

# US tariff cut brings cheer to aqua sector: Atchchanna

- Minister says tariff on Indian seafood exports to US reduced from 25% to 18%, easing burden on aquaculture sector.
- Export volumes expected to rebound by 10–15% with profit margins recovering to 7–8%
- Andhra Pradesh set to benefit with higher farmer incomes, employment and sectoral growth

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

THE reduction of the United States tariff on Indian seafood exports from 25 per cent to 18 per cent has come as a major relief to exporters and the aquaculture sector in Andhra Pradesh, said minister for agriculture, cooperation, marketing, animal husbandry, dairy development and fisheries K Atchannaaidu said on Monday.

Welcoming the decision, taken under the India–US trade agreement, the minister said the tariff cut would significantly ease the burden on seafood exporters,

particularly those engaged in aquaculture. He recalled that earlier, Indian seafood exports to the US were subjected not only to a 25 per cent tariff but also additional punitive duties, pushing the total tariff burden to 50–58 per cent.

As a result, between April and November 2025, India's seafood exports to the US fell by about 15 per cent in volume to 2.01 lakh metric tonnes, while export value declined by 6.3 per cent to 1.72 billion dollars.

Frozen shrimp, India's principal seafood export to the US, was the worst hit during this period, the minister noted. With the



tariff now reduced to 18 per cent, the competitiveness of Indian seafood products in the US market has improved considerably. Stalled export orders are being revived, and favourable conditions have emerged for releasing consignments held up in bonded warehouses.

Atchannaaidu said seafood exports to the US are expected to grow by 10–15 per cent in the coming months, with export volumes likely to return to pre-tariff levels by the second half of 2025–26.

Profit margins in the seafood processing sector, which had shrunk to 5–5.5 per cent during the high-tariff phase, are also expected to recover to 7–8 per cent following the tariff reduction. Duty concessions on key inputs announced in the Union Budget 2026 would provide additional support to the sector, he added.

While the US market

shows signs of revival, exports to non-US markets such as the European Union, China, Vietnam, Russia and the United Kingdom have remained stable. In early 2025–26, non-US markets accounted for around 57 per cent of shrimp exports, reflecting effective market diversification.

For Andhra Pradesh, the country's leading seafood-producing state, the tariff cut is a boon, the minister said. The recovery in exports will enhance income stability for farmers and fishermen, create more employment opportunities, and improve gross value addition (GVA) in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. Citing MPEDA estimates, he said India's total seafood exports are likely to reach 14–15 lakh metric tonnes in 2025–26, underlining the significance of the US tariff reduction for the sustainable growth of the sector.

# Dy CM warns liquor shops against overcharging

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
VIJAYAWADA

DEPUTY Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Tuesday directed the excise officials to maintain continuous surveillance on liquor shops and take action against those selling booze at inflated prices.

The Deputy Chief Minister received complaints that liquor is being sold at prices higher than the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) across the state. He asked liquor shops not to bring a bad name to the government by selling liquor at higher prices.

According to a statement from the Deputy Chief Minister, complaints are coming in from Kakinada district and other parts of the state. After examining the complaints, he stated that selling liquor at inflated prices is against the rules. It also brings a bad name to the government.

The Jana Sena leader said shopkeepers must strictly adhere to the regulations regarding liquor sales.

Opposition YSRCP has been targeting the coalition

- Orders strict surveillance and action against liquor outlets selling above MRP, citing complaints from Kakinada and elsewhere
- Says overpricing violates rules and tarnishes the government's image; directs shopkeepers to strictly follow excise norms
- Directions come amid YSRCP allegations of rampant illegal liquor sales, even as the Cabinet's recent Rs 10 per bottle hike aims to boost state revenue

government over illegal liquor sales. Its leaders alleged that the government is allowing rampant violations.

According to YSRCP leaders, the shopkeepers are selling liquor at inflated prices.

The state Cabinet in January decided to increase the maximum retail price of all sizes of India-Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) brands and foreign liquor by Rs 10 per bottle, while withdrawing additional retail excise tax imposed on bars.

It was announced that the increase of Rs 10 per bottle will not be applicable to cheaper liquor (180 ml bottle costing Rs 99), beer, wine and ready-to-drink (RTD) varieties.

The Cabinet also decided to increase the retailer margin by approximately 1 per cent of the MRP on IMFL and FL, including 180 ml IMFL bottles, beer, wine and RTDs. The price hike is expected to generate approximately Rs 1,391 crore in additional annual revenue for the state. At the same time, the withdrawal of additional retail excise tax will reduce the financial burden on bars by about Rs 340 crore a year.

# Mohan Babu, Vishnu booked for SFI leaders abduction

- Tension prevails after SFI leaders Akbar and Vinod were attacked and abducted while heading for a protest against Mohan Babu University
- Police rescue the two student leaders within an hour and take the accused and vehicles used into custody

PRADEEP VENNELAKANTI  
TIRUPATI

TIRUPATI witnessed tension on Tuesday after two student leaders were allegedly attacked and abducted while they were on their way to the Collectorate to stage a protest against alleged irregularities at Mohan Babu University (MBU). About 30 persons reportedly attacked SFI district general secretary Akbar and SFI SV University leader Vinod and took them away in vehicles. The incident led to the filing of cases against Cine action Manchu Mohan Babu and Manchu Vishnu along with others.

The sudden incident shocked SFI students. CITU state vice president Kandarpu Murali immediately brought the matter to the notice of district SP L Subba Rayudu and ASP Ravi Manoharachari.

Murali warned that any threat to student leaders would lead to serious consequences and demanded strict action from the police and the state government. He questioned whether violence was the answer when students were only seeking correction of alleged wrong-doings.

Police acted swiftly and rescued the two SFI leaders



CPM leaders protesting before Tiruchanoor police station on Tuesday



SFI leaders Akbar and Vinod

within an hour of the incident. The accused were taken into custody and the vehicles used for the abduction were seized. SP Subba Rayudu said criminal cases would be registered not only against those who carried out the abduction but also against those who planned it. He assured a comprehensive investigation and stated that no one would be spared for taking the law into their own hands.

Meanwhile, Tiruchanuru police have registered a case against those involved in the abduction of SFI student leaders Akbar and Vinod. The case has been booked as Crime No 23/2026 under Sections 191(2), 115(2), 140(1), 126(2), 351(2) R/w 190 and 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Tiruchanoor police station.

The accused named in the case include A1 Satheesh, A2 Mohan Babu and A3 Manchu Vishnu Babu. In addition to them, cases have also been registered against around 20 other persons in connection with the incident.

Student organisations have been raising concerns for the past several months over alleged irregularities at Mohan Babu University, particularly regarding fee collections. They had submitted several representations to the state government seeking an inquiry and justice for students. Citing no response, SFI had called for a protest at the collectorate demanding immediate government action and criminal cases against the university management. CPM leaders alleged that the protest was deliberately foiled by a group of assailants allegedly employed by the university.

CPM state secretary V Srinivasa Rao demanded stringent punishment for those involved in the attack and abduction. He recalled that the higher education de-

partment had issued notices to the university earlier, but no effective action was taken. He condemned the alleged use of criminal elements to intimidate students and demanded that the university be blacklisted.

Congress Tirupati city president Gowdaperu Chitibabu condemned the abduction and said intimidating students to protect vested interests was unacceptable. CPI Tirupati city secretary J Viswanath also demanded immediate action and warned that protests against the alleged irregularities would continue.

AP Parents Association state president S Narahari condemned the attack and urged the Chief Minister to intervene. He demanded implementation of APHERMC inquiry committee recommendations, cancellation of university permissions, refund of Rs 26.17 crore allegedly collected illegally from students, enforcement of the Rs 15 lakh penalty, and withdrawal of false cases against parents and students.

# CPM seeks fast-track court for constable Soumya death case

## CPM State secretary John Wesley demands strict action against drug mafia

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

THE Communist Party of India (Marxist) State Committee has strongly condemned the brutal murder of Excise Department woman constable Soumya, a resident of Mopal village in Nizamabad district, allegedly carried out by the drug mafia by staging a car accident.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, CPM State Secretary John Wesley demanded that the state government immediately constitute a fast-track court to ensure swift and severe punishment for those responsible for the crime.

The CPM alleged that the influence of the drug mafia

has been growing unchecked in Hyderabad and several major district headquarters and towns across Telangana. Referring to frequent drug seizures during police raids in Rangareddy district, the party described the situation as alarming and indicative of the deep-rooted nature of the narcotics network.

While Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has stated that drugs will be eradicated from the state, the CPM said the ground reality tells a different story. According to the party, the supply and circulation of narcotics continue unabated in every district, exposing the government's failure to effectively curb the menace. The statement



warned that drug abuse is pushing the youth onto a dangerous path, contributing to social unrest and an increase in crimes, including sexual violence and atrocities against women. The CPM further alleged that the drug mafia's influence is expanding across the Telugu states, leading to a series of violent incidents and murders.

Citing previous cases, the party pointed to the murder of CPM activist Penchalaiah in Nellore and now the killing of Constable Soumya

as evidence of the growing audacity of criminal networks. "If those entrusted with protecting the public are being targeted, one can imagine the plight of ordinary citizens," the statement said. The CPM demanded stringent action to ensure exemplary punishment in the Constable Soumya murder case and called for the complete dismantling of the drug network, rather than limiting action to arrests alone. The party urged senior police officials, including former DGP M. Mahender Reddy and IPS officer V.C. Sajjanar, to go beyond praising the bravery of victims and take decisive steps to eliminate the drug mafia from the state.

# Revanth to launch civic poll campaign in Nalgonda today

Ruling party launches campaign with Miryalaguda public meeting while opposition gears up for intense rallies and door to door canvassing across the State ahead of the February 11 municipal elections

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD

AMID a looming rebel threat to all major parties, the ruling Congress, BRS, and BJP have geared up to intensify their poll campaigns for the upcoming municipal elections from Wednesday. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will formally launch the Congress campaign with a major public meeting in Miryalaguda. Meanwhile, BRS leaders have organised a series of rallies across towns for a seven-day stretch, and the BJP is focusing on establishing dominance in the northern districts. The Chief Minister has instructed District Congress Committee presidents to finalise arrangements for public meetings scheduled until



9 February. Leaders were also told to coordinate daily rallies and door-to-door visits in every ward. TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud

is set to oversee coordination with district leadership to ensure a seamless campaign. Concurrently, BRS working president Rama Rao has

finalised a rigorous schedule for all districts. He and Harish Rao are expected to personally lead rallies in selected municipalities during the final three days of the campaign, particularly in areas where Congress is posing a significant challenge.

The BJP aims to leverage its recent Lok Sabha successes by fielding strong candidates in Nizamabad, Adilabad, Karmannagar, and Mahbubnagar. Union ministers, MPs, and MLAs will camp in these municipalities for the week to bolster the saffron party's presence. With nominations now finalised, all three parties are deploying their full political might to sway urban voters before the state goes to the polls.

# SC clears decks for appointment of Azhar, Kodandaram as MLCs

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI

THE Supreme Court on Tuesday once again clarified that its orders do not pose any obstacle to the appointment of Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs) under the Governor's quota in Telangana. The clarification is expected to pave the way for the Governor to take a decision on the names—Prof M Kodandaram and Mohd Azharuddin, recommended by the state cabinet.

The apex court observed that it had already made its position clear in its interim order dated August 13 last year, stating that the Governor is free to act in accordance with the recommendations of the state cabinet.

The observation was made by a bench headed by Justice Vikram Nath while hearing a vacate petition filed by former MLC Amir Ali Khan, seeking to lift the orders issued in connection with his election. The court directed that Amir Ali Khan's petition be tagged with the main petition filed by Dasoju Shraavan and adjourned the matter to March 19 for further hearing.

The controversy dates back to 2023, when the Telangana cabinet, chaired



by then Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, recommended the names of Dasoju Shraavan and Kurra Satyanarayana for nomination as MLCs under the Governor's quota. However, the then Governor Tamilsai Soundararajan rejected the nominations, citing their political affiliations and stating that they did not fulfil the criteria laid down under Article 171(5) of the Constitution.

After the Congress government assumed office in 2024, the state cabinet recommended the names of Prof. M. Kodandaram and journalist Amir Ali Khan for the two Governor's quota MLC seats, which were subsequently approved by the Governor.

Challenging these appointments, Dasoju Shraavan and Kurra Satyanarayana first approached the Telangana

High Court and later the Supreme Court. On August 13, 2025, the apex court set aside the appointments of Kodandaram and Amir Ali Khan, clarifying that the two MLC positions would be filled subject to further orders.

While hearing Amir Ali Khan's plea on Tuesday, the Supreme Court reiterated that its earlier directions were not intended to hinder or stall the selection of Governor's quota MLCs in Telangana.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)	
Tender No. 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-1031	Dated: 02/02/2026
Name of work with its location	Provision of balanced Coach Guidance System at NNO, SSB, NUR, BVH, & Passenger Amenities (Telecom) at newly constructed platform at Anand Vihar Railway Stations and balanced IPIS auto announcement, TIDB etc at stations where train handling facility is to be started due to Station Redevelopment of NDLS station.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 1,79,60,613.08/-only
Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	₹ 2,39,800.00/-only.
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender	Tender uploading / closing date & time- 25/02/2026 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website <a href="http://www.irps.gov.in">www.irps.gov.in</a> & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.
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