



# SLBC Tunnel Collapse

- Eight trapped in SLBC tunnel collapse, including two engineers.**
- 42 workers escaped after water seepage triggered the incident.**
- CM Revanth Reddy orders urgent rescue operations.**
- PM Modi assures support, speaks to Revanth Reddy.**
- NDRF teams deployed from Vijayawada and Hyderabad.**
- Minister Uttam assures all efforts to rescue trapped workers safely.**

**Addressing a press conference, Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that the trapped individuals include two engineers, two machine operators, and four workers. Among them, six workers hail from Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, while the engineers are employed with Robbins.**



**TPN Correspondent | Nagarkurnool**  
Eight persons, including two engineers from Robbins Tunnel Boring Machines Manufacturing Company, are trapped inside the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel after a collapse near Domalapeda in Amrabad Mandal, Nagarkurnool, early this morning. CM Revanth Reddy Orders SLBC Rescue Ops  
Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has responded to the SLBC tunnel accident, expressing shock over the tunnel roof collapse. He directed the Nagarkurnool District Collector, SP, Fire Department, Hydra, and Irrigation Department officials to take immediate rescue measures.  
Telangana Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, accompanied by Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, visited the mishap site and assured that the government would make every effort to rescue those trapped. He confirmed that assistance from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is being sought to expedite the rescue operations.  
Minister revealed that 42 workers had managed to escape. According to him, 50 workers



had entered the tunnel at 8 am, and the boring machine was started at 8:30 am. One of the machine operators noticed water seeping into the tunnel and immediately raised an alarm, enabling 42 workers to move to safety. However, before others could escape, a significant portion of the earth collapsed, trapping the remaining eight on the other side.  
Rescue operations are underway, with authorities working tirelessly to ensure the safe evacuation of those trapped.

**PM Modi Calls CM Revanth Reddy**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to inquire about the SLBC tunnel accident near Domalapeda in Nagarkurnool district. Several workers were injured, while eight remain trapped inside the collapsed tunnel.  
During the call, Revanth Reddy briefed the Prime Minister on the ongoing rescue efforts. He informed Modi that Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Jupally Krishna Rao were at the site, overseeing operations. Modi assured full cooperation from the Centre in the rescue efforts.  
Meanwhile, three NDRF teams—two from Vijayawada and one from Hyderabad—have arrived at the site. Among those trapped are two engineers, two operators, and four laborers. Rescue operations are in full swing.



## KTR Demands Probe Into SLBC Tunnel Collapse

**TPN Correspondent | Telangana**  
BRS working president and MLA K T Rama Rao has held Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy directly responsible for the SLBC tunnel roof collapse in Nagarkurnool district. He accused the Congress-led State government of compromising on quality standards and supervision due to alleged collusion with contractors.  
Pointing to a series of failures, he highlighted the recent collapse of the retaining wall at the under-construction intake well at Sunkishala near Nagarjuna Sagar dam. "These repeated incidents are a result of the govern-



ment's neglect in maintaining quality standards, driven by their pursuit of commissions," he alleged. Rama Rao demanded a thorough and transparent investigation into the tunnel collapse to determine accountability. He stressed the need for immediate and efficient

## Rahul Gandhi's Vision Behind BC Caste Census

- BC caste census a bold decision, says CM Revanth Reddy.
- 1.12 crore families surveyed with 96.9% participation.
- Survey conducted transparently using 15 government departments.
- Rahul Gandhi's vision behind nationwide caste census push.



**TPN Correspondent | Telangana**  
Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy reaffirmed that the BC caste census is a historic and bold initiative undertaken in line with Rahul Gandhi's vision. Addressing a media conference

aimed at clearing doubts surrounding the survey, he asserted that Telangana will set an example for the entire country in implementing caste-based enumeration.

## Trump's third attack on \$21mn USAID

'Why are we caring about India's turnout?'



## We Will Hunt You Down...

- Kash Patel's Bold Warning as New FBI Director

- Kash Patel, Indian-origin, took oath as FBI Director on Friday.
- Confirmed 51-49 by Senate on Thursday.
- Supported by Trump, Bondi, and most GOP.



**TPN Correspondent | Washington**  
Kash Patel, an Indian-origin attorney and loyal ally of President Donald Trump, was confirmed by the Senate on Thursday as the ninth Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in a tight 51-49 vote. Patel, who took his oath on Friday administered by Attorney General Pam Bondi, won support from most Republicans.  
Born in 1980 in New York to Gujarati Indian parents, Patel earned a BA from the University of Richmond and a JD from Pace University. He be-

gan as a public defender in Florida, later joining the Department of Justice in 2014, and rose in Trump's circle as a senior aide to Congressman Devin Nunes in 2017, countering Russia probes. Patel held key roles in the National Security Council and Pentagon during Trump's first term, gaining notoriety for promoting "deep state" theories and authoring books like Government Gangsters.  
On X, Patel thanked Trump and Bondi: "I am honoured to be confirmed as the ninth Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Thank you to President Trump and Attorney General Pam Bondi for your unwavering confidence and support." He pledged to restore trust, saying, "The FBI has a storied legacy—from the 'G-Men' to safeguarding our nation in the wake of 9/11. The American people deserve an FBI that is transparent,

## Harish Rao Accepts Revanth Reddy's Debate Challenge

- BRS MLA slams Congress' 14-month rule
- Criticizes Congress for irrigation failures and water diversion issues.

**TPN Correspondent | Telangana**  
Senior BRS MLA and former Minister T Harish Rao has accepted Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's challenge for an open debate on the Congress government's 14-month rule. Declaring his readiness for discussion at any place of Revanth's choice, Harish Rao demanded a debate on the Congress' six guarantees and its "420 false promises."  
Lashing out at the Congress government's handling of irrigation projects, Harish Rao accused it of failing to protect Telangana's share of Krishna waters. He criticized the administration for allowing Andhra Pradesh to divert water while shifting blame onto the BRS. "Instead of misleading people and making baseless accusations, the Congress should focus on governance that benefits Telangana," he said.  
He also slammed the government for neglecting the near-complete Palamuru-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme. Highlighting



BRS' contributions under former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, Harish Rao said Palamuru, once drought-prone, saw transformation through irrigation projects. He accused the Congress and TDP of historically neglecting the region, stating, "Revanth Reddy, having been part of both parties, shares their failures."  
Taking a dig at Revanth Reddy's past, he alleged that Congress leaders had remained silent when Telangana's water was diverted through Pothireddypadu during YS Rajasekhara Reddy's tenure.



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## KTR Demands Probe Into SLBC Tunnel Collapse

rescue operations to save those trapped inside and ensure they receive proper medical care. He also urged the State government to take full responsibility for the mishap and implement strict safety measures to prevent such incidents in the future. Referring to past incidents at the Kaleshwaram Project, he questioned the Congress's silence on their own governance failures. Rama Rao called for stringent action against those responsible and insisted that infrastructure projects must adhere to safety regulations.

## Rahul Gandhi's Vision Behind BC Caste Census

Revanth Reddy highlighted that Rahul Gandhi's 25-day padayatra in Telangana and Sonia Gandhi's commitment to the formation of the state played a pivotal role in securing public trust for the Congress. He emphasized that the caste census was conducted with complete transparency, utilizing officials from 15 government departments to collect information from 1.12 crore families across the state. The survey covered eight pages of detailed data, ensuring 100% accuracy—a feat that, he claimed, had not been achieved in the past century. The Chief Minister revealed that 96.9% of the population participated, while 3.1% abstained. He criticized past surveys under the BRS regime for categorizing population data into four broad groups, whereas the current census introduced a fifth category, ensuring better representation. Additionally, he pointed out that OBCs among Muslims were previously overlooked, which has now been rectified. Revanth Reddy underscored the need for a nationwide caste census, echoing Rahul Gandhi's prediction that such a survey would soon be implemented across all states. He warned that if the caste census is ignored, Backward Classes (BCs) would suffer the most. Assuring BC communities of proportional representation, he stated that the Congress government is committed to legalizing the caste census and using its findings to frame equitable policies. "I have done everything in my power for you. It is now your responsibility to take ownership of this initiative," he urged BC communities.

## Harish Rao Accepts Revanth Reddy's Debate Challenge

He also accused Revanth Reddy of previously obstructing the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy project with court cases. Reaffirming BRS' irrigation achievements, Harish Rao stated that 12 lakh acres received irrigation under Chandrashekhar Rao's tenure, with another seven lakh acres awaiting completion. "A government that hasn't built a single check dam in 14 months has no right to criticize BRS," he said.

## We Will Hunt You Down...

accountable, and committed to justice. The politicalization of our justice system has eroded public trust—but that ends today." Patel promised to rebuild the FBI's reputation with its staff and partners. "We will rebuild an FBI the American people can be proud of," he said, warning threats: "And to those who seek to harm Americans—consider this your warning. We will hunt you down in every corner of this planet" Patel's appointment holds significance for India, given his heritage and potential ties with the Indian government. Alongside Tulsi Gabbard, another Indian-origin figure in Trump's administration, Patel's role could strengthen U.S.-India collaboration on security issues, including countering threats from Khalistani extremists targeting Indian interests in the U.S. His tough stance may resonate with New Delhi's concerns over transnational separatist activities.

# KTR Criticizes Revanth Reddy's Comments on Telangana's Economic Downfall

- KTR Slams Revanth Reddy's False Claims on Telangana's Economy
- BRS Leader Refutes Allegations of Financial Crisis in State
- KTR Highlights Telangana's Economic Growth and Development
- BRS Challenges Congress to Prove Claims in Telangana Assembly



TPN , Correspondent  
Hyderabad , Feb 23 : BRS Working President KTR has sharply criticized Congress leader Revanth Reddy, accusing him of spreading false claims about the economic downfall of Telangana under the leadership of Chief Minister KCR. Speaking at a media briefing, KTR termed Revanth's remarks comparing the state's progress to a cancer diagnosis as "wicked." He claimed that despite relentless efforts from Prime Minister Modi and Rahul Gandhi, the Telangana model of development under KCR was unmatched. KTR also rejected Revanth's allegations about Telangana being in a financial crisis, labeling them as baseless. He pointed out that

Bhatti Vikramarka, the Deputy CM, had already provided factual reports in the Assembly regarding the state's economic situation. KTR thanked Bhatti for releasing an official report that contradicted Revanth's claims. He emphasized that Telangana's per capita income had grown substantially, ranking the state number one in the country by 2023, up from 10th place in 2014. KTR further highlighted Telangana's robust economic growth, showing how the state's GDP had increased from 5 lakh crores in 2014 to 15 lakh crores by the time KCR completed his tenure. He also pointed to impressive agricultural and industrial expansion, including the growth in IT exports and job creation.

The BRS leader criticized Congress for trying to tarnish Telangana's progress and called for an open debate in the Assembly. He accused Revanth Reddy of undermining the state's achievements and misrepresenting facts. KTR warned that the Congress would have no ground to challenge the state's development record until they deliver on their promises, such as loan waivers and welfare schemes. KTR concluded with a challenge for Revanth Reddy to substantiate his claims in the Assembly, asserting that Telangana's growth was indisputable despite the opposition's rhetoric.



## Telangana Government to Address Police Requirements for Growing Urban Security

TPN , Correspondent  
Hyderabad , Feb 23 : Telangana's Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu assured that the state government would meet the requirements of the police department to ensure citizen security. He made these comments during a discussion with police officials as part of pre-budget meetings at the Secretariat. Vikramarka highlighted Telangana's rapid urban development, particularly in Hyderabad, which is expanding with new zones and infrastructure like the Regional Ring Road. With increasing migration to the city, the Home Department must enhance security measures to match the state's growth. Praising Telangana Police for its



strong reputation, especially in solving cybercrime cases, Vikramarka emphasized the need for improved infrastructure, such as police quarters, and urged the department to seek CSR funds for strengthening resources. Police officials submitted their budget requirements for various divisions, including Greyhound, Narcotics, Intelligence, and Fire services. DGP Jitendra presented an overall budget report, which was reviewed by finance and home department officials. Key attendees included Special Chief Secretary (Finance) Ramakrishna Rao, Home Department Principal Secretary Ravi Gupta, and top police officials from various divisions.

## Telangana BC Caste Census Reviewed Under T PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud

TPN , Correspondent  
Hyderabad , Feb 23 : In a significant meeting held at Praja Bhavan, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (T PCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud chaired a review session on the BC caste census. The meeting was attended by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Corporation Chairpersons, and leaders of BC affiliated organizations. During the meeting, T PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud highlighted key points regarding the caste census and its importance:



- The BC caste census represents a new era for Telangana and is a model for the nation.
- Telangana's caste census serves as an example for other states, with Congress leading the charge for social justice for the BC community.
- The BJP-led central government has been demanding a national caste census, a

- move supported by the Congress party.
- Under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, Congress initiated the caste census as a new chapter after India's independence. Rahul Gandhi has raised the issue in Parliament and other forums.
- States like Bihar and Karnataka faced significant challenges in implementing caste census surveys.

- Both BRS and BJP have been involved in spreading confusion regarding the caste census, according to Congress leaders.
  - The Congress party is committed to ensuring 42% reservation for BCs and is working towards making it a legal right.
  - The British government had conducted a caste census in 1931, which underscores its historical importance.
  - Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra has reiterated the demand for a caste census, taking into account geographical and social realities.
  - The BRS government, in its 10 years of governance, failed to implement the caste census and address the needs of the BC community effectively.
  - A re-survey will be conducted, especially for those who were excluded from the initial census, including leaders like KCR and KTR.
  - Congress is ensuring a transparent and scientific caste census, with the intent to set historical records.
- With this initiative, Congress aims to make strides in securing rightful reservations for BC communities and bring them justice through legislative means.



# Kishan Reddy Accepts CM Revanth Reddy's Challenge, Ready for Debate



**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad , Feb 23 :** Central Minister Kishan Reddy expressed confidence in the BJP's victory in the upcoming MLC elections, claiming that the party would win all three seats. Speaking in Nizamabad, he accepted CM Revanth Reddy's challenge for a debate, stating that he is ready if the Chief Minister announces a plan and action for the promises made. Kishan Reddy ridiculed Revanth's call for discussion, pointing out that the Congress leader had not provided any

concrete plan for the promises. He emphasized the importance of thoughtful voting in the MLC elections and urged people to support the BJP. Reddy also criticized the BRS government for diminishing the importance of the Legislative Council and stated that BJP does not oppose caste-based reservations but would oppose the inclusion of Muslims in the BC list. Additionally, he denied any ties between BJP and BRS, alleging that BRS had often supported Congress in the past.

## MP Bandi Sanjay's Strong Criticism of Congress Party



**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad , Feb 23 :** Central Minister MP Bandi Sanjay criticized the Congress party, claiming that there is a lack of unity between the party's MLA and MLC candidates. He stated that Congress has no candidate for the Teacher's MLC position and that there is no harmony among its members. In contrast, he praised the BJP for its strength in declaring candidates 15 days before the elections. Sanjay emphasized that the BJP, being number one in the country, is ready to teach Congress a lesson in this election. He accused Congress of losing the trust of the people, failing to deliver on six guarantees and election promises. Additionally, he claimed that Congress deceived people regarding job notifications, mentioning that only 26,000 out of the promised 56,000 jobs were filled. Bandi also highlighted BJP's role in providing tax exemptions and fighting for the cancellation of 317 GO orders.

## MP Etala Rajender Calls for Official Statement on SLBC Tunnel Accident

**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad , Feb 23 :** Telangana BJP leader and Mallakajiri MP Etala Rajender expressed shock over the SLBC Tunnel accident that took place in Nagar Kurnool district, near Domalapeda. He urged officials to ensure proper medical treatment for those injured in the accident and called for an official statement from the government regarding the incident. Etala Rajender conveyed his hopes that all workers involved in the accident would be safely rescued and extended his condolences to the affected families, assuring them of his support



during this difficult time. The accident occurred at the 14th kilometer of the Srisaillam Left Canal Tunnel when the roof of the tunnel collapsed, causing several workers to be injured. Immediate help was provided by fellow workers who rushed the injured to a nearby hospital. As many as seven workers were trapped inside the tunnel, and power supply was cut off, complicating rescue operations. Police are actively assisting in the rescue efforts. Of the 50 workers present in the morning shift, 43 managed to escape safely.

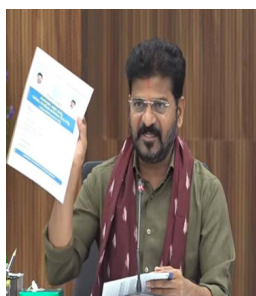
## BJP MP Lakshman Criticizes Revanth Reddy, Calls for Rahul Gandhi's Apology



**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad , Feb 23 :** BJP MP Lakshman has severely criticized Revanth Reddy for his changing stance on Sonia Gandhi, saying that Revanth, who once called Sonia Gandhi a "sacrifice goddess," now treats her as a "golden goddess." Lakshman also pointed out that the government has pending dues for employees, including the 5% DA, and retired employees are yet to receive their dues, making their lives difficult. He questioned why employees should vote for Revanth Reddy when he has failed to fulfill these basic promises. The MP further stated that Rahul Gandhi should visit Ashok Nagar and apologize by bowing down to the people to seek votes for graduates. Lakshman also criticized Revanth Reddy for manipulating surveys to avoid 42% reservation and demanded transparency in the survey results. He urged that the details of surveys conducted in Telangana, Bihar, and Karnataka should be disclosed to the public.

## CM Criticizes Congress Leaders Over Caste Survey, Defends His Actions

**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad , Feb 23 :** In a fiery statement, the Chief Minister lashed out at Congress leaders for criticizing the caste survey, accusing them of misleading the public for personal recognition. He expressed frustration over the attempts to portray him as the villain in the caste survey process, despite his efforts for justice for the BC (Backward Classes) community. The CM stated that while some individuals, who didn't participate in the survey, enjoyed their time at their



farmhouses, they now falsely paint themselves as heroes, while families of BCs are unfairly ignored. He pointed out that despite his hard work on the caste survey, Congress leaders like Revanth Reddy were trying to malign his efforts. The CM questioned the Congress leaders, asking how they could expect progress without standing by the survey. He emphasized that it was the responsibility of Congress BC leaders to present the caste survey to the public.

## BC Leaders Clash in Congress Meeting

**Heated Argument Between VH and Anjan Kumar Yadav**

**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad , Feb 23 :** A heated argument broke out between Congress leaders VH and Anjan Kumar Yadav during a BC leaders' meeting. The controversy began when Anjan expressed dissatisfaction that VH did not mention the Yadav community in his speech. Anjan accused VH of deliberately sidelining them, stating, "You are trying to push us out." In response, VH questioned Anjan, saying, "Didn't I bring you into politics?" He pointed out that the party had supported Yadavs, mentioning that Anil had been given an MP position and Anjan had been made the PCC Working President. However, Anjan expressed dissatisfaction, stating that despite the party's support, his son did not get a position in the Yadav quota, but he was given a position in the Youth Congress. This led to an emotional exchange with both leaders questioning their contributions and rewards. PCC Chief Mahesh Goud and Minister Ponnamb Prabhakar intervened, urging the leaders to work together, stating that internal conflicts should be avoided for the sake of the party.



# KTR Hits Back at Kodandareddy's Comments on Water Scarcity



**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad , Feb 23 :** KTR has strongly countered Kodandareddy's statement that farmers should only plant crops when water is available. He criticized the current water crisis as a result of the Chief Minister's lack of foresight and inefficiency, blaming the Congress government for the crisis. KTR asserted that the current water shortage wasn't a result of natural calamities but poor governance, pointing out that the Kaleshwaram project, a major water supply initiative, had been left idle for a year, causing underground water levels to plummet.

He emphasized that under the BRS government, reservoirs and water bodies were well-maintained, preventing groundwater depletion.

However, he claimed that the Congress government's ineptitude in managing water resources has led to the severe groundwater crisis in Telangana. KTR also criticized Kodandareddy, the Chairman of the Farmers' Welfare Commission, for failing to address these issues properly and for shifting the blame onto seasonal heat in February, instead of taking responsibility for the crisis.

## BJP Leader Vishnu Vardhan Reddy Slams CM KCR Over Water Dispute Comments

**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad , Feb 23 :** BJP senior leader Vishnu Vardhan Reddy has made sensational remarks accusing Telangana CM KCR of deliberately creating water disputes between the two Telugu states. Speaking to the media, he mocked CM KCR's comments that the Andhra Pradesh government is allegedly "stealing" Krishna river waters, calling them laughable. He demanded an apology from the CM for these statements, emphasizing that the Krishna waters are the rightful share of Andhra Pradesh and questioning the notion of "stealing" when the state is simply using its allocated resources. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy also criticized KCR for insulting the people and farmers of Andhra Pradesh by labeling them as thieves. He pointed out that despite being in a responsible position, KCR continues to make baseless claims. Additionally, he accused the Congress government in Telangana of failing to fulfill any promises made to the people during the elections, misleading them instead.



## MP Chamal Criticizes KCR for Avoiding Apex Meeting, Cites Water Dispute

**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad , Feb 23 :** The dispute over Krishna river water transfer continues to escalate between the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS. Former Minister Harish Rao questioned the actions of AP CM Revanth Reddy, accusing him of transferring 10,000 cusecs of water daily from the Sagar right canal. Congress, however, blamed former CM KCR and Harish Rao for facilitating the water transfer through their signatures in the past.

In response, Bhongir MP Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy raised further questions, mocking KCR's absence at the Apex meeting, despite enjoying fish at MLA Raja's house. He criticized KCR for not attending the crucial meeting while AP freely utilized Godavari and Krishna waters. Chamal also attacked Harish Rao, accusing him of making political statements without addressing real issues, pointing out that the Kaleshwaram project, built at a cost of 1 lakh crore, had failed to provide water to even a single acre.



### Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar Wishes Students for Gurukula Entrance Test

TPN, Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 23: Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar extended his best wishes to the students appearing for the Gurukula Entrance Test tomorrow, which is conducted for admissions in various Gurukulas across the state. The entrance test is being held for admissions in the 5th to 9th classes for SC, ST, BC, and General category students in government Gurukulas. A total of 1,67,708 applications have been received for the exam. Among these, 88,824 applications were submitted for admission into the 5th class, and 32,672 applications for the 6th class. The Gurukula Common Entrance Test (CET) will be conducted for 51,968 available seats across 643 Gurukulas in the state. Minister Prabhakar emphasized that all students who have applied are required to appear for the test. He also highlighted that the government is committed to providing quality education, with improved facilities including enhanced mess charges for students. The minister further requested that students take the entrance test in a peaceful and calm atmosphere. He encouraged students to stay focused and wished them success. The exam is expected to be conducted smoothly, with adequate arrangements made for the students. Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar concluded by sending his heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all the students participating in the Gurukula Entrance Test.



### Three Senior IPS Officers from TG Directed to Report at AP

TPN Correspondent AP/TG, Feb 23 The Union Home Ministry has issued orders directing three senior IPS officers currently serving in Telangana to report to Andhra Pradesh. This decision follows the recommendations of the Khandekar Committee, which was constituted in 2024 to oversee the redistribution of officers between the two states. The officers who have been instructed to move to Andhra Pradesh are: Anjani Kumar (1990 batch) – Chairman of the Road Safety Authority; Abhilasha Bist (1994 batch) – Director of the Telangana Police Academy; Abhishek Mohanty (2011 batch) – Commissioner of Police, Karimnagar. The transfer of these officials is seen as a crucial administrative step in balancing the police cadre between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, following the bifurcation of the united state in 2014. The Khandekar Committee, after reviewing the staffing patterns and vacancies in both states, had recommended the reallocation of certain officers to ensure a more equitable distribution of senior police personnel. This latest directive from the Union Home Ministry is expected to strengthen Andhra Pradesh's police administration by adding experienced officers to key positions. The officers are likely to take charge of their new assignments soon, aligning with the state's ongoing efforts to enhance law and order. With these transfers, the Andhra Pradesh government is expected to reinforce its police force, ensuring that critical departments receive the necessary leadership and expertise.



## LB Nagar: Nandanavanam Colony Residents Protest for Justice



TPN, Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 23: In a demonstration held in front of the Saroor Nagar MRO office, residents of Nandanavanam Colony in Kharmanghat staged a protest, demanding justice for their homes. The residents of Nandanavanam Colony, who paid a total of Rs. 4.10 crores for 432 families to GHMC officials in 2006, are now facing an issue with their properties. In 2018, the officials canceled the previously issued sale deeds, creating uncertainty and distress among the residents. The residents claim that the lands were

encroached upon by TRS leaders in 2013, which led to a complaint being filed by the local collector and the Rachakonda CP. They urged immediate action from the authorities to address the situation and restore their rights to the properties. Despite repeated appeals and a call for justice, the residents have stated that there has been no decision or resolution from the authorities, and the matter is being delayed without proper action. The protesters expressed their frustration and reiterated their demand for justice and rightful ownership of their homes.

### ED Registers Case in Falcon Scam Worth Rs. 1700 Crore; Chairman Flees Abroad

TPN, Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 23: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has registered a case against Falcon Group in connection with a massive scam worth Rs. 1700 crore. The Hyderabad-based company is accused of collecting huge sums from investors, with Rs. 850 crore raised alone from the city. The ED investigation revealed that Falcon misled investors by promising high returns on low investments and funneled the money abroad. The company allegedly used 22 shell companies to transfer funds to countries like Dubai, Malaysia, and Singapore. The ED also discovered that Falcon's chairman, Amardeep Kumar, fled abroad on a chartered flight as soon as the case was filed. The Cyberabad police have issued a Look Out Circular (LOC) to track down the absconding accused. The investigation is ongoing as the authorities work to recover the defrauded funds.



### Hyderabad Traffic Police Holds Awareness Program on Vehicle Modifications



TPN, Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 23: On February 22, Hyderabad Traffic Police conducted an awareness program for traders involved in vehicle modifications, including car decor shops, automobile workshops, and mechanics. The session was attended by around 250 stakeholders, including registration number plate manufacturers. Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic) P. Viswa Prasad highlighted the legal consequences of illegal vehicle alterations, urging traders to educate their customers and maintain work records. He emphasized the dangers of modifications like black films, multi-tone horns, modified silencers, and incorrect number plates, stressing their violation of the Motor Vehicle Act. The session also addressed compliance with Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, which include guidelines for window tinting, horn specifications, number plate sizes, and exhaust noise. Traders were warned that failure to adhere to regulations could result in legal action.

## GHMC to Revive Annapurna Food Kiosks in Hyderabad; Meals at Rs 5

TPN, Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 23: The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is set to bring back the Annapurna food kiosks, which provide affordable meals to the urban poor, including daily wage workers. A special committee was formed on February 22, under the chairmanship of GHMC Commissioner K. Ilambarithi, to inspect the conditions of these kiosks and ensure the provision of basic facilities and food quality. The committee, led by GHMC Chief Engineer Bhaskar Reddy, visited the Annapurna kiosk at the Mint compound, behind the BR Ambedkar Secretariat building, to inspect its conditions. The committee members were satisfied with the food quality and also assessed other kiosks near Lak-

dikapul, directing engineers to make necessary repairs. Since its inception in 2014, the Annapurna Food Scheme has aimed to offer nutritious meals at Rs 5, including rice, sambar, curry, and pickle. These kiosks are especially beneficial for daily wage workers. Over 150 Annapurna canteens were set up across the city, serving around 45,000 meals daily in 2022. However, many of these kiosks have become defunct, including the one at Lakdikapul, which has deteriorated due to neglect. GHMC is now prioritizing their revival to reduce urban food insecurity and support the city's marginalized communities. The scheme also tackles challenges such as informal employment and food inflation.



### Bandi Sanjay's Shocking Allegation: Congress Offering Rs. 7,000 per Vote

TPN, Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 23: Union Minister Bandi Sanjay made sensational allegations against the Congress party in Karimnagar. Speaking to the media, Sanjay accused Congress of offering Rs. 7,000 per vote in the upcoming Graduate MLC elections. He alleged that the Congress had created the LRS (Land Regularization Scheme) to collect money and that Revanth Reddy was collecting funds through it.

Sanjay demanded that Congress clarify where they had created jobs. Emphasizing that he didn't care for ministerial posts, Sanjay stated that his focus was on fighting for the people. With elections for three MLC seats approaching, both Congress and BJP are intensifying their campaigns, with BJP leaders delivering strong counterattacks against Congress statements.



# Tungaturthi MLA Mandula Samuel Faces Discomfort from Original Congress Workers



**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad , Feb 23 :** Tungaturthi Congress MLA Mandula Samuel had an unpleasant experience when original Congress party workers expressed dissatisfaction with him. They alleged that the MLA was not giving them the attention or priority they deserved. Samuel had joined the Congress party shortly before the elections after being part of a different party. During a recent program, when he asked if he would be given priority after joining Congress, he was reportedly confronted by the original Congress workers. They tore up posters featuring Samuel and TPCC President Revanth Reddy. A video of this incident has gone viral on social media.

# Urea Shortage Not an Issue in Telangana – Tummala Nageshwar Rao

**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad , Feb 23 :** Telangana Minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao made a key announcement stating that there is no shortage of urea in the state. He directed farmers to purchase urea only as per their requirements. However, despite the minister's statement, farmers across the state are still facing long queues in front of fertilizer stores. Recently, videos surfaced showing farmers struggling to buy urea, standing in long lines from early morning. In a particular incident in the Indurthi village of the Chigurumamidi mandal in Karimnagar district, 200 urea sacks arrived at the society godown, but with 400 farmers waiting, a brief argument occurred over the limited supply. Farmers are demanding that enough urea sacks be made available.



# MLC Kavitha Interacts with Turmeric Farmers, Reviews Purchases



**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Nizamabad , Feb 23 :** BRS senior leader and MLC Kavitha visited the Nizamabad market yard on Saturday morning along with her supporters. She engaged in discussions with turmeric farmers and observed the ongoing turmeric purchases. During the visit, farmers expressed their grievances to Kavitha, stating that despite the establishment of the Turmeric Board, they are not seeing any benefits. They lamented that even high-quality turmeric crops are not getting the proper rates. Kavitha assured the farmers that she would fight on their behalf to ensure fair prices for their produce and promised her support in addressing their concerns.

# Medhchal: Gas Leak from Pipeline Causes Panic



**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Medhchal , Feb 23 :** A major gas leak from a pipeline has caused panic among locals in Medhchal. The incident occurred in the Narayana Mallareddy Hospital area, within the Surraram police station limits. A large volume of gas began leaking from the pipeline, alarming residents who quickly fled the area in fear of a potential disaster. Authorities have been alerted, and efforts are underway to control the situation and prevent further damage. The locals expressed concern over the safety measures in place and urged the relevant authorities to take immediate action to resolve the issue. Further updates on the situation are awaited as the emergency response teams handle the gas leak.

# LRS Applications Review Made Easier by TG Government

**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad , Feb 23 :** The Telangana government has made another key decision to simplify the review process of Land Regularization Scheme (LRS) applications. The government is set to implement new strategies to streamline the process. For land parcels, except those adjacent to lakes and government lands, the fee structure will soon be fixed. The government is releasing guidelines today for the new procedure. In an effort to ease the burden on applicants, the government has already issued orders to provide relief. Under the new guidelines, the fee for layout regularization will be determined, and a Government Order (GO 28) for LRS has been issued. So far, over 25.68 lakh applications have been received statewide. Applicants will now have the convenience of visiting sub-registrar offices to pay the LRS fees, including discounts on open-site fees, and complete their registration. Additionally, plots located 200 meters from the FTL (Full Tank Level) and buffer zones may be exempted from joint investigations by the Irrigation, Revenue, and Municipal departments, according to the new updates.

# Bird Flu Panic in Nalgonda: 7,000 Chickens Die



**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Nalgonda , Feb 23 :** Bird flu has caused a stir in Nalgonda district. In the Kethepalli mandal, near Cherukupalli village, approximately 7,000 chickens died at a poultry farm. The dead chickens were buried using a JCB machine in a large pit. The farm initially had 13,000 chickens, but with 7,000 dying, the farmer claimed a loss of around ₹4 lakh and is requesting government assistance. With poultry deaths reported across the state, the Telangana government has issued an alert. Food safety officials are conducting inspections, warning that strict action will be taken against anyone selling spoiled chicken.

# Minister Konda Surekha Urges Support for Narendra Reddy in Medak Graduates' Meeting

**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Medak, Feb 23 :** Telangana Forests, Environment, Endowments, and Religious Affairs Minister Konda Surekha participated in the Medak constituency graduates' meeting along with Congress MLC candidate Narendra Reddy. The event saw a large turnout of Congress leaders and activists, where Konda Surekha appealed for a significant vote share for Narendra Reddy to ensure a resounding victory. Konda Surekha highlighted that the region was in need of educated and capable leadership, calling for the election of an intellectual like Narendra Reddy to the Graduate Constituency. She emphasized the importance of electing individuals with a strong understanding of people's issues, criticizing the political interference from businessmen, and asserting that only those with a genuine concern

for the public could address local problems effectively. The Minister also criticized the BJP and BRS alliance, accusing them of failing to deliver for Telangana, pointing out that the state was given inadequate funds in the central budget, describing it as a mere "donation" of small sums. She pointed out the failure of BJP MP Raghunandan Rao in fulfilling the region's development needs, especially in Dubbak, and criticized his lack of contribution as a representative. Konda Surekha urged the people to support Narendra Reddy to ensure that the Congress continues its commitment to development and the welfare of the people. She expressed confidence that under the leadership of Congress and with strong support from activists, they could secure a victory and bring local issues to the government's attention.



# KTR's Allegations on Congress: 1000 Ration Cards Reduced After Their Arrival

**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad , Feb 23 :** BRS Working President and former minister KTR made strong allegations against Congress, claiming that after their arrival, nearly 1,000 ration cards were reduced. He pointed out that the report was not given by anyone else but by Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka himself. KTR further criticized Congress leader Revanth Reddy, calling him an accidental CM and urging him to speak wisely. He slammed Revanth for insulting Telan-



gana, comparing it to a cancer-stricken state, and called him a fool. KTR warned that anyone who insults Telangana will receive a similar response. He also advised Revanth to read the report from the Deputy CM and feel ashamed.

# Sama Ram Mohan Reddy Blames Kaleshwaram for Drought in Telangana

**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad , Feb 23 :** Congress Media Cell Chairman Sama Ram Mohan Reddy accused the Kaleshwaram project, built by the previous BRS government, of causing the drought in Telangana. He slammed the project, stating that the drought was a result of mismanagement, with over ₹1.47 lakh crores spent on Kaleshwaram and the project leading to nothing but disaster. He criticized the BRS government for neglecting other crucial projects like the Krishna River irrigation systems and



instead focusing on a flawed project that served only personal and political interests. Ram Mohan Reddy further added that Congress-built projects, despite challenges, have supported the state, while the BRS's projects only benefited their families.

# Tiffin Preparation with Students in Sangareddy Gurukula School

**TPN , Correspondent**  
**Hyderabad , Feb 23 :** Another controversy has emerged regarding Telangana government-run Gurukula schools. Following recent food poisoning incidents, a new issue has come to light involving the preparation of tiffins with students. This incident occurred on Saturday morning at the Telangana Tribal Welfare College hostel in Kangi Mandal, Sangareddy district. The school staff reportedly made students help in preparing tiffins, such as bondas and puris, leading to accusations of forced labor. When asked for clarification, Principal Vijay openly admitted that the students were assisting in the preparation of snacks. The district collector has ordered an inquiry into the matter.





## India's Quantum Leap: Harnessing AI and Quantum Computing for a Viksit Bharat



India stands at the threshold of a technological revolution that could redefine its future. With the advent of quantum computing and generative AI, India has a unique opportunity to leapfrog traditional technological progress, positioning itself at the global forefront.

Recent breakthroughs in quantum computing, such as Microsoft's unveiling of the Majorana 1 chip, have brought practical quantum computing closer than ever. Unlike traditional qubits, the topological qubits in Majorana 1 are stable, offering the potential for solving problems once thought unsolvable, such as climate change, drug discovery, and materials science. Meanwhile, advancements in generative AI, like xAI's Grok 3, are pushing the boundaries of creativity, problem-solving, and automation. These technologies, while transformative, also introduce challenges, including ethical concerns and potential job displacement. However, for India, they present a powerful opportunity to take a giant leap in technology.

India's strong public digital infrastructure, coupled with a thriving startup ecosystem and a growing tech workforce, gives it a unique edge to integrate quantum computing and AI directly into its governance and economic systems. Initiatives like the National Quantum Mission (NQM) launched in 2023 aim to develop quantum technologies, with a focus on applications for India's needs—opti-

mizing transportation, energy grids, and agriculture.

In AI, India's vast population generates massive datasets that can be leveraged to develop region-specific solutions. From translating educational content into multiple languages to improving monsoon predictions and AI-driven healthcare, India is well-positioned to use generative AI for social advancement and economic growth.

To fully capitalize on this opportunity, India must invest in indigenous quantum and AI ecosystems. This includes establishing quantum computing infrastructure, expanding AI supercomputing centers, and developing in-house AI models and chips to reduce reliance on foreign technologies. The government's Skill India initiative must also be aligned to create a workforce of quantum and AI specialists.

Moreover, fostering deep-tech startups is crucial. By offering incentives such as tax breaks and venture capital, India can fuel innovation in quantum and AI sectors. Strategic policy frameworks must also address AI governance, ensuring ethical use while mitigating risks like deepfakes. By embracing these technologies and building in-house capabilities, India can not only accelerate its journey to a Viksit Bharat but also become a global leader in the digital age. The future is quantum, the future is AI, and the future is India's to seize.



## BJP Ready to Accelerate After Lok Sabha Speedbreaker

The BJP's victories in Haryana, Maharashtra, and Delhi have not only reinforced its political dominance but also revived its confidence following a minor setback in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Despite losing around 30 seats, which some saw as a major blow, the party has come back stronger, proving the previous defeat was just a temporary hurdle.

Just months after the 2024 Lok Sabha results, many Congress leaders and regional figures expressed optimism about the BJP's challenges ahead, especially with Rahul Gandhi positioning himself to lead the Opposition. However, those prospects now seem distant, as the BJP has firmly consolidated its position, especially in states like Haryana, Maharashtra, and Delhi, where it was previously considered to have lost its grip. The Delhi win, in particular, was seen as impossible due to the Aam Aadmi Party's dominance, but BJP's resilient strategy led to an unexpected

victory.

The BJP's success can be attributed to a careful and continuous course correction. Campaigning was adjusted with a focus on smaller, targeted meetings rather than large rallies, reaching out to voters through door-to-door interactions. The party's messaging was refined, with a strong emphasis on achievements and promises, avoiding any overstatements about possible outcomes.

One crucial aspect of the BJP's campaign strategy was its ability to neutralize the 'Constitution in danger' narrative that had caused trouble during the Lok Sabha elections. Leaders like Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Shah made concerted efforts to dispel fears about reservations and highlighted the government's welfare steps for marginalized sections of society. These efforts were reinforced by the extensive outreach from RSS workers, who ensured that no misconceptions about the party's

stance gained ground.

The BJP's alliance, initially viewed with skepticism due to its dependence on regional leaders, has now become more stable. Issues like the Waqf Amendment have been handled diplomatically, allowing the central government to function smoothly despite coalition dynamics.

Behind the scenes, the RSS played a pivotal role in strengthening the BJP's ground game, providing real-time feedback and strategizing minute-to-minute adjustments. The RSS's intense outreach, particularly through data-driven campaigns and local gatherings, ensured that every voter received key messages directly related to their concerns.

With momentum on its side, the BJP is now looking to capitalize on this success in upcoming state elections, especially in Bihar and West Bengal, where workers are rejuvenated and ready to continue the party's progress.

## A Window of Opportunity: President's Rule and the Future of Manipur

The imposition of President's Rule in Manipur marks a critical juncture in the state's turbulent political and ethnic landscape. With Chief Minister Biren Singh's resignation on February 9, 2025, amid political instability and escalating ethnic violence, the state has entered a period of governance under direct control of the Union Government. This presents a crucial opportunity for the BJP and the Centre to address the underlying causes of the ongoing conflict and lay the foundation for lasting peace between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities.

The violence in Manipur has claimed over 200 lives and displaced more than 50,000 people. The need for constructive intervention has never been more urgent. The BJP, having failed to form a consensus on a successor to Biren Singh, opted for President's Rule to stabilize the situation and avoid a constitutional crisis. The central leadership now has a window to take the necessary steps to address ethnic tensions and create a sustainable political environment for the state.

One of the first priorities for the Centre is the role of Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla. With his neutral stance—neither aligned with the Meitei nor the Kuki-Zo community—Bhalla's leadership can facilitate dialogue and reconciliation between these divided groups. His efforts thus far, including visiting relief camps and engaging with displaced people, set the tone for a more inclusive approach to restoring peace. However, while President's Rule has garnered support from Kuki-Zo groups, it has been met with opposition from



the Congress and Meitei organizations. The Centre must, therefore, balance these diverse views and ensure a fair and comprehensive peace process. To this end, the BJP must take proactive steps. First, it needs to re-engage with the Kuki-Zo legislators who have distanced themselves from the party

since the ethnic violence erupted. Establishing communication between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo factions within the party is critical for fostering unity. A new peace committee, inclusive of all stakeholders, must also be formed to facilitate meaningful dialogue. Previous efforts have faltered due to lack of

action and resistance from influential groups like Kuki-Inpi and COCOMI. A more robust and dynamic approach is required this time.

The BJP's next chief ministerial candidate will likely be from the Meitei community, which dominates the state assembly. However, the party must en-

sure that the selected leader represents all communities and is capable of making decisions in the broader interest of the state, fostering a sense of inclusivity. Additionally, the BJP needs to strengthen its relationships with current allies like the Naga People's Front (NPF) and the National People's Party (NPP) to ensure a stable and united government.

Moreover, extending an olive branch to the Kuki People's Alliance (KPA), which had withdrawn support from the BJP due to disagreements with Biren Singh, could signal a commitment to reconciliation. Restoring ties with this faction will send a positive message to the Kuki-Zo community and help heal the rift that has deepened over the past year. Finally, the Centre must take a firm stance against militant groups from both the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities. The recent crackdown on militants is a step in the right direction, but it must be sustained without compromise. The continued dismantling of armed groups will play a pivotal role in ensuring long-term peace and stability in Manipur.

In conclusion, President's Rule in Manipur offers a temporary yet crucial opportunity for the BJP and the Centre to address the root causes of the state's ethnic strife. By taking strategic actions—engaging in dialogue, restoring trust, and fostering political consensus—the BJP can pave the way for a more peaceful and stable future for Manipur. The next few months are critical, and how the Centre handles this period will shape the state's trajectory for years to come.

# Trump's third attack on \$21mn USAID

## 'Why are we caring about India's turnout?'

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Former US President Donald Trump has once again criticized the \$21 million USAID funding for 'voter turnout' in India, questioning why American taxpayers' money is being spent on foreign elections. His remarks, made during an address to US governors, mark the third time he has publicly raised concerns over the issue.

"USD 21 million going to my friend Prime Minister Modi in India for voter turnout. Why are we caring about India's turnout? What about us? I want voter turnout too," Trump said in a video shared by National Desk. He also took aim at another USAID allocation, stating, "\$29 million to strengthen the political landscape in Bangladesh went to a firm that nobody ever heard of."

On Friday, Trump went further, calling the funding a "kickback scheme." He said, "Why do we need to spend \$21 million for voter turnout in India? I guess they were trying to get somebody else elected." He also compared the controversy to allegations of Russian interference in US elections, adding, "When we hear that Russia spent about two thousand dollars on internet ads here, it was a big deal. But this is a total breakthrough."



India's response

The Indian government has taken note of Trump's statements, with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirming that the matter is under review. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated, "Relevant departments and authorities are looking into the information put out by the American ad-

ministration regarding certain US activities and funding. These are obviously very deeply troubling."

The issue has raised concerns about the transparency of foreign funding in political processes, with both Trump's campaign and Indian authorities closely monitoring further developments.

# Drive Against Illegal Poppy Cultivation in Arunachal Faces Death Threats

TPN Correspondent | Arunachal Pradesh

A large-scale crackdown on illegal poppy cultivation in Arunachal Pradesh has uncovered direct links between narcotics and insurgency for the first time. Led by the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) and supported by security forces and the state government, the operation targeted poppy plantations across multiple districts, including Lohit, Namsai, and Changlang.

Over 6,000 hectares of poppy fields were destroyed in the past two months, despite insurgent groups issuing death threats to officials and workers involved in the operation. The estimated value of the destroyed poppy plantations exceeds ₹500 crore.

Insurgent outfits such as the NSCN (K-YA) and ULFA (Independent) reportedly threatened those participating in the drive, warning them to withdraw or face fatal consequences. These threats led to a shortage of workers, affecting the operation's overall progress.

Despite these challenges, security forces, particularly the Assam Rifles, played a crucial role in ensuring the operation proceeded as planned. However, due to bad weather and other logistical issues, officials were able to achieve only 60% of their initial target.



# Over 150 Nepalese Students Leave Odisha University After Student's Death

TPN Correspondent | Nepal

Days after the alleged suicide of a Nepalese student at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) in Odisha, 159 Nepalese students have returned home, citing mistreatment and safety concerns. The students crossed the Raxaul border, according to Assistant Chief District Officer of Parsa, Suman Kumar Karki.

Prakriti Lamsal, a 20-year-old third-year B-Tech (Computer Science) student, was found dead in her hostel room on February 16. Following her death, unrest broke out on campus, and Nepalese students claimed they were forced to vacate the hostel under harsh conditions.

A group of students who returned to Nepal alleged they were subjected to "inhuman treatment" by university staff and security guards.

"We were beaten up in the presence of university teachers and forced to leave immediately," they said, adding that they no longer felt safe to continue their studies at KIIT despite reassurances from the administration. The students have demanded a thorough investigation into Lamsal's death and justice for those mistreated. Protests were held in Birgunj and Bhairahawa, Lamsal's home district, calling for accountability.

Nepal's Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba confirmed that the issue had been taken up diplomatically. She stated that after discussions with Odisha Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, the Odisha government formed a high-level inquiry committee to ensure a fair investigation. The college administration has since apologized and taken action against staff involved in the alleged mistreatment.

# BBC World Service India Fined ₹3.44 Crore For Foreign Exchange Violation

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has imposed a penalty of ₹3.44 crore on BBC World Service India for allegedly violating foreign direct investment (FDI) regulations. The agency has also fined three of its directors ₹1.14 crore each under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

A BBC spokesperson, responding to PTI, stated that neither the company nor its directors had received any adjudication order from the ED. "The BBC is committed to operating within the rules of all countries we are based in, including India. We will carefully review any order when it is received and consider next steps as appropriate," the spokesperson added.

The adjudication follows a show-cause notice issued on August 4, 2023, to BBC WS India, its three directors, and the finance head for alleged violations. The ED's FEMA probe was initiated a few months after an Income Tax survey at the BBC's Delhi office in February 2023.

According to sources, BBC WS India, a 100% FDI company, was engaged in streaming news and current affairs on digital media but did not comply with the FDI limit of 26% mandated by the Indian government under the Press Note 4 of 2019 issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry



and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

The total penalty includes ₹5,000 per day for non-compliance beyond October 15, 2021. The three fined directors—Giles Antony Hunt, Indu Shekhar Sinha, and Paul Michael Gibbons—were allegedly responsible for overseeing operations during the period of violation.

Following the 2023 Income Tax survey, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) stated that the income and profits reported by BBC's entities were "not commensurate" with their Indian operations and that certain foreign remittances had not been taxed.

The BBC had then maintained that it would continue cooperating with authorities and hoped for a resolution soon.

# Bhutan PM Calls Modi 'Elder Brother, Mentor' at Leadership Conclave

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay on Friday praised Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling him an "elder brother" and "mentor" during his keynote address at the School of Ultimate Leadership (SOUL) conclave in New Delhi. Speaking in Hindi at several points, Tobgay's remarks received enthusiastic applause from the audience.

"Without a doubt, I see an image of an elder brother in you, who always guides me and helps me ('Nisandeh, aap mei ek bade bhai ki chhavi dekhta hun, jo sadaiv mera margdarshan karte hain, aur mujhe sahayta dete hain')," he said, addressing Modi directly. Tobgay lauded the SOUL initiative as a "brainchild of Modi," emphasizing that it reflected his dedication to nurturing leadership and empowering individuals to serve India.

He stated that he had come to the event not as a leader but as a student eager to learn. "Leadership is not about titles or positions; it is about vision, courage, and the ability to inspire change. It is about trans-



formation, about guiding society toward a more prosperous and peaceful future," Tobgay said.

He highlighted the role of great leaders in history, who have not only led nations but also inspired revolutions in thought and progress. "Aadarniya Pradhan Mantri, mere bade bhai,

aapne apni buddhimani, saahas aur karuna se bhare netritav se Bharat ko das hi varshon mein pragati ke path par agrasar kiya hai" (Hon'ble Prime Minister, my elder brother, with your wisdom, courage, and compassionate leadership, you have led India on the path of development in just ten years), he added.

# "Cheating Passengers": Shivraj Chouhan Slams Air India Over "Broken" Seat

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday criticized Air India for allotting him a "broken" seat during his flight from Bhopal to Delhi. The Minister alleged that despite the airline being aware of the seat's poor condition, it was still sold to passengers.

Chouhan, who was traveling to Delhi to inaugurate the "Kisan Mela" and attend meetings on natural farming, shared his experience on X. He stated that he was assigned seat 8C on Air India flight AI436, which was damaged and uncomfortable.

"When I asked the airline staff why the seat was broken, they admitted that the management had already been informed about it and that it should not have been sold," Chouhan wrote in Hindi. He further claimed that multiple seats on the flight were in a similar condition.

Despite being advised by co-passengers to switch to another seat, the former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister chose to complete his journey in the same seat, arguing that he did not want to inconvenience another passenger.

Expressing his disappointment, Chouhan remarked, "I thought Air India's service would improve after Tata took over, but I was mistaken." He also criticized the airline for



charging passengers full fare while offering defective seating, calling it "unethical" and equating it to "cheating passengers."

Air India responded to his complaint, apologizing for the inconvenience and assuring that the issue would be addressed to prevent such occurrences in the future. The airline also requested an opportunity to discuss the matter with Chouhan.

## India slams Turkish President's Kashmir remark



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India has strongly objected to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's remarks on Kashmir during his recent visit to Pakistan. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) called his comments "objectionable and unwarranted," reaffirming that Jammu and Kashmir remain an integral part of India.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated, "We reject such objectionable comments on matters that are internal to India. We have lodged a strong protest with the Turkish ambassador. Such unwarranted statements on India's territorial integrity and sovereignty are unacceptable."

India also criticized Pakistan's continued involvement in cross-border terrorism, suggesting that Erdogan should have instead condemned it rather than commenting on India's internal affairs. "No other country has any locus standi to comment on Jammu and Kashmir. It would have been more appropriate if Pakistan's policy of using cross-border terrorism against India, which remains the biggest threat to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, had been called out," the MEA said.

Erdogan's remarks, made during his two-day visit to Pakistan, called for resolving the Kashmir issue through UN resolutions and dialogue while expressing solidarity with the people of Kashmir. India's strong response underscores its firm stance against any external interference in its territorial matters.

# PM Modi to be guest of honour at Mauritius' National Day celebrations

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the 'Guest of Honour' at Mauritius' 57th National Day celebrations on March 12, as announced by Mauritian Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam. Modi is set to visit Port Louis on March 11-12, underscoring the deep ties between India and the island nation.

Addressing the Parliament, Ramgoolam expressed his delight over Modi accepting the invitation despite his packed diplomatic schedule, which recently included visits to Paris and the United States. "It is indeed a singular privilege for our country to host such a distinguished personality who is doing us this honour," he said.

Highlighting the historical and cultural ties between the two nations, Ramgoolam noted that Modi's visit reaffirms the enduring friendship between India and Mauritius. "The visit of Modi is a testimony to the close re-



lations between our two nations," he added.

Mauritius marks its National Day on March 12, commemorating its independence from British rule in 1968 and its transition to a republic within the Commonwealth in 1992. India and Mauritius share strong

diplomatic and cultural relations, with nearly 70% of Mauritius' 1.2 million population being of Indian origin. Modi had earlier congratulated Ramgoolam on his electoral victory in November 2024, emphasizing his commitment to strengthening their "special and unique partnership."

## Hamas completes first phase of hostage release

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Hamas released six Israeli hostages from Gaza on Saturday, marking the completion of the first phase of the ceasefire agreement that began last month. However, uncertainty looms over the next stage of the truce as negotiations continue. Among those released, Tal Shoham and Avera Mengistu were handed over to the Israeli military by the Red Cross in Rafah and have crossed into Israel, according to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Three others—Omer Shem Tov, Eliya Cohen, and Omer Wenkert—were transferred to the Red Cross in Nuseirat, while Hisham al-Sayed was

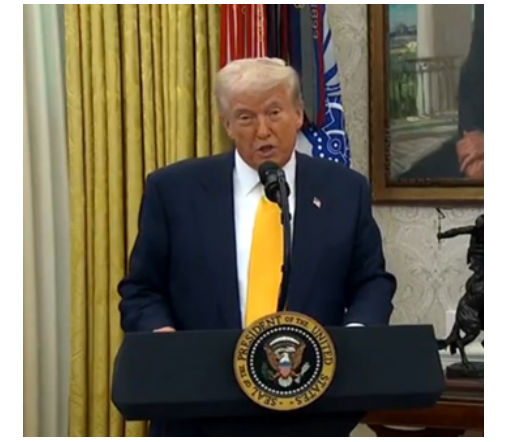


released at a separate site in Gaza City.

These six individuals are the final living hostages whose release was agreed upon during last month's negotiations in Qatar. Following this exchange, Hamas and its allies continue

to hold 63 Israeli hostages in Gaza, at least 32 of whom are believed to be deceased, as per the Israeli government. Hamas stated that it expects Israel to release 602 Palestinian prisoners and detainees as part of the agreement. Among them, 50 have been sentenced to life imprisonment, 60 are serving long sentences, and 445 were detained in Gaza since October 7, 2023.

While the current phase has concluded, Hamas has signaled readiness to release all remaining Israeli hostages in a single exchange if Israel agrees to withdraw its troops from Gaza as part of the next ceasefire stage.



## Trump Announces Reciprocal Tariffs on India and China

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

Former US President Donald Trump has announced plans to impose reciprocal tariffs on countries like India and China, stating that the United States will match the tariffs these nations impose on American goods. "We will soon impose reciprocal tariffs—they charge us, we charge them. Whatever a company or a country, such as India or China, charges, we want to be fair; hence, reciprocal," Trump said during a press conference on Friday. He added that the US was prepared to take this step earlier but was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Before his recent bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Trump had criticized India's tariff structure, calling it the "highest" and describing the country as a difficult place to conduct business. He reiterated these concerns when discussing Tesla CEO Elon Musk's meeting with PM Modi. "India is a very hard place to do business because of the tariffs. They have the highest tariffs... It's a hard place to do business," he remarked.

Trump also referenced India's past trade policies, citing the example of Harley-Davidson motorcycles, which faced high import duties, forcing the company to establish manufacturing units in India. "India charges tremendous tariffs. I remember when Harley-Davidson couldn't sell their motorbikes in India because the tax was so high. Harley was forced to build," he said, according to US Network Pool via Reuters.

His comments reflect long-standing concerns about India's trade practices, which have been a point of contention in US-India economic relations.

## New Bat Coronavirus Found in China Scientists Assess Human Transmission Risk

TPN Correspondent | Beijing

A new bat coronavirus, HKU5-CoV-2, has been discovered in China, raising concerns about its potential to infect humans. The virus, identified by a team of virologists led by Shi Zhengli, shares similarities with SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the South China Morning Post (SCMP), HKU5-CoV-2 belongs to the merbecovirus subgenus, which also includes the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) virus. The researchers found that it can bind to human ACE2 receptors, a key mechanism used by SARS-CoV-2 to infect human cells.

Lab tests revealed that the virus could infect human cell cultures in mini-organ models, suggesting a potential zoonotic risk. The study, published in Newsweek, stated that "bat merbecoviruses, which are phylogenetically related to MERS-CoV, pose a high risk of spillover to humans, either through direct transmission or facilitated by intermediate hosts." However, it emphasized that the possibility of human transmission "remains to be investigated."

Despite the discovery, experts caution against panic. Dr. Michael Osterholm, an infectious disease expert at the University of Minnesota, called concerns about another pandemic "overblown," citing increased immunity in the population against SARS-like viruses since 2019.



## Kash Patel Sworn In as FBI Director, Takes Oath on Bhagavad Gita

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

Indian-American Kash Patel has been sworn in as the ninth Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), taking his oath on the Bhagavad Gita. Patel, confirmed by the US Senate, succeeds Christopher Wray in leading the agency.

The ceremony took place at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, where US Attorney General Pam Bondi administered the oath. Patel's family and girlfriend stood beside him, with other relatives seated in the front row.

Following the oath, Patel spoke about his journey, calling it a testament to the American dream. "Anyone who thinks the American dream is dead, look right here. You are talking to a first-generation Indian who is about to lead the law enforcement agency of the greatest nation on earth," he said. He also promised accountability within the FBI, both internally and externally.

US President Donald Trump praised Patel's appointment, calling him

"tough and strong" and highlighting the respect he commands among FBI agents. "He will go down as the best ever at that position," Trump said. He added that Patel's approval was easier than expected, citing strong endorsements, including one from former congressman Trey Gowdy. The White House welcomed Patel's confirmation, stating that it aligns with Trump's agenda to restore integrity and uphold the rule of law. In a post on X, the White House wrote, "@FBI Director Kash Patel's confirmation as FBI Director is a crucial step in executing President Trump's agenda to restore integrity and uphold the rule of law."

Patel, a close ally of Trump, expressed gratitude for the support of the President and Attorney General Bondi, vowing to rebuild the FBI as a "transparent, accountable, and committed" agency.

His nomination faced opposition from Republican Senators Lisa Murkowski and Susan Collins, but he secured confirmation with a narrow 51-49 vote, as all Senate Democrats voted against him.

## Germany's Gen Z Tilts Right as Nation Prepares for Sunday Vote



TPN Correspondent | Berlin

As Germany approaches its national election this Sunday, a notable shift is underway among Generation Z voters, born between 1997 and 2012, who are increasingly favoring right-of-center parties. Once staunch supporters of environmental and social justice causes, young Germans are now prioritizing immigration, a faltering economy, and the fallout from the Ukraine war, marking a dramatic departure from their 2021 preferences.

Germany's right-wing political spectrum includes the moderate CDU/CSU coalition, currently the second-largest party with strongholds in the west, and the far-right Alternative für Deutschland (AfD), which is gaining traction, particularly in the east. In last year's eastern regional elections, the AfD saw significant support from 18- to 24-year-olds, outpacing the Greens, according to polling institute infratest dimap. The CDU/CSU, focusing on immigration and economic stability, topped the youth vote in the 2024 European elections, with the AfD close behind.

This shift contrasts sharply with 2021, when the Greens, bolstered by the Fridays for Future movement, led among young voters with their green energy and multicultural agenda. However, backlash against these policies has eroded their support. Unlike older generations tied to party loyalty, Gen Z voters are pragmatic, seeking solutions to immediate concerns. Analysts note that this cohort, distanced from World War II's legacy, views the AfD's rise with less apprehension than their predecessors.

Social media, particularly TikTok, has amplified this trend, with both the AfD and far-left Die Linke leveraging platforms to polarize and mobilize young voters. Recent surveys underscore this rightward lean, though 30% of all voters remain undecided, potentially deciding the election's outcome. As Europe tilts right, immigration remains a flashpoint, challenging left-leaning parties' liberal stance. With the CDU/CSU and AfD capitalizing on these shifts, Germany's political landscape faces a transformative moment this weekend.





## Ex-RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Appointed Principal Secretary to PM

**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi**  
Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has been appointed as the Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to a government notification issued on Saturday. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) confirmed that Das' tenure will be co-terminus with the term of the Prime Minister or until further orders, whichever is earlier. His appointment comes as a significant move, given his vast experience in economic policy and governance.

Das, who served as RBI Governor for six years since December 2018,

played a crucial role in steering India's financial policies, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis. His tenure saw critical interventions in monetary policy, liquidity management, and regulatory reforms aimed at stabilizing the economy amid global and domestic challenges.

A 1980-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, Das has held key positions in the central and state governments in areas including finance, taxation, infrastructure, and industry. His expertise in fiscal management and economic policy-making was instrumental in shap-

ing several government initiatives. In another key decision, the government extended the tenure of NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam by one year, starting from February 24, 2025. A 1987-batch IAS officer, Subrahmanyam was initially appointed for a two-year term in February 2023. His extension signals continuity in policy advisory at the country's premier think tank.

With Das assuming the crucial role of Principal Secretary to the PM, his experience in macroeconomic management and financial governance is expected to further strengthen the decision-making process at the highest level of government.

## CIE Automotive India Q4 2025 Profit Rises 9.49% YoY Despite Revenue Dip



**TPN Correspondent | Mumbai**  
CIE Automotive India reported its Q4 2025 financial results on February 20, 2025, posting a profit of ₹184.98 crore, reflecting a 9.49% year-over-year (YoY) increase. However, revenue declined 5.82% YoY to ₹2,109.95 crore.

Quarter-over-quarter, revenue fell 1.16%, and profit declined 5.25%, indicating a slowdown. Operating income also witnessed a 12.9% q-o-q and 12.41% YoY decline. Meanwhile, Selling, General & Administrative expenses increased 0.67% q-o-q but dropped 1.42% YoY.

Earnings per share (EPS) for Q4 stood at ₹4.72, up 1.29% YoY, signaling financial stability despite revenue pressures.

CIE Automotive India's stock performance has been mixed, delivering a 0.27% return in the last week, but experiencing a 26.48% decline over six months and 10.6% year-to-date losses.

The company holds a market capitalization of ₹15,995.81 crore, with its stock trading between a 52-week high of ₹622.4 and a low of ₹405.3. Analysts maintain a 'Buy' recommendation, signaling long-term confidence despite near-term revenue challenges.

**Debock Industries Reports ₹0.2 Cr Loss in Q3 2025 as Revenue Plunges 97.01% YoY**  
Debock Industries announced its Q3 2025 financial results on February 21, 2025, re-

vealing a sharp revenue decline of 97.01% year-over-year (YoY), resulting in a ₹0.2 crore loss. In the same quarter last year, the company had posted a profit of ₹0.32 crore. Compared to the previous quarter, revenue fell 95.74%, reflecting severe financial challenges. The company's operating income also suffered, dropping 107.84% quarter-over-quarter and 155.56% YoY, further highlighting its struggles in the current market.



Earnings per share (EPS) for Q3 stood at ₹-0.01, marking a 125% YoY decline, emphasizing the ongoing financial downturn.

Despite a 0.39% return in the last week, Debock Industries has seen a 63.87% decline in the past six months and a negative 17.83% year-to-date return.

The company currently holds a market capitalization of ₹41.99 crore, with its stock trading between a 52-week high of ₹9.6 and a low of ₹2.43.

## Zomato Faces Scrutiny Over Ticket Sales for Honey Singh's Concert



**TPN Correspondent | Mumbai**  
The Maharashtra Cyber Cell is set to issue a show-cause notice to Zomato for allegedly selling tickets for singer Honey Singh's Millionaire India Tour concert without including buyers' names. The move comes as part of efforts to curb black marketing and ensure ticketing transparency for high-profile events.

Officials have raised concerns that omitting buyer names on tickets could lead to potential security risks and unauthorized resales. According to an NDTV report, the cyber cell has sought an explanation from Zomato regarding this practice and whether it violates ticketing regulations.

However, Zomato has denied the allegations, stating that it has not received any notice yet. In response to the controversy, a company spokesperson told Livemint, "This is not true. We have not received any notice yet. As and when we receive it, we will work with the authorities to demonstrate that our practices comply with applicable laws. We have always ad-

hered to the laws of the land and will continue to do so. Further, every M-ticket issued through the District app for music events or other experiences, including the Honey Singh concert, has consistently included the buyer's name." The scrutiny on Zomato follows the Maharashtra Cyber Cell's directive last year, instructing ticketing platforms like Zomato and BookMyShow to print buyers' names on tickets for major events to prevent resale at inflated prices.

Maharashtra Cyber Cell Chief Yashasvi Yadav highlighted the issue, stating, "A problem arose that many people held many tickets with themselves and resold them through social media platforms, with a manifold increase in ticket prices."

The Millionaire India Tour marks Honey Singh's major comeback, covering ten cities across India. The tour kicks off in Mumbai, with the first concert scheduled for February 22 at Nesco Pvt Ltd. Tickets for the event have been made available on Zomato and Insider.

### Coldplay Concert Black Marketing Controversy

The show-cause notice against Zomato comes shortly after a similar controversy involving BookMyShow over the alleged black marketing of Coldplay concert tickets. The concert, held between January 19-21, 2025, faced backlash after fans accused BookMyShow of enabling third parties to resell tickets at exorbitant prices.

Advocate Amit Vyas filed a complaint against the platform, alleging that genuine users were logged out or blocked, allowing scalpers to sell tickets initially priced at ₹2,500 for up to ₹3 lakh.

BookMyShow had started selling Coldplay concert tickets on September 22, 2024, and they were sold out within minutes. The platform later issued warnings against illegitimate resellers.

With growing concerns over black marketing, the Maharashtra Cyber Cell is expected to tighten regulations further, ensuring that ticketing platforms comply with transparency measures.



**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi**

Tesla's much-anticipated entry into the Indian market is set to come with a hefty price tag, even if the government reduces import tariffs. A recent report by global capital market company CLSA has highlighted

that despite lower duties, Tesla's electric vehicles (EVs) will remain significantly more expensive than their domestic competitors, including Maruti Suzuki and Mahindra & Mahindra.

**Tesla's Expected Price in India**  
With the Indian government

## Tesla's Entry into India

### Higher Costs Expected Despite Lower Tariffs

considering slashing import duties to as low as 15-20%, the cheapest Tesla model is still expected to cost between ₹35 lakh and ₹40 lakh. Currently, the Tesla Model 3, which is the company's most affordable EV in the United States, is priced at approximately \$35,000 (around ₹30.4 lakh).

The CLSA report explains that, even with reduced tariffs, the cost will further increase due to additional charges such as road tax, insurance, and other levies. "With tariffs lowered to around 15-20% in India, along with other costs, the on-road price would be close to USD 40,000 (₹35-40 lakh)," the report states.

**Tesla vs Domestic EV Makers**  
Tesla's arrival in India has gen-

erated significant excitement, but the high pricing of its vehicles may prevent it from disrupting the domestic EV market. Competitors like Mahindra, Hyundai, and Maruti Suzuki already have established electric vehicle models at significantly lower price points.

These domestic players already dominate India's EV market with competitive pricing and established production lines. In contrast, Tesla's Model 3, even at its lowest projected price, remains at least 15-20% more expensive than these options.

According to industry experts, unless Tesla introduces a locally manufactured entry-level model under ₹25 lakh, it may struggle to gain a major

market share. The CLSA report also notes that concerns about Tesla's entry have already impacted Mahindra & Mahindra's stock prices.

### Tesla's India Plans & Hiring Process

To overcome cost barriers, Tesla would need to establish a manufacturing facility in India, allowing the company to reduce its dependency on imports and make its vehicles more competitively priced. However, no official announcement has been made regarding setting up a local factory.

In a significant step towards its Indian entry, Tesla has begun hiring for key positions. On February 18, the company listed a job opening for the position of

Consumer Engagement Manager in Mumbai. This marks the beginning of Tesla's recruitment drive in India, with a total of 13 roles currently listed for the country.

Tesla is expected to launch its initial models in key metro cities like Delhi and Mumbai in the coming months. Industry analysts believe the EV giant will use these cities as testing grounds before expanding further. While Tesla's arrival is expected to bring innovation to India's electric vehicle market, its high price point and strong domestic competition could pose challenges to its success unless it commits to local production.

## NASA Lowers Risk of Asteroid 2024 YR4 Impact in 2032



**TPN Correspondent | Washington, D.C.** NASA has significantly reduced concerns regarding asteroid 2024 YR4, revising its estimated impact probability in 2032 from 1 in 32 to 1 in 360. The 55-meter-wide asteroid, initially considered the most hazardous object on NASA's Center for Near-Earth Object Studies (CNEOS) Sentry Risk Table, now has a 99.72% chance of completely missing Earth.

The reassessment follows new observational data collected between February 18 and February 20, allowing for refined calculations of the asteroid's trajectory. As a result, NASA has downgraded its classification to Level 1 on the Torino Scale, which assesses the threat posed by near-Earth objects. Richard Binzel, creator of the Torino Scale, indicated that further observations might move

2024 YR4 to Level 0, signifying no risk. Despite the risk reduction, asteroid 2024 YR4 remains the most concerning object on the Sentry Risk Table, followed by asteroid 1950 DA, which has a 0.039% chance of impacting Earth in the year 2880. Experts stress that continuous monitoring will provide greater clarity, especially when the asteroid makes another approach in 2028.

David Rankin, an astronomer with the Catalina Sky Survey, explained that small uncertainties in measurements could result in large trajectory shifts over time. However, he reassured that additional observations will likely continue lowering any remaining impact probabilities.

NASA also acknowledged a minor possibility that 2024 YR4 could collide with the Moon, though the likelihood remains extremely low. The asteroid is now moving away from Earth and will not be visible to ground-based telescopes until 2028, when further tracking will refine its projected path. Scientists remain confident that it will continue its orbit around the Sun without posing any danger to Earth.

## Boult Launches Mustang Q Headphones, Torq and Dyno TWS Earbuds in India



**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi** Boult has introduced its latest range of audio products in India, unveiling the Mustang Q over-the-ear Bluetooth headphones alongside Mustang Torq and Mustang Dyno truly wireless (TWS) earbuds. Developed in collaboration with Ford's Mustang, these new offerings feature a design inspired by the iconic car, complete with Mustang-themed stripes, logos, and color shades. The Boult Mustang Q is priced at ₹2,499 and comes in a single Blue variant. The Mustang Torq and Mustang Dyno earbuds are priced at ₹1,499 and ₹1,299, respectively. The Torq model is available in Silver and Yellow, while the Dyno variant comes in Grey. All three products are now available for purchase in India. The Boult Mustang Q headphones boast

an IP67-rated water-resistant build and promise up to 70 hours of battery life on a single charge with active noise cancellation (ANC) enabled. They are equipped with 12mm drivers, environmental noise cancellation (ENC), and Bluetooth 5.4 connectivity, ensuring seamless compatibility with Android and iOS devices. The headphones also offer four EQ modes—Bass, Rock, Vocal, and Pop—and support dual-device pairing. A 10-minute charge provides up to 10 hours of playback time. The Mustang Torq and Mustang Dyno earbuds feature 13mm drivers for enhanced bass and support AAC and SBC codecs. With a quad-mic setup and ENC, these earbuds aim to provide clear call quality with minimal background noise. They also support AI voice assistants and

offer touch controls for managing calls and media playback. For gamers, both models feature a low-latency mode with a 45ms response time, which can be activated through the Boult Amp app. They are IPX5-rated for sweat and water resistance, ensuring durability for workouts and outdoor use. With Bluetooth 5.4 connectivity, the earbuds support dual-device pairing and USB Type-C fast charging. The Mustang Torq offers up to 60 hours of total playback and provides two hours of listening time with just a 10-minute charge. Boult's latest lineup aims to cater to music lovers and gamers alike, combining extended battery life, enhanced durability, and premium design inspired by Ford's Mustang.

## Amazonian Town Faces Crisis as Massive Sinkholes Expand



**TPN Correspondent | Buriticupu**

The city of Buriticupu in Brazil's northeastern Amazon is facing a growing crisis as massive sinkholes continue to expand, threatening the homes of at least 1,200 residents. The municipal government recently declared a state of emergency as the situation worsened. In a decree issued earlier this month, officials warned that the sinkholes have been expanding "exponentially" in recent months, putting more homes at risk. Several buildings have already collapsed, and the danger continues to increase. The issue has been unfolding for nearly 30 years due to heavy rains eroding sandy soils, worsened by deforestation and poorly planned construction. Known

as "voco-roca" in Brazil—a term of indigenous origin meaning "to tear the earth"—these sinkholes have now reached a critical stage.

The situation is particularly dire during the current rainy season, according to geographer Marcelino Farias of the Federal University of Maranhao. Long-time resident Antonia dos Anjos, 65, expressed her fears, saying, "There's this danger right in front of us, and nobody knows where the next hole will open up."

Buriticupu's secretary of public works, Lucas Conceicao, admitted that the municipality lacks the resources to handle the crisis. "The challenges range from stopping the erosion to relocating people from risk areas," he said.

## Digital photo snan at Maha Kumbh goes viral, sparks debate



**TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj**

A viral video from the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj has left the internet amused, showing a man offering a "digital photo snan" service for remote devotees. For a fee of ₹1,100, he claims to purify people's souls by immersing a photocopy of their picture in the sacred waters of the Triveni Sangam. Identified as Deepak Goyal, the man in the video explains that devotees can send their photos via WhatsApp, which he prints and

dips in the holy river within 24 hours. The unusual service, which he refers to as his "startup," has sparked mixed reactions online. The video, shared by Instagram user Akash Banerjee, has garnered over 4.3 million views and more than 124,000 likes. Many users mocked the idea, calling it "next-level AI" and comparing it to a "billion-dollar startup," while others criticized it as exploiting people's faith. "China has DeepSeek, so what we have is DeepSnaan," one user joked, while another

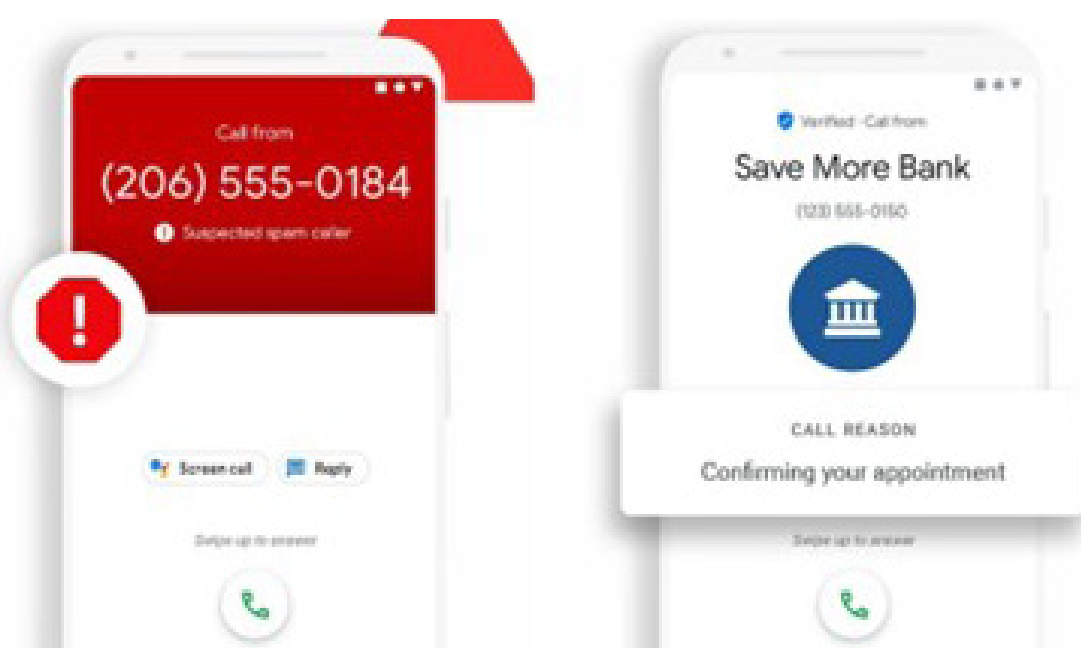
commented, "This is what Digital India looks like." Some, however, defended him, saying he was simply using an opportunity. The Maha Kumbh Mela, which began on January 13 and will conclude on February 26, has drawn millions of devotees, including top political leaders, foreign dignitaries, industrialists, and film personalities. Many have participated in the ritual of taking a holy dip at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and mythical Saraswati rivers.

## Google rolls out new filters for call history sorting on Android

Google is introducing a new feature in its Phone app that enhances call history sorting by categorizing calls based on type, such as spam, contacts, or unknown callers. This update, initially available to beta users, is now reportedly rolling out to all Android users.

According to a report by Android Authority, the new feature allows users to filter call history into categories like all, missed, contacts, spam, and non-spam. This makes it easier to find specific callers without scrolling through an extensive list of unrelated calls. However, users currently do not have the option to filter calls by incoming or outgoing status.

Call filters were first introduced with the 159.0.718038457-public-beta-pixel2024 update of the Phone app last month. At that time, it was limited to beta users with no official announcement on a public rollout. The latest report indicates that the feature is now becoming



widely available, though it may be a phased rollout controlled via a server-side update. As a result, some users, including Gadgets 360 staff members, have yet to see the feature on their devices, including Pixel phones. Additional Spam Protection Features The new call sorting feature

adds to Google's ongoing efforts to improve spam protection and enhance user convenience. One of the key tools in this regard is the Call Screen feature available on Pixel devices. It acts as an intermediary, screening calls by asking the caller their name and reason for calling, then providing a transcript to the receiver

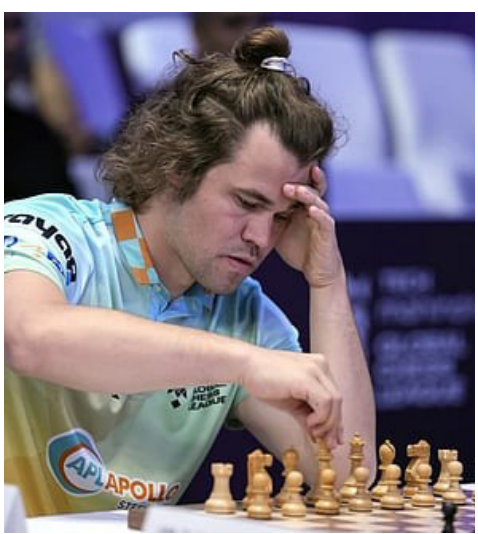
before they decide whether to answer. Another notable feature is reverse lookup, which helps users identify unknown numbers and filter out spam calls. These measures are part of Google's broader strategy to reduce call spam and improve the overall calling experience for Android users.

## Andreeva Becomes Youngest WTA 1000 Finalist



Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva made history by becoming the youngest player to reach the final of a WTA 1000 event. The 17-year-old defeated sixth-seeded Elena Rybakina 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 at the Dubai Championships. Andreeva, who trailed 1-3 in the third set, won the last five games to secure her spot in the final. "If I lose 6-0, 5-0 or win 7-5, 6-4, it doesn't matter. I just go for my shots and try to bring out my best level," Andreeva said after the match.

## Magnus Carlsen Auctions Jeans for Charity After Dress Code Dispute



Chess grandmaster Magnus Carlsen is turning his controversial jeans into a charitable contribution. The Norwegian player is auctioning off the pair of Italian luxury brand Corneliani jeans that led to a dress code dispute at the December World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships. After being fined \$200 for wearing the jeans, Carlsen quit the competition in protest, although the tournament's governing body later loosened the dress code.

Now, fans and collectors have the opportunity to own Carlsen's infamous size 32 regular fit jeans, which are being sold on eBay with proceeds going to Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. The auction, set to end on March 1, had already reached an offer of \$8,200 as of February 21.

The proceeds will support the charity's mission of mentoring youth, including funding chess clinics and community events. According to Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, chess has long been a favorite activity that helps participants develop critical thinking and life skills. Carlsen's jeans will now help inspire the next generation of young minds.

# India vs Pakistan: A Crucial Clash in ICC Champions Trophy 2025



The highly anticipated Pakistan vs India match in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 is set to take place on February 23 at Dubai International Stadium. This thrilling encounter will be pivotal for both teams, especially Pakistan, who must win to stay in contention for the title. India enters as the favorite, having won 8 of their last 12 ODIs against Pakistan in the past 15 years. Pakistan's squad includes key players like Babar Azam and Sha-

heen Shah Afridi, while India will rely on the form of Shubman Gill and Mohammed Shami. The match will start at 2:30 PM IST and is expected to feature a slow pitch, favoring spinners, with dew playing a significant role in the latter stages. The game will be broadcast live on Star Sports in India and PTV Sports in Pakistan, with online streaming available on JioHotstar and Myco. Fans can purchase tickets via the PCB website.

## Manu Bhaker to Lead 35-Member Indian Shooting Team at South America World Cups



ACE shooter Manu Bhaker will lead a 35-member Indian shooting team at the upcoming ISSF World Cups in South America, scheduled for April. The events will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina (April 1-11) and Lima, Peru (April 13-22). The squad includes several Paris Olympians, and Bhaker, recently awarded the Dhyana Chand Khel Ratna for her performance in Paris, will compete in the women's 10m air pistol and

25m pistol events. Prominent shooters such as Anish Bhanwala, Vijayveer Sidhu, Esha Singh, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, and Sift Kaur Samra will also be part of the team. Ahead of the World Cups, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) will hold a training camp from March 14 at the Karni Singh Shooting Range, with expert coaches like Jaspal Rana and Jitu Rai.

## Manu Bhaker to Lead 35-Member Indian Shooting Team at South America World Cups



Mumbai Indians secured a thrilling four-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the Women's Premier League on Friday, with key contributions from skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Amanjot Kaur. RCB posted a competitive total of 167/7, thanks to Ellyse Perry's explosive 81 off 43 balls, which included 11 fours and two sixes. Despite being at 57/4 at one stage, Perry, along with Richa Ghosh (28) and Smriti Mandhana (26), helped RCB recover. In reply, Harmanpreet Kaur's 50 off

38 balls, along with Nat Sciver-Brunt's quick-fire 42 off 21 and Amanjot's unbeaten 34 off 27, guided Mumbai to victory with one ball to spare. Amanjot was named Player of the Match for her all-round performance, including 3/22 with the ball. Brief Scores: • Royal Challengers Bangalore: 167/7 (Perry 81, Ghosh 28; Amanjot 3/22) • Mumbai Indians: 170/6 in 19.5 overs (Harmanpreet 50, Sciver-Brunt 42, Amanjot 34\*; Wareham 3/21, Garth 2/30)

## Ranji Trophy: Kerala Makes History, Set to Face Vidarbha in Final



Kerala has created history by reaching their first-ever Ranji Trophy final, setting up a thrilling title clash against Vidarbha. This milestone came after a dramatic two-run first-innings lead over Gujarat in the semifinal. Despite Gujarat needing only 29 runs to surpass Kerala's score, left-arm spinner Aditya Sarwate took all three remaining wickets to bowl them out for 455. Kerala, who made their debut in the Ranji Trophy 68 years ago, had previously reached only their second semifinal. Vidarbha Reaches Final with 80-Run Victory Over Mumbai. In the other semifinal, Vidarbha's Harsh Dubey

stole the show with a match-winning five-wicket haul, leading his team to an 80-run victory over defending champions Mumbai. Dubey's 66-wicket season performance brought Vidarbha closer to their fourth Ranji Trophy final. They will now face Kerala in a highly anticipated final.

Brief Scores: • Vidarbha: 383 & 292 • Mumbai: 270 & 325 all out (Thakur 66, Mulani 46; Dubey 5/127) • Kerala: 457 & 114/4 (Saxena 37\*; Hingrajia 2/22) • Gujarat: 455 all out (Panchal 148, Patel 79, Desai 73; Sarwate 4/111, Saxena 4/149)

## Rahul Dravid Comes Out of Retirement to Play Alongside Son Anvay

Former Indian cricket captain and coach, Rahul Dravid, made an unexpected return to the cricket field on Saturday, joining his son Anvay for a match with the Vijaya Cricket Club (Malur) in the Third Division (Group I) for the Nassur Memorial Shield. This marks a rare father-son cricketing moment, with Dravid, who had retired from professional cricket

years ago, playing alongside his son. Dravid, who had been in Guwahati for the Rajasthan Royals' pre-season camp, returned to the city recently and took the field for this special occasion. The match saw AG Aditya take four wickets (4/60) for the Young Lions.





## Chiranjeevi to Share Screen with Bollywood Actress Rani Mukerji in Upcoming Film



Megastar Chiranjeevi is gearing up for a series of projects, with his current focus on the film Vishwambhar. However, another exciting venture is on the horizon with director Srikant Odela, who recently hit a major success with Dasara. In this untitled project, there is buzz that Bollywood actress Rani Mukerji will star opposite

Chiranjeevi. The role of the heroine holds significant importance in the storyline, and Srikant Odela has recommended Rani Mukerji for the part. After considering the suggestion, Chiranjeevi reportedly gave his approval, and this news is creating a stir in Bollywood circles. The film will be presented by actor Nani.

## Rakul Preet Singh's Movie "Mere Husband Ki Biwi" Offers Bumper Deal to Audiences



Rakul Preet Singh's latest Hindi film Mere Husband Ki Biwi was released yesterday, starring Arjun Kapoor and Bhumi Pednekar. To attract more viewers, the producers have come up with a "Buy One, Get One Free" offer for movie tickets, similar to promotional tactics often seen in business to boost sales. However, the film's

collections have not been as impressive as expected. Meanwhile, Vicky Kaushal and Rashmika Mandanna's Chhava is creating waves at the box office. Despite the exciting offer, the audience turnout for Rakul's movie remains lukewarm. The promotional strategy hopes to draw more crowds into theaters.

## SSMB 29 Shooting Underway in Hyderabad, SS Rajamouli's Press Meet Expected Soon

Superstar Mahesh Babu's eagerly awaited film SSMB 29, directed by SS Rajamouli, is currently under production, with the team using advanced technology, including 35mm/70mm scanners, similar to those used by Hollywood director Christopher Nolan. The film, with a budget surpassing Rs. 1000 Crores, promises a global-scale adventure. The first schedule is taking place in

Hyderabad, featuring large sets such as a replica of Varanasi's Manikarnika Ghat. The movie will take audiences on a journey from Varanasi to African jungles. Mahesh Babu stars in a powerful role, with Priyanka Chopra Jonas playing the female lead. A press meet with Rajamouli and Mahesh Babu is expected soon, where more details on the film's story and characters will be shared.

## "Odela 2" Teaser Unveiled: Tamannaah's Intense Role Raises Anticipation

The teaser of Odela 2, starring Tamannaah in the lead role, has been released, and it promises to deliver thrilling moments. The film, a sequel to the successful 2022 movie Odela Railway Station, has generated massive expectations among fans. Directed by Akosh Teja, with renowned director Sampath Nandi providing the story and producing the film, Odela 2 has captured attention for its intense scenes.

The teaser, released during the Mahakumbh Mela, showcases Tamannaah as a fierce character resembling a "lady Aghora," adding to the suspenseful vibe. Her portrayal as Shiva Shakti leaves the audience intrigued, and the overall visual experience has caught the public's eye. The film's music is composed by Ajneesh Loknath, with Madhu Creations producing under the banner of D. Madhu.



## Mahath Raghavendra's Romantic Comedy Series "Emoji" Set to Stream on Aha



A new romantic comedy series Emoji, aimed at the youth, is all set to stream on the OTT platform Aha starting February 28th. This series, originally a hit in Tamil in 2022, is now making its way to Telugu audiences. The story revolves around love and marriage, blending humor and emotions.

Starring Mahath Raghavendra, Manasa Chaudhari, and Devika in key roles, Emoji

follows the journey of a young man and woman who fall in love, only for a series of events to pull them apart. The young man, deciding to move on, begins a new relationship with another girl, but his first love reappears, creating tension. Directed by Sampath, this series is expected to captivate viewers with its light-hearted yet meaningful storyline.

## Vicky Kaushal Honoured After PM Modi Praises "Chhaava"



Actor Vicky Kaushal expressed his immense gratitude after Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised his historical action drama Chhaava. During the inaugural function of the 98th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan (ABMSS), Modi highlighted the success of the film, stating, "Chhaava is making headlines everywhere right now." The film, which has grossed over Rs 300 crore globally, features Kaushal portraying Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, son of the

Maratha empire's founder, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Kaushal took to Instagram, saying, "Honoured beyond words! Grateful to Hon. PM Narendra Modi ji. #Chhaava." Rashmika Mandanna, who plays Yesubai in the movie, also shared her thanks on social media. Chhaava has been declared tax-free in Goa and Madhya Pradesh, and the film has received widespread recognition for its portrayal of Sambhaji Maharaj's legacy.

## Ali Fazal and Sonali Bendre Join Forces with "Paatal Lok" Director Prosit Roy for an Action Thriller



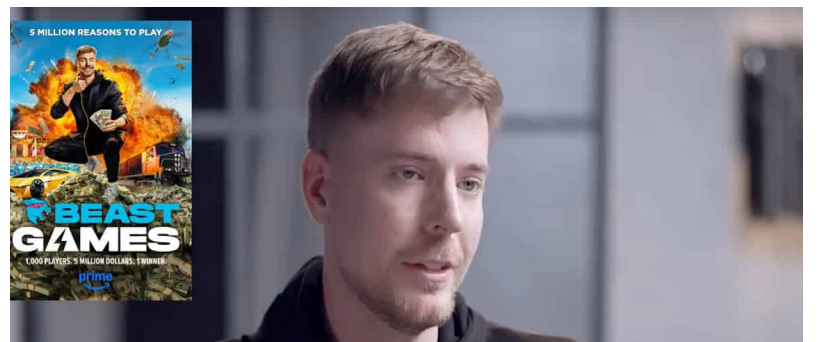
Ali Fazal is set to star in a high-octane action thriller series helmed by Prosit Roy, the director of Paatal Lok Season 1. Alongside Fazal, Bollywood actress Sonali Bendre will play a key role in the series, adding to the excitement of the project. The shoot is scheduled to begin in April, with Fazal expected to showcase a never-before-seen avatar.

The series, which remains untitled, promises to be a large-scale action spectacle, combining intense sequences

with a compelling narrative. A source close to the production shared that Prosit Roy's storytelling expertise and Fazal's dedication, combined with Bendre's strong screen presence, will make this an exceptional project.

In addition to this, Fazal is busy with Rakht Brahmmand, a period fantasy drama by Raj & DK, and is also preparing for several upcoming projects, including Mirzapur: The Film, Metro In Dino, Lahore 1947, Thug Life, and Rule Breakers.

## MrBeast Admits Losing Rs 86 Crores on "Beast Games" Show, Talks Mental Health Struggles



YouTube star MrBeast, real name Jimmy Donaldson, revealed that his biggest project, Beast Games, ended up costing him a staggering Rs 86 crores in losses. Despite being one of the most popular YouTubers with a net worth of around Rs 5000 crores, the

show, although a massive success on Prime Video, didn't recoup its massive production cost. In an interview on The Diary of a CEO podcast, MrBeast shared that he spent over Rs 860 crores on the project, with Rs 440 crores coming from his own savings.