



**Weather Forecast**

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 33° C L 25° C	H 35° C L 26° C	H 36° C L 26° C

Slush, zero visibility hamper rescue efforts

Navy, Army, and NDRF teams struggle to navigate through thick mud

Contact with trapped workers still unestablished

# SLBC Tunnel Collapse



**TPN Correspondent | Nagarkurnool**  
Rescue operations at the collapsed Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Telangana have become increasingly dangerous due to excessive mud and water seepage, with visibility dropping to zero. Eight workers remain trapped since Saturday, and experts are struggling to find a way through the thick slush and debris.

## Rising slush poses a grave threat

Officials from the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) have warned that the quantity of slush inside the tunnel is increasing, either due to sudden inflows or a gradual rise. Rescue teams estimate that nearly 3,200 liters of water per minute are entering the tunnel, mixing with sand, rock, and debris, making de-watering efforts even more challenging.

A senior NHIDCL official, as quoted by

NDTV, cautioned that conducting "intensive" rescue operations under such conditions could be extremely risky, raising fears about potential hazards for rescue personnel.

## No visibility, no way forward

Rescue teams, including the Navy, Army, and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), held a lengthy meeting on Monday but failed to find a viable way to navigate through the dense sludge. NDRF's 10th Battalion Commandant Prasanna Kumar admit-

ted that the situation is unprecedented. "It is like a large quicksand pit. Visibility is at zero. Our probe scopes and sonars have detected dangerous debris, including twisted metal and concrete chunks. Anyone attempting to enter could suffer serious injuries," Kumar said. Even the specialized "rat hole" worker brought in for the operation is unable to help, as such methods are effective only in dry conditions. "Right now, we do not have any technology to break through this thick mud-water wall to reach the trapped men. Contact with them has not been established so far," he added.

## Uncertain road ahead

With no direct way to reach the workers and increasing risks inside the tunnel, the rescue operation remains at a critical juncture. Authorities are now racing against time to find alternative solutions before conditions deteriorate further.

# Telangana to have First-of-Its-Kind Life Sciences Policy

Green Pharma City to create 5 lakh jobs.

Pharma villages planned near ORR & RRR.

Mega dry port to link Telangana with AP.

CM highlights economic goals at BioAsia summit.



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy announced that the state will introduce India's first-ever Life Sciences policy, reinforcing its commitment to becoming a global hub for biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. Speaking at the BioAsia summit on Tuesday, the Chief Minister highlighted the rapid progress of the Green Pharma City, a major project under Telangana's Future City initiative. Several leading pharmaceutical companies have already signed MoUs with the state government, he revealed. Additionally, the government is developing pharma villages between the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and the Regional Ring Road (RRR) to further strengthen the sector. "Our aim is to create five lakh new jobs through these initiatives," he

said. Revanth Reddy reiterated the state's vision to transform Telangana into a \$1 trillion economy over the next decade. He emphasized the government's focus on building Future City, AI City, and other large-scale projects, while also noting Hyderabad's emergence as India's EV capital, leading in electric vehicle sales. As a landlocked state, Telangana is also planning a mega dry port, which will be connected to Andhra Pradesh's coastal ports through dedicated rail and road links, he said. "Industry leaders present at BioAsia can leverage this platform for major collaborations. Our government is committed to providing world-class infrastructure and industry-friendly policies," the Chief Minister assured.

# BJP Will Pursue Phone Tapping Case Even If CM Drops It

Union minister demands CBI probe

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

Union minister G Kishan Reddy asserted that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will not let the phone tapping case be ignored, even if Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy chooses to drop it. Addressing a press conference at the BJP state office, Reddy dismissed the CM's allegations that the BJP government was protecting the accused. Reddy stated that the BJP has already filed a public interest litigation (PIL) in the High Court, demanding a thorough probe into the case. He reiterated the party's demand for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) inquiry, ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice. BJP Not Opposed to Musi Project, Rejects Religious Reservations

against the Musi River rejuvenation project but insists that it should be executed without displacing people. He also reaffirmed the party's stance against religious-based reservations, particularly those under the BC-E category. Reddy criticized the Congress government's electoral strategies, claiming that Revanth Reddy was attacking the BJP out of fear of losing the upcoming elections. He pointed out that Congress contesting only one of the three MLC seats signals a lack of confidence in its own strength. Demands for Pending Dues Release

In a separate development, Kishan Reddy wrote to CM Revanth Reddy, urging the state government to clear pending dues amounting to thousands of crores. He highlighted unpaid salaries to government employees, teachers, and retirees, along with pending student fee reimbursements, demanding immediate action from the state.



# Harish Rao Blames Congress Govt

BRS leader says KCR govt never let Hyderabad go dry

Questions Congress' water management

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

Even before summer has peaked, Hyderabad is grappling with an alarming water crisis, and BRS leader T Harish Rao has placed the blame squarely on the Congress government. He pointed out that during K Chandrashekhara Rao's tenure as Chief Minister, the city never faced drinking water shortages, but now, residents are forced to buy water tankers as borewells dry up. Harish Rao cited official reports highlighting a severe decline in Telangana's groundwater reserves, which have dropped by 2.88 billion cubic meters—the worst in the country. He noted that despite

# HYDERABAD going dry; WATER CRISIS looming large



15% excess rainfall, Hyderabad's groundwater levels have fallen by 1.33 meters, with Kukatpally recording a shocking

25.90 meters below ground. "Does the government even know what is happening?" he questioned, accusing the Congress regime of failing to manage water resources effectively. He recalled that the BRS government had implemented Mission Bhagiratha to ensure piped drinking water and Mission Kakatiya to revive lakes, ensuring water availability even in peak summer. "Under Congress, lakes are drying up, and the government is missing," he alleged, further accusing the ruling party of prioritizing self-promotion over governance. "Hyderabad is running dry, and Congress is running away from responsibility. If this continues, Telangana is in serious trouble," he warned.

# Govt to Begin Ration Card Distribution from March 1

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

The Telangana government is set to commence the distribution of new ration cards from March 1, starting with Hyderabad, joint Ranga Reddy, and Mahabubnagar districts. The process will gradually extend to the remaining districts from March 8. Authorities are reportedly making the necessary arrangements to ensure a smooth and efficient distribution process.

The issuance of these ration cards is expected to facilitate the implementation of various welfare schemes



promised by the Congress government, including Aarogyasri, free electricity up

individuals covered under this

# Madiga Martyrs Honoured

Govt Reaffirms Commitment to Classification

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha, along with several leaders, participated in the commemoration of Madiga martyrs at Tourism Plaza in Hyderabad, paying tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for caste classification rights. Prominent attendees included MLA Kale Yada, Vemula Veeresham, former Minister Motkupalli Narasimhu, Chandrasekhar, AICC Secretary Sampath Kumar, and TPCC General Secretary Kondeti Malaiiah.



As part of the event, Minister Damodar and other leaders washed the feet of the martyrs' family members as a mark of respect. Additionally, the minister provided financial assistance of ₹5 lakh each to the families.

Speaking at the event, Minister Damodar emphasized that the struggle for rights arose from inequalities within the SC community. He stated that the fight had been long and arduous, and the sacrifices made by the martyrs would always be remembered. "No matter how many generations pass, we cannot repay the debt of the martyrs," he said, urging that such struggles should not be politicized.

Referring to the Supreme Court verdict on classification, he highlighted the Telangana government's swift response. "Within an hour of the verdict, the Honorable CM made a statement in

the Assembly supporting classification, proving his commitment to the poor," he said. He assured that the One Man Commission's report was in favor of the verdict and that the government was exploring all possible ways to ensure justice for backward classes.

He dismissed criticism of the classification process, calling it baseless and politically motivated. "There is nothing to twist in it. We will not allow lies, fraud, or politics to misrepresent this issue," he asserted.

Minister Damodar further announced that a classification law would be enacted soon, paving the way for filling a large number of jobs. "Under the leadership of Revanth Reddy, we are set to write a new history," he declared, reaffirming the government's responsibility to support the community in every possible way.

# Telangana Records 62.5 Lakh Cyber Threats in a Year

State sees sharp rise in malware, ransomware, and cyber frauds targeting key sectors

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Telangana has emerged as one of the most targeted states for cyber threats in India, accounting for nearly 23% of all malware detections nationwide in 2024, with over 62.5 lakh incidents reported. According to the Telangana Cyber Threat Report 2025, released by Seqrte, the enterprise arm of Quick Heal Technologies, the state has witnessed a significant surge in malware, ransomware, and cyber frauds affecting critical sectors like healthcare, education, and government institutions.



## Rise in Cybercrimes

Identity theft has been identified as the most prevalent cybercrime in Telangana, with nearly 30,000 reported cases, including 11,125 cases of unauthorized transactions, 5,369 cases of KYC fraud and 18,647 cases of impersonation scams, including courier frauds, police impersonation, and digital arrest scams. Additionally, Telangana recorded 26,000 business and investment scams, 17,669 cases of advertisement fraud, and 12,589 loan fraud cases, highlighting a growing cyber threat landscape.

## Surge in Ransomware Attacks

The state has also seen a rise in ransomware incidents, averaging 47 attacks per day, with a total of 17,505 attacks reported in 2024. Sectors such as IT, manufacturing, and education have been the primary targets, leading to operational disruptions.

Among the major cyberattacks: Narayana Group Hospitals and Educational Services faced a ransomware attack that en-

cryptic electronic medical records (EMR) and billing systems, affecting patient care. Sivaraj Medical Colleges suffered a data breach, compromising student records, financial transactions, and faculty payroll.

Hacktivist groups targeted Telangana government portals and educational institutions, leaking sensitive citizen data, login credentials, and official documents. Even the Deputy Chief Minister's website was breached, raising concerns over government cybersecurity infrastructure.

## Need for Stronger Cybersecurity Measures

Vishal Salvi, CEO of Quick Heal Technologies, stated that with Telangana emerging as a major IT hub, cyber threats will continue to rise. He emphasized the need for advanced cybersecurity solutions such as Quick Heal AntiFraud, AI, Seqrte Data Privacy, and Seqrte Threat Intelligence to mitigate risks and protect businesses and individuals from evolving cyber threats.

# Telangana Proposes Engineering Syllabus Reforms

Focus on industry-aligned curriculum with AI, ML, and internships

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TGCHE) has proposed significant revisions to the engineering syllabus, aiming to enhance students' employability and align the curriculum with industry demands. The core committee submitted its recommendations following Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's directive to modernize technical education.

TGCHE Chairman Prof. V. Balakista Reddy emphasized the necessity of equipping engineering students with skills relevant to global job markets. He proposed that students should complete 160 credits by the 6th or 7th semester, allowing the final semester(s) to be dedicated to industry internships and practical projects.

## Key Recommendations for Syllabus Reform

**Uniform Credit Framework:** A standardized 20-credit-per-semester system (160 credits over four years) with an additional 20 credits for minor and honors degree programs.

**Integration of Emerging Technologies:** AI, Machine Learning (ML), Data Science (DS), and Cy-

ber Security (CS) will be incorporated into core branches.

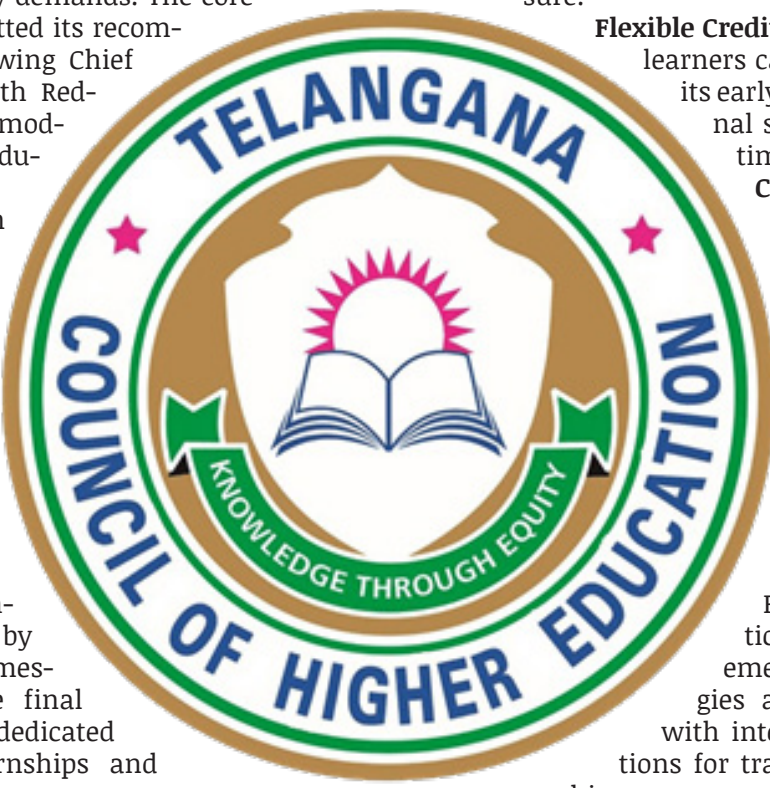
**Mandatory Industrial Internships:** Two credit-based internships at the end of the 2nd and 3rd years to provide hands-on industry exposure.

**Flexible Credit Completion:** Fast learners can finish 160 credits early, dedicating the final semester(s) to full-time internships.

**Credit Transfer Policy:** Students can earn credits via certification programs like NASSCOM, along with mandatory industrial and field visits.

**Faculty & Student Exchange:** Introduction of Professors of Practice for teaching emerging technologies and collaborations with international institutions for training and internships.

TGCHE Secretary Prof. Sriram Venkatesh, who chairs the syllabus revision committee, stressed the importance of maintaining a standardized credit system while adapting to technological advancements and AICTE guidelines. The proposed reforms are expected to bridge the gap between academia and industry, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared for evolving job market demands.



# KRMB to Decide Krishna Water Release for AP, Telangana



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) has directed the Engineers-in-Chief (ENC) of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to reach an understanding by Tuesday, February 25, regarding their irrigation and drinking water needs, considering the standing Rabi crops and the summer demand.

A three-member KRMB committee is set to take a final decision on water allocation for both states in its next meeting on Wednesday, February 26.

KRMB had earlier allocated 131 tmcft of Krishna River water to Telangana and 27 tmcft to Andhra Pradesh for this year. As of February 11, Nagarjuna Sagar Dam held 63 tmcft of water at a height of 510 feet, while the Srisailem reservoir had 30 tmcft at 834 feet.

During a meeting at Jala Soudha in Hyderabad on Monday, KRMB Chairman Atul Jain, Telangana irrigation secretary Rahul Bojja, and the ENC of both states discussed water utilization plans. KRMB instructed the states to draft proposals for using available water in major reservoirs to sustain drinking water supply until

June-July. Telangana's irrigation secretary, Rahul Bojja, raised concerns about Andhra Pradesh allegedly drawing excess water beyond its share, particularly from Muchumarri and Pothireddipadu lift irrigation schemes. He urged KRMB to ensure AP refrains from further withdrawals and requested an allocation of 10 tmcft each from Srisailem and Nagarjuna Sagar for Telangana's drinking water needs.

AP ENC Venkateshwara Rao, however, argued that Andhra Pradesh had only utilized surplus floodwaters that would have otherwise flowed into the ocean. The meeting included discussions on the data regarding floodwater usage by AP.

Meanwhile, due to the ongoing SLBC tunnel rescue operations in Domalapenta, Nalgonda Chief Engineer Ajay could not attend the discussions. KRMB directed the AP Chief Engineer to visit Nalgonda and coordinate with Telangana's Chief Engineer on the matter. Following the KRMB meeting, ENC from both states also held a separate discussion on water-sharing concerns.

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# Govt to Begin Ration Card Distribution from March 1

initiative stands at 11,65,052.

To ensure transparency, the government conducted gram and basti sabhas between January 20 and 24 to invite objections and verify applications. Following this, a final list was compiled based on reports from district collectors, with the confirmation process beginning on January 26. As of now, around 30,000 applications have been received.

According to the preliminary data, Hyderabad has the highest number of eligible families at 83,285, while Vanaparathi district has the lowest count with 6,647 families. The state government aims to complete the distribution process efficiently to ensure beneficiaries can avail themselves of essential welfare schemes at the earliest.

## 29 Minority Communities Get BC Quota in BJP-Ruled States



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has alleged that 29 Muslim communities are availing reservations under the Backward Classes (BC) category in Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled states, countering BJP's objections to their inclusion in Telangana's caste survey. Addressing a gathering in Karimnagar on Monday, Reddy stated that Muslim communities in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar are already classified under BC reservations. He pointed out that the Mandal Commission had included 29 backward Muslim castes in the BC category back in 1979, enabling them to benefit from reservations as Most Backward Classes (MBCs) and BCs across various states. The Chief Minister's remarks came

in response to Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, who criticized the Telangana government's decision to include Muslims in the caste survey, calling it unacceptable. Reddy accused Kumar and Telangana BJP president G Kishan Reddy of spreading misinformation regarding the survey. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statements during the Telangana Assembly elections, Reddy said, "Modi himself, who ruled Gujarat for 25 years, had claimed that 70 Muslim castes were included in the BC category in Gujarat." Further, the Chief Minister alleged that the Centre was obstructing key infrastructure projects in Telangana, including the Hyderabad Metro Rail expansion and the Regional Ring Road, by delaying clearances.

## SC adjourns hearing on defected MLAs' case to March 4

**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi**  
The Supreme Court has adjourned the hearing on the disqualification petition of 10 defected MLAs to March 4 after Speaker's lawyer Mukul Rohatgi was absent from today's proceedings. During the previous hearing, the apex court had sought clarity from the Speaker's counsel on the timeframe re-

quired for action against the defected legislators. The petition seeks disqualification of the MLAs under the anti-defection law, with opposition parties alleging deliberate delays in the decision-making process. The upcoming hearing is expected to determine the Speaker's stance on the matter.



## Uttam highlights Congress' job drive in Karimnagar

**TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud accuses BJP of sidelining BC leaders**  
**Uttam Kumar Reddy touts Congress' record in job creation**

**TPN Correspondent | Karimnagar**

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy and TPCC chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud underscored the Congress government's achievements in job creation while launching a scathing attack on both the BJP and BRS during a public meeting in Karimnagar.

**Congress claims 'historic' job creation**

Uttam Kumar Reddy asserted that the Congress government has filled nearly 56,000 government vacancies, including 11,000 teaching positions, within its first year, marking a significant shift from what he described as the BRS government's neglect of youth employment.

"The Congress has not only provided jobs but also facilitated long-pending teacher promotions, addressing career advancement concerns that the previous government ignored," he said. TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud reiterated that all remaining vacancies,



whether one lakh or two lakh, would be filled, reaffirming the Congress government's commitment to tackling unemployment.

**Targeting BRS and BJP over governance failures**

Uttam Kumar Reddy accused the BRS of neglecting North Telangana, particularly districts like Karimnagar, Adilabad, Nizamabad, and Medak. He promised new policies to encourage investment, improve connectivity, and transform these regions into economic hubs.

He also pointed to Chief Minister A Re-

vanth Reddy's promise to create 5,000 jobs every month, contrasting it with what he called the unfulfilled promises of the previous BRS-led administration.

Meanwhile, Mahesh Kumar Goud criticized the BJP for removing BC leaders from key positions and accused the BRS of working in tandem with the BJP to secure Lok Sabha seats.

**MLC elections in focus**

The event also served as a campaign platform for Congress' Graduate MLC candidate V. Narender Reddy, an academic with decades of service in education. Uttam Kumar Reddy urged graduate voters to back him, highlighting his credentials and the Congress' commitment to education reforms.

As the elections conclude on February 27, the Congress leadership called on party workers to ensure a decisive victory, framing it as a crucial step toward strengthening the government's pro-youth and pro-employment agenda.

## SLBC Tunnel Collapse KTR Demands Probe by Sitting HC Judge



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
BRS working president KT Rama Rao has demanded a judicial probe led by a sitting High Court judge into the SLBC tunnel collapse, accusing the Congress government of negligence in initiating the project without necessary approvals from the Geological Survey of India (GSI). Criticizing the government's handling of the disaster, Rama Rao questioned Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's absence from relief operations while eight workers remain trapped. "Does the Chief Minister have no time to ensure the rescue of these workers while he flies around in helicopters for campaigns?" he asked. Highlighting three major mishaps under the Congress government,

KTR cited the Peddavagu project washout in Khammam, the Sunkishala project retaining wall collapse, and now the SLBC tunnel disaster. He blamed the state's inexperience for endangering lives and public money, stating, "If you did not conduct any technical study before resuming the works and carelessly put lives at risk, you have no one to blame but yourselves."

Taking aim at Ministers N Uttam Kumar Reddy and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, KTR alleged that while one praised his own work, the other remained clueless during the crisis. "After four days, all they have to show is eight missing workers, debris, slush, and Rs 300 crore worth of damage to machinery. It is appalling that they feel proud of such a failure," he remarked.

Demanding transparency, he called for a comprehensive judicial inquiry to reveal the truth behind the SLBC accident and the Sunkishala wall collapse. "The families affected deserve accountability, which is grossly missing so far," he asserted.

## Pawan Kalyan's Remarks Spark Debate on Regional and Caste Identity

**Telangana people have a sense of 'My Telangana,' but Andhra lacks such unity**



**TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh**  
Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has stirred controversy with his remarks comparing the regional sentiments of Telangana and

Andhra Pradesh. He stated that while the people of Telangana have a strong sense of identity and ownership with the feeling of 'My Telangana,' Andhra Pradesh lacks a similar emotional connection, with caste divisions dominating social and political discourse. His comments have sparked discussions across political circles, with critics questioning the timing and implications of his statement. Pawan Kalyan, known for his outspoken views, has consistently criticized caste-based politics in Andhra Pradesh. His remarks suggest a deeper concern over the state's political cul-

ture and the need for unity beyond caste affiliations.

Political analysts believe his statement could be aimed at mobilizing support for his party, the Jana Sena, by addressing deep-rooted social divisions. However, opposition parties may use this as an opportunity to counter him, alleging that such remarks could further widen existing divides.

Pawan Kalyan's comments come at a time when Andhra Pradesh is gearing up for elections, making his stance on regional identity and caste politics a significant talking point in the political landscape.

## Bandi Sanjay Accuses Govt of Shielding BRS in Phone Tapping Case

**Questions Congress's reluctance to arrest absconding accused**

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Tuesday accused the Telangana government of protecting the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in the phone tapping case. He alleged that the Congress was deliberately opposing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Ramchandra Reddy's petition seeking a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the scandal. Kumar questioned why the Congress-led government had not taken action against Prabhakar Rao, the former Special Intelligence Branch (SIB) chief and a key accused in the case, who remains absconding. He criticized Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for not issuing a notice for a detailed probe despite previously admitting BRS's involvement in both the phone tapping case and the Kaleshwaram project irregularities. Reiterating his demand for a CBI inquiry, Kumar stated that only an independent probe could ensure justice. Addressing the media in Hyderabad, the Karimnagar MP also hit out at Revanth Reddy for referring to Prime



Minister Narendra Modi and himself as "a big Backward Class (BC) and a small BC," claiming that such remarks were insulting to the BC community.

## VH meets Chandrababu, requests district to be named after Sanjeevaiah

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**

Senior Telangana Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao met Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in Vijayawada, requesting him to name a district in the state after former CM and late leader Damodaram Sanjeevaiah. He also urged the government to establish a memorial park in his honor.

Speaking after the meeting, Hanumantha Rao stated that Chandrababu responded positively to the proposal. He praised Sanjeevaiah as a symbol of honesty and integrity, highlighting his contributions as a Dalit leader who served as Andhra Pradesh's Chief Minister.



# Amberpet Flyover Set to Open Today After Multiple Delays

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

After several delays, the much-awaited Amberpet flyover in Hyderabad will finally be inaugurated on Maha Shivaratri, February 26. Union Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy announced the opening date, stating that the project will ease traffic congestion in the city.

Spanning 1.5 km with four lanes, the flyover is expected to significantly improve traffic flow, especially for commuters entering Hyderabad from the Warangal Highway. The project, undertaken by the National Highways and Road Development Department, has been built at an estimated cost of ₹335 crore.

During his inspection of the flyover on Tuesday, February 25, Kishan Reddy blamed



the delays on the State government's slow land acquisition process. He urged authorities to expedite similar projects, stating, "The State government must speed up land acquisition for five other flyovers to ensure timely completion. This remains their sole

responsibility."

Earlier, GHMC Commissioner Ilambarthi also reviewed the incomplete land acquisition process and directed National Highways and Roads & Buildings officials to accelerate the pending work.

The Amberpet flyover, which starts at Golnaka and ends near Purnodaya Colony at the MCH Quarters, was initially proposed in 2018. However, construction only commenced in 2021, with a targeted completion date of 2023. After missing its deadline, the flyover is now finally set to open in 2025. Authorities have also assured that greenery and separate service roads will be developed beneath the flyover to enhance urban aesthetics and ease local connectivity.

# Cyberabad police arrest three in ₹1.38 crore digital arrest scam



**TPN Correspondent |**

**Hyderabad**

The Cyberabad police have arrested three individuals involved in a 'digital arrest' scam, in which an 82-year-old retired engineer was duped of ₹1.38 crore.

The accused—Gokul Maruthachalamoorthi (24), Jafar Sereef (23), and Sharukhan (30)—were apprehended on February 21 from their native place in Namakkal, Tamil Nadu.

According to the police, the fraudsters manipulated the victim by posing as State Bank of India (SBI) officials and falsely accusing him of involvement in an anti-money laundering case. The call was then transferred to another fraudster impersonating a Mumbai Cyber Crimes officer, who intimidated the elderly victim with threats of arrest and public humiliation.

Under pressure, the victim was coerced into sharing his Aadhaar details and subsequently transferred ₹1,38,60,000 across multiple bank accounts controlled by the fraudsters.

Investigators traced one of the accounts, belonging to Gokul Maruthachalamoorthi, where ₹9,60,000 from the victim was deposited. This amount was later withdrawn by the prime suspect, identified as Rahul. Further probe revealed that Gokul had provided his bank account details, passbooks, ATM cards, and signed chequebooks to Jafar Sereef and Sharukhan on a commission basis. They, in turn, supplied these details to Rahul, who orchestrated the scam and siphoned funds from multiple victims.

**Police warn citizens against cyber fraud**

The Cyberabad Cyber Crimes police have urged citizens to remain vigilant against fraudsters impersonating officials and attempting to extort money.

"Be sceptical of urgent requests for money or personal details like Aadhaar numbers, bank account credentials, or OTPs," the police advised. "Always verify the authenticity of such calls with the concerned authorities before taking any action."

Victims of cyber fraud, including digital arrest scams, can report incidents through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal or call the toll-free helpline 1930.

# Telangana High Court adjourns PIL against OGH to February 28

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad:** The Telangana High Court on Monday, February 24, adjourned the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed against Osmania General Hospital (OGH) to February 28. The petition alleges that the hospital denied treatment to a woman and her daughter due to the absence of an Aadhaar card.

The PIL was filed by Hyderabad-based advocate Srinivas Byreddy, who challenged the hospital's alleged insistence on Aadhaar for medical treatment, calling it an "unauthorized" and "unlawful" practice.

However, the counsel representing the Telangana government denied the allegations, asserting that the patient was provided necessary medical attention. Following the arguments, a bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Renuka Yara directed the hospital authori-



ties to submit relevant records within two days.

**Osmania Hospital denies allegations**

On February 16, Osmania General Hospital refuted claims of denying treatment, stating that the patient had indeed received medical care.

The woman, Pramila from Maredpalli in

Mahabubnagar district, had approached the hospital with complaints of fatigue, accompanied by her six-year-old daughter. According to her, the hospital staff refused admission due to the lack of an Aadhaar card.

Pramila has been struggling for survival after facing multiple personal tragedies. Six months ago, she lost her husband, Suresh, to a prolonged illness. A month ago, her young son also died in a road accident.

Left without a home, she moved to Hyderabad with her daughter, taking up small jobs and resorting to begging when unemployed. She has been living outside Osmania Hospital, relying on food from passers-by.

The court is expected to take up further hearings on February 28, based on the records submitted by the hospital.

# Drunk Woman Causes Chaos on Road, Attacks Passersby in Maduranagar

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

A young woman, intoxicated and agitated, created a scene on the streets of Maduranagar, causing inconvenience to the public. The woman, identified as movie artist Mekala Saritha, was found staggering on the road while showing signs at police officers.

Eyewitnesses reported that Saritha verbally abused a man named Charan and physically attacked passersby. A female home guard who attempted to intervene was also assaulted in the process.

Frustrated by her unruly behavior, the police contacted her husband, Rajesh, and handed her over to him. The Maduranagar police have registered a case against Saritha and have launched an investigation into the incident.



# Prostitution racket busted in Chaderghat, 11 arrested

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad:** In a major crackdown on human trafficking, Hyderabad police, in coordination with the Telangana Special Cell, busted a prostitution racket operating in Chaderghat's Musa Nagar. The operation led to the arrest of 11 individuals.

Among those taken into custody were four Myanmar women and seven men suspected of facilitating the illegal trade. Authorities revealed that the gang was secretly bringing in foreign women and exploiting young women and minor girls for prostitution.

Victims trafficked from West Bengal and Myanmar border

During the operation, police rescued several women, including two minors, who were trafficked from the West Bengal and Myanmar border before being forced into prostitution.



Officials stated that the investigation is ongoing, with efforts underway to identify others involved in the racket. The arrested individuals are being interrogated to gather further information about the network's operations and connections.

# Businessman loses ₹28 lakh to cyber fraud

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad:** A 44-year-old businessman from Malkajgiri lost ₹28.63 lakh in a cyber fraud scheme under the pretext of stock market investment.

The victim joined an online group that claimed to provide stock investment guidance. He was given a

link and instructed to install a specific application. Initially, he invested ₹50,000, and as he saw supposed profits, he increased his investment to ₹9.4 lakh.

However, when he attempted to withdraw his money, the fraudsters asked him to deposit more funds into the account. Realizing he had

been duped, the businessman approached the Rachakonda cyber-crime police and filed a complaint. Authorities have urged citizens to be cautious of online investment schemes and to verify the authenticity of such platforms before investing.

# TS EAPCET 2025 registration begins today, last date April 4

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad:** The Telangana Council of Higher Education (TGCHE) will begin the registration process for the Telangana Engineering, Agriculture, and Pharmacy Common Entrance Test (TS EAPCET) 2025 today, February 25.

Aspiring candidates can submit their applications through the official website [eapcet.tsche.ac.in](http://eapcet.tsche.ac.in) until April 4. No applications will be accepted beyond this deadline.

**Exam schedule**

The TS EAPCET 2025 exams will be conducted in two phases:

- Agriculture and Pharmacy Courses – April 29 and 30, 2025 (9 AM – 12 Noon)
- Engineering Courses – May 2 and 5, 2025 (3 PM – 6 PM)

**Application process**

Candidates must follow these steps to apply:

1. Visit [eapcet.tsche.ac.in](http://eapcet.tsche.ac.in)
2. Register by providing personal

details like name, date of birth, mobile number, and email ID.

3. Log in and pay the application fee.

4. Fill the form with the required information.

5. Upload documents as per specifications.

6. Submit and print the confirmation page for reference.

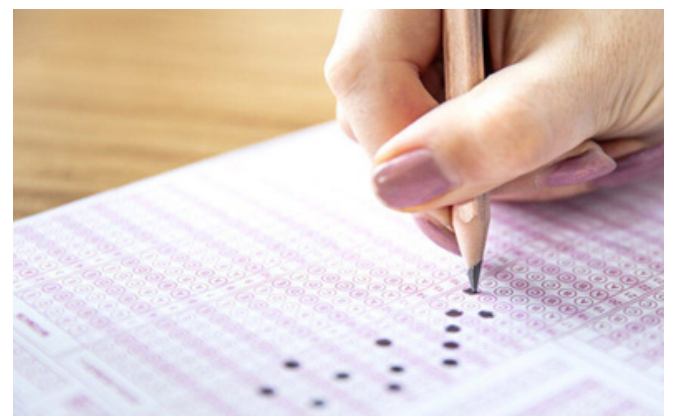
**Admit cards**

Admit cards will be available for download from April 19, 2025. Can-

didates can access them using their registration number and date of birth on the official website.

**Eligibility criteria**

Applicants must meet domicile and educational qualification requirements. Failure to meet the criteria may result in rejection. The detailed eligibility requirements are available on the official website.



## GHMC Inspects Old Charminar Bus Stand for New Parking Facility



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) conducted an inspection of the Old Charminar Bus Stand site on Tuesday, February 25, to evaluate its potential for a new parking facility. The move follows a directive from Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who instructed the Principal Secretary of Municipal Administration & Urban Development (MA&UD) and the GHMC commissioner to conduct a feasibility study for the project. The decision comes after Hyderabad MP and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi urged the state government on February 24 to expedite the construction of the parking lot. Owaisi also suggested exploring the possibility of a Sky Cable connection to Golconda to further ease traffic congestion in the area.

Despite multiple plans over the years, parking issues near the historic Charminar remain unresolved. The state government had previously proposed a multi-level parking complex at the Old Charminar Bus Stand, but the project has been delayed due to departmental hurdles. Although tenders were issued in September last year, work has yet to commence. The only visible action so far has been the closure of the site's entrances by the authorities. Last year, the government directed the Quli Qutb Shah Urban Development Authority (QQSUDA) to take charge of the project, but significant progress is yet to be made.

Increase in Footfall at Charminar and Golconda Fort  
Meanwhile, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) reported a significant rise in domestic visitors to Hyderabad's historical monuments. Charminar saw a footfall of 12.9 lakh in 2023-24, up from 9.29 lakh in 2022-23, marking a 38 percent increase. This growth surpasses the overall rise in visitor numbers across ASI monuments, which stood at 10.8 percent.

Golconda Fort also recorded a rise in visitors, with footfall increasing from 15.27 lakh in 2022-23 to 16.08 lakh in 2023-24, reflecting a growth of over five percent.

The surge in visitors at these monuments highlights the pressing need for improved infrastructure, including parking facilities, to accommodate the growing number of tourists and ease congestion in the area.

## 11 agencies engaged in SLBC tunnel Rescue

*Opposition slammed for politicising tragedy*

**TPN Correspondent | Nagarkurnool**  
Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that 11 national and state agencies, including the Indian Army, Navy, MARCOS commandos, NDRF, SDRF, and expert tunnel engineers, are working round the clock to rescue the eight workers trapped in the SLBC (Srisailem Left Bank Canal) tunnel near Domalapeda. He assured that all available resources are being deployed for the safe evacuation of the trapped workers.

Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, along with officials, held a high-level review meeting at the accident site on Tuesday. The ministers assessed rescue operations and discussed challenges, including water inflow, silt accumulation, and heavy debris obstructing rescue efforts. High-powered



pumps are being used to remove floodwater, while experts are evaluating alternative drilling approaches to reach the workers.

Uttam Kumar Reddy revealed that CM Revanth Reddy is personally monitoring the situation and that past disaster management strategies are being studied to implement the best rescue plan. He also held

discussions with Border Security Force General Harpal Singh, who acknowledged the unprecedented complexity of the operation and assured technical support.

Condemning the opposition for politicising the tragedy, Uttam Kumar Reddy called their comments "irresponsible and shameful," reminding them that past incidents under the BRS government, such as the Kaleshwaram and Srisailem power plant accidents, were not used for political mudslinging. He urged all parties to focus on the humanitarian aspect rather than spreading false narratives.

The Minister reiterated the SLBC tunnel's importance, stating that despite the setback, the Congress government remains committed to its completion, ensuring it benefits Telangana by addressing water scarcity and fluoride contamination in Nalgonda.

## Nehru Zoo Park Increases Entry and Facility Charges from March 1



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

Visitors to Hyderabad's Nehru Zoological Park will have to pay more for entry and various facilities as the zoo management has decided to revise ticket prices from March 1. The decision was taken during the 13th Governing Body meeting of the Zoos and Parks Authority of Telangana. With the revised structure, the entry fee has been increased to ₹100 for adults and ₹50 for children. Previously, the charges

were ₹70 for adults and ₹45 for children aged 3 to 10 on weekdays, while on weekends, adults were charged ₹80 and children ₹55. The hike comes ahead of the summer break for schools and colleges in Telangana, a period that typically witnesses a surge in footfall at the zoo.

In addition to entry tickets, the zoo has also revised the prices for various facilities. The fee for using a still camera has been raised to ₹150, while a professional video camera will cost ₹2,500. Commercial movie shooting at the zoo will now be charged at ₹10,000. The popular toy train ride will now cost ₹80 for adults and ₹40 for children, whereas battery-operated vehicle (BOV) rides will be priced at ₹120 for adults and ₹70 for children. Exclusive BOV rides have also been introduced, with an 11-seater vehicle available for ₹3,000 per hour and a 14-seater for ₹4,000 per hour.

Attractions within the zoo have also seen

a price revision. Entry to the fish aquarium will now cost ₹20 per person, while the reptile house will charge ₹30 for adults and ₹10 for children. The nocturnal animal house entry fee has been set at ₹20 for adults and ₹10 for children. Safari park rides will now cost ₹100 per person for a non-AC bus and ₹150 for an AC bus. Parking charges have also been revised. Visitors arriving on bicycles will be charged ₹10, while bike parking will cost ₹30. Auto rickshaws will be charged ₹80, while cars and jeeps will have to pay ₹100. Parking charges for tempos have been set at ₹150, mini buses at ₹200, and buses with more than 21 seats at ₹300.

Established in 1959, Nehru Zoo Park was inaugurated on October 6, 1963, after the relocation of the erstwhile zoo enclosures from Public Gardens. Spanning an area of 380 acres, the zoo is located adjacent to Mir Alam Tank, a historic arch bund dam constructed over 200 years ago.

## Bayalata Workshop in Narayanpet Nears Completion

**TPN Correspondent | Narayanpet**

The Traditional Folk Theater Bayalata Workshop, held in Nagampally, Maddur Mandal of Narayanpet district, has successfully completed three months. The workshop, jointly organized by the BGA Theater Association and the Telangana Language and Culture Department, began on November 25, 2024.

Trainer Kadam Buggappa stated that the workshop will continue until March 25. Founder and president of the Theater Association, singer and writer Srikanth Kadam, announced that following the workshop, a five-day performance of Sri Sri Sri Virat Potuluri Veera Brahmendraswamy's play will be staged.

The initiative aims to preserve and promote Telangana's rich folk theater traditions while providing hands-on training to aspiring artists.



## IIT Patna Student from Hyderabad Jumps from Hostel Building, Dies

**TPN Correspondent | Patna**

A third-year student of IIT Patna, identified as Rahul Lavari from Hyderabad, allegedly died by suicide after slitting his wrist and jumping from the seventh floor of the hostel building on Tuesday. The incident has sent shockwaves through the IIT Patna campus, located in the Bihta block.

Despite being rushed to Subhash Hospital immediately after the fall, doctors were unable to save Rahul and declared him dead during treatment. Following the tragic event, a large number of students gathered at the scene, alerting the college authorities and local police.

Police officials, along with IIT Patna administrators, swiftly arrived at the hostel to begin an investigation. "We received information about a student jumping from the seventh floor. He was rushed to a private hospital where doctors confirmed his death. The investigation is ongoing," said Vivek Kumar, in charge of the IIT police station.

Preliminary inquiries suggest that Rahul had been under extreme stress in the days leading up to the incident. To ensure he did not survive, he allegedly slit his wrist before taking the fatal leap. However, the exact reason behind his distress remains unclear.

Authorities have seized Rahul's mobile phone, laptop, and other personal belongings to examine any potential clues that might reveal the motive behind his decision. "His electronic devices have been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for further analysis. We have informed his family, and the body has been sent to Danapur sub-divisional hospital for post-mortem, which will be conducted in the presence of his relatives," Kumar added.

As of now, IIT Patna has not released an official statement regarding the incident. Police continue their investigation to determine whether academic pressure, personal issues, or any other factor played a role in Rahul's death.

## Bundles of notes in the fields..

**TPN Correspondent | Nalgonda**

A farmer in Botthalapalem village of Damacherla mandal was in for a shock when he discovered bundles of ₹500 notes worth ₹20 lakh scattered in his field. However, upon closer inspection, he realized that the notes had "Children's Bank of India" printed on them, raising

suspensions of counterfeit activity. The farmer immediately reported the matter to the police, suspecting that the fake currency might be part of a larger racket. Upon investigation, authorities confirmed that the notes were not genuine currency but imitation notes often used for training or entertainment

purposes. The police have since detained and are questioning individuals suspected of printing and distributing these fake notes. Officials are also probing whether there is any deeper fraud or deception involved in the incident.

## Courier Boy Killed in Bike Collision at Mancherial

**TPN Correspondent | Mancherial**

A 28-year-old courier boy lost his life in a tragic road accident when two motorcycles collided at Polampalli village in Kannepalli mandal on Tuesday. The victim, identified as Durgam Rajesh from

Veegaon village in Bheemini mandal, sustained severe head injuries after an oncoming bike rammed into his two-wheeler at a crossroads near the village. He died on the spot, police said. Rajesh was on his way to Malli-

di from Veegaon to deliver consignments when the accident occurred. His cousin later lodged a complaint with the police. Authorities have registered a case against two individuals, and an investigation is underway.



## Happy Shivratri

# Life of Lord Shiva is reflection of principles of Santana Dharma

- Santana dharma made a most simple god as supreme God.
- Which emphasis equality there is no caste hierarchy in Sanatana dharma
- Life of lord shivs is shared equally between the divine beings of the Himalayas and the cremators in graveyards.
- A common individual like god is elevated to the status of the supreme deity Layakarakudu.
- In Sanatana Dharma, there is no place for hierarchy or untouchability.



## Tamil vs Hindi: The Unending Tussle Over NEP

The ongoing confrontation between the Tamil Nadu government and the Centre over the National Education Policy (NEP) is poised to dominate the political landscape in the state, especially with the 2026 elections on the horizon. At the heart of this dispute is the Centre's insistence on implementing a three-language policy, which the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) vehemently opposes. While the Centre maintains that there will be no imposition of Hindi, the DMK refuses to back down, citing concerns of linguistic and regional identity.

### The History of Tamil Nadu's Two-Language Policy

The roots of this debate can be traced back to 1968 when the DMK, under the leadership of Chief Minister C.N. Annadurai, adopted the two-language policy. This policy rejected the central government's push for a three-language formula and emphasized Tamil and English as the primary languages of instruction in the state. Over the years, Tamil Nadu has steadfastly defended this policy, viewing the protection of Tamil as crucial to the state's identity.

Dravidian politics in Tamil Nadu has always been closely tied to the protection of Tamil. The strong opposition to Hindi, a symbol of North Indian dominance in the eyes of many in the South, has been one of the most defining features of the political narrative since the state's formation in 1949. The protests against Hindi imposition in the 1950s, culminating in the creation of linguistic states in 1956, set the stage for Tamil Nadu's unique relationship with language politics.

### Language: Still a Defining Issue in Politics?

Given this historical backdrop, the current confrontation over the NEP's three-language policy is not surprising. The policy suggests that any Indian language could be taught as a third language, but the DMK remains suspicious. Its leaders argue that, in practice, Hindi would become the third language in most schools. This suspicion has been heightened by recent comments from Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who stated that the Centre might withhold funds from Tamil Nadu if the state refuses to implement the NEP. The DMK's narrative positions this as an assault on the state's linguistic rights, fueling the party's political stance in the lead-up to the 2026 elections.

### The Three Dimensions of the Debate

The DMK's opposition to the NEP can be understood in three key dimensions. First, it sees the issue as a matter of federalism, arguing that education should remain under the state's control, not the Centre's. Since 1976, education has been placed on the Concurrent List, which allows both the Centre and states to legislate on the matter. The DMK contends that this has led to the gradual introduction of Hindi in Tamil Nadu schools, even though Tamil is the state's official language.

Second, the DMK frames this debate as one of Hindi imposition, alleging that the Centre is pushing Hindi onto non-Hindi speaking regions through its policies. Third, the confrontation is depicted as a broader ideological battle between Dravidian politics and Hindutva, which the DMK claims is being advanced by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its ideological partner, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

### BJP's Caution in Handling the Issue

As the DMK continues to project the NEP debate as a fight for Tamil identity, the BJP and the Centre must tread carefully. Any perceived coercion could bolster the DMK's position, especially with the party's narrative gaining traction in the state. The BJP must avoid turning the issue into a polarizing political battle, as this would only solidify the DMK's stance and alienate regional allies.

At the same time, the question arises whether the linguistic divide in Tamil Nadu still holds the same weight it once did. Can one truly advocate for the protection of Tamil while appreciating the cultural richness of Hindi and other languages? The intellectual discourse on language must evolve, moving away from political confrontations and instead focusing on the idea that the celebration of one language does not diminish the value of another.

As Tamil Nadu continues to grapple with this issue, one thing is clear: the emotional charge surrounding language in the state remains a potent force. Whether the debate will evolve or continue to fuel political campaigns remains to be seen. But one thing is certain—the tussle over the NEP will not die anytime soon.



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh

Lord Shiva embodies simplicity and strength, serving as a profound representation of the principles of Santana Dharma, which emphasizes accessibility and equality for all individuals, regardless of their social status or background. Unlike many deities who are often depicted with opulence and grandeur, Lord Shiva is portrayed in a manner that reflects humility and a deep connection to the natural world. He is not adorned with lavish jewels or surrounded by extravagant symbols of wealth; instead, he finds significance in the serene heights of the majestic Himalayas, where he meditates in solitude, as well as in the solemnity of graveyards, where he reminds us of the transient nature of life and the importance of embracing mortality.

This duality in his presence—both in the tranquil mountains and the quiet resting places of the departed—highlights his role as a protector and guide for all beings. Lord Shiva's joy is not found in material possessions but in the purity of devotion and the sincerity of offerings. He is known to accept even the smallest gestures of love and reverence, such as a simple drop of water offered as Prasadam, symbolizing that true devotion comes from the heart rather than from the grandeur of the offering.

Moreover, Lord Shiva's approachability is a testament to his inclusive nature. He welcomes everyone, regardless of their circumstances, and encourages individuals to seek a personal connection with the divine. His appreciation for Vibhuti, the sacred ash made from the remnants of burnt offerings, further emphasizes this principle. Vibhuti, composed of fundamental carbon molecules, serves as a reminder of the interconnectedness of all life and the idea that even the most basic elements of existence can hold profound spiritual significance.

Carbon is vital to life on Earth because it forms the basis of all living things. It's a key component of food, energy, and the Earth's climate.

In essence, Lord Shiva stands as a beacon of simplicity, strength, and equality, inviting all to partake in the spiritual journey without barriers. His teachings encourage individuals to look beyond material wealth and societal divisions, fostering a sense of unity and shared humanity. Through his example, he inspires countless devotees to embrace humility, recognize the divine in everyday life, and find joy in the simplest acts of devotion.



## The Ukraine Peace Talks: A Dangerous Game Played by Trump and Putin

This week, US-Russia peace talks over the fate of Ukraine have begun—but one glaring issue stands out: Ukraine itself has been notably excluded from the discussions. While this omission has rightfully drawn criticism, the underlying problem is far more complex. A peace deal could theoretically be brokered with an intermediary, but only if the talks acknowledge the harsh realities of the situation. The actual obstacles to peace—such as enforcing a ceasefire across a 1,000 km front line—are barely being addressed. What's unfolding is less a serious diplomatic effort and more a chaotic game of chess, where one side doesn't understand the rules, and the other is making them up as it goes along.

Donald Trump, the self-proclaimed "artist of the deal," has confidently declared that he could end the war in a single day. Meanwhile, Vladimir Putin and his inner circle are laughing behind the scenes. Humiliating the United States has long been a goal for the Russian leadership, and now, with Trump's assistance, they are enjoying just that. Pu-



tin is not negotiating in good faith; this is not his style. Whether in Georgia or Donbas, ceasefires have served as strategic traps in the past, and there's no reason to believe this time will be any different. Despite the mounting costs of the war, Putin remains steadfast in his demands: full control over Ukraine, either through annexation or by installing a puppet government. For Russia's conservative elites, Ukraine is seen as vital to Russia's imperial ambitions, while economic oligarchs covet its vast mineral resources and the potential for sanctions relief. Trump, amplifying Kremlin propaganda, helps legitimize the war in

the eyes of ordinary Russians.

While these talks may not result in Putin securing his ultimate goal of Ukraine, they are serving his broader objectives: easing sanctions, humiliating the US, and weakening NATO. With Trump's collaboration, Putin is getting exactly what he wants. The irony here is that Ukraine may not be the biggest loser in this situation. Kyiv has seen a decrease in US military aid, but it has also ramped up its own weapons

production and sought additional support from Europe. Today, Ukraine is in a much stronger position than it was three years ago, and it will continue to fight, with or without Washington's help.

The real casualty in these talks is the United States. Trump is willing to trade the country's global standing for the entertainment of Putin and the confusion of US allies. The world watches as the US president echoes the rhetoric of one of its greatest adversaries. The long-term damage to the US's reputation and to international security may be far greater than Trump realizes.

# Amid global uncertainty, there is certainty of India's economic growth': PM Modi

- Emphasized strong economic growth despite global uncertainties.
- Highlighted reforms attracting global investors.
- Assam's infrastructure and business potential were key points.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

During the inaugural session of the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized India's robust economic growth, even amid global uncertainties. Speaking to a gathering of business leaders and investors, the Prime Minister expressed confidence that despite the current volatile global environment, India's economy continues to garner attention and trust from experts worldwide.

PM Modi acknowledged the challenges posed by global uncertainties but assured that India stands out as a beacon of growth. He emphasized that experts, both domestic and international, continue to have confidence in India's rapid economic progress. Modi pointed to India's growing role in the global economy and highlighted the positive



investment climate the country offers, which has attracted attention from businesses across sectors.

He further noted that India's economic resilience is driven by its reforms, strategic partnerships, and the ability to adapt to changing global dynamics. The Prime Minister remarked that

the country is positioned well to achieve even greater growth, thanks to its vast potential, young workforce, and a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment Summit is a significant platform for promoting investment in Assam and the northeastern region of India. Modi's

speech underscored the government's efforts to create an enabling environment for businesses, showcasing the region's potential for growth in sectors like infrastructure, manufacturing, and services.

The Prime Minister also reiterated that Assam, and the broader northeastern region, offer immense opportunities for businesses, driven by the government's focus on improving infrastructure, connectivity, and local industries. He assured that the government is committed to facilitating ease of doing business and fostering sustainable development in the region.

Modi's address reflects India's growing position on the global economic stage, highlighting its resilience and the increasing confidence of international stakeholders in its future growth prospects.



## Preserve India's Glaciers: Sonam Wangchuk's Open Letter to PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Renowned climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, fresh from his recent tour of the United States, has penned an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling for urgent action to address the rapid melting of glaciers in India. In his letter, Wangchuk stresses the critical need for India to take a leadership role in the global fight to preserve these vital sources of freshwater.

Wangchuk, who gained international attention by carrying a piece of ice from a glacier in Ladakh to highlight the dire situation, warned of the severe consequences of inaction. During a press conference in the national capital, he drew attention to the situation in the Himalayas, which are home to many of India's major rivers. These glaciers, which provide a steady flow of water, are now retreating at an alarming rate due to climate change.

The activist's message to PM Modi was clear: the preservation of these glaciers is vital for the future of millions who depend on the water they provide. Wangchuk pointed out that if immediate steps are not taken to restore these glaciers, India could face a catastrophic water crisis. He suggested that, in the future, the next Maha Kumbh, which occurs every 144 years, may be held on dry land, as the rivers could run dry if the glaciers continue to melt.

Wangchuk's warning highlights the urgency of preserving the Himalayas' glaciers and ensuring that India becomes a global leader in tackling climate change. With rivers that support agriculture, industry, and daily life for millions of people, the survival of these glaciers is crucial for India's environmental and economic stability. Through his letter, Wangchuk calls on PM Modi to take immediate, decisive action to protect these invaluable natural resources before it's too late.



## Sword Over South States: MK Stalin Slams Delimitation, 'Hindi Imposition'

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

The upcoming delimitation exercise, which involves redrawing parliamentary constituencies based on population levels, has become the latest flashpoint in the ongoing tensions between Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK and the BJP-led central government. This exercise is expected to significantly alter the proportion of Lok Sabha MPs from southern states, and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has raised alarms over its potential impact on the state's representation in Parliament.

In a statement on Tuesday, Stalin called for an all-party meeting to discuss the issue, warning that the state's voice in the national legislature could be "crushed." He emphasized that Tamil Nadu, which has been successful in controlling its population growth, could either see minimal gains of only two additional seats or, more dramatically, lose up to eight seats if the centre opts for a redistribution of the 543 existing seats. Under such a scenario, the total number of Lok Sabha seats would increase, with Uttar Pradesh—a BJP stronghold—gaining additional seats, potentially making it easier for the BJP to win in the future.

Critics argue that this change could be skewed in favour of BJP-dominated states like Uttar Pradesh, leaving southern states like Tamil Nadu at a disadvantage. In response, Stalin reiterated that this issue is about Tamil Nadu's rights and asked all political parties to unite in defense of the state's representation.

Simultaneously, the state remains embroiled in a contentious debate over the National Education Policy (NEP) and the three-language policy, which the DMK has strongly criticized as an imposition of Hindi. This issue has sparked a renewed call for a "language war," evoking memories of fierce language riots in the 1930s and 1960s. Stalin's son, Udhayanidhi Stalin, has echoed the call, and the DMK has opposed any move to impose Hindi in Tamil Nadu's schools.

# NSA Ajit Doval Attends An Exhibition On Bangladeshi Minorities' Plight

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) recently organized an exhibition and panel discussion titled "The Never-Ending Persecution of Minorities in Bangladesh," highlighting the systemic discrimination and violence faced by religious and ethnic minorities. The event, held at the VIF Auditorium in Delhi, drew attention with the presence of India's National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval, KC



The exhibition, curated by FACT (Foundation Against Continuing Terrorism), presented visual documentation of human rights violations against Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and Ahmadiyya Muslims in Bangladesh. It showcased forced displacements, attacks, and persecution, emphasizing the increasing challenges these communities face.

The panel discussion, chaired by VIF Director Arvind Gupta, featured distinguished experts including Ambassador Satish Chandra, former Deputy National Security Advisor; Ambassador Veena Sikri, former High Commissioner to Bangladesh; Francois Gautier, correspondent for *Le Monde*; and Anirban Ganguly, Chairperson of the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation. They provided insights into the historical, socio-political, and international aspects of the crisis, stressing the need for urgent intervention.

NSA Doval attended both the exhibition and panel discussion, reaffirming India's concerns over the situation in Bangladesh. The event underscored India's commitment to advocating for regional security and minority rights while also raising awareness on the escalating threats faced by these communities.

In response to remarks made by India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar regarding anti-India sentiments in Bangladesh, Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain reaffirmed his country's commitment to maintaining strong bilateral ties based on mutual respect and reciprocal interests.

The VIF event brought global attention to the continuing plight of minorities in Bangladesh, urging policymakers, human rights advocates, and international organizations to take meaningful action.

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# No Matter What: Mamata Banerjee's Takedown Of Yogi Adityanath On Kumbh

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who recently came under heavy criticism for her "Mrityu Kumbh" comment, today issued a strong rebuttal, specifically targeting Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his remarks. Banerjee defended herself, stating that her criticism had been "distorted" and turned into "complete lies."



"I will not get blisters from any abuses that Yogi Saheb hurls at me. I respect him as a Chief Minister," Mamata Banerjee said during a press conference. She also expressed concern about the lack of post-mortem certificates and death certificates for those who died in the incident in Uttar Pradesh. "We conducted post-mortems of the bodies that reached here. I don't know what happened in other states. And if you have announced compensation, you should give them the money," she added, referring to the deadly stampede at the Kumbh Mela, which led to at least 30

fatalities and more than 60 injuries.

Banerjee's remarks come after Yogi Adityanath's address in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, where he had sharply criticized critics of the Kumbh Mela. He made a comparison, saying, "Vultures got dead bodies. Pigs got filth... whereas sensitive people got a beautiful picture of relationships, traders got business, devotees got clean arrangements." His comments were met with

applause from the members of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly.

The West Bengal Chief Minister also used the opportunity to highlight her state's handling of large crowds during festivals, drawing parallels to the preparation required for events in Bengal, such as the Gangasagar Mela and Durga Puja. "One should always consider one's capacity. How many can go, how many can stay... preparations that are necessary even for a wedding

feast," she stated, adding that the "hype" surrounding the Kumbh Mela was unnecessary.

Banerjee reiterated that her original remarks had been misrepresented. "What they have been saying are untruths. Complete lies. I have never disrespected any religion in my life and will never do that," she stressed.

The Chief Minister also referred to the tragic fire at a Kolkata hospital and the swift actions of her government in managing the aftermath. "We do not sleep for days. We keep an eye on things. We plan minutely, else the people suffer," she said, emphasizing the need for meticulous planning and quick response in handling such incidents.

Her controversial "Mrityu Kumbh" remark, made in reference to the stampede, had stirred significant backlash from the BJP, particularly as it came at a time when the Opposition had already been critical of the handling of the Kumbh Mela disaster.

# Imran Khan orders PTI members holding govt jobs to relinquish party positions

- Ordered PTI members in government roles to step down.
- Junaid Akbar appointed as PTI's KP president, replacing Ali Amin Gandapur.
- Despite jail, Imran Khan continues to direct PTI's strategy.

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Imran Khan Orders PTI Members in Government Positions to Resign Imran Khan, the jailed founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has directed all party members serving in government positions to step down from their roles. The instructions were communicated through the PTI Secretary General, Salman Akram Raja, earlier this week. This move marks a significant step towards reorganizing the party, particularly in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) region, where party leadership changes have been ongoing.

According to PTI's Secretary General, the decision is aimed at providing Junaid Akbar, the newly appointed president of PTI's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter, the necessary space to restructure the party effectively. The party leader emphasized that this decision would grant Akbar a free hand in managing party affairs in the province,



which has been central to PTI's political operations.

The reshuffling of leadership began last month when Imran Khan made the decision to remove Ali Amin Gandapur, the former Chief Minister of KP, from his position as the provincial president of PTI. In his place, Khan appointed Junaid Akbar,

signaling a shift in the party's leadership dynamics at the provincial level. The move to reorganize PTI comes amid mounting challenges for the party, including internal disputes and external political pressures following Khan's imprisonment.

Imran Khan's instructions highlight his ongoing influence within the party, despite being incarcerated in Adiala jail. His efforts to realign PTI's leadership indicate his determination to maintain control over the party's direction during a turbulent period in Pakistani politics.

The development also sheds light on the strategic focus of the PTI leadership to stabilize and revitalize the party, particularly in regions where it has considerable support. The reshuffling in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reflects Khan's long-term vision for PTI's future political engagements and his attempts to reinforce his party's influence ahead of future elections.

# Donald Trump calls France 'Oldest Ally, Macron stresses shared vision for peace



TPN Correspondent | US

Former US President Donald Trump recently highlighted the deep-rooted historical ties between the United States and France, referring to France as "America's oldest ally." In a statement posted on X, Trump underscored the long-standing diplomatic relationship between the two nations, emphasizing their shared commitment to global peace, freedom, and prosperity. He acknowledged that France's support for the United States during the American Revolution marked the beginning of a cherished partnership that has been a force for good in the world.

Trump's remarks came at a time when global discussions around security, diplomacy, and economic collaboration are prominent. He reaffirmed the strength of the US-France alliance and its importance in addressing key global challenges. Trump's statement was a reminder of the historical significance of the relationship, which spans centuries of cooperation, including during world wars, diplomatic agreements, and economic partnerships.

French President Emmanuel Macron also reaffirmed the enduring bond between the two countries. In a statement, Macron expressed France's ongoing commitment to working with the United States in upholding peace and cooperation on the international stage. He emphasized that both nations share a long-standing dedication to global stability and continue to collaborate on key international issues such as NATO commitments, economic growth, and counterterrorism efforts.

The US-France alliance has its roots in the American Revolution, when France provided critical support to the American colonies. Over the years, this relationship has shaped global policies and reinforced democratic values. The two countries have stood together through wars, diplomatic negotiations, and economic ventures, with military cooperation and trade being central aspects of their partnership.

As the world faces evolving challenges, the US-France alliance remains a cornerstone of both nations' foreign policies. The recent statements from Trump and Macron serve to reinforce the commitment to maintaining a strong, peaceful, and prosperous relationship between the two countries. This partnership continues to be crucial in navigating the complexities of modern global affairs.

# South Korea's Yoon Impeachment Trial Wraps Up: What's Next?



TPN Correspondent | Seoul

The impeachment trial of South Korea's ousted President Yoon Suk Yeol is nearing its conclusion, capping weeks of political upheaval following his controversial declaration of martial law. The Constitutional Court's eight judges will soon decide whether to uphold the December parliamentary vote that removed Yoon from office. The key issue is whether Yoon's martial law declaration violated the constitution, and whether he demonstrated a genuine commitment to upholding it.

Experts predict that a verdict could be delivered by mid-March, with some drawing comparisons to past cases. For instance, former president Roh Moo-hyun was reinstated after a 14-day trial, while Park Geun-hye, removed in 2017, had her verdict in just 11 days. This has led to speculation that Yoon's case could follow a similar timeline.

Legal scholars largely agree that the court will likely uphold the impeachment. Experts argue that Yoon's refusal to cooperate with prosecutors and his handling of martial law make it difficult to justify his commitment to the constitution. Unlike Park's case, which involved multiple corruption issues, Yoon's trial is relatively straightforward, focusing solely on his declaration of martial law.

However, Yoon's legal troubles don't end with the impeachment trial. He faces charges of insurrection for his martial law declaration, with the potential for life imprisonment or even the death penalty if convicted. His criminal trial could stretch on for one to two years, with a possible heavy sentence if he is found guilty.

If Yoon is removed from office, South Korea would be required to hold fresh elections within 60 days. The current frontrunner in the polls is Lee Jae-myung, leader of the opposition Democratic Party. However, analysts caution that the political landscape remains fluid, especially given Lee's own legal challenges, including a suspended prison sentence for election law violations.

# As Trump Eyes Ukraine's Rare Metals, Putin Offers Him Russia's Reserve



TPN Correspondent | Washington, US

The United States and Ukraine are on the verge of finalizing a deal that would grant Washington a share of Kyiv's natural resource revenues, a proposal that has sparked significant tension between US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Trump announced that Zelenskyy might visit the White House soon to sign the agreement, which has been at the center of the rift between the two leaders.

The deal, initially proposed by Ukraine as part of Zelenskyy's "victory plan" in September, aimed to offer business incentives to Trump in exchange for continued US security support. However, the latest draft of the agreement reportedly asks for 50% of Ukraine's mineral revenue without providing the security guarantees Ukraine desperately needs in its fight against Russia. Zelenskyy rejected an earlier draft, fearing the long-term financial burden it would place on future generations. Negotiations

between US and Ukrainian officials have since focused on finding a middle ground.

Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister, Olha Stefanishyna, confirmed that the two sides were in the final stages of discussions, with most key details settled. She emphasized the importance of completing the deal swiftly and hoped that both leaders would sign it soon. Despite more favorable terms for Ukraine in this version, the agreement still lacks the security commitments Kyiv has sought. The White House has made it clear that the deal would not guarantee future military aid or involve US personnel in the region. Meanwhile, Russia has proposed a similar offer to the US, suggesting that American companies could profit from Russia's vast natural resources, including rare earth metals in Russian-occupied Ukraine. President Vladimir Putin highlighted the opportunity for lucrative business in the region, further complicating the dynamics surrounding the natural resource deals in both Ukraine and Russia.

# Canada's New Visa Rules May Become A Nightmare For Indian Students, Workers

TPN Correspondent | Canada

Canada's recent changes to its immigration policies are expected to negatively affect thousands of foreign students, workers, and migrants, particularly from India. These new rules, which took effect in February, grant Canadian border officials broad powers to alter the visa status of students, workers, and migrants at any time, potentially leading to the cancellation of permits, visas, and even residency.

The Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations now give border personnel the authority to deny or cancel temporary resident documents, such as electronic travel authorizations (eTAs) and temporary resident visas (TRVs). This includes work permits and student visas. The new regulations also allow border



officials to cancel permits if they are not convinced that the individual will leave Canada when their autho-

rized stay expires, with the officer making the final judgment on the matter.

These regulations bring a level of uncertainty for tens of thousands of international students and workers in Canada, with Indians forming the largest group in both categories. Currently, over 420,000 Indian students are pursuing higher education in Canada. If a student, worker, or migrant is rejected at the port of entry, they will be sent back to their home country. If their permit is canceled while already in Canada, they will be required to leave by a specified date.

In addition to students and workers, Canada also experiences a significant influx of tourists from India, with more than 360,000 Indians having received travel visas in the first half of 2024 alone. These travelers are also subject to the new temporary permit regulations.



# Indian Stock Markets End Flat Amid Mixed Signals



during the session, market sentiment showed signs of stabilizing, as the India VIX dropped sharply to 13.75%, indicating reduced uncertainty and suggesting that the markets might stabilize in the coming days.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 74,454 in the previous session, opened at 74,440 and reached an intraday low of 74,400. It later climbed to an intraday high of 74,785 before closing at 74,602, marking a gain of 147 points. Meanwhile, the NSE Nifty opened at 22,516 and hit a low of 22,513 and a high of 22,625, ultimately closing at 22,547, down by 5 points. The Nifty Bank index fell 43 points, settling at 48,608.

Among the Nifty50 stocks, 19 companies recorded gains while 31 stocks

recorded losses. Sectors such as auto, FMCG, and consumer durables performed well, while IT, metal, pharma, PSU bank, realty, and oil and gas stocks saw selling pressure. Airtel, M&M, Bajaj Finance, Nestle India, and Titan emerged as the top gainers. On the other hand, Dr. Reddy's, Hindalco, Trent, Hero MotoCorp, and Sun Pharma were the biggest losers of the day.



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Market breadth on the NSE favored sellers, with 1,117 stocks gaining and 1,717 losing. Of the 2,914 stocks traded, 12 companies reached 52-week highs, while 181 stocks touched 52-week lows. In terms of circuit limits, 100 stocks reached their upper circuit, and 86 touched the lower circuit.

Mahindra & Mahindra shares gained

for the second consecutive day, bolstered by bullish ratings from brokerage houses. The rupee weakened by 50 paise against the dollar, settling at 87.20. Bharti Airtel shares saw a recovery after six consecutive days of losses, rising by 3% due to a deal with Ericsson. Jefferies issued a buy rating for Caffeine Technologies with a target price of Rs. 1310, and Motilal Oswal set a target of Rs. 1250 for 360 One.

Other notable movements included a rise in Vijaya Diagnostics' shares by 11%, while metal stocks like Hindalco, Nalco, and Vedanta faced selling pressure. Central Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra received approval to raise funds, while the Adani and Ambani groups each announced investments of Rs. 50,000 crore in Assam, signaling further economic interest in the region.

Domestic stock markets ended flat today, with benchmark indices starting the day with moderate gains before moving in a range-bound manner.

The volatility was primarily due to mixed signals from Asian markets, leading to profit-taking in several sectors. Despite some ups and downs

## India Imports €49 Billion Worth of Russian Oil in Third Year of Ukraine Invasion



India, the world's third-largest oil consumer and importer, purchased crude oil worth 49 billion euros from Russia in the third year of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, according to a recent report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air. India, which traditionally relied on oil from the Middle East, significantly increased its imports of Russian crude after the invasion in February 2022.

This surge in Russian oil imports can be attributed to the steep discounts on Russian crude, a result of Western sanctions and some European nations halting purchases. As a result, India's imports of Russian oil grew

dramatically, rising from less than 1% of its total oil imports to around 40% in a short span of time.

The report highlights that Russia's dominance in new markets has solidified in the third year of the invasion. The three largest buyers of Russian fossil fuels—China, India, and Turkey—accounted for 74% of Russia's total revenues from fossil fuel exports. Specifically, China bought oil worth €78 billion, India €49 billion, and Turkey €34 billion.

India's imports of Russian oil showed an 8% year-on-year increase, underscoring the contin-

ued reliance on discounted Russian crude. Meanwhile, Russia's total global earnings from fossil fuels in the third year of the invasion reached 242 billion euros, adding to a cumulative total of 847 billion euros since the start of the war.

This trend marks a significant shift in global energy markets, with India emerging as a key buyer of Russian oil amid the ongoing geopolitical conflict. However, the growing reliance on Russian crude continues to raise concerns about the long-term implications for both global energy security and India's foreign policy.

## ICRA Predicts 7-8% Revenue Growth for India Inc in Q4

Domestic rating agency ICRA projected that Indian companies are likely to see a 7-8% revenue growth during the March quarter of the current fiscal year, driven by a revival in rural demand and increased government spending. However, the agency also highlighted that the private capital expenditure (capex) cycle is expected to remain subdued due to geopolitical uncertainties and a relatively weak outlook on merchandise exports from India.

ICRA noted that despite these challenges, certain sectors, particularly those receiving government support through production-linked incentive schemes, will continue to thrive. These include sunrise industries such as electronics, semiconductors, and electric vehicles (EVs), which are set to see increased investments.

The agency further mentioned that the recovery in operating profit margins (OPM) for India Inc. observed in the past quarter is likely to be sustained, with expectations of margins staying between 18.2-18.4%. This growth will be supported by rising demand, bolstered by improved consumer sentiments.



ICRA also emphasized the outlook for rural demand, which is expected to remain robust in the first half of CY2025. This will be supported by strong output from the kharif crops and a favorable forecast for the ongoing rabi season. However, the outlook for agriculture will depend on the arrival of a normal and well-distributed monsoon in 2025.

Urban demand, which has been weak in recent quarters, is anticipated to improve. This recovery will be driven by factors such as the significant income-tax relief in the Union Budget for 2025, monetary easing by the Reserve Bank of India, and expectations of a moderation in food inflation, which would aid discretionary consumption, according to Kinjal Shah, Senior Vice President and Co-Group Head of Corporate Ratings at ICRA.

## Adani Green Energy Secures 1,250 MW Energy Storage Project in UP

Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), India's largest renewable energy company, has received a Letter of Award (LOA) from Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) for the development of a 1,250 MW energy storage capacity through Pumped Hydro Storage Projects (PSP). This project, named Panaura PSP, will be located in the Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh and is expected to be completed within the next six years. The project will have a minimum commitment period of 40 years, reinforcing AGEL's long-term focus on clean energy infrastructure.

This move is aligned with India's clean energy goals, which emphasize the need for large-scale utility storage projects to integrate renewable energy into the grid and provide consistent,

round-the-clock energy. The storage capacity will help manage the intermittent nature of renewable sources like solar and wind, making the grid more stable and efficient.

In line with this strategic goal, Adani Green Energy is expanding its portfolio to include energy storage solutions alongside its existing solar, wind, and hybrid projects. The company has ambitious plans to add over 5 GW of hydro PSP capacity by 2030. AGEL is already progressing with several pumped hydro storage projects, including a 500 MW project at the Chitravathi River in Andhra Pradesh, a 1,500 MW project at Tarali in Maharashtra, and an 1,800 MW project at Gandikota in Andhra Pradesh.

Hydro pumped storage is a mature,



cost-competitive, and scalable technology with significant potential. It works by using electricity generated from solar during the day to pump water to a higher elevation, which can then be released to generate electricity during peak demand at night. This process is not only sustainable but

also ensures grid stability and flexibility in energy management. Hydro PSPs are also known for their ability to provide frequency regulation and reserve generation, making them a key component of a resilient and robust energy infrastructure.

Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) is currently the largest renewable energy company in India, with a portfolio of 11.9 GW of renewable energy projects across 12 states. The company aims to achieve a 50 GW renewable capacity by 2030, in line with India's decarbonization objectives. AGEL is also developing the world's largest renewable energy plant at Khavda, Gujarat, with a target capacity of 30 GW. This project, set to cover 538 square kilometers, is five times larger than Paris.

AGEL is committed to sustainable growth, with its operating portfolio certified as water-positive for plants over 200 MW, single-use plastic-free, and zero waste-to-landfill. These efforts underline the company's dedication to supporting India's clean energy transition.



## Mahindra Scorpio N Carbon Edition Launched to Celebrate 2 Lakh Sales Milestone



Mahindra has achieved a major milestone with the record sale of 2 lakh units of its Scorpio N. To commemorate this achievement, the company has launched the new Scorpio N Carbon Edition, which offers a fresh look and premium features. Here's everything you need to know about the new variant:

### Engine and Performance

The Scorpio N Carbon retains the same engine options as the original Scorpio N: - A 2.0-litre mStallion TGD1 petrol engine that generates 203 HP of power and 370 Nm of torque (manual) and 380 Nm (automatic). - A 2.2-litre mHawk CRDi diesel engine delivering 175 HP and 400 Nm of torque.

### Exterior and Interior Features

-Exterior: The Scorpio N Carbon boasts a stunning metallic black theme complemented by one-on-tone dark treatment, smoked chrome accents, and black alloy wheels. It also gets dark Galvano-fin-

ished roof rails, enhancing its bold, stylish look.

Interior: Inside, the Scorpio N Carbon adopts a sleek blacked-out interior theme with premium upholstery and contrast deco stitching. Additionally, it comes with modern features like:

### Wireless charging

- Auto-dimming IRVM
- Dual-zone climate control
- Ventilated front seats
- 7-inch digital instrument cluster
- 8-inch touchscreen infotainment system
- 12-speaker Sony audio system

### Safety Features

The Scorpio N Carbon includes a comprehensive safety suite with features such as: Tyre pressure monitoring system, ISO Fix child seat anchorages, Hill hold and hill descent control, Driver drowsiness detection, Electronic stability control

Rear parking cameras and front/rear parking sensors

### Variants and Pricing

The Scorpio N Carbon is available in the Z8 and Z8 L variants. The pricing for the model starts at Rs 19,19,400 (ex-showroom), while the top-spec Scorpio N Carbon 4WD AT is priced at Rs 24,89,100.

### Rivals

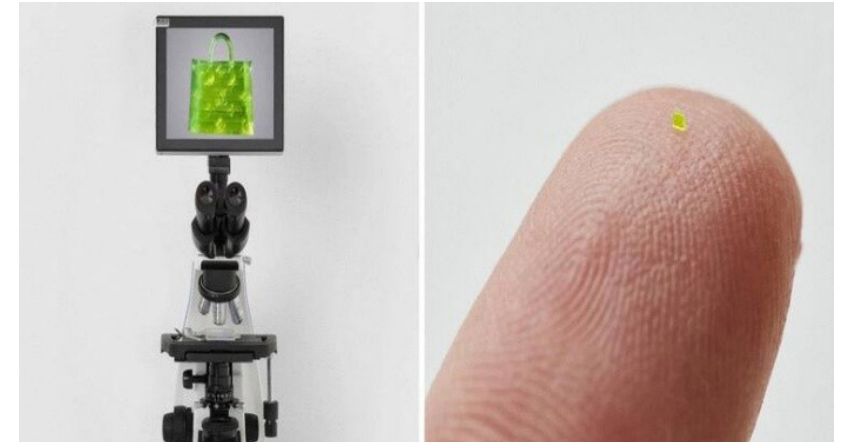
The Scorpio N Carbon goes head-to-head with other SUVs in the segment, including:

Tata Harrier  
Hyundai Alcazar  
MG Hector

Tata Safari

With its striking design, powerful engine options, and premium features, the Scorpio N Carbon is poised to be a strong contender in the competitive SUV market.

## MSCHF Auctions World's Tiniest Handbag, It Needs a Microscope to Be Seen



Fashion enthusiasts who follow high-end brands like Hermes and Jacquemus are no strangers to the trend of miniature handbags. However, one US artist collective, MSCHF, has taken the concept to a whole new level. In a groundbreaking move, MSCHF is auctioning off a bag so tiny that it is barely visible to the naked eye. In fact, the purse is so small, you'll need a microscope to see it clearly.

This neon green handbag, designed to resemble Louis Vuitton's OnTheGo collection, is smaller than a grain of sea salt. The miniature accessory features tiny pockets that are no larger than a speck of dust, rendering it practically invisible without a magnifying lens. To make sure potential buyers can admire the minuscule details, the bag comes with its own microscope.

MSCHF's description of the bag adds to the allure: "Smaller than a grain of sea salt and narrow enough to pass through the eye of a needle, this is a purse so small you'll need a microscope to see it." The collective

goes on to explain that the bag represents the final frontier of bag miniaturization, with its diminutive size making it more of a brand symbol than a functional object.

The tiny handbag has already created a buzz on social media platforms, attracting attention from fashion lovers and collectors alike. The Instagram post showcasing the handbag has garnered over 78,000 likes and sparked a flurry of comments. Some users expressed amazement at the level of detail, while others joked about the idea of displaying the bag in a magnifying glass cabinet.

One user commented, "Actually incredible. I'd love to see how the absolute tiniest details were done." Another humorously added, "Imagine getting arrested for shoplifting a microscopic purse." With its eye-catching design and surreal size, the microscopic handbag has become a sensation and is expected to fetch a hefty price during the Paris auction, coinciding with the excitement of fashion week.

## Meet 'Protoclone The Synthetic Human That Walks, Moves And Can See Like Us



Clone Robotics, a Poland-based startup, has introduced its latest creation—a humanoid robot that moves with uncanny realism. The robot, named Protoclone, is designed with synthetic muscles beneath a transparent skin, allowing it to mimic human motion in a strikingly lifelike manner. The latest prototype was recently showcased in a chilling video that quickly captured the attention of social media users. In the video, Protoclone is seen hanging from the ceiling, its movements eerily fluid and human-like, resembling a character

straight out of a sci-fi film. The unsettling visuals are paired with haunting background music composed by Ludwig Göransson, which amplifies the robot's uncanny presence. The combination of the robot's realistic motions and the eerie soundtrack left viewers both fascinated and unnerved.

Protoclone's lifelike motion is achieved through a unique technology developed by Clone Robotics. The robot's frame and joints are designed to replicate natural human movement with extraordinary precision. At the core of Protoclone's design is the company's innovative artificial muscle system, Myofiber. Introduced in 2021, Myofiber uses musculotendon units that are strategically attached to anatomically accurate points on the robot's bones. This allows the robot to achieve highly realistic movement, closely resembling the motions of the human body.

The unveiling of Protoclone has sparked conversations about the potential of robots in mimicking human-like motions and their possible applications in various fields, including robotics, healthcare, and entertainment. However, the lifelike appearance of Protoclone also raises questions about the ethical and emotional impact of robots that resemble humans so closely. As technology continues to advance, the line between human and machine is becoming increasingly blurred, leaving society to grapple with both the potential and the unsettling consequences of such developments.

## IIT Madras Creates Concrete To Help Build Homes On The Red Planet



A team from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, led by Dr. Piyush Chaunsali, Associate Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering, has made a significant breakthrough in extraterrestrial construction. The team, known as Extraterrestrial Manufacturing (ExTeM), has developed a unique type of concrete specifically designed for use on Mars. What sets this concrete apart is that it does not require water—a major challenge for future Mars colonization.

While studies have suggested that water may exist in small quantities in Mars' crust, no large, accessible sources have been found, making it difficult to plan long-term human settle-

ments. The new water-free concrete developed by ExTeM could be a game-changer in overcoming this limitation. The innovative concrete is strong, durable, and meets Earth's construction standards, thanks to a special compound that is mixed with sulphur—a material readily available on the Martian surface. Adithya Plato Sidharth, a postdoctoral researcher with ExTeM, explained in an interview with India Today that the team used sulphur-based compounds to create concrete that can withstand the harsh Martian environment. "We used a compound mixed with sulphur, which is abundant on Mars, to develop a concrete that matches Earth standards," said Sidharth.

This breakthrough could play a pivotal role in building sustainable infrastructure on Mars, as water-free concrete would eliminate the need for importing water or relying on scarce Martian resources. The development is part of ongoing research aimed at addressing the challenges of establishing human presence on Mars, focusing on utilizing local materials for construction. The innovative concrete is not only a technical achievement but could also pave the way for more efficient, resourceful colonization efforts on the Red Planet, allowing future generations to build habitats and other necessary structures without the constraints posed by the lack of water.

## 'Bahubali' Samosa Challenge, Offers Rs 71,000 For Eating A 12 Kg Samosa In 30 Mins



Chinese influencer Gu Xixi is making waves after revealing that she earned a staggering 3.03 lakh yuan (approximately Rs 35 Lakh) in a single day—all by simply lying in bed. The 25-year-old influencer, who operates a shop on Douyin (the Chinese equivalent of TikTok), shared the details of her impressive earnings between February 8 and 16. Over that period, Xixi raked in a total of 1.039 crore yuan (approximately Rs 12 Crore) on one platform, with a commission of around 27.9 lakh yuan (approximately Rs 3 Crore). On another platform, her sales reached 89.4 lakh yuan within a week. In a recent live stream, Xixi described her earnings as "hard-earned" and revealed an interesting twist—she claimed that

the more people criticize her, the more money she makes. "Today, I spent the entire day lying in bed, did nothing, and still made 11.6 lakh yuan in sales on my Douyin shop, with an estimated commission of 3.03 lakh yuan," she said. "The more you cannot stand seeing me doing well and the more you criticize me, the more I make."

Xixi, who has amassed a large following, made it clear that she doesn't just aim to earn a few hundred thousand yuan monthly. Her goal is far more ambitious: earning that much every single day. "It is not about earning hundreds of thousands of yuan per month; it is about earning hundreds of thousands of yuan per day. Understand?" she added.

Her unorthodox approach to business and success has garnered both admiration and criticism. While some are impressed by her entrepreneurial skills, others argue that such claims perpetuate unrealistic expectations. Regardless, Gu Xixi's rise in the influencer world demonstrates the growing power of social media platforms, where individuals can generate enormous income with innovative approaches.

## Bruised England, Afghanistan Eye Victory To Stay Afloat In Champions Trophy



tournament opener, failing to defend a 350-plus total against an Australian side missing key pacers. Their bowling unit lacked penetration, allowing an under-strength Aussie batting line-up to chase down the target with ease.

Afghanistan, known for their spin prowess, will look to exploit England's weakness against slow bowlers. Rashid Khan, Noor Ahmad, and Mohammad Nabi pose a serious threat, especially with England's batters showing inconsistency against spin in recent outings. England suffered a setback with all-rounder Brydon Carse ruled out due to injury, replaced by leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed to bolster their spin attack. However, their main concerns remain the form of opener Phil Salt and middle-order batter Harry Brook, both struggling for consistency.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan will aim to bounce back from a heavy 107-run loss to South Africa. While they have the talent, their challenge lies in adapting to the demands of the ODI format and executing their plans effectively against a vulnerable English side.

England and Afghanistan will battle for survival in the Champions Trophy as they face off in a crucial Group B match in Lahore on Wednesday. With South Africa and Australia already securing two points each, a defeat here would put the losing side on the brink of elimination.

England, once a dominant force in white-ball cricket, struggled in their

## Vidarbha Eye 3rd Title, Kerala Seek Historic Win in Final

Vidarbha will bank on their dominant form and home advantage as they take on a spirited Kerala in the Ranji Trophy final starting Wednesday. While Vidarbha, two-time champions, are aiming to reclaim the title after five years, Kerala are eyeing their maiden triumph in the prestigious tournament.

Led by Akshay Wadkar, Vidarbha have been the team to beat this season, winning eight of their nine matches and drawing one. They cruised through the knockouts, defeating Tamil Nadu by 198 runs in the quarterfinal and Mumbai by 80 runs in the semifinal. Having lost to Mumbai in last year's final, they are eager to make amends.

Yash Rathod has led their batting with 933 runs, supported by Wadkar, Karun Nair, Danish Malewar, and Dhruv Shorey. On the bowling front, 22-year-old Harsh Dubey has been sensational with 66 wickets, nearing the record for most wickets in a Ranji season.

Kerala, led by Sachin Baby, have shown immense resilience, advancing through the knockouts with thrilling first-innings lead wins over Jammu and Kashmir (by one run) and Gujarat (by two runs). Salman Nizar and Mohammed Azharuddeen have been Kerala's batting pillars, with Azharuddeen's 177 in



the semifinal standing out. Jalaj Saxena leads Kerala's bowling with 38 wickets, while former Vidarbha player Aditya Sarwate has taken 30 wickets, adding depth to their attack. With Vidarbha's experience and Kerala's fighting spirit, the final promises an intense battle for the coveted title.

## FIH Hockey Pro League Sam Ward's brace powers England to 3-2 win over India



England edged past India with a thrilling 3-2 victory in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 at the Kalinga Stadium on Monday, thanks to a brilliant brace from Sam Ward.

England struck first through James Payton (15'), but India responded quickly with an equalizer from Abhishek (18'). However, Ward took charge, netting twice

(19', 28') to put England ahead 3-1. Sukhjeet Singh (39') pulled one back for India, but England's resolute defense, led by goalkeeper James Mazarelo, denied them a late equalizer.

Despite India's relentless pressure in the final quarter and a last-minute penalty corner, England held firm to seal the victory.

## Rachin Ravindra's century powers New Zealand into CT semis

Rachin Ravindra anchored New Zealand's chase with a brilliant century, guiding his team to a five-wicket victory over Bangladesh and securing a spot in the Champions Trophy semifinals. The win also confirmed India's progression while eliminating hosts Pakistan and Bangladesh from the tournament.

Chasing 237, New Zealand suffered an early setback, losing Will Young and Kane Williamson for just 15 runs. However, Ravindra steadied the innings with a crucial 112 off 105 balls, hitting 12 fours and a six. His 129-run stand with Tom Latham (55 off 76 balls) ensured the Black Caps completed the chase in 46.1 overs.

Earlier, Michael Bracewell was instrumental in restricting Bangladesh to 236/9, claiming 4/26 in 10 overs. Captain Najmul Hossain Shanto top-scored for Bangladesh with 77, but a slow middle-order



and 86 dot balls in the first 21 overs hurt their total.

Despite some early breakthroughs by Taskin Ahmed and Nahid Rana, Bangladesh couldn't prevent New Zealand's controlled chase. The result sees New Zealand and India advance to the semifinals, while Pakistan and Bangladesh bow out of the competition.

## Praggnanadhaa Hot Favourite To Win Prague Masters



Fresh off his thrilling victory at the Tata Steel Masters, Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa is the hot favorite to win the Prague Masters, starting Wednesday. The Indian prodigy, who recently edged out World Champion D Gukesh in a tiebreak battle, aims to continue his strong form in this nine-round all-play-all event.

Chinese GM Wei Yi leads the seedings, with Praggnanandhaa second, followed by Vietnam's Le Quang Liem and Germany's Vincent Keymer. Making his debut in elite chess, Aravindh Chithambaram is seeded fourth,

thanks to his consistent rise in ratings, currently standing at 2730 in live ratings.

Other top players include Dutch GM Anish Giri, Czech veteran David Navara, and American GM Sam Shankland. According to statistical analysis, Praggnanandhaa holds a 14.98% chance of winning, ahead of Wei Yi at 10.52%.

Meanwhile, Divya Deshmukh will compete in the Challengers' section, adding to India's strong presence. The tournament kicks off Wednesday after the drawing of lots on Tuesday.

## IOA sets up Adhoc Committee to handle BFI, conduct elections

With the tenure of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) office-bearers ending on February 2 and elections delayed due to legal disputes, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has constituted a five-member Adhoc Committee to manage its affairs and oversee the election process.

The committee includes senior boxer Shiva Thapa, along with administrators Madhukant Pathak, Rajesh Bhandari, Dr. D.P. Bhatt, and Virendra Singh Thakur. The panel has been tasked with addressing grievances with-

in the boxing community, ensuring athlete participation in international events, and expediting the BFI elections.

IOA President PT Usha stated that the delay in elections had created administrative instability, prompting numerous complaints from athletes and officials. She emphasized that the committee would operate independently, maintain transparency, and ensure due process in conducting the elections. The order has come into immediate effect.



## Sophie Ecclestone shines as UP Warriorz beat RCB in WPL's first-ever Super Over

In a thrilling contest, UP Warriorz edged past Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the first-ever Super Over of the Women's Premier League (WPL) on Monday, thanks to a stunning all-round performance by Sophie Ecclestone.

RCB, after being sent to bat, posted a strong 180/6, driven by Ellyse Perry's unbeaten 90 off 56 balls and Danni Wyatt-Hodge's 57. Ecclestone, despite going wicketless with figures of 4-0-29-0, made a crucial impact with the bat, scoring 33 off 19 balls to take the match into the Super Over.

A dramatic finish UP Warriorz, chasing 181, lost wickets at regular intervals. Kiran Navgire (24) and Dinesh Vrida (14) gave them a promising start, but RCB's bowlers kept striking back. Deepti Sharma (25 off 13) and Shweta Sehrawat (31 off 25) kept UP's hopes alive, but Perry and Sneha Rana (3/27) ensured the

game went down to the wire. Needing 18 off the last over, Ecclestone smashed Renuka Singh for two sixes and a four, leveling the scores before getting run out on the penultimate ball. UP Warriorz were bowled out for 180, pushing the match into a Super Over.

Super Over showdown UP Warriorz managed just eight runs in the Super Over, bowled by Kim Garth. With RCB needing nine to win, Ecclestone stepped up with the ball, conceding only four runs to seal a historic win for UP Warriorz.





## Kalyan's Inner Circle Actively Planning Akira's Debut



Speculation surrounding Akira Nandan's film debut continues to gain traction, especially with his frequent public appearances alongside his father, Pawan Kalyan. However, reports suggest that fans may have to wait a little longer before witnessing Akira's transformation into "Junior Powerstar."

Sources indicate that Pawan Kalyan's close associates, including Trivikram Srinivas, producer Naga Vamsi, and art director Anand Sai, are actively involved in planning Akira's debut. Interestingly, Pawan himself is reportedly the driving force behind these discussions and has influenced Akira's mindset regarding a career in cinema. Until recently, Akira was often seen with his mother,

Renu Desai, and had shown interest in pursuing a career in music. He had even enrolled in formal training for the same. However, his focus has now shifted toward acting, leading to intense preparation, including acting training under renowned coach Vizag Satyanand, with future plans for martial arts and dance. With uncertainty surrounding Pawan Kalyan's film commitments post-OG, Hari Hara Veera Mallu, and Ustaad Bhagat Singh, the actor-politician is said to be prioritizing his son's launch before shifting his full focus to politics ahead of the general elections. If all goes as planned, top production houses are expected to compete for Akira's grand debut. The film's release, with anticipation building over this

## Aadar Jain and Alekha Advani's Wedding Kareena, Ranbir, and Alia's Heartfelt Moments Captured



Aadar Jain and Alekha Advani's fairytale wedding continues to make headlines, with new pictures from their intimate ceremony surfacing online. The couple, who tied the knot in a Christian ceremony on February 21, 2025, in Goa, has been sharing glimpses of their celebrations on social media.

In the latest set of pictures, Aadar is seen posing with Kareena Kapoor, Karisma Kapoor, and Saif Ali Khan, along with his parents, Reema Jain and Manoj Jain. Another snapshot captures Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, and Neetu Kapoor, while Riddhima Kapoor Sahni and

Kareena are also seen sharing a special moment with the newlyweds. Aadar and Alekha, who began dating in 2023, got engaged in September last year, followed by a roka ceremony in November. Before Alekha, Aadar was in a relationship with actress Tara Sutaria, but the two eventually parted ways.

Aadar Jain, the son of Raj Kapoor's daughter Rima Jain, made his Bollywood debut with Qaidi Band in 2017 and was last seen in Hello Charlie (2021). Meanwhile, Alekha Advani is the founder of the wellness brand Way Well.



## 97th Academy Awards Star-Studded Performances and A-List Presenters Set the Stage

The 97th Academy Awards are gearing up for a dazzling night filled with electrifying performances and Hollywood's biggest stars gracing the stage. The Oscars, set to take place on March 2, 2025, will be hosted by comedian Conan O'Brien and broadcast live on ABC and Hulu.

Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo, stars of the Wicked film adaptation, will bring a touch of Oz to the ceremony with a special live performance. Global K-pop icon Lisa, from Blackpink and The White Lotus, is also set to perform, along with rap sensation Doja Cat, legendary actress-musician Queen

Latifah, and rising star Raye. Adding to the spectacle, the Los Angeles Master Chorale will deliver a grand musical segment.

This year's Oscars will take a unique approach by forgoing live performances of Best Original Song nominees. Instead, viewers will be treated to behind-the-scenes insights into the songwriting process, offering a deeper look at the creative minds behind the music.

An impressive lineup of presenters is also set to take the stage. Last year's acting winners—Cillian Murphy, Emma Stone, Robert Downey Jr., and Da'Vine Joy Randolph—

will return to present awards, joined by a star-studded roster that includes Joe Alwyn, Ana de Armas, Halle Berry, Penélope Cruz, Willem Dafoe, Lily-Rose Depp, Elle Fanning, Whoopi Goldberg, Selena Gomez, Goldie Hawn, Scarlett Johansson, John Lithgow, Connie Nielsen, Amy Poehler, June Squibb, Ben Stiller, Oprah Winfrey, and Bowen Yang.

With an exciting mix of performances, tributes, and Hollywood's biggest names, the 97th Academy Awards promise an unforgettable night celebrating cinema at its finest.

## Yami Gautam in Talks for Multiple Projects Across Genres



Bollywood actress Yami Gautam, who is currently basking in the success of Dhoom Dhaam on Netflix, is reportedly in discussions for multiple upcoming projects spanning various genres.

A source close to the actress revealed that Yami's growing success has made her a preferred choice for filmmakers, as she continues to deliver powerful performances. "She has been very selective about her projects, ensuring strong scripts and compelling narratives. Currently, she is in talks for more than four films, all of which showcase her versatility," the source said.

Following the success of OMG 2 (2023), Article 370 (2024), and now Dhoom Dhaam (2025), Yami has solidified her reputation as a bankable star. Her performances in Bala (2019), Lost (2022), and A Thursday (2022) were widely praised, with critics lauding her ability to carry female-centric and socially relevant films.

Dhoom Dhaam, directed by Rishab Seth and produced by Aditya Dhar, was released on Netflix on February 14, 2025, and has been receiving positive feedback. As she gears up for her next ventures, fans can expect Yami to take on diverse and impactful roles once again.

## NTR Begins Promotions for Devara's Japanese Release

After the massive success of RRR in Japan, Jr NTR is now gearing up to expand his stardom further with the Japanese release of Devara Part 1. The film is set to hit Japanese screens on March 28, 2025, and ahead of its release, NTR has already begun promotions. The actor, who gained significant popularity among Japanese audiences after RRR became the highest-grossing Indian film in Japan—surpassing Rajinikanth's Muthu—is currently giving interviews to Japanese media. He is also scheduled to visit Japan on March 22 to actively promote the film.

Directed by Koratala Siva, Devara features Janhvi Kapoor and Saif Ali Khan in key roles. The film, which was originally released on September 27, 2024, turned out to be a major box office success. Fans are eager to see if it can recreate the same magic in Japan.

On the work front, Jr NTR has a busy lineup with War 2, NTRNeel, and Devara 2. While War 2 is expected to release later this year, NTRNeel recently went on floors. The actor is likely to start Devara



2 after wrapping up his current commitments.

## SC Grants Relief to Dil Raju in Mr. Perfect Copyright Case



Producer Dil Raju has received relief from the Supreme Court in the copyright case filed against his 2011 film Mr. Perfect. The apex court has put a stay on the City Civil Court's order, which had directed action against him over alleged copyright infringement.

The case was initially filed in 2017 by writer Mummudi Syamala Devi, who accused Dil Raju of copying the storyline of her novel Naa Manasu Ninnu Kore. Following her complaint, the Madhapur Police registered a copyright case against the producer. After hearing arguments and examining the evidence, the City Civil Court had

ruled in favor of the writer and ordered action against Dil Raju.

Challenging this decision, Dil Raju approached the Supreme Court seeking a stay on the lower court's order. On Monday, a bench comprising Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan took up the case and, after hearing the arguments, stayed the City Civil Court's orders. The next hearing has been scheduled for two weeks later.

Mr. Perfect, directed by Dasarath, starred Prabhas, Kajal Aggarwal, and Taapsee Pannu in lead roles, with music composed by Devi Sri Prasad.