



**Weather Forecast**

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



**Governor Jishnu Dev Varma Outlines Govt's Vision for Telangana**

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**Telangana Budget to Be Presented on March 19 Assembly Session Extended Till March 27**

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**Hyderabad's Legendary all-rounder Syed Abid Ali passes away at 83**

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- Journalist Revathi arrested by Cyber Crime Police.
- Videos against CM Revanth Reddy led to her arrest.
- Revathi's YouTube channel Pulse News seized.
- Videos recorded in February uploaded in March.
- Allegations of KTR funding Pulse News.
- Is Revanth Reddy targeting KTR-backed channels?
- BRS govt had previously filed cases against Revathi.
- KTR strongly condemns her arrest.

# Journalist Revathi Arrested What Really Happened??



government's wrongdoings. Police sources argue that videos recorded in February were deliberately uploaded in March to coincide with International Women's Day, suggesting a calculated attempt to stir controversy. Additionally, officials suspect a political party is funding Pulse News, using it as a platform to attack the Congress government.

The video in question allegedly featured a Mahabubabad farmer making personal remarks against CM Revanth Reddy and stating that only a BRS government under KTR could ensure prosperity for farmers. This has fueled speculation that KTR is backing

the channel financially. Reports suggest Revanth Reddy is cracking down on media houses allegedly funded by KTR, while ignoring other critical channels.

KTR, who previously blamed digital media for BRS's election loss, has been strengthening the party's social media presence. There are claims that some BRS-backed channels are even being operated from Dubai. Now, Revathi's arrest has raised questions on whether the Congress government is specifically targeting media outlets linked to KTR.

Revathi was earlier associated with Mojo TV, co-founded with TV9's Ravi Prakash. After Ravi Prakash's exit from TV9, she left Mojo and frequently criticized the then BRS government, leading to legal cases filed against her by the KCR administration. Despite this, she continued working in various media outlets and later launched Pulse News, which has been a

staunch critic of the Congress government.

Her latest arrest has led to strong condemnation from KTR and BRS leaders, who see it as an attempt to silence dissent. The development signals a new political-media battle in Telangana, with accusations of bias and suppression of press freedom dominating the discourse.



TPN | Katta Kishore Hyderabad:

The arrest of journalist Revathi has sparked a major controversy in Telangana's media and political circles. The Cyber Crime Police arrested her on charges of spreading false news against the government and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy through her YouTube channel Pulse News.

At 4 AM on Wednesday, a team of 12 Multi policemen raided Revathi's house,

seized her mobile phone, her husband director Chaitanya Dantuluri's phone, and laptops before taking her into custody. She was handed a notice stating that she was being arrested for broadcasting misleading news and was immediately shifted to a police station. Authorities also sealed the Pulse News Break YouTube channel office. Revathi, however, alleged illegal detention, claiming she was targeted for exposing the



## Congress Govt has 'No Vision, Only Commission'

- Congress govt running on a 20% commission model, alleges KTR.
- Claims Revanth Reddy prioritizes Delhi over State's development.
- Says Governor's speech lacked real assurances for farmers.
- Accuses Congress of failing to fulfill promises despite massive loans.

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad: BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's government, alleging that it lacks vision and functions only on a "20% commission" model. He accused the Congress-led Telangana government of failing to address critical issues, including farmers' distress,

irrigation challenges, and the stalled construction sector. KTR ridiculed the Governor's address in the Assembly, comparing it to "a DJ playing at a wedding." Speaking to the media after the House was adjourned, he criticized the speech, claiming it resembled a Congress press conference at Gandhi Bhavan rather than a policy address. >> PAGE 2

## CM warns MLAs: "Learn the subject or You will go home"

- CM reprimands MLAs over Assembly conduct.
- Criticizes lack of response to opposition's attacks.
- Questions Jaiveer Reddy for walking out during session.
- Stresses on strengthening floor coordination.

TPN Correspondent

Telangana: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy issued a stern warning to MLAs, emphasizing the need for preparation and active participation in the Assembly. His remarks came after BRS MLAs disrupted Governor Jishnu Dev Varma's speech on the first day of the session, protesting that the government was falsely claiming credit for implementing

schemes. Following the Governor's address, Revanth Reddy summoned Congress MLAs and government whips to the CM Chamber. Expressing disappointment, he questioned their lack of response to BRS criticisms, stating, "I cannot handle everything alone. It is your responsibility to counter the opposition's allegations." Revanth Reddy was particu-

larly furious over MLA Jaiveer Reddy's decision to leave the Assembly while the session was in progress. He remarked, "If senior leaders like us are present in the House, how can new MLAs walk out? This is your entrance test—if you stay and learn, you will have a future. Otherwise, it will be difficult for all of you."

The Chief Minister also pointed out Congress MLAs' failure to defend the government's policies, especially regarding the liquor policy. "We have not yet introduced a liquor policy. The previous government did not have one either, yet you are



unable to counter their claims. Why?" he questioned.

Revanth directed government whips to change their approach, advising MLAs to specialize in specific topics instead of speaking on all issues. He insisted that floor coordination must be strengthened to effectively counter opposition narratives.

## Supreme Court Issues Notices in BRS MLAs' Defection Case

TPN Correspondent

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued key orders in the BRS MLAs' defection case, directing the Telangana government to file a counter by March 25. The court was hearing a petition filed by the BRS party, which sought the disqualification of its MLAs who defected to the Congress



after winning on the party's car symbol.

A bench comprising Justice

- Notices sent to Assembly Secretary, Telangana Govt, and EC.
- Govt directed to file a counter by the 25th of this month.
- BRS seeks disqualification of MLAs who won on car symbol but joined Congress.

B.R. Gavai and Justice Vinod Chandran issued notices to the Assembly Secretary, Speaker

Gaddam Prasad, the Central and State Election Commissions, and the >> PAGE 2





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## Congress Govt has 'No Vision, Only Commission'

He expressed disappointment that the Governor did not reprimand the Congress government for taking massive loans worth lakhs of crores without fulfilling a single promise out of the 420 made to the people. He accused the government of failing to initiate even a single new project and alleged that its only priority was sending financial "packages" to Delhi.

KTR also questioned the Congress government's claim that ₹1.72 lakh crore worth of investments had been secured through the Davos summit, asserting that most of those companies have since moved to other states. He accused the ruling party of misleading the Governor by falsely claiming that the loan waiver scheme had been fully implemented.

The BRS leader further alleged that the Governor's speech lacked any assurance for farmers, failing to address issues such as irrigation problems and farmer suicides. He mocked the claim that Telangana had become India's top rice-producing state under Revanth Reddy, arguing that such achievements were a result of the previous BRS government's policies.

KTR slammed the Congress regime for ignoring the plight of farmers, pointing out that crops were drying up across thousands of acres due to water shortages, and yet no Congress minister or MLA had visited the affected farmers. He stated that whenever Congress leaders visited villages, they were being chased away by angry locals.

He challenged CM Revanth Reddy to visit his hometown and verify whether the government had actually waived more than 25-30% of farm loans in any village. KTR accused the Congress administration of borrowing ₹1.62 lakh crore without launching a single welfare scheme, instead engaging in land deals and commission-based transactions. He claimed that even Congress MLAs had admitted that ministers were demanding commissions to clear projects.

Furthermore, KTR criticized the collapse of Telangana's construction sector due to Congress-imposed RR tax and alleged commissions. He declared that the current government was built on false promises, stating, "Every word told to the Governor is a lie, every statement is deception, and every sentence is a blatant fraud."

## Supreme Court Issues Notices in BRS MLAs' Defection Case

10 MLAs who switched parties. The case was brought before the apex court after the Assembly Speaker failed to take action against the defected legislators.

The BRS had approached the Supreme Court on January 15, demanding the disqualification of these MLAs. BRS leaders Padi Kaushik Reddy and KP Vivekananda filed a special leave petition against MLAs Kadiyam Srihari, Tellam Venkatrao, and Danam Nagender. Additionally, BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) filed a writ petition against seven other MLAs—Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, M. Sanjay Kumar, Kale Yadayya, Bandla Krishnamohan Reddy, Prakash Goud, Gudem Mahipal Reddy, and Arikapudi Gandhi.

The Supreme Court has decided to hear all these petitions together as it examines the legal aspects of party defections and the demand for immediate disqualification of the rebel MLAs.

## Entries Invited for Gaddar Cine Awards from Today



TPN Correspondent

**Telangana:** The Telangana government has announced the Gaddar Cine Awards to honor outstanding films released between 2014 and 2023, with the awards ceremony set to take place on Ugadi this year.

The selection committee, which finalized the modalities for the awards, has now opened applications from March 13 at the Telangana Film Development Corporation's office in AC Guards, Lakdikapul.

The awards will recognize excellence in various categories, including Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Feature Film, and awards for technical excellence in filmmaking. Special categories

include Best National Integration Film, Best Children's Film, Best Heritage Film, Best Environmental Film, Best Historical Film, Best Animation Film, Best Documentary Film, Best Social Impact Film, and Best Short Film.

Additionally, for the first time, an Urdu film will be awarded in the feature category. The awards will also recognize Paidi Jayaraju, Kantha Rao, and M. Prabhakar Reddy for their contributions to the Telugu film industry.

Furthermore, awards will be given for the best articles and books on Telugu cinema, honoring literary contributions to the industry.

# Do you know what KCR has left us as a legacy? CM Revanth's interesting comments



TPN Correspondent

**Telangana:** Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy made sharp remarks against former CM KCR, alleging that he left behind a legacy of debt and mis-

management. Speaking at an event, he emphasized the need to strengthen the education sector, criticizing the previous government for its failure to address declining educational

standards.

Revanth stated that his government has taken steps to clean up the education department by resolving long-pending teacher transfers and promotions. He pointed out that the declining number of students in government schools is alarming, while private school enrollments continue to rise. He urged education officials to identify shortcomings and improve government institutions to match private schools.

The Chief Minister highlighted key initiatives, including the establishment of Young India Integrated Schools, with ₹11,000 crore allocated for 55 schools, aimed at improving educational standards. Additionally, the government has

launched Young India Skills University to enhance the skills of students and the unemployed. He also announced the formation of Young India Sports University and Young India Sports Authority to promote sports, ensuring that Telangana competes at the global level.

Revanth cited examples of government support for athletes, mentioning that cricketer Mohammed Siraj was given a job with relaxed rules, while boxer Nikhat Zareen was appointed as a DSP. Paralympian Deepti Jivanji was also provided with employment and a house.

Taking a direct dig at KCR, Revanth remarked that the former CM had left the state with

## Uttam hails Governor's address as a roadmap for Telangana's agriculture

TPN Correspondent

**Hyderabad:** Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy praised Governor Jishnu Dev Varma's address to the Telangana Legislature, calling it a visionary blueprint for agriculture. He highlighted the state's record paddy production and strong support for farmers through irrigation and welfare schemes.

Telangana has become India's highest paddy-producing state, harvesting over 260 lakh metric tonnes, a milestone credited to improved irrigation. The government has actively supported farmers, ensuring an environment conducive to high productivity.

A key initiative is the ₹2 lakh crop loan waiver, which cleared ₹20,616.89 crore in farm debts, benefiting 25.35 lakh farmers. Uttam Kumar Reddy termed the scheme a "lifesaver," providing financial security and a fresh start for many cultivators.

Furthering direct income support, the Rythu Bharosa scheme now provides ₹12,000 per acre annually, helping farmers invest in better resources. Similarly, Indiramma Aathmeeya Bharosa grants ₹12,000 per year to landless agricultural workers.

To enhance farmer engagement, the government has es-

- Govt emphasizes irrigation, farmer welfare, and record agricultural output.
- ₹2 lakh crop loan waiver benefited 25.35 lakh farmers
- Rythu Bharosa, Indiramma Aathmeeya Bharosa schemes enhance farmer support.
- New Farmers Welfare Commission set up to drive policy and technology adoption.



tablished 566 Rythu Vedikas with modern communication tools and launched the Rythu Nestham digital platform, connecting 532 rural mandals via video conferencing. These platforms ensure direct interaction between farmers, agricultural scientists, and policymakers.

A ₹500 per quintal bonus was announced for the Sanarakam variety of paddy,

with ₹1,206.44 crore disbursed to farmers, protecting them from market fluctuations.

The newly formed Telangana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Commission will focus on policy-making, integrating scientific advancements, and promoting precision agriculture. Initiatives like remote sensing, GIS-based crop monitoring, and climate-resilient

techniques will help modernize Telangana's agricultural landscape. The government is also prioritizing water conservation, pending irrigation projects, and rejuvenating village tanks to ensure sustainable farming. Uttam Kumar Reddy reaffirmed the government's commitment to making Telangana a model state for agricultural prosperity.

## Mahesh Kumar Goud Warns KTR Over Congress Statues Comments

TPN Correspondent

**Telangana:** Telangana PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud has issued a sharp warning to BRS leader K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), stating that if he dares to touch the statues of Congress icons, party workers will strip him naked and beat him. His remarks come in response to KTR's recent comments about removing the statues of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi.

Mahesh Kumar Goud criticized KTR for his continued arrogance despite losing power. He accused the BRS leader of making provocative statements about the Governor's speech and demanded an immediate apology. He alleged that the BRS party has a history of disrespecting Governors and cautioned KTR against testing the patience of Congress workers.

Goud also refuted KTR's claims about the farmer loan waiver, stating that if he visited villages, he would witness the effective implementation of Congress government schemes. He accused the KCR family of using the Kaleshwaram project as an "ATM for corruption," alleging that ₹1 lakh crore was looted in its name. He further challenged KTR on the caste census, questioning why BRS failed to release details of a comprehensive family survey despite a decade in power.

Regarding farmer suicides, Goud criticized KTR for attempting to blame Congress, asserting that Telangana ranked second in the country for farmer suicides during BRS rule. He reminded that under the previous administration, incidents of farmers collapsing in fields due to distress were rampant.



He emphasized that Congress has delivered on its Warangal Declaration by waiving farmer loans and reaffirmed the party's commitment to farmers' welfare. He further accused KTR of hypocrisy in discussing state debt, pointing out that

BRS left Telangana with ₹7 lakh crore in liabilities. He stated that Congress is fulfilling its promises while BRS leaders, who had to borrow money just to pay interest on past debts, have no moral ground to speak on financial matters.



# Telangana Budget to Be Presented on March 19

**Assembly Session Extended Till March 27**

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad:** The Telangana State Legislative Assembly budget session will continue until March 27, with the State budget set to be presented on March 19. The decision was taken during the business advisory committee (BAC) meeting chaired by Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar on Wednesday.

The session began with Governor Jishnu Dev Varma addressing both houses, following which the Assembly was adjourned till Thursday. The BAC resolved that the discussion on the motion of thanks for the Governor's speech would take place on March 13. The Assembly will remain closed on March 14 for the Holi festival, and the discussion will resume on March 15 along with members' questions.

On March 17 and 18, the Assembly will focus on government business, during which



key bills, including those related to BC reservations and SC categorization, are likely to be introduced. Finance Minister will present the budget on March 19, followed by a general discussion on March 21. The discussion on grants will take place on March 22, 24, 25, and 26, with the Appropriation Bill scheduled for March 27. Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramar-

ka, Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu, BC Welfare Minister Ponnampati Prabhakar, former ministers T Harish Rao and Vemula Prashanth Reddy (BRS), BJP MLA A Maheshwar Reddy, Government Whip Beerla Ailayya, and CPI MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao were among those who attended the BAC meeting.

# Unemployed youth were the foundation of Telangana movement

CM Revanth Reddy highlights the role of unemployed youth in Telangana movement.

Hands over appointment letters to 1,532 junior and polytechnic lecturers.

Questions if private schools are better than government schools.

Government prioritizes education, allocates ₹21,650 crore in budget.

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad:** Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy emphasized the crucial role of unemployed youth in the Telangana movement, stating that their struggle had taken the movement to great heights. However, he criticized the previous government for failing to address unemployment despite their responsibility towards the cause.

Speaking at a program at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad, Revanth Reddy handed over appointment letters to 1,532 newly selected junior and polytechnic lecturers. Congratulating them, he urged new teachers to lead the state towards the path of development.

The Chief Minister reiterated his earlier stance that jobs for the unemployed could only



be created by addressing irregularities in past appointments. He stated that since Congress came to power, over 50,000 appointments have been made, resolving legal hurdles that had delayed recruitments. He also alleged that in the past, question

papers were openly sold like commodities.

Highlighting disparities in the education system, Revanth Reddy noted that Telangana has 25 lakh students in 30,000 government schools and 36.7 lakh students in 11,000 private schools. He pointed out that while private school education costs around ₹25,000 per student, government school expenses amount to ₹1 lakh per student. He questioned whether private schools were truly superior and stressed that the education department must shape students' futures.

The Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to education, stating that ₹21,650 crore has been allocated to the education department in the state budget to improve infrastructure and learning standards.

# Patancheru MLA Mahipal Reddy Meets KCR in Assembly Lobby

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad:** In an interesting political development, Patancheru MLA Mahipal Reddy met former Chief Minister and BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) in the Telangana Assembly lobby.



Mahipal Reddy, who won the 2023 Assembly elections on a BRS ticket before switching to the Congress, invited KCR to his younger brother's son's wedding. His meeting with the BRS leader has sparked speculation in political circles.

Despite aligning with the Congress, Mahipal Reddy continues to display KCR's photo at his camp office in Patancheru, raising questions about his political stance. Having won from BRS (formerly TRS) in 2014, 2019, and 2023, his loyalty remains a topic of discussion.

# Revanth Reddy engaged in Chandrababu's service, says Harish Rao

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad:** Senior BRS MLA Harish Rao launched a strong attack on Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, accusing him of serving the interests of Delhi and Chandrababu Naidu instead of focusing on the state's development. His remarks came in response to Governor Jishnu Dev Varma's address at the Assembly budget session, which he criticized as misleading and directionless.

Harish Rao alleged that the Governor's speech, despite a change in governors, remained unchanged from the previous year and was filled with false claims about government achievements. He accused the Congress government of using the Governor's address to spread propaganda rather than addressing real issues. He also took a dig at the opening lines of the speech, which quoted Mahatma Gandhi, arguing that Revanth Reddy's actions were more aligned with serving external interests rather than Telangana's welfare. Harish Rao criticized the claim that the



Congress government was transforming lives in Telangana, pointing to police crackdowns on farmers and unemployed youth in areas like Lagacharla, Nyalakal, and Ashok Nagar. He also condemned the recent arrest of two journalists, calling it

an attack on press freedom.

He accused Congress ministers of prioritizing personal gains and commissions over public welfare. He alleged that the government was disrespecting Telangana's culture by replacing the Telangana Thalli statue with that of Rahul Gandhi's father. Harish Rao accused the Congress of remaining silent on the Krishna water dispute while Andhra Pradesh allegedly diverted Telangana's share. He criticized the delay in implementing the ₹2,500 monthly Mahalakshmi scheme, calling it absurd to label it a "game changer" without actual execution.

He also attacked the government's job creation claims, arguing that not even 10,000 jobs were provided despite promises of 55,000. He termed the job calendar a "jobless calendar" and said the unemployment benefit scheme had failed.

Concluding his remarks, he accused the Congress of running an administration based on false claims rather than genuine governance.

# AIMIM Plans To Expand In Bengal, Contest All Seats In 2026

**TPN Correspondent**

**Kolkata:** AIMIM, led by Asaduddin Owaisi, is preparing to contest all seats in the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections, positioning itself as a challenger to both Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The party has launched a state-wide membership drive to expand its presence.

"We have around three lakh members in Bengal and secured about 1.5 lakh votes in the 2023 Panchayat elections just from Malda and Murshidabad," AIMIM leader Md Imran Solanki stated.

AIMIM made its Bengal debut in the 2021 assembly elections, contesting in seven constituencies across Malda, Murshidabad, and North Dinajpur but failed to make an impact. This time, however, the party is aiming for a broader reach.

"We have been working on the ground for four years. This time, we plan to field candidates in all constitu-



encies and have started groundwork at the block level," Solanki said.

As part of its campaign, AIMIM is conducting a door-to-door membership drive and organizing iftar gatherings in various districts. Owaisi is expected

to visit Bengal after Eid to hold rallies.

West Bengal has a significant Muslim population, accounting for 27% according to the 2011 Census. Solanki criticized the current political landscape, saying, "Mamata Banerjee is as-

serting her Hindu identity, the BJP is playing a different game, but the only ones suffering are the people. Voters need an alternative. We have a strong support base in North Bengal and Malda."

# Governor's speech is Repetitive and Misleading: Kavitha

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad:** Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has strongly criticized the Governor's address to the Telangana Legislature, calling it unoriginal and misleading. She alleged that the speech failed to highlight the implementation of key promises made by the ruling Congress during elections.

"There is nothing new in the Governor's speech. They have tried to mislead people with flowery language, but we will expose the government in public meetings," she asserted. Kavitha took a direct jab at the Gandhi family, questioning whether they only remember Telangana during elections. "People voted after seeing the guarantees signed by the Gandhi

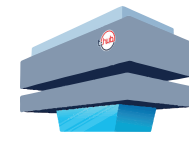
family, not because of the local Congress leaders. They should now take responsibility for the failures of this government," she said.

She further alleged that despite taking ₹1.5 lakh crore in loans, not a single promise has been fully implemented. Kavitha pointed out that one of the biggest electoral guarantees—providing ₹2,500 per month to women—has been ignored.

The BRS leader condemned the ruling party for not being transparent and failing to fulfill its commitments. She vowed that the BRS would continue to expose the government's shortcomings and hold them accountable for their promises to the people of Telangana.







# Governor Jishnu Dev Varma Outlines Govt's Vision for Telangana

## Manchu Mohan Babu, Vishnu Meet CM

Congress govt to focus on Future City, Musi River rejuvenation, and Metro expansion

Welfare schemes include free bus travel for women, crop loan waivers, and ₹12,000 aid for tenant farmers

Telangana secures ₹1.78 lakh crore investments at World Economic Forum



**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad:** Governor Jishnu Dev Varma on Wednesday detailed the Congress government's ambitious plans for Telangana, emphasizing infra-

structure development, social justice, and economic growth. Addressing the joint session of the State Legislature, he highlighted key initiatives, including the Future City project, Musi Riv-

er rejuvenation, and Metro Rail expansion, aimed at transforming urban infrastructure. The Governor stated that the government's commitment to clean energy, artificial intelligence, and high-tech industries would position Telangana as a leader in sustainable development and digital transformation. Welfare measures such as free bus travel for women, crop loan waivers, and ₹12,000 financial assistance for tenant farmers were also emphasized. He noted that the Indira Mahila Shakti Mission, with an outlay of ₹1 lakh crore, aims to empower one crore women entrepreneurs. On social justice, he described the recent caste sur-

vey as a landmark initiative and announced plans to introduce a Bill granting 42% reservation for Backward Classes and another for the sub-categorization of Scheduled Castes based on the Justice Shameem Akhtar Commission's recommendations. Highlighting Telangana's push for industrial growth, he revealed that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's 'Telangana Rising' delegation secured ₹1.78 lakh crore in investments at the World Economic Forum, generating 49,500 jobs. Additionally, a new MSME policy, a tourism strategy, and a plan to establish 6,000 EV charging stations by 2030 were outlined as part of the state's economic roadmap.



**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad:** Veteran actor Manchu Mohan Babu and his son, actor-producer Manchu Vishnu, met Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Wednesday. During the meeting, they felicitated the CM with a shawl as a mark of respect. Manchu Vishnu shared pictures of the meeting on his X handle, expressing his gratitude for the opportunity to interact with the Chief Minister. He stated that they discussed several key issues and appreciated Revanth Reddy's commitment to the growth of the Telugu film industry. The meeting comes amid ongoing discussions about industry support and incentives for filmmakers in Telangana.

## Sri Rudra Pooja Store inaugurated at Rampally

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad:** Sri Rudra Pooja Store was inaugurated at Rampally X Road, opposite Lenscart Showroom, on March 12 in a grand ceremony attended by distinguished guests. Dr. Bondada Raghavendra Rao, Chairman & Managing Director of Bondada Group, and Smt. Bondada Neelima, Director of Bondada Group, graced the event as chief guests. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Bondada Raghavendra Rao expressed his appreciation for the initiative, stating, "It is a great pleasure to inaugurate a store run by Kiran Vemula and Seetharamaiah Garu. Sri Rudra Pooja Stores has gained immense popularity in recent times, and every Hindu following Sanatana Dharma should support such establishments. This store ensures that all essential items for our cultural and religious rituals are available in one place, which is rare. I hope similar stores will soon be established in various areas." The inauguration marked a significant step in providing devotees with easy access to pooja essentials, further enriching the spiritual and cultural fabric of the community.

**Opened by Dr. Bondada Raghavendra Rao & Smt. Bondada Neelima**



## IMD Hyderabad Issues Orange Alert as Summer Intensifies

**TPN Correspondent**

**Telangana:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Hyderabad has issued its first orange alert of the summer season as temperatures continue to soar across Telangana. The alert signals an intense heatwave, with maximum temperatures expected to touch 44 degrees Celsius in some districts by March 16.

According to IMD Hyderabad, the heatwave is likely to impact multiple districts, including Adilabad, Jagtial, Kumuram Bheem, Mancherial, Nirmal, Nizamabad, and Rajanna Sircilla, where a sharp rise in temperatures is anticipated. On Tuesday, Adilabad recorded the highest temperature at 39.9 degrees Celsius, while other districts



like Bhadrachari Kothagudem, Mulugu, and Mancherla also reported temperatures above 39 degrees Celsius. Weather expert T. Balaji, known for his accurate forecasts, advised residents to stay hydrated and avoid stepping out during peak afternoon hours as the heatwave sets in. Hyderabad Braces for Rising Tem-

peratures IMD forecasts indicate that Hyderabad will also witness a rise in temperatures, affecting all major city zones, including Charminar, Khairatabad, Kukatpally, LB Nagar, Secunderabad, and Serilingampally. The highest recorded temperature in the city so far was 36.5 degrees Celsius in Asifnagar, with areas like Khairatabad, Golkonda, Maredpally, Musheerabad, Shaikpet, Nampally, Bandlaguda, and Amberpet experiencing maximum temperatures above 35 degrees Celsius. Residents are urged to take necessary precautions as IMD Hyderabad's orange alert remains in effect for the coming days.

## Osmania University students protest after Blade found in food at hostel



**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad:** A shocking incident occurred at Osmania University, where students discovered blades in the food served at the Godavari hostel mess. This alarming discovery sparked outrage among

students, leading to a protest against the university administration. Students claimed that repeated complaints about food quality, including previous instances of insects and foreign objects in their meals, had been ignored.

They demanded immediate intervention from the Vice-Chancellor and Chief Warden to ensure better food safety measures in hostels. This is not the first time such concerns have been raised. Last year, students at the Ladies Hostel Complex in Amberpet staged a protest over poor food quality. Reports had surfaced about worms being found in the meals, leading to at least 10 students falling ill with stomach-related issues. Protesters stated that the problem had persisted since November 2023.

**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad:** A shocking incident took place near the Temple Bus Stop in KBHB, where a thief stole a two-and-a-half-tula gold Mangala Sutra from a woman who was performing a puja at her residence. The incident, which has raised concerns over security in the area, occurred when the miscreant approached the house pretending to ask for water. According to reports, the woman, engrossed in her prayers, did not suspect any foul play when the stranger requested water. However,

taking advantage of the situation, the thief swiftly snatched the Mangala Sutra and fled from the spot before she could react. Local residents were alerted after the woman raised an alarm, but the culprit had already escaped. The police have registered a case and launched an investigation. Authorities are reviewing CCTV footage from nearby areas to identify the suspect and track his movements. Officials have also urged residents to remain cautious and avoid engaging with strangers under suspicious circumstances.



## Slaughterhouses in Hyderabad to remain shut on March 14



**TPN Correspondent**

**Hyderabad:** The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has announced that all slaughterhouses and retail beef shops within its jurisdiction will remain closed on March 14 in observance of the Hindu festival Holi. GHMC Commissioner Ilambarathi has also requested the city's police commissionerate to instruct officers to assist municipal staff in enforcing the closure order. The directive ensures compliance with traditional festival-related regulations observed in the city.

## YouTuber Sunny Yadav Faces Arrest Over Online Betting Promotion

**TPN Correspondent**

**Telangana:** Popular YouTuber Bayya Sandeep, also known as Sunny Yadav, is facing imminent arrest after a case was registered against him for allegedly promoting online betting apps. TGRTC MD VC Sajjanar lodged a complaint on social media platform X, accusing the YouTuber of endorsing betting platforms across Telegram, Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook. Acting on this complaint, the Nutankal Police Station under Suryapet Commissionerate booked a case against Sunny Yadav.



Authorities have been cracking down on individuals promoting online betting apps, as such platforms have led to severe financial losses and even suicides. Many people, lured by promises of quick earnings, have taken loans to place bets, only to fall into deep

financial distress.

Sajjanar expressed satisfaction over the police action, thanking the Telangana DGP and Suryapet SP for responding swiftly. He emphasized the need for strict legal action against influencers who promote betting apps, arguing that such endorsements put innocent lives at risk. He warned that those misleading youth for monetary gains must face consequences. Sunny Yadav, who gained popularity through bike ride videos on YouTube, is accused of collaborating with betting app operators

to boost his earnings. Sajjanar alleged that Yadav encouraged his followers to invest in these apps, leading to financial ruin for many. He pointed out that such promotions could even push vulnerable individuals towards suicide. The police have booked a case against Sunny Yadav under multiple sections of the IT Act (2000-2008), including 111(2), 318(4), 46, r/w 61(2) BNS, 3, 4 TSGA, 66-C, and 66-D. Authorities have stated that stringent action will be taken to prevent further harm caused by online betting promotions.



## Not from Secunderabad... These 4 Trains Will Now Depart from Cherlapalli!



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Telangana:** The number of trains departing from the newly renovated Cherlapalli railway station is set to increase. Due to the ongoing ₹720 crore redevelopment project at Secunderabad railway station, the South Central Railway has decided to temporarily shift four trains from Secunderabad to Cherlapalli terminal. Officials stated that these changes were made to ensure

smooth progress of the construction work. As per the new schedule, the Krishna Express (17405), running between Tirupati and Adilabad, will depart from Cherlapalli starting March 26 at 8:10 PM, reaching Bollaram station at 9:14 PM. On its return journey (17406), it will reach Bollaram at 4:29 AM and Cherlapalli at 5:45 AM. The Kakinada-Lingampalli Special (07446) will operate from Cherlapalli between April 2 and July 1, departing at 7:20 AM and reaching Lingampalli at 9:15 AM. The return train (07445) will leave Lingampalli at 6:30 PM, reaching Cherlapalli at 7:30 PM. The Hadappur Express (17014) from Kazipet will arrive at Cherlapalli at 8:20 PM, while its return service (17013) will reach Cherlapalli at 3:00 AM, effective from April 22. Similarly, the Janmabhoomi Express (12806), running between Lingampalli and Visakhapatnam, will be shifted to Cherlapalli from April 25, arriving at 7:15 AM and returning at 6:05 PM.

## Murder Allegation Against Mohan Babu Over Soundarya's Death

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Khammam:** A sensational complaint has been filed against Tollywood veteran actor Manchu Mohan Babu, alleging his involvement in the death of late actress Soundarya. The complaint, submitted to the Khammam District Collector and ACP by a person named Chittimallu, claims that Soundarya's death in a helicopter crash in 2004 was not an accident but a planned murder. According to the complainant, Soundarya owned six acres of land in Jalpalli village under Shamshabad limits, which Mohan Babu allegedly wanted her to sell. When Soundarya and her brother Amarnath refused, tensions reportedly escalated. The complaint further alleges that Soundarya was killed while traveling from Bangalore to campaign for



a political party, and that Mohan Babu illegally occupied the disputed land after her death. Chittimallu has demanded that the government seize the land allegedly occupied by Mohan Babu and hand it over to an orphanage, military personnel, police, or journalists. He also called for a fresh investigation into Soundarya's death and voiced support for Manchu Manoj in the ongoing family dispute within the Manchu household. Additionally, he claimed that Mohan Babu's followers have been threatening him and requested police protection. The complainant has also announced his decision to go on a hunger strike to press for his demands. Meanwhile, the complaint has gone viral on social media, sparking debates. Authorities are yet to respond, and Mohan Babu has not issued any statement regarding the allegations.

## Till My Last Breath, I Will be with KCR



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Telangana:** BRS Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy has strongly refuted speculation about his defection, asserting that he will remain loyal to KCR and the BRS party, no matter the circumstances. He dismissed the rumors circulating on social media and certain YouTube channels, calling them false propaganda spread by political rivals. Kaushik Reddy clarified that he has no plans to leave the party and urged BRS workers not to believe misleading reports. "BRS is my family, and KCR is my leader. No one can break my bond with this party," he asserted. He accused the Congress of orchestrating these rumors out of frustration over his growing popularity. The MLA further declared that his entire political career and beliefs are rooted in BRS, and he will stand by KCR regardless of the party's position in power. He announced his decision to file a defamation case against YouTube channels spreading false news and warned of legal action against those involved in misinformation. Kaushik Reddy has been a key figure in protests against the current government and has previously taken a strong stance against party defections. His demand for resignations from MLAs who switched parties has sparked several controversies, leading to multiple cases being filed against him during protests. Despite ongoing rumors about his possible shift to the Congress, he has once again reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to BRS.

## Odisha Man Arrested in Medchal for Smuggling 3.5 Kg Ganja

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Telangana:** The Medchal Prohibition and Excise team arrested a 47-year-old man from Odisha for allegedly smuggling 3.5 kilograms of ganja into the city. The accused, identified as B. Sarkar, was reportedly supplying the contraband to construction workers in and around Medchal. Based on a tip-off, a team led by Sub-Inspector Raghaveshwar Rao apprehended Sarkar while he was transporting the ganja from Malkangiri, Odisha. Officials revealed that he had been regularly bringing ganja into the city and selling it to local labourers. A case has been registered against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and he has been remanded into custody. Authorities are investigating further to track his supply network.



## Police Welfare Department Opens First Petrol Bunk in Siddipet



**TPN Correspondent**  
**Siddipet:** The Police Welfare Society Telangana has inaugurated its first petrol bunk in Siddipet at Ponnala village, opposite the Police Convention Centre. The initiative aims to generate funds for the welfare of police personnel in the district. Siddipet Collector M Manu Chowdary and Commissioner of Police B Anurad-

ha formally inaugurated the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) petrol bunk on Wednesday. They emphasized that the earnings from the bunk would be utilized for the welfare of the police force. Speaking at the event, Commissioner Anuradha stated that the petrol bunk would serve the general public with quality fuel. Additionally, she announced that the Police Convention Centre would be available for public rental, with the proceeds also contributing to welfare initiatives. The event was attended by ADCP Subhas Chandra Bose, ACPs Madhu, Purushottam Reddy, Sathish, Ravindar, and IOCL senior officials, including Senior Manager Kosuri Srinivas and Manager (Siddipet) Amith Kumar.

## ACB Arrests Deputy Executive Engineer for Accepting Rs 50,000 Bribe

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Telangana:** The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has arrested Jinnamwar Shankar, a Deputy Executive Engineer in the Educational and Welfare Infrastructure Development Corporation (EWIDC), for accepting a bribe in exchange for clearing an official bill. Shankar was caught red-handed while accepting Rs 50,000, which was the first installment of a Rs 1,00,000 bribe. Initially, he had demanded Rs 2,00,000 from a complainant who was constructing a Minority Residential School (Girls) building in Adilabad Town. The bribe was sought for clear-

ing a pending Rs 2 crore bill related to the project. Acting on a complaint, ACB officials conducted a sting operation, leading to his arrest. Following the arrest, Shankar was produced before a special court for ACB cases. The ACB has intensified anti-corruption raids across Telangana, targeting officials involved in bribery and misconduct. Recent operations have been conducted in Adilabad, Medak, and Khammam, as part of efforts to ensure transparency and integrity in government offices.

## Cyber criminals arrested for nude call extortion attempt on Congress MLA

**TPN Correspondent**  
**Nakirekal:** Cyber criminals who made nude calls and attempted to extort Congress MLA Vemula Veeresham from Nakirekal have been arrested. A week ago, the accused video-called the MLA, re-

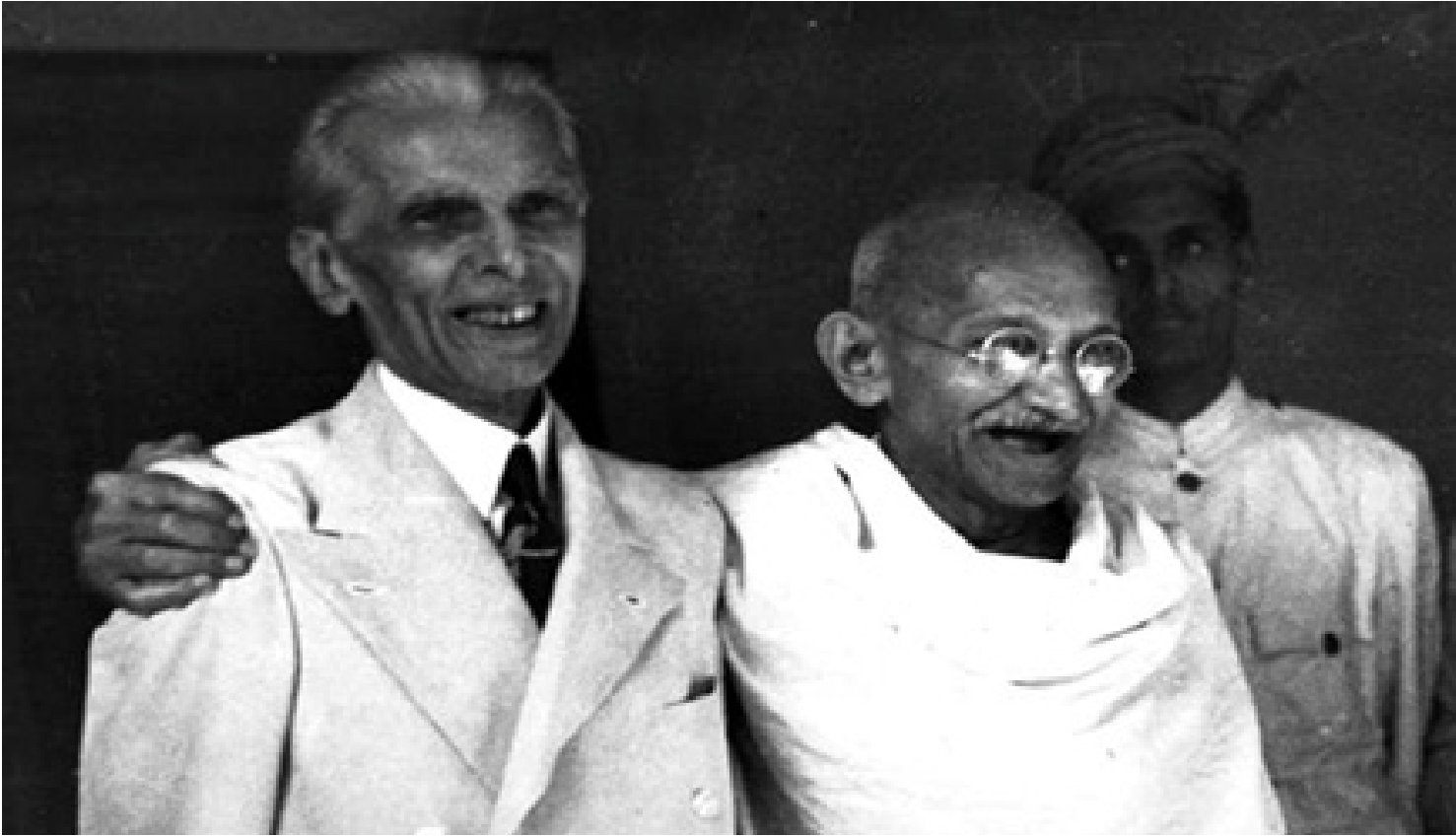
corded a few moments, and sent the footage to him while demanding money. When the MLA refused to comply, they allegedly circulated the video to some Congress leaders. Following the incident, Veeresham filed a complaint

with the police, demanding strict action. The police registered a case and began an investigation. With the assistance of Madhya Pradesh police, they identified the criminals, arrested them, and brought them to Nakirekal for further legal proceedings.





# Why Pakistan Rejected Gandhi's Non-Violence?



The narrative surrounding India's struggle for independence often highlights Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence, or ahimsa, as the decisive force that compelled the British to relinquish their hold on India. The Congress party has played a significant role in promoting this view, suggesting that Gandhi's teachings were the cornerstone of the freedom movement. However, this perspective can obscure the complex realities of the time, particularly the violent upheaval that accompanied the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947. Partition led to one of the largest mass migrations in history, resulting in the deaths of millions and the displacement of countless others—primarily Hindus and Sikhs fleeing

to India and Muslims moving to Pakistan. This tragic chapter underscores the limitations of non-violence in the face of deep-seated communal tensions and animosities. While Gandhi's teachings profoundly influenced India, they did not resonate in the same way across the border in Pakistan. Why did the people of Pakistan not embrace the principles of ahimsa and non-violence that Gandhi championed? While many Indians found solace and strength in Gandhi's message, the response from Pakistanis was markedly different. Attempts by Indian leaders to engage with Pakistan on the basis of peace and reconciliation often fell flat, as they failed to address the underlying hostilities



**Dr. Buragadda Srinadh**

and grievances exacerbated by partition. The historical context of Pa-

- **The division of the country also divided Gandhiji's philosophy of Non-Violence, with Pakistan embracing violence while India upheld Non-Violence.**
- **Pakistan resorted to violence to instigate unrest in Kashmir and Punjab by supporting separatist movements, and now it is grappling with the consequences of its actions.**
- **The very survival of Pakistan is in jeopardy. It is crucial for Pakistan to relinquish its claim over occupied Kashmir and seek assistance from India to address its internal challenges.**
- **India, under the inspiring leadership of Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi, stands as a global advocate for peace, desires people from both sides to coexist harmoniously and thrive together with peace and prosperity**

kistan's creation—rooted in a desire for a separate identity and autonomy—contributed to a mindset resistant to Gandhian ideals. Had the people of Pakistan genuinely adopted the principles of non-violence, the bloodshed of partition might have been prevented, saving countless lives. The stark reality is that the legacy of partition continues to shape India-Pakistan relations, with lingering animosities and conflicts persisting for decades. As we reflect on over seventy years of independence, it is increasingly important for the current generation to understand the complexities of the Pakistani mindset and the historical factors that have influenced it. The failure of Gandhi to instill the

concept of non-violence in Pakistan raises critical questions about the willingness of its people to embrace such ideals. It invites a deeper examination of the cultural, political, and social dynamics that have shaped Pakistan since its inception. Understanding these realities is essential for fostering meaningful dialogue and reconciliation between the two nations. As we move forward, achieving lasting peace will require more than just the promotion of non-violence—it will demand a genuine willingness among people of all faiths to accept it as a fundamental truth and way of life. In an increasingly fragile world, peaceful coexistence is not just desirable but essential for the welfare of all humanity.

## Does Congress Stand a Chance for Revival in Gujarat?

THE POINT DESK

Rahul Gandhi has set his sights on reviving Congress in Gujarat, boldly asserting that the party will defeat the BJP in the 2027 assembly elections. However, history and electoral trends suggest that reclaiming Gujarat after three decades out of power is an uphill task. While Gandhi acknowledges internal sabotage as a significant hurdle, his ambitious 'Mission Gujarat' will require more than just replacing a handful of leaders. Congress must undergo a deep structural transformation if it hopes to challenge the BJP's dominance in the state.

### The 2022 Setback

Gujarat has been BJP's stronghold for decades, and the 2022 assembly election only reinforced this. Congress suffered a massive blow, securing just 17 seats—a steep fall from its 2017 tally of 77. Its vote share plummeted to 27%, a drastic decline from 42% in 2017. Meanwhile, the BJP secured a record 156 seats with a 53% vote share, while AAP, despite being a newcomer, managed to bag 13% votes, largely at the expense of Congress. This downward trajectory is particularly concerning as Congress had, for years, maintained a steady vote share between 38% and 42%. However, internal defections, weak leadership, and failure to connect with Gujarat's evolving electorate have steadily eroded its support. The party now finds itself struggling not just against BJP's electoral machinery but also against an increasingly competitive opposition space.

### Fixing the Leadership Crisis

Rahul Gandhi's recent remarks about certain Congress leaders being in "collusion" with the BJP are not entirely unfounded. Over the years, many Congress MLAs have defected to the BJP, weakening the party from within. Even in the current assembly, Congress has already lost four MLAs to the BJP, reducing its tally to just 13. However, placing the blame solely on individual defectors is not enough. The Congress high command itself has repeatedly failed to retain key leaders. After the 2017 elections, young faces like Hardik Patel and Alpesh Thakor, who had once energized the party, left for the BJP due to dissatisfaction with Congress's senior leadership. Patel accused the party of lacking seriousness, while Thakor cited the absence of strong leadership and representation for OBCs. To regain lost ground, Congress must rebuild from within, promoting leaders who are genuinely committed to the party's ideology and grassroots work. Leadership in Gujarat cannot be dictated solely from Delhi—it requires strong state-level figures who can connect with local voters and challenge the BJP's dominance effectively.

### Winning Over Urban Voters



One of Congress's biggest weaknesses in Gujarat is its inability to make inroads into urban constituencies. While the party has traditionally held a decent presence in rural areas, BJP's grip on urban Gujarat has remained unshaken. In the 2017 elections, Congress led BJP 62-43 in rural seats but was heavily outnumbered in urban areas, trailing 15-57. Major cities like Ahmedabad, Vadodara, and Gandhinagar remain BJP bastions, where Congress has struggled to appeal to the dominant middle class.

To change this, Congress must rebrand itself as a party that speaks to urban aspirations. BJP's narrative of being a pro-business, development-driven party has resonated strongly with Gujarat's middle class, while Congress is often perceived as leaning too much towards populism. A targeted approach addressing urban infrastructure, employment, and economic opportunities could help shift this perception.

### AAP's Decline—An Opportunity?

The emergence of AAP in Gujarat further complicated Congress's position in 2022, as a significant chunk of Congress's traditional vote base drifted towards the new entrant. However, AAP's recent setbacks, particularly in Delhi, and the tarnishing of Arvind Kejriwal's 'clean' image, could create an opening for Congress to reclaim lost ground. But this will only be possible if Congress presents itself as a viable alternative, rather than being a party that merely benefits from BJP-AAP conflicts. Reviving Congress in Gujarat is not a short-term project—it requires consistent effort, organizational restructuring, and a shift in strategy. Removing inactive or compromised leaders is just the first step. The party must build a strong leadership team at the state level, re-engage with its lost voter base, and craft a compelling narrative that resonates with Gujarat's electorate. Without a strategic, long-term vision, Congress risks remaining a distant challenger in a state where BJP's dominance seems unshakable.

## Could Canada Ever Join the European Union?

### A Bold Idea with Many Hurdles

The idea of Canada joining the European Union (EU) has recently gained traction, with a notable 44% of Canadians supporting such a move, according to a recent Abacus Data survey. This speculation has been fueled by strained US-Canada relations, particularly under President Donald Trump, and the EU's refusal to outright dismiss the possibility of Canadian membership. However, while the idea is intriguing, several significant obstacles stand in the way, ranging from geography to historical precedent and EU membership criteria.

### The Appeal of EU Membership for Canada

Canada and the EU already share strong economic and cultural ties. The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) has solidified Canada's position as a key trading partner of the EU, making it the second-largest destination for Canadian exports after the United States. Additionally, Canada shares linguistic ties with Europe, with both English and French being official languages of the EU. Beyond economics, shared democratic values and a commitment to human rights make Canada a natural ideological ally to the EU. European Commission spokeswoman Paula Pinho acknowledged this alignment, noting that Canada and the EU are "like-minded partners which share many, many, many values and also strong historical connections." Given these factors, some Canadians may see EU membership as an opportunity to further align with a stable and influential economic bloc, especially as tensions with the US create uncertainty about the future of North American trade relations.

### Criteria and Geographic Challenges

Despite the benefits of closer ties, the fundamental challenge remains: Canada is not in Europe. Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union states that any "European state" that respects democratic values can apply for membership. However, the treaty does not define what constitutes a "European state," leaving room for interpretation. Historical precedents suggest that geography matters. In 1987, Morocco's application to join the EU was rejected explicitly on the grounds that it was not a European country. In contrast, countries such as Ukraine, Moldova,



and Georgia—though outside the EU's current borders—have had their applications accepted for consideration due to their geographic and cultural proximity to Europe. Canada's closest territorial connection to Europe is Greenland, an autonomous Danish territory. While this link is notable, it is unlikely to be enough to override the EU's general preference for maintaining a geographically coherent membership.

### Economic and Strategic Considerations

Given Canada's existing free trade agreement with the EU, formal membership may not be necessary to deepen economic ties. The CETA agreement already allows Canada to enjoy significant trade benefits without assuming the responsibilities and constraints of EU membership. Furthermore, EU membership would require Canada to adopt EU regulations, policies, and potentially even the euro. These changes could be politically unpalatable and economically disruptive, especially given Canada's strong financial system and independent trade policies.

### The Geopolitical Context

Speculation about Canada's potential EU membership is also driven by broader geopolitical shifts. Trump's remarks about Canada potentially becoming the "51st state" highlight the pressures Canada faces in maintaining its sovereignty and economic independence. At the same time, the EU's willingness to discuss membership criteria with non-traditional candidates like Canada reflects a changing global landscape where alliances are increasingly fluid. However, interest in discussions does not equate to a realistic path toward membership.





## Jio Signs Deal With Elon Musk's SpaceX To Offer Starlink Services In India

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Reliance Group's digital services arm, Jio Platforms Limited, has entered into an agreement with SpaceX to offer Starlink's broadband internet services to customers in India, the company announced on Wednesday. However, the agreement is contingent upon SpaceX receiving authorization from the Indian government to sell Starlink in the country.

This development comes just a day after Jio's competitor, Bharti Airtel, signed a similar deal with SpaceX to bring Starlink services to India.

Mathew Oommen, Group CEO of Reliance Jio, expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration, calling it a transformative step toward enhancing broadband connectivity in India. He stated, "By integrating Starlink into Jio's broadband ecosystem, we are expanding our reach and improving the reliability and accessibility of high-speed broadband, empowering communities and businesses across the country."

The agreement will allow Jio and SpaceX to explore ways to extend Jio's offerings and enhance Starlink's services to consumers and businesses. Jio will distribute Starlink's solutions through its retail outlets and online platforms, further expanding the reach of high-speed internet across the nation.

By leveraging Jio's position as the world's largest mobile operator in terms of data traffic and SpaceX's leadership in low Earth orbit satellite constellations, the partnership aims to provide reliable broadband services, particularly in India's most remote and rural regions. Jio will also offer Starlink equipment at its retail stores and will set up a system to assist with customer service, installation, and activation. The collaboration aims to ensure reliable internet access for enterprises, small businesses, and communities across India.

Additionally, the partnership between Jio and SpaceX is expected to complement Jio's existing internet services, such as JioAirFiber and JioFiber, by providing high-speed internet in areas that are difficult to reach.

SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell praised Jio's commitment to improving India's connectivity, expressing eagerness to work together once the necessary government authorization is obtained.

# PM Modi, Mauritius PM Inaugurate Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute

- Institute to foster leadership, research, public service
- Modi receives Mauritius' Highest National Award
- He honors India-Mauritius cultural ties
- Pledges stronger strategic partnership

TPN Correspondent | Port Louis

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alongside Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam, inaugurated the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation on Wednesday. The institute aims to become a hub for learning, research, and innovation, fostering new leadership and ideas for the future.

In a post on X, PM Modi expressed that the institute would focus on advancing public service, research, and innovation, and help in nurturing leadership for the coming generations. He added, "It will serve as a hub for learning, research, and public service, foster-



ing new ideas and leadership for the future. It also strengthens our shared commitment to progress and development."

Earlier in the day, PM Modi was conferred the Highest National Award of Mauritius during a ceremony held on the National Day. Despite heavy rainfall, thousands of people gathered to witness the event. Modi expressed his heartfelt gratitude for receiving the prestigious honor, calling it not only a personal recognition but also an acknowledgment of the 1.4 billion Indians he represents. "This is not just my honor, it is the honor of 1.4 billion Indians. It is a tribute to the centuries-old cultural and historical bonds of kinship between India and Mauritius," said PM Modi.

He emphasized the strong ties between India and Mauritius, stating that the award symbolized the shared commitment to regional peace, progress, security, and sustainable development. He dedicated the award to the Indian ancestors who migrated to Mauritius and contributed to the nation's rich diversity. "Through their hard work, they wrote a golden chapter in the development of Mauritius and contributed to its vibrant diversity," he remarked.

PM Modi also reiterated his commitment to strengthening the India-Mauritius Strategic Partnership, aiming to elevate bilateral relations to new heights in the future.

## Tamil actor-politician Vijay slams Nirmala Sitharaman over Periyar remarks

TPN Correspondent | NEW DELHI

Tamil actor-politician Vijay has come to the defense of social reformer Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, criticizing the BJP for using the Dravidian leader's legacy to deflect criticism of the Union government. Vijay highlighted Periyar's contributions to social reform, emphasizing his opposition to child marriage, support for widow remarriage, and fight against caste-based discrimination.

He also underscored Periyar's early advocacy for reservation, saying, "People still praise him today because he spoke about reservation for social justice a hundred years ago," pointing out the relevance of his ideas in modern India. Vijay questioned whether the Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, was truly upset about Periyar's controversial remarks on Tamil, asking, "Should the Union Finance Minister stop imposing the trilingual policy

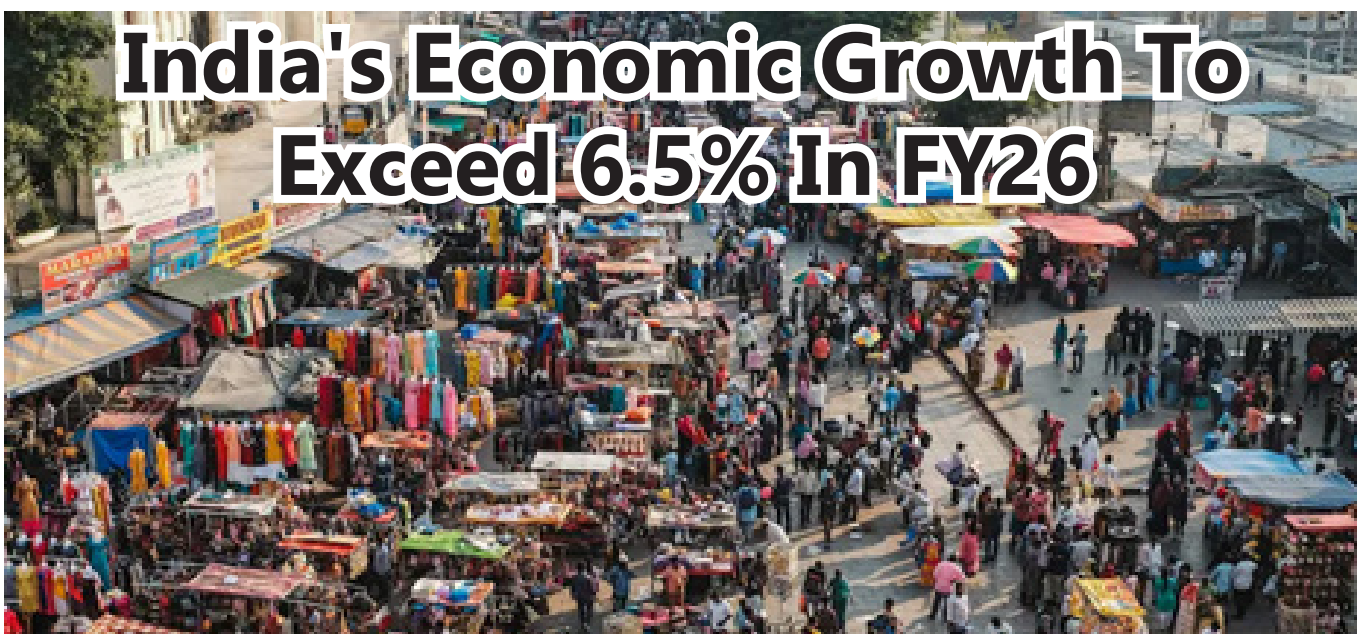


views?"

Vijay's remarks come in response to Sitharaman's speech in the Lok Sabha, where she criticized the DMK for idolizing Periyar, despite his alleged disparaging remarks about the Tamil language. Sitharaman did not mention Peri-

yar by name but referred to him as someone who called Tamil a "barbaric" language. She accused the DMK of hypocrisy for venerating a person who allegedly spoke ill of Tamil while claiming to defend the language.

The controversy has also reignited the debate over the National Education Policy (NEP). Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan accused the DMK of misleading students in Tamil Nadu regarding the NEP, particularly its three-language formula. The DMK responded by reiterating its opposition to the formula and asserting that it would not accept the NEP in full. The party also stated that the Centre could not withhold education funds over Tamil Nadu's refusal to implement the policy. Vijay's defense of Periyar and his criticism of the BJP and the Centre highlight the ongoing tension between Tamil Nadu's political leadership and the Union government over cultural and educational policies.



## India's Economic Growth To Exceed 6.5% In FY26

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Moody's Ratings has forecasted India's economic growth to exceed 6.5% in the next fiscal year, up from 6.3% projected for the current year. This growth is attributed to higher government capital expenditure (capex), tax cuts, and interest rate reductions, which are expected to boost consumption.

The global credit rating agency has projected a stable outlook for India's banking sector, citing a favorable operating environment for banks in the coming fiscal year. However, it anticipates a moderate deterioration in asset quality following significant improvements in recent years. Moody's specifically highlighted stress in unsecured retail loans, microfinance loans, and small business loans as key areas of concern. Despite this, the profitability of banks is expected to remain adequate, with declines in net interest margins (NIMs) likely to be marginal due to modest rate cuts.

India's economic growth is expected to rebound after a temporary slowdown in mid-2024, with projections

for one of the fastest growth rates among large economies globally. The finance ministry's Economic Survey has projected GDP growth for the next fiscal year in the range of 6.3% to 6.8%. Official estimates suggest that GDP growth for the current fiscal year will be around 6.5%.

Moody's anticipates India's inflation rate to decline to 4.5% in fiscal 2025-26, down from 4.8% in the previous year. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised interest rates by 250 basis points between May 2022 and February 2023 to control inflation. However, it lowered the policy rate by 25 basis points to 6.25% in February 2025. Moody's expects any future rate cuts to be modest, as the RBI maintains a cautious stance amid global uncertainties, including US trade policies and exchange rate volatility.

The ratings agency also forecasts that system-wide loan growth will slow to 11-13% in fiscal 2025-26, compared to an average of 17% for the period from March 2022 to March 2024, as banks align loan growth with deposit expansion.

## "Prioritize childbirth": Udhayanidhi Stalin's Advice To Newlyweds

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Amid growing concerns over the potential loss of parliamentary seats due to delimitation, Tamil Nadu's political leaders have appealed to the public to have more children. Chief Minister MK Stalin's recent call for population growth was followed by his son, Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, who made a similar request at a mass wedding event in Chennai.

During the ceremony, Udhayanidhi Stalin urged the newlyweds to focus on having children immediately, though he humorously added, "but not too many." He linked the issue to Tamil Nadu's implementation of early birth control measures, which he argued may now result in the state losing up to eight seats in the upcoming delimitation process. In contrast, northern states, which failed to manage their population growth, would see an increase of around 100 seats.

The Deputy CM emphasized the need to preserve Tamil culture and identity, encouraging parents to give their children Tamil names. He further mentioned that Tamil Nadu's success in implementing family planning has contributed to the current dilemma of potentially losing representation in Parliament.

This issue has become particularly sensitive as the delimitation exercise looms ahead of the 2029 general elections. Con-



cerns about losing seats and political influence in comparison to northern states have sparked similar reactions across South India. In Andhra Pradesh, for instance, Kalisetti Appala Naidu, an MP from the Telugu Desam Party, announced a cash reward of Rs 50,000 for women giving birth to a third child, with additional incentives for those delivering boys.

Union Minister Amit Shah recently addressed the issue, assuring southern states that their seat share would remain unaffected. He assured the public that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had ensured no reduction in southern states' representation. Shah accused MK Stalin and Udhayanidhi Stalin of trying to distract the public with such concerns, emphasizing that the government had already clarified its stance on the matter.



# Ukraine Agrees To Ceasefire Proposal, US Says "Ball Now In Russia's Court"

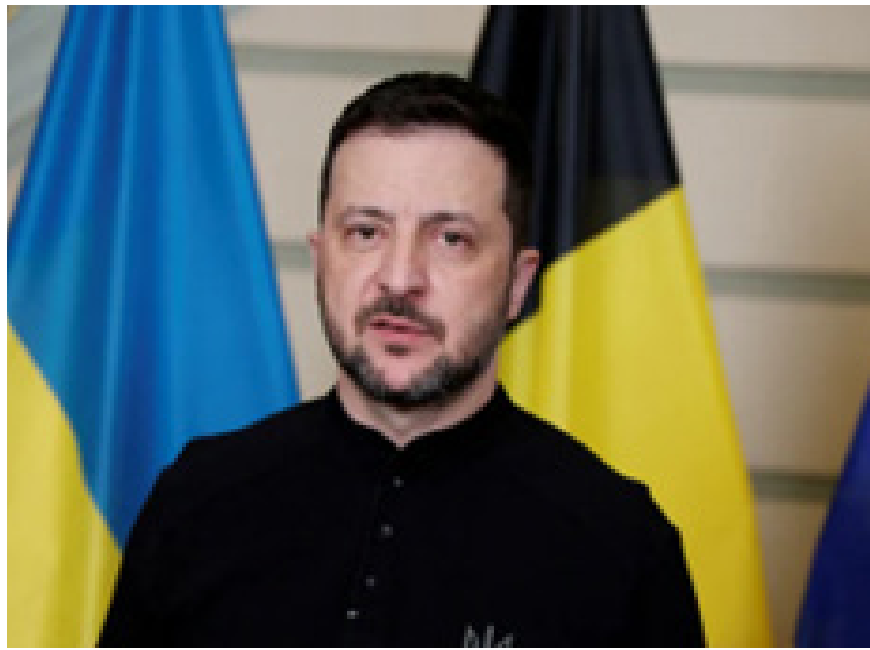
- Accepts 30-day ceasefire proposal, agrees to talks with Russia
- U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio confirms Ukraine's commitment
- Trump resumes military aid, expresses optimism for swift resolution
- Ukraine urges Russia to clarify its stance on peace negotiations

TPN Correspondent | Ukraine

In a significant shift in the ongoing war, Ukraine has endorsed an American proposal for a 30-day ceasefire and agreed to immediate negotiations with Russia, following intensive talks in Jeddah on Tuesday. This breakthrough comes after three years of conflict, with tens of thousands of lives lost and extensive devastation in Ukraine.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio confirmed that Ukraine had agreed to enter into the ceasefire and begin direct negotiations with Russia. "Today we made an offer that the Ukrainians have accepted, which is to enter into a ceasefire and into immediate negotiations," Rubio stated after nearly nine hours of discussions. The United States now hopes Russia will reciprocate the peace offer, but if they refuse, the blame for the continued conflict will be squarely placed on Moscow.

In a shift of U.S. policy, President Donald Trump's administration,



which had previously cut military aid to Ukraine following a contentious meeting with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on February 28, announced it would resume providing military assistance and intelligence sharing. Trump also expressed optimism about the ceasefire, stating, "I hope it will be over the next few days." Zelenskyy, in response, thanked Presi-

dent Trump for his "constructive" approach and noted that the U.S. had recognized Ukraine's proposals. He also emphasized that the key to peace now lies in Russia's response.

However, the path to lasting peace remains fraught with challenges. Despite the U.S. urging Moscow to agree to the ceasefire, Russia's

actions on the ground—such as increased attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure—suggest they may not yet be ready to end the war. Ukrainian officials are pressing Russia to make a clear commitment to peace, with top advisor Andriy Yermak stating, "Russia needs to say, very clearly, they want peace or not."

Trump's diplomatic overture has raised concerns among European allies, particularly France and Germany, who are wary of his departure from traditional NATO positions, including his rejection of Ukraine's NATO membership. In Poland, a strong supporter of Ukraine, Prime Minister Donald Tusk welcomed the U.S.-Ukraine ceasefire agreement but stressed that any deal must ensure Ukraine's long-term security.

Despite the uncertainty surrounding Russia's response, the Jeddah talks signal a significant shift in global diplomacy, with the focus now moving from "if" the war will end to "how" it will conclude.



## Greenland's Nationalist Party Gains Ground in Surprise Election Amid Trump's Interest

TPN Correspondent | Denmark

In a surprising turn of events, the centre-right opposition in Greenland has secured a significant victory in the territory's legislative elections, marking a surge in support for the nationalist Naleraq party, which advocates for rapid independence.

While the vote count was still ongoing, the Democratic Party, which is social-liberal and supports independence in the long term, led with a commanding share of the vote, according to Greenland's public broadcaster KNR. However, the nationalist Naleraq party, the most vocal pro-independence group, was set to achieve a "stunning" result.

The election attracted unprecedented international attention, primarily due to US President Donald Trump's previous interest in acquiring Greenland. Trump has long expressed his desire to control the vast Arctic island, citing its strategic significance.

Outgoing Prime Minister Mute Egede of the Inuit Ataqatigiit (IA) party respected the election outcome, while the leader of the Siumut party, IA's coalition partner, conceded defeat. With no party securing a majority in Greenland's 31-seat parliament, coalition negotiations are expected in the coming days. The newly formed government will likely focus on drafting a timeline for independence, a goal that enjoys widespread support among Greenland's 57,000 residents.

Jens-Frederik Nielsen, the 33-year-old leader of the Democratic Party, expressed surprise at the election results and emphasized his party's commitment to unity and dialogue with all factions. "We didn't expect the election to have this outcome, we're very happy," he said.

Amid these discussions, Greenlanders' frustrations with Denmark's colonial legacy and the financial dependence on Danish subsidies have further fueled calls for independence. While the Naleraq party seeks a quick exit from Denmark, citing the mineral wealth that could fuel Greenland's economy, other parties prefer a more gradual approach, citing the island's dependence on fisheries and Danish financial support.

Trump's recent comments urging Greenlanders to join the US were met with resistance from the majority, further complicating the independence debate. Some fear that independence could lead to increased pressure from the US, making ties with Denmark appear more appealing.

# Pakistan Launches "Full Scale" Ops Against Train Hijackers, 155 Hostages Rescued

TPN Correspondent | Pakistan

Pakistan has initiated a large-scale military operation to rescue hostages from the Jaffar Express, which was hijacked by armed rebels in the volatile Balochistan region. So far, security forces have successfully rescued 155 passengers, including women and children, after engaging in a fierce gunfight with the rebels. The rescued passengers were taken to Mach, a nearby town, where a makeshift hospital has been set up to provide medical care.

The situation escalated overnight as the gunfight between Pakistani

forces and the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) continued. While over 150 hostages have been freed, it remains unclear how many passengers are still held by the attackers. The BLA, a prominent separatist group, claimed to have killed 30 soldiers, though this has not been confirmed by official sources. The rebels split into smaller groups and attempted to escape, but the military has surrounded them in the area.

The hijacking occurred when the attackers intercepted the Jaffar



Express, which was traveling from Quetta to Peshawar. The rebels blew up the tracks, halting the train in a remote tunnel, and killed the locomotive driver. The BLA, which has long been seeking independence for Balochistan,

demanding the release of Baloch political prisoners and missing persons by the military within 48 hours. They threatened to destroy the train and execute hostages if their demands were not met.

One passenger, who managed to escape by walking for hours through the mountains, described how the rebels separated people from Pakistan's Punjab region and took them away. The attackers also reportedly killed two soldiers in front of the hostages.

# After DeepSeek, China Launches 'Manus', New AI Assistan

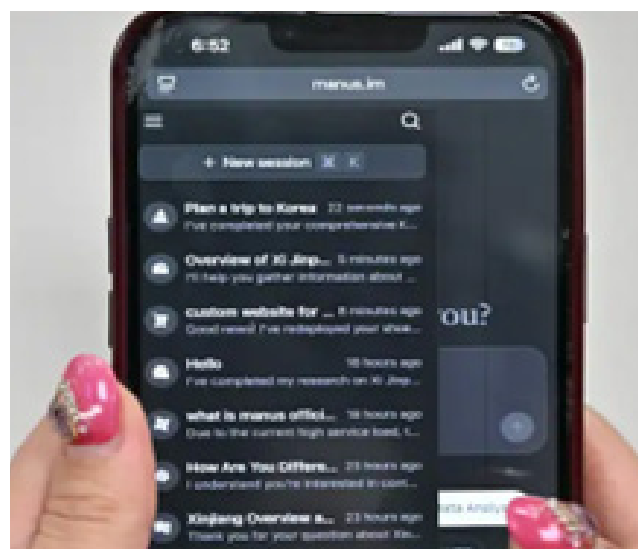
TPN Correspondent | Beijing

A new AI tool, Manus, is quickly gaining attention in China, sparking speculation that it could follow in the footsteps of DeepSeek, a chatbot that made waves globally earlier this year. Manus, an AI agent considered more advanced than a typical chatbot, can perform a wide range of tasks, including analyzing the stock market and creating personalized travel guides, according to its website.

Manus was launched last week by Chinese startup Butterfly Effect. In a viral introductory video, co-founder Yichao "Peak" Ji referred to Manus as "the next paradigm of human-machine collaboration," possibly even offering a glimpse of artificial general intelligence (AGI), which aims to mimic human-like thinking. Manus has generated significant interest despite being accessible by invitation only, with its official Discord server amassing over 170,000 members.

The tool's name, derived from the Latin phrase "Mens et Manus" meaning "mind and hand," reflects its combination of knowledge and practical application. Unlike chatbots like DeepSeek or ChatGPT, which respond to user prompts, Manus can autonomously execute tasks, such as booking tickets or sorting resumes.

Manus's exclusive beta access and focus on enterprise clients set it apart from other AI applications. However, some analysts warn that this closed ecosystem could hinder its widespread adoption. Despite this, Manus's ability to complete more complex tasks—such as creating custom websites—distinguishes it from competitors, although



it has faced challenges with response times.

One notable feature of Manus is its uncensored responses to sensitive political topics. Unlike DeepSeek, which follows government-approved narratives, Manus provides detailed, objective information on topics like the Tiananmen Square crackdown and human rights issues in Xinjiang. This openness may be attributed to Manus's design, which prioritizes task execution over content control.

Whether Manus can become a mainstream success like DeepSeek remains uncertain. Analysts suggest that Manus's potential depends on its ability to scale, handle technical challenges, and navigate ethical and regulatory concerns. Its future success in the enterprise automation space remains to be seen.

# "Entirely Unjustified": Australia's Anthony Criticizes US Tariffs on Steel and Aluminium

TPN Correspondent | Australia

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has condemned the United States' decision to impose 25 percent tariffs on steel and aluminium, calling the move "entirely unjustified" after the White House rejected Australia's request for an exemption.

"This is not a friendly act," Albanese told reporters on Wednesday, expressing his disappointment at the US decision. The Australian Prime Minister stated that the imposition of tariffs goes against the long-standing friendship between the two nations. "Quite clearly, it is not a positive step in our relationship," Albanese added.

The tariffs, which are part of US President Donald Trump's broader trade measures, will affect various countries, including close allies like Australia. Albanese expressed his frustration over the decision, highlighting that it is contrary to the spirit of the alliance. "Friends need to act in a way that reinforces, to our respective populations, the fact that we are friends," he said.

Despite the setback, Albanese made it clear that Australia would not retaliate. He stressed that tariffs and escalating trade tensions are ultimately detrimental to both economies, leading to slower growth and higher inflation. "Tariffs are a form of economic self-harm," he remarked.

Earlier this year, Albanese had hinted that Australia might secure an exemption fol-



lowing a phone call with President Trump in February, where the US leader agreed that an exemption was under consideration. However, White House officials confirmed overnight that this exemption was no longer on the table. "He considered it, and considered against it," said White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt.

While Australia is not a major global player in steel exports, it is a dominant supplier of iron ore, which is a critical component in steel production. Australian steel producer BlueScope, which employs around 4,000 people in the US, could also be impacted by the tariffs. Despite the tension, Albanese reiterated that Australia would not engage in retaliatory measures.



# Markets End Flat as Nifty Holds 22,300; IT Drags, Banks Support



**Voltas Ltd (VOLTAS)**  
Voltas saw a strong rise, gaining 2.77% to close at ₹1,445.05. The stock benefited from positive sentiment in the consumer durables sector, with expectations of rising demand for cooling products ahead of the summer season. The company's strong brand positioning and expansion plans further boosted investor confidence.



strengthened investor sentiment.

**Bharat Forge Ltd (BHARATFORG)**  
Bharat Forge advanced 2.43% to ₹1,090.20, driven by optimism in the auto and engineering segments. The company's global expansion strategy, strong order book, and improving defense sector contributions have supported its stock price. Increased exports and higher demand in domestic infrastructure projects have also contributed to its recent gains.

**KPR Mill Ltd (KPRMILL)**



KPR Mill inched up by 0.85% to ₹894.00, supported by steady demand in the textile sector. The company's focus on value-added products, sustainable textile production, and strong export orders have helped maintain investor interest. Recent capacity expansions and cost-effective operations have also been key drivers for its stock performance.



**Emami Ltd (EMAMILTD)**  
Emami Ltd surged 3.12% to ₹567.00, supported by strong investor interest in FMCG stocks amid expectations of improved earnings growth. The company's focus on premiumization, rural demand recovery, and new prod-



uct launches contributed to the positive momentum. Analysts believe that its cost-control measures and strategic acquisitions will drive future growth.

**Aditya Birla Capital Ltd (ABCAPITAL)**  
Aditya Birla Capital gained 3.17% to close at ₹162.90, reflecting increased buying interest in the financial services sector. The company's diversified presence in lending, insurance, and asset management segments has made it a key player in the market. Positive earnings expectations and steady business growth have

Domestic stock markets ended flat on Wednesday, with benchmark indices fluctuating throughout the session. The indices, which opened with gains, gradually declined due to mixed signals from global markets. Despite IT stocks



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facing heavy selling pressure, the Nifty managed to recover from intraday losses, holding strong at 22,300 with support from banking and financial shares. Oil and auto stocks also contributed to market stability. Notably, indices are showing signs of consolidation. By the end of the session, the Nifty lost 27 points, while the Sensex declined by 72 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 74,102 in the previous session, opened at 74,270 on Wednesday. It hit an intraday low of 73,598 and a high of 74,392 before closing at 74,029, down 72 points. The NSE Nifty opened at 22,536, touched a low of 22,329 and a high of 22,577, losing 27 points to settle at 22,470. Meanwhile, the Nifty Bank gained 202 points, closing at 48,056.

Among the Nifty50 stocks, 19 gained while 31 declined. Private banking, healthcare, finance, auto, pharma, bank, oil, and energy stocks performed well, while IT, realty, media, PSU bank, consumption, and metal stocks faced selling pressure. Top gainers included IndusInd Bank, Tata Mo-

tors, Kotak Bank, Bajaj Finance, and ITC, while Infosys, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, Nestle, and TCS were the biggest losers.

Market breadth on the NSE remained negative, with 993 stocks advancing while 1,830 declined out of the 2,962 traded stocks. Additionally, 20 stocks hit 52-week highs, while 234 stocks touched 52-week lows. A total of 69 stocks hit the upper circuit, whereas 160 stocks hit the lower circuit.

On the macroeconomic front, industrial production surged to an eight-month high of 5% in January. The rupee remained stable, settling at 87.32 against the US dollar. RailTel Corporation announced its second interim dividend of ₹1 per share for FY25. TCS extended its partnership with Coop Denmark. Meanwhile, Morgan Stanley assigned an underweight rating to Bank of Baroda with a target price of ₹215. InterGlobe Aviation's board approved an investment in InterGlobe Aviation Financial Services. Reliance, Airtel, and Hindustan Unilever were selected as top picks by Motilal Oswal. Fitch assigned a BBB-rating to Adani Ports. Infosys saw 16 lakh shares change hands, and Power Finance Corporation's board approved raising ₹1,40,000 crore in FY26.

# Retail inflation at 7-month low of 3.6%, thanks to slowing food prices

India's retail inflation has dropped to a seven-month low of 3.6% in February 2025, driven by easing food prices, including vegetables, pulses, and eggs. This marks a significant decline from the 4.26% inflation recorded in January 2025.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which tracks retail prices, has slowed for the fourth consecutive month, dipping by 65 basis points from January to February. This brings inflation within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target range of 4%, increasing expectations that the central bank may implement a 0.25% rate cut at its upcoming monetary policy meeting.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) highlighted that the February CPI reading is the lowest year-on-year inflation since July 2024, reflecting a slowdown in price increases. The Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), which tracks food inflation, saw a significant slowdown, rising by only 3.75% in February, the slowest in nearly two years. This was a sharp contrast to the 5.9% increase in January 2025.

The easing of food inflation was largely driven by a decline in vegetable prices, which deflated by 1%, compared to double-digit in-



flation earlier in the fiscal year. Notably, tomato prices dropped, while the rate of inflation for potatoes slowed, although onion prices rose at a faster pace. Pulses, which had seen consistent price increases, saw a 1.35% deflation, marking the first negative growth in pulses inflation this fiscal year.

The easing food prices, coupled with a high base effect, contribut-

ed to the dip in overall inflation. Rural consumers saw inflation decrease to 3.8%, down from 4.6% in the previous month, while urban inflation slowed to 3.3% from 3.9%.

Inflation varied across states, with Kerala seeing the highest inflation at 7.3%, while Telangana had the lowest at just 1.3%. This regional difference was largely

attributed to varying food price trends across the country.

Economists now anticipate that the lower inflation could prompt the RBI to cut its repo rate by 25 basis points in its April meeting, with a possibility of further cuts in June, as the inflation outlook remains more benign than initially expected.

## India's Sugar Exports Slow as Domestic Prices Rise



Indian sugar mills have contracted to export 600,000 metric tons of sugar in the 2024/25 marketing year, which ends in September. However, industry officials say they are hesitant to sign new deals as local sugar prices rise. This slowdown in shipments from India, the world's second-largest sugar producer, is expected to support global sugar prices, which are currently at their lowest levels in three years.

After halting exports in 2023 to stabilize domestic prices, India allowed sugar exports of 1 million tons in January 2025 to clear surplus stocks. However, with domestic sugar prices on the rise, and expectations of further increases due to lower production and higher demand in the summer months, export activity has slowed in recent weeks.

According to a Mumbai-based dealer with a global trading firm, exports picked up in January but have since decelerated as local prices have strengthened. Industry sources mentioned that the increasing domestic prices are making it less appealing for mills to engage in further exports, as the cost of selling abroad becomes less favorable. These sources, however, requested anonymity due to their inability to speak publicly.

India's sugar production for the 2024/25 marketing year is expected to fall to 25.8 million tons, compared to an annual consumption of 29 million tons. The summer season, which typically boosts demand for sugar due to increased consumption of cold drinks and ice creams, is expected to further elevate domestic demand.

Mills have already shipped around 250,000 tons of the 600,000 tons contracted for export since January. Despite the slowdown, industry experts believe that India will meet its target of 1 million tons in exports by September. Prakash Naiknavare, managing director of the National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories, confirmed that mills have ample time to complete exports, and they are likely to do so when they find better prices.

India remains a key player in the global sugar market, exporting to countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and the UAE. However, the current price dynamics could affect the competitiveness of Indian sugar in the global market.

## India's Industrial Output Grows by 5% in January 2025

India's industrial output, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), saw a growth of 5.0% in January 2025, up from 3.5% in December 2024, according to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Wednesday.

The National Statistical Office (NSO) data highlighted that the manufacturing sector led the growth, expanding by 5.5% in January 2025 compared to 3.6% in the same month of the previous year. This performance reflects a strong recovery in the manufacturing industry, contributing significantly to the overall industrial growth.

On the other hand, mining production showed slower growth, increasing by just 4.4% in January 2025, compared to a 6% growth in January 2024. Power output also saw a modest increase of 2.4% in January, indicating slower expansion in energy production compared to previous years.

For the period from April to January, industrial output increased by 4.2%, which was lower compared to the 6% growth recorded during the same period the previous year. Despite the overall slowdown in some sectors, the performance in the manufacturing sector helped buoy the overall industrial output.

One of the bright spots in the data was the capital goods segment, which grew by 7.8% in January 2025, a substantial improvement compared to the 3.2% growth in January 2024. This surge in capital goods suggests increased investment in infrastructure and industrial capacity, which could bode well for future growth.

Overall, while the industrial output showed positive growth in January, certain sectors like mining and power production exhibited slower expansions. The data indicates a mixed but overall favorable industrial performance as India moves forward into 2025.



## iPad Air (2025) and 11th Gen iPad Go on Sale in India



Apple has officially launched the iPad Air (2025) and the 11th Generation iPad (2025) in India, with sales beginning today across Apple's website, Apple Stores, and various online and offline retailers. The latest iPads feature significant upgrades in performance, display, and storage. The iPad Air (2025) comes in 11-inch and 13-inch

variants, powered by the M3 chip with support for Apple Intelligence. The 11-inch Wi-Fi model starts at ₹59,900, while the Wi-Fi + Cellular variant costs ₹74,900. The 13-inch version is priced at ₹79,900 for the Wi-Fi model and ₹94,900 for the Wi-Fi + Cellular variant. It is available in Blue, Purple, Space Grey, and Starlight color options. Meanwhile, the 11th Generation iPad (2025) is powered by the A16 Bionic chip and now starts with 128GB of storage. The Wi-Fi model is priced at ₹34,900, while the Wi-Fi + Cellular variant costs ₹49,900. It is available in Blue, Pink, Silver, and Yellow. Both iPads come with Liquid Retina displays, advanced camera systems, and support for Wi-Fi 6E and Bluetooth 5.3. The iPad Air supports Apple Intelligence features and offers improved battery life, while the new iPad (2025) delivers a 30% performance boost over its predecessor. With these upgrades, Apple aims to enhance user experience across work, creativity, and entertainment.

## Basil Water: A Powerful Morning Detox for Better Health

- Basil water aids digestion and reduces bloating.
- It detoxifies the body and boosts kidney health.
- Rich in antioxidants, it strengthens immunity and heart health.



### THE POINT DESK

Basil water, a natural detox drink made by infusing basil leaves in water, has been recognized for its remarkable health benefits. Often referred to as Tulsi in India, basil is rich in antioxidants, vitamins, and essential minerals that contribute to overall well-being. Consuming basil water on an empty stomach each morning can provide multiple health advantages.

One of the key benefits of basil water is its positive impact on digestion. It stimulates the production of digestive enzymes, easing bloating and indigestion. The anti-inflammatory properties of basil also help in soothing the gastrointestinal tract, making it a natural remedy for acid reflux and gut-related issues.

Basil is known for its detoxifying effects, promoting kidney health by flushing out toxins and excess salts. Its diuretic properties aid in preventing kidney stones and urinary tract infections, ensuring a cleaner and more hydrated urinary system. Additionally, its immunity-boosting properties, rich in vitamin C and antioxidants, strengthen the body's defenses against infections by neutralizing free radicals and reducing inflammation. Mental well-being also benefits from basil water, as it contains adaptogenic properties that help regulate cortisol levels, reducing stress and anxiety. Drinking it regularly promotes relaxation, improves focus, and combats daily fatigue, making it an ideal natural remedy for managing mental stress.

For those managing blood sugar levels, basil helps regulate glucose by improving insulin sensitivity,

making it beneficial for heart health and energy balance. Additionally, its ability to reduce cholesterol levels, improve circulation, and prevent plaque buildup in arteries supports cardiovascular well-being, reducing the risk of heart disease. Basil's antibacterial properties contribute to clearer skin by flushing out toxins and reducing acne and blemishes. It also promotes respiratory health by clearing mucus from the lungs and easing breathing difficulties, especially for those with allergies or respiratory infections. Additionally, basil water is a great metabolism booster, aiding in weight management by reducing water retention and flushing out excess waste. Its detoxifying effects support fat metabolism, making it an effective addition to a healthy lifestyle.

Incorporating basil water into a daily morning routine can bring significant health benefits, enhancing digestion, immunity, metabolism, and overall wellness.

## Mahindra XUV700 Ebony Edition Teased Ahead of Launch



Mahindra has teased the upcoming XUV700 Ebony Edition, an all-black variant of its popular SUV, ahead of its official launch. This follows the recent debut of the Scorpio N Carbon Edition and will be launched alongside the black edition of the Thar Roxx. The XUV700 Ebony Edition will feature a completely blacked-out appearance with black paint, a black grille re-

placing the chrome version, and new 18-inch black alloy wheels. Similar to the exterior, the interior will also receive an all-black theme, replacing the existing ivory upholstery with black elements on the dashboard and AC vents.

Mechanically, the Ebony Edition will retain the same specifications as the top-spec variants of the XUV700. It will be offered with a 2.0-litre tur-

bo petrol engine producing 197 hp and 380 Nm torque, as well as a 2.2-litre diesel engine available in two states of tune—182 hp with 420 Nm torque and 152 hp with 370 Nm torque.

Mahindra is expected to announce the official launch date and pricing details soon, with anticipation building among SUV enthusiasts for the latest addition to the XUV700 lineup.

## Rottweiler Rips Cobra Apart in Viral Video, Sparks Heated Debate

A chilling video of a Rottweiler attacking and killing a cobra has gone viral on social media, igniting a heated debate among viewers. Shared on Instagram by user lone\_wolf\_warrior27, the clip captures a tense confrontation between the pet dog and the venomous snake in a garden. The video shows the Rottweiler growling and barking at the cobra while its owner records the incident. Moments later, the powerful dog lunges at the snake, tearing it apart. Even after the cobra is lifeless, the dog continues to growl, bark, and rip at the reptile. Captioned "Rottweiler vs Cobra," the post has amassed over 63 million views and 2.1 million likes. However, it has also sparked controversy. While some praised the dog's bravery, others criticized the



owner for not intervening. One user wrote, "Train your dog, he doesn't even follow your command." Another pointed out, "Cobras rarely attack unless provoked. This could have been prevented." Others expressed concern for the dog's safety, with one commenter stating, "This could have been fatal. The owner

should have acted sooner." Many users also condemned the decision to film the encounter instead of calling a rescue team to handle the snake. The video continues to stir strong reactions, with debates over responsible pet ownership and the ethics of allowing such encounters to unfold.

## These 5 countries have the lowest gold prices, UAE not on list

Dubai is often regarded as a prime destination for buying gold, but it surprisingly ranks sixth on the list of countries with the lowest gold prices. The recent arrest of Kannada actor Ranya Rao at Bengaluru airport for attempting to smuggle 14.2 kg of gold from Dubai has brought attention to global gold price differences.

As of February 2025, the top five countries with the lowest gold prices are:

- **United States:** 24K gold at ₹8,586 per gram, 22K gold at ₹7,874 per gram.
- **Australia:** 24K gold at ₹8,602 per gram, 22K gold at ₹7,889 per gram.
- **Singapore:** 24K gold at ₹8,667 per gram, 22K gold at ₹7,949 per gram.
- **Switzerland:** 24K gold at ₹8,682 per gram, 22K gold at ₹7,963 per gram.
- **Indonesia:** 24K gold at ₹8,704 per gram, 22K gold at ₹7,983 per gram.

Dubai follows at sixth place, with 24K gold priced at ₹8,718 per gram and 22K gold at ₹7,996 per gram. Prices fluctuate based on market trends.

Gold Import Regulations in India

Despite lower prices abroad, importing gold is subject to customs duty. In the Union Budget 2024-25, the import duty was reduced from 15% to 6%. The tariff value of gold, set by the CBIC, currently stands at \$927 per 10 grams, down from \$938.

Duty-Free Allowance Indian citizens returning from abroad can carry:

- Male passengers: Up to ₹50,000 worth of gold jewellery.
  - Female passengers: Up to ₹1 lakh worth of gold jewellery.
- Gold bars, coins, and other forms beyond jewellery are subject to customs duty. The maximum importable quantity per person is 1 kg, with mandatory declaration for amounts exceeding the duty-free limit.





## Gill Retains No. 1 Spot in ODI Rankings, Rohit Moves to Third

India's Shubman Gill has retained his No. 1 ranking among ODI batters following his performance in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. Skipper Rohit Sharma moved up two places to third after his match-winning 76 in the final against New Zealand, while Virat Kohli remains in the top five at fifth after amassing 218 runs in the tournament. New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell climbed to sixth, while Rachin Ravindra and Glenn Phillips also made notable gains. Among bowlers, New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner surged six spots to second after taking nine wickets in the tournament, trailing only Sri Lanka's Maheesh Theekshana. India's Kuldeep Yadav jumped to third, and Ravindra Jadeja moved into the top 10. Afghanistan's Azmatullah Omarzai retained the top spot in the all-rounder rankings, but New Zealand's Santner, Michael Bracewell, and Ravindra made significant gains, with Ravindra finishing as the 'Player of the Tournament' after scoring two centuries and taking three wickets.



## Gambhir Set to Travel with India 'A' for England Tour First India Head Coach to Take Up This Role



In a break from tradition, Gautam Gambhir is set to become the first head coach of Team India to travel with the India 'A' squad for an overseas tour. The move comes ahead of India's senior team's tour of England in June, with Gambhir reportedly keen on analyzing the red-ball talent pool firsthand. Historically, India 'A' and U19 teams have been guided by National Cricket Academy (NCA) coaches, with former India head coach Rahul Dravid and VVS Laxman previously overseeing such assignments. However, Gambhir, who recently led India to a Champions Trophy victory, has informed the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) about his desire to accompany the 'A' team. A BCCI source confirmed that Gambhir sees this move as a crucial step in strengthening India's bench strength, especially in red-ball cricket. "Since returning from Australia, Gambhir has been in discussions with the board. He believes analyzing the reserve players closely is essential for future team-building," the source said. Gambhir is also pushing for more India 'A' tours, pointing out that recent 'A' series have been limited to shadow tours for marquee events. His proactive approach could lead to structural changes in India's domestic and developmental cricket programs.

## Harry Kane Leads Bayern Munich Into Champions League Quarterfinals

Bayern Munich marched into the UEFA Champions League quarterfinals after a 2-0 victory over Bayer Leverkusen on Tuesday, sealing a dominant 5-0 aggregate win. Star striker Harry Kane played a pivotal role, scoring one goal and assisting another as Bayern comfortably dispatched last season's unbeaten German champions. Having already taken control of the tie with a 3-0 home win in the first leg, Bayern entered the second leg in a commanding position. Despite Leverkusen's efforts to mount a comeback, Bayern remained composed and struck early in

the second half. Kane found himself at the right place to tap in a Joshua Kimmich cross, breaking the deadlock and effectively ending Leverkusen's hopes of a turnaround. With Leverkusen pushing forward in desperation, Bayern capitalized again in the 71st minute. Kane turned provider with a clever chip, setting up Alphonso Davies, who smashed home Bayern's second goal to put the game beyond reach. The England captain, often scrutinized for his performances in crucial matches, delivered a commanding display, just as he had in the first leg when he scored

twice. With Bayern eyeing a dream final at their home ground in Munich, Kane remains instrumental in their pursuit of European glory.



## Every Time We Played Against CSK, I Wanted To...

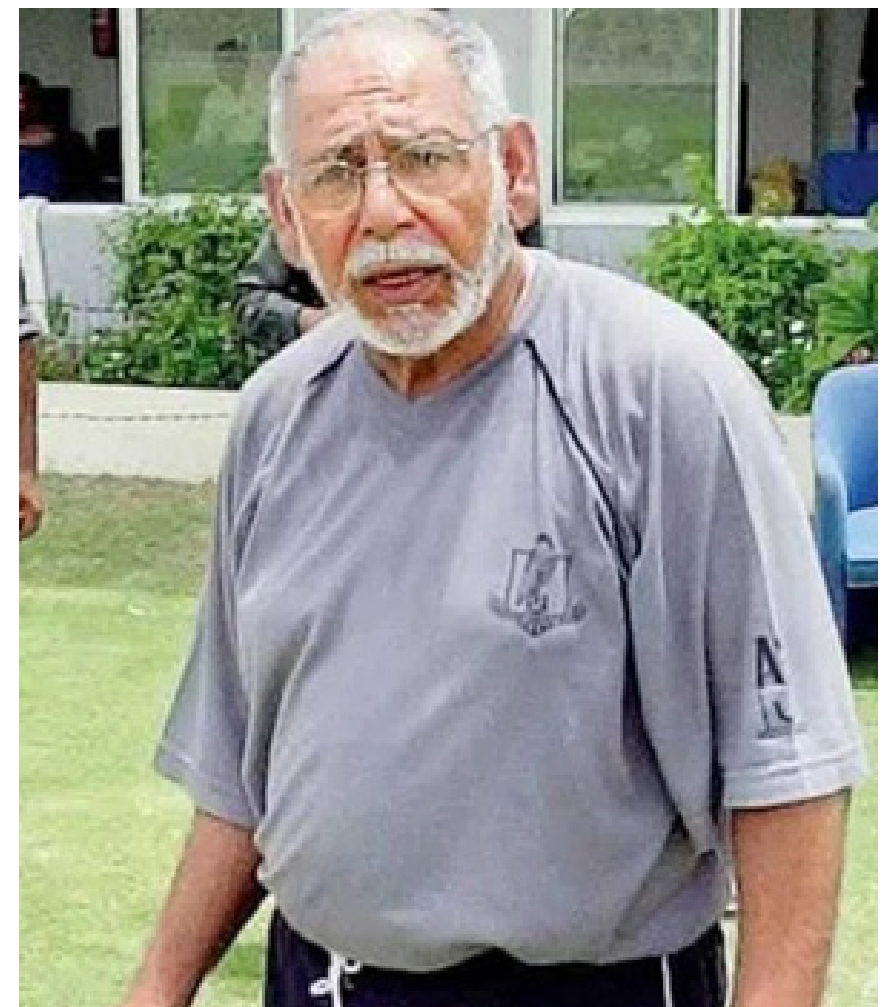


Ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025, Rajasthan Royals (RR) captain Sanju Samson has shared his ad-

miration for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) legend MS Dhoni. Samson revealed that every time he played against CSK, he eagerly sought opportunities to interact with Dhoni and learn from him. "Like every young Indian cricketer, I always wanted to be around MS Dhoni. Every time we played against CSK, I wanted to sit and talk to him, ask him how he does things. It was a dream for me," Samson said while speaking on JioHotstar's 'SuperStar' programme. Samson recalled a memorable game against CSK in Sharjah, where he scored 70-80 runs and won the Man of the Match award. After that match, he had a conversation with Dhoni, which marked the beginning of their strong bond. "Even now, I meet him often. Just yesterday, I

met him again. It's truly a blessed feeling—to go from idolizing him to now sitting with him for shoots and events," he added. Dhoni, who will play in IPL 2025, was retained by CSK as an uncapped player for ₹4 crore under a special retention rule. Since retiring from international cricket in 2020, he has continued to feature only in the IPL. In the 2024 season, he scored 161 runs at an astonishing strike rate of 220, often playing the role of a finisher. The 42-year-old remains one of IPL's most iconic players, ranking sixth on the all-time run-scorers list with 5,243 runs in 264 matches. As CSK gears up for the 2025 season under the leadership of Rituraj Gaikwad, fans eagerly await another chapter in Dhoni's legendary career.

## Legendary all-rounder Syed Abid Ali passes away at 83



Hyderabad's cricketing stalwart Syed Abid Ali, a former India all-rounder, passed away in the US on Wednesday at the age of 83. A key figure in India's historic Test victory at The Oval in 1971, Abid Ali had the rare honor of scoring the winning runs in that iconic match. A determined medium-pacer and an aggressive lower-order batsman, Abid Ali claimed 47 wickets across 29 Tests. His Test career began with a dream spell of six for 55 against Australia in Brisbane (1967-68), earning praise from the legendary Frank Tyson. He followed it up with impressive knocks of 78 and 81 in the Sydney Test during the same series. Apart from his on-field exploits, Abid Ali was renowned for his ex-

ceptional fielding and sharp running between the wickets. However, he once faced an unusual situation in the early 90s when a mistaken report falsely declared him dead, an incident he took with humor. After retiring, Abid Ali took up coaching assignments with Maldives, UAE, and the Andhra Ranji teams. His son Faqeer Ali is married to former India wicketkeeper Syed Kirmani's daughter. Despite his contributions, Abid Ali often found himself overlooked by the Hyderabad Cricket Association for reasons unknown. Abid Ali credited his cricketing success to the late M L Jaisimha, whom he considered his mentor. His passing marks the end of an era for Hyderabad cricket.

## East Bengal Crash Out of AFC Challenge League After Loss to FK Arkadag



East Bengal's AFC Challenge League campaign came to an end after a 1-2 defeat against FK Arkadag in the second leg of the quarterfinals. The Indian side, reduced to 10 men in the first half, lost 1-3 on aggregate, failing to advance to the semifinals. The match started on a promising note for East Bengal as Messi Bouli put them ahead within the first

minute, leveling the aggregate score. However, their momentum suffered a blow in the 33rd minute when Lalchungnunga received his second yellow card, leaving them a man down for the remainder of the game. FK Arkadag took advantage of their numerical superiority, with Altmymrat Annadurdyev scoring twice in the dying moments of the game—

first in the 89th minute and then in the eighth minute of stoppage time (90+8'). This sealed a 3-1 aggregate victory for the Turkmenistan side, who had already won the first leg 1-0 in Kolkata on March 5. With this loss, East Bengal's run in the AFC Challenge League comes to an end, while FK Arkadag advances to the semifinals.





## Naga Chaitanya's Thandel Dominates Netflix Charts



Naga Chaitanya's latest blockbuster *Thandel* continues its remarkable run, now dominating the Netflix streaming charts. The film, which marked Chaitanya's first ₹100 crore grosser worldwide, has been a commercial success despite facing multiple challenges. After making waves at the box office, *Thandel* premiered on Netflix last Friday and quickly became a trending title. Audiences across different regions have resonated with its universal themes of love, courage, and resilience, pushing it to the top of the platform's

charts. Chaitanya's dedication to his role was evident, with meticulous attention to his looks, body language, and slang, earning him widespread praise. Sai Pallavi also delivered a stellar performance, and their on-screen chemistry has been a major highlight. Director Chandoo Mondeti struck the perfect balance between love, action, and drama, keeping viewers engaged throughout. Adding to the film's appeal, Devi Sri Prasad's soundtrack has gained renewed popularity on digital platforms, further amplifying its success.

## Pranitha Stuns at Paris Fashion Week in Bold Look



Actress Pranitha Subhash made a striking statement at Paris Fashion Week, turning heads with her bold and stylish appearance. The actress, who has been in the industry for over 15 years and is now a mother of two, exuded confidence as she walked the ramp. Dressed in a chic brown checked pow-

er suit paired with a black bralette, Pranitha elevated her look with vibrant orange lipstick and bold eyeliner. Her effortless charm and poised presence captivated fashion enthusiasts. Despite setbacks in Malayalam and Kannada cinema last year, fans believe 2024 will be her resurgence, with her latest appearance reinforcing her en-

## Dhanush vs Nayanthara Copyright Row Actor's Company Seeks Rs 1 Crore Compensation



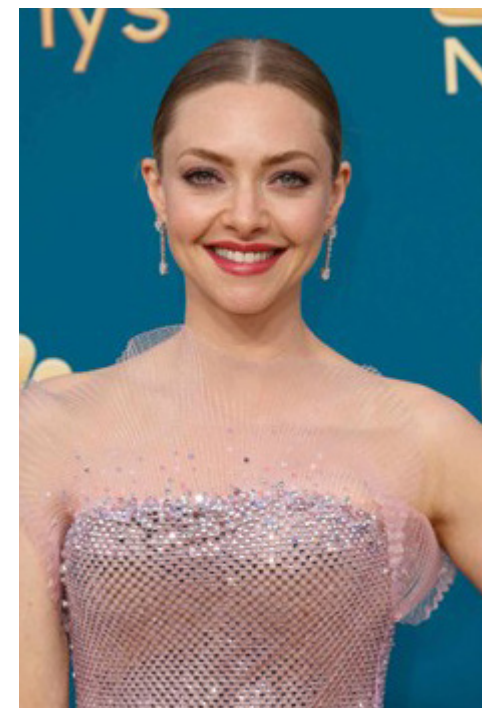
Dhanush's production house, Wunderbar Films Private Limited, has decided to proceed with its civil suit seeking ₹1 crore in damages and a permanent injunction against the use of behind-the-scenes (BTS) visuals from the Tamil film *Naanum Rowdy Dhaan* in Netflix's docu-drama *Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairytale* without his consent. The actor-producer accused Nayanthara's husband, filmmaker Vignesh Shivan, of "unprofessional behavior" during the shoot of the film, as stated in the affida-

vit submitted to the court. Wunderbar Films has named Nayanthara and the documentary's creators in its compensation claim. "The fourth respondent (Vignesh Shivan) unnecessarily began focusing his attention only on the third respondent (Nayanthara), ignoring the other cast and crew by taking multiple re-takes of scenes involving her to ensure she delivered her best performance, without prioritizing other actors," the affidavit read. The conflict between Dhanush and Nayanthara became public on November 16, 2024, when the *Jawan* actress posted an open letter on X, accusing Dhanush of "touching an all-time low" after he denied permission to use a three-second clip shot on personal devices, despite two years of repeated requests. Dhanush has refrained from making any public statements and has instead taken legal action. In November 2024, he filed a civil suit in the Madras High Court against Nayanthara, Vignesh Shivan, and their production house, Rowdy Pictures Private Limited. On January 28, the court ruled in favor of Dhanush by dismissing a petition from Netflix India that sought to reject his lawsuit. The main suit will be taken up for hearing on April 9.

## Amanda Seyfried confirms Mamma Mia 3

Hollywood actress Amanda Seyfried has confirmed that a third installment of the beloved *Mamma Mia!* franchise is in the works. While an official production timeline remains unannounced, Seyfried hinted that filming could take place in Greece as early as 2026. The first film, *Mamma Mia!* (2008), and its sequel, *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again* (2018), received immense love from audiences, making a third installment highly anticipated. In a recent chat with Entertainment Tonight, Seyfried confirmed that *Mamma Mia 3* is happening but jokingly remarked, "It's going to happen in Greece, hopefully before 2038." While she did not specify a release date or confirm whether production had begun, she assured fans that the project is moving forward.

Seyfried also hinted at a possible filming schedule, stating, "Summer of 2026, that's just my schedule." Speaking about the challenges of coordinating the cast's schedules, she recalled a past experience, saying, "Everybody has to put their lives on hold. I remember I was feeding my six-day-old baby, and they were like, 'Mamma Mia, it's happening! August. Gotta be in the UK!' And I was like (faux crying), 'I just had a baby, I can't do this!' But it's going to be like that again. It will take a lot of people's schedules aligning and the story being right." While further details are awaited, fans can revisit the first two *Mamma Mia!* films, which are currently available for streaming on various OTT platforms.



## Kiara And Sidharth's First Interaction Has A Lust Stories Connection?

Bollywood couple Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani, who recently announced their first pregnancy, initially met on the sets of Kiara's anthology film *Lust Stories*, not *Shershaah*, as widely believed. In an interview with Lilly Singh, Sidharth revealed that he first met Kiara while visiting the *Lust Stories* set to

meet filmmaker Karan Johar. "That's the film (*Lust Stories*), the reason I met her. I'm very grateful for that short film to be made because I met her... I was on set," he said. Sidharth further shared that he was already aware of Kiara's role in *Lust Stories* as Karan Johar had narrated the story to him beforehand. Praising Kiara's film choices, he highlighted her performances in *Lust Stories* and *Guilty*, commending her for taking on bold and socially relevant roles. He also spoke about Kiara's influence on his personal life, emphasizing her strong family values and work ethics. "She's very family-oriented, and her ethics and morals are in the right place, and that's something I respect and admire," he stated. On February 28, 2025, the couple announced their first pregnancy through a joint Instagram post, sharing a heartwarming picture of them holding a pair of baby socks, delighting their fans.



## 'Court: State Vs Nobody' Holds Celebrity Premiere Tonight

Nani's latest production, *Court: State Vs Nobody*, starring Priyadarshi and directed by Ram Jagadeesh, is set to have its celebrity and special press premiere tonight. Several distinguished guests, along with the film's entire team, will be attending the exclusive screening. In addition to the private premiere, the makers have also announced paid premiere screenings in Hyderabad and other cities across the Telugu states. The advance bookings for these early shows have been remarkable, indicating strong

audience interest. While holding premiere screenings before the official release is a calculated risk, positive word-of-mouth from these early shows could significantly boost the film's prospects. Given its sensitive subject matter—centered around the POCSO Act and the story of a teenager—the film blends courtroom drama with an emotional love story and other compelling elements. With strong pre-release buzz and an intriguing narrative, *Court: State Vs Nobody* is poised to make a strong impact ahead of its theatrical debut.

