

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 36° C

L 27° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 37° C

L 28° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 37° C

L 27° C



Vijayasai Reddy Admits Anchoring Raj Kasireddy

Calls him ‘Smart with a criminal Mindset’

Says Raj Kasireddy handled liquor dealings; denies knowledge of key roles, kickbacks

Reveals ₹100 crore loan from Aurobindo to liquor firms; claims no misuse awareness

Expresses anguish over YSRCP coterie, satire by Sakshi; rules out Rajya Sabha return

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Former Rajya Sabha MP Vijayasai Reddy appeared before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Friday in connection with the AP liquor scam and was questioned for several hours at the Vijayawada City Police Commissioner's office. Later, speaking to the media, Vijayasai clarified that he never interfered in liquor sales during the previous YSRCP government, stating that Raj Kasireddy was solely responsible. He admitted that he had no

knowledge of Kasireddy forming three companies or launching new liquor brands and denied awareness of Rajampet MP Mithun Reddy's role in the matter. When asked whether Kasireddy had leased the firms, he told officials only Kasireddy could answer those questions. "He didn't cheat me, he cheated the party and the people," Vijayasai said. Responding to queries about key meetings held in Hyderabad and Amaravati, Vijayasai stated that former CM's OSD Krishnamohan Reddy and IAS officer Dhanunjaya

Reddy did not attend as far as he recalled. When asked if kickbacks were discussed, he said he had no such knowledge and did not know where Kasireddy's collected funds were directed. He revealed that he arranged ₹100 crore in loans from Aurobindo Pharma, disbursing ₹60 crore to Dekart and ₹40 crore to Adan Distillery at 12% interest. He claimed ignorance about how the money was used. "If the SIT calls again, I will cooperate fully," he added. Vijayasai opened up about his exit

from YSRCP, blaming a "coterie" around YS Jagan for sidelining him after the party came to power. "There is no No. 2 in regional parties," he said. "I was pushed from second to 2000th position after being accused of backstabbing." Taking aim at Sakshi media, he expressed anger over its critical coverage. "I started that channel. Why is it attacking me for doing agriculture or politics?" he questioned. He denied any plans to return to Rajya Sabha but said he would enter politics again if people wanted him.



Minister Nara Lokesh Vows Crackdown on Betting Apps with New Statewide Ban Policy

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

- Enforcement Directorate seizes land and shares in Hyderabad, Bengaluru
- Action linked to 2009-10 corruption case when Jagan was Kadapa MP
- Assets belong to companies and associates tied to Jagan, not in his direct name

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a major development in the long-standing money laundering investigation against former Andhra

ED Attaches Rs. 800 Crore Assets in Shocking Move Against Jagan

Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth Rs. 800 crore. These assets include prime land parcels in Hyderabad and Bengaluru, as well as shares in multiple companies reportedly linked to Jagan's family and close associates. The case, which dates back to 2009-10 when Jagan was serving as an MP from Kadapa, alleges that he used his political influence to benefit certain

companies in return for substantial investments or kickbacks routed through his family-run entities. These funds, the ED believes, were used to acquire immovable properties and corporate shares, now frozen under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Sources said that the properties are not in Jagan's direct name but have been traced to firms and individuals closely associated with him, reflecting a web of transactions designed to

mask the origin of illicit wealth. The central agency stated that the proceeds of crime were layered and integrated into legitimate-looking businesses to escape scrutiny. This action is part of the broader investigation that has seen both the ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) scrutinizing Jagan's business and political dealings for over a decade. The CBI, which originally registered the corruption case, is continuing its probe into the source of the funds and the manner in which public office was allegedly misused for personal gain. With this latest move, the ED has signaled its intent to fast-track long-pending probes into political corruption cases with serious financial implications.

Minister Nara Lokesh has vowed to launch a decisive war against betting apps in Andhra Pradesh. Responding to a message on social media platform X that highlighted the growing threat of betting apps ruining lives, Lokesh said that the state government will bring a comprehensive policy to ban betting platforms and make Andhra Pradesh a model for the entire country. "Betting apps are destroying lives. I am hearing hundreds of heartbreaking stories of youth being driven into despair by gambling addiction. This must stop," Lokesh wrote on X. He emphasized that the long-term solution lies in sustained awareness campaigns and strict enforcement measures. He announced that all legal options will be explored to curtail the operation and spread of these apps, which have been luring people into financial and emotional distress. He said that apart from policy measures, awareness programs will be conducted across the state to educate citizens—especially the youth—about the dangers of online betting. Lokesh also issued a stern warning to those promoting or engaging in gambling through these apps, saying that the government will take stringent action against violators. "We are working on a comprehensive anti-betting policy that will set an example for the entire country. We will explore all legal avenues to end this menace," he added. The minister's strong stand comes amid growing concern over the impact of online betting, especially among students and unemployed youth, with several reports surfacing in recent months highlighting addiction and financial ruin due to unchecked digital gambling platforms.



AP Govt Issues Gazette Orders on SC Classification Ordinance

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SIT intensifies probe, issues fresh notice to Mithun Reddy in liquor scam

- Mithun Reddy issued second notice to appear before SIT on Saturday
- Vijayasai Reddy skips questioning, promises to appear on Friday
- Kasireddy remains untraceable, his father Upender questioned by officials



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) has ramped up its inquiry into the multi-thousand crore liquor scam that allegedly took place during the YSRCP regime, issuing another notice to MP Mithun Reddy after he failed to appear for questioning on Friday. SIT officials have now directed him to appear on Saturday (April 19). SIT had summoned both Mithun Reddy and former MP Vijayasai Reddy to appear for questioning on Friday. While Vijayasai had informed the SIT he would ap-

pear on Friday, he failed to do so and instead sent a last-minute message citing other commitments. He assured the team that he would appear on Friday. Officials, including SIT chief SV Rajasekhara Babu, waited for him at the Vijayawada Police Commissioner's office until noon. Meanwhile, Mithun Reddy approached the High Court seeking permission for audio-video recording of his questioning. With the court denying this request, he is now obligated to comply with the SIT notice and appear on Friday.

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Dy CM Cracks Down on Land Grabbing

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has issued a stern warning against land grabbing, asserting that the government will take uncompromising action against those encroaching on the properties of the poor or seizing inherited lands. During a teleconference with officials on Friday, he said the state government would ensure protection for victims and restore their rights. Pawan Kalyan revealed that a flood of complaints related to land encroachments has been received by his office, especially from Visakhapatnam, Kakinada, Tirupati, and Kadapa districts. He noted that several cases involve threats being issued to victims in the name of the coalition government, as well as illegal occupation of government, Brahmin, Satram (inn), endowment, Matham, and industrial lands. A former ruling party leader has reportedly been involved in some of these incidents, particularly in Kakinada and Tirupati. He made it clear that those forging documents or engaging in unlawful possession will face the full force of the law. “No one will be spared, irrespective of their political connections,” he stated. Reiterating the commitment of the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, the Deputy Chief Minister said protecting public and private property is a top priority. He further announced that he would soon visit district collectorates to directly receive petitions from land-grabbing victims and ensure swift action. Pawan Kalyan also assured that complaints against leaders of the current ruling alliance will not be ignored. “Justice will be delivered without fear or favour,” he said.

SIT intensifies...

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As the key accused in the scam, Kasireddy Rajasekhara Reddy (Raj Kasireddy) continues to evade authorities, the SIT served a notice to his father Upender Reddy two days ago at his Hyderabad residence. Responding to the notice, Upender appeared before the SIT on Friday in Vijayawada. However, he reportedly claimed he had no knowledge of his son's whereabouts or contacts, despite being questioned in detail. He was asked questions such as where Raj usually goes, who he meets frequently, and where he might be hiding. Upender maintained he knew nothing and agreed to be available for further questioning, providing hotel stay details for follow-up. Separately, the SIT has also issued notices to several liquor traders accused of paying bribes under the previous government. Their questioning is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, as the SIT presses forward in unraveling the full extent of the scam.

Prof. K. Madhu Murthy takes charge as RGUKT Chancellor, outlines global education vision

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Prof. K. Madhu Murthy officially assumed charge as the In-charge Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT) on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, he stated that Andhra Pradesh is taking decisive steps to become a global hub for education. Prof. Murthy, who also chairs the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE), laid out his vision to enhance academic standards and infrastructure at all RGUKT Triple IT campuses. Highlighting the success of students from rural backgrounds in securing jobs in reputed companies, he said that the government is determined to further strengthen RGUKT's role in delivering world-class technical education. A special committee has already been formed to improve academic quality and campus facilities, he revealed. In a significant move toward globalizing the state's education sector, Prof. Murthy announced that the government will soon roll out a program to facilitate foreign education within Andhra Pradesh. “We aim to establish institutions and academic environments where international students can pursue higher studies right here in our state,” he said. Prof. Murthy also reviewed the arrangements for the upcoming EAMCET and other entrance exams. He assured that necessary preparations are nearing completion and all examinations will be conducted smoothly as per the planned schedule. “We are expecting a higher number of students this year, and all logistical aspects are well in place,” he added.

CM Naidu Announces April theme for ‘Swachchha Andhra’

- April theme: Safe e-waste collection and recycling drive
- Every 3rd Saturday: State-wide Swachchha Andhra program continues
- SHGs to manage e-waste centers in rural, urban areas



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has announced the theme for April's ‘Swachchha Andhra’ program—“E-waste collection and recycling in safe ways.” This state-wide initiative, conducted on the third Saturday of every month, is part of the broader Swarnandhra-2047 Sankalpa to promote a cleaner, greener Andhra Pradesh. Taking to social media, CM Naidu stated that the Swachchha Andhra program would

feature a unique and practical theme every month to inspire widespread public participation. For April, the focus is on managing the growing problem of electronic waste responsibly, promoting awareness and action through safe collection and recycling methods. CM Naidu emphasized the concept of a circular economy, highlighting how wealth can be generated from garbage if handled systematically. “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” is the guiding motto of this month's program. He urged people from all walks

of life—including officials, district collectors, public representatives, MLAs, ministers, NGOs, corporate entities, students, and youth—to join hands and contribute to the movement. He specifically instructed the setup of e-waste collection centers in both rural and urban areas, with active involvement of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). These SHGs will play a key role in managing the centers and raising awareness about the environmental and health hazards associated with improper e-waste disposal. “Through responsible e-waste recycling, we can protect our environment, reduce pollution, and create new employment avenues,” the CM said, stressing that this month's theme is not just about cleanliness but also about sustainability and innovation. The Swachchha Andhra initiative has gained momentum under the leadership of CM Chandrababu Naidu since the formation of the coalition government. The consistent monthly themes are aimed at driving behavioral change and fostering a culture of cleanliness, responsibility, and civic participation across the state.

‘Eat Right, Live Right’ – Health Minister Satya Kumar’s message on World Liver Day

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

On World Liver Day, Health, Family Welfare, and Medical Education Minister Satya Kumar Yadav emphasized the importance of embracing healthier lifestyles and responsible eating habits to prevent liver-related diseases. In a post shared on the social media platform X, the Minister noted that many health issues, including liver diseases, stem from the way we live and what we consume. He pointed out that liver diseases are on the rise due to poor dietary choices, sedentary lifestyles, obesity, diabetes, alcoholism, and unsafe practices like



unprotected sex and repeated syringe use. Satya Kumar also highlighted this year's World Liver Day theme, ‘Food as Medicine,’ stressing the critical role that diet plays in liver health and overall well-being.

The Minister raised concern over the increasing prevalence of fatty liver, affecting nearly 38% of the population, warning that untreated conditions could escalate into cirrhosis and even fatal liver failure. However, he emphasized that these outcomes are preventable with early intervention and lifestyle adjustments. Satya Kumar urged citizens to take preventive measures by maintaining a balanced diet, staying physically active, getting vaccinated, and avoiding high-risk behaviors. “Let's not wait for illness to strike. On World Liver Day, let us renew our commitment to ‘Eat Right and Live Right,’” he concluded.

AP Govt Issues Gazette...

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh government has officially directed the publication of the SC Classification Ordinance in the state Gazette, marking a key step in the implementation of caste-based reservation among Scheduled Castes. The Chief Secretary of AP, K. Vijayanand, issued G.O. MS No. 7 on Friday to facilitate this. The SC Classification Ordinance, already approved by Governor Abdul Nazeer, provides structured reservation as follows: 1 percent for 12 castes in Group-1, 6.5 percent for 18 castes in Group-2, and 7.5 percent for 29 castes in Group-3. The ordinance, listed as Ordinance No. 2 of 2025, was issued by the Law Department under the supervision of Secretary Gotta-pu Pratibha Devi. This policy aims to ensure fair representation for all Scheduled Castes in education and employment opportunities. The classification move is seen as a major initiative by the Chandrababu Naidu-led government to address long-pending demands for internal reservations within SC communities. In response to the implementation of this significant reform, MRPS chief Padmashri Manda Krishna Madiga met with Chief Secretary Vijayanand at the Secretariat. He expressed gratitude on behalf of the Madiga community for the government's commitment and smooth handling of the process. Manda Krishna Madiga also visited the CMO and personally thanked CM Principal Secretary Ravichandra, CM Secretary PS Pradyumna, and Additional Secretary AV Rajamouli for their cooperation in completing the classification procedure. The decision to proceed with the ordinance followed a Cabinet meeting chaired by CM Chandrababu Naidu at Velagapudi on April 16, where the focus was to promote equitable opportunities among all SC sub-groups in Andhra Pradesh.

E-Waste to be collected across AP under Swachh Andhra program on April 19

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh will launch a massive state-wide e-waste collection drive on April 19 as part of its monthly Swachchhandhra - Swachh Divas initiative. This month's theme, E-check, focuses on the collection and reuse of electronic waste through specially set up centers across municipalities. Minister for Municipal Administration Dr. P. Narayana, who reviewed the arrangements in a teleconference with Municipal Commissioners and department officials, said that the program reflects Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's vision of achieving 100 percent cleanliness in the state by holding monthly themed campaigns for twelve consecutive months. Dr. Narayana announced that 222 e-waste collection centers will be operational state-wide, many of which are converted RRR centers. The initiative aims to collect damaged or unused electronic items such as mobile phones, TVs, and small gadgets from homes and commercial spaces. To boost employment, the responsibility of managing these centers will be given to women from self-help groups and local associations. The collected e-waste will be exchanged for cash, offering an economic incentive while promoting eco-friendly practices. Several companies have already come forward to recycle the collected materials. The Minister stressed that this campaign will not be limited to one day and that the centers will function throughout the year to facilitate continuous disposal.

Union Minister Rammohan Naidu assures help for workers in Muscat

TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam

Union Minister of State Rammohan Naidu has stepped in to help workers from Srikakulam district who are stranded in Muscat, Oman, after migrating in search of employment. Reports emerged that several workers from the region are facing severe hardships due to the unavailability of jobs and basic support in the Gulf country. After learning about their situation, Rammohan Naidu immediately connected with the workers via a video call. During the conversation, he listened to their grievances and reassured them that the government will make every effort to bring them back to India safely and at the earliest. The workers reportedly went to Muscat with hopes of earning a livelihood, but have been left without work or proper accommodation, placing them under emotional and financial stress. Their families back home in Srikakulam also expressed concern over their well-being and safety. Rammohan Naidu, who represents the Srikakulam parliamentary constituency, assured the families that the central government is treating the



issue with urgency. He stated that coordination is already underway with the Indian Embassy in Oman and officials from the External Affairs Ministry to ensure the workers' safe return. “We will not rest until every worker is safely brought back. Their safety is our priority,” he told the families, offering both emotional and administrative support. The swift response from the Union Minister has brought hope to the stranded workers and their families, who now await further updates on their repatriation process.

Raghurama Krishnam Raju Demands Bharat Ratna for Ratan Tata



TPN Correspondent | Guntur

Andhra Pradesh Assembly Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju has once again

- Ratan Tata hailed as a humanitarian and national gem
- Deputy Speaker unveiled statue at Guntur real estate venture
- Revealed prior request to PM Modi for Bharat Ratna

demanded that industrialist Ratan Tata be honored with the Bharat Ratna, the nation’s highest civilian award. The demand came during the unveiling of a statue of Ratan Tata at a real estate venture in Guntur on Friday. Speaking at the event, Raghurama praised Ratan Tata as a visionary humanitarian who redefined corporate philanthropy in India. “He is not just a business magnate but a symbol of integrity, compassion, and national service,” he said. Highlighting Tata’s remarkable contributions in the fields of education and healthcare, he stressed that such service-oriented individuals deserve the highest recognition from the nation.

Raghurama revealed that he had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi four years ago, urging him to consider Ratan Tata for

the Bharat Ratna. “Even if the award is not given immediately, every Indian holds Ratan Tata in their heart like a national treasure,” he said.

The Deputy Speaker emphasized the uniqueness of the statue installation, noting that while idols of deities are usually placed at such venues, this statue honors a living legacy that continues to inspire millions. “Ratan Tata’s life stands as an example of how business can be a force for good,” he added.

The event concluded with a call to the youth to follow in Tata’s footsteps, blending success with service. Raghurama’s speech drew applause from attendees, including business professionals and local leaders, who echoed his sentiments on recognizing Tata’s contributions with the Bharat Ratna.



Bolisetty Satyanarayana highlights World Heritage Day efforts from Kakinada

TPN Correspondent | Kakinada

On the occasion of World Heritage Day, Jana Sena Party leader Bolisetty Satyanarayana emphasized the significance of heritage conservation initiatives that began earlier this year in Andhra Pradesh. He recalled that noted environmentalist and water conservationist Dr. Rajendra Singh initiated a global heritage conservation campaign in February 2024, with Kakinada as its epicenter.

Bolisetty noted that under the leadership of Padma Shri Dr. Sankuratri Chandrasekhar, a dedicated team was formed to identify and preserve century-old buildings in Kakinada, including the historic structures of MSN Charities, Pedamarket Bhavan, Om Building, and Shanti Ashram. These buildings have been recognized as cultural assets meant to be passed on to future generations.

In his message, Bolisetty also lauded the “Mananudi Mana Nadi” initiative, a program jointly envisioned by Jana Sena Party President Pawan Kalyan, Dr. Rajendra Singh, and environmentalist MVR Sastry. The program focuses on safeguarding traditional languages, cultural practices, and natural water sources, reflecting the broader philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — the world as one family. He stated that the initiative is not limited to the Telugu states, but aims to contribute to the global movement for heritage and environmental preservation. Bolisetty reaffirmed the commitment of Jana Sena leaders and activists to ensure that future generations inherit a legacy of rich culture, historical architecture, and ecological balance.

“Let this day serve as a reminder of our responsibility to protect what defines us — our traditions, our nature, and our shared humanity,” he said.

Case Filed Against Bhumana Karunakar Reddy Over Remarks on TTD Cowshed

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

Former TTD chairman and YSRCP leader Bhumana Karunakar Reddy finds himself at the center of controversy after the Tirupati SVU police registered a case against him. The complaint was filed by TTD board member Bhanu Prakash Reddy, who accused Bhumana of spreading false allegations against the sacred SV Gaushala, causing distress among devotees.

According to Bhanu Prakash, Bhumana made baseless claims suggesting that the SV Gaushala, known for its religious sanctity, had been converted into a slaughterhouse. Bhanu strongly refuted these statements and demanded legal action, stating that such remarks were not only factually incorrect but also deeply hurtful to



the sentiments of devotees associated with the Tirumala temple. The complaint also mentioned the alleged death of 100 cows in the Gaushala, which Bhanu said was being politicized by Bhumana for personal

and political gain. He submitted the complaint to District SP Harsha Vardhan Raju, urging immediate legal proceedings.

Acting on the complaint, the SVU police have registered a case against Bhumana under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including Sections 353(1) (provoking breach of peace), 299 (causing hurt), and 74 (defamation-related provisions). The case is expected to stir political debate as the matter involves both religious sensitivity and political rivalry. Police officials are likely to summon Bhumana for questioning as part of the investigation. The incident has sparked a fresh row between TTD board members and former officials, especially in the lead-up to crucial political developments in the state.



Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy Announces Reward for Tracing Missing Ex-Minister Kakani

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

In a dramatic political twist, senior TDP leader Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy has thrown a direct challenge to locate missing YSRCP leader and former minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy, who is absconding in connection with the illegal quartz mining and transportation case. Speaking to the media, Somireddy said he is unaware of Kakani’s whereabouts and mockingly offered

a “bumper reward” to anyone who can locate him—even promising the Corona House next to Kakani’s residence as a gift. The TDP leader said even YSRCP members are eligible for the reward if they provide credible information.

Somireddy recalled Kakani’s earlier fiery rhetoric, stating, “He once said he would untie police shirts and hit his thigh in challenge... where is all that courage now?” He accused Kakani of hiding like a coward and ex-

pressed disappointment that a former minister would resort to fleeing from the law instead of facing justice.

The former minister also criticized Jagan Mohan Reddy for his silence and inaction over the issue. He particularly slammed YSRCP MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi for his alleged derogatory comments, questioning why the party leadership did not take disciplinary action if it had any moral compass.

Former Minister Avanti Srinivas’ Daughter Resigns from YSRCP

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

In a significant setback to the YSRCP in Visakhapatnam, Muthamsetty Lakshmi Priyanka, the 6th ward corporator and daughter of former minister Avanti Srinivas, has resigned from the party. Her exit comes at a crucial time, just as the no-confidence motion against Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) Mayor Hari Venkata Kumari gathers momentum.

Lakshmi Priyanka submitted her resignation to YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, citing personal reasons. She thanked the party for the opportunity and support during her term. However, her decision has triggered alarm within the party ranks, as political uncertainty deepens in the city. With the TDP-led alliance aggressively pursuing the mayor’s removal, the YSRCP had shifted its corporators to undisclosed camps outside the city to prevent potential defections. But Lakshmi Priyanka’s resignation after returning to Vizag has reignited fears of more leaders jumping ship.

This development adds to YSRCP’s growing list of troubles, as the party is already struggling with losses across multiple urban bodies. The focus has now shifted to whether the ruling party can retain its hold over the GVMC amid visible signs of dissent and rebellion.

Responding to the situation, senior YSRCP leader Botsa Satyanarayana accused the TDP of engineering defections despite lacking majority numbers. He alleged a conspiracy to destabilize the local body and vowed to block the no-confidence motion. However, the political winds appear to be shifting in favor of the alliance, especially as cracks within the YSRCP begin to widen.



MLA Sudheer Reddy Slams YSRCP Over Land Allocation Allegations

TPN Correspondent | Srikalahasti

Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy came down heavily on the YSRCP leadership on Friday, accusing the party of large-scale land loot during its regime. Speaking

at a local meeting, he defended the Chandrababu Naidu-led government’s decision to allocate 22 acres of land to TCS, sharply contrasting it with the alleged thousands of acres handed over to cronies by former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Sudheer Reddy stated that while the TCS land allotment is aimed at providing employment opportunities for the educated youth, YSRCP handed over far larger plots for projects that never took off. “Rajasekhara Reddy speaks of 22 acres for TCS, but what about the 28,000 acres looted in the name of Vampic? Or the 1,200 acres in Dachepalli for the unstarted Saraswati Power Plant?” he questioned.

He went on to list other controversial land allocations under YSRCP, including 9,000 acres in Hindupur for the Lepakshi Knowledge Hub and vast land tracts given to firms like Dalmia, India Cements, Bharati Cements, and Shirdi Sai Company. “You glorify Jagan Reddy, who handed out government lands to corrupt industrialists like Diwali sweets, but you can’t stomach it when TCS gets a mere 22 acres?” he lashed out.

Reddy emphasized that Chandrababu Naidu’s administration is focused on fostering genuine employment by bringing reputed companies like TCS to the state. He also accused YSRCP of orchestrating a misinformation campaign to malign the TDP government’s efforts in industrial development.



Jaggampeta MLA Jyothula Nehru defends TTD, slams false propaganda

TPN Correspondent | Kakinada

In a strong statement upholding secular values, Jaggampeta MLA and Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) board member Jyothula Nehru condemned the alleged false propaganda being spread by former TTD chairman and YSRCP leader Bhumana Karunakar Reddy. Addressing a media conference at the local TDP office on Friday, Nehru said the coalition government firmly respects all religions and demonstrates this through inclusive action.

He announced that the Kutami government has released a monthly honorarium of ₹5,000 to pastors across the state, marking the commitment to secularism and the welfare of spiritual leaders from all communities. “Within three months of the decision, this scheme has been successfully implemented,” he said, asserting that it reflects the government’s dedication to harmony and religious respect.

Nehru particularly objected to the accusations being leveled against the TTD’s cowsheds, stating that Bhumana Karunakar Reddy was attempting to damage the sanctity of Tirumala and tarnish Hinduism. He clarified that TTD maintains three official Goshalas — in Tirumala, Palamaneru, and Thammayyapalem — all functioning under long-established practices since 1956.

“Every month, 12 cows naturally pass away due to old age or health issues, while around 15 calves are born or donated. This is a regular cycle, not mismanagement,” he explained. Nehru stated that he will push for criminal action against Reddy in the upcoming TTD board meeting for spreading misinformation.

Amaravati to Emerge as India's Sports Capital - MP Kesineni Sivanath

Amaravati Journalist Cricket League inaugurated at Moolapadu Stadium
MP Kesineni vows to form IPL team for AP, ACA to set up grounds in 175 constituencies
Sports fests planned during Christmas-Sankranti holidays across villages

TPN Correspondent | Ibrahimpatnam
Andhra Pradesh is all set to transform into a "Sports Andhra Pradesh" under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, with Amaravati envisioned as the nation's future sports capital, said MP and Andhra Cricket Association (ACA) President Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni). He was speaking after inaugurating the three-day Amaravati Journalist Cricket League tournament on

Friday at the ACA International Cricket Stadium in Moolapadu, Ibrahimpatnam mandal. Ten journalist teams are competing in the tournament, jointly organized by the Kesineni Foundation, Andhra Cricket Association, and SHAP. MP Kesineni and SHAP Chairman Ravi Naidu tossed the opening match between Bejawada Media and Secretariat I&PR teams. A cake was also cut to mark the 17th anniversary of the IPL, and Kesineni himself took a few

shots on the field. Kesineni revealed that efforts are underway to form an IPL team representing Andhra Pradesh, with Amaravati as its base. He noted that ACA plans to establish cricket grounds in all 175 constituencies of the state. He added that Minister Nara Lokesh is committed to nurturing sports culture from schools to villages and that district-wide village-level sports competitions will be conducted during the Christmas and

Sankranti holidays. The MP emphasized that plans are afoot to construct a world-class sports city, sports university, and an international cricket stadium in the Moolapadu area. He shared that ICC Chairman Jay Shah has assured support for this initiative following Lokesh's efforts. SHAP Chairman Ravi Naidu said these cricket matches offer a refreshing break for hard-working journalists. He stated that SHAP will continue to sup-



port village-level sports development from Srikakulam to Anantapur and confirmed that 5 lakh children will receive summer sports training. ACA Treasurer Dandamudi Srinivas and several local TDP leaders also took part in the event.

Rayalaseema Identified as Ideal Hub for Renewable Energy Projects

Minister Gottipati highlights the potential for solar, wind, and PSP projects in the region
Renewable energy projects to create job opportunities for local youth
Steps being taken to provide 9 hours of quality electricity to farmers

TPN Correspondent | Madakasira
Energy Minister Gottipati Ravikumar has emphasized that Rayalaseema is the most suitable region in the country for renewable energy projects. Speaking during the inauguration of four sub-stations and the foundation laying of three more in Madakasira, Anantapur district, on Friday, he highlighted the region's vast potential for solar, wind, and pumped storage projects (PSP). Minister Ravikumar pointed out the state's previous mistakes of driving away investors who sought to set up renewable energy projects in the last five years, leading to significant losses and leaving Andhra Pradesh behind in the renewable energy sector. He further mentioned that under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, a survey had been conducted in collaboration with organizations like Navayuga to explore opportunities in Rayalaseema. Following positive discussions in a cabinet meeting, plans to establish renewable energy projects in the region have gained momentum. The Minister assured that these projects would not only enhance the region's development but also create substantial job opportunities for local youth. Additionally, steps are being taken to ensure that farmers in the region receive 9 hours of quality electricity during the day. The PM Ku-



sum scheme, under which solar plants will be installed near substations, is set to address this issue. Ravikumar confirmed that the tender process for this initiative has already been completed and work will proceed in phases over the next five years. Furthermore, as part of the CM Suryagarh scheme, the government aims to install solar panels on 10,000 homes in each constituency, with 20 lakh PM Surya Ghar connections specifically allocated for Andhra Pradesh. These measures align with the state government's vision of making Andhra Pradesh the country's leading renewable energy state.

Silver Thief Arrested in Gudivada; Items Worth Rs. 1.5 Lakh Seized

TPN Correspondent | Gudivada
A major breakthrough was achieved by Gudivada Rural Police with the arrest of Pappula Prabhu Kumar (19), who had stolen silver items worth Rs. 2 lakh from the Sai Baba temple in Dondapadu Colony, Sridevi Nagar, Gudivada Rural Mandal, Krishna District. The theft, which took place on April 14, 2025, saw the accused make off with 2.5 kg of silver items. Based on the orders of Krishna District SP R Gangadhar Rao and under the supervision of Gudivada Sub Divisional Police Officer, Rural CI SLR Someswara Rao, a detailed investigation was carried out. Rural SI N Chanti Babu led the operation, using technical and other evidence to track down the accused. **On April 18, 2025, at 11 AM, Pappula Prabhu Kumar was arrested. Among the seized items were:**

- 1 silver shatha gopa
- 1 silver crown
- 2 silver Baba's sandals
- 1 silver plate with design
- 1 small silver plate



- 13 other silver items weighing 1.4 kg

Additionally, 20 kg of copper wire valued at Rs. 50,000, stolen from the BSNL office, was also recovered. The accused had a history of criminal involvement, with prior cases filed against him at Bhimavaram One Town Police Station and Rajanagaram Police Station. The DSP presented rewards to SI N Chanti Babu and his team for their efforts in solving the case. Rural CI L Someswara Rao and other police personnel were also present at the event.

Chinna Venkanna Kalyanotsavams to Begin on May 7 at Dwarakathirumala

TPN Correspondent | Dwarakathirumala
The Vaisakhamas Thiru Kalyanotsavams of Sri Venkateswara Swamy at Dwarakathirumala, Eluru district, will begin on May 7 and continue until May 14. According to the temple executive officer NVSN Murthy, the main event will occur on May 11 at 8:00 PM, with the Rathotsavam scheduled for May 12 at 7:30 PM. During this period, the daily Kalyanotsavams and Anna Arjita Seva will be canceled to accommodate the special rituals. This annual event is one of the two Brahmotsavams held at the temple, with the first in Vaisakham and the second in Ashwayuja. The Kalyanotsavams are a significant cultural and religious celebration



for the devotees of Lord Venkateswara, drawing many visitors to the shrine.

Suchitra Ella Takes Charge as Advisor for Handloom and Handicrafts Development

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Suchitra Ella, Padma Bhushan awardee and co-founder of Bharat Biotech, has officially taken charge as the Advisor for Handloom and Handicrafts Development in Andhra Pradesh. Appointed by the state government with cabinet rank, Ella will serve in this position for the next two years, providing strategic guidance to enhance the handloom and handicrafts sectors. Her role will primarily involve advising on key policy



changes, promoting sustainable development, expanding market access, utilizing digital platforms, and supporting the promotion of Geographical Indications. Handloom and Textiles Commissioner Rekha Rani attended the program

and briefed Ella on the current progress of the department, noting that her leadership and industrial expertise would be invaluable for boosting the handloom sector. Ella's appointment is part of the Andhra Pradesh government's broader initiative to bring in sectoral experts to drive targeted development. APCO officials, including Nageswara Rao, Kanana Babu, and Raja Rao, also participated in the event.

Engineering in Your Language AICTE Rolls Out Textbooks in 12 Regional Languages

TPN Correspondent | Amaravathi
After successfully introducing MBBS education in regional languages, the central government is now transforming engineering education. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has launched an ambitious initiative to make engineering textbooks available in Indian regional languages, making higher technical education more inclusive and accessible. AICTE Chairman Professor TG Sitaram stated that the Council has already completed and uploaded around 600 textbooks for first- and second-year diploma and degree students. These textbooks are now available in 12 Indian languages: Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Gujarati, Pun-



jabi, Odia, Bengali, Assamese, and Urdu. Textbooks for third- and fourth-year students will be completed by December 2026. This effort is especially beneficial to students who have studied in their mother tongue throughout school and face difficulties adjusting to the English medium in engineering. The AICTE is also using artificial intelligence for fast translations, achieving 80% accuracy in just 10 minutes per book, with experts refining the remainder. So far, AICTE has approved 1,140 seats in 18 engineering colleges

across the country for B.Tech programs in regional languages. The uptake is growing steadily—from 233 filled seats in 2021–22 to 928 in 2023–24. The subjects currently being translated include civil, mechanical, electrical, electronics, and computer science. Although India recognizes 22 languages officially, the focus remains on 12 major ones due to financial constraints. Professor Sitaram emphasized that this is an optional initiative, modeled on successful systems in countries like Russia, China, Canada, and Japan, where higher education is delivered in native languages. This move is expected to significantly improve technical education accessibility for rural and regional students across India.



Satyagraha for Men at Jantar Mantar Demands Equal Justice

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam
A group of activists from Andhra Pradesh under the banner of AP Save India Family has left for Delhi to participate in a peaceful protest titled "Satyagraha for Men" at Jantar Mantar on April 19. The protest, part of a nationwide campaign by the Save Indian Family Movement, seeks equal justice for men by highlighting the alleged misuse of women-centric laws, increasing domestic violence against men, and the rise in male suicides linked to

false legal cases. Madhusudan Raj, a representative of AP Save India Family, said the protest aims to demand gender-neutral laws, the creation of a National Men's Commission, and a Men's Welfare Department. He emphasized that while laws exist to protect women, there is a growing concern about the abuse of these legal provisions, resulting in emotional, financial, and psychological trauma for men. Citing tragic cases like the suicides of Atul Subhash, Puneet Khurana, and

Manav Sharma, and the sensational Muskan Rastogi case—where a woman allegedly killed and dismembered her husband—he said such incidents reflect the deepening marital discord and the urgent need to address male victimhood in family-related disputes. The protestors argue that equality should mean justice for all, regardless of gender. As they board the AP Express to Delhi, their message is clear: justice for one should not mean injustice for another.

Heartwarming Gesture by Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan During Visit to Alluri District

During his visit to Pedapadu, Pawan Kalyan noticed many tribals lacked footwear
Jana Sena conducted a quick survey to collect shoe sizes of local residents
345 tribals received new sandals, personally sent by the Deputy CM



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh
Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's recent visit to Pedapadu village in Dumbriguda mandal of Alluri Sitharama Raju district turned into a touching moment of compassion and care. During his interaction with local tribal residents, he noticed that many of them were barefoot, unable to afford even basic footwear. Deeply moved by the sight, Pawan Kalyan



instructed his party workers to immediately conduct a survey to determine the shoe sizes of those in need. Following the survey, footwear was arranged and personally dispatched to 345 tribals who had been identified without sandals. This thoughtful gesture from the Deputy CM has drawn appreciation across the region. The tribals, overwhelmed by the attention and

kindness, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Pawan Kalyan for responding so promptly and empathetically to their needs. Locals noted that this act wasn't just about sandals, but about dignity and recognition, with many praising the leader for noticing the small yet significant challenges faced by the tribal community.

No Terrorism Threat in Eluru Range: IG Ashok Kumar



TPN Correspondent | Eluru
Inspector General of Police for Eluru Range, GVG Ashok Kumar, firmly stated that there is no presence of terrorism in the Eluru Range. He made this clarification during an inspection of the Jangareddygudem Police Station on Friday, accompanied by Eluru District SP Kommi Pratapa Siva Kishore. Speaking at a media conference, IG Ashok Kumar noted that given Jangareddygudem's proximity to the Telangana border, special attention is being paid to monitor and control anti-social elements in the region. He emphasized that the department is actively working to address staff shortages across po-

lice stations within the range. Highlighting developmental plans, he announced that steps are underway to upgrade the Jangareddygudem Police Station. Additionally, the possibility of establishing a dedicated rural police station for the area is being considered to improve law enforcement and reach. Earlier, IG Ashok Kumar and SP Kishore were warmly welcomed by the Circle Inspector, Sub-Inspector, and other station staff upon their arrival. After receiving a formal police salute, the IG reviewed key station records and pending case files, assessing the overall functioning and performance of the station.

Varma Inaugurates Buttermilk Cooler at Chili Street in Pithapuram

TPN Correspondent | Pithapuram
Under the leadership of Ward 10 Councillor Allavarapu Nagesh, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders inaugurated a buttermilk cooler at Chili Street in Pithapuram, Kakinada district. The cooler was inaugurated by TDP State Spokesperson and former MLA, SVSN Varma. Varma, speaking at the event, highlighted the initiative's importance in providing relief to passers-by amidst the intense heat. He encouraged people from every village to take inspiration from this initiative and set up similar coolers. After the inauguration, rice bags were distributed to the needy to further support the lo-

cal community. The event was attended by several prominent TDP leaders, including Ward 10 Councillor Allavarapu Nagesh, TDP Ward President Sandina



Nandeewara Rao, and other key figures like PSN Murthy, Karri Lova, Pappu Rajababu, and Addanki Venkata Ramana, among others. Women members of the ward also participated in the program.

Jindal Steel Plant Shuts Down Overnight in Vizianagaram, Workers Erupt in Protest



TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram

The Jindal Stainless Steel Industry at Appanna Palem in Kothavalasa Mandal, Vizianagaram district, was abruptly shut down at midnight on Thursday, triggering a massive protest by workers. Over 400 employees took to the streets in front of the plant on Friday, demanding answers and protesting the unexpected closure without prior intimation. The industry, which has been operational for decades, is a major livelihood source for hundreds of families. Workers were shocked to receive layoff notices overnight, which stated that the factory could no longer function due to a shortage of raw materials and rising electricity costs. This explanation has sparked outrage among workers who say the same reasons were

given during a five-month closure last year. Having resumed operations only in September 2024 after their previous struggle, the workers now face renewed uncertainty. Protesters, joined by trade union leaders, staged a dharna in front of the factory gates, demanding that the management and district authorities immediately address the issue and provide clarity on their future. "This isn't just a shutdown — it's a crisis for our families. We worked hard to revive the factory last year. Now we're back to square one," lamented one worker at the protest. The workers have appealed to the district administration to intervene urgently. They warned that if the factory is not reopened, thousands of families will be left without income, and the region's economy will suffer a major blow.

District Congress Protests Against Inclusion of Sonia and Rahul Gandhi in National Herald Case

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

The District Congress Party organized a protest at the Collector's Office in Tirupati, condemning the inclusion of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in the National Herald case. The protestors accused the BJP-led government of suppressing the opposition's voice and violating the Constitution through such actions. Thalapa Damodaram Reddy, speaking at the protest, emphasized that such cases were aimed at intimidating the opposition and undermining democratic principles. He pointed out that the BJP government is fearful of a potential Congress resurgence in the future. Balaguruvam Babu strongly criticized the BJP's tactics, claiming that the party is using fabricated cases to target top Congress leaders and



suppress the party. He assured that the Congress would not be intimidated by these attempts. The protest was attended by several Congress leaders, including Rambhupal Reddy, Tamat Venkata Narasimhulu, Chittibabu, Airala Lokesh Reddy, Mallikarjuna, Karrimula, Shiva Balaji, Surender Reddy, Antony, Muniraja, Mahesh, and Santosh, among others.



Special Officer Yuvaraj Stresses Holistic Development for Nellore District

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

District Special Officer Dr. N. Yuvaraj, who also serves as Secretary of Industries and Commerce, directed officials to work collectively and innovatively to transform Nellore into one of the best-performing districts. At a review meeting held on Friday at the Thikkana premises of the Collectorate, he emphasized the importance of teamwork, grassroots-level observation, and data-driven planning. The meeting was attended by District Collector O. Anand, who briefed Yuvaraj on Nellore's current developmental status across sectors. Yuvaraj highlighted the need for identifying the district's unique resources and understanding public needs thoroughly to frame effective development strategies. He called for forming a strategic core group of officials to drive initiatives across sectors such as tourism, agriculture, and service industries. He particularly stressed leveraging Nellore's tourism potential by integrating shrines, beaches, and natural spots into comprehensive packages. He also proposed tapping into the growing interest among youth in trekking by exploring forest areas for tourism development. Empowering women through self-help groups was another key area of focus. Yuvaraj encouraged support for women to become entrepreneurs in innovative product domains, moving beyond traditional activities. He also underscored the importance of boosting employment opportunities, especially for the poor and TIDCO house beneficiaries, and enhancing productivity in agriculture, horticulture, and allied sectors. In addition, the officer advocated for targeted health programs, especially for adolescent girls to combat anemia, and measures to improve groundwater resources. Officials were encouraged to share their views for the effective implementation of welfare schemes and development programs. Joint Collector K. Karthik, Kandukuru Sub-Collector Sri Pooja, DRO Udaya Bhaskara Rao, RDOs Anusha, Vamsi Krishna, Pavani, and officials from all departments participated.

Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy's Birthday Celebrated Grandly with Devotion and Cheers

Minister visits Agiripalli temple, receives blessings from priests

Constituents, MLAs, ZP Chairperson, and fans gather at Nuzvidu party office

Cake cutting, flower bouquets, and warm wishes mark the occasion

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

State Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy celebrated his birthday on Friday with religious devotion and enthusiastic participation from public representatives and constituents. As part of the celebrations, the minister visited the Sri Vyagra Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple in Agiripalli, where he was welcomed with full temple rituals by the chief priests and temple trust chairman. He received the Swamy's portrait and tirtha prasadam as blessings. Later in the day, grand birthday celebrations were held at the Nujiveedu party office. The event saw the participation of a large number of fans, party activists, local people, and officials. Among those who conveyed their greetings were Joint West Godavari Zilla Parishad Chairperson Ghanta Padmasree, Denduluru MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar, and former MLA Ghanta Murali Ramakrishna. A large birthday cake was cut and distributed to the attendees. Party workers, officials from various departments, and residents of Agiripalli also presented bouquets to the minister and conveyed their heartfelt wishes. Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy expressed his gratitude to all well-wishers who took part in the celebrations.





Violence In Bengal: Is It The Beginning Of The End For TMC?

Some events unfold with a sense of inevitability, and West Bengal today appears caught in one such moment. The recent unrest linked to the Waqf Amendment Bill protests has exposed the cracks in Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s carefully curated political narrative — one increasingly defined by appeasement and selective outreach.

What initially seemed like a well-timed distraction from the 26,000-strong teacher recruitment scam has now snowballed into communal tension. The violence that erupted — including the tragic deaths of Hari Gobind Das and his son in Murshidabad, and the police firing that killed 17-year-old Izaz Ahmad Sheikh — reveals how quickly Bengal can spiral into unrest. With incidents in sensitive districts like Malda, South 24 Parganas, and Hooghly, the warning signs are glaring.

Bengal has a history of communal flashpoints — from the 1946 Calcutta Killings to the more recent Ram Navami clashes. Each incident serves as a reminder of the combustible potential of divisive politics in the state. Mamata Banerjee’s open opposition to the Waqf Amendment Bill and her efforts to rally Muslim support with emotional appeals from public platforms might now be backfiring.

Her silence towards the 70% Hindu population amid the chaos stands in stark contrast to her vocal assurances to Muslim constituents. This selective empathy risks alienating a significant portion of the electorate and provides fertile ground for the BJP, which has long sought to consolidate the Hindu vote in Bengal.

Ministers like Siddiquillah Chowdhury, openly threatening to paralyze the state while claiming Mamata’s backing, only deepen the perception that the administration has lost control. If Banerjee cannot restore order, or appear impartial, she may not only lose political ground but the moral authority to lead.

Why Trump’s Move Resonates: Ban Political Activities in Universities

Follow the Trump model—fund learning, not lobbying.

“Universities are for education, not agitation. Politics can wait. Education can’t.”

Russia, China, and Trump have one thing in common: they understand universities are meant for learning, not lobbying. India should take note.

The Trump administration took a clear stance against universities becoming hubs of political activism. It argued that taxpayer dollars should support research, innovation, and education—not ideological warfare. Many Americans agreed, and the argument holds relevance far beyond U.S. borders.

Universities must be safe spaces for intellectual inquiry, not political battlegrounds. While fostering political awareness is important, overt activism often undermines academic integrity. Political protests can erupt into violence, distract from learning, and delay academic schedules. Students, caught in the crossfire, suffer from stress and mental health issues. Some may even abandon institutions altogether, looking for less turbulent educational environments.

The Indian Context

India’s universities—JNU, AMU, and others—have frequently turned into ideological war zones. Some hail this as a sign of a vibrant democracy. But here’s the flip side: it disrupts education, wastes taxpayer money, and hijacks the future of neutral students who just want to study. University politics breed polarization. Student elections often mimic national politics—full of division, drama, and disruption. Classes get cancelled. Properties are vandalized. Exams are postponed. In the end, it’s the apolitical, academically inclined student who pays the price. India must rethink this system.



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

Tie public funding and recognition to academic performance, not political activism. Encourage debates and discussions—but ban student wings of political parties from operating inside campuses. Learning should come first. Ideology can wait.

Russia and China: Discipline over Disorder

In Russia and China, political activities in universities are heavily restricted. The focus is on

discipline, national service, and skill-building. Critics may cry authoritarianism, but their model ensures education isn’t derailed by activism. Ironically, many Indian left-liberals who champion campus freedom stay conspicuously silent about the suppression of student voices in Beijing or Moscow.

India doesn’t need to replicate autocracy. But a structured, rules-based approach to campus discipline is long overdue. Freedom of speech is vital—but it comes with responsibility. What begins as protest can escalate into hate speech, street violence, or worse. Campuses should be free spaces—not free-for-alls.

Speech, Not Sloganeering

Freedom of speech is protected by the Indian Constitution. But when that freedom turns into anti-national sloganeering, calls for separatism, or foreign-funded ideological crusades, it crosses a line. Universities are being exploited under the guise of academic freedom.

Students passionate about politics can join parties, NGOs, or think tanks outside the aca-

demic environment. There are enough platforms for engagement without turning campuses into warzones. Higher education must prioritize scholarship, skill-building, and innovation—not partisan rallies.

What India Can Do

- **Ban student political parties and elections on campus.**
- **Allow debate, discussion, and student forums—but prohibit political mobilization.**
- **Link university funding to academic output, research quality, and student outcomes.**
- **Enforce national guidelines to maintain campus neutrality and discipline.**

Final Thought

India is a democracy—but its universities don’t need to be democratic battlegrounds. The Trump model may be controversial, but in this case, he got it right. Prioritize learning. Demand accountability. Keep politics off campus. Let students graduate with degrees, not scars from ideological crossfire.

Karnataka Caste Survey Exposes Risks in Rahul Gandhi’s OBC Outreach Strategy

The leaked findings of Karnataka’s caste survey have ignited political unrest, revealing deep cracks within the Congress party and raising concerns about Rahul Gandhi’s OBC-centric electoral strategy. Community leaders from the influential Lingayat and Vokkaliga groups have rejected the survey as flawed and underrepresentative, warning of statewide protests. Meanwhile, some Congress MLAs and ministers have urged the government to discard the report, citing serious data discrepancies and poor execution.

Critics argue the survey’s timing is strategic. Observers believe CM Siddaramaiah may be using the findings to weaken dominant caste leaders in Congress, such as M.B. Patil and D.K. Shivakumar, both eyeing the Deputy Chief Minister or Chief Minister posts.

As per the reported data, OBCs constitute 70% of Karnataka’s population, while SC/STs account for 25%, and upper castes only 5%. Lingayats and Vokkaligas, traditionally considered dominant, are shown as 11.09% and 10.31% respectively—figures far lower than their claimed shares. This could impact their influence in Congress, where they currently dominate candidate selection and leadership roles.

The proposed jump in OBC reservations from 32% to 51%, in addition to existing quotas for SCs,



STs, and EWS, would take total reservations to 85%—a move requiring Supreme Court approval. However, embracing these findings could cost Congress critical support from Lingayats and Vokkaligas, who backed the party significantly in 2023, helping it secure 135 out of 234 assembly seats.

Internal rifts are growing, with leaders like G. Parameshwara and M.B. Patil expressing frustration over being overlooked for top posts. Shivakumar’s camp is also pushing for a rotational CM

model, with the 2.5-year mark of the current term approaching in November 2025.

Nationally, Rahul Gandhi is banking on an OBC revival to counter the BJP’s dominance. Congress once held 46% of the OBC vote in 1971, but that fell to 19% by 2024. The caste survey, part of a broader push for a national caste census, aims to reclaim this lost base. Yet, the gamble may backfire if alienating powerful state-level caste groups fractures Congress’s voter coalition and internal unity.

Stalin pushes for state autonomy — Why? Why now?

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin’s move to establish a high-level committee to safeguard state autonomy has reignited a long-dormant national debate. At the heart of this decision is Stalin’s claim that the Centre has been steadily encroaching on state powers, thereby disturbing the delicate constitutional balance between Union and State.

The committee, chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Kurian Joseph, is tasked with reviewing concerns such as the shifting of key subjects like education and health from the State List to the Concurrent List. This shift, critics argue, has enabled the Centre to impose policies such as NEET and the National Education Policy (NEP), which Tamil Nadu opposes for undermining its education system and regional identity.

The controversy also ties into anxieties around the upcoming delimitation exercise, which could reduce Tamil Nadu’s representation in Parliament relative to northern states with higher population growth. For a state that has successfully implemented population control, this feels like punishment for progress.

NEET remains a flashpoint. Tamil Nadu had long relied on Class 12 results for medical admissions. The national exam, now mandatory, is seen as favoring urban, wealthy students who can afford coaching, thus disadvantaging rural and marginalized communities. Stalin’s argument is that such central policies dilute state autonomy and erode social justice.

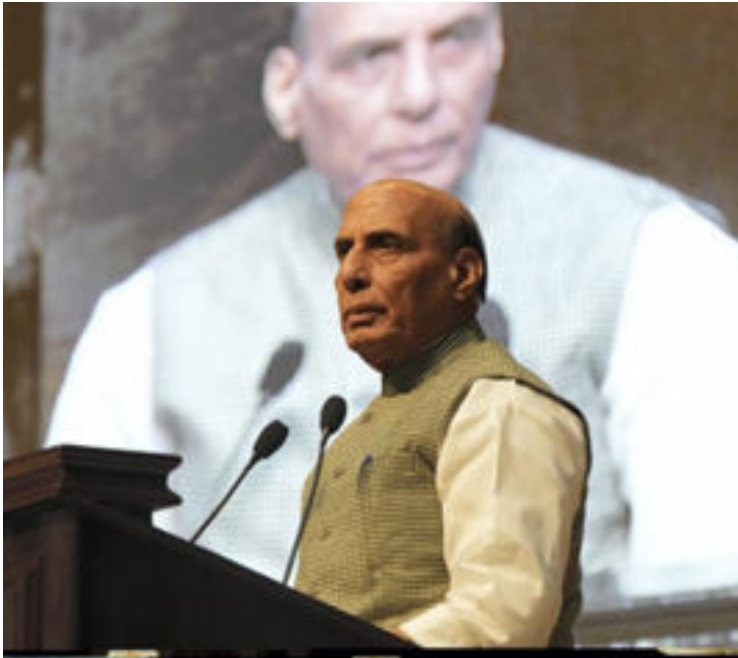
Although the reclassification of subjects happened under Indira Gandhi’s 42nd Constitutional Amendment during the Emer-



gency, the Modi government’s assertive use of concurrent powers — even withholding funds for non-compliance with NEP — has intensified concerns.

State autonomy, once a fringe issue buried in manifestos, is now resurfacing. With regional parties no longer reliant on Congress, and the BJP favoring centralized governance, these parties are seeking distinct electoral narratives. Autonomy offers a powerful platform, especially in states like Tamil Nadu heading into elections in 2026.

For parties like the DMK, autonomy provides a broader vision beyond family politics or freebies — a return to constitutional federalism. Stalin’s move is as much about resisting marginalisation as it is about crafting a new political identity in an increasingly centralized India.



Rajnath Vows Self-Reliant Defence Sector

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, April 18, 2025 – Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reaffirmed the government’s commitment to making India self-reliant in the defence sector during an address to industry representatives on Friday. Speaking in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (formerly Aurangabad), Singh highlighted the significant strides made in boosting indigenous defence production and exports under the current administration. “The Government of India is fully committed to the vision of ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’ in the defence sector,” Singh said. “Our goal is not only to reduce dependency on imports but also to transform India into a global hub for defence manufacturing and exports.”

The Defence Minister pointed out the exponential growth in defence exports over the last decade, noting a rise from just ₹600 crore in 2014 to ₹24,000 crore in 2024. “This growth is a testament to our focus on innovation, indigenous technology, and empowering our domestic industry,” he said. He further revealed that the current value of defence production in the country stands at ₹1.60 lakh crore and outlined the government’s ambitious target of increasing it to ₹3 lakh crore in the coming years. Singh said this would not only boost national security but also create employment and stimulate the economy.

Several reforms have been introduced in recent years to achieve these objectives, including easing foreign direct investment (FDI) norms, establishing defence corridors, and promoting public-private partnerships in the sector. The Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) has also been revamped to prioritize purchases from domestic manufacturers.

Singh urged the private sector and startups to take advantage of the conducive policy environment and actively participate in the country’s defence growth story. “We want our youth and entrepreneurs to lead the way in advanced defence technologies, from drones to cybersecurity and AI-driven warfare solutions,” he added. The event saw enthusiastic participation from industry leaders, who welcomed the government’s focus on self-reliance and innovation in defence. As India positions itself on the global stage as a key player in defence production, the roadmap laid out by the Defence Minister reflects a vision of both strategic autonomy and industrial strength.

Modi, Elon Musk Discuss Tech Ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Friday, April 18, 2025, that he had a conversation with billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, focusing on the potential for collaboration in technology and innovation. The interaction appears to be a follow-up to their in-person meeting held in Washington, D.C., on February 13, 2025.

In a post shared on X (formerly Twitter), Prime Minister Modi stated, “Good conversation with @elonmusk. We discussed a wide range of subjects, including themes from our previous meeting in Washington DC. There is great potential for collaboration in the areas of technology and innovation.”

Although the Prime Minister did not specify the exact timing of the latest exchange, his post underlined a shared interest in strengthening technological partnerships between India and the companies led by Musk. The conversation signals India’s continuing interest in engaging with global tech leaders to drive digital transformation, boost innovation, and explore opportunities in sectors like electric vehicles, space technology, and artificial intelligence.

The February meeting in Washington D.C. was held during PM Modi’s visit to the United States and included discussions on Tesla’s possible entry into the Indian market, the expansion of SpaceX services such as Starlink in remote areas of India, and



broader cooperation on cutting-edge technologies.

Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, had expressed keen interest in investing in India, calling it one of the most promising markets for the future. Reports at the time indicated that Tesla was exploring possibilities for setting up manufacturing facilities in India, while SpaceX looked at opportunities to launch satellite-based internet services to enhance rural connectivity. Modi’s outreach to Musk is seen as

part of his broader strategy to attract global innovation leaders and create a robust ecosystem for emerging technologies in India. It also aligns with the government’s focus on self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) and transitioning toward clean energy and advanced digital infrastructure.

While no formal announcements have been made yet, the tone of the conversation suggests that significant developments could be on the horizon in the India-Musk technology partnership.

Seelampur Murder Sparks Political Row

The tragic murder of a 17-year-old boy in northeast Delhi’s Seelampur has intensified the ongoing political tussle between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with both parties trading sharp accusations over the capital’s law and order situation.

The incident took place on Thursday in the J Block area of New Seelampur, where the teenager was fatally stabbed, sparking outrage and renewed concerns over public safety in the national capital.

On Friday, senior AAP leader and Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Atishi, launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led Central government and the Delhi Police, which reports directly to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. “The murder of a 17-year-old youth in Seelampur is yet another grim reminder of the deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi. The Delhi Police and the Centre have completely failed to ensure the safety of our citizens,” Atishi said.

She further accused the BJP of using the



police for political vendettas instead of focusing on crime prevention. “While the BJP is busy targeting opposition leaders, criminals are roaming free on the streets of Delhi,” she alleged.

In response, BJP leaders hit back, accusing AAP of politicizing crime and deflecting attention from its own failures in governance. “AAP has no authority to comment

on law and order when it has done little to cooperate with the Delhi Police or improve civic conditions that contribute to crime,” said a BJP spokesperson. The Delhi Police have launched an investigation into the murder, and efforts are on to identify and apprehend the accused. While no arrests have been confirmed yet, senior officers have assured swift action.

“No GST on UPI Over ₹2,000”

The Finance Ministry on Friday categorically denied reports suggesting the government plans to impose Goods and Services Tax (GST) on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions exceeding ₹2,000, calling such claims “false, misleading, and baseless.”

In a statement issued late evening, the Ministry clarified, “There is no proposal under consideration to levy GST on UPI transactions above ₹2,000. Such speculation has no foundation and may mislead the public.”

GST is applicable only on specific financial service charges, such as the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR), which is levied on certain payment modes. However, since January 2020, the MDR on Person-to-Merchant (P2M) UPI transactions was waived off as per a Gazette Notification by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) issued on December 30, 2019. “As there is no MDR on UPI transactions currently, GST is not applicable either,” the statement clarified. The Ministry reaffirmed the government’s commitment to promoting digital payments, especially through UPI, as part of its broader digital economy strategy. To encourage UPI usage and reduce the cost burden on small merchants, the government has introduced and sustained an incentive scheme for low-value P2M transactions.

According to the Ministry, the government has allocated a total of ₹7,230 crore under this incentive scheme across three fiscal years: ₹1,389 crore in FY2021-22, ₹2,210 crore in FY2022-23, and ₹3,631 crore in FY2023-24. These incentives are aimed at supporting merchant adoption, improving the digital payments infrastructure,



and sustaining UPI’s rapid growth. India’s dominance in the global digital payments space continues to expand. The ACI Worldwide Report 2024 revealed that India accounted for 49% of the world’s real-time digital transactions in 2023.

The total value of UPI transactions surged from ₹21.3 lakh crore in FY2019-20 to ₹260.56 lakh crore by the end of FY2024-25. Notably, P2M transactions have reached ₹59.3 lakh crore, demonstrating increased adoption among merchants and growing trust among consumers.

The Finance Ministry reiterated that it remains focused on fostering a robust, inclusive, and innovation-driven digital payments ecosystem in India.

NCERT Defends Indian Titles for Textbooks

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has defended its decision to use Indian language titles—some of them in Hindi—for its newly released English medium textbooks, stating that the naming was done thoughtfully to reflect India’s cultural and educational heritage.

In an official response to the controversy sparked by criticism from sections of the public and educationists, NCERT clarified that the titles were chosen not to promote any particular language but to symbolically connect students with India’s civilizational knowledge systems and cultural identity.

“The names of the new textbooks are not exclusively in Hindi, but drawn from various Indian languages,” NCERT stated. “These titles were selected after careful consideration of their cultural, linguistic, and pedagogical value. The aim is to instill a sense of rootedness and pride in India’s diverse traditions and knowledge heritage.” The controversy emerged after several English-language textbooks introduced by NCERT were seen bearing Hindi or Indian-language names, prompting concerns over potential linguistic bias and the imposition of Hindi in non-Hindi speaking states. However, NCERT emphasized that the decision is aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which encourages integration of Indian knowledge systems into the formal curriculum, alongside promotion of multilingualism. Sources within NCERT further explained that the titles were meant to spark curiosity and provide



a bridge between contemporary education and ancient Indian wisdom. “These titles are more than just names; they are reflections of deep concepts and traditions,” an official said. The response also assured stakeholders that the content remains accessible and inclusive, and that the pedagogical approach remains rooted in fostering critical thinking, creativity, and understanding across linguistic boundaries. Despite the clarification, the move continues to draw mixed reactions. While some educators welcomed the effort to culturally contextualize learning materials, others urged NCERT to ensure that linguistic diversity is respected and no regional language feels sidelined. As the new academic year begins, the debate has reignited discussions on language, identity, and inclusivity in India’s education system.



First talks in 15 years: Bangladesh seeks Pakistan’s apology for 1971 atrocities

TPN Correspondent | Bangladesh

In a significant diplomatic development, Bangladesh has formally raised long-standing grievances with Pakistan during the first foreign secretary-level talks between the two nations in 15 years, held in Dhaka on Thursday. Central to the discussions were the unresolved issues stemming from the 1971 Liberation War, which led to the creation of an independent Bangladesh following the secession from what was then West Pakistan.

Bangladesh pressed Pakistan for a formal public apology for the atrocities committed by the Pakistani military during the war, which left an estimated three million people dead and displaced millions more. The issue of apology has remained a key emotional and political point in bilateral relations, with Dhaka repeatedly calling for acknowledgment of the events of 1971.

During the talks, Bangladesh also demanded financial compensation in the form of USD 4.3 billion — its claimed share from the combined state assets that were held by the erstwhile united Pakistan prior to the country’s split. These assets, according to Dhaka, were never transferred after independence and remain a pending issue in the bilateral relationship.

The discussions mark a cautious but notable step in reviving diplomatic engagement between the two South Asian neighbors. Despite the historical ties and people-to-people connections, relations between Dhaka and Islamabad have remained strained for decades, mainly due to the lingering wounds of the 1971 war and Pakistan’s reluctance to formally apologize for its role in the conflict.

Diplomatic sources said that while the talks were held in a “cordial atmosphere,” the demands made by Bangladesh underscore the deep-rooted issues that still hinder full normalization of relations. Observers note that any progress on these fronts would require significant political will and a shift in long-standing positions, particularly from Islamabad.

As Bangladesh continues to seek justice and closure on the 1971 atrocities, Thursday’s meeting is seen as a potential turning point in pushing historical issues onto the formal diplomatic agenda once again. Whether it leads to concrete action or remains symbolic will likely depend on future engagement at higher political levels.

Musk Prepares to Lead U.S. Golden Dome Missile Defense Project

- **Project includes 400–1,000 tracking satellites and 200 armed interceptors.**
- **SpaceX proposes a subscription-based tech access model for the Pentagon.**
- **Contract winners for the Golden Dome to be announced in coming months.**

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Elon Musk’s SpaceX, in partnership with defense tech firms Palantir and Anduril, has emerged as a leading contender for a pivotal role in President Donald Trump’s ambitious “Golden Dome” missile defense initiative, according to sources familiar with the matter.

The project, which stems from a January 27 executive order by Trump, aims to build a cutting-edge missile defense shield, which he described as a critical measure to counter “the most catastrophic threat facing the United States.” The proposal envisions a two-tier satellite system: a network of 400–1,000 satellites to detect and track missile threats, and a separate fleet of 200 armed satellites to intercept them. SpaceX’s bid reportedly focuses on the “custody layer” responsible for sensing and tracking, not weaponization.

While the Pentagon is still in the early stages of evaluating the plan, SpaceX’s advantage lies in its existing satellite infrastructure and launch capabilities. The company has proposed a subscription-based model — a novel approach in defense contracting — that would allow the U.S. government to access the technology without owning it. While this could speed up deployment, it has sparked concerns over long-term control and costs.

The estimated preliminary cost for the satel-



lite detection layer ranges between \$6 billion and \$10 billion, sources said. If SpaceX’s group wins the contract, it would mark a major breakthrough for Silicon Valley in the defense sector, challenging legacy players like Boeing, Northrop Grumman, and Lockheed Martin.

Critics, however, are raising alarms. Some Pentagon officials are wary of relying on a private subscription model for national defense. Lawmakers have also questioned Musk’s dual role as a government advisor and bidder on federal contracts, calling it a potential con-

flict of interest. Senator Jeanne Shaheen has introduced legislation to prevent companies owned by special government employees from receiving federal contracts.

Despite its potential, experts caution that such a massive and complex system may prove vulnerable and prohibitively expensive. “It’s still unclear whether this group can deliver a fully reliable national defense system,” one source noted. The final decision on Golden Dome contracts is expected in the coming months.

China Denies Zelenskyy’s Claims of Weapon Supply to Russia Reiterates Neutrality in Ukraine War

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

China has strongly rejected recent accusations made by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that it has been supplying weapons to Russia for use in the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. During a regular press briefing on Friday in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian dismissed the claims as “groundless.”

“China’s position on the Ukrainian issue has always been clear,” Lin said. “We have never provided lethal weapons to any party involved in the conflict. China remains committed to promoting a ceasefire, ending hostilities, and encouraging peace talks.”

While China has repeatedly emphasized its neutrality in the war, its close diplomatic ties with Moscow—underpinned by

Zelenskyy had made the accusations on Thursday, claiming that Ukraine had intelligence indicating that China was supplying Russia with gunpowder and artillery, and that Chinese personnel were actively involved in arms production on Russian territory. He said more detailed information would be released next week to support the claim.

“We see the cooperation between these two countries in this area, and we must acknowledge it is happening,” Zelenskyy stated during a press conference.

Adding to tensions, last week two



a “no limits” strategic partnership between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin—have raised skepticism in the West.

Chinese nationals were reportedly captured by Ukrainian forces while fighting alongside Russian troops. President Zelenskyy alleged that these individuals were among at least 155 Chinese fighters believed to be serving in Russia’s military. He accused Moscow of recruiting Chinese citizens via social media and other platforms, with Beijing allegedly “turning a blind eye” to these efforts.

China responded by denying any government involvement in recruitment efforts. It reiterated that any Chinese citizens found fighting in the conflict likely traveled independently and were acting without state authorization.

Allegations of Discrimination: TCS Under EEOC Investigation for Bias Against American Employees

TPN Correspondent | US

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is currently investigating dozens of allegations against Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), India’s largest IT outsourcing firm, over claims of discrimination against American employees based on age, race, and national origin. The majority of complaints come from professionals over the age of 40, who claim they were disproportionately targeted in layoffs, while Indian colleagues—particularly those on H-1B visas—were retained, according to a Bloomberg report.

TCS, which employs over 600,000 people worldwide, has strongly refuted the allegations, calling them “meritless and misleading.” A company spokesperson stated that TCS maintains a strong record as an equal opportunity employer in the U.S., upholding high standards of integrity and values.

The complaints began surfacing in late 2023, prompting a growing wave of concern about the treatment of non-South Asian employees in the U.S. workplace. The EEOC’s investigation, which started under President Joe Biden and has continued under President Donald Trump, remains confidential as per



federal law. In April 2024, U.S. Representative Seth Moulton (D-Mass.) called on the EEOC to deepen its probe, highlighting concerns over TCS’s potential misuse of U.S. work visa programs, including H-1B and L-1A visas, intended to address skilled labor shortages. Moulton suggested that TCS’s practices could reflect a broader pattern of discriminatory behavior within the company. This isn’t the first time TCS has faced such scrutiny. In the UK, former employees have filed similar complaints, alleging discrimination based on age and nationality.

Further controversy arose from comments made by TCS’s global head of HR, Milind Lakkad, who reportedly suggested reducing the proportion of American employees in the U.S. workforce from 70% to 50%, stating that this would create more opportunities for Indian staff. The remark has been cited in some EEOC complaints as evidence of discriminatory intent.

U.S. Imposes New Port Fees on Chinese Ships to Revive Domestic Shipbuilding

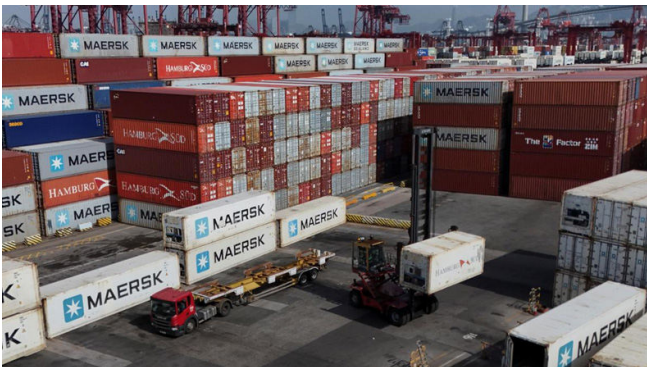
TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a bold move to challenge China’s dominance in global shipbuilding and revive America’s declining maritime manufacturing sector, the United States announced new port fees targeting Chinese-built and Chinese-operated ships on Thursday, April 17, 2025. The decision comes amid escalating trade tensions between the two superpowers, further fueled by ongoing tariff disputes under former President Donald Trump’s trade policy framework.

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer emphasized the strategic importance of shipping, calling it “vital to American economic security and the free flow of commerce.” The new fees, which will go into effect from mid-October, aim to incentivize investment in U.S.-built ships and reduce the country’s reliance on Chinese vessels.

The policy introduces per-tonnage and per-container charges for Chinese-linked ships docking in U.S. ports. Notably, these fees will be capped at five instances per year per ship, rather than applying at every port of call. Ship owners can qualify for a waiver if they commit to ordering American-built vessels.

The fees will differ for Chinese-built and Chinese-operated ships and are scheduled to increase progressively over the coming years. Initially, Chinese-built ships will incur fees of \$18 per net ton or \$120 per container. For a large vessel carrying 15,000 containers, the charge could amount to \$1.8 million



per visit.

U.S. shipbuilding, once a post-WWII powerhouse, has seen its global output shrink to a mere 0.1%. In contrast, China alone constructs nearly half of all ships globally, with South Korea and Japan rounding out over 95% of total civil shipbuilding, according to UN data.

Some 30 U.S. industry groups have expressed concerns over the move, warning that the fees could drive up costs for retailers already burdened by tariffs on steel, aluminum, and other imported goods. A business coalition cautioned the added financial strain could be “extraordinary.”

The new policy also targets LNG carriers, which will face fees in three years, and introduces tariffs on Chinese cargo handling equipment and ship-to-shore cranes. However, exemptions apply for Great Lakes and Caribbean shipping, U.S. territories, and bulk exports from empty vessels.

PORTFOLIO



TRANSRAIL LIGHTING : A Promising Mid-Cap Power Sector Play with Strong Growth Visibility and Solid Fundamentals

Transrail Lighting is a good mid-cap company that merits investment. It provides comprehensive solutions to the Power and Distribution Sector which is a hot sector in India in view of the thrust being provided by the Central Government to the Power Sector especially Renewable Energy.

The Company came for IPO in December, 2024 with an issue price of Rs.432 at a Face Value of Rs.2. The present market price is Rs.475. 52-Week High of the Share Price is Rs.718. Now the share is available at 34% discount to the 52-week High. Through IPO it raised Rs.400 Crores of which Rs.250 crores will be used for working capital and about an amount of Rs.91 Crores will be used for Capex.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE:

The Company achieved a Revenue of Rs.4009 for the year ended 31-03-2024. It can achieve a Revenue of Rs.4500 Crores for the 31-03-2025 for which results are yet to be announced. Net Profit for 31-03-2024 was Rs.233 Crores with an EPS of 19.59. For the 31-03-2025, it may achieve a Net Profit of Rs.270 Crores at a NPM of 6%. This works out to an EPS of 20 on enhanced Capital and PE of 24 against the Industry PE of 28.53. All its Peers like KEC International, Kalpa-



taru Projects, Skipper, Techno Electric are quoting at above 40 PE. Another Peer Patel Engineering is quoting at about 21 PE.

PLUS POINTS :

1. As on 31-03-2024, its Return on Equity is about 20 % which indicates efficient utilization of available Funds i.e Capital plus Reserves.
2. As on 31-03-2024, its debt equity Ratio is 0.56 which will improve further with Rs.250 Crores procured by the Company through IPO for the purpose of working capital.
3. It has footprint in 58 countries.
4. It has been generating positive “operating cash flows “ from 2020 onwards suggesting sustainable business model.
5. **Visibility :** Continuous flow of orders and orders on hand provide good visibility about the business prospects of the company. It has received Orders of Rs.5700 Crores from February, 2025. All in all, Company has orders of Rs.17000

Crores which is equal to 4 times Revenue of 2024.

RISKS:

1. Company is exposed to risk of Foreign Currency fluctuations in view of some of its business interests lying outside India.

TARGET PRICE :

A reasonable target of Rs.600 is possible within 6 months/One year based on the available inputs of EPS, PE and Orders on Hand. Now there are positive tailwinds influencing the stock market. Any change in sentiment can change the tailwinds into headwinds and can delay the realisation of the target of Rs.600 within the prescribed time period.

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About 91% of Central Govt’s investment in FY25 focused on five key sectors: BOB

A recent research report by the Bank of Baroda has revealed that nearly 91% of the central government’s capital investments for the financial year 2024-25, totaling ₹6.8 lakh crore, have been concentrated in five key sectors: renewable electricity, road transport, refineries, conventional electricity, and shipping.



The most significant portion of this investment—around ₹2.7 lakh crore or 37%—has been earmarked for renewable electricity projects. These projects are expected to collectively generate at least 12,555 megawatts (MW) of power, reinforcing the government’s commitment to clean and sustainable energy.

The road transport sector also saw substantial allocations, highlighting continued efforts to boost connectivity and infrastructure. The refinery sector follows, with government-owned companies planning investments of ₹1 lakh crore to support the production of 600 MW of energy capacity.

Conventional electricity projects are set to receive investments amounting to approximately ₹99,376 crore. Notably, Bihar will host a massive project worth ₹80,000 crore under this segment, while Odisha and Chhattisgarh are also slated to receive projects of smaller scale.

The shipping sector, too, is a major beneficiary, with Gujarat emerg-

ing as the biggest winner. The state will receive projects valued at ₹58,750 crore out of the total ₹62,120 crore allocated to the sector. Other coastal states, including Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, will also see investments in this area.

Geographically, Chhattisgarh is expected to receive the largest share of overall central investment, with projects worth ₹1.4 lakh crore. Odisha follows with ₹0.8 lakh crore, reflecting a strategic focus on eastern India.

The remaining 9% of the total investment is distributed across a range of other sectors including chemicals, steel, railways, minerals, housing, electricity transmission, commercial complexes, fertilizers, healthcare, and education.

The report emphasizes the government’s strategic emphasis on infrastructure and clean energy, aiming to boost long-term economic growth. With major state-wise investments and sector-specific focus, the central government is laying the groundwork for sustainable development and enhanced energy security across the nation.

Revenue growth of states in FY26 expected to be lower than that of FY25

Indian states are projected to witness a moderation in revenue growth in the financial year 2025-26 (FY26), primarily due to sluggish performance in non-tax revenue and central transfers, according to a recent report by ICICI Bank. The analysis is based on the budget data of 15 major states, which collectively contribute around 90% of the country’s GDP.

The report highlights that total revenue growth for states is expected to decelerate to 13% in FY26, down from 16% in FY25. This is attributed to a decline in the growth of ‘Own Tax Revenue’ and a slowdown in funds transferred from the central government.

Total receipts of these states are estimated to increase by 12% year-on-year (YoY) in FY26, reaching ₹59 trillion. In comparison, the estimated growth for FY25 was 16%. Revenue receipts, which form nearly 75% of total receipts, are projected to rise by 13% to ₹43 trillion in FY26, down from 16% in FY25.

The slowdown is mainly driven by weaker growth in non-tax revenues and a reduction in the pace of central transfers. Non-tax revenue is expected to grow by only 12% in FY26, a significant drop from 23% in FY25. Similarly, transfers from the Centre are projected to increase by just 10%, compared to 18% in the previous year.

States’ Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) remains rela-

tively stable, with a projected growth of 14% in FY26, amounting to ₹23 trillion. This is on par with the growth recorded in FY25. For context, the central government’s Net Tax Revenue is expected to rise by 11% over the FY25 Revised Estimates, reaching ₹29 trillion.

As of February FY25, states had achieved 75% of their ₹38 trillion revenue target. However, non-tax revenue collections remain a concern, standing at only ₹2 trillion against a full-year target of ₹3.6 trillion.

In summary, while tax revenue growth appears stable, weaker growth in non-tax revenue and reduced central transfers may strain state finances in FY26, potentially impacting development and welfare spending across regions.



Reliance Industries to Announce Q4FY25 Results on April 25

Q3 Highlights Robust Growth in Retail and Digital Services

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), India’s largest conglomerate led by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, is set to announce its financial results for the fourth quarter of the fiscal year 2024-25 (Q4FY25) on April 25. The announcement is expected to shed light on the performance of its key business verticals—oil-to-chemicals (O2C), telecom (Reliance Jio), retail (Reliance Retail), and the energy sector.

This follows the company’s third-quarter earnings (Q3FY25), which were released on January 16. The results reflected strong performance across its digital and retail divisions. Mukesh Ambani highlighted the company’s continued momentum in customer engagement, subscriber growth, and 5G network adoption as major contributors to the digital services segment’s success.

“Robust growth in the digital services business was led by sustained subscriber addition and consistent improvement in customer engagement metrics,” Ambani noted. “This was well supported by a favorable subscriber mix, with an increasing number of users upgrading to 5G networks.”

The retail segment also demonstrated impressive growth during the quarter, driven by a surge in consumer demand during the festive season. The company successfully leveraged the increased consumption trend, with its wide-ranging offerings across fashion, grocery, and electronics playing a pivotal role.



Reliance’s oil-to-chemical (O2C) and exploration businesses have remained vital pillars of its overall performance, although the digital and retail arms have increasingly contributed to the conglomerate’s revenue diversification strategy.

The upcoming Q4FY25 results will provide insights into how the conglomerate fared in the final quarter of the fiscal year, especially amid changing macroeconomic conditions and fluctuating crude oil prices. Investors will also be closely watching for any updates on strategic initiatives, including Jio’s continued 5G expansion, retail growth, and energy transformation plans.

With its diversified portfolio and strong presence across key sectors of the Indian economy, Reliance Industries continues to play a pivotal role in shaping India’s corporate landscape. All eyes will be on April 25 as the company reveals its Q4 numbers.

Google’s Ad Tech Found Monopolistic

For the second time in less than a year, tech giant Google has been formally labeled an illegal monopolist by a U.S. federal judge. This time, the ruling targets the company’s digital advertising empire, marking a major blow to its dominance in online marketing technologies.

On Thursday, U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema, presiding in Virginia, ruled that Google unlawfully exploited its control over key parts of the online advertising ecosystem to inflate profits and entrench its market power. The judgment underscores long-standing accusations that Google has leveraged its position to undercut rivals and manipulate the digital ad marketplace in its favor.

The decision follows an earlier ruling in August 2024, which concluded that Google’s search engine operations also violated antitrust laws by suppressing competition and innovation. With both of its core revenue engines—search and ads—now under legal scrutiny, the \$1.8 trillion company faces intensified regulatory pressure and potential structural reforms.

Google’s digital advertising platform includes tools that span the full spectrum of the online ad chain—from ad creation and



auctions to placement and performance tracking. Prosecutors argued that Google’s control over both the “buy” and “sell” sides of the ad market created an inherent conflict of interest, allowing the company to steer transactions in ways that favored its own services while disadvantaging publishers and competitors.

Judge Brinkema agreed with these assertions, declaring Google’s behavior as monopolistic and abusive. Remedies could range from fines to a possible breakup of parts of its advertising business—though specific actions are still to be determined in subsequent hearings.

In response, Google defended its ad practices, claiming that its tools benefit advertisers and publishers alike through increased efficiency and reach. The company is expected to appeal the ruling.


This latest setback adds to Google’s growing list of antitrust battles globally, including regulatory scrutiny in the European Union and other markets. As governments and courts grow more aggressive in policing Big Tech, this ruling may set a precedent for further legal action targeting concentrated power in the digital economy.

Budapest Students’ Priceless First Bite of Pani Puri

Indian street food struck again — this time, melting hearts far from home. A heartwarming video of Budapest-based students trying pani puri for the very first time at a university’s International Day event has gone viral, capturing their candid reactions of curiosity, surprise, and delight. Shared on Instagram by a student participating in the event, the video quickly took over social media, garnering over 4.8 million views and 2 lakh likes. The highlight? A group of students, many trying Indian food for the first time, took on the spicy, tangy challenge of pani puri — also known as golgappa, puchka, or batase depending on which corner of India you’re from. From hesitant crunches to wide-eyed expressions and laughter-filled moments, the video radiates joy. The Indian stall, which also offered bhel puri and traditional sweets, saw the longest queue at the event, with pani puri clearly stealing the show. Some students reached for water after feeling the heat, while others excitedly asked



for seconds, declaring their new-found love for the beloved Indian snack. As the video spread, pani puri enthusiasts worldwide flooded the comments with their love for the snack. One user wrote, “No Indian snack develops such an intense craving like pani puri.” Another joked, “I bet you made it mild — no way they can handle full Indian street spice!” Users also celebrated the universality of food, with comments like “Divided by countries, united by pani puri” and “Now they know what real taste is!” This isn’t the first time pani puri has gone global — similar clips from Korea and the U.S. have gone viral before. But as this latest video proves, no matter where you’re from, the burst of flavors in a pani puri can win over just about anyone.



NASA Predicts Earth’s End in 1 Billion Years

Scientists from NASA and Japan’s University of Toho have delivered a sobering prediction: Earth will become uninhabitable in approximately 1 billion years. Their findings, based on supercomputer simulations and advanced climate models, suggest that the combined forces of solar heat and environmental degradation will ultimately render the planet unsuitable for life.

According to the study, the Sun’s energy output will steadily increase over time. Eventually, this thermal intensification will lead to extreme surface temperatures on Earth, triggering massive ocean evaporation and atmospheric collapse. As the Sun expands into a red giant in the distant future, it may even engulf inner planets, including Earth.

While this timeline stretches far beyond any human lifespan, researchers emphasize that the process of planetary decline is already underway. Signs such as global warming, erratic climate patterns, and rising sea levels all reflect a gradual march toward long-term instability.

“The Earth won’t just explode one day,” one scientist explained. “It will slowly become less and less hospitable until no complex life can survive.”

This forecast isn’t meant to induce panic, say scientists, but to underscore the importance of long-term planetary planning — including space exploration. Mars, for instance, is being looked at with renewed interest as a potential

long-term habitat for humanity, though it is far from being Earth’s twin.

The research also aims to push the boundaries of astrophysical and planetary science, helping scientists better understand the life cycles of planets, both within and beyond our solar system.

The Daily Star News first reported on the collaborative study, which is being closely watched by the global scientific community. While the 1-billion-year timeline gives Earth a considerable buffer, researchers warn against complacency. Human-induced environmental issues could accelerate certain tipping points, making Earth increasingly difficult to live on even sooner.

Rajasthan Cop’s Dance Wins the Interne



A woman police officer is capturing hearts online after her lively dance performance on the iconic Bollywood number “Jai Jai Shiv Shankar” went viral. The performer, Sub-Inspector Teena Sogarwal, showed that even those in the line of duty can let loose and celebrate with spirit.

The moment unfolded during celebrations for Rajasthan Police Foundation Day, a formal occasion that turned delightfully festive thanks to Sogarwal’s performance. Dressed in elegant traditional attire, the sub-inspector took to the stage with grace and confidence, dancing with infectious enthusiasm to the 70s hit originally picturized on Rajesh Khanna. The video, widely shared on social media, shows the officer grooving joyfully as a crowd of fellow police personnel

and dignitaries cheer her on. Among the audience were Superintendent of Police Mamta Gupta, District Collector Shubham Chaudhary, and several senior officials, all seen applauding the performance with broad smiles and appreciative claps. While the video sparked waves of appreciation, it also highlighted a softer and more relatable side of the police force—one that resonates with the public and boosts community connection. Events like these, especially on occasions like Police Foundation Day, play a key role in breaking stereotypes and building rapport between officers and citizens. Sub-inspector Teena Sogarwal’s joyful performance did exactly that — with a dance that continues to spread smiles across the internet.

Indian Travel Vlogger’s Passport Woes Go Viral

A viral video by Indian travel vlogger On Road Indian has triggered widespread discussion on social media about the global challenges faced by Indian passport holders. In a candid Instagram reel, the content creator vented his frustration, saying, “This thing I have, it has no value,” while holding up his Indian passport. The vlogger shared personal anecdotes about being denied entry into multiple countries, including a recent experience with Jordan. “They saw the Indian passport and just denied entry,” he said. He also noted that countries like Egypt now demand invitation letters, while even China offers Indian citizens only a 24-hour visa-free transit, compared to the 10-day allowance for other nationalities. India currently ranks 85th on the Henley Passport Index 2025, which measures the global travel freedom of citizens based on the number of destinations they can access



without a prior visa. Indian passport holders currently have visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 62 countries. In his video, the vlogger pointed out that despite having sufficient funds, a clean travel history, and proper documentation, he’s still met with suspicion at immigration

counters. “They love names like Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan, but when it comes to actual documents, they never trust us,” he remarked. The video has racked up more than 8 million views in just two days, with netizens flocking to the comments section to share their views. While many supported the vlogger’s stance and called it a “bitter truth,” others blamed the behavior of certain Indian tourists for the poor treatment abroad. One user commented, “This is the reality many don’t want to talk about. Global mobility is a real issue.” Another said, “Honestly, some Indians act so entitled while traveling, it ruins things for others.” The viral video has sparked a broader conversation on India’s global image, passport strength, and the need for better diplomatic engagement to improve mobility for Indian travelers.

Australian CEO Faces Backlash After Using AI

A young Australian entrepreneur has come under fire for a flashy social media post in which he used AI to craft a self-congratulatory message about flying first class with his father. The CEO, Jake Bass, claimed the luxurious Emirates flight cost \$50,000, and shared images showing his father reclining in a private pod, enjoying gourmet food, and sipping drinks in a lavish setting.

While the visuals screamed opulence, it was the tone and the AI-generated motivational narrative that irked netizens. “470 passengers. Only 2 in First Class — us,” Bass wrote. Reflecting on the flight, he added, “What made our journey so different from the 468 behind us? Then I

saw the pilot adjust our course by just 1° to avoid turbulence... That’s when it clicked: Just a slight change in direction... changes everything.” The post, designed to be inspirational, was seen by many as tone-deaf and elitist — especially amid growing concerns over wealth inequality and the superficial use of AI for personal branding. Critics didn’t hold back. Some called the post “cringe-worthy,” while others accused Bass of using AI to fabricate humility. “There’s nothing motivational about flaunting privilege,” one user wrote. Another added, “AI or not, this reeks of ego.” Despite the criticism, Bass seemed



unfazed. In a follow-up post, he addressed the backlash by saying, “If people are upset, it means I’m doing something right.” While some followers praised him for his success and ability to take his father along for the ride, the overwhelming sentiment was skepticism over the performative nature of the post. Others questioned the ethics of using AI tools to generate emotionally manipulative content for clout. The incident has reignited debates about authenticity in influencer culture, the responsible use of AI, and how much is too much when it comes to online self-promotion.



IPL Turns 18: A Look at the Eventful Journey of the World’s Biggest Cricket League

The Indian Premier League (IPL), which began in 2008, has evolved into a global cricketing phenomenon, transforming the shortest format of the game and offering overseas players a chance to experience Indian conditions. The inaugural season featured eight city-based franchises: Mumbai Indians (MI), Chennai Super Kings (CSK), Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), Rajasthan Royals (RR), Delhi Daredevils (now Delhi Capitals), Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), Kings XI Punjab (now Punjab Kings), and Deccan Chargers

(DCH). Rajasthan Royals won the first IPL title. The IPL blended cricket with entertainment, captivating fans worldwide. Notable moments include Brendon McCullum’s 158 off 73 balls for KKR in the inaugural match and the rise of stars like Yusuf Pathan and Shane Watson. The league expanded over the years, with new teams like Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) and Gujarat Titans (GT) joining in 2022. CSK and MI are the most successful franchises, each winning five titles.

KKR has won thrice, while RR, SRH, and GT have each claimed one title. Individual records highlight Virat Kohli as the top run-scorer with 8,252 runs, while Yuzvendra Chahal leads among bowlers with 211 wickets. David Warner holds the record for most Orange Caps, and Dwayne Bravo, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, and Harshal Patel share the most Purple Caps. KKR clinched their third IPL title in 2024, showcasing a dominant performance over Sunrisers Hyderabad in the final at Chennai’s MA Chidambaram Stadium.

Raiza Dhillon Finishes Fifth in Women’s Skeet Final at ISSF World Cup

Paris Olympian Raiza Dhillon delivered a commendable performance, finishing fifth in the women’s skeet final at the ISSF World Cup, marking her first appearance in a World Cup final. The young shooter, a former junior world silver medallist, scored 26 hits before bowing out midway in the 60-shot final. Raiza had a solid start, hitting 19 of her first 20 targets, but couldn’t sur-



pass China’s Jiang Yiting, the eventual fourth-place finisher. Despite her efforts, she was at a disadvantage due to the highest bib number. India continued its strong run in the competition, sitting second in the medals tally with two golds, one silver, and one bronze, behind China. Teammates Ganemat Sekhon and Darshna Rathore finished ninth and 15th respectively.

India Sends 56-Member Squad to Asian U-15 & U-17 Boxing Championships in Jordan

India has sent a 56-member contingent for the Asian U-15 & U-17 Boxing Championships taking place in Amman, Jordan from April 17 to May 1. The team, consisting of 30 U-15 and 26 U-17 pugilists, is backed by coaches and officials and departed for Jordan on April 17. The preliminaries begin April 19, following the draw on April 18. This is the first event endorsed by both the Olympic Council of Asia and World Boxing, and is seen as a crucial step towards India’s long-term Olympic aspirations, including the 2036 Games. Notable names include Sahil Duhan and Devansh (2024 Asian Junior medalists), and Tikam Singh (SGFI 2024 gold medallist) in the U-17 boys’ squad. In the U-17 girls’, Samiksha Singh, Anshika, and Khushi Chand lead the charge.



Among U-15 boxers, Ravi Sihag and Trushna Mohite stand out. The Interim Committee of the Boxing Federation of India ensured smooth participation, overcoming recent hurdles. The event offers a promising platform for India’s future boxing champions to shine on the international stage.



Haryana Sports Minister Inaugurates First Global Indian Pravasi Kabaddi League in Gurugram

Haryana Sports Minister Gaurav Gautam officially declared the first edition of the Global Indian Pravasi Kabaddi League (GI-PKL) open at Gurugram University. The 13-day league began on Friday with exciting men’s matches and will run until April 30, featuring franchise teams with players from across Asia, Europe, and Africa. The opening ceremony was graced by several dignitaries, including D.

Suresh (IAS), Kanthi D. Suresh (President, HIPSA), and Ashok Das. The league is hosted by the Holistic International Pravasi Sports Association (HIPSA) and aims to give kabaddi global visibility and gender inclusivity. Minister Gautam lauded kabaddi’s cultural significance in Haryana and praised HIPSA’s efforts. Kanthi D. Suresh emphasized the importance of women’s participation in the franchise format.

In opening matches:

- Punjabi Tigers edged past Tamil Lions (33-31)
- Haryanvi Sharks beat Telugu Panthers (47-43)
- Marathi Vultures crushed Bhojpuri Leopards (42-21)

Women’s matches start April 19, with Marathi Falcons vs Telugu Cheetahs. The finals for both men and women will be held on April 30, marking a new era for kabaddi.

Fatima Sana Backs Pakistan to Remain Unbeaten in Women’s Cricket World Cup 2025 Qualifier



Pakistan’s skipper, Fatima Sana, expressed confidence in her team’s ability to remain unbeaten in the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup 2025 Qualifier after their dominant 87-run victory over Thailand secured their qualification for the prestigious tournament. With their place confirmed in the ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup 2025, set to be held later this year in India, Pakistan has stayed unbeaten throughout the qualifiers. Fatima Sana, after the win, shared her optimism for finishing the qualifier with a perfect record, stating, “We have qualified, and the main credit goes to our team. They supported me a lot and gave me the opportunity to captain this side. Hopefully, we will try to win the final match as well.” Pakistan posted a total of 205/6 after a slow start in their innings, thanks to a resilient knock from Sidra Amin and strong lower-order contributions from Fatima Sana.

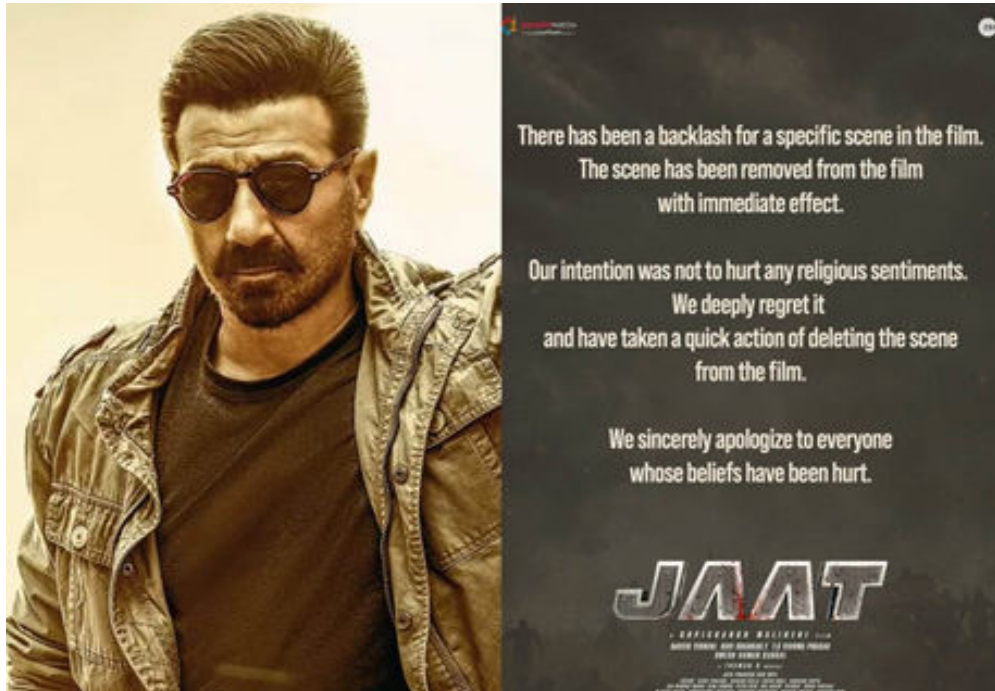
Vandana Katariya Receives PM Modi’s Praise as She Bids Farewell to International Hockey

Vandana Katariya, the former Indian hockey star, received heartfelt appreciation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi as she bid farewell to her international career. In a special letter, PM Modi lauded Vandana for her remarkable contributions to Indian women’s hockey and praised her for taking the sport to new heights globally. Vandana, who is celebrated for her dedication and leadership, expressed gratitude for the letter, sharing her overwhelming emotions on social media. She thanked the Prime Minister for his words of encouragement, which she described as a constant source of inspiration. In his letter, Modi congratulated Vandana for a career filled with milestones, acknowledging her role in keeping the Indian flag flying high in various international competitions. He also highlighted her incredible journey from humble beginnings to becoming the most-capped player in the history of Indian women’s hockey, noting her hard work, leadership, and unwavering dedication to the sport.





Mythri Deletes Controversial Scene in ‘Jaat’



Sunny Deol’s latest film Jaat, directed by Gopichand Malineni, stirred controversy over a scene that offended the Christian community. The scene showed Randeep inside a church, beneath a crucifix, while chaos and intimidation unfold around praying worshippers. Following backlash, the film’s producers, Mythri Movie Makers, issued a public apology and confirmed the removal of the scene.

In a social media post, Mythri stated,

“There has been backlash for a specific scene in the film. The scene has been removed with immediate effect. Our intention was never to hurt any religious sentiments. We sincerely apologize to everyone whose beliefs have been hurt.”

The swift action by the makers helped calm tensions, showing their sensitivity toward religious sentiments and ensuring the film’s success isn’t overshadowed by controversies.

Sachein Re-Released to Celebrate 20 Years

Thalapathy Vijay’s beloved romantic comedy Sachein, originally released on April 14, 2005, has made a nostalgic return to theatres, marking its 20th anniversary in style. Co-starring Genevieve D’Souza and Bipasha Basu, the film has been re-released as part of a special summer celebration.

Ahead of its re-release, the makers shared a commemorative poster on X, announcing the “20th year celebration” of the fan-favorite movie. The response has been overwhelming, with over 90,000 tickets sold across more than 675 shows,



showing Sachein still holds a special place in viewers’ hearts.



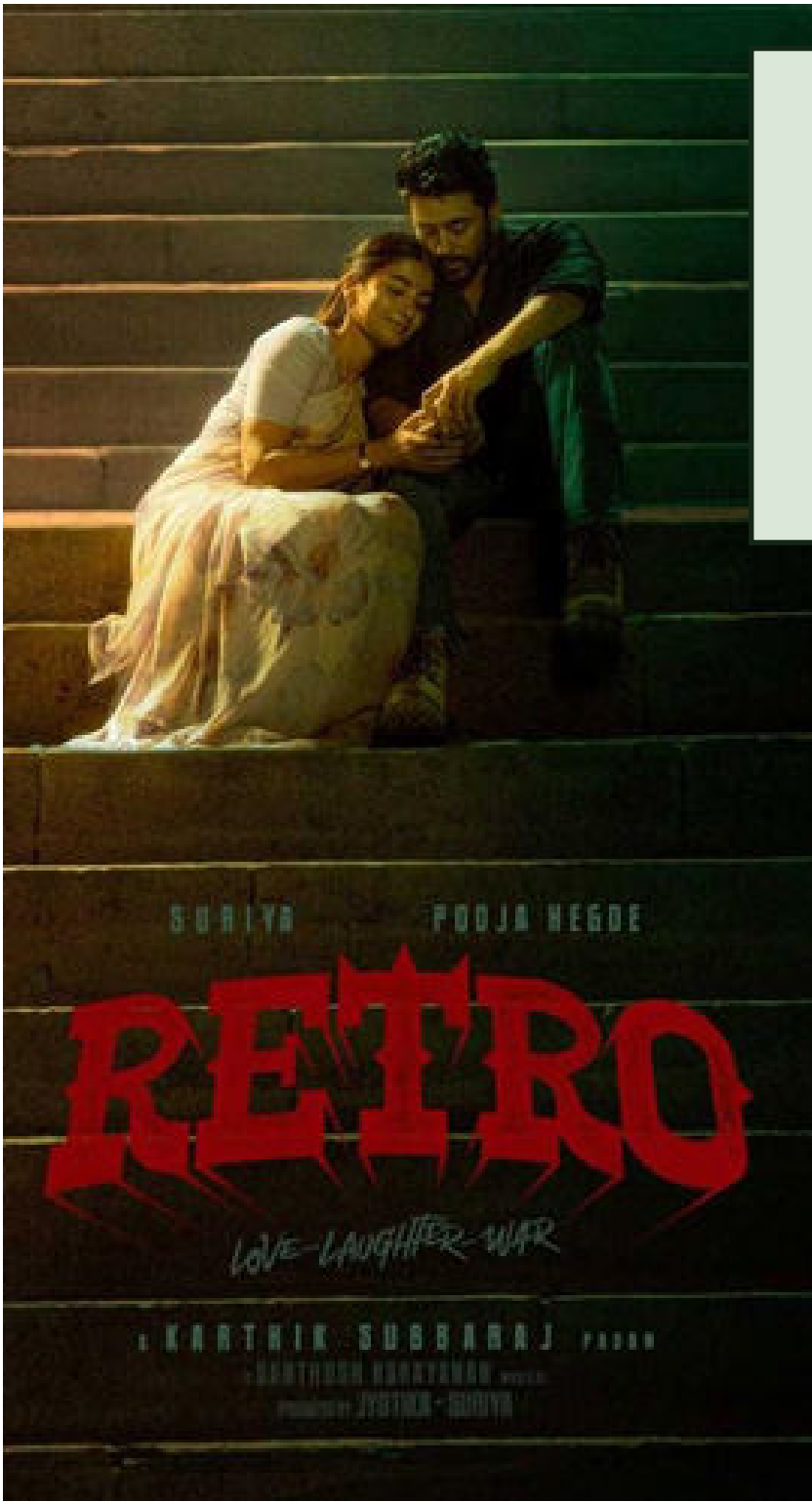
Urvashi Rautela’s Temple Comment Sparks Backlash

Actress Urvashi Rautela has stirred controversy with her recent claim that a temple has been built in her name near Badrinath in Uttarakhand. In an interview, she said, “There is a temple named after me in Uttarakhand. If anyone goes to Badrinath, they should visit my temple too.” She also mentioned Delhi University students garlanding her photo, calling it “shocking but true.”

Her remarks have triggered backlash on-

line and reportedly angered priests and devotees in Badrinath, who view the comparison with a sacred site as disrespectful. Social media users have trolled her heavily, calling her statements self-glorifying and inappropriate.

This isn’t the first time Urvashi has made headlines for controversial statements, but this one has clearly hit a religious nerve, with many demanding more sensitivity while referencing places of worship.



Suriya’s “Retro” Promises Stylish Mayhem

The trailer for Retro, starring Suriya and Pooja Hegde, is out, offering a loud, stylish glimpse into a chaotic world. Directed by Karthik Subbaraj, the film showcases Suriya in a gritty role as a man battling between love and violence. Despite promising peace to his partner, he’s drawn back into a violent life, transforming into a fierce force.

The trailer introduces a dynamic ensemble including Jayaram, Prakash Raj, and Joju George, with intense action and eccentric characters. Backed by Santhosh Narayanan’s thumping score and cut by Premam director Alphonse Puthren, the trailer keeps major plot points under wraps while building intrigue.

Produced by Sithara Entertainment, Retro hits screens on May 1st, teasing a bold, action-packed experience with Suriya in top form.

Kesari 2 Unfolds Jallianwala Bagh Truth

The Untold Story of Jallianwala Bagh hit theatres today, diving deep into one of India’s darkest chapters. Directed by Karan Singh Tyagi, this powerful courtroom drama stars Akshay Kumar as advocate Shankaran Nair, who takes on the British Empire by filing a case against General Dyer for the 1919 massacre. R. Madhavan plays the British lawyer defending Dyer, while Ananya Panday assists Kumar as a young advocate.



The film is gripping, emotionally charged, and well-executed, showcasing how courtroom drama can effectively portray historical tragedies. Akshay delivers a commanding performance, while Madhavan and Ananya shine in their roles. The narrative is

tight, impactful, and rooted in historical accuracy, making it a compelling watch. Tyagi’s direction ensures the haunting past feels personal and powerful on screen.

Karan Johar Admits Doubts About Anushka

Anushka Sharma, though absent from films since 2018, remains one of Bollywood’s most loved stars. She debuted in 2008 with Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi, opposite Shah Rukh Khan, under Yash Raj Films. But surprisingly, filmmaker Karan Johar once confessed he initially opposed her casting.

During the 18th MAMI Mumbai Film Festival in 2016, while promoting Ae Dil Hai Mushkil with Anushka, Karan candidly shared that he

urged Aditya Chopra not to cast her. He said, “I completely wanted to murder Anushka Sharma’s career. When Adi showed me her picture, I said, ‘No, don’t sign her.’ I had someone else in mind.”

Despite his doubts, Anushka proved her critics wrong and quickly became a leading star. Karan later admitted he was glad she was cast, calling her a phenomenal talent who carved her path through sheer skill and charm.

