



Drug Inspector Suresh Accused of Illegal Actions in Nandigama

- Allegations of financial transactions and extortion by Suresh and Koti
- Allegations of extortion with a ₹10,000 demand from each medical shop owner
- Medical association protests by closing shops until action is taken

TPN Correspondent |
Andhra Pradesh

In a recent controversy in Nandigama, Drug Inspector Suresh is facing allegations of harassment and misconduct by local medical shop owners. The Medical Association has raised serious concerns, claiming that Suresh, along with an individual named Koti from Jaggayyapet, is involved in creating unrest within the Nandigama Medical Association. According to the medical shop owners, Koti, who has no official connection with their association, is trying to cause division by creating new logos in the name of the Nandigama Medical Association. The owners allege that Koti is working with Drug Inspector Suresh to facilitate illegal financial transactions, including extorting money from the shops. Further allegations suggest that

Drug Inspector Suresh has been threatening the owners with advance notices of inspections by the Eagle Team. These threats are said to include warnings of future consequences if the owners do not comply with his demands. A phone conversation between the president of the AD Association and the inspector revealed a monosyllabic, intimidating tone, with claims of pressure to pay ₹10,000 from each medical shop owner. In response to these allegations, the Medical Association has called for immediate action against Drug Inspector Suresh, demanding that his illegal practices be addressed. The association has also decided to close their shops as a sign of protest, seeking an investigation into these alleged corrupt activities. The medical community in Nandigama is calling for strict action to ensure that such incidents are not repeated.



Spouse Pensions in AP...

New pension category for widows of NTR Bharosa recipients introduced

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh government has announced the acceptance of applications for spouse pensions started on Friday. This initiative will benefit 89,788 new individuals under this category. The new pension scheme aims to provide financial assistance to widows whose husbands were previously receiving pensions under the NTR Bharosa scheme. If a husband receiving the pension passes away, his wife will start receiving the pension from the following month.

The scheme was initially implemented in November last year, and eligible beneficiaries will be provided with a monthly pension of Rs. 4,000.

According to the latest orders from the Rural Poverty Eradication Scheme (SREP), the pension will be extended to eligible women who were previously eligible between December 1, 2023, and October 31, 2024. To avail of the pension, widows must submit their husband's death certificate, Aadhaar card, and other required details at their village or ward secretariats. The submission process will begin on Friday.

Women who complete their registration by the 30th of April will receive their pension payments starting May 1. Those who are unable to submit the necessary documents by then will receive their pensions beginning June 1. This decision will place an additional financial burden of Rs. 35.91 crore per month on the state government.



Minister Nadendla Protest Against Pahalgam Terror Attacks

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Vijayawada, April 25: A human chain was organized at Vijayawada Old Bus Stand and Eluru Road under the leadership of Jana Sena Party Political Affairs Committee Chairman and State Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar, condemning the recent Pahalgam terror attacks. The event was held to express condolences to the innocent victims who lost their lives in the attack. Prominent leaders, including Samineni Udayabhanu, Ammisetti Vasu, Mandali Rajesh, and others, participated in the human chain, which served as a platform for unified protest against the heinous act of terrorism. Minister Nadendla Manohar, speaking on the occasion, strongly condemned the targeting of innocent civilians, stating, "It is a sin for terrorists to target innocent civilians. Protests have been ongoing across the state for three days as per the call of Jana Sena Party chief and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan. We all stand by the families of the victims. Jana Sena Party is working to create awareness among the people in every constituency across the state," he said. Jana Sena Party President and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan had earlier vis-

ited the family of Jana Sena activist Madhusudan Rao, who tragically lost his life in a terrorist attack in Kavali, Nellore district. Expressing his grief, Pawan Kalyan was visibly moved by the words of Rao's wife, saying, "We should be united during such incidents. As Indians, we should reassure the victims. The central government should show due wisdom to these atrocities. Now is not the time to look at politics, castes, and religions. We are Indians, and we should stand together." Across the state, candlelight rallies, silent protests, and human chains were organized by the Jana Sena Party to express solidarity with the victims and their families. Minister Nadendla Manohar reiterated that the government would take appropriate action to ensure the safety and security of the people, and intelligence reports would be closely reviewed for further steps. The human chain event in Vijayawada was a part of the party's broader effort to express solidarity with the victims and demand justice. Jana Sena Party leaders, including Shri Samineni Udayabhanu, Shri Ammisetti Vasu, Shri Mandali Rajesh, Shri Akkala Gandhi, Smt. Ravi Soujanya, and Smt. Mallepu Vijaya Lakshmi, participated in the protest.

Police Review Security Arrangements for Prime Minister's Visit



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The N.T.R. District Police, under the leadership of Police Commissioner Sri S.V. Rajasekhara Babu IPS, conducted a review meeting to discuss security arrangements for the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on May 2, 2025, for the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Amaravati capital reconstruction work. With the arrival of VVIPs, VIPs, and the public for the event, the meeting focused on ensuring peace, security, and smooth traffic flow throughout the city. Police Commissioner Sri S.V. Rajasekhara Babu led the discussions

on tightening security along routes leading to the program, in parking areas, and other key locations. The review also addressed the protection of dignitaries attending the ceremony, with clear instructions for police officers to carry out their duties vigilantly to prevent any untoward incidents. Coordination with relevant departments was emphasized to ensure no gaps in security arrangements. The meeting was attended by City Police Commissioner Sri S.V. Rajasekhara Babu IPS, DCPs Smt. K.G.V. Saritha IPS, Sri Tirumaleswara Reddy IPS, Sri A.B.T.S. Udayarani IPS, and other senior officers.

Development of APCO and Lepakshi with New Advertising Strategies

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Special Chief Secretary of the Handloom and Textiles Department R.P. Sisodia emphasized the importance of promotion for commercial institutions and stated that new advertising strategies are essential to improve sales. On Friday, Sisodia chaired a high-level review meeting with officials from the Handloom and Textiles Department, APCO, Lepakshi, and the Andhra Pradesh Khadi Rural Industries Council at the Mangalagiri Handloom and Textiles Commissionerate. During the meeting, Sisodia suggested that APCO and Lepakshi should open showrooms in tourist destinations to boost visibility and sales. He also recommended starting the sale of antique wood furniture under the Lepakshi brand as soon as possible. He highlighted the importance of encouraging local talent at the rural level and stressed the need to develop new designs, recognize talented artists, and award them for their contributions. Sisodia further emphasized exploring ways to add value to the

products to increase their appeal in the market. In the context of cultural heritage, Sisodia proposed that the new Lepakshi building to be constructed in Tirumala should reflect the state's mythological and cultural essence. He also discussed the need for APCO to recover bad debts from government departments and suggested setting up a special mechanism for the same. Additionally, he recommended appointing prestigious advertising agencies for promotional programs to strengthen the brand presence. Sisodia urged that steps be taken to ensure that all government departments purchase their requirements from APCO and suggested that government support may be necessary to facilitate this. In the meeting, Handloom and Textiles Commissioner G. Rekharani provided an update on the latest programs and the progress made by the department. M. Vishwa, MD of Lepakshi and APCO, explained the financial status and challenges faced by the two organizations, stressing the need for government support.

Vidadala Rajani Gets Relief in AP HC

Continued from page 1

The High Court directed the authorities to avoid taking hasty action and ordered them to issue 41-A notices for questioning both Rajani and her personal assistant, Ramakrishna. In its order, the court also advised Rajani not to make public comments regarding the ongoing investigation and instructed her to cooperate fully. The ACB is investigating allegations of illegal extortion involving the owner of Lakshmi Balaji Stone Crushers in Yedlapadu, Palnadu district, where Rajani is accused of threatening the owner for vigilance inspections and extorting Rs. 2.20 crore. Rajani is named as the first accused (A1) in the case, with her husband, Gopinath, listed as A3. The ACB filed the case in March of this year, detailing the extortion activities that allegedly took place in 2020. Along with Rajani, IPS officer Joshua (A2) and Rajani's PA, Dodda Ramakrishna (A4), have also been included as accused. The investigation has revealed that Rajani allegedly gave a share of Rs. 2 crore to her family members, including Rs. 10 lakh each to her sisters, Gopi and Joshua.



We Will Not Tolerate Attacks on Dalits and Minorities

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

YCP District President P. Ravindranath Reddy, along with various all-party leaders, issued a stern warning stating that they would not tolerate attacks on Dalits and minorities. They emphasized that if such attacks occur, they will mobilize beyond caste and religion to stand against the perpetrators. This statement was made during a round-table meeting organized by Dalit Forum founder Busipati Kishore in Kadapa city, where Dalit, Christian, minority, and religious leaders strongly condemned the recent attacks on their respective communities.

As the chief guest of the meeting, Ravindranath Reddy expressed his deep concern over the growing violence in the state in the name of caste and religion. He remarked that the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for India's independence would be disheartened to see such division today. He said many individuals are being oppressed and humiliated due to their caste or religion, and there is an urgent need to support these individuals. He emphasized that if attacks occur on churches, mosques, or any place of worship, people must stand together, regardless of caste, religion, or political affiliation. He further highlighted the importance of working collectively to prevent such attacks in the future. Ravindranath Reddy also praised the round-table meeting for uniting Dalits, Muslims, and Christians, calling it a positive development. He referred to a previous peace committee and stressed that it was time for everyone to unite and face these challenges together. He assured that the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) would raise its voice against attacks on Dalits, Christians, and minorities.

Dalit Forum founder Busipati Kishore, in his address, pointed out that attacks on Dalits had increased under the current government, particularly in the Pithapuram constituency represented by Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan. He recalled several incidents, including the brutal treatment of individuals in Kadapa district for sitting in front of upper-caste houses. Religious leaders who participated in the meeting also expressed their support for the initiative, agreeing that such a round-table meeting was a positive step in addressing the suffering of Dalits and Christians. The gathering included a large number of participants, including YCP minority leader Royal Babu, YCP SC cell chairman Venkatesh, Deputy Mayor Nithyananda Reddy, Corporator K. Babu, all-party leaders Narayana Reddy, CRV Prasad, Gurappa, women leaders Ratna Kumari, and municipal corporation co-option member Mariyamma.

Bridge, Land Rights, and Irrigation Scheme Demands Raised

- Nettem Sriraghuram meets CM Naidu at Velagapudi Secretariat.
- Requests high-level bridge construction on Jaggayyapet-Muktyala road.



TPN Correspondent | NTR District

NTR District TDP President and former Minister Nettem Sriraghuram held a special meeting with Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu at the Velagapudi Secretariat to discuss various political issues and development projects in the dis-

trict.

During the meeting, Sriraghuram brought up several key issues concerning the district, starting with the condition of the Paleti Bridge on the Jaggayyapet-Muktyala road, which was severely damaged due to last year's heavy rains. He requested the construction of a high-level bridge in its place to ensure smoother

transportation.

Sriraghuram also raised the issue of the Krishna River bridge between Muktyala and Madi padu, urging that it be connected to the Khammam National Highway, linking the towns of Jaggayyapet, Muktyala, and Sattenapalli. This connection would improve accessibility and facilitate easier travel within the region.

Another significant issue discussed was the plight of Inam landowners, who face challenges in selling or mortgaging their properties due to the uncertainty of ownership. Sriraghuram requested that permanent land rights be granted to these owners and the ban on their properties be lifted to ease their difficulties.

Finally, Sriraghuram emphasized the need for the Muktyala Lift Irrigation Scheme to be initiated, which has been a long-standing dream for the people of Jaggayyapet. He explained that this scheme would provide irrigation water to 38,627 acres of land in the Jaggayyapet, Vatsavai, and Penuganchiprol mandals, along with drinking water for 30 villages. He also acknowledged that the Jagan government had provided funds for the scheme and laid the foundation stone, bringing this progress to the CM's attention.

The discussions were centered on addressing the pressing concerns of the people in the region and ensuring that vital infrastructure projects are completed to improve the lives of the residents.



Chintamohan Condemns Terrorism and Calls for Social Justice

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Chintamohan, former Union Minister and senior Congress Party leader, condemned the recent terrorist attack and expressed deep sorrow over the death of Madhusudan Rao while in custody. Speaking on behalf of the Congress Party, he emphasized that terrorism is not a new phenomenon, having started over 40 years ago. He recalled a meeting in 1985 when terrorism became a focal point in India's national security discussions.

Chintamohan mentioned the 1971 Simla Agreement, signed between then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistan's Bhutto, which had established that any future issues should be resolved through peace talks. He highlighted that despite efforts toward peace, the ongoing threat of terrorism demands a strong response. However, he also called for long-term solutions to prevent further escalation.

Chintamohan also questioned the lack of representation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the mining sector, citing his visit to the mines department where officials confirmed that no SC individuals were employed. He expressed concerns about the unfair distribution of wealth, with a few people owning vast properties, and called for greater access to banking services for underrepresented communities. He appealed to the state government to introduce laws similar to those passed by the Karnataka Congress government to ensure fair access to government contracts for all communities.

He demanded that authorities address these atrocities and investigate the whereabouts of 70 missing individuals, expressing his frustration that such incidents were not being addressed adequately.

He also questioned why left-wing political leaders, whom he referred to as "communist brothers," were silent on these issues.

Chintamohan also brought attention to a significant corruption case, revealing that ₹500 crores were found in the house of a Delhi High Court judge. He questioned whose money it was and why no legal action had been taken despite the serious nature of the discovery. He raised concerns that the money found at Justice Verma's residence might be linked to a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

He noted that Prime Minister Modi, despite being in the presence of opposition leaders, did not acknowledge or greet them, which, according to Chintamohan, was indicative of the weakening of democracy in India.

Janasena Human Chain Protests Terror Attack

TPN Correspondent | Nujiveedu

A human chain was organized at Pedda Gandhi Bomma Center in Nujiveedu to protest the recent terror attack in Pahalgam. The event, organized by the Jana Sena Party of Nujiveedu constituency, saw the participation of several leaders and a large number of students and youth. Notable attendees included Maridu Sivaramakrishna, Joint Krishna District Jana Sena Party spokesperson; Yerramsetty Ramu, Nujiveedu Mandal Jana Sena Party President; Muthala Kamesh, Nujiveedu Government Area Hospital Development Committee member; Inturi Chanti, Nujiveedu Mandal Jana Sena Party Vice President;



Mummalaneni Sunil Kumar, Nujiveedu Urban Constituency Jana Sena social media leader; Sheikh Baji Regunta, Nujiveedu Jana Sena minority leader; Pastor Elisha; Veera Mahila Ramisetty Tejaswini, Chiranjeevi Youth Joint Krishna District

Executive Committee member; and Nujiveedu Constituency Veera Mahila Karumudi Chandra, among others. The human chain symbolized solidarity with the victims of the attack and condemned the violence.

CPM Leaders Criticized Raghurama Raju for Indecent Comments

TPN Correspondent | Bhimavaram

The recent comments made by Deputy Speaker and MLA Raghurama Krishnam Raju have sparked a strong backlash from CPM leaders, including State Secretary B. Balaram and District Secretary JNV Gopalan. At a press conference held on Friday at Bhimavaram's Sundarayya Bhavan, the CPM leaders condemned Raghurama's language, calling it undemocratic and indecent. Balaram stated that Raghurama's speech lacked dignity and was inappropriate for someone in such a high position. He emphasized that no true communist could be intimidated by insults and criticized the MLA for using vulgar and offensive language, including terms like "widow's son" and "crazy dog." He called on all intelligent people and political leaders to condemn such comments. Further, Balaram and Gopalan criticized Raghurama's political history, accusing him of changing parties for personal gains and betraying the people of his constituency. They questioned his performance as an MP, pointing out that he had abandoned his constitu-



ency during critical times like the COVID-19 pandemic and floods. Gopalan also addressed the pollution issue, refuting Raghurama's claims and highlighting the CPM's efforts to combat pollution in the district. He pointed to specific industrial sources of pollution and criticized the lack of action from the ruling government. Additionally, the CPM leaders called out the MLA for his failure to address the issues of the poor, particularly regarding infrastructure, drainage systems, and support for farmers. The CPM leaders concluded by stating that they would continue their fight for the welfare of the people, including opposing the destruction of homes and advocating for better support for Dalits and farmers.

Mahesh Leads Tribute to Victims of Pahalgam Terror Attack

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Condemning the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Venkata Mahesh led a team at the Nehru Bomma Center to pay tribute to the victims by lighting candles and offering prayers for peace for the souls lost in the tragedy. The program, organized to honor the victims, witnessed a gathering of several community leaders and citizens, who expressed solidarity with the affected families and called for national unity in the face of such attacks.

Addressing the gathering, Mahesh described the attack as a direct assault not just on tourists but on the very fabric of India, warning that it was an attempt to incite religious hatred. He urged every Indian to unite and condemn the attack, emphasizing the importance of national solidarity. Mahesh also stressed that Pakistan, along with other bordering countries like Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and China, continues to nurture terrorism, and India's response must be firm. He pointed out that the terrorists' ultimate aim is to foster division within India along religious and regional lines, something the nation must not allow.



He further criticized certain politicians who were attempting to exploit this tragic event for political gain by dividing people on religious lines, contrasting this with the unified stance shown by all political parties on the issue of national security. The tribute event was attended by Voice of Mala Mahanadu President Shyam, Advocate Gangadhar, Shahina, Pilla Pawan, Sukhasi Bhanu, and others, who all joined in paying respects to the victims and standing in solidarity against terrorism.

Kesineni Shivanath Challenges Jagan to Prove 99 Paise Land Allegation

MP highlights Rs. 7 lakh crore in investments. Shivanath assures NRIs of state support. Jagan and Co hindering industrial growth.

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivanath (Chinni) held a media conference on Friday, condemning the false allegations made by Pulivendula MLA Y.S. Jagan Reddy regarding the allotment of land for industrial purposes. Shivanath directly challenged Jagan Reddy to prove his claim that lands were given for just 99 paise, calling it a baseless accusation. Speaking at the NTR Bhavan in Vijayawada, Shivanath defended the state's efforts to attract

investments, stating that the Andhra Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, has secured investments worth Rs. 7 lakh crore in just nine months. He reassured NRIs and industrialists that the state government is committed to supporting them and creating a conducive environment for industry growth. Shivanath also criticized Jagan Reddy for his history of creating "suitcase companies" without proper infrastructure. He highlighted that Jagan's

administration failed to bring a single company to the state during his tenure, while the current government has made substantial progress in industrial development. He pointed to the successful investments and job creation, emphasizing that the state is on a path of growth with increased industrial activity. The MP particularly lambasted Jagan Reddy for accusing others while failing to fulfill his own promises regarding industry and development. He questioned Jagan's understanding

of the industrial process, noting that companies, even international ones, typically start with a small office before setting up full-scale operations, contrary to the criticism being leveled by Jagan and his associates. Shivanath also addressed Jagan's claim about a donation of Rs. 1 crore for the Vijayawada floods, pointing out that there was no transparency in how the donation was used. He described Jagan as someone who was obstructing the state's development and discouraging NRIs from investing.



Finally, Shivanath concluded by reiterating that anyone trying to cause trouble for investors in Andhra Pradesh would be met with resistance. He assured NRIs that the state government would stand by them and work towards creating job opportunities and advancing industrial growth.

Terrorist movements in Vijayawada

Four SIMI sympathizers identified in the city Search operations launched in Labbipet, Gollapudi and Ashok Nagar Police acting on prior intelligence warning

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, has been on high alert after intelligence reports indicated the possible movements of terrorists in the city. Police have identified four individuals with suspected links to the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and have launched extensive search operations to apprehend them. Central intelligence agencies had reportedly warned the local police about terrorist movements in the region over two months ago. Following these

alerts, Vijayawada police intensified security measures across the city. Search operations were carried out on Friday in key areas such as Gollapudi, Ashok Nagar, and Labbipet. The heightened security measures come in the wake of the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which prompted the central government to declare a state of alert nationwide. Authorities are now conducting intensive searches in various cities to track down any terrorist activities and sympathizers.



Vamsi, Raj Kasireddy, PSR in the Same Barracks

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, has become the focus of public attention as three high-profile individuals, accused in different significant cases, are being housed in the same barracks at Vijayawada district jail. Former Gannavaram MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi, who is on remand in connection with a kidnapping case, Raj Kasireddy, who faces charges in the liquor scam, and PSR Anjaneyu, arrested in a case related to a Mumbai actress, are all currently detained in different cells within the



same barrack. Vamsi has been in Vijayawada district jail for some time now in connection with the kidnapping case of TDP office staff. More recently, Raj Kasireddy and PSR Anjaneyu were remanded in separate cases and shifted to the jail.

Vijayawada District Jail has three barracks. Barrack Number One, which typically houses common inmates, has 11 rooms. Celebrities and individuals involved in special cases are usually placed in Barracks Number Two and Three. Despite this, Vamsi

was placed in a cell in Barrack Number One, while Raj Kasireddy and PSR Anjaneyu, who arrived later, have been assigned to different cells within the same barrack. To ensure the security of these high-profile detainees, jail authorities have implemented additional measures, including installing CCTV cameras in all three cells to monitor their movements closely. The fact that these three individuals, each arrested in distinct cases, are now in the same barrack has become a topic of significant discussion.

Car Accident in Jaggayyapet Injures Seven

TPN Correspondent | NTR District
A car accident occurred in Jaggayyapet, NTR district, on Friday morning, leaving seven people injured. The incident took place at Cheruvu Bazaar, where a speeding car rammed into laborers standing by the roadside. Locals rushed the injured to the Jaggayyapet Government Hospital for treatment. CCTV footage from the scene, which has gone

viral on social media, shows people talking near the roadside when they suddenly noticed the speeding car. Despite attempts to escape, the car struck them before running off the road. In the aftermath, some bystanders angrily assaulted the car driver while others helped the injured. The cause of the accident appears to be excessive speed, according to local witnesses.



N.T.R. District Police Strengthen Night Patrolling for Public Safety



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
The N.T.R. District Police have enhanced their night patrolling efforts to ensure the safety and security of citizens. As per the directions of Commissioner of Police Shri S.V. Rajasekhara Babu IPS, special police teams and vehicles have been deployed to increase vigilance against suspicious individuals and illegal activities. Night patrols have been intensified across the city, focusing on key

areas prone to anti-social behavior. Surveillance has been set up to monitor suspicious persons and to curb illegal trafficking. Police teams are conducting detailed vehicle inspections, checking lodges, hotels, and deserted locations, and performing thorough searches. On the night of April 24-25, 2025, police officers, along with station house officers (SHOs), carried out extensive checks at important locations within the district. Every-

one roaming at night was stopped for questioning, and suspects were thoroughly checked using IRIS vehicles. Suspicious vehicles were also inspected. The initiative aims to enhance the public's sense of security and create a peaceful environment. Special focus is being placed on monitoring unregistered vehicles, illegal alcohol trafficking, marijuana, and other intoxicants through intensive vehicle checks at key locations.

Gudivada MLA Ensures Drinking Water Supply Amid Summer

TPN Correspondent | Gudivada
Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu assured that steps are being taken to prevent a drinking water shortage in the town this summer. On Friday, he inspected the head water works along with local authorities, focusing on the process of filling both new and old summer storage tanks. The MLA instructed officials to install additional motors and expedite the filling of SS tanks to meet the town's water needs. During his visit, MLA Ramu held a meeting with municipal officials to discuss urban development, sanitation, and other public issues. He emphasized improving sanitation and ensuring a clean water supply for the residents. Speaking to the media, MLA Ramu highlighted the efforts being made to ensure an uninterrupted water supply for the next three months. He pointed out that with the availability of a new SS tank, the old tank was brought back into service to address any shortages. His goal is to provide drinking water to Gudivada residents without relying on tankers in the near future.

The MLA also outlined plans for road development in the town and expressed hopes of securing funds from both the state and central governments. He reassured the public that good news on the development front would be forthcoming. MLA Venigandla Ramu emphasized that long-standing issues are being resolved one by one, with a focus on creating a cleaner and more developed Gudivada, with the cooperation of the people. Municipal Commissioner Simhadri Manohar, Assistant Commissioner P. Srinivasa Rao, ACP V. Yesubabu, and other officials participated in these programs.



Unauthorized Foreign Liquor Stockpile in Vijayawada – One Arrested

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
In a crackdown on unauthorized liquor trade, Enforcement Superintendent C. Madhu Babu of Multi Zone-II, Mangalagiri, along with the SHO of Vijayawada West Excise Station, conducted a raid based on reliable information. The team uncovered a significant stockpile of Scotch liquor and foreign brands in a house located in Sri Krishna Residency, Thotavari Street, Nunna Road. A total of 123 liquor bottles, ranging from 30 milliliters to 2 liters, were seized during the operation. The seized bottles were found to have been imported from multiple states including Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, as well as countries like Malaysia and Singapore.



The liquor was stored in the residence under the jurisdiction of Vijayawada West Excise Station. A woman was arrested during the raid, and she confessed to purchasing the liquor from various places for resale. According to her statement, she worked as an event manager for weddings and private functions, supplying liquor to elite clientele in Vijayawada. The operation was conducted under the orders of Mukesh Kumar Meena, Principal Secretary, Excise, GAD (Politics), with supervision from Excise Commissioner Nishant Kumar and Enforcement Director Rahul Dev Sharma. The case is being handled by the SHO of Vijayawada West Excise Station with further investigations underway.



Mega Job Fair Organized by MLA Koneti Adimulam



C Shekar | TPN Tirupati

Satyavedu MLA Koneti Adimulam organized a mega job fair on Friday at Sri C Das Arts & Science College in Satyavedu, under the auspices of the Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation. The event aimed to provide employment opportunities to the unemployed youth of the Satyavedu constituency.

More than 800 job openings were offered through Sri City and 16 multinational companies based in Chennai, catering to educated youth seeking employment. During the event, MLA

Koneti Adimulam highlighted the significance of the job fair in offering opportunities to the unemployed who are struggling despite their education.

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh expressed their support for the initiative, emphasizing that the state government is committed to organizing such job fairs to help the educated unemployed and provide them with security and morale. This initiative reflects the government's dedication to enhancing the employment prospects of youth in the region.

Scooty Used in TDP Leader Murder Found in Ongole

Police identify scooty used in Veeraiah Chowdhury's murder. Blood-stained scooty found near Chimakurti. Investigation boosted by new evidence.

TPN Correspondent | Ongole

The police have identified the scooty used by the accused in the brutal murder of TDP leader Veeraiah Chowdhury, which has shocked the town of Ongole in Prakasam district. After fatally stabbing Veeraiah Chowdhury with knives at his office, the accused fled the scene on a motorcycle and a scooty. The scooty, which was left abandoned in a wooded area on the outskirts of Chimakurti, has now become a key piece of evidence in the case.



On the evening of April 22, around 7:30 PM, Veeraiah Chowdhury was viciously attacked by four assailants at his office in Ongole. The assailants stabbed him indiscriminately with knives, leaving him to die at the scene. Following the attack, the accused fled on two vehicles, and the police formed 12 teams to search for them. In a significant breakthrough, the police discovered the abandoned scooty on the outskirts of Chimakurti.

Upon closer examination, it was found that the knives used in the murder had been transported in a bag on the scooty. The back of the white scooty was stained

with blood, suggesting the violent nature of the crime. Police investigators are now focusing their efforts on this new clue as they continue to probe the case. Despite three days having passed since the brutal murder, the police have made little progress in identifying and apprehending the suspects. However, the recent seizure of the scooty has given a boost to the investigation, with authorities hopeful that this new evidence will lead them to the perpetrators.

Pakistani Nationals in Eluru Must Leave by April 27



TPN Correspondent | Eluru

Eluru District Collector K. Vetrivelu has announced that all Pakistani nationals in the district must leave India by the deadline set by the Central Government. In a statement issued on Friday, Vetrivelu confirmed that all valid visas issued to Pakistani citizens will be cancelled starting April 27. The Collector further clarified

that medical visas granted to Pakistani nationals will remain valid only until April 29. As per the orders from the Union Home Ministry, the state government's Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand has informed district collectors and SPs about the decision. Vetrivelu emphasized that any Pakistani citizens in India must depart before their visas expire.

Aparna Enterprises donates ₹1 crore to Srivari Annaprasadam

TTD Chairman BR Naidu appreciates the generous gesture

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

The SV Annaprasadam Trust, run by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), received a significant donation of ₹1 crore from Hyderabad-based Aparna Enterprises, known for its brand, Vetro Tiles. The donation aims to support the massive daily Annaprasadam (free meal) program for pilgrims visiting Tirumala. Company representatives met TTD Chairman B R Naidu at his camp office and formally handed over the cheque. They

expressed that the donation is their humble contribution to the noble cause of feeding thousands of devotees who visit Tirumala for Srivari darshan.

TTD Chairman BR Naidu, who accepted the cheque, commended Aparna Enterprises for their generosity. He conveyed his blessings and best wishes to the donor's family and lauded the act of supporting such a meaningful initiative. "Donating to an important



program like Anna Prasadam is truly commendable," the Chairman remarked, adding

that contributions like these help sustain the spiritual and service mission of TTD.

Everyone Should Condemn Terrorist Acts

- Janasena City President Sujay Babu



TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Janasena Nellore City President Duggishetti Sujay Babu emphasized that everyone should strongly condemn the acts of terrorism targeting peaceful nations like India. On Friday, a human chain was formed at the Gandhi Bomma Center in the city, led by Jana Sena chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, to condemn the recent terrorist attack and pay tribute to the victims.

Sujay Babu said that the entire nation condemned the brutal terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, where tourists were ruthlessly killed by terrorists who inquired about their religion. He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's actions, including measures to ban the transfer of Indus water to Pakistan, as commendable steps in the fight against terrorism.

He added that the international community is watching India's resolve in combating terrorist organizations and expressed solidarity with the victims' families. He mentioned the tragic loss of a person from Visakhapatnam and another from Kavali in the attack, further highlighting the importance of unity in the face of such threats.

Sujay Babu condemned the attack as a heinous act, stating that India, a symbol of peace, should never support such terrorism. He paid his respects to all those who lost their lives in the incident.

The program also saw the participation of Regional Coordinator Kola Vijayalakshmi, District Secretary Sheikh Alia, City Chief Secretaries Shanivarapu Ajay Babu, Sheikh Kantar, Sai Mohan Nagar, and several other leaders, activists, and brave women of Jana Sena.

8 Smugglers Arrested in Veeraballi Forest Area

12 Red Sandalwood Logs Seized

TPN Correspondent | Annamayi

In a major operation, Task Force police arrested eight red sandalwood smugglers in the Veeraballi forest area of Annamayi district on Friday. The authorities also seized 12 red sandalwood logs and one motorcycle from the smugglers.

The operation was carried out under the orders of the Red Sandalwood Anti-Smuggling Task Force (RSASTF) Head, Sri L. Subbarayudu. The team, led by Task Force SP Sri P Srinivas and guided by DSP Sri G. Balireddy, initiated a combing operation in the Veeraballi forest area on Thursday. The local team, including RSI Viswanath and RI Sai Giridhar, along with FBO Anil Kumar, participated in the search.

On Friday morning, the police spotted individuals at a quarry point with a motorcycle. Upon noticing the police presence, the suspects attempted to flee. However, the alert task force police quickly surrounded the suspects and apprehended them. A subsequent search led to the discovery of the 12 red sandalwood logs nearby.

The arrested individuals, who were identified as being from Tamil Nadu, were taken to the Tirupati Task Force Police Station for further questioning. DSPs Sri Srinivasulu Reddy and Sri Sharif are conducting the investigation. SI Rafi has registered a case related to the smuggling incident.



Pakistan Will Pay Heavy Price For its Terror Activities

Dr. Satish Reddy praises India's progress in countering terrorism

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Former DRDO Chief and current Andhra Pradesh Special Advisor Dr. G. Satish Reddy condemned the recent terrorist attacks targeting tourists in Kashmir, calling them a deliberate attempt to disrupt the peace in the region. He visited the family of Madhusudhan Naidu, a resident of Kavali in Nellore district, who tragically lost his life in the attack. Expressing heartfelt condolences, Dr. Satish Reddy, along with Kavali MLA Kavaya Krishna Reddy, paid their respects to Madhusudhan Naidu's family. Dr. Reddy consoled the grieving family, offering assurance that both the central and state governments would



provide support to them in their time of sorrow. He further assured the family that they would receive all necessary assistance for their loss due to an act of terrorism.

Speaking to the media, Dr. Satish Reddy highlighted that due to advancements in modern technology and increased vigilance from border secu-

rity forces, infiltration along India's borders has significantly decreased over the last ten years. He stressed that the Indian defense forces are well-equipped to handle and counter any attacks from Pakistan, which he described as a breeding ground for terrorism.

Dr. Satish Reddy condemned

the inhuman attack on unarmed tourists and remarked that severe actions would be taken against those responsible. Responding to questions from journalists, he stated that the investigation would determine whether the attack was carried out by Pakistani terrorists or local militants inspired by Pakistan, with the government ready to take strong measures.

Kavali MLA Kavaya Krishna Reddy, along with BJD district leaders Surendra Reddy, Vamsi Reddy, and others, participated in the program, showing solidarity with the victim's family.

Ursa Clusters Promoter Harish Koya Denies YCP Allegations

TPN Correspondent | USA

Ursa Clusters Promoter Harish Koya has strongly rejected the allegations leveled by YCP and Sakshi Patrika against Ursa Clusters in recent days. Speaking on the matter, Harish Koya released a video statement addressing the concerns. Harish Koya, with 28 years of experience in various fields including IT, supply chain, and infrastructure management, revealed his net worth to be over \$100 million. He emphasized that his decision to venture into the AI field and establish an AI data center in Visakhapatnam is

motivated by his love for his homeland and a desire to create job opportunities for local youth. He elaborated that Ursa Clusters has assembled a highly skilled team in the IT sector and that six NRIs, inspired by the government's policies aimed at job creation, decided to invest in setting up the AI data center.

Koya further highlighted that the government has been highly supportive of the initiative, recognizing the organization's positive track record. Despite facing some unexpected opposition, Koya reiterated that Ursa Clusters is commit-

ted to setting up a 100-megawatt capacity AI data center in Visakhapatnam within the next two years.

He assured that any attempts to hinder the project would not deter their efforts, and the project will be completed on time, providing employment opportunities for the youth in the region. Harish Koya strongly condemned the false allegations against Ursa and expressed his determination to move forward with the project, which he believes will significantly benefit the local community.

Pahalgam Attack: Pakistan’s Desperation and the Vance Factor in Shifting US-India Ties



The recent terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of 26 innocent civilians, occurred during US Vice President J.D. Vance’s visit to India — a coincidence too pointed to ignore. While the visit was largely private, its broader implications reinforce the deepening strategic partnership between India and the United States. Vance’s interactions in India, both public and private, emphasized how this evolving relationship is driven by top-down diplomacy and grass-

roots engagement alike.

At the same time, the timing of the Pahalgam attack signals Pakistan’s desperation to remain relevant in the global narrative, especially with respect to Kashmir. The assault was likely a message to Washington that Kashmir is still a contentious issue, even as the world, including the US, moves on. Since India’s abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, Pakistan’s protests have been largely ignored. The Biden ad-

ministration, like its predecessors, focused on strengthening US-India ties in response to the changing global power structure and Pakistan’s increasing alignment with China.

The Trump administration, now in its second term, is continuing to reduce America’s global footprint, prioritizing domestic investments and strategic partnerships, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. Trump’s past suggestion to mediate the Kashmir dispute

was swiftly rejected by New Delhi, and since then, Pakistan has mostly disappeared from the US-India conversation.

In February 2025, a joint statement during Prime Minister Modi’s visit to Washington urged Pakistan to take “decisive action” against terror groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad and to bring the 26/11 and Pathankot attackers to justice. Pakistan’s response — dismissing the statement as “misleading and one-sided” — only highlighted its diplomatic isolation.

Pakistan today finds itself adrift — plagued by economic collapse, domestic unrest, and waning international support. Even China is scaling back its investments. With fewer cards to play, Pakistan appears to be reverting to old tactics: using terror as a tool to force global attention.

But this time, the world, and particularly the US, is less receptive. As Vance noted, a strong India-US partnership could define the 21st century. Pakistan’s continued miscalculations may only deepen its global irrelevance.

China's Real Problem Is At Home

China's Multifaceted Response to U.S. Tariffs: Strategic Retaliation or Risky Gamble?



In response to the United States’ escalating tariff measures under former President Trump, China has launched a series of calculated retaliatory moves, aiming to assert pressure across multiple fronts. The Chinese National Film Administration’s decision to “moderately reduce” American film imports is just one of the more symbolic steps, part of a broader strategy to counter the April 2 tariff hikes.

China’s retaliation unfolds across four key dimensions: tariff escalation, export restrictions, pressure on American companies, and international diplomacy. Initially, China responded with targeted tariff increases on U.S. agricultural and energy imports. Following Trump’s April tariffs, China raised its own tariffs on American goods, reaching up to 125%—while still keeping them marginally below U.S. levels, signalling a willingness to negotiate.

However, given that U.S. exports to China are significantly less than Chinese exports to the U.S., similar tariff levels have a disproportionate impact on Chinese producers. Recognising this, China diversified its response beyond trade.

One major move was tightening export controls on rare-earth metals like gallium and germanium, crucial for electronics and defense. While these materials are essential, they’re used in small quantities, and the U.S. has stockpiles to cushion short-term disruptions. Long-term, China’s weaponisation of rare-earths may incentivise global supply diversification, eroding its dominance.

A more impactful tactic has been targeting U.S. companies operating in China. Firms were blacklisted, export restrictions were imposed, and investigations launched—hitting sectors from aerospace to agriculture. While these measures hurt U.S. interests, they also risk undermining China’s appeal to foreign investors, accelerating the “China+1” diversification trend.

Internationally, China has positioned itself as a defender of free trade and WTO norms, engaging with countries like the EU and ASEAN members. Yet, global support has been limited, with many wary of China’s own trade practices.

Ultimately, while China’s multi-pronged strategy demonstrates flexibility, it also reveals economic vulnerabilities—especially its weak domestic consumption. With the U.S. having greater economic endurance, China’s ability to sustain this confrontation is uncertain. Unless Beijing pivots to boost domestic demand, these trade tensions are likely to persist, regardless of political changes in Washington.

Global Pandemic Treaty Marks a Turning Point in International Health Cooperation

After nearly four years of negotiations, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) in Geneva has finalized a global pandemic treaty that is poised for adoption by the World Health Assembly. This landmark agreement aims to bolster the world’s ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to future pandemics. The treaty is being hailed as a historic milestone in global health governance, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis that exposed deep flaws in international health systems and cooperation.

Although the United States withdrew from the negotiations on the day President Trump took office—thereby weakening the overall power of the agreement—all other World Health Organization



(WHO) member states are expected to sign the treaty. Despite the absence of the U.S., the rest of the global community considers the treaty a significant achievement, shaped by hard-earned lessons from the pandemic.

The push for a pandemic treaty began during the height of

COVID-19 and led to the establishment of the INB in December 2021. Negotiations were marked by intense debates, particularly around the sharing of scientific data and the equitable distribution of medical resources. Developed nations advocated for immediate access to critical scientific information, while countries in the Global South insisted that such access be tied to fair and timely distribution of vaccines, diagnostics, and medicines. This demand stemmed from their experiences during the pandemic, where they often found themselves at the back of the line for essential supplies.

The final draft of the treaty reflects compromises from both sides. It includes a “pathogen access and benefit-sharing”

system, allowing pharmaceutical companies access to genomic sequences and pathogen samples in exchange for a commitment to allocate at least 20% of vaccines, drugs, and diagnostics to the WHO during pandemics. It also stresses the rapid and timely sharing of scientific data and improved protection for healthcare workers.

The treaty adopts a holistic approach to global health, emphasizing stronger national health systems, coordinated funding mechanisms, and enhanced global supply chains. It also calls for steps to minimize the risk of diseases transferring from animals to humans. With this agreement, the world takes a critical step toward preventing future global health emergencies.

Scrolling Through the Past: Hyderabad, history and the problem with fame seeking Insta reels

We’ve all been there—doom-scrolling endlessly on Instagram, often without realizing how our feeds are being shaped by what we like and watch. If you’re like me—a history nerd with a soft spot for both obscure facts and crassly funny Hyderabad reels—your algorithm probably reflects that wild mix. But every now and then, a reel pops up that makes you pause—not because it’s brilliant, but because it’s loud, superficial, or worse, misinformed.

One of the first “historical” reels I came across was about Abids, a well-known area in Hyderabad. It claimed the locality was named after the Jewish valet of the sixth Nizam, Mahbub Ali Pasha. While not entirely off-mark, the way it was presented missed the richness of the narrative. The bigger issue here is how some content creators, often driven by likes and views, reduce complex histories to quick, flashy sound bites, sometimes at the cost of accuracy.

I usually don’t care about what people post. Everyone has the right to create. But when it comes to history—especially the histo-

ry of Hyderabad—we have a responsibility to get it right. History isn’t just about facts; it’s about context. And if you’re going to present it with a point of view, that’s fine—just make sure it’s informed.

Take, for instance, the never-ending debate around the legend of Bhagmati, said to be the lover of the Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, Hyderabad’s founder. Countless reels have been made on this, and yet, the truth remains elusive. Some argue she existed, others say she didn’t. But honestly, does it change the essence of Hyderabad?

What matters more is the cultural synthesis the city represents. The Qutb Shahi rulers embraced Telugu culture and built a shared legacy with the Hindu population. That’s what we should highlight.

I’d love to see more young creators dive into history with care—dig deeper, verify facts, and craft content that informs, not misleads. Hyderabad’s layered past deserves better than surface-level storytelling. And trust me, doing that extra bit of research? It’s worth it.





India to Block Indus Water Flow

In a bold declaration amid rising tensions with Pakistan, Union Jal Shakti Minister C. R. Paatil on Friday said India is determined to stop the flow of Indus River water into Pakistan. The announcement came after a high-level strategy meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi.

Speaking to reporters, Paatil stated, “We are working on a strategy to ensure that not a single drop of water flows from India into Pakistan. This is a strong and clear message that India will not tolerate terrorism in any form.”

The meeting, convened to follow up on directives issued by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, focused on India’s response to the recent Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, mostly tourists. Paatil emphasized that the government is taking the issue seriously and intends to act decisively.

Home Minister Shah reportedly made several key suggestions during the meeting to ensure swift and effective implementation of the Prime Minister’s instructions, particularly in sectors related to national security and water management. The move to block Indus River waters marks a significant escalation in India’s stance, as it directly challenges the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960, which governs water sharing between the two nations. The treaty, brokered by the World Bank, has survived several conflicts, but recent events have led India to reconsider its commitments.

On Thursday, India had already announced the revocation of all visas issued to Pakistani nationals and urged Indian citizens living in Pakistan to return. These actions reflect a comprehensive diplomatic and strategic pushback following the attack claimed by The Resistance Front, a proxy group linked to the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror outfit.

India’s plan to stop the flow of water into Pakistan is expected to involve diversion projects and dam infrastructure already under construction in Jammu and Kashmir. Experts believe this could drastically alter regional dynamics and further strain Indo-Pak relations.

While Pakistan has labeled such actions as an “act of war,” India maintains its stance is rooted in national security concerns and a firm resolve to combat terrorism.

Rahul Gandhi Urges Unity After Attack

Congress MP and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, expressed deep sorrow over the recent terror attack in Jammu & Kashmir’s Pahalgam, calling it a deliberate attempt to divide the nation. Speaking to reporters on Friday during his visit to the Indian Army hospital in Srinagar, where the injured were being treated, Gandhi urged citizens across the country to stay united in the face of terrorism.

“It’s been a terrible tragedy. I came here to understand what’s happening and to offer help. The people of Jammu & Kashmir have unequivocally condemned this horrific act and are standing in solidarity with the nation,” Gandhi said. He also extended his condolences to the families who lost their loved ones and praised the resilience of the survivors he met. Gandhi emphasized the need for collective resolve against terror,



noting that the attack aimed to incite division and fear. “The terrorists want to divide us. It’s crucial that every Indian stands together to defeat what they’re trying to do,” the Rae Bareilly MP stated.

However, Gandhi voiced concern over reports of harassment

and threats faced by Kashmiri students and citizens across India in the aftermath of the attack. “It is heartbreaking to see some people targeting my brothers and sisters from Kashmir. We must not let hate dictate our actions. Unity is our greatest strength,” he added.

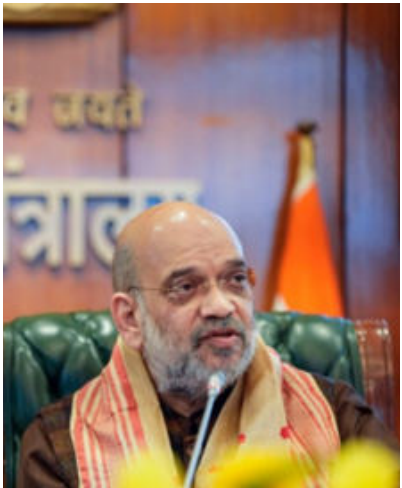
The Congress leader met Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who briefed him on the situation. Gandhi assured them of full support from both himself and his party.

The terror attack, which occurred on Tuesday in Baisaran, often referred to as ‘mini Switzerland,’ claimed the lives of 26 tourists, including one Nepali national. The Resistance Front, a proxy of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba, claimed responsibility.

In response, India downgraded diplomatic ties with Pakistan, suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, and revoked visas for Pakistani nationals. Pakistan, in retaliation, closed its airspace to Indian aircraft and warned that any diversion of water under the treaty would be considered an “act of war.”

Amit Shah Orders Deportation of Pakistanis

In a significant development following the deadly Pahalgam terror attack, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday instructed all state chief ministers to identify and deport Pakistani nationals residing in India beyond the designated deadline.



Nepali tourist. The Home Ministry also advised Indian citizens currently in Pakistan to return home at the earliest in light of the rapidly escalating tensions between the two nations.

“The Home Minister has made it

clear that no Pakistani national should remain in the country beyond April 27,” a senior official said. “State governments are being instructed to identify Pakistani nationals residing within their jurisdictions and initiate necessary steps for their deportation.”

The Home Ministry’s directive comes amid heightened national security concerns and diplomatic fallout with Islamabad. The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy group of the banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), has claimed responsibility for the gruesome Pahalgam attack, which has since drawn nationwide condemnation.

matic ties with Pakistan, suspending the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960, and revoking visas of all Pakistani nationals currently in India. The Ministry of Home Affairs is reportedly working with state intelligence units and immigration departments to compile data on all Pakistani citizens residing in the country—legally or otherwise. Security agencies have been placed on high alert to ensure full compliance with the deportation deadline. As tensions continue to rise, the government’s message is clear: any Pakistani citizen who remains in India past the April 27 cutoff will be subject to deportation proceedings in coordination with law enforcement and immigration authorities.



President Murmu to Attend Pope’s Funeral

President Droupadi Murmu, accompanied by Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, departed for Vatican City on Friday to attend the state funeral of His Holiness Pope Francis. Representing the Government and people of India, the delegation aims to offer condolences and pay respects to the late Pope during the two-day official visit.

Alongside President Murmu and Mr. Rijiju, the Indian delegation includes Minister of State George Kurian and Goa’s Deputy Speaker Joshua Peter De Souza. Announcing the visit on social media platform X, Rijiju wrote, “Leaving for Rome (Vatican City) with Hon’ble President Smt Droupadi Murmu Ji to attend the State Funeral of His Holiness Pope Francis and offer condolences on behalf of the Govt and people of India.”

Pope Francis, the first Latin American head of the Roman Catholic Church, passed away on April 21 at the age of 88. He died at his residence in the Vatican’s Casa Santa Marta. Ascending to the papacy on March 13, 2013, Pope Francis was widely admired for his humility, compassion,

and reformist vision. His tenure followed the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, President Murmu will lay a wreath in tribute at the Basilica of Saint Peter on April 25. The following day, she will join global dignitaries at the funeral Mass in Saint Peter’s Square, where world leaders will bid farewell to one of the most influential spiritual figures of the 21st century.

In a statement, the MEA highlighted Pope Francis’s global legacy: “His Holiness Pope Francis will be remembered as a beacon of compassion, humility, and spiritual courage by millions across the world.”

In honour of his passing, India has declared a day of state mourning on April 26. The national flag will be flown at half-mast across all buildings where it is regularly hoisted, and there will be no official entertainment that day. The Ministry of Home Affairs had previously declared a three-day mourning period on April 22, 23, and 26.

BJP’s Raja Iqbal Becomes Delhi Mayor

In a significant political win, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) regained control of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Friday as Raja Iqbal Singh was elected the new mayor. The victory comes two years after the party lost the coveted civic body post.

Singh defeated Congress candidate Mandeep Singh in a direct contest, with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) notably boycotting the election. The absence of AAP, which holds considerable strength in the MCD, cleared the path for a smooth BJP victory.

Raja Iqbal Singh, a seasoned politician, previously served as Mayor of North Delhi Municipal Corporation and was also the Leader of the Opposition in the unified MCD. After his win, he was seen flashing the victory sign alongside fellow BJP councillors at the Civic Center in New Delhi.

The BJP’s return to the mayoral post was marked by loud celebrations, with party members raising slogans like “Bharat Mata Ki Jai” following the election result.

The Congress, which has seen a sharp decline in its municipal strength over the years, could not pose a significant challenge despite con-

testing the election. The AAP’s decision to boycott the polls stemmed from internal dissent and procedural disagreements, according to party sources.

With Singh taking the helm, the BJP hopes to streamline municipal governance and regain ground lost in Delhi’s recent civic and assembly elections. The party leadership has emphasized cleanliness, infrastructure improvement, and corruption-free governance as key focus areas under Singh’s mayoralship.

This win also carries symbolic weight for the BJP, signaling its resilience in Delhi’s shifting political landscape. The mayoral post not only influences civic administration in the capital but also serves as a key indicator of grassroots political trends.

Meanwhile, AAP has criticized the electoral process and termed the boycott a protest against “undemocratic” practices, although it hasn’t ruled out participating in future municipal proceedings.

Raja Iqbal Singh is expected to assume office immediately and begin consultations on key issues affecting the capital’s urban management.





'Doing Dirty Work For US, West.': Pak Minister Admits Funding Terrorism

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a startling revelation, Pakistan’s Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif admitted that Islamabad had done the “dirty work” for the United States and Western powers, including the UK, over the past three decades. The comment came during an interview with Sky News, where he was directly questioned about Pakistan’s history of supporting and funding terror groups.

When asked if Pakistan had a long-standing role in backing terrorist organizations, Asif responded, “We have been doing this dirty work for the US for the past three decades, including the West and the United Kingdom.” He quickly added that it was a “mistake” and one that Pakistan “suffered” from. Asif noted that if Pakistan had not supported the West during the Soviet-Afghan War and the post-9/11 US-led war against the Taliban, the country’s track record would have been “unimpeachable.”

His comments come in the wake of the horrific terror attack in Pahalgam’s Baisaran Valley, where 26 innocent civilians were killed. The massacre has once again brought international attention to Pakistan’s role in harbouring and supporting terror outfits operating in the region.

Pakistan’s involvement in the Soviet-Afghan war of the 1980s saw the country becoming a key player for the West, particularly the United States, due to its strategic location and porous border with Afghanistan. Pakistan provided training and shelter to armed militants fighting Soviet forces. This eventually led to the rise of the Taliban and other extremist factions. After 9/11, Pakistan again played a pivotal role, supporting the U.S.-led invasion to topple the Taliban regime that had sheltered al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

Now, Pakistan is once again under scrutiny for its alleged links to the recent Pahalgam terror attack. The Resistance Front (TRF), believed to be an offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) led by 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed, has claimed responsibility. According to Indian intelligence sources, the attack was orchestrated by a group of foreign and local terrorists, with logistical support from overground workers.

The same group is suspected to be behind earlier attacks in Sonamarg, Boota Pathri, and Ganderbal, revealing an alarming trend of rising cross-border terrorism.

Donald Trump Signs Order To Expand US Deep-Sea Mining For Rare Earth Minerals

- The move could generate \$300 billion and 100,000 jobs over a decade.
- The policy aims to reduce reliance on China and form mineral alliances with U.S. partners.
- Experts warn of irreversible harm to deep-sea ecosystems.

TPN Correspondent | Washington

President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Thursday aimed at accelerating U.S. efforts in deep-sea mining for rare earth minerals in both domestic and international waters. The move is designed to bolster America’s access to critical minerals used in defense, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing, but it has drawn sharp criticism from environmental groups and international regulators.

According to White House officials, the policy could unlock more than a billion metric tons of mineral-rich deep-sea nodules, potentially injecting \$300 billion into the U.S. economy over the next decade and creating up to 100,000 jobs. These nodules, found at depths of 13,000 to 20,000 feet, contain valuable elements such as manganese, cobalt, nickel, copper,



and iron — key to the production of batteries and renewable energy technologies.

The executive order directs the Secretary of Commerce to expedite the approval process for exploration and commercial recovery licenses in areas beyond national jurisdiction within 60 days. It also emphasizes forming strategic partnerships with allies to counter China’s dominant role in seabed mineral ex-

traction.

Despite its economic ambitions, the order has sparked alarm among conservationists and scientists. Emily Jeffers, a senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity, called the decision “an environmental disaster in the making,” warning that mining one of Earth’s least understood ecosystems could lead to irreversible ecological damage. Currently, deep-sea mining

is regulated by the International Seabed Authority (ISA), a UN-affiliated body responsible for creating a global framework for mineral extraction on the ocean floor. However, the U.S. is not a signatory to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and does not participate in the ISA.

Some U.S. companies, like Impossible Metals, are already moving forward with plans to mine within U.S. territories such as the waters around American Samoa — effectively bypassing ISA jurisdiction. Meanwhile, Canadian firm The Metals Company recently surprised observers by stepping back from pushing ISA regulations and instead seeking approval through U.S. channels.

As the global race for critical minerals heats up, Trump’s move signals a bold shift in U.S. resource strategy — but one that could come at a high environmental cost.

Apple Eyes Full iPhone Assembly Shift to India Amid Growing Trade Tensions

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Apple is reportedly planning to relocate the entire assembly of iPhones destined for the U.S. market to India as early as next year, marking a major shift in the tech giant’s global manufacturing strategy. The move comes as Apple continues to diversify its supply chain and reduce its long-standing dependence on China, according to a report by the Financial Times.

The decision, however, hinges on two key factors: India’s ability to quickly scale up its supply chain infrastructure and the



evolving nature of trade talks between the U.S. and China. Ongoing pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump to decouple from China, due to persistent trade tensions, has accelerated Apple’s plans to explore alternative manufacturing bases.

In anticipation of this shift, Apple’s contract manufacturers in India have already begun ramp-

ing up production. Foxconn’s facility in Bengaluru is set to become operational this month and, at full capacity, could produce up to 20 million iPhones annually. Tamil Nadu-based Foxconn currently contributes close to 50% of Apple’s overseas shipments from India.

Over the past year, iPhone production in India has reached record levels, with devices worth \$22 billion assembled locally. Exports from Foxconn’s Indian plant have surged more than 40% compared to the previous financial year, underscoring the growing significance of India in Apple’s global supply chain.

India now accounts for nearly 20% of Apple’s total iPhone output worldwide, reflecting a sharp rise in both manufacturing activity and local market performance. In the first quarter of 2025 alone, over 3 million iPhones were shipped within India—a record figure that signals the brand’s growing footprint in the country.

This growth has been fueled by consumer-friendly financing options such as no-cost EMIs, cashback offers, and online discounts, making premium Apple devices more accessible to Indian buyers.

China Mulls Tariff Exemptions on U.S. Goods Amid Trade War Pressures

In a significant shift, China is considering exempting select U.S. imports from its steep 125% retaliatory tariffs, signaling growing anxiety in Beijing over the economic strain of its trade conflict with Washington. This move marks one of the clearest signs yet that Chinese leadership is feeling the domestic fallout of the ongoing trade war.

According to sources, China’s Ministry of Commerce has formed a task force to compile a list of goods that may be eligible for tariff relief. Businesses have been asked to submit their own recommendations for exemptions. Financial publication Caijing reported that eight semiconductor-related items are under review for potential exemption—though not memory chips.

A list of 131 product categories, including vaccines, chemicals, and jet engines, has been circulating on Chinese social media and among business and trade groups. While Reuters was unable to independently verify the list, the development underscores the pressure on Chinese authorities to ease trade tensions. Both China’s customs department and the Ministry of Commerce have not responded to requests for comment.

The move toward exemptions reflects Beijing’s acknowledgment of the economic turbulence resulting from tit-for-tat tariffs between the world’s two largest economies. The policy shift comes as China’s economy grapples with tepid consumer demand, weak spending, and growing deflationary risks in the wake of the pandemic.

Although Beijing has maintained a tough



stance, insisting it is prepared to fight to the end unless U.S. tariffs are lifted, the reality on the ground tells a different story. The government has urged affected exporters to redirect efforts toward domestic markets, but companies report weaker demand, reduced profitability, and unreliable customers at home.

China’s willingness to carve out tariff exemptions mirrors a similar approach taken by Washington, which has already allowed some electronic imports to bypass tariffs. While these exemptions offer short-term relief to Chinese businesses, they also indirectly benefit the U.S. economy and ease pressure on the Biden administration.

Ultimately, the proposed tariff exemptions represent a dual strategy: alleviating domestic economic stress while cautiously keeping the door open for potential de-escalation in the U.S.-China trade war.

"With You As You Hunt Down...": US Spy Chief To PM Modi On Kashmir Attack

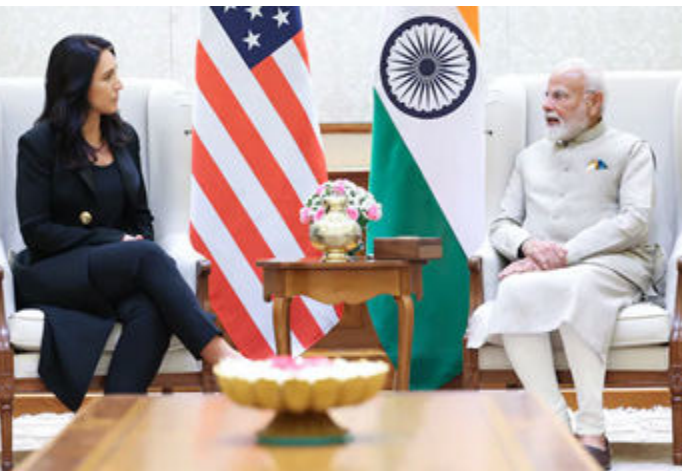
TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

In the aftermath of the brutal terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, that claimed 26 innocent lives, including a foreign national, global condemnation has poured in, with strong support for India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The attack, carried out by terrorists reportedly asking victims to prove their allegiance to Islam, has sparked outrage across India and the international community.

U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard wrote directly to Prime Minister Modi, expressing deep sorrow over the “horrific Islamist terrorist attack that killed Hindus” and assuring America’s full support. “We are with you and support you as you hunt down those responsible for this heinous act,” Gabbard said in her letter.

The terror group ‘The Resistance Front,’ a proxy for the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba, claimed responsibility for the attack. Investigations have traced connections to Pakistan and its illegally occupied territories, reinforcing concerns about Pakistan’s continued role in cross-border terrorism. The Indian government, in a high-level security review chaired by PM Modi, confirmed these cross-border links and emphasized that the attack followed successful elections and visible developmental progress in the region.

India has responded diplomatically and firmly. PM Modi vowed to pursue the attackers and their supporters “to the ends of the world” and punish them “beyond their imagination.” Fearing Indian retaliation, Pakistan has reportedly heightened military readiness, restricted its air-



space, and initiated continuous aerial surveillance along the border.

Support for India has come from across the globe. U.S. President Donald Trump affirmed that “America stands strong with India,” while Russian President Vladimir Putin called for the perpetrators to be brought to justice and pledged deeper cooperation in counterterrorism. Israeli PM Netanyahu, French President Macron, and Italy’s Giorgia Meloni echoed similar sentiments.

Notably, the Islamic world also condemned the attack. Countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iran, and Jordan expressed their solidarity with India. PM Modi was in Saudi Arabia meeting Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman when the attack occurred, symbolizing India’s expanding diplomatic ties in the region.

From Asia to Europe and beyond, leaders have sent condolences and expressed unwavering support to India, as the world unites in condemning this horrific act of terror.

Markets Slide Amid Geopolitical Tensions, But Weekly Gains Intact; IT Stocks Shine, Media & Realty Lag

Domestic stock markets witnessed a roller coaster ride today. They ended with heavy losses on Friday. The deteriorating relations between India and Pakistan and the tense situation on the borders led to negative sentiment. As a result, the benchmark indices fell to their daily lows after moderate losses. After noon, buying in heavyweights increased, which compensated for half of the losses. Media and realty sectors were hit. Overall, the Nifty lost 207 points and the Sensex lost 588 points. However, the markets gained for the second consecutive week.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 79,801 in the previous session, opened at 79,830 on Friday. It touched an intraday low of 78,605. It reached an intraday high of 80,130. It ended at 79,212, down 588 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,289, touched a low of 23,847 and a high of 24,365. It closed down 207 points at 24,039. The Nifty Bank fell 537 points to settle at 54,664.

In the Nifty50, 9 companies gained and 41 lost. SBI Life, Tech Mahindra, TCS, Infosys, UltraTech were the top gainers. Shriram Finance, Adani Enterprises, Trent, Eternal, Axis Bank were the top losers. Today, the benchmark as well as the micro, small and mid-cap indices were mixed. Media, realty, healthcare, finance, pharma, PSU bank, metal, consumer durables, auto, oil, FMCG indices rose.



Market breadth on NSE today completely shifted in favor of sellers. Out of a total of 2947 stocks traded, 455 gained and 2428 lost. 25 stocks touched their 52-week highs and 19 stocks touched their 52-week lows. 53 stocks reached the upper circuit and 146 stocks reached the lower circuit.

In Q3 of FY25, DCB Bank's net profit increased by 13.7% to Rs. 177 crore from Rs. 155 crore. In Q4, RBL Bank's net profit fell by 80% to Rs. 68 crore from Rs. 352 crore. The rupee weakened by 17 paise to settle at 85.44 against the dollar. Jefferies has maintained its buy rating on SBI Life with a target price of Rs 2000. Nomura has given

a buy rating to Tech Mahindra with a target price of Rs 1630. It has also maintained it on SBI Life. Shriram Finance's net profit is Rs 2139 crore. SBFC Finance, Ugro Capital and Vakrangi will release their results on Saturday. Cholamandalam Investment's net profit increased by 18.2% to Rs 1259 crore from Rs 1065 crore. Bank of Maharashtra's net profit rose to Rs 1493 crore from Rs 1218 crore. It is learnt that the Centre is planning to allow 49% stake in nuclear power plants to foreigners. Hindustan Zinc's Q4 net profit rose 47% to Rs 3003 crore from Rs 2038 crore. Atul's net profit rose to Rs 130 crore from Rs 59 crore.

India's Passenger Vehicle Industry Eyes 5 Million Units Amid Slower Growth



India's passenger vehicle (PV) industry is on track to surpass 5 million units in combined domestic and export sales in the current fiscal year, according to a report by Crisil Ratings. This marks a historic fourth consecutive year of record-breaking volumes, even as overall growth slows to a modest 2-4%, following a sharp 25% surge in FY23 post-pandemic.

The growth trajectory is being driven primarily by utility vehicles (UVs), which are expected to expand by 10% this fiscal year. New model launches, declining interest rates, increasing adoption of compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles, and rural market tailwinds are fueling this momentum. UVs now contribute 68-70% of total PV volumes, highlighting a strong structural shift toward premiumisation in the Indian automotive market.

"While overall PV growth will be moderate, UVs are set to continue their strong run, supported by a rich pipeline of new launches," said Anuj Sethi, Senior Director at Crisil Ratings. He also noted that improving rural sentiment—driven by an expected above-normal monsoon and falling interest rates—will boost demand for entry-level vehicles.

OEMs (original equipment man-

ufacturers) are well-positioned to manage this growth, thanks to healthy cash flows and significant cash reserves. The report estimates PV sector capex will remain high at ₹30,000 crore this fiscal. These investments are focused on increasing capacity, advancing electric vehicle (EV) capabilities, deepening localisation, and enabling digital transformation. Still, the financial burden is manageable, with capex-to-Ebitda ratios holding steady at 0.5x.

CNG vehicles continue to gain traction due to their lower running costs and expanding infrastructure, now supported by over 7,000 fuelling stations. CNG's share of PV sales could touch 15% this year.

On the export front, while the domestic market made up 85% of volumes last year, OEMs are increasingly targeting alternative markets like Mexico, South Africa, the Gulf region, and East Asia. However, geopolitical tensions may pose risks.

The entry of global premium EV brands, including Tesla, is expected to heat up competition, particularly in the premium segment, which currently accounts for under 10% of the market. High tariffs, however, may continue to restrict EV imports in the near term.

India Imposes 12% Safeguard Duty to Curb Surging Steel Imports

India has imposed a 12% provisional safeguard duty on select steel imports for a period of 200 days, aiming to control the rising influx of finished steel products from major exporting countries like China, South Korea, and Japan. The move, effective from April 21, 2025, comes as the country witnesses a sharp increase in steel imports, reaching a nine-year high in FY2025.



According to a government source directly involved in the matter, the temporary tariff is expected to significantly reduce steel shipments from the three key exporting nations. "South Korea, China, and Japan are the main sources of steel imports. With the new duty in place, we expect volumes from these countries to come down," the source told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue.

India is currently the world's second-largest producer of crude steel, but despite robust domestic production, imports of finished steel have risen for a second consecutive year. The surge has raised concerns among domestic steelmakers, prompting the government to take protective measures to support local industry.

The new safeguard duty is designed to offer temporary relief to Indian steel producers, who have been grappling with growing

competition from cheaper imported steel. The tariff will be reviewed after the 200-day period based on the import trends and domestic market conditions.

South Korean steelmakers, including major players like Pohang Iron and Steel Company (POSCO) and Hyundai Steel, are reportedly opposing the new duty. Both companies are among the largest exporters of steel to India, but have not yet issued official responses to the development.

Trade experts also suggest that the safeguard duty could alter global trade flows, especially in the wake of recent U.S. tariff measures. There is a possibility that steel initially destined for the U.S. could be diverted to markets like India, leading to further challenges in managing the domestic market balance.

While the safeguard duty is seen as a short-term measure, it underscores the government's intent to protect local industry amid shifting global trade dynamics and rising protectionism.

Gold Prices Swing in April Amid Global Developments; Rates in Delhi and Major Cities

Gold, traditionally viewed as a reliable safe-haven asset, has seen significant price volatility through April, leaving investors and buyers uncertain about their next move. Prices of the precious metal have surged and dropped sharply in recent weeks, driven by a combination of global economic developments and shifting investor sentiment.

A key factor influencing gold's movement has been the evolving geopolitical and financial landscape. The recent announcement by U.S. President Donald Trump to retain Jerome Powell as the Federal Reserve Chairman has brought a degree of monetary policy stability. Additionally, the easing of trade tensions between the U.S. and China has helped calm market nerves, leading to fluctuating demand for gold, often considered a hedge during times of uncertainty.

As of today, gold prices in India reflect these fluctuations. In Delhi, 24-karat gold is priced at ₹9,834 per gram, while 22-karat gold is available at ₹9,020 per gram. For buyers interested in lighter and more affordable options, 18-karat gold is priced at ₹7,380 per gram in the capital.

These price points are being closely watched by both investors and jewellers, particularly with the wedding and festive season approaching—periods that traditionally witness heightened demand for gold. The domestic market is also responding to



international cues, including changes in the U.S. dollar value, interest rate expectations, and global gold reserve movements by central banks.

Gold prices across other major Indian cities are also reflecting similar trends, with minor regional variations influenced by local demand, taxes, and logistics. Experts suggest that unless there is a major economic disruption or a sharp rise in inflation, gold prices may continue to remain volatile but within a broad range.

For now, both investors and retail buyers are trading cautiously. While some see the current dips as an opportunity to accumulate, others prefer to wait for more stability before making large purchases. Either way, gold remains firmly in focus as global financial markets continue to navigate uncertain terrain.

Shepherd to UPSC: Dhone’s Journey

Birdev Siddhappa Dhone, a 27-year-old shepherd from Karnataka, has become a symbol of determination and grit after successfully clearing the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) Civil Services Examination in his third attempt. Hailing from Belgaum, Dhone was tending to his uncle’s goats when he received the life-changing news—he had secured an All India Rank of 551 in one of India’s most competitive exams.

Raised in a modest background, Dhone’s early life revolved around livestock and agricultural duties. His journey toward the prestigious UPSC exams wasn’t easy, marked by financial constraints and a lack of access to quality educational resources. Yet, driven by a dream to serve the nation, he pursued his goal relentlessly. “The celebration was simple and rooted in our tradition. My uncle tied a yellow pheta (turban) on my head and applied bhandara (turmeric powder) on my forehead,” Dhone shared with The Indian Express. A photo capturing that heartfelt moment



quickly went viral, turning him into an online sensation.

This success comes after years of hard work, perseverance, and repeated failures. It was his third attempt at cracking the civil services exam, and he didn’t let past setbacks deter him. His story has struck a chord with aspirants across the country, especially those from rural and underprivileged backgrounds. Birdev’s sto-

ry is not just about passing an exam; it’s a powerful reminder that determination, belief, and cultural roots can be just as important as academic strategy. His journey stands as a beacon of hope for thousands chasing dreams against all odds. As he looks ahead to a future in public service, Dhone’s inspiring path from shepherding to the civil services is sure to remain etched in the hearts of many.

Football, Fireworks, and Foolish Fun

A jaw-dropping video has gone viral on Instagram, showing a group of boys engaging in a dangerously bizarre game—playing football inside a closed room filled with exploding firecrackers.

The clip, shared by the handle @sarcamax, captures the chaotic scene: firecrackers lit on the floor, sparks flying, and smoke clouding the room, as the boys nonchalantly kick a football around. In one shocking moment, the football itself appears to catch fire, yet the boys continue their game, seemingly enjoying the mayhem.

Despite the room turning into a virtual inferno with spinning firecracker tops and flaming debris, none of the boys show any sign of alarm or attempt to leave the room. Instead, laughter and excitement fill the smoky space as the fire intensifies. The risky stunt has stirred a mix of shock and disbelief



among viewers. The video is captioned, “Why do women live longer than men? Also, men.” — a tongue-in-cheek comment on the stereotypical tendency of young men to engage in reckless and often hazardous behavior for fun or viral fame. Reactions to the video have been polarizing. While some netizens found the clip amusing, many criticized the irresponsible act, warning about the potential for serious injuries or worse. Safety advocates have condemned the behavior, reminding viewers that fire-

works should never be used indoors under any circumstances. Experts caution that such stunts, often done in the name of social media content, can lead to dire consequences. Burns, smoke inhalation, and even structural fires are real risks in such situations.

As this clip continues to circulate widely online, it serves as both a viral moment and a serious reminder of the dangers of mixing play with pyrotechnics—especially in confined indoor spaces.

Suspended Student’s AI Startup Gets Funded



In a surprising twist, Chungin Lee, a 21-year-old Columbia University student suspended for creating a controversial AI cheating tool, has secured Rs 45 crore in funding to expand his startup. The tool, originally called “Interview Coder,” was designed to assist candidates during technical interviews at major tech firms like Amazon, Meta, and TikTok.

The AI-powered application could discreetly listen to interview audio, analyze the interviewer’s screen, and provide real-time suggested responses—essentially helping users cheat without being detected. When Columbia University discovered Lee’s creation, it suspended him for violating academic and ethical standards.

However, the suspension didn’t stop Lee’s momentum. His tool, now rebranded as Cluely, gained traction among a growing audience interested in leveraging AI for professional advantage. While critics argue the tool undermines fairness in recruitment, others view it as a disruptive innovation reshaping the interview landscape.

Cluely’s recent funding round, backed by prominent investors, has propelled it into the spotlight. Despite ethical debates, Lee’s venture has been praised for its technical sophistication and bold challenge to traditional hiring methods.

“Getting suspended was a setback, but it taught me resilience. Cluely isn’t about cheating—it’s about leveling the playing field,” Lee reportedly said. His journey reflects a broader tension in the tech world: innovation versus integrity.

The Cluely platform is now being developed to offer legal, transparent tools for interview preparation and real-time assistance, distancing itself from its earlier controversial origins. Whether the startup will continue to spark debate or inspire a shift in hiring tech, Lee’s story is already a headline-worthy case of turning controversy into capital.

Woman Escapes Flyover Crash Death

A heart-stopping video has gone viral on social media, showing the terrifying moment a woman narrowly escapes death after a car crashes off a flyover and a massive signboard falls just inches from her.

The video, shared by Instagram account @fatal_clipss, captures the shocking incident as it unfolds. A red car is seen losing control, smashing through a flyover barrier, and plunging onto the road below. As the car crashes, it dislodges a large signboard, sending it hurtling toward the pavement below—directly in the path of a woman walking nearby.

The woman, unaware of the impending danger, glances upward just in time. In a split-second re-



action, she sprints backward as the signboard comes crashing down. The heavy structure slams into the exact spot where she had been walking only moments before.

The miraculous escape has stunned viewers online, with many calling it a case of sheer luck and perfect timing. The woman’s quick instincts are being praised across platforms, while others are left shaken by how close she

came to being crushed.

“An inch closer and it would’ve been fatal,” one user commented, while another wrote, “She literally outran death.”

Authorities have yet to confirm the condition of the car’s occupants or the cause of the crash, but the incident has sparked renewed concerns over road safety and infrastructure maintenance, particularly on aging flyovers.

As the footage continues to spread online, the woman’s lucky escape stands as a powerful reminder of how quickly life can change—and how even a second’s delay can mean the difference between life and death.

Japan Unveils Lightning Control Drones

In a groundbreaking scientific leap, Japan has developed the world’s first technology capable of controlling and redirecting lightning strikes. This innovation is aimed at significantly reducing the devastating impact lightning causes each year—damage estimated at over Rs. 113.66 billion annually in Japan alone.

The revolutionary system, developed by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT), uses specially designed drones that can fly into storm clouds and influence where lightning strikes. The drones interact with the electrical charge inside clouds, effectively guiding the lightning to strike in pre-designated, safe zones, such as uninhabited fields or controlled discharge stations.

Until now, lightning has remained one of nature’s most unpredictable and destructive forces. Its sudden strikes can destroy buildings, kill



people, start fires, and disrupt power lines. Traditional prevention methods such as lightning rods offer only localized protection and cannot prevent or redirect strikes entirely.

This Japanese innovation is the first weather-control technology that claims to directly manage lightning before it even reaches the ground. According to developers, the drones

can be launched quickly in regions under lightning threat, offering a proactive solution rather than reactive damage control.

The technology is still undergoing field trials but has already shown promising results. If scaled successfully, it could revolutionize disaster prevention, offering a template for other countries facing similar threats from severe storms and lightning-related damages.

Experts believe this could also open doors to more advanced weather modification systems in the future, including storm management and climate disaster mitigation.

As climate change leads to more frequent and intense thunderstorms globally, Japan’s pioneering step toward controlling lightning could be a significant milestone in combining science and safety for the betterment of society.

Smiley Moon Delights Early Skywatchers

Skywatchers were treated to a magical sight early this morning as a rare celestial alignment formed what looked like a “smiley emoji” in the sky. Around 5:30 AM, stargazers across parts of India, especially in Udupi, Karnataka, witnessed a delightful phenomenon where the waxing crescent moon appeared to be grinning, flanked by two bright planets—Venus and Saturn.

The positioning was purely natural, but its visual effect was striking. Venus shone brightly on one side of the moon, with Saturn glowing softly on the other, giving the illusion of eyes on either side of a smiling mouth formed by the crescent moon. The scene resembled a classic emoji, prompting awe, excitement, and a flurry of photos and videos on social media.



Residents of Udupi and nearby areas gathered in the early hours to witness the rare event. Many shared their images online with captions like “The sky smiled today!” and “A cos-

mic grin to start the day.” For many, it was a spiritual or symbolic moment, taken as a sign of hope and positivity.

Astronomers explained that while such alignments are rare, they are not unheard of. They occur when the moon and planets align in a way that reflects both distance and angle from Earth’s perspective. Events like these highlight the elegance and unpredictability of celestial mechanics.

Though brief, the smiley-face formation brought a sense of joy and wonder to those lucky enough to witness it. As always, the skies remind us that even in the early hours, nature is full of surprises waiting to unfold—sometimes with a smile.

MS Dhoni plays 400th T20 match, creates IPL history

Ma h e n d r a Singh Dhoni added yet another record to his legendary cricketing career by becoming only the fourth Indian cricketer to play 400 T20 matches. The milestone was achieved during Chennai Super Kings' (CSK) IPL 2025 clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Friday. Dhoni, now 44, continues to be a key figure in CSK's campaign, having taken over the captaincy once again after regular skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad was ruled out of the tournament with an elbow fracture. Gaikwad suffered the injury during a match against Rajasthan Royals earlier in the season. This marks Dhoni's return as CSK captain for the first time since the IPL 2023 final, where CSK clinched their fifth title in a last-ball thriller against Gujarat Titans. Although he had handed the reins to Gaikwad at the start of the current season, Dhoni stepped up once again to lead from the front following the young batter's exit. Throughout his T20 career, Dhoni has accumulated 7566 runs at a strike rate of 135.90 and holds the record for the most stumpings in the format with 34 dismissals. His leadership resume remains unparalleled, having led CSK in 239 matches including all of their title victories.



His brief exit from the captaincy in 2022 and eventual return reflect his enduring value to the franchise. **Dhoni joins an elite list of Indian cricketers with the most T20 appearances:**

- **Rohit Sharma:** 456 matches
- **Dinesh Karthik:** 412 matches
- **Virat Kohli:** 408 matches
- **MS Dhoni:** 400 matches

Despite being past his prime as a batter, Dhoni continues to be lightning quick behind the stumps and a guiding force for CSK. His milestone further cements his place as one of the format's all-time greats.

Swiatek Survives Eala Scare In Madrid

Teen Filipina tests defending champ in three-set thriller

Defending champion Iga Swiatek had to dig deep to avoid an early upset at the Madrid Open, coming from behind to defeat 19-year-old Alexandra Eala 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 and advance to the third round on Thursday. Facing the rising Filipina for the second time this season, Swiatek once again struggled in the early exchanges. Eala, who famously beat the Pole in straight sets at the Miami Open in March, carried that confidence into Madrid, breaking Swiatek in the opening game and holding firm against early pressure. The world number 72 broke again for a 5-2 lead and converted her third set point to take the opener, capitalising on Swiatek's six missed break opportunities. "I felt like I was making too many errors from everything," Swiatek admitted. "There wasn't like one specific adjustment... I just had to be more patient." Eala again struck first in the second set, breaking for 1-0, but this time the four-time French Open champion responded immediately. The set remained tense, with both players trading breaks, but Swiatek raised her level late, breaking Eala to love in the 10th game to level the match. The decider saw Swiatek settle into her groove, breaking twice to move ahead 5-1. Although Eala clawed back a break and saved a match point,



she eventually hit long on the final point, handing Swiatek the win. "I always love playing here, for sure I'm proud of my performances in the last two years," Swiatek told Spanish broadcaster TVE. The Pole, who is yet to hit top form this season, will next face Czech teenager Linda Noskova in the third round. Elsewhere in Madrid, Anastasiya Sevastova knocked out fellow Latvian and 2017 French Open winner Jelena Ostapenko 7-6 (7/2), 6-2. Fifth seed Madison Keys also progressed, beating Lucia Bronzetti 6-4, 6-3 to set up a third-round clash with Anna Kalinskaya.

RR's Playoff Hopes Fade After Fifth Straight Loss

Rajasthan Royals (RR) are staring at early elimination from the IPL 2025 playoffs race after suffering their fifth consecutive defeat, this time against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB). Chasing 206, the Royals were in control until the final two overs, needing just 18 runs with wickets in hand. But yet again, their middle-order failed to deliver, resulting in an 11-run loss. This marks RR's third straight failure in run chases that were within reach. Previously, they faltered against Delhi Capitals (DC) and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), failing to score nine runs in the final over on both occasions. Against RCB, despite needing only 18 off the last 12 balls, a flurry of late wickets saw them collapse under pressure. This latest defeat sets an unwanted IPL record for the franchise. It's the first time in their history that they have lost five matches in a row in a single season. The only other instance of a five-match losing streak came across two seasons — the last two games of IPL 2009 and the first three of 2010. RR currently sit in eighth position on the points table, with just two wins from nine matches. With seven losses and only five games remaining, the team faces an uphill task to make it to the playoffs. Key players like Dhruv Jurel and Shimron Hetmyer, who were retained for a combined ₹25 crore, have failed to finish games under pressure. Their underwhelming performances in crunch moments have been a major factor in RR's downfall this season. The team has also faced hurdles off the field. Captain Sanju Samson missed five out of the nine matches due to injury, further weakening their prospects. Adding to their troubles, the Rajasthan Cricket Association's (RCA) ad-hoc committee convener Jaydeep Bihani accused the franchise of match-fixing—allegations that



the Royals have firmly denied. Reports suggest that the accusations may be linked to a reduction in match tickets allocated to RCA this season. With both on-field struggles and external controversies mounting, Rajasthan Royals find themselves in a dire position, needing a quick turnaround to keep their playoff hopes alive.

SRH script history with first-ever win over CSK at Chepauk

Sunrisers Hyderabad made history on Friday night by defeating Chennai Super Kings for the first time at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chepauk, securing a five-wicket victory and putting CSK on the brink of elimination from IPL 2025.

Chasing a modest target, SRH showed composure with key contributions from Ishan, Kamindu Mendis, and Nitish Reddy. The trio's calm yet timely aggression steered the visitors home with precision.

Mendis played a pivotal role, not just with the bat but also on the field—taking a sensational catch to dismiss Dewald Brevis and bowling vital overs. His composed finish, nudging the winning runs wide of long-on for two, capped off a brilliant all-round performance.

The loss adds to CSK's mounting troubles this season, making their playoff hopes increasingly slim. Meanwhile, SRH's confidence soars with this landmark victory at a venue where they had never previously triumphed.



Players meet BCB president, raise concerns over treatment

A group of current and former national cricketers, led by veteran opener Tamim Iqbal, held a sudden meeting with Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President Faruque Ahmed at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium. The players expressed deep dissatisfaction with the board's recent handling of several disciplinary and corruption-related matters, which they said had insulted and demoralized them. One of the key issues raised was the confusion surrounding Towhid Hridoy's suspension. Initially banned for two matches due to on-field misconduct, Hridoy returned after serving just one match. Later, the board again suspended him, which left the players questioning the legality and fairness of the decision. "How can you



suspend him again after he was allowed to play two matches?" Tamim asked, calling the situation "funny and confusing." Another issue involved the BCB's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU), which summoned players Naeem and Sabbir from Shinepukur Club to reconstruct a controversial dismissal from an earlier match. The cricketers felt humiliated by the method used. "There is no rule in any anti-corruption com-

mission in the world that allows you to insult players in front of the media," Tamim said, stressing the need for respectful and lawful investigation procedures. Tamim also criticized the leaking of names of ten players during the last Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), some of whom he said were innocent. "Leaking their names was insulting. We were all disappointed with this," he added. The players urged the board to resolve the Hridoy issue before the next match and to ensure due process in all disciplinary actions going forward. The BCB president, along with two directors, assured the players that their concerns would be considered seriously and that swift action would be taken where necessary.



Ruhani Sharma's Bold New Photoshoot

Ruhani Sharma turned heads with her latest sultry photoshoot, donning a white t-shirt paired with black lingerie. With her tousled hair and intense gaze, she exudes confidence while leaning against a wall, making the shoot feel like a high-end lingerie campaign.

Though her recent romantic drama *Sriranga Neethulu*—co-starring Suhas and directed by Praveen Kumar VSS—didn't leave a mark at the box office, Ruhani's screen presence remained memorable.

Up next, she's gearing up for the Tamil comedy-thriller *Mask*, directed by Vikarnan Ashok. The film features Charlie, Bala Saravanan, and VJ Archana Chandhoke, with music by GV Prakash Kumar. *Mask* could offer Ruhani the breakthrough she needs to reinvigorate her cinematic journey.

Allu Arjun's Triple Role Buzz Grows

Allu Arjun's much-anticipated collaboration with director Atlee has sparked major buzz, especially with fresh rumors suggesting he'll be seen in a triple role. Currently in pre-production across Mumbai and Chennai, the film recently saw Allu Arjun participate in a look test—fueling excitement among fans.



The viral buzz hints that Allu Arjun will portray a father and his two sons, marking a rare triple-role performance for the star. While this news hasn't been officially confirmed by either Allu Arjun or Atlee, it's already become a hot topic in fan circles and social media.

The leading lady is yet to be finalized, and

more updates are expected soon. With Atlee's knack for high-octane drama and Allu Arjun's charisma, this project is shaping up to be one of the most awaited films in the making.

Puri, Vijay Sethupathi's 'Beggar' Buzzes

After back-to-back flops with *Liger* and *Double iSmart*, director Puri Jagannadh is banking on a comeback with *Beggar*, starring Vijay Sethupathi in the lead. The title alone has sparked intrigue, with strong buzz suggesting Sethupathi plays a beggar—a role ripe for raw, gripping storytelling.



Joining him are acclaimed actors Tabu and Radhika Apte, adding further weight to the film's ensemble. Known for crafting gritty, underdog characters, Puri is planning a fast-paced, pan-India film, aiming to wrap production in just 60 days.

Vijay Sethupathi, reportedly excited by the project, has allotted bulk dates. A large slum set is under construction where most of the film will be shot. *Beggar* could very well mark the redemption of Puri Jagannadh if he can recapture his trademark mass-meets-depth magic.

Sarangapani's Fate: Funny, Fearful & Full of Surprises



Sarangapani receives a shocking prediction — he's destined to commit a crime in the future. Deeply disturbed, he takes a drastic decision to prevent this fate and protect his relationship with Maithili. As he attempts to rewrite his destiny, questions arise: What action does he take? Does the prophecy come true? Is Maithili aware of it? How does his loyal friend Chandra (Vennela Kishore) respond? And what part does the enigmatic Ahobila (Tanikella Bharani) play in this strange saga?

The film thrives on Priyadarshi's comic brilliance, playing the lovable yet paranoid Sarangapani. Vennela Kishore adds flair with sharp one-liners and hilarious expressions, while Viva Harsha livens up the second half with his quirky charm. Roopa Koduvayur shines with elegance and subtle performance, and the supporting cast delivers well. Cleverly written comedy dialogues and the trio's chemistry make for an engaging and entertaining watch that balances superstition, suspense, and laughs.

Sree Vishnu's 'Single' Locks May 9 Release

Sree Vishnu's upcoming romantic comedy *Single* is officially set to hit theatres on May 9, as confirmed by the makers through a quirky announcement video featuring the film's cast. Directed by Caarthick Raju, the film stars Ivana and Ketika Sharma as the female leads.

Originally, Pawan Kalyan's period actioner *Hari Hara Veera* Mallu was slated for a May 9 release, but its delay has cleared the path for *Single* to

shine at the summer box office. With minimal competition, the film is expected to do well commercially.

Single is jointly produced by Vidya Koppineedi, Bhanu Pratapa, and Riyaz Chowdary under Geetha Arts and Kalya Films. Music is composed by Vishal Chandrasekar, while Vennela Kishore adds comic flavor in a crucial role. Full-scale promotions are expected to begin shortly.



Gymkhana: Boxing Meets Banter



Gymkhana is a light-hearted sports drama set in Alappuzha, where Jojo (Naslen) and his four friends take up boxing after failing their 12th exams. They join a local gymkhana and start training under Antony Joshua (Lukman Avaran), an ex-boxing champ with a mysterious past. As the boys train for the Kerala State Amateur Championship, the story explores whether they're truly committed or just messing around—and what secrets lie in their coach's past.

Director Khalid Rahman offers a fresh, humorous twist on the sports genre, steering away from intense drama. Naslen impresses with his expressions and comic timing, and his performance holds strong in Telugu as well. Supporting actors like Ganapathi and Franco Francis add flavor, especially in the second half. Clever use of popular memes and Telugu punchlines gives the film its charm, though it leans more toward comedy than gripping sports drama.