



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 36° C L 27° C	H 37° C L 28° C	H 37° C L 27° C



Annamalai to Rajya Sabha from AP?

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Fake Deaths, Real Land Grabs at Kadiyam Sub-Registrar Office

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Medico Commits Suicide in Visakhapatnam

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

A tragic incident unfolded at Anil Neerukonda Medical College in Visakhapatnam, where a medical student, identified as Sriram, committed suicide by jumping from the top of the college building.

The 23-year-old student, originally from Vijayawada, was reportedly humiliated by the Vice Principal, Sridhar Reddy, after being caught using cheat sheets during his semester exams. Allegations from fellow students claim that the vice principal's actions, which led to severe embarrassment for Sriram, were a major factor in his tragic decision to take his own life.

Following the incident, medical students at the college staged a protest, boycotting classes and demanding immediate action against the authorities responsible for the student's death. Tensions escalated on campus as the students expressed their grief and anger over the incident. The Bhimili police quickly arrived at the scene, attempting to bring the situation under control. They have since shifted Sriram's body to the hospital for examination and have initiated a formal investigation into the cause of his death.

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I will Reveal his Full History of Vijayasai Soon

Raj Kasireddy releases audio message amidst AP liquor scam allegations



- Says he has no role in scam, awaits Supreme Court ruling
- Promises to expose Vijayasai Reddy after legal battle
- Audio clip reignites debate on Kasireddy's location
- Rumors point to Scotland via Nepal, police remain tight-lipped

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Raj Kasireddy, who is facing serious allegations in the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam case, has broken his silence through an audio message. Amidst the investigation being conducted by the Special Investigation Team (SIT), Kasireddy released an audio clipping from an undisclosed location and strongly responded to the accusations made against him by senior YSRCP leader and former MP Vijayasai Reddy. In the message, Raj Kasireddy confirmed that he had received two notices from the SIT. "I have received SIT notices twice. I am fighting the allegations against me through legal channels. I have already approached the court regarding the SIT notices, and the court has ordered that any notices must be served within a specified time frame. I have also filed for anticipatory bail in the Supreme Court and am currently awaiting its decision," he stated.

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Where is Raj Kasireddy?

The sudden release of an audio message by Raj Kasireddy, a key accused in the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam, has sparked renewed speculation about his whereabouts. Facing serious allegations and under the scanner of the Special Investigation Team (SIT), Kasireddy had been untraceable for several months, despite a lookout circular issued against him as early as August 23 last year. Rumors are rife that Kasireddy may have fled the country through Nepal and is currently in Scotland, reportedly waging a legal battle from overseas. Many believe the audio clip released recently might have been recorded and sent from there. However, these reports remain unconfirmed. Police sources have so far refrained from commenting officially on these claims. Some investigative officers suspect that Kasireddy is still in India, hiding in undisclosed locations and frequently changing his whereabouts to avoid leaving digital footprints. This theory is strengthened by the lack of concrete evidence suggesting his international travel. Meanwhile, the SIT has significantly ramped up its investigation. In a series of coordinated raids, the team searched over 15 locations in Hyderabad, targeting properties and establishments linked to Kasireddy, including those of his relatives and associates. Prominent among them are Arita Hospitals and ED Creations—companies in which he is believed to have invested heavily. During the raids, officials seized crucial documents detailing financial transactions spanning from 2019 to 2024. Sources say these records could be key in unraveling the full scope of the liquor scam.

SIT questions Mithun Reddy for 8 hours in AP liquor scam probe

- SIT focuses on liquor policy, distillery links
- Mithun Reddy questioned on ties with Raj Kasireddy and others
- Statement recorded in presence of lawyer as per court order

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada



The investigation into the alleged liquor scam during the previous YSRCP government has intensified, with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) speeding up its probe into questionable practices surrounding liquor policy, pricing, and brand approvals. On Saturday, YSRCP MP Mithun Reddy appeared before the SIT officials at their Vijayawada office, where he was questioned for nearly eight hours. Sources revealed that the SIT grilled Mithun Reddy on a range of issues, particularly focusing on the liquor purchases made by the Andhra Pradesh Beverages Corporation during the YSRCP regime.

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Home Minister Slams Gorantla Madhav, Vows Strict Legal Action

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha came down heavily on former YSRCP MP Gorantla Madhav, vowing that cases would be filed and legal action initiated against him. Speaking at a high-level review meeting with senior police officials from the Guntur range, Anitha said the government is determined to bring Madhav to justice, stressing, "He should be brought inside." Anitha alleged that during the previous YSRCP regime, no appointments were made in the police department, weakening the law enforcement system. She accused YSRCP leaders, including former Minister Roja, of using obscene language and making threatening statements, which she said reflected the party's "culture." Criticizing the attempts to intimidate police officials, she said YSRCP leaders like Gorantla Madhav had tried to overpower law enforcement through influence and threats. She also revealed that some police officials were suspended after it was found they acted wrongly in handling the Madhav case.

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NDA Takes Over Visakhapatnam Mayoral Seat



TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

The YSR Congress Party (YCP) suffered a major political setback on Saturday, losing control of the prestigious Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC). In a significant victory for the alliance, a no-confidence motion against YCP Mayor Golagani Hari Venkata Kumari was passed successfully, paving the way for a change in leadership.

The crucial council meeting, chaired by GVMC In-charge Commissioner and District Collector Harendhiraprasad, commenced at 11 a.m. The alliance, which had steadily gained strength due to a series of defections from YCP, demonstrated its majority. Out of the total 97 members in GVMC, 74 members—including ex-officio members—attended the meeting and voted in favour of the no-confidence motion. Despite the YSRCP issuing a party whip to restrain its defecting corporators, the move failed to yield results. The party's corporators boycotted the council meeting, further weakening its position. With no resistance from the ruling side, the motion was passed smoothly, resulting in the ouster of Mayor Hari Venkata Kumari.

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I will Reveal...

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Kasireddy reiterated that he had no involvement in the liquor scam and dismissed Vijayasai Reddy's allegations as baseless. "Once this legal battle concludes, I will call the media and reveal the entire story behind Vijayasai Reddy. He is a pretentious man," Kasireddy said in the audio, accusing Vijayasai of misleading the public and media. He further appealed to the media to avoid one-sided reporting and urged them to hear his side of the story as well. He clarified that he had responded to both SIT notices—one of which was handed to his mother when he was unavailable, and the second sent via email, asking him to appear for questioning the next day. "I am ready to cooperate with the investigation," Kasireddy added, "but the SIT must clarify why I am being summoned—whether I am a witness or a suspect. My legal team informed me that while I'm being called as a witness, there's also a possibility of arrest." Raj Kasireddy's direct attack on Vijayasai Reddy and his vow to expose him in full detail after the legal proceedings conclude has added a new dimension to the high-profile AP liquor scam. His statement is likely to escalate the ongoing political tensions surrounding the case.

Medico Commits...

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The medical college management maintains that Sriram's suicide was triggered by the humiliation he faced after being caught cheating during the exam. However, this claim has sparked further outrage among students, who believe the harassment from the vice principal led to the student's distress and ultimately his tragic death. The police have registered a case and are investigating the incident further. As of now, more details about the exact circumstances surrounding the suicide are awaited. Fellow students and faculty members are mourning the loss of a student with a promising future.

SIT questions Mithun Reddy...

Continued from page 1

The investigators reportedly questioned him on alleged favoritism shown to certain distilleries, especially Raj Kasireddy's Adan Distillery and Dekart. The SIT officials are said to have delved into the nature of Mithun Reddy's connections with Raj Kasireddy, Chanakyaraj, and Avinash Reddy, including probing into possible financial transactions between them. While he reportedly responded to some of the queries, sources indicate that many questions were met with vague or limited answers. As per the directions of the court, the entire questioning session was conducted in the presence of Mithun Reddy's legal counsel. At the end of the session, SIT officials recorded his statement and obtained his signature on it. The SIT is expected to summon more individuals linked to the case in the coming days, as it continues to unravel the extent of irregularities in liquor procurement and brand approvals under the previous administration.

Cows Sold; Records Stolen: TTD Chairman Drops Bombshell

- BR Naidu exposes massive irregularities in Tirumala Gosala during YSRCP rule
- BR Naidu accuses YSRCP regime of selling cows from Tirumala
- Former director Harinath Reddy blamed for large-scale corruption

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

The Tirumala cowshed controversy deepened on Saturday after current TTD Chairman B R Naidu made sensational allegations of large-scale irregularities during the previous YSRCP regime. He visited the cowshed and declared that serious corruption, including the illegal sale of cows and theft of official records, had taken place under the watch of former director Harinath Reddy. Naidu, accompanied by former cowshed members Koti Sridhar and Telangana Gosala Dal president Kalu Singh, alleged that cows from the sacred Tirumala shelter were secretly transported to Ongole and sold for commissions. He claimed even the fodder meant for the cows was misused during the past five years. He specifically targeted Harinath Reddy, calling him a "miscreant" who indulged in anarchy and looted the institution. "All records were stolen. We will take strong action against him," Naidu said, adding



that a four-member committee would be formed to probe the entire episode. Responding to criticism from opposition leaders, he said, "YSRCP is trying to pin their faults on us. They are even threatening to file a PIL. Let them—no one who made mistakes will be spared." Naidu also lashed out at BJP leader Subramanian Swamy, questioning

why Swamy never raised the cowshed issue during YSRCP's tenure. "Why didn't he file a PIL then? He only appears when it's convenient for the screen," Naidu said sharply. He affirmed that all findings had been reported to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and assured strict action against those responsible.

Clean governance with clean minds?

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

State Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana asserted that the coalition government is working with a clean mind to ensure transparent and clean governance across Andhra Pradesh. As part of the Swarnandhra Swachh Andhra initiative—observed on the third Saturday of every month—a massive cleanliness rally was organized in Nellore city from VRC Center to Nartaki Center. The rally witnessed the participation of around 5,000 students and members from various community groups. Students held placards and raised slogans such as "Don't burn e-waste, manage it," "Reduce plastic use," and "Stop air pollution - Save nature." Minister Narayana administered a cleanliness pledge to all attendees and flagged off the newly allocated road-cleaning machines for Nellore Municipal Corporation. He also inaugurated a bio-mining unit at the Allipuram dumping yard along with



Pollution Control Board Chairman Krishnaiah and Swachh Andhra Corporation MD Anil Kumar Reddy. Later, the Minister inaugurated an e-waste collection center at BVS School in the 7th Division and addressed students at the rally's concluding point, encouraging them to participate actively in creating a cleaner state. He emphasized that Swachh Andhra can only be achieved when people maintain cleanliness not just in public spaces but also in their homes and minds. Highlighting the importance of e-waste management, he urged cit-

izens to responsibly dispose of old electronics like TVs, computers, and printers at local collection centers. He cautioned that mismanagement of such waste would disturb ecological balance. He mentioned that the previous government had left behind not only financial burdens but also 85 lakh tons of accumulated garbage, which the present administration is determined to clear by October 2, in line with the Chief Minister's vision. Minister Narayana also revealed that modern machinery is being provided to all 123 municipalities across the state and assured that drinking water will be supplied to all through the Amrut scheme. He called on municipalities and panchayats to regularly clean garbage and maintain hygiene. Nuda Chairman Kotamreddy Srinivasulu Reddy, Deputy Chairman Roop Kumar Yadav, Municipal Commissioner O V Nandan, and local leaders participated in the program.

Nadendla Manohar to Tour Eluru District from April 21 to 23

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

Eluru District In-charge Minister Shri Nadendla Manohar will tour the district from April 21 to 23, 2025, during which he will take part in a series of development programs and official meetings. On April 21 (Monday), the Minister will travel by road from Vijayawada in the afternoon and is scheduled to reach Eluru by 5:00 pm. Upon arrival, he will hold a meeting with the district public representatives at the Eluru Revenue Bungalow. He will stay overnight in Eluru. On April 22 (Tuesday), Shri Manohar will visit Buttaigudem, Ganapavaram, Rautugudem, and R.R. Colonies in Polavaram mandal. During the tour, he will participate in the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) card distribution program. He will stay overnight at the ITDA Guest House. On April 23 (Wednesday), the Minister will attend various development programs taking place in Polavaram. He will also participate in the inauguration ceremony of the GCC Chillu Manufacturing Unit in Buttaigudem. Later, he will return to Eluru and take part in the Land Assignment Committee meeting at the Collector's office. Following the meeting, he will leave for Vijayawada by road.



E-waste Awareness Drive held in Tadepalligudem

TPN Correspondent | West Godavari

In a continued effort to promote cleaner towns and sustainable environmental practices, the Swarnandhra - Swachh Andhra program was observed with a focus on e-waste management on Saturday across West Godavari district. As part of the monthly cleanliness campaign held on the third Saturday of every month, a special awareness and demonstration program on e-waste was organized at Amma Kalyana Vedika in Ward 4 of Tadepalligudem. District Collector Chadalawada Nagarani, along with Tadepalligudem MLA and Government Whip Bolisetty Srinivas, participated in the event and emphasized the importance of public involvement in maintaining cleanliness and proper waste disposal, particularly with the growing challenge of e-waste. Speaking at the meeting, Collector Nagarani said that "Thousands of harmful chemicals are released from e-waste if not handled properly. It is not just an environmental issue—it directly impacts human health," she cautioned. She encouraged active public participation to help make Tadepalligudem a model clean city. MLA Bolisetty Srinivas, echoing the Collector's message, said that only when citizens treat



waste elimination as their personal responsibility, rather than an obligation to the government, can real change occur. "We must understand that our negligence in garbage disposal is what leads to diseases. The fish we consume from polluted ponds eat plastic and garbage. We are paying the price through our health," he remarked. He pointed out that according to a WHO report, over 8 crore tonnes of e-waste were generated globally by 2022, but only a fraction is being recycled. The rest, he said, is dumped unscientifically, threatening ecological and human safety. Addressing another concern, MLA Srinivas warned that adulterated food items—banned colors, testing salts, reused oils—will not be tolerated in Tadepalligudem.

NDA Takes Over Visakhapatnam Mayoral Seat

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Following the successful passage of the motion, alliance leaders erupted in celebration at the GVMC office, bursting firecrackers and distributing sweets. The political atmosphere in Visakhapatnam turned festive as supporters hailed the development as a major step forward for the opposition alliance. This loss is being seen as a serious blow to the YSRCP's urban political hold, especially ahead of crucial state elections, as the GVMC is one of the most prominent urban bodies in Andhra Pradesh.

Home Minister Slams Gorantla Madhav...

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The Home Minister asserted that YSRCP leaders involved in criminal cases would be punished strictly according to the law. She added that after the coalition government assumed office, the accused in 30 POCSO cases had already been brought to justice. She said the police are now functioning with renewed determination to protect public safety. Anitha also highlighted the failure of the YSRCP government in maintaining critical policing infrastructure, such as CCTV networks, fingerprint systems, and body-worn cameras. She stated that the new government has already spent ₹10-12 crore on restoring these systems. "In nearly 70% of cases, we are identifying accused persons through CCTV footage," she said. Plans are underway to install 5,000 to 10,000 CCTV cameras in each district, with an appeal for citizens to voluntarily install them at homes, shops, and private schools. She emphasized that these systems were instrumental in ensuring law and order during busy events like Kotappakonda Jatara, where drones were deployed for effective surveillance. The Home Minister added that proposals have been received for setting up 10 new police stations across the state. She also spoke about steps being taken to modernize existing stations and strengthen coastal surveillance. In Bapatla, a 16-kilometer coastal stretch is now under constant watch to prevent mishaps involving tourists. Anitha said SDRF will also provide special training to poor swimmers to equip them with lifesaving skills. Finally, she stressed the importance of public participation in crime prevention and ensuring justice for victims. "Our goal is a secure and participatory policing system," she said.

Sri Reddy appears before Vizianagaram police



TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram

Actress Sri Reddy appeared at the Pusapatirega police station in Vizianagaram district today for questioning in connection with her controversial social media videos. The police had earlier served notices to her after registering a case based on complaints filed by workers of the ruling alliance.

Before the recent elections in Andhra Pradesh, Sri Reddy posted several abusive and vulgar videos on social media targeting current Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh. At that time, she had shown extreme aggression in support of the then YSRCP government led by Jagan Mohan Reddy. Following the alliance's electoral victory, Sri Reddy changed her stance, publicly apologizing for her remarks. She stated that she would not speak about politics again and even pleaded forgiveness, saying, "Nara Lokesh, forgive me, brother." Despite her apology, several alliance supporters remained upset and took legal action.

Based on their complaints, police registered a case and issued summons for questioning. Sri Reddy complied with the notice and appeared for the hearing today, where the police are interrogating her regarding the videos and her previous comments on social media.

Annamalai to Rajya Sabha from AP?

- BJP high command plans to nominate Annamalai from AP
- Will replace Vijayasai Reddy's vacated Rajya Sabha seat
- Move seen as key step to boost BJP in Tamil Nadu ahead of assembly polls

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is reportedly preparing to nominate Tamil Nadu leader K. Annamalai to the Rajya Sabha from Andhra Pradesh, filling the vacancy left by the resignation of YSRCP MP Vijayasai Reddy. The decision, if confirmed, is expected to play a strategic role in bolstering the party's influence in Tamil Nadu ahead of the upcoming assembly elections. Annamalai, a former IPS officer turned politician, recently stepped down from his position as Tamil Nadu BJP state president. Though he contested the recent Lok Sabha elections in Tamil Nadu and lost, his leadership has been credited with significantly energizing the BJP's presence in the state.

According to sources, the BJP high



command has chosen Annamalai over other contenders, including former union minister Smriti Irani, who is also reportedly eyeing a Rajya Sabha seat. The leadership's preference for Annamalai highlights his

growing stature in the party and their long-term plans to develop him as a key face in southern politics. The Rajya Sabha seat became vacant following the resignation of Vijayasai Reddy, a senior YSRCP leader, and the

BJP is expected to utilize this opportunity to accommodate its rising star. Political analysts believe this move will give Annamalai national-level exposure while allowing him to continue contributing to the party's growth in Tamil Nadu.

The BJP views the upcoming Tamil Nadu assembly elections as a crucial test, and Annamalai's elevation to Rajya Sabha is likely intended to keep him in a prominent leadership position within the party, even after his electoral defeat.

The formal nomination is expected soon, and if finalized, Annamalai will enter Parliament through Andhra Pradesh, becoming one of the few leaders to represent a different state in the upper house. This move could mark the beginning of a more assertive southern strategy by the BJP in the months ahead.

Ambati Rambabu Alleges CI Threatened Krishnaveni with False Cases



TPN Correspondent | Guntur District

YCP senior leader and Minister Ambati Rambabu has alleged that Dachehalli Circle Inspector Ponuru Bhaskar misbehaved with party social media activist Paleti Krishnaveni during her custody and threatened to file false cases against her. Krishnaveni, who was recently remanded to judicial custody in Guntur district jail, was arrested in connection with her controversial posts on former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh. Speaking to the media after meet-

ing Krishnaveni in jail through Mulakhat, along with Donthireddy Vemareddy and members of the party's legal cell, Ambati made serious allegations against the CI. He claimed that Krishnaveni was arrested in Hyderabad at 5 p.m. and brought to Dachehalli, where she was kept in the police station overnight without being provided food. He accused CI Bhaskar of using indecent and abusive language against Krishnaveni and mentally harassing her to reveal names of YSRCP leaders. Ambati said the CI went as far as threatening to file a marijuana case against Krishnaveni's husband and a prostitution

(adultery) case against Krishnaveni herself if she did not comply.

"What is the logic behind threatening her with a prostitution case for her social media posts?" Ambati questioned, slamming the police for their alleged high-handedness.

Ambati demanded immediate departmental action against the CI, stating that such behavior not only violates the law but also reflects a targeted vendetta against voices aligned with the YSRCP on social media. He asserted that the party will stand by Krishnaveni and continue to fight legally and politically until justice is served.

YV Subbareddy counters Vijayasai's 'coterie' claims

- YV Subbareddy dismisses 'number two' claim by Vijayasai Reddy
- Asserts there's no 'coterie' culture in YSRCP
- Says liquor scam allegations will be decided in court

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

YSRCP Rajya Sabha MP YV Subbareddy has strongly countered the comments made by former MP Vijayasai Reddy, who recently accused a "coterie" around YSRCP Chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of sidelining him within the party. Subbareddy stated that there is no such thing as a "number two" position in the party, clarifying that Jagan alone directs all party affairs and that all leaders follow his guidance and decisions.

Subbareddy made these remarks while addressing YSRCP leaders and activists from the Vijayawada East constituency. He lashed out at Vijayasai Reddy for levelling accusations only after leaving the party, questioning why he remained silent during his tenure as a senior leader. "If there was a coterie, who was running it, and why didn't he speak up earlier?" Subbareddy asked.

Vijayasai Reddy had recently become active in public again, especially after stepping away from YSRCP and politics following the party's defeat in the last Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections. He alleged that a select group of individuals in Jagan's circle marginalized him and others, forcing him out of active politics. He also appeared before the CID SIT in



connection with the liquor scam and stated he was ready to cooperate further if required. Responding to this, YV Subbareddy denied the existence of any liquor scam during the YSRCP government. He emphasized that cases are being filed on many matters, including liquor, but it will be up to the court to decide the outcome. He reiterated that the party structure is clear and that there is no place for the term "coterie" in YSRCP.

Raghurama reveals first reason for differences with Jagan

Disagreements over remarks about Kodela Sivaprasad



TPN Correspondent | Palnadu

In a recent event, the current Andhra Pradesh Deputy Speaker, Raghurama Krishna Raju, spoke openly about the reasons behind his differences with YSR Congress Party (YCP) leader Jagan Mohan Reddy. The former YCP MP, who eventually opposed Jagan while still being a member of the party, revealed that his initial rift with Jagan began when YCP leaders started speaking disparagingly about former Speaker Kodela Sivaprasada Rao after the party came to power in the state.

Raghurama stated that he could not agree with these disrespectful remarks about Kodela, which led to growing differences with Jagan and other party leaders. He emphasized that this issue was the first cause of his conflict within the party.

The Deputy Speaker further revealed that he never had ambitions of entering politics. He said that he had even helped others get elected, including providing MLA tickets to various individuals, before deciding to get involved in political affairs himself.

Raghurama made these remarks during a ceremony where statues of N.T. Rama Rao (NTR) and Kodela Sivaprasada Rao were unveiled in Balijepalli, Rajupalem Mandal, Palnadu District. The event was attended by various political figures, including MP Krishnadevarayalu, MLA Kanna Lakshminarayana, and TDP State General Secretary Kodela Sivaram.



MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy's birthday celebrated across Nellore

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Birthday celebrations of Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy were held with grandeur across the Nellore district. Enthusiastic fans, party leaders, and activists organized a series of service-oriented events to mark the occasion, reflecting Vemireddy's deep commitment to public service.

In Nellore city, the celebrations began with fireworks and garlanding of prominent statues at Moolapet Alankar Center, VRC Center, Nartaki Center, and Phule Bomma Center. These programs were led by party leader Kethamreddy Vinod Reddy, followed by large-scale food distribution drives for the needy.

Later, a blood donation camp was organized at the VPR Convention Center in Kanuparthipadu, where fans, leaders, and volunteers actively participated. Addressing the media, Kethamreddy praised MP Vemireddy as a humble humanitarian who, despite his wealth, continues to live a life devoted to service.

He highlighted the numerous charitable initiatives undertaken by the VPR Foundation, such as providing free education and healthcare, installing mineral water plants, and distributing wheelchairs to persons with disabilities. A ceremonial oil anointment of Vemireddy's portrait also took place as a mark of respect and celebration. Prominent attendees included Udali Suryanarayana, Police Association District President Prasad Rao, Siddu Subbareddy, Sirisha Reddy, Sunanda, Kusuma, Jhansi, Srikanth, Fazal, Jafar Mujju, Muzaffar, Anchela Sarathi, Bhargav, Kanakeswara Rao, Hemanth, Tirumala, Sai, Kukka Prabhakar, and many others. Meanwhile, with the support of Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy and TDP rural constituency leaders, saarees were distributed to poor women as part of the celebration. Speaking at the event, MLA Sridhar Reddy described Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy as a "nickname for service," stating that his contribution to the rural constituency's development is both remarkable and unforgettable.

Corruption Allegations Rock Marketing Department in NTR District

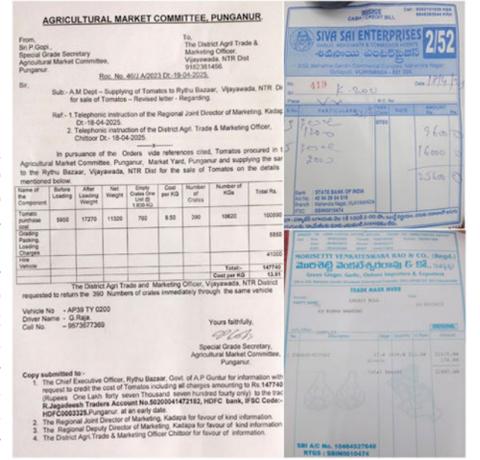
**Officials accused of extorting lakhs daily through tomato price manipulation
Farmers and Dwakra groups protest forced sale of 'government tomatoes'
Behavior of corrupt officials tarnishing image of coalition government**

TPN Correspondent | NTR District
Serious allegations have emerged against officials of the marketing department in the NTR district, with claims that they are manipulating tomato procurement processes and illegally pocketing lakhs of rupees every day. Farmers and vendors alike are voicing strong criticism, accusing a few corrupt officials of distorting the prices and forcing sales of "government tomatoes" while blocking the wholesale trade of locally grown produce. Tomatoes, which should ideally be sold at a minimum of ₹10 per kg, are being priced at ₹14 in local markets under the influence of these officials.

Reports indicate that vendors are being charged margins of up to ₹50,000 per vehicle, an amount pocketed through unauthorized price hikes by colluding with traders. Allegedly, two particular officials in the department are central to this malpractice, operating with impunity. Adding to the frustration, the marketing department has reportedly mandated that only government-supplied tomatoes be sold at farmer market stalls, primarily run by Dwakra associations who pay thousands in monthly rent. These officials are said to be intimidating stallholders by preventing them from selling their own produce and instead forcing them to sell tomatoes supplied by the govern-

ment at fixed prices—thus eliminating competition and monopolizing the trade. Traders running these stalls claim that the tomatoes being supplied by the government are resulting in losses of nearly ₹2,000 per day. They also allege that they are being blackmailed and coerced into selling only government stock, with threats of losing their selling rights or being barred from accessing the stalls. Further disturbing revelations suggest that corruption runs deep in the department. One district-level officer is reported to have openly claimed that not only local ADs and DDs but even higher-level officials must be given a share of the illegal proceeds. Such bla-

tant misconduct has drawn the ire of farmers and the general public, who are demanding immediate action. While the coalition government has been working to ensure that consumers get access to quality vegetables at fair prices through official channels, the actions of a few corrupt officials are undermining these efforts and damaging the government's image. There is growing pressure on local elected representatives and senior district officials to intervene, investigate the irregularities, and take strict action



Against those responsible. As the scandal continues to unfold, the people of NTR district are watching closely, hoping for justice and the restoration of fair market practices.

MLA Vasantha slams Hydra over demolition of his Hyderabad property

**– Says no notice was served before demolition
– Plans to meet Telangana CM Revanth Reddy**

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
TDP MLA Vasantha Krishna Prasad has strongly condemned the recent demolition of his structures in Hyderabad by real estate firm Hydra, alleging that the action was taken without prior notice or communication.



Responding to the incident, Krishna Prasad said the demolitions were carried out unilaterally, without giving him or his associates a chance to respond or defend their position. He added that this has not only caused material damage but also affected his personal image and dignity. "I was not informed, nor was any notice served before the demolitions. This was done in complete violation of procedures," he stated. "I will meet Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and explain everything once he returns from abroad," the MLA added. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who is currently on an overseas visit, reacted to the issue, stating that he is

confident justice will be delivered to the AP legislator. Expressing concern over the timing and manner of the demolition, he said, "If Hydra did everything legally, why did they choose to act on a court holiday? This raises serious doubts." Revanth Reddy further said that any action that impacts an individual's reputation must be carefully handled, and the law must be followed in letter and spirit. Vasantha Krishna Prasad has maintained that the issue is not just about property but about fairness, due process, and reputation. He expects the Telangana government to take appropriate steps after he presents his side of the story to the Chief Minister.

NTR District Police Participate in Swachh Andhra - Swachh Divas Drive

TPN Correspondent | NTR District

As part of the Swachh Andhra - Swachh Divas program, the NTR District Police actively participated in a cleanliness drive by cleaning their respective police stations and surrounding areas today. The initiative, which is organized on the third Saturday of every month, aims to promote hygiene and environmental responsibility among government departments and the public. Following the directions of City Police Commissioner Sri S.V. Rajasekhara Babu IPS, all police stations under the NTR Police Commissionerate took part in the program. Police personnel cleaned

their station premises and nearby areas to set an example of civic responsibility and cleanliness. In addition to the cleanliness drive, saplings were planted within the police station compounds as part of the department's commitment to green initiatives. The program not only promoted sanitation but also underscored the importance of environmental sustainability. Officials said that the NTR Police Commissionerate is committed to continuing such activities every month to maintain cleanliness and create awareness among citizens about their role in building a cleaner and greener Andhra Pradesh.



MLA Varla Kumar Raja Distributes Assistive Tools to Disabled Children in Pamarru

TPN Correspondent | Krishna District

As part of a special initiative to empower children with disabilities, assistive tools were distributed free of cost at the constituency level in Pamarru. The program was held at the Educational Resource Center under the auspices of the Pamarru Mandal MDO and MEO. Pamarru Constituency MLA Shri Varla Kumar Raja participated as the chief guest and personally handed over the tools to the children. The initiative aims to enhance the daily lives and education of differently-abled children through meaningful support.



Speaking on the occasion, MLA Varla Kumar Raja emphasized that being born with a disability should never be seen as a curse. "Our compassionate government stands by you at every step," he said, assuring the children and their families that they would always have the government's support. He further added, "I will be like an elder brother in your lives, offering you the care, love, and encouragement needed for a bright and successful future. Never hesitate to reach out whenever you need help." Parents, teachers, and local officials expressed gratitude for the support extended through the program, which not only addressed practical needs but also inspired hope and reassurance among the families of the disabled children.

Collector Lakshmi Sha, MLA Gadde Rammohan lead e-waste awareness drive

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
As part of the Swarna Andhra - Swachha Andhra initiative, a major special drive on e-waste collection and management was held near Benz Circle in Nara Chandrababu Colony, Vijayawada, on Saturday. The event was led by District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha, Vijayawada East MLA Gadde Rammohan, and VMC Commissioner Dhyana Chandra, who collected e-waste from local residents and emphasized the urgent need for public awareness and responsible disposal. District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha highlighted that the state government is committed to making Andhra Pradesh pollution-free through sustained monthly environmental programs. This month's focus was e-waste, which he said poses a grave threat due to the presence of hazardous elements like lead, cadmium, mercury, and



beryllium. "Vijayawada alone produces 700 kg of electronic waste every day. Dumping it improperly contaminates soil, water, and air, leading to health risks like cancer, heart and lung diseases, and even affecting breast milk," he warned. He urged people to adopt recycling as a civic responsibility and contribute to a cleaner and safer future. "Small thinking can create

big change in society," he added, calling on all citizens to support the government's efforts by handing over unusable electronics at designated collection centers. MLA Gadde Rammohan stated that e-waste generation is particularly high in urban areas and that the government is working to establish proper collection points across the city. "E-waste recycling not

only protects the environment but also recovers valuable minerals and chemicals that can generate crores in revenue," he said. Municipal Commissioner Dhyana Chandra said that Swachha Andhra is a multi-layered campaign involving the public, elected representatives, and officials. "Efforts are underway to make Vijayawada greener and cleaner while also addressing health risks like malaria and dengue. As part of the e-waste drive, arrangements have been made to collect electronic waste in all city wards," he said. Following the speeches, the leaders and officials collected e-waste from locals and led an awareness rally. Participants pledged to actively support the Swarna Andhra - Swachha Andhra mission, prioritize cleanliness and greenery, and help make the district pollution-free.

Mega medical camp by Jayaprada Foundation at Jaggayyapet



TPN Correspondent | NTR District
A large-scale medical camp was organized by the Jayaprada Foundation at Dr. B R Ambedkar Girls' Gurukul School in Jaggayyapet, NTR district. The camp offered free eye, dental, general medicine, and blood tests for students. Medical teams from Shankar Eye Hospital and Rotary Club Amaravati conducted health check-ups for around 500 students during the event. Free medicines and spectacles were distributed to those in need based on the diagnoses. Jayaprada Foundation Chairman and TDP Polit Bureau Member Sri Thondapu Dasharada Janardhan participated in the event, along with NTR District TDP President and former minister Sri Nettem Raghuram and Jaggayyapet MLA Sriram Rajagopal (Tatayya). Foundation members and local leaders were also present. The organizers emphasized that such camps aim to support the health and well-being of students and underprivileged communities, promising more similar initiatives in the future.

Motorbike thieves caught in Kalidindi

TPN Correspondent | Eluru
In a breakthrough against rising vehicle thefts, Kaikaluru police arrested two individuals involved in multiple motorbike thefts and recovered five stolen bikes valued at ₹3.5 lakh. Kaikaluru Rural CI V Ravikumar disclosed the details during a media briefing at the Kaikaluru police station on Saturday. The arrests were made following a series of thefts reported in Kalidindi mandal of Eluru district. The accused, Panamala Jagadish and Cheboyina Shyam Teja of Kalidindi, were detained while roaming suspiciously. Upon interrogation, both confessed to stealing motorbikes from various locations over a period of time.



CI Ravikumar credited the success of the operation to the intensified surveillance and pa-

trolling led by Kalidindi SI V Venkateswara Rao. A special team had been deployed to monitor the area and track the suspects. The five recovered bikes, with a total estimated value of ₹3.50 lakh, have been returned to the police custody. The CI extended special appreciation to SI Venkateswara Rao, ASI K Venkateswara Rao, and constables B Ramesh, D Vaddikasulu, and Katta Srinu for their swift and coordinated effort in nabbing the culprits and recovering the stolen vehicles. Police have urged citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity, ensuring community participation in crime prevention efforts.

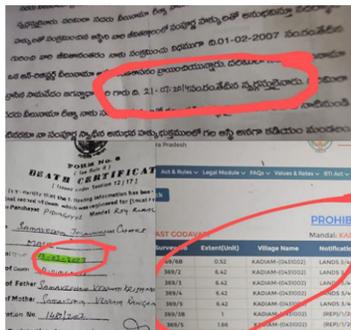
Fake Deaths, Real Land Grabs at Kadiyam Sub-Registrar Office

Massive scam involving document writers and fake certificates unearthed by Point News

Kadiyam writers, hub for fake certificates.
Death certificates issued for people who are still alive
Died in 2014, but certificate shows death in 2007
The deeper you dig, the more corruption by writers comes to light
False registrations rampant in Kadiyam Sub-Registrar Office
Document writers willing to do anything for money
Sub-Registrar Office staff turning a blind eye and aiding writers

TPN Correspondent | Kadiyam
The Kadiyam Sub-Registrar Office has turned into a hotspot for large-scale corruption and manipulation, with a shocking syndicate of document writers orchestrating fraudulent land registrations using fake certificates, including forged death records. An investigation by Point News has uncovered a network of document writers who are illegally registering lands using fabricated documents. In one glaring case, the death certificate of a person stated 2007, while official records showed the person had died in 2014. This forged document was

used for land registration without objection, raising serious concerns about oversight and collusion within the office. Sources allege that document writers have established complete control over the registration process. They reportedly operate with the cooperation—or negligence—of sub-registrars and staff, who fail to verify even basic information like dates and legal ownership. The writers have formed a powerful syndicate and are accused of converting government lands into private ownership using these false records, especially in areas like Kadi-



Document showing a date discrepancy from 2014 to 2007, indicating a forged death certificate used for land registration.



vey lands. Writers are said to be minting crores through these manipulations. According to complaints, these individuals can produce death certificates for living persons and forge any document necessary to facilitate land grabs. Document writers who once operated within the sub-registrar's office have now extended their operations just outside the premises, running parallel setups that cater to anyone willing to pay. With forged certificates, they can

falsely claim land ownership—even of government land. Despite mounting evidence, it remains to be seen whether higher authorities like the District Collector, the Registration Department, and Vigilance officials will initiate a formal probe. If an in-depth investigation is launched, hundreds of fake registrations are expected to come to light. Point News has acquired substantial evidence and will continue to publish further revelations.

TTD initiates removal of non-Hindu staff



TPN Correspondent | Tirupati
The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has started implementing Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's earlier announcement regarding the removal of non-religious individuals working under the TTD Board. The decision aims to preserve the sanctity and religious practices associated with the Tirumala temple. On Thursday, TTD transferred G. Asuntha, the principal of Padmavathi Mahila Polytechnic, after allegations surfaced that she was not adhering to Hindu

rituals such as performing puja, aarti, or taking Tirtha prasadam, and instead followed Christian traditions. Following an internal inquiry, TTD EO ordered her transfer to the Ayurvedic Pharmacy at Narasinghapuram on deputation. Apart from her religious conduct, there were also allegations of irregularities, including the theft of laboratory equipment, against Asuntha. TTD authorities mentioned that these complaints are under further investigation. This move is part of a larger effort by the TTD to ensure that employees serving in its institutions align with the core religious values and practices of the temple. Devotees have long raised concerns over the presence of non-Hindu staff in TTD-run institutions. Many of them point out that these appointments increased significantly during the previous YSR Congress Party regime. Now, with the TDP-BJP government in place, CM Chandrababu Naidu has directed the TTD administration to take necessary action. TTD has now formally begun acting on these directions, with more transfers and reassignments likely to follow in the coming days.

Samantha visits Tirumala

Seeks blessings ahead of 'Shubham' film release

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati
Popular actress Samantha visited the Tirumala Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple on Saturday morning along with the team of her upcoming film Shubham. The visit took place during the VIP break darshan, with Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) officials coordinating the arrangements. Samantha and the film crew had darshan of the deity and offered their prayers. Vedic scholars later blessed the team at the Ranganayakula Mandapam and presented them with the tirtha prasadam of the Lord. Prior to the darshan, Samantha submitted the required declaration at the Vaikuntam Q Complex. This visit comes ahead of the release of Shubham, produced under Samantha's own banner, Tralala Moving Pictures. The film marks her debut as a producer, and her team's spiritual visit to Tirumala is seen as a symbolic gesture seeking divine blessings for the success of the project.



Mayor's post captured through tricks: Kannababu

YCP leader slams alliance for ousting Yadava woman mayor



TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam
YCP Uttarandhra Regional Coordinator Kurasala Kannababu came down heavily on the coalition government after it captured the Visakhapatnam Mayor's post. Speaking to the media, Kannababu alleged that the alliance murdered democracy by dethroning the YSRCP mayor through conspiracies and backdoor methods. He stated that former CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had given the mayor post to a Yadava woman

as a gesture of empowerment, but the alliance government removed her undemocratically. He accused the coalition of lacking the moral strength to win fairly and instead resorting to a no-confidence motion fueled by money power. Kannababu claimed that the coalition reached the required numbers through manipulation and horse-trading, stating that "crores of rupees were spent to buy corporators." He said such actions expose the absence of values and credibility in Chandrababu Naidu's leadership. The YCP leader further lashed out at corporators who shifted loyalties, saying they betrayed the party and the people. He alleged that injustice is prevailing under the current coalition administration and warned that the public is observing all developments closely.

Tension in Palakoderu as Poor Resist Eviction Drive

Police, revenue officials face fierce resistance from locals in ASR Nagar

TPN Correspondent | West Godavari
High tension prevailed in Palakoderu mandal center of West Godavari district on Friday as residents of Alluri Sitarama Raju (ASR) Nagar fiercely resisted attempts by authorities to evict them from their homes. The poor, who have been living in the colony for decades, stood united against the demolition drive initiated by the authorities, reportedly under instructions from local MLA Raghurama Krishnam Raju. The eviction operation involved a heavy contingent of over 40 male and 30 female police personnel, revenue and electrical department officers, ASHA workers, three police vehicles, a fire engine, and an ambulance. When the officials began moving bulldozers to raze the homes, locals, including women and the el-



derly, staged a massive road blockade in protest. Protesters threatened self-immolation with petrol if the demolition continued, forcing the police to temporarily halt the operation. The situation turned chaotic when police arrested CPM district committee member Jakkamsetty Satyanarayana. Enraged locals stopped the police vehicle and freed him amidst a scuffle. During the unrest, several women collapsed due to physical strain, and one woman, Nagavarapu Ishwari,

suffered a severe head injury after being pushed by a police vehicle driver. She was rushed to Bhimavaram Government Hospital and later shifted to Verma Hospital for further treatment. CPM District Secretary J.N.V. Gopalan rushed to the spot, condemned the incident, and extended support to the affected families. Addressing the media, Gopalan accused MLA Raghurama Krishnam Raju of unleashing tyranny on the poor. "This MLA is waging a war against the poor with a wicked mindset. Within three months of assuming power, he has evicted hundreds of families living in the area for decades," Gopalan alleged. He explained that ASR Nagar was formed during the 1986 floods and has since received basic amenities from various governments. He criticized the current MLA for targeting

the colony to benefit landlords and wealthy elites. Gopalan demanded the immediate intervention of the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, and Minister Lokesh, warning that failure to act would cost the coalition government dearly. Gopalan also alleged that administrative transfers, from MRO to DSP levels, were being made in the MLA's favor to facilitate such evictions. He vowed that the CPM would intensify its agitation until justice is done. Among the injured, Nagavarapu Ishwari is undergoing treatment in Bhimavaram, while others, including Mallula Savitri, Metta Bharathi, Hanumanthu Chinna, Devarapu Satyavati, Donga Varalakshmi, Jogi Satyavati, and Mallula Ramakrishna, were treated at Palakoderu PHC and discharged.

Minister Parthasarathy joins roadside cleanup in Agiripalli

TPN Correspondent | Eluru
State Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Kolu Parthasarathy actively participated in a cleanliness drive in Agiripalli as part of the Swachh Andhra - Swarna Andhra program held on the third Saturday of every month. He joined sanitation workers in removing waste from the roads and loading it into a tractor, emphasizing the importance of environmental cleanliness for a healthy life. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Parthasarathy said that the program is being successfully implemented in all 175 constituencies across the state. He stated that the coalition government is committed to clearing garbage from all dumping yards and is taking decisive steps to improve sanitation infrastructure. "The Chief Minister is giving top priority to ensuring clean drinking water for every household," he noted, while urging people to cooperate by avoiding the use of plastic covers and handing over domestic waste

to sanitation workers instead of littering on roads. He also called on the public to actively participate in the movement and support the government's efforts in maintaining cleanliness and building a healthier environment. Employees from various departments and local public representatives took part in the program alongside the minister.



Free Fibro Scan Camp Held at Divisional Railway Hospital on World Liver Day

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
In observance of World Liver Day, a free FibroScan screening camp was conducted at the Radiology Block of the Divisional Railway Hospital, Vijayawada, on April 19, 2025. The camp, organized in collaboration with Zydus Life Sciences, focused on the theme "Food is Medicine," emphasizing the connection between diet and liver health. The screening camp aimed to assess Railway employees and their dependents, particularly those at risk due to conditions like obesity, chronic alcoholism, high cholesterol, diabetes, and HBV/HCV infections. A total of 59 beneficiaries participated in the non-invasive FibroScan test, which detects early signs of fatty liver and liver fibrosis. Dr. Ch. Srinivasu, Chief Medical Superin-

tendent, Vijayawada Division, inaugurated the camp and highlighted the significance of early screenings and lifestyle changes to prevent liver diseases. He also emphasized the importance of regular health checkups in maintaining good liver health. Participants with abnormal scan results will undergo further evaluations and be referred to Consultant Gastroenterologists for specialized treatment. Dr. M. Jaideep, Assistant Chief Medical Superintendent (Health & Family Welfare), expressed gratitude to Zydus Life Sciences, hospital staff, and participants for contributing to the success of the event, reinforcing the Indian Railways' dedication to improving the health and well-being of its employees and their families.

Pakistan-Bangladesh Diplomatic Reset Faces Stiff Demands from Dhaka

While the Indian media has been closely tracking the extradition of 26/11 Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a striking silence continues to echo across Pakistani media on the issue. The Pakistani press has largely ignored this significant development, both last week and in the days since. Instead, attention in the region has shifted to another important diplomatic story — the Pakistani Foreign Secretary's high-stakes visit to Bangladesh. The visit, part of a broader diplomatic outreach, marks a fresh attempt by Islamabad to realign relations with Dhaka. The press in both Pakistan and Bangladesh has noted the significance of this engagement, welcoming the potential thaw in ties between the two countries, long strained by historical grievances and recent geopolitical shifts.

However, the diplomatic reset is proving to be far from smooth. The interim government in Dhaka, led by Muhammad Yunus, has made it clear that any meaningful reconciliation must address past injustices. During the high-level meetings, Bangladesh demanded a formal apology from Pakistan for the 1971 genocide, a long-standing request that Islamabad has so far resisted. Additionally, Bangladesh has pressed for the settlement of financial claims dating back to the partition of East and West Pakistan. Dhaka is demanding \$4.52 billion as its share of the pre-1971 assets and dues, a figure that includes foreign exchange reserves, pension liabilities, and other unresolved financial commitments.



This strong stance by Bangladesh underscores that while diplomatic outreach is welcome, it cannot bypass accountability for history. Analysts in Dhaka have noted that public sentiment in Bangladesh remains deeply rooted in the memories of the 1971 Liberation War and the atrocities committed during that time. As such, any forward movement in bilateral relations will require more than symbolic gestures.

While Pakistani media has chosen to spotlight the visit in the context of regional alignment, its relative silence on the historical reckoning and Bangladesh's firm demands signals a reluctance to fully confront the past. As both nations navigate this diplomatic balancing act, the road to reconciliation appears to hinge on whether Pakistan is ready to acknowledge and address the wounds of history.



The Growing E-Waste Crisis: A Global Challenge Demanding Urgent Action

Have you ever wondered where your old smartphone ends up after being discarded? That tiny gadget, packed with precious metals and toxic substances, often doesn't just disappear — it lands in hazardous dumpsites or is dismantled unsafely in developing nations. As technology rapidly advances, electronic devices are discarded at alarming rates, contributing to a mounting e-waste crisis.

E-waste refers to discarded electronics like smartphones, computers, and televisions. Global e-waste generation hit 62 million tonnes in 2022 and is projected to reach 82 million tonnes by 2030. Although Asia produces the highest volume, Europe and Oceania have the highest per capita rates — 17.6 kg and 16.1 kg, respectively — highlighting the global imbalance in waste generation and management.

Buried within this waste are valuable metals like gold, silver, and platinum, worth \$9.6 billion in 2022 and expected to grow to \$13.6 billion by 2029. Yet, only 22.3% of e-waste is formally recycled. The rest is often handled informally or ends up in landfills, where it poses severe environmental and health hazards.

In places like Ghana, Guiyu (China), and Seelampur (Delhi), informal e-waste recycling has created toxic wastelands. Children and adults alike, lacking protective gear, burn wires or use acid baths to extract metals — exposing themselves to toxic chemicals such as lead, mercury, and cadmium. These practices have been linked to respiratory diseases, developmental disorders, stillbirths, and even cancer.

Despite global agreements like the Basel Convention, loopholes allow wealthier countries to export unrepairable electronics to poorer nations. India, a top e-waste producer and importer, continues to struggle with inadequate formal recycling systems, making illegal dumping and unsafe processing common.

To tackle the crisis, a multi-layered approach is needed: strict enforcement of laws like Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), adoption of circular economy practices, and technological innovation. AI and robotics can improve sorting, while modular product designs and blockchain can enhance transparency and accountability in recycling. Ultimately, addressing e-waste requires not just better infrastructure, but a cultural shift in how we consume technology. Public awareness, sustainable consumption habits, and international cooperation are essential for aligning tech innovation with environmental responsibility.

When Cricket Meets Cinema: KL Rahul, 'Kantara', and the Contradictions of IPL Identity



Last week, a viral Instagram reel showcased Indian cricketer KL Rahul performing a bat gesture inspired by the Kannada blockbuster *Kantara*. Set to the film's evocative background score, Rahul's move—drawing a circle with his bat and striking it into the ground like a sword—signaled a symbolic claim over the turf. "Just a tiny reminder that this ground, this home, this turf is where I have grown up; and this is mine," Rahul declared in a post-match interview.

The gesture, cinematic and emotive, became an instant hit online, especially because it came during the Indian Premier League (IPL)—a cultural juggernaut where cricket and entertainment collide. Rahul, a Bengaluru native, made the move on the very ground associated with the Royal Challengers Bangalore, despite playing for Delhi Capitals. In a poetic twist, the local boy claimed enemy turf with a film refer-

ence deeply rooted in Karnataka's cultural landscape.

This moment reflects the layered identity of the IPL. Franchises are often melting pots, where players from across India and abroad team up under city names that don't necessarily reflect their roots. Fans don't support teams because of geography; they follow stars like Dhoni or Shah Rukh Khan. Home ground, in this context, becomes an aesthetic rather than an emotional anchor.

Rahul's celebration, then, was more than a cricketing highlight—it was an act of affective marketing. It used cinema's language to inject meaning into an otherwise brand-driven tournament. By invoking *Kantara*—a film centered around indigenous rights and resistance to corporate encroachment—Rahul created an ironic but powerful image of reclaiming space in a franchise-dominated game. In doing so, he offered fans a moment of emotional geography in a sport that often lacks rootedness. The gesture blurred the lines between sport and spectacle, city and celebrity, identity and branding—making it a moment only the IPL could produce. And perhaps that's why we're still talking about it.

Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025: Reform, Rights, and Religious Autonomy Under Scrutiny

The recently enacted Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025—now law following Presidential assent—has triggered a wave of legal challenges in the Supreme Court. Petitioners argue that several provisions infringe upon religious autonomy and personal freedoms under the Constitution.

Waqf, a permanent dedication of property for Islamic religious or charitable purposes, is managed through state Waqf Boards overseeing over 8.72 lakh properties across India. However, governance concerns and underutilization persist, with the Sachar Committee (2006) noting dismal annual earnings from vast waqf assets.

The amendments introduce stricter conditions under Sections 3(r) and 3A, mandating that donors be practising Muslims for at least five years and legal owners of the prop-

erty. Critics argue this five-year rule lacks reasonable justification under Article 14's equality clause and sets a precedent not imposed on other religions.

Controversially, the long-standing provision of "waqf by user"—granting waqf status through prolonged religious use—has been repealed. Now, only documented waqfs with valid Waqfnamas are recognised, raising concerns about the fate of undocumented heritage sites. A digital registry (Section 3B) aims to streamline waqf property records, though prior efforts have struggled due to poor state-level implementation.

Governance reforms expand board representation to include two non-Muslims, two women, and backward Muslim communities. Yet, critics see this as infringing Ar-



Article 26, which guarantees the right of religious groups to manage their own affairs. However, courts have historically allowed state regulation

of secular aspects of religious institutions, as seen in the *Shirur Mutt* (1954) and *Pookoya Thangal* (1993) rulings.

The most debated change is the repeal of Section 40, which had empowered Waqf Boards to declare properties as waqf. Now, waqf claims must follow due legal process. Repealing Sections 107, 108, and 108A curtails indefinite claims, imposes a 12-year limitation period, and demands proof for evacuee properties.

While critics see these changes as curtailing religious freedoms, the state defends them as necessary reforms. Echoing historic moves like the abolition of Privy Purses, the amendments prioritize public interest and accountability. The challenge now lies in balancing faith, rights, and governance in a rapidly modernizing legal landscape.



Marathi Mandatory, Others Optional: Fadnavis

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday reaffirmed that Marathi will remain a compulsory subject in the state, while learning other languages, including Hindi and English, will be optional and based on personal choice.

Speaking to the media, CM Fadnavis said, "Marathi language is compulsory in Maharashtra; everyone should learn it. Additionally, if you wish to learn other languages, you can do so. Opposition to Hindi and promotion of English is surprising. If someone opposes Marathi, then it will not be tolerated."

The remarks come in the wake of the state government's decision to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 by introducing Hindi as a third language from Class 1 in all state board schools, alongside Marathi and English. The decision, approved by the School Education Department on April 16, was confirmed by Rahul Ashok Rekhawar, Director of the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT).

However, the move has sparked political backlash. Senior Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar voiced strong opposition, warning the government against imposing Hindi. "You can keep it optional, but you cannot impose it. At whose behest are you trying to impose this language on the state?" he questioned. Wadettiwar emphasized the emotional and cultural significance of Marathi as the mother tongue, and insisted that introducing Hindi compulsorily infringes on the linguistic rights of the Marathi-speaking population. "There should be no coercion against the rights of the Marathi people — this is our demand," he stated.

Fadnavis, however, maintained a firm stance, underlining that Marathi holds a non-negotiable status in the state's identity and educational framework. He also expressed concern over what he described as a growing preference for English and unexpected resistance to Hindi. The government's decision is aligned with the NEP 2020's vision to promote multilingualism and provide students with exposure to multiple languages from early education stages. While Marathi and English will continue as core subjects, Hindi will now be part of the foundational curriculum.

PM Modi to Visit Saudi Arabia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Saudi Arabia from April 22 to 23 at the invitation of Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman. This will mark PM Modi's first visit to the Kingdom in his third term, following earlier visits in 2016 and 2019.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the visit reflects India's commitment to strengthening its multifaceted ties with Saudi Arabia. The two nations elevated their relationship to a Strategic Partnership in 2010, and it has since expanded across various domains, including trade, defence, energy, technology, and people-to-people ties.

The visit comes on the heels of Mohammed bin Salman's participation in the G20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023, where he also co-chaired the first meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council. The PM's visit is also significant amid ongoing US-Iran nuclear talks, the Hamas-Israel conflict, and ahead of US President Donald



Trump's anticipated visit to the Kingdom. India and Saudi Arabia have maintained consistent high-level engagements. Since 2024, 11 Indian ministerial visits have taken place, and the Saudi Foreign and Industry Ministers visited India in late 2024 and ear-

ly 2025. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also co-chaired the first India-GCC Ministerial Meeting in Riyadh in September 2024.

Saudi Arabia is India's fifth largest trading partner. In FY 2023-24, bilateral trade stood at \$42.98

billion. India exported goods worth \$11.56 billion, including engineering items, rice, textiles, and chemicals, while imports worth \$31.42 billion primarily included crude oil, LPG, fertilizers, and plastics. Saudi Arabia is India's third-largest source of crude oil and LPG, supplying 33.35 MMT of crude oil in 2023-24. Indian investments in Saudi Arabia have reached \$3 billion, while Saudi investments in India total around \$10 billion across sectors like IT, telecom, pharmaceuticals, construction, and consultancy.

Defence cooperation has also grown, highlighted by naval exercises like 'Al Mohed Al Hindi' and the 2024 ministerial visit by MoS Defence Ajay Bhatt for the World Defence Show in Riyadh. With a 2.7 million-strong Indian community in the Kingdom, ties remain deeply rooted. Over 100,000 Indians migrated to Saudi Arabia for employment in the past year, strengthening the socio-economic bond between the two nations.

Tripura CM Meets Amit Shah, Nadda

Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP National President J P Nadda in New Delhi on Friday to discuss key development and health sector initiatives in the northeastern state.

Taking to social media, CM Saha shared details of his meeting with Amit Shah, saying, "Met Hon'ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah Ji in New Delhi. Discussed key development initiatives of our state government and sought his valuable guidance and support from the Centre for further progress."

The meeting is part of Saha's continued engagement with the central leadership to accelerate ongoing projects in Tripura and push for enhanced cooperation in various sectors, including infrastructure and security. Following his discussion with the Home Minister, Dr Saha also met Union Health Minister and BJP chief J P Nadda. In



the meeting, the Chief Minister briefed Nadda about the development of super-specialty healthcare services in Tripura's government-run hospitals. He sought the Union health ministry's support to further enhance medical infrastructure and address key healthcare challenges in the state.

According to officials close to the Chief Minister's Office, the talks also covered expanding telemedicine access, deploying more specialist doctors in remote areas, and improving patient care facilities under centrally sponsored schemes. Later, Dr Saha also held a meeting with BJP General Secretary B

L Santosh, where party organizational matters and preparations ahead of future electoral challenges were reportedly discussed. The interactions reflect Saha's efforts to balance governance with political strengthening in the state.

The Chief Minister's visit comes at a crucial time, as the state gears up for the implementation of several central schemes and awaits additional support for critical infrastructure and social development projects. His outreach to the party's top brass is seen as part of a larger strategy to align Tripura's governance goals with the central government's priorities.

Tripura has witnessed increased focus on development, particularly in healthcare and connectivity, under Saha's leadership. The state government has been actively collaborating with the Centre to bring in investments and improve the quality of life for its residents.

India Slams Bangladesh Over Hindu Leader's Killing

India strongly condemned the recent abduction and murder of Hindu minority leader Bhabesh Chandra Roy in Bangladesh, describing it as part of a "pattern of systematic persecution" of Hindu minorities under the country's interim government.



Bhabesh Chandra Roy, 58, was a prominent Hindu community figure and the vice-president of the Biral unit of the Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad. According to The Daily Star, Roy was abducted from his home in Dinajpur's Biral last week and later beaten to death. His wife, Shantana, said Roy had received a phone call around 4:30 PM, possibly from his attackers, and was taken away by four men within half an hour.

In a sharply worded statement posted on X (formerly Twitter), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal expressed India's distress over the incident. "We have noted with distress the abduction and brutal killing of Shri Bhabesh Chandra Roy, a Hindu minority leader in Bangladesh. This killing follows a pattern of systematic persecution

of Hindu minorities under the interim government even as the perpetrators of previous such events roam with impunity," he said.

India urged the interim Bangladeshi government, led by Muhammad Yunus, to uphold its responsibility to protect all minority communities. "We condemn this incident and once again remind the interim government to live up to its responsibility of protecting all minorities, including Hindus, without inventing excuses or making distinctions," Jaiswal added.

The murder has sparked concerns over the safety of minorities in Bangladesh, particularly as such incidents have occurred repeatedly without accountability. Human rights

observers and diaspora groups have frequently raised alarms over rising attacks against religious minorities, especially Hindus, in recent years. India's statement adds diplomatic pressure on Dhaka, which is already facing scrutiny over political instability and its handling of minority rights during the transition under the interim leadership.

Roy's death is the latest in a string of targeted attacks that have raised questions about the rule of law and minority protection mechanisms in Bangladesh. As of now, no arrests have been reported in the case. India continues to monitor the situation and has reiterated its call for justice and equal rights for all communities in the region.

Naveen Patnaik Re-Elected BJD Chief

Veteran leader and former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik was unanimously elected as the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president for the ninth consecutive time on Saturday. The announcement was made by PK Deb, the returning officer for BJD's organisational election, during the party's state council meeting held at Sankha Bhawan, the party's state headquarters.

At 78, Patnaik continues to lead the regional party he founded, remaining its only presidential candidate. Addressing the gathering after his re-election, Patnaik urged party workers to actively counter the alleged misinformation being spread by the ruling BJP, especially on social media. "We conceded defeat in the last assembly election by a narrow margin, despite securing more votes. The reason was our failure to effectively counter the false narrative. Creating such narratives has become the main strategy against us," Patnaik stated. He emphasized the need to strengthen BJD's digital presence, noting, "Without technology, we cannot reach out to the people. We must use it to share truth and facts."

In a veiled reference to the BJP, Patnaik remarked, "No one should underestimate the organisational strength of the BJD. The spirit of our workers remains unshaken—they



are our greatest strength." He expressed confidence that BJD workers would counter propaganda and continue spreading the party's message across Odisha. Patnaik hailed the 2000-2024 period, during which the BJD was in power, as a "golden age" for the state. He also reaffirmed that the ideology of his father, Biju Patnaik, continues to be the guiding force behind the party.

Reiterating the party's core mission, Patnaik said, "Whether in power or not, the BJD has always been committed to serving the people of Odisha. Our focus remains on the welfare and empowerment of women, farmers, youth, workers, and tribal communities." Patnaik concluded his address with the chant "Jai Jagannath," affirming the party's resolve to fight for the pride and rights of the Odia people.

"Must Be Allowed To Do My Job": Trump's MS-13 Tattoo Photo Sparks Debate

- **Abrego Garcia was deported despite a court ruling protecting him.**
- **Critics say deportation lacked due process and endangered his safety.**
- **Social media and lawmakers question Trump's actions and image authenticity.**

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

U.S. President Donald Trump has ignited a fresh controversy after posting a black-and-white image on his social media accounts that he claims proves the gang affiliation of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a 29-year-old man recently deported to El Salvador. The photograph, which shows the tattooed knuckles of a man bearing the letters "MS-13," is now under intense scrutiny amid allegations that it may have been digitally altered.



"This is the hand of the man that the Democrats feel should be brought back to the United States... even though he's got MS-13 tattooed onto his knuckles," Trump wrote in the caption. He added that two "highly respected courts" confirmed Abrego Garcia's gang ties and past abuse allegations. "I must be allowed to do my job," Trump asserted, invoking his commitment to removing "bad people" from the

U.S. However, social media users and tech experts quickly raised red flags about the authenticity of the image. Observers pointed to inconsistencies in lighting, typography, and pixelation, suggesting the tattoo might have been digitally superimposed. "MS-13

looks like it was typed onto the photo," one user commented. Former Minnesota state senator Linda Higgins posted: "Hey Old Man, @realDonaldTrump, have someone teach you about Photoshop." Further complicating the narrative, U.S. government court filings on Abrego Garcia's case

never cited tattoos as evidence of gang membership. Attorney General Pam Bondi recently stated he was identified by a gang alias "Chequeo" and street name "Chele," but no physical proof, such as tattoos, was included.

Abrego Garcia's deportation has sparked legal and human rights concerns. Having fled El Salvador as a teen to escape gang threats, he built a life in Maryland, supporting his family and working in construction. He was previously granted permission to remain in the U.S. after an immigration judge ruled deportation would endanger him.

Despite that protection, he was swiftly deported in March 2025 while shopping with his son, raising serious questions about due process and the legal grounds for his removal. Critics argue the photo may be an attempt to justify a controversial deportation that violated a standing court order.



Indian Student Harsimrat Kaur Randhawa Killed by Stray Bullet in Canada Family Seeks Repatriation

TPN Correspondent | US

Tragedy struck the family of 21-year-old Harsimrat Kaur Randhawa, an Indian student studying in Canada, after she was fatally shot by a stray bullet during a violent clash in Hamilton, Ontario. Her grieving family from Dhunda village in Punjab's Tarn Taran district has urged the Indian government to expedite the repatriation of her body.

Randhawa had moved to Canada two years ago for higher studies and was enrolled at Mohawk College. On the evening of April 17, she was on her way out for her daily routine when she became an innocent victim in a shooting incident. According to Hamilton Police, a gunfight erupted between occupants of two vehicles near Upper James Street and South Bend Road East. Randhawa, caught in the crossfire, was struck by a bullet in the chest.

Emergency responders rushed her to a local hospital, but she was declared dead shortly after arrival. "Through surveillance footage, it appears that the passenger of a black Mercedes SUV opened fire at a white sedan. One of the bullets tragically hit Ms Randhawa," police said. The same gunfire also penetrated a nearby residence, though no injuries were reported in the home.

The Hamilton Police Service is investigating the case as a homicide and has appealed for dashcam and surveillance footage from the area between 7:15 pm and 7:45 pm.

The Consulate General of India in Toronto expressed deep condolences on social media and confirmed that it is coordinating with Canadian authorities while providing support to the family. "We are deeply saddened by the tragic death of Indian student Harsimrat Randhawa. A homicide investigation is currently underway," the statement read.

Mohawk College issued a statement expressing sorrow over the loss. "Our thoughts are with her family and friends. We are committed to supporting those affected within our college community," the college said, while refraining from disclosing details of her academic background due to privacy concerns.

As investigations continue, Randhawa's family remains devastated and hopes for swift assistance in bringing their daughter home.



India Condemns Killing of Hindu Leader in Bangladesh

Tensions Rise Amid Political Backlash

TPN Correspondent | Bangladesh

India has strongly condemned the abduction and killing of Bhabesh Chandra Roy, a prominent Hindu minority leader in northern Bangladesh, sparking diplomatic tension between the two countries. The Ministry of External Affairs issued a sharply worded statement, criticizing the Muhammad Yunus-led Bangladeshi interim government for its failure to protect religious minorities.

"We have noted with distress the abduction and brutal killing of Shri Bhabesh Chandra Roy," the statement said. "This incident reflects a disturbing trend of persecution against Hindu minorities in Bangladesh. The interim government must act decisively to safeguard all communities without excuses or bias."

Roy, 58, was kidnapped from his home in Basudebpur village in Dinajpur district and was later found dead. Reports say he was lured outside by a phone call, after which four men on motorcycles abducted him. He was allegedly taken to a nearby village and assaulted before being returned in an unconscious state. He was declared dead upon arrival at a local hospital.

The murder has ignited political fire in India. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent meeting with Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus, calling it ineffective in securing safety for religious minorities. "There have been 76 attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh in the past two months alone, resulting in 23 deaths," Kharge said.

The BJP responded sharply, accusing Congress of playing politics with foreign policy. "Mr Kharge's remarks are irresponsible," said BJP spokesperson Charu Pragya. "India's relationship is with Bangladesh as a nation, not individual regimes. Why is Congress silent about attacks on Hindus in West Bengal?"

"Honour To Speak With PM Modi, Will Visit India Later This Year": Elon Musk

TPN Correspondent | Washington

World's richest man and tech entrepreneur Elon Musk announced that he will be visiting India later this year, following a teleconference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Musk, the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, described it as an "honour" to speak with the Indian Prime Minister.



Taking to social media platform X (formerly Twitter), PM Modi confirmed the virtual interaction, stating, "Spoke to @elonmusk and talked about various issues, including the topics we covered during our meeting in Washington DC earlier this year. We discussed the immense potential for collaboration in the areas of technology and innovation. India remains committed to advancing our partnerships with the US in these domains."

Their earlier in-person meeting took place during Modi's official visit to the United States in February 2025, where Musk was joined by his three children. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, discussions during that meeting focused on enhancing cooperation between Indian and American entities in fields such as space exploration, artificial intelligence (AI), sustainable development, and emerging technologies. Musk currently serves as the head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) un-

der the Trump administration, where he is leading a controversial push to cut federal expenditures and streamline government operations. His growing influence in U.S. policy circles has added further weight to his global engagements. Musk's upcoming visit comes at a critical time as his satellite internet venture, Starlink, seeks final regulatory approvals to operate in India. Starlink has already partnered with major Indian telecom companies, including Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel, to roll out its services across the country.

Earlier this week, senior Starlink executives, including Vice President Chad Gibbs and Senior Director Ryan Goodnight, met with Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to discuss their plans for investment and expansion. Goyal wrote on X, "Met a delegation from @Starlink... Discussions covered Starlink's cutting-edge technology platform, their existing partnerships & future investment plans in India."

Earthquake of Magnitude 5.8 Jolts Afghanistan-Tajikistan Border

Tremors Felt in J&K and Pakistan

TPN Correspondent | Afghan

On Saturday, April 19, 2025, an earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale struck the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border region, according to the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ). The tremor originated at a depth of 92 kilometers, adding to a series of recent seismic events in the region.

The quake triggered tremors across neighboring countries, including India and Pakistan. In India, officials confirmed that the earthquake was felt across Jammu and Kashmir. Despite the noticeable shaking, no reports of casualties or structural damage were reported from the region, providing relief to residents and authorities.

In Pakistan, the earthquake was recorded



at a slightly higher magnitude of 5.9. It sent shockwaves through various regions, including the capital Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, and several areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The tremors were especially strong in districts such as Lower Dir, Bajaur, Malakand, Nowshera, Dir Bala, Shabqadar, and Mohmand. Panic gripped residents as people rushed out of homes and buildings in fear.

However, as with Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan too has not reported any loss of life or sig-

nificant damage to property so far. Emergency services remain on alert as aftershocks are a possibility following quakes of this magnitude and depth.

This latest quake marks the second significant seismic event in the region within a week. Just days earlier, on April 12, 2025, a 5.5 magnitude earthquake rattled Pakistan's capital and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab provinces. These repeated tremors have heightened public anxiety and highlighted the region's vulnerability to seismic activity, given its proximity to the active tectonic boundaries of the Hindu Kush mountains.

Seismologists continue to monitor the situation closely and have urged residents in quake-prone areas to remain cautious and be prepared for aftershocks. While no major damage has occurred, these frequent tremors serve as a reminder of the need for stronger disaster preparedness and resilient infrastructure in the region.



Unimech Aerospace: A High-Potential Engineering Powerhouse Riding on Expansion and Sector Tailwinds

Another mid-cap company which merits investment with a long time horizon is UNIMECH AEROSPACE. It is an Engineering Solutions Company specializing in manufacturing and supply of critical parts for Aerospace, Defence, Energy and semi-conductor Industries.

IPO : It came for IPO in December, 2024 with an issue price of Rs.785. The issue was something of a sensation with the share of the Company having been listed at a huge premium. The issue was oversubscribed 175 times. It was listed at Rs.1491.00. The price touched a high of Rs.1523.00 and now at available at Rs.1048.00 at a huge discount.

Financial Performance : It came for IPO in December, 2024 and declared quarterly results for December quarter on 14-02-2025. It achieved quarterly EPS of 3.37 and nine-months EPS of 11.73.



The full year EPS will be around Rs.15. The projected NP of Rs.70 Crores (nine months' net profit of Rs.54 Crores Plus March quarter Net Profit of Rs.16 Crores) is nearly three times of its Capital.

It has a Face Value of Rs.5 and a Capital of Rs.25.43 Crores. At current market price and estimated EPS of 15, PE works out to 70. The sector PE is 47. With expansion plans in full swing, Profits and EPS will register higher levels in future

in effect reducing the PE to lower levels from the present high level of 70.

PLUS POINTS :

- 1.The full story of the company is yet to unfold with many expansion plans in pipeline.
- 2.Expansion is planned in two phases with the first phase almost complete and second phase likely to be completed within a year. The first phase of expansion will almost double the Capacity.
- 3.The Company is exploring op-

portunities in emerging Sectors like nuclear power, semiconductor technologies and domestic defence sector.

4.The IPO was backed by Anchor investors like Goldman Sachs, Kotak Mahindra Life, ICICI Mutual Fund, Tata Mutual Funds etc.

5.It has secured Pre-IPO funding of Rs.250 Crores and Post-IPO funding of another Rs.250 Crores - which will support the company's expansion plans and its inorganic growth (Mergers and

PORTFOLIO



Acquisitions).

RISKS :

- 1.Despite the share price coming down to Rs.1048 from a high of Rs.1523, the valuation of the Company is on highside with a PE of 70. But the expansion plans in pipeline will have a positive impact on PE in future.
- 2.The Company is dependent on big Companies of USA, Germany and United Kingdom for its business. At present 90% is sourced from these three countries. Exposure of the Company is very much limited in the do-

mestic

market. Any geopolitical risks (For example the Trump factor) can upset the future plans of the Company.

Note : Staggered buying (SIP method) is suggested to take care of volatility in the market. Lumpsum buying should be avoided.

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TVS Unveils 2025 Apache RR 310 with Advanced Tech, Launch Control & OBD-2B Compliance



TVS Motor Company has launched the 2025 edition of its flagship super-premium motorcycle, the Apache RR 310, packed with several advanced features and updated to meet the stricter OBD-2B emission norms. Priced at ₹2,77,999 (ex-showroom India), the upgraded model continues to strengthen TVS's presence in the high-performance sports motorcycle segment.

In a press release issued on Friday, the Chennai-based two- and three-wheeler manufacturer announced that the 2025 Apache RR 310 would be available in three built-to-order (BTO) customization options. These options aim to offer riders a more personalized and track-focused experience.

The motorcycle is powered by a 312.2cc engine, delivering 38 PS at 9,800 rpm, and supports four distinct riding modes: Track, Sport, Urban, and Rain. These modes allow the rider to adapt the motorcycle's performance according to different road and weather conditions.

Among the latest features introduced in this model are Launch Control, Cornering Drag Torque Control, and a Gen-2 Race Computer — technology upgrades that are usually reserved for much more expensive sportbikes. Other notable additions

include new 8-spoke alloy wheels and segment-first sequential turn signal lamps, emphasizing the bike's sporty design and performance credentials.

The inclusion of OBD-2B (On-Board Diagnostics) compliance ensures that the bike meets the latest emission standards, further aligning with India's push for cleaner and greener mobility. This system helps monitor and control emissions more efficiently, offering both environmental benefits and improved engine diagnostics for riders.

Vimal Sumbly, Head of Business – Premium at TVS Motor, expressed pride in the continued evolution of the Apache RR 310 since its debut in 2017. "The 2025 Apache RR 310 integrates cutting-edge technologies to push the boundaries of track performance while enhancing everyday rideability," he said. "With features like Launch Control and Drag Torque Control, it delivers an exhilarating yet refined experience that appeals to both spirited racers and passionate enthusiasts."

With this latest update, TVS Motor continues to raise the bar in India's performance motorcycle segment, combining race-bred engineering with everyday usability and tech-focused innovation.

India Confident in Sourcing Rare Earth Alternatives Amid China Export Curbs: Vaishnaw

Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has expressed confidence that India's electronics manufacturing sector will successfully find alternative sources for critical rare earth elements and magnets, following China's recent export restrictions on some of these essential materials. China currently holds a near-monopoly in the rare earth market and recently curtailed exports of elements such as gallium, germanium, and antimony — all vital to the production of electronics, defense equipment, and renewable technologies.

Speaking to the media on Friday after inaugurating VVDN Technologies' Mechanical Innovation Park in Manesar, Gurugram, Vaishnaw acknowledged China's dominant position in the rare earth supply chain but reassured that India is prepared to navigate the challenge.

"Whatever we have had discussions with the industry so far, the industry feels that they will be able to figure out alternatives to this, because the entire world has been preparing for diversifying value chains since Covid



struck," the minister said.

Rare earth elements are critical for the functioning of high-tech components found in smartphones, electric vehicles, wind turbines, and military hardware. China's decision to limit exports has prompted concerns globally, especially among countries seeking to reduce dependency on Chinese supply chains.

Vaishnaw emphasized that Indian manufacturers, along with global players, have been working towards building resilient and diversified value chains since the disruption caused

by the COVID-19 pandemic. As countries across the world reevaluate their sourcing strategies, India is actively exploring alternate partnerships, local production capacities, and collaborative technology development to secure long-term supply stability.

The inauguration of VVDN Technologies' new Mechanical Innovation Park marks a step forward in India's ambition to bolster domestic electronics and hardware manufacturing. VVDN, a key player in India's electronics ecosystem, focuses on designing and producing components for telecommunications, consumer electronics, and automotive sectors.

As India pushes for self-reliance under its "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives, the search for alternative sources of critical minerals and the development of indigenous manufacturing capabilities is gaining urgency. Vaishnaw's comments underscore the government's commitment to supporting the industry in navigating global supply challenges and emerging stronger and more self-reliant.

India's Pharma Exports Hit Record \$30 Billion in FY25, Driven by Strong March Surge

India's pharmaceutical industry achieved a historic milestone in FY25, with annual drug and pharma exports reaching a record \$30.47 billion, surpassing the fiscal target of \$29.38 billion. The achievement was driven by a remarkable 31% year-on-year surge in March, according to official trade data. Exports in FY25 were 9.39% higher than FY24's \$27.85 billion, marking the first time Indian pharma exports crossed the \$30 billion mark.

Raja Bhanu, Director General of the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil), confirmed the landmark, emphasizing the sector's resilience in the face of global economic and geopolitical challenges.

March: A Standout Month

March alone contributed \$3.68 billion, the highest monthly export figure for the fiscal year and a 31.21% increase over March 2024. Other strong performances came in January, with exports rising 21.47% to \$2.59 billion, and May, with 10.63% growth. February was the only month to register a slight decline of 1.52%.



The robust end to FY25 came amidst concerns over the U.S. imposing a 26% reciprocal tariff, which had exporters rushing shipments. Although the proposed levy was later postponed for 90 days, pharmaceuticals were not included in the list of targeted goods.

Key Product Categories

From April to February, drug formulations and biologicals dominated exports, contributing over \$20.11 billion—roughly 75% of total pharma exports—registering a nearly 9% YoY increase.

Bulk drugs and drug intermediates followed at \$4.32 billion, a modest rise of 1.4%. Vaccine exports, howev-

er, declined 4.2% to \$1.04 billion. Other growing categories included surgicals (up 5.16%) and Ayush and herbal products (up 6.17%).

U.S. Remains Top Destination

The U.S. continued to be India's largest pharma export market, accounting for more than one-third of total exports. Shipments to the U.S. rose 14.29% to \$8.95 billion. Other major markets included the U.K., Brazil, France, and South Africa, though the latter saw a 1.78% dip in imports.

However, exports to some key markets such as the UAE, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Netherlands, and China saw double-digit declines, highlighting the need for continued diversification and market development.

Despite global headwinds, India's pharmaceutical sector showcased strong momentum, and experts believe the industry's valuation could grow 150% to ₹10 lakh crore, especially with increased collaboration between industry and academia.

Meloni-Musk Meeting Sparks Meme Fest

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has been trending online after her unexpected interaction with tech mogul Elon Musk during a high-profile visit to the United States. The meeting took place at the White House on Thursday, where Meloni was on an official visit that included meetings with U.S. President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance.



While her diplomatic engagements were part of the official agenda, what truly caught the internet's attention was her warm exchange with Musk. A short video shared by Meloni on social media showed the two greeting each other with a friendly hug, followed by a brief conversation. She captioned the video: "Happy to see my friend Elon Musk again in Washington." The clip quickly went viral, with online users zeroing in on Musk's expressions during the interaction. Several viewers claimed that the Tesla and SpaceX CEO appeared to blush while greeting the Italian PM, sparking a flurry of memes and humorous commentary on various social media platforms. Adding to the internet buzz, Meloni's meeting with the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) chief during her visit further fueled speculation and satirical posts online. The acronym "DOGE," humorously reminiscent of the Dogecoin meme, only amplified the meme wave surrounding the visit.

The combination of high-level diplomacy, a tech billionaire, and viral body language made the brief encounter a trending topic across platforms like X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and Reddit. Hashtags like #MeloniMusk, #BlushingElon, and #DOGEPolitics began trending, as users created fan edits, reaction videos, and fictional dialogues for the viral clip. While the meeting had no official announcement or agenda tied to it, its social media afterlife has made it one of the most talked-about moments of Meloni's Washington visit. For now, the internet seems more fascinated by Elon Musk's expressions than any political statement from the visit itself.

Drunk Woman Disrupts Haridwar Traffic

A video capturing a chaotic scene on a Haridwar highway has gone viral, showing a woman allegedly under the influence of alcohol causing a disturbance. Dressed in a red salwar kameez, the woman was seen standing in front of moving vehicles and attempting to stop them, leading to a brief traffic jam on the otherwise busy road.



The incident, though undated, appears to have taken place in the evening and was first shared by a user named @priyarajputlive on X (formerly Twitter), who claims to be a journalist. The caption accompanying the video read, "A video of a woman has surfaced in Haridwar, where she is seen creating a ruckus on the road under the influence of alcohol." In the clip, the woman can be seen walking erratically, speaking loudly, and positioning herself directly in the path of oncoming vehicles, forcing drivers to halt or swerve. Her behavior drew the attention of passersby and motorists, some of whom recorded the scene on their phones. The disruption caused by the woman lasted several minutes and resulted in a temporary traffic blockade. It remains unclear whether any law enforcement officials were called to the scene or if the woman was eventually removed

from the road.

The video has sparked widespread reactions on social media. While some users expressed concern over the woman's safety and questioned the lack of immediate police presence, others criticized the act as irresponsible and dangerous, especially on a highway. As of now, no official statement has been released by the Haridwar police or local administration regarding the incident. The video continues to circulate widely online, drawing mixed reactions ranging from amusement to alarm. The incident serves as a reminder of the potential dangers of public intoxication and the need for swift response from authorities in such situations to ensure public safety.

Dr. Dog Rinku Transforms Special Education



At Saraswati Kendra, a school for children with special needs in Chennai, an unlikely but beloved figure is making a remarkable impact—Dr. Dog Rinku. This friendly Golden Retriever is not just a pet, but an essential part of the school's innovative approach to education through animal-assisted therapy. Rinku plays a therapeutic role for children with learning disabilities, autism, and dyslexia. As psychologists at the school explain, Rinku is used as a "bridge" to help children open up emotionally and socially—an often difficult task in special education environments. The therapy sessions are structured but flexible, focusing on the child's individual needs. Some students interact with Rinku by brushing, feeding, or simply hugging him, while others are guided to follow instructions involving the dog. These activities build confidence, patience, and social skills without the pressure of a traditional learning setup.

"For many of our students, Rinku creates a non-judgmental space where they feel safe to express themselves," says one of the school's therapists. "His presence reduces anxiety, improves mood, and even helps with language development."

Teachers and parents have noticed significant changes. One parent shared that her child, who rarely spoke, began using simple words and phrases while engaging with Rinku. Others have reported improvements in classroom participation and emotional regulation. The initiative is part of a broader movement in India to incorporate alternative therapies into special education. While still relatively new, animal-assisted therapy is gaining popularity for its success in fostering emotional well-being and developmental progress. At Saraswati Kendra, the sight of children giggling and playing around Rinku is now a daily occurrence. The joy he brings, paired with the therapeutic benefits, has made him an irreplaceable member of the school. With wagging tail and gentle eyes, Dr. Dog is helping rewrite the rules of special education—one paw at a time.

New Frog Species Named After Assam College

A dedicated 21-year-long scientific study has led to the discovery of a new frog species—*Leptobrachium aryatium*—from the Garbhanga Reserve Forest on the outskirts of Guwahati. What makes this discovery special is that the species has been named after Arya Vidyapeeth College, one of Assam's premier educational institutions. The newly discovered amphibian is a testament to the ecological richness of the Garbhanga Reserve Forest, a biodiversity hotspot now facing increasing threats due to urban encroachment and habitat destruction. Researchers say the species exhibits its unique morphological and genetic traits, setting it apart from other *Leptobrachium* species found in the region.



The naming also carries a powerful social message. The locality where the frog was found—now called Aryanagar—was once

known as "Sharabbhati", a term locally associated with the brewing and sale of country liquor. In 2022, in an effort to uplift the area's image, local authorities renamed it Aryanagar to reflect the prestige of Arya Vidyapeeth College, situated nearby. "This discovery is not just about a frog. It's about community pride, the role of education in changing perceptions, and the urgent need to conserve threatened ecosystems," said a

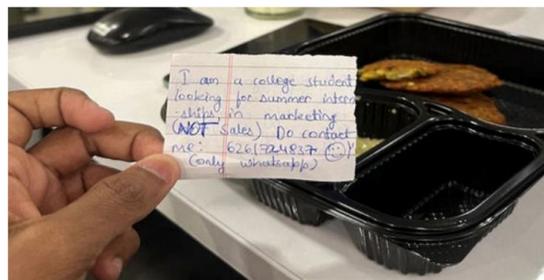
senior member of the research team.

The frog was found in leaf litter and undergrowth near perennial streams in the forest. Its call, nocturnal behavior, and physical characteristics were recorded in detail over the course of two decades, leading to the conclusive classification as a new species. The team hopes that the spotlight on *Leptobrachium aryatium* will bring much-needed attention to the Garbhanga forest's fragile ecosystem. They also urge conservation efforts to protect it from urban expansion, logging, and infrastructure projects. By blending scientific achievement with regional history, the naming of *Leptobrachium aryatium* represents a unique convergence of biology, education, and local culture—an inspiring example of how science can honor and uplift communities.

Zomato Agent's Creative Internship Pitch Goes Viral

In a unique blend of hustle and hope, a Zomato delivery agent has captured the internet's attention with an unconventional approach to landing a summer internship. The agent slipped a handwritten note inside a customer's food order, requesting an opportunity in marketing—and the move is now winning hearts online.

On the reverse, the student humbly added, "Sorry for the terrible handwriting." The note was discovered by an employee at Shopflo, a tech startup, who had placed a food order during a late-night shift. Touched by the boldness and sincerity of the gesture, the employee shared a photo of the note on LinkedIn, calling it one of the most original internship applications they had ever received. The post quickly gained traction, with pro-



professionals and entrepreneurs lauding the delivery partner's determination and creativity. Some even offered to connect the student with internship opportunities in marketing, fulfilling the exact request made in the note. "This is the kind of initiative you can't teach in a classroom," wrote one LinkedIn user, while another commented,

"Skills can be trained, but this kind of drive is rare."

In an era where most internship applications go through impersonal digital portals, this handwritten note cut through the noise—literally landing in the hands of potential employers. The story not only reflects the perseverance of young job seekers but also highlights the changing ways in which people are trying to stand out in competitive job markets. The identity of the student has not yet been publicly confirmed, but judging by the internet's enthusiastic response, their marketing internship might be just around the corner. The story is a reminder that sometimes, a little paper note can make a big impression.

Woman's Viral Husband Checklist Sparks Debate

A dating app conversation has triggered a fiery online debate after a woman's highly specific checklist for a future husband went viral. The list, shared by a man who matched with her on the platform Hinge, outlines 18 "non-negotiable" requirements—including a minimum salary of \$300,000, physical fitness, and discipline.

The man, intrigued by the woman's dating profile, messaged her saying, "I just read your profile. Tell me about the checklist." She replied with, "Wanna see it?" and upon his enthusiastic "Of course I do!", she sent a detailed list of what she considered the "bare minimum" for a life partner. He later posted a screenshot of the exchange on Reddit, under the caption, "She sent me a list

of her requirements. One of them includes a salary of \$300k+."

The post quickly gained traction, with users divided in their reactions. Some applauded the woman for knowing what she wants and refusing to settle. "She has standards, and that's okay," one user commented. Others, however, found the list excessive or unrealistic, especially the salary expectation. "She's describing 0.1% of the population," another user noted. The debate spilled onto other social media platforms, sparking broader conversations about modern dating expectations, gender roles, and the increasing commodification of relationships. While the identity of the woman remains anonymous, her list has sparked reflection



for many—whether as inspiration to set clearer boundaries or as a cautionary tale on expecting too much too soon. As dating apps continue to reshape how people approach love and partnership, this viral checklist is a reminder of how personal preferences can become public discourse in an instant.



Buttler, Prasidh Star in GT's 7-Wicket Win Over DC

Jos Buttler's explosive unbeaten 97 and Prasidh Krishna's 4/41 powered Gujarat Titans to a convincing 7-wicket win over Delhi Capitals, taking them to the top of the points table with 10 points.

Chasing 204, Buttler anchored the innings with a 54-ball knock, adding a vital 119-run stand with Ruth-

erford (43). Despite cramps, Buttler punished Delhi bowlers, especially Mitchell Starc, whom he smashed for five consecutive boundaries.

Earlier, Prasidh led a disciplined bowling show, dismissing key batters including KL Rahul and Karun Nair. Despite handy contributions from Axar Patel (39) and Stubbs (31),

Delhi managed only 203/8.

Buttler's elegant yet powerful stroke play and Prasidh's incisive bowling proved match-winning. Titans sealed the chase in 19.2 overs, finishing at 204/3. The victory gave them a superior net run rate (0.98) over Delhi's 0.58.

Jitu Rai's Mentorship Sparks Suruchi Singh's Golden Run in Shooting



Teen shooting prodigy Suruchi Singh has taken the international shooting circuit by storm, clinching three ISSF World Cup gold medals in quick succession. The 18-year-old's natural talent got a critical boost when she received key tips from pistol legend Jitu Rai during a national camp.

Already impressive in domestic competitions, Suruchi needed guidance to convert her form into international success. Jitu, now a national team coach, fine-tuned her technique and helped her tackle pressure on the world stage. "He noticed my hand tilted slightly left while aiming and helped me correct it," Suruchi said from Lima, where she won two World Cup golds recently.

A former Army man like Suruchi's father, Jitu has known her since 2019 and praised her strong mental game and technical precision. "She remains steady under pressure and has great temperament," he noted.

Suruchi, trained at the Dronacharya Academy in Bhiwani, remains grounded despite her meteoric rise. "Regardless of the tournament, I will continue to work hard and shoot well," she said, showing maturity beyond her years. Her journey signals the arrival of India's next big pistol star.

India Ends Asian U18 Athletics Championships 2025 with 11 Medals in Dammam



India concluded its campaign at the Asian U18 Athletics Championships 2025 in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, with a total of 11 medals — 1 gold, 5 silver, and 5 bronze.

The country's only gold came on the final day from Himanshu in the boys' javelin throw, whose opening throw of 67.57m earned him top honours. It marked India's first-ever gold in boys' javelin at this championship.

Among early performers, Nitin Gupta won silver in the 5000m race walk, finishing just 0.01s behind the winner. In the girls' events, Tannu secured silver in 400m, while Aarti stood out with two bronze medals in the 100m and 200m sprints, clocking personal bests.

Nischay also impressed, winning silver in shot put (19.59m PB) and bronze in discus (58.85m). Devak Bhushan clinched silver in high jump (2.03m), and the boys' medley relay team won silver, setting a new national youth record of 1:52.15.

India's medal tally dropped compared to 2023's 24 medals, but strong performances show promise for the future.

Bangladesh Qualify for Women's World Cup 2025 After West Indies' Agonizing Exit

Bangladesh have secured the final spot in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, set to be held in India, after West Indies suffered a heartbreaking loss to Thailand in the final match of the Qualifiers in Lahore.

Both teams were level on points, making it a high-stakes decider. For West Indies to qualify, they needed to chase Thailand's target of 167 in just 10.1 overs. A slightly extended scenario allowed 11 overs, but only if they finished with a six after leveling at 166. However, West Indies couldn't meet the demanding run rate,



missing out narrowly. Their failure opened the door for Bangladesh, who capitalized on the net run rate advantage to book their ticket to the World Cup. It's a historic and emotional qualification for Bangladesh, while West Indies are left rueing missed chances.

Arunachal CM Pema Khandu Inaugurates 4th State Games with Grand Ceremony

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu inaugurated the 4th Arunachal State Games 2025 with a spectacular opening ceremony at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia on Friday evening.

Addressing athletes from across the state, Khandu praised their hard work and determination, which has helped position Arunachal Pradesh as a rising sporting powerhouse. He highlighted the state's recent achievement at the 38th National Games, where it stood 2nd in the Northeast, bagging 13 medals. Khandu expressed confidence that Arunachal would aim for a top 10 finish at the 39th National Games in Meghalaya, reaffirming the



state government's commitment to supporting athletes at every level.

He also emphasized the ongoing 'Mission Olympics' initiative, which ensures top-tier training for athletes at national training centres, empowering them to shine at national and international platforms.

Shriyanka Sadangi Reaches First World Cup Final in Shooting, Finishes Eighth

India's Paris Olympian Shriyanka Sadangi made her first-ever ISSF World Cup final appearance in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) event in Lima, Peru. She became the latest Indian shooter to make the final during the ongoing South American leg of the ISSF Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun World Cup.

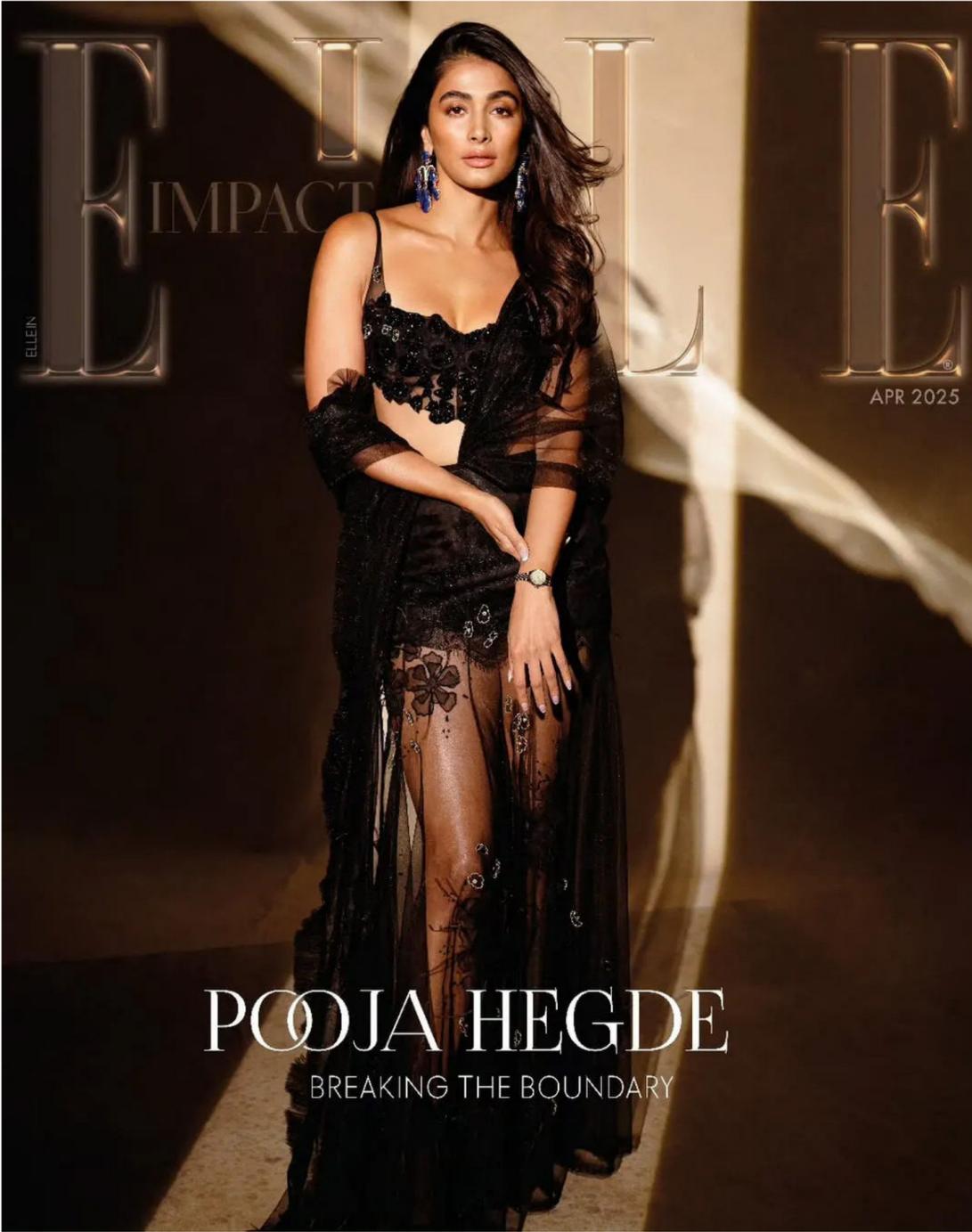
Shriyanka qualified seventh with a score of 588, narrowly ahead of Ashi Chouksey (9th) and Sift Kaur Samra (11th), both scoring 587. In the final, Shriyanka started strong but gradually faded, exiting after the 10th shot of the Standing position round, placing eighth overall with a score of 400.7.

Sagen Maddalena of the USA, a silver medalist at Paris, claimed gold, pushing the USA to the top of the medal table with three golds and six medals. India stood second with two golds, a silver, and a bronze.

The day proved challenging for India's men's team. Aishwary



Tomar, Niraj Kumar, and Chain Singh finished 17th, 18th, and 19th respectively in the men's 3P, missing the final by a slim margin. Despite the tough competition, Shriyanka's performance was a notable milestone for Indian shooting.



Pooja Hegde Shines on ELLE Cover

Pooja Hegde stuns on the latest ELLE Digital Cover, exuding elegance and edge in a bold fashion spread. Styled in a cream bralette, a dramatic black-silver ensemble, and a sheer skirt, Pooja makes a strong statement—both in style and spirit. Opening up about her upcoming Tamil film *Retro* with Suriya, she describes it as a transformative experience. Shot on Viper Island, the film demanded intense emotional and physical effort,

including a 15-minute single-take sequence blending action, dance, and drama. “That moment reignited my belief in cinema’s magic,” she reveals. Marking over a decade in the industry, Pooja speaks of newfound confidence in choosing meaningful roles. *Retro*, releasing on May 1, promises to showcase her in a powerful new light—both as an actor and a woman reclaiming her voice.

Kalyan Ram Stuns With Bold Climax



Nandamuri Kalyan Ram’s latest film, *Arjun Son of Vyjayanthi*, hit cinemas worldwide on April 18 and opened with a strong Rs 5.15 crore gross on day one. Co-starring National Award-winning actress Vijayashanthi, the emotional action drama is drawing attention not just for its performances but for its shocking climax. The final 20 minutes have become the film’s biggest talking point, with fans

and critics praising Kalyan Ram’s courage to take on such a bold, unprecedented ending in Indian cinema. Social media is buzzing with discussions, and even industry insiders are applauding the daring storytelling. Directed by Pradeep Chilukuri and produced by Ashok Vardhan Muppa and Sunil Balusu, the film features music by Ajaneesh Loknath of *Kantara* fame. *Arjun Son of Vyjayanthi* is redefining narrative choices in Telugu cinema.

Mahesh Babu’s High-Octane Boat Fight



Mahesh Babu has officially begun shooting for his much-anticipated global adventure film, *SSMB29*, helmed by master storyteller SS Rajamouli. Starring opposite him is international icon Priyanka Chopra, making this project even more buzzworthy. The latest update reveals that the duo will soon film a high-octane boat chase sequence, which promises to be one of the film’s major highlights. Designed as part of a massive action block, this scene

will be shot on a grand scale with heavy VFX integration, pushing the boundaries of Indian cinema.

Known for his visionary approach, Rajamouli is leaving no stone unturned in making *SSMB29* a cinematic spectacle. Music for the film is being composed by MM Keeravani, ensuring another powerful soundtrack to elevate the visuals. Fans can expect an epic blend of action, drama, and adventure.

AR Rahman Embraces AI in Music



AI is reshaping global industries, and music is no exception. Indian cinema, too, is embracing this shift, with legendary composer A.R. Rahman at the forefront. Speaking out on the use of AI-generated voices of deceased singers, Rahman expressed concern: “Some songs are so filthy, yet they use popular

voices—who takes responsibility?” Amid this, Rahman also unveiled his cutting-edge project—a global virtual music band as part of the metahumans initiative. The band features six AI-driven virtual musicians, each representing a different culture, reflecting Rahman’s vision of diversity in the dig-

ital age. On a recent YouTube show, the Oscar-winner shared how he’s exploring Unreal Engine to craft this virtual experience. As AI-generated music enters the Indian scene, Rahman’s fusion of creativity and tech signals a bold new chapter in the evolution of sound.



Shine Tom Chacko Arrested After Escape Video

The Malayalam film industry is once again under scrutiny amid rising drug-related controversies. Actor Shine Tom Chacko, who recently made headlines for escaping a drug raid, has now been arrested by Kochi police under the NDPS Act.

Following a four-hour interrogation,

Chacko was booked under Sections 27 (consumption of narcotic substances) and 29 (abetment and conspiracy). The arrest comes after a video of his dramatic escape from a hotel—where a drug raid was underway—went viral.

When questioned about the escape, Chacko claimed he mistook the officers

for ruffians and fled out of fear, unaware they were police.

Although the charges are bailable, the incident has intensified the ongoing investigation into substance abuse in the industry. Notably, Shine Tom Chacko was acquitted earlier this year in a separate 2015 drug case.