

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 35° C

L 21° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 36° C

L 23° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 23° C

HE IS ALREADY IN POLITICS FROM 2014

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Yes, the statement of entering into politics by Mr. AB Venkateswara Rao, IPS, is a surprise to political circles. Because it's new for the general public, but all the people who are aware of active politics know that he has been in politics since 2014, though he was in service. Actually, that was the problem which YSRCP had with him. That is why he has been targeted by YS Jaganmohan Reddy from 2019 onwards. If he had stuck to his duty rather than involving in ruling party politics at that time, he might have been in service continuously without any breaks, allegedly.

Mr. AB Venkateswara Rao, who is professionally perfect and a good cop when he served in Commissioner-level duties, became a political servant of the ruling TDP when he was made Intelligence Chief, allegedly. He was involved in the poaching of MLAs from YSRCP into TDP, which was alleged by YSRCP many times openly.

As per the allegations, he worked out the positive and negative points of each MLA and then offered them to join TDP. If they rejected, then the negative points would be brought to the forefront strategically. In these poaching affairs, Mr. AB Venkateswara Rao was directly involved and interacted with those YSRCP MLAs who defected to TDP. All the bargains were done through AB by TDP, it seems. That is why Mr. YS Jaganmohan Reddy targeted ABV and



harassed him throughout his tenure from 2019 to 2024. Even before the elections, there were allegations against ABV that he was involved in phone tapping against the opposition before 2019. But YSRCP could not prove those allegations even during their five-year regime. Like this, from 2014, Mr. AB Venkateswara Rao was involved in politics, which he may have thought was part of his duty. As the heads of the government instructed him to do so, he may have assumed it was acceptable. But no sincere IPS official

would do such work for the ruling party. We have even seen how IPS officials worked for BRS under their rule in Telangana and were allegedly involved in a phone tapping scam. If IPS officials stick to their rule book, and even Intelligence Chiefs focus on bringing feedback from the people to the government and detecting anti-social activities, such allegations and harassment will not happen. However, Mr. AB Venkateswara Rao is welcome to politics, and he can serve the people, as he knows all the loopholes of the politicians.

CM Naidu Vows Good Governance and Inclusive Growth in AP



- CM participates in development programs in Guntur district, reiterates commitment to Vision 2047
- Says previous YSRCP regime brought darkness; Amaravati was insulted, but will now rise again
- Highlights TDP's welfare initiatives, promises support to Dalits and poor through P4 and sub-plan

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Monday reaffirmed his government's commitment to welfare, development, and good governance in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking at a public meeting held at Ponnekallu Mandal Parishad Primary School in Guntur district, he said his government is rebuilding the state that was damaged under the previous YSRCP regime. CM Chandrababu said, "We are working towards building Swarnandhra Pradesh through Vision 2047. Welfare schemes never seen in history are being implemented. We will provide good governance and stand by the poor." He emphasized that the coalition government has brought freedom back to the people, which was lost during the past five years. Taking a swipe at the previous YSRCP leadership, he accused them of destroying Amaravati and insulting it by calling it a desert.

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

— GLOBAL —

Dr. D Nageshwar Reddy Becomes First Indian to Receive "Legends of Endoscopy" Award from Japan

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a landmark achievement for Indian medical science, Dr. D Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman of AIG Hospitals, has become the first Indian gastroenterologist to receive the prestigious "Legends of Endoscopy" award from the Japan Gastroenterologists. The award was conferred during the Tokyo Live Global Endoscopy 2025 event held at SHOWA University Koto Toyosu Hospital in Tokyo, Japan.

Recognized for his extraordinary lifetime contribution to the field of Gastrointestinal (GI) Endoscopy, Dr. Reddy was felicitated by Dr. Haruhiro Inoue, Chairman of the Digestive Diseases Center at Showa University, in the presence of Dr. Shinji Tanaka, President of the Japan Gastroenterological Endoscopy Society and Professor Emeritus, Hiroshima University.



During the event, Dr. Reddy performed live demonstrations of advanced endoscopic techniques to manage complex biliary and pancreatic conditions. His sessions highlighted cutting-edge technologies that are improving the precision and safety of GI procedures, reinforcing his role as a global innovator in the field.

Dr. Haruhiro Inoue praised Dr. Reddy's contributions, noting that innovations like the Nagi stent have transformed patient outcomes in challenging clinical situations. "His legacy is one of excellence, innovation, and commitment to patient care," he stated.

Expressing his gratitude, Dr. Reddy said, "It is a profound privilege to be recognized by Japan Gastroenterologists. This award is not just a personal honor but a testament to the collaborative spirit among endoscopists globally. My focus will remain on innovation, education, and service."

This recognition marks another milestone in Dr. Reddy's distinguished career and underlines the growing global stature of Indian medical professionals. It also reaffirms AIG Hospitals' commitment to excellence in gastrointestinal healthcare and research.



CM Naidu Vows Good Governance...

Continued from page 1

“They derived demonic pleasure from ruining the capital. But now, Amaravati will emerge as a world-class city,” he said.

He stated that the TDP government is committed to Dalit welfare, reminding that it was the only party to distribute 8 lakh acres to Dalits. He also pointed out the success of schemes like the Ambedkar Overseas Education program and announced that 200 units of free electricity are being provided to Dalit households. CM Chandrababu lauded the contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, stating that “if we enjoy rights today, it is because of Ambedkar.” He called on students to study with love, not pressure, and to follow Ambedkar’s ideals.

Highlighting the government’s P4 initiative—Poverty eradication through Public-Private Partnership—he said the state will develop by engaging successful people in helping the poor. He announced that infrastructure issues in Ponnakallu, including lack of toilets, drinking water, and electricity, will be addressed within six months. Solar power will be installed in 24 unelectrified houses. “We are making every effort to transform Andhra Pradesh into the world’s leading Telugu state,” CM Chandrababu concluded.

Minister Nara Lokesh to Honour 52 Top Scorers in Govt Colleges

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Education Minister Nara Lokesh will felicitate 52 outstanding students from government junior and vocational colleges for their exceptional academic achievements on April 15 at 2 PM at his residence in Undavalli. The initiative aims to celebrate talent in public institutions and underscore the government’s commitment to quality education for all.

Among the honorees are 28 meritorious students from institutions such as Government Junior Colleges, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyayas (KGBVs), APR Junior Colleges, Adarsh Schools, and High School Plus programs. Additionally, 24 students from Government Vocational Colleges will be recognized for excelling in their respective fields. Six students with diverse talents will receive special mention.

The student list includes 29 from Government Junior Colleges, 7 from KGBVs, 7 from APR Junior Colleges, 6 from Adarsh Schools, and 3 from High School Plus, reflecting a wide spectrum of success across the public education system.



This recognition comes in the wake of the highest academic performance in a decade. Government Junior Colleges recorded a 69% pass rate in the second year of Intermediate, while the first year posted a 47% pass rate—both among the best in ten years. Vocational education fared equally well, with 64% passing in the first year and a record-breaking 82% in the second year.

Lokesh’s reforms have revitalized the education sector. These in-

clude reinstating mid-day meals and free textbooks for Intermediate students, promotions for 217 principals, centralized assessments, performance-based teacher reviews, revised college hours, special study materials, and the introduction of the “Take Care” student support system.

The felicitation ceremony highlights the government’s vision to uplift public education and empower students through recognition and reform.

Home Minister Anitha Announces Ex-Gratia for Kailasapatnam Victims



TPN Correspondent | Anakapalle

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha announced on Monday that the state government will provide an ex-gratia of ₹1 lakh each to those injured in the Kailasapatnam firecracker accident in Kotauratla mandal. In addition, the central government has declared ₹50,000 compensation per injured person. She assured that all medical expenses will be borne entirely by the state government.

Speaking to the media during her visit to Anakapalle, Minister Anitha said that the government had responded immediately following the accident. “We have been monitoring the situation closely with the presence of public representatives and senior officials,” she stated.

A primary investigation into the incident revealed that the quantity of explosive material present at the site exceeded permissible limits. “Legal action is already underway based on these findings,” the minister said, emphasizing the government’s commitment to accountability.

Drawing a comparison with the 2020 LG Polymers tragedy, Minister Anitha criticized the previous YSRCP government. “Did the then Chief Minister even properly console the victims of LG Polymers?” she questioned, accusing the former regime of neglect and injustice.

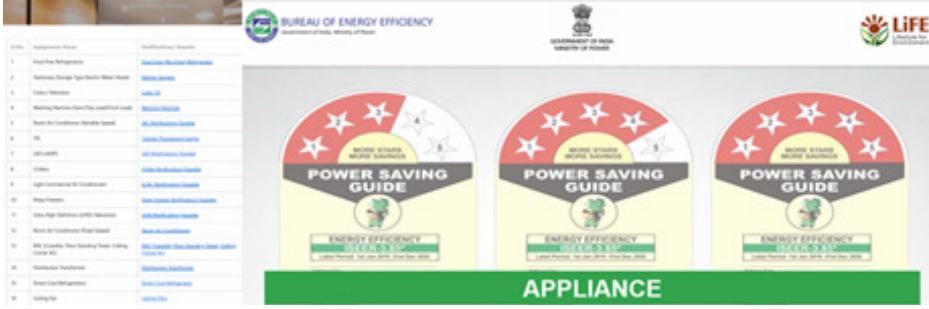
She further assured that the state government is taking proactive steps to ensure such incidents are not repeated. “We are now conducting a thorough review of firecracker manufacturing units across Andhra Pradesh,” she added.

Minister Anitha reiterated that the safety of citizens is a top priority. “We will strengthen monitoring mechanisms and enforce strict compliance with safety norms to prevent future mishaps,” she said.

BEE Intensifies Crackdown on Fake Star Labels in Hyderabad & South Cities

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, has stepped up its enforcement of the Standards & Labelling (S&L) Programme across India, particularly in key southern cities like Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Vizag. The focus is now on intensifying market surveillance to weed out fake star-rated appliances and ensure consumer protection. Hyderabad has been identified as one of the most promising metros for expanding the S&L programme due to its large appliance consumer base. BEE has urged State Designated Agencies (SDAs) across India to carry out stricter inspections to



ensure only genuine star-labelled appliances enter the market. This flagship programme, which began in 2006, has already delivered major benefits: ₹54,324 crore saved in consumer electricity bills and 58 million tons of CO₂ emissions avoided. From 2014 to 2024, the production of star-labelled appliances jumped from

10.5 crore to 58 crore units. During the review meeting held in Hyderabad, BEE Secretary Milind Deore, along with Directors Kamran Sheikh and Abhishek Sharma, emphasized that this programme plays a pivotal role in India’s energy efficiency targets. It accounts for 60% of the nation’s total CO₂ savings from energy ef-

ficiency, aligning with India’s goal of cutting 1 billion tons of emissions by 2030. Currently, 39 appliances are covered under the programme, including 16 like ACs, fans, and refrigerators under mandatory labelling. BEE warned that fake star labels will not be tolerated. Violators can face action under Section 26 of the EC Act, 2001, enforced through State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs).

Praising efforts of SDAs like TSREDCO in Telangana and EMC in Kerala, BEE called for similar mission-mode actions nationwide. The Bureau stressed that authentic star labels are not just government procedure—they are the foundation of public trust and climate responsibility.

Minister Nadendla Warns Rice Millers Over Procurement Malpractices

- Surprise inspections held across NTR district centres
- Farmers assured payment within 24 hours of purchase
- Govt to de-tag errant millers, protect every farmer’s crop



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar issued stern warnings to errant rice millers during surprise inspections of Rabi paddy procurement centers across NTR district on Monday. Reaffirming the alliance government’s resolve to protect farmers’ interests, the minister personally assessed procurement operations and heard farmers’ concerns.

Joined by District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha and Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Venkata Krishnaprasad, Manohar inspected Gollapudi Market Yard, Rayanapadu, and Paidurapadu. The minister inspected paddy stored in roadside ditches and sat with farmers to understand their grievances.

Addressing the media, Manohar stated that during the Kharif season, the government procured 38 lakh metric tonnes of paddy worth ₹8,300 crore from six lakh farmers. “Payments are being credited directly into farmers’ accounts within 24 hours. This is a government that works for farmers,” he

said.

He warned millers attempting to exploit the system: “We cleared ₹400 crore in pending dues from the previous government. But any miller found indulging in malpractice will be de-tagged and face legal action.”

Responding to farmers’ requests, the minister directed officials to permit Kharif crop registration under Rabi in flood-hit Budameru areas and to provide tarpaulins at 50% subsidy to prevent crop damage from unseasonal rains.

MLA Krishnaprasad highlighted that while floods had affected certain areas, the yield was encouraging and assured that every grain harvested would be procured at MSP. “Millers exploiting the situation will not be spared,” he said.

The minister also held a review meeting with Civil Supplies officials and rice millers, instructing them to strictly follow procurement norms and avoid unfair deductions. Senior officials, including Civil Supplies Manager M. Srinivas and RDO K. Chaitanya, accompanied the team.

Amaravati to Host International-Standard Sports City - Minister Narayana

- Lands inspected in NTR and Guntur districts
- Sports city, university and cricket stadium proposed
- Committee to submit feasibility report in 30 days



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh government has initiated steps to establish a world-class Sports City in Amaravati, aiming to revive the state’s sports ecosystem and promote talent at all levels. On Monday evening, Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development Dr. P. Narayana, NTR District Collector G. Lakshmi Sha, Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Venkata Krishna Prasad, and Vijayawada Central MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao inspected suitable lands for the proposed project.

The team inspected Lanka lands in Chinna-lanka under Jupudi Panchayat in Ibrahimpatnam Mandal and Peddalanka in Tatikonda constituency, Guntur district. The inspection focused on evaluating the feasibility of land acquisition without disturbing river flow or affecting fertile farmlands.

Minister Narayana instructed the Collector to form a high-level committee to study land viability and submit a comprehensive report

within 30 days. “The report will be presented to Hon’ble CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu, and a final decision will be made accordingly,” he stated.

MLA Krishna Prasad emphasized that the Chief Minister is determined to restore the past glory of Andhra Pradesh in the field of sports. “From villages to national platforms, our government is committed to identifying and nurturing sporting talent,” he said.

Plans are underway to build a sports city and sports university across hundreds of acres in Amaravati. An international cricket stadium is also part of the vision. The proposed university will not only focus on developing athletes but also provide training to support personnel such as coaches, physiotherapists, and sports analysts.

Minister Narayana noted that the initiative will bring significant infrastructure and economic growth to the capital region. NDA alliance leaders, district officials, and local representatives were present during the visit.

CM Naidu Criticizes YCP, Calling it a “Fake Party” and Warns Against False Propaganda

- CM Chandrababu Naidu says only leaders with public approval will be given posts.
- YSRCP is a Fake Party: CM Naidu Criticizes Opposition and Outlines TDP Strategy.
- Emphasizes stability for development, likening TDP’s future to BJP’s success in Gujarat.

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu clarified that only leaders with the approval of the people and party workers will be entrusted with posts in the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Speaking at a review meeting with TDP workers in Ponnekallu village, Guntur district, Chandrababu emphasized the importance of grassroots support for leadership roles. He directed party ranks to strengthen the party at the field level, stressing that leaders who disconnect from the workers will not be considered for leadership positions. Addressing the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), he referred to it as a “fake par-

ty,” accusing them of attempting to manipulate the Vivekananda Reddy murder case. Chandrababu warned the opposition against spreading false news and declared that strict action would be taken against such tactics. He reaffirmed the people’s mandate to end fake politics and promised transparency in governance, particularly regarding policies on liquor and sand. Chandrababu also spoke about the need for a stable government for the state’s development, drawing inspiration from Gujarat’s political success. He expressed confidence that if TDP had won the 2019 elections, the Amaravati capital would have been completed, avoiding setbacks to the state’s

growth. Highlighting the role of party activists, he praised their sacrifices and promised continued support for their families. He encouraged them to improve their skills to strengthen the party, with particular focus on booth, unit, and cluster-level supervision. He also reaffirmed the importance of prioritizing women and BCs in the party’s programs. Chandrababu assured that welfare schemes like ‘Talliki Vandanam,’ ‘Annadatta Sukhibhav,’ and ‘Matsyakara Bharosa’ would be implemented starting next month, ensuring no discrimination in benefits for eligible citizens.



Bhumana's Allegations on TTD Management Rejected by EO Shyamala Rao



TPN Correspondent | Tirumala

TTD Executive Officer (EO) J. Shyamala Rao has strongly rejected the allegations made by former chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy regarding the management of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). Speaking at a media conference, the EO clarified that the issues raised were untrue and were rooted in the previous government’s mismanagement between March 2021 and March 2024. Shyamala Rao presented past vigilance reports, photos, and videos, which revealed significant negligence in the management of cowsheds. The reports highlighted poor-quality feed, expired medicines, and the concealment of cow deaths. He stated that no action had been taken on these reports previously, but corrective measures have since been implemented under his leadership.

- TTD EO J. Shyamala Rao counters allegations made by former chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy.
- Vigilance reports reveal irregularities in cowsheds during the previous government’s tenure.
- Quality improvements in ghee and prasadam, along with corrective measures, highlighted.

Regarding cow mortality, the EO clarified that 43 cows had died between January and March, which aligns with the average rate due to natural causes. Additionally, 59 calves were born during the same period. Shyamala Rao emphasized that no cow deaths had been hidden, and all post-mortems were carried out as per the rules. On the matter of ghee quality, Shyamala Rao assured that the adulterated ghee previously supplied has been replaced with high-quality Nandini ghee, and improvements have been made to the quality of Anna Prasadam. He also highlighted financial irregularities in the procurement of organic prasadam, where Rs. 25 crores had been paid for goods worth only Rs. 3 crores. The EO stated that these actions were taken based on clear instructions from Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to rectify the systems and improve transparency within TTD.

YS Sharmila Slams CM Over Amaravati Land Grab, Demands White Paper on 34k Acres

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

APCC President YS Sharmila has launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu over the Andhra Pradesh government’s renewed push to expand the Amaravati capital region by another 44,000 acres. Addressing the media, Sharmila questioned the rationale behind acquiring more land when the previously acquired 34,000 acres under Phase-1 still show little sign of actual development. Citing widespread concerns, she asked, “What was done with the 34,000 acres already acquired through land pooling and other means? The capital remains incomplete, with only temporary structures and barren stretches of land visible. Where are the skyscrapers and infrastructure projects promised to rival Singapore?” She alleged that the government’s current agenda is not about building a

people’s capital but about real estate exploitation. “Farmers’ lands are being snatched and handed over to the Chief Minister’s close circles under the guise of capital expansion. This is land looting, not capital building,” she said. Referring to Chandrababu’s statements and his promotion of Amaravati using futuristic graphics and AI visuals, Sharmila remarked, “There is no potato, no onion, the son’s name is Somalingam. Showing Vaikuntam in the palm of your hand, creating illusions — this is Babu’s real specialty.” Sharmila also questioned the fate of government lands already earmarked in the first phase — asking how the 2,000 acres of residual land, 20,000 acres given under seed capital, and 15,000 acres of government land were distributed. “To whom were these lands given? On what basis? The Chief Minister owes the people an explanation,” she demanded.

Calling for transparency, she concluded, “Chandrababu must release a white paper on the 34,000 acres immediately. Only then can the public assess whether another 44,000 acres are genuinely required.”



Bhumana Karunakar Reddy Reminds TTD of Annaprasadam Legacy Initiated During YSR Rule

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

Former Tirupati MLA and ex-chairman of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), Bhumana Karunakar Reddy, expressed displeasure over the recent statements made by TTD Executive Officer (EO) J Syamala Rao, who claimed the initiative to serve Annaprasadam and milk to devotees in the queues as a fresh measure. Karunakar Reddy reminded that the same program was originally started during the late YS Rajasekhara Reddy’s regime when he himself was serving as TTD chairman. “During YSR’s time, when I was the TTD president, we began serving Annaprasadam and milk to pilgrims waiting in the queues. It was a heartfelt initiative to comfort devotees who often stand for hours just for a glimpse of the Lord,” Bhumana stated. He noted that such services were not only appreciated by lakhs of pilgrims but also received blessings from various religious heads who saw it as a noble gesture aligned with Tirumala’s dharmic values. Criticizing the current EO’s re-



marks, he said, “It is surprising and disappointing that Shyamala Rao is presenting it as if something entirely new is being done. Public institutions like TTD must acknowledge continuity in service and the contributions of past administrations rather than claim legacy over ongoing practices.” Karunakar Reddy emphasized that devotion and public service go hand in hand, and attempts to erase the roots of successful programs only create unnecessary controversies. He urged the TTD administration to remain transparent and grounded in institutional memory, respecting the efforts of those who served before. The issue has sparked discussions in Tirupati’s political and devotional circles, with many recalling the transformative measures introduced in the YSR era to enhance pilgrim welfare at Tirumala.

Illegal Cases Filed Against Leaders Speaking on Public Issues – MP Gurumurthy

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

YSRCP Tirupati MP Maddela Gurumurthy on Monday strongly condemned what he termed as politically motivated cases being filed against party leaders who raise public issues. Speaking to the media at the YSRCP district party office in Nellore, he said the recent cases registered against former minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy were clear evidence that “a Red Book Constitution” is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh. Gurumurthy asserted that Kakani was being targeted simply for highlighting irregularities and standing by the people. “We believe in the judiciary. These false cases will not hold up. The government is misusing the police to suppress our voice,” he said. He also criticized the house arrest of YSRCP MLC Maryga Muralidhar, who had planned to visit and inspect sites of alleged illegal mining in the district. “Instead of acting against

illegal mining, police are detaining those who expose it,” he added. The MP pointed fingers at coalition leaders for disrupting lawful mining activities. “All the necessary permissions are with the original mine owners. Yet, these leaders are threatening to take over operations themselves, deliver goods to their own people, and halt legitimate mining. This has thrown thousands of families into crisis,” he alleged. He warned that the mining sector in Nellore and Tirupati districts has come to a standstill, directly affecting exports and foreign exchange inflow. “Compared to previous years, the tax revenue from the mining industry has completely dried up,” Gurumurthy said. He appealed to authorities to uphold fairness and allow legal mining operations to resume, stressing that obstruction in the name of politics is hurting not just the industry but the state’s economy as a whole.

YCP Leader Srikanth Reddy Accuses AB Venkateswara Rao of Provocative Comments and Violence

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

At a media conference in Hyderabad, Gadikota Srikanth Reddy made serious allegations against AB Venkateswara Rao and the previous TDP government. Srikanth Reddy claimed that the TDP used cutting-edge phone tapping technology to influence YCP legislators, ultimately leading to their exclusion from government posts. He accused AB Venkateswara Rao of making hateful and provocative statements, suggesting that the government was attempting to physically eliminate its political opponents. Srikanth Reddy also raised questions about the attack on YS Jagan at the airport, stating

that attempts were made to downplay the incident. He expressed concern about the government’s approach to those accused of serious crimes, claiming that individuals responsible for murder were being granted bail and released without consequences. In his defense of YS Jagan’s leadership, Srikanth Reddy highlighted the government’s achievements, including the creation of 1,41,000 jobs, the merger of the RTC, and the construction of ports and medical colleges. He emphasized that YS Jagan’s administration had consistently supported farmers, offering regular assurances and minimum support prices.

248 AP Fibernet Employees Dismissed at Once in Shocking Move

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a sensational move, the Andhra Pradesh government has dismissed 248 outsourcing employees from the AP Fibernet Corporation. Most of these employees were appointed during the previous YSRCP-led regime. The mass dismissal follows the cancellation of an outsourcing contract amid ongoing scrutiny into financial irregularities within the corporation. The ousted employees, many

of whom possess crucial technical expertise, were reportedly working at various operational centers, including the Network Operation Center (NOC) in Visakhapatnam. With their sudden removal, the NOC is facing near shutdown, as only security personnel remain on-site. Concerns have been raised over the continuity of technical services and internet connectivity across the state, with critics slamming the government for failing to make alternative ar-

rangements before proceeding with the dismissals. The action comes in the wake of a probe launched by the new coalition government into alleged financial mismanagement during the previous administration. Reports indicate that the Fibernet project, developed during the TDP government between 2014–19, has seen a steep decline in active connections — from 12 lakh to just 5 lakh. Allegations also point to irregular financial trans-

actions worth ₹5,400 crore, of which ₹500 crore is suspected to be misappropriated. Sources claim that several YSRCP-affiliated workers were drawing salaries despite not attending office. With the cancellation of the outsourcing agreement, these alleged ghost employees have now been removed. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu is said to be keen on re-vamping and strengthening the Fibernet infrastructure. Offi-



cialists indicate that new recruitment drives may be launched soon to fill technical vacancies, aiming to provide widespread and efficient internet services across Andhra Pradesh.

APSCHE Launches File Information Status System to Streamline Processes

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Marking Ambedkar Jayanthi, the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE) launched its innovative File Information Status System on April 14, introducing a major reform aimed at enhancing administrative transparency and efficiency across the state's higher education sector. The digital platform allows students, institutional representatives, and other stakeholders to track the status of their files and applications in real-time—eliminating the need for physical visits to APSCHE offices. The move aligns with the Council's commitment to digital governance under the slogan: "No wasting money, no travel – just instant access to APSCHE." APSCHE Chairman Prof. K. Madhu Murthy said the launch represents a crucial milestone in the Council's digital transformation journey. "This system will reduce unnecessary delays, minimize physical interaction, and help officers concentrate on their core responsibilities instead of spending time responding to walk-in inquiries," he said. Key features of the system include real-time file updates, comprehensive digital logs of movement and processing, and seamless integration across APSCHE departments. It is expected to save time and money for students and institutions, while significantly boosting



internal operational efficiency. The platform enhances transparency by making all updates publicly accessible through the APSCHE portal. Prof. Murthy emphasized that every stakeholder—from students and faculty to university administrators—can now interact with APSCHE in a more accountable and user-friendly manner. As part of the rollout, all APSCHE staff have been trained to use the system to ensure smooth adoption. The Council sees the initiative as a foundation for broader administrative reforms and plans further digital upgrades in the near future. With the File Information Status System now live, APSCHE is taking a definitive step toward building a more transparent, responsive, and tech-enabled higher education ecosystem in Andhra Pradesh.

Inquiry Ordered Against Drug Inspector Over Corruption Charges in Adoni

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav has ordered a regular departmental inquiry into serious corruption charges against a Drug Inspector who served in Adoni prior to 2024. The official is accused of demanding annual bribes from medical store owners and protecting violators of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act from enforcement. According to official sources, the preliminary inquiry found that the inspector collected bribes from chemists in exchange for ignoring irregularities. He is also accused of disobeying superior orders by refusing to suspend a chemist involved in major violations. The findings indicated a pattern of misconduct and abuse of authority. In response, the Minister directed the initiation of disciplinary proceedings under the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, citing violations of integrity and conduct expected of a public servant. The move underscores the government's stand on zero tolerance toward corruption within regulatory bodies. The announcement came during a review meeting with the Drugs Control Administration (DCA), where Minister Yadav expressed strong displeasure at the lapses by certain field officials. "There will be no

tolerance for corruption or negligence. Officials must uphold the highest standards of accountability," he warned. The DCA currently operates with 47 Drug Inspectors against a sanctioned strength of 59, highlighting the strain on its enforcement capacity. The Minister emphasized the need for better supervision and integrity to maintain public trust in the system. The inquiry is expected to send a clear message across the department about the consequences of unethical behavior and the government's commitment to clean and transparent governance in the health-care sector.



Ambedkar's Vision Possible Only Through YSRCP: Gudivada YSRCP Leaders

TPN Correspondent | Gudivada

The 134th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was celebrated grandly under the aegis of the YSR Congress Party in Gudivada on Monday. The celebrations took place at Kothi Bomma Center, where YSRCP leaders paid floral tributes to Ambedkar's statue and raised slogans hailing the architect of the Indian Constitution. A cake-cutting ceremony marked the occasion, commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Ambedkar. Speaking at the event, YSRCP SC Cell District President Matta John Victor, Town President Gorla Srinu, and State Leader Vempati Simon emphasized that Ambedkar's vision of a democratic and socialist society can only be realized through the leadership of YSRCP. They asserted that it was under the leadership of former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy that historic steps were taken to implement Ambedkar's ideals, especially through extensive welfare schemes aimed at eradicating poverty. The leaders highlighted that the credit for installing the world's tallest statue of Ambedkar in India goes to Y.S. Jagan, describing it as a powerful symbol of commitment to social justice. They pledged to continue working under the leadership of Jagan Mohan Reddy to achieve the dreams of Ambedkar. A large number of party workers and leaders including Sheikh Baji, Thantepudi Anil, Mamilla Elisha, Remalli Nilakant, Mudella Uma, Chunduri Shekhar, Sheikh Syed, Talluri Prashanth, and Pinky actively participated in the celebrations, reaffirming their dedication to the party's mission.



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 134th Birth Anniversary Celebrated Grandly in Kondapalli

Minister Sandhya Rani, MLA Krishna Prasad attend as chief guests

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The 134th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was celebrated with grandeur at the Andhra Pradesh Tribal Welfare Girls' Gurukul School in Kondapalli village, Ibrahimpatnam mandal, NTR district, on April 14, 2025. State Tribal Welfare Minister Smt. Gummidi Sandhyarani and Mylavaram MLA Vasantha Venkata Krishna Prasad attended the celebrations as chief guests. The dignitaries garlanded Ambedkar's portrait and paid rich tributes to the architect of the Indian Constitution. Addressing the gathering, Minister Sandhya Rani



praised Dr. Ambedkar's lifelong commitment to the empowerment of marginalized communities. She emphasized that his work laid the foundation for a robust democratic system in India and remains a guiding force for the nation. She highlighted Ambedkar's vi-

sion of unity, urging everyone in society to live as equals and support one another. "His perseverance and fighting spirit are an inspiration for On Monday's youth. Every individual must contribute towards realizing his dream of an equal society," she said. The Minister applauded Chief

Minister Chandrababu Naidu for adopting Ambedkar's ideals and launching welfare programs like the P-4 initiative for the upliftment of SC, ST, and weaker sections. She called upon students to use education as a powerful tool to build a just and egalitarian society. Encouraging the girls of the Gurukul school, she stated, "Let Ambedkar's path be your guide. Through education, social transformation is possible. May each of you achieve great success." The program concluded with loud chants of "Jai Bhim! Jai Bharat!" reverberating through the campus as students and staff honored the legacy of a true visionary.

TTD Restores Offline Darshan for Differently-abled and Elderly, Wins Widespread Praise



TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

The Andhra Pradesh State Visual Challenge Employees Association extended heartfelt gratitude to TTD Chairman B. R. Naidu for restoring offline darshan facilities for differently-abled and elderly devotees at Tirumala. The association, led by State President G. Ravindra Babu, praised the decision as a major relief for the disabled community, especially those in rural areas without access to digital booking systems. The association had earlier submitted a petition to the TTD Chairman in December 2024, urging a return to offline darshan which was originally introduced in 1983 during the tenure of former Chief Minister

Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao. They highlighted the challenges faced by the differently-abled and aged due to the mandatory online booking system for darshan in recent years. Taking note of their concerns, Chairman B. R. Naidu brought the matter to the attention of the board. During the TTD board meeting held on March 24, a decision was made to reinstate the offline darshan facility, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all. During a recent meeting, the association presented a memento to the Chairman as a token of appreciation. On this occasion, the Chairman also unveiled a book titled Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 and AP Government Rules 2023, printed by the association. TTD Board Member Smt. Panabaka Lakshmi was also present. Among those who met the Chairman were Vice President Devendranath, Tirupati District President A.J. Padmaja, NTR District President M.V. Durga Rao, and General Secretary Janaki Ramireddy.

Tragedy in Visakhapatnam: Pregnant Woman Strangled to Death by Husband

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

A horrifying incident took place in Visakhapatnam, where a pregnant woman was brutally murdered by her husband just hours before her expected delivery. The incident occurred in the PM Palem area, where the couple — Dnyaneshwar and Anusha — had been residing and reportedly facing long-standing domestic issues. According to police reports, a heated argument escalated between the couple, leading Dnyaneshwar to strangle his wife to death. The woman, Anusha, was said to be in the final stages of pregnancy, with her delivery expected within hours. Following the incident, the police took Dnyaneshwar into custody. During interrogation, he confessed to killing his wife. The shocking nature of the crime, especially given the woman's pregnancy, has stirred anger and sorrow among local residents. Authorities are investigating further while legal proceedings against the accused are underway. The body of Anusha has been sent for postmortem, and arrangements are being made to inform her extended family. Locals and women's groups have strongly condemned the heinous act and are demanding strict punishment for the accused.



Three Killed in Multi-Vehicle Collision in Kadapa District

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa Dist

A tragic road accident occurred at Nandipally village in Ontimitta mandal of YSR Kadapa district on Monday, claiming three lives and leaving two others seriously injured. The accident involved a speeding Scorpio vehicle, an RTC bus, and a police rescue vehicle.

According to initial police reports, the Scorpio vehicle, en route from Tirupati, collided head-on with the bus and subsequently struck a Bolero police vehicle. Three passengers travelling in the Scorpio died instantly. All three were identified as residents of Housing Board Colony in Nandyal district headquarters.

The injured include Constable Raghu-nath Reddy and the driver of the police vehicle, both of whom sustained serious injuries. They were immediately shifted to Kadapa RIMS Hospital, where they are currently receiving treatment. Visuals from the scene show the Scorpio completely mangled, indicating the intensity of the collision. Preliminary investigations suggest overspeeding as the cause of the mishap. Ontimitta and Rajampet police teams rushed to the accident site, launched a probe, and coordinated the transportation of the bodies to Rajampet Government Hospital for postmortem formalities.

Minister for Health Mandipalli Ram-prasad Reddy expressed deep shock and sorrow over the accident. He extended his condolences to the bereaved families and instructed medical officers to provide the best possible care to the injured victims. The Minister also emphasized the need for swift rescue operations and advised authorities to ensure that such accidents are prevented in the future through strict monitoring of vehicular speeds.

Anna Konidela Donates ₹17 Lakh to Tirumala in Son’s Name After His Recovery

- Anna donates ₹17 lakh for Tirumala Nityannadanam scheme
- Fulfills vow after son recovers from Singapore mishap
- Serves prasadam, prays, and receives Vedic temple blessings

TPN Correspondent | Tirumala

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan’s wife, Anna Lezhneva, also known as Anna Konidela, made a heartfelt donation of ₹17 lakh to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Monday, fulfilling a personal vow following the recovery of her son Mark Shankar from a fire accident in Singapore.

Anna Konidela, who offered the donation in the name of her son, reached Tirumala early Monday morning and performed special prayers. She was welcomed by TTD officials at Gayatri Nilayam, signed the traditional declaration, and had darshan of Lord Venkateswara during Suprabhata Seva.

According to temple sources, she also had darshan of Varaha Swamy, visited Padmavati Kalyana Katta,

and followed all temple customs including offering a garland and coconut. After the darshan, Vedic scholars blessed her at Ranganayakula Mandapam, where she was presented with Tirtha Prasadam by the temple authorities.

At 10 AM, she visited the Tarigonda Vengamamba Nityannadana Satra, where she handed over a cheque of ₹17 lakh to the TTD Additional EO Sri Venkaiah Chowdhury, earmarked for Nityannadanam, the temple’s free meal service. Marking the moment, she personally served Anna Prasadam to the devotees and then received it alongside them.

Anna Konidela stayed overnight in Tirumala and was deeply involved in the temple rituals and activities throughout her visit. After concluding her pilgrimage, she departed for Renigunta Airport and returned to



Hyderabad.

It may be recalled that Mark Shankar, son of Pawan Kalyan and Anna Lezhneva, suffered injuries to his hands and legs in a school fire incident in Singapore. The Deputy CM and his wife had rushed to Singapore for his treatment. After successful recovery and the doctors’ clearance, the child was brought back to Hyderabad prompting Anna Konidela to fulfill her spiritual vow at Tirumala.

Biography of Retired Teacher Eswaramma Launched in Kakinada



TPN Dhanalakshmi | Kakinada

The biography of retired teacher Eswaramma from Kakinada, titled From the Earth – To the Skies, was launched in a heartfelt ceremony held at the Vivekananda Hall of the Kakinada Collectorate on Monday. The event, which coincided with Dr. BR Ambedkar Jayanti, was marked by reverence and admiration for the life and legacy of a revered educator.

The event was graced by dignitaries including Principal Secretary of the State Agriculture Department B. Rajasekhara, Managing Director of Swachh Andhra Corporation Gandham Chandrudu, State Accountant Auditor General Shanthi Priya, and Dr. Sampath Kumar, Eswaramma’s son and senior IAS officer from Meghalaya. Also present were Kakinada District Collector Shanmohan, Anaparthi MLA Nallamilli Ramakrishna Reddy, former Union Minister Pallam Raju, former Amalapuram MP Buchi

Maheswara Rao, and RJD of the School Education Department G. Nagamani.

The guests unveiled the biography, which traces Smt. Eswaramma’s journey from humble beginnings to becoming a pillar of educational service. As part of the Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations, floral tributes were offered to Dr. BR Ambedkar’s portrait, adding to the significance of the occasion.

Former students and dignitaries felicitated Eswaramma, recalling her unwavering dedication, discipline, and life-changing influence. Many hailed the timing of the launch, describing it as a “blessed coincidence” to honor a transformative educator on the day of a transformative leader.

Family members including Mangakumari, Prakash, Jamima, and several others—along with prominent industrialist Dr. Satya Sri, Shastri, and Manju—attended the launch. Officials and well-wishers joined in celebrating a life devoted to learning and values. The biography, a tribute from generations of students and admirers, is expected to inspire educators across the state.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a Guiding Light for All Communities - Rakesh Kiran

TPN Ch. Sekhar | Tirupati Dist

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is a beacon of hope not just for Dalits, but for all communities, said YSRCP Joint Chittoor District Activity Secretary T. Rakesh Kiran during the grand Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations held on Monday at Narayanavanam Bypass Junction under the chairmanship of MPP Diwakar Reddy.

Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Rakesh Kiran emphasized that Ambedkar’s legacy belongs to the entire nation and criticized the tendency to limit celebrations to certain sections. He recalled former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy’s remarks in the Assembly, urging inclusive observance of Ambedkar’s birth and death anniversaries. “There is a collective responsibility to raise awareness and honor the Constitution maker’s contributions,” he noted.

MPP Diwakar Reddy, in his speech, stated that the Ambedkar Association is committed to the upliftment of society but pointed out that real change must begin from



within the community. He called for collective efforts to address various social issues, pledging to take action after listening to public concerns.

Earlier, floral tributes were paid at Dr. Ambedkar’s statue, with Rakesh Kiran and Diwakar Reddy leading the garlanding ceremony. Food distribution was organized by YSRCP leaders to commemo-

rate the day and extend the spirit of service.

A large number of local leaders participated in the program, including Sarpanch Mandal Convener Sorakayalu, YSRCP leaders Annadurai, Ashok, PG Babu, Sarpanch Gunasekhar, and Sarpanch Murali, reflecting strong grassroots support for Ambedkar’s ideals.



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s 134th Birth Anniversary Celebrated Grandly in Eluru

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

The 134th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was celebrated with great reverence and enthusiasm at the Godavari Conference Hall of the Eluru Collectorate on Monday. The event was organized by the Social Welfare Department and featured a series of tributes and cultural events commemorating the life and legacy of the architect of the Indian Constitution.

District In-Charge Collector P. Dhatri Reddy, along with RTC Regional Chairman Reddy Appalanaidu and several senior Dalit leaders, lit the ceremonial lamp and garlanded Dr. Ambedkar’s statue. Winners of the essay writing competition conducted for students were awarded mementos and certificates, adding a vibrant academic spirit to the celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Dhatri Reddy emphasized the importance of Dr. Ambedkar’s writings in promoting values of social justice, equality, and human rights. He urged everyone, especially students, to read the Preamble of the Indian Constitu-

tion and understand Ambedkar’s vision for an inclusive society. “Using education as a weapon, Dr. Ambedkar fought to eliminate inequality and uplift marginalized sections,” he said.

RTC Chairman Appalanaidu highlighted Ambedkar’s pivotal role in establishing a discrimination-free, constitutional society. He noted that On Monday’s leaders like Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan are committed to realizing Ambedkar’s dream of equality for all.

The event concluded with impressive cultural performances by students, celebrating Ambedkar’s ideals through music and dance.

Among the attendees were DRO V. Visveswara Rao, RDO Achyath Ambareesh, Minority Welfare Officer N.S. Kripavaram, Irrigation SE P. Nagarajuna Rao, Setwell CEO Prabhakar Rao, DCH Dr. Pal Satish Kumar, BC Corporation ED N. Pushpalatha, and several other district officials and Dalit community leaders including Lazarus, Tokala Rajesh, Kalapala Ravi, and Daniyala Shankar.

Gopalapuram MLA Venkataraju Leads Ambedkar Jayanti Tributes Across Villages

TPN Correspondent | Gopalapuram

On the occasion of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s birth anniversary, Gopalapuram constituency MLA Gowri Sri Maddipati Venkataraju led a series of tribute programs across Dwarakathirumala mandal on

Monday. Accompanied by NDA alliance leaders and activists, the MLA offered floral tributes to the architect of the Indian Constitution in the villages of Pangidigudem, Dwarakathirumala, Dorasanipadu, and G. Kothapalli.

The commemorative programs drew active participation from lo-

cal residents, leaders, and youth, who gathered to remember and celebrate Dr. Ambedkar’s contributions to social justice, equality, and nation-building. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Venkataraju highlighted the continued relevance of Dr. Ambedkar’s vision and the importance of upholding his ideals in

On Monday’s democratic society. The MLA urged the youth to draw inspiration from Ambedkar’s life and dedicate themselves to education, empowerment, and service to the marginalized. The tributes were marked by unity, reverence, and renewed commitment to social equity across the villages visited.



Trump’s Tariff U-Turn Rattles Globe

In a stunning reversal, US President Donald Trump has put a temporary pause on his sweeping reciprocal tariffs—except those aimed at China—sending ripples across global markets and evoking comparisons to the erratic rule of medieval sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq. While this partial ceasefire has calmed some immediate anxieties, the unpredictable manner in which these economic policies are being implemented and revoked continues to deeply unsettle financial markets and global stakeholders. Trump had earlier launched an all-out trade war, threatening punitive tariffs on imports from nearly every major economy. However, in his latest move, he has narrowed the scope, leaving only China facing the brunt of new tariffs—now raised to a whopping 125%, while other countries are being subjected to a 10% tariff for the next 90 days. The sudden narrowing of this economic offensive has been widely interpreted as both arbitrary and reactive.

The global community is grappling with the unprecedented nature of Trump’s policy-making. Economists and political observers are drawing attention to how critical financial decisions are being made and reversed



with alarming casualness. There’s no modern parallel to this kind of high-stakes economic improvisation in international trade policy. The bilateralization of the trade war—now essentially a standoff between the

US and China—has left analysts puzzled. Was this reversal driven by sheer unpredictability, or was it a strategic retreat in response to the severe backlash from equity and bond markets? Some believe Trump may have been

influenced by feedback from key business leaders and economic advisors, as well as public concern in the US about the impact of his tariffs. Others suggest that this was part of a long-orchestrated plan to economically

isolate China while keeping the rest of the world on relatively neutral ground. However, that theory is hard to reconcile with the initial universal scope of the tariff plan. Sustaining a tariff war with China, without affecting other economies, is far from simple in an interconnected global supply chain. During Trump’s first term, the US had already imposed tariffs on a wide range of Chinese goods, and many expected Trump 2.0 to double down. Yet the flip-flop nature of these decisions has left many questioning whether there is any coherent strategy at all. The uncertainty unleashed by this chaotic approach is particularly damaging. Long-term economic planning, investment, and supply chain management all depend on policy stability and predictability—elements now clearly missing. While a policy can be announced or revoked within days, rebuilding trust and trade infrastructure takes years, if not decades. In the end, Trump’s claim that he hopes for a “good deal with China” only adds another layer of ambiguity. As global markets brace for the next twist, the world watches with concern, unsure of whether diplomacy or disruption will define the next phase of this economic drama.

Ambedkar’s Vision of Manuski and Dignity



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar’s idea of manus (human) and manuski (human dignity) was rooted not just in Western liberal humanism, but in a deeper, vernacular, and performative understanding of what it means to be human in a caste-based society. His concept of humanness was not merely biological — it was social, ethical, and enacted through dignity, justice, and equality. On April 14, Ambedkar Jayanti, it’s worth revisiting how central these concepts were to Ambedkar’s political and philosophical vision, especially in the context of Dalit liberation.

In his 1925 speech to the Mumbai Province Bahishkrut Parishad in Belgaon, Ambedkar called on Dalits to fight for their manuski — to not just live, but to live with dignity. He posed a fundamental question to the Untouchables: “Do you want sukh (comfort) or manuski?” (Bahishkrut Bharat, Feb 3, 1928). This was not a rhetorical question. Ambedkar was pointing out that dignity, not mere survival or comfort, was the foundation of full personhood. To reclaim manuski, Ambedkar emphasised political representation, social transformation, and the annihilation of caste. He understood that Hinduism, structured on rigid human hierarchies, offered no path to dignity for Dalits. In his seminal — though undelivered — speech Annihilation of Caste (1936), he argued that dismantling caste was essential to creating a society in which manuski could be universally shared. But Ambedkar’s vision did not stop at political change. He and his followers

- **Nitimatta/Naitikta (ethics)**
- **Svabhimān (self-respect)**
- **Svavalamban (self-dependence)**
- **Shila (character)**
- **Ijjat (dignity)**
- **Mansikta (mental ability)**
- **Abhu (honour)**

engaged in a multi-pronged strategy to regenerate Dalit society — educational reform, legal action, social uplift, and religious conversion — all aimed at both external liberation and internal transformation. For Ambedkar, manuski had to be cultivated, not just granted. Importantly, the term humanity in English doesn’t fully capture the depth of manuski in the Dalit context. In Marathi, manuski draws from multiple moral and emotional registers: Together, these formed the foundation for dignified Dalit personhood — a humanity forged in struggle, not bestowed by privilege. Ambedkar’s vision remains a radical blueprint for justice, challenging India to rethink what it means to be truly human.

Can Mamata Weather the Job Storm

As the 2026 West Bengal Assembly election approaches, a political storm threatens to shake Mamata Banerjee’s once-impregnable stronghold. The Supreme Court’s decision to nullify over 25,000 teaching appointments tied to the 2016 recruitment scam has delivered a seismic blow to the Trinamool Congress (TMC), raising questions about Banerjee’s credibility and deepening discontent among her traditional support base — the middle class and rural aspirants. This verdict doesn’t just signify a legal setback; it risks becoming an electoral turning point. Banerjee built her political brand by championing “Ma, Mati, Manush” — the mother, the soil, and the people — and for years, she enjoyed robust support from a broad coalition of urban middle-class voters and rural families. But with thousands of livelihoods wiped out in a single court order, faith in the system has cracked. The scandal’s impact extends far beyond the jobholders. When

multiplied by dependents and families, over a crore people are directly or indirectly affected — especially in suburban and rural Bengal, where government teaching jobs are prized for their stability. These communities now feel betrayed, and the TMC’s promise of governance and meritocracy lies in tatters. Urban anger is simmering too. Kolkata’s middle class, which once embraced Banerjee for her anti-elitist and reformist persona, is disillusioned. The arrest of former minister Partha Chatterjee and revelations of rampant bribery have only intensified outrage. Teachers who followed the rules, only to be dismissed, are protesting — and their voices are echoing across Bengal’s education ecosystem. Signs of political erosion are already visible. Despite winning 29 Lok Sabha seats in 2024, the TMC trailed in 47 of Kolkata’s 144 municipal wards and lost two Assembly segments. Incidents like the R G Kar rape-murder case have fur-

ther dented Banerjee’s image as a protector of the common people. Yet, while the TMC is wounded, the BJP is not fully poised to capitalize. The party’s state leadership is fractured and lacks a charismatic face who can rival Banerjee’s populist appeal. Leaders like Suvendu Adhikari and Sukanta Majumder are attacking with full force, but translating this into votes requires a unified strategy and clear vision, something the BJP still struggles with. Meanwhile, Banerjee is attempting to reclaim lost ground by portraying herself as the victim of a BJP-CPI(M) conspiracy, a narrative that often garners sympathy in Bengal. Historically, her ability to turn adversity into advantage has kept her politically afloat. Ultimately, the 2026 election could hinge on whether Banerjee can rebuild trust — or whether the BJP can finally present a compelling alternative. Either way, West Bengal is bracing for a political showdown unlike any in recent memory.



Gujarat ATS, Coast Guard Seize ₹1,800 Crore Worth of Drugs in High-Seas Operation

In a major anti-narcotics operation, the Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) jointly seized 300 kilograms of suspected methamphetamine valued at ₹1,800 crore after smugglers dumped the contraband into the Arabian Sea and fled across the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), officials said on Monday.

The overnight operation was conducted on April 12-13 in the Arabian Sea near the IMBL off the Gujarat coast, based on specific intelligence received by the Gujarat ATS. Acting swiftly, the ICG diverted one of its ships from the Western Region to intercept the suspect vessel.

According to an official release, the Coast Guard ship managed to locate the suspicious boat despite challenging visibility conditions. Upon spotting the approaching patrol vessel, the smugglers quickly jettisoned their cargo into the sea and escaped across the IMBL, taking advantage of their proximity to international waters and the distance between the vessels at the time of detection.

“The ICG ship deployed its sea boat immediately to recover the jettisoned narcotics while commencing a hot pursuit of the fleeing vessel,” the release stated. However, due to the geographical constraints and the swift movement of the smugglers, interception



tion could not be achieved.

Despite the challenges of operating in darkness and rough seas, the Coast Guard successfully recovered the dumped contraband. The narcotics, believed to be methamphetamine, were brought ashore to Porbandar and handed over to the Gujarat ATS for further investigation.

Officials noted that this operation marks the 13th successful joint mission by the Gujarat ATS and the Indian Coast Guard in recent

years, highlighting the strong synergy and coordination between the two agencies in safeguarding national interests and coastal security.

The seizure underscores the persistent threat of drug trafficking through maritime routes and the increasing need for coordinated intelligence-led operations. Investigations are ongoing to trace the origins and intended recipients of the consignment, and efforts are underway to identify and apprehend the smugglers who escaped into international waters.



Priyanka Gandhi Likely to Be Elevated

The Congress party is reportedly considering a significant move to elevate Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to the post of vice president as part of a broader push for structural reforms within the organisation. While an official decision is yet to be made, party insiders say discussions around her formal promotion have intensified in recent weeks.

Currently, Priyanka Gandhi serves as the General Secretary of the party, though she does not hold any specific organisational charge. Despite this, she has been actively involved behind the scenes, particularly in driving new initiatives aimed at strengthening the party's grassroots network.

One of her major recent contributions is a pilot project focused on empowering district Congress presidents, beginning with Gujarat. This initiative aims to decentralise decision-making and increase the responsibilities of district-level leaders, giving them greater authority and autonomy to make impactful changes at the local level. If the pilot proves effective in Gujarat, the Congress plans to expand the model to other states across the country. Party sources view this project as a reflection of Priyanka Gandhi's growing strategic role within the organisation. Her ability to steer internal reforms, especially at a time when the Congress is trying to revamp its structure and operational efficiency, is being seen as a key asset for the party's revival efforts.

The proposed changes go beyond just her elevation. The Congress is reportedly preparing for a set of broader organisational reforms aimed at streamlining internal systems and improving functionality at all levels. The leadership believes that such reforms are essential to strengthen the party ahead of crucial electoral battles, including the upcoming state and national elections. According to insiders, while Priyanka Gandhi's new designation is yet to be finalised, her increasing involvement in shaping policy, internal structures, and grassroots strategies signals a clear shift in her influence within the party. Her elevation to vice president could serve as both a symbolic and strategic move, reinforcing the Gandhi family's central role while also introducing a more reform-oriented leadership style.

As discussions continue, many within the party view her potential rise as a much-needed catalyst for revitalising the Congress and aligning its future course with evolving political dynamics.

Golconda Blue Diamond Set for Auction

A rare and radiant 23.24-carat vivid blue diamond with a rich Indian royal legacy is poised to capture global attention at Christie's Magnificent Jewels sale in Geneva. Known as The Golconda Blue, the diamond is expected to fetch between USD 35 million and USD 50 million (approximately Rs 300-430 crore), making it one of the most valuable blue diamonds to be auctioned in recent years.

The gem hails from the legendary Golconda mines, located in present-day Telangana, India—historically renowned for producing some of the finest and rarest diamonds in the world. Its exceptional quality, deep blue hue, and royal provenance add to its prestige and desirability among collectors and connoisseurs.

The Golconda Blue was once part of the illustrious royal collections of the Maharajas



of Indore and Baroda. Now mounted in a contemporary ring crafted by acclaimed Parisian designer JAR (Joel Arthur Rosenthal), the diamond continues its legacy by blending regal history with modern artistry.

Christie's International Head of Jewelry, Rahul Kadakia, highlighted the stone's unmatched significance, calling it “one of the rarest blue diamonds in the world.” He compared The Golconda Blue to other celebrated diamonds of Golconda origin, such

as the Archduke Joseph Diamond and the Princie Diamond, both known for their noble lineage and exceptional brilliance.

“Exceptional noble gems of this caliber come to market once in a lifetime,” Kadakia remarked, underscoring the rarity and importance of the diamond. He emphasized that its royal heritage, exquisite color, and remarkable size make it a treasure of global and historical importance.

For India, The Golconda Blue is more than just a gemstone—it is a tangible link to the country's illustrious past, evoking images of princely states, royal courts, and a flourishing diamond trade centered in the Golconda region. The upcoming auction is not just a sale, but a moment of cultural significance, as one of India's finest jewels prepares to change hands on the world stage.

Karun Nair Disappointed Despite IPL Half-Century

Karun Nair, the experienced Vidarbha batter, made a strong comeback in the 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL) with a scintillating knock of 89 runs off 40 balls. His performance, however, came in a losing effort as Delhi Capitals succumbed to Mumbai Indians in their latest encounter. Despite his remarkable innings, which included his first IPL half-century in seven years, Nair remained disappointed, emphasizing that individual performances hold little value if the team does not win.

The 33-year-old, who had been absent from the IPL for three years, was brought in as an Impact Player and delivered a solid contribution. However, he refused to dwell on his personal achievement during the post-match interview. Nair expressed his disappointment with the outcome, underscoring the importance of team success over individual milestones. “We play to win the match, so there is disappointment. No matter how much we score, if the team does not win, then there is no value of it,” he remarked, adding that winning was his primary focus.

The knock was a welcome return for Nair, especially after a long absence from the IPL, but he felt his efforts were futile as Delhi Capitals couldn't finish the job. He noted how important it was for the set batters to stay at the crease for longer periods. “Obviously, it was easier for the set batter to play than for the new batter,” Nair explained. “It was very important for a set batter to continue, but we lost wickets at regular intervals, making it tough to chase down the target.”

Despite the loss, Nair acknowledged Mumbai Indians' strong bowling performance, which



kept the Capitals under pressure throughout the match. He pointed out that the team struggled to form partnerships, an essential aspect in T20 cricket. “We were all looking to score runs quickly, but we couldn't stitch together partnerships,” he added.

The batter remains hopeful that his team will learn from this defeat and continue their momentum in future games. Nair's perspective on the loss reflects his commitment to the team's success and his determination to contribute to their winning efforts in the coming matches.

Anti-Waqf Violence Spreads in Bengal

Violent protests over the Waqf (Amendment) Act continue to escalate in West Bengal, with fresh reports of unrest emerging from a second district. After days of clashes in Murshidabad's Jangipur area, the tension has now reportedly spread to parts of Malda, raising alarm among authorities and prompting urgent legal and security interventions.



On Monday, a plea was filed in the Supreme Court seeking a court-monitored Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the violence. Filed by advocate Shashank Shekhar Jha, the petition calls for immediate action to protect lives and properties at risk due to the ongoing unrest. It also urges the court to ensure accountability and transparency in the investigation.

The situation first turned violent in Murshidabad on Saturday when protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act took a violent turn. Protesters set fire to multiple vehicles, and visuals from the scene showed flames and thick smoke engulfing parts of Jangipur. The violence left at least three people dead and over 100 arrested. Authorities fear that unchecked misinformation could inflame tensions further.

Following the clashes, the Calcutta High Court held an urgent hearing on a court holiday and ordered the immediate deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in Murshidabad. The division bench led by Justice Soumen Sen stated that the court could not remain a si-

lent spectator and stressed the constitutional responsibility to protect civilians during such crises.

Jawed Shamim, Additional Director General (Law and Order), said on Monday that the administrations of both Murshidabad and Malda are working in coordination to restore peace. So far, 210 arrests have been made, and law enforcement has launched efforts to prevent the spread of rumors.

Nineteen displaced families have returned to their homes, and some businesses have resumed operations. Police are using loudspeakers to encourage residents to resume normal activities and urging calm amid ongoing investigations.

The violence, which began as a protest against legal amendments, has taken a deadly turn and now risks spiraling into a wider law-and-order crisis. With unrest spreading to more districts, the state's response and the outcome of the Supreme Court plea will be crucial in determining the next steps toward restoring peace.



Sheikh Hasina sends a ‘play with fire, you burn too’ warning to Yunus govt

Saying ‘their audacity astonishes me’

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was ousted from office last year, issued a strong warning to the country’s interim caretaker government on Tuesday, cautioning that “if you play with fire, it will burn you too.” Hasina’s remarks come in the wake of increasing threats to ban her long-standing political party, the Awami League, which has been a central force in Bangladesh’s politics for decades.

In a virtual address from India, where she has been living since fleeing Bangladesh last August, Hasina condemned the interim government for its audacity in attempting to erase the Awami League’s historical role in the country’s independence struggle. She specifically accused Professor Muhammad Yunus, who has been linked to efforts undermining the Awami League, of erasing the party’s contributions to the Liberation War.

Hasina, 77, emphasized that the Awami League, founded in 1948, was instrumental in securing the rights of the people of East Pakistan, which later became Bangladesh. She reminded the public that the country’s independence in 1971 was achieved under the leadership of her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding father of the nation, and through the organizational strength of the Awami League. “The name of the country where they now live was given by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib,” Hasina said, reinforcing her father’s role in uniting the people of Bengal and securing the nation’s freedom.

The call to ban the Awami League, led by Hasina’s supporters, has been met with resistance from rival political groups like the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). While some extreme right-wing factions continue to demand the party’s disbandment, the proposal has failed to gain substantial backing from other major political players in Bangladesh.

Hasina also addressed the violence that erupted in 2024, which resulted in significant casualties among Awami League activists, police officers, and members of minority communities. Reflecting on the human toll of the crisis, Hasina questioned the actions of the current regime and warned that their attempts to suppress her party could have dire consequences.

As political tensions escalate in Bangladesh, Hasina’s statements underscore the growing divide and the uncertain future of the country’s political landscape.

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 | Ukrain

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.

China Halts Rare Earth Exports Amid Escalating US Trade War, Threatens Global Supply Chains

TPN Correspondent | US

As tensions between the United States and China intensify, Beijing has suspended the export of several key rare earth elements, metals, and magnets—critical materials used across industries such as defense, electronics, automotive, aerospace, and semiconductors. The move, seen as a strategic response to President Donald Trump’s latest tariff hike on Chinese goods, threatens to disrupt global supply chains and significantly impact American manufacturers.

According to a report by The New York Times, Chinese authorities are currently drafting a new regulatory framework for rare earth exports. While this system is being developed, shipments of these crucial materials have been halted at several Chinese ports. Once implemented, the new system may permanently restrict access to these materials for select companies, particularly American military contractors.

China, which produces about 90% of the



world’s rare earth elements, has placed seven categories of medium and heavy rare earths—such as samarium, gadolinium, terbium, dysprosium, lutetium, scandium, and yttrium—on an export control list. These elements are vital for manufacturing high-tech equipment, including missiles, EV motors, jet engines, and semiconductors. The United States, by contrast, has only one rare earth mine and remains heavily dependent on Chinese imports.

Beijing imposed these new export restrictions on April 2, coinciding with its broader retaliatory package against the US, which includes increased tariffs and specific product bans. While not an outright ban, China now requires special export licenses to ship rare earths and associated finished products abroad. Industry experts warn that the licensing system is currently underdeveloped, raising concerns about prolonged delays and dwindling international supplies.

The decision underscores China’s strategic use of its dominance in the rare earth sector as a geopolitical tool. Lockheed Martin, Tesla, and Apple are among major US companies that rely on Chinese rare earths. Though the US maintains some stockpiles, they are insufficient to sustain long-term defense manufacturing.

Meta Faces Landmark Antitrust Trial Over Instagram and WhatsApp Acquisitions

TPN Correspondent | Newyork

Meta Platforms Inc is heading into a historic antitrust trial that could potentially force the tech giant to divest Instagram and WhatsApp — two of its most valuable platforms. The trial, which begins Monday, marks a major test for the Federal Trade Commission’s (FTC) efforts to rein in Big Tech.

The case stems from a 2020 lawsuit filed during former President Donald Trump’s administration, accusing Meta — then Facebook — of engaging in anti-competitive practices by acquiring Instagram in 2012 and WhatsApp in 2014. The FTC alleges these deals were part of a strategy to eliminate competition and maintain Meta’s monopoly in the social media space.

According to the FTC, CEO Mark Zuckerberg’s long-held belief that “it is better to buy than compete” guided Facebook’s acquisition strategy. The agency claims Meta pursued a pattern of buying up emerging rivals to neutralize



threats, especially during a shift from desktop to mobile platforms.

Instagram, purchased for \$1 billion, and WhatsApp, acquired for \$22 billion, were instrumental in helping Facebook adapt to mobile and stay relevant with younger users. The FTC argues that Meta used these acquisitions and internal policies to stifle innovation and deter competition.

However, the FTC’s case hinges on a narrow market definition that excludes major players like

TikTok, YouTube, and Apple’s iMessage — something experts say could weaken their argument. Meta counters that it faces intense competition and accuses the FTC of rewriting the rules years after clearing the acquisitions.

In a statement, Meta said, “The FTC’s case defies reality. Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp compete daily with TikTok, YouTube, iMessage, and more. This lawsuit threatens innovation and sends a message that no deal is ever final.”

Tim Cook’s Viral Video Explains Why Apple Still Builds iPhones in China Despite Rising US Pressure

Apple CEO Tim Cook is once again in the spotlight as a resurfaced 2024 video gains traction online, offering rare insight into why the tech giant continues to manufacture iPhones in China instead of shifting operations to the United States. In the widely shared clip, Cook challenges the long-held assumption that Apple’s presence in China is driven by low labour costs.

“The popular conception is that companies come to China because of low labour costs. I’m not sure what part of China they go to, but the truth is China stopped being the low labor cost country years ago,” Cook says in the video.

Instead, Cook emphasizes China’s unparalleled manufacturing infrastructure and skilled workforce as the real reasons behind Apple’s deep-rooted production presence there. He highlights the scale and precision required to manufacture Apple devices — processes that demand specialised tooling engineers and high-level materials handling capabilities. According to Cook, while it may be difficult to gather a roomful of such engineers in the US, China could fill several football fields with them.

The video has gone viral amid rising political



calls in the US to repatriate manufacturing jobs. President Donald Trump recently expressed a desire for tech companies like Apple to start producing more devices domestically. The White House has also pointed to Apple’s planned \$500 billion US investment as a potential signal of shifting priorities.

However, industry experts caution that Apple is unlikely to bring large-scale manufacturing back to the US anytime soon. Reports from Bloomberg suggest that the US lacks the skilled labor, supplier ecosystem, and infrastructure necessary to support Apple’s complex production needs at scale.

Meanwhile, Apple is making moves to diversify its supply chain. India has emerged as a key partner in this strategy. Apple, through contract manufacturer Foxconn, is expanding a 300-acre iPhone plant in Bengaluru.

Market Outlook and Stock Picks

Sectoral Momentum Amid Global Trade Shifts



sumer durables, FMCG, public sector enterprises and oil companies rose last week. It is better to stay away from IT stocks.
Stock Recommendations
Power Grid:



These shares, which have been in a downtrend for a few months, have now gained momentum. They have taken support at the crucial Rs. 250 level and turned around. Relative strength is also increasing. Investors should take a position above Rs 300 with a target price of Rs 322/330 in this counter, which closed at Rs 304 last Friday. A stop loss is mandatory at Rs 292.
Gujarat Gas Limited:
This counter, which has been in a downtrend since the beginning of 2024, has been forming a base since February this year. It is continuing to remain stable at Rs 380. Investors should enter this counter, which



closed at Rs 428 last Friday with a profit of 5.9%, at Rs 410/420 with a target price of Rs 490. A stop loss is mandatory at Rs 400.

Patanjali Foods:



This stock is performing well even in a losing market. Momentum and relative strength are good. It has been moving in the Darvas box pattern at Rs 1800 for a few months. Investors should take a position in the Rs.1850 range with a target price of Rs.2150 in this counter, which closed with a gain of 4.1% last Friday. Stop loss should be placed at Rs.1810.

Laurus Lab:
These shares have been in an uptrend



for a few months. They are currently moving in a range bound at the highest level. Short-term momentum is good. Average volume is increasing. Investors should take a position in the Rs.600 range with a target price of Rs.655 in this counter, which closed with a gain of 7.4% last Friday. Stop loss at Rs.585 is mandatory.
Jindal Stainless
These shares have been in a downtrend for a few months. Since the volume is registering less, it seems that the fall is likely to stop. Investors should take positions at Rs 530/540 with a target price of Rs 610 in this counter, which closed at Rs 542 with a gain of 5.8% last Friday. A stop loss at Rs 520 is mandatory.



Domestic stock markets may be mixed this week. US President Donald Trump's postponement of tariffs on all countries except China for 90 days has allayed fears of an economic slowdown. Supply dependence on the

Dragon Country is noteworthy. As this trade war is likely to benefit India, momentum may increase in some sectoral stocks. However, the market will follow Trump's comments and geopolitical equations. Shares of con-

Indian Shrimp Exporters Get Relief as US Pauses Higher Tariff

India's seafood exporters are gearing up to ship 35,000 to 40,000 tonnes of shrimp to the United States after President Donald Trump temporarily paused a planned tariff hike. The proposed reciprocal duty of 26% was rolled back to 10%, bringing a wave of relief to exporters and ensuring continued trade momentum.

K.N. Raghavan, Secretary General of the Seafood Exporters Association of India, told PTI, "There is a lot of relief now as we are at par with other exporters to the US. The shipments that were held back will now be processed." According to him, nearly 2,000 containers of shrimp, which had been delayed due to tariff uncertainty, are now being readied for export.

Trump's decision on April 9 to hold off on the tariff hike, just a week after it was announced, gives Indian exporters a crucial 90-day window to fulfil existing orders without facing additional costs. This decision retains a 10% blanket tariff on seafood imports from most countries, excluding China, which continues to face a steep 145% duty.

Currently, Indian shrimp exports to the US are subject to an effective customs duty of 17.7%, which includes a 5.7% countervailing



duty and 1.8% anti-dumping duty. Under delivery duty-paid (DDP) arrangements, Indian exporters typically absorb these costs themselves, making the temporary pause even more significant for preserving profit margins on already contracted shipments. Despite the tariff concerns, the US remains India's largest shrimp market, both in terms of volume and value. In the 2023-24 fiscal year, India exported shrimp worth \$2.7 billion to the United States. Encouragingly, industry sources have reported no decline in orders.

The Seafood Exporters Association is now urging the Indian government to push for long-term solutions during upcoming trade negotiations, particularly focusing on establishing a level playing field for India's seafood industry before the 90-day tariff pause expires.

The temporary relief has re-energized the sector, offering exporters a window of opportunity to maintain strong trade ties with their largest customer.

China's Exports Surge Ahead of Looming U.S. Tariffs

China's exports saw an unexpected and sharp rebound in March 2025, jumping 12.4% year-on-year in dollar terms, according to data released by the country's customs authority on Monday. The growth, which comes just ahead of major tariff hikes announced by the United States, marks a significant reversal from the 3% decline recorded in February.

The latest numbers surpassed all estimates in a Bloomberg survey of analysts, where the median forecast had predicted a more modest 4.6% increase. This performance highlights China's aggressive push to ship goods before fresh trade barriers take effect, particularly with exports to Southeast Asia reaching near-record levels.

Economists suggest that the spike is largely driven by front-loading activity, as exporters rushed to fulfill orders before Washington's new tariff measures are enforced. The U.S. administration under President Donald Trump has recently escalated its trade stance on China, reintroducing and expanding duties on a wide range of Chinese goods as part of its broader "America First" trade policy.

The Chinese government is closely monitoring the situation. In a statement earlier on Monday, the Commerce Ministry called on the U.S. to "correct its mistakes" and to "heed rational voices" that support stable trade relations. The Ministry also warned

that the tariff hike would likely disrupt global supply chains and hurt consumers and businesses on both sides.

Meanwhile, the rise in exports is seen as a temporary boost amid a more uncertain long-term outlook. Analysts caution that while March's numbers reflect strong external demand and proactive exporter behavior, the upcoming tariffs could result in a



slowdown over the next quarter, particularly if retaliatory measures are implemented or trade tensions escalate further.

This export rebound comes at a crucial time for China's economy, which is working to regain momentum after periods of sluggish domestic consumption and external uncertainty. Strong export figures may offer short-term relief, but the threat of a prolonged trade standoff with the U.S. remains a major concern for Beijing and global markets alike.

India's Manufacturing Sector Shows Late FY25 Uptick, But FY26 Q1 Outlook Mixed

India's industrial production showed signs of recovery towards the end of the financial year 2024-25, backed by strong performances in high-frequency indicators such as the manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, and e-way bill generations, according to a recent report by the Bank of Baroda (BoB).

The report indicated that these positive signals suggest a rebound in production in the closing months of FY25. "Given the latest improvement in manufacturing PMI for March 2024, along with a pick-up in e-way bill generations and GST collections, we expect production to have reported some improvement towards the end of the last fiscal year," the report noted.

However, the outlook for the first quarter of FY26 remains cautious. BoB warned of emerging headwinds, particularly due to uncertain

global trade dynamics. Export growth remains a significant risk factor, especially amid geopolitical and economic volatility, including continued tensions between the United States and China.

The report also emphasized that the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent decision to reduce policy interest rates could serve as a tailwind for the manufacturing sector by lowering borrowing costs and incentivizing investment and production. Additionally, a 90-day pause announced by the Trump administration on the imposition of new country-specific tariffs, alongside a decline in global commodity prices, has further buoyed near-term expectations.

Nonetheless, India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data for February 2025 revealed a more nuanced picture. IIP growth slowed to 2.9%, down from 5.6% in February 2024 and

5.2% in January 2025. The decline was broad-based, affecting key sectors such as mining and electricity, with the manufacturing segment also seeing moderate weakening.

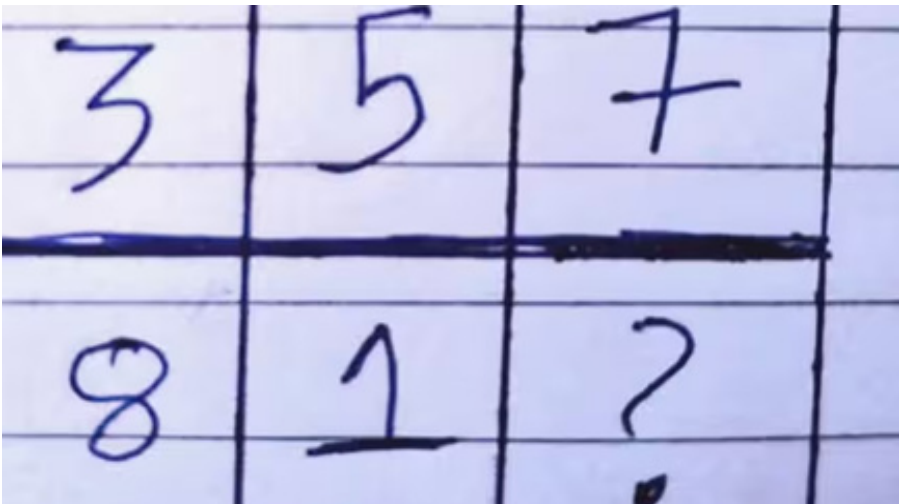
Within manufacturing, industries like basic metals, motor vehicles, chemicals, and apparel reported lower output, while pharmaceuticals, textiles, and electronics registered modest growth. Among use-based classifications, only capital goods saw year-on-year growth, whereas consumer durables, infrastructure, and non-durables declined.

Overall, IIP growth for the fiscal year to date stands at 4.1%, down from 6% in the same period last year. While positive domestic signals provided a lift at the end of FY25, the mixed global environment suggests a cautious start to FY26 for India's manufacturing sector.



Viral Puzzle Stumps Internet Sleuths

A seemingly simple number puzzle has captured the internet's attention—and its collective frustration. Shared by Brainy Quiz, a popular account on X (formerly Twitter), the teaser presents a 3×3 number grid with one crucial blank square represented by a question mark. While it looks basic at first glance, solving the pattern behind the missing number has proven to be anything but easy. Brain teasers like this have long been a popular way for people to challenge their logic and sharpen their thinking. They offer a satisfying escape from daily routines and, more importantly, give your brain a much-needed stretch. For some, cracking these puzzles is a casual habit; for others, it's an obsession. And with social media offering instant access to global puzzles, communities now form around solving the toughest ones—just like this one. This latest viral grid has managed to hook everyone from casual browsers to self-proclaimed



math whizzes. Many report trying multiple patterns—adding, subtracting, multiplying rows and columns—only to come up short. What's maddening for many is the simplicity of the setup: how can something so compact stump so many people? Brainy Quiz dropped the teaser without an immediate answer, only encouraging users to "spot the pattern" and share their guesses. As replies flood in, so do a variety

of theories, some brilliant, some wildly off-track, and all part of the fun. The puzzle's virality proves once again that the internet loves a good brain challenge—especially when it's wrapped in the mystery of one little missing number. If you're brave enough to give it a go, dive in and join the thousands who've taken on the challenge. Just don't be surprised if you end up second-guessing yourself before that "aha!" moment hits.

Laid Off at 40? You're Not Alone

In a candid and timely reflection on today's job market, Bombay Shaving Company CEO Shantanu Deshpande recently addressed a growing and unsettling trend—professionals in their 40s facing layoffs across industries. Calling it a "global phenomenon," Deshpande highlighted how individuals in this age group, often in the peak of their earning years, are increasingly being let go by companies seeking to cut costs. Deshpande described the 40s to early 50s as a "golden salary period"—a time when professionals typically command high salaries after decades of experience. However, it's also when financial responsibilities tend to peak, with expenses like children's education, home loans, and elderly parents' healthcare pressing hard. Being laid off during this time can be not just a financial jolt but an emotional one too. The conversation struck a chord online, with many sharing personal stories. One Instagram user, Shweta Gadia, shared how she lost her job at 42 despite having an impressive professional profile. Since then, she's been struggling to find a role that matches her experience and expectations. Her story, among many others, reflects a larger shift in hiring dynamics—companies now often lean toward younger employees who cost less and are perceived as more adaptable in today's fast-changing digital environment.



Deshpande's post aims to shed light on what many professionals experience silently: the feeling of becoming "unhirable" after a certain age, not because of lack of skill, but due to shifting industry priorities. The CEO encouraged companies to take a more holistic view when hiring and retaining talent and emphasized the importance of upskilling, networking, and maintaining visibility in one's industry. The discussion underscores a need for open dialogue around age and employment—especially in a rapidly evolving market where even seasoned professionals are finding themselves on shaky ground.

Lazy or Smart? Porter Video Divides Internet

A light-hearted yet thought-provoking video shared on social media has sparked an online debate about convenience culture and customer expectations. A Porter delivery agent recently went viral after posting a clip narrating what he called an "amazing" order — delivering a small package from one tower to another in the same residential complex, barely a two-minute walk apart. The video, shared by user Azhar Jafri shows the delivery agent standing near Tower 17, from where he picked up the package. He then pans the camera to Tower 19, pointing out that it's hardly a short stroll away. The package contained a couple of game controllers, and the delivery agent quipped, "These people are so lazy," while showing the handoff location. The video's text overlay humorously read, "Porter mein aaya aalas ki delivery waala order" (A delivery order full of laziness came on Porter), poking fun at how hyperlocal convenience apps are now being



used for even the shortest of errands. The caption added by the uploader — "Lucknow ke nawab chale gaye, nawabi chhod gaye" (The Nawabs of Lucknow are gone, but their royal habits remain) — only added to the comedic spin, prompting laughs from some and raised eyebrows from others. While many found the situation funny and a bit excessive, others jumped to the customer's defense, noting that modern delivery apps are built on the promise of ul-

tra-convenience — and the customer was simply using a service they paid for. A few users even speculated that the delivery might have been requested for someone with mobility issues or time constraints. As debates swirl over whether this reflects peak laziness or smart use of tech, one thing is clear: what began as a simple two-minute delivery has become a reflection of the larger conversation on how far we're willing to go — or not go — for convenience.

Apple Leads Tech Rally on Tariff Relief

Apple shares surged over 6% in Frankfurt trading after the U.S. government granted tariff exclusions on smartphones, computers, and other electronics imported predominantly from China. The move sparked a broader rally in tech stocks across both U.S. and European markets, signaling investor optimism about easing trade tensions and cost pressures on consumer electronics. The tariff exemptions come as a relief for major tech manufacturers that rely heavily on Chinese supply chains. Apple, with a significant portion

of its production based in China, stands to benefit directly from the reduced import costs, potentially improving profit margins and stabilizing product prices for consumers. Other tech giants followed suit in the upward momentum. Nvidia climbed more than 3%, buoyed by strong AI demand and positive sentiment in the chipmaking sector. Dell Technologies posted a 6.3% gain, and Dutch semiconductor equipment maker ASML advanced 2.8%, reflecting broader investor confidence in the global tech ecosystem.

Raghunandan Kamath's Journey to Rs 300 Crore

From humble beginnings in a small Karnataka village, Raghunandan Kamath rose to become one of India's most beloved entrepreneurs, building Naturals Ice Cream into a Rs 300-crore brand without any formal education or aggressive marketing. Kamath, the son of a mango vendor, tapped into his roots and instincts to craft a business that combined tradition with innovation, creating a unique space in India's competitive ice cream market. After moving to Mumbai in his youth, Kamath joined his brother's restaurant business but soon realized his true passion lay in creating desserts, especially fruit-based ones. Drawing inspiration from his family's fruit-selling legacy, he began experimenting with seasonal fruits and natural ice creams—free from artificial colors and preservatives. In 1984, he opened his first Naturals



Ice Cream outlet in Juhu, Mumbai, with just five flavors: mango, sitaphal (custard apple), jackfruit, banana, and chikoo (sapodilla). It was a modest shop attached to his father's South Indian restaurant. What set Naturals apart was its commitment to quality and word-of-mouth marketing. Kamath believed the product would speak for itself, and he was right. As customers kept coming back for more, the brand grew steadily, driven by authenticity, consistency, and customer trust. Despite having no formal training in business or advertising, Kamath's

entrepreneurial instincts were spot on. Over the years, Naturals expanded across the country with over 150 outlets, retaining its family-run ethos and focus on fruit-based, handmade ice creams. Kamath's inspiring journey proves that success doesn't always follow a straight path through business schools or big capital. Sometimes, it's the taste of home, a dedication to quality, and a deep understanding of your roots that can turn mangoes into millions. Kamath passed away in May 2024, but his legacy continues to delight generations of ice cream lovers across India.



Netflix is reportedly experimenting with a new search tool powered by OpenAI, aiming to revolutionize how users discover content on the platform. According to The Verge, this AI-driven feature will allow users to search using natural language prompts, going beyond traditional filters like name, genre, or actor. This means that instead of typing in specific titles or actor names, viewers can describe what they're in the mood for — such as "a feel-good romantic comedy with a strong female lead" or "dark thrillers with plot twists like Gone Girl." The AI tool would then parse these prompts and deliver a curated list of matching content. The move is seen as part of Netflix's broader push to enhance user experience and content discoverability in an increasingly crowded streaming landscape. With thousands of titles available, many users often struggle to find

something that suits their mood or preferences — a gap this AI integration aims to bridge. The feature is reportedly still in its testing phase and may be rolled out to a limited number of users before a wider launch. It leverages OpenAI's advanced language model capabilities to interpret subtle emotional or thematic nuances in user queries — a significant leap from traditional keyword-based search engines. This marks one of the latest examples of how generative AI is being integrated into consumer platforms to personalize and simplify everyday digital experiences. While Netflix has yet to make an official announcement, the early buzz suggests that content discovery on the platform might soon get a lot smarter — and more intuitive. If successful, Netflix's AI-powered search could set a new standard for recommendation and discovery in the streaming world.



The tariff rollback is expected to alleviate some of the inflationary pressures that have been affecting the tech hardware market. Analysts note that the timing of this exemption is critical, as it may also influence pricing strategies ahead of key product launches and the year-end holiday season. Market watchers suggest that this policy shift could mark a more pragmatic trade stance by the U.S., at least in the tech sector, where global interdependence on manufacturing and innovation is deeply entrenched.



LSG Posts 166/7 Against CSK in IPL 2025

Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) set a total of 166/7 in their IPL 2025 match against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on Monday. Captain Rishabh Pant was the standout performer for LSG, scoring 63 runs off 49 balls. Pant brought up his fifty in style with a one-handed six over deep mid-wicket. Opener Mitchell Marsh contributed with 30 runs off 25 balls. After being asked to bat first, LSG struggled in the early overs, losing two

wickets during the powerplay. The CSK seamers, Khaleel Ahmed and Anshul Kamboj, took one wicket each in the first six overs to put LSG on the back foot. Ravindra Jadeja, CSK's senior spinner, finished with figures of 2/24 in his three overs, helping to restrict LSG's scoring. Despite the setbacks, Pant's innings guided LSG to a competitive total. LSG: 166/7 in 20 overs (Pant 63; Jadeja 2/24).

ISSF South American Swing: Second Leg Begins in Lima



The second leg of the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun stage kicks off in Lima, Peru, at the Las Palmas range on Tuesday. Close to 400 athletes from 43 countries, including a 35-member Indian team, will compete in 15 events across Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun disciplines over the next week. India, which finished second to China in the first leg in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with four golds and eight total medals, is aiming to continue its strong per-

formance. The rivalry between the two nations is expected to heat up in Lima. Indian shooters to watch include Manu Bhaker, Suruchi, and Sainyam in the women's air pistol, and Saurabh Chaudhary, Varun Tomar, and Ravinder in the men's air pistol. The competition will feature top shooters from countries like China, the USA, Italy, Germany, and more. All finals will be streamed live on the official ISSF YouTube channel.

Uday Kumar Aims to Conquer World 10K Bengaluru with Unbreakable Spirit



Uday Kumar's journey is one of resilience, proving that true strength comes from within. A Kolkata-based contractual worker, Uday's life took a tragic turn during the 2015 Durga Puja holidays when an accident led to the amputation of his left leg. Despite being declared 91% disabled, Uday chooses to see himself as "91% abled," embodying the strength of human will. In the face of adversity, Uday found his passion in marathons. Since 2017, he has completed over 80 races across 16 states. His achievements extend beyond running—he has

conquered mountaineering feats like climbing Kanchenjunga and Mount Kilimanjaro, along with skydiving and scuba diving, earning the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award. Now, Uday is set to take on the TCS World 10K Bengaluru on April 27, 2025. After a personal best of 1 hour and 35 minutes in his first Bengaluru race, he is determined to beat his record and finish within 1 hour and 20 minutes. His story is a powerful reminder that the only limits we have are the ones we place on ourselves.

Alcaraz Triumphs in Monte Carlo, Clinches First Title

Carlos Alcaraz overcame a slow start to defeat Lorenzo Musetti 3-6, 6-1, 6-0 in the Monte Carlo Masters final, securing his first title at the prestigious event. The Spaniard's victory, his sixth Masters 1000 trophy, marks his first major win since his 2024 Wimbledon triumph. Musetti took an early lead, breaking twice in the opening set as Alcaraz struggled with his forehand. However, Alcaraz regained his composure in the second

set, hitting with more power and accuracy to win five consecutive games. Musetti, who had played several long matches earlier in the week, began to tire under Alcaraz's relentless pace. The final set was one-sided as Alcaraz broke early and took full control. Musetti's physical struggles were compounded by a medical timeout, and Alcaraz closed out the match for a dominant win, showcasing his resilience and skill on clay.



Diksha Dagar Posts Another Top-10 Finish at SA Women's Open

Diksha Dagar continued her strong form in South Africa, securing a Top-10 finish at the SA Women's Open with a final round of 4-under 68, totaling 8-under 280 for the tournament. Her rounds of 72-71-69-68 in windy conditions at Erinvale Country and Golf Estate marked her second consecutive Top-10 finish in South Africa, following a T-9 in Joburg. This performance adds to her solid season, which also includes a runner-up finish in Morocco and a T-11 in New South Wales.

Pranavi Urs also impressed, finishing T-11 with a 7-under total after shooting 69 on the final day. Rookie Avani Prashanth finished T-50 with an even-par total, while Tvesa Malik ended T-58. Frenchwoman Perrine Delacour claimed her second LET victory, finishing 14-under par, with Casandra Alexander and Kelsey Bennett following closely behind. Diksha Dagar, alongside Wales' Chloe Williams, rounded out the Top-10 at 8-under par.





Gulzar’s Daayra Revisits Hyderabad Tragedy

Meghna Gulzar is set to direct *Daayra*, a gripping crime drama inspired by the 2019 Hyderabad gang rape and murder case that shocked the nation. The film, produced by Jungle Pictures, stars Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran in lead roles. Announced recently, *Daayra* aims to take a realistic approach to the sensitive subject, portraying intense characters shaped by the horrific incident. Meghna, known for

her powerful storytelling in films like *Raazi* and *Sam Bahadur*, co-writes this project with Yash and Sima. Currently in pre-production, the film seeks to shed light on the social and emotional impact of the case, while also exploring justice and societal accountability. With a strong cast and Meghna’s impactful direction, *Daayra* promises to be a poignant and powerful cinematic experience, reigniting conversations on gender violence and legal reform.



Nani’s HIT 3 Promises Relentless Action



Starring Nani as Arjun Sarkaar, has arrived — and it’s a dark, intense ride from start to finish. Directed by Sailesh Kolanu, this gritty crime thriller begins with the harrowing abduction of a baby, setting off a brutal chain

of events where Sarkaar takes justice into his own hands. Nani portrays a cop who’s merciless with criminals yet composed in his personal life, showcasing a powerful duality that elevates the film’s emotional stakes. The trailer

teases a relentless manhunt filled with blood, vengeance, and raw emotion. His performance, especially in the climax, is described as goose-bump-inducing. The visuals are intense, the atmosphere is ominous, and the

action sequences are savage. Srinidhi Shetty plays Nani’s love interest, bringing a touch of warmth and charm to the otherwise grim narrative. *HIT 3** hits cinemas on May 1 and promises a gripping cinematic experience.

Nidhhi Agerwal Responds to Comparison

Actress Nidhhi Agerwal, known for her role in *iSmart Shankar**, is awaiting the release of her two big Telugu films. Though she rose to fame quickly, her journey slowed down, and comparisons with rising star Sreeleela began. Many fans have questioned why Sreeleela has done multiple films back-to-back while Nidhhi seemed to take a step back. Reacting to the comparison, Nidhhi responded on social media saying, *“After iSmart, I did a hero*

*film, three Tamil films and signed HHVM. I take my time and pick scripts I believe in. I may go wrong sometimes, but I’m here to stay. Don’t worry about me.”** Interestingly, while Sreeleela had a rapid rise, her recent flops have slowed her momentum. She currently has no major films lined up. On the other hand, Nidhhi has promising projects like **Hari Hara Veera Mallu** and **Raja Saab**, which could redefine her career path.



Kingston: A Haunting Sea Tale



Kingston, a Tamil fantasy horror adventure directed by Kamal Prakash, stars G.V. Prakash Kumar in his 25th film as an actor. The movie, which began streaming on ZEE5 yesterday, revolves around a coastal village, Thoovathur, and a haunting mystery tied to a man named Bosayya who was killed and buried by the villagers in 1982. After his watery burial, strange deaths of fishermen begin to occur, sparking fear of his vengeful spirit. King, the protagonist, grows up

with his grandfather after his father’s death at sea. As an adult, he works under a ruthless man named Thomas and becomes determined to bring peace to his people. Believing that removing Bosayya’s coffin from the sea will end the curse, he sets out on a dangerous mission with his friends. The film combines sea adventure with horror but lacks emotional depth and strong storytelling, making it a mediocre watch despite its interesting premise.

Ajith's 'Good Bad Ugly' Hits Century

Ajith Kumar’s latest action-comedy thriller **Good Bad Ugly** is storming the box office, entering the ₹100 crore club within just four days of its release on April 10. Directed by Adhik Ravichandran, the film showcases Ajith in a triple role — as Good, Bad, and Ugly — and has earned the highest opening day collection for a Tamil film in 2025, grossing ₹28.5 crore on day one across 2,400 shows.

The film, Ajith’s 63rd, received strong reception across Tamil Nadu and fea-

tures high-octane action sequences choreographed by international stunt experts. Trisha plays the female lead, while Arjun Das portrays the antagonist.

Good Bad Ugly was made on a grand budget of ₹270–300 crore. Netflix has acquired the digital streaming rights for a reported ₹95 crore, with streaming expected to begin in May. Trade analysts suggest that if current momentum continues, it could become one of the biggest Tamil hits of 2025.



Another Death Threat to Salman Khan



Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has once again received a serious death threat. A message was sent to the WhatsApp number of the Worli Traffic Department in Mumbai, stating, “Salman, we will kill you at your home or blast your car with a bomb.” Following this, the Worli police registered a case against an unidentified person and launched an investigation. Police are currently trying to trace the origin of the message and determine

whether the threat is genuine or a hoax. In the past, Salman Khan has faced multiple threats from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. Due to ongoing security concerns, he is already under tight police protection. This latest threat has raised fresh concerns about his safety. Authorities are now reviewing his security measures to ensure his protection. The incident has shocked fans and industry members, who have expressed concern and support for the actor during this time.