





# Weather Forecast



HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
 $t^{\circ}$ H $36^{\circ}$ C L $27^{\circ}$ C	 $t^{\circ}$ H $37^{\circ}$ C L $28^{\circ}$ C	 $t^{\circ}$ H $37^{\circ}$ C L $27^{\circ}$ C



## "Wherever They Are on Earth, We Will Get Them" – CM on Veeraiah Chowdhury's Murder

- **CM Vows Justice for TDP Leader Veeraiah Chowdhury's Murder**
- **CM calls Veeraiah's murder "unbearable," orders multi-angle probe**

**TPN Correspondent |  
Prakasam Dist**

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu delivered a firm response to the brutal murder of TDP leader Veeraiah Chowdhury, declaring that no matter where the criminals hide, they will not escape justice. Addressing the media from Ammanabrol in Prakasam district, he said he learned of the incident while in Delhi and has since ordered an intense probe.

Naidu revealed that 12 police teams are investigating the murder, which he described as the work of hardened criminals. The postmortem revealed 53 stab wounds, prompting the CM to express horror that such brutality exists in the state. He said that surveillance footage and all possible leads are being examined.

**2 PAGE**



- Evidence of external involvement leads CCS to suspend Indus Waters Treaty
- **Pakistani tourists and citizens ordered to leave; Wagah-Attari checkpoint closed**
- All-party meeting to be convened as India vows decisive retaliation

## Separate encounter in Kulgam; infiltration bid foiled in Baramulla, 2 terrorists killed



# Pahalgam Attack Fallout: India Suspends Indus Waters Treaty, Expels Pakistani Nationals

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror ambush that claimed 26 civilian lives and injured over 30, the Union Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) met under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and took unprecedented measures against Pakistan. Intelligence and security agencies uncovered indications of external orchestration behind the attack, prompting New Delhi to act. The CCS unanimously decided to suspend the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty, effective immediately. Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri confirmed the move, stating,

“We are treating this atrocity with full gravity and will not hesitate to safeguard our national interests.” The treaty suspension severs a vital cooperative water-sharing arrangement, marking a steep escalation in diplomatic relations. In tandem, the government ordered all Pakistani tourists and non-diplomatic citizens on Indian soil to depart within 72 hours. Special visas issued to Pakistani nationals have been revoked, and the Attari-Wagah border crossing has been shut indefinitely to stem any cross-border movements. Misri warned that any delay in compliance would be met with stringent legal action.

Prime Minister Modi, in his high-level security review alongside NSA Ajit Doval and Army Chief General Manoj Pande, emphasized a “befitting reply” to those responsible. Home Minister Amit Shah has directed security forces in Jammu & Kashmir to intensify counter-terror operations and maintain maximum alert in sensitive zones, especially ahead of the impending Lok Sabha elections. Meanwhile, the Jammu & Kashmir administration announced ₹10 lakh ex-gratia for each deceased victim's family, ₹2 lakh for serious injuries, and ₹1 lakh for minor wounds. Medical care and

transportation support are being provided urgently.

Separately, an encounter in Tangmarg, Kulgam district remains active as security forces engage suspected militants, and an earlier infiltration bid in Baramulla was thwarted with two terrorists neutralized.

The Centre has scheduled an all-party meeting for Thursday to unify its response to escalating cross-border terrorism. With decisive diplomatic, legal, and military steps underway, India has signaled its zero-tolerance stance against those who seek to destabilize its security.



# PSR Anjaneyulu Remanded Till May 7 in Kadambari Jethwani Case

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

A Vijayawada court on Wednesday remanded former Intelligence Chief PSR Anjaneyulu to judicial custody until May 7 in connection with the case involving Mumbai-based actress Dr. Kadambari Jethwani. Anjaneyulu was arrested on Tuesday and produced before the Third Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) court after undergoing a medical examination at the Government Hospital in Vijayawada. The remand report filed by investigating officers contains grave allegations against Anjaneyulu, including abuse of official power and fabrication of evidence. It alleges that the ex-officer orchestrated the creation of fake

2 PAGE |

## AP 10th Results Out: Lokesh Delighted with Students' Performance



- **81.14% overall pass rate; girls lead with 84.09% success**
- **1,680 schools register 100% pass rate; 19 schools record zero pass**
- **Parvathipuram Manyam district tops with 93.90% pass percentage**

who appeared, 4,98,585 passed, recording an impressive overall pass rate of 81.14%. Girls once again outperformed boys, achieving a pass rate of 84.09%, which is 5.78% higher than the boys' 78.31%. Minister Lokesh congratulated all successful students and encouraged those who didn't clear the exams to prepare for the supplementary exams scheduled from May 19 to 28. Parvathipuram Manyam district emerged at the top with a 93.90% pass rate, while Alluri Sitharama Raju district was the lowest performer with 47.64%. Among institutions, Andhra Pradesh Residential Schools led the chart with a 95.02% pass rate.

In total, 1,680 schools registered a 100% result, whereas 19 schools reported a zero pass percentage. Of the students who cleared the exams, 65.36% secured first division, followed by 10.69% in second division, and 5.09% in third.

**TPN Correspondent |**  
**Andhra Pradesh**

Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Nara Lokesh officially released the 2025 SSC (Tenth Class) public exam results on Wednesday via the social media platform 'X'. Out of the 6,14,459 students

**2 PAGE**

## ACB Court Remands Raj Kasireddy for 14 Days in Liquor Scam



- **Vijayawada ACB court remands main accused till May 6**
- **CID invokes PC Act; defense challenges SIT jurisdiction**
- **Allegations of ₹3,200 cr commission racket at Beverages Corp**

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

In a landmark hearing, the Vijayawada ACB Special Court granted a 14-day judicial remand to Raj KasiReddy, the prime accused in the Andhra Pradesh liquor scam. Judicial Magistrate Bhaskara Rao issued the order at around 12:30 am following protracted arguments between the CID and the defense. KasiReddy was then shifted to the Vijayawada district jail. KasiReddy Raj an IT advisor in the previous government was arrested by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) and underwent a medical examination before being presented in court.

**2 PAGE**





# AP, Telangana Victims Among Those Killed in Pahalgam Terror Attack



- **Two AP residents, one Telangana officer among those killed victims**
- **CM’s Naidu and Revanth Reddy express deep condolences for the victims**
- **Background of attack: tourists targeted in Baisaran Valley ambush sparked outrage**

TPN Correspondent | Jammu and Kashmir

Three individuals from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana tragically lost their lives in the recent terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. J. Chandramouli, a retired banker from Pandurangapuram in Visakhapatnam, and Madhusudan Somisetty of Kavali in Nellore district were gunned down by militants in the Baisaran Valley ambush. An Intelligence Bureau officer posted in Hyderabad, Manish Ranjan, was also among the deceased; he was shot

in front of his family while on a leisure trip. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy both conveyed their shock and sorrow over the loss of these Telugu individuals. Naidu offered support to the families of Chandramouli and Somisetty, while Reddy extended his condolences to Ranjan’s spouse and children, pledging the state’s assistance. In response, the Jammu & Kashmir government announced an ex-gratia payment of ₹10 lakh each to the families of those killed, ₹2 lakh to seriously injured

survivors, and ₹1 lakh to those with minor wounds. All necessary medical care and transportation for the deceased have been arranged. Political and social organizations in both states declared periods of mourning. The Jana Sena Party, under Pawan Kalyan’s direction, will observe three days of candlelight vigils and lower its flags to half-mast. YSR Congress and other regional parties have also voiced solidarity, urging unity against terrorism. Security forces remain on high alert across the Kashmir Valley, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah convening high-level meetings and ordering intensified operations. The attack has once again highlighted challenges to peace in J&K ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, prompting calls for reinforced intelligence and cross-border vigilance.

## Polavaram Project to Be Completed by December 2027 - Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

State Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu has confirmed that the Polavaram multipurpose project will be completed by December 2027. During an inspection of the Left Canal works in the Tuni Prathipadu constituency, he assured the media that efforts are underway to meet the target, which includes providing water to North Andhra via lift irrigation by June 2025, as promised by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Minister Ramanaidu expressed disappointment with the lack of progress in the Left Canal works under the previous government of Jaganmohan Reddy. He criticized the delays, stating that no construction materials or funds had been allocated during their tenure, resulting in work being 30-40 percent behind schedule. Ramanaidu further explained that the government has allocated ₹1,200 crore for the project, and although there are challenges, they are committed to completing the works on time. He pointed out that 5,500 cusecs of water are available through the Pushkara Purushottamapatnam lift irrigation scheme, of which only 2,500 cusecs are being utilized. The full utilization of these resources is essential for meeting the June 2025 deadline.

## Drinking Water Scarcity Prevention Must Receive Top Priority, Says Minister Nadendla Manohar



TPN Correspondent | Eluru

State Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar chaired a comprehensive review meeting on Wednesday at the Godavari Conference Hall of the Collectorate, focusing on land assignments and the implementation of development and welfare schemes. Joined by District Collector K. Vetriselvi, Joint Collector P. Dhatri Reddy, DRO V. Visweswara Rao, Sub-Collector Smaran Raj, tehsildars, and YMPDVOs, the Minister stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination to achieve Eluru district’s targets. Highlighting the urgent need to avert drinking water shortages, Minister Manohar directed the District Collector to allocate necessary funds and resources. “Access to safe drinking water is a fundamental challenge we must tackle immediately,” he said. On infrastructure, he called for enhanced facilities in the Polavaram project’s R&R colonies, urging all relevant departments to work in unison. He also insisted that the second-phase Deepam scheme subsidies be disbursed efficiently, following the successful completion of phase one. Emphasizing responsiveness, Manohar mandated that petitions received during the Monday Public Grievance Redressal (PGRS) sessions be addressed respectfully and resolved based on ground realities.



## Minister Narayana Inspects Routes Ahead of PM’s Amaravati Visit

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana, along with Guntur Range IG Sarvashreshtha Tripathi and District SP Satish Kumar, conducted a two-hour inspection of the main routes leading to the public meeting venue in Amaravati on Wednesday. The minister assessed road conditions and directed officials to complete necessary repairs per police guidance. Highlighting Amaravati’s development history, Minister Narayana noted that more than ₹5,000 crore was invested in the capital’s construction and road infrastructure between 2014 and 2019. “Prime Minister Modi himself laid the foundation stone for Amaravati,” he emphasized. “After Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu assumed office, he immediately ordered the resumption of stalled projects.” The government has approved tenders totaling ₹64,000 crore for Amaravati’s development, of which projects worth ₹41,000

crore are already underway. The decision to resume these works during the Prime Minister’s visit underscores the administration’s commitment to establishing Amaravati as Andhra Pradesh’s capital. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to arrive at Gannavaram airport around 3 pm on May 2. He will then travel to Amaravati for a 1.1 km roadshow before the public meeting, which runs from 4 pm to 5 pm and is expected to draw approximately five lakh attendees. To handle the influx, authorities have designated 11 parking areas and are preparing eight major approach roads, including routes from Mangalagiri, Tadepalli, West Bypass, Prakasam Barrage, Tadikonda, and Harischandrapuram. Key arteries such as Seed Axis Road and roads E11, E13, and E15 are being repaired to ensure uninterrupted traffic flow. Minister Narayana assured that all logistical measures have been taken to prevent congestion and ensure a smooth visit.

## PSR Anjaneyulu Remanded Till May 7 in Kadambari Jethwani Case

Continued from page 1

documents to frame the actress and directed subordinates, including officers Kanti Rana and Vishal Gunni, to register and pursue the case based on forged evidence. Authorities further contend that Anjaneyulu has the capability to tamper with evidence and influence witnesses, posing a significant threat to the ongoing investigation’s integrity. The court took these factors into consideration while ordering his remand. Following the court’s decision, Anjaneyulu was transferred to the Vijayawada district jail. The arrest and remand of such a high-ranking former police official have sent shockwaves through law enforcement and administrative circles in the state. Observers say the case will be closely monitored as more details emerge and the investigation progresses.

## "Wherever They...

Continued from page 1

Veeraiah was remembered by the CM as a loyal and capable leader, someone who marched with Nara Lokesh for 100 days during youth outreach and who stood with Amaravati farmers during their protests. Naidu recalled Veeraiah’s electoral work in Chirala and Santanutalapadu constituencies and called his loss deeply personal. Urging the public to assist, the CM shared the toll-free number 9121104784 for any leads and assured that anyone involved in “murderous politics” would face the full weight of the law. “This government will not rest until justice is done. The police are looking at every angle—political, personal, and financial,” he said. CM Chandrababu later paid floral tributes to Veeraiah Chowdhury’s mortal remains and comforted his grieving family, assuring them of continued support. He also paid respects to Chandramouli, a victim of a recent terror attack in Kashmir, reiterating his government’s commitment to safeguarding every life.

## AP 10th Results Out: Lokesh Delighted...

Continued from page 1

Minister Lokesh emphasized the need for targeted support to underperforming schools and expressed the government’s continued commitment to academic excellence. The LEAP mobile app has been launched to allow parents, teachers, and principals to check student results easily. Results are also accessible at bse.ap.gov.in, results.bse.ap.gov.in, or by sending ‘Hi’ to 95523 00009 via WhatsApp (Mana Mitra). The total number of schools that presented candidates stood at 11,819. Applications for recounting and re-verification will be accepted online between April 24 and May 1. Digitally signed migration certificates will be provided to Head Masters within four days of the result declaration, and original SSC certificates will be dispatched to schools soon.

## ACB Court Remands Raj...

Continued from page 1

During the hearing, the magistrate questioned why the case was filed in the ACB court rather than the CID court. At one juncture, the remand request was nearly rejected pending a revised memo. Advocate General Dammalapati Srinivas and Public Prosecutor Kalyani contended that the charges fall under the Prevention of Corruption Act, legitimizing ACB court jurisdiction. They clarified that while Section 17(A) permission was needed to interrogate government officials like co-accused Satya Prasad, it was unnecessary for KasiReddy, as he never held a government post. According to CID allegations, KasiReddy orchestrated a

scheme within the AP Beverages Corporation to extract monthly commissions of ₹50–60 crore, aggregating over ₹3,200 crore in five years. Evidence includes statements from former MD Vasudeva Reddy and Special Officer Satya Prasad, who was allegedly recruited through political influence with promises of an IAS appointment. Defense counsel Ponnnavolu Sudhakar Reddy challenged both the SIT’s formation and the ACB court’s authority, arguing that the PC Act did not apply to his client. He urged the court to dismiss the remand. After weighing both sides, Magistrate Bhaskara Rao upheld the remand request, ordering KasiReddy’s judicial custody until May 6 to allow further investigation.

## R.P. Sisodia Takes Charge as Special Chief Secretary for Handlooms & Textiles

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Senior IAS officer R.P. Sisodia on Wednesday officially assumed the role of Special Chief Secretary for Handlooms and Textiles in the Industries and Commerce Department at the State Secretariat. Renowned for his administrative expertise and forward-looking vision, Mr. Sisodia aims to drive holistic growth in the sector, with special emphasis on empowering weavers and enhancing the reach of indigenous textiles to international markets. The ceremony began with Mr. Sisodia performing a traditional puja to invoke blessings for success in his new mandate. Handlooms and Textiles Commissioner Rekha Rani then provided an in-depth briefing on the

department’s current schemes, ongoing projects, and strategic priorities. Discussions centered on major initiatives to modernize production infrastructure, introduce advanced weaving technologies, and uplift artisan livelihoods through skill development and financial support. The event was attended by senior department officials, including VR Vijayaraghava Naik, CEO of the Andhra Pradesh Khadi and Village Industries Board; Additional Directors Murali Krishna and Srikanth Prabhakar; Joint Directors Kanna Babu and Raja Rao; APCO General Manager Nageswara Rao; Accounts Officer Parvati; and Lepakshi Special Officer Lakshminath. Their presence underscored the collective commitment to collaborate closely with the new Special Chief Secretary.



## Shock for YCP in Kadiri Municipality as No-Confidence Motion Wins



TPN Correspondent | Kadiri

In a major setback for the YSR Congress Party (YCP), the no-confidence motion against Kadiri Municipal Chairperson Nazimunnisa and Vice-Chairpersons Gangadevi and Rajasekhar Reddy has successfully passed. With this victory, the Kadiri Municipality has been handed over to the TDP-led coalition. The no-confidence motion was supported by 25 out of 36 councilors, with the YCP's 11 councilors absent from the crucial meeting. The motion passed without requiring the vote of MLA Kandikunta Venkata Prasad, as there was already a quorum. This development comes after mounting allegations against Chairperson Nazimunnisa regarding the lack of development work, poor administration, and transparency issues. Some of her own party councilors, with backing from the TDP, brought forth the no-confidence motion. Following the resolution, cadres from the TDP, Jana Sena, and BJP celebrated the victory by bursting firecrackers at the municipal office. Speaking at the event, MLA Venkata Prasad accused the YCP of corruption and a lack of administrative flexibility during its four-year rule in Kadiri Municipality. He also criticized the failure to hold proper budget meetings and expressed satisfaction at the political shift, noting that after Hindupuram, Kadiri Municipality is now under the control of the TDP-led coalition.

## Minister Kollu Ravindra Issues Stern Warning Over Liquor Scam

- Minister Kollu Ravindra responds to the liquor scam revelations
- SIT uncovers shocking details in the case, including Jagan's involvement
- Raj Kasireddy arrested; Minister warns against anarchic forces

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Minister Kollu Ravindra has strongly reacted to the growing revelations surrounding the state's liquor scam, which has become a hot topic in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking on the ongoing investigations, Ravindra confirmed that the details of the scam, which took place during the previous government, are gradually coming to light. He stated that the Special Investigation Team (SIT) is diligently working to bring all the accused to justice. The main accused, Raj Kasireddy, who had been absconding, was finally arrested and brought to Vijayawada for interrogation. During questioning, Kasireddy admitted that he was instructed by Former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to devise the liquor policy, which would benefit the ruling party with substantial funds. This revelation has sent shockwaves through



the state as Kasireddy disclosed his involvement in organizing bribes through the liquor distribution system. He confessed to his role but refused to sign a formal confessional statement, according to SIT officials.

Minister Kollu Ravindra expressed his anger at the previous government, accusing it of misgovernance and damaging the state during its five-year rule. He gave a strong warning to the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), asserting that the coalition government is focused on rebuilding the state while exposing corruption. He further criticized the party's negligence towards development and welfare, claiming that they were engaged in conspiracy rather than constructive work. Ravindra also targeted the YSRCP's leadership, particularly criticizing figures like Nani, who he claimed had exploited the poor. He declared that anarchic forces have no place in democracy and vowed to ensure such forces are eradicated from Machilipatnam. Kasireddy, who was remanded and sent to jail, is currently facing legal proceedings along with 28 other accused individuals in this massive liquor scam case.



### Former MP Margani Bharath Criticizes Govt for Corruption and Poor Investment Decisions

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Former MP Margani Bharath has strongly criticized the TDP-led coalition government for its alleged involvement in corruption and its handling of the state's political affairs. Speaking at a media conference on Wednesday, Bharath claimed that the arrest of PSR Anjaneyulu, an honest official, was a deliberate attempt to divert attention from the coalition's land scams in Andhra Pradesh. Bharath accused the coalition government of turning the state into "Madhya Andhra Pradesh," pointing out that corruption is rampant while the current government continues to blame the previous administration for the state's challenges. He further alleged that the government was targeting opposition figures, including Mithun Reddy, through politically motivated arrests. Bharath also criticized the government's handling of Andhra Pradesh's participation in the World Economic Forum in Davos, suggesting that bringing an actress from Mumbai and staging a drama led to a significant setback for the state. He argued that the state's political mismanagement under Chandrababu's leadership has caused investors to turn away, with many opting to invest in other states instead. Additionally, Bharath condemned the practice of bringing companies with no reputation to the state, accusing the government of allowing these firms to exploit Andhra Pradesh's resources for their benefit. He emphasized that such decisions have only harmed the state's economy and reputation.

## Congress Demands Strong Action Against ISI and Intelligence Failures

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Congress has raised serious concerns following the cancellation of Prime Minister Modi's visit to Katra on April 19, citing an intelligence failure. The party questioned why tourists were not informed about the security situation despite intelligence reports indicating potential threats. In a scathing statement, Congress highlighted various intelligence failures over the years, referenc-

ing major incidents such as Khan-dahar, Kargil, Pulwama, and the 2001 attack on Parliament. They argued that such lapses continue to threaten national security and stability. The party also accused Pakistan's intelligence agency, ISI, of attempting to disrupt tourism in Jammu & Kashmir. They claimed that the ISI's actions included facilitating the settlement of 85,000 outsiders in the region. Additionally, Congress pointed to the sep-

aratist movement in Balochistan, referencing the hijacking of the Jabbar Express train in March, and allegations that RAW was falsely accused of supporting the insurgents. Congress demanded that the government call an all-party meeting to discuss the ISI threat and to ensure a stronger, unified response to the situation. The party emphasized the need for a clear, firm stance against these intelligence failures and foreign interference.

## YS Sharmila Condemns Pahalgam Terror Attack as a Cowardly Act



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

YS Sharmila, the Andhra Pradesh Congress PCC chief, has strongly condemned the recent terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, calling it a cowardly act. The attack resulted in the death of 30 people and left several others injured, including three individuals from the Telugu community, which deeply saddened Sharmila. Expressing her deepest condolences, Sharmila tweeted her support to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery to those injured in the attack. She particularly noted the painful loss of three Telugu citizens in the tragic incident. Sharmila emphasized the need for both the central and state governments to provide unwavering support to the families affected by the attack. She called on the entire nation to unite in the fight against terrorism, stressing that it is crucial for the central government to take strong and decisive action to prevent such incidents and protect innocent lives in the future.

## Congress Leaders Demand Full Support for Polavaram Displaced Persons



TPN Correspondent | Rajahmundry

The Andhra Pradesh Congress raised urgent concerns on Wednesday over the plight of more than 1.06 lakh families uprooted by the Polavaram project. PCC Vice-President Martin Luther and District President TK Visveswara Reddy, leading the inquiry committee, detailed grievances gathered during tours of Chintur, Devipatnam, RV Puram, Etapaka, and Polavaram mandals. Highlighting the coalition government's decision to lower the dam's full reservoir level from 45.7 meters to 41.15 meters, the leaders warned that the move will cripple the project's ability to generate 936 MW of hydropower and eliminate gravi-

ty-fed irrigation through its right and left canals. They urged adherence to the original design and demanded the central government allocate ₹30,000 crore to ensure a fair rehabilitation and resettlement (RR) package for the displaced. A comprehensive report has been submitted to PCC President YS Sharmila Reddy, who will lead a delegation to meet the Governor on April 26 to press these demands. Meanwhile, TK Visveswara Reddy announced a "Dali Bajao" protest on Thursday in front of the Municipal Corporation to oppose a sudden 15% hike in property taxes. The Congress also observed a two-minute silence for victims of the recent Jammu and Kashmir terror attack.



## R. Ravindranath Reddy Accuses NDA Govt of False Liquor-scram Narrative

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

YSRCP District President P. Ravindranath Reddy on Wednesday charged that the coalition government is manufacturing a liquor-scram controversy to distract from its own land-allocation irregularities. Speaking at the party's Kadapa office, he denounced so-called "diversion politics" that target YSRCP leaders with baseless cases. Reddy contrasted the coalition's tactics with the transparency of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's liquor policy, under which 50,000 retail outlets and 4,000 permit rooms were slated for phased closure. He highlighted that bringing private liquor shops under state control not only curbed consumption but also provided employment for thousands, while raising prices to deter abuse. Turning to the land issue in Visakhapatnam, Reddy alleged that

the coalition government secretly allotted 60 acres to Ursa Private Limited—a non-existent shell company—along with 3.5 acres in the IT park under the guise of a data center. "Land worth over ₹3,200 crore has been handed to a firm with no address," he asserted, warning that the manufactured liquor-scram uproar serves only to conceal this "true looting." He also defended ex-MD Vasudeva Reddy and the recently arrested Raj Kasireddy, claiming both were subjected to spurious charges and shocking misuse of unrelated legal sections. "Even the judge was taken aback by the forced testimony," Reddy said. Having pointed out that a CID probe once revealed a ₹1,255-crore overcharge on liquor by the former TDP government, Reddy concluded by cautioning that the public is alert to the coalition's maneuvers and will deliver its verdict at the ballot box.



# Kesineni Brothers Clash on Social Media, Kesineni Chinni vs. Kesineni Nani in Heated Feud

Kesineni Chinni counters brother Nani's allegations on social media  
Nani accuses Chinni of illegal activities and demands name change in office  
Chinni calls Nani a "psycho" spewing poison on Vijayawada's development

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
The rivalry between the Kesineni brothers, MP Kesineni Chinni and former MP Kesineni Nani, has escalated again, this time sparking a social media war. On Wednesday, the two engaged in a heated exchange of tweets, with Nani criticizing Chinni's actions and Chinni hitting back with sharp remarks. Kesineni Nani took to social media, accusing his brother of running several illegal businesses, including sand trading, land scams, and a poker house operation. He even alleged that Chinni was misusing the name of former Chief Minister NTR and suggested that the name of Chinni's office should be changed to "Charles Sobharaj's

name," referencing infamous criminals. In response, MP Kesineni Chinni called his brother a "psycho" and advised the public not to pay attention to such negative rhetoric. He claimed that Nani, "burning with hatred and revenge," was poisoning the atmosphere and hindering the development of Vijayawada. Chinni emphasized that there was no need to engage with such toxic tweets and urged people to remain vigilant. The clash has reignited the ongoing tension between the two, who have had a history of political disagreements. Nani, who contested the Vijayawada Lok Sabha seat on behalf of the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), lost to his brother Chinni in the elec-



tion. Nani has since distanced himself from active politics but continues to stir controversy with his frequent attacks on Chinni through social media. Nani's criticisms also extended to CM Chandrababu Naidu, questioning the distribution of land in Visakhapatnam, al-

leging that it benefited a benami company linked to Chinni. Meanwhile, Chinni's defenders argue that these attacks are politically motivated, aimed at discrediting his public service and leadership. The escalating feud is set to keep political observers on edge in Vijayawada.



## AP Govt to Provide Free Skill Training to SC Youth in Leather Sector

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
Andhra Pradesh is set to launch a major initiative to empower SC youth through skill development in the leather sector. At a press meet held at the SEEDAP office on Wednesday, Andhra Pradesh Employment and Institutional Development Corporation Chairman Gunapati Deepak Reddy announced that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between SEEDAP and LIDCAP to provide free training in cutting-edge leather technologies and offer employment opportunities across the state. He revealed that SEEDAP is working with 46 agencies across 92 centers to train youth in sectors such as telecom, health, electronics, and now leather, with 2,700 job roles already identified. Over 20,000 people have already received information through the platform, and training programs will be monitored via SEEDAP's Command Control Center. The training, targeted especially at unemployed SC youth and women, includes free accommodation, food, and travel expenses. Each candidate's training will be supported with ₹32,000 in funding. Deepak Reddy said that Andhra Pradesh would be developed into the "Skill Capital of India" in line with the vision of CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh. LIDCAP Chairman Pilli Manikyala Rao stated that ₹1 crore has been allocated to SEEDAP for this project. He highlighted the recent GO No. 70, which mandates that all government departments procure leather goods from Lidcap, supporting local manufacturing. He also announced that leather product manufacturing units are being set up in Giddalur and G. Kondur to revive AP's lost dominance in the leather industry.

# Krishna Dist SP Assures Welfare Measures for Home Guards in Special Darbar

**TPN Correspondent | Krishna Dist**  
Krishna District Superintendent of Police R. Gangadhar Rao, IPS, emphasized the department's commitment to the welfare of Home Guards during a special darbar held at the Spandana Conference Hall in the District Police Office. The darbar aimed to address grievances and improve the working conditions of Home Guards across the district. Speaking to the assembled personnel, SP Gangadhar Rao said that Home Guards are a vital part of the police system. He encouraged them to respect their role, adding, "Respect increases only with work, not with status. We all wear the same uniform, and our performance brings pride to the department." He assured that all genuine concerns raised would be addressed promptly. Requests received during the program were met with a positive response, and the SP promised continued support for skill development and



recognition for outstanding service. Highlighting safety, he mandated that every Home Guard must hold a valid driving license. "In the event of an accident, a license ensures insurance coverage of up to ₹30 lakh for your family," he noted. He also stressed the mandatory use of helmets and seat belts, and urged daily exercise and participation in the weekly Friday parade, calling it beneficial for both discipline and health. Addressing health-related queries, he

promised to resolve issues within his capacity and escalate others to the Additional DGP (Home Guards) and the government. He also issued a stern warning that any Home Guard found involved in illegal activities would face immediate dismissal. The event was attended by key officers including Home Guards Commandant T. Anand Babu, Additional SPs V.V. Naidu and B. Satyanarayana, and DSPs Venkateswara Rao and N. Venkataramana.

## Terror Attack in J&K Is a National Conspiracy, Says Mandali Buddhaprasad

**TPN Correspondent | Avanigadda**  
Avanigadda MLA Mandali Buddhaprasad strongly condemned the recent terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir, calling it a "conspiracy against the country." Addressing the media at his office in Avanigadda on Thursday, he expressed deep anger over the incident, which he said occurred just as tourism in the region was beginning to flourish with the onset of the Amarnath Yatra. He emphasized that this heinous act by terrorists is aimed at destabilizing peace and disrupting the growing national interest in Jammu and Kashmir's development. "This is not just an attack on people—it is an attack on the spirit of unity and progress that India stands for," he said. In response to the attack, Mandali Buddhaprasad announced a series of solidarity events organized under the banner of the Jana Sena Party. These include a three-day mourning period, candlelight vigils, and a symbolic human garland program to honor the victims and stand united against terrorism. The MLA appealed to all Indians, regardless of caste, religion, or region, to unite and send a strong message against terrorism. "This is the time for all of us to rise above our differences and come together as one nation. Terrorists seek to divide us—but we must stand stronger," he said. Buddhaprasad concluded by urging citizens to participate in these peaceful programs and show that the spirit of India cannot be broken by violence.



## St. Benedict School in Kotturu Tadepalli Records 100% SSC Results



**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada Rural**  
St. Benedict School in Kotturu Tadepalli has achieved a remarkable milestone by securing 100% pass results in the recently declared SSC examinations. The school has once again proven its academic excellence with outstanding student performance. Leading the success story is CH Ram Charan, who stood first in the school with an impressive score of 582 marks. Close behind him is Lavanya, who secured second place with 580 marks. Sharing the third spot are CH Varun Kumar and Sirivalli, both scoring 579 marks.

The school proudly announced that 23 of its students scored above 550 marks, showcasing consistent academic dedication and preparation. In total, 45 students achieved over 500 marks, reflecting the overall high standards of teaching and student support at the institution. Teachers and parents expressed great joy at the results, attributing the success to the combined efforts of students, faculty, and school management. School authorities extended their congratulations to the students and thanked the staff for their commitment to academic excellence.

## Helping Hands for the Disabled: Utensil Kits Distributed on Ravindra Babu's Birthday

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
On the occasion of the 50th birthday of Visually Challenged Employees Association State President Gorrepati Ravindra Babu, a heartfelt initiative was taken to support flood-affected disabled families. Cooking utensils worth ₹4,000 each were distributed to 25 poor disabled families who had lost all their belongings in

the recent floods. The event took place at the Disabled Hostel located in Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar, Payakapuram, and was presided over by Andhra Pradesh Granthalaya Parishad Chairman Gonugundla Koteswara Rao. This generous gesture aimed to help these families rebuild some sense of normalcy in their lives. Speaking at the event, several dignitaries lauded Ravindra Ba-

bu's commitment to social service and emphasized the need to stand with vulnerable communities during crises. Among those who participated were NTR District President M.V. Durga Rao, General Secretary and Jamalaya Advisor Venkateswara Rao, and Eluru District Sangha President Veerabhadra Rao. The distribution drive was received with gratitude by the



beneficiaries, and the program underscored the power of community support and compassion, especially for the disabled who face compounded challenges during natural calamities.



# Minister Nadendla Manohar Inaugurates Bamboo Handicraft Training Center in Puliramudugudem

Training center to offer 3-month courses for 200 tribal youth annually  
₹2-3 lakh loan assistance for youth to establish handicraft manufacturing units  
Minister assures national and international market facilities for tribal products

**TPN Correspondent | Eluru Dist**  
State Civil Supplies Minister and district in-charge Nadendla Manohar inaugurated the Tribal Bamboo Handicraft Training, Manufacturing, and Exhibition Center at Puliramudugudem, Buttaigudem mandal on Wednesday. In a gesture of solidarity, the Minister sat down on the floor with a disabled trainer at the center to learn more about the training program. Trainer Marayya shared that the

center would provide three-month training sessions in bamboo handicrafts and art creations, catering to four batches annually with 200 tribal youth in each batch. Training materials and equipment will be provided with the assistance of the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA). Upon completing their training, the youth will receive loan assistance of ₹2 to ₹3 lakh through banks to set up bamboo handicraft manufacturing units.

When Marayya raised the issue of marketing opportunities for the handicraft products, Minister Manohar responded positively, assuring that immediate steps would be taken to provide national and international market access for these products. In his address, Minister Manohar emphasized that tribal areas are rich in natural resources but have long suffered due to a lack of proper market access for their crops and products. He highlighted plans to strengthen



the Tribal Cooperative Society and establish online marketing channels for national and international exposure, ensuring fair prices for tribal products. The Minister took a keen interest in inspecting the bamboo artworks and

interacting with tribal women during his visit. The inauguration was attended by MLAs Chirri Balaraju, Path-samatla Dharmaraju, ITDA Project Officer Ramulu Nayak, RTC Regional Chairman Reddy Appalanaidu, and other local leaders.

## Uncertainty Looms Over Formation of Srikalahasti Temple Governing Body

No decision on the appointment of the temple governing council yet  
Local MLA and hopefuls express disappointment  
Coalition government remains indecisive

**TPN Ch. Sekhar | Srikalahasti**

The formation of the governing body for the Srikalahasti Swamy Temple has been delayed despite the growing importance of the temple in the state. Ten months after the formation of the coalition government, no steps have been taken to appoint the governing council, leaving many hopeful candidates disappointed. Rangineni Chenchaiyah Naidu, former chairman of the Srikalahasti Marketing Committee, has long been a frontrunner for the position of chairman. Local TDP MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy has also strongly backed his candidacy, presenting it to the high command and even meeting Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and State Minister Nara Lokesh. Despite these efforts, the appointment of the governing body remains pending, despite repeated assurances that the decision would be made shortly, including ahead of the Mahashivratri Brahmotsavams. During this period, Rangineni Chenchaiyah Naidu was appointed as the chairman of the service committee for the Mahashivratri festivities, but this role did not extend to the governing council, which remained vacant after the event. This delay has left hopefuls disheartened, as no further announcements have been



made, despite promises to appoint individuals who have contributed to the party. While there is competition from the Jana Sena and BJP parties, there are no clear signs of rivalry within the alliance on this issue. Former MLA SCV Naidu of the TDP has also met with the Chief Minister, requesting the appointment of someone from his group as the chairman. Despite these efforts, the government has not yet acted on the issue, leaving the formation of the three-member governing council uncertain. The local MLA continues to push for his proposed candidate, but the outcome remains to be seen.

## Comprehensive Arrangements in Place for Dy CM Pawan Kalyan's Visit to Pithapuram

**TPN Correspondent | Pithapuram**

District Collector Shanmohan Sagili has instructed officials to make "war-footing" arrangements for the upcoming visit of the Deputy Chief Minister, Konidala Pawan Kalyan, to Pithapuram in Kakinada district. The visit, scheduled for the 25th of this month, will include participation in several significant development programs in the region. The Deputy Chief Minister will lay the foundation for various initiatives, including a new TTD Kalyana Mandapam in Kothapalli village, and programs aimed at improving local villages such as Gollaprolu and Chebrolu. A special focus will be on the distribution of sewing machines to women beneficiaries and agricultural machinery to local farmers. Additionally, the inauguration of a new 100-bed area hospital at the Pithapuram Community Health Center will also take place. District officials, including District SP G. Bindu Madhav, Joint Collector Rahul Meena, and others, were briefed on their roles in ensuring the event's success. Arrangements include setting up a helipad at Pithapuram RRBHR Sports Ground, providing drinking water and snacks to attendees, and establishing medical camps in the area.

To ensure smooth traffic management, the Road Buildings Department will set up barricades, and the Electricity Department will manage pow-



er requirements at the helipad. Security will be managed by the Police Department, and media arrangements will be handled by the Information and Public Relations officers. The visit is expected to boost local development and deliver key resources to the community, with various departments coordinating efforts for its success.

## Farmers Are Happy Under Chandrababu's Rule, Says MLA Prashanti Reddy

**TPN Correspondent | Nellore Dist**  
Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanti Reddy expressed that the farmers of Andhra Pradesh are truly happy under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. During her visit to Vidavuru village as part of a public grievance redressal program, the MLA said that the timely removal of silt from irrigation canals has significantly benefited farmers. She emphasized that, for the first time, farmers are receiving payment within 24 hours of selling their paddy, and even transporters' labour charges are being settled on the spot — a sign

of efficient governance. "We are working with the mission of making Kovur constituency a model in terms of development," she added. Prashanti Reddy also announced that a mini stadium in Vidavuru and a Degree College Prahari will soon be completed. Plans are underway to visit Indiramma Colony and Kamakshi Nagar areas to address long-pending drainage issues. "I am implementing each and every promise made during the elections. Only Chandrababu Naidu can balance development and welfare effectively," she stated.



The MLA also encouraged educated youth and community leaders to work towards eradicating illiteracy in the constituency and achieve complete literacy. She noted that the government's efforts through

initiatives such as monthly pension disbursement, Swachha Andhra, and the public grievance program are strengthening the connection between MLAs and the people. The program was attended by Tehsildar Chandrasekhar, MPDO Suryakumari, MPP Ekula Seshamma, TDP Mandal President Chemukula Srinivasulu, and leaders Bezawada Vamsi Krishna Reddy, Adapala Sridhar Reddy, Marthuru Srinivasulu Reddy, Pasham Srihari Reddy, Bezawada Govardhan Reddy, and Satyam Reddy.

## SP Sivakishore Inaugurates Modern Police Outpost at Upputeru Bridge Border

**TPN Correspondent | Eluru Dist**

Eluru District SP Kommi Pratap Sivakishore inaugurated a state-of-the-art police outpost at the Upputeru bridge, marking a significant upgrade in security infrastructure along the district's border. The event, held on Wednesday evening, saw the formal handover of CCTV cameras and other modern surveillance equipment by Raju Gopal Raju, son of Pen-nama Chiranjeevi Raju. Speaking to the on-duty personnel, SP Sivakishore emphasized the importance of vigilant monitoring to prevent anti-social activities, including drug trafficking, illicit liquor trade, and other crimes. He also highlighted the recent installation of a traffic signal system on the bridge, a key route to the Kolketikota shrine, which has already helped reduce road accidents. Kaikaluru Rural CI V. Ravikumar and SI Rambabu will oversee traffic control and safety measures at the outpost. The SP commended their efforts and those of all staff under the Kaikaluru Rural Circle for maintaining high standards during unannounced inspections. In recognition of their commitment, discipline, and public-friendly conduct, the SP presented certificates of appreciation to the personnel. This modern outpost is expected to enhance real-time surveillance capabilities and bolster law enforcement effectiveness in the region's border areas.



## Massive Women's Rally in Kadapa Against Waqf Amendment Act

**TPN Correspondent | Kadapa**

Kadapa city witnessed a massive women-led protest on Wednesday as scores of demonstrators rallied from Almaspet Circle through One Town, Gokul Circle, and Eda Road Circle to oppose the Waqf Board Amendment Act. Organized by the Waqf Conservation Committee (JAC) under the All India Muslim Personal Law call, participants spanned all ages, carrying placards and chanting slogans denouncing the "black Waqf Act" and the BJP government's alleged misuse of power. At the culmination of the march, leaders addressed a public meeting at Seven Road Circle. Rizwana, district convener of Helping Women AAP Ki Awaaz, and educators from Jamiatus-salihat and Nazima Madrasas voiced concern



over successive laws—Babri Masjid demolition, triple talaq ban, hijab restrictions, and now the Waqf Amendment—that they say marginalize the Muslim community. They warned that the bill aims to seize religious lands and bind them

to the central government, betraying electoral promises made during Ramzan Iftar events. In the same gathering, JAC Convener Ahmed Babu Bai and Co-Convenor Syed Salauddin led a two-minute tribute for the 26 victims of Tuesday's terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. They condemned the "cowardly" ambush on tourists and blamed the central government's security lapses. City Convener Maulana Zakir Hussain and representatives from the Women's Congress, CPI, RCP, SDP, and YSRC joined in paying respects. Protesters vowed to continue peaceful demonstrations until the amendment is revoked, and called on the state government to distance itself from BJP policies they say undermine secular democracy and community rights.



# Empowering Women In Courts Is Essential

Last month, March, we celebrated International Women’s Day with grand events and powerful speeches. There were large-scale talks about women’s empowerment, and political leaders proudly spoke about how much the nation has progressed. But shortly after, a disturbing piece of news came to light that cast a dark shadow over all those celebrations. In a village in Chhattisgarh, although women were elected as public representatives, it was their husbands who took the oath and began carrying out the duties. This happened in broad daylight, in a democratic nation that has completed 75 years of independence—and shockingly, right around Women’s Day. It’s truly disheartening. Sadly, this is not an isolated case. Across many parts of the country, women are still not given the space and respect they deserve. The idea of gender equality often remains limited to words. While we have made some progress in providing women with political representation, we are still far from ensuring true empowerment. Many promises are yet to be implemented in spirit and practice.

When we turn to the judiciary, the situation becomes even more worrying. Women



are entering the legal profession in growing numbers and proving their capability. Many are excelling as lawyers, especially in handling sensitive cases like sexual harassment and in supporting victims. Yet, when it comes to actual representation in the judiciary—especially at higher levels—the numbers tell a grim story. For instance, as of 2023, only 11.5% of High Court judges are women. In subordinate courts, the number has grown from 27.6% in 2018 to 36.3% in 2023, which is a positive sign. Similarly, in High Courts, the percentage of women judges rose slightly from 10% in 2018 to 13.4% by 2023. But when we look at the Supreme Court, women make up just 9.4% of the bench—only 3 out of 32 judges. Back in 2018, it was even worse, at just 4%. Some High Courts like those in Punjab,



Haryana, Delhi, and Mumbai have relatively higher numbers of women judges. But in others—like Patna, Orissa, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh—the numbers are alarmingly low. Some courts have just one woman judge, and some have none at all.

One of the barriers lies in the rule under Article 233 of the Constitution of India, which requires seven years of con-

tinuous legal practice to be eligible for appointment as a district judge. But what is often ignored is the additional societal burden that women carry. Many women lawyers have to take breaks or reduce their working hours due to family responsibilities—caring for children, elderly parents, or in-laws. This reality makes “continuous practice” a difficult standard for many women to meet, thus limiting their chances of being appointed as judges. What’s most disappointing is that in all these 75 years of independent India, we have never had a woman Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. This glaring gap reflects the deep-rooted bias and systemic issues within the judiciary. It’s time for the Supreme Court and its Collegium to introspect and take concrete steps toward ensuring fair representation. Transparency in appointments is crucial, and the existing system has been criticized for lacking it. If the central government and the judiciary truly wish to support women’s empowerment, they must act decisively—not just talk. Mere token gestures and speeches during Women’s Day are not enough. Unless real changes are made, all these efforts will continue to feel like nothing more than empty promises.



## Pahalgam Attack: A Stark Reminder of Kashmir's Fragile Peace

The recent terror attack in Pahalgam has brutally shattered the region’s calm, serving as a grim wake-up call for both policymakers and citizens. This ruthless strike, which claimed the lives of 26 innocent people and injured 17 others, is far more than a tragic incident — it is a direct assault on India’s stability and global standing.

This was not a random act of violence. It was a deliberate, coordinated strike, launched in a region known for its natural beauty and growing tourist footfall. The timing was no coincidence either. It occurred while U.S. Vice President JD Vance was on a visit to India, underscoring the attackers’ intention to send a strong, defiant message to the international community.

Beyond the tragedy and human loss, the attack exposes a more alarming reality — the evolving face of militancy in Kashmir. According to intelligence sources, around 60 foreign terrorists are currently active in the Valley. Alarmingly, nearly half are affiliated with The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy group for the banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba. While

TRF tries to present itself as a more “indigenous” movement, its operations, funding, and strategic planning trace back to the same old networks of cross-border terrorism.

The use of such shadow groups is a tactical shift — an effort to mask foreign involvement and circumvent global anti-terror watchlists. By adopting softer names and local narratives, these outfits aim to mislead both domestic sentiment and international observers. But their intentions remain deadly clear.

The Pahalgam massacre is not just a law-and-order issue. It is a signal that complacency, poor intelligence coordination, and underestimation of evolving threats are becoming as dangerous as the bullets themselves.

India must now act with clarity and conviction. This means not just bringing the perpetrators to justice, but also strengthening border security, dismantling support systems within, and holding external actors accountable. The cost of inaction is no longer hypothetical — it’s measured in the blood of innocents.

## Wanted: A grand bargain with China India’s Strategic Dilemma: Between Washington and Beijing



In a world teetering on the edge of geopolitical realignment, the poetic chaos W.B. Yeats captured in The Second Coming — “Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold...” — feels strikingly relevant. As the global order spins into uncertainty, India finds itself caught in the turbulence, facing difficult strategic choices, especially in light of Donald Trump’s return to the White House.

Under previous administrations, India’s foreign policy leaned heavily into strategic alignment with the United States. Multipolarity, multi-alignment, and polycentrism were the buzzwords, masking what was, in effect, the most pro-American posture in India’s history. But that era is rapidly evolving. Trump’s transactional approach to diplomacy, favoring one-on-one deals over multilateralism, renders old clichés obsolete.

The U.S. is already reshaping its approach to global crises. Hints of a Ukraine settlement are emerging, while Washington’s negotiations with Iran have swiftly moved to expert-level talks. Now, all eyes are on the looming U.S.-China trade showdown. Yet, both Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are holding back — no phone calls, no back chan-

nels. Beijing’s recent warning against appeasement and compromise signals rising tensions, especially with threats of retaliation for countries that undercut Chinese interests.

For India, this rhetoric is double-edged. On one side lies the comfort of U.S. strategic backing against China; on the other, the risk of being marginalized if Trump cuts a bilateral deal with Beijing that overlooks New Delhi’s concerns. Analyst Ashley Tellis has suggested that Trump may not see India as a major player in the U.S.-China rivalry — a sobering possibility for Indian policymakers who’ve invested deeply in the U.S. relationship.

Yet amid all this, a glaring omission remains: India’s reluctance to even attempt a strategic rapprochement with China. While New Delhi courts Washington — even tweaking nuclear liability laws to favor U.S. companies — it hasn’t shown a fraction of that energy toward designing a coherent, long-term framework for stability with Beijing. As global dynamics shift rapidly, India must ask itself whether continuing to hedge bets or boldly pursuing a grand bargain with China better serves its national interest.



## Censoring History: The Uneasy Truth Behind the Phule Film Controversy

With the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) recommending 12 cuts to the film Phule, India seems to be moving toward a future where the historical oppressors are rebranded as victims. This growing discomfort with honest portrayals of caste realities echoes an Orwellian distortion of truth: war is peace, freedom is slavery, ignorance is strength.

The CBFC’s objection to scenes showing Brahmins attacking Savitribai Phule reflects a larger agenda—an attempt to sanitize history. During the Peshwa rule, the untouchables faced brutal oppression. When Savitribai dared to educate girls in Pune, she was harassed and attacked by upper-caste Brahmins. Even Anandi Gopal Joshi, India’s first female doctor, faced opposition from her own Brahmin community. Why, then, is the truth suddenly unbearable?

In the 2019 biopic Anandi Gopal, a scene depicting Brahmin neighbours throwing garbage at Anandi for seeking education was met with little resistance. Perhaps because it showed conflict within the community itself, it was seen as less threatening. But Phule, which centers on Brahmin opposition to lower-caste empowerment, appears to have crossed an

invisible line.

The problem isn’t just what the CBFC censors—it’s what it allows. When Chaava portrayed the atrocities of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb against Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, it didn’t provoke concerns about fueling anti-Muslim sentiment. So why the anxiety over Phule possibly stirring anti-Brahmin sentiment?

This selective outrage reveals an unease with truth-telling. When censorship protects dominant groups, it stops being regulatory and becomes complicit. Director Anant Mahadevan’s defense—“I’m a staunch Brahmin, why would I malign my community?”—only underscores the issue. You can’t claim pride in your caste while rejecting its historical accountability.

Instead of erasing uncomfortable facts, we must confront them. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” India must move beyond defensive narratives and toward honest reckonings. Truth may be uncomfortable, but without it, there can be no justice. The caste question isn’t just historical—it’s deeply contemporary. And the fight for truth-telling has only just begun.





## Testament to Love: JD Vance at Taj

US Vice President JD Vance, currently on a four-day visit to India, visited the iconic Taj Mahal on Wednesday along with his wife, Usha Vance, and their three children—Ewan, Vivek, and Mirabel. The family spent about an hour exploring the monument, widely regarded as the ultimate symbol of love. In the visitor's diary, Mr. Vance penned a heartfelt note: "The Taj Mahal is amazing. A testament to true love, human ingenuity, and a tribute to the great country of India." The Vance family arrived in Agra from Jaipur, where they were welcomed at the airport by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The Chief Minister later shared his greetings on social media, stating, "A warm wel-

come to Hon'ble US Vice President Mr JD Vance and his family to Uttar Pradesh, the sacred heartland of India, renowned for its timeless devotion, vibrant culture and spiritual legacy." The convoy's route from the airport to the Taj Mahal was transformed into a celebration of Indo-US ties. Colorful rangolis, sand art, and large welcome hoardings adorned key junctions, while hundreds of schoolchildren lined the streets waving the US and Indian flags. The 12-km stretch to the monument via Shilpgram was placed under heavy security, with a joint presence of Indian forces and US security teams who had been stationed in the city for the past three days.

At the monument, the Vance family appeared relaxed and cheerful as they admired the marble mausoleum commissioned by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal. This visit marks an important cultural moment during JD Vance's India tour, coming at a time when the US and India continue to deepen strategic and diplomatic ties. The emphasis on cultural appreciation and family engagement during his stay highlights the softer aspects of diplomacy and mutual respect between the two nations. After the visit, the Vance family returned to the Agra airport to continue their itinerary, which includes further diplomatic engagements in New Delhi.

## Bangladesh Condemns J&K Terror Attack

Bangladesh has strongly condemned the recent terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, which left 26 people dead, including tourists from 14 Indian states and two foreign nationals. In an official statement issued on social media platform X by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh expressed deep condolences and reiterated its commitment to the global fight against terrorism.

"Bangladesh strongly condemns the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir in India resulting in the tragic loss of innocent lives. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and express solidarity with those affected by this mindless violence," the statement read.

The country's interim government Chief Adviser, Professor Muhammad Yunus, also personally conveyed his condolences. Addressing Prime Minister Modi, he stated, "Excellency: Please accept my deepest condolences over the loss of life resulting from the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. We strongly condemn this heinous act and reaffirm Bangladesh's resolute stand against terrorism."

Bangladesh's condemnation followed similar statements from global powers including the US, UK, Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, France, Italy, Israel, UAE, Iran, and neigh-



boring countries like Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. However, some foreign policy analysts questioned the delay in Bangladesh's response compared to other nations who reacted immediately after the attack. The brutal attack occurred in Baisaran, a popular tourist destination near Pahalgam, often called "mini-Switzerland" for its lush meadows and scenic views. Terrorists reportedly questioned tourists about their religion before shooting them at close range. The Resistance Front (TRF), widely recognized as a proxy of the Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba, claimed responsibility. The attack comes amid increased tourist activity in Jammu and Kashmir, which has contributed to local economic growth.

## PM Chairs Key Meet on Pahalgam Attack



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired an emergency meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) at his residence on Wednesday to discuss the devastating terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, that claimed 26 lives. This meeting brought together key national security figures including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. The attack, carried out in the Baisaran meadow—a popular tourist destination near Pahalgam—has been described as one of the deadliest in the Kashmir Valley since the 2019 Pulwama attack. According to reports, terrorists opened fire on a group of tourists, target-

ing men after asking about their religion. Among the victims were people from 14 Indian states and two foreign nationals. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval briefed the Prime Minister on the ground situation. The Resistance Front (TRF), a known proxy of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for the massacre, prompting a wave of outrage and calls for retaliation across the country. Amit Shah, who was in Srinagar earlier in the day, rushed to Delhi to attend the high-level CCS meeting. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh issued a firm statement, assuring the public that the government will respond swiftly and appropriately. "We will not only bring the perpetrators to justice but also go after those who

planned and conspired this cowardly act," he said, without naming Pakistan directly. Prime Minister Modi, who cut short his visit to Saudi Arabia and returned early Wednesday, took to social media to condemn the attack. In an emotional message on X (formerly Twitter), he said, "Those behind this heinous act will not be spared... Our resolve to fight terrorism is unshakeable." Referring to past responses, Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar reminded that India had responded decisively after the Uri and Pulwama attacks with surgical and air strikes. "Wherever they are—across the LoC or international boundary—we will get them," he said, reaffirming India's aggressive stance on cross-border terrorism.

## Fadnavis: Masterminds Won't Be Spared

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has strongly condemned the gruesome terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, calling it a "cowardly" act meant to instill fear and derail India's progress. Speaking after the tragic incident that killed 26 people—among them six from Maharashtra—Fadnavis declared that the country would respond firmly and ensure the masterminds are held accountable. "I condemn the cowardly attack in Kashmir. These terrorists aim to make us stop in our tracks, but India will not be intimidated. The attackers and those behind them will face a fitting response," he said in a statement to NDTV.

The attack, which took place at the scenic Baisaran meadow near Pahalgam on Tuesday, is the deadliest in the Valley since the 2019 Pulwama terror strike. Heavily armed terrorists opened fire on a group of tourists, after reportedly asking about their religion. One survivor recounted how a gunman told her, "Nahi maareng. Tum Modi ko jaake bolo" (I won't kill you. Go and tell Modi). The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the banned Pa-



kistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), has claimed responsibility for the massacre. The victims included 25 Indians and one Nepalese national. Several others were injured.

Fadnavis took to X (formerly Twitter) to express his sorrow and solidarity: "My heartfelt tributes to those who lost their lives. Deepest condolences to the bereaved families. We stand firmly with them in this tragic hour." He also revealed that the Maharashtra government is coordinating closely with Jammu and

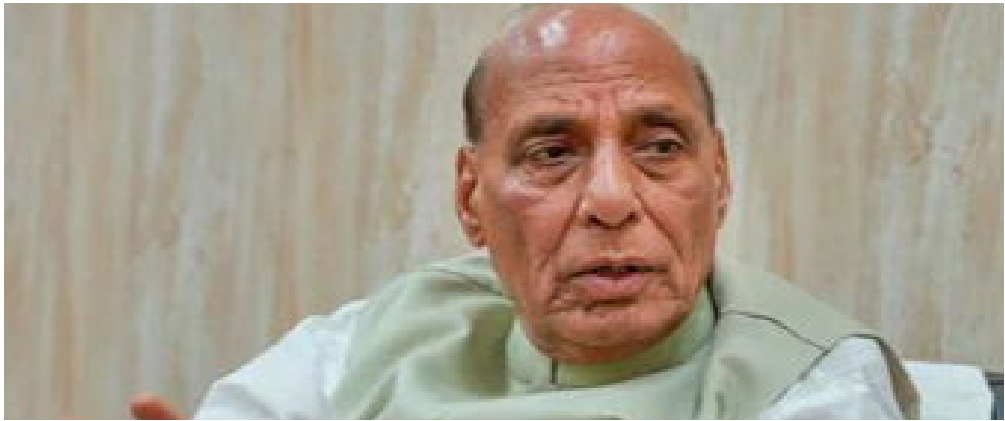
Kashmir authorities. "I spoke with Divisional Commissioner Vijaykumar Bidari and received a detailed briefing," he said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who cut short his Saudi Arabia visit, returned to Delhi and immediately chaired a high-level security meeting. "Those behind this heinous act will not be spared. Our fight against terrorism is unwavering," PM Modi said. As the nation mourns, calls for justice grow louder, and India's top leadership signals a tough and targeted response to those responsible for the brutal act.

## "Rajnath Singh Vows Strong Retaliation"

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has strongly condemned the horrific terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam and assured the nation of a "loud and clear response" to those responsible. The attack, which took place on Tuesday at Baisaran meadow, claimed 26 lives—including two foreigners and two locals—marking one of the deadliest assaults in the region since the 2019 Pulwama strike. Addressing the nation on Wednesday,

Rajnath Singh said, "Terrorists targeted a particular religion in this cowardly act. Every Indian stands united in grief and anger. I assure my fellow citizens that the government will take all necessary and appropriate actions in response." He emphasized that India's retaliation would not be limited to those who carried out the attack. "We will reach not only the perpetrators but also the masterminds be-

hind them," Singh said, indicating a broader crackdown on the terror networks and their supporters. The Defence Minister's comments came as part of the government's heightened security and diplomatic efforts following the tragic event. The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, has claimed responsibility for the massacre, which has drawn global condemnation and sparked calls for decisive action.





# Terror Strikes Pahalgam: 26 Killed in Worst Attack in India Since 2008

Pak Army Chief's "Jugular Vein" Speech Viral Again After J&K Terror Strike

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a horrifying act of violence, at least 26 people were killed and 17 others injured after terrorists opened fire on tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam district on Tuesday. The attack, which took place in the scenic Baisaran Valley — often called "mini Switzerland" — marks the deadliest assault on civilians in India since the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

According to police, the victims included 25 Indian nationals and one Nepali tourist. Eyewitnesses and survivors shared harrowing video footage showing bodies lying on the grass as people cried out for help. Many of the victims were families visiting the picturesque region, which had recently seen a revival in tourism.



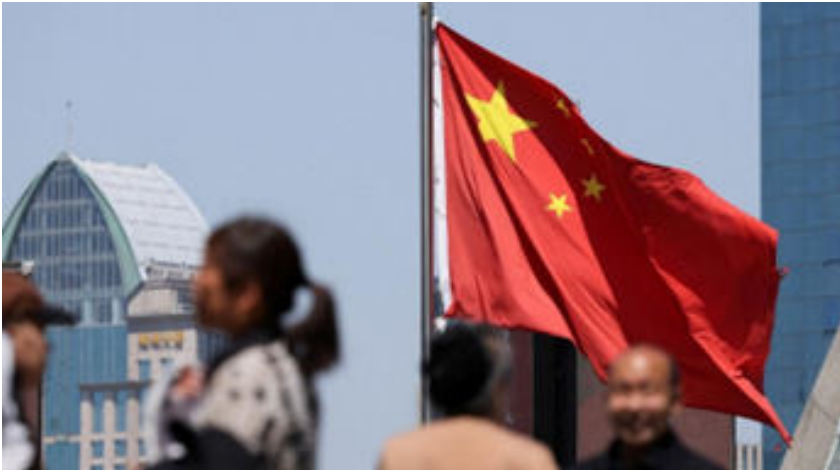
Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who returned early from an official visit to Saudi Arabia, condemned the attack, stating that those responsible for the "heinous act will be brought to justice." Security agencies have since launched a massive operation to track down the perpetrators.

The Resistance Front (TRF), a known proxy of the banned Pakistan-based Lash-

kar-e-Taiba (LeT), has claimed responsibility for the attack via a social media post. The group expressed anger over the reported settlement of more than 85,000 non-locals in the region, accusing the government of attempting to alter Kashmir's demographic balance. However, official confirmation of TRF's involvement is still awaited from the Indian government.

This brutal assault came just days after Pakistan's Army Chief, General Asim Munir, reignited tensions with provocative remarks about Kashmir. Speaking at the Overseas Pakistanis Convention in Islamabad on April 16, Munir described Kashmir as Pakistan's "jugular vein" and emphasized unwavering support for what he called the "heroic struggle" of Kashmiris. He also defended the two-nation theory that led to the 1947 Partition, drawing sharp criticism from Indian officials.

The attack has reignited security and diplomatic tensions between India and Pakistan, with calls for stronger counter-terrorism measures and international condemnation of cross-border terrorism. As the investigation unfolds, the nation mourns the loss of innocent lives in a region long plagued by conflict.



## China to Launch Shenzhou-20 Mission with Three Astronauts and Life Science Experiments

TPN Correspondent | Beijing

China is set to launch its Shenzhou-20 crewed space mission on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 5:17 p.m. local time (2:47 p.m. IST), according to a statement by Chinese state media on Wednesday. The mission will send three astronauts to the Tiangong space station as part of the country's expanding efforts in space exploration.

The crew for the Shenzhou-20 mission includes veteran astronaut Chen Dong, along with Chen Zhongrui and Wang Jie. The primary goal of this mission is to carry out an in-orbit crew rotation with the Shenzhou-19 team, who are scheduled to return to Earth on April 29 at the Dongfeng landing site.

In addition to the rotation, the Shenzhou-20 astronauts will undertake a series of key tasks during their stay at the space station. These include conducting scientific and applied research experiments, installing equipment designed to shield the station from space debris, and executing extravehicular activities to attach external payloads and components.

One of the most notable aspects of the mission is its focus on life science research. The spacecraft will carry zebrafish, planarians (a type of flatworm known for its regenerative abilities), and streptomyces — a genus of bacteria known for producing antibiotics. These organisms will be used in three separate experiments aimed at studying biological responses to microgravity and long-duration spaceflight. Such studies are critical for future missions, especially as space agencies worldwide eye long-term stays on the Moon and Mars.

Chinese space officials emphasized the importance of the mission at a press conference aired on national broadcaster CCTV, noting that the experiments and installations will contribute to both scientific advancement and operational safety aboard Tiangong.

The Shenzhou-20 launch marks another milestone in China's rapidly growing space program, which has become a cornerstone of national pride and global competition in space exploration. With every successful mission, China inches closer to establishing itself as a major player in the new space race.



# Chinese citizens working at drone production site in Russia: Ukraine President Zelenskyy

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has alleged that Chinese citizens are working at a drone production facility in Russia, raising new concerns about Beijing's potential indirect involvement in Moscow's war against Ukraine. The revelation came during a news conference in Kyiv on Tuesday, further intensifying diplomatic tensions between Ukraine and China.

Zelenskyy hinted that Russia may have acquired Chinese drone technology without formal government approval, suggesting that the transfer could have occurred through unauthorized agreements with Chinese nationals. "We believe that it may be that Russia stole—or made a deal with these citizens outside of



official agreements with the Chinese leadership—these technologies," he said.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry followed up by summoning Chinese Ambassador Ma Shengkun, formally expressing its "serious concerns" over what it described as the participation of Chinese nationals in Russia's military production efforts. In a state-

ment, Deputy Foreign Minister Yevhen Perebyinis urged Beijing to take concrete steps to halt any support for Russia's aggression, which China has repeatedly denied providing.

This marks a shift in tone from Ukraine, which previously maintained a more cautious approach toward Beijing. Zelenskyy recently claimed that China was supplying Russia with weapons and gunpowder—an accusation strongly rejected by Chinese authorities.

Zelenskyy also claimed earlier this month that Russia was attempting to recruit Chinese nationals via social media platforms to fight in Ukraine. While he acknowledged that it remains unclear whether these actions were sanctioned by Beijing, he emphasized

that Kyiv was actively gathering intelligence on the matter.

On Tuesday, the Ukrainian president said he had ordered the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) to share relevant intelligence with the Chinese government. "Separately, I asked the SBU to transfer broader information to the Chinese side regarding Chinese citizens who work at the drone factory," he noted.

China's foreign ministry responded on Wednesday, rejecting the accusations as "groundless" and criticizing what it called "political manipulation." As diplomatic strains deepen, the allegations emerge at a critical moment in U.S.-led international efforts to end the war, placing China under growing scrutiny over its relationship with Russia.

# Putin Reportedly Offers Ceasefire Along Current Front Line in Ukraine Amid U.S. Talks

TPN Correspondent | United Kingdom

Russian President Vladimir Putin has allegedly offered to halt Russia's invasion of Ukraine along the current front lines, the Financial Times reported Tuesday, citing sources familiar with recent discussions. The reported offer came during a meeting with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff in St. Petersburg earlier this month, as part of ongoing efforts to bring an end to the war, now in its third year.

According to the FT report, Putin signaled that Moscow might be willing to relinquish claims to parts of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions — all areas where Russian forces currently maintain a partial presence. However, this would come in exchange for significant concessions from the United States.

The Kremlin's demands reportedly include U.S. recog-



nition of Russian sovereignty over Crimea, which was annexed in 2014, as well as formal guarantees that Ukraine will not join NATO. These long-standing goals have been central to Russia's geopolitical agenda since before the 2022 invasion.

The proposal surfaces as former U.S. President Donald Trump, currently campaigning to return to office, pushes to fulfill his campaign pledge to end the war. Trump has frequently criticized continued

U.S. military aid to Ukraine and suggested he could broker a peace deal quickly if reelected.

However, Kyiv remains steadfast in its demand for a full restoration of Ukraine's internationally recognized borders — including Crimea — as a non-negotiable condition for peace. This stance is strongly supported by most European allies, despite mounting global fatigue over the prolonged conflict. U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has called

Ukraine's position "unrealistic," suggesting a more pragmatic approach may be necessary to end the bloodshed. The Biden administration has not publicly confirmed any change in policy or reaction to the reported talks.

While the FT report has not been officially confirmed by Moscow or Washington, it suggests a potential turning point — or at least a test — in diplomatic efforts to halt one of Europe's most devastating conflicts since World War II.

## Strong 6.2 Magnitude Earthquake Strikes Marmara Sea, Rattling Istanbul

A powerful 6.2 magnitude earthquake struck the Marmara Sea near Istanbul's western Silivri district on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, sending shockwaves through Türkiye's largest city and prompting residents to flee into the streets in panic.

Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya confirmed the quake, which occurred at 12:49 p.m. local time (0949 GMT), and stated it was widely felt across the surrounding provinces. According to Türkiye's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), the main quake was followed by a series of aftershocks, ranging in magnitude from 4.4 to 4.9.

By 3:12 p.m., a total of 51 aftershocks had been recorded, with the strongest registering at 5.9 magnitude, Yerlikaya said. He noted that the initial quake occurred at a depth of approximately seven kilometers and lasted for about 13 seconds.

As buildings trembled, frightened residents rushed outdoors. Near the iconic Galata Tower, a visibly shaken decorator, fleeing from a fourth-floor apartment, said, "I just felt earthquake, I've got to get out," declining to share his name.

Despite the chaos, city officials and the Istanbul Governor's Office reported no immediate injuries or structural collapses. "Until now, we have no information about any buildings collapsing," authorities said, while urging caution and advising residents to stay away from potentially weakened structures.

The Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality echoed these reassurances on X, stating, "No serious cases have been reported so far following the earthquake in Istanbul."



# Mixed Global Cues, Strong IT Buying Drive Markets Higher

Domestic stock markets performed well for the seventh consecutive session. They gained heavily on Wednesday. The benchmark indices, which reached highs in the beginning, came under pressure after some time. Investors took profits in banking and finance shares, which reached daily lows. The indices recovered again due to mixed signals from global markets, the release of company results, and increased buying in shares of pharma, healthcare and IT sectors. The strength of US tech companies affected IT companies here. Overall, Nifty rose by 161 points and Sensex by 520 points. The Nifty closed above 24,300 is a positive.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 79,595 in the previous session, opened at 80,142 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low at 79,506. It reached an intraday high at 80,254. Finally, it closed at 80,116 with a gain of 520 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,357, reached a low of 24,119 and a high of 24,359. It rose by 161 points in total and closed at 24,328. The Nifty Bank fell by 277 points and settled at 55,370.

In the Nifty50, 39 companies gained and 11 lost. HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra,

Tata Motors, Wipro, Infy were the top gainers. HDFC Bank, Kotak Bank, Grasim, SBI, Eicher Motors were the top losers. The midcap index performed well today. The IT index rose by 4.34%. Auto, pharma, healthcare, realty, metal, FMCG did not fare well. Profit booking was seen in consumer durables, private bank, PSU bank, finance, media shares.

Market breadth was almost equal for buyers and sellers on NSE today. Out of a total of 2931 shares traded, 1516 gained. 1340 lost. 50 shares reached their 52-week high and 7 shares reached their 52-week low. 124 shares touched the upper circuit and 41 shares touched the lower circuit.

The rupee weakened by 23 paise against the dollar today to settle at 85.42. Nomura has given a reduce rating to M&M Financial with a target price of Rs. 230. After almost two months, the IPO buzz has started in the market. Ather Energy shares are set to be listed on the stock exchanges on May 6. Jefferies has given a hold rating to Havells with a target price of Rs 1,800. Morgan Stanley has given an overweight rating to AU Small Finance Bank with a target price of Rs 750. NBCC has bagged projects worth Rs 65 crore in Odisha and Hyderabad. HSBC has maintained a buy rating on Mahindra & Mahindra. 35 lakh shares of Canara Bank changed hands in a block deal. UBS has giv-

en a buy rating to Cholamandalam Investment with a target price of Rs 1,950. 10 lakh shares of ITC changed hands.

**Hero MotoCorp**  
Hero MotoCorp reported a 12% year-on-year increase in profit after tax (PAT) to ₹1,203 crore for Q3 FY25, with revenue from operations reaching ₹10,211 crore. The company declared an interim dividend of ₹100 per share. However, challenges have emerged, including the resignation of key executives and a decline in market position, slipping to third place in two-wheeler sales behind Honda and TVS. Additionally, its investment in Ather Energy faces valuation concerns amid a scaled-down IPO.

**Torrent Pharmaceuticals**  
In Q1 FY25, Torrent Pharma's net profit rose by 21% year-on-year to ₹457 crore, and revenue increased by 10% to ₹2,859 crore. Despite these strong results, the stock declined by over 4%, as analysts adjusted target prices following a significant run-up in the stock over the past three months. The company faces challenges in Brazil due to floods but anticipates growth in Germany through new tender



wins and potential improvements in the U.S. market with upcoming product launches.

**Alkem Laboratories**  
As of April 2025, there are no significant new updates available for Alkem Laboratories. The company continues its operations in the pharmaceutical sector, focusing on its existing product portfolio and market presence.

**Astral Ltd.**  
Currently, there are no notable recent developments reported for Astral Ltd. The company maintains its position in the building materials in-

dustry, with ongoing activities in its established business segments.

**ICICI Lombard General Insurance**  
ICICI Lombard reported a 2% decline in Q4 FY25 profit to ₹5.10 billion, primarily due to a 25.5% increase in claims paid and changes in premium accounting regulations. Despite this, gross premiums grew by 10% to ₹69.04 billion, with the retail health insurance segment expanding by approximately 30% and the motor segment by 18%. Analysts remain optimistic, with Sharekhan maintaining a 'Buy' rating and a target price of ₹2,550, citing strong investment income and improved underwriting performance.

## World Bank lowers India's FY26 growth forecast to 6.3%

The World Bank on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, revised India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal year down to 6.3%, a sharp 0.4 percentage point cut from its earlier projection of 6.7%. The downward revision comes amid growing concerns over global economic weakness and domestic policy uncertainty, as outlined in the World Bank's latest South Asia Economic Focus report.

According to the report, India's economic momentum in the fiscal year 2024-25 has been slower than expected, primarily due to a slump in private investment and public capital expenditure, both of which fell short of government targets. These factors have tempered what was initially anticipated to be a stronger post-pandemic recovery.

"In India, growth in FY24/25 disappointed because of slower growth in private investment and public capital expenditures that did not meet government targets," the World Bank noted in its twice-yearly regional economic outlook.

The report attributes part of this slowdown to tightening global financial conditions and weakening external demand, which have impacted exports and investor sentiment. Domestically, challenges such as delays in infrastructure projects, regulatory bottlenecks, and inflationary pressures have further contributed to a cautious investment environment.

Despite the downgrade, In-

dia remains one of the fastest-growing major economies globally, with growth still projected to outpace many advanced and emerging markets. However, the World Bank emphasized the need for policy clarity, faster implementation of infrastructure and welfare programs, and sustained fiscal support to maintain growth momentum.

The revised forecast comes at a time when India is grappling with balancing inflation control, stimulating domestic demand, and boosting job creation. The country's central bank has maintained a cautious monetary stance, aiming to contain inflation without stifling growth.

As global economic uncertainties persist, including geopolitical tensions and fluctuating commodity prices, the path ahead for India's economy will require careful policy navigation and targeted investments to reignite private sector confidence.

The World Bank's latest assessment serves as a reminder of the challenges that lie ahead and the critical importance of structural reforms in securing a stable and inclusive growth trajectory for India.

## HCL Technologies Shares Surge Over 7% After Strong Q4 Results and Robust Deal Wins

Shares of HCL Technologies soared more than 7% on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, following the company's announcement of strong financial results for the January-March quarter of fiscal year 2024-25. The stock emerged as the top gainer on both the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty during morning trade, jumping 7.42% to ₹1,589.95 on the BSE and 7.43% to ₹1,590 on the NSE.

The rally came after HCL Technologies reported an 8.1% rise in consolidated net profit for the fourth quarter, reaching ₹4,307 crore, compared to ₹3,986 crore in the same period last year. The growth was attributed largely to large-scale deal wins totaling approximately ₹25,500 crore (\$3 billion), which significantly boosted investor sentiment.

In a regulatory filing, the company stated that revenue from operations for the March quarter rose 6.1% year-on-year to



₹30,246 crore, up from ₹28,499 crore in Q4 of FY24. The operating margin for the quarter stood at 17.9%, reflecting solid execution and cost efficiency.

"We had a very strong quarter — the second highest in terms of deal bookings after the September 2023 quarter," said HCL Technologies CEO and Managing Director C Vijayakumar. "The \$3 billion in net new bookings this quarter was well-distribut-

ed across service lines, geographies, and industry verticals."

He further highlighted that the company's services business grew 0.7% sequentially and 2.7% on a year-on-year basis.

For the full fiscal year ending March 31, 2025, HCL Technologies reported a net profit of ₹17,390 crore, marking an 11% increase over ₹15,710 crore in FY24. Annual revenue rose 6.5% to ₹1,17,055 crore.

The strong financial performance and robust pipeline of new contracts underscore HCL Tech's growing competitiveness in the global IT services sector, even amid a challenging macroeconomic environment. With solid fundamentals and continued deal momentum, the company is well-positioned for sustained growth in the upcoming quarters.

## Luxury Goods Above ₹10 Lakh to Attract 1% TCS: Sitharaman

Buyers of high-end luxury items priced above ₹10 lakh will face a 1% Tax Collected at Source (TCS) at the point of sale, the Income Tax Department announced in an official notification. The new rule applies to a wide range of luxury goods, including wristwatches, designer handbags, antiques, paintings, sculptures, sunglasses, home theatre systems, premium shoes, and sportswear.

This move, which was first introduced in the Union Budget of July 2024 and scheduled for implementation from January 1, 2025, has now officially come into force. It extends the TCS framework beyond high-value motor vehicles to include other premium and lifestyle products that cater to India's affluent consumers.

The purpose of this expanded tax regime is to enhance financial transparency and accountability in luxury transactions. By



mandating a TCS on high-value purchases, the tax authorities aim to trace the sale of such goods and cross-check them with the declared income of purchasers. This could help flag potential cases of tax evasion where individuals may be spending disproportionately compared to their reported earnings.

For instance, if a buyer purchases a luxury wristwatch worth ₹12 lakh, the seller will collect ₹12,000 as TCS and depos-

it it with the government. This amount will reflect in the buyer's Form 26AS and Annual Information Statement (AIS), ensuring that tax authorities are alerted to high-value spending.

Experts say this step is part of a broader effort to widen the tax base and improve compliance. It also reflects the government's increasing reliance on data analytics to monitor financial behavior and match lifestyle with income declarations. Businesses selling such goods will now be required to ensure proper documentation and timely remittance of the collected tax.

While this new rule adds a minor cost burden to luxury buyers, its greater significance lies in tightening the net around undeclared income and black money. As consumption patterns evolve, tax authorities are working to ensure that fiscal oversight keeps pace with rising affluence and spending habits in India.



# New Bride Becomes Face of Tragedy

A heart-wrenching image from the Pahalgam terror attack has come to symbolize the devastating violence that struck the scenic region of south Kashmir. A newlywed woman, with wrists adorned in traditional red and white chooda bangles, was seen holding her lifeless husband — a moment of love turned into horror, now seared into the nation’s memory. The couple was reportedly on their honeymoon when terrorists opened fire on a group of tourists at a popular site in Pahalgam on Tuesday. The brutal assault left at least 26 dead, including two foreign nationals from the UAE and Nepal, as well as two locals. Several others were critically injured. In a chilling video that has gone viral, the grief-stricken woman is seen pleading for help: “We were having bhelpuri when they came. They shot my husband. Please save my husband!” Her silent anguish in a widely shared photograph has triggered an outpouring of grief and fury across social media. Social media users expressed their heartbreak and rage, turning the image into a rallying symbol. “Her silence is louder than her cries,” one post read. Others created posters with the message: Never Forget, Never Forgive. Some users used the tragic moment to criti-



cize the film Abir Gulaal, featuring Pakistani actor Fawad Khan, while others condemned Pakistan for allegedly harboring terrorists. A user from Balochistan called Pakistan a “terrorist state,” amplifying the call for global scrutiny. In a moving interview, Pallavi from Karnataka — who lost her husband Manjunath in the attack — recounted the horror. “He died in front of me. I couldn’t even react,” she said. Their son Abhijeya was with them at the time. As India mourns yet another terror strike, Prime Minister Modi has vowed justice for the victims, while netizens continue to rally around the powerful image that now defines the tragedy of Pahalgam.

# Student Hits Lecturer Over Phone

A shocking incident at a private engineering college near Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, has sparked outrage after a female student assaulted a woman lecturer for confiscating her mobile phone. The altercation, which occurred on April 21, came to light after a video of the incident went viral a day later.

According to reports, the confrontation began when the lecturer asked the student to stop talking loudly on the phone during class hours. When the student ignored the warning, the lecturer confiscated her phone. This triggered a violent reaction from the student, who allegedly hurled verbal abuse before removing her footwear and striking the lecturer in front of other students.

One of the witnesses recorded the incident on a mobile phone, and the video quickly spread online, drawing widespread criticism. Social media users condemned the student’s behavior, calling it a sign of deteriorating respect for educators in academic institutions. Many expressed deep concern over the rising indiscipline among students. “Today’s generation doesn’t tolerate correction. Let them learn the hard way,” one user commented. Another wrote, “Such behavior should not be ignored — strict action must be taken to maintain decorum on campuses.” Despite the uproar, the college management re-



portedly chose not to take disciplinary action against the student. According to sources, the decision was influenced by a request from the student’s parents, citing concern for her future. Meanwhile, the Bheemili police confirmed they were aware of the incident but had not received a formal complaint from either the lecturer or the college authorities. While the student was reportedly cautioned by the college, many online are demanding her suspension or dismissal. “Issue a Transfer Certificate with a note on misconduct,” one user urged. The incident has reignited discussions on campus discipline, teacher safety, and the need for firm institutional response to student violence. As the video continues to circulate, netizens are calling for swift justice and stronger protections for educators.

# UPSC Rank 533 Sparks Internet Frenzy

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has released the final results for the 2024 Civil Services Examination, with 1,009 candidates clearing one of the toughest exams in the country. While Shakti Dubey from Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, secured the top rank, another name has been stealing the spotlight online — Poorva Choudhary, who achieved an All India Rank of 533. Interestingly, Poorva’s sudden internet fame has less to do with her rank and more with her appearance. Social media users have been captivated by her looks, with several posts praising her “face card” — a slang term for someone’s photogenic appeal. Memes, fan edits, and congratulatory



comments have flooded platforms like Instagram and X. The buzz began when Poorva’s sister, Navya Saharan, shared a heartfelt Instagram post celebrating her achievement. The video compilation included several candid moments and a photo of Poorva standing in front of the UPSC headquarters, triggering a wave of reactions and admiration online. Among the 1,009 successful candidates this year, 725 are men and 284 are women. Poorva’s viral moment highlights how aspirants, beyond their academic achievements, are increasingly becoming social media sensations — especially during high-stakes results seasons. While some netizens expressed

light-hearted admiration, others applauded her for managing to crack one of the world’s most competitive exams. “Beauty with brains,” wrote a user. Another commented, “Even rank 533 can trend if the face card is strong!” However, the viral fame also sparked debates, with a few voices questioning the focus on appearance rather than merit. “Let’s not reduce UPSC achievers to just looks,” one commenter noted. Regardless of the opinions, Poorva Choudhary has captured the internet’s attention, symbolizing not just academic success, but also how personality and social media presence can shape public perception in today’s digital era.

# Indian Girl’s Post Sparks Debate on Life Abroad



A Reddit post by a 21-year-old woman from Gujarat has stirred intense debate online after she candidly compared her life in India to that of her cousin living in the UK. Shared in the r/nri community under the username Bubbly-Damage4746, the post explores the sharp contrast in freedom, opportunity, and quality of life between the two young women. Both cousins grew up together in India until age 14, when one moved to Wales with her family. Despite the distance, they maintained a close bond through regular video calls. However, as they entered adulthood, their paths diverged significantly. The woman in Gujarat described her struggles in pursuing electrical engineering after scoring 86% in her Class 12 board exams. While she managed to enter a mid-tier college, she found internships hard to come by. Her most recent stint involved 10-hour workdays with

a modest stipend of Rs 12,000 per month. She also spoke of the emotional burden of academic pressure and societal expectations, especially after failing to crack the JEE. Adding to her frustration were the social limitations placed on her as a woman — her family doesn’t permit her to travel alone due to safety concerns. In stark contrast, her cousin in the UK is studying Aerospace Engineering at the University of Bath, has completed two well-paid internships with reasonable hours, and even turned down an offer from ISRO to stay in the UK. She’s part of her university’s F1 student club and has traveled to several European countries, including Italy and Hungary. The post resonated with thousands online, drawing both empathy and critique. Many agreed on the glaring disparities in professional opportunities and personal freedom between India and the West.

# Mother Mocking Son’s Anxiety Sparks Outrage

A video shared on Instagram has drawn massive backlash after a woman was seen mocking her son’s apparent anxiety episode, dismissing his distress as mere “nautanki” (drama). The clip quickly went viral, sparking concern among mental health professionals and parents alike, with many calling it a troubling example of insensitivity and poor parenting. In the video, the young boy is visibly distressed while doing his homework, struggling to breathe and on the verge of tears. Despite his evident discomfort, his mother records the moment and offers no comfort. Instead, she coldly remarks, “You were breathing fine while playing earlier,” downplaying what appears to be a possible anxiety attack. The child, trying to explain himself,

says, “Meri saans atak atak ke chal rahi hai (I’m unable to breathe properly),” indicating he might be experiencing a panic or anxiety-related episode. He even mentions having had similar breathing issues while playing outside earlier, but his mother continues to dismiss it, reinforcing the idea that he is overreacting. The woman posted the video with the caption “nautanki,” further trivializing the situation. While she may have intended it to be humorous or relatable, the internet responded with swift condemnation. Mental health experts weighed in on the clip, emphasizing the importance of recognizing symptoms of anxiety in children. Many users called the behavior not just dismissive, but damaging, especially given the growing mental



health challenges faced by children today. Social media users slammed the mother for prioritizing online attention over her child’s emotional well-being. “This is not content, this is a cry for help being ignored,” one comment read. Another user pointed out, “Mocking a child’s distress is not parenting; it’s cruelty.” As the video continues to circulate, it has reignited conversations about mental health awareness, especially among children, and the responsibility adults have in handling such situations with care and understanding.

# Anchor Stays Calm as Quake Hits Live

In a gripping moment caught live on air, a 6.02-magnitude earthquake struck Turkey during a television broadcast, leaving viewers stunned and anchor Meltem Bozbeyoglu’s composure going viral. The incident occurred on Wednesday while Bozbeyoglu was presenting live on CNN Turkey. As the tremors began to shake the newsroom, the anchor momentarily paused, visibly reacting to the quake. However, despite the unsettling jolt, she quickly regained her focus and continued delivering the news with remarkable poise. “A very strong earthquake is happening right now. A very strong earthquake is being felt in Istanbul,” she calmly reported, as the set visibly trembled around her. Her ability to maintain professionalism in the face of an un-



folding natural disaster earned widespread praise on social media, with many hailing her as a symbol of journalistic grit and calm under pressure. The earthquake, confirmed by Turkey’s emergency management agency, was one of several that struck the region on Wednesday, with the strongest measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale. Although centered near Istanbul, trem-

ors were felt across western Turkey, triggering car alarms and prompting residents to evacuate buildings as a precaution. Fortunately, there were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage. However, the quakes caused widespread anxiety, especially in Istanbul—a city that straddles the seismic boundary between the European and Asian tectonic plates. The incident has sparked conversations about disaster preparedness in media environments and the resilience of professionals in high-pressure moments. As Turkey continues to monitor seismic activity in the region, the viral clip remains a powerful reminder of both nature’s unpredictability and human presence of mind.



# Klaasen, Manohar Rescue SRH After Top-Order Collapse



Sunrisers Hyderabad posted 143/8 against Mumbai Indians, thanks to a gritty partnership between Heinrich Klaasen and Abhinav Manohar after a disastrous start in their IPL clash on Wednesday.

SRH crumbled to 35/5 early on a flat pitch, showing little resistance. Klaasen then anchored the innings with a superb 71 off 44 balls, including nine fours and two sixes. He shared a crucial 99-run stand for the sixth wicket with impact sub Abhinav Manohar, who contributed a steady 43 from 37 deliveries.

The SRH top order fell without pressure, reflecting the side's ongoing struggle—currently second-last on the points table. A bizarre moment added to the drama when MI's Ishan Kishan walked despite not edging a delivery, prompting the umpire to reverse a wide call into a dismissal.

## Hockey India Stands with Victims of Pahalgam Terror Attack

Hockey India has extended heartfelt condolences to the victims of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, expressing solidarity with the affected families.

“In this moment of deep sorrow, the hockey fraternity across the nation mourns the loss of innocent lives and prays for peace and healing,” read an official statement.

The attack, which claimed multiple lives and left many injured, has sparked nationwide outrage. Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited the injured at GMC Anantnag, while Defence Minister Rajnath Singh condemned the act and reaffirmed India's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism.

“We will not only bring the perpetrators to justice but also those behind the scenes. A strong response will follow,” Singh said.

The nation continues to mourn the tragedy, as calls for swift justice and tighter security measures grow louder.



## BCCI Pays Tribute to Pahalgam Terror Attack Victims During IPL Match

In a heartfelt tribute, the BCCI honoured the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack during IPL match 41 between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Mumbai Indians at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium. A 60-second silence was observed before the game, allowing both in-stadium and broadcast audiences to join in mourning.

Players, officials, and commentators wore black armbands as a mark of respect, while team captains expressed condolences and condemned the attack at the toss. In a solemn gesture, the match was held without cheerleaders, music, fireworks, or DJ activities to maintain a dignified atmosphere.

BCCI Honorary Secretary Devajit Saikia stat-



ed, “We stand hand in hand with the bereaved families and condemn this cowardly act.” The tribute reflected cricket's unifying spirit and the nation's shared grief in the wake of the tragic incident.

## Five Indian Women Chess Stars Join 64 Squares 2025 Batch

Five Indian women chess players, including International Master (IM) Vantika Agrawal, have been selected for the 2025 cohort of the 64 Squares Initiative — a joint effort by Pravaha Foundation and chess startup MGD1. The fellowship offers Rs 1 crore in support to cover training, tournament participation, and international exposure.

Joining Vantika are WFM Shubhi Gupta, WFM Charvi Anilkumar, WIM Sarayu Velpula, and WIM Sahithi Varshini. Vantika, an Ar-



## Dev Sets National Record, Misses Asian Qualifier

Dev Meena experienced both triumph and heartbreak on Day 2 of the National Federation Senior Athletics Championship in Kochi. The Madhya Pradesh athlete clinched gold in the pole vault and bettered his own national record by clearing 5.35 metres. However, he fell short of the Asian Championships qualifying mark of 5.51m set by the Athletics Federation of India.

Meena had previously set the record at 5.32m during the Uttarakhand National Games in Dehradun. “I wanted to raise the bar but there was light drizzle and I didn't follow my coach's advice,” a disappointed Meena said.

In the women's 400m, Rupal edged past Tamil Nadu's Vithya, who led early but faded late. Rupal clocked 52.55s to take gold,



followed by Vithya (52.81s) and Sneha K (53.00s), as all top six finishers dipped under the Asian qualifying mark of 53.80s.

## BAI Eyes Ex-India Stars for Coaching Roles

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) is looking to rope in former India internationals, including Parupalli Kashyap, as part of its coaching setup. A list of 11 names has been sent to the Sports Authority of India (SAI) for approval.

BAI secretary general Sanjay Mishra emphasized that selected candidates will begin by working with junior teams at the National Centre for at least three months before progressing to senior roles. “We want them to be part of the coaching set-up. Some are already involved. We received over 40 applications,” Mishra said.

He added that bringing in Indian coaches is vital to revive traditional strengths like deception and net play, which have faded over time. The move



aims to strengthen the grassroots and ensure continuity in India's badminton development pipeline.





# Nidhhi Agerwal Channels Royal Grace



As fans eagerly await Hari Hara Veera Mallu: Part 1 – Sword vs Spirit, actress Nidhhi Agerwal has captivated the internet with a regal new photoshoot. Dressed as her character Panchami, Nidhhi wore a pink silk saree and matching blouse, exuding timeless elegance. Styled with open hair, traditional bangles, and classic earrings, she struck graceful poses against a black backdrop—evoking the grandeur of a historical epic. The visuals strongly hint at the rich, period vibe promised by the long-awaited film. Although it's been two years since her last Telugu film Hero, Nidhhi continues to stay connected with fans through social media. This latest shoot offers a glimpse into her return to the big screen, building excitement for a project that has been in development for nearly three years.

# Nani's Take on Review Culture

As debates flare over film reviews affecting Tollywood's box office, actor-producer Nani offered a thoughtful perspective. In a recent interview, he addressed the rising call for a review ban, stating that in today's social media era, stopping reviews is impossible. "Who do you stop? Why do you stop?" he asked. Nani suggested that reviewers should share opinions without prematurely labeling films as disasters. "It's fine to say a scene didn't work. But calling a movie a flop after the morning show isn't fair. If it's truly bad, people will know in ten days," he explained.



His comments resonate amid changing audience habits—fewer theater visits, faster OTT releases, and reliance on word-of-mouth. Nani's stance promotes balance: embrace opinions but let films breathe before passing final judgment.

# Pawan Kalyan Set to Clear Backlog

Powerstar Pawan Kalyan is gearing up to wrap up his long-pending film projects, bringing relief to producers eagerly awaiting his dates. With three unfinished films—Hari Hara Veera Mallu, OG, and Ustaad Bhagat Singh—pressure has been mounting, especially since the first two are already sold to OTT platforms.



month, starting with Hari Hara Veera Mallu, which needs just a few more days of shooting.

Next, he'll shift focus to Sujeeth's OG, aiming to wrap it quickly. From July, he's expected to begin filming Ustaad Bhagat Singh under Harish Shankar.

Pawan recently met with producers Mythri Movie Makers and DVV Danayya to discuss timelines. He plans to return to sets within a

With a structured schedule in place, Pawan seems determined to become "guilt-free" by completing all three films.

Understanding the urgency,

# Small Films Gear Up for April Finale

As April comes to a close, small-budget films are stepping into the spotlight, hoping to break the box office lull. With IPL 2025 in full swing and recent theatrical releases lacking spark, moviegoers have been less active at the cinemas.

This week, three new films—Sarangapani Jathakam, Chaurya Patham, and Gymkhana—are set to release. Among them, Sarangapani Jathakam has drawn attention due to its director, Indraganti Mohanakrishna, known for crafting light-hearted emotional dramas. The film stars Priyadarshi in the lead, with Vennela Kishore playing a significant role.

While these films may not boast star power or massive promotions, they aim to win over audiences with strong content and relatable storytelling. As the summer box office battle unfolds, all eyes are on whether these small films can make a big impact.



# Taapsee Pannu's Powerful Saree Comeback

Taapsee Pannu is back in the spotlight, and she's making it count. Known for disappearing between projects, the actress now returns with her upcoming film Woh Ladki Hai Kahaan?, where she plays ACP Komal Sharma.

Ahead of the release, Taapsee stunned fans with a bold new look—draped in a rich brown saree paired with a corset blouse. The ensemble exuded strength and elegance, reflecting the commanding

character she's set to portray.

It's been some time since her last Telugu film Mishan Impossible, which didn't create much buzz. But Taapsee appears unshaken. With this striking appearance, she signals a fresh chapter—one driven by intention and confidence. Her fashion-forward statement isn't just about style; it's a reminder that she's ready to own the screen once again.



# Planetary Alignment Needed for Kalki 2

In a light-hearted comment during a Chennai event, director Nag Ashwin joked that Kalki 2 would release only when all eight planets align. While clearly humorous, his remark reflects the complexity of mounting a sequel to such a massive project. When asked about the sequel's timeline, Ashwin replied, "I don't know. The last time three or four planets aligned, Kalki 1 released. Maybe next time, when seven or eight align, Kalki 2 will be ready." Kalki has become a global success, with its scale and impact making it a pan-world cinematic event. Naturally, expectations for the sequel are sky-high, adding immense



pressure on the makers. Ashwin emphasized that the team would begin shooting only when fully prepared, signaling a careful and ambitious approach to the highly anticipated follow-up.