



CM Naidu Presents Vision for Healthy Andhra Pradesh

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday unveiled a comprehensive vision to transform Andhra Pradesh into a "Healthy Andhra Pradesh", combining preventive care, nutrition awareness, technology integration, and infrastructure development. Addressing media at the Secretariat, the CM emphasized public participation to reduce disease burden across the state. Naidu highlighted the need for lifestyle changes, recommending daily physical activity, yoga, and meditation. He cautioned against the overuse of salt, sugar, and oil, and advised families to adopt millet- and vegetable-rich diets while cutting junk food and polished rice. He warned of the rising cancer burden, especially among women, due to tobacco and alcohol use. The CM pointed out environmental and agricultural contributors to poor health, urging farmers to reduce pesticide usage and switch to natural farming. He proposed food and nutrition education in schools to build awareness from a young age. To strengthen healthcare access, the government will establish 100 to 300-bed multi-speciality hospitals in all 175 Assembly constituencies. While 70 already have such facilities, the remaining 105 will be developed through Public-Private Partnership. A state-of-the-art Mega Medicity will be built on 200 acres in Amaravati to serve as a hub for advanced healthcare and medical tourism. Technology plays a key role in the vision. With 88% Ayushman Bharat health account coverage, digitized health records are being stored in DigiLocker. A Digital Nerve Center has been piloted in Kuppam. Mobile medical vans, virtual hospitals, and hybrid consultations are being planned.

WORST IMPACT ON AQUA BY TRUMP DECISION

Annual Aqua Exports: 20 lakh metric tonnes (MT), worth ₹75,000 crore



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has urged Union Minister Piyush Goyal to hold talks with the United States over the new tax imposed by the Trump administration on India's aqua exports. While some initially dismissed the appeal as unrealistic, the gravity of the situation reveals otherwise. The U.S. has imposed a hefty 34% tax on Indian aqua products, which is expected to cause

AP Contribution: **34%** of India's total aqua exports

Aqua Farming in AP **4 lakh** acres under aquaculture

Farmers in AP **1.4 lakh** farmers engaged in aquaculture

New US Tax **34%** duty imposed on Indian aqua exports due to Trump's decision

- **Impact:** Severe blow to the aqua industry, affecting thousands of livelihoods
- **Recovery Time:** Even with government intervention, it may take at least one month to recover from the impact



a major setback to the Indian aqua industry. "This will place an enormous financial burden on exporters. Only crops with 30 count shrimp may survive, while other high-value varieties will likely disappear," said Mr. Uday Kishan Cherukuneedi, Managing Director of Uday Aqua Connects. He added, "Governments must intervene immediately. Though we hope the dialogue has already begun, even with support, it will take at least a month for the industry to stabilize." India exports nearly 20 lakh

metric tonnes (MT) of aqua products annually, valued at around ₹75,000 crore. Andhra Pradesh alone contributes 34% of this volume, making it the backbone of India's aqua exports. The state has nearly 4 lakh acres under aquaculture, supporting 1.4 lakh farmers directly. The new U.S. tax is causing widespread concern among farmers, exporters, and allied workers. The ripple effect is expected to disrupt the livelihoods of several lakh families who are directly or indirectly dependent on this sec-

tor. Industry leaders and stakeholders across Andhra Pradesh are urging both state and central governments to intervene urgently and find a resolution. The hope is that diplomatic engagement will ease the burden and protect one of India's most vital export sectors.

Even If I Haven't Sat in the Doli, I Know it's Pain – Dy CM Pawan Kalyan

Dy CM Launches Adivasi Thalli Bata In Alluri Dist

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JAY SHAH IN A BIG PLAN TO INVEST IN AP?

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In what could be a game-changing development, sources suggest that Jay Shah, known for his influential role in Indian cricket administration, is preparing to make significant business moves—this time, in Andhra Pradesh. With a keen eye on the state's coastal natural resources, Shah is reportedly exploring large-scale investments across multiple sectors. Coming from Gujarat, a state with the longest coastline in India, Jay Shah is



said to understand the economic potential of coastal corridors. Andhra Pradesh, with the second-longest coastline, has now attracted his attention. A recent meeting held during an IPL match in Visakhapatnam, at-

tended by Jay Shah, Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh, and MP Sana Satish, is believed to have laid the foundation for this possible investment initiative. Although initially portrayed as a casual interaction, sources indicate that the meeting focused on concrete investment opportunities. Jay Shah reportedly came prepared with detailed data and proposed several projects. Lokesh, in turn, is said to have welcomed these proposals enthusiastically.

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WHY THIS SITUATION @ PITHAPURAM

- **Ex-MLA SVSN Varma's silence fuels speculation in Pithapuram**
- **Tensions rise as Varma counters Janasena's grip in the constituency**
- **Internal rifts in JSP offer Varma fresh political leverage**

TPN Correspondent | Pithapuram

Uncertainty continues to dominate the political climate in Pithapuram, the constituency now represented by JanaSena Party Chief Pawan Kalyan. At the center of this turmoil is former MLA SVSN Varma—known for his calculated moves and cryptic silence. Varma, once a TDP aspirant, won the Pithapuram seat in 2014 as an independent with indirect support from JanaSena and the backing of dominant Kapu voters. However, his political trajectory has been far from stable—defeated in both 2009 and 2019, and now sidelined with Pawan Kalyan contesting from the same seat in 2024. When TDP appointed Uday as the in-charge of Pithapuram, Varma dis-



tanced himself, declaring publicly that he would contest only if Pawan wasn't

said to be actively trying to regain influence, even at the cost of damaging

the candidate. However, following the official announcement of Kalyan's candidature, Varma's silent opposition reportedly turned into covert disruption, instigating dissent and indirectly challenging the JSP narrative. The intervention of TDP Chief N. Chandrababu Naidu, who assured Varma of future opportunities, seemed to calm tensions briefly. But Varma, disappointed by diminishing prospects, is

Pawan Kalyan's image. A speech by Nagababu, Pawan Kalyan's brother, at the JSP anniversary event appears to have triggered further unrest, with Varma's supporters allegedly creating disturbances during subsequent party events. Interestingly, Nagababu maintained a composed stance during his later visit, signaling a more strategic response from the party. Adding fuel to the fire are internal frictions within JSP. Local complaints target constituency in-charge Marreddy Srinivas Reddy and his deputy Hari Prasad, both seen as ineffective. This has created a vacuum that Varma is reportedly trying to exploit by aligning with discontented JSP factions. With both power struggles and political strategies at play, all eyes are now on how Janasena manages this critical internal challenge in Pithapuram.



AP Anganwadis Lead the Nation in Clean Cooking Revolution

- Andhra ranked No.1 in energy efficiency for Anganwadi induction cooking model
- Projected ₹24 crore annual savings and 28,327 tonnes CO₂ emissions avoided
- BEE and EESL laud the AP government’s leadership in clean cooking technology



In the presence of Sri Manohar Lal Kattar, Union Minister, Housing,Power,& Urban development, GOI and Sri N.chandra Babu Naidu is formally launching and distributing Energy Efficient Induction Stove electric Cook Tops to Anganwadi Beneficiary in Vijayawada.

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

In a pioneering step towards energy efficiency and environmental sustainability, Andhra Pradesh has emerged as a national leader in clean cooking initiatives through its large-scale adoption of induction cooktops at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs). The state secured the No.1 rank among 12 major Indian states for energy efficiency, drawing praise from national agencies and central government officials. Launched under the National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP), the initiative was inaugurated by Chief

Minister Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu in the presence of Union Minister for Housing, Power and Urban Development Shri Manohar Lal Khattar. This initiative is part of the Government of India’s broader Go Electric campaign, aimed at promoting sustainable energy use across the country. Highlighting the state’s success at the National Conference in Udaipur, Shri Anil Malik, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, commended the partnership between the Andhra Pradesh government and Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. (EESL), calling it a “national role model.” He

stated, “It’s high time other states emulate Andhra Pradesh’s Anganwadi model, which completely eliminates fossil fuel use to protect the environment.” The programme, led by the AP Women & Child Welfare Department, has already rolled out induction cooktops and compatible utensils in 11,400 Anganwadi centres during the first phase. With the support of the Union Government, the state plans to expand this to all 55,607 AWCs. To expedite implementation, Secretary Smt. Surya Kumari and Director Venu Gopal Reddy will meet on April 7 with a

three-member technical team from EESL New Delhi to finalize the action plan. The team includes EESL senior executives Animesh Mishra, Nitin Bhatt, and Nikhilesh Katariya. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has also applauded Andhra Pradesh’s landmark initiative, recognizing the efforts of Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand and Secretary Smt. Surya Kumari. BEE officials Milind Deore and Ashok Kumar acknowledged the state’s leadership in deploying economically and ecologically beneficial technologies. The benefits of replacing LPG with induction cooking include enhanced

safety, reduced fire hazards, significant cost savings, lower carbon emissions, and improved working conditions for Anganwadi staff. Induction cooking is 30% more energy-efficient than traditional methods, making it a smart and sustainable alternative. With this initiative, Andhra Pradesh sets a benchmark for other states to follow. By implementing NECP across all Anganwadi centres, the state is not only making strides in climate action but also transforming the everyday lives of women, children, and economically disadvantaged communities.



Advisory Council to the State Govt for Good Governance - CM Naidu

- WhatsApp Services to Cover All by June 12
- Advisory council to include experts from Gates Foundation, IIT-Madras
- Over 1,000 services to be available through WhatsApp Governance
- Orvakallu Drone City to be developed as major tourist hub

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has directed officials to constitute a high-level advisory council to enhance the quality of governance in Andhra Pradesh. The council will comprise 10 distinguished experts from reputed institutions including the Gates Foundation and IIT Madras. Its mandate will be to study existing systems and recommend innovative methods to deliver more efficient and transparent governance to the people. The Chief Minister reviewed the Real-Time Governance System (RTGS) at the Secretariat on Monday and emphasized the rapid expansion of digital services. He instructed officials to integrate all government services under WhatsApp Governance by June 12, enabling citizens to access them easily via mobile phones. The system, managed through Mana Mitra, currently supports 254 services, with a target to exceed 1,000

services, informed IT and RTGS Secretary Katanneni Bhaskar. The CM stressed that all departments should complete data integration with RTGS immediately and ensure that public awareness campaigns are conducted to encourage the use of digital platforms. In addition, the Chief Minister reviewed the progress on Drone City being developed at Orvakallu and called it a potential tourism magnet. He directed officials to finalize a master plan for the city and leverage its appeal by also promoting the nearby mega solar power project. CM Naidu instructed the Tourism Development Corporation to collaborate with private partners to develop modern hospitality infrastructure, including high-end hotels, to support the region’s growth as a tourist and innovation destination. Chief Minister Naidu reiterated his vision of using technology to build a responsive, transparent, and citizen-centric government across Andhra Pradesh.

Even If I Haven’t Sat in the Doli, I Know it's Pain – Dy CM

TPN Correspondent | Alluri Dist

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan announced a major initiative to improve connectivity in tribal areas, unveiling a ₹400 crore allocation under the National Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) for road development in Adivasi regions. During his visit to Pedapadu village in Dumbbriguda mandal as part of the Adivasi Thalli Bata program, he laid the foundation stone for several roads sanctioned under the Janma Bhoomi scheme and reiterated his commitment to uplifting tribal communities. Addressing a gathering, Pawan said, “If we trust the forest, it will give us sustenance and shade.” Highlighting the persistent lack of motorable roads, he criticized the previous YSRCP government for ignoring the region’s needs. He recalled personally meeting Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to push for immediate action, following which ₹49 crore was promptly sanctioned for road development in the agency area. “The alliance government built 1069 km of roads in just 8 months, while the previous regime managed only 90 km,” he noted. He emphasized that even in areas that did not vote for the alliance, development is being delivered. “Our aim is not revenge, but results,” he declared. Calling for the development of Araku as a national tourist destination, Pawan said he would consult with CM Chandrababu and Minister Durgesh to boost tourism-led employment. He also urged tribal youth to shun ganja cultivation and embrace opportunities in eco-tourism and farming. During his two-hour interaction with locals, Pawan distributed maternity kits at the Anganwadi center and sweets to village children. He directed Collector Dinesh Kumar to resolve 12 key local issues within six months. Speaking in Oriya, he reassured villagers of continued support, adding, “I walked with you, saw your hardship, and fought to build these roads.”

JAY SHAH IN A BIG PLAN TO INVEST IN AP?

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According to buzz in political and business circles, Shah is looking at sectors such as refineries, mining, renewable energy, and infrastructure. While the Adani Group currently dominates the investment landscape in Andhra

Pradesh, Shah’s entry could redefine the state’s industrial dynamics. However, questions are being raised about the socio-economic impact of such large-scale investments. Critics argue that tribal communities in the agency areas—rich in natural resources—are at risk of

displacement and loss of livelihood. The debate between development and displacement continues. Jay Shah, who began his public career with the Gujarat Cricket Board and rose to national prominence in BCCI, is widely believed to be operating under the influence of his father,

Union Home Minister Amit Shah. His growing proximity to Nara Lokesh could signal a new political-business alignment with potential long-term implications for Andhra Pradesh. As speculation mounts, official announcements are expected soon regarding Jay Shah’s investment plans in the state.

AP Govt Launches Disease Mapping Drive to Boost Preventive Healthcare

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

In a groundbreaking initiative, the Andhra Pradesh government has launched a comprehensive health screening and disease mapping campaign aimed at addressing the root causes of public health challenges across the state. Instead of focusing only on treatment, the program targets early intervention and awareness by analyzing regional health trends. The state-wide effort has already screened over 2.15 crore individuals aged above 18 — roughly 52% of the adult population. Findings revealed that 19.78 lakh people (9.2%) were diagnosed with hypertension, with a higher prevalence among women. An additional 14.29 lakh people were flagged for follow-up. Hypertension cases were most common in Konaseema, Kakinala, and NTR districts, and least in Manyam, Alluri, and Sri Sathya Sai districts. Diabetes was found in 11.13 lakh people (5.1%), with Guntur, NTR, and Krishna districts showing the highest incidence. Nearly 8.76 lakh people were placed under monitoring. Alarming-



ly, over 20.78 lakh individuals were diagnosed with both hypertension and diabetes, with Eluru, NTR, and Krishna districts reporting the highest dual-disease burden. Cardiovascular disease affected 2.61 lakh individuals, predominantly men, with NTR, Nandyal, and Guntur topping the chart. The state also recorded 1.19 lakh cancer cases, mostly among women, particularly in Kakinada, Vizianagaram, and Srikakulam. Other major health concerns included kidney diseases (1.73 lakh), neurological disorders (1.07 lakh), respiratory issues (54,362) and liver diseases (30,646). Disease distribution varied significantly based on diet, local environment, and lifestyle.

The study also flagged districts like Visakhapatnam, Krishna, and Chittoor for high instances of infectious diseases, tobacco-linked cancers, malnutrition, and alcohol-related mental health concerns. The government plans to complete the full screening exercise by June 2025, and use the data to promote healthier habits, reduce disease risks, and improve long-term health outcomes across Andhra Pradesh.

ASHA Suspends NTR Vaidya Seva Services Over ₹3,500 Cr Pending Dues

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a major blow to Andhra Pradesh’s public healthcare delivery system, the Andhra Pradesh Speciality Hospitals Association (ASHA) has suspended all services under the NTR Vaidya Seva Trust starting Monday, citing non-payment of long-pending dues amounting to ₹3,500 crore. This decision directly impacts 730 private hospitals that have been serving lakhs of low-income patients under the state-run scheme. ASHA had earlier served a formal notice on March 7, demanding the government clear dues. Despite meetings with officials, the association said there was no clear assurance or payment timeline. In its latest communication to the NTR Vaidya Seva CEO, ASHA stated that dues to private hospitals alone exceed ₹2,000 crore and called for an immediate release of at least ₹1,000 crore to prevent further disruption of services. “We are left with no choice. Hospitals can’t sustain ICU operations, pay staff, or maintain infrastructure,” said ASHA President Dr. K. Vijay Kumar. Secretary Dr. C. Avinash added, “This isn’t just about dues—it’s about preserving quality healthcare in the state. The government must commit to timely payments and revise outdated package rates last updated in 2018.”



Government of Andhrapradesh



ASHA also alleged that some field officials are applying undue pressure on hospitals to resume services without resolving the core issue of unpaid bills. The association warned such coercion would worsen the crisis. The state government has appealed to ASHA to reconsider its decision due to the impact on poor patients. However, ASHA remains firm: services will resume only if the government issues a written commitment to release pending dues and ensure regular payments moving forward. **ASHA’s key demands include:**
Immediate release of ₹1,000 crore to hospitals
Timeline for clearing remaining dues
Regular payment for ongoing treatments
Revision of package rates and introduction of quality-based incentives

YS Sharmila Slams YCP: ‘Still Haunted by Chandrababu, Afraid of Congress Rise’

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

APCC president YS Sharmila launched a sharp counterattack on the YSR Congress Party and its allies, ridiculing their repeated attempts to link Congress activities to the Telugu Desam Party. In a strongly worded statement, Sharmila said, “The disease of jaundice has not yet subsided for YSRCP and its affiliated organisations. The yellow tint in their vision is proof that they still see Chandrababu in every mirror—and that pains them.” She asserted that the resurgence of the Congress in Andhra Pradesh is causing discomfort to the ruling party. “If Congress is gaining strength as a viable alternative, why are you spreading false allegations? Your frustration proves your incompetence,” she added. Sharmila reminded the public of YSRCP’s humiliating losses, saying, “Even after being restricted to 11 seats and metaphorically beaten with sandals by the people, your behavior has not changed. Lies and vilification continue to define your politics.” She lambasted the YSRCP leadership,



accusing them of betraying the aspirations of the late Dr YS Rajasekhara Reddy. “You pawned the state’s interests at Modi’s feet. You tried to capture Rushikonda, brought the Land Title Act to seize people’s land, and looted the state for selfish gains,” she said. Taking on the BJP, Sharmila said, “In AP, BJP means Babu, Jagan, and Pawan. All three serve Modi. It is only

the Congress that is bravely raising people’s issues and holding the government accountable.” She further questioned the silence of ruling parties on the Polavaram project and the Super Six scams, challenging them to take a stand inside the Assembly. “Your efforts to weaken Congress using money power won’t work. Your fear of our rise is showing,” she concluded.

MLA Paritala Sunitha Lashes out at Topudurthi Brothers

TPN Correspondent | Sri Sathya Sai District

TDP senior leader and Raptadu MLA Paritala Sunitha came down heavily on the Topudurthi brothers, warning them not to resort to factional politics in Raptadu constituency. Speaking to the media on Monday, Sunitha responded sharply to the ongoing political narrative being pushed by the YSRCP camp after the recent death of



local leader Lingamayya. Sunitha made it clear that she was the first person who felt deeply saddened by Lingamayya’s death and condemned the efforts being made to politicize a personal dispute. She strongly criticized the Topudurthi brothers for “believing in false words” and for using the incident to create unrest in the constituency. “If Jagan Mohan Reddy has real courage and sincerity towards the

backward classes, let him give the Raptadu ticket to a BC candidate,” she challenged. She alleged that the YSRCP’s concern for BCs is only superficial and limited to slogans, while the real decisions continue to benefit their close circle. Warning that the people of Raptadu are not in favor of caste- or faction-based politics, she stated, “We are working for the development of this region. Don’t try to disrupt the peace by importing factional rivalries into our constituency.” Paritala Sunitha also questioned the double standards of YSRCP leaders, accusing them of turning personal incidents into political weapons while ignoring the broader needs of the people. “They are trying to cash in on every situation, but the people are watching. We will go to the public with facts,” she said. As the election heat builds up in Raptadu, Sunitha’s remarks signal a tough stance from the TDP, especially in light of the growing tensions between local leaders and the YSRCP’s attempts to make political inroads.

Gannavaram Court Grants Anticipatory Bail to Vallabhaneni Vamsi in Land Grabbing Case

- Custody petition against Vamsi dismissed by the court
- Vamsi remains on remand in TDP office attack and kidnapping case

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

In a significant development, former MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi secured anticipatory bail from the Gannavaram court in connection with a land grabbing case registered at the Atkur Police Station. The case pertains to the alleged illegal possession of eight acres of land. The court, after hearing arguments from both sides, granted anticipatory bail, providing temporary relief to Vamsi in the controversial case. The land dispute had drawn sharp political and legal attention after a formal complaint led to the registration of a case under relevant sections. Meanwhile, the court also dismissed the custody petition filed by the police seeking to interrogate Vamsi in the same land grabbing case, further



strengthening his legal position. However, Vallabhaneni Vamsi continues to remain on judicial remand in connection with other serious charges, including the attack on the TDP office and an associated kidnapping case. These incidents had triggered widespread political outcry and public debate. The legal proceedings against Vamsi are being closely watched as multiple cases involving him are at various stages in the judiciary. With the court granting anticipatory bail in the land case, focus now shifts to the outcomes of the remaining cases, especially those with political ramifications.

Notices Issue to 3 More in Former Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy Case

TPN Correspondent | Nellore Dist

The investigation into the illegal mining and transportation of white stone allegedly linked to former Andhra Pradesh Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy has taken a fresh turn, with police serving notices to three more individuals connected to the case. According to official sources, Kakani’s younger son-in-law Gopalakrishna Reddy, contractor Prabhakar Reddy, and a man named Chaitanya have been ordered to appear for questioning at the Nellore Rural DSP office on Monday. Police are expected to record their statements and



gather more information regarding their involvement in the unauthorized quarrying activities. The case was originally registered at the Podalakur Police Station in Nellore district and pertains to large-scale illegal excavation and transportation of white stone from government lands. Investigators believe the mining operation, which allegedly ran without proper permissions, caused significant revenue loss to the state exchequer.

Sources said that the police have gathered preliminary evidence suggesting a network involving political links, contractors, and middlemen who coordinated the logistics of the white stone trade. The involvement of close relatives and associates of the former minister has intensified political debate in the district. This development comes days after initial questioning of key suspects led to further names being revealed in connection with the mining racket. Officials are expected to widen the scope of investigation based on the responses given by those summoned On Monday.

Former Dy CM’s brother Ahmed Basha remanded for 14 days in land dispute case

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa District

Ahmed Basha, the younger brother of former Deputy Chief Minister and YSRCP leader Amzad Basha, has been remanded to 14 days judicial custody by a Kadapa court in connection with a land dispute case dating back to 2022. Acting on a complaint filed by a man named Mushtaq, who alleged that Ahmed Basha and his associates had attacked him over a land issue in Kadapa, the police traced and arrested Ahmed in Mumbai on Sunday. He was attempting to flee to Kuwait after returning to Andhra Pradesh for the Ramzan festival. Sources said Ahmed had been residing in Kuwait for several years to avoid legal proceedings. However, his presence in Kadapa during the festival was detected, and while trying to leave India again through

Mumbai airport, immigration officials detained him based on a lookout notice. After bringing him back to Kadapa, the police interrogated Ahmed for nearly eight hours regarding the land dispute case. He was later presented before the local court, which remanded him to 14 days in judicial custody. He has since been shifted to Kadapa Central Jail. Kadapa police also confirmed that Ahmed Basha is facing at

least three more cases, including those involving assault and land encroachment. The arrest has created political ripples, given his close relationship with a senior YSRCP leader. Further investigations are underway, and police sources said more arrests may follow in the coming days based on the evidence gathered during the interrogation. The case continues to be closely monitored in both political and law enforcement circles.



Government Fails Women’s Safety, Says MLC Varudu Kalyani

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

MLC Varudu Kalyani strongly criticized the ruling coalition government on Monday, alleging a steep rise in crimes against women especially rape cases since it came to power in Andhra Pradesh. She slammed the state leadership for what she described as a “complete failure” in ensuring the safety and dignity of women. Addressing the media, Kalyani said, “It is deeply disturbing that incidents of sexual violence against women are increasing rapidly under this government. Unfortunately, there is no visible concern from the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, or even the Home Minister.” She said that law and order under the current regime has deteriorated to an alarming extent, with growing fear among women in both rural and urban areas. “Despite shocking crimes taking place, the state’s top leadership continues to remain indifferent. Not a single strong measure has been taken to prevent or control these attacks,” Kalyani added. She demanded that the government initiate a special task force to handle crimes

against women, improve police patrolling in sensitive areas, and ensure fast-track courts deliver swift justice in such cases. Kalyani also pointed out that the silence of the government on brutal cases reflects their lack of political will to protect women. “If this government cannot provide safety to half its population, it has no moral right to continue in power,” she said. She called upon civil society, women’s organizations, and political parties to unite and demand accountability from the coalition regime. “This is not just a political issue it is about the lives and safety of our sisters and daughters,” she concluded.



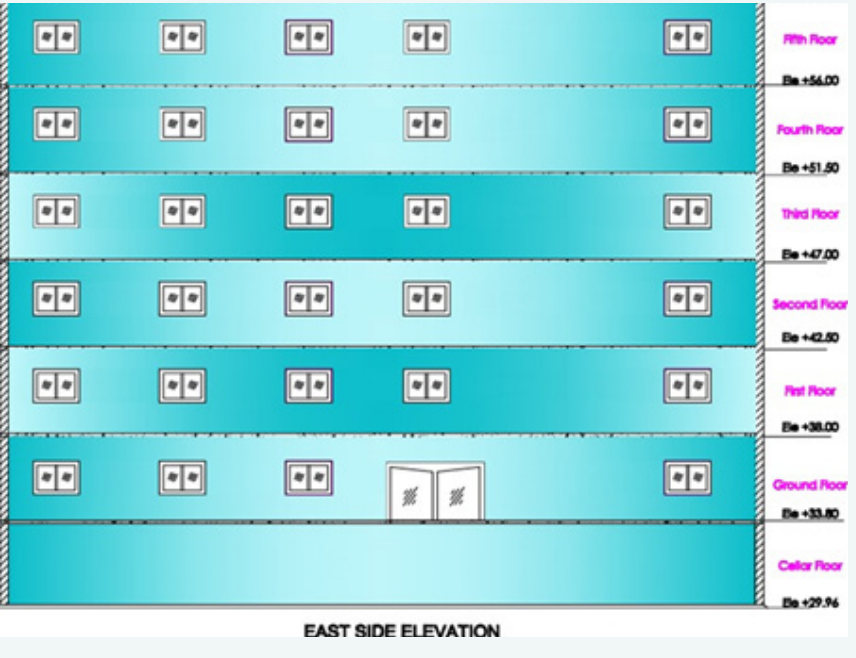
Massive Revamp Underway at Durga Temple for Devotees Comfort

₹100+ crore development works in full swing at Indrakeeladri
Queue complex, laddu potu, annadanam and sanitation projects progressing
Cooling, safety, and transport upgrades ahead of festival season

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
A large-scale infrastructure overhaul is underway at the historic Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam in Vijayawada to improve facilities for devotees. Since January 2025, the temple on Indrakeeladri Hill has been witnessing rapid development under the direction of Endowments Commissioner and Executive Officer K. Ramchandra Mohan. A key highlight is the construction of a queue complex from Kanakadurganagar to the Maha Mandapam, allowing devotees to access the mandapam through an elevated path, bypassing road traffic. The complex will include toilets, drinking water points, medical aid, and parking. This is expected to be completed in

six months. The six-storey laddu potu, with four floors already completed, is being built at a cost of Rs 27 crore. It will feature a modern kitchen, packing units, storage, and counters for prasadam distribution. In parallel, a two-storey annadanam building opposite the Maha Mandapam is under construction for Rs 26 crore, with a capacity to serve 1,200 devotees at once. A Rs 50 lakh road restoration from Kanakadurganagar to the mandapam is underway, along with a new tensile shed for Rs 99 lakh near the old pooja steps. The Navagraha Mandapam built with stone at Rs 76.33 lakh is ready for inauguration. Other key developments include a Rs

5 crore Yagasala and a Rs 6 crore Pooja Mandapam nearing completion, and copper coating works for the temple flagpole. Safety steel frames are being added around the prakara mandapam. Rs 2.4 crore is being spent on a tensile shed near Chinna Rajagopuram, while Rs 4.26 crore is being used for hill protection measures. Sanitation is being strengthened with steel dustbins, toilets, and 100 benches. Nine temple buses now have CCTV and bus timing boards. Plans are in place for a multi-level parking complex and escalators for hill access. To counter summer heat, cooling pavilions and white cool paint on walkways have been arranged. Landscaping with a Rs 23 lakh budget is also underway.



Govt to Rescue Aqua Sector with ₹1.50 Power Subsidy, Local Push – Minister Atchannaaidu

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaaidu assured that the Andhra Pradesh government will take every measure to protect and revive the aqua sector, which is under pressure following the US-imposed 26% tariff on seafood exports. Speaking at a high-level review meeting in Vijayawada, he emphasized that aqua farmers, seed and feed traders, and exporters are the four essential pillars of the sector and must act in coordination. To provide immediate relief, the government will supply electricity at a subsidized rate of ₹1.50 per unit to registered aqua farmers, without zone distinctions. The Minister also proposed forming district-level Aqua Coordination Committees, modeled after the poultry sector's NECC, to promote domestic consumption of shrimp. Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnamraju encouraged the public to in-



clude shrimp in their diet due to its health benefits and revealed plans to advocate for its inclusion in the Army's food menu. He said increased domestic demand can reduce reliance on exports. Special Chief Secretary Budithi Rajasekhar highlighted the need to turn this crisis into an opportunity by building self-reliance. Fisheries Commissioner Ramashankar Nayak, APIIC Chairman Mantena Ramaraju, and other senior officials participated in the meeting.

MLAs Gadde Rammohan Rao and Vegesna Narendra Varma urged a social media campaign to educate the public on shrimp's nutritional value. They said the formation of NPCC-like bodies in aqua will ensure stability. The government affirmed its commitment that no stakeholder in the aqua sector will be left behind and promised to hold aqua farmer meets across all districts to instill confidence and chart a collective recovery path.

Amaravati to Emerge as Hub for Women Entrepreneurs: MP Kesineni Sivanath



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) has emphasized that women students from Amaravati and Vijayawada need not leave their hometowns in search of jobs or business opportunities. Addressing final-year students at the "Navigate the Career After Graduation" program held at Mary Stella College, he said Amaravati will soon become a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and high-end industries under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's visionary lead-

ership. Interacting with students pursuing diverse courses like Microbiology, Life Sciences, Agriculture, Tourism, and Journalism, MP Kesineni answered queries related to career prospects and startup support. He stressed the importance of communication skills and knowing one's area of interest. A counselor from The Skill Shop joined the session to clear students' doubts, while the Kesineni Foundation announced a dedicated career counseling center for women.

Highlighting major upcoming developments, MP Sivanath announced that 1 lakh sq. ft. of land had been allotted to Elip, a women entrepreneurs' body, in Jakkampudi to create a light industrial zone within five months. He encouraged young women to utilize the facility and emulate the success of Hyderabad-based women entrepreneurs. He added that Amaravati is set to witness a boom in AI, quantum computing, mechanical, automobile, and defense tech sectors. Skill development centers will be set up accordingly. Reiterating the government's support, he cited MEPA's 1.4 lakh women entrepreneurs in Vijayawada who thrive through bank-linked ventures in textiles and food production. He urged students to make use of subsidies and follow successful women as role models to become entrepreneurs themselves. College Principal Dr. Sister Jesintha, Suji of Marpa Trust, and other dignitaries were present.

Poornahuti Marks End of Vasantha Navaratri at Indrakiladri

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
The sacred Vasantha Navaratri celebrations concluded on a grand note at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam, Indrakiladri, Vijayawada, on Monday, April 7, 2025. On the ninth day of the Vishnavas Nama Samvatsaram's spring Navaratri, the temple witnessed the performance of a special floral offering (Pushpaarchana) to Sri Kanaka Durga Ammavaru. The rituals began at 9 AM in the newly

constructed Puja Mandapam, located within the Nataraja Swamy temple premises. The flower offering commenced ceremoniously, with vibrant kanakambharas and fragrant roses brought in bamboo baskets by temple priests and staff from the sanctum of Sri Kanaka Durga Ammavaru. The procession was conducted amid the chanting of Vedic mantras and traditional rituals. The final Poornahuti was performed as a culmination of the floral worship



and the Vasantha Navaratri festivities, marking the end of the sacred nine-day celebration with devotion and grandeur. Sthanacharya Sri V. Shiva Prasad Sharma, Chief Priest Sri L. Durga Prasad, and several other temple priests participated in the rituals, ensuring the event was conducted with full religious sanctity. Devotees who attended witnessed a spiritually charged atmosphere, filled with divine chants and floral elegance.

A5 Accused Dr. Prabhavathi Appears for Custodial Torture Case Probe

TPN Correspondent | Prakasam Dist
Dr. Prabhavathi, the former Superintendent of Guntur GGH and A5 accused in the high-profile custodial torture case of MP Raghurama Krishnam Raju, appeared before Prakasam District SP Damodar on Monday for questioning. As the investigation intensifies, the probe now spans two days, focusing on her alleged role in tampering with medical reports to shield key accused during the previous YSRCP regime. Dr. Prabhavathi, who had previously gone into hiding and was issued look-out notices, secured relief from the Supreme Court against arrest. She earlier appeared before SP Damodar on February 7, but her responses were vague and evasive, claiming memory lapses. As a result, SP Damodar summoned her again, and she was questioned from 1:30 PM at the Ongole district SP office. The case pertains to the alleged third-degree custodial assault on MP Raghurama Krishnam Raju on May 14, 2021, at the Guntur CID office. While the Army Hospital later confirmed signs of third-degree torture, Dr. Prabhavathi's medical report falsely claimed



there were no injuries, including visible wounds on the MP's private parts. Based on Raghurama's complaint, a case was filed on July 11, 2023, at Nagarampalem police station. The accused include former CM Jagan Mohan Reddy, ex-CID chief PV Sunil Kumar, ex-Intelligence chief PSR Anjaneyulu, retired CID ASP Vijay Pal, and Dr. Prabhavathi. Of these, Vijay Pal and a private individual, Kamepalli Tulasi Babu, have already been arrested. Investigators are now pressing to uncover who instructed the falsification of the medical report.

Dist Collector Reviews Arrangements for CM's Visit to Nuzvid Constituency

TPN Correspondent | Eluru
Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu will visit Agiripalli in Nuzvid constituency on April 11 as part of the P4 (Praja, Pranalika, Pragati, Prabhutvam) program. District Collector K. Vetrisevi, who held a review meeting with officials at the Sub-Collector's office in Nuzvid on Monday, directed all departments to keep comprehensive reports and data ready ahead of the CM's visit. The Collector stated that during the visit, the Chief Minister will personally interact with poor families to understand their hardships and explore ways to improve their socio-economic conditions. Later, he will also address a public meeting in Agiripalli. Instructing officials, Collector Vetrisevi emphasized the need to prepare detailed reports on the poorest families in the area, the challenges they face, and the support needed for their upliftment. She also asked departments to be ready with constituency-level and district-level action



plans aligned with the Swarnandhra Vision-2047 agenda. Given Nuzvid's prominence in mango and horticulture production, she asked agriculture and horticulture officials to compile reports on crop cultivation, challenges faced by farmers, and potential development strategies for the sector. Joint Collector P. Dhatri Reddy, Nuzvid Sub-Collector Smaran Raj, Zilla Parishad CEO K. Bhimeshwara Rao, Special Deputy Collector Bhaskar, SC Corporation ED Mukkunti, DPO K. Anuradha, Civil Supplies Corporation District Manager Sri Lakshmi, and senior officials from various departments attended the meeting.

Unakaramilli's Sri Rama Navami

A Grand 83-Year Tradition that Echoes the Spirit of Bhadrachalam



TPN Correspondent | East Godavari

The quaint village of Unakaramilli in East Godavari district transformed into a divine and festive haven as it celebrated its 83rd annual Sri Rama Navami festival with great fervor and spiritual grandeur. Widely regarded as the "Bhadrachalam of Andhra," this village continues to uphold a tradition that has transcended generations and distances, bringing its diaspora together in a show of devotion and unity.

Unakaramilli, a village of approximately 300 families—predominantly vegetable traders—has nurtured this sacred tradition since 1941. What sets this celebration apart is the unbreakable bond that the villagers share with their roots. Even those who have migrated and settled in various corners of the country ensure their return to their native village to take part in the festivities, year after year.

The highlight of the festival, as per cus-

tom, is the ceremonial Kalyanam of Lord Sri Rama and Goddess Sita, which is conducted every year by a selected couple from the village. This year, the honor was bestowed upon Karibandi Venkataratanam and Madhavi, who carried out the sacred rituals with devotion and grace. Their participation symbolized not just a personal blessing, but also the continuity of a tradition that binds the village in spiritual harmony. The five-day-long festival is not merely a religious affair but a cultural celebration as well. A vibrant display of mythological plays—Harishchandra Natakam, Sita Ramula Vari Kalyanam, and Gayopakhyanam—captivated the audiences and transported them into the world of epics and dharma. These performances, staged with dedication by local artists, are cherished highlights that draw crowds from across the twin Godavari districts.

Adding to the sanctity and pride of the event, Andhra Pradesh State Tourism, Culture and Cinematography Minister Sri Kandula Durgesh graced the occasion as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, the minister fondly recalled his own childhood memories of watching Harishchandra Natakam during the village festival. He praised the unwavering commitment of the villagers in preserving their cultural heritage and said, "The way Unakaramilli celebrates Sri

Rama Navami is an example for every village in Andhra Pradesh." The minister also noted the increasing footfall from the surrounding districts, stating that for 83 years, devotees and art lovers have been arriving in large numbers to witness and participate in this unique celebration.

Unakaramilli's Sri Rama Navami stands not only as a festival but as a symbol of unity, devotion, and the undying cultural spirit of rural Andhra.



MLA Koneti Adimulam's Birthday Celebrated with Community Service and Fanfare



TPN Ch. Sekhar | Tirupati Dist

Satyavedu MLA Koneti Adimulam's birthday was celebrated in grand fashion on Monday at the Buchinaidu Kandriga Mandal Headquarters bus stand premises. The event saw enthusiastic participation from Telugu Desam Party leaders, activists, and local residents who gathered to extend their wishes to the people's representa-

tive.

A large cake was cut amid cheers and applause, with leaders and supporters feeding each other in celebration. Following the joyful gathering, a food donation program was conducted to mark the occasion with a spirit of service.

Party leaders praised MLA Adimulam as a leader who is constantly in the field,

engaging with the people of his constituency, understanding their issues, and working actively towards their resolution. They wished him continued good health and strength to serve the people with the same energy and commitment.

In Pichattur, a blood donation camp was organized by local TDP activists and admirers of the MLA. The initiative reflected the admiration and respect he commands across the constituency. Leaders commended the gesture and lauded the fans and party cadre for celebrating Adimulam's birthday in a meaningful way that benefits the community.

The large-scale participation and service-oriented programs highlighted the affection and trust the public has towards MLA Adimulam and reaffirmed his popularity in the Satyavedu region.

Prakasam Granite Goes Global, AP Becomes Hotspot for Investors: Minister Gottipati



TPN Correspondent | Palnadu Dist

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar announced on Monday that the world-renowned granite from Prakasam district will soon be exported globally, putting Andhra Pradesh on the map as a key player in the stone industry. The minister was speaking at the inauguration of a private granite factory in Murikipudi, Chilakaluripet mandal. Addressing the gathering, Gottipati Ravi Kumar emphasized that Andhra Pradesh has now become a favorable destination for small, medium, and large-scale industrialists to invest, thanks to the industrial-friendly policies of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. He stated that the coalition government is providing subsidies and support to those who come forward with in-

vestment proposals.

He pointed out that AP has climbed to the second position in the country in terms of economic growth, a feat made possible by the CM's proactive steps in encouraging business and entrepreneurship.

In a strong criticism of the previous YSRCP regime, Minister Gottipati alleged that under the former government, businesses were forced to pay "Jagan taxes" and had to navigate political interference to operate. "Back then, if someone wanted to do business, they had to please political bosses. Today, there is no favoritism or coercion. Only encouragement and support," he asserted.

The Minister further stated that the coalition government is committed to free trade and fair practices, ensuring a level playing field for all investors. He reiterated that such progressive steps would not only bring in more investment but also create employment opportunities and boost exports from regions like Prakasam, known for their high-quality natural resources.

Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy Launches Sewing Training Program in Atmakur

TPN Correspondent | Nellore Dist

Endowments and Charities Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy on Monday inaugurated a sewing training program in the Atmakur Municipal Corporation, aiming to empower women through skill development and self-employment initiatives. Addressing the gathering, the minister revealed that 247 online applications were received for the program, out of which 95 candidates have already been selected in the municipal limits. The remaining 152 applicants will also undergo training shortly. All selected women will undergo a three-month training course and receive free sewing machines upon completion. In total, 1,297 beneficiaries in the Atmakur constituency will receive training and machines, while the initiative will cover 4,967 women across 47 centers in the Nellore district. The government has earmarked ₹10.82 crore for training and equipment distribution. Highlighting other welfare programs, Minister Anam stated that 4.43 lakh people have received gas connections under the Deepam 2 scheme. In Atmakur alone, around



30,000 beneficiaries are being given three free gas cylinders annually, at a cost of ₹2.37 crore.

The minister also emphasized that the NTR Bharosa pensions, ranging from ₹4,000 to ₹15,000, are being extended to 68 lakh people across the state. In the coming two to three months, ₹56 crore will be spent on infrastructure projects in Atmakur including drinking water, roads, drains, and electricity works. Plans are also underway to upgrade the Atmakur District Hospital to a 300-bed facility. The Suryagarh housing scheme is being implemented free of cost for SCs and STs, with subsidies of 70% for BCs and 50% for OCs. Additionally, ₹6.5 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of the Atmakur bypass road. Two-cent plots will be allotted in urban areas and three cents in rural areas for the poor, along with ₹2.5 lakh assistance for house construction.

30 Students Miss JEE Mains in Pendurthi Due to Dy CM Pawan Kalyan's Convoy

Parents and students demand justice, call for re-exam or alternate arrangements



TPN Correspondent | Pendurthi

In a shocking incident that has sparked outrage across Andhra Pradesh, 30 students missed their JEE Mains Session 2 exam in Pendurthi due to traffic disruptions caused by Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's convoy. The affected students and their parents have begun staging protests, demanding immediate intervention and justice.

The incident occurred on Monday morning when students traveling to the Pendurthi Ayan Digital exam center were stopped en route by police personnel. The reason: Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's convoy was passing through the area as part of his official visit to the Alluri Sitarama Raju district. Due to the convoy-related roadblocks and protocol measures, students were delayed and reached the exam center at 8:32 AM, just two minutes past the mandatory reporting deadline of 8:30 AM. Despite their pleas, exam officials denied them entry, strictly adhering to the JEE Mains guide-

lines. The exam was scheduled from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, but the entry cutoff left no room for leniency.

The students and parents, visibly distraught, blamed the traffic restrictions imposed by the police for the missed opportunity. "We begged them, showed our admit cards—but nothing helped," said one of the affected students. "We worked hard for months. Is our future less important than a politician's convoy?"

The Deputy CM's visit, which includes inaugurating Adivi thalli Bata and attending Mahasurya Vandanam 2025 in Araku, has now come under public scrutiny for its mismanagement and lack of coordination with education authorities.

Protesters are demanding that Pawan Kalyan personally intervene and request the exam authorities to provide an alternative date or special consideration for the affected students. The state government has yet to respond to the growing public pressure.

ACB Raids GVMC Zone 4 Office in Visakhapatnam, Two Caught Red-Handed



TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

In a major action against corruption, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials on Monday conducted a surprise raid at the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) Zone 4 office in Gnanapura. The raid led to the arrest of two municipal employees who were caught red-handed while accepting a bribe. According to ACB sources, data entry operator Chandrashekhhar and public health supervisor Venkataramana were caught in the act while taking a bribe of ₹20,000 from a complainant. The bribe was allegedly demanded in return for processing and issuing a death certificate. The accused had initially demanded ₹40,000, but after negotiations, agreed to settle for ₹20,000. Acting on a complaint lodged with the ACB, officials laid a trap and apprehended the duo while the money was

being exchanged at the GVMC office.

The ACB officials are currently continuing their raid and verification of documents at the office. Further investigation is underway to ascertain if more officials are involved in the bribery or if similar demands were made in other cases.

The incident has sparked public outrage, as the demand for a bribe in the case of a death certificate—often required urgently by grieving families—has raised serious concerns about the functioning of municipal offices and their sensitivity in handling public services.

Officials stated that both Chandrashekhhar and Venkataramana will be produced before the ACB court after completing the necessary formalities. The ACB has reiterated its commitment to taking strict action against any form of corruption in government offices.

India's Window in Trump Tariff Era

On April 2, US President Donald Trump shook the foundations of the post-World War II global trade order by announcing sweeping tariffs across the board, with some targeted country-specific measures that surpassed even the expectations of his staunchest business backers. The global markets responded with shock, plummeting by 10% in the US alone, while the Federal Reserve is now expected to hold off on any planned interest rate cuts, fearing inflation. Analysts are drawing dramatic parallels to the Great Depression of the 1930s, highlighting the potential economic upheaval such trade policies may induce. While countries around the world have expressed concern and maintained their right to retaliate, most have refrained from taking immediate action—except China, which imposed reciprocal 34% tariffs on US imports. However, due to China's larger export volume, the intent appears more strategic—targeting Trump's support base in the agriculture belt to create political discomfort ahead of the elections. Europe's response is fragmented. The European Commission leans towards retaliation, but key nations like Germany and France, mired in political transitions and internal instability, prefer to tread cautiously and negotiate tariff reductions. Meanwhile, Canada and Mexico, who already faced tariffs under Trump's earlier moves targeting steel and aluminum, were excluded from the latest wave of 10% across-the-board tariffs—likely due to their deep integration with the US economy under the USMCA. In Southeast Asia, Singapore's Prime Minister delivered a stark assessment, declaring the death of the multilateral global trade order and warning that smaller nations may lose out significantly if trade deals become predominantly bilateral, as multilateral frameworks erode.

The broader context reveals that the US's move is rooted in long-standing concerns about China's exploitation of WTO provisions, which helped it dominate 32% of global manufacturing through state subsidies and technology transfers. Now, as the US retreats from globalised trade norms, volatility in trade policy is expected to continue, driven by internal political motives. The American domestic landscape remains deeply polarized, with protests against govern-



ment policies breaking out. Yet, Trump's base remains firmly behind him, muting significant Republican dissent. With Republicans controlling both chambers of Congress, institutional checks and balances are compromised. Radical right-wing elements are increasingly influencing decision-making. One such figure, Laura Loomer, is reportedly linked to the recent firings of key personnel from the National Security Council and NSA. This radical reshaping of internal governance further complicates US policymaking and its international engagement.

In this shifting landscape, India faces both risk and opportunity. The US is India's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade exceeding \$200 billion and a \$45 billion surplus in India's favor. While the protective US stance will close doors

for some nations, it may open others for those like India, who can reposition themselves smartly. Notably, Indian goods currently face 26% tariffs, significantly lower than the 54% and 46% tariffs levied on Chinese and Vietnamese products, respectively. This differential offers a competitive advantage—if India can swiftly negotiate sector-specific deals. India appears to be acting accordingly. Following a February 13 meeting between the Indian Prime Minister and President Trump in Washington, both nations agreed to pursue a bilateral trade pact. Talks have already begun, with the Indian Commerce Minister visiting the US and reciprocated by an Assistant US Trade Representative visiting India. A framework has been established, and detailed discussions across key sectors are now underway

Parliament's Performance vs. Pretense

For two consecutive days during the recently concluded Budget session, Parliamentarians sat from 11 am till 4 am the next morning, clocking an exhausting 17 hours. It may seem like democracy is working overtime, but a closer look reveals a far more cynical performance. These all-night sessions, rather than symbolizing democratic vitality, masked a disturbing erosion of parliamentary accountability. As columnist Vir Sanghvi once put it, Parliament is slowly turning into a "deep, dark chamber"—a metaphor disturbingly apt for what transpired. Take, for instance, the debate on the imposition of President's Rule in Manipur. Although the notification was issued on February 13 and Parliament reconvened on March 10, the discussion was postponed until the session's final stretch, that too well past midnight. The Lok Sabha granted it a mere 44 minutes, while in the Rajya Sabha, despite allocating three hours, the ruling BJP used just two minutes of its 75-minute quota. Astonishingly, the BJP's own floor leaders cut short their speaker midway—exemplifying a level of indifference that borders on contempt. The budget session was also marked by moments that demonstrated the resilience of the Opposition, even as procedural neglect continued unabated. In the Rajya Sabha vote on the Waqf Bill, the Opposition tallied an impressive 95 votes. Had a few members not been medically advised against traveling—such as JMM's Shibu Soren and Mahua Majhi, or NCP's Sharad Pawar and AITC's Subrata Bakshi—the count might have touched 100. One Opposition vote was lost due to a technical glitch, yet the strength on display sent a strong message. Meanwhile, the constitutional requirement for a Deputy Speaker in the Lok Sabha remains unmet, even 300 days after the current term began. Article 93 mandates the election of a Deputy Speaker "as soon as may be," but the government appears content to leave the post vacant, a pattern now becoming institutionalized. The systematic side-lining of the Opposition continued unabated. Not a single Opposition notice was admitted for discussion—something that hasn't happened since December 2023. The last Calling Attention Motion was accepted in July 2024, concerning floods in Kerala. Since then, attempts by the Opposition to raise urgent issues such as youth unemployment and voter ID duplications were met with silence. Faced with a communication blockade, the Opposition adopted a tactical shift—brief walkouts replacing longer protests. MPs would exit the House for 10–30 minutes, register their dissent, and return. It was a smart maneuver, drawn from the late Sitaram Yechury's playbook, signaling protest without derailing proceedings. Prime Minister Modi's absence during the Waqf Bill vote was another symbolic moment. With him abroad, he neither supported nor opposed the bill—nor even abstained. History will record his silence. Amidst the high drama, lighter moments reminded everyone that Parliament is also a human space. Forty-eight MPs across 17 parties attended the 15th LAMP (Legislative Assistants to MPs) Convocation at the India International Centre, praising young interns for their year-long contributions. Two DMK MPs found time to launch books—Tiruchi Siva released a compilation of his WhatsApp good morning messages, while Dr. T. Sumathy unveiled her work on Beatrice Webb. Amusingly, both launches were scheduled simultaneously at different venues. Finally, all eyes were on Amit Shah, who emerged as BJP's top performer—piloting three major bills, speaking for 45 minutes on Waqf (though not its pilot), and making rare cafeteria appearances to interact across party lines.

Startups Need More Than Scale

India's entrepreneurial landscape finds itself at a crossroads, caught between the buzz of billion-dollar valuations and the quieter call for true innovation. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal recently stirred debate by questioning whether India's startup ecosystem is content creating delivery apps rather than pioneering transformative technologies. His comments—criticised by some and praised by others—shine a light on a deeper issue: the difference between upstarts and genuine startups. The distinction is more than semantics; it's about ambition, originality, and a willingness to innovate at the edge rather than replicate existing ideas. Consider Vinod Khosla, a pioneering technologist and venture capitalist who once returned to Delhi before heading back to Silicon Valley to ride the digital wave. His passion lies not in copying successful models but in creating new ones—in AI, biotech, and energy. India needs that mindset. The term "startup" has become synonymous with rapid scaling and high valuations, yet many of India's celebrated unicorns are essentially local adaptations of global ideas. Flipkart mirrored Amazon, Paytm echoed PayPal, and Zomato resembled Yelp. They were smart businesses but not disruptive innovators. This "this of that" culture, as investor



Kashyap Deorah put it, has become dominant—fueled by venture capitalists chasing quick returns and media obsessed with valuation milestones. But true startup culture must be rooted in novelty, intellectual property, and a hunger to solve global problems. India has examples that

fit the mold: InMobi, which turned down a Google acquisition and competes globally in mobile advertising; I-flex Solutions, later bought by Oracle; and Zoho, quietly taking on Microsoft. Yet these firms, despite their scale and substance, lack the glamour associated with unicorn head-

lines. India hasn't produced a Google or a Tesla—not yet. But unlike China, which is investing heavily in home-grown tech breakthroughs like DeepSeek, India's ecosystem often orients itself around consumer growth and service models, not scientific breakthroughs. It wasn't always this way.

India has a strong legacy of research through institutions like CSIR, DRDO, and ISRO, which have quietly driven world-class innovation. What's missing now is the bridge between scientific progress and entrepreneurial action. There's a need for entrepreneurs who not only dream big but risk big—those who seek patents over press coverage and breakthroughs over branding. Historical figures like Jamshedji Tata, who built a steel plant in colonial India, or Verghese Kurien, who revolutionized dairy with Amul, exemplify the spirit of innovation and endurance. They operated before "startup" became a buzzword, yet they were more revolutionary than many modern ventures. Risk-taking must be encouraged in the right context, with entrepreneurs distinguishing between gamble and vision. India must also shed the entitlement culture in startup circles—expecting state support, subsidies, and soft landings—while ignoring the grit and patience real innovation demands. Several less-publicized Indian companies like MOSChip in semiconductors or Intellect Design Arena in fintech have created real value without noise. These firms deserve recognition, if not for their size, then for their staying power and focus on intellectual property



LPG, CNG Prices Hiked Nationwide

In a significant move affecting households across the country, the government on Monday announced a steep hike in the prices of domestic cooking gas (LPG) and compressed natural gas (CNG), alongside an increase in excise duties on petrol and diesel. Effective from April 8, 2025, the price of an LPG cylinder has been raised by Rs 50, while CNG will cost Re 1 more per kilogram in the national capital and nearby regions. The hike applies to both Ujjawala beneficiaries — who received free LPG connections under the government's flagship scheme for the poor — and general consumers. As per the new rates, Ujjawala consumers in Delhi will pay Rs 553 for a 14.2-kg cylinder, up from Rs 503, while general users will now have to shell out Rs 853 per cylinder.

The announcement was made by Union Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, who attributed the hike to the rising input costs, including a nearly 4% increase in natural gas prices last week. He emphasized that the revisions were necessary to keep pace with global pricing trends and maintain the sustainability of supply. This marks the first price revision for LPG since March last year, when rates were actually reduced by Rs 100 per cylinder, offering temporary relief to consumers. However, with inflationary pressures mounting again and international energy costs rising, the government has opted to increase both product prices and fuel taxes to manage fiscal needs.

The revision in CNG prices will impact public transport, delivery services, and personal mobility costs, particularly in urban areas where CNG is widely used. Additionally, the decision to raise excise duties on petrol and diesel is expected to have a broader impact on transportation costs and commodity prices, potentially fueling inflationary trends. While the government views these changes as a necessary step to boost revenue and manage fiscal deficits, the hikes are likely to spark political and public reactions, especially as they affect lower- and middle-income households directly. The full impact of these changes will unfold in the coming weeks as consumers and transport sectors adjust to the new rates.

President Murmu Begins Portugal State Visit

President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Lisbon on Sunday, April 7, 2025, marking the beginning of a significant four-day State Visit to Portugal and the Slovak Republic. This visit, the first of its kind by an Indian President in nearly three decades, underscores India's renewed diplomatic focus on Europe at a time of global economic realignment. The timing of President Murmu's tour is especially crucial, coinciding with recent trade policy shifts, particularly new tariffs imposed by the United States, which have disrupted global supply chains and are reshaping international commerce. Against this backdrop, India is actively expanding its engagement with European nations to bolster cooperation in trade, technology, education, sustainability, and innovation. Upon her arrival at Lisbon's Figo Maduro military airbase, President Murmu was welcomed with warmth and ceremony by Puneet



R. Kundal, Ambassador of India to Portugal, and Joao Ribeiro de Almeida, Portugal's Ambassador to India. The reception reflected the growing importance both countries place on their bilateral relationship, which

has seen positive momentum in recent years. During her stay in Portugal, President Murmu is expected to engage in a series of high-level meetings, cultural exchanges, and public events aimed at enhancing

mutual understanding and deepening ties between the two democracies. The visit is expected to pave the way for new partnerships, particularly in areas of digital transformation, green energy, and youth exchange programs. It also serves to highlight India's broader strategy of fostering relationships beyond its traditional allies, positioning itself as a proactive global player in an increasingly multipolar world. After concluding her engagements in Portugal, President Murmu will travel to the Slovak Republic for the second leg of her tour, further emphasizing India's commitment to strengthening its presence and partnerships across Central and Eastern Europe. Her visit is not just ceremonial but represents a deeper diplomatic intent to align India's growth trajectory with likeminded nations that share democratic values and a vision for sustainable global development.

Rahul Gandhi Launches White T-Shirt Yatra

In a bold move to spotlight youth-centric issues, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Monday joined the Congress party's 'Palayan Roko, Naukri Do' padyatra in Bihar's Begusarai district. The campaign, symbolized by a call to wear white t-shirts, aims to highlight the pressing concerns of unemployment and inflation that continue to affect Bihar's youth. Gandhi, who represents Rae Bareli in Parliament, called upon young people across the state to don white t-shirts as a visual form of protest to pressure the central and state governments into addressing the crisis of joblessness and migration. Accompanying him on the yatra was NSUI national in-charge and former JNU student leader Kanhaiya Kumar, who hails from Begusarai. Their joint appearance underscored the Congress party's renewed push to connect with the youth and grassroots issues ahead



of the 2025 Bihar assembly elections. The yatra drew significant local support and media attention as Gandhi walked alongside students, unemployed youth, and party workers through the streets, engaging with

citizens and listening to their grievances. Meanwhile, the political rhetoric intensified as Union Minister and BJP MP from Begusarai, Giriraj Singh, hit back at the Congress campaign, accusing the party of failing to

eliminate poverty during its decades of rule. He praised the developmental work under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, claiming that the current administration is focused on real, measurable progress. The Congress campaign, however, positions itself as a people's movement to reverse the trend of mass migration from Bihar due to lack of opportunities, inadequate wages, and stagnant job creation. By choosing Begusarai — a politically symbolic and industrially significant region — the Congress appears to be laying the groundwork for a youth-focused narrative in the run-up to elections. The 'White T-shirt' movement is expected to continue across multiple districts, signaling the party's intent to take its battle against unemployment directly to the streets and amplify grassroots voices on national platforms.

Dubai Crown Prince to Visit India



Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Crown Prince of Dubai and also the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, is set to embark on his first official visit to India on April 8 and 9, 2025. This high-level diplomatic engagement comes at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is expected to further enhance the strategic partnership between India and the United Arab Emirates. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Crown Prince will hold key meet-

ings with top Indian leaders including Prime Minister Modi, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. One of the highlights of the visit will be a "working lunch" hosted by Prime Minister Modi in honor of the Crown Prince on April 8, reflecting the significance of the bilateral relationship. Apart from political engagements, Sheikh Hamdan will participate in a business roundtable aimed at exploring new opportunities to deepen economic and investment ties between the two

nations. He will be accompanied by a high-powered delegation consisting of ministers, senior government officials, and leading members of the UAE business community, signifying the focus on economic diplomacy and cross-sectoral collaboration. This visit is being closely watched by analysts as India and the UAE continue to strengthen their comprehensive strategic partnership, which has seen a rapid expansion in trade, energy cooperation, and technological exchange in recent years.

Modi Inaugurates Pamban Bridge, Targets DMK

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated India's first vertical lift sea bridge — the Pamban rail bridge — in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu, hailing it as a "symbol of the union of technology and tradition." The state-of-the-art bridge connects Rameswaram island to the mainland and marks a major infrastructure milestone in the region. However, the inauguration wasn't without political undertones, as Modi took a veiled swipe at the ruling DMK government in Tamil Nadu, particularly noting the absence of Chief Minister M. K. Stalin from the event.

In his address, Prime Minister Modi not only underscored the technological importance of the bridge but also wove in cultural and linguistic references, playing the "Tamil pride" card amid ongoing debates over the "three-language formula" in the state. He urged the Tamil Nadu government to embrace regional language in higher education and medical training, suggesting that Tamil should be introduced as a medium of instruction for medical courses. "Many states across the country have started medical education in the mother tongue. Now,

even the sons or daughters of the poorest mothers who have not studied English can become doctors. I would also request the Tamil Nadu government to start medical courses in the Tamil language," he said.

Modi further highlighted the central government's contribution to healthcare infrastructure in the state, noting that 11 new medical colleges had been established in Tamil Nadu in recent years. He emphasized the global interest in Indian culture and heritage, stating that the government is making dedicated efforts to ensure that Tamil language and culture are promoted worldwide.

The Prime Minister's remarks come at a politically sensitive time, with Tamil Nadu's DMK-led government often at odds with the Centre over language policies and federal autonomy. The Pamban event thus became both a showcase of national development and a platform for subtle political messaging. Modi's pitch for Tamil pride is seen as a strategic outreach to the Tamil electorate, especially ahead of key elections, attempting to blend cultural reverence with infrastructural progress.



"Oil Prices Are Down, There Is No Inflation": Trump Doubles Down On Tariffs

- Global markets plunge amid trade war fears.
- Fed Chair warns tariffs may raise inflation.
- Trump urges interest rate cuts, blames Powell.

TPN Correspondent | US

U.S. President Donald Trump has defended his administration's tariff policies, stating that the U.S. economy remains resilient despite mounting concerns over a global economic downturn. Trump's comments come as stock markets across Asia and Europe experienced sharp declines following the announcement of new tariffs, sparking fears of a looming trade war.

In a post on his social media platform, Truth Social, Trump assured Americans, "Oil prices are down, interest rates are down, food prices are down, there is NO INFLATION." He emphasized that tariffs already in place were bringing in billions

of dollars to the U.S. from other nations, particularly those he has called out for "abusing" the U.S. in past trade deals. Trump singled out China, calling it "the biggest abuser of them all" and accused the country of raising its tariffs by 34% in retaliation.

China, in response, announced new tariffs on U.S. imports starting April 10 and threatened to take legal action against Washington at the World Trade Organization. Chinese officials also expressed their displeasure, stating that U.S. tariffs were "economic bullying" and would only serve America's interests, harming global trade relations.

The trade tension has led to a significant market sell-off. Eu-



ropean indices dropped dramatically, with Paris and London down nearly 6%, while Asian markets also experienced heavy losses. The Nikkei 225 in Japan halted trading due to panic selling, and India's Sensex and Nifty indices saw their worst drops in months, losing over 5% in early trade.

Amid these developments, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell warned that Trump's tariffs

could push inflation up and slow economic growth. Despite this, Trump urged Powell to cut interest rates to stimulate the economy, accusing him of "playing politics" in his role at the Fed.

As global markets reel from the fallout of these tariffs, Trump remains firm, urging Americans to "be strong, courageous, and patient" as his policies continue to shape global trade dynamics.



Myanmar Faces Thunderstorms as Earthquake Devastation Worsens

TPN Correspondent | Bangkok

People in Myanmar's earthquake-stricken regions are bracing for thunderstorms late Sunday, with heavy rains and strong winds disrupting ongoing rescue and relief operations. The storms have added to the suffering of those who lost their homes in the March 28 earthquake, forcing many to sleep in the open under harsh conditions.

Myanmar's state-run MRTV issued a warning on Sunday evening, forecasting scattered showers and thunderstorms across the country for the next week. "The public is advised to be aware of the possibility of untimely rain accompanied by strong winds, lightning, hail, and landslides," MRTV stated. The weather is expected to worsen, with daytime temperatures reaching 38°C (100°F) by mid-week.

The earthquake, with a magnitude of 7.7, struck near Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city. The epicenter hit several regions and states, including the capital Naypyitaw, leaving a significant trail of destruction. As of Sunday, Myanmar's military government confirmed 3,564 deaths, with 5,012 injuries and 210 people still missing.

The disaster severely affected infrastructure, leaving many areas without power or telephone services and damaging roads and bridges. These conditions have hampered efforts to assess the full scale of the damage. Rescue teams were forced to halt electrical equipment temporarily due to the rain, but operations continue despite the challenges posed by the weather.

As rain and strong winds caused further collapses of buildings, rescue workers faced additional obstacles. Reports indicate that at least 80 bodies were found at the Great Wall Hotel in Mandalay after rubble was cleared on Sunday afternoon, though this has yet to be confirmed.

The earthquake's impact is far-reaching, with over 5,000 buildings, 1,800 schools, and numerous religious sites and infrastructure damaged. The recovery and relief efforts are ongoing, but the full extent of the devastation remains unclear due to the challenging conditions.



Gold Prices Dip Worldwide in Wake of Market Downturn

TPN Correspondent | US

Precious metals continued their upward trajectory in March, with both gold and silver posting significant gains. Comex gold, in particular, surged past the psychological \$3,100 mark, reaching a new all-time high.

The bullish sentiment surrounding these precious metals was largely fueled by growing concerns over the potential fallout from U.S. tariffs, which have been a source of economic uncertainty. Investors flocked to safe-haven assets like gold and silver, seeking stability amid these turbulent conditions. Additionally, the anticipation of interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve further supported the positive outlook for precious metals. Lower interest rates typically reduce the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding assets like gold, making them more attractive to investors.

Gold's performance, driven by these factors, reflects the broader market sentiment that fears of economic instability are growing. Investors tend to turn to gold during periods of economic uncertainty due to its historical reputation as a store of value. Silver, too, mirrored gold's upward movement, gaining in tandem as market participants sought out both metals in response to global economic pressures.

As the outlook for the global economy remains clouded by trade tensions and shifting monetary policies, the precious metals market is expected to remain volatile. However, the steady demand for gold and silver suggests that they will continue to perform well as investors look for ways to hedge against the uncertainties ahead.

BAPS Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi Celebrates Ram Navami with Grandeur

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The BAPS Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi recently celebrated Ram Navami and Swaminarayan Jayanti with remarkable devotion and grandeur, marking a significant moment for cultural and spiritual unity in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Devotees from various regions gathered at the temple to participate in a day filled with devotional and cultural activities, reflecting the deep spiritual significance of these occasions.

According to Pujya Brahmanvihari Swami, the head priest of the temple, the celebrations began early in the day with Ram Bhajans from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., followed by the Shri Ram Janmotsav Aarti at noon.



The event witnessed an overwhelming turnout, with devotees and visitors coming together to honor Lord Ram and Bhagwan Swaminarayan. The celebrations emphasized unity, peace, and the eternal values of Hinduism, resonating

beyond borders.

A highlight of the event was a special cultural presentation by BAPS, staged to resemble the sacred confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati. Through a combination of mu-

sic, drama, and storytelling, young artists brought the life and virtues of Lord Ram to the stage, captivating the audience with their performances.

The temple, known for fostering interfaith harmony and spiritual devotion, continues to be a beacon of global Hindu pride. Ram Navami, the festival celebrating the birth of Lord Ram, is one of the most revered events in Hinduism. Lord Ram, considered the seventh avatar of Lord Vishnu, symbolizes virtue, justice, and righteousness. Ram Navami occurs on the ninth day of the Shukla Paksha of Chaitra, which falls between March and April in the Hindu calendar. It is also celebrated as part of the larger Chaitra Navaratri festival, a time for devotees to express devotion and seek divine blessings.

South Korea to Set June 3 Date for Presidential Election Following Yoon Suk Yeol's Removal



South Korea's cabinet is expected to finalize June 3, 2025, as the date for a presidential election after the impeachment of President Yoon Suk Yeol for his brief martial law declaration last week, according to Yonhap news on Monday, April 7, 2025.

The final decision, though not legally required, will be made during a cabinet meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025. The meeting is necessary to approve a public holiday for the election, a decision that is

expected to be officially confirmed. An unnamed government official told Yonhap that the cabinet's meeting will be key in setting the date for the upcoming election.

Yoon Suk Yeol was removed from office by South Korea's Constitutional Court after being found guilty of violating his official duties. The impeachment stemmed from his issuance of a martial law decree on December 3, 2024, which involved the deployment of troops to block

parliamentary sessions. This action, which was seen as an overreach of power, led to widespread protests and calls for his resignation.

Under South Korean law, if a sitting president dies or is removed from office, a new presidential election must be held within 60 days. While the reports citing June 3 as the election date have circulated widely, the date will not become official until it is declared by the acting president, Prime

Minister Han Duck-soo.

The issue of Yoon's removal has sparked intense debate and protests across the country. Thousands rallied in support of the ousted president, calling for his reinstatement and expressing concerns over what they perceived as an overstep of judicial power. Despite the public unrest, the legal process has continued to unfold, with the cabinet now preparing for the next steps toward a new election.

Bloodbath on D-Street

Sensex Suffers 2,200+ Point Fall; Global Recession Jitters Rattle Investors



Domestic stock markets were shaken. They lost heavily on Monday. Fears of a global economic recession due to President Trump's tariffs and retaliatory tariffs have shaken the indices. The US markets' collapse on Friday affected Asian and Indian indices on Monday. Investors sold their shares due to fear. It is difficult to say the fall in metal and realty shares. Media, auto, commodities, banking and finance shares fell by 4%. On the other hand, the dollar, rupee and bitcoin also rose. Gold, which is considered a safety investment, also fell. The fear index India VIX rose by 66% in the wake of geopolitical tensions, indicating uncertainty. In total, Nifty fell by 742 points and Sensex by 2226 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 75,364 in the previous session, opened at 71,449 on Monday. It touched an intraday low of 71,425. It reached an intraday high of 73,403. It finally closed

at 73,137, down 2,226 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 21,758, hit a low of 21,743 and a high of 22,254. It fell by a total of 742 points to close at 22,161. The Nifty Bank fell by 1,642 points to settle at 49,860.

2 companies gained while 46 lost in the Nifty50. Hindustan Unilever and Zomato were the top gainers in the Nifty. Trent, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, Hindalco, Shriram Finance were the biggest losers. Metal and realty rose by 5 to 6 percent. Media, auto, commodities, manufacturing, finance, private bank, infra, bank and healthcare shares fell by more than 3 percent. Oil, energy, pharma, consumption, IT, PSE and FMCG fell by more than 1 percent.

Market breadth on NSE today turned in favour of sellers. 327 stocks rose. A total of 2640 shares fell. Shares of 18 companies touched 52-week highs. 645 shares reached 52-week lows. 26 shares touched the upper circuit and

384 shares touched the lower circuit.

Shares of HPCL, BPCL and Indian Oil companies rose by 6% from their daily lows as Brent crude oil fell to a four-year low. The rupee weakened by 61 paise to settle at 85.84 against the dollar. The Centre increased duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 2 each. Fear Index IndiaWIX rose by 66% today to 22.84. This gives an idea of the uncertainty that is going to prevail. Indian markets have fared better compared to the fall in Asian and European markets. They fell by 13% while Nifty and Sensex fell by only 3.5%. Morgan Stanley has given Reliance an overweight rating with a target price of Rs 1606. HSBC has given a buy rating to Ventive Hospitality with a target price of Rs. 854.

Kalyan Jewellers India Ltd (KALYANKJIL)

Kalyan Jewellers has been on investor radar recently with strong momentum in stock price performance. The company is benefiting from robust wedding season demand and increasing footfall across its showrooms. Its expansion strategy into tier-2 and tier-3 cities is yielding positive results. The company reported healthy growth in Q4 sales and margin improvement. Recent buying interest pushed the stock up nearly 9% in a single session, supported by institutional activity and an upgrade by analysts. Investors remain optimistic due to strong brand positioning and a growing customer base.



NTPC Ltd (NTPC)

NTPC, India's largest power generation company, continues to maintain a stable outlook backed by steady generation and capacity addition. The company is actively transitioning into renewables, with plans to scale up solar and wind energy projects significantly in the coming years. It recently announced commissioning of several renewable power plants and is looking at green hydrogen as a future growth driver. The stock has shown resilience during market volatility, with analysts giving it a long-term buy rating due to predictable earnings and strong government support.



Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (POWERGRID)

Power Grid has been a consistent performer in the utilities space, known for its stable financials and dividend payouts. The company is central to India's power transmission infrastructure and continues to receive approvals for new inter-state transmission projects. It is also investing in grid modernization and smart metering infrastructure. The stock has attracted defensive buying recently amid market volatility. Analysts favor Power Grid for its predictable cash flows, healthy return ratios, and robust balance sheet.



SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd (SBICARD)

SBICard has faced some short-term headwinds due to rising delinquencies in unsecured lending and cautious investor sentiment around consumer finance. However, its strong affiliation with SBI and wide customer base gives it a solid moat. Recent quarterly results showed modest growth in card spends and active customer base, although margins were slightly compressed due to rising costs. Analysts suggest cautious optimism, especially as the digital payments sector continues to expand rapidly in India. The company is working on improving collections and diversifying its credit card portfolio.



Central Depository Services Ltd (CDSL)

CDSL continues to benefit from increasing retail participation in equity markets. With over 10 crore demat accounts, it has a significant market share in depository services. The company has posted strong earnings growth in recent quarters, supported by higher transaction volumes and record account openings. Market volatility tends to boost activity in the depository business, helping CDSL's topline. With digitalization in Indian markets deepening and IPO activity



expected to rise, CDSL is well-positioned for continued growth. Analysts remain bullish, with many suggesting it as a structural long-term play.

Government Hikes Excise Duty on Petrol and Diesel by ₹2 per Litre



On Monday, the Government of India announced an increase in excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹2 per litre, effective from April 8, 2025, as per a notification issued by the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

As per the official order, the excise duty on petrol has been raised to ₹13 per litre, while diesel will now attract an excise duty of ₹10 per litre. The change comes as part of the government's ongoing efforts to manage its revenue and control economic conditions.

Despite the hike in excise duties, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas assured the public that there would be no direct impact on consumers. The ministry confirmed that the retail prices of petrol and diesel would not increase, meaning the financial burden will not be passed on to the common man.

The government's decision follows a series of fiscal measures, including the scrapping of the windfall profit tax on domestic crude and fuel exports in December 2024. This tax, initially imposed on July 1, 2022, was removed as global oil prices continued to decline, easing pressure on the domestic fuel market.

The excise duty hike is expected to impact government revenues positively, but the assurance of stable fuel prices aims to maintain public confidence, especially as global oil markets remain volatile.

The increase in excise duties comes at a time when global fuel prices are experiencing fluctuations, and the government is balancing economic policy measures with efforts to shield the common people from price shocks. As the country continues to navigate through economic challenges, these regulatory measures will play a key role in ensuring that the energy sector remains stable, while the government's fiscal health is maintained.

India's Automobile Retail Sales Grow 6.46% in FY25, Markets Show Strong Performance

India's overall automobile retail sales in FY25 (April 2024 to March 2025) experienced a growth of 6.46% compared to the previous year, with passenger vehicles (PV) growing by 4.87%, two-wheelers (2W) rising 7.71%, and commercial vehicles (CV) experiencing a slight decline of 0.17%, according to data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) on April 7, 2025.

Rural markets showed a stronger performance, with two-wheelers increasing by 8.39% in rural areas, compared to a 6.77% growth in urban markets. Three-wheelers in rural regions rose by 8.70%, significantly outperforming the 0.28% growth in urban areas. Similarly, passenger vehicles performed better in rural belts, with a 7.93% growth, compared to a 3.07% increase in urban markets.

For the month of March 2025, overall auto retail sales declined 0.7% year-on-year (YoY) but saw a 12% improvement on a month-on-month (MoM) basis. The early-month weakness, caused by the Kharman period, was offset by a surge in the final week, fueled by events like Navratri, Gudi Padwa, Eid, and year-end depreciation benefits.

Segment-wise, two-wheelers saw a decline of 1.7%, while three-wheelers and tractors decreased by 5.6% and 5.7%, respectively. However, passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles showed growth, rising by 6% and 2.6% YoY, respectively. FADA president C.S. Vigneshwar praised the adaptability and resilience of India's auto retail sector, noting the strong performance in rural areas as a key highlight. He also commented on March's sales performance, emphasizing the impact of positive triggers in the final week of the month.

Additionally, Vigneshwar stressed the importance of setting mutually attainable targets between original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and dealers to avoid confusion and financial strain. He highlighted that excessively high targets, set without proper agreement, could hinder sustainable growth and customer satisfaction.

Tata Motors, despite a nearly 3% drop in stock value, continues to gain attention with its strong product strategy, particularly in the electric vehicle (ePV) market.



Rupee Slips to 85.63 Against US Dollar Amid Global Trade War and Market Slump



The Indian rupee fell by 19 paise to 85.63 against the US dollar in early trading on Monday, as the currency market reacted to the global trade war triggered by the US's reciprocal tariffs and China's retaliatory measures. The ongoing trade tensions sent shockwaves through global equity markets, causing them to crash to their lowest levels in years.

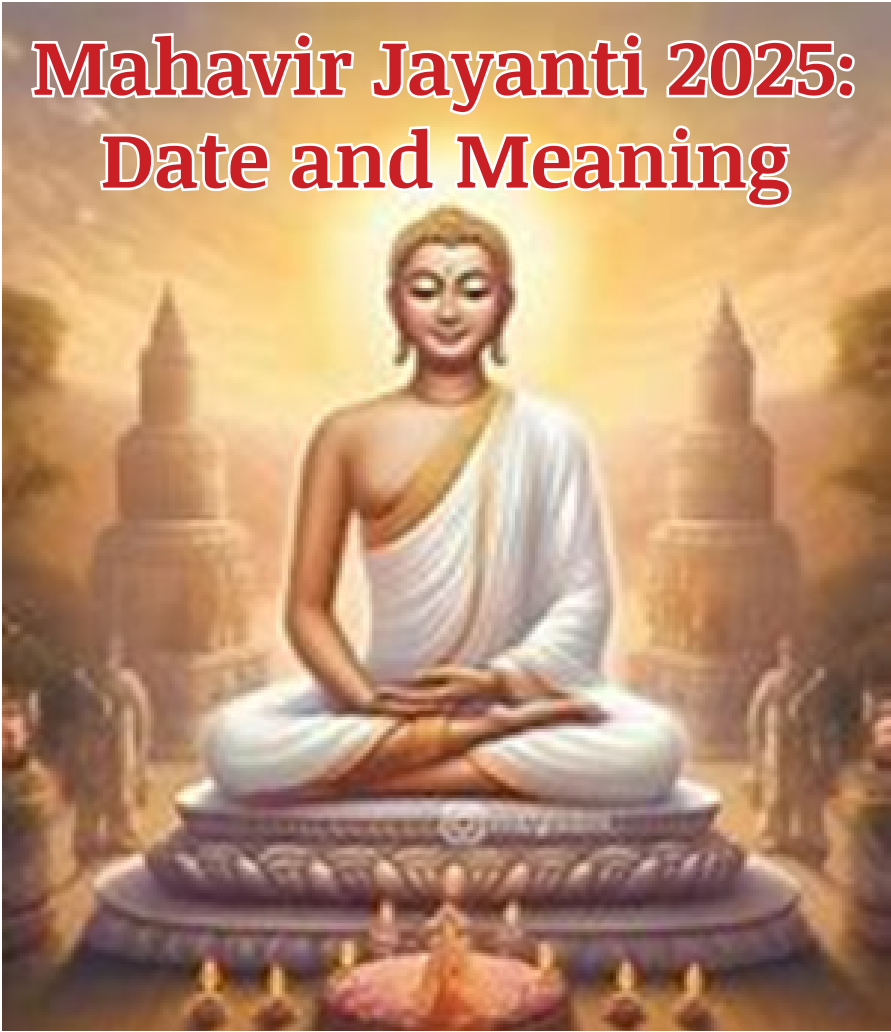
Forex traders noted that despite a sharp drop in crude oil prices and a weaker US dollar, the Indian rupee struggled to find support due to persistent foreign fund outflows. The ongoing sell-off in global markets contributed to these outflows, which added pressure on the domestic currency.

Market analysts have highlighted that the global economic uncertainty, driven by the US-China tariff dispute, has created a volatile environment for emerging market currencies, including the rupee. The continued turmoil in equity markets worldwide is adding to the pressure on the rupee, which has struggled to gain stability in the face of global economic challenges.

In the past few weeks, the rupee has witnessed significant fluctuations as a result of global trade tensions, which have led to increased investor caution. The uncertainty around the ongoing trade war, coupled with concerns about an economic slowdown, has resulted in capital outflows from India's equity and bond markets.

On the positive side, crude oil prices have seen a decline, which would typically provide some relief to India's import bill and, in turn, support the rupee. However, the overall global financial instability has overridden this potential benefit, leaving the rupee vulnerable to further declines.

As global equity markets continue to reel from the impact of trade disputes, the outlook for the rupee remains uncertain. Forex experts have urged the Indian government and central bank to closely monitor the situation and take necessary measures to safeguard the currency from further depreciation.



Mahavir Jayanti, the most sacred festival for the Jain community, will be celebrated this year on April 10, 2025 (Thursday). It marks the birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir, the 24th and final Tirthankara in Jainism—a revered spiritual teacher and enlightened soul who showed the path of non-violence, truth, and renunciation. Observed annually on the 13th day of the Chaitra month as per the Hindu lunar calendar, the date varies each year and typically falls between March and April. Also known as Mahaveer Janma Kalyanak, this festival is not only a day of celebration but also a deep reflection on the teachings and life of Lord Mahavir, who was born in 599 BCE in Kundagram, now in Bihar. He was born to King Siddhartha and Queen Trishala, and lived a royal life until he turned 30. Despite his position as a ruler, Mahavir experienced a spiritual awakening and chose to renounce worldly pleasures, embarking on a quest for truth and enlightenment. Through intense meditation and penance, he eventually attained Kevala Jnana (omniscience) and became a guiding light for followers of Jainism. His core principles—Ahimsa (non-violence), Satya (truth), Asteya (non-stealing), Brahmacharya (celibacy), and Aparigraha (non-possessiveness)—form the foundation of Jain philosophy and ethics. On Mahavir Jayanti, devotees engage in prayers, processions, charitable acts, and visits to Jain temples, where the life and teachings of Mahavir are celebrated and remembered. Statues of Mahavir are bathed ceremonially in a ritual called abhisheka, and sermons are delivered to inspire people to walk the path of righteousness. The festival serves as a reminder to live a life of compassion, simplicity, and spiritual discipline, in line with Mahavir’s timeless message to the world.

Non-Veg Biryani Delivered During Navratri



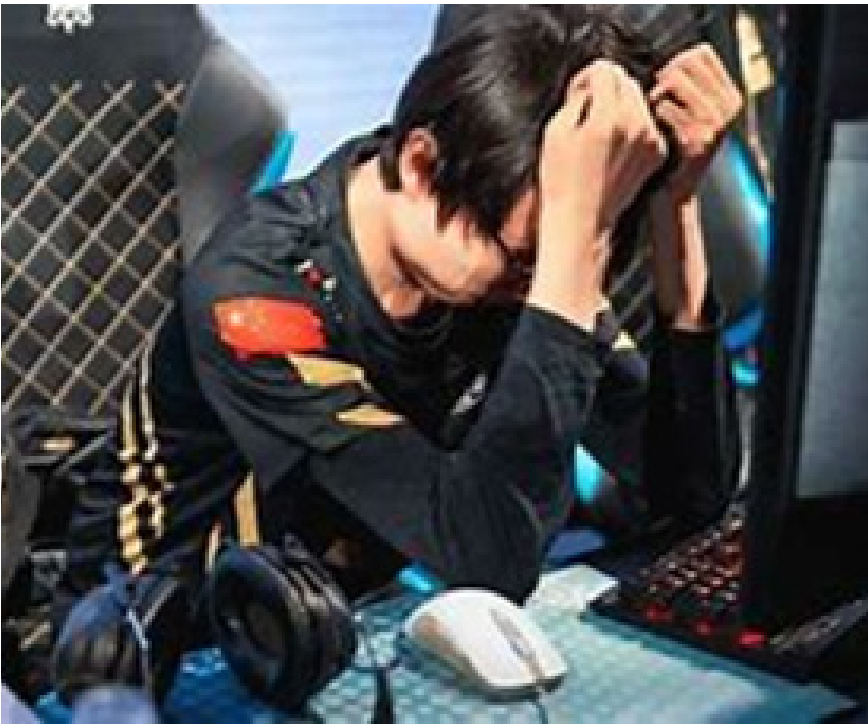
A woman from Noida has sparked controversy online after alleging that she was delivered chicken biryani instead of the vegetarian biryani she ordered through Swiggy during the Navratri festival. The incident, which took place on April 4, involved a meal from the popular restaurant Lakhnavi Kabab Paratha. The woman, identified as Chhaya Sharma, posted a video on social media expressing her distress over receiving non-vegetarian food during the holy period of Navratri, when many people abstain from meat. Her post quickly went viral, drawing sharp reactions from users across platforms and prompting a wave of outrage, especially given the religious sensitivities associated with the festival. In response to the uproar, the Uttar Pradesh Police took swift action by taking one of the restaurant’s staff members into custody for questioning. The incident has reignited the conversation around food delivery ac-

countability and the importance of accuracy in orders, especially during religious observances. While Swiggy has not issued a formal statement as of now, the platform is expected to investigate the matter internally. Meanwhile, Lakhnavi Kabab Paratha is also facing heat online, with many calling for stricter checks and greater sensitivity in handling such orders. This episode has highlighted the potential for seemingly small mistakes to escalate into major controversies, particularly in culturally and religiously significant contexts. Users on social media debated whether legal action was warranted, while others stressed the need for better training of delivery and restaurant staff to avoid such incidents in the future. As the investigation continues, the situation has become a talking point not just in Noida, but across the country, reflecting broader concerns over food labeling, consumer rights, and respect for religious practices.

Chinese Gamer Sues Over Insults

A bizarre yet thought-provoking case has emerged from China, where a longtime gamer has sued a gaming company after claiming that virtual bullying led to his depression. The player, going by the pseudonym Qiaoben, has been playing the multiplayer strategy game Three Kingdoms Kill Online for 15 years and currently holds the highest rank in the game. Despite his skill and achievements, Qiaoben alleges that he became the target of constant humiliation from other players who, after each defeat, would mock him by hurling virtual items like eggs and straw sandals at his in-game character. These symbolic acts, often used to insult opponents in East Asian culture, reportedly affected his mental health to the point that he plunged into depression. He blames the game developers for enabling such forms of

emotional harassment and filed a lawsuit demanding accountability. The game, developed by a Hangzhou-based company and released in 2009, typically involves 4 to 8 players and runs for 10 to 30 minutes per session. Qiaoben’s story has reignited global debate around the psychological impacts of excessive gaming and toxic behavior in online communities. While some argue that the responsibility lies with the game makers to moderate in-game conduct and limit abuse mechanics, others point to personal responsibility and the need for digital resilience. The case underscores how the virtual world, though intangible, can have tangible consequences on mental well-being. It also raises critical concerns about how game design and user interaction features might unintentionally fuel harassment. As gaming



continues to be a central part of modern life, especially in countries like China, this incident

serves as a stark reminder of the blurred lines between entertainment and emotional damage.

BBMP Revises Residential Parking Tax



The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has officially revised the parking tax structure for residential buildings, with changes coming into effect from April 1, 2025. This update primarily targets both covered and stilt parking areas and is based on the Unit Area Value (UAV) system—a method used to calculate property taxes by considering the property’s location, usage type, and built-up area. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath introduced the proposal last month, seeking public feedback within a seven-day window. The new system aims to create a more uniform and transparent taxation policy, especially for private parking spaces that were of-

ten inconsistently taxed under the previous framework. While this revision may bring some benefits to commercial establishments such as shopping malls—thanks to a clearer, standardized valuation—experts believe residential property owners, particularly apartment dwellers with designated parking, may face a greater tax burden. The move is being seen as part of BBMP’s larger strategy to boost civic revenue and reduce discrepancies in tax collection across the city. According to civic analysts, while the updated UAV model simplifies tax calculations and improves compliance, it could also place additional financial pressure on homeowners, especially those in areas classified un-

der higher tax slabs. The BBMP maintains that the revision will ultimately help streamline municipal revenue and improve urban infrastructure, but concerns remain over the lack of awareness and sudden implementation of the policy. Residents are advised to review the new UAV-based tax rates to understand how their annual property tax bills will change and ensure they are prepared for potential increases. As Bengaluru continues to urbanize rapidly, with more vertical residential complexes emerging, the impact of this revised parking tax policy could be significant, making it essential for property owners to stay informed and engaged with municipal regulations.

Can You Spot the Hidden Cat?

A new brain teaser has taken the internet by storm, daring users to spot a cleverly hidden cat in a messy, cluttered room. Shared widely across social media, particularly by the handle @piedpiperlko, the image has left countless viewers scratching their heads and zooming in repeatedly, trying to uncover the elusive feline hiding in plain sight. This viral optical illusion isn’t just a fun challenge – it’s a test of sharp vision, attention to detail, and perceptual agility. At first glance, the room appears to be an everyday, chaotic living space filled with scattered books, pillows, furniture, and miscellaneous objects. But somewhere in this visual chaos lies a cat, expertly camouflaged among the items. The teaser has prompted users to jokingly claim they’ve unlocked “superhuman vision” upon finding the pet, while others are left stumped after several attempts. Brain teasers like this one are more

than just internet fun—they actively engage the brain, enhance focus, and sharpen cognitive skills. Optical illusions, in particular, manipulate how our eyes and brain interpret visual cues, creating a fascinating disconnect between perception and reality. The challenge has sparked online debates and shared frustration as users attempt to beat the illusion, some claiming to see the cat instantly while others take minutes. The hidden cat teaser serves as a reminder that sometimes the obvious can be the hardest to see, and even a simple image can become a complex puzzle when framed just right. Whether you find the cat in seconds or stare at the image for ages, the viral post proves once again that our brains love a good mystery—and that not everything is as it first appears. So, are you ready to put your observation skills to the test and prove you have “superhuman” vision?



RCB Pile Up 221 Against MI as Patidar, Kohli Shine

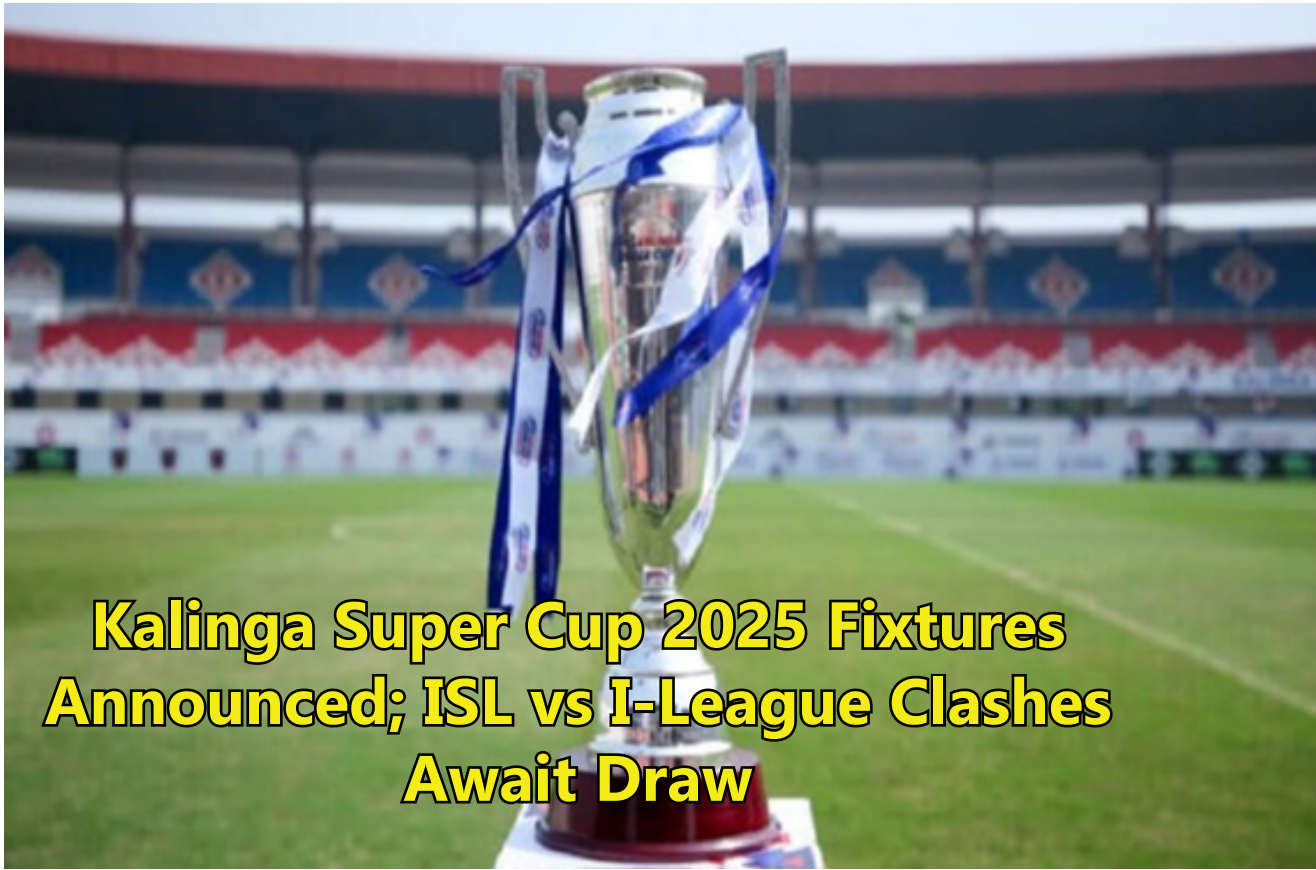


Royal Challengers Bengaluru posted a formidable 221/5 against Mumbai Indians in their IPL 2025 clash at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday. Skipper Rajat Patidar led from the front with a blistering 64 off 32 balls, while Virat Kohli anchored the innings with a fluent 67 from 42 deliveries. Devdutt Padikkal added quick runs with a 22-ball 37, setting a strong platform.

The late onslaught came from Jitesh Sharma, who smashed 40 off just 19 balls after arriving in the 15th over, propelling RCB to a powerful finish. Despite the onslaught, returning pacer Jasprit Bumrah stood out for MI, conceding only 29 runs in his four overs. MI will now need a strong response to chase down the challenging total in what promises to be a high-scoring thriller.

Dream Sports Championship Football 2025 Kicks Off in Goa

The Dream Sports Championship Football 2025 National Finals kick off on April 8 in Goa, with Dempo SC facing Chennaiyin FC in the tournament opener. The boys' finals feature eight teams, split into two groups, including top academies like Mohun Bagan, Reliance Foundation, and international invitees Norwich City FC. This year marks a milestone with the inaugural girls' national finals, starting April 9, comprising eight state teams nominated by the AIFF. Group matches for boys are scheduled on April 8, 10, and 12, while girls play on April 9, 11, and 13. Matches will be held at SAG Benaulim and Utorda, with the grand finale on April 15 at Raia Football Ground. Organized by Dream Sports Foundation, the championship promises a platform for India's top young football talent.



Kalinga Super Cup 2025 Fixtures Announced; ISL vs I-League Clashes Await Draw

The Kalinga Super Cup 2025 will be held from April 20 to May 3 at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, featuring 16 teams—13 from the ISL and 3 from the I-League (Churchill Brothers, Inter Kashi, Gokulam Kerala). The I-League clubs will take on the top three ISL seeds—Mohun Bagan SG, FC Goa, Bengaluru FC, with those pairings to be drawn on April 9. The Champion's Prize: Spot in 2025-26 AFC Champions League Two (Preliminary Round) Defending Champions: East Bengal FC Stay tuned for the I-League vs ISL draw results on April 9!

Inter Kashi Stun Rajasthan United to Stay in I-League Title Race



Inter Kashi pulled off a dramatic 3-1 win over Rajasthan United at the Kalyani Municipal Stadium to keep their I-League 2024-25 title hopes alive. Prasanth Karuthadathkuni opened the scoring in the 12th minute, but Rajasthan's Alain Oyarzun equalised in the 69th. With the match seemingly headed for a draw, Inter Kashi struck twice in stoppage time — David Humanes Munoz in the 90+4th minute and Matija Babovic in

the 90+7th — to snatch victory. Inter Kashi finish the league with 39 points, one behind leaders Churchill Brothers, and now await the AIFF Appeals Committee's verdict on their match against Namdhari FC. Meanwhile, title rivals Gokulam Kerala crashed out after a 3-4 defeat to Dempo SC. The win capped a thrilling end to Inter Kashi's season, marked by resilience and high-stakes drama.

Phantom Stars Clinch Inaugural TTSL Maharashtra Title; Teen Talents Shine Bright



Phantom Stars dominated the Table Tennis Super League (TTSL) Maharashtra 2025, emerging as unbeaten champions after a 14-8 win over PBG Pune Jaguars in the final at NSCI, Mumbai. The team won all seven ties across the league and knockout stages, powered by standout performances from Deepit Patil, Arnav Kshirsagar, and Onkar Jog. The league also highlighted emerging stars, with Divyanshi Bhowmick (PBG Pune Jag-

uars) and Prateek Tulsani (Mumbai Mozartt) named Best Women's and Men's Players overall. Bhowmick, just 14, remained undefeated in singles and doubles despite her team finishing runners-up. Mumbai Mozartt secured third place after a spirited comeback against Century Warriors. With a prize pool of ₹6.25 lakh, TTSL Maharashtra—an initiative by Ultimate Table Tennis—offered a professional platform for Maharashtra's brightest young paddlers and grassroots talent.

National Women's Archery Tournament to Celebrate 150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda

The first-ever Adi Shakti – National Women's Archery Competition will take place from April 8–10, 2025, at Ambaji in Gujarat's Banaskantha district, to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Held under the motto "Sankalp ni Shakti thi Safalta na Shikhar par" (From the Power of Resolve to the Pinnacle of Success), the tournament will showcase the talents of women archers from across India. Key Highlights: • Event Name: Adi Shakti – National Women's Archery Competition

- Dates: April 8–10, 2025
- Venue: GMDC Ground, Ambaji, Gujarat
- Participants: 550 women archers from 28 states and 8 Union Territories
- Categories: Recurve and Compound
- Prize Money: ₹41.52 lakh total across both categories
- Cultural Touch: Over 100 local artists will perform devotional acts to honor the divine presence of Goddess Amba, blending tradition with sport in the holy town of Ambaji, a revered Shaktipeeth.

Legacy & Future: The tournament will now be held annually in Gujarat, signifying a major boost to the state's sporting identity and ambitions to emerge as a national sports hub.





Samantha Stuns in Saree Comeback



Samantha Ruth Prabhu made a show-stopping return to traditional wear, proving that sarees aren't just for festive occasions. In a rare and refreshing appearance, she donned a stunning cream saree paired with a chic golden midriff belt, effortlessly highlighting her silhouette. The ensemble was equal parts minimal and majestic. Her understated styling—soft open hair and simple golden earrings—elevated the look with quiet confidence. No dramatic flair, no over-the-top accessories—just pure elegance and poise. This appearance

wasn't just a fashion moment; it was a statement. Samantha reminded everyone that simplicity, when paired with confidence and grace, can be just as powerful as a bold couture look. Her saree comeback was subtle yet unforgettable—and absolutely worth the wait. Samantha Ruth Prabhu made a show-stopping return to traditional wear, proving that sarees aren't just for festive occasions. In a rare and refreshing appearance, she donned a stunning cream saree paired with a chic golden midriff belt, effortlessly highlighting her silhouette.

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Akhil 6 Surprise on His Birthday



Akhil Akkineni turns 31 on April 8, and fans are in for a birthday treat! The makers of his next film, tentatively titled Akhil 6, have planned a grand reveal to celebrate. Directed by Murali Kishor Abburu and produced by Sithara Entertainments and Annapurna Studios, the film's intense pre-look poster has already sparked excitement. The poster features Akhil holding a silver dagger, with the tagline: "No war is more violent than love." This powerful line hints at an emotional, action-driven storyline. The official title glimpse will drop on his birthday, adding to the buzz. Music for the film is composed by Thaman S. Akhil 6 marks Akhil's return after Agent (2023), as he aims to deliver a gripping cinematic experience that blends love, war, and raw emotion.

Charan's PEDDI Hits a Naatu Sixer



Ram Charan teams up with *Uppena* director Buchi Babu Sana for *PEDDI*, a rural action drama that's already generating major buzz. Unveiled on Charan's birthday, the title and first-look posters received an overwhelming response. Now, the *First Shot Glimpse*, released on Sri Rama Navami, takes the hype up a notch. The glimpse opens with a powerful scene—PEDDI striding into a crick-

et ground, beedi in mouth, bat over shoulder, met with roaring cheers. It's pure mass appeal. He dashes through fields with raw athleticism before launching a cricket ball with a thunderous swing, setting the tone for an explosive narrative. The visuals promise grit, strength, and



style—all wrapped in a rural backdrop. PEDDI is clearly not just a character—it's a storm in the making.

Bobby-Hrithik Project in the Works



As Bollywood increasingly collaborates with South Indian talent, Telugu directors are becoming hot property. With Sandeep Reddy Vanga's success setting the trend, another major name may soon join the league—director Bobby. Known for commercial blockbusters like *Waltair Veerayya* and *Daaku Maharaj*, Bobby is reportedly gearing up for his Bollywood debut. Post-*Daaku Maharaj*, he took a brief break and recently met superstar Hrithik

Roshan. Sources say Bobby pitched a story that Hrithik responded to positively. While the full script is still under wraps, the actor has given a preliminary green signal to the concept. If the project materializes, it could mark a powerful North-South collaboration and a fresh cinematic experience for fans. All eyes are now on whether Bobby's next big update will be his official Bollywood entry—with Hrithik in the lead.

Tom Cruise's Final Mission Begins

Tom Cruise returns in *Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning*, the eighth and possibly final chapter in the iconic spy franchise. The newly released trailer delivers a thrilling mix of nostalgia and danger, showcasing Cruise's Ethan Hunt hanging off a WWII plane and even passing out mid-stunt. As the world faces chaos from a rogue AI called "The Entity," Ethan gathers his team for one last, desperate mission. The trailer revisits memorable stunts and emotional milestones from previous films, hinting at deep betrayals and compromised loyalties. A chilling voice-over declares, "Everything you were, everything you've done, has come to this." With the odds stacked im-



possibly high, Ethan's final mission could be his most dangerous yet—if he choos-

es to accept it. Fans are in for a spectacular, high-stakes sendoff.