiles and aerial bombs.”

He thanked Ukraine’s allies for their continued support and emphasized the need to defend life and sovereignty.

Ukraine’s Foreign Minister, Andrii Sybiha, also confirmed that Russia has once again rejected a U.S.-backed ceasefire proposal, marking the second consecutive month of refusal amid escalating civilian casualties.

As rescue operations continue in Sumy, Ukrainian authorities are sharing evidence with international partners, seeking justice through the International Criminal Court and stronger global sanctions against Russia’s aggressive campaign.

"Leave Now": A 30-Day Warning For Foreign Nationals Staying In US

TPN Correspondent | [US](#)

In a dramatic escalation of immigration enforcement, the Donald Trump administration has issued a stern warning to foreign nationals living illegally in the United States, urging them to self-deport or face stiff penalties, including jail time. The announcement, made via an official post by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on social media, marks one of the most aggressive crackdowns yet on undocumented immigrants. According to the new directive, all foreign nationals present in the U.S. for longer than 30 days must register with federal authorities. Failure to do so constitutes a criminal offense, punishable by fines and imprisonment. “Foreign nationals present in the U.S. longer than 30 days must register with the federal government. Failure to comply is a crime punishable by fines and imprisonment,” the DHS post stated. It also tagged President Donald Trump and Krishi Noem, the current Secretary of Homeland Security, making the administration’s position unmistakably clear: “Illegal aliens: LEAVE NOW and self-deport.” While the new policy does not imme-



diately impact individuals on legal visas such as H-1B workers or students, it underscores heightened scrutiny for all foreign nationals, especially those who overstay or fall out of status. For example, individuals on H-1B visas who lose employment and do not depart within the grace period could now face legal consequences.

The DHS’s announcement includes a detailed list of what it describes as the benefits of voluntary departure. “Self-deportation is safe,” the post reads. “Leave on your own terms by picking your departure flight. Keep money earned in the U.S. if you self-deport as a non-criminal illegal alien.” Moreover, the department claims that self-deporting individuals may remain eligible for future legal immigration pathways and even qualify for subsidized flights if they cannot afford to leave on their own. On the flip side, the consequences for ignoring these guidelines are severe. Illegal residents who stay after receiving a final removal order could be fined \$998 per day. Those who commit to self-deportation but fail to follow through could face additional fines of \$1,000–\$5,000, along with possible imprisonment. Additionally, non-compliant individuals may be permanently barred from re-entering the U.S. legally. The message is unambiguous: the Trump administration is doubling down on immigration enforcement and signaling a zero-tolerance policy for unauthorized stay.

India's Electronics Exports Gain 20% Advantage Over China Due to U.S. Tariff Exemption

Exports of smartphones, tablets, and laptops from India to the United States are set to become 20% cheaper compared to products shipped from China, thanks to recent tariff exemptions granted by the Trump administration. The U.S. government announced on April 12, 2025, that it would exempt certain electronic devices, including smartphones, tablets, and laptops, from new reciprocal tariffs, easing the financial burden on exporters.

According to the India Cellular and Electronics Association

(ICEA), this move levels the playing field between India and Vietnam, both of which now enjoy zero tariffs on electronics exports to the U.S. India's tariff advantage over China could be crucial for companies like Apple, which has seen significant growth in exports from India, with mobile phone exports crossing ₹2 lakh crore in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

ICEA Chairman Pankaj Mohindroo emphasized that while China still faces tariffs on 20% of products like iPhones, laptops, and tablets, India is



well-positioned to benefit from the U.S. exemption. Apple's iPhone exports from India alone reached ₹1.5 lakh crore in 2024.

This move is expected to further boost India's position as a key player in the global electronics supply chain.

The Trump administration's decision also includes exemptions for items like flat-panel monitors and hard drives, which will now avoid the steep 145% tariffs that were previously imposed on China. These exemptions come as a relief to manufacturers facing challenges from ongoing trade tensions. Industry experts like Ashok Chandak, President of the Indian Electronics and

Semiconductor Association (IESA), view the U.S. tariff exemptions as a short-term reprieve for global tech manufacturers. However, the shift in trade policy could prompt long-term opportunities for India to become a preferred alternative to China, especially as U.S. imports of electronics continue to grow. With India's electronics export potential still significantly untapped, the sector is poised for substantial growth, leveraging the tariff advantage to gain a stronger foothold in the global market.

Amazon-backed More Retail plans India IPO next year, betting on its hybrid model

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.



Gold Hits Record High of \$3,237 as Economic Fears, Trade War Drive Investor Rush

Gold prices surged over 6.5% this week, hitting an all-time high of \$3,237 per troy ounce, as investors sought refuge amid escalating global economic uncertainty. The sharp rally marks the metal's strongest weekly gain since the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic, with analysts linking the move to heightened fears of a recession and a rapidly intensifying US-China trade war.

The spike in gold came after President Donald Trump introduced sweeping new tariffs, triggering a significant market sell-off. China retaliated on Friday with a 125% tariff on American imports, stoking fears of a prolonged and damaging trade conflict. As a result, traditional safe-haven assets such as US Treasury bonds and stocks witnessed steep declines, while the US dollar weakened to a three-year low against the euro — further boosting gold's appeal.

"Gold is behaving exactly as a safe-haven should in times of deep market anxiety," said a senior analyst at GlobalCom Finance. "Investors are seeking shelter from rising bond yields, inflation uncertainty, and geopolitical turmoil."

Demand isn't just rising among retail investors. Institutional interest in gold has surged, with gold-backed ETFs seeing their biggest quarterly inflows since 2020. Meanwhile, central banks, particularly in emerging economies, have accelerated their gold purchases in an effort to diversify away from the US dollar and safeguard reserves.

In China, demand has become so intense that domestic buyers are paying a premium over global market prices, reflecting widespread concern over financial instability and currency volatility in the region.

In response to this dramatic shift, Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) has revised its 12-month gold price forecast upward to \$3,500 per ounce — the second upward revision this year. UBS cited the unpredictable nature of US trade policy and persistent macroeconomic risks as key drivers for their bullish outlook. As uncertainty continues to cloud global financial markets, analysts suggest that investors will likely continue turning to gold as a hedge, with prices potentially rising even further if tensions and economic headwinds worsen in the months ahead.

India's Factory Output Growth Slows to Six-Month Low of 2.9% in February

India's industrial activity lost momentum in February 2025, with factory output growth dropping to a six-month low of 2.9%, according to data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) on Friday. The slowdown was attributed largely to a high base effect and weakening performance across key sectors, including manufacturing, mining, and consumer goods.

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP), a key measure of industrial activity, had recorded stronger growth of 5.2% in January 2025 and 5.6% in February 2024. The latest figures mark a notable deceleration in the pace of industrial expansion, raising concerns about the strength of India's economic recovery amid global uncertainties and tightening financial conditions.

Manufacturing, which constitutes

nearly 78% of the IIP, mirrored the broader trend with its output growth also slipping to 2.9%—a sharp drop from 5.8% in January and 4.9% in the same period last year. The mining sector saw a steeper decline, registering just 1.6% growth compared to 4.4% in the previous month and 8.1% in February 2024.

The data also pointed to lackluster performance in the consumer goods segment, with subdued demand potentially impacting production volumes. Analysts say that while inflationary pressures have eased slightly, consumption remains uneven, especially in rural areas.

Experts noted that the slowdown, although partly due to a statistical base effect from last year's strong growth, reflects underlying softness in domestic

industrial activity. "The dip in February's IIP growth reinforces the need for policy support, especially as global demand weakens and exports remain under pressure," said an economist at a leading investment firm.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has so far maintained a cautious stance, balancing the need to control inflation with the risk of stifling growth. With inflation appearing relatively contained and factory output showing signs of fatigue, pressure may mount on the central bank to consider easing its monetary policy stance later this year. Going forward, economists expect industrial growth to remain moderate in the short term, contingent on revival in domestic demand, government spending on infrastructure, and global economic stability.

Credit-Fueled Digital Payments Surge in 2024 Amid Regulatory Concerns

Nearly one-third of all domestic digital payment transactions in India during 2024 were driven by credit, either through credit cards or interest-bearing EMIs (equated monthly instalments), according to a recent report analyzing data from over 20,000 merchants. This sharp rise in credit-backed transactions reflects shifting consumer behavior, with more individuals relying on borrowed funds for day-to-day consumption.

The findings arrive as financial regulators tighten scrutiny on consumer lending, aiming to prevent an unsustainable buildup of household debt. Concerns have grown that credit is increasingly being used to finance consumption—such as dining, fashion, and electronics purchases—rather than investment in long-term assets like homes or education.



Digital payment platforms, online retailers, and fintechs have all contributed to the surge by offering seamless credit options during checkout,

making it easier for consumers to opt for 'buy now, pay later' models or EMI conversions. This has especially resonated with India's younger population, many of whom are entering credit markets for the first time and using it to support lifestyle-driven purchases.

Industry experts caution that while credit expansion can support economic growth in the short term, unchecked borrowing without corresponding asset creation could pose long-term financial stability risks. "The growing trend of using credit for non-essential purchases is worrying, especially in the absence of strong financial literacy," one expert noted.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has already taken steps to rein in unsecured lending, introducing stricter norms for non-banking financial companies

(NBFCs) and digital lenders. These measures include higher capital requirements and more transparency in EMI-based products.

At the same time, the demand for credit remains robust, with consumer sentiment buoyed by rising incomes and improved access to credit through digital channels.

The report suggests that financial institutions and regulators must strike a balance—encouraging digital innovation and credit access while ensuring borrowers are protected from over-indebtedness.

As India continues its transition to a cashless economy, the rapid rise in credit-linked digital payments underlines both the opportunities and the emerging risks in the evolving fintech landscape.

Girl Found in Suitcase at Haryana Hostel



A bizarre and now-viral incident at OP Jindal Global University has sparked widespread discussion after a student was caught attempting to sneak a girl into the boys’ hostel by hiding her inside a suitcase. The incident occurred earlier this week and quickly gained traction online after footage of the dramatic discovery was shared across social media platforms. In the video, hostel security personnel—both male and female—can be seen gath-

ered around a large black suitcase in the corridor of the hostel. Moments later, a female security guard unzips the suitcase, revealing a girl curled up inside. The video, which has gone viral under tags like #HostelDrama and #SuitcaseSneakIn, has prompted reactions ranging from shock to amusement. Many social media users called out the bizarre lengths students go to by-pass hostel rules, while others raised concerns about campus security and

the broader implications of such behavior. According to reports, the boy, a resident of the boys’ hostel, was attempting to sneak the girl in without attracting attention. University officials have confirmed that both students involved are currently under inquiry. In response to the incident, OP Jindal Global University issued a brief statement acknowledging the breach of hostel rules and assuring that appropriate disciplinary action would

Outrage Over Couple’s PDA at Metro Station

Bengaluru: A video showing a young couple engaging in inappropriate behavior at Madavara Metro Station has sparked a wave of outrage online, reigniting debate around public decency and conduct in shared spaces. The incident, captured on video by a fellow commuter, shows the couple involved in an explicit public display of affection (PDA) while waiting on the metro platform. Shared by the handle ‘Karnataka Portfolio’ on social media platform X, the video has since gone viral, crossing 3.3 lakh views and attracting a barrage of critical comments. What shocked viewers even more was the setting: the couple’s actions unfolded in full view of other passengers, including senior citizens and families, some of whom appeared visibly disturbed by the scene. Despite

the presence of a crowd, the couple reportedly showed no signs of stopping or acknowledging the discomfort of others around them. The video was captioned, “Is Bengaluru heading towards Delhi Metro culture??? Disturbing public behaviour at Namma Metro station raises questions about decency in Bengaluru.” It ignited heated discussion online, with many users urging Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) and law enforcement to take appropriate action. In India, PDA continues to be a contentious subject. While some argue for the right to personal expression, many others believe there are boundaries that should not be crossed in public spaces — especially places like metro stations which serve a diverse commuter population.



Metro authorities have not issued a formal response yet, but sources indicate that security footage is being reviewed and action could follow under rules governing public conduct in transport facilities. Social commentators have also weighed in, pointing to the growing influence of social media and changing cultural norms, while stressing the importance of awareness, respect, and responsibility in public settings.

Florida Woman Arrested for Selling Human Bones

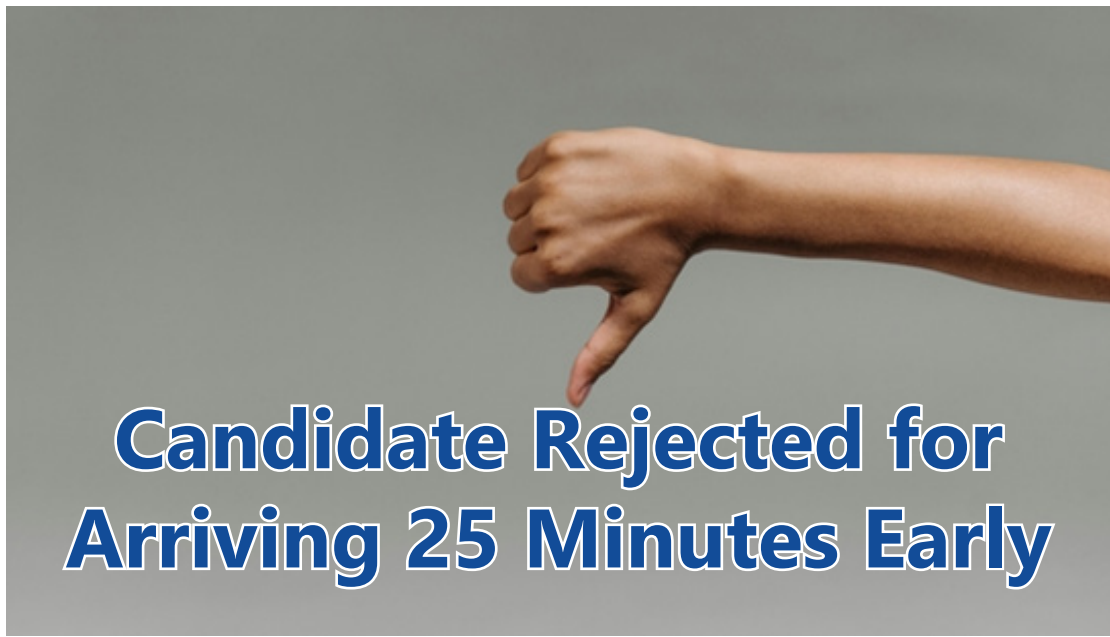


Deltona, Florida: A 52-year-old woman from Florida has been arrested for selling human body parts on Facebook Marketplace. Kymberlee Anne Schopper, a resident of Deltona, was charged with trading in human tissue and released on a \$7,500 bond after her arrest. The investigation began when Orange City police received a tip in December 2023 about a local business selling human bones through the platform. Authorities discovered that the business, called Wicked Wonderland, had been advertising human body

parts for sale. Items included two human skulls priced at \$90 each, along with other remains such as a human clavicle, scapula, rib, and vertebrae, ranging from \$35 to \$600. Upon investigation, police seized the human remains and sent them for testing by a medical examiner. Experts determined that some of the items, including a cranium and skull fragment, were likely archaeological discoveries rather than modern human remains. However, selling human body parts without proper permits or docu-

mentation is still illegal. When questioned about the sale, Schopper claimed she had been selling the body parts for years and did not realize it was illegal to do so. The case highlights the growing concern over illegal sales of human remains, with platforms like Facebook Marketplace becoming an unintended marketplace for such items. Authorities are continuing their investigation to determine the source of the remains and whether there are other individuals involved in the illegal trade.

Candidate Rejected for Arriving 25 Minutes Early



Atlanta: A candidate’s decision to arrive 25 minutes early for a job interview led to their unexpected rejection, as the employer deemed the early arrival a sign of poor time management and social awareness. The incident, which has sparked widespread debate, was shared in a viral LinkedIn post by Matthew Prewett, a cleaning service owner in Atlanta. Prewett explained that the candidate was applying for an office administrator position and showed up far ahead of the scheduled interview time. “I had a candidate show up 25 minutes early to an interview last week. That was a major deciding factor in why I didn’t hire him,” Prewett wrote. This seemingly minor mistake quickly gained attention online, prompting discussions about the appropriate arrival time for job interviews. Many believe that being too early can be just as problematic as be-

ing late, especially in professional settings. Following the backlash, Prewett clarified his stance, explaining that while punctuality is important, arriving excessively early can suggest poor time management or an expectation of special accommodation. “Showing up early is good. Showing up extremely early can suggest that someone is not good with time management or expects to be accommodated time-wise,” Prewett added. He further noted that the candidate was not traveling from a great distance, which made the early arrival seem even more problematic. The story has sparked a wider conversation on social awareness and the nuances of punctuality. While the majority of job seekers focus on avoiding tardiness, this case highlights how even a well-intentioned act of arriving early can be perceived negatively in certain professional contexts.

Man Launches ‘Relationship Insurance’ Policy, Sparks Debate

In an unexpected and quirky twist, a new concept has gone viral: relationship insurance. A man has introduced the world’s first relationship insurance policy, leaving social media users divided over its merit. The video announcing this bold move has gained significant attention, with many questioning whether this is a creative marketing strategy or a cynical approach to love. The website Zikilove is at the heart of the initiative, offering couples an insurance policy aimed at betting on the longevi-

ty of their relationship. The plan promises a unique payout for those whose relationships last. According to the website, couples who manage to stay together for the duration of the insurance term will receive a substantial reward—ten times their total premiums—which they can use to fund their wedding. However, the policy also comes with a catch: if the couple breaks up, they receive nothing—just the life experience and emotional damage from their failed relationship. The concept has sparked wide-



spread debate online. Some netizens view it as a fun and novel way to encourage commitment and lasting love, while others see it as a mercenary approach to a deeply personal aspect of life. Critics argue that it reduces the sanctity of relationships to a financial transaction, while others have simply found it amusing and curious.

NASA Offers \$3 Million for Space Waste Solution



NASA is offering a \$3 million reward for innovative solutions to a pressing challenge in space exploration: recycling human waste. As part of the LunaRecycle Challenge, NASA is calling on global innovators to develop technology that will allow astronauts to recycle feces and urine during long-duration space missions, including those to the Moon and Mars. The space agency is actively preparing for missions that will send humans far beyond Earth, and managing waste in space has become a critical concern. NASA’s goal is to minimize space waste, recycle it efficiently, and ensure astronauts can sustain

themselves on long trips without needing to bring back large amounts of waste to Earth. “NASA is committed to sustainable space exploration. As we prepare for future human space missions, there will be a need to consider how various waste streams, including solid waste, can be minimized — as well as how waste can be stored, processed, and recycled in a space environment so that little or no waste will need to be returned to Earth,” the agency stated. The LunaRecycle Challenge is a two-phase competition aimed at developing the best waste recycling technology. The technology will need to ensure that human

waste is processed in a way that doesn’t add to the space debris and is sustainable for long missions. This issue is not new to NASA; during the Apollo 11 mission, astronauts left 96 bags of human waste on the Moon to make room for valuable lunar samples. With future missions planning to stay longer and travel farther, solutions like waste recycling will play a vital role in supporting astronauts’ needs in space. As NASA continues to prepare for its next phases of space exploration, it is looking for groundbreaking ideas that will help create a cleaner and more sustainable space environment.

Madhya Pradesh, Punjab Secure Spots in Final of 15th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2025



Hockey Madhya Pradesh and Hockey Punjab secured their places in the final of the 15th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2025 after winning their respective semi-final matches in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. In the first semi-final, Hockey Madhya Pradesh triumphed over Manipur Hockey with a 5-3 victory. Captain Yousuf Affan (5', 34') and Ali Ahmad (7', 15') scored braces, while Mohammad

Zaid Khan (49') added another goal. Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh (47'), Chinglensana Singh Kangujam (50'), and Laishram Dipu Singh (53') scored for Manipur. In the second semi-final, Hockey Punjab edged out Uttar Pradesh Hockey 4-3 in a thrilling match. Jasjit Singh Kular (14', 40') netted a brace, with Harjeet Singh (22') and Jugraj Singh (45') also on the scoresheet. Sharda Nand Tiwari (41', 43') and Pawan Rajbhar scored for Uttar Pradesh, but they couldn't equalize in the final moments. Both teams now stand one win away from lifting the prestigious title.

Mumbai Indians Beat Delhi Capitals in High-Scoring IPL Clash



In a thrilling encounter at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on April 13, 2025, Mumbai Indians (MI) defeated Delhi Capitals (DC) by 12 runs in Match 29 of the IPL 2025 season. Opting to bat first, MI put up a commanding total of 205/5, with explosive contributions from their top order. The middle overs saw calculated aggression, helping them set a daunting target. Chasing 206, DC got off to a promising start but lost crucial wickets at regular

intervals. Despite a fighting half-century from their skipper, the Capitals fell short, being bowled out for 193 in 19 overs. MI's bowlers held their nerve in the final overs, sealing a much-needed win. This victory lifts Mumbai's morale and keeps their playoff hopes alive. For Delhi, the loss adds pressure as the tournament enters a crucial phase. The match was a perfect display of power-hitting and tense finishes—classic IPL drama.



IPL 2025: Salt, Kohli Guide RCB to 9-Wicket Rout Over Rajasthan Royals



Phil Salt's explosive 65 off 33 balls and Virat Kohli's composed 62 powered Royal Challengers Bengaluru to a thumping 9-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals at Sawai Mansingh Stadium. Chasing 174, Salt's fiery knock, featuring six sixes, gave RCB early momentum, while Kohli anchored the chase with his 100th T20 fifty, guiding RCB home in just 17.3 overs. The duo shared a 92-run opening stand, with 65 runs coming in the powerplay.

Earlier, Yashasvi Jaiswal top-scored for RR with 75 off 47 balls, crafting a resilient knock on a tricky pitch. Despite a useful cameo from Dhruv Jurel (35), RR posted 173/4. RCB bowlers, led by Hazlewood and Pandya, kept things tight in the middle overs. RCB's fourth win of the season—all away—keeps their playoff hopes alive. Kohli now boasts 100 T20 fifties and 9 centuries from 405 matches.

Amorim Drops Under-Fire Andre Onana for Manchester United's Premier League Clash Against Newcastle

Manchester United goalkeeper Andre Onana has been dropped for the upcoming Premier League match against Newcastle United, following a turbulent period marked by errors and personal challenges. According to Sky Sports, Onana, who has played every minute of the league season since joining Old Trafford in 2023, will be replaced by Altay Bayindir. This will be Bayindir's Premier League debut after just six appearances this season. Onana's omission comes after two crucial errors in Manchester United's 2-2 draw against Lyon in the UEFA Europa League quarter-final. His mistakes, including failing to save a free-kick and misjudging a parried shot leading to an equalizer, left United frustrated. Additionally, Onana's wife experienced a traumatic robbery in Manchester in March, which may have contributed to his recent struggles. Manager Ruben Amorim has opted for Onana's rest, with the hope of a potential recall for the second leg against Lyon. Onana's recent comments before the



Lyon match, in which he claimed United was "better," have also added to the pressure, with former player Nemanja Matic criticising his performances.

Indian Compound Mixed Team Wins Gold at Archery World Cup Stage 1

India's Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Rishabh Yadav secured the gold medal in the compound mixed team event at the Archery World Cup Stage 1. The duo defeated Chinese Taipei's Huang I-Jou and Chen Chieh-Lun in a thrilling final with a score of 153-151. After trailing in the first two sets (37-38 and 38-39), the Indian pair made a remarkable comeback, winning the third set 39-38 with two 10s and an inner 10. They sealed the victory with a dominant 39-36 in the fourth set. This victory came after India secured a third medal in the competition, following a victory over Slovenia in the earlier rounds. The mixed team's success is significant as compound archery was recently added to the

2028 Los Angeles Olympics programme. Jyothi and Rishabh had previously beaten Spain (156-149), Denmark (156-154), and Slovenia (159-155) to reach the final, cementing their spot in archery history.



Shrivalli, Ankita, and Prarthana Create History as India Qualifies for Billie Jean King Cup Playoffs 2025

Team India made history by qualifying for the Billie Jean King Cup 2025 playoffs, securing second place in the Asia-Oceania Group 1. India advanced to the next round with a 2-1 victory against Korea Republic in their final match of the tournament at the Mahalunge Balewadi Tennis Complex in Pune on Saturday. This achievement marks only the second time India has reached the playoffs of the prestigious competition, with

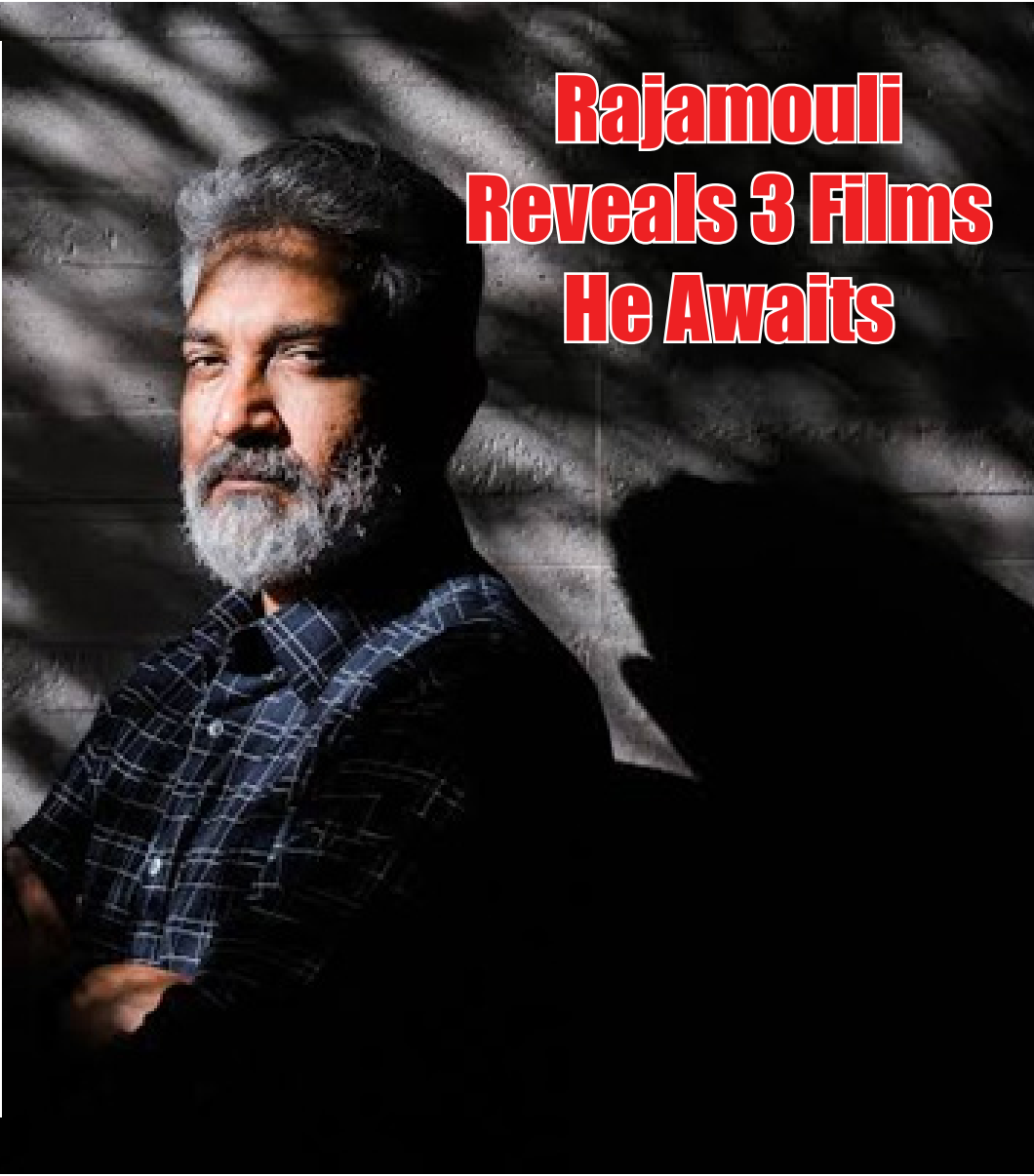
their first qualification coming in 2020. Shrivalli, Ankita, and Prarthana played key roles in this remarkable success, with the trio delivering stellar performances to seal the win for the hosts. Alongside India, New Zealand claimed the top spot in the tournament, which was organized by MSLTA in partnership with ITF, AITA, and PMDTA. India's qualification sets them up for a strong challenge in the upcoming playoffs.



SSRajamouli, riding high on the global success of RRR, recently visited Japan to promote the documentary RRR: Behind and Beyond. The film RRR created history in Japan by becoming the highest-grossing Indian film there, drawing massive attention from Japanese audiences.


As part of his promotional tour, Rajamouli participated in several interviews. In one such conversation, he was asked about the Indian films he is most excited to watch in the near future. Rajamouli shared that he is eagerly awaiting three big upcoming releases: Dragon, starring NTR and directed by Prashant Neel; Spirit, featuring Prabhas and helmed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga; and a yet-to-be-named project with Ram Charan.

His anticipation reflects the growing curiosity around these high-profile collaborations, especially with top-tier actors and directors at the helm. Rajamouli's endorsement has further boosted excitement among fans and the film industry alike.



Rajamouli Reveals 3 Films He Awaits

Vizag's Rise as Tollywood Hub?



Bheemili MLA Ganta Srinivas Rao has revealed that the Andhra Pradesh government is working toward making Visakhapatnam a major hub for film production. During his visit to the Film Nagar Cultural Centre site in Thimmapuram on Saturday, he said the centre would not only serve as a social club but also function as a training ground for aspiring film technicians. He noted that several filmmakers and producers are showing growing interest in Vizag, with star producer Allu Aravind reportedly considering setting up a studio in the city. Ganta also addressed a controversy surrounding club management, criticizing rules that allow committee members' family members to automatically become successors—a practice not seen in other old clubs like Waltair or Golf Club. He further shared that the original 10-acre site at Thotlakonda was reclaimed due to objections from the Archaeology Department, but discussions are underway with CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan to find an alternative location.

Kashika Kapoor's Bold Casting Couch Reveal



Young actress Kashika Kapoor, who debuted in 2024 with Ayushmati Geeta Metric Pass, has opened up about a disturbing casting couch experience in the film industry. Despite having no film background, she faced over 150 rejections before landing her first role.


In a recent interview, the 22-year-old actress revealed that during her early struggle, a director once called her at 3 a.m. and shockingly said, "If you want a chance, you must spend a night with me." Kashika said she immediately refused and stood by her values, adding that she never wanted to look back with guilt. She spoke about the dark side of the industry, where many women face similar situations but remain silent out of fear of losing opportunities. Kashika's bold confession highlights the persistent issue of exploitation in cinema and the strength it takes to speak out.

Samantha Turns Down Crores in Ads



Samantha Ruth Prabhu, one of India's leading actresses, recently revealed that she turned down over 15 brand endorsements last year, losing crores in potential earnings. In an interview with Foodpharmer, Samantha explained that her decisions were driven by a desire to make responsible choices that could positively impact others. Reflecting on her early years in the film industry, she admitted that she once equated success with multiple film offers and endorsement deals. While she was once thrilled to represent big multinational brands, her perspective has evolved. Samantha shared that she now approaches endorsements with deep introspection and care. She consults with three doctors before approving any brand, ensuring it aligns with her values. She also urged young people not to feel invincible in their 20s, as she once did. Samantha was last seen in Citadel: Honey Bunny on Amazon Prime Video and has several exciting projects in the pipeline.

Vishwambhara Teaser Used AI, Not VFX



Vishwambhara, the upcoming socio-fantasy film starring Megastar Chiranjeevi and directed by Bimbisara fame Vassishtha, is one of the most awaited releases of the year. A few months ago, the film's teaser was released but faced criticism for its underwhelming visuals, which many assumed were poor-quality VFX. However, producer Mallidi Satyanarayana Reddy recently clarified that the visuals in the teaser were not VFX but AI-generated. In an interview, he explained that VFX companies initially estimated a three-month timeline to complete the work. The team gave them six months to meet the Sankranti release deadline. But even after that period, the VFX was incomplete. As a temporary solution, the team used AI-generated visuals for the teaser. Following the backlash, they decided to drop AI visuals entirely and stick to traditional VFX, ensuring better quality. This clarification has reassured mega fans, who were concerned about the film's visual standards. The team is now taking its time for a polished final product.

Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi Trailer Wows Fans



The trailer of Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi, starring Nandamuri Kalyanram and veteran actress Vijayashanti, has taken the internet by storm. Following the buzz created by its teaser, the newly released trailer has only intensified excitement, going viral across social media platforms. Unveiled at a grand pre-release event, the trailer launch featured Jr. NTR as the chief guest. His powerful speech praising the film further fueled expectations. NTR revealed that audiences would be blown away by the movie, especially highlighting the final 20 minutes as a cinematic high point with Kalyanram delivering his career-best performance in an innovative climax. The event drew massive crowds of Nandamuri fans, adding to the film's momentum. Social media is abuzz with praise for Kalyanram's emotional performance alongside Vijayashanti, his striking screen presence, and impactful dialogue delivery. With the trailer trending at the top, Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi has officially become one of the most anticipated films of the season.