




Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
 H <b>36</b> °C L <b>27</b> °C	 H <b>37</b> °C L <b>28</b> °C	 H <b>37</b> °C L <b>27</b> °C



# YCP MP Mithun Reddy Files Petition for SIT Investigation

- Mithun Reddy requests SIT probe in HC petition
- HC directs CID to review investigation recording
- Petition seeks transparency and legal oversight in inquiry

**TPN Correspondent |  
Andhra Pradesh**

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) MP Mithun Reddy has filed a petition in the High Court seeking a Special Investigation Team (SIT) inquiry into a matter of public concern, requesting that lawyers be present during the investigation. The petition calls for a transparent and thorough examination of the case, ensuring that all legal procedures are followed.

In response, the High Court has directed the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to examine the issue surrounding the recording of the investigation. The court's directive underscores the importance of maintaining clarity and accountability during the probe.

The development follows concerns over the integrity of the ongoing investigation, with Mithun Reddy emphasizing the need for independent oversight. His plea to have lawyers present during the investigation highlights his desire for transparency in the process. The High Court's involvement has brought greater attention to the matter, with legal experts expecting further scrutiny of the CID's actions as they review the recording protocols. This case could set a significant precedent for future investigations, especially in high-profile cases involving political figures.

# BUGGANA, REPLACEMENT FOR VIJAYASAI REDDY @ DELHI

**TPN Correspondent |  
Andhra Pradesh**

Mr. YS Jaganmohan Reddy, Former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, has become weak after the exit of Mr. Vijayasai Reddy from the party. In Delhi, liaisoning with BJP heads, Union Ministers, and officials had been done by Mr. Vijayasai Reddy until now. With that liaisoning support and his friendship with BJP heads, Vijayasai Reddy is now taking decisions. Virtually, he is in the direction of the BJP—no doubt.

Actually, the present situation demands the presence of Vijayasai Reddy for Jagan. As the cases are mounting and the government is planning to arrest him, and at the same time the party is weakening due to the silence of many prominent leaders, the need for Vijayasai Reddy is significant for Jagan now. But, there is no such chance. To get out of old and new cases, he should at least have connections with the national BJP heads. Otherwise, he will be in big trouble.

As per sources, it is learnt that Mr. Buggana Rajendranath Reddy is going to replace the position of Vijayasai Reddy in the party's Delhi affairs. As a former Minister for Finance, he had liaised with



union ministers, including Union Finance Minister Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman and others. For the purpose of fund allocation to the state, he visited Delhi multiple times. Sometimes, he used to stay at the headquarters for weeks together. Mr. YS Jaganmohan Reddy has decided and assigned Mr. Buggana to take up the responsibility immediately.

We all know that Mr. Buggana Rajendranath Reddy lost his Dhone seat to Kotla Suryaprakash Reddy, though he had done a lot of developmental work. He lost due

to the overall negativity toward Mr. Jagan and the YSRCP. That is why Mr. Jaganmohan Reddy has also decided to assign key responsibilities to Mr. Buggana Rajendranath Reddy. From now onwards, he will take up the Delhi liaisoning work. Moreover, Mr. Buggana is quite well-educated and technically sound regarding all official and legal procedures. But the key point is whether Mr. Buggana can manage things like Mr. Vijayasai Reddy, especially in terms of manipulation—that remains to be seen.

## ED Seizes ₹793 Crore Assets in Jagan DA Case Linked to Bharti Cements

- ₹377 Cr land part of Bharti Cements quid pro quo
- ED links illegal Kadapa mining to political favoritism

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized assets worth ₹793 crore from Dalmia Bharat Group companies in connection with the disproportionate assets case involving former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy. The assets include land valued at ₹377 crore, allegedly given as quid pro quo for investments in Bharti Cements Corporation. According to the ED, Dalmia Cement secured illegal limestone mining leases in Kadapa district during the previous YSRCP regime. In return, the company made substantial investments in Bharti Cements, promoted by Jagan. These dealings, the ED noted, constitute a clear violation of financial and ethical norms.



The investigation stems from FIRs registered by the CBI in 2011, followed by a chargesheet in 2013. Based on these FIRs, the ED initiated its probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The agency found that Dalmia Bharat MD Puneet Dalmia had entered into an understanding with YSRCP MP V. Vijayasai Reddy to secure benefits in exchange for investing in Bharti Cements.

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## Roja's Remarks on Tirumala Cow Deaths and Dy CM Spark Political Row

- RK Roja accused the TDP-led coalition of silence over alleged cow deaths in Tirumala Gosala.
- She questioned Pawan Kalyan's commitment to Sanatana Dharma, indirectly commenting on his son.
- Jana Sena leaders and supporters expressed outrage over Roja's remarks on social media.

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

Former YSRCP Minister RK Roja launched a scathing attack on the TDP-led coalition government, alleging inaction over reported cow deaths in the Tirumala Gosala. Referring to former TTD Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy's claims of numerous cow deaths since the coalition came to power, Roja demanded a thorough probe and strong action against those responsible.

She criticized the silence of the government despite alleged irregularities atop the sacred Tirumala hills and questioned why Pawan Kalyan, who calls himself a follower of Sanatana Dharma, remained silent. “Is this the price of packages and positions?” she asked, implying political compromise. Roja warned that those harming Kaliyuga Deity Sri Venkateswara Swamy must face strict punishment. Roja also took veiled digs at TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu, claiming he knows the real story behind misdeeds related to the temple’s assets and sanctity. She warned both Naidu and Pawan Kalyan not to interfere with the spiritual sanctity of Tirumala. However, her indirect comments referencing Pawan’s son, Mark Shankar, sparked backlash. The child, who is recovering from a serious school fire accident in Singapore, became the subject of political controversy after Roja’s remarks. Jana Sena supporters and leaders expressed strong disapproval, condemning Roja for dragging a child into political discourse.

# Tirumala Cow Deaths Spark Political Showdown at Cow Shelter

- **Bhumana Karunakar Reddy alleged 100 cow deaths at the Tirupati TTD Gosala in 3 months.**
- **TDP leaders questioned his absence after challenging him to a joint inspection.**
- **Police presence and restrictions led to a protest and heated exchanges between leaders.**

TPN Ch. Sekhar | Tirupati

The political battle over alleged cow deaths at the Sri Venkateswara Cow Shelter in Tirupati escalated on Thursday, with former TTD Chairman and YSRCP leader Bhumana Karunakar Reddy claiming that over 100 cows have died at the Gosala in the past three months. The issue has triggered a war of words between the ruling coalition and the opposition. TDP State President Palla Srinivasulu publicly challenged YSRCP leader YS Jagan Mohan Reddy to visit the Gosala, invoking Bhumana's name, prompting Bhumana to accept the challenge. However, due to concerns over law and order, police issued strict directives prohibiting rallies or protests during the inspection. Since morning, police deployed forces outside Bhumana's residence, preventing him and other YSRCP



leaders, including Tirupati MP Gurumurthy and former MLAs, from proceeding to the site. In protest, Bhumana staged a sit-in while arguing with police to allow a small team to inspect the premises. Meanwhile, coalition MLAs and leaders from the joint Chittoor district arrived at the Gosala and questioned Bhumana's absence. MLA Pulivarthi

Nani contacted Bojjala Sudheer Reddy and insisted they were waiting and willing to provide an escort. Bhumana reportedly agreed to come. Later, police permitted MP Gurumurthy to enter the Gosala. However, coalition MLAs mocked his solo presence and asked why Bhumana, the original challenger, had not come. Gurumurthy claimed



he had scaled the wall as police denied entry. A heated exchange followed, and the MP exited the premises. The situation continues to stir political tension as both sides trade accusations over the handling of the Gosala and the alleged cow deaths.





# CM Naidu’s Good Friday Gift, Honorarium for Pastors

- ₹5,000 monthly honorarium for 8,427 pastors announced
- ₹30 crore allocated for May to November 2024 period
- TDP fulfills Nara Lokesh’s Yuvagalam promise to pastors

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

On the occasion of Good Friday, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu extended a meaningful gesture to Christian pastors across Andhra Pradesh. The CM approved a monthly honorarium of ₹5,000 to 8,427 pastors across the state, fulfilling a pre-election promise made by TDP National General Secretary Nara Lokesh during his Yuvagalam Padayatra in 2023. The honorarium will be released for the seven-month period from May to November 2024, amounting to ₹35,000 per pastor. To facilitate this, the coalition government has sanctioned ₹30 crore. This move has brought festive cheer and a sense of inclusion to the Christian community as they observe Good Friday with devotion. Nara Lokesh, during his Yuvagalam Padayatra, had engaged in personal interactions with pastors and assured them of government support once the TDP-led coalition came to power. True to their word, the alliance government has now acted on that promise. The TDP, BJP, and Jana Sena alliance secured a clear mandate in the 2024 Assembly elections held during May and June. Since forming the government, CM Chandrababu’s administration has been systematically implementing key electoral promises despite the financial burden inherited from the previous YSRCP government. The past regime, under Jagan Mohan Reddy, had depleted the state treasury through widespread welfare schemes, creating constraints for the incoming government. Nevertheless, the Chandrababu-led government



has been proactive in prioritizing promised schemes and delivering results swiftly. With this latest announcement, the coalition reinforces its commitment to fulfilling its assurances and supporting all communities in the state.

# Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Investigation Ordered into Leopard Death

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a concerning incident, a female leopard was found dead after falling into a trap near Ponnutipalaem in Annamaya district. Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Forest and Environment, Pawan Kalyan, has ordered a thorough investigation into the death. It was reported that the leopard struggled for hours before succumbing to its injuries. Tragically, two cubs were discovered dead in the womb of the leopard. Upon receiving the information, Pawan Kalyan immediately directed that the matter be investigated thoroughly. He appointed Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Chalapathi Rao, as the officer in charge of the investigation. The Deputy Chief Minister also instructed the investigation team to review the field-level information and the response of the relevant authorities following the incident. Pawan Kalyan emphasized the need for increased vigilance against hunters who set traps for animals in both forest areas and nearby villages. He stressed that such crimes must be actively monitored and prevented. Additionally, Forest Department Advisor Mallikarjuna Rao was tasked with overseeing the



investigation into the incident to ensure that the case is handled with utmost urgency. This incident highlights the ongoing challenges of wildlife protection and the dangers posed by illegal hunting practices. The investigation is expected to reveal key details about how the trap was set and who may be responsible for the death of the leopard and its cubs. Authorities are committed to taking appropriate actions to prevent such incidents in the future and ensure justice for the wildlife affected.

# ED Seizes ₹793 Crore Assets in Jagan DA Case Linked to Bharti Cements

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The CBI also found that Puneet Dalmia later sold a portion of his stake to France-based Pasifam. Of the proceeds, ₹55 crore was allegedly routed to Jagan through hawala channels between 2010 and 2011. The ED claimed that substantial evidence, including financial records, was

found during IT department searches. This development adds a fresh layer to the long-standing disproportionate assets case and points to deep-rooted corruption linked to illegal mining and investment manipulation. The ED continues to investigate entities that benefited from state favors under the previous regime.

# Vijayasai Reddy Avoids SIT Inquiry On Liquor Scam Case



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

In a significant turn of events, Vijayasai Reddy, a key political figure, has managed to avoid the scheduled SIT inquiry regarding the liquor scam by opting to appear a day earlier than required. Originally served with a notice to appear for questioning on the April 18th, Reddy made the decision to respond to the summons a day ahead of the scheduled inquiry date. The Special Investigation Team (SIT), tasked with investigating the controversial liquor scam, had issued notices to Reddy, as part of its ongoing probe. As per the current updates, SIT officials are stationed at the CP office in Vijayawada, awaiting his arrival for questioning. Reddy’s decision to appear ahead of schedule has raised eyebrows, with some speculating whether the move is an attempt to get ahead of the investigation. While no official statement has been made about the timing of his appearance, it is seen as a strategic move in the face of mounting pressure from the investigation. The liquor scam, which has become a major topic of discussion in political circles, has now taken a new turn with this development. As the SIT continues its probe, this inquiry is expected to shed light on key aspects of the case. Authorities have indicated that this is a critical step in the investigation, and more information may emerge depending on the details disclosed during the questioning.

# Minister Nadendla Manohar Urges Bankers to Support Development

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar has called on bankers to actively cooperate with the government in supporting welfare and development programs, especially those benefiting farmers and ration beneficiaries. He made these remarks during a key meeting held with bankers at the Civil Supply Bhavan in Kanur, Vijayawada on Thursday. Manohar highlighted that lakhs of people in the state depend on government-provided ration every month. Stressing the importance of smooth ration distribution and financial support for farmers, he said that the previous administration had left dues of ₹1,674 crore unpaid to farmers. However, since the new coalition government came into power, these outstanding payments were settled, and nearly ₹24,000 crore has been disbursed to farmers in just nine months. As part of administrative reforms, the Minister introduced a new technology-driven approach for paddy procurement. Notably, a WhatsApp-based system was launched, through which 17,000 farmers successfully sold their grain. During the recent Kharif season, 38 lakh metric tons of grain were pur-



chased from six lakh farmers. Manohar said that funds were deposited into farmers’ accounts within 24 hours of grain procurement, boosting their confidence and satisfaction. To prevent ration diversion, the Minister said the government had cracked down on the ration mafia and planned to issue new ration cards using advanced tech. Additionally, AI-powered

cameras would be installed at all house godowns to ensure transparency and curb malpractice. He urged bankers to reduce interest rates and extend better financial support to strengthen these developmental initiatives. “Bankers should stand with the government and the people to ensure seamless execution of welfare programs,” he said.

# SIT Investigates Kasireddy's Companies in AP Liquor Scam

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) is intensifying its probe into the AP liquor scam with ongoing searches in Hyderabad, targeting companies linked to Kasireddy Rajasekhara Reddy. The SIT is particularly focused on examining the financial transactions tied to the companies, which were founded during the previous government. Kasireddy, a prominent figure in business circles, has now received SIT notices for the fourth time. The notices compel him to appear before the team on the 19th of this month, marking another critical step in the investigation.



The SIT’s search operations, which have been underway for the past three days, aim to uncover details related to the financial dealings and any involvement in the liquor scam. These searches are part of the wider investigation that has already seen multiple figures from the previous government coming under scrutiny. As the probe into Kasireddy’s companies continues, authorities are hopeful that new evidence will emerge, shedding light on the full extent of the alleged misconduct tied to the liquor scam. This latest development underscores the seriousness with which the SIT is approaching the case, signaling that the investigation is far from over.

# AP Govt Issues Ordinance on SC Classification

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a significant move toward social justice, the Andhra Pradesh government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has officially issued the Scheduled Castes (SC) classification ordinance. The ordinance, cleared by Governor Abdul Nazeer on Wednesday, was formally released by the Law Department as Ordinance No. 2 of 2025 on Thursday. Law Secretary Gottapu Pratibha Devi issued the orders initiating its implementation. The decision follows a key cabinet meeting held on April 16 at the Secretariat in Velagapudi, chaired by CM Chandrababu Naidu. The ordinance aims to ensure equitable opportunities in education and employment across all sub-sections of the Scheduled Castes in the state. The cabinet had approved the draft ordinance as a major step toward achieving this goal. On the occasion of its issuance, MRPS founding

president and Padma Shri awardee Manda Krishna Madiga met Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand at the Secretariat. He expressed his gratitude to the state government for pushing forward the long-pending demand without any hurdles and commended its commitment to social equity. Later, Manda Krishna also met senior officials at the Chief Minister’s Office, including CM Principal Secretary Ravichandra, CM Secretary PS Pradyumna, and Additional Secretary AV Rajamouli. He thanked them for their active support in completing the classification process efficiently and respectfully. The ordinance reflects the government’s determination to implement reforms that uplift marginalized communities. This historic decision is expected to bring meaningful change to how reservations and benefits are distributed among SC sub-groups, addressing long-standing disparities and fostering inclusive growth in Andhra Pradesh.





## YS Sharmila Slams PM Modi Ahead of Amaravati Visit

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi gears up to visit Amaravati on May 2 to resume the capital's reconstruction works, Andhra Pradesh Congress President Y. S. Sharmila has launched a scathing attack, demanding that he answer several key questions before laying another foundation stone. In a sharp social media post, Sharmila mocked the upcoming event, saying, "Modi's contribution to Amaravati so far is just a little water and a handful of soil." She accused him of repeating the same symbolic gestures while offering no real progress. "Back then, he used a Air motor to sprinkle mud on the scalp of Andhra's... Now he's coming to lay lime again," she said, calling it a mockery of the people's aspirations. Sharmila alleged that Amaravati, once a symbol of Andhra's self-respect, has been reduced to a mere "Modi foundation project" with no substance. She questioned why the Prime Minister, who promised to build a capital grander than Delhi, remained silent for nine years while the YSRCP pushed the three-capital idea. "Why didn't you stop your adopted son? Why no word when farmers came all the way to Delhi?" she asked. Calling the BJP's handling of the capital issue a "complete fraud," she slammed Modi for boasting about Amaravati while betraying the state on key bifurcation promises. She criticized the reduction in Polavaram dam height and asked whether the final height was 45 meters or 41. Sharmila demanded full central funding for Amaravati, implementation of the 10-year special status promise, and decisive steps on pending issues like Kadapa Steel, industrial corridors, and merging Vizag Steel with SAIL. Finally, she declared that the failure to build a capital in 10 year's rests with "A1 Modi, A2 Chandrababu, and A3 Jagan," urging accountability before any fresh inauguration.

## Appalaraju Slams Amaravati Project Costs, Alleges Mismanagement and Neglect of Public Welfare



TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam

Former Minister and YSRCP Doctors' Wing President Seediri Appalaraju launched a strong attack on the coalition government, accusing it of financial mismanagement and skewed priorities in the Amaravati capital project. Speaking to the media on thursday, Appalaraju claimed that Amaravati's projected cost has been inflated from Rs. 44,000 crore to Rs. 77,000 crore, with the secretariat's cost alone doubling from Rs. 2,271 crore to Rs. 4,689 crore. He said the state has borrowed Rs. 1.47 lakh crore in the last 11 months without implementing a single major welfare scheme. "The government is treating Amaravati like a real estate venture, ignoring essential services like schools, medical colleges, and welfare programs such as Amma Vodi and Rythu Bharosa," he said. Appalaraju criticized the government for misleading the 16th Finance Commission by inflating funding requirements, citing efforts to secure Rs. 44,000 crore more after already obtaining Rs. 31,000 crore loans from HUDCO, World Bank, AIB, and KfW. Despite flood warnings from World Bank and IIT Chennai, the government is planning to spend Rs. 1,400 crore on flood prevention, he added. Alleging insider trading, he accused CM Chandrababu Naidu of altering Amaravati's infrastructure plan to benefit close associates. "TCS was given Rs. 100 crore worth of land in Visakhapatnam for just 99 paise," he said.

# YCP Corporators from Greater Visakhapatnam Joins JSP in Presence of Nadendla Manohar

- Several GVMC corporators switch sides, join Jana Sena at party HQ in Mangalagiri
- Welcomed by Minister Nadendla Manohar and Government Whip Pidugu Hariprasad
- Move led by Visakhapatnam South MLA Chennuboyana Vamsi Krishna Srinivas

TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri

In a significant political development ahead of the elections, several YSR Congress Party (YCP) corporators from the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) formally joined the Jana Sena Party (JSP) on Thursday. The joining ceremony was held at the party's central office in Mangalagiri. The leaders were welcomed into the party fold by State Food and Civil Supplies Minister and Political Affairs Committee Chairman and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar, who draped them with party scarves. The event took place under the chairmanship of Legislative Council Government Whip Pidugu Hariprasad. Among the prominent leaders who joined Jana Sena are GVMC Co-option Member and Greater Visakhapatnam YCP Working Presi-



dent Behara Bhaskara Rao, Gajuwaka 74th Division Corporator Tippala Vamsi Reddy, and YCP Youth Wing Leader Alla Siva Ganesh, along with their followers. The shift was orchestrated under the leadership of Visakhapatnam South Constituency MLA Chennuboyana Vamsi Krishna Srinivas,

who has been instrumental in strengthening Jana Sena's grassroots network in the region. Additionally, Corporators from the 91st and 92nd Divisions, Kunche Jyotsna and Behara Swarnalatha Sivadevi, are also set to join the party officially. Jana Sena State Secretary Anga Durga Prashanthi was

present at the event and expressed confidence that the wave of support from Visakhapatnam will further energize the party's cadre. This development marks a boost for the Jana Sena Party in the urban stronghold of Visakhapatnam and signals growing dissent within YCP ranks.

## Former TTD Chairman Bhumana Slams Govt. Will Stand by My Version

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

Former TTD Chairman and YSRCP leader Bhumana Karunakar Reddy alleged that the ruling coalition government deliberately blocked his visit to the TTD Gosala to avoid exposure of the truth behind large-scale cow deaths. Speaking to the media on Thursday, he said that despite informing authorities about the visit by five YSRCP leaders, including MP Gurumoorthy, former ministers Narayanaswamy and RK Roja, and an MLC, police personnel prevented their entry. "We planned to visit the Gosala and prove our claims, but since morning a large contingent of police surrounded our homes. We staged a sit-in protest, but the SP



said only I could go after the ruling party delegation leaves. Even when I informed Chandragiri and Srikalahasti MLAs about this, they denied police involvement — but the police did not yield," Bhumana said.

He reiterated his statement that the deaths of cows occurred on a large scale after the coalition government assumed office. "TTD's own figures say 170 cows died since June 2023, but our estimate is even higher. I challenge them

again — allow us into the Gosala with five leaders and let's prove our version." Bhumana said that during the YSRCP rule, a Vigilance inquiry was ordered into Gosala operations, and former EO Jawahar Reddy, a veterinary doctor, led cow welfare reforms. "We brought 550 cows from across India and introduced Navneetha Seva. This government stopped all our initiatives and is levelling false and baseless allegations," he added. Calling the coalition's tenure full of unsavoury incidents, from liquor sales to assaults in Tirumala, he said, "Even after eleven months, they couldn't prove a single allegation. I stand by my word and am ready for a visit anytime."

## "Atheist Preaching Hinduism is Shameful": Minister Anam Defends TTD on Cow Deaths

- Minister Anam slams critics, says Tirumala sanctity shouldn't be questioned by non-believers
- Clarifies that cow deaths in TTD goshala are due to natural causes, not negligence
- Labels accusations against TTD and government as baseless and politically motivated

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Minister for Endowments Anam Ramarayan Reddy came down heavily on critics questioning the management of the TTD goshala and alleged cow deaths, calling their remarks painful and misleading. He asserted that no negligence occurred in the maintenance of the cows under the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) and condemned the politicization of the issue. Addressing the media, Minister Anam said, "It is shameful that an atheist is now preaching to us about Hinduism, the sanctity of Tirumala, and the welfare of cows. Those who don't believe in the traditions of our temples have no moral right to criticize them." He clarified that cow deaths at the TTD goshala have occurred only due to natural reasons such as age or health-related complications. "It is extremely painful to hear baseless statements that these cows died because of negligence by TTD or the government. Such comments are made only to mislead the public and tarnish the image of our revered institutions," he said. The minister further noted that the TTD



maintains its goshala with high standards of care and that routine deaths due to natural causes are being deliberately misrepresented. He added that strict protocols are followed in the upkeep and treatment of animals in all temple-run facilities. Anam also appealed to political leaders and critics to refrain from making divisive or derogatory statements about sacred institutions like Tirumala. "Let us not bring politics into matters of faith. Respecting our traditions is not optional — it is our duty," he concluded.



## Katasani Rambhupal Reddy Accuses Police of Partiality and Acting on TDP's Instructions

TPN Correspondent | Nandyal

Former MLA and senior YSR Congress Party leader Katasani Rambhupal Reddy made sensational allegations against the state police, accusing them of functioning like a political wing of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Speaking to the media on Thursday, Katasani expressed deep concern over the "degraded manner" in which some police officers were performing their duties. "Some officers in the police department are no longer working for the people, but are blindly following the dictates of TDP leaders," he alleged. Katasani criticized the selective enforcement of the law, questioning why there appears to be one kind of justice for TDP supporters and another for YSRCP members. "It is understandable if action is taken against those who commit wrongs. But what is happening now is completely different. Even when YSRCP workers or leaders have done nothing wrong, they are being targeted, beaten, and threatened by the police," he said. Katasani warned that such biased behavior by police officers could damage the credibility of the department and lead to widespread resentment among the public. "The police should act impartially. Their responsibility is to uphold justice, not to become tools in the hands of political parties," he stated.



# Minister Narayana Directs Officials to Strengthen Vijayawada Civic Infrastructure

Floodwater canal dredging, road repairs prioritized before monsoon  
Focus on road connectivity to Gannavaram Airport and flyover planning  
Self-help group employment, park development proposals under review

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Narayana conducted a comprehensive review of development works under the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) on thursday. He instructed officials to complete dredging and repair of all floodwater canals

before the onset of the rainy season and take preventive measures to avoid water stagnation on city roads. The review meeting, held at the CRDA headquarters, was attended by MP Kesineni Chinni, MLAs Bonda Uma, Gadde Ramamohan, and Bode Prasad, along with NTR District Collector Lakshmi Sha, VMC Commis-

sioner Dhyanaachandra, Town Planning Director Vidyullatha, and senior officials from Public Health and National Highways. Minister Narayana emphasized the need for uninterrupted traffic flow during the construction of a new flyover from Mahanadu Junction to Enikepadu. He directed the selection and repair of alternative roads

and stressed the importance of enhancing road connectivity between Vijayawada and Gannavaram Airport. Greenery along the airport corridor was also prioritized. Proposals for developing parks across the city were presented by various MLAs. The minister advised officials to prioritize park development based on



available municipal funds. He also urged coordination with MEPMA to generate employment opportunities for women in self-help groups. Minister Narayana called for seamless cooperation between officials and public representatives to ensure the effective implementation of development projects and sustainable urban growth in Vijayawada.

# Minister Nadendla Manohar Reviews Deepam-2 Scheme and Gas Subsidy Issues

Minister instructs officials to address subsidy deposit issues for beneficiaries  
99.22 lakh beneficiaries have received the first free cylinder  
Awareness campaign to be launched for Deepam-2 scheme

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Minister Nadendla Manohar chaired a meeting with oil company representatives at the Civil Supply Bhavan in Vijayawada on Thursday to review the implementation of the Deepam-2 scheme and address concerns regarding the subsidy deposit process. Minister Manohar reiterated the coalition government's commitment to fulfilling its promise of providing three free gas cylinders per year to every girl child under the Super Six guarantee. He addressed the technical problems raised by oil companies regarding subsidy deposits for cylinders delivered in April to beneficiaries who booked by March 31. In response, the Minister directed officials to ensure the immediate deposit of subsidies into the accounts of affected beneficiaries. He also emphasized the need for a comprehensive awareness campaign about the Deepam-2 scheme to ensure maximum

reach. The Minister highlighted that 99.22 lakh beneficiaries have already received their first free cylinder. He reminded attendees that the government has allocated Rs. 2,684 crore for the scheme, aimed at making cooking gas affordable for low-income households. Under the scheme, beneficiaries are required to pay the full price for their cylinders upfront, with delivery taking place within 24 hours in urban areas and 48 hours in rural areas. The amount paid is then reimbursed within 48 hours. Beneficiaries have the opportunity to book three free cylinders in a year, within a four-month period. Minister Manohar also encouraged beneficiaries facing issues or errors to contact the toll-free number 1967 for assistance. Civil Supplies Commissioner Saurabh Gaur, MD Manazir Jilani, and representatives from major oil companies participated in the meeting.



# AMC Chairperson Ponakalla Navyasri Meets MP Kesineni Chinni

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
Newly appointed Mylavaram Agricultural Market Committee (AMC) Chairperson Ponakalla Navyasri, accompanied by her husband, paid a courtesy visit to Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivnath (Chinni) on Thursday. The couple met the MP at the Parliament Office located at NTR Bhavan in Guru Nanak Colony, Vijayawada. The meeting was organized under the leadership of Akkala Rammohan Rao (Gandhi), Jana Sena in-charge for Mylavaram constituency. Navyasri expressed her gratitude to MP Chinni for reposing trust in her and giving her the opportunity to lead the AMC. In return, MP Kesineni congratulated the Pon-

akalla couple and honored them with traditional shawls. The event was attended by several key Jana Sena leaders including Brahmayya, Mylavaram Mandal Jana Sena Party President; Chepala Madugu Kanta Rao, Reddygudem Mandal President; Y. Narasimha Rao, G. Konduru Mandal President; Gaja Rao Srinivasa Rao, Mylavaram Town President; Merugu Nageswara Rao and others. The leaders extended their best wishes to Navyasri in her new role, expressing confidence in her ability to strengthen agricultural marketing and support farmers in the region.



# Minister Gottipati Ravi Inaugurates Substation, Slams YCP's False Propaganda on Power Tariffs

No hike in electricity charges under Chandrababu's coalition government  
Sakshi accused of misleading public with fake reports on power bills  
Government committed to green energy, quality power, and industrial growth



**TPN Correspondent | Krishna Dist**  
Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar clarified that the Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition government has not increased electricity charges after assuming office. Inaugurating a 33/11 KV substation at the Tidco housing complex in Uyyuru, Penamaluru constituency, he emphasized that the public is still burdened by the power tariff hikes imposed by the previous YSRCP regime. Firing at Sakshi, the official YCP mouthpiece, the minister accused it of running false propaganda against the coalition government, despite its efforts to ensure

affordable and quality electricity. He assured that as long as Chandrababu Naidu is Chief Minister, there will be no rise in electricity tariffs. Machilipatnam MP Balashouri and local MLA Bode Prasad joined Minister Gottipati at the substation launch. Speaking at the event, the minister said steps are underway to ensure uninterrupted power for industrial and port activities. He instructed officials to explore constructing a 132 kV substation and submit a feasibility report soon. Gottipati also urged officials to create awareness about the PM Surya Ghar and PM Kusum

schemes. He noted that by leveraging these programs, citizens can become both consumers and producers of solar power, reducing daytime power bills and ensuring self-sufficiency. Criticizing the previous YSRCP government, Minister Gottipati said it had destroyed the state's energy sector and scared away green energy investors. He stated that the new government is restoring investor confidence and promoting green energy, especially in Prakasam and Rayalaseema regions. The coalition, he affirmed, is committed to both welfare and development.

# Child Recovers After Rare Surgery at Ankura Hospital

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
A five-year-old girl who suffered from continuous urine dribbling for four years has been successfully treated at Ankura Hospital, Vijayawada, after a rare diagnosis of ectopic ureter. This marks a significant milestone in pediatric healthcare in the region. The child had been misdiagnosed with a neurogenic bladder and underwent multiple treatments across hospitals without success. When brought to Ankura, a detailed evaluation by the pediatric urology team revealed that urine was leaking from the vaginal area—an indicator of ectopic ureter, a rare congenital condition. Further imaging through ultrasound and MRI urogram confirmed that the girl had a duplex kidney system on the left side. The upper ureter was draining abnormally into the vagina instead of the bladder. The hospital team performed a laparoscopic uretero-ureterostomy, a minimally invasive procedure to correct the drainage. The child is now free from discomfort and embarrassment that had affected her for years. The surgery was led by Dr. Varunkumar M (Pedi-



atric Surgeon & Urologist), with support from Dr. Nagaraj (Pediatric Anaesthetist), Dr. Murali Krishna B (Pediatric Nephrologist), and guidance from Dr. VVS Chandrasekharam (Senior Pediatric Urologist). Dr. Vijay Kumar, Medical Director of Ankura Hospital, highlighted the team's precision in diagnosis and treatment. "In girls with continuous urinary dribbling, ectopic ureter must be considered. Accurate diagnosis leads to lasting relief." Ankura Hospital continues to offer specialized care with advanced infrastructure and a skilled multidisciplinary team, ensuring the best outcomes for pediatric and women's health.

# Former Minister Perni Nani Files Complaint After Attack on YSRCP Leader's Home

**TPN Correspondent | Gudivada**  
Former minister Perni Nani, along with YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leaders, met Gudivada DSP Dheeraj Vinil on Thursday and lodged a complaint alleging that TDP members attacked the house of Abu, the Minority Marriage President of YSRCP in Krishna district's Gudivada constituency. According to Perni Nani, the YSRCP had planned a meeting of Muslim leaders on April 14 to protest the central government's stance on the Waqf Board in Parliament. However, a TDP leader named Kadiyala Ganesh allegedly called Abu and warned



him against holding the event in Gudivada.

Perni Nani further stated that when the Muslim leaders gathered for the meeting, Gudivada Two Town CI locked the venue and insisted the meeting be postponed. Later that night, around

10 PM, four unidentified persons reportedly entered Abu's house and ransacked it using sticks and rods. At the time, Abu was in Vijayawada, and only his mother was present at home.

Calling the incident a continuation of the "rowdy regime" in Gudivada, Perni Nani condemned the alleged attempt to suppress democratic expression and minority voices. He added that the party filed a formal complaint with the DSP, who assured them that justice will be served and that law and order would be upheld in the region.



# Union Minister Rammohan Naidu Wins WEF Young Global Leader Award

**TPN Correspondent | Amaravati**  
Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu has been selected as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum (WEF), making him one of only 116 individuals from 50 countries to receive this prestigious global recognition in 2024. The award honors leaders under the age of 40 who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to improving the world. Of the 116 honorees, eight are from India, including Minister Rammohan Naidu, who stood out for his contributions in public service and governance. The announcement drew immediate ap-



preciation from various quarters, especially from Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP National

President N. Chandrababu Naidu. CM Chandrababu took to his official platform to extend heartfelt congratulations to the young Union Minister. He expressed immense pride in Rammohan Naidu's achievement and noted that it brought great honor not only to the state but to the entire Telugu community. "Rammohan Naidu's commitment to public service and his focus on the country's progress serves as an inspiration to youth across India," said Chandrababu. The CM added that he hopes Rammohan Naidu continues to work towards India's development and successfully projects the nation's

voice at the global level. The selection follows Rammohan Naidu's active participation at the WEF summit held in Davos earlier this year. The Andhra Pradesh delegation, including CM Chandrababu, Ministers Nara Lokesh and TG Bharat, joined the summit to promote investment opportunities in the state. Union Ministers, including Rammohan Naidu, played a key role in bringing visibility and investment to Andhra Pradesh during the event. This latest recognition further cements Rammohan Naidu's growing stature in national and international platforms.

## Chinta Mohan Slams BJP Over Press Freedom, Waqf Act, and Reservation Neglect



**TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam**  
Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister Dr. Chinta Mohan came down heavily on the BJP-led central government, stating that democracy in India is becoming invisible like the Arundhati star. Addressing the media in Visakhapatnam on Thursday, he warned that freedom of the press is under severe threat and criticized media houses for prioritizing profits over journalistic integrity. Dr. Chinta Mohan slammed the controversial "Waqf Board Act", calling it unconstitutional and unnecessary. "Neither Vajpayee nor Advani brought such a law. Why now?" he questioned, criticizing Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's arguments in the Supreme Court. He alleged that the bill, introduced by BJP MP Jagadambika Paul and not by any parliamentary committee, will not stand legal scrutiny. Raising serious questions about selective justice, he cited an incident in Delhi where ₹500 crore allegedly burned in a judge's house went unnoticed by the ED and CBI. "If ₹5 lakh is found in a former CM's house, arrests follow. But ₹500 crore in a judge's house gets no case?" he asked, suggesting the money might be linked to a retired Chief Justice. Calling for equitable representation, he demanded classification in mining leases, government contracts, and legal appointments. He criticized TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu for ignoring OBCs and SCs in key sectors, urging the AP government to emulate Karnataka's reservation model in contracts. Condemning ED notices to Sonia and Rahul Gandhi, he said, "Modi didn't even greet Rahul in Parliament. Is this how democracy behaves?"

## MLA Prashanthi Reddy Emphasizes Efficient Water Use and Farmers' Support in Nellore



**TPN Correspondent | Nellore**  
MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy highlighted the importance of efficient irrigation practices in the Nellore district during the District Irrigation Advisory Council meeting. She praised the farmers of Kovur for achieving an impressive turnover of Rs 500 crore in the Kharif season and congratulated them for producing a yield of 1,90,003 metric tons. Reddy emphasized the need for urgent repairs to the Southern Channel, Eastern Channel, and Payderu Escape Channels, which provide irrigation water to 1,10,000 acres of agricultural land. She expressed concerns over water wastage and called for the strengthening of the water distributor system at the field level to ensure economic water use in agriculture. She also addressed the long-standing issue of delayed salaries for water distributors, urging Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy to in-

tervene and ensure that the arrears are cleared. In addition, Reddy expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for organizing the elections of irrigation societies, ensuring better farmer participation in the water distribution process. Regarding the Kanigiri reservoir, Reddy appealed for the repair of the main gates, which are completely damaged, and called for irrigation water to be provided up to the last acre of the ayacut in the Kanigiri reservoir and Jaffer Saheb canal areas. She stressed the importance of coordinating water distribution efforts among irrigation officials, water association presidents, and farmers to achieve high agricultural yields. The meeting was attended by Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, District Collector Anand, Irrigation SE Desinayak, and several local leaders, including MLAs Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy and Kavya Krishna Reddy.

## YCP Leader P. Ravindranath Reddy Criticizes Govt Over Electricity Rate Hike

**TPN Correspondent | Kadapa**  
YCP Kadapa District President P. Ravindranath Reddy strongly criticized Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for the recent hike in electricity charges, accusing him of breaking the hearts of the poor. In a media conference held at the local YCP office on Thursday, Reddy condemned the alliance government's decision, pointing out that the rates of all essential commodities, including gas cylinders, petrol, diesel, registration, and electricity, have been significantly increased. Reddy highlighted that the government had raised electricity charges by Rs. 6,450 crore last December and further increased them by Rs. 9,000 crore. In total, the burden on the people has amounted to Rs. 15,000 crore within a year. He criticized the coalition government for borrowing unprecedented amounts in such a short time, with little to show in terms of welfare schemes or development. The YCP leader demanded that the increased electricity charges be rolled back immediately and that the people be spared from double charges imposed under the 'true-up' mechanism. He warned that if the charges were not reduced, YSRCP would launch protests under the party's banner. Deputy Mayor Bandi Nityananda Reddy, Pulisunil, and other YSRCP leaders participated in the media interaction.



## ZP Chairperson Orders Swift Action on Drinking Water Issues

**TPN Correspondent | Eluru**  
Zilla Parishad Chairperson Ghanta Padmasree has directed officials to take immediate and effective measures to ensure that drinking water scarcity does not arise anywhere in the district during the ongoing summer. She issued these orders while presiding over the Zilla Parishad general meeting held at the ZP meeting hall in Eluru on Thursday. Government Whip Bolisetty Srinivas, MLC Vanka Ravindranath, MLAs Arimilli Radhakrishna and Chirri Balaraju, District In-charge Collector P. Dhatri Reddy, ZPTC members, and various departmental officials were present. Multiple ZPTCs and public representatives raised concerns about drinking water issues in their respective areas.



Responding to these concerns, Padmasree announced that the deadline to complete the filling of Krishna and Godavari canals has been extended to April 22. She emphasized that all water bodies in the joint district should be filled within this period, including ensuring supply to suburban areas through the canal systems.

She also addressed complaints that officials were bypassing local representatives when conducting official programs. Padmasree made it clear that development and welfare initiatives must be communicated in advance to relevant ZPTCs, MPPs, and other elected leaders, warning that violations of protocol would result in

disciplinary action. MLC Vanka Ravindranath demanded the pending honorarium of ZPTCs and MPTCs for the past 18 months be cleared. MLA Arimilli Radhakrishna pressed for immediate distribution of input subsidy to farmers affected by heavy rains last July. Bolisetty Srinivas urged equitable fund allocation for all constituencies and sought attention toward drinking water issues in Tadepalligudem, along with the desilting of canals, ponds, and drains. ZP CEO K. Bhimeshwara Rao, Joint Collectors T. Rahul Kumar Reddy and S. Chinna Ramadu, and officials from various departments were also present.

## Supreme Court Relief a Positive Step in Kolleru Issue - MP Putta Mahesh Kumar

**TPN Correspondent | Eluru**  
Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar welcomed the Supreme Court's decision to grant a three-month concession for the people of the Kolleru region to express their concerns. In a statement released on Thursday, the MP termed it a significant development and the first concrete step toward resolving the long-standing Kolleru issue. Mahesh Kumar emphasized that the NDA governments, both at the Centre and the state, have been actively working under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan to bring justice to the people of the region. He noted that the coordinated efforts of Kaikaluru MLA Dr. Kamineni Srinivas, Denduluru MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar, Ungutur MLA Pathsamatla Dharmaraju, Eluru District BJP President Ganni Veeranjanyulu, and himself have finally borne fruit. He stated that the actions previously initiated by officials based on the Supreme Court's orders to demarcate the boundaries of Kolleru Lake had caused considerable distress among the local population. The latest development, however, provides an opportunity for the residents to voice their concerns formally in front of the apex court. Mahesh Kumar informed that the District Collector will soon prepare and submit a detailed report to the Supreme Court on behalf of the state government, reinforcing the government's commitment to a fair and permanent solution for the Kolleru region.



## Locked Out of Justice: YCP Slams Police Over Dachepalli Station Shutdown

**TPN Correspondent | Palnadu Dist**  
The Dachepalli police station in Palnadu district was locked and its gates shackled on Thursday, sparking outrage from YSRCP leaders. The move came after YSRCP social media activist Paleti Krishnaveni was detained by the police. Former Gurajala MLA Kasu Mahesh Reddy expressed shock over the unusual act of sealing off the station, likening it to treating a police station like

a convicted criminal. He questioned what action the DGP and the state government would take in response. Krishnaveni, a resident of Bopudi near Chilakaluripet, was arrested in Hyderabad on Wednesday. She was first taken to LB Nagar Police Station and then shifted to Dachepalli. Police allege she posted obscene and morphed photos of NDA leaders on social media, spreading false informa-

tion. The AP Police have warned of strict action against those indulging in defamatory online posts. However, YSRCP leaders are criticizing the manner of Krishnaveni's detention and the dramatic closure of the police station to the public. They claim such actions are politically motivated and violate basic rights. The incident has ignited debate over freedom of expression and the role of the police in political matters.



# A Democracy Denied

## How Gandhiji blocked Sardar Vallabhai Patel and Democracy

India's independence was hard-won—and so were its first steps as a sovereign nation. But one of its earliest and most consequential decisions wasn't made through a democratic vote or policy debate. It came down to Gandhi's influence.

In 1946, the Congress party needed to choose its leader—who would, by default, become independent India's first Prime Minister. Out of 15 Pradesh Congress Committees, 12 nominated Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. None backed Jawaharlal Nehru. Yet Nehru was chosen. Why? Because Gandhi intervened. He believed Nehru, with his global image and appeal, was the better choice to represent India on the world stage. That decision changed the course of Indian history. And the more we look back, the clearer it becomes: the promise of Nehru's international image did not deliver in material terms, while Patel's practical leadership was sidelined at a critical moment.

**Nehru's Rise to Prime Minister:**  
**Most Dishonest and undemocratic episode in Indian history**

Jawaharlal Nehru did not receive a single vote from Congress's provincial committees when the question of leadership came up in 1946. The overwhelming choice was Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Yet, Mahatma Gandhi intervened and nominated Nehru. Instead of stepping aside on moral grounds—knowing he lacked majority support—Nehru accepted the position. This wasn't democratic. It was a back door ascent, driven by personal ambition and Gandhi's influence, not by the will of the majority. Despite this, the Congress party and later narratives painted Nehru as a symbol of democratic values and integrity. That image fabricated by concealing the real facts. His ascent was not just undemocratic—it was a betrayal



of the very principles of democracy.  
**Nehru's Global Image: Overrated**

Gandhi's argument was that Nehru's stature as a statesman would help India gain recognition, respect, and possibly support from major powers. Nehru had relationships abroad, especially in Europe, and was seen as modern, western-educated, and articulate. But that global prestige never translated into tangible benefits for India's economy or development in those early years. International banks didn't offer large loans or aid packages. The West didn't rush in to support India financially or strategically. Despite being a founding leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, Nehru struggled to secure meaningful foreign investment or alliances that might have lifted India's struggling economy. Instead, India chose a path of self-reliance mixed with socialist planning—

nationalizing industries, regulating private enterprise through the License Raj, and shutting out foreign capital. These policies kept India's economy crawling while other Asian nations—like South Korea and Japan—leapfrogged ahead by embracing private enterprise and export-driven growth.

**Patel's Vision: Grounded, Pragmatic, Unfulfilled**

Patel, by contrast, was a realist. As India's first Home Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, he oversaw the integration of over 560 princely states into the Indian Union—a logistical and political feat few leaders could have pulled off. He was tough when needed, yet deeply focused on national unity and institutional stability. His economic ideas leaned toward market-friendly pragmatism. Patel had strong ties to India's industrial class and would likely have encouraged a more

mixed economy—one that didn't alienate private enterprise or close India off from global capital.

He also took a firmer line on internal security and was far more skeptical of China than Nehru. In 1950, he warned Nehru against trusting China blindly, especially after Tibet's occupation. Nehru ignored those warnings, leading to the 1962 war, which exposed the deep flaws in India's foreign policy and defense preparedness.

**A Political Culture That Could Have Been Different**

There's also the question of leadership style. Nehru was a visionary but also an idealist. His charisma helped build a cult of personality, and eventually, the Congress became dynastic under the Nehru-Gandhi family. Patel, in contrast, was more grounded and didn't seek personal adulation. Had he led India, the Congress might have



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

evolved into a more institutionally democratic party rather than one centered around a family name. Indian politics could have taken a different, possibly more meritocratic, shape.

**Gandhi's Role: A Costly Preference?**

Gandhi's influence in shaping India's early leadership was enormous—but not always constructive. In this case, his personal preference overrode the democratic consensus within the Congress. Patel deferred, respecting Gandhi's wish, despite having clear support from the majority.

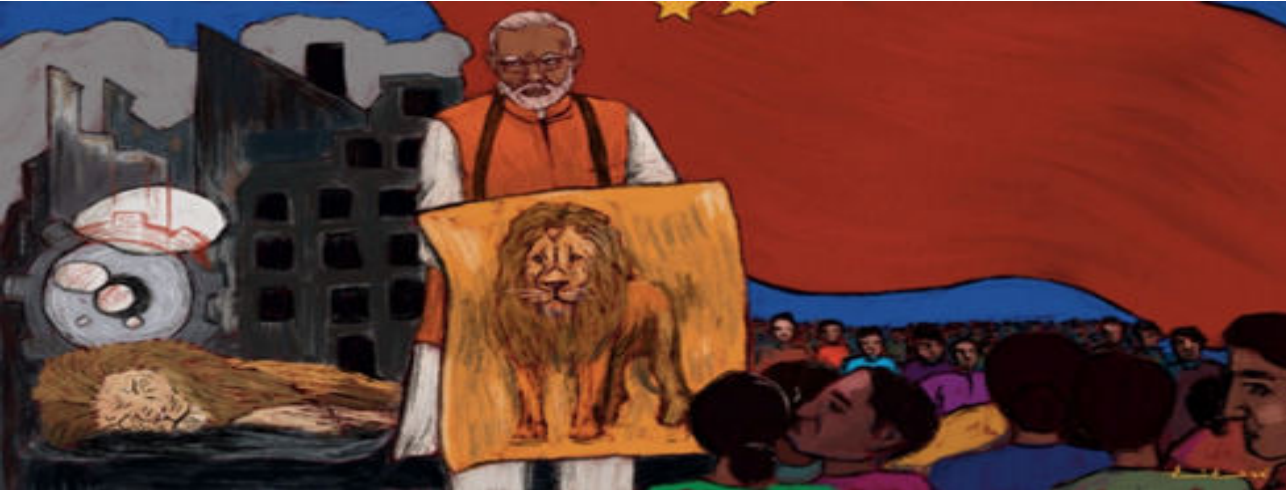
It's worth questioning: should a personal relationship or ideological preference have determined who led independent India? And what did the nation lose in sidelining a leader like Patel at such a critical juncture?

History is full of what-ifs. But some aren't just academic—they point to missed opportunities. Had Patel become Prime Minister, India might have embraced a more grounded economic model, a sharper foreign policy, and stronger political institutions. Nehru's secularism was selectively applied, and his commitment to democratic values is debatable—after all, he became Prime Minister by sidelining majority opinion. His international image, the very reason Gandhi chose him, failed to bring the concrete benefits it promised.

In the end, India paid the price for choosing symbolism over strategy. And that decision still echoes today.

## Why India Can't Innovate?

### From Missed Opportunities to Manufactured Outrage: Why India's Startup Dream Stumbles



In 2020, an IIT graduate created an app that auto-filled IRCTC ticket forms—solving a real problem millions face daily. Instead of support, he was arrested. This missed opportunity reflects a deeper issue with India's startup ecosystem—where bureaucracy trumps innovation and genuine problem-solvers are penalised.

Fast forward to 2025, and Union Minister Piyush Goyal is berating Indian entrepreneurs for only building food delivery apps. He asks, "Are we going to be just delivery boys and girls?" The real question is—what options do India's youth have? Our economic model thrives on cheap labour, and our laws often fail to protect it. We attract global investors by highlighting low wages and lax regulations, not innovation or skill.

Meanwhile, China has transformed from a cheap-labour economy into a tech powerhouse. While India's per capita income in 2022 was \$2,388, China surged ahead to \$12,720. Their "Made in China 2025" initiative focused on semiconductors, EVs, drones, and AI—backed by serious funding. In contrast, India allocated just \$23.45 billion to private-sector R&D in the 2025 budget, compared to China's \$496 billion. Even deep-tech entrepreneurs face systemic hur-

dles. One semiconductor startup founder revealed his application for tax benefits was delayed for two years and finally rejected—until a "facilitator" offered guaranteed approval for a bribe. There's space for corruption, but none for rules-based support.

The automobile industry reflects this stagnation—60% of Indian cars use only 10 engines, and innovation is minimal. Chinese automakers, by contrast, offer over 200 models, including electric cars under \$1,000. In India, the cheapest EV is still over ₹7 lakh.

Our public sector, once the foundation of cities like Bengaluru, remains undervalued despite contributing massively to national development. In 2024–25, PSUs provided ₹74,000 crore in dividends. Yet, instead of nurturing them, we are selling them off while celebrating a handful of billionaire-led ventures.

And while the world innovates, we excel at paper leaks and hate-driven influencer content—our real "startups." Without serious investments in health, education, and job creation, India risks losing its demographic dividend to reels, riots, and rigged exams.

## UPI Outages Highlight the Need for Greater Resilience and Security

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI), a cornerstone of India's digital economy, faced three significant outages this month, disrupting millions of daily transactions. Retailers, traders, and individual users were left stranded, with confusion erupting across businesses relying heavily on seamless digital payments. While the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) managed to restore services within hours, the damage to user confidence was already done.

With around 600 million transactions occurring daily and over 18 billion in March alone—a 14% rise from the previous month—UPI has become indispensable. Accounting for nearly 65% of all digital transactions in India, its stability is crucial. However, recurring glitches—six in the past year and 21 in five years—underscore the urgent need for better system preparedness.

NPCI attributes the latest glitch to an unexpected surge in transaction volume, but such a spike should not have come as a surprise. Digital adoption has been consistently rising since demonetisation and the COVID-19 pandemic, bolstered by increased smartphone penetration and public awareness. As UPI scales, the infrastructure behind it must

evolve to handle peak loads without failure.

There's growing discussion around introducing a new entity into the digital payments space. This could promote competition, innovation, and reduce risk by preventing overreliance on a single system. A more resilient ecosystem would ensure continuity even if one node falters.

Equally concerning is the sharp rise in UPI fraud. The monetary value of such frauds jumped from ₹573 crore in 2022–23 to ₹1,087 crore in 2023–24. While some of this increase may correlate with transaction growth, it exposes vulnerabilities in the system. NPCI has already implemented identity verification and authentication protocols using AI and machine learning. However, with cyber threats growing more sophisticated, continuous upgrades and stricter monitoring are essential.

UPI is a shining example of India's tech prowess, even garnering international interest. But to sustain its global stature, system reliability and user security must be non-negotiable. The time to future-proof UPI is now—before glitches turn into larger cracks in India's digital foundation.







## JD(U) Backs Nitish for CM Till 2030

Patna, April 17, 2025 — The Janata Dal (United) has made its intentions clear for the upcoming Bihar elections by publicly backing Nitish Kumar to continue as Chief Minister till 2030. A massive poster put up outside the party's state headquarters boldly declared: "25 se 30, phir se Nitish" — signalling a renewed five-year term for Bihar's longest-serving CM.

This strong projection of Nitish's leadership comes shortly after Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini suggested that the BJP would contest the elections in Bihar under the leadership of Samrat Choudhary, a senior BJP leader and current state president. The JD(U)'s poster is seen as a direct rebuttal to those comments, reaffirming Nitish Kumar's central role in the NDA alliance in Bihar. The statement on the poster not only endorses Nitish's leadership for another term but also aims to consolidate JD(U)'s claim to the top post in any future government formed by the NDA in the state.

Nitish Kumar, currently serving his eighth term as Chief Minister, has become one of the most enduring political figures in Indian state politics. His tenure, known for its focus on development, infrastructure, and social reforms, has seen both praise and criticism, particularly over his frequent political realignments. While no official statement was released by JD(U) leadership, party insiders suggest that the poster reflects the grassroots sentiment and serves as a message to both allies and opponents that Nitish remains the face of governance in Bihar.

Political observers say this internal NDA messaging could lead to tensions within the alliance, especially as the BJP may push to assert greater leadership in the state. However, JD(U)'s public show of support could serve as a bargaining chip in future seat-sharing talks. As Bihar heads toward another election cycle, the slogan "25 se 30, phir se Nitish" sets the tone for JD(U)'s campaign — one firmly anchored around the legacy and leadership of Nitish Kumar.

## Dawoodi Bohras Laud Waqf Amendment Act

A delegation from the Dawoodi Bohra community met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, extending their heartfelt appreciation for the newly enacted Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025. The group described the legislation as a long-awaited reform that addresses long-standing concerns within the community.

Expressing confidence in the Prime Minister's inclusive vision, the delegation reaffirmed their belief in his governance motto — "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" (Together with all, development for all, trust of all).

The Dawoodi Bohras, a Shia Muslim sect predominantly based in western India, have a global presence with community members settled in over 40 countries. They trace their lineage to the Fatimid Imams of Egypt, descendants of the Prophet Muhammad. The community has been guided by the al-dai al-mutlaq (supreme missionary), a spiritual leader who has operated from India for the past 450 years.

However, the passage of the Waqf Amendment Act has also stirred tensions in parts of the country. In Murshidabad, West Bengal, recent protests against the Act led to violence and the death of three people.



In response, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appealed to Governor CV Ananda Bose to defer his planned visit to the affected region until normalcy is restored.

At a press conference, Banerjee announced Rs 10 lakh compensation for the families of those killed, and aid for rebuilding damaged homes and shops. She emphasized the need to rebuild public confidence before

any official visits, stating, "Let the confidence be built first."

The Chief Minister also criticized the Union Home Ministry for not sharing intelligence about outsiders allegedly involved in inciting violence. She claimed that expanding the BSF's jurisdiction to 50 km from the border has weakened state control and monitoring systems.

Governor Bose, however, maintained his commitment to visit Murshidabad and personally meet with the victims' families. Calling it an "emotional issue," he stated, "I want to see the ground reality and share the sentiments of the affected families."

The Waqf Amendment Act continues to evoke both commendation and controversy, with its broader social implications yet to fully unfold.

## India Eyes Stability Amid Global Trade War



Amid rising global protectionism and mounting trade tensions, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserted on Thursday that India is prepared to tackle global disruptions through policy agility and sustained long-term investments. Speaking at a commemorative event marking 150

years of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), the minister highlighted the increasing volatility in global supply chains due to protectionist measures. Despite the challenging international environment, she affirmed that India's strategy will focus on strengthening domestic fundamentals to en-

sure stability and growth. "We will navigate the global disruptions with policy agility and long-term investments," Sitharaman said, adding that the recalibration of global trade dynamics is proving to be "very, very challenging."

Her remarks come in the wake of a resurgence of trade tensions, with U.S. President Donald Trump announcing a new wave of sweeping tariffs on multiple nations, including India. Although the U.S. has since announced a 90-day pause on implementing these measures, markets across the globe have experienced significant turbulence.

Despite these headwinds, Sitharaman noted that India's financial markets have demonstrated strong resilience, and credited retail investors for their continued confidence.

She also acknowledged the growing influence of Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs), noting their evolution from merely supportive participants to dominant players in Indian capital markets. The minister's remarks underscore the government's broader approach of relying on structural reforms, targeted investments, and domestic market development to mitigate the effects of external economic shocks.

As the global trade landscape continues to shift, Sitharaman's comments signal a firm commitment to insulating the Indian economy through a future-focused, self-reliant growth model. Her statement serves as both reassurance and a call to stay the course amid geopolitical uncertainties, reinforcing India's position as a resilient and adaptable economic force on the world stage.

## India Watches Pakistan-Bangladesh Rapprochement



India has officially acknowledged the renewed diplomatic engagement between Pakistan and Bangladesh, following the resumption of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Dhaka — the first such dialogue in 15 years. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, during a weekly media briefing in New Delhi, stated, "Yes, we have taken note of it," in response to a question on the evolving ties between the two South Asian neighbours. The FOC talks, held on Thursday, were led by Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Amna Baloch and her Bangladeshi counterpart Md Jashim Uddin. The move marks a significant thaw in relations that had remained stagnant

for over a decade. This development follows a major political shift in Bangladesh after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government, which was triggered by massive student-led protests over reservation policies last year. The interim government under Muhammad Yunus has since taken steps to reset foreign relations.

As part of this renewed engagement, Secretary Baloch is also scheduled to meet interim Prime Minister Yunus and Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain. Later in the day, she will participate in a roundtable discussion with think tanks and members of the Pakistani diaspora in Dhaka.

Looking ahead, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar is expected to visit Dhaka on April 27–28, which would be the first high-level visit from Islamabad in more than a decade.

Sources indicate that the warming of ties began discreetly last year through two informal meetings between PM Shehbaz Sharif and interim PM Yunus — first at the UN General Assembly in New York, and later at the D-8 Summit in Cairo.

Following these engagements, Bangladesh eased visa rules for Pakistani nationals and opened direct shipping routes. Pakistan, in turn, has shown interest in enhancing cooperation in trade, tourism, cultural exchange, and investment — signaling a broad-based diplomatic revival.

## Naveen Patnaik Set for 9th Term as BJD Chief



Bhubaneswar, April 17, 2025 — Naveen Patnaik, former Chief Minister of Odisha and founding leader of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), filed his nomination on Thursday for the party president post, aiming for a ninth consecutive term.

Speaking at a press conference, BJD State Returning Officer and MLA Pratap Keshari Deb confirmed that Patnaik was the sole nominee for the top post. "Naveen Patnaik filed his nomination between 10 AM and 1 PM today. As there are no other contenders, he will be declared elected unopposed after completing procedural formalities," Deb said. The nomination filing took place at Sankha Bhawan, the BJD headquarters in Bhubaneswar, in the presence of senior party leaders. Symbolically, the move coincided with the 28th death anniversary of Biju Patnaik, Naveen's father and a towering political figure in Odisha, after whom the regional party is named.

As part of the BJD's ongoing internal elections, the lists of district presidents and state council mem-

bers have already been finalised, according to Deb. The next step will be the selection of state executive members, who will play a key role in shaping the party's future direction.

Naveen Patnaik has led the BJD since its formation in 1997, winning eight consecutive terms as party president. His leadership once brought unmatched electoral dominance in Odisha, with the BJD ruling the state for 24 years until its recent loss in the 2024 state assembly elections. In a dramatic shift, the BJP secured a majority in the 2024 Odisha Assembly polls, winning 78 out of 147 seats and forming the government under Mohan Charan Majhi. The BJD managed only 51 seats, and three independent MLAs later joined the BJP, raising its tally to 81 seats. The Congress won 14. The Lok Sabha elections were even more lopsided, with the BJP capturing 20 of 21 seats, leaving the BJD with none despite its deep roots in the state. Yet, with this unchallenged nomination, Naveen Patnaik reaffirms his central role in BJD's leadership and its future strategy moving forward.



## General Asim Munir Reasserts Pakistan’s Hardline Stance on Kashmir, Two-Nation Theory

### “The 1.3-Million Indian Army”: Pak Army Chief On Kashmir, Balochistan



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a speech likely to provoke a strong response from New Delhi, Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir reasserted Islamabad’s unwavering stance on Kashmir, calling it Pakistan’s “jugular vein.” Addressing an audience of overseas Pakistanis, Munir urged them to take pride in their heritage and stressed that Pakistan was created on the foundation of the two-nation theory — the belief that Hindus and Muslims are fundamentally different in culture, religion, and identity.

Munir emphasized that this ideological divide justified the creation of Pakistan in 1947 and continues to define the country’s national narrative. “We are not one nation. Our forefathers made sacrifices because they believed in a separate identity. We must pass this story to the next generation,” he said.

His comments strongly backed the two-nation theory and contrasted sharply with India’s view of a shared history and its commitment to secularism. The statement underscores Pakistan’s long-standing ideological position and the Army’s role as the guardian of national identity.

Touching on security concerns, Munir dismissed fears that terrorism could derail Pakistan’s future. “Do you think terrorists can take away the destiny of this country? If the Indian Army cannot intimidate us, these terrorists certainly can’t,” he declared.

He also took a firm stance on separatist movements in Balochistan, asserting that the province is integral to Pakistan and will remain so. “You won’t be able to take Balochistan in ten generations,” he warned, vowing that the Army would defeat insurgency there.

On Kashmir, Munir reiterated that Pakistan’s position remains unchanged. “It was, is, and will remain our jugular vein. We will not abandon our Kashmiri brothers in their heroic struggle,” he said.

General Munir’s remarks not only reinforce the Army’s central role in shaping Pakistan’s domestic and foreign policies but also signal a hardening of Islamabad’s approach toward India. As tensions persist, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs is expected to issue a formal response to these statements.

## Ukrainian Parliament Approves 90-Day Extension Of Martial Law & Mobilisation



TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukraine’s Parliament has voted to extend both martial law and the country’s general military mobilization for another 90 days, continuing emergency measures in place since the Russian invasion in February 2022. The extension will run from May 9 to August 6, according to parliamentarian Yaroslav Zheleznyak, who shared the outcome on Telegram.

The vote passed with broad support: 357 lawmakers backed the continuation of martial law, and 346 supported the extension of mobilization—well above the required 226 votes.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky submitted the bills, which were swiftly adopted. Martial law was first enacted on February 24, 2022, and has since been renewed multiple times as the war continues. Under Ukraine’s Constitution, no elections—presidential or parliamentary—can take place while martial law is in effect.

This provision has sparked political controversy both within Ukraine and abroad. Zelensky’s five-year presidential term officially expired in May 2024. While the Ukrainian government insists that elections are legally suspended during martial law, Russia and some international critics have questioned Zelensky’s legitimacy. Russian President Vladimir Putin has

repeatedly challenged Zelensky’s authority, even suggesting that a United Nations-backed interim government should be installed to lead Ukraine to elections. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov responded to the latest extension by accusing Kyiv of trying to “preserve its unstable structure.”

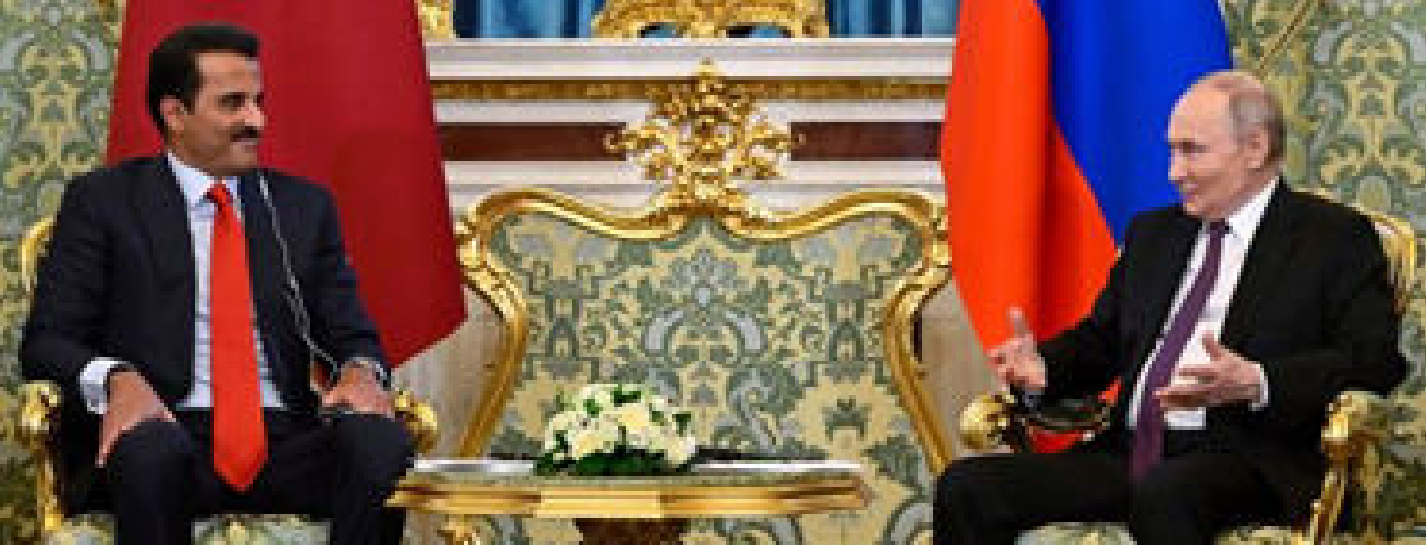
The United States has also weighed in, with former President Donald Trump describing Zelensky as a “dictator without elections” in a February statement. Ironically, the comment appeared to rally domestic support for Zelensky, temporarily boosting his approval ratings.

Still, internal dissent is growing. Petro Poroshenko, Ukraine’s former President and leader of the largest opposition party, publicly supported extending martial law for national defense, but criticized the government for allegedly exploiting the emergency measures for political gain.

“I want to stress that we should recognize the obvious – the government has started to abuse martial law, using it not only to defend the country, but to build an authoritarian regime,” Poroshenko warned during a heated parliamentary session on Tuesday.

Despite political friction, there remains wide consensus on the need to maintain martial law as Ukraine continues to resist Russian aggression.

## Putin and Qatari emir discuss Syria and Gaza at Moscow talks



- **Moscow aims to protect its Tartus and Hmeimim military bases.**
- **Doha acts as key mediator in maintaining Russia-Syria relations.**
- **Syria signals intent to uphold major international partnerships.**

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Qatar’s Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani assured Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday that Syria’s new leadership, under President Ahmed al-Sharaa, is interested in building strong ties with Moscow. The statement comes amid a significant shift in the region’s power dynamics following the fall of longtime Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad in December.

During a high-level conversation, Sheikh Tamim conveyed that President al-Sharaa, who emerged as the head of the rebel coalition that ousted Assad, is eager to maintain and even deepen diplomatic and strategic relations with Russia. This assurance could be crucial for the Kremlin, which is now working to safeguard its long-standing inter-

ests in Syria, particularly its military foothold in the region.

Russia currently operates two critical military bases in Syria—its naval facility in Tartus and the Hmeimim airbase in Latakia. These sites have been instrumental in projecting Russian influence across the Middle East and the Mediterranean. With Assad’s departure, concerns have grown in Moscow over the future of its access and operational freedom at these locations.

President Putin has reportedly reached out to several regional allies to ensure continued cooperation from the new Syrian administration. Qatar’s role in this diplomatic effort is particularly significant, given its regional influence and its history of backing various factions during the Syrian conflict.

Ahmed al-Sharaa’s rise to power marks a new chapter for Syria, and many international observers are watching closely to see how the nation’s foreign policy may shift under his leadership. While Sharaa has not made detailed public statements regarding Syria’s strategic partnerships, the message delivered by Sheikh Tamim suggests that the new leadership is open to maintaining continuity in key international relationships—especially with global powers like Russia.

For Moscow, securing these ties is vital to preserving its status as a major stakeholder in Middle Eastern affairs. As the region navigates this political transition, Russia will be keen to ensure that it is not sidelined by a new order emerging in Damascus.

## China Integrates AI into Education to Drive Innovation and Future Growth

TPN Correspondent | Hong Kong

China is set to embed artificial intelligence (AI) into its national education system, including teaching methods, textbooks, and school curricula, in a sweeping effort to modernize learning and foster innovation. The move, detailed in an official government paper released Wednesday, will impact students and educators at the primary, secondary, and higher education levels.

As the world’s second-largest economy seeks new engines of growth, the Chinese government is positioning AI as a central pillar in its education overhaul. According to the Ministry of Education, the integration of AI into classrooms aims to strengthen both teaching practices and the fundamental capabilities of students and teachers alike.

For students, AI is expected to cul-



tivate essential skills such as independent thinking, complex problem-solving, communication, and collaboration. For educators, the introduction of AI tools is designed to create more dynamic, engaging, and challenging learning environments.

The education ministry highlighted that promoting AI education would enhance the “core competitiveness of innovative talents” and contribute to the country’s broader ambition to become a global innovation leader.

The initiative follows a significant expansion in AI-related courses and enrollments across Chinese universities, spurred in part by domestic advancements in AI technology.

In January, China’s AI sector gained international attention when local startup DeepSeek launched a competitive large language model that was more cost-effective to develop than many Western counterparts. This milestone helped fuel national momentum for deeper AI integration in multiple sectors, including education.

The push also aligns with China’s long-term vision laid out in its “strong-education nation” action plan, which was also launched in January. This strategic roadmap targets 2035 as the milestone year for establishing a globally advanced education system, with innovation and digital transformation at its core.

## Trump's Gold Card Will Be Available Soon

TPN Correspondent | Washington

As Elon Musk’s role in the U.S. government efficiency task force winds down, President Donald Trump has assigned him a new project: creating a fast-track immigration system called the “Gold Card” for ultra-wealthy foreigners. The initiative, led by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), aims to offer special U.S. residency visas priced at \$5 million each, according to The New York Times.

Engineers from Musk’s team are developing an application portal for these high-value visas, collaborating with officials from the State Department, Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The “Gold Card” is positioned to replace the existing EB-5 visa program, which currently requires investments of \$800,000 to \$1.05 million and job creation for at least 10 Americans. That program raised around



\$4 billion last year. Trump first announced the Gold Card program in February, calling it a new “route to citizenship” for “very high-level people.” While initial details were sparse, the administration later revealed the card would grant permanent residency to affluent individuals, pending background checks. Trump recently showcased a laminated prototype featuring his photo, the Statue of Liberty, and a bald eagle, promising rollout in “less than two weeks.”

Leading the project on DOGE’s side are Marko Elez and Edward Coristine. Elez was recently linked to a pseudonymous X (formerly Twitter) account

that made controversial posts about immigration. Coristine, just 19, was previously dismissed from an internship at a data firm over alleged leaks. Despite their backgrounds, both have met with government officials to streamline the vetting process.

The team is working on accelerating the traditionally lengthy immigration review procedures, aiming to approve qualified applicants within two weeks of applying. This includes compressing interviews, background checks, and other formalities.

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick claimed on a podcast last month that 1,000 Gold Cards had already been “sold,” although no evidence was provided. He emphasized that cardholders must be law-abiding and vetted. Lutnick also confirmed Musk’s team is building the system and expects it to launch within two weeks—now revised to a week and a half.



# Sensex, Nifty Soar in Major Trend Reversal as Markets Rally Across Sectors

Domestic stock markets staged a powerful comeback on Thursday, marking a significant trend reversal as benchmark indices ended with robust gains. Despite starting the day with a gap-down, both the Sensex and Nifty surged in the afternoon on the back of renewed buying interest, driven by favorable global cues and improving domestic sentiment.

The key triggers for the rally included the absence of fresh geopolitical tensions, renewed interest from foreign institutional investors (FIIs), and a strong performance by strategic sectors. Banking, finance, and oil stocks led the charge, signaling a broad-based bullish sentiment.

The BSE Sensex, which had previously closed at 77,044, opened slightly lower at 76,968 and dipped to an intraday low of 76,665. However, a sharp rally in the second half of the session pushed it to an intraday high of 78,616, before closing strongly at 78,553, up by 1,508 points. Likewise, the NSE Nifty opened at 23,401, touched a low of 23,298 and rallied to a high of 23,872 before ending at 23,851, gaining 414 points. The Nifty Bank index was a standout performer, jumping 1,172 points to settle at 54,290.

Among the Nifty50 constituents, 43 stocks advanced while only 7 declined. Notable gainers included Eicher Motors, Zomato, ICICI Bank,

Bharti Airtel, and Bajaj Finserv. On the downside, Wipro, Hindalco, Tech Mahindra, Hero Moto-Corp, and JSW Steel were among the top losers.

All sectoral indices closed in the green, with private banking, financial services, and PSU banks posting gains of over 2%. Other sectors such as oil, pharma, FMCG, healthcare, consumer durables, realty, metal, and IT also witnessed strong buying interest.

Market breadth on the NSE clearly favored the bulls. Out of 2,977 stocks traded, 1,847 advanced, while 1,047 declined. A total of 63 stocks hit their 52-week highs, while 16 hit 52-week lows. Additionally, 116 stocks were locked in their upper circuits and 29 in lower circuits.

This week marked the highest weekly gains for Indian markets in two years. Sensex, Nifty, and Mid-cap indices rose over 4%, while Nifty Bank soared more than 6%. The Indian rupee also strengthened by 31 paise, closing at 85.37 against the US dollar.

In other developments, James Reid was appointed as chairman of Root Mobile, Jio Finance shares rallied ahead of earnings, and HDFC AMC posted an 18% YoY jump in Q4 profit to ₹638 crore. Meanwhile, Morgan Stanley downgraded Wipro and Tata Steel, while upgrading Aditya Birla Fashion. Adani Ports announced plans for a preferential issue of shares, and BHEL signed a tech transfer agreement with BARC. Angel One's net profit declined nearly 49% YoY to ₹174 crore. NSE has applied for SEBI's NOC for its much-anticipated IPO.



## Fitch Cuts India's GDP Forecast Amid Escalating Global Trade War Concerns

Fitch Ratings has revised India's GDP growth projection for the current fiscal year (2025–26), trimming it by 10 basis points to 6.4%, citing mounting concerns over an escalating global trade war. The agency also lowered the forecast for the previous fiscal year (2024–25) to 6.2%, while keeping the estimate for 2026–27 unchanged at 6.3%.

The downgrade is part of a broader revision of global growth forecasts in Fitch's special update to its Global Economic Outlook (GEO), published on Thursday. The report highlights how the intensifying trade tensions, particularly those involving the United States, have cast a shadow over global economic prospects.

“It is hard to predict US trade policy with any confidence,” Fitch said, noting that growing uncertainty is stifling business investment and eroding household wealth through falling equity prices. Additionally, retaliatory tariffs are expected to further weaken US export performance, adding to the global slowdown.

As a result, Fitch has sharply lowered its forecast for global growth in 2025 by 0.4 percentage points. Projections

for both the US and China have been slashed by 0.5 percentage points. World growth is now expected to fall below 2% for the year—excluding the pandemic, this would mark the slowest global growth since the 2009 financial crisis.

For India, while the economic outlook remains comparatively resilient, the country is not immune to the ripple effects of deteriorating global trade conditions. Fitch's modest downward revision reflects the potential challenges India could face in sustaining export-led growth in an uncertain external environment.

The outlook for other major economies is also bleak. The US is expected to grow at a subdued pace of 1.2% in 2025. China's growth, once a driver of global momentum, is forecast to fall below 4% this year and next. Meanwhile, the eurozone is projected to remain sluggish, with growth below 1% throughout the period.

Fitch also pointed to the US's recently announced “Liberation Day” tariffs, calling them “far worse than expected,” and warning that such aggressive trade measures are likely to deepen the global economic malaise.

## India's US Exports Hit Record \$86.5 Billion Amid Trade War Fears; China Imports Also Soar

India's exports to the United States touched a historic high of \$86.51 billion in the financial year 2024–25, as businesses rushed to ship goods ahead of the reciprocal tariff hikes that took effect on April 2. The surge appears to be a case of front-loading, driven by anxiety over the escalating global trade tensions, particularly between the US and its trading partners.



Provisional data released by the Commerce Ministry reveals that exporters scrambled to complete shipments in March, boosting the annual figures to unprecedented levels. The jump in exports underscores how concerns over future trade restrictions can trigger temporary spikes in international commerce, as firms attempt to beat looming deadlines.

Meanwhile, India's imports from China also rose significantly, reaching a record \$113.45 billion in 2024–25. Despite rising geopolitical tensions and a push for “self-reliance” under the government's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, trade with China continues to grow, largely driven by India's dependence on critical Chinese goods—especially in sectors like electronics, pharmaceuticals, and industrial machinery.

This widening trade imbalance highlights the complex nature of India's economic relationships, where strategic concerns often coexist with deep commercial dependencies. While India seeks to diversify its import sources and strengthen domestic manufacturing, Chinese

products remain deeply embedded in Indian supply chains.

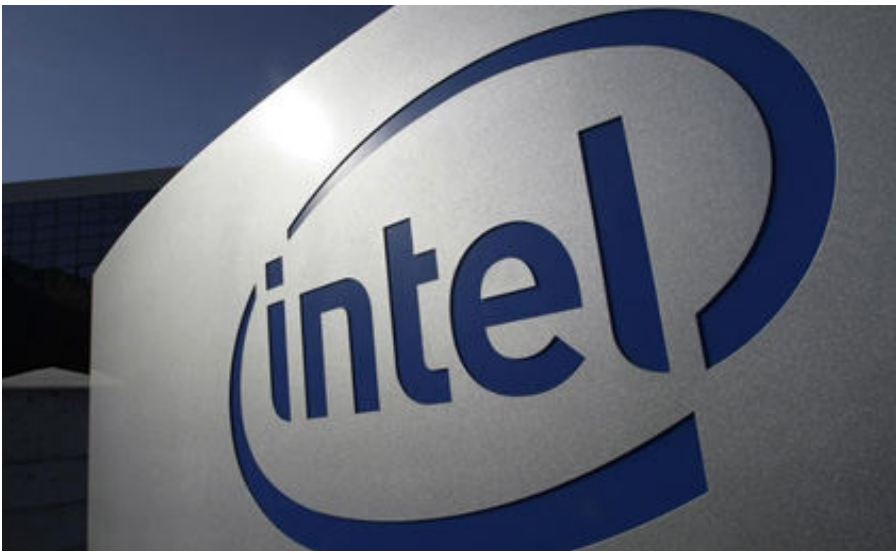
The record-breaking figures for both US exports and Chinese imports come against the backdrop of global trade uncertainty. The recent wave of reciprocal tariff announcements—especially those led by the United States—has rattled supply chains and prompted many countries, including India, to reassess their trade strategies.

Experts caution that while front-loading may offer a short-term boost, it could lead to a slowdown in subsequent months if demand weakens or tariffs start to bite. They also warn that prolonged trade wars could impact investor confidence, currency stability, and long-term export competitiveness.

As trade tensions rise globally, India faces the dual challenge of protecting its export momentum while reducing overdependence on key import sources. The road ahead may require a careful balancing act between economic pragmatism and strategic autonomy.

## Intel to Require Licenses for AI Chip Sales to China Amid U.S. Trade Policy Shifts

American semiconductor giant Intel has informed its Chinese clients that it will now require export licenses to sell certain high-performance artificial intelligence (AI) chips to China, according to a report by the Financial Times. The move follows a growing wave of restrictions by the U.S. government targeting advanced tech exports to China, intensifying global tensions in the semiconductor sector.



This development comes just a day after rival chipmaker Nvidia revealed it could face a revenue hit of up to \$5.5 billion due to new U.S. export controls on its AI processors specifically designed for the Chinese market. Dutch semiconductor equipment maker ASML also issued a more cautious outlook, citing similar trade headwinds.

Under the leadership of newly appointed CEO Lip-Bu Tan, Intel reportedly informed clients that chips exceeding specific performance benchmarks will now require a license for export to China. These thresholds include chips with a total DRAM bandwidth of 1,400 gigabytes per second (GB/s), I/O bandwidth of 1,100 GB/s, or a combined total of 1,700 GB/s or more. Intel's Gaudi AI chip series, as well as Nvidia's China-focused H20 processor, both surpass these limits, placing them squarely under the new export license requirements.

The announcement has already sent ripples through the market. Intel's stock declined more than 3% on Wednesday, mirroring a broader dip in chip stocks as concerns mount over the ongoing disruption in the global semiconductor trade caused by the U.S.'s evolving trade policies.

These measures are part of Washington's broader strategy to curtail China's access to cutting-edge AI technologies that could have military or surveillance applications. However, industry analysts warn that such restrictions could not only impact China's AI development but also hurt U.S. companies' bottom lines and slow the momentum of the AI chip sector, which had experienced a significant boom over the past two years.

As Big Tech's capital expenditures come under scrutiny and global trade tensions escalate, the AI chip industry appears poised for a period of uncertainty and slowdown.



# OpenAI Unveils o3 and o4-Mini Models

OpenAI has announced the release of its newest artificial intelligence models, o3 and o4-mini, designed to advance AI reasoning and bring significant upgrades in how machines understand and interact with the world. The announcement, made on April 17, 2025, underscores OpenAI’s commitment to pushing the boundaries of AI’s cognitive abilities and real-world application. Both models come with multimodal understanding, a feature that allows them to process and reason with images alongside text—a leap in AI’s ability to think contextually. This means the models can now include visual information as part of their decision-making or problem-solving process, rather than relying on text alone. This feature enables more human-like, intuitive reasoning, and is expected to significantly enhance the performance of AI in complex tasks across industries like education, healthcare, design, and content creation. According to OpenAI, the o3 model is its most advanced reasoning model to date, combining improved memory handling, bet-



ter contextual understanding, and faster response times. Meanwhile, o4-mini offers many of the same capabilities in a more lightweight, efficient form suitable for mobile and embedded applications. The company also confirmed that older models will be gradually phased out as users transition to the more capable o3 and o4-mini models. This move is intended to streamline development and ensure that users benefit from the latest AI capabilities without the limitations of earlier architectures. These releases mark a significant evolution in OpenAI’s model lineup and point toward a future where AI systems are not only faster and smarter but also more perceptive and capable of multimodal reasoning—integrating multiple forms of input into a single chain of thought. With o3 and o4-mini, OpenAI continues to lead in developing general-purpose AI tools that offer deeper, more flexible understanding across a wide range of human tasks.

## Los Angeles to Host Sperm Race

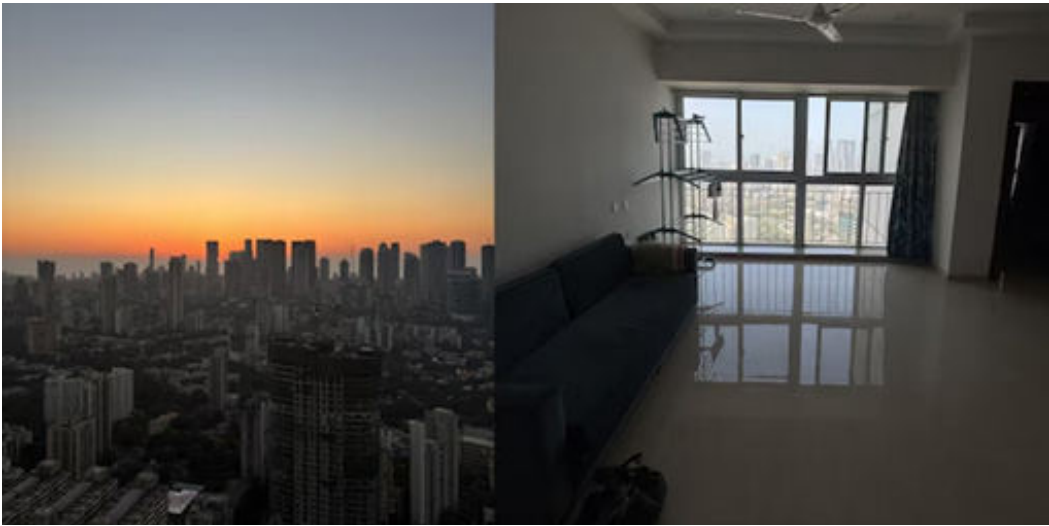


In a one-of-a-kind event that merges science, sportsmanship, and a touch of humor, Los Angeles will host the world’s first-ever “Sperm Race USA” — a race not involving athletes or vehicles, but microscopic human sperm. Set to take place on April 25 at the Hollywood Palladium, the event is being organized by a startup aptly named Sperm Racing. The goal? To raise awareness about men’s reproductive health, specifically the often-overlooked link between sperm motility (speed) and male fertility. While it may sound unusual, organizers are treating the occasion much like a high-stakes sporting event, complete with press conferences, live commentary, and even opportunities for audience betting. The race itself will see two sperms from different individuals competing on a 20-centimetre long track designed to mimic the environment of a woman’s reproductive system. Each sperm, measuring around 0.05 millimetres, will be monitored using advanced imaging technology to determine which

one reaches the finish line first. While the race unfolds under a microscope, the action will be broadcast on large screens for up to 1,000 spectators. The event aims to combine entertainment with education, hoping to spark public interest in male reproductive health, which often receives less attention compared to women’s health. By making a biological process visible and competitive, Sperm Racing hopes to create a broader conversation around fertility issues in a fun, engaging way. While it may seem eccentric, the Sperm Race has already generated massive buzz online and is expected to attract crowds similar to traditional sports matches. With cheering fans, flashing cameras, and a tongue-in-cheek approach to science, the event promises to be unlike anything seen before. Whether it’s scientific curiosity or the sheer novelty of the race, Sperm Race USA is sure to grab global attention — all in the name of health awareness and a little bit of fun.

## Mumbai Flat Rent Sparks Online Outrage

A recent apartment listing in Mumbai has taken social media by storm, with many users stunned by the high rent being asked for an unfurnished room. Ohshin Bhatia, a tech professional based in Mumbai, shared a post on X (formerly Twitter) in search of a female flatmate for her 2 BHK apartment in Parel, one of the city’s prime localities. According to her post, Bhatia is renting a master bedroom in her two-bedroom flat for a staggering Rs 52,000 per month. The total rent for the apartment is Rs 1 lakh, and she is seeking someone to split the cost. While the room is unfurnished, Bhatia highlighted that the flat comes with access to several amenities, including a gym, jogging track, and a high-rise view from the attached balcony. “Hey guys, I’m looking for a female flatmate (to join me in a 2 BHK) in Parel. It’s an unfurnished master bedroom and the rent is 52k, comes with a gym, jogging track and good amenities. The view is breathtaking, as it’s a higher floor. Preferably aged 20-25,” she wrote in her now-viral post.



The listing quickly attracted widespread attention, not just because of the rent, but also due to the specific age preference and the fact that the room comes without basic furniture. Many users expressed disbelief, pointing out that such a high amount for an unfurnished space reflects the skyrocketing cost of living in Mumbai, especially in posh areas like Parel. Some questioned whether the price was justified, while others joked about need-

ing a raise just to afford rent in the city. The incident has reignited debates about urban housing affordability and the challenges young professionals face in securing decent living spaces in India’s financial capital. With rent rates soaring and real estate prices pushing limits, listings like these seem to have become the new normal — even if social media isn’t quite ready for them.

## Bihar Teacher Slammed Over Scooter Incident

A disturbing incident from Bhagalpur, Bihar, has gone viral on social media, sparking outrage and concern across the country. A video shows a female teacher from Mukheriya Madhya Vidyalaya, located in the Jagdishpur district, instructing two young schoolchildren to clean her mud-covered scooter during school hours. The clip, which has quickly circulated online, captures the children diligently scrubbing the teacher’s scooter while regular classes were in session. This misuse of students’ time has triggered a massive backlash, with people questioning the ethics and behavior of the teacher



involved. The viral video has not only drawn public anger but also raised serious questions about the well-being and dignity of schoolchildren, especially in rural educational institutions where such acts can often go unnoticed or unchallenged. Parents and local residents are demand-

ing strict action, arguing that schools should be spaces of learning and growth, not personal convenience for teachers. “What kind of message is this sending to our children?” asked one concerned parent. “Instead of teaching them, she is using them for her own chores. Who will

clear the mud in her mind?” Social media users have expressed collective disgust, with many emphasizing that such behavior undermines the purpose of education and reflects a deep-rooted misuse of authority. The incident has also reignited conversations around the protection of students’ rights and the need for better oversight in government schools. As the clip continues to trend, many are calling for a broader discussion about accountability in the education system, especially in remote and under-resourced schools, where students are often vulnerable to such forms of exploitation.

## Mysterious Lights Over Vancouver Spark Debate

A mysterious video from Vancouver, Canada, has gone viral online, capturing what appears to be a strange, colorful light show in the night sky. The footage, originally shared on X (formerly Twitter) by user @dom\_lucer, has ignited a wave of speculation, curiosity, and debate across social media platforms. The video shows a glowing object hovering in the sky, radiating and shifting between multiple colors while seemingly moving in a circular pattern. The unusual display has led many viewers to wonder whether they are witnessing a UFO (Unidentified Flying Object) or simply a high-tech drone. “This strange light was recorded by witnesses in the United States and Canada. Witnesses report colorful UAPs [Unidentified Aerial Phenomena] and other unexplained phenomena lighting up the sky,” read the caption accompanying the post. The video includes audio of onlookers expressing disbelief and awe. “What is this?” one voice asks, followed by another questioning, “Is this a UFO?” The crowd seems mesmerized, with their attention completely fixed on the mysterious object. With nearly 5 million views, the clip has trig-



gered widespread discussion. While some viewers are convinced it’s an alien spacecraft, others have taken a more skeptical stance. One user, Bill Mitchell, questioned the logic behind extraterrestrials using lights: “Why would alien spacecrafts have lights on them, assuming they want to be here incognito? I’m sure they have the ability to see what’s around them without lights.” While there is no official explanation yet, the Vancouver light show has once again fueled age-old questions about life beyond Earth and how we interpret the unknown. Whether a drone stunt or something more otherworldly, the video has certainly left many people watching the skies a little more closely.

## Man Learns Girlfriend Is 48, Not 27

In a bizarre and shocking revelation, a 26-year-old man has gone viral after discovering that the woman he had been dating for four years was actually 21 years older than she claimed. The incident came to light after the man shared his story on Reddit’s r/BreakUps subreddit, sparking widespread disbelief and discussion. According to the post, the man said his girlfriend had consistently claimed to be born in April 1998, which made her 27 years old at the time. The relationship lasted four years, during which he never suspected a thing. However, everything changed when he happened to look through her laptop and stumbled upon an image of her passport. The document clearly stated she was born in 1977, making her 48 years old—more than two decades older than what she had told him. “I’ve been dating my girlfriend for four years now, and she always claimed to be born in April ‘98,” he wrote. “I found a picture of her passport in her laptop where it says ‘77.” The man explained that he never doubted her



claims because she genuinely looked young for her age and carried herself like someone in her late twenties. Despite that, he admitted there had been a few red flags over the years—such as her reluctance to share personal documents or talk about her past in detail. As the story continues to make waves online, it has sparked a broader conversation about age deception in relationships, and how far some people are willing to go to maintain an illusion. For this man, the revelation ended in heartbreak—and a viral post that’s taken the internet by storm.



## Neeraj Chopra Wins Season Opener at Potchefstroom Invitational



Two-time Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra began his 2025 athletics season with a victory at the Potch Invitational Meet in Potchefstroom, South Africa. Neeraj threw 84.52m, winning the men's javelin competition at McArthur Stadium—the venue where he qualified for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics nearly five years ago. The event saw Neeraj and South Africa's Douw Smit, who recorded 82.44m, as the only two athletes to surpass the 80m mark in the six-man field. Neeraj's personal best and the Indian national record stand at 89.94m, achieved at the 2022 Stockholm Diamond League. The Potchefstroom event marks a deviation from Neeraj's usual start to the season at the Doha Diamond League. Despite the modest throw, the win provides a strong foundation for his upcoming competitions in the 2025 season.

## Tapendra Ghai Shoots 62 to Build Four-Shot Lead at Calance Open 2025

Tapendra Ghai of Gurugram produced the best round of the day, an eight-under 62, to take a commanding four-shot lead after round three of the Calance Open 2025 at Qutab Golf Course in New Delhi. With this performance, the 29-year-old moved up from his overnight tied fourth place to a total of 17-under 193 (64-67-62). Ghai's exceptional putting and consistent birdies, including a 30-footer on the 13th, propelled him to the top. Honey Baisoya (67), Pukhraj Singh Gill (68), and Yuvraj Sandhu (69) are tied for second at 13-under 197. Ghai, a PGTI titleholder in 2018, credited his success to strong execution and a focus on staying in the moment for the final round. Mumbai's Aryaman Aditya Mo-



han and Manu Gandas also made impressive moves, shooting 63 to sit in the top 10.

## Rafael Nadal to Be Honored with Tribute at French Open

Retired tennis legend Rafael Nadal will receive a special tribute at the French Open on May 25, the opening day of the tournament, as announced by French Open director Amélie Mauresmo. The 22-time Grand Slam champion, who retired in November, is celebrated for his record-breaking 14 French Open titles. Mauresmo emphasized that the tribute will be exceptional and a surprise for the audience. Nadal, who already has a statue at Roland Garros, will also be featured in an exhibition at the tournament's museum and lend his voice to the official trailer. The tribute, originally planned for 2024 but postponed, is now being held following Na-



dal's retirement. The tribute underscores the inseparable bond between Nadal and Roland Garros, as expressed by French Tennis Federation president Gilles Moretton. Additionally, the French Open will set up a fan zone at Place de la Concorde in central Paris.

## Will Jacks Shines as MI Clinch Crucial Win Over SRH



Mumbai Indians defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad by four wickets in a thrilling IPL 2025 clash, thanks to a stellar all-round performance from Will Jacks. Bowling first, MI restricted SRH to 162/5 in 20 overs. Jacks was impressive with the ball, taking 2/14. SRH's innings was revived by Heinrich Klaasen, who smashed 21 runs off Deepak Chahar in the 18th over, and a final-over surge from Aniket Verma and Pat Cummins added 22 runs. Abhishek Sharma top-scored for SRH with 40. In reply, Jacks led MI's chase with a quickfire 36 off 26 balls. Despite losing wickets regularly, MI held their nerve to chase down the target. This win is crucial for MI as they push for a playoff spot, while SRH will rue missed opportunities with both bat and ball.

## Delhi Storm into Swami Vivekananda U-20 NFC Semi-Finals with 8-0 Win

Defending champions Delhi thrashed Chandigarh 8-0 to enter the semi-finals of the Swami Vivekananda U-20 Men's National Football Championship 2025, held at the Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama Ground in Narainpur, Chhattisgarh. The match was decided in the first session, where Delhi scored seven goals. Moirangthem Rajeshwor Singh, Aditya Adhikari, and Laishram Rahul Meitei each netted two goals, while Sankhil Darpol Tuishang and Arman Ahmad scored one each. Delhi dominated from the start, with Rajeshwor Singh opening the scoring in the seventh minute. Aditya Adhikari followed with a second in the 16th minute, and the lead grew further with a third goal from Rajeshwor Singh in the 27th minute. The relentless pressure from Delhi left Chandigarh with no chance of a comeback.



## Raksha Khadse Assesses Athlete Training and Infrastructure in Bengaluru

Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, Raksha Nikhil Khadse, visited the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Bengaluru campus for two days to assess the implementation of India's sports schemes at the grassroots level. During her visit, Khadse interacted with elite athletes, including Olympians, Dronacharya and Dhyan Chand Awardees, as well as coaches from the Senior Women's Hockey, Athletics, and Para-Athletics teams. She praised the spirit of perseverance and commitment demonstrated by athletes, highlighting their personal challenges and triumphs. A key moment of the visit was the inauguration of the new Indoor Kabaddi Hall, which aims to enhance the training of



athletes in traditional Indian sports. Khadse also engaged with foreign and Indian coaches to discuss training methodologies and strategies for inte-

grating science-based, athlete-centric models to improve performance at the global level.





## Pooja Hegde Boosts Retro Buzz

Pooja Hegde, who had been away from Telugu cinema since exiting Guntur Kaaram, is now actively promoting Retro, set for release on May 1st. Although Suriya headlines the Karthik Subbaraj-directed gangster drama, Pooja's sudden involvement in Telugu interviews has sparked curiosity.

Despite Suriya's popularity and Sithara Entertainments backing the film, Retro had surprisingly low buzz in Telugu. Pooja's recent promotional spree has shifted that, drawing attention with her candid interviews and heartfelt appreciation for Telugu fans. She even revealed her next Telugu project—a romantic film.

While Retro has decent anticipation in Tamil, these new efforts are boosting its Telugu reach. With the trailer still pending, Pooja's presence has already made a noticeable difference. More promotional activities are expected to follow in the coming days.

## Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi USA Premieres Today

Nandamuri Kalyan Ram's Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi premieres today in the USA ahead of its worldwide release tomorrow. Directed by Pradeep Chilukuri and produced by Ashok Vardhan Muppa and Sunil Balusu under Ashoka Creations and NTR Arts, the film blends family drama with intense action.

Lady Superstar Vijayashanthi makes a strong comeback as Kalyan Ram's mother, while Saiee Manjrekar plays the female lead. In the USA, the film

is having a wide release through Prathyangira Cinemas, known for distributing blockbusters like Kalki, Devara, and Pushpa 2.

Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi has built strong hype, with the teaser, trailer, and songs receiving an excellent response. NTR's comments at the pre-release event, particularly about the gripping climax, have further boosted expectations. The makers have promoted the film extensively across Telugu states.



## Odela 2 Falls Short of Hype

Odela Railway Station (2022) gained decent appreciation as a direct OTT release. Now, its creator Sampath Nandi returns with Odela 2, this time with a theatrical release and a grander scale. Tamannaah Bhatia takes the spotlight as a Naga Sadhu, joined by Hebah Patel and Vasishtha N. Simha. Directed by Ashok Teja, the film runs for 2 hours and 30 minutes and falls under the horror genre.

Backed by Madhu Creations and Sampath Nandi Teamworks, Odela 2 has been heavily promoted. With music by Ajaneesh Loknath and a larger production canvas, expectations were high. However, the film doesn't quite match the intrigue of its predecessor. While the premise is ambitious, the execution falters, leaving viewers with a visually rich but emotionally flat horror experience. Overall, it struggles to live up to the hype.



## L2: Empuraan Locks OTT Release Date

Mohanlal and Prithviraj Sukumaran's L2: Empuraan, the sequel to the blockbuster Lucifer, is set for its OTT debut on Disney+ Hotstar from April 24. The film, which hit theatres on March 27 as a Ramzan special, will stream in Malayalam, Telugu, Tamil, and Kannada.



Empuraan made a strong theatrical impact, grossing over ₹265 crore worldwide in just 21 days. Its pre-release business crossed ₹100 crore, with a break-even target of ₹220 crore.

Made on a massive ₹180 crore budget, the film was produced by Sree Gokulam Movies, Aas-

hirvad Cinemas, and Lyca Productions. It boasts a star-studded cast including Manju Warrier, Tovino Thomas, Indrajith Sukumaran, and others.

While fans were surprised by its early OTT release, the digital rights were reportedly sold at a record price. All eyes are now on its streaming performance starting April 24.

## Meenakshi Scores With Venky & Chay

Meenakshi Chaudhary, who delivered a blockbuster with Venkatesh's Sankarantiki Vasthunam (Rs 300 crore grosser), is now teaming up with Naga Chaitanya for her next project, NC24. Interestingly, she becomes one of the rare actresses to romance both the Mama-Alludu duo—Venky and Chay—in back-to-back films.



Naga Chaitanya, fresh off his biggest hit Thandel (his first Rs 100 crore film), adds major star power to NC24. With both leads riding high on success, the film is already generating strong buzz.

Directed by Virupaksha fame Karthik Varma Dandu, NC24 is shaping up as a mythical thriller with an intense, suspense-driven narrative. Shooting began today, and Chay's new look is expected to be a major highlight when the film releases next year. Expectations are high for this fresh pairing and gripping storyline.

## Akshay & Twinkle Steal Spotlight at Kesari 2 Premiere

Akshay Kumar and Twinkle Khanna made a stylish entry at the Kesari Chapter 2 premiere, walking in hand-in-hand and radiating charm. The couple posed gracefully for the cameras, delighting fans with their chemistry. Akshay looked dapper in a grey textured suit with a matching tie, while Twinkle wowed in an elegant olive green co-ord set.



The glitzy event was a star-studded affair with many Bollywood celebrities in attendance. Ananya Panday stood out in a vibrant purple saree paired with a halter-neck blouse, and Suhana Khan

opted for a timeless off-shoulder black dress. Kajol, Rasha Thadani, and several other familiar faces added glamour to the night, making the Kesari 2 premiere a sparkling celebration of style and cinema. Fans couldn't get enough of the fashion and star power on display.