



**Weather Forecast**

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



# Income Decreased, Debts Increased..!

**TPN Kishore Katta | Hyderabad :** Telangana's financial situation has come under scrutiny, with CM Revanth Reddy making sensational comments. He expressed concerns over the state's declining income while the debts continue to rise. Financial experts have shown mixed reactions to his comments, with some expressing surprise at the fact that the CM himself is raising concerns about the state's economic situation. On the other hand, Revanth

blames the increasing debts on the previous BRS government, criticizing them for the interest payments on past loans. He stated that the state's income is barely enough to pay the interest on the debts accumulated by the previous government.

It is reported that the state's income has decreased by Rs. 13,000 crore compared to the previous year. Furthermore, according to statistics, Revanth's government has incurred debts

of 118.94% beyond the projected estimates. A report by CAG has highlighted these figures, showing a severe decline in the state's financial health.

The impact of Revanth's policies on the real estate sector has been significant. Over the past 10 months, only 31% of the expected revenue has been generated from registrations. While the budget forecasted revenue of Rs. 2.21 lakh crore, only Rs. 1.23 lakh crore (55.96%) has been collected. The revenue has decreased by 9.53% from Rs. 1.36 lakh crore in 2023-24 to Rs. 1.23 lakh crore in 2024-25. Similarly, the revenue from stamps

and registrations has dropped from Rs. 11,698 crore in 2023-24 to Rs. 5,821 crore in 2024-25.

Financial analysts have warned that the state's economy is facing severe damage due to the decisions made by the current government.

Meanwhile, CM Revanth provided a detailed explanation in the Assembly regarding the state's debts. He clarified that after the Congress government came into power, the debts amounted to Rs. 1.58 lakh crore. He mentioned that during KCR's tenure, Rs. 1.53 lakh crore was repaid. Revanth stated that the loans taken by his government

were aimed at correcting the mistakes made by the previous BRS government. He said that BRS had left a debt of Rs. 8.19 lakh crore. Currently, Telangana's debt stands at Rs. 7.38 lakh crore. Revanth also pointed out that between 2023 and 2025, the government has taken loans of Rs. 1.58 lakh crore, of which Rs. 88,000 crore was paid as interest.

Revanth defended his government's actions, stating that the loans were necessary to pay the interest on past debts. He also clarified that loans are not just about borrowing from banks but also include pending

**CM Revanth's sensational comments on state's financial situation**

**Concerns raised over declining income and increasing debts**

**Revanth attributes increasing debts to BRS party**

**Debts exceed estimates by 118.94%**

**Revanth's decisions hit the real estate sector**

**Financial experts shocked by CM's statement**

bills from the previous government. Revanth further stated that his government would explain everything to the public. He challenged the BRS party to prove that he was lying if his statements were untrue.



## Bhadrachalam Temple Dispute Intensifies Over Vedic Practices

**TPN Correspondent | Bhadrachalam :** A growing dispute between the temple's executive officer (EO) and the Vedic committee has emerged at Bhadrachalam, centered around the recent transfer of the assistant chief priest, Srinivasa Ramanujam, to Parnasala. The issue began when the temple EO, in charge of administrative matters, and the Vedic committee, responsible for religious rituals, clashed over the appointment of priests for key rituals.

In a recent turn of events, the Vedic committee halted the "Ankurarpana" >> PAGE 2

## 11 YouTubers Booked by Punjagutta Police for Promoting Betting Apps

- 11 YouTubers booked for promoting betting.
- Influencers endorsed illegal betting apps online.
- Punjagutta Police files cases against influencers.
- YouTubers received payments for promotions illegally.
- Charges include violating gaming and IT laws.



cases against 11 YouTubers and social media influencers for promoting illegal betting applications. The accused, including popular YouTubers Vishnupriya, Suprita, Imran Khan (Pareshan Boys), Harsha Sai, Rithu Chowdhary, and Tasty Teja, are alleged to have endorsed these apps to increase views and revenue.

The police investigation revealed that these influencers were promoting online betting



platforms, leading to their involvement in illegal activities. These YouTubers allegedly received payments for promoting the apps, which is in violation of gaming laws. In addition to the aforementioned influencers, other individuals, including anchor Shyamala, Sunny Yadav, Sudheer, and several others, have also been named in the case.

The charges against the accused include violating the Tel-



angana Gaming Act, Sections 3 and 4, and Section 66D of the Information Technology Act, which deals with fraud and online crimes. The Punjagutta Police are currently conducting further investigations to determine the full extent of the illegal activities.

The rise of social media influencers promoting online betting apps has sparked concerns about the growing prevalence of illegal gambling and

its potential harm to the youth. Authorities have urged influencers to be more responsible in their content and avoid promoting such activities that are not only illegal but also harmful to the society.

This case highlights the increasing scrutiny on social media personalities and influencers, emphasizing the need for them to comply with legal and ethical standards in their promotional activities.

## Teenmaar Mallanna Meets KTR: Political Shift?

**Mallanna meets KTR, discusses BC reservation**

**Former Congress member, expelled for criticism**

**Requests KTR's support for Delhi protest.**

**Unexpected political shift, possible new alliances.**



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad :** Teenmaar Mallanna, once a strong critic of KCR and BRS, has made a surprising political move by meeting with BRS Working President KTR. Mallanna, who began his career as an outspoken journalist with a strong anti-KCR stance, later joined Congress and was nominated as an MLC.

However, his time with Congress was short-lived after he openly criticized Revanth Reddy's caste census survey and the BC reservation proposal. His actions, including tearing

down the caste census report, led to his suspension from Congress.

After staying silent for a while, Mallanna has made a comeback and recently met with KTR to discuss the BC reservation issue. KTR, who had previously opposed the caste census and BC reservation proposal pushed by Revanth Reddy's government, now finds himself in conversation with Mallanna, signaling potential common ground on the matter.

The meeting, which also in-

cluded Harish Rao, was reportedly centered around Mallanna requesting KTR's support for an upcoming protest in Delhi to push the Centre for validating Telangana's BC reservation bill.

Mallanna's political journey has been anything but conventional. His shift from a staunch critic of BRS to a potential ally raises questions about his future political strategies.

This meeting could mark a new chapter in his evolving political career, with Mallanna seeking new alliances after his expulsion from Congress.

## Telangana Assembly Approves BC Bill with 42% Reservation



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad :** The Telangana Legislative Assembly has passed the BC Bill, which grants 42% reservation for the Backward Classes (BCs). The bill, along with the SC Categorization Bill, was introduced in the Assembly on Monday. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar presented the BC Reservation Bill, while the SC Categorization Bill was introduced by Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha.

The Telangana government plans to send the bills to the central government for approval. The state has urged all polit-

ical parties to unite and apply pressure on the Centre for swift approval. The ruling BRS party has expressed its full support for the bills.

This move is considered a historic step in ensuring enhanced representation and opportunities for the BC community in Telangana. The state government's initiative aims to address the long-standing demands for increased reservation for BCs, ensuring greater social and economic justice. The bills will now await approval from the Centre to be formally enacted.



## TPCC Chief Challenges BRS and BJP on BC Reservation Bill

>> PAGE 2



## KTR's Shocking Comments on Revanth Reddy's Affairs

>> PAGE 2





## TPCC Chief Challenges BRS and BJP on BC Reservation Bill

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad : Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud has issued a sensational challenge to BRS and BJP leaders, questioning whether they will join forces with Congress to ask the Centre for a nationwide caste-based census. Speaking during the presentation of the BC Reservations Bill in the Telangana Assembly, Goud expressed joy over the historical significance of the bill's approval, stating that it proved that social justice could only be achieved through Congress.



He further challenged the opposition parties, questioning if they genuinely cared for the welfare of the BC community, whether they would unite with Congress to push the Centre for a caste-based census. Goud warned that if BRS and BJP did not support the BC Reservation

Bill in Parliament, the BC social group would never forgive them. Goud also emphasized that Congress, by approving the 42% BC reservation bill and the SC categorization bill, had proven its commitment to social justice. He declared that Congress had fulfilled its election promises, creating a historic milestone that other states could look up to.

He demanded that the central government conduct a nationwide caste-based census and urged BJP to support the BC reservation bill in Parliament. He also called on BRS to exert pressure on the Centre to approve the bill.

## Telangana Govt Offers ₹3 Lakh Loans for Unemployed Youth : How to Apply

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad : In a major move to support unemployed youth in Telangana, the state government has launched the Rajiv Youth Development Scheme. Under this scheme, eligible individuals from SC, ST, BC, and minority communities will be provided with employment loans of up to ₹3 lakh.

The scheme aims to benefit nearly 5 lakh youth, with a budget of ₹6,000 crore. Applications for the scheme will be accepted from March 17 to April 5, 2025. After reviewing the applications from April 6 to May 31, the government will issue sanction letters to selected beneficiaries on June 2, 2025.

**The loans will be provided in three categories:**

- **Category 1: Loans up to ₹1 lakh, with 80% subsidy, and 20% to be borne by the beneficiary.**
- **Category 2: Loans from ₹1**



**lakh to ₹2 lakh, with 70% subsidy.**

- **Category 3: Loans up to ₹3 lakh, with a 60% subsidy.**

Eligibility for the scheme includes being a permanent resident of Telangana, belong-

ing to SC, ST, BC, or minority communities, and being unemployed at the time of application. Applicants must provide Aadhaar, caste, income, residential certificates, and register with the Employment

Exchange.

To apply, candidates need to create an account on the official Rajiv Youth Development Scheme website, upload the required documents, and submit the application form.

## Telangana All-Party Meeting on Delimitation Issue



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad : An all-party meeting has commenced at the Telangana Assembly Committee Hall to discuss the impending Delimitation issue, based on population-based constituency redrawing, proposed by the central government.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka has organized this meeting with leaders from various parties, including Congress senior leader Jana Reddy, CPI state secretary John Wesley, and another party leader Joolakanti Rangareddy. However, key opposition leaders from BRS and BJP were absent from the meeting.

The meeting was called following a decision made during a recent Cabinet meeting to ad-

dress the Delimitation issue. Bhatti Vikramarka had earlier issued a letter urging political leaders to attend the meeting, highlighting that the population-based Delimitation would harm Telangana, and stressing the need for all-party participation in crafting a resolution to send to the central government.

There has been significant debate in the southern states regarding this issue, with leaders arguing that the population-based Delimitation would disadvantage them.

Southern states, especially those with smaller populations, are strongly opposing this move, fearing loss of representation. Recently, Tamil Nadu passed a resolution urg-

ing the central government to consider 1971 population figures for Delimitation instead.

The Telangana meeting aims to form a united stance and send a resolution to the central government regarding the issue.

## KTR to Tour All Districts for BRS Silver Jubilee Celebrations

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad : BRS Working President KTR is set to embark on a state-wide tour in preparation for the party's 25th-anniversary celebrations. As part of the Silver Jubilee festivities, KTR will engage with key party leaders and activists in district headquarters. These interactions aim to strengthen the party and guide the workers as BRS plans to commemorate its successful journey. KTR will first meet with party activists in Suryapet on the 20th and in Karimnagar on the 23rd, followed by other districts after the Assembly sessions.

The BRS leadership, led by KCR, recently held an extensive meeting with senior party members at Telangana Bhavan. The success of large public gatherings like the one in Warangal, attended by lakhs, reflects the party's commitment to celebrating its achievements.

As the Silver Jubilee celebrations unfold, the BRS leader-



ship will focus on revitalizing the party, with KTR addressing challenges and strengthening the bond with the Telangana people. He is expected to speak about the 14-year-long struggle for Telangana and the 10 years of progress under the BRS government.

KTR will also discuss the current state of governance,

criticizing the Congress for its perceived failure to meet promises. He will assure party workers that BRS, under KCR's leadership, has the people's trust, guiding them towards an active and successful future.

KTR's tour is expected to energize party workers and leaders across the state.

## KTR's Shocking Comments on Revanth Reddy's Affairs

- **KTR targets Revanth Reddy's character.**
- **KTR accuses Revanth of inappropriate links.**
- **Formula-E issue to be investigated.**
- **KTR criticizes Revanth's focus on Delhi.**

about family values now, despite Revanth's previous associations with controversial figures. He further stated that once their government is in power, they would investigate the "Formula-E issue," which is a reference to a controversial race event that KTR hinted was unilaterally cancelled.

In addition to attacking Revanth's character, KTR criticized the Congress leader's focus on sending money to Delhi, allegedly to leaders like Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, and K.C. Venugopal, while neglecting state matters. He also questioned why the BJP had not condemned the controversial comments made by BJP leader Raja Singh.

KTR's remarks have sparked intense speculation and heightened tensions in Telangana politics. With these allegations, all eyes are on how Congress leaders will respond, adding to the growing political drama in the state.



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad : BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) made sensational comments targeting Telangana Congress leader Revanth Reddy, accusing him of having inappropriate associations and questioned his values. During a media interaction, KTR provocatively asked Revanth whether he wanted his alleged affairs exposed, adding fuel to the ongoing political rivalry between the two.

KTR also called Revanth a "broker" and mocked Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) for being concerned

1st Page Cont..

### Bhadrachalam Temple Dispute Intensifies Over Vedic Practices

(seed-sowing ceremony) for the temple's annual festivities, claiming it could not proceed without the assistant chief priest, Srinivasa Ramanujam. The committee insisted that he must lead the ritual, and in his absence, the ceremony would be delayed. Consequently, the EO had to bring Srinivasa Ramanujam back to the main temple, causing a four-hour delay in the ritual.

The dispute between the two factions escalated as the Vedic committee released a video blaming the EO's lack of understanding and stubbornness for the delay. They clarified that the primary authority in Vedic matters lies with the chief priests, and the EO must refrain from interfering in religious affairs. Tensions have risen as the Vedic committee demanded that temple administration be handled with coordination, not unilateral decisions.

Devotees expressed frustration over the ongoing conflict, with many fearing that the disagreements could damage the sanctity of the temple. They have called for the intervention of the Endowments Department to resolve the issue and ensure smooth conduct of the upcoming festivals.





## Revanth Reddy Writes Letter to PM Modi Requesting Meeting with Political Leaders

1. Revanth Reddy requests meeting with Modi.
2. BC reservation bills passed in Assembly.
3. Telangana leaders seek central government support.
4. Congress meeting on organizational matters scheduled.

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad :** Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting an appointment to meet him alongside leaders from various political parties, including Congress, BRS, MJP, MIM, and CPI. The letter comes after the Telangana Legislative Assembly passed two significant bills aimed at increasing BC (Backward Classes) reservations to 42% in local bodies, education, and employment sectors.

The CM's letter highlights the need for the central government's support for these bills. On Monday, the Telangana Assembly unanimously approved the bills, which seek to increase reservations for backward classes in local bodies, education, and employment. As a result, CM Revanth Reddy is seeking a meeting with PM Modi to request the central



government's backing for these initiatives. Additionally, on March 27, a meeting will be held in Delhi with the Telangana DCC and SCC presidents, where Congress leaders from Telangana, along with those from other states and Union Territories, are expect-

ed to attend. The meeting will take place at the new Indira Bhavan in Delhi, under the chairmanship of AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge. The discussion will focus on organizational matters of the Congress party.

## Konda Surekha Makes Controversial Remarks on Cabinet Expansion

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad :** Telangana Minister Konda Surekha has made startling comments, stating that there is no chance for a cabinet expansion in the near future. Speaking to the media, she clarified that there is no possibility of adding any new members to the council at this time, adding that it remains to be seen whether anyone would be given an opportunity from the council. She also mentioned that there are several senior leaders in the council, which might limit any potential changes.

In her comments, Surekha also made some controversial remarks about BRS Working President KTR. She accused KTR of indulging in phone tapping to learn the secrets of others, adding that no one knows more about self-driving than him. On the subject of central government institutions, she said she had no objection to naming them after leaders like Potti Sriramulu. Surekha also criticized BJP members



for making statements that could stir controversy. She highlighted the importance of combining departments like Archaeology, Endowments, Tourism, and Forests to promote temple tourism and emphasized the need for central government cooperation to develop ancient temples. She also discussed legal amendments to establish a Yadagirigutta board like the TTD for better temple management.

## MIM MLAs Walk Out of Assembly, Akbaruddin Owaisi's Strong Remarks



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad :** MIM MLAs staged a walkout from the Telangana Assembly, with party leader Akbaruddin Owaisi making scathing remarks against

the functioning of the assembly. He criticized the government for its failure to run the assembly efficiently, stating, "This is not Gandhi Bhavan; it's the Assembly. Conduct it like one, not as a political party meeting." Owaisi expressed anger, saying that the MLAs had attended the session prepared for fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, without food or water, but were disappointed with the way the session was being conducted. He accused the government of mishandling the proceedings, stating that they had failed in managing the assembly. The agenda was delayed, questions were changed, and sometimes, the agenda was provided late at night or early in the morning, which he termed as "unacceptable."

He further criticized the government for failing to follow proper parliamentary procedures and demanded that the session be conducted with more respect for its members and the people's concerns.

## Minister Seethakka Strongly Countered BRS on BC Reservation Bill



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad :** Minister Seethakka has strongly countered the BRS party's stance on the BC reservation bill. Comparing the BRS to the film Aparichitudu, she stated that their approach has been inconsistent, changing from supporting the bill in the morning to opposing it by evening. She criticized the BRS for their contradictory behavior, emphasizing that while the party initially supported the BC reservation bill, by the evening they started retracting their statements.

Seethakka also pointed out that the BRS party did not give tickets to Mudiraj community candidates due to their personal grievances with Etela Rajender. She further added that the BRS had opposed the caste census initiated by the state government and failed to increase minority and ST reservations during their decade-long rule. The BRS, she claimed, played political games before losing power, especially with regard to increasing ST reservations. She also responded to the claims made by BJP members who questioned the feasibility of caste census, asserting that such tasks are indeed achievable and that the state government, under Rahul Gandhi's leadership, is determined to pursue this matter for social justice. Seethakka underscored that legal experts' consultations were taken seriously for conducting the caste census, and BJP's skepticism would not deter their efforts.

## Armour MLA Rakesh Reddy Demands ₹1000 Crore for Constituency Development



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad :** Armour BJP MLA Padi Rakesh Reddy made a bold demand in the Telangana Legislative Assembly, asking for ₹1000 crore for the development of his constituency. Speaking in the assembly on Monday, Rakesh Reddy highlighted that in the past year and a half, there have been no significant development works in his constituency. He compared his constituency's situation with that of Kodangal, represented by Congress leader Revanth Reddy, who was reportedly allocated ₹1000 crore. Rakesh Reddy questioned the disparity, asking, "You bring ₹1000 crore for Kodangal and only ₹90 lakh for Armour? What's the difference?" He also criticized the Congress party and the state government for this inconsistency. The MLA demanded that the government allocate ₹1000 crore for each of the 119 constituencies in the state, regardless of party affiliation, to ensure equitable development across Telangana.

## Harish Rao's Comments on BC Bill in Telangana Assembly



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad :** In a statement in the Telangana Legislative Assembly, former minister Harish Rao expressed full support for the BC Bill introduced by Ponnam Prabhakar, welcoming it on behalf of the BRS party. He emphasized that the real happiness for BC communities will come when they receive 42% reservation in education and employment, as well as in local body elections in urban and rural areas. Harish Rao assured that the BRS party would support the bill not just in the state legislature but also in Parliament. He called on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to actively push for the bill in the Parliament, noting that the Congress party has 100 MPs who could help drive the bill forward.

He highlighted that under KCR's leadership, BRS had already made significant strides, such as introducing 50% reservation for BCs in market committees and directors' posts. Additionally, BRS was the first to introduce alcohol shop reservations for the Goud community.

Rao demanded the inclusion of three key provisions in the upcoming budget: 42% reservation for BCs in government contracts, the implementation of a BC Sub-Plan as promised by Congress in elections, and the allocation of ₹20,000 crore for BC welfare in the budget. He stressed that these provisions do not require permission from Delhi and can be implemented immediately at the state level.

## Ponnam Prabhakar's Response on Women's Welfare Schemes

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad :** During the ongoing Telangana Assembly sessions, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar responded to questions raised by BRS MLC Kavitha. In particular, Kavitha questioned the implementation of the election promises made by the government, specifically regarding the Rs. 2500 financial support for women and the provision of one tula of gold. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar clarified that, at present, these welfare schemes could not be implemented, stating that there was no immediate plan to roll them out. His response raised concerns, especially when Kavitha publicly highlighted that the government had failed to fulfill its promises to women. She pointed out that the

minister's clear admission in the full session effectively amounted to admitting that women had been misled by the government's unkept promises. This exchange in the assembly has sparked significant discussion regarding the government's commitment to its electoral pledges, particularly those aimed at women's welfare.



## Padi Kaushik Reddy's Bold Comments on Revanth

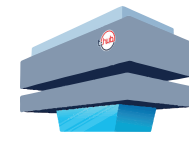
**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad :** In a recent political exchange, Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy made bold remarks about the ongoing challenge between Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Telangana political leaders. Speaking at a gathering in Station Ghanpur, where CM Revanth had inaugurated several development projects, Kaushik Reddy took a dig at the challenge posed by Revanth Reddy to political leaders.

Responding to Revanth's comment that only senior leaders should respond to his challenge and not the likes of Harish Rao and KTR, Kaushik Reddy retorted by saying, "Why bring anyone else into this? I am here, and Revanth, you are only at my level." With these comments, he emphasized that Revanth was no match for his stature or that of Harish Rao or KTR. This statement from Kaushik Red-



dy stirred political discussions, particularly given the ongoing rivalry between the Congress and BRS factions in Telangana. It highlighted the tensions within the state's political landscape, with Kaushik Reddy asserting his position firmly while downplaying Revanth's challenge.





Tension at Telangana Assembly

# BRSV Workers Arrested During Protest



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad : Tension erupted outside the Telangana Assembly as BRS workers attempted to stage a protest against

the state government's decision to ban protests and demonstrations at Osmania University (OU). The workers, affiliated with the BRSV, gathered near the Assembly to voice their opposition to the government's stance on curbing student protests at OU. They were demanding the withdrawal of the circular issued by the university's Vice-Chancellor, which banned protests on campus. As the protesters tried to move toward the Assembly, the police had already set up a heavy security presence and swiftly arrested several BRSV leaders, including State President Gellu Srinivas Yadav. They were taken into custody and

shifted to various police stations. Gellu Srinivas Yadav condemned the government's move, calling it unjust to suppress student protests, which have historically been an essential platform for social and political movements. He also questioned why the government is targeting students raising valid issues, including education and unemployment. The BRSV activists raised slogans, demanding that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy address the issues of education and unemployment, and insisted that the ban on protests at OU be lifted immediately.

## Hydra Demolition in Kismathpur: CC Road Completed by Evening



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad : In Kismathpur, Bandlaguda Jagir Municipality, Hydra officials carried out demolition work on illegal constructions early this morning. The demolition focused on removing a barricade built across a road connecting two colonies. The illegal wall was erected despite a previous demolition of a similar structure six months ago by municipal authorities. Following the removal of the barricade, municipal officials acted swiftly and by the evening, a cement road (CC road) was laid in place. The road in question connects the Fortune West Meadows and Shri Harshith Layout, and the illegal construction had obstructed the route, causing inconvenience to the local residents. The demolition ensures the road is cleared and accessible once again, with no scope for future illegal constructions. The municipal authorities took immediate action to prevent further encroachments and to provide a clear, functional road for the surrounding colonies. The development has been well-received by the local residents who had previously been facing difficulties due to the obstruction.

## TGPSC Hostel Welfare Officers Results Released: 574 Selected for 581 Posts

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad : The Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) has released the results for the Hostel Welfare Officers recruitment exam. A provisional selection list has been published for 581 posts, with 574 candidates selected. The examination was held to fill positions under various welfare departments, including SC, ST, BC, and Women and Child Welfare sectors. The exams took place from June 24 to 29, 2024, following the notification issued in December 2022. A total of 82,873 candidates appeared for the computer-based written test, and after the certificate verification process, the final results were announced. The notification covered 298 posts under the SC Welfare Department, 140 posts under the BC Welfare Department, and various other positions across different categories of hostel superintendent roles for both boys and girls. For further details and to view the results, candidates are advised to visit the official TSPSC website at <https://www.tspsc.gov.in/>.



## CM Revanth Meets R Narayanamurthy



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad : Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, known for his busy schedule, recently met with renowned film director and actor R Narayanamurthy. The meeting took place at the Chief Minister's residence in Jubilee Hills on Monday morning. Revanth Reddy had just returned from a brief visit to Delhi, and following his return, he participated in a session at the Legislative Assembly to express gratitude towards the Governor. He then attended a large public meeting held at Station Ghanpur on Sunday, where he inaugurated development works worth Rs. 600 crore. During the meeting with R Narayanamurthy, CM Revanth greeted the actor-director with a warm reception, presenting him with a Telangana Thalli (Mother Telangana) portrait as a token of respect. The interaction showcased a moment of cordial exchange between the two public figures, with Revanth continuing his efforts to promote development and cultural ties within the state.

## Tummidi Hatti Project to be Restarted: Uttam Kumar Reddy



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad : State Minister for Irrigation and Public Supply, Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, confirmed that the Tummidi Hatti project will be restarted as part of the state government's commitment. Speaking during the question-and-answer session in the Legislative Assembly on Monday, he shared that in April, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will meet with the Maharashtra Chief Minister and officials from the Maharashtra Irrigation Department to discuss the project. Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that they are finalizing the levels for the project and will soon give Tummidi Hatti its final shape. He also addressed the issue of increased funding required for the Sitarama project. He explained that the original project report did not include land details for the distributory networks, which caused the rise in funding estimates. Additionally, the project's financial requirements increased due to the omission of funds for power substations and the hike in GST from 4% to 8%, which contributed to the cost escalation. The government is working diligently to complete these projects with the revised estimates.

## Harish Rao Condemns Arrest of OU Students

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad : Former Minister Harish Rao strongly condemned the illegal arrests of students at Osmania University (OU) on Monday. The arrests were made after the Registrar issued a circular prohibiting protests and demonstrations on campus. Harish Rao, in a statement on social media, expressed outrage over the restrictions im-

posed at OU, calling it undemocratic and unconstitutional. He emphasized that Osmania University, being the birthplace of the Telangana movement, should never be subjected to such restrictions. Rao criticized the government for violating students' fundamental rights to protest and for silencing their voices. He demanded the immediate revocation of the circular and

the release of all arrested students. Rao argued that instead of suppressing students, the government should listen to their concerns and work towards resolving their issues. He also expressed concern that attempts were being made to crush the spirit of the Telangana movement, stressing that BRS would never tolerate attacks on the self-respect of students and youth in the state.



## OU Students Submit Petition to SC/ST Commission Chairman



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad : On Monday, a group of students from Osmania University met with the Chairman of the SC/ST Commission to present a petition addressing various issues faced by students at the university. The students urged the Chairman and members of the commission to look into their grievances and requested the provision of fellowship, free meals, and accommodation for the students currently studying at the university. In their petition, the students highlighted the long-pending backlog of SC/ST teaching and non-teaching staff positions at the university, urg-

ing for immediate action to fill these vacancies. They also requested that the government allocate a special fund of Rs. 1000 crores for the development of the university. Additionally, they called for the establishment of the Dr. Babu Jagjivan Ram Study Center at Osmania University to honor the legacy of the renowned leader. The petition was submitted by research scholars and students, including Chippalapalli Somasekhara Madiga, Kommu Shekhar Madiga, Valigonda Narasimha, Sonde Ansar, Ajay Samrat, Nandu, Arekanti Srikanth, Koppu Srishailam, Vamsi, and others, who participated in the meeting.

## KTR Questions Illegal Arrest of Journalists

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad : KT Rama Rao (KTR), during a meeting with journalists Revathi and Tanvi Yadav at Chanchalguda Jail, questioned the legality of the arrests of journalists. Speaking alongside former minister Sabitha Indra Reddy, MLA Sunita Lakshmareddy, and MLC Dasoju Sravan, KTR criticized the Telangana government for suppressing free speech. KTR pointed out that while Congress leader Revanth Reddy made derogatory comments about his family, questioning whether he and his colleagues had families of their own, he also expressed frustration over the government's handling of dissent. He questioned if journalists

who report the public's dissatisfaction and opposition to the government's actions would face illegal arrests. KTR condemned the arrests of several journalists under the current regime, naming individuals such as Siddireddy Srinivas Reddy, Gautam Goud, Akula Srinivas Reddy, Shankar Goud, Ranjit Reddy, Raj Kumar Nayak, Saritha Yadav, Vijayarreddy, Revathi, Tanvi Yadav, and Shivareddy. He called out the government's attempt to silence those who highlight issues affecting the public, stressing the importance of press freedom in a democracy.





## Bhadradri Sri Sitaramula Kalyan Thalambras to be Delivered to Devotees' Homes

**TPN Correspondent | Bhadrachalam :** In celebration of Sri Rama Navami, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has decided to deliver Bhadradri Sri Sitaramachandra's Kalyan Thalambras to the homes of devotees. As in previous years, with the support of the Telangana Endowments Department, the service will deliver these sacred items to devotees who wish to receive them. Devotees interested in receiving the thalambras can book them by paying Rs. 151 through TSRTC logistics centers or by visiting the website [tgsrtclogistics.co.in](http://tgsrtclogistics.co.in). After the Sri Sitaramachandra Kalyanotsavam, the thalambras will be delivered to the devotees' homes. On Monday, TSRTC MD VC Sajjanar unveiled the booking poster for the



Kalyan Thalambras at the Bus Bhavan in Hyderabad and launched the booking process. He encouraged devotees who could not attend the grand celebrations of Sri Ramanavami on April 6 at Bhadradri to take

advantage of this service. Bookings are available through all logistics counters and online. For more details, devotees can contact the TSRTC call center at 040-69440069 or 040-69440000.

## Gadari Kishore's Controversial Comments on CM Revanth Reddy

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad :** Former MLA Gadari Kishore made sensational remarks about Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, claiming that he is mentally disturbed and suffering from a psychological condition. Speaking to the media, Kishore criticized Revanth Reddy's behavior in the Assembly, saying that the CM had been making inappropriate comments about journalists and that the Speaker of the Assembly was not taking any action, instead "enjoying" the situation. Kishore further criticized Revanth Reddy for being unable to fulfill promises and meet financial obligations, accusing him of trying to distance himself from senior leaders like CM KCR, KTR, and Jagadish Reddy. He also expressed discontent with the treatment of the Speaker in the Assembly, particularly the Congress party's attitude toward the Dalit Speaker, saying they continue to demean him despite his

position. Kishore alleged that Congress members were undermining Speaker Jagadish Reddy by not respecting his authority and that his suspension from the Assembly was linked to the discomfort Revanth Reddy felt due to Jagadish Reddy's presence. These remarks have sparked controversy, drawing attention to internal party dynamics.



## Slot Booking System for Registration Process in Telangana



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad :** Telangana's Revenue, Housing, and Information Minister Ponnala Srinivas Reddy announced the introduction of a slot booking system and biometric method for a more efficient, transparent, and corruption-free registration process at Sub-Registrar offices. The system aims to significantly reduce waiting times for document registration, with a goal to complete the process within 10-15 minutes instead of the current 45 minutes to an hour. This system will be piloted in the first week of April across select Sub-Registrar offices. The initiative is designed to modernize the registration process using technology, including artificial intelligence and chatbots, to improve

service delivery. The Minister also highlighted the need for the reorganization of Sub-Registrar offices to implement the slot booking system effectively. Furthermore, strict actions will be taken against the registration of properties in the banned list, especially "Gajam" land. A special portal will be set up for banned properties, linked to the Revenue Department, ensuring strict enforcement. The Minister also urged officials to expedite the Land Regularization Scheme (LRS) process to benefit thousands of families and avoid unnecessary delays. District Registrars were instructed to regularly review applications and resolve any issues promptly to ensure timely processing.

## BRSS MLCs Protest in Council with Unique Demonstration Over Chili Farmers' Issues



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad :** BRS MLCs staged a unique protest in the Council by wearing chili garlands, demanding that the state government address the problems faced by chili farmers. They called for the government to fix a minimum support price (MSP) of ₹25,000 per quintal for chili crops. The MLCs highlighted that in the previous season, 4 lakh acres were dedicated to chili cultivation in Telangana, but this year, the area has decreased to 2.4 lakh acres due to a lack of prices. They urged the state government to take immediate action by exerting pressure on the central government to ensure that the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and Markfed purchase chilies at the proposed price. The MLCs also demanded that the state take measures to increase the export of Telangana's chili crops, which could significantly benefit the farmers. Additionally, they requested the government to include Telangana chili in the list of food crops under the Spices Board, enabling better support and recognition for the farmers' livelihoods. The protest reflects growing concerns over the declining conditions for chili farmers in the state.

## Former Minister Niranjan Reddy Slams Government Over Farmers' Plight

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad :** Former Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy criticized the Telangana government for its failure to address the struggles of farmers, especially in light of the recent spate of farmer suicides. During his visit to the village of Pedda Gudem, where tribal farmer Joolanayak's 3-acre paddy crop had dried up due to power cuts and lack of water, Reddy expressed deep concern over the government's indifference. He highlighted that the government's claim of



providing the Rythu Bandhu scheme to farmers with land up to 3 acres was misleading, as many farmers, including Joolanayak, did not receive

the benefits. Reddy pointed out that, according to government claims, the Rythu Bandhu scheme should cover 67 lakh acres, but many

farmers with smaller landholdings were excluded from the aid. He emphasized that the state had failed to provide necessary support, leading to the deaths of 448 farmers. Reddy questioned why such tragedies occurred despite the presence of agriculture, finance, and electricity ministers, accusing them of neglecting the farmers' needs. He demanded compensation for the damaged crops and immediate action to assist farmers in distress. Reddy was accompanied by local leaders during his visit.

## Discipline is Key in Police Department: SP Rajesh Chandra



**TPN Correspondent | Nizamsagar :** District SP Rajesh Chandra emphasized that every individual working in the police department must maintain discipline and perform

their duties responsibly while serving the public. On Monday, he visited the police station office in Nizamsagar Mandal, where he reviewed various records and sought infor-

mation regarding cases from Sub-Inspector Shivakumar. SP Rajesh Chandra advised the police personnel to be aware of new laws and promptly respond to complaints filed at the station to ensure justice for the people. He also instructed the staff to immediately respond to Dial 100 calls and reach the in-

cident sites to deliver justice to victims. Further, he emphasized on extensive night patrols and regular vehicle checks within the police station jurisdiction. Special attention was directed towards checking for drunk driving, fake number plates, and modifying plates, urging officers to take strict action.

Additionally, SP Rajesh Chandra highlighted the importance of raising public awareness about preventing road accidents and the role of CCTV cameras in crime control. He also urged officers to promote awareness of online scams and encourage the installation of CCTV cameras in village main streets.

## MLA Marris Rajasekhar Reddy Protests in Garbage Pile, Demands Removal of Dumping Yard

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad :** BRS MLA from Malkajgiri, Marris Rajasekhar Reddy, staged a unique protest by sitting in a garbage heap, demanding the removal of the dumping yard in Alwal, Medchal-Malkajgiri district. The locals have been raising strong objections to the establishment of the dumping

yard at a cremation ground in Macha Bollaram. Residents have been unable to bear the stench of the garbage and have expressed concerns over an increase in mosquito menace. For a long time, they have been requesting the government to relocate the dumping yard to a different location. In a show

of solidarity with the local residents, MLA Rajasekhar Reddy sat amidst the garbage and voiced his protest, demanding the immediate shifting of the dumping yard to another area. The protest has garnered attention as the community continues to urge the government for a solution to the



environmental and health hazards posed by the garbage disposal site.

## Tragic Road Accident in USA Claims Lives of Three Telangana Residents

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad :** A horrific road accident in Florida, USA, has claimed the lives of three individuals from Telangana, including a mother and daughter, along with a young child. The victims were from Tekulapalli village in the Kondurg mandal of Ranga Reddy district. The deceased were identified as Pragathi Reddy (35), the daughter of former Sarpanch Mohan Reddy, her mother Sunitha Reddy (56), and her 8-year-old son, Harveen Reddy. The accident occurred early on Monday morning, at 3 AM (Indian time), as confirmed by the family members. Sunitha



Reddy had recently traveled to the USA to visit her daughter, Praneetha Reddy, and her son-in-law, Rohith Reddy, from Siddipet. While returning in a car with her fami-

ly, the accident occurred when the vehicle collided with a truck. Tragically, Praneetha, her son Harveen, and Rohith Reddy lost their lives at the scene. Rohith's younger son survived with minor injuries. This tragic loss has cast a shadow of grief over Tekulapalli village, where the family hails from. Efforts are underway to repatriate the bodies back to their hometown. Family members and villagers are in deep sorrow, mourning the untimely and tragic end to the lives of three beloved members. The family had emigrated to the USA about 15 years ago.





## Election Commission Needs Urgent Course Correction on Voter Rolls

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is facing growing criticism from Opposition parties over discrepancies in electoral rolls and issues of duplicate Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) numbers. As the country approaches a significant milestone of 100 crore eligible voters, these concerns have raised alarm over the integrity of the electoral process. If not addressed swiftly, these issues could undermine the credibility of India's democratic framework. The ECI has acknowledged that while some EPIC numbers may appear identical, other voter details such as demographic information, assembly constituency, and polling booth are different. However, this assurance has done little to quell concerns, and many believe it is insufficient. The need for a comprehensive national exercise to

ensure each voter has a unique EPIC number has become critical. In addition, there must be stronger coordination between the ECI and state electoral officers to ensure accurate and updated voter databases. Lapses by these officers, particularly in managing voter records independently, seem to have contributed to these discrepancies. A key point of contention is the ECI's move to link voter IDs with Aadhaar. Although current law allows for voluntary linking of Aadhaar details to electoral rolls, the government has assured that those who do not comply will not be removed from the voter list. This approach aims to prevent coercive actions and ensure inclusivity. Aadhaar, being a unique identifier, plays a pivotal role in eliminating duplicate voters, ensuring transparency, and improving

service delivery to citizens. However, the government must focus on resolving the current issues with voter rolls before undertaking major reforms like 'One Nation, One Election.'

The concerns raised by Opposition parties are valid, as voter roll integrity is the cornerstone of any fair election. For a democracy as vast as India's, it is crucial to ensure that the voter list is accurate and free from duplication. The ECI's upcoming high-level meeting on March 18 to discuss the Aadhaar linkage issue must result in a clear, time-bound plan to address these concerns. Failure to act swiftly and decisively could lead to widespread disenchantment with the electoral process, damaging the trust that citizens place in their democratic institutions.



## Ukraine Faces Potential "Frozen" Conflict Amid Ceasefire Talks

Ukraine may be on the verge of a "frozen" conflict, as international pressure mounts for a ceasefire, yet both sides remain far from agreeing on a lasting peace. The recent proposal for a 30-day ceasefire, brokered by the U.S., has brought global attention to Moscow's stance. While Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed conditional support for a ceasefire, emphasizing that it should address the root causes of the war, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has warned that Putin's intentions are manipulative and aimed at gaining further territorial concessions.

Putin's response is strategic; he recognizes that the conflict is not just a military struggle but a geopolitical one, and he aims to prolong negotiations to maximize his gains. With Russia regaining control of significant areas in Ukraine, including the Kursk region, Putin is pushing for a halt to Western military support to Ukraine during the ceasefire period, further complicating negotiations.

The situation mirrors the Korean War's armistice, where an official peace agreement was never signed, only a temporary halt to hostilities. Just as the Korean conflict remained unresolved for years, Ukraine could face a similar fate, with no peace deal in sight. Putin's demands to keep Crimea and parts of Donbas under Russian control are unacceptable to Ukraine, which remains determined to reclaim its territory.

Zelenskyy, meanwhile, is in a weaker position, as the Trump administration has hinted that Kyiv may have to accept significant territorial losses, including not joining NATO. The ill-fated Ukrainian offensive in Kursk last year only compounded the country's strategic challenges, with Russia regaining lost ground.

While the U.S. puts pressure on Moscow to accept the ceasefire and toughens sanctions on Russian energy and banking sectors, Zelenskyy is calling for guarantees to ensure Russia adheres to the ceasefire. The Kremlin, however, opposes the idea of European peacekeepers in Ukraine, with Putin preferring a role for countries like India and other BRICS nations, who have maintained neutral relations with Russia.

As talks progress, the conflict risks becoming a prolonged "frozen" war, where violence stops but a lasting peace remains elusive. For Ukraine, the challenge is to ensure its sovereignty while navigating complex international pressures.

## India Must Deftly Walk the Tariff Tightrope

India faces a significant challenge in negotiating trade tariffs with the United States under President Donald Trump. The tariffs being used as leverage for non-trade objectives, such as reducing illegal immigration and bolstering the dollar, have caused global trade turmoil. While Trump's trade war strategy appears erratic, India must navigate these tumultuous waters carefully to avoid serious economic setbacks.

India's trade surplus with the U.S. has become a point of contention for the Trump administration, particularly as India runs a large overall trade deficit with the world. India's high tariffs on agricultural products, automobiles, and alcohol—ranging from 100% to 165%—have particularly drawn criticism. In response, India offered to reduce tariffs on items of American interest, like bourbon whiskey, but this gesture has not mollified Trump.

The situation has become a complex balancing act. On the one hand, India is protective of its domestic industries, such as agriculture and automobiles, where high tariffs shield local businesses and farmers from foreign competition. On the other hand, India has significant vulnerabilities. For instance, if India agrees to reduce tariffs for the U.S., it risks setting a precedent for other countries, such as the European Union and the U.K., who have long sought similar concessions. Moreover, the United States is unlikely to significantly increase its exports even if India cuts tariffs, making this trade dispute more emotional than practical.

India's economic situation is far stronger today compared to 1991, when it faced an economic crisis. The 1991 economic reforms opened up India's economy, making it the world's fifth-largest economy today. However, India's agricultural and automobile sectors remain overprotected, reminiscent of the country's pre-reform era. With growing global competition and changing economic dynamics, India must reconsider its high tariff policies.

Eliminating tariffs on agriculture and manufactured goods would help India integrate more deeply into the global economy, boosting its manufacturing sector and attracting foreign investments. This shift would also create jobs in new industries,



while freeing up resources to address pressing domestic issues such as the over-reliance on agriculture. India should not only focus on tariff reductions but also harness its labor force's potential in emerging sectors like sports, entertainment, and personal services. By retraining workers and investing in global opportunities, India can ensure long-term prosperity without compromising its economic independence. In conclusion, India must tread carefully with the U.S. on tariffs, aiming to strike a deal that protects its interests while positioning itself as an open and competitive player in the global economy.



## Pakistan Faces Growing Internal Crisis Amid Baloch Separatism and TTP Resurgence

Pakistan is grappling with a significant internal crisis, driven by escalating separatist insurgencies and a surge in terrorist attacks. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has intensified its activities, conducting at least 14 attacks between 2020 and 2025 against Chinese nationals, killing 20 people and injuring 34. In addition, over 400 Pakistani security personnel have died in similar attacks. While the BLA's militancy continues, the Baloch independence movement is also supported by non-violent activists, such as Mahrang Baloch, advocating for provincial autonomy and social justice.

The BLA's March 13 hijacking of the Jaffar Express, a high-profile operation, has propelled the movement into the international spotlight. This event parallels other global incidents, such as the October 2023 Hamas attack, highlighting the BLA's strategy to rejuvenate the Baloch cause. However, this bold action risks triggering a harsh response from Pakistan's military establishment, which traditionally leans towards military solutions rather than diplomatic engagement.

Pakistan's counterinsurgency history reveals the limits of force in resolving separatist

movements. In 1971, the state's heavy-handed tactics led to the separation of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Similarly, while Operation Zarb-e-Azb against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) brought temporary peace, it failed to address the underlying issues, with the TTP quickly resurfacing when the Taliban gained control of Afghanistan.

The Baloch insurgency shares key similarities with past conflicts, where the state's reliance on military might has proven ineffective. Pakistan's failure to address the grievances of ethnic minorities like the Baloch, Sindhis, and Kashmiris has prolonged regional instability. As the TTP resurges and Baloch separatism gains momentum, Pakistan faces a perilous situation where military responses alone could lead to a prolonged, unwinnable conflict.

Pakistan's military engagement across its borders, including operations along the Durand Line, and its ongoing internal conflicts threaten to undermine recent economic stabilization. With tensions rising and the situation spiraling out of control, Pakistan must reconsider its approach, shifting from forceful suppression to genuine political dialogue to prevent further destabilization.



# PM Modi-Christopher Luxon meeting: India, New Zealand ink defence pact

- Focus on maritime security and cooperation
- Roadmap planned for future defence ties
- Joint training and exercises to increase
- Supports Indo-Pacific peace and stability



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India and New Zealand have signed a defence cooperation agreement aimed at boosting their partnership in maritime safety and security. This pact follows a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon on Monday, marking a significant step in strengthening the two nations' ties.

Following the talks, Modi emphasized the decision to strengthen and institutionalize the defence and security relationship between the two countries. He also revealed that a roadmap would be developed to guide future cooperation in the defence industry sector, ensuring more strategic collaboration.

As a member of the Five Eyes intelligence alliance, New Zealand plays a vital role in global security, and this agreement is seen as a move to

enhance both countries' strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region. The focus on maritime safety and security is particularly significant given the increasing geopolitical challenges in the region, which call for stronger partnerships between like-minded nations.

The new agreement is expected to deepen defence engagements and facilitate greater collaboration on training, joint exercises, and the sharing of best practices in the defence sector. Both leaders acknowledged the importance of maintaining a rules-based international order in the maritime domain, and this agreement serves as a step towards enhancing peace and stability in the region.

This development also reflects India's growing global influence and its efforts to strengthen ties with key partners like New Zealand, in line with its broader foreign policy strategy to bolster defence cooperation across the Indo-Pacific.



## India and Sweden Aim to Strengthen Trade and Investment Ties

Discussions focus on green technologies, smart infrastructure, and economic cooperation

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India and Sweden are actively exploring ways to enhance their bilateral trade and investment relations, with a focus on fostering economic cooperation in key sectors. During a recent meeting in New Delhi, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, and Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Maria M. Stenergard, discussed opportunities for collaboration in areas such as green technologies, renewable energy, smart infrastructure, and healthcare.

Sweden is currently the 21st largest investor in India, with a cumulative foreign direct investment (FDI) of USD 2.51 billion from April 2000 to March 2024. Key sectors attracting Swedish investments include automobiles, industrial machinery, engineering, electrical equipment, and metallurgy. The two countries aim to further strengthen their trade and investment ties through increased cooperation, opening up new avenues for business in both nations.

Minister Goyal emphasized the importance of these discussions, saying, "We discussed ways to further strengthen the India-Sweden bilateral trade and investment partnership, fostering economic cooperation and

opening up new business opportunities in both nations." The Joint Economic Commission (JEC) continues to serve as the primary platform for government-to-government dialogue between India and Sweden.

In recent trade statistics, India's exports to Sweden reached USD 104 million in June 2024, while imports totaled USD 171 million, resulting in a trade deficit of USD 66.6 million. However, compared to June 2023, India's exports to Sweden saw significant growth of 45.2%, while imports increased by 21.6%. Key exports from India to Sweden include ready-made cotton garments, electric machinery, automobile spare parts, and iron and steel products. Imports from Sweden include iron and steel, pulp and waste paper, paper products, auto components, and industrial machinery for various sectors.

This growing engagement between the two countries comes as Sweden strengthens its global partnerships, responding to shifts in international dynamics, including the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its evolving stance toward China. Both nations continue to deepen their ties, focusing on shared goals of economic growth and mutual prosperity.



## RG Kar Rape-Murder Case: SC disposes of parents' plea for fresh CBI probe – 'free to approach Calcutta HC'

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Supreme Court of India on Monday, March 17, dismissed a petition filed by the parents of a victim in the RG Kar rape-murder case, seeking a fresh investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). However, the court granted them the option to pursue their case in the Calcutta High Court.

Chief Justice of India, Sanjiv Khanna, stated, "Without making comments, we dispose of the application observing that the applicant is at liberty to pursue the proceedings before the HC," according to legal news agency LiveLaw.

The case relates to the horrific rape and murder of a 31-year-old post-graduate trainee doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. Her body was discovered on August 9, 2024, within the hospital premises. Investigations revealed that the woman had been raped and murdered, sparking widespread protests across the country.

During a prior hearing, the CJ-led Bench directed hospitals and medical colleges nationwide not to penalize doctors and medical professionals who had participated in protests over the case but had returned to their duties after the Supreme Court's appeal. Senior Advocate Karuna Nundi represented the victim's parents, while Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta appeared on behalf of the CBI.

In February 2025, a special court in Kolkata ordered the CBI to submit a progress report on the case by February 24. The CBI had taken over the investigation following a directive from the Calcutta High Court.



## Centre has accorded approval for Chandrayaan-5 Mission: ISRO chief ISRO to Launch 250 kg Rover to Study the Moon

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Centre has granted approval for the ambitious Chandrayaan-5 mission, aimed at studying the lunar surface, ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan announced on Sunday. Speaking at an event to felicitate his appointment as the new head of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Narayanan highlighted the significance of the mission, which will carry a 250 kg rover, a substantial upgrade from the 25-kg rover 'Prayagyaan' aboard Chandrayaan-3.

The Chandrayaan-5 mission, a key part of ISRO's lunar exploration program, will focus on detailed surface studies of the moon. Narayanan noted that this mission would be a step forward in ISRO's lunar exploration capabilities, following the success of the previous Chandrayaan missions. Chandrayaan-1, launched in 2008, provided crucial data on the moon's chemical, mineralogical, and photo-geological characteristics. Despite a partial setback during the Chandrayaan-2 mission in 2019, which was 98% successful, the high-resolution camera on the spacecraft continues to send valuable images from the lunar surface.

Narayanan also spoke about the recent success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, which achieved a significant milestone with the Vikram lander performing a soft landing on the moon's South Pole on August 23, 2023.



## India, New Zealand resume FTA talks, bilateral meet held

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India and New Zealand have officially resumed negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement (FTA), marking a significant step towards strengthening economic ties after a nearly decade-long pause. The two countries began discussions on the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) in April 2010, aimed at boosting trade in goods, services, and investment. However, after nine rounds of talks, negotiations stalled in 2015.

The announcement of the resumption of talks came after Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met with New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Investment, Todd McClay, during a high-level visit by New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon to India. The two leaders agreed to pursue a comprehensive and mutually beneficial FTA that seeks to enhance supply chain integration, improve market access, and unlock new business opportunities for both countries.

Bilateral trade between India and New Zealand has been steadily growing, surpassing \$1 billion during April-January 2025. However, a report by the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) suggests that the proposed FTA may offer limited benefits to Indian companies, as many already enjoy duty-free access to a significant portion of goods in the New Zealand market. The report notes that New Zealand's average import tariff is just 2.3%, compared to India's 17.8%. Despite this, the FTA negotiations aim to further enhance trade relations and unlock new opportunities for businesses and consumers. India's exports to New Zealand include clothing, textiles, refined petroleum, agricultural machinery, and basmati rice.





## Trump Attempts to Void Biden's Pardons, Raising Legal and Political Controversies

TPN Correspondent | Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump has moved to annul several of his predecessor Joe Biden's pardons, marking the latest in a series of actions to challenge political opponents. Among the pardons Trump declared void were those granted to Members of the U.S. House of Representatives investigating the January 6, 2020, Capitol attack, as well as prominent figures such as Dr. Anthony Fauci, who headed the Biden Administration's COVID-19 response, and former Joint Chiefs Chairman Mark Milley.

Trump's statement on his 'Truth Social' media platform claimed that these pardons, signed by Biden just before he left office on January 20, were invalid because they were allegedly signed using an autopen. "The 'Pardons' that Sleepy Joe Biden gave to the Unselect Committee of Political Thugs... are hereby declared VOID, VACANT, AND OF NO FURTHER FORCE OR EFFECT," Trump wrote early Monday morning.

The January 6 Select Committee, which Trump criticized, included several high-profile figures, such as Republicans Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger, and Democrat Adam Schiff, all vocal critics of Trump. On his first day in office, Trump had pardoned over 1,500 individuals involved in the Capitol attack, further emphasizing his controversial use of pardons.

Trump also claimed—without evidence—that Biden might not have been aware of the pardons and suggested that members of the Select Committee might have signed them on his behalf. He asserted that these individuals, who he accused of destroying evidence during their investigation, should be prepared for high-level scrutiny.

While Trump's attempt to nullify these pardons raises significant questions about executive power, he acknowledged that it would ultimately be up to the courts to decide if the rescinding of presidential pardons is legally valid. Presidential pardoning power, granted by Article II Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, is broad but has historically been used to protect allies and family members. Despite these powers, the courts have largely refrained from limiting presidential pardons, leaving their scope open to interpretation.



## Ukraine Appoints Major General Andrii Hnatov as New Chief of General Staff

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has appointed Major General Andrii Hnatov as the new Chief of the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, replacing Lieutenant General Anatolii Barhylevych. The decision, announced through decrees published on the presidential website, did not specify the reasons behind the leadership change.

Defense Minister Rustem Umerov confirmed the reshuffle, emphasizing that the move was aimed at improving the combat effectiveness of the armed forces. Umerov noted that the promotion of Hnatov, which he recommended, is part of Ukraine's broader efforts to transform its military. Hnatov brings over 27 years of military experience to the position, having previously commanded various units, including a marine brigade, Operational Command East, and the Joint Forces of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

As part of the restructuring, Barhylevych has been appointed chief inspector of the Ministry of Defence. His new role will focus on ensuring compliance with military standards and reinforcing discipline within the Ukrainian military. Barhylevych had served as Chief of the General Staff since February 2024.

## Competition is fine, not conflict: PM Modi on China

- PM Modi Emphasizes India-China Cooperation
- Criticizes Pakistan's Role in Global Terrorism

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated on Sunday that cooperation between India and China benefits not only the two nations but also the global community. Speaking to Lex Fridman in a podcast, he highlighted the progress made in normalizing the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and noted that both countries are working toward restoring the pre-2020 status along the border, although the process might take time.

Modi emphasized that India-China cooperation is crucial for global stability and prosperity, stating, "The 21st century is the Asian century. Competition is natural, but there should not be conflict." Reflecting on the historical ties between India and China, Modi pointed out that the two countries, both ancient civilizations, have learned from each other throughout history. He noted that they once contributed to half of the world's GDP and had little history of conflict.

Looking ahead, Modi expressed India's desire to maintain strong ties with China. "Differences between neighbors are natural, and occasional disagreements are also natural. Our aim is to ensure that these differences



do not escalate into disputes. We prioritize dialogue over discord," he said. Modi acknowledged that the 2020 border standoff had strained relations, but emphasized that efforts are underway to rebuild trust.

On relations with Pakistan, Modi reflected on his previous attempts to foster peace, including his invitation to Pakistan at his 2014 swearing-in ceremony. He said, "The biggest breakthrough was inviting Pakistan, but the results were disappointing." Modi criticized Pakistan for continuing to pursue conflict

instead of peace and harmony, despite the heavy emotional toll of the Partition on India. He pointed to Pakistan's role in global terrorism, particularly its involvement in the 9/11 attacks, as a source of global instability.

Modi urged Pakistan to abandon its policy of state-sponsored terrorism, stating that such actions were harming both India and the world. He expressed hope that Pakistan would eventually choose peace and that its people, too, were frustrated with the ongoing cycle of violence.

## NASA announces Sunita Williams, Butch Wilmore's return date to earth



TPN Correspondent | Cape Canaveral

NASA has confirmed the return date for astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, who have spent an extended mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS). The pair, along with fellow astronauts Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, will return to Earth in mid-March aboard a SpaceX capsule.

Williams and Wilmore were originally scheduled for a brief mission lasting about a week when they launched in June 2024 aboard Boeing's first astronaut flight. However, due to several issues with the Boeing Starliner capsule, which delayed their scheduled return, they ended up spending nearly nine months in space. The capsule had encountered multiple technical problems, forcing NASA to leave

their mission crew behind until a SpaceX capsule could transport their replacements.

On Sunday, a new SpaceX crew capsule arrived at the ISS, delivering replacements for Williams and Wilmore. The four astronauts, hailing from the US, Japan, and Russia, will spend a few days aboard the station, learning about its operations from the experienced crew members before the pair return to Earth. This marks the end of their unexpected extended stay.

In a lighthearted moment, one of the Russian astronauts, Ivan Vagner, wore an alien mask as the new crew arrived. Wilmore greeted them with enthusiasm, ringing the space station's bell as the new crew members entered. Williams shared her excitement with Mission Control, saying, "It was a wonderful day. Great to see our friends arrive."

The planned return is set for mid-March. After some additional delays, including extensive repairs to their replacement capsule's batteries, Williams, Wilmore, and their fellow astronauts will undock from the ISS on Tuesday morning and splash down off Florida's coast later that evening. Weather permitting, their return will conclude an extended and challenging mission aboard the space station, with 11 astronauts currently aboard the orbiting laboratory.

## "Lack Of Trust": Israel's Netanyahu Seeks To Fire Internal Security Agency Chief

TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Sunday, March 17, 2025, that he intends to seek the dismissal of Ronen Bar, the head of Israel's internal security agency, Shin Bet. Netanyahu's decision follows weeks of public disputes between the two, especially after the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, which triggered the ongoing war in Gaza. Netanyahu criticized Bar's leadership and accused him of failing to prevent the attack, which resulted in over 1,200 Israeli deaths.

In a video statement, Netanyahu explained that the lack of trust between him and Bar had led to the decision, stating that the Shin Bet's leadership needed to be restored in order to meet Israel's war objectives and prevent further disaster. He claimed that Bar's actions, including alleged media leaks, had obstructed necessary reforms within the agency.

However, Bar has rejected the notion that his dismissal is tied to the failures surrounding the October attack. He argued that Netanya-



hu's motive is political, suggesting the prime minister expects "personal loyalty" that contradicts Shin Bet's ethical standards. Bar emphasized that an in-depth investigation into the broader causes of the attack, including government policies, is crucial.

The proposed dismissal has sparked controversy. Israel's attorney general, Gali Baharav

Miara, called Netanyahu's move "unprecedented" and questioned its legality, stating that the decision should be fully reviewed before any action is taken. The political opposition, led by former Prime Minister Yair Lapid, has vowed to challenge the decision in the Supreme Court, claiming it is an attempt to derail a criminal investigation into Netanyahu's office.



## Stock Markets Start the Week on a Strong Note



Domestic stock markets surged on Monday, closing at their highest levels amid positive cues from Asian and international markets. Investor sentiment was lifted as all major Asian indices opened with gains, and quality stocks were available at attractive prices. The BSE Sensex gained 341 points, closing at 74,169, after touching an intraday high of 74,376. The NSE Nifty rose 111 points to settle at 22,508, with the Nifty Bank advancing 293 points to 48,354.

Among Nifty50 stocks, Dr. Reddy's, Bajaj Finserv, SBI Life, Trent, and Axis Bank led the gainers, while Wipro, Britannia, BPCL, Hero Moto, and ITC were the biggest losers. Pharma, healthcare, finance, and auto stocks saw strong demand, while FMCG, PSU banks, and oil & gas stocks faced selling pressure. Market breadth favored sellers, with 1,134 stocks gaining and 1,781 losing on the NSE. A total of 29 shares hit 52-week highs, while 433 shares reached 52-week lows.

In corporate updates, NMDC declared a ₹2.50 per share dividend for FY25, while Tata Motors and Maruti Suzuki announced price hikes of 2% and up to 4%, respectively. Airtel received a buy rating from Macquarie at a ₹1,800 target price, and HSBC upgraded Tata Motors to a buy. Hudco shares surged after sanctioning a ₹10,000 crore loan for Amara-vati construction.



### Voltas Ltd

Voltas saw strong demand in the air conditioning and cooling segment due to rising temperatures and increased sales of commercial refrigeration products. The company has a ₹500 crore expansion plan to boost its production capacity for cooling appliances. Jefferies has retained a 'Buy' rating with a target price of ₹1,620, citing growth potential in the consumer durables sector.

### Coromandel International Ltd

Coromandel is expanding its specialty fertilizer business to cater to increasing demand in the agri-tech sector. The company reported a 12% YoY growth in revenue, supported



**MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM**  
Stock Market Analyst  
+91 988 555 9709

by stable raw material costs and rising domestic demand. HSBC has maintained a 'Buy' rating with a target price of ₹2,250, emphasizing growth in agri-inputs.

### Bharat Forge Ltd

Bharat Forge has secured a ₹900 crore defense order for artillery components and armored vehicle parts. The company is expanding its EV components business to capitalize on growing demand in the electric mobility sector. Analysts remain bullish, with Motilal Oswal giving a 'Buy' rating and a target price of ₹1,350.

### HUDCO

HUDCO (Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd) announced fresh loan approvals worth ₹3,000 crore for affordable housing projects. The government's focus on infrastructure and urban development is expected to boost HUDCO's loan disbursement pipeline. ICICI Securities upgraded the stock to 'Buy' with a target price of ₹260.

### Coal India Ltd

Coal India's production increased by 8% YoY, driven by higher demand from the power and industrial sectors. The company declared a third interim dividend of ₹5 per share, benefiting long-term investors. strong fundamentals and steady production growth.



## India's Wholesale Inflation Rises to 2.38% in February, Food Prices Ease



India's wholesale inflation, based on the wholesale price index (WPI), rose to 2.38% in February, slightly up from 2.31% in January, according to provisional data released by the Union Ministry of Commerce on Monday. The increase in inflation was driven by a slower pace of decline in fuel and power prices and a rise in the prices of manufactured products.

The WPI inflation in February was marginally higher than the 2.36% predicted by economists in a Reuters poll.

Food Prices Show Moderate Increase Food prices, a major contributor to the overall inflation, increased by 5.94% annually in February, although this was a decrease compared to December's 8.85% and January's 7.47% rise. Within the food category,

cereal prices rose by 6.77% in February, a slight decline from January's 7.33%. Meanwhile, vegetable prices fell by 5.80%, following an 8.35% surge in January. However, the prices of onions and fruits continued to rise.

Despite the softer rise in food prices, they have remained elevated for over a year, largely due to uneven monsoon rains between November 2023 and June 2024.

Sonal Badhan, economist at the Bank of Baroda, noted that food inflation softened, helped by a broad-based slowdown. "The vegetable inflation index eased the most, followed by food grain inflation and inflation for protein-based items like milk, eggs, meat, and fish," she explained.

Manufactured Products and

Fuel Prices Manufactured product prices, which account for about 64% of the WPI, rose by 2.86% year-on-year in February, up from 2.51% in January. The prices of fuel and power fell by 0.71%, a smaller decline compared to January's 2.57% drop.

Rahul Agrawal, senior economist at ICRA Ltd., said that the overall uptick in wholesale inflation was primarily driven by non-food items. He added that the cooling in food inflation was offset by the narrowing deflation in fuel and power and an increase in core WPI inflation, which reached a 24-month high of 1.3%.

Looking ahead, experts predict volatility in commodity prices due to factors like the trade war and uncertainty surrounding US Federal Reserve rate cuts.

## Swiggy Shares Rise 2% as Instamart Expands to 100 Cities in India



Swiggy's shares gained nearly 2% in intraday trade on Monday, March 17, reaching ₹359.30 apiece, following the announcement of a significant milestone for its Quick Commerce platform, Instamart. The platform, which was launched in August 2020, has now expanded to 100 cities across India, responding to the growing demand for fast 10-minute deliveries, especially in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

In its filing to the exchanges, Swiggy revealed that it had introduced Instamart to 32 new cities this month alone, includ-

ing Raipur, Siliguri, Jodhpur, and Thanjavur. This expansion brings the convenience of rapid deliveries to millions of customers, who now have access to over 30,000 products, ranging from groceries and daily essentials to electronics, fashion, makeup, and toys, all delivered within 10 minutes.

Amitesh Jha, CEO of Swiggy Instamart, spoke about the milestone, noting that the platform has gained significant traction not only in metro cities but also in smaller towns. He emphasized that the demand for quick

commerce has grown substantially beyond Indian metros, highlighting the importance of their expansion to underserved areas.

In 2025, Swiggy reported that one in four new users came from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, demonstrating the increasing demand for quick commerce in these regions. The company remains committed to offering convenience, variety, and value to a broader customer base while empowering local ecosystems by supporting dark store staff and delivery partners.

Despite a 43% drop in Swiggy's share price from its peak, analysts remain optimistic about the long-term potential of the quick commerce space. They view the recent correction as an opportunity, with some brokerages offering positive outlooks. JM Financial has set a "buy" rating with a target price of ₹500, suggesting a 34.6% upside. ICICI Securities also maintains a "buy" call with a target price of ₹740 per share.

## Tata Motors to Hike Prices of Commercial Vehicles by Up to 2% from April



Tata Motors announced on Monday, March 17, 2025, that it will increase the prices of its commercial vehicle range by up to 2% starting April 1, 2025. The price hike is aimed at partially offsetting the rising input costs the company has been facing.

In a regulatory filing, Tata Motors stated that the price increase will vary depending on the individual model and variant. The company noted that the move was necessary to address

the rising costs of materials and other inputs that are impacting the commercial vehicle segment.

Tata Motors, a part of the \$165 billion Tata Group, is a major player in the automobile industry, manufacturing cars, utility vehicles, trucks, and buses. With a market capitalization of \$44 billion, it has a significant footprint in both the passenger and commercial vehicle markets.

This price increase is expected to affect the company's range of commercial vehicles, which includes trucks and buses that are used for various industrial and transportation purposes. The decision comes in the wake of increasing raw material costs, including steel and other components, which have impacted the cost structure for automobile manufacturers worldwide.

Despite the price hike, shares of Tata

Motors closed 0.84% higher on Monday, trading at ₹660.90 per share on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). The rise in stock prices indicates investor confidence, despite the increase in operational costs.

Tata Motors' decision is in line with broader industry trends, where automakers are passing on a portion of the rising costs to customers through price adjustments. As input costs continue to rise globally, especially for

critical materials used in vehicle production, companies like Tata Motors are increasingly under pressure to balance profitability with consumer affordability.

As the industry adapts to these market conditions, the price increase is expected to impact both businesses and consumers, particularly in the commercial vehicle segment.



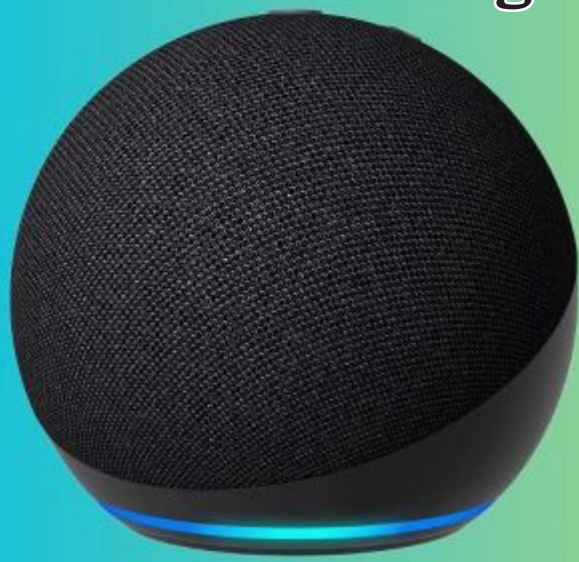
## iPhone 17 Air Was Supposed to Be Port-Free, But Apple Scrapped the Idea: Mark Gurman



The iPhone 17 series has been a topic of extensive speculation, with rumors suggesting the lineup will include the iPhone 17, iPhone 17 Air (or iPhone 17 Slim), iPhone 17 Pro, and iPhone 17 Pro Max, with an expected launch in the second quarter of this year. Among these, the iPhone 17 Air was slated to be Apple's thinnest iPhone yet, potentially replacing the Plus variant in the lineup. Bloomberg's Mark Gurman has revealed new details about the iPhone 17 Air, including an ambitious plan that Apple initially considered. According to Gurman's weekly Power On newsletter, Apple originally planned to make the iPhone 17 Air "Apple's first completely port-free iPhone." The device would have relied on wireless charging and cloud-based data syncing, eliminating the traditional charging ports altogether. This move was intended to pave the way for even slimmer models in the future, with a sleek, minimalist design that further pushed the limits of device thinness. However, Apple reportedly scrapped this plan to avoid po-

tential regulatory issues, particularly from the European Union (EU), which has recently mandated that tech companies like Apple adopt the USB Type-C charging standard. Apple's decision was likely influenced by the need to comply with the EU's regulations and maintain its broad consumer appeal. The iPhone 17 Air's thin design would have required a thinner battery, which could have compromised battery life. To avoid this, Apple instructed engineers to redesign key components, including the display and silicon, to optimize efficiency while maintaining performance. Expected Specifications: The iPhone 17 Air is expected to feature a 9.5mm thick profile, including the 4mm camera bump. It may offer a 6.6-inch OLED display with a 120Hz ProMotion refresh rate and Dynamic Island. The device could house a 24MP front camera, a 48MP rear camera, and be made with a titanium frame. It may also include Apple's first 5G modem and Wi-Fi chip. Rumored pricing is between \$1,299 and \$1,500.

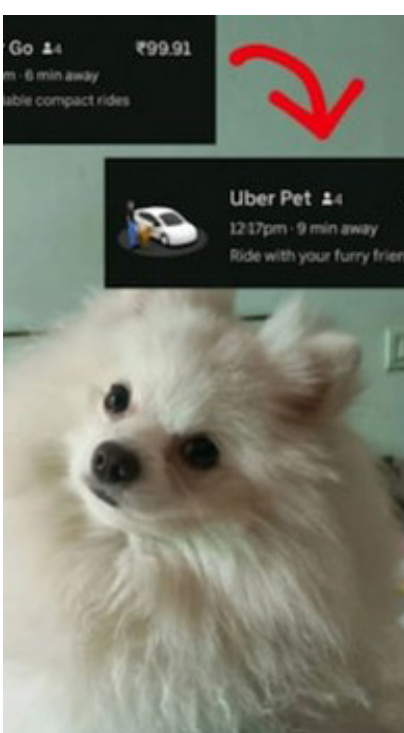
## Amazon Echo Users Will No Longer Have Option to Process Alexa Voice Recordings On-Device



Amazon has announced that starting March 28, Echo users will no longer have the option to process their voice commands and recordings locally on their devices. Instead, all Alexa voice recordings will be sent to Amazon's cloud for processing, as the company expands Alexa's capabilities with generative AI features. This change affects all Echo devices such as smart speakers and displays. In an email to users who had previously enabled the 'Do Not Send Voice Recordings' option, Amazon explained that on-device processing is being discontinued to enable the new AI-driven features that require the processing power of Amazon's secure cloud. The company emphasized that Alexa voice requests will remain encrypted during transmission to the cloud, where they are processed under security protections. Although voice recordings will still be deleted automatically after processing, the new policy raises privacy concerns. Many users may be uncomfortable with Amazon having access to their voice data, especially in the context of

in-home devices that can listen continuously. Amazon assures users that privacy controls will still be available through the Alexa Privacy dashboard, where they can manage how their data is handled, including the option to prevent their voice recordings from being stored at all. Amazon also announced the upcoming launch of Alexa+, a subscription-based, generative AI version of Alexa, which will include advanced features like Alexa Voice ID. This feature will allow Alexa to recognize individual users based on their voice, and share personalized content like calendar events and music. However, Amazon clarified that Voice ID may not function if users choose not to save voice recordings. This shift in policy is part of Amazon's ongoing push to enhance Alexa's AI capabilities but raises concerns about privacy, particularly in light of past controversies surrounding the handling of user data. Notably, Amazon has faced scrutiny over allowing employees to listen to Alexa voice recordings for training purposes and other privacy violations related to its Ring doorbell cameras.

## Gurugram Woman Calls Out Uber Pets For Overpricing



A Gurugram woman has raised concerns over the steep pricing of Uber's new service, Uber Pets, which allows passengers to travel with their pets. In a LinkedIn post, she highlighted the significant price difference between regular Uber rides and Uber Pets. For a short 2 km ride, the regular Uber fare was ₹100, while Uber Pets cost a staggering ₹530, over five times the price of a regular ride. The woman questioned whether the price hike was justified, speculating that it could account for cleaning fees, premium drivers, or simply be an added charge for pet owners. She pointed out that her local auto-rickshaw charges just ₹60 for a similar ride and even

offers belly rubs for her dog, making the Uber Pets pricing seem excessive. In her post, she expressed her surprise at the service's pricing, asking, "If the goal was accessibility, why is this service a luxury?" She further criticized the fact that many pet owners might struggle with these higher costs, especially when pets are considered family members. While some commenters suggested booking a regular Uber and informing the driver about the pet, others speculated that Uber might be capitalizing on the growing trend of pet ownership in India. One user pointed out that Uber may be trying to monetize this shift in consumer preferences.



## Forget 2 Minutes, This Eatery Serves Noodles in Just 48 Seconds!

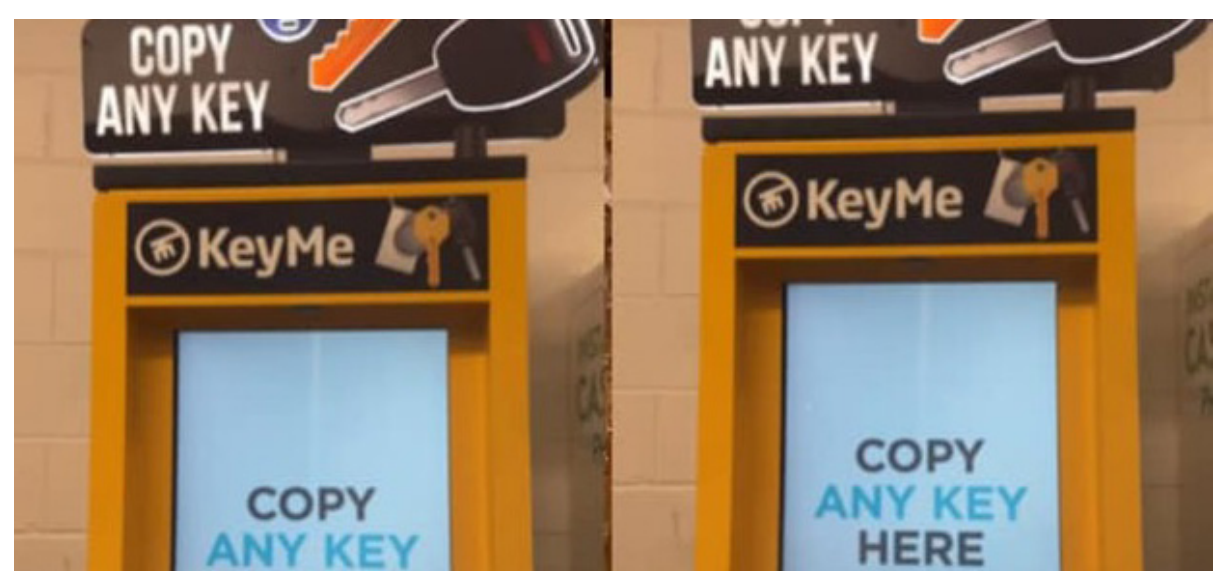
In the bustling city of Shenzhen, China, a new eatery is turning heads with its incredible speed of service, offering freshly cooked noodles in just 48 seconds. The Future Noodle Restaurant, a small but highly efficient establishment, has taken fast food to a whole new level. While most noodle dishes take at least two minutes to prepare, this restaurant uses a robotic system to make noodles from scratch in record time. The process is nothing short of fascinating. A robotic arm mixes flour and water, shaping the dough into perfect noodles in just eight seconds. The noodles are then plunged into hot water, where they cook with various ingredients like marinated eggs and grilled sausages for 40 seconds. The result is a hot, fresh, and delicious bowl of noodles, served in under a minute. The restaurant, which spans only eight square

meters, uses a self-service kiosk for ordering. Customers can choose from ten different noodle varieties, paired with sides such as marinated eggs and grilled sausages. The price of a meal ranges from 6 to 20 yuan (roughly Rs 122 to Rs 250), making it an affordable and quick dining option. A transparent window allows customers to observe the robotic cooking process, which has garnered praise for its speed, efficiency, and, most importantly, the flavor of the final product. With its cutting-edge technology and quick turnaround time, Future Noodle Restaurant is setting a new standard for fast food, proving that great meals don't need to take long to prepare. This innovative concept is a glimpse into the future of dining, where automation and robotics combine to deliver convenience and quality in record time.

## US Vending Machine Goes Viral for Duplicating Keys in Minutes

A viral video is captivating social media users, showcasing a unique vending machine in the US that can duplicate keys within minutes. Shared by Tanvir Shaikh on Instagram, the video demonstrates an alternative to the traditional and often time-consuming process of visiting a locksmith. In the video, Tanvir walks up to a vending machine resembling an ATM and taps the screen to begin the key duplication process. The machine offers several options, including standard keys, vehicle keys, access cards, and key fobs. Tanvir selects the standard option for a basic key copy, inserts his original key into a scanning slot, and chooses his preferred key

type—brass in this case. After selecting the number of copies—two in this case—he proceeds to the payment section. Within minutes, the machine dispenses three keys instead of two, surprising Tanvir with a free extra key. This fast, automated process has drawn attention for its convenience and efficiency compared to traditional locksmith services, where customers often face longer waiting times. Tanvir's Instagram reel has sparked interest, highlighting how technology is transforming everyday services like key duplication, making it quicker, easier, and more accessible.





## PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen Aim for Strong Show at Swiss Open



Star shuttlers PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will look to regain their top form at the USD 250,000 Swiss Open in Basel, which begins on Tuesday. Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist and 2022 champion, is seeded seventh and will face Malvika Bansod in a clash between two generations of Indian women's singles players. Lakshya Sen will meet HS Prannoy, the 2016 Swiss Open winner, in his opening match. Sindhu is recovering from a hamstring

injury and suffered an early exit at the All England Championship, while Malvika gained confidence with a win in Birmingham. Lakshya reached the quarterfinals at All England, while Prannoy faced early exits. Indian shuttlers have a strong record at the Swiss Open, with past champions including Sindhu, Prannoy, and Saina Nehwal. The tournament will feature several other Indian players aiming for success in singles and doubles events.

## Hockey India Names 36-Member Core Probable Group for Senior Men's National Camp

Hockey India has named a 36-member core probable group for the senior men's national coaching camp at SAI Bengaluru, which started on Monday and will run until March 28. The group includes goalkeepers Krishan Bahadur Pathak, Pawan, Suraj Karkera, and Mohith Honnena-halli Shashikumar, alongside defenders like Jarmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Varun Kumar, and Yashdeep Siwach. Midfielders such as Rajkumar Pal, Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, and Vivek Sagar Prasad, along with forwards including Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, and Gurjant Singh, have also been called up.



Following a successful start to their FIH Hockey Pro League campaign, where they won five of eight home matches, the team will focus on fitness, conditioning, and evaluating

their recent performances. Chief Coach Craig Fulton emphasized preparing for upcoming Pro League matches in Europe and assessing new talent during the camp.

## Panchal's 145 Guides Super Strikers to Elite Cricket Tournament Title

Super Strikers dominated the inaugural Elite Cricket Tournament, defeating Dynamic Daredevils by six wickets in the final on Sunday. Panchal was the hero of the match, blasting an astonishing 145 runs off just 34 balls, earning the 'Player of the Match' award. Dynamic Daredevils posted 200/6 in their 20 overs, with Sushant Singh scoring 83, Ansh contributing 31, and Amaan Alvi adding 43. However, Super Strikers made light work of the target, chasing down 201 in just 9.3 overs. Despite a shaky start at 15/2, Panchal's explosive innings, featuring 5 boundaries and 20 sixes, turned the match around. Jas-si's quick 26 off six balls helped seal the victory.



The tournament offered young cricketers a platform to compete along-

side experienced professionals, showcasing emerging talent and pro-

viding valuable exposure to high-level competi-tion.

## National Women's Hockey League 2024-25 Final Phase to Begin on March 18

The final phase of the inaugural National Women's Hockey League 2024-25 will kick off on March 18 at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh AstroTurf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi, Jharkhand. The U-21 Women's tournament will feature eight of India's top state teams: Hockey Haryana, Hockey Maharashtra, Hockey Jharkhand, Hockey Madhya Pradesh, Hockey Bengal, Hockey Mizoram, Manipur Hockey, and Hockey Association of Odisha. The teams will compete in a round-robin format from March 18 to 28, with each team facing the others once. Three points will be awarded for a win, one point for a draw, and no points for a loss. The team with the most points at the end of the league will be crowned champions. The opening match will see Hockey Haryana face Manipur Hockey at 7:00 AM IST.



The tournament will showcase young talent and provide valuable exposure for rising players in domestic hockey.

## Mirra Andreeva Shocks Aryna Sabalenka to Win Indian Wells Title

Russian 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva stunned world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka with a 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 victory to claim her second WTA 1000 title at Indian Wells. This win follows Andreeva's historic triumph in Dubai, where she became the youngest player to win a 1000-level title. After a challenging start, Andreeva broke Sabalenka three times in the third set, showing resilience and determination. She will rise to a career-high world No. 6 following this victory. Reflecting on the match, Andreeva said, "I was running like a rabbit today," crediting her ability to fight to the end. Sabalenka, who had been in dominant form leading into the final, expressed

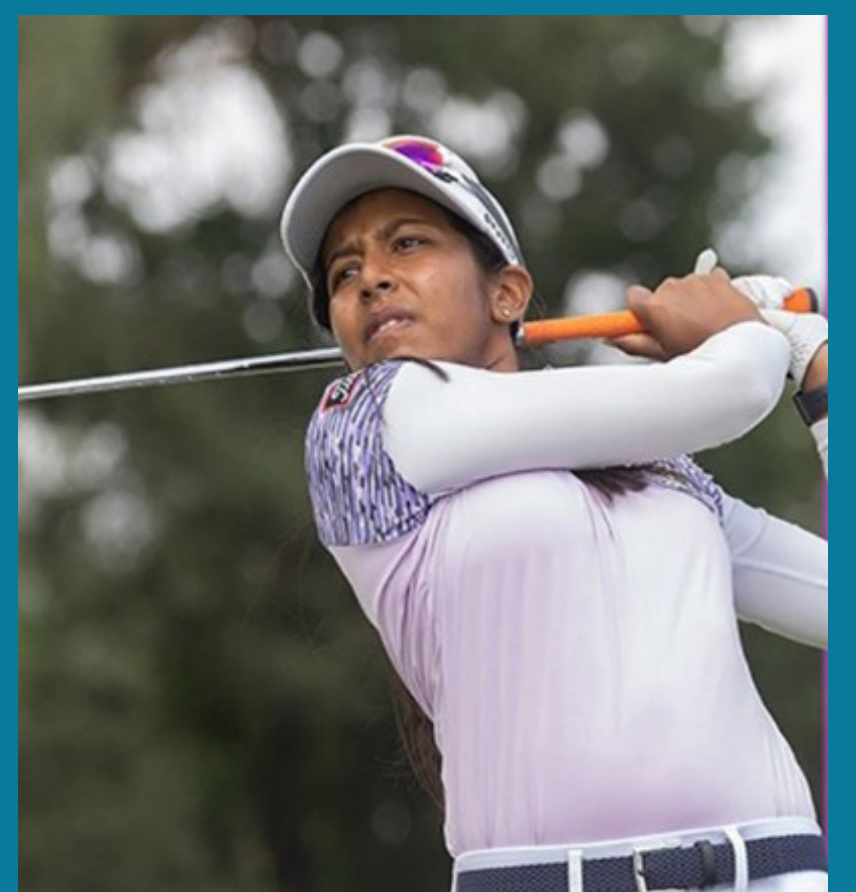


frustration with her performance, admitting to unforced errors and emotional struggles. This marks Andreeva's first

hard court victory over Sabalenka, after losses to the Belarusian earlier this year at the Australian Open and Brisbane.

## Avani Prashanth Shoots 65, Finishes Tied-13th at Australian Women's Classic

Avani Prashanth shot an impressive 5-under 65 in the final round of the Australian Women's Classic, securing a solid top-15 finish in her first season on the Ladies European Tour. With earlier rounds of 72-70, she finished at 3-under 207, six shots behind winner Manon De Roey, who claimed her third LET victory. Starting on the tenth, Avani birdied five holes in a row before a couple of dropped shots. However, she regained momentum, adding a birdie on the seventh. Avani was pleased with her performance, especially after overcoming challenges with reading the greens earlier in the tournament. Pranavi Urs, the only other Indian to make the cut, finished tied-65th. Manon De Roey's victory moved her to second in the 2025 Order of Merit, while the LET heads to Wollongong for the WPGA Tour next.







## Kangana Ranaut Confident 'Emergency' Will Win National Award



Kangana Ranaut, actor and director of the historical drama *Emergency*, has rejected suggestions that the film should compete for an Oscar. The movie, based on the 1975 Emergency imposed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has been trending on Netflix, sparking polarized reactions. While some fans have suggested it should be considered for the Oscars, Ranaut has made it clear that she isn't seeking international recognition. Reposting a fan's praise on social media, Ranaut remarked, "America wouldn't like to acknowledge its real face... they can keep their silly Oscar, we have National Awards." Expressing confidence in her film's success, she emphasized her belief that *Emergency* would win a National Award, highlighting her pride in the Indian award system over foreign accolades.

## Anushka Sharma Shares Cryptic Post After Virat Kohli Slams BCCI's Family Rule

Anushka Sharma recently posted a cryptic message on Instagram about the multiple versions of ourselves that exist in others' perceptions. Reflecting on how different people see us in varying ways, she shared, "A different version of you exists in the minds of everyone who knows you," emphasizing that our core identity remains elusive even to ourselves. This introspective post came

shortly after her husband, cricketer Virat Kohli, criticized the Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI) over their new restrictions on family time during international tours. Virat voiced his frustration at the lack of understanding about the mental well-being families provide to players. Anushka and Virat, who married in 2017, are parents to two children, Vamika and Akaay. Anushka's upcoming project is the biopic *Chakda Xpress* on cricketer Jhulan Goswami.



## Shah Rukh Khan's Upcoming Movie in South: Collaboration with Sukumar

Shah Rukh Khan, fresh off the success of *Jawan*, is reportedly in talks with acclaimed South director Sukumar for an intense, rural-set political action drama. This collaboration is generating major buzz as it might mark a departure for SRK, who is expected to play an anti-hero, a significant shift from his usual roles. The film is rumored to explore caste and class struggles, with Sukumar's signature raw storytelling style. Adding to the excitement, the movie is believed to be linked to Sukumar's *Pushpa* universe, a franchise known for its



high-impact, mass-appealing moments. However, the film's production might take time, as both Shah Rukh Khan and Sukumar are currently busy with other commitments. Sukumar is working on a project with Ram Charan, while SRK is preparing for *Pathaan 2* and *King*.

## Shruti Haasan's De-Glam Look Stuns Fans in Coolie BTS Photos

Shruti Haasan's simple and striking look in the behind-the-scenes pictures from *Coolie* has taken the internet by storm. Shared on March 14, the images celebrate the birthday of director Lokesh Kanagaraj. In one photo, Shruti can be seen wearing a modest salwar-kameez with her hair tied in a neat braid, flaunting her natural glow with minimal makeup. Her un-

derstated appearance has garnered attention, showing her effortless beauty and charm. *Coolie*, featuring an ensemble cast including Rajinikanth, Nagarjuna, and others, is expected to release in 2025. The film, produced by Sun Pictures, marks the reunion of Rajinikanth and composer Anirudh Ravichander. Action choreographers Anbu-Arivu



are also part of the project. Fans eagerly await more updates following the film's first-look poster release in March 2024.

## Tamannaah Bhatia Aspires to Play Sridevi on Screen



revealing her desire to portray her on screen. Speaking at the Blenders Pride Fashion Tour, Tamannaah called Sridevi "super iconic," highlighting her immense influence and versatility.



various genres, from comedy to drama. She remains one of Indian cinema's most celebrated actresses, known for her unforgettable performances in films like *Mr. India*, *Sadma*, *Khuda Gawah*, and *English Vinglish*. Tamannaah, who was last seen in the heist thriller *Sikandar Ka Muqaddar*, will next appear in the Telugu supernatural thriller *Odela 2*. She also expressed her ongoing admiration for Sridevi's legendary career and the wide range of characters she portrayed.

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia recently expressed her admiration for the late legendary actress Sridevi,

Sridevi, who passed away in 2018, was renowned for breaking stereotypes and portraying diverse roles across

## Malaika Arora Rebukes 16-Year-Old Contestant for "Indecent" Gestures on Hip Hop India Season 2



Malaika Arora, a judge on *Hip Hop India Season 2*, schooled a 16-year-old contestant for making suggestive gestures during his performance. In a now-viral video, Malaika can be heard reprimanding the teenager, saying, "Mummy ka phone number do!" (Give me your mother's phone number!), expressing disbelief at his behavior. She pointed out his inappropriate actions, including winking and sending flying kisses.

Other contestants also voiced their objections to the participant's conduct. Malaika, known for her straightforward nature, emphasized the importance of respectful behavior, especially considering the contestant's young age. On the work front, Malaika recently appeared in the Marathi film *Yek Number* and continues to judge popular reality shows like *India's Got Talent* and *India's Best Dancer*.

## Taapsee Pannu Wraps Up Shooting for Gandhari

Taapsee Pannu has officially wrapped up the shoot for her upcoming film *Gandhari*, an intense revenge action thriller. Sharing a series of pictures from the set, she reflected on the challenging experience, describing it as running on "fuel of grit and determination" and experiencing a "burnout like never before." The film's title, inspired by the character from the *Mahabharata*, follows a mother's emotional and powerful journey to rescue her kidnapped child. In her post, Taapsee expressed immense satisfaction with the project, saying, "Some bruises give a feeling of contentment like never before." *Gandhari* is directed by Devashish Makhija and marks

her sixth collaboration with writer-producer Kanika Dhillon. The film promises to be a powerful tale of revenge and redemption.

