

Rural Andhra Pradesh Vital for Vikasit Bharat Vision, Says Dy CM Pawan Kalyan



- Striving for Panchayat autonomy and village-level economic growth
- Transparent coalition governance, reforms to empower Gram Panchayats
- ₹62,515 Cr estimated local body funding deficit
- Finance Commission urged to support sustainable rural development

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, emphasized the crucial role of rural Andhra Pradesh in achieving the national vision of Vikasit Bharat. Addressing the 16th Finance Commission at the State Secretariat on Wednesday, he highlighted the state's efforts to empower Panchayats through economic and environmentally friendly development.

Pawan Kalyan stated that comprehensive rural development can improve employment opportunities, reduce migration, and ensure food security. He reiterated the importance of financial autonomy for 13,371 Gram Panchayats, 660 Mandal Parishads, and 26 Zilla Parishads. The State Government estimates a funding gap of ₹62,515 crore for local bodies from 2026–2031.

He stressed that direct fund transfers to Panchayats will accelerate development. Proposals submitted to the Commission included strengthening infrastructure, constructing pothole-free roads, enhancing rural digital connectivity, and improving marketing for local products. To promote national spirit in villages, the operational budget for celebrations was increased tenfold. Steps are also being taken to boost local economies through eco-tourism, timber plantations, and support for media and film sectors. Pawan Kalyan affirmed that transforming local disadvantages into opportunities remains a core policy.

He noted reforms in staff recruitment, unified services, and grassroots leadership under the Panchayat Raj system. As part of a transparency initiative, 13,326 Gram Sabhas were held on a single day across the state.



VIJAYASAI REDDY OPENS UP, JAGAN WILL BE ARRESTED SOON

Vijayasai Reddy is going to spell out all the details

- With those details, a case will be filed against YS Jaganmohan Reddy
- All heads have given the nod for Jagan's arrest
- Very soon, Mr. Jaganmohan Reddy will receive notices and subsequently be arrested
- Mr. Kasireddy Rajasekhar Reddy may become an approver
- He will be arrested very soon
- He routed liquor scam money through a U.S. company
- MORRIS & WILLNER PARTNERS, INC., registered at an address in California
- Mrs. Divya Pyreddy, wife of Kasireddy, is a Director in it

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The time has come. The arrest episode of YS Jaganmohan Reddy is going to start within days. The testimony of Vijayasai Reddy is expected to prepare notices to Mr. YS Jaganmohan Reddy in the liquor scam. Earlier, Mr. Vijayasai Reddy exposed the role of Kasireddy Rajasekhar Reddy in this case. As per sources, Mr. Vijayasai Reddy is prepared to spell out all the details, which will become tools for the SIT to facilitate the arrest of YS Jaganmohan Reddy in the liquor scam.

It seems Vijayasai Reddy is in touch with BJP leaders and has sufficient protection from all aspects. Even the TDP Government cannot touch him without the permission of BJP leaders, according to political analysts. His daughter is expected to join the BJP for sure. As previously revealed by POINT, NDA alliance leaders have come to a conclusion that they have to arrest YS Jaganmohan Reddy, and the required paperwork has also been completed. Vijayasai Reddy, who once provided legal and strategic support to Jaganmohan Reddy, is now becoming a tool in his

arrest. Moreover, since Vijayasai is no longer with Jagan, he has to face trouble in combating all the legal or bail issues. Though Jagan has access to high-fee advocates, it is strategy, lobbying, and influence that matter here—areas where only Vijayasai Reddy had strength. Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, YV Subba Reddy, and Peddireddy Mithun Reddy are the coterie named by Vijayasai Reddy. Vijayasai had strong ties with BJP leadership and maintained relations with the NDA on behalf of YS Jaganmohan Reddy earlier. That is why Vijayasai Reddy had more prominence during that time. To control Vijayasai, the coterie allegedly raised corruption allegations in Visakhapatnam and claimed that all the money did not reach Tadepalli. Through YS Bharati, the coterie ran the show and allegedly distanced Vijayasai Reddy from Jagan. Since then, Sajjala has allegedly become Jagan's shadow.

KASIREDDY MAY BECOME APPROVER?

Reports suggest that Mr. Kasireddy Rajasekhar Reddy may become an approver in the liquor scam and help the SIT arrest YS Jaganmohan Reddy. Earlier, POINT exposed that Kasireddy had struck a deal with a politician to get out of the

case. Allegations are circulating that the notices to Kasireddy and the department not knowing his whereabouts are all part of a high drama. Allegedly, his timings and statements were pre-arranged. He invested in land in Hyderabad and sold part of it to celebrities. He cheated both Jagan and those celebrities who trusted him.

More details are emerging that he owns a company in the USA, in which his wife is the Director. The company is MORRIS & WILLNER PARTNERS, INC., registered at an address in California. Mrs. Divya Pyreddy, wife of Mr. Rajasekhar Reddy, is the Director of this company and also associated with Areti Hospitals. As per sources, the SIT found that funds from the distilleries were routed through these companies. That is why they raided Areti Hospitals and Kasireddy Rajasekhar Reddy's residence.

Reportedly, Mr. Kasireddy will be arrested very soon. Sources say he will become an approver, and subsequently, Mr. YS Jaganmohan Reddy will become the main accused in the liquor scam. By correlating the details revealed by Vijayasai and Kasireddy, a case will be filed against Jagan, leading to his imminent arrest.

CM Naidu's Appeal to 16th Finance Commission: Support Andhra's Reconstruction



CM meets 16th Finance Commission, seeks financial backing for Swarnandhra 2047 vision

Explains state's fiscal challenges, restarts of 72 Central schemes, and progress through WhatsApp governance

Ministers Pawan Kalyan, Lokesh, Narayana, and Keshav also present at high-level Secretariat meeting

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Finance Commission Praises Visionary Leadership of AP CM Naidu's



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The 16th Finance Commission, led by Chairman Dr. Arvind Panagariya, addressed the press at Novotel, Vijayawada on Wednesday after meeting with the Andhra Pradesh Government. The Chairman praised Chief Minister Shri Chandrababu Naidu for his visionary

presentation on Amaravati and long-term planning for Vikasit Bharat 2047. Dr. Panagariya described the Chief Minister's detailed tour of Amaravati's inception, including a video presentation that explained the project's history and vision.

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Capital City Amaravati Construction Gains Momentum



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Minister for Municipal Administration and Urban Development P. Narayana has reassured farmers who contributed land for the construction of the capital city that their sacrifices will not go in vain. Addressing concerns and alleged misinformation being spread about Amaravati, the minister called upon farmers not to harbor doubts or fears about the future of the capital or the proposed airport. Speaking to the media, Minister Narayana clarified that no final decision has been taken on acquiring 30,000 acres of land for the international airport proposed in Amaravati. He said options including land pooling and land acquisition are being explored, and consultations are ongoing. The minister said that Amaravati is being developed not just to provide basic infrastructure but to build a future-ready city with smart industries that can generate large-scale employment. He said Amaravati's growth depends on the arrival of industries that are clean, green, and job-generating. He added that industrial development will stabilise and potentially increase land prices for the farmers who pooled land. CM Chandrababu Naidu has envisioned an international airport over 5,000 acres to ensure global connectivity and attract foreign investors. Administrative approval has been granted for projects worth ₹64,000 crore in Amaravati. The minister informed that the tenders have been completed for most projects, and construction work is underway. Residences for officials will be completed within one year. Trunk roads will be completed in one and a half years. Layout of roads will be completed in two and a half years. Iconic buildings will be completed in three years, he said. Minister Narayana reiterated the government's commitment to develop Amaravati into a world-class capital city and assured farmers that their contributions and concerns are being fully respected and addressed.

Finance Commission Praises...

Continued from page 1

"He is among the very few Chief Ministers to personally deliver such a detailed economic and governance roadmap," said Dr. Panagariya, recalling his association with Naidu since 2015 during the Swachh Bharat and UPI development phases. The Commission has visited 23 states so far in its ongoing 9-month consultation journey. "We still have five states left and cannot make any decisions until all consultations are complete," the Chairman clarified. Highlighting AP's requests, Dr. Panagariya stated the state is seeking a rise in vertical devolution from 41% to 50%. It also proposed adjusting horizontal devolution criteria: population and area weights reduced to 5% each, forest cover weight halved, and a new 15% weight for increase in forest cover. AP also recommended shifting from income distance (45%) to include agriculture's contribution (20%). The CM argued for a balanced demographic performance criterion—raising its weight to 20% and recognizing southern states' challenges due to declining fertility and aging populations. Dr. Panagariya noted similar concerns from Assam and Tamil Nadu. Regarding special category status, he clarified it's no longer a valid classification since the Planning Commission's abolition. However, Andhra Pradesh's post-bifurcation financial burdens and debt legacy will be considered seriously. He concluded that, for the first time, the Finance Commission is working without constraints from the Centre, granting them full freedom to formulate recommendations, expected after nationwide consultations conclude.

Andhra Pradesh secures Rs 1,370 Crore investment from TCS for IT Hub in Visakhapatnam

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a major boost to the state's IT sector, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will set up a state-of-the-art development center in Visakhapatnam with an investment of Rs 1,370 crore. The project is expected to generate 12,000 new jobs, marking a significant milestone in the state government's ambitious goal of creating 20 lakh jobs over the next five years. The state government has allocated 21.16 acres of prime land to TCS at a nominal lease rate of 99 paise, signalling its strong commitment to attract top-tier IT investments. This strategic move comes after sustained efforts by IT and Industries Minister Nara Lokesh, who has been leading the government's investment promotion initiatives. Minister Lokesh visited TCS headquarters in Mumbai in October 2024 and personally met Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran to pitch Visakhapatnam as an emerging IT hub. Following continued negotiations, the state succeeded in securing



ing TCS's commitment, marking a turning point in Andhra's drive to revive and expand its IT ecosystem. The development center is expected to catalyze Visakhapatnam's transformation into a major IT destination, with the state already witnessing growing interest from top tech firms. "This is not just an investment, it is a signal that the state is back on the IT map," said a senior official in the industries department.

To build a conducive environment for investment, the state has announced several forward-looking policies, including the Andhra Pradesh Electronics Manufacturing Policy, Semiconductor & Display Fab Policy, IT & Global Capability Centers Policy, and Data Center Policy for 2024–29. These offer some of the most competitive incentives in the country. Minister Lokesh's proactive leadership has already yielded significant

outcomes. Over the past 10 months, Andhra Pradesh has attracted investment proposals worth Rs 8 lakh crore, with the potential to create more than 5 lakh jobs. Global companies that had distanced themselves from the state in recent years are now returning with renewed interest. In addition, a week-long tour of the United States by Minister Lokesh in October 2024, including roadshows in Silicon Valley, Seattle, and New York, helped draw attention from global tech giants like Tesla, Google, Apple, Microsoft, Adobe, and Salesforce. Over 100 companies were engaged to explore the investment opportunities in the state. The TCS project in Visakhapatnam is now being hailed as a landmark achievement, not only for job creation but also for restoring confidence among investors and industry leaders. It stands as a testament to the renewed momentum in the state's industrial growth under the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Lokesh.

Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu Urges Speed in Veligonda Project Works

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Minister for Water Resources Nimmala Ramanaidu held a crucial review meeting with senior irrigation officials on the progress of the Veligonda project at the Vijayawada camp office. The meeting saw the participation of Engineer-in-Chief M. Venkateswara Rao, Project Chief Engineer, Superintending Engineer, and other senior staff. Expressing dissatisfaction, the Minister pulled up officials over the slow pace of lining works in Tunnel-2. While 432 meters of lining was scheduled for completion in April, only 72 meters has been executed so far. He emphasized that such delays would derail the ambitious target of completing the project by June 2026, as envisioned by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. Minister Ramanaidu instructed officials to immediately accelerate



ate the benching and lining work in Tunnel-2. He also directed the formation of a technical committee to evaluate the cost of removing the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) currently stuck in Tunnel-2. The committee will explore viable options for TBM retrieval. However, considering a court stay on TBM removal, the Minister ordered officials to simultaneously prepare an alternative proposal to construct a parallel tunnel at the point where the TBM has halted, ensuring that the project does not face further bottlenecks.

To facilitate progress, the Cabinet has approved ₹106.39 crore for crucial works under Package-2 and Package-4 of the Veligonda project. In addition, approvals have been granted to assign works for the Feeder Canal, Teegaleru Canal Head Works, and the Head Regulator of the Eastern Main Canal to suitable agencies. The Minister reiterated the government's commitment to fast-track the Veligonda project for timely completion and water delivery to the drought-prone regions of the state.

AP Invites Applications For 25% Free Admissions in Private Schools Under RTE Act

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh government has announced the implementation of Section 12(1)(C) of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 for the academic year 2025–2026, ensuring 25% of seats in Class 1 in all private unaided schools are reserved for children from disadvantaged groups and economically weaker sections. Applications are open from April 28 to May 15, 2025, for eligible students seeking admission in IB, CBSE, ICSE, and State Syllabus schools across the state. Allocation will be done transparently through the official website <http://cse.ap.gov.in>, using the Aadhaar number and essential



AP RTE Admission

details of the applicant. Speaking about the initiative, State Project Director of Samagra Shiksha, B. Srinivasa Rao, said, "This provision ensures inclusive education by giving children from underprivileged backgrounds access to quality private education near their homes. We urge parents to make use of this opportunity and enroll their children through the designated process." SPD Srinivasa Rao also clarified that the eligibility age

for admission into Class 1 is 5 years as on March 31, 2025, for IB/CBSE/ICSE schools and 5 years as on June 1, 2025, for State Syllabus schools. Applications can be submitted through Village Secretariats, Mandal Educational Resource Centres, or directly at the concerned private schools. For any queries, parents may contact the District Educational Officer or reach out via the Toll-Free number: 18004258599. Required documents include proof of address, child's date of birth certificate, and other relevant IDs such as Aadhaar, ration card, or electricity bill. "We are committed to making education equitable and accessible to all sections of society," added Srinivasa Rao.

AP Govt Fills 30 Market Committee Posts Across AP

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh Government has announced the appointment of chairmen for 30 market committees, marking a significant step in strengthening local governance and market infrastructure. As part of the NDA alliance understanding, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has been allotted 25 chairmanships, Janasena Party 4, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) 1. Officials stated that public opinion

played a central role in the selection of candidates, with feedback gathered from local stakeholders before finalizing the appointments. The government aims to ensure that those chosen for these nominated posts are capable of addressing the needs of farmers, traders, and consumers effectively. The selection process focused on individuals who have a proven track record of service in their communities and who understand the dynamics of agricultural market-



ing. The aim is to bring transparency, efficiency, and accountability to market committee operations. A senior official from the Depart-

ment of Marketing said that the appointment of chairmen is expected to expedite modernization and improve market infrastructure across the state, including the facilitation of digital weighing, transparent price systems, and better facilities for farmers. The remaining market committee posts are also set to be filled soon. The government plans to maintain the same transparency and alliance coordination while finalizing those names.

TDP High Command Warns Ganta Srinivasa Rao Over Critical Tweet

- Ganta's tweet on Visakhapatnam-Vijayawada flight woes sparks political stir
- Comments seen as giving ammunition to YSRCP, triggering High Command's response
- Told to raise issues internally, reminded Aviation Minister Rammohan Naidu is accessible

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

A tweet by senior TDP leader and former minister Ganta Srinivasa Rao has stirred up internal friction within the party, prompting a sharp response from the TDP High Command. His post, which criticized the poor air connectivity between Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada, has been viewed as inadvertently aiding the YSRCP narrative, at a time when the party is focusing on development narratives.

Ganta, in his tweet titled "Andhra to Andhra via Telangana," expressed frustration over having to travel from Visakhapatnam to Vijayawada via Hyderabad due to flight cancellations. He recounted his journey starting from Visakhapatnam Airport at 8 AM, reaching



Hyderabad by air, and then flying to Vijayawada, finally landing at Gannavaram Airport by 1 PM. He lamented that this was the harsh reality for many passengers, including trade representatives from CII and FICCI, who were also head-

ed to meet CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

He also pointed out the absence of the Vande Bharat train on Tuesdays, further complicating travel options. "It is painful that to reach Amaravati, the administrative cap-

ital, from Visakhapatnam, the financial capital, one has to travel via Hyderabad," Ganta wrote, striking a chord with passengers but raising eyebrows within his party. Sources said the TDP High Command took serious note of the public criticism, especially when the Aviation portfolio is held by party MP Rammohan Naidu. The leadership conveyed that such grievances should be brought directly to the party's attention or discussed with Rammohan Naidu, who, as they noted, is "also a grandson" and accessible for party members. The leadership has reportedly advised Ganta to avoid similar public comments in the future and to address such concerns through internal channels, as open criticism could provide political opponents with unnecessary leverage.



Blow After Blow for Kakani: Former Minister on the Run, YSRCP Cadre Joins TDP

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The YSRCP continues to reel under a series of setbacks post the 2024 Assembly elections, and the situation appears particularly dire in the Sarvepalli constituency of the united Nellore district. Former minister and Sarvepalli MLA Kakani Govardhan Reddy is at the center of a storm, as police have registered cases against him and formed special teams to locate his whereabouts. Kakani has been absconding for nearly a month, evading police surveillance in Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, and other locations.

The fallout of Kakani's disappearance is being deeply felt in his own political stronghold. Once a bastion of the YSRCP, Sarvepalli is now witnessing a mass exodus of party cadre. Reports indicate that surveillance has intensified at the residences of Kakani's relatives and close aides, and lookout notices have been issued to prevent him from leaving the country.

Meanwhile, confidence in Kakani has dwindled significantly among the local YSRCP leadership and workers. Many have decided to switch loyalties. On Wednesday, senior YSRCP leader Akkem Sudhakar Reddy, along with around 40 families, formally joined the Telugu Desam Party. The group included prominent local figures such as Pedomallu Srinivasulu Reddy, Sesha Reddy, Ramana Reddy, Venkateshwarlu Reddy, and Sekhar Reddy.

TDP's local MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy welcomed the new entrants by offering party scarves in a well-attended event. The political shift marks a significant blow to YSRCP in Sarvepalli and further isolates Kakani, whose future remains uncertain amidst mounting legal troubles and loss of cadre support.

With YSRCP's tally reduced to just 11 seats after aiming for a complete sweep with the "Why Not 175?" slogan, the party's setbacks in constituencies like Sarvepalli reflect a growing sense of disillusionment within its ranks. For Kakani Govardhan Reddy, the phrase "blow after blow" is fast becoming the reality.

CPI Narayana Inspects Tirumala Cowshed, Slams Political Allegations

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

CPI senior leader K. Narayana on Wednesday inspected the SV cowshed in Tirumala in response to recent political controversy stirred by YSRCP leader Bhumana Karunakar Reddy. The YCP leader had alleged that over a hundred cows died due to negligence at the TTD-managed facility, triggering criticism from coalition parties.

During his visit, Narayana closely examined the health of the cattle, the availability of fodder, and the upkeep of the premises. Speaking to the media afterward, he dismissed allegations of negligence, stating that veterinary doctors are monitoring the cows daily and that there is adequate feed being



supplied. He confirmed that all cows were healthy and well taken care of. Narayana strongly objected to the attempt to politicize the issue, stating, "It is not right to use the cowshed for YCP politics. Such

baseless allegations are disrespectful to the sacred institution of TTD." He urged political leaders to refrain from making irresponsible comments that undermine the trust and sanctity associated with the

Tirumala temple administration. The CPI leader also addressed concerns over past mismanagement at the cowshed. He demanded the removal of Harinath Reddy, the former director of the facility, for alleged past misconduct. "Suspension is not enough. He should be removed from duty for feeding cows with infested fodder and for reportedly collecting commissions from contract workers," he said. Coalition leaders have united in denouncing Bhumana Karunakar Reddy's claims, calling them a politically motivated attempt to defame the TTD. With Narayana's inspection and confirmation, they aim to put the matter to rest and safeguard the reputation of one of the most revered temple institutions in the country.

YCP Social Media Activist Paleti Krishnaveni Arrested by AP Police

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

YCP social media activist Paleti Krishnaveni was arrested by Andhra Pradesh police in Hyderabad on Wednesday, April 16. The arrest was carried out by Dachepalli police from Palnadu district, following which Krishnaveni was taken into custody and shifted to the LB Nagar police station in Hyderabad.

According to police sources, further proceedings are underway to transfer her to Dachepalli in Palnadu district, where she will be presented before the local authorities. The reasons for her arrest have not been officially disclosed yet. Krishnaveni, known for her active presence on social media in support of the YSRCP, has been a prominent voice in digital political debates. Her arrest has already begun drawing attention on various platforms, with YCP supporters expressing concern and demanding clarification on the charges. The case is expected to develop further once she is formally booked in Dachepalli.



Alliance's No-Confidence Move Against GVMC Mayor Sparks Outrage: Gudivada Amarnath

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

The political atmosphere in Visakhapatnam heated up after the alliance moved a no-confidence motion against the YSRCP-led Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) mayor Hari Venkata Kumari. Former minister and YSRCP leader Gudivada Amarnath strongly condemned the move, accusing the alliance of lacking sufficient strength and resorting to undemocratic means. Amarnath alleged that a targeted conspiracy is underway to

remove a Backward Class (BC) woman from the mayor's seat, which was given by YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy as a mark of respect for women's representation. He criticized the opposition for what he described as "Viceroy Hotel-style politics" and called on Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu to put an end to such tactics.

He revealed that YSRCP corporators have been facing threats and coercion for the past month in an attempt to weaken their unity. In response, a whip has been issued to all YCP corporators, instructing them not to



participate in the no-confidence proceedings scheduled for the 19th of this month. Amarnath affirmed that the party has enough strength to defeat the motion and retain the mayor's position.

Mayor Hari Venkata Kumari also responded emotionally, stating that it was Jagan Mohan Reddy who gave her the opportunity to lead the city as a gesture of empowerment to women and the Yadav community. She highlighted that Jagan even allocated 50 cents of land for the construction of a building at the request of the Yadavs, and now attempts are being made to unjustly remove her from office. The unfolding events suggest a tense political showdown ahead, with both sides preparing for the decisive vote on April 19.

KA Paul Moves AP HC Over Pastor Praveen's Death

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati
The Andhra Pradesh High Court on Tuesday issued key directions in the case surrounding the controversial death of Pastor Praveen, following a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Praja Shanti Party leader KA Paul. While the police have maintained that Pastor Praveen died in a road accident supported by CCTV footage, several Christian organizations and community leaders, including Paul, continue to raise doubts about the official narrative. KA Paul approached the High Court with serious allegations, claiming that Pastor Praveen



was murdered in a planned manner. He urged the court to order a CBI investigation to uncover the truth behind the incident. According to Paul, the vi-

suals released by the police were morphed, and local authorities including the district SP allegedly threatened people not to speak about the case. He also asserted that Pastor Praveen did not consume alcohol and questioned why the post-mortem report has not been made public. During the hearing, the government reiterated its stance, stating that the incident was a road accident and that there was no foul play involved. However, the High Court, taking the matter seriously, directed the government to file a counter affidavit with full details related to the case and the investigation con-

ducted so far. This development comes amidst growing pressure from certain sections of the Christian community who have expressed dissatisfaction with the police version of events. Paul's petition has added fresh momentum to the controversy, placing the spotlight on the state government's handling of the case. The High Court is expected to take up further hearing after the government files its response. With KA Paul sticking firmly to his claims and seeking a CBI probe, the case is likely to draw further attention in the coming days.

Vijayawada Student Akarsh Chittineni Secures Admission to 40 US Universities



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
In a shining example of academic excellence, determination, and all-round brilliance, Akarsh Chittineni, a 12th-grade student of Delhi Public School, Vijayawada, has achieved what few dare to dream. He has been admitted to 40 of the most prestigious universities in the United States, including Duke University, Rice University, and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), with scholarship offers amounting to a staggering Rs 25 crore. Duke University, where Akarsh will be pursuing his undergraduate studies, recorded its lowest acceptance rate ever this year just 3.25%. For international applicants, the odds were even tougher. Akarsh is one of only six students from India admitted to Duke and the sole representative from Andhra Pradesh. Similarly, he was the only student from the state to be admitted to Rice University, another top-ranked institution. Akarsh's academic accolades speak volumes. A consistent school topper for six consecutive years, he previously earned a gold medal for topping the Grade 10 AISCSE board exams from KCP Siddhartha Public School. He scored in the 98th percentile in the SAT, achieved an 8.5 in IELTS, and excelled in four AP exams to earn the AP Scholar with Honor distinction. In addition to academics, Akarsh is a national-level badminton player and a member of the NASA HERC 2023 team, where he helped secure the Carpentry Award. He has authored four research papers, interned with four companies, and even set an Indian record by reciting the most digits of the square root of five. His commitment to social service is equally commendable, his non-profit, Sarve Vidya, has impacted over 7,000 students. He also founded Telugu Pandits, a cultural revival initiative that has helped 1,000+ students connect with their roots. "My journey has been about finding purpose through learning and giving back. I'm excited to be part of Duke University, where I can grow as a leader, innovator, and changemaker," said Akarsh, who is heading to the U.S. this fall. His mother, Prasanthi Chittineni, couldn't hold back her pride. "Akarsh's discipline and sincerity have brought him this far. We always believed in his vision, and seeing it come true is beyond overwhelming. He inspires us every day." As Akarsh prepares to step onto the global stage at Duke University, ranked 6 in the QS World University Rankings 2025 his story stands as a powerful reminder of what passion, hard work, and purpose can achieve.

CM Naidu Unveils Amaravati Journalists Cricket League Winner's Cup

Amaravati Journalists Cricket League to be held on April 18, 19, and 20
CM Chandrababu Naidu calls for a spirit of friendly competition and sportsmanship
Tournament to be held at ACA International Cricket Stadium, supported by KL University

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu unveiled the Winner's Cup of the Amaravati Journalists Cricket League on Wednesday, appreciating the initiative that offers a well-deserved break to journalists from their demanding work schedules. He emphasized the need to maintain a spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie throughout the tournament. The Chief Minister participated in the curtain raiser event held at Beram Park, Bhavanipuram, and congratulated the organizers for promoting physical activity and unity among media professionals. He encouraged wide dissemination of the tournament news to further the message of sports culture. Organizers informed the Chief Minister that the tournament will take place on April 18, 19, and 20 at the ACA International Cricket Stadium in Moolapadu, Ibrahimpatnam mandal. A total of 10 journalist teams will compete in this three-day



league. The Kesineni Foundation, Andhra Cricket Association, and SHAP are supporting the event, while KL University is the main sponsor. Organizers confirmed that all arrangements for the event, including logistics, scheduling, and facilities, have been finalized. CM Chandrababu Naidu's presence and encouragement brought added enthusiasm to the participating teams and organizing committee, setting a positive tone for the upcoming matches.

State Governor Felicitates Yoga Champion Dheeraj Srikrishna



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Dheeraj Srikrishna from Vijayawada, who brought pride to the state by winning gold medals in both traditional and artist yoga categories at the 10th Asian Yoga Championship held in Singapore, was felicitated by Andhra Pradesh Governor Abdul Nazeer at Raj Bhavan on Wednesday. According to Yoga Sports Association of Andhra Pradesh General Secretary Avinash Shetty, the Governor personally invited Dheeraj to Raj Bhavan to honour his outstanding achievement. The Governor appreciated the young athlete's dedication and discipline, encouraging him to aim even higher in the global arena. He expressed confidence that Dheeraj will continue to bring recognition to India and Andhra Pradesh through his talent. Dheeraj was accompanied by his proud parents during the visit. The event marks another milestone in his promising yoga journey and stands as an inspiration to other young athletes across the state.

ABCD Awards Recognize Top Crime Detection Efforts in Andhra Pradesh

TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri
At the DGP Headquarters in Mangalagiri on Wednesday, police officers who demonstrated excellence in crime resolution through advanced and innovative investigation techniques were honoured with the ABCD (Award for Best in Crime Detection) Awards by DGP Shri Harish Kumar Gupta. CID-DGP Shri Ravi Shankar Ayyinnar, after a meticulous review of high-performance cases from the October to December 2024 quarter, selected four exemplary investigations for recognition. Each selected case showcased remarkable effort in

cracking complex cases swiftly and effectively. The first prize, along with Rs. 1 lakh, was awarded to the West Godavari District team led by SP Shri Adnan Naeem Asmi, IPS, for successfully solving a murder case in Akividu mandal. The second prize of Rs. 60,000 went to Sri Sathya Sai District SP Smt. Ratna, IPS, for solving a 26-year-old pending case involving a man who had killed his child and lived under a fake identity in Karnataka. The third prize of Rs. 40,000 was awarded to Vizianagaram District SP Shri Vakul Jindal, IPS, whose team

cracked a digital arrest cybercrime case, arresting five accused and recovering over Rs. 19 lakh worth of assets, while freezing an additional Rs. 22 lakh in related bank accounts. A consolation prize of Rs. 20,000 was presented to Guntur District SP Shri Y. Satish Kumar, IPS, for solving a minor girl's murder case under Chebrolu PS limits. DGP Harish Kumar Gupta congratulated the awardees and urged all police personnel to continuously upgrade their professional skills and embrace modern investigation methods for better law enforcement outcomes.

Theatre Sector to Regain Glory Under NDA Govt - Minister Kandula Durgesh



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Tourism, Culture, and Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh announced that the coalition government will revive the once-vibrant theatre sector in Andhra Pradesh by restarting the prestigious Nandi Awards and Nandi Natakotsavam. Speaking at the Telugu Theatre Day celebrations held at Tummalapalli Kalakshetram in Vijayawada on the occasion of the 177th birth anniversary of social reformer Kandukuri Veeresalingam Pantulu, Durgesh emphasized the government's commitment to supporting poets and artists. The minister said that prosperity can

only be achieved when artists and writers are happy and honored. He assured that transparency was prioritized in the selection of this year's awardees and revealed that the Centre has supported the establishment of a National School of Drama in the state, likely to be set up in Rajahmundry or Vijayawada. On this occasion, Durgesh presented the Kandukuri Rangasthala Puraskar to three eminent theatre personalities at the state level and the Kandukuri Vishishta Puraskar to 107 district-level artists. The minister also honored jury members and praised their impartial selection process. State Information and Public Relations Department MD Himanshu Shukla, IAS, said the Telugu Theatre Day will be celebrated annually, and the government has formed a dedicated committee to oversee the awards. State Drama Academy Chairman Gummadi Gopalakrishna and award committee chairman Burra Sai Madhav commended the government for bringing much-needed attention to the neglected theatre sector. Students of dance schools gave special cultural performances, and numerous playwrights, directors, and theatre enthusiasts from across the state attended the event. Minister Durgesh, while recalling the legacy of kings like Sri Krishnadevaraya who respected artists, vowed to secure a bright future for the drama community in Andhra Pradesh.

Everyone Should Cooperate in the Development of Villages: Yarlagadda Venkat Rao

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Government Whip and Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkat Rao has appealed to villagers—both residents and those working elsewhere—to actively cooperate in the development of their native villages. On Wednesday morning, during his visit to Ampapuram in Bapulapadu mandal, he paid floral tributes to NTR's statue, and inaugurated the newly constructed Gram Panchayat building worth Rs. 20 lakh, along with village pond restoration works under the National Employment Guarantee Scheme. Addressing the gathering, Yarlagadda recalled his long-standing association with Rajya Sabha MP KVP Ramachandra Rao since 2005, praising his contributions to rural development.

He highlighted how efforts are underway to establish 300 industries in Mallavalli Industrial Estate within the next 18 months, alongside proposals to acquire 470 acres of assigned land nearby for further development. He assured that housing will be provided for all in Mallavalli and revealed plans to set up Supreme Solutions in the region. Reiterating his commitment to non-partisan public service, the MLA noted that he hasn't filed any police case against YSRCP activists since taking office, focusing instead on people's welfare over politics. He warned against encroachment of government lands, stating that he, along with officials, would act strictly to protect public assets.

Yarlagadda said that proposals worth Rs. 37 crore for linking the Polavaram-Eluru canal have reached the final approval stage, and the foundation stone would soon be laid. He confirmed that 15,000 house plots will be provided in the constituency and added that bridge construction proposals across the Eluru canal in Ramavarappadu, Enikepadu, and Jakkula Nekkala have already received the CM's nod. In response to Ampapuram villagers' plea for 24-hour electricity, he directed electricity officials to resolve the issue within 48 hours. Former MLA Dr. Dasari Balawardhana Rao, along with several TDP leaders and local representatives, participated in the event.

Rare Surgery Saves 5-Year-Old Girl’s Life in Nellore

TPN Correspondent | Nellore
In a remarkable medical achievement, doctors at Nellore Medicover Hospital performed a rare and complex surgery to save the life of a 5-year-old girl suffering from severe respiratory distress. The girl, who had been battling cough, fever, and breathing difficulties, was brought to the hospital in critical condition. During a detailed medical examination and chest scan, doctors discovered that her left lung was completely damaged, prompting further investigation by the interventional pulmonology department. Upon performing a bronchoscopy,

Dr. Katamreddy Kaushik Reddy, a pulmonologist at the hospital, found that a betel nut had lodged tightly at the end of the main bronchus in her left lung, completely blocking the airway. Using a Fogarty balloon and a zero-tip basket, doctors carefully maneuvered and removed the nut from the lung. Dr. Kaushik Reddy explained that the airway was fully obstructed, making the surgery extremely challenging. However, after the successful removal, the girl’s lung re-expanded, and she began breathing normally again. “This was a very delicate procedure, and

we are happy to report that the child has now made a full recovery,” said Dr. Kaushik Reddy at a press conference held on Wednesday. He emphasized that advanced equipment and highly skilled specialists at the hospital made the successful outcome possible. The medical team included Dr. Uday Kirti (Pediatrics), Dr. Ranganath, and Medical Superintendent Yashwanth Reddy, who were also present during the announcement. The hospital reiterated its commitment to providing world-class treatment for both children and adults facing critical respiratory conditions.



‘Shakti’ Teams Flagged Off to Protect Women and Children: SP E.G. Ashok Kumar

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa Dist
Kadapa District Superintendent of Police E.G. Ashok Kumar officially launched the ‘Shakti’ teams and their 56 two-wheelers at the Pennar Police Conference Hall on Wednesday. These special teams have been formed to safeguard women and children from anti-social elements and ensure swift action in distress situations. Addressing the gathering, SP Ashok Kumar stated that the Shakti teams were constituted under the state government’s directive to prevent harassment, violence, and crimes against women and children. He emphasized that the teams should maintain a strong presence in colleges, parks, bus stations, shopping malls, and public intersections to act as a visible deterrent and offer immediate help to victims. A total of seven teams have been formed—two for Kadapa HQ, and one each for Maidukuru, Proddatur, Pulivendula, and Jammalamadugu. Each team comprises six personnel, including two women staff, three constables, and an SI-level officer. Vehicles were distributed based on area requirements: 17 to Kadapa, 15 to Maidukuru, 8 to Proddatur,



9 to Jammalamadugu, and 7 to Pulivendula. The SP instructed teams to respond swiftly to distress calls received via the Shakti app, dial 112/100, 181, 1098, and 1930. On receiving an SOS alert, teams must immediately reach the scene, offer assistance, and hand over the perpetrators to the nearest police station. He also stressed the need to widely promote the Shakti mobile app, which features an SOS button, live tracking, audio-video evidence sharing, and the

ability to report crimes, missing persons, or illegal activities. It also provides info on night shelters, emergency contacts, and safe travel options. Officials including Additional SPs K. Prakash Babu and B. Ramanaiah, Women Police Station DSP S. Ramakanth, and other senior officers were present. The SP expressed confidence that the Shakti teams would instill confidence among women and become a symbol of safety and justice across the district.

Road Development in Eluru Constituency Underway: MP Putta Mahesh Kumar



TPN Correspondent | Eluru Dist
Member of Parliament Putta Mahesh Kumar announced that funds from the Central government will be utilized to ensure comprehensive road development in the Eluru parliamentary constituency. He made this declaration while inaugurating BT and cement roads constructed at a cost of Rs. 74 lakh in Somavarappadu village of Denduluru mandal on Wednesday, alongside MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar. Earlier in the day, the MP and MLA paid floral tributes to former Chief Minister Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao at the main junction in Somavarappadu. Locals gave them a warm welcome, expressing gratitude for their efforts in improving road connectivity in the village. Following the inaugural event, MP Mahesh Kumar and MLA Prabhakar unveiled the foundation stone for a new road project from Gopannapalem to Ramasingavaram in Pedavegi mandal, to be taken up at a cost of Rs. 3 crore. In a press briefing, MP Mahesh Kumar criticized the previous YSRCP-led government for neglecting road infrastructure, stating that the public endured significant hardship over the last five years. He assured that the coalition government, upon assuming power, prioritized road development, and the transformation from villages to towns is now visible. He also promised that all pending road works will be completed in the near future. MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar emphasized that the Denduluru constituency is witnessing a development push, with significant backing from the MP. He affirmed that his efforts would continue to ensure holistic development in all mandals. AMC Chairman Garapati Ramasita, local leaders, public representatives, and officials were present at the program.



AP Should Win Maximum Medals at Khelo India Youth Games

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Andhra Pradesh Sports Authority Chairman Animini Ravi Naidu has called upon the state’s athletes to strive for excellence and bring home the maximum number of medals at the upcoming 7th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games, scheduled to be held in Bihar from May 2nd to 15th. He made these remarks while inaugurating the selection process for Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, and Football teams at the IGMC Stadium in Vijayawada on Wednesday. The selections were organized by the AP Sports Authority to finalize both boys and girls teams that will represent Andhra Pradesh at the national youth sporting event. Chairman Ravi Naidu interacted with the young aspirants and encouraged them to showcase their talent and give their best during the trials. He emphasized that the future of athletes depends on their performance and discipline, and that sporting excellence earns recognition and respect in society. He urged athletes to stay informed about various schemes and incentives offered by the state government to support budding sports talent and make full use of them. “The government is committed to encouraging sports and rewarding achievements,” he said. He further stated that the responsibility of bringing glory to the state through medal wins rests on the shoulders of these young players, and urged them to compete with commitment, sportsmanship, and pride. The selection event witnessed enthusiastic participation from across the state, marking the beginning of Andhra Pradesh’s preparations for one of the country’s biggest youth sporting platforms.

MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy Cracks Down on Corruption in Thottambedu Sub-Register Office

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati Dist
Srikalahasti Constituency MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy conducted a surprise inspection of the Thottambedu sub-register office on Wednesday following a spate of public complaints regarding corruption. The MLA responded swiftly after Janardhan Reddy, a farmer from Gurukula Kandriga in K.V. Puram mandal, reported being harassed by officials while seeking to cancel his land mortgage. The MLA expressed his strong disapproval of the functioning of the office and directed the relevant officials to initiate departmental action against Sub-Registrar Sudhakar and agent Subbarayu for their alleged involvement in bribery and harassment. Speaking to the media, Bojjala Sudheer Reddy said, “Farmers and the general public should not be subjected to such harassment. I conducted this inspection only after hearing repeated allegations. Anyone found indulging in corrupt practices will face strict action.” He added that several visitors at the sub-register office also confirmed ongoing corrupt practices during his inspection. He emphasized the need for transparency and accountability in government offices and called on MLAs and ministers across the state to conduct similar surprise inspections of registration offices in their constituencies. He stated that he would report the matter directly to the Chief Minister, assuring that corruption in government offices would not be tolerated under any circumstances. Farmer Janardhan Reddy, who initially raised the complaint, expressed gratitude, saying, “The MLA responded immediately to our plight. We are hopeful that such prompt action will prevent others from suffering the same way.” Locals welcomed the MLA’s swift action and hoped it would restore faith in the system and serve as a warning to corrupt officials elsewhere in the state.



APCC Chief YS Sharmila Reddy Slams BJP's Actions Against Congress

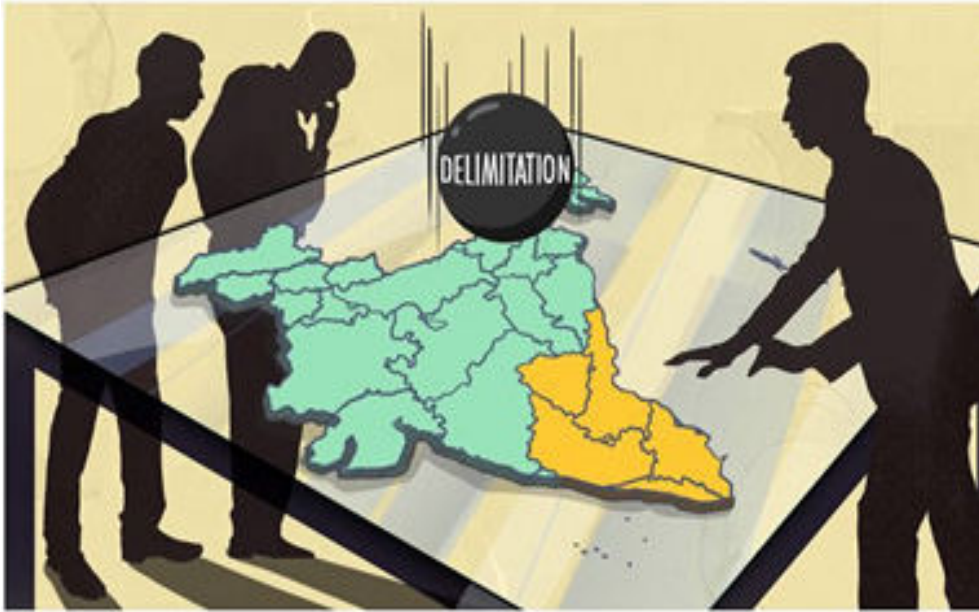
TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
AP Congress Committee (APCC) President YS Sharmila Reddy lashed out at the BJP-led central government, accusing it of misusing investigative agencies like the CBI and ED to frame opposition leaders in false cases. Addressing a media conference on Wednesday, she claimed that the Congress party’s growing influence across the country has made BJP fearful and desperate. Sharmila Reddy strongly condemned the recent seizure of National Herald’s assets and the ED’s charge sheets against senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. She termed it “extremely cruel” to accuse the party of money laundering in a case where no actual money was involved. She further alleged that the BJP is deliberately tarnishing India’s freedom fighters and great leaders, questioning their legacy and undermining their contributions to the nation. She described these actions as “a murder of public opinion”, exposing the “vile and revengeful politics” of the ruling party. “The Congress party will not remain silent against your harassment,” she asserted, warning that the people of India will soon turn against the BJP for its misdeeds. She also alleged that corporate figures like Adani are being allowed to loot the country, while the government shifts focus towards targeting the opposition. Ending her speech with a powerful remark, Sharmila Reddy declared, “Satyameva Jayate”, signaling that truth will ultimately prevail over political vendettas.



Delimitation Dilemma: Bridging India’s North-South Divide After a 50-Year Freeze

The 50-year freeze on the delimitation of parliamentary constituencies in India, initiated during the Emergency in 1976, has now erupted into a politically sensitive debate—pitting southern and northern states against each other. Originally enacted to ensure balanced development amid differing population growth rates, the freeze is now being questioned for fostering deep representational inequities. As highlighted by scholar Ravi K Mishra in his book *Demography, Representation and Delimitation*, the current discourse is clouded by misinformation and oversimplification.

Delimitation refers to redrawing constituency boundaries based on population, a task governed by Articles 81 and 82 of the Constitution. While Article 81 defines the composition of the



Lok Sabha, Article 82 mandates seat readjustments after every census. Historically, the strength of the Lok Sabha has been gradually increased

to reflect population changes, but the 42nd Amendment froze this adjustment until 2001, later extended by the 84th Amendment to 2026.

This freeze, though politically expedient, has led to glaring disparities. Some MPs now represent less than 500,000 constituents, while others serve more than three million. Southern states, which have successfully implemented population control measures, fear that they will be penalised with reduced representation, while states with higher fertility rates gain more seats.

The southern political leadership—from the Congress’ Shashi Tharoor to TDP’s Chandrababu Naidu and DMK’s MK Stalin—have voiced strong opposition, arguing that penalising prog-

ress would undermine federal principles. Critics warn that the exercise could fracture India’s political fabric, with Justice KM Joseph and historian Ramachandra Guha cautioning against potential damage to Indian federalism.

Had delimitation proceeded incrementally, as originally envisioned, the transition might have been smoother. But the long pause has created a high-stakes situation. Moving forward, policymakers must approach the 2026 delimitation with consensus, transparency, and constitutional wisdom—balancing demographic realities with the integrity of India’s federal structure. The looming challenge now is not just numerical parity but political equity and national unity.

India should reconsider its decision to shelter Sheikh Hasina

In a recent meeting of the Consultative Committee on External Affairs, held in March, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar acknowledged a growing anti-Hasina sentiment in Bangladesh that culminated in her ouster on August 5 last year. While the Indian government was aware of the shifting political winds in Dhaka, Jaishankar candidly admitted that New Delhi lacked the leverage to influence internal developments in Bangladesh. He stated that India’s role was limited to offering counsel and not exerting any real pressure—a significant indication that Sheikh Hasina’s political decline was largely the result of internal dynamics, not external interference.

This admission brings into focus the contentious question of India’s decision to grant asylum to the former Bangladeshi Prime Minister. Her continued stay in India has added strain to an already sensitive diplomatic relationship with Bangladesh’s interim government. While New Delhi may have acted out of humanitarian or political consideration, the move has complicated its standing with the new leadership in Dhaka.

Unlike her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman—who remains an iconic figure in India for his leadership during Bangladesh’s liberation in 1971—Sheikh Hasina does not enjoy the same level of popular support or emotional resonance within the Indian political landscape. Mujibur Rahman’s historical stature helped foster deep bilateral goodwill; however, Hasina’s controversial political legacy and perceived authoritarianism have made her a more divisive figure, both domestically in Bangladesh and in the broader region.



Her presence in India, therefore, puts New Delhi in a difficult position. On one hand, it must weigh humanitarian considerations and long-standing ties with the Awami League; on the other, it risks alienating a new regime in Dhaka that is already seeking to reframe its foreign policy priorities. For India, navigating this situation requires a delicate diplomatic balance—supporting regional stability while avoiding actions that may be interpreted as interference. As South Asia’s geopolitical landscape continues to evolve, Hasina’s asylum may serve as a test of India’s ability to manage complex regional transitions with tact and strategic foresight.

Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025: A Constitutional Crossroad for Minority Rights

The enactment of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, has sparked intense concern among minority communities, legal experts, and civil society, as it marks a significant shift in how Waqf properties—donated land meant for religious and charitable purposes—are governed. Waqf, rooted in the Islamic concept of Sadqa-e-Jaaria (continuing charity), traditionally ensures that once a property is designated for divine purposes, it cannot be sold, gifted, or transferred. The new amendment, however, facilitates the conversion of Waqf land into private or government property, triggering fears of widespread dispossession.

This legislative move starkly contradicts long-standing constitutional principles and judicial pronouncements, notably the Supreme Court’s assertion that “once Waqf, always Waqf.” The law also undermines Article 26 of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees every religious denomination the right to manage its own affairs. Moreover, the removal of the requirement that the Waqf Board CEO be a Muslim, and the inclusion of non-Muslims in key Waqf bodies, has raised questions about the erosion of minority autonomy.

The comparison with the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), which recently removed non-Hindu employees, underscores the perceived double standards in the treatment of religious institutions. While Waqf properties are now vulnerable to state appropriation, similar protections are fiercely upheld in other religious contexts.



Adding to the concern is the empowerment of district collectors—government appointees—to adjudicate Waqf disputes. This is problematic since the government itself is often a party to these disputes. Traditionally, such matters were determined by Waqf Tribunals, guided by survey commissioners and established legal processes. The amendment bypasses these mechanisms, increasing the likelihood of biased or flawed outcomes.

The new law is also based on misconceptions—chief among them being that Waqf Boards arbitrarily declare land as Waqf. In reality, the declaration involves a structured process involving government oversight. Claims that the Waqf Board could have declared Parliament as Waqf property are not only misleading but intended to inflame public sentiment.

MS Dhoni: A Legend at the Crossroads of Legacy and Reality

In the emotionally charged arena of modern sport, public opinion can shift dramatically. A hero can become a villain in a matter of matches. Fans who once idolized a player are often quick to turn on them after a string of poor performances. Unfortunately, this seems to be the case with MS Dhoni — once hailed as a cricketing king, now facing harsh criticism as both he and his team, Chennai Super Kings (CSK), struggle.

At 44, Dhoni is no longer the dynamic force he once was. Once a master tactician and fearsome finisher, his recent performances have left fans disappointed and pundits perplexed. CSK, under his leadership, has appeared rudderless, with defeats piling up and morale visibly sagging. Even Dhoni’s brief return as captain against Kolkata Knight Riders failed to inspire the turnaround fans hoped for.

Social media, never kind during downturns, has mocked the legend. Memes showing an aging Dhoni in a wheelchair, still holding a bat for CSK, are cruel reminders of how quickly reverence can turn into ridicule. De-

spite his reduced role, sponsors and PR teams are working hard to sustain the Dhoni brand. Critics argue that his batting strike rate is artificially inflated by his placement in the lower order, where he scores a few big hits in lost causes—adding little to the team’s actual chances.

The situation has drawn sharp commentary. Former Indian opener K. Srikkanth accused CSK of living off nostalgia and urged bold, unconventional decisions. Cricket writer Boria Majumdar warned that even the most celebrated brands risk losing shine if they don’t evolve, calling CSK’s current gameplay a relic of a bygone era of T20 cricket.

Yet, amidst the criticism, Dhoni’s loyal fans remain. To them, he is “Thala”—a leader beyond the scoreboard. But admiration must be tempered with realism. Respect should never turn into blind worship. To preserve Dhoni’s legacy, it’s vital to remember him for his triumphs, not let his image be eroded by unwise decisions made in the twilight of a remarkable career.



IAS Officer Reposted AI Image Sparks Probe

Senior IAS officer Smita Sabharwal has received a notice from Cyberabad Police for reposting an AI-generated image related to a controversial 400-acre land parcel in Kancha Gachibowli, near the University of Hyderabad. The land, claimed by the Telangana government, has been at the center of protests over its proposed auction for urban infrastructure and IT development.

On March 31, Sabharwal reshared an image originally posted by another user on ‘X’ (formerly Twitter). The AI-generated image depicted earthmoving equipment on the land, along with two deer and a peacock—an apparent nod to the ecological concerns raised by protesters.

Following the repost, police issued a notice to Sabharwal under Section 179 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) on April 12. This section empowers the police to summon an individual as a witness in an investigation. Officials clarified that the notice was procedural, not accusatory, and aimed at gathering information.

Smita Sabharwal, a Telangana-cadre officer, currently serves as Principal Secretary of the Department of Tourism and Culture. While she did not comment publicly on the matter, her repost has fueled debate on the responsible use of social media by civil servants, es-



pecially in sensitive land disputes.

The land in question is under legal scrutiny, with proceedings ongoing in both the Telangana High Court and the Supreme Court. The state government has maintained that it rightfully owns the land and intends to use it for developmental projects. However, environmental activists and the University of Hyderabad Students’ Union have raised strong objections, citing the area’s ecological significance.

Protesters argue that converting the land into an urban zone would damage local biodiversity, including habitats for various species, as highlighted in the viral AI image. The image’s realism, despite being artificial, helped amplify public sentiment around preserving the site.

As legal and public battles unfold, this incident underscores how digital content, even AI-generated, can influence high-stakes policy debates and lead to official action—even against senior bureaucrats.



Govt Bans 35 Unapproved FDC Drugs

In a significant regulatory move, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has banned the manufacture, sale, and distribution of 35 fixed-dose combination (FDC) drugs across India. These include commonly used painkillers, nutritional supplements, and anti-diabetic medications that were found to be unapproved under existing drug safety regulations.

The CDSCO has issued formal directions to all State and Union Territory drug controllers, instructing immediate action to halt the circulation of these FDC drugs. The regulatory body emphasized the need for stringent adherence to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and its associated rules, urging regional authorities to ensure full compliance.

Fixed-dose combination drugs are pharmaceutical formulations that contain two or more active ingredients in a single dosage. While some FDCs are developed for convenience and enhanced therapeutic benefits, unregulated combinations can pose serious health risks due to potential interactions, incorrect dosages, or lack of clinical validation.

The banned list includes a mix of widely available products, prompting an urgent review of approvals previously granted at the state level. CDSCO has also directed local drug regulators to assess their internal processes for granting licenses to such formulations, many of which were found to be lacking in proper clinical evaluation and central authorization.

Officials highlighted that several of these combinations were being sold in violation of national safety norms, with some manufacturers bypassing the requirement for CDSCO approval by securing licenses from individual states. The crackdown aims to curb such regulatory loopholes and ensure that only thoroughly evaluated and approved drugs reach the market.

Public health experts have welcomed the move, calling it a necessary step to protect consumers from potentially unsafe drug combinations. They also called for better awareness among healthcare providers and pharmacists about the dangers of prescribing or selling unapproved FDCs.

The CDSCO has indicated that further investigations are underway, and more such actions could follow to uphold drug safety standards in the country.

India, China Near Deal on Kailash Yatra

Indian and Chinese officials are intensifying efforts to finalize an agreement to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, which has remained suspended since 2019. With the deadline to select pilgrims approaching next month, both sides are pushing for a breakthrough within weeks, sources familiar with the talks confirmed.

The annual pilgrimage, which typically runs from June to September, was halted first due to the COVID-19 pandemic and then indefinitely postponed following rising tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), especially after the Galwan Valley clashes in 2020 that claimed lives on both sides.

Recent discussions between the two governments have focused on restoring the route, rebuilding



necessary infrastructure, and ensuring logistical readiness for the smooth movement of pilgrims. Sources said the dialogue is progressing steadily, with outstanding issues being narrowed down.

Officials from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) have confirmed that a high-level meeting

is scheduled next week to assess preparations and finalize modalities, pending the outcome of talks with Beijing.

India had previously conducted the Yatra through two routes: one via Lipulekh in Uttarakhand and another through Nathu La in Sikkim. It remains to be seen

whether both routes will reopen or if one will be prioritized based on infrastructure and security assessments.

The pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet is considered sacred by Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Bon followers. The Yatra attracts hundreds of Indian devotees annually, and its resumption would mark a significant moment in India-China people-to-people relations—despite continued political and military friction.

Observers note that the reopening of the Yatra could also signal a thaw in bilateral ties, which have remained strained post-2020. However, Indian officials are cautious and stress that any progress on the Yatra does not substitute for broader diplomatic resolution on border issues.

India to Grow 6.5%, Tops Globally

India is set to grow by 6.5% in 2025, retaining its position as the fastest-growing major economy, according to the latest report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Despite a slight dip from the estimated 6.9% growth in 2024, India’s economy continues to show strong momentum driven by robust public spending and a supportive monetary policy environment.

The report, titled Trade and Development Foresights 2025 – Under Pressure: Uncertainty Reshapes Global Economic Prospects, was released on Wednesday. It warns of a slowing global economy, with worldwide growth projected to shrink to 2.3% in 2025 due to rising trade tensions, financial instability, and pervasive economic uncertainty.

UNCTAD attributed India’s resilience to recent economic decisions, including the Reserve Bank of India’s move in February to cut interest rates by 25 basis points—the first such cut in five years. The rate cut is expected to stimulate household consumption and encourage private sector investment, contributing to the country’s growth trajectory.

South Asia as a region is forecast to grow at 5.6% in 2025. This outlook is bolstered by declining inflation rates, which allow central banks in the region to adopt more accommodative monetary policies. However, UNCTAD cautioned that food price volatility



and complex debt challenges continue to weigh on economies like Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

The global economic environment, the report notes, is under strain. Escalating trade disputes and unpredictable policy shifts are disrupting supply chains, delaying investments, and reducing job creation. Trade policy uncertainty is reportedly at its highest in decades.

For developing nations, particularly the most vulnerable ones, the risks are amplified. Many face a trifecta of external financial stress, high debt burdens, and slowing domestic growth—posing serious threats to their developmental progress.

Amid this turbulence, UNCTAD highlights the growing importance of South-South trade. With developing countries now accounting for about one-third of global trade, deeper economic integration among them could offer much-needed resilience and growth opportunities in the coming years.

SC Questions Inclusion of Non-Muslims in Waqf Bodies

The Supreme Court on Wednesday raised critical questions about the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, particularly challenging the constitutional validity of allowing non-Muslims to be part of waqf administrative bodies. A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna conducted a detailed two-hour hearing on a batch of nearly 100 petitions challenging the contentious law.

The court asked the Centre whether Muslims could be permitted to serve on the governing boards of Hindu religious endowments, drawing a sharp comparison to the provisions now allowing non-Muslims to participate in waqf governance. “Can there be reciprocal participation? Would the same principle apply in Hindu endowments?” the Bench inquired, urging the government to respond.

The 2025 amendment, passed earlier this year, has stirred significant controversy. It de-recognized the category of “waqf-by-user”—a status historically granted to properties used informally but continuously for religious or community purposes—and granted state governments the authority to determine whether a property belongs to the Waqf Board or is government-owned.

One of the most contentious changes introduced by the Act is the inclusion of non-Muslims in waqf administrative bodies, a move critics argue violates the religious autonomy guaranteed under Article 26 of the Constitution. The petitioners argued that such provisions infringe upon the minority community’s right to manage its own religious institutions.



During the proceedings, CJI Khanna expressed concern over recent communal violence in West Bengal, which has been linked to tensions arising from the Act’s enforcement. He described the reports as “very disturbing” and said the situation demanded careful judicial scrutiny.

The Centre, represented by the Solicitor General, defended the law as a reform measure aimed at improving transparency and administration in waqf properties, but the Bench sought clearer justifications for the sweeping changes.

The court has reserved further hearings for next month and asked the government to file a detailed response. The case could have far-reaching implications on the interpretation of religious rights, minority protections, and state intervention in religious institutions across India.

China now faces up to 245% tariffs from US: White House

- **China hits back with 125% tariffs and export restrictions on key materials.**
- **Despite tensions, China posts 5.4% Q1 growth and strong industrial output.**
- **China seeks backing from India and EU to counter US pressure.**

TPN Correspondent | Washington

The trade war between the United States and China has escalated further, with the US announcing a 245% tariff on Chinese goods. The White House attributed the move to China's retaliatory actions, as tensions continue to mount between the two global superpowers. The announcement coincided with President Donald Trump authorizing an investigation into the national security risks posed by the US reliance on imported critical minerals, such as cobalt, lithium, nickel, and rare-earth metals, used in smartphones, electric vehicle batteries, and military equipment.

Trump's executive order highlights the US's dependence on foreign sources for these materials, warning that such reliance makes the country vulnerable to supply chain disruptions. The White House argued that these risks threaten



national security, technological growth, and economic prosperity. In response to the growing tensions, the US had already imposed a 145% tariff on Chinese imports, while China retaliated with a 125% tariff on American goods and restrictions on the export of certain products used by aerospace and

military contractors.

On the Chinese side, a senior official acknowledged that the US tariffs were exerting pressure on China. However, China's economy showed resilience, with first-quarter growth exceeding expectations at 5.4%, industrial output rising

by 6.5%, and retail sales climbing 4.6% year-on-year. Despite these positive figures, Beijing warned that the global economic environment was becoming increasingly complex and severe, calling for more efforts to stimulate growth and consumption.

President Trump, however, maintained that China must take the first step in negotiations, stating that "the ball is in China's court." He has repeatedly criticized China, along with other countries such as India and Brazil, for imposing higher tariffs on American goods than the US imposes on theirs.

In response, China has imposed its own tariffs and restrictions, including a suspension of imports of sorghum, poultry, and bone-meal from the US. The tariff war has also led Beijing to seek support from India and the European Union, as it seeks to counterbalance US economic influence.



Biden Slams Trump Administration's Social Security Overhaul, Warns of Lasting Damage

TPN Correspondent | Newyork

In his first public address since leaving office, former U.S. President Joe Biden strongly criticized the Trump administration's handling of the Social Security Administration (SSA), calling recent changes "destructive" and "breath-taking" in scale. While Biden refrained from naming Donald Trump directly, his remarks at the National Conference of Advocates, Counsellors and Representatives for the Disabled (ACRD) in Chicago were pointed and unambiguous.

Biden alleged that the current administration—led in part by tech billionaire Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency—is pushing through a massive overhaul of the SSA, resulting in significant staff reductions and drastic policy shifts. "There are 7,000 employees out the door already. They're about to push thousands more," Biden said, expressing concern over how these actions are affecting millions of Americans who rely on the agency.

The former president likened the administration's approach to that of a disruptive startup, saying, "They're following that old line from tech startups—'move fast, break things.' Well, they're certainly breaking things." He further condemned the effects of these personnel cuts, especially in the agency's tech division, which he claimed had been "cut in half," leading to website crashes and limited access to critical online services.

Biden also accused Republicans of undermining Social Security as a strategic move to raid its trust fund to finance tax cuts for billionaires and large corporations. "They want to wreck it so they can rob it," he asserted, warning that the push to make the 2017 tax cuts permanent could cost the nation \$5 trillion, further inflating the national debt.

Addressing the growing political divide, Biden said, "It's never been this bad. Roughly 30% of this country has no heart. But we can't walk away from fairness—that's the America we believe in."

In response, the Social Security Administration denied Biden's claims, accusing him of "lying" and asserting that Trump remains committed to protecting Social Security, citing a \$16.5 million investment in modernizing phone services and a proposal to eliminate taxation on benefits.

India Rejects Religious-Based Parameters for UN Security Council Reform

Advocates Regional Representation

TPN Correspondent | United Nations

India has strongly opposed attempts to introduce new parameters like religion and faith for representation in a reformed United Nations Security Council (UNSC), asserting that this approach undermines the established principle of regional representation. India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador P. Harish, made this statement during the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) on UNSC reform, emphasizing that regional representation has been the accepted basis for UN representation.

Harish noted that efforts to stall meaningful UNSC reforms, such as claims that a larger Security Council would be inefficient, were misguided. He argued that a reformed Council with proper working methods and accountability mechanisms



would be effective in addressing global challenges. Harish further stressed that without expanding both permanent and non-permanent categories, any reform would fail to address the fundamental inequities of the existing system, perpetuating the status quo.

Speaking on behalf of the G4 nations—Brazil, Germany, Japan, and India—Harish reaffirmed that regional representation remains

crucial for UNSC reform. The G4 rejected the introduction of religious affiliation as a criterion for representation, calling such proposals counterproductive and overly complex. The G4 nations highlighted the outdated nature of the current UNSC structure, asserting that the geopolitical landscape has drastically changed since the Council's formation, necessitating reform. The G4's proposed reform model calls for an increase in the number

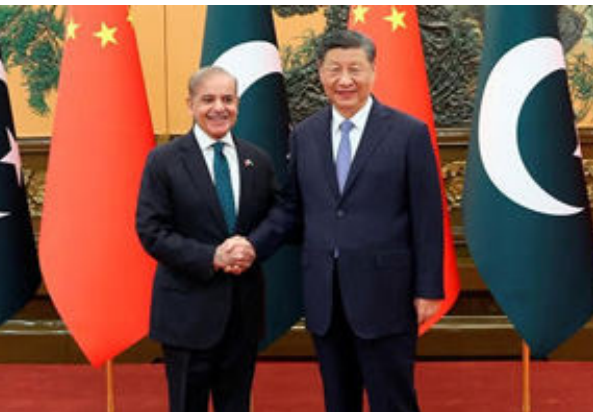
of Council members from 15 to 25 or 26, with 11 permanent members and 14 or 15 non-permanent members. India, having served as a non-permanent member in 2021-22, emphasized that expanding only the non-permanent category would not shift the power dynamics within the Council, reinforcing the dominance of existing permanent members.

Additionally, the G4 stressed the importance of text-based negotiations for achieving real UNSC reforms, urging the UN Chair to initiate these negotiations promptly. The Group reiterated that the decision on permanent membership must be made democratically by the General Assembly. Meanwhile, the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group and the Arab bloc voiced their own positions on expanding non-permanent seats and ensuring equitable Arab representation, respectively.

Shehbaz Sharif Hails China as Pakistan's 'Most Sincere Friend' for IMF Bailout Support

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Terming China as Pakistan's "most sincere friend," Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed deep gratitude towards Beijing for its vital role in securing Pakistan's recent agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Speaking at a ceremony organized for Pakistani agriculture graduates selected for specialized training in China, Sharif highlighted the critical nature of China's economic support in stabilizing the country's struggling economy.



Under the new initiative, 1,000 Pakistani agriculture graduates will be trained in China in advanced farming techniques, digital crop management, and climate-resilient agricultural practices. The program will roll out in phases, with the first batch of 300 students set to depart soon for a three-month training course. Two more groups will follow over the next year.

Sharif praised China's continuous support, noting particularly the one-year extension of a \$2 billion loan repayment granted last month, which helped bolster Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves during a period of acute financial strain. This move, alongside financial backing from Saudi Arabia and the UAE, enabled Pakistan to secure a \$7 billion bailout package

from the IMF in September 2024, staving off a looming balance of payments crisis.

"China is Pakistan's most sincere friend and it played a decisive role in stabilising Pakistan's struggling economy," the Prime Minister said. He emphasized that the IMF bailout would not have been possible without China's unwavering assistance.

Reflecting on his recent visit to China, Sharif shared that he was impressed by the advancements in agricultural research and innovation in Chinese universities. Inspired by what he witnessed, he initiated the program to send Pakistani students to learn and benefit from China's expertise.

Israeli Fighter Jet Drops Munition Near Gaza Border Community Due to Technical Malfunction

An Israeli Air Force fighter jet unintentionally dropped a munition near the southern Israeli community of Nir Yitzhak, located close to the Gaza border, due to a technical malfunction, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) confirmed on Tuesday. Fortunately, no injuries or casualties were reported.

In an official statement, the IDF said, "A short while ago, a munition fell from an IDF fighter jet that was on its way to a mission in the Gaza Strip. The munition landed in an open area near Nir Yitzhak due to a technical malfunction."

The incident occurred approximately two miles from the Gaza border, in a largely unpopulated area adjacent to the 550-resident community, according to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics. Emergency protocols were swiftly activated, and military units secured the area to ensure public safety.

The mishap coincided with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's rare visit to Gaza, where he met with troops in northern Gaza amid the military's ongoing operations in the region. Addressing soldiers on the frontlines, Netanyahu declared, "They are striking the enemy and Hamas will continue to suffer blow after blow. We insist that they release our hostages and we insist on achieving all of our war objectives." The IDF resumed its offensive against Hamas on March 18, effectively end-



ing a two-month ceasefire that had briefly de-escalated hostilities. Since then, Israeli forces have made significant territorial advances across Gaza, leading to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of residents amid intensified air and ground assaults.

Top Israeli officials, including Netanyahu, have maintained that only sustained military pressure will compel Hamas to release the remaining hostages held since the conflict began. The war, which has resulted in extensive casualties and destruction, continues to draw international attention and concern over the humanitarian toll.

The IDF has launched an investigation into the technical failure that caused the accidental munition drop, aiming to prevent similar incidents during ongoing and future operations.

Markets Rebound as Nifty Breaks 23,300; Banking & FMCG Lead Rally Amid Tariff Relief

Domestic stock markets gained moderately on Wednesday. The benchmark indices, which initially moved in a range-bound manner, recovered after noon. Investors continued to invest in banking, media, oil and FMCG stocks. They were especially enthusiastic about buying large-cap stocks. Overall, the indices recovered to the extent that the level of implementation of Donald Trump's tariffs fell. Nifty rose by 108 points and Sensex by 309 points. It is noteworthy that Nifty broke the 23,300 resistance.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,734 in the previous session, opened at 76,996 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 76,543. It reached an intraday high of 77,110. It finally closed at 77,044 with a gain of 309 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,344, touched a low of 23,273 and a high of 23,452. It closed at 23,437, up 108 points. The Nifty Bank rose 738 points to settle at 53,117.

In the Nifty50, 33 companies gained while 17 lost. IndusInd, Axis Bank, ONGC, Trent, Adani Ports were the top gainers. Maruti, Hindalco, Tata Motors, Infi, NTPC lost the most. Today, PSU Bank, Media, Private Bank, Oil, Finance, FMCG, Realty, Consumption, Metal indices gained the most. Pharma, Healthcare, Auto indices lost slightly.

The market breadth on NSE today completely shifted in favor of buyers. Out of 2977 stocks traded, 2068 gained and 834 lost. 54 stocks touched their 52-week highs and 11 stocks touched their 52-week lows. 126 reached the upper circuit and 30 reached the lower circuit.



The rupee strengthened slightly against the dollar and settled at 85.68. Nuama has given a buy rating to ICICI Lombard with a target price of Rs. 2100. It is noteworthy that ICICI Prudential Life has been given a neutral rating with a target price of Rs. 650. Aditya Birla Real Estate has been given a buy rating with a target price of Rs. 2700. China has announced that it will be ready for talks if Donald Trump respects it. Swaraj Engine's net profit in Q4 grew by 29% to Rs 45.4 crore from Rs 35.2 crore. Caffeine Technologies acquired 51% stake in Ascent Fund Services. Crude oil prices fell today. Gold prices crossed Rs 95,000 and reached a lifetime high. ICICI Prudential Life's net profit rose by 122.3% to Rs 386 crore from Rs 173.6 crore. Max India will raise Rs 125 crore through rights issue. GAIL has reduced APM gas allocation to Adani Total Gas by 15%. Birla Estates has registered a booking value of Rs 8,000 crore in FY25.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)

BPCL has been showing strength lately, supported by a fall in glob-

al crude oil prices and strong refining margins. The stock saw a rebound from recent lows due to investor optimism about government support to offset any losses from falling crude. Analysts like HSBC have maintained a Buy rating. Positive in the medium term, especially if crude oil prices stay subdued. Watch for Q4 results and further government decisions on oil marketing policies.



Emami Ltd

The stock has remained steady with minor volatility. Emami is expanding its product range in the Ayurveda and personal care segments. The company has seen consistent rural demand despite market fluctuations. Long-term outlook remains stable, backed by strong brand recall and diversified FMCG portfolio. A good defensive stock in volatile markets.



Mankind Pharma

Mankind Pharma has shown resilience and out-performance in the pharma sector. The company reported strong earnings and robust growth in chronic therapies. Expanding in international markets and increasing focus on OTC products. Positive growth trajectory. Strong fundamentals and domestic market share make it a good long-term candidate.



Indian Bank

The stock has been performing in line with other PSU banks. Q4 results expected to reflect improvement in asset quality and loan book growth. Benefiting from government's push for PSU bank reform and credit growth. Positive, though subject to interest rate trends and macroeconomic stability. Valuations remain attractive among PSU banks.



Sundaram Finance

The stock is seeing steady investor interest due to its conservative lending and strong financials. Asset quality remains robust with controlled NPAs. Growth driven by vehicle finance and infrastructure loans. Stable and consistent performer. A good option for long-term investors looking for quality NBFCs



India's Organic Exports Surge 34.6% in FY 2024-25 to Reach USD 665.96 Million



India's organic product exports witnessed a robust growth of 34.6% in the financial year 2024-25, rising to USD 665.96 million from USD 494.8 million in the previous fiscal, according to data released by the Commerce Ministry. This sharp increase is attributed to rising global demand for Indian organic products, particularly in developed markets, including categories like pulses, essential oils, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

In terms of volume, exports grew over 4% to reach 368,155 tonnes during the fiscal. Officials noted that this upward trend reflects increasing international preference for Indian organic items, supported by consistent quality and compliance with global standards. The demand surge has opened new avenues for Indian farmers and exporters to strengthen their presence in key markets.

Among the key segments driving this growth, organic pulses stood out with exports increasing to USD 17.89 million in 2024-25 from just USD 5.25 million in the previous year. Organic essential oils also witnessed a jump in demand, with exports rising to USD 12.35 million from USD 4.52 million. Similarly, exports of fresh fruits and vegetables climbed to USD 9.2 million, doubling from USD 4.52 million in 2023-24.

To further enhance India's organic export potential, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has made significant revisions to the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP). These changes aim to make the regulatory framework more farmer-friendly while aligning it with global standards to support the country's target of reaching USD 2 billion in organic food exports by 2030.

The NPOP serves as India's central standard for organic production and certification, ensuring harmonisation with international regulations. Its credibility has been crucial in enabling Indian organic products to access foreign markets with ease. With increasing export figures and policy reforms in place, India's organic sector is poised for further expansion, offering both economic and environmental benefits.

US Tariffs on China Open Rare Export Opportunity for Indian Small Manufacturers: GTRI Report

The recent imposition of a 125 per cent import tariff by the United States on Chinese goods has unexpectedly created a rare short-term export window for Indian small manufacturers, according to a new report by the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) released on Wednesday.

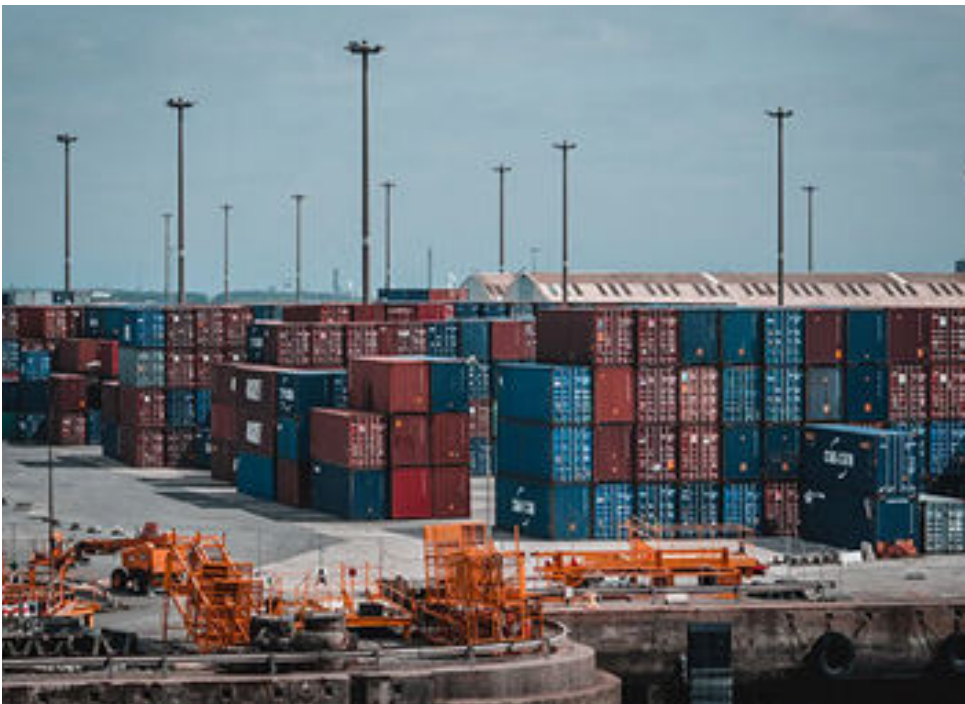
The GTRI notes that this sharp increase in US tariffs presents an opening for Indian producers to expand their presence in the American market, particularly in sectors where China has traditionally dominated. In 2024, the US imported over \$148 billion worth of tariffed goods, with China accounting for \$105.9 billion, nearly 72 per cent of the total. By contrast, India's share was just \$4.3 billion, or 2.9 per cent.

"Indian producers already manufacture many of these products—such as locks, plasticware, and kitchenware—but largely at a small scale," the GTRI said. With the right government support, including export incentives, easier access to financing, and compliance certifications, Indian MSMEs could scale up to meet demand in the US market.

Among the high-potential products identified for export growth are:

Fireworks: US imports worth \$581 million annually, with China supplying 96.7%. India's current share is just \$0.24 million.

Plastic tableware and kitchenware: US imports total \$4.97 billion,



with China contributing 80%. India's share is 0.49% (\$171.65 million). Rising post-tariff prices (from \$1.25–\$16 to \$2.81–\$36) offer scope for clusters in Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman, and Gujarat to step in.

Locks: US imports are worth \$1.196 billion, with China supplying 66.3%. India's current share is \$30.7 million (2.57%).

Hand tools (pliers, spanners): US market worth \$1.138 billion. China holds 52.9%, while India contributes 17.7% (\$202 million).

The GTRI stressed that to capitalise on this limited-time opportunity, India's small-scale industrial base must rap-

idly build capacity and scale. The report recommends:

Enhancing RoDTEP and duty drawback rates for key products.

Assistance from DPIIT and MSME Ministry to modernise clusters and meet US standards.

Launching an online facilitation cell to guide MSMEs through compliance and regulatory hurdles in the US market.

The window may not stay open for long, the report warned, underscoring the need for swift and coordinated action.

Sensex and Nifty Rebound as Banking Stocks Lead Rally; FIIs Return Amid Cooling Inflation

The Indian stock markets staged a strong comeback on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, reversing early losses to close firmly in the green. The benchmark BSE Sensex surged over 300 points to settle just below the 77,050 mark, while the NSE Nifty50 advanced more than 100 points to end the session at 23,437.



This positive shift in market sentiment was primarily driven by renewed buying in heavyweight banking stocks and the return of foreign institutional investors (FIIs). The upbeat mood was further supported by encouraging macroeconomic data, particularly retail inflation, which dropped to a nearly six-year low in March. This has sparked hopes of additional rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the near future.

Among the top gainers on the 30-share Sensex were IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, Adani Ports, Asian Paints, and Bharti Airtel. On the flip side, Maruti Suzuki, Infosys, Tata Motors, Larsen & Toubro (L&T), and NTPC ended the session with losses.

The broader market also reflected bullish trends, with the Nifty Bank index rising 1.41 per cent. Sector-wise, the PSU Bank index outperformed with a 2.37 per cent gain, followed by the Media index, which climbed 1.88 per cent.

Exchange data revealed that FIIs made a strong comeback, pumping in Rs

6,065.78 crore into Indian equities on Tuesday. This infusion of foreign capital played a crucial role in boosting investor confidence.

Commenting on the market movement, Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, stated, "Despite global market consolidation and escalating tariff tensions, Indian markets showed resilience. The drop in consumer price inflation (CPI) to near six-year lows has strengthened expectations of future rate cuts, adding a layer of optimism."

He also noted that while the earnings season has begun on a quiet note, investor caution may lead to profit-book- ing at higher levels.

On the global front, European markets traded in the red, mirroring the trend in US markets from the previous session. Asian markets were mixed, with indices in South Korea, Japan, and Hong Kong closing lower, while China's Shanghai Composite ended in positive territory. Meanwhile, Brent crude rose 0.91 per cent to \$65.22 per barrel.

Why Bullet Trains Look Like Birds

As India anticipates the arrival of its first bullet train, one feature continues to intrigue the public: its long, bird-like nose. More than just a striking design, this aerodynamic shape is rooted in nature — inspired by the kingfisher bird.

Bullet trains, especially Japan's Shinkansen models, are known to reach speeds up to 300 km/h. At such high velocities, early models encountered a problem: a loud sonic boom whenever the train entered a tunnel. The air pressure built up and exploded out the other end, causing discomfort and concern among people living nearby.

The breakthrough came in the 1990s, thanks to Eiji Nakatsu, an engineer at Central Japan Railway and an avid birdwatcher. Observing how kingfishers dive into water with barely a splash, Nakatsu saw the potential for a similar design in trains. The kingfisher's beak, perfectly evolved to cut through both air and water with minimal resistance, became the inspiration for a revolutionary redesign.

By reshaping the train's nose to mimic the kingfisher's beak, engineers managed to eliminate tunnel booms, reduce air resistance, and improve energy efficiency. The latest Japanese ALFA-X Shinkansen even features a 22-meter-long nose, not just for style, but to improve stability, comfort, and safety. This innovation has since influenced bullet



trains around the world. While metros like Delhi's do not require such features due to lower speeds and frequent stops, even they create air displacement felt as gusts on platforms — a reminder of the physics at play. India's Vande Bharat trains are also adopting similar aerodynamic designs, blending speed with efficiency. Their pointed noses are more than just sleek — they reflect the global shift toward nature-inspired, energy-efficient transport design. Ultimately, what began as a problem in train noise evolved into a symbol of biomimicry, showing how solutions in engineering often come from the natural world.

Pilot's Chicken Joke Delights Passengers

A Delta Air Lines pilot has gone viral for turning a routine safety announcement into a hilarious and heartfelt moment mid-flight, leaving passengers — and now social media users — smiling from ear to ear. The now-popular video, captured by a passenger and shared widely online, shows the pilot standing in the aisle addressing everyone with a mix of professionalism and personal charm. After reassuring travelers about the safety of the flight, he added a funny and very relatable twist.

"Once again, I can assure you that we are going to do things absolutely 100% safe, secure, and get you there," the pilot began. Then, with perfect comedic timing, he added, "I am married – 33 years. My wife, 4 kids, 2 dogs, 8 chickens. She is tired of going out and taking care of those chickens in the cold."

The unexpected confession drew immediate laughter from passengers, creating a light, cheerful atmosphere on board. Viewers online were equally delighted, praising the pilot's humor and sincerity, with many calling the announcement "the most relatable thing ever." While flight safety announcements are generally serious, it's not uncommon for crew members to use humor to put passengers at ease — and this pilot nailed it. His quirky comment not only reassured passengers but also reminded everyone that pilots, too, have lives and loved ones waiting for them at home. Social media users have flooded the comment



sections with praise, saying the airline should promote more such moments to improve the in-flight experience. Some even joked that they'd feel safer flying with a pilot who needs to get home to chickens. In a world where travel can often be stressful, moments like this help lighten the mood — proving that sometimes, a little humor and honesty can go a long way.

Dolo-650: India's Go-To Pain Pill

A witty observation by a doctor has gone viral on social media, shining a spotlight on India's growing dependence on the popular over-the-counter pill, Dolo-650. Dr. Palaniappan Manickam, a gastroenterologist and health educator, remarked that "Indians take Dolo-650 like it's Cadbury Gems," comparing the frequent use of the pill to the way children snack on colourful candies — casually and frequently.

While humorous, his comment reflects a serious trend. Dolo-650, a paracetamol-based medication, has become a household name across India, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. Its effectiveness in managing fever, headaches, and body aches made it a go-to remedy during mass vaccination drives, when



people were advised to take paracetamol to ease post-vaccine symptoms. The pill contains 650 mg of paracetamol and works by blocking the release of prostaglandins — chemicals that trigger pain, inflammation, and fever. Though it is safe when used within recommended doses, doctors warn

against the casual or excessive intake of Dolo-650 without proper medical guidance. Health experts are increasingly concerned about India's pill-popping culture, particularly the tendency to self-medicate. Overuse of paracetamol can lead to liver damage, especially if taken in large amounts or mixed with

other medications that stress the liver. Despite its reputation as a "safe" drug, like all medicines, Dolo-650 carries risks if misused.

According to Forbes, pharmaceutical company Micro Labs has sold over 350 crore tablets of Dolo-650, a staggering figure that underscores the scale of its consumption across the country. While the medicine continues to serve a vital role in everyday healthcare, medical professionals urge the public to exercise caution and consult a doctor when symptoms persist.

In a country where access to medication is often easier than access to healthcare, the Dolo-650 phenomenon is a reminder of how critical responsible drug use is — even with the most familiar of pills.

Influencer's Tiger Kiss Sparks Outrage



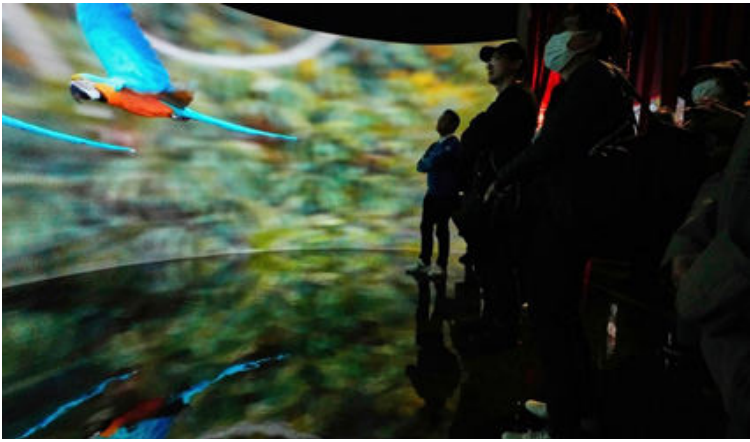
A viral video of a Pakistani influencer attempting to kiss a chained tiger has triggered a heated debate online, with critics slamming the act as reckless, unethical, and dangerous. The video, posted on Instagram by Lahore-based content creator **Nouman Hassan**, shows him leaning in to kiss the tranquil-looking tiger, which remains chained and still throughout the stunt.

While some users praised Hassan's boldness, the majority of viewers were alarmed. Comments ranged from expressions of fear to calls for accountability. "This is dangerous," wrote one user, while another added, "Tigers are not pets. Wild animals need respect, not performance." The video has garnered more than **230,000 views** since it was shared and has reignited conversations around the private ownership of exotic animals in Pakistan. Despite wildlife protection laws that prohibit keeping animals like tigers and leopards as pets, enforcement remains weak, allowing the illegal trade and private captivity of such creatures to continue largely unchecked. This isn't the first time Hassan has stirred controversy. In previous videos, he's been seen **riding a tiger**, guiding it through an open space, with caged lions visible in the background. Another clip showed him sitting casually next to a cheetah on a couch. The cheetah quickly reacted, scratching him and forcing him to retreat — a moment that only intensified concerns about the treatment and safety of exotic animals in domestic environments. Animal rights activists have raised serious concerns over the welfare of these creatures. Captive wild animals are often kept in cramped, inadequate conditions, lacking proper nutrition, stimulation, and medical care.

Osaka Expo 2025 Opens with Vision

The much-awaited Expo 2025 in Osaka officially opened on Sunday with a grand musical performance where over 10,000 people sang Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, symbolizing global peace and unity. The international event is expected to run for six months and aims to bring the world together at a time marked by international tensions and conflicts.

Held on Yumeshima Island—a reclaimed area in Osaka Bay once used as an industrial waste landfill—the Expo carries the theme "Designing Future Society for Our Lives." This ambitious project envisions a world transformed through innovation, sustainability, and cooperation. The exposition is a massive collaboration with over 150 countries and global organizations participating, making it a significant international affair. Japan hopes this event will present futuristic ideas and encourage global



partnerships to tackle modern-day problems like climate change, energy scarcity, aging populations, and healthcare challenges. Exhibits will focus on cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, clean energy, and smart city concepts. The Expo promises to offer not

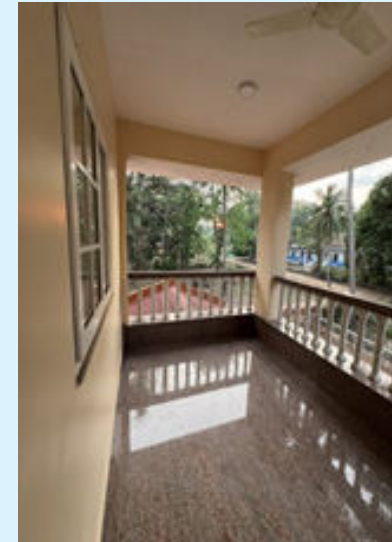
just displays but immersive experiences, including virtual environments and AI-guided tours.

This is Osaka's second time hosting a World Expo, the first being in 1970, which introduced visitors to innovations like video phones and moving walkways. The 2025 edition seeks to be even more groundbreaking, showcasing practical technologies designed to improve everyday life.

Japan also views the Expo as a chance to rejuvenate its tourism sector and boost the regional economy, particularly in the Kansai area. Millions of international and domestic visitors are expected to attend over the next six months.

In essence, the Osaka Expo 2025 offers more than just exhibitions—it serves as a global stage for shaping ideas, building collaborations, and imagining the societies of tomorrow.

Man Swaps Noida for Cheaper Goa



A recent social media post has gone viral after a man shared his experience of relocating from Noida to Goa, highlighting the massive difference in his monthly rent and quality of life. The man, who goes by Raj on X (formerly Twitter), posted a side-by-side comparison of his old apartment in Noida and his new home in Goa. In Noida, he was shelling out ₹64,000 a month for a flat that offered a rather dull view. He had earlier shared a sarcastic photo of that view, jokingly

calling it "dreamy" while sitting in the balcony. Now, Raj has moved to Goa, and his rent has dropped to just ₹19,000 per month. He also posted a picture of his new place, which features a covered patio and overlooks a peaceful stretch of trees. In the caption, he said, "Update: moved to Goa. 19k/month rent is so worth it." When asked about the shift in lifestyle and amenities, Raj shared that he moved only two weeks ago and found his apartment

last week. He mentioned that the transition has been smooth and that he hasn't experienced any hostility from the locals so far. Another follower asked about practical issues like WiFi and power cuts. Raj responded positively, saying the apartment comes with an inverter and a working internet connection, already set up by the landlord. His post prompted others to join the conversation. One person shared, "I also moved from Noida to South Goa in 2023. Pay-

ing ₹15,000 for a fully furnished 2BHK!" The post reflects a larger trend among young professionals and remote workers, who are choosing places like Goa for affordability, better surroundings, and relaxed living—something city life often lacks. Raj's decision to swap a high-rent metro for a quieter, more affordable location resonates with many seeking a better work-life balance in today's remote-first world.





Delhi Capitals Edge Rajasthan Royals in Super Over Thriller

In a nail-biting IPL 2025 encounter on April 16 at Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi Capitals (DC) clinched victory over Rajasthan Royals (RR) in a Super Over after both teams scored 188 in their allotted 20 overs.

DC's innings was anchored by Abhishek Porel's 49 off 37 balls, while RR's chase was led by Yashasvi Jaiswal's half-century. With

the match tied, the Super Over saw DC successfully chasing down RR's target, securing a dramatic win.

This thrilling finish marks the first Super Over of the IPL 2025 season, showcasing the competitive spirit and excitement the tournament brings to cricket fans worldwide.

IGU Hosts National Golf Camp Ahead of German International Amateur



The Indian Golf Union (IGU) has launched a national squad camp at Jaypee Greens from April 14 to 19, gathering 10 of the country's top amateur golfers. The camp serves as preparation for the German International Amateur Championship, set for May 1-4 at the Berliner Golf & Country Club Motzener in Mittenwalde.

Selected talents include Arin Ahuja, Rakshit Dahiya, Sukhman Singh, Kanav Chauhan, and others. The IGU initiated the National Squad System last year to

enhance India's global golf presence.

IGU Director General Maj. Gen. Bibhuti Bhushan (Retd) emphasized the camp's holistic approach—combining technical training with fitness, physiotherapy, sports psychology, and nutrition.

Golfer Sukhman Singh praised the initiative, saying it provides world-class support to help athletes grow stronger physically and mentally. The camp also fosters team spirit, a vital element for international success.

Suruchi Singh Clinches Second Straight World Cup Gold; Silver for Manu Bhaker

Teen sensation Suruchi Inder Singh continued her golden streak, winning her second consecutive ISSF World Cup gold in the women's 10m air pistol event in Lima, Peru. The 18-year-old from Jhajjar tallied 243.6 in the 24-shot final, outshining Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker, who took silver, finishing 1.3 points behind. China's Yao Qianxun claimed bronze.

India topped the medal standings with three medals on the day, including a bronze from Saurabh Chaudhary in the men's 10m air pistol. Suruchi and Manu had shown strong form in qualification, finishing second and fourth, respectively. In the finals, Suruchi's consistency and high 10s proved



decisive, as Manu faltered slightly in the latter stages.

Manu congratulated Suruchi, expressing pride in the progress of In-

dian shooters. Suruchi's meteoric rise, which began at the nationals last December, cements her status as a rising star in Indian shooting.

Pomona Fairgrounds to Host Cricket at LA28 Olympics After 128-Year Gap

Cricket is set to return to the Olympic stage at the 2028 Los Angeles Games, with the fairgrounds in Pomona, Southern California, officially announced as the host venue. This marks the sport's Olympic comeback after a 128-year hiatus.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has approved six men's and six women's teams for the T20 format, with 90-player quotas per gender. Each team can field up to 15 players. The complete tournament schedule will be released closer to the Games.

ICC Chair Jay Shah hailed the development as a major milestone, noting that cricket's inclusion in the fast-paced T20 format will help captivate new global audiences. He also thanked LA28 and the IOC for their support.

Cricket's Olympic return was confirmed in October 2023, alongside baseball/softball, flag football, lacrosse (sixes), and squash. T20 cricket has previously featured in events like the Asian Games and the 2022 Commonwealth Games.



Chennai's Rivaan Dev Preetham Shines in Spanish Karting Series

Chennai's 11-year-old karting prodigy Rivaan Dev Preetham impressed once again at Round 2 of the Champions of the Future Academy Programme in Spain. The only Indian to win a race at the FIA Motorsport Games, Rivaan overcame early setbacks to secure P11 in the first final and P5 in the second heat among 37 global competitors.

Despite a poor qualifying due to strategy missteps, the reigning Micro Max National champion bounced back with



a best lap of 1:02.442 and finished P11 in the second final, earning 22 points overall. Backed by Redbrick Constructions, Sankar Group, and Chaicup, the Grade 6 student from Lady Andal House of Children is targeting a third consecutive national title this year.

Having also placed 8th overall in the 2024 World Motorsport Games, Rivaan now looks ahead to Round 3 in Italy (July 2-6), followed by races in Hungary, Qatar, and Abu Dhabi.

Jharkhand, Punjab FC Win Dream Sports Championship Football 2025 Titles

Jharkhand FA and Punjab FC emerged as champions at the Dream Sports Championship Football 2025 National Finals held at the RAIA Sports Ground, Goa. In a spirited girls' final, Jharkhand edged past Odisha FA 1-0, thanks to Anamika Sanga's 20th-minute strike. Skipper Chandani Kumari led a resolute defence to secure the title.

In the boys' category, Punjab FC successfully defended their crown with a commanding 2-0 win over Mohun Bagan Super Giant. Subham Gurung opened the scoring in the 10th minute, while Ashish Lohar sealed the win with a second-half goal.

The event was graced by In-



dian football legends Subrata Paul and Bhaichung Bhutia, along with top Goan dignitaries. Chandani called the tournament a "perfect platform" for aspiring footballers, praising the organisation and expressing hopes of representing India one day. The Dream Sports Championship continues to spotlight grassroots football talent nationwide.

Hockey Punjab Clinch 15th Senior Men's National Championship Title

Hockey Punjab triumphed in the 15th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2025, defeating Hockey Madhya Pradesh 4-1 in the final held in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. Led by captain Hardik Singh and coach Rajinder Singh, Punjab avenged their only tournament loss to Madhya Pradesh, showcasing resilience and tactical maturity.

After finishing second in Pool A, Punjab edged out Hockey Haryana 3-2 in the quarters and secured a 4-3 semifinal win over hosts Uttar Pradesh. Jugraj Singh starred with five goals



overall, including a brace in the final, while Arajjeet Singh Hundal added three crucial goals throughout the tournament.

Coach Rajinder Singh described the earlier defeat as a turning point, saying it fueled the team's determination. Skipper Hardik praised the squad's unity and fighting spirit. Punjab, who were title-winners in 2023 but exited early last year, reclaimed their dominance in emphatic fashion.



Pawan Kalyan Film Faces Delay Again

Hari Hara Veera Mallu, starring Ring Power Star Pawan Kalyan, is once again facing possible delays, making it one of the most postponed films in Telugu cinema history. Initially announced in January 2020, the film has already had six release date changes, with the latest scheduled for May 9, 2025.

However, fresh reports suggest the release may be pushed back again due to pending scenes and VFX work. Pawan Kalyan is also reportedly suffering from severe back pain, affecting the shoot schedule further. Despite no official word from the makers, fans are preparing for another disappointing delay.

The movie, directed by Krish Jagarlamudi and Jyoti Krishna, is produced by AM Ratnam and is planned in two parts. Nidhhi Agerwal plays the female lead in this long-awaited historical action drama, which has kept audiences waiting for over five years with no certainty of release in sight.

Rajamouli-Mahesh Film Glimpse Soon



Expectations are sky-high for director S.S. Rajamouli's next film with superstar Mahesh Babu. Touted as a global adventure drama, this marks Mahesh's 29th film. Though the makers have stayed silent so far—apart from a few leaked location photos—buzz is building rapidly among fans. According to sources, a glimpse video is now being planned. Unlike a simple title reveal, this teaser will showcase Rajamouli's grand vision with heavy graphics and a western cinematic style. It's expected to feature Mahesh's look and hint at the adventure elements of the story. Mahesh will reportedly play a world-traveling character—unlike anything seen before. The video may drop in June or July. Priyanka Chopra and Prithviraj Sukumaran are rumored to have key roles. M.M. Keeravani will compose the music, and KL Narayana is producing under Sri Durga Arts.

Suriya-Pooja's Retro Look Revealed

Kollywood star Suriya and Pooja Hegde team up for the much-awaited film "Retro", directed by Karthik Subbaraj. The movie is set to release on May 1, and expectations are high due to the fresh combination and unique concept. This marks Pooja's return to South cinema after a long gap.



The teaser received a strong response, and the recently released song further boosted the buzz. As the release nears, the makers unveiled a few on-set stills, which are now going viral. Suriya and Pooja sport retro looks that perfectly match the film's title. Pooja's vintage styling, in particular, has caught fans' attention. Produced by 2D Entertainment and Stone Bench Films, the film features a stellar cast including Nazar, Jayaram, Prakash Raj, Karunakaran, Vidyashankar, and Joju George. Following the Kanguva setback, Suriya fans are pinning hopes on this stylish period drama.

Tamannaah, Kalyan Ram Set for Clash

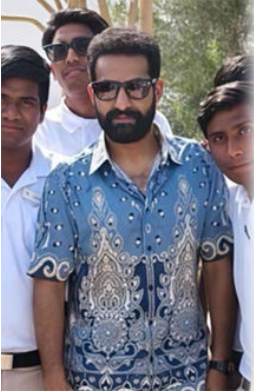


After a quiet few weeks at the box office, this weekend brings a promising double feature. First up is 'Odela 2', hitting screens on Thursday. The supernatural thriller stars Tamannaah and is directed by Sampath Nandi. The plot revolves around a restless soul wreaking havoc in a village until a divine feminine power intervenes. With strong promotions and buzz in trade circles, the film could follow the success path of Virupaksha or Ma Oori Polimera 2—if early reviews are positive.

On Friday, Kalyan Ram's 'Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi' makes its debut. Backed by Jr NTR, who also graced the pre-release event, the movie is generating strong interest. Touted as a commercial entertainer, the emotional climax featuring Vijayashanti is expected to strike a chord with audiences. Both films cater to different tastes—intense thriller vs emotional drama—and offer a refreshing break for cinema lovers, potentially making this a win-win weekend at the box office.

NTR's ₹85K Shirt Goes Viral

Young Tiger Jr NTR recently took a vacation to Dubai with his family. During the trip, a few lucky fans met him and clicked photos together. While NTR appeared simple in a blue floral shirt, the internet was quick to notice something unusual — the price of that shirt!



The shirt, from the luxury Italian brand Etro, is estimated to cost a whopping ₹85,000. This revelation left fans shocked, with many commenting, "Only NTR can pull this off!" and praising his classy style. On the film front, NTR has

wrapped up shooting for his Bollywood debut War 2. He is set to join director Prashanth Neel's next from April 22 and will later start working on Devara 2 with Koratala Siva. From fashion to films, NTR continues to stay in the spotlight.

Mrunal Thakur's Bold Floral Glam

Actress Mrunal Thakur is turning heads with her stunning appearance on the latest cover of Cosmopolitan India, just ahead of her upcoming film Dacoit with Adivi Sesh. The movie revolves around two estranged lovers reunited by fate and a series of thrilling heists. But off-screen, Mrunal is making her own statement — not through action sequences, but through bold fashion choices and heartfelt honesty. For the shoot, she flaunts a mix of styles, from a sporty white mini dress with sneakers to a striking floral-back outfit, balancing street charm with high-end glam. Beyond the fashion, it's her candid take on love that resonates. Mrunal reveals she hasn't been dating lately but is inspired by deep, lasting love — the kind that endures across borders and battles odds. With this photoshoot, she proves she's as fearless in her expression as she is in her acting.

