



### Weather Forecast

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

# AP Budget 2025-26 Crosses ₹3 Lakh Crores

**Massive allocations for welfare and development schemes**

**₹6,000 crore earmarked for Amaravati capital construction**

**Special ₹10 crore fund allocated for Telugu language development**

### TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, has presented the much-anticipated 2025-26 state budget, crossing the ₹3 lakh crore milestone for the first time in the state's history. Finance Minister

Payyavula Keshav tabled the budget in the Assembly, reiterating the coalition government's commitment to fulfilling election promises, particularly the Super Six guarantees, while also ensuring a strong push towards welfare, development, and rural progress.

₹3,22,359 crore, a notable increase from last year's ₹2.94 lakh crore. Agriculture and allied sectors have been allocated ₹48,340 crore, marking a substantial jump from previous years. Capital expenditure has also gone up to ₹40,635 crore, while the fiscal deficit stands at ₹79,926 crore, raising concerns about the growing debt burden.

The total budget outlay has been set at

### Key Allocations

#### As part of its welfare focus, the government allocated:

- ₹31,613 crore for NTR Vaidya Seva, ensuring health coverage up to ₹25 lakh per family.
- ₹9,407 crore for the Thalliki Vandanam scheme, supporting mothers across the state.
- ₹23,260 crore for BC welfare, ₹20,281 crore for SC welfare, and ₹8,159 crore for ST welfare.
- ₹18,848 crore for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, reflecting the government's emphasis on rural infrastructure and livelihoods.
- ₹6,705 crore for Polavaram project, and ₹6,000 crore specifically for Amaravati capital development, reinforcing the government's commitment to completing the state capital project.
- ₹10 crore has been earmarked for the promotion and development of Telugu language, a first-of-its-kind initiative.

#### Sectoral Allocations

- School Education: ₹31,806 crore
- Industries and Commerce: ₹3,156 crore
- Manabadi Scheme: ₹3,486 crore
- Deepam 2.0 Scheme: ₹2,601 crore
- Adarana Scheme: ₹1,000 crore
- ₹18,020 crore has been set aside for irrigation and water resources, including significant allocations for various pending irrigation projects across the state.

#### Good Points

- A Feel-Good Budget with a balanced focus on welfare and development.
- The government has tried to balance development spending with welfare schemes, aiming to ensure both economic growth and social welfare.
- Increased allocations for rural development, particularly through Panchayati Raj programs and irrigation projects.
- Irrigation sector received a clear priority, with focus on both large projects like Polavaram and ongoing works across the state.

#### Pending Commitments

However, two major election promises remain unaddressed in the budget:

- Free Bus Travel Scheme - No clear allocations or announcements were made in this regard.
- Unemployment Benefit Scheme - No specific allocation has been mentioned, leaving many youth uncertain about its rollout.

#### Flaws and Concerns

Despite the positive tone, several concerns persist:

- More Budget, More Loans - With a fiscal deficit of ₹79,926 crore, heavy reliance on borrowing could strain the state's financial health.
- No Major Infra Development Beyond Amaravati - Except for the capital city, no significant allocations were made for industrial corridors, port development, or urban infrastructure in other regions.
- Neglect of Farmer-Specific Issues - Although agriculture received higher allocations, no new schemes or direct relief measures were proposed to address farmers' pressing challenges like input costs, market access, and price stabilization.
- High Allocations, Implementation Doubts - While the budget numbers are impressive, questions remain over the government's capacity to implement these schemes effectively. Given past experiences, delays and partial execution remain a real risk.

#### Focus on Green Initiatives

Minister Payyavula Keshav also highlighted the government's intention to make Andhra Pradesh a pollution-free state. Under the guidance of Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, greening initiatives and rural development projects will aim to enhance greenery by 50% across the state. This dual focus on environmental sustainability and rural upliftment is expected to improve living standards in villages and semi-urban areas.

In conclusion, the 2025-26 budget presents a vision for development, with welfare and rural progress at its core, but also leaves several critical gaps, especially in terms of fiscal prudence, industrial infrastructure, and specific farmer support. How effectively the government converts these allocations into visible outcomes will determine whether the people of Andhra Pradesh truly benefit from this historic budget.

## Positive Changes Ahead for AP, Says Dy CM Pawan Kalyan

- Dy CM Pawan Kalyan reacts to the AP Budget 2025-26
- Says welfare and sustainable development are the government's twin goals
- Highlights coalition government's efforts to restore financial discipline



Pawan Kalyan highlighted the record capital expenditure of ₹40,636 crore, stating that these investments in infrastructure will lay a strong foundation for future economic growth. He said increased allocations to crucial departments will boost infrastructure, attract investments, and generate new revenue streams for the state.

The Deputy CM thanked CM Chandrababu Naidu for his visionary leadership, ensuring balanced allocations for welfare programs and development initiatives. He also congratulated Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav and Agriculture Minister Atchannaidu for presenting a budget that caters to the welfare of farmers and addresses the needs of various sectors. Pawan Kalyan also appreciated officials from the Finance, Planning, and Agriculture departments for their contributions in preparing the comprehensive budget.

Reflecting on the political shift in 2024, Pawan Kalyan reminded that YSRCP's 2019

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## Neglecting the Party Means Sinking Together: Chandrababu Warns TDP MLAs & Cadre



- Focus on party reconstruction and unity stressed
- Alerts MLAs to stay vigilant against conspiracies
- Highlights past incidents, warns against careless statements

### TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu issued a strong caution to TDP MLAs and cadre, warning that neglecting the party would lead to collective downfall. He urged all leaders to focus on party reconstruction and work with the determination to secure victory in the next elections. He emphasized that party strengthening is a continuous process and everyone should take ownership of it.

Chandrababu made these remarks at the TDLP meeting held in the Assembly Committee Hall, attended by MLAs, MLCs, and MPs. Stressing the importance of discipline, he advised MLAs to be careful with their words, warning that unnecessary statements could be exploited by the opposition. He revealed that he is regularly receiving performance reports on leaders and will soon meet with second-tier leaders and activists for direct discussions. Recalling past conspiracies, Chandrababu cited the Vivekananda Reddy murder case and the Kodi Kathi incident as examples of political plots used to damage TDP's reputation, blaming negligence in countering such conspiracies for the party's defeat in 2019. He also raised concerns about the recent fire incident at Jagan's residence in Tadepalli, pointing out the suspicious refusal to provide CCTV footage despite police requests.

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## Posani Krishna Murali Has Been Remanded for 14 Days, Prisoner Number 2261

### TPN Correspondent | Railway Kodur

Film actor and YSRCP Leader Posani Krishna Murali has been remanded for 14 days by the Railway Kodur court, with prisoner number 2261 allotted to him at Rajampet sub-jail. The court took a serious view of Posani's remarks about women, categorizing them under sexual harassment.



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## Centre Appoints Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey as New SEBI Chief

Tuhin Kanta Pandey appointed SEBI chairman for three years.

He replaces Madhabi Puri Buch, whose term ends this month.

Pandey played a key role in Air India's privatization and LIC's listing.



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### Posani Krishna Murali

Posani was interrogated at Obulavaripalle Police Station in Annamaya district until late last night. He was produced before the court at 9:30 pm, where arguments continued until 5 am. Advocate Ponnabolu Sudhakar represented Posani, strongly arguing for bail, but the court rejected the plea and ordered remand until March 13. During the proceedings, the court made critical remarks, stating that Posani's statements towards women amount to sexual harassment under the law. Following the court's decision, Posani was transferred to Rajampet sub-jail, where he will remain until further orders. The case is expected to attract further attention, given Posani's controversial statements and public image, with legal proceedings likely to continue in the coming days.

### Positive Changes Ahead for AP

victory was built on welfare promises, but after coming to power, the previous government focused only on direct cash transfers while neglecting infrastructure and development. Massive loans were taken from the Centre, but development projects, including roads and public infrastructure, were left in shambles. Voters, seeing the lack of balanced governance, opted for the NDA alliance in 2024, paving the way for the Chandrababu Naidu-led coalition government, where the BJP is also a key partner. With strong support from the Modi government, Pawan Kalyan said major projects like the completion of Amaravati and the Polavaram project are now back on track. He concluded by noting that the new government is committed to bringing industries to every corner of the state, while systematically fulfilling its poll promises to create a prosperous and self-reliant Andhra Pradesh.

### Neglecting the Party Means Sinking Together

Chandrababu announced that all nominated posts will be filled by April and asked ministers to stay alert to diarrhea outbreaks during summer. He reminded senior leaders familiar with his working style to guide new entrants, urging everyone to move forward unitedly and remain cautious against potential opposition strategies. He stressed that vigilance at all levels is crucial to safeguard both the party and its leadership from further political attacks.

### Centre Appoints Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey as New SEBI Chief

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi  
The Centre has appointed Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey as the new chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for a three-year term, a government order confirmed on Thursday. He succeeds Madhavi Puri Buch, whose tenure concludes this month. Pandey takes charge at a crucial time when SEBI is working to expand regulated financial investment options for investors while also tackling market volatility and curbing malpractice in the derivatives segment. Appointed as Finance Secretary in September 2024, Pandey also managed the divestment department and was the longest-serving divestment secretary, holding the position for over five years. He oversaw the listing of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the country's largest insurer, and played a pivotal role in the government's successful sale of Air India to Tata Group. As privatization efforts slowed, Pandey shifted focus towards enhancing value creation in state-run enterprises, ensuring better financial returns and accountability. In his recent role as Finance and Revenue Secretary from January 2025, he advocated for lower import duties on high-end motorcycles as part of India's broader efforts to move away from protectionist policies. Pandey holds master's degrees in economics and business administration from Panjab University and the University of Birmingham. His leadership at SEBI is expected to influence regulatory strategies in India's evolving financial markets.

# Previous Govt Lacked Financial Discipline – Minister Narayana

- ₹13,000 crore allocated to Municipal Department
- ₹6,000 crore allocated for CRDA development
- Tenders for Amaravati works to be finalized on March 10

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati  
Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister Dr. P. Narayana has strongly criticized the previous government for its lack of financial discipline and mismanagement of funds, particularly in the municipal department. Speaking to the media on Friday, Minister Narayana thanked Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for announcing in the state budget that, starting April 1, municipal funds will be directly spent for the development of respective municipalities, ensuring transparency and accountability. The Minister highlighted that the current coalition government, under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu, is working hard to stabilize

the economy. In the 2025-26 budget, ₹13,000 crore has been allocated to the municipal department, while ₹6,000 crore has been earmarked for the development of CRDA and Amaravati. Minister Narayana emphasized that the budget fulfills key election promises, including ₹15 per day to students under the Thalliki Vandanam scheme and ₹6,700 crore assistance to farmers through the Annadata Sukhibhava program. He termed the budget balanced, giving equal importance to all sectors. Slamming the previous Jagan government, Narayana accused them of injustice to BCs, highlighting that the current government allocated ₹47,456 crore for BC welfare. He also condemned false propa-



ganda being spread by Sakshi regarding Amaravati tenders. He clarified that the cost for IAS officers' bungalows was fixed at ₹4,382 per square foot based on Engineers Committee recommendations, and including all facilities, the cost for judges' and ministers' bungalows totals ₹492.3 crore — far below the exaggerated figures published by Sakshi. Narayana announced that 95% of

Amaravati tenders are ready, with finalization scheduled for March 10. After allocating land for institutions, the remaining land will be sold to raise funds for Amaravati's development, ensuring no financial burden on the public. He reiterated CM Chandrababu's commitment to completing Amaravati's construction within three years.

## Comprehensive Budget for All-Round Development and Public Welfare: Minister Nadendla



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati  
State Civil Supplies Minister and Jana Sena PAC Chairman Shri Nadendla Manohar Garu welcomed the 2025-26 annual budget presented by Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav and Agriculture Minister Atchannaidu in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, emphasizing that the budget ensures comprehensive development and public welfare. Speaking to the media at the Assembly Media Point, Shri Nadendla Manohar highlighted that

- Significant increase in capital expenditure for future infrastructure
- Full allocations for Super Six promises by TDP-Jana Sena-BJP coalition
- Rs. 18,000 crore for Panchayat Raj to boost village development

the coalition government has significantly increased capital expenditure to Rs. 47,000 crore to build infrastructure and attract investments for the future of the state. He praised the allocations made to fulfill the coalition's Super Six promises, ensuring welfare schemes reach all sections of society. He noted that Rs. 2,601 crore has been allocated for Deepam 2, providing three free gas cylinders to 94 lakh families. Rs. 9,407 crore has been set aside for Sukhibhava to provide Rs. 20,000 to farmers, along with Rs. 15,000 per student under the Mothers' Salute Scheme. Shri Manohar also lauded the Rs. 18,000 crore allocation to the Panchayat Raj Department, led by Deputy CM Shri Pawan Kalyan, to strengthen rural infrastructure. Under Pawan Kalyan's leadership, 4,300 km of village roads were proposed, with 3,000 km already completed and the rest to be done by March.

He appreciated the extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission with the efforts of CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, ensuring safe drinking water for 95.44 lakh families. Shri Manohar highlighted the Civil Supplies Department's record procurement of 33 lakh metric tonnes of paddy, with payments of Rs. 7,600 crore made to 5.5 lakh farmers within 48 hours. He welcomed the power subsidy reducing aqua sector tariffs to Rs. 1.50 per unit and praised the focus on Telugu language development and tourism promotion. Shri Manohar expressed confidence that the coalition government will deliver good governance and ensure all-round development in the state. Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh, Government Whip Pidugu Hariprasad, and MLAs Bommididi Nayak, Arava Sridhar, and Bolisetty Srinivas were also present.

## Union Minister Rammohan Naidu's Efforts Yield Results

- Railways to complete Palasa-Poondi Railway Bridge at ₹46.64 crore
- ₹24.5 crore sanctioned for incomplete works at full cost
- Long-pending demand of commuters finally addressed



TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam  
Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu's persistent efforts have resulted in the Railway Department approving the completion of the Palasa-Poondi Railway Bridge (RB), which had remained incomplete for several years. Following multiple meetings with Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, the department has agreed to undertake the remaining works, addressing a major transportation issue in the region. The Palasa-Poondi RB, crucial for easing traffic congestion in the district's commercial hub, had been stalled for the past five years, causing severe inconvenience to thousands of commuters. With an updated estimate of ₹46.64 crore, the Railways has decided to bear 100% of the cost for the unfinished por-

tions, allocating ₹24.5 crore for immediate construction. Palasa MLA Gauthu Sirisha also played a key role in bringing this issue to Rammohan Naidu's attention. The problem was raised several times in Parliament, prompting the Railway Minister to take swift action. After a detailed field inspection, the project cost was revised in line with current construction rates, ensuring its completion without further delay. Residents and daily commuters have expressed gratitude to the Central Government for finally resolving the long-standing traffic issue. With the approval granted and funds sanctioned, the long-awaited Palasa-Poondi RB is set to be completed soon, providing much-needed relief to the people of Srikakulam district.

## Green Energy Push Eases DISCOM Debt - Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati  
Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar stated that the financial stress on Andhra Pradesh DISCOMs is being significantly reduced through the promotion of large-scale green energy initiatives. Virtually participating in a key meeting organized by the Union Ministry of Power in Mumbai, the Minister said that the current government is prioritizing renewable energy to ensure affordable and quality power supply. The meeting, attended by Union Minister of State for Power Shripad Yesso Naik, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, and power ministers from several states, focused on strategies to strengthen financially struggling DISCOMs and improve debt recovery mechanisms. Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar highlighted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, DISCOMs in Andhra Pradesh are gradually stabilizing. Central schemes such as PM Suryagharh and PM Kusum are being effectively implemented to reduce finan-



cial strain and promote green energy adoption. The Minister requested the Centre to increase the state's battery storage capacity from 1,000 MW to 2,000 MW and enhance the Green Energy Corridor grant. He also appealed for an increase in the number of sanctioned pump sets from 1 lakh to 4.5 lakh to support farmers. He criticized the previous YSRC government for pushing DISCOMs into deep debt, raising liabilities from ₹17,000 crore to ₹67,000 crore in just five years. Unpaid subsidies and mismanagement worsened the crisis. The current coalition government has already cleared ₹11,352 crore in pending dues, putting DISCOMs on a path to recovery. Minister Gottipati assured that with fiscal discipline and green energy promotion, Andhra Pradesh's power sector will regain stability and emerge as a model for the nation.



# Budget Filled with Self-Congratulation and No Justice to Any Section, Says Botsa



YCP MLC Botsa Satyanarayana strongly criticized the AP budget presented by Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav, calling it a budget of self-congratulation and self-praise with no real benefit to the people. Botsa expressed disappointment, saying the government ignored every major sector and made only token allocations across the board.

Botsa alleged that the budget was used to curse the previous government and glorify the Chief Minister and his son, continuing a tradition that serves no purpose for the common man. He criticized the coalition for making meager allocations for the promises made to the people and failing to mention crucial welfare schemes like the Rs. 1,500 monthly assistance for women aged 18-50.

He highlighted that there was no mention of the unemployment allowance promised to youth, describing it as a betrayal of the unemployed. On Annadata Sukhibhav, Botsa said only Rs. 6,300 crore was allocated, while Rs. 12,000 crore is required to support 52 lakh farmers. Similarly, for Thaliki Vandanam, Rs. 9,400 crore was allocated for 81 lakh students when at least Rs. 12,000 crore was necessary.

Botsa also criticized the absence of free RTC bus travel for women, which was promised from Ugadi onwards, but found no mention in the budget. He noted that the price stabilization fund, which received Rs. 3,000 crore under the previous government, was slashed to just Rs. 300 crore.

Concluding, Botsa said the budget lacks substance and fails to deliver justice to any section — farmers, women, students, unemployed, or the common man.

- Botsa calls the AP budget a major disappointment
- Alleges failure to allocate funds for key schemes
- Criticizes absence of Super Six, unemployment allowance, and women welfare schemes

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

# This is a Conspiracy by Some for Selfish Interests - Kesineni Nani



information and malign the reputation of Andhra Loyola College for selfish and vested interests.

He asserted that educational institutions like Loyola College do not belong to any single community or group. "These institutions work for the welfare of society, the development of the country, and the advancement of humanity across the globe, far beyond the narrow lines of caste, religion, or politics. It is crucial to protect Loyola College from unnecessary pressures and safeguard the future of its students," he emphasized.

Kesineni Nani, an alumnus of Andhra Loyola College and a former Member of Parliament who represented Vijayawada for ten years, stressed that Loyola College has the potential to serve the youth of the region for many more centuries. "Dragging such prestigious institutions into baseless controversies is unjust and harmful to future generations," he added.

He highlighted the selfless service of the Jesuit Fathers, who operate Loyola College. The Jesuit management currently runs over 100 schools, around 25 colleges, and four universities across India, all with a commitment to providing quality education without any profit motive. Their contributions also extend to numerous educational institutions internationally.

A three-member committee appointed by Krishna University has reportedly submitted a report to the Higher Education Department with serious allegations against Andhra Loyola College. However, Kesineni Nani firmly stated that Andhra Loyola College has been effectively managing its autonomous status for years while delivering high-quality education.

"In fact, the facilities, infrastructure, and academic standards at Loyola College surpass those of Krishna University itself, as well as many private universities," he concluded.

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Allegations of irregularities in Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada, have stirred controversy, prompting a strong response from former MP Kesineni Nani. Referring to a press article that highlighted alleged mismanagement under the guise of autonomous status, Nani stated that it appears there is a deliberate attempt to spread mis-

- Budget Book Full of Color, Low on Content - Buggana Rajendranath
- Former Finance Minister slams govt for blaming previous administration



ing on governance.

Buggana highlighted that in the Finance Minister's budget speech, the term 'previous government' was mentioned 25 times, and 'destruction' was repeated 10 times, showing an obsession with the past rather than the future.

He reminded the ruling alliance that there is only one opposition party in the Assembly, and despite that, they seem fixated on blaming others instead of focusing on providing good governance and implementing promised schemes like Super Six.

Buggana asserted that during the Jagan government's tenure, welfare schemes reached all eligible beneficiaries, even if some were misled into believing more

would come. He sarcastically asked whether the public has received even half or a quarter of the promised benefits under Super Six.

He further criticized Chandrababu Naidu's fiscal track record, alleging that whenever Naidu is in power, salaries are delayed and proper financial management is absent. Comparing Naidu to Chanakya or Kautilya, Buggana said these titles do not fit him, as his governance lacks proper calculations and vision.

Buggana concluded by calling the budget document a colorful book with very little real content, highlighting that the lack of systematic financial planning is evident throughout.

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Former Finance Minister and YSRCP MLC Buggana Rajendranath Reddy strongly criticized the coalition government's budget, calling it a glossy document with very little meaningful content. He questioned why the government, which has been in power for almost a year, continues to blame the previous administration instead of focus-

# In the First Budget Proves This is a Scam Budget - YS Sharmila



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

AP Congress President YS Sharmila strongly criticized the state government's first full-fledged budget, calling it proof that the coalition led by CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu is a scam-driven government. She slammed the Rs. 3.22 lakh crore budget as a "Super Six - Super Flop", accusing the government of misleading the people with false numbers and ignoring key welfare promises.

"This budget is full of numbers, but empty of real allocations. It's a meaningless fantasy document with no direction. The state is already financially empty, and now this budget has made it hollow," Sharmila said.

She alleged that vital promises made during elections were abandoned, including the much-hyped Super Six schemes.

Sharmila questioned the allocations for farmers, pointing out that Rs. 6,300 crore under Annadata Sukhibhava is far below the Rs. 11,000 crore required. She criticized the meager Rs. 300 crore for price stabilization, calling it a betrayal of farmers.

On education, Sharmila highlighted that Rs. 9,407 crore was allocated for Thaliki Vandanam, far short of the Rs. 12,600 crore required for 84 lakh students, reducing the number of beneficiaries.

She also attacked the slashed funds for the Deepam-2 scheme and the complete omission of funds for free bus travel for women and Mahashakti.

With no funds for unemployment allowance or Amaravati's development, Sharmila concluded, "This budget exposes the government's lack of vision and betrayal of the people's trust."

# We'll Approach the High Court to Challenge the Remand Order - Ponnabol Sudhakar Reddy



TPN Correspondent | Railway Kodur

Actor and YSRCP supporter Posani Krishna Murali has been remanded to 14 days judicial custody by the Railway Kodur Court in connection with his alleged inflammatory comments against Pawan Kalyan and remarks that stirred divisions within the film industry.

Reacting to the court's decision, Posani's lawyer and YSRCP leader Ponnabol Sudhakar Reddy announced that they will approach the High Court to challenge the remand order.

Ponnabol stated that the court overlooked the application of BNS Section 111, which was imposed on Posani. According to him, the magistrate accepted the police's argument that Posani's remarks were capable of creating enmity between groups, leading to the 14-day remand order.

Describing the situation, Ponnabol remarked, "This is like an operation being successful, but the patient dying." He claimed that their legal team considers this half a success, as they successfully raised objections under BNS Section 111, even though the magistrate ultimately sided with the police on other charges.

The case stems from Posani's controversial comments targeting actor and Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan, which allegedly spread hatred among different sections of the film industry and public.

With Posani now in judicial custody, his legal team is preparing to file an appeal in the High Court, hoping for relief and a more favorable legal interpretation of the charges against him.

# My Husband Is Being Harassed in Jail: Vallabhaneni Vamsi's Wife Pankajasri

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Vallabhaneni Vamsi's wife, Pankajasri, has expressed serious concerns about her husband's health and treatment in Vijayawada Central Jail, where he is currently on remand. After meeting him in jail along with YSRCP MLA Tatiparthi Chandrasekhar, Pankajasri spoke to the media, highlighting the harassment and poor conditions Vamsi is facing inside the prison.

She revealed that Vamsi, who suffers from fits and asthma, is being kept in the 6/4 barracks, commonly used as a punishment cell. According to Pankajasri, he is confined to isolation for 22 hours a day, leaving him se-

verely depressed.

"My husband's health is already fragile. Instead of providing proper medical care, they are mentally harassing him by keeping him isolated for most of the day. This is not just physical harassment but severe psychological torture," Pankajasri alleged.

She further demanded that Vamsi be moved out of isolation and placed with other inmates, stating that prolonged solitary confinement is only worsening his condition. Pankajasri also claimed that Vamsi has been falsely implicated in cases unrelated to him, calling the remand a politically motivated act.





## Young Medical Student Appointed Amaravati Brand Ambassador Meets CM Naidu

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Medical student Ambula Vaishnavi, recently appointed as the brand ambassador for the capital city of Amaravati, met Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat on Friday. The CRDA officially issued orders appointing Vaishnavi as the brand ambassador, recognizing her consistent efforts in promoting the capital's development.

During their meeting, CM Chandrababu Naidu congratulated Vaishnavi for taking up this responsibility at such a young age and praised her commitment to the state's future. The Chief Minister emphasized that youth participation in the development of Andhra Pradesh is crucial and expressed confidence that Vaishnavi would serve as an inspiration for other youngsters to actively contribute to the state's progress.

Vaishnavi explained to the Chief Minister that her mission includes raising donations and increasing awareness about Amaravati's development. In response, CM Chandrababu Naidu advised her to ensure that the public is regularly informed about the various development programs, infrastructure projects, and other initiatives being implemented in the capital region.

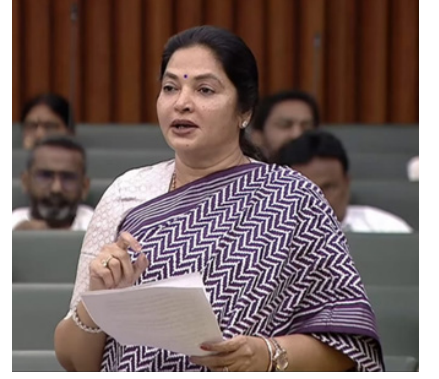


Ambula Vaishnavi's association with Amaravati dates back several years. In June last year, she donated Rs. 25 lakh towards the capital's development, adding to her earlier contributions totaling Rs. 25 lakh made before 2019. Her dedication and passion for the capital's progress were appreciated by the Chief Minister, who encouraged her to actively promote Amaravati's growth story across platforms.

## MLA Vemireddy Prashanti Reddy Praises Budget for Rural and Agricultural Development

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanti Reddy praised the Alliance government for presenting a progressive and welfare-oriented budget for the year 2025-26. She expressed satisfaction that the government fulfilled its election promise of prioritizing agriculture by making significant allocations to the sector, ensuring support for farmers and rural development. She highlighted that the Water Resources Department received substantial funding to enhance irrigation and make the state more fertile.



MLA Prashanti Reddy commended the government for giving importance to the welfare of BCs, SCs, STs, and minorities by introducing a dedicated sub-plan for their development. She also welcomed the historic move of allocating Rs 10 crore specifically for the preservation and promotion of the Telugu language, a first in the Andhra Pradesh budget.

She lauded the comprehensive nature of the budget, which prioritizes education, healthcare, industrial growth, and infrastructure while ensuring the welfare of the poor and middle class. She stated that the balanced approach would ensure equitable development across all communities.

On this occasion, MLA Prashanti Reddy congratulated Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav, and Agriculture Minister Achchennaidu for presenting a people-centric and development-focused budget.

## Two-Day Regional Grand Lodge Annual Meeting from March 1st & 2nd in Vijayawada



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India's annual meeting will be held in Vijayawada on March 1 and 2, after a gap of 20 years, announced Regional Grand Master Brother T.N. Manoharan. More than 1,200 Freemasons from across India are expected to partici-

pate in this two-day gathering at SS Convention Hall.

Speaking to reporters, T.N. Manoharan explained that each region of Freemasonry in India conducts its own annual meeting, and this year, Vijayawada has the honour of hosting the Southern India Regional Grand Lodge. Freemasonry in India is divided

into four regions, with Grand Lodges overseeing the Masonic activities in each region. He highlighted that several prominent Indians, including Swami Vivekananda, C. Rajagopalachari, Motilal Nehru, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, actor Ashok Kumar, and Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, were Freemasons. Currently, there are 470 lodges, 160 Royal Arch chapters, Mark Lodges, and Royal Arch Mariner Lodges operating across 172 cities in India, with a combined membership of 25,000 Freemasons.

T.N. Manoharan said Free-

masonry's key charitable focus areas include supporting special needs schools, blindness prevention, empowering visually impaired people, and promoting education for underprivileged children. Numerous projects have already been successfully implemented, benefitting several institutions and individuals across the region.

He added that Freemasonry's core principles, which emphasize intellectual, social, spiritual, and moral growth, continue to guide its members on a path of service and self-improvement.

## Pattabhi Ram Thanks to CM and Finance Minister on ₹820 Crore Allocated for Swachh Andhra in Budget

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Swachh Andhra Corporation Chairman Komma Reddy Pattabhi Ram expressed happiness over the allocation of Rs 820 crore for Swachh Andhra in the 2025-26 Andhra Pradesh state budget. He stated that this allocation, presented by Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav in the Assembly, reflects Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's commitment to the ambitious "Swarandhra - Swachh Andhra" vision.



Pattabhi Ram highlighted that cleanliness has been made a core principle in Vision 2047, showcasing the importance the government places on environmental sustainability. He noted that Andhra Pradesh is the first state in the country to prioritize the Swachh Bharat movement launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at such a scale, setting a record with this massive allocation.

He explained that every third Saturday is now officially Swachh Andhra Day, with successful programs already held in Maidukurru and Kandukur. As part of the broader vision, the state will clear 85 lakh tonnes of legacy waste by October 2 and establish waste processing units in every town, city, and mandal to segregate and convert waste into valuable resources.

Pattabhi Ram also announced plans to convert existing dumping yards into public parks for community use. He emphasized that the funds will be utilized effectively, ensuring that the Swachh Andhra movement becomes a people's movement under CM Chandrababu Naidu's leadership. He thanked CM Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav for prioritizing cleanliness and sustainability in the budget.

## NTR District President Nettem Raghuram Welcomes AP Budget 2025 - 2026

TPN Correspondent | NTR Dist

NTR District President and former minister Nettem Raghuram has extended a warm welcome to the Andhra Pradesh Budget 2025, lauding it as a comprehensive roadmap for the state's development and welfare. He expressed satisfaction that the budget reflects the government's unwavering commitment to the prosperity and well-being of all sections of society.

Nettem Raghuram highlighted the allocation of ₹6,705 crore for the completion of the Polavaram Project, which is crucial for ensuring water security across Andhra Pradesh. He also praised the government for the ₹1,938 crore allocation under the "Talli Ki Vandana" scheme, which aims to provide financial assistance to students, particularly empowering girl child education and shaping a brighter future.

The groundbreaking Family Health Care initiative, which offers health insurance coverage up to ₹25 lakh per family, covering 1.4 crore families, is a remarkable step towards ensuring quality healthcare for all, Raghuram stated.

He also welcomed the dedicated allocations for the development of Amaravati, the greenfield capital, and acknowledged the crucial financial assistance secured from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and HUDCO through the Centre, ensuring Amaravati's development as a self-financing project.

Nettem Raghuram commended the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan for presenting a people-centric budget. He assured that, as a leader, he would work to ensure the benefits of the budget reach every citizen, fostering growth, prosperity, and social inclusion across Andhra Pradesh.



## CPI State Secretary Ramakrishna Criticizes AP Budget as Fraudulent



TPN Correspondent | Eluru

CPI State Secretary K. Ramakrishna strongly criticized the Andhra Pradesh state budget presented by Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav, calling it a deceptive and fraudulent budget. Addressing a press conference at the CPI Eluru district office Sphoorthi Bhavan on Friday evening, Ramakrishna questioned what concrete changes the coalition government had brought in its eight months of rule, despite repeatedly blaming the previous government for the state's decline. Ramakrishna said the proposed ₹3.22 lakh crore budget offers no clarity on how the revenue and cash deficits will be covered, questioning whether it will come from asset sales, loans, or further burdening the people. He slammed the government for neglecting agriculture, which supports over 60% of the population. Despite its critical role, agriculture and irrigation received only 3.5% of the budget—₹11,314 crore—far below the required 10%. Ramakrishna expressed concern that irrigation projects initiated four decades ago remain incomplete and, with the current allocations, may not see completion even in the next 40 years.

He also criticized the central government for reducing the Polavaram project height from 45.72 to 41.15 meters, terming it a grave injustice. He found it ironic that Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose policies he blamed for fragmenting the national economy. Ramakrishna demanded transparency regarding Amit Shah's recent claim that ₹3 lakh crore was allocated to Andhra Pradesh in the past seven months, asking for an explanation on how and where the funds were spent. He also expressed outrage over the exclusion of tenant farmers from the budget and criticized the government for ignoring key promises made during the elections. Commenting on the arrest of Posani Krishna Murali, he called on all parties to restrain leaders from using vulgar language, urging political decorum across all parties. CPI leaders Dega Prabhakar, Mannava Krishna Chaitanya, Uppuluri Hema Shankar, Bandi Venkateswara Rao, Maisakshi Venkatachari, Karam Daraiah, Kancharla Guravaiah, JV Ramana Raju, Kondeti Baby, and MD Munnuru were also present at the press meet.

## Maha Shivaratri Celebrations Held Grandly at Durgamma Temple in Vijayawada

Twelve-hour circumambulation and pavalimpu services from March 1 to 3

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Maha Shivaratri festival was celebrated with grandeur at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Warla Devasthanam on Indrakiladri hill in Vijayawada on Friday. Special rituals and spiritual programs were organized at the Sri Malleswara Swamy temple, starting at 8:00 AM. Mandaparadhana, Kalasharadhana, Moola Mantra Havanams, Aarti, Mantra Pushpan, and the distribution of Tirtha Prasad were performed in the temple premises.



Following these, Maha Shivaratri Utsava Purnahuti, Dhanyakotnotsavam, and Vasanthotsavam were conducted from 9:00 AM onwards, filling the temple with divine chants and festive fervor.

Temple Executive Officer Sri K. Ramachandra Mohan, Sthanacharya Sri V. Shiva Prasad Sharma, and members of the Vedic Committee participated in the special pujas and rituals.

As part of the tradition, the deity idols were brought from the Shiva temple in a grand procession to the Krishna river ghat, where the Avabhritotsavam was conducted with devotion and traditional rituals.

The temple authorities have also announced that a special twelve-hour circumambulation and pavalimpu services will be held from March 1 to March 3, 2025, starting at 7:00 PM, allowing devotees to participate in the sacred observances and seek divine blessings. The celebrations witnessed enthusiastic participation from devotees, creating a spiritually charged atmosphere on Indrakiladri hill.



## Mango Farmers in Distress Over Uncertain Prices

- Farmers suffer losses from poor mango harvests
- Climate changes disrupt flowering and fruit setting
- Worries over mango prices this season
- Middlemen syndicates exploit farmers for low rates
- Unsold pulp stocks create price uncertainty
- Transport costs add burden to farmers' earnings



**TPN KISHORE B.K | Eluru**  
Mango farmers in Eluru district are facing severe distress as they struggle with low crop yields, climate challenges, and fears of unremunerative prices this season. Farmers noted that while mango prices ranged between Rs. 8 to Rs. 12 per kg last year, they are uncertain if similar prices will be maintained this year. Many farmers travel over 50 kilometers to markets in private vehicles, incurring high transportation costs, further cutting into profits. Adding to their woes, mango yields

have been significantly lower for the past two years, pushing them into financial strain. While some farmers hope for better yields this year, they remain uncertain if prices will cover their costs.

Weather fluctuations are already impacting the orchards, with some trees flowering poorly and others showing no blossoms at all even by the end of February. Farmers fear rising summer temperatures could cause fruit drop, further reducing yields.

In addition to low prices, farmers complain about syndicates formed by traders who buy at artificially low rates. The mango pulp industry in Nuziveedu is also under strain, with tons of unsold pulp from last year, making it unclear whether they will offer fair prices this season. Farmers fear continued losses if pulp exports fail again this year.

Typically, an acre of mango orchard yields 5-6 tons, but this year, farmers estimate it could be less than 25% of normal production due to fog, climate stress, and pest issues, forcing them to spray pesticides 3-4 times, adding to cultivation costs.

## Mahashivratri Brahmotsavams: Divine Procession Held at Srikalahastheeswara Temple

**TPN Correspondent | Srikalahasti**

As part of the ongoing Mahashivratri Brahmotsavams, a grand divine procession was held at the Srikalahastheeswara Temple on Friday morning. In this spiritual event, Lord Shiva was paraded on the Nandi Vahanam, while Goddess Parvati graced the Kamadhenu Vahanam, captivating thousands of devotees gathered along the four Madaveedhu streets. The procession was accompanied by auspicious instruments and traditional mela

talas, creating a divine atmosphere throughout the temple town. At every step, devotees performed camphor aarti and broke coconuts, offering their prayers and seeking blessings. Temple Inspector Hari Yadav Suresh Raja, temple authorities, and a large number of devotees actively participated in the event, ensuring smooth conduct of the Brahmotsavam festivities. With devotees from different parts of the state attending, the temple premises were filled with devotional fervor and spiritual energy.



## Illegal Liquor Destroyed in Amalapuram



**TPN Correspondent | Amalapuram**

The police destroyed a large quantity of illegally transported liquor seized within the limits of Amalapuram Town, Amalapuram Rural, Allavaram, and Uppalaguptam police stations. A total of 3,220 liquor bottles linked to 130

cases were disposed of. Additionally, 859 liters of non-duty paid liquor (NDPL) and 56 liters of Natusarah seized in 9 cases were also destroyed.

The destruction process was carried out by police and excise officials in the presence of appointed mediators. Officials warned that strict surveillance will continue across the region to curb illegal transportation and sale of liquor. They emphasized that those caught engaging in illegal liquor trade will face severe legal consequences.

## Govt Allocates Major Share Of Budget To Tourism Development



**TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh**

The Andhra Pradesh government has reaffirmed its commitment to boosting the tourism sector with significant budgetary support and policy reforms. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, known for his forward-thinking approach, has introduced special measures to elevate the

- Govt grants industry status to tourism under new policy
- ₹469 crore allocated for Youth, Tourism, and Culture Department
- Hotels to get ranking system, subsidies, and compliance regulations
- AP Hotels Association President R.V. Swamy welcomes the initiatives

state's tourism industry. Under the 'Andhra Pradesh Tourism Policy - 2024-29,' the government has granted industry status to the tourism sector, enabling greater investment and streamlined operations. This move is expected to attract more private players and enhance the state's tourism infrastructure.

Rushikonda Beach has once again retained the prestigious Blue Flag certification, a testament to its adherence to high environmental and cleanliness standards. Additionally, the government is focused on developing iconic tourism projects like Akhanda Godavari and Gandikota, reinforcing Andhra Pradesh's reputation as a premier destination.

To maintain hospitality standards, a ranking system is being introduced for hotels, along with Green Leaf ratings for lodges and other accommodations. The government is also taking steps to ensure that hotels comply with GST payments, electricity tariffs, and registration fees.

Further, a subsidy system is being put in place to support newly established hotels, encouraging fresh investments in the sector.

The state budget has allocated ₹469 crores for the Youth, Tourism, and Culture Department, with more than half of this amount dedicated exclusively to the tourism sector. Highlighting the economic significance of tourism, Andhra Pradesh Hotels Association President R.V. Swamy welcomed these initiatives, stating, "The government's proactive steps in recognizing tourism as an industry will not only create employment opportunities but also position Andhra Pradesh as a top travel destination. We extend our gratitude to the Chief Minister for his visionary leadership in this sector."

With tourism playing a crucial role in the state's economic growth, these measures are expected to further propel Andhra Pradesh into the national and global spotlight as a leading tourism hub.

## TTD EO Offers Silk Robes for Srikalahasti Mahashivratri Brahmotsavam



**TPN Correspondent | Srikalahasti**

As part of the ongoing Srikalahasti Mahashivratri Brahmotsavams, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Executive Officer J. Shyamala Rao, along with his wife, presented silk robes to Srikalahastheeswara Swamy on behalf of TTD for the celestial wedding scheduled on Friday night.

In a ceremonial event held at the temple's decorative hall, TTD EO J. Shyamala Rao handed over the silk robes to Srikalahasti Temple EO Bapireddy amidst the traditional Vedic chants and auspicious musical instruments. Following this, EO Bapireddy formally presented the silk robes to the Vedic scholars, who performed special rituals, including decorating the deity with the silk garments and offering incense and lamps.

After presenting the silk

robes, TTD EO J. Shyamala Rao had darshan of Srikalahastheeswara Swamy. Following the darshan, temple officials honored him at the Mrityunjaya Swamy temple premises and presented him with the temple's sacred tirtha prasadam.

Speaking on the occasion, EO J. Shyamala Rao said that for the past 25 years, it has been a cherished tradition for TTD to offer silk robes for the divine wedding during Srikalahasti Mahashivratri Brahmotsavam. He expressed that it was his great fortune, earned through past virtuous deeds, to participate in this sacred offering.

Temple EO Bapireddy, Deputy EO Krishna Reddy, and officials Lokesh Hari Yadav, Sudarshan Durga Prasad, Balaji Vinay Praveen, and others were present.

## Ambulance Safety Inspections Conducted After Accident in Eluru

**TPN Correspondent | Eluru**

Following the recent accident where an ambulance overturned after hitting a divider near Bhimadolu Sugars in the early hours of Friday, Transport Department officials conducted inspections of both government and private ambulances in Eluru district. Transport Department Deputy Commissioner Sheikh Karim issued orders for these inspections to ensure vehicle safety and adherence to regulations. Officials inspected ambulances at Ashram Hospital, Eluru Sarvajana Hospital, and two other private hospitals on the outskirts of Eluru. During the inspection, officials thoroughly checked driver licenses, vehicle-related documents, and ensured that essential safety



equipment, such as first aid kits, oxygen cylinders, and emergency supplies, were available in all ambulances. Additionally, officials explained important safety precautions to the ambulance drivers, emphasizing careful driving practices to prevent similar accidents in the future. Motor Vehicle Inspectors N.D. Vitthal and B. Shekhar participated in these inspections.

## Kamana Prabhakar Rao appointed as State Kisan Congress President



**TPN Correspondent | Mandapeta**

AICC member Kamana Prabhakar Rao has been appointed as the president of the state Kisan Congress. Speaking at a media conference at the Congress party office on Edida Road on Friday, he said the party high command announced his appointment on the occasion of Mahashivratri. Kamana Prabhakar Rao said he received the appointment on the orders of AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, with approval from State Congress President Y.S. Sharmila Reddy. He highlighted his long association with the party, starting as a grassroots worker and rising to AICC member over the last 40 years. He served six terms as a PCC delegate, three terms as an AICC member, and one term

as District Congress President. Kamana also recalled his role in agitations on public issues, which led to several arrests, and his three-time contest as an MLA candidate from Mandapeta after bifurcation. He pledged to work hard to rebuild the party and address farmers' problems. Kamana expressed gratitude to senior Congress leaders including Sharmila Reddy, Sukhpal Singh Khaira, KC Venugopal, Manickam Tagore, Mallipudi Pallamaraju, N Raghuvendra Reddy, Dr. Palika Verma, Gidugu Rudra Raju, and Koppala Raju for their support. Congress leaders Parvathina Veeravenkata Satyanarayana Chowdhury, Maggam Jacob Raju, P Appana, Alamanda Surribabu, and others participated in the meeting.

## APCAS Abolition Protest at Srikakulam Collectorate

**TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam**

A dharna was held at the Collectorate in Srikakulam on Friday, opposing the decision made in the state cabinet meeting on 6th February 2025 to abolish APCAS and transfer the neighboring services staff back to private agencies. Addressing the gathering, CITU District General Secretary P. Tejeswara Rao, City Convener R. Prakash Rao, AP Municipal Workers and Employees Federation District General Secretary N. Balaram, and City President A. Ganesh condemned the decision, highlighting that it disregards the agreements reached after a 17-day strike. They criticized the coalition government for returning files previously recommended by the previous government to the Finance Department for

approval. They expressed disappointment that municipal contract workers, who expected job regularization and equal pay after the new government took charge, are now facing uncertainty. The leaders warned that handing services back to private agencies would once again lead to exploitation and insecurity. They emphasized that municipal sanitation and engineering workers risk their lives daily to maintain public health, and their rights should not be neglected.





# Not Muslims Or Christians - Another Syrian Ethnic Group Caught In Crossfire



**A** Druze factions in Syria's southern Suwayda province formed the Suwayda Military Council, a coalition created to protect the Druze community from external threats and government oppression. This announcement came amidst uncertainty following the downfall of

former Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and the rise of interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa, who is linked to the Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS).

The Druze, a unique ethnic minority following a faith blending Islam, Hinduism, and Greek

philosophy, have long been wary of external threats. They have faced significant challenges in the past, including massacres at the hands of ISIS and the turmoil after Assad's regime fell. Despite this, they have maintained a cautious independence, particularly in the Suwayda region,

which was under partial control of the Assad regime since 2015.

The newly-formed Suwayda Military Council, led by Tareq Al Shoufi, aims to promote secularism, democracy, and decentralization as the foundation for a just and stable future. The council intends to safeguard civilians, manage public property, and work in cooperation with other security factions to ensure the region's stability. At the same time, they have expressed willingness to work with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) due to their shared opposition to terrorism and dictatorship.

However, the council's formation has not been without controversy. Syria's Druze spiritual leader, Sheikh Hikmat al-Hajri, rejected the council, accusing it of separatism and claiming it does not represent the Druze community as a whole. Despite these internal divisions, the Suwayda Military Council has garnered local support, with several factions in the region pledging allegiance.

The council's flag, reminiscent of the Kurdish SDF flag, carries a distinct Druze symbol, a five-pointed star, signaling both the community's resistance and its pursuit of independence from government oppression. Their leader, Tareq Al Shoufi, is a former Syrian Arab Army officer who has stood by the Druze community during protests against Assad.

While the formation of the Suwayda Military Council has provided a sense of protection for the Druze, many civilians have expressed uncertainty about the future. "It's a good step for pressuring the government and providing protection. But in the past, armed groups in Suwayda were disorganized, and no large force was ever formed," said Ahmed Al Shareef, a Druze from Suwayda.

Despite this, the growing presence of the Suwayda Military Council symbolizes a new chapter for the Druze in Syria, one focused on self-preservation and independence amidst an unstable political landscape.

## The UK's Persistent Tolerance for Authoritarian Leaders: A Troubling Legacy



**T**he UK has a long-standing history of cozying up to authoritarian regimes, a trend that continues despite its self-image as a bastion of democratic values. For more than a century, foreign strongmen have found allies, apologists, or a lack of criticism within British politics, even as the UK proudly stands as a supposed enemy of fascism. This paradox raises an important question: why does Westminster, the heart of British democracy, remain so welcoming to far-right governments? One reason lies in the pragmatic nature of foreign policy. As Britain navigates an increasingly multipolar world, it often cannot afford to alienate powerful nations. This is especially evident in the relationship between the UK and the Trump administration, where diplomacy often appears to overlook the authoritarian tendencies of

foreign leaders for the sake of strategic cooperation. However, darker impulses also play a role in the UK's tolerance for autocratic rule. For some British politicians, the regimes of strongmen offer a fascinating alternative to the compromises and slow progress of liberal democracy. In moments of disillusionment with democratic processes, autocrats can seem like leaders who "get things done." For instance, Kemi Badenoch, a prominent Tory figure, recently praised the fast-paced, result-driven nature of Trump's leadership, echoing a sentiment shared by other right-wing figures in the UK who admire the transgressive populism that Trump embodies. This admiration for foreign autocrats isn't new. In the 1920s and 1930s, many in Britain—including figures like Winston Churchill—warmly embraced Mussolini's fascist regime, seeing it

as a bulwark against communism. Similarly, during the Cold War, right-wing British leaders supported the brutal military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet in Chile, viewing it as an ally in the fight against communism. Today, the fear of Islam and immigration fuels the right's admiration for leaders like Trump, whose aggressive stances on these issues resonate with their own increasingly illiberal policies.

British politicians and media figures have often sought to justify their support for autocrats by focusing on their supposed effectiveness in governance. In the case of Mussolini and Trump, their personal appeal and decisive rhetoric offered a tantalizing contrast to the perceived failures of liberal democracy. This admiration, however, has consequences. By softening the image of authoritarian leaders, British politicians and journalists inadvertently make them more palatable to the public, rather than influencing them to moderate their behavior.

When these authoritarian figures eventually lose power, as they often do, the UK's support may be remembered as a grave moral and strategic error, much like the post-World War II reckoning with fascist regimes. But for now, Westminster seems content to move forward, its admiration for strongmen providing a troubling glimpse into the underlying forces shaping British politics.

## If you have money, borders are just a formality—Trump shows only rich can have American Dream

**F**or many Indians, the United States, Canada, Australia, and Northern Europe have long been the ultimate destinations—a place to study, work, and, if fortunate enough, call home. The pursuit of a better life abroad has been relentless, with countless individuals attempting to migrate through both legal and illegal routes. This deep desire reflects a fundamental aspiration for better financial opportunities and the chance to be part of a system that often seems out of reach in India.

However, the reality of immigration is changing. The doors to these countries, once wide open, are now showing signs of closing. Increasing protectionism and rising resistance to immigration have led to more restrictive policies in these once immigrant-friendly nations. What was once seen as an opportunity for millions is now becoming a battle for access—and the rules are becoming harder to navigate. During Donald Trump's first term, immigration became a hot-button issue, especially for Indian migrants. The media buzzed with stories of illegal immigrants risking everything to pursue the American Dream. Many questioned why someone would undertake such perilous jour-



neys, especially if they had financial stability back home. The truth is, for many, the dream is not just about financial prosperity but about belonging to a system and culture that represents privilege, status, and a certain way of life. While the number of Indians pursuing legal routes remains high—over 331,000 Indian students were enrolled in US institutions as of 2024, a 23% increase from the previous year—there's growing anxiety among them. The once relatively predictable path from student visas to permanent residency is now filled with uncertainty. Students worry not just about getting in but what will happen once they arrive. Will opportunities for work and settlement continue, or are these doors closing too? Trump's immigration policies, which built

on the flawed "lump of labour fallacy," were aimed at limiting competition for jobs by reducing immigration. His administration blocked visa holders during the pandemic, made it more difficult for foreign-born professionals to work, and imposed additional restrictions on immigration. Despite campaign promises in 2024 to make it easier for international students to stay in the US, many Indian students remain skeptical, as history shows that promises often don't translate into policy changes. Even Canada, once seen as a more immigrant-friendly alternative, is tightening its borders. In 2024, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a reduction in the intake cap for international student study permits for 2025. The termination of the

Student Direct Stream (SDS) initiative, which once simplified visa processing for Indian students, and stricter post-graduation work visa rules have made the path to staying in Canada more difficult. While the tightening of immigration policies is often associated with specific leaders, the underlying issue is larger: immigration systems around the world have always been more accessible to the wealthy. Whether it's the United States' "gold card" visa for the ultra-rich or Canada's once lenient policies for students, the pattern is clear: money often trumps the barriers of immigration. For those without financial means, however, the hurdles are growing, making the dream of a better life abroad increasingly elusive.



# PM Modi Announces Free Trade Agreement with EU by Year-End



sion is undertaking such a comprehensive engagement with any country. He also noted that this was among the first international visits of the new European Commission regime, marking an important milestone in diplomatic relations.

"Over the past two decades, India and the European Union have built a strategic partnership that is both natural and organic, founded on trust and shared democratic values," PM Modi said. He added that the talks between the two sides have been sincere and productive, addressing various key issues. One of the outcomes of the discussions was the mutual commitment to conclude the Free Trade Agreement by the end of 2025.

The Prime Minister mentioned that teams from both India and the European Union have been tasked with working towards the completion of the agreement, emphasizing its importance in promoting mutual benefits and strengthening bilateral trade relations.

The FTA is expected to enhance economic cooperation between India and the EU, benefiting both parties in terms of trade, investment, and economic growth. The agreement will be a significant step towards deepening India's ties with the European Union, reflecting the growing strategic partnership and shared interests between the two regions.

With the announcement, PM Modi highlighted the potential of this trade deal to unlock new avenues of growth and prosperity for both India and the European Union.

- PM Modi confirms India-EU FTA by year-end
- Historic EU Commission visit deepens ties
- FTA aims to boost trade, investment, and growth

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the ongoing visit of the European Commission President and the College of Commissioners to India will lead to the conclusion of a long-awaited Free Trade Agreement

(FTA) between India and the European Union by the end of this year.

Speaking on the historic visit, the Prime Minister emphasized that this was not only the first-ever visit by the European Commission to India, but also the first time the Commis-

# Mumbai Police Investigate Threat to CM Fadnavis, Enhance Security Measures



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Mumbai Traffic Police recently received a threatening WhatsApp message targeting Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' office. According to NDTV, the message, which was sent by an individual identified as Malik Shahbaz Humayun Raja Dev, came from a Pakistani number. The authorities have launched an investigation to determine whether the sender is an Indian national or a foreigner.

In response to the threat, security around Chief Minister Fadnavis has been bolstered, with heightened measures around his office and other critical government buildings. The police are carefully assessing the credibility of the threat as part of their ongoing probe.

This threat to Fadnavis follows closely on the heels of a similar situation involving Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who received a death threat via email on February 20. The threat was directed to sever-

al locations, including Goregaon and JJ Marg police stations, as well as Mantralaya. Authorities swiftly responded to the threat, and the Mumbai Crime Branch, along with the Buldhana police, arrested two individuals in connection with the email threat. The arrested suspects, identified as Mangesh Wayal (35) and Abhay Shingane (22), residents of Deulgaon Mahi in Buldhana district, were taken to Mumbai, where an FIR was filed against them under various sections of the Indian Penal Code.

This isn't the first time Shinde has faced such threats. Earlier, in 2024, a college student had issued death threats to both Shinde and his MP son, Shrikant Shinde, through social media. This led to the arrest of a 19-year-old student who had sent the threatening messages on February 11, 2024.

As investigations continue into the latest threats, authorities remain vigilant, ensuring the safety and security of the state's leaders and the public.

# Don't determine parliamentary seats based on population and penalise south: CM Stalin



TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has strongly opposed the Centre's proposal to base the determination of parliamentary constituencies solely on population, warning that such an approach would unfairly penalise southern states like Tamil Nadu. Stalin, also the president of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), made it clear in a video message that his party and the state would never accept such a move.

He emphasized that Tamil Nadu, having taken responsible steps to control population growth, should not be disadvantaged in the forthcoming parliamentary constituency delimitation exercise. "Our demand is clear—don't determine parliamentary constituencies based on population alone," Stalin asserted. He further warned that if this perceived injustice were implemented, it would face strong resistance from the people of Tamil Nadu and his party.

Stalin's message was delivered on the eve of his 72nd birthday, during which he reminded party workers of two crucial issues facing the state: the protection of the Tamil language and the fight

against the parliamentary delimitation plan. "We must take a pledge that we will never compromise on Tamil Nadu's welfare and future for anyone or anything. We must stand together and fight for our state's rights," he urged party cadres, calling for collective action to safeguard Tamil Nadu's interests.

While he refrains from grand birthday celebrations, Stalin's party often marks the occasion by distributing welfare assistance and engaging in public meetings to highlight the achievements of the DMK government. This year, Stalin used his birthday as an opportunity to highlight the critical challenges at hand, specifically emphasizing the impact of delimitation on the state's self-respect, social justice, and welfare schemes.

He also noted that solidarity was emerging from states like Karnataka, Punjab, and Telangana in opposition to the proposed changes, and insisted that the Centre should refrain from imposing such decisions on the states. Stalin cautioned that despite assurances, actions by the Centre hinted at increasing representation for other states at the expense of Tamil Nadu's interests.

# ISRO to resume SpaDeX experiments from March 15: V Narayanan

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to resume experiments on its SpaDeX mission in mid-March, with plans to separate and re-dock two satellites, SDX01 and SDX02, in space. These experiments aim to advance ISRO's capabilities in satellite docking technologies for future space projects. The SpaDeX mission, launched on December 30, 2024, successfully placed the two satellites into orbit, marking a significant milestone in India's space exploration.

On January 16, 2025, ISRO succeeded in docking the two satellites for the first time, a key achievement for the mission. Currently, the unified satellite is in an elliptical orbit, providing a 10-15 day window every two months to conduct various experiments. ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan shared this update during the National Science Day celebrations, stating that the next opportunity for experiments will open from March 15.

The upcoming experiments will focus on separating the satellites and re-docking them, an essential step in refining the docking technology. Narayanan

confirmed that the team has already begun simulation tests in preparation for the actual operations, which are slated to begin in mid-March. ISRO plans to further test electrical power transfer between the satellites before proceeding to undocking and separation.

The SpaDeX mission holds immense promise for ISRO's future projects, including Chandrayaan-4 and the development of the Bharat Antariksha Station. Both of these endeavors will rely heavily on advanced docking technologies, making the successful execution of SpaDeX's experiments crucial. Narayanan emphasized that the mission would also help in managing the significant propellant onboard the satellites, with additional experiments planned for the third window available in two months.

This project marks a crucial step in ISRO's continued efforts to enhance its space exploration capabilities and establish India as a leader in space technology. The successful outcomes of these experiments are expected to pave the way for more ambitious missions in the coming years.



# Kangana Ranaut Appears in Court Over Defamation Case Filed by Javed Akhtar



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Bollywood actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut appeared before a special court on Friday in connection with a defamation case filed against her by veteran lyricist-screenwriter Javed Akhtar. Ranaut appeared in the special magistrate court designated to handle cases involving MPs and MLAs.

The defamation case was filed by Akhtar in 2020, accusing Ranaut of making defamatory comments about him during a television interview, which allegedly tarnished his reputation. In her interview, Ranaut had mentioned a "coterie" in Bollywood, and Akhtar's name was reportedly dragged into the conversation. The interview followed the tragic death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, which had sparked widespread controversy in the industry.

Initially, the case was heard in a magistrate court in Andheri, Mumbai. However, after Ranaut was elected as a Member of Parliament from Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, in 2024, the matter was transferred to the special court that deals with cases involving MPs and MLAs.

In the previous hearing, Akhtar had requested the court to issue a non-bailable warrant against Ranaut. The court granted a final opportunity for the actor to appear, and as per the directive, she appeared before the court on Friday.

The case has attracted significant attention, given the high-profile nature of both the individuals involved. Details regarding the court's next steps and any potential developments are awaited.

The ongoing legal proceedings highlight the tensions in the Bollywood industry, with both Ranaut and Akhtar frequently in the news for their public statements and interactions within the industry.



## Trump Boasts “BRICS Is Dead”, New De-Dollarisation Call Comes As A Jolt



Trump claimed BRICS “broke up” due to his tariff warnings.

Brazil’s President reaffirmed BRICS+ commitment to ending dollar dominance.

BRICS+ nations continue discussions on de-dollarisation despite US pressure.

TPN Correspondent | Vijayapura  
Farmers in Karnataka’s Krishna basin have strongly opposed the government’s decision to release 1.24 TMC of water to Telangana, warning of a potential shortage during peak summer months. The move has sparked outrage, with farmer organizations planning a major protest outside

the District Collector’s office on February 28. The state government released 1 TMC of water from the Almatti and Narayanpur reservoirs following Telangana’s request for 5 TMC to meet drinking water needs. However, officials confirmed that Karnataka could only spare a fraction of the requested amount. “We released the water as per government orders. Telangana sought 5 TMC, but given the current storage levels, only 1 TMC was released,” said Almatti Dam Chief Engineer D Basavaraj. Farmer unions, including the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS), have condemned the decision, accusing the government of disregarding local needs. “Water is crucial for Karnataka’s farmers, especially in the summer months. Yet, Water Resources Minister DK

Shivakumar has shown undue interest in releasing it elsewhere,” said BKS secretary Raghavendra Kamanatagi. Amid the growing discontent, Akhanda Karnataka Raita Sangha has announced a large-scale protest on February 28. Despite the backlash, the government has defended its stance, citing past instances of Maharashtra releasing water to Karnataka for drinking purposes. “Providing water for drinking needs is not a mistake. It’s a matter of maintaining good relations with neighboring states,” said APMC Minister Shivanand Patil. According to official data, the Almatti reservoir currently holds 50.463 TMC of water, with a live storage of 32.843 TMC. As of Thursday, the total discharge stood at 10,475 cusecs.

## Kash Patel Seeks UFC’s Help To Train FBI Agents: Report

TPN Correspondent | Washington D.C.  
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Kash Patel is reportedly considering a proposal to train FBI agents in self-defense techniques with the help of the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), according to The Independent. During a teleconference with the heads of the FBI’s 55 field offices, Patel suggested establishing a formal relationship with the popular mixed martial arts organization to enhance the physical preparedness of agents. While the FBI has not officially commented on the proposal, some agents described the idea as “surreal” and “wacky.” Patel’s incoming deputy, Dan Bongino, a well-known UFC fan, is believed to have inspired the move. The agency chief, who plays hockey himself, also expressed interest in joining the FBI’s hockey team. The move comes as Patel, who was recently sworn into office following a narrow 51-49 Senate confirmation vote, has



introduced sweeping changes within the bureau. He ordered the transfer of approximately 150 FBI employees from Washington D.C. to field offices, part of a broader restructuring plan. On Thursday, Patel took to X (formerly Twitter) to declare that the FBI was “entering a new era,” vowing integrity, accountability, and transparency. “There will be no

cover-ups, no missing documents, and no stone left unturned,” he stated, emphasizing that any attempts to undermine the agency’s mission would be “swiftly pursued.” Patel’s appointment and policy changes come amid growing scrutiny over the FBI’s internal operations and its handling of politically sensitive cases.

## India, EU set year-end deadline for free trade pact

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India and the European Union have set a year-end deadline to finalise a long-awaited free trade agreement, aiming to strengthen economic ties between the two regions. The announcement was made in a joint statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during their meeting in New Delhi. PM Modi emphasised that the India-EU partnership goes beyond trade, stating, “We have prepared a blueprint for collaboration in trade, technology, investment, innovation, green growth, security, skill, and mobility.” He also confirmed that officials have been directed to conclude negotiations before the end of the year, with a formal roadmap set to be launched at the next India-EU summit.

### Challenges in trade deal negotiations

Despite rapid trade growth—rising 90% since 2014, with total bilateral trade exceeding \$137 billion in 2023-24—previous attempts to finalise a trade pact stalled due to differences on tariffs and visa regulations. The EU has sought lower tariffs on automobiles, liquor, and other goods, while India is pushing for easier market access for its pharmaceutical and textile sectors.

New Delhi has also opposed Europe’s 20-35% carbon tax on industrial goods like cement, steel, and aluminum. Meanwhile, the EU remains hesitant to relax visa restrictions for Indian professionals.

### Push for India-Europe connectivity

In a parallel development, India and the EU reaffirmed their commitment to the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEEC), a strategic infrastructure project aimed at enhancing trade routes through sea, rail, and road networks. PM Modi described the initiative as an “engine for global commerce and sustainable growth.” EU chief von der Leyen highlighted the corridor’s potential to strengthen economic integration and improve security, particularly in the Indo-Pacific and Africa. She also stressed the importance of joint naval exercises in securing global trade routes. With both sides prioritising economic and strategic collaboration, the coming months will be crucial in determining whether they can overcome existing barriers and finalise a historic free trade agreement.



## Failed To “Imagine Scenario” Like Oct 7 - Israel Army Probe On Hamas Attack

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

An internal probe by the Israeli army has acknowledged a “complete failure” in preventing Hamas’s October 7, 2023, attack, which led to the deaths of hundreds of Israelis. The report, released on Thursday, highlights intelligence lapses and overconfidence in assessing Hamas’s military capabilities. “October 7 was a complete failure; the IDF failed in fulfilling its mission to protect Israeli civilians,” a senior military official stated, briefing reporters anonymously. The probe, based on 77 investigations into various locations and military bases, revealed that the attack caught Israel completely off guard, both in scale and brutality. According to the report, Hamas’s attack unfolded in three waves. The first involved over 1,000 Nukhba (elite force) militants infiltrating under heavy fire. The second wave saw 2,000 additional fighters crossing into Israeli territory, followed by a third wave involving hundreds more militants and thousands of civilians. In total, approximately 5,000 attackers breached Is-



raeli defenses. The army admitted that it had not anticipated an operation of this scale, with a senior official stating, “We did not even imagine such a scenario.” The Gaza Division was overrun in the early hours of the assault, allowing militants to take control of

key areas and carry out massacres. The findings of the probe are now being presented to those directly affected by the attack. The report underscores the urgent need for military reforms to prevent such breaches in the future.

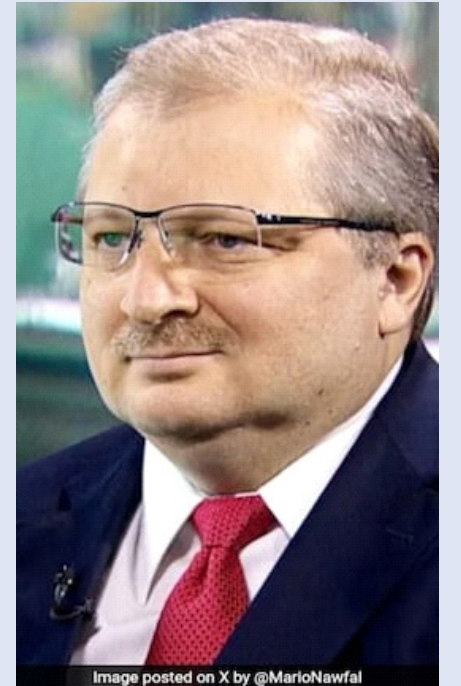
## Russia fills US ambassador post after a year-long gap.

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Russia has appointed Alexander Darchiev as its new ambassador to the United States, filling a position left vacant since last year. The appointment comes as both nations engage in fresh diplomatic talks amid strained relations over the ongoing Ukraine conflict. The Russian foreign ministry confirmed on Friday that the US had officially approved Darchiev’s appointment. “His departure for his place of service in Washington is expected in the near future,” the ministry stated.

Darchiev, a veteran diplomat with experience in Russian-US relations, previously served as director of the Russian foreign ministry’s North American department. His predecessor, Anatoly Antonov, was recalled by President Vladimir Putin last October without an immediate replacement.

The announcement follows recent talks in Istanbul, where Russian and US officials discussed diplomatic issues, including the reciprocal expulsion of embassy staff during US President Joe



Biden’s administration. This development also coincides with US President Donald Trump’s renewed efforts to re-engage with Moscow, including high-level discussions with Putin, marking the first significant dialogue since Russia’s military operation in Ukraine began in 2022.



# Nifty Ends In Losses For 5 Consecutive Months, Breaks 28-Year Record



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Domestic stock markets suffered a sharp decline on Friday as investor sentiment took a major hit following Donald Trump's announcement of fresh tariffs on Mexico, Canada, and China, set to take effect from March 4. The fears of disruptions in global trade sent shockwaves through markets, leading to a broad-based sell-off across sectors. The Nifty 50 closed down by 420 points at 22,124, while the Sensex plunged 1,414 points to settle at 73,198. The losses extended Nifty's negative streak to five consecutive months, marking its worst stretch in 28 years. The brutal sell-off wiped out ₹10 lakh crore in investor wealth in a single day. Markets opened with a significant gap-down

and remained under selling pressure throughout the session. The BSE Sensex, which closed at 74,612 in the previous session, opened at 74,201 and hit an intraday low of 73,141 before closing deep in the red. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,433, saw a day's low of 22,104 before closing at 22,124. **Sector-Wide Sell-Off** Metal, auto, FMCG, realty, and healthcare stocks bore the brunt of the sell-off. The Nifty Midcap and Smallcap indices declined by 2.5%, reflecting broad-based weakness. Market breadth on NSE tilted sharply in favor of sellers, with 2,416 stocks declining against only 489 advancers.

Among sectoral indices, auto, FMCG, IT, media, metal, pharma, realty, healthcare, oil & gas, and PSU banks all faced significant losses. Out of the Nifty50 stocks, only five closed in the green. Shriram Finance, HDFC Bank, Coal India, Trent, and Hindalco were the top gainers. On the losing side, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Airtel, and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the worst performers. Alkem Laboratories received a GST notice of ₹62.08 crore for FY21 and FY22, adding to regulatory concerns in the pharmaceutical sector. Meanwhile, the rupee weakened by 0.3%, closing at 87.51 against the dollar after a forex swap, reflecting pressure on the currency. Bharti Airtel suffered a sharp decline of 4.59%, ending the session at ₹1,574.

Among brokerage ratings, Jefferies issued a buy call for Crompton Graves with a target price of ₹480 and also recommended Jubilant Foodworks with a target of ₹1,000. Tata Steel witnessed heightened trading activity, with 18 lakh shares changing hands. India VIX, a key measure of market volatility, surged 5% to 14.11, signaling increased uncertainty. HSBC maintained a hold rating on HDFC AMC, setting a target price of ₹4,350. In corporate developments, Solar Industries secured an export order worth ₹2,150 crore, boosting its growth outlook. Bitcoin fell below \$80,000 as risk-off sentiment dominated global markets. TVS Motors expanded its international presence by launching new three-wheelers in Mexico. Fopler India reported a 13% increase in Q4 consolidated profit, with revenue rising 14%. The company also declared a dividend of ₹28 per share, while ITC saw 24 lakh shares change hands during the session. With global uncertainties weighing on investor sentiment, markets remain under pressure, and volatility is expected to persist in the near term.

## India's Forex Reserves Surge by USD 4.758 Billion to Reach USD 640.479 Billion



India's foreign exchange reserves saw a notable increase of USD 4.758 billion, reaching USD 640.479 billion for the week ended February 21, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data released on Friday. This comes after a decline in the previous week, where reserves had dropped by USD 2.54 billion to USD 635.721 billion.

The recent uptick in reserves marks a positive shift after several weeks of decline. The decline had primarily been due to factors like revaluation of foreign currency assets and the RBI's market interventions aimed at reducing volatility in the Indian rupee. India's forex reserves had previously peaked at an all-time high of USD 704.885 billion in September 2024.

The latest increase in reserves was largely driven by a rise in foreign currency assets, which rose by USD 4.251 billion, bringing the total to USD 543.843 billion. These foreign currency assets are a major component of the country's total reserves, and their value can fluctuate based on the appreciation or depreciation of non-US currencies such as the euro, pound, and yen that are part of India's forex reserves.

In addition to foreign currency assets, India's gold reserves also saw a boost. The gold reserves increased by USD 426 million, bringing their total value to USD 74.576 billion for the week. This increase in gold holdings reflects India's strategy to diversify its foreign exchange reserves and provide additional stability to its financial standing.

The Reserve Bank also reported a rise in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), which increased by USD 73 million to a total of USD 17.971 billion. SDRs are an international reserve asset created by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to supplement its member countries' official reserves.

India's reserve position with the IMF also saw a minor increase of USD 7 million, reaching USD 4.09 billion during the same period. This increase signifies India's ongoing contributions and its standing in the global financial system.

India's growing foreign exchange reserves are viewed as a crucial buffer for the economy, enabling the country to manage external shocks, sustain its import needs, and maintain financial stability. The current level of reserves also provides the central bank with the flexibility to manage currency volatility, especially in times of global economic uncertainty.

# Sebi Mandates 30-Day Fund Deployment Timeline for Mutual Fund NFOs

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has introduced new guidelines for mutual fund houses to deploy funds raised from New Fund Offers (NFOs) within 30 business days from the allotment of units. This decision, announced on Thursday, comes in response to concerns about the potential mis-selling practices by asset management companies (AMCs).



The new directive requires mutual fund houses to specify achievable timelines for fund deployment in the Scheme Information Document (SID) of a new offering. The SID must outline how the funds will be allocated as per the scheme's asset allocation and ensure that the funds raised during the NFO are in line with the deployment schedule. By doing so, Sebi aims to promote transparency and responsible fund management while discouraging any mis-selling of NFOs.

This move comes after rising concerns over the practice of collecting large amounts of money in NFOs without a clear and timely plan for investing the raised capital. Sebi's new rules will help AMCs align their fund-raising strategies with realistic deployment schedules, reducing the risk of mis-selling to investors who might be promised quick returns without proper execution.

With the deadline set at 30 business days, Sebi hopes to ensure that the funds raised through NFOs are invested promptly, which will in turn support the effective management of investor capital. This rule is expected to improve investor confidence, as it guarantees that mutual funds will operate within clear and practical timeframes.

The introduction of these guidelines is also a part of Sebi's broader efforts to enhance the governance of the mutual fund industry, en-

sure better accountability, and safeguard the interests of investors. AMCs now have to provide detailed timelines in the SID, which will be subject to scrutiny, ensuring that funds are deployed efficiently and in accordance with the stated objectives of the scheme.

By tightening these regulations, Sebi aims to create a more disciplined and transparent environment for mutual fund investments in India.

# Adani Green Energy Surpasses 12,000 MW Operational Milestone in Renewable Energy

Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), India's largest renewable energy company, achieved a significant milestone on Friday by surpassing a 12,000 megawatt (MW) operational portfolio with the commissioning of an additional 275 MW solar capacity at the world's largest renewable energy plant in Khavda, Gujarat. This makes AGEL the first renewable energy company in India to reach such a milestone.

The total operational portfolio of AGEL now stands at 12,258.1 MW, which includes 8,347.5 MW from solar, 1,651 MW from wind, and 2,259.6 MW from wind-solar hybrid capacity. This remarkable achievement highlights AGEL's dedication to renewable energy and sustainable growth. The installed capacity will power over 6.2 million homes and help avoid approximately 22.64 million tonnes of

CO2 emissions annually, which is equivalent to the carbon sequestration achieved by 1,078 million trees.

This achievement marks AGEL's contribution as the largest greenfield expansion in India's renewable energy sector, representing about 10% of the country's installed utility-scale solar and wind capacity. It also accounts for over 13% of India's utility-scale solar installations. AGEL's operations and expansions are integral to India's renewable energy vision, including its goal to reach 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.

A key component of AGEL's success is the development of the world's largest renewable energy plant at Khavda, Gujarat. Once fully operational, the 30,000 MW plant, spanning 538 square kilometers, will become the

world's largest power plant across all energy sources. The current operational capacity at Khavda stands at 2,824.1 MW.

The continued rapid progress at Khavda reflects AGEL's commitment to scaling up India's renewable energy capacity. AGEL is leveraging the project execution strengths of Adani Infra, the manufacturing capabilities of Adani New Industries Limited, and the operational expertise of Adani Infrastructure Management Services Ltd. to maintain growth momentum.

With AGEL recording the fastest greenfield renewable energy capacity addition in India, the company remains focused on sustaining its growth and contributing to India's clean energy future.





## OpenAI Introduces GPT-4.5 AI Model in Research Preview, Its 'Best Model for Chat Yet'

GPT-4.5

OpenAI has released a research preview of its new GPT-4.5 artificial intelligence (AI) model, marking an advancement over the previous GPT-4 model. This latest iteration is designed to improve performance in natural language conversations, reasoning, and coding tasks. OpenAI has touted GPT-4.5 as the company's "largest and best model for chat yet," highlighting its scaling of both pre-training and post-training techniques. The GPT-4.5 model was developed using cutting-edge techniques such as unsupervised learning alongside traditional supervised fine-tuning (SFT) and reinforcement learning from human feedback (RLHF). These innovations contribute to the model's enhanced conversational and problem-solving abilities. Currently available as a research preview, GPT-4.5 is being rolled out exclusively to ChatGPT Pro subscribers, with plans to extend access to Plus and Team users by next week. Enterprise and Educational users will likely gain access shortly thereafter. OpenAI is using this phase

to better understand the model's strengths and weaknesses. While GPT-4.5 supports several new features, including search, file and image uploads, and Canvas, it does not support multimodal functionalities like Voice Mode, real-time video, or screen sharing in ChatGPT at this stage. For developers, the model is being introduced in several paid tiers, including the Chat Completions API, Assistants API, and Batch API. Internal benchmarking reveals that GPT-4.5 performs better than the o3-mini model in areas such as multilingual tasks (MMMLU) and coding-related benchmarks. However, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman emphasized that GPT-4.5 is not intended to be a reasoning model designed to outperform its predecessors across all metrics. Instead, Altman noted that the model represents a "different kind of intelligence" and focuses on enhancing specific aspects of AI capabilities rather than achieving dominance in all areas.

## How to Decode Food Labels : Expert Tips from Nutritionist Amita Gadre

Navigating the grocery store can be overwhelming, especially with the countless products claiming to be "sugar-free," "low-fat," or "multi-grain." While these claims might look appealing, they can sometimes be misleading. Nutritionist Amita Gadre offers expert advice on how to decode food labels and make healthier choices when shopping.

**Here are four key tips to help you spot healthy vs. unhealthy foods using food labels:**

**Don't Fall for Nutrition Claims**  
Many products boast claims like "sugar-free," "low-fat," or "multi-grain," but Amita advises not to fall for these marketing tactics. While these labels may sound healthy, they often hide unhealthy ingredients. To get a clear picture of what you're consuming, always check the nutritional panel. Hidden sugars, artificial sweeteners, or unnecessary calories might be lurking, even in seemingly "healthier" options.

**Check the Ingredients List**  
When shopping for food, always glance through the ingredients list. The first few ingredients are the most abundant in the product, so be wary if refined flour, added sugars, or hydrogenated oils appear at the



top. These ingredients are often linked to negative health outcomes. Instead, look for products that list whole grains, natural ingredients, and healthy fats at the beginning.

**Watch the Serving Size**  
Serving size is a crucial factor that many overlook. The serving size listed on the package helps you understand the number of calories you'll consume in one portion. Amita suggests being cautious with small serving sizes, as they can often mislead you into thinking you're eating fewer calories than you actually are. Always be mindful of how much you're actually consuming to avoid unintentionally overeating.

**Monitor Added Sugars, Sodium, and Fats**

Be vigilant about the added sugars, sodium, and fats in a product. According to Amita, added sugar should not exceed 10g per serving, and sodium content should be under 120mg. When it comes to fats, avoid trans fats altogether and limit saturated fats. These ingredients can contribute to various health issues when consumed in excess. By following these simple tips, you can make more informed choices and stay on track with your health goals while navigating the aisles of your local grocery store.

## Does Early End to Winter Mean a Hotter Summer?



As winter comes to an early end in North India, February 2025 has become one of the warmest in Delhi in the last 15 years. This has led to widespread speculation that an early conclusion to winter could result in a scorching summer. However, a detailed analysis by \*The Times of India\* (TOI) of 54 years of temperature data suggests that a warm February does not necessarily lead to a hotter-than-usual April or summer. TOI examined the average maximum temperatures in north India from 1971 onward, specifically focusing on the 10 warmest Februaries recorded during this period. Interestingly, in half of these years, the following April was warmer or significantly warmer than usual. However, in the other half, April temperatures were either close to normal or even below average in one instance. This analysis focuses on February and April because February marks the end of

winter, while April signifies the beginning of summer in the region. March is typically a transitional month. Despite the early warmth in February, there is no clear, consistent pattern linking it to the subsequent heat of April. Experts explain that the temperatures in February and April are influenced by multiple factors. Large-scale climate phenomena such as El Niño or La Niña events, along with regional weather conditions like the frequency, intensity, and duration of western disturbances, play a significant role in shaping the weather in both months. Thus, while a warm February may seem to hint at a hot summer, it is not a reliable predictor on its own. In conclusion, the connection between a warm February and a scorching April is not straightforward, and other weather patterns and global climatic conditions must also be considered to predict the severity of the upcoming summer.

## Russian man dumps Porsche in trash after wife refuses, leaving internet stunned



In a dramatic turn of events, a Russian man made headlines for discarding a luxury Porsche Macan, worth over a crore, in a dumpster after his wife rejected it as a Valentine's Day gift. The grand gesture, meant to repair their troubled marriage, ended in a shocking display of heartbreak and extravagance, sparking online debates about wasteful gestures and the role of material gifts in relationships. The incident unfolded when the man, hoping to salvage his marriage, purchased the expensive SUV as a symbol of reconciliation. However, his wife dismissed the gift as a mere materialistic offering, expressing that it was not a true gesture of love. Frustrated and hurt by her response, the man took a drastic step—he discarded the luxury car in a dumpster, still adorned with a large red bow. The Porsche remained there for 12 days, attracting the attention of passersby and the media. Onlookers were left astounded

by the sight of the pristine vehicle, once a symbol of wealth and affection, treated like refuse. The event quickly went viral, sparking widespread online discussions. Some people criticized the man's actions as an impulsive overreaction, pointing out the wastefulness of discarding such an expensive gift. Others speculated about deeper issues in the marriage, suggesting that the Porsche was more of a desperate attempt to fix underlying problems rather than an authentic expression of love. This bizarre act has reignited debates about the role of material gifts in relationships. While some believe that lavish presents are a poor substitute for genuine emotional connection, others argue that such extravagant gestures, when properly received, can be meaningful. The fate of the Porsche Macan remains unclear, but the story has certainly left a lasting impression, highlighting the complexities of love, materialism, and the lengths to which people will go to express or reject affection.

## The Mystery of Inunaki Village: Where Myth and Reality Collide



Inunaki Village, a place steeped in mystery and chilling legends, has long captured the fascination of thrill-seekers and horror enthusiasts. Located in Japan, this village has earned a notorious reputation, with some claiming that the government itself warns anyone who dares to enter that they may never return. As strange as it may sound, large signboards placed outside the village reportedly state that once you step inside, Japan's jurisdiction ends, and you are no longer within the country's borders. These eerie claims have sparked interest around the world, with stories circulating about the terrifying events that allegedly occur within the village. According to some accounts, no one who has ventured into Inunaki Village has ever returned to tell the tale. For years, the place has been a source of horror stories, urban legends, and speculation, attracting adventurers and curious onlookers eager to uncover the truth behind the rumors. What makes Inunaki Village so captivating

is its dark history, with whispers of gruesome events that have fueled its frightening reputation. One of the most disturbing rumors suggests that inside the village, humans are not only killed but tortured for the amusement of others. Some even claim that Satanic rituals take place within the village, where victims are subjected to unimaginable suffering. Those who have dared to venture into the village report hearing unsettling screams and eerie noises echoing from within, adding to its sinister allure. Despite these chilling tales, some still find themselves drawn to the village, compelled by the lure of the unknown. Whether it's the supernatural pull, the village's tragic past, or the sheer thrill of exploring an allegedly cursed place, Inunaki Village continues to intrigue and terrify. While no one can say for certain what happens within the boundaries of this mysterious village, the blend of myth and reality ensures that its dark legend will persist for years to come.



## PCB Announces PSL 10 Schedule, Clashes with IPL 2025 Dates



The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced the schedule for the 10th edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), set to begin on April 11, 2025, with a match between defending champions Islamabad United and two-time champions Lahore Qalandars at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. The tournament will run until May 18, with Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium hosting 13 matches, including two Eliminator and the final. The PSL's timing clashes with the Indian Premier League (IPL), scheduled between March 22 and May 25. The PSL will feature 34 matches across Karachi, Lahore, Multan, and Rawalpindi, with three double-headers and high-profile international cricketers. PSL CEO Salman Naseer emphasized the tournament's global recognition and hinted at the expansion of the league by adding two more teams next year.

## Shubman Gill To Captain India Against New Zealand?



Shubman Gill could step in as India's captain for the final Group A match against New Zealand in the Champions Trophy, as Rohit Sharma's fitness remains a concern. According to reports, Rohit, still struggling with a hamstring issue sustained in the previous match against Pakistan, might be rested for the game since India's progression to the semi-finals is already secured.

This move would give Gill, the vice-captain, a chance to lead, offering a glimpse into his potential future as captain. Rohit, who missed a training session on Wednesday, fueling concerns about his hamstring, could also lead to changes in India's batting lineup. KL Rahul may open with Gill, with Rishabh Pant potentially replacing Rahul as the finisher.

## Real Madrid Legends vs Barcelona Legends: Historic Clash Set for April 6 in India



On April 6, football fans in India will witness one of the greatest rivalries in world football come to life as Real Madrid Legends face Barcelona Legends at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. This marks the first-ever clash of these iconic teams in India, offering fans a unique opportunity to see football royalty

in action. Confirmed participants include Luís Figo, Fernando Morientes, and Rivaldo, with more superstars to be announced soon. The match is not just a football event, but a celebration of the sport's history, highlighting the legendary players and teams that have captivated fans for generations.

John Zaidi, CEO of The Sports Front, highlighted the significance of the event for Indian football fans, who will get to witness this historic encounter on their home turf. Fans can register for early ticket access through the District app by Zomato, with the official ticket sales starting soon.

## Phoebe Litchfield Praises Gujarat Giants' Bowlers After Dominant Win Over RCB



Gujarat Giants secured a commanding six-wicket victory over Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the Women's Premier League (WPL) on Friday, with their bowlers setting up the win. Chasing 126, Gujarat reached the target in just 16.3 overs, marking their second victory of the tournament. Phoebe Litchfield credited the Gujarat bowling attack for their strong performance, highlighting key breakthroughs

in the powerplay by Kashvee Gautam and Deandra Dottin. "Our bowlers have been outstanding, they won us the game today for sure," Litchfield said. RCB struggled early, losing three wickets in the first 25 runs, with Gujarat's bowlers – including Dottin and Tanuja Kanwar – taking control. In response, Gujarat's captain Ashleigh Gardner anchored the chase with a brilliant 58 off 31 balls, supported by Litchfield's 30\* to seal the win.

## Griekspoor Saves 4 Match Points to Defeat Medvedev and Reach Dubai Semifinals



Tallon Griekspoor pulled off an incredible comeback, saving four match points to defeat top-seeded Daniil Medvedev 2-6, 7-6 (7), 7-5 and reach the semifinals at the Dubai Championships. The Dutchman, ranked No. 47, admitted he was fortunate to still be in the tournament after his hard-fought second-set win. "I probably should have been on the plane to Indian Wells already," he said. Griekspoor's victory over Medvedev is his best-ranked win to date, following his earlier triumphs over Roman Safiullin and defending champion Ugo Humbert. He will now face fourth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas in the semifinals, after Tsitsipas defeated Matteo Berrettini 7-6 (5), 1-6, 6-4.

## Griekspoor Saves 4 Match Points to Defeat Medvedev and Reach Dubai Semifinals

The Skyesports Souvenir 2025 National Esports Championship (NEC) made its debut at Bengaluru GAFX 2025 from February 27 to March 1. Backed by the Karnataka government and organized in partnership with ABAI, the tournament is a significant step towards establishing Karnataka as a competitive gaming hub. Headlined by Counter-Strike 2, a popular esports title, the championship features top teams such as Flashback Gaming, Big W, Victores Sumus, and

Gods Reign. The event, held at The Lalit Ashok in Bengaluru, offers a prize pool of INR 5 lakhs and serves as a Valve Ranked Event, giving players a shot at global Counter-Strike 2 leaderboards. Karnataka's support for esports, part of its long-standing leadership in the AVGC sector, was highlighted by Shri Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT & BT, emphasizing the state's focus on esports as a skill-based discipline.

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### Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra Announce Pregnancy: "The Greatest Gift Of Our Lives"

Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra, who celebrated their second wedding anniversary on February 7, 2025, have announced they are expecting their first child. The couple shared the exciting news with a heartwarming post on Instagram, captioning, "The greatest gift of our lives. Coming soon." Kiara marked their anniversary with a playful video, recreating a memorable wedding moment, while Sidharth shared two unseen wedding photos, expressing his love. The couple married on February 7, 2023, in a private ceremony in Jaisalmer. On the work front, Kiara is set to star in Toxic, War 2, and Don 3, while Sidharth's upcoming project includes VVAN: Force of the Forest, releasing in November 2025. Fans are excited for both their personal and professional milestones!

### "Sankranti Ki Vastunnam" Premieres Simultaneously on ZEE5 and ZEE Telugu on March 1

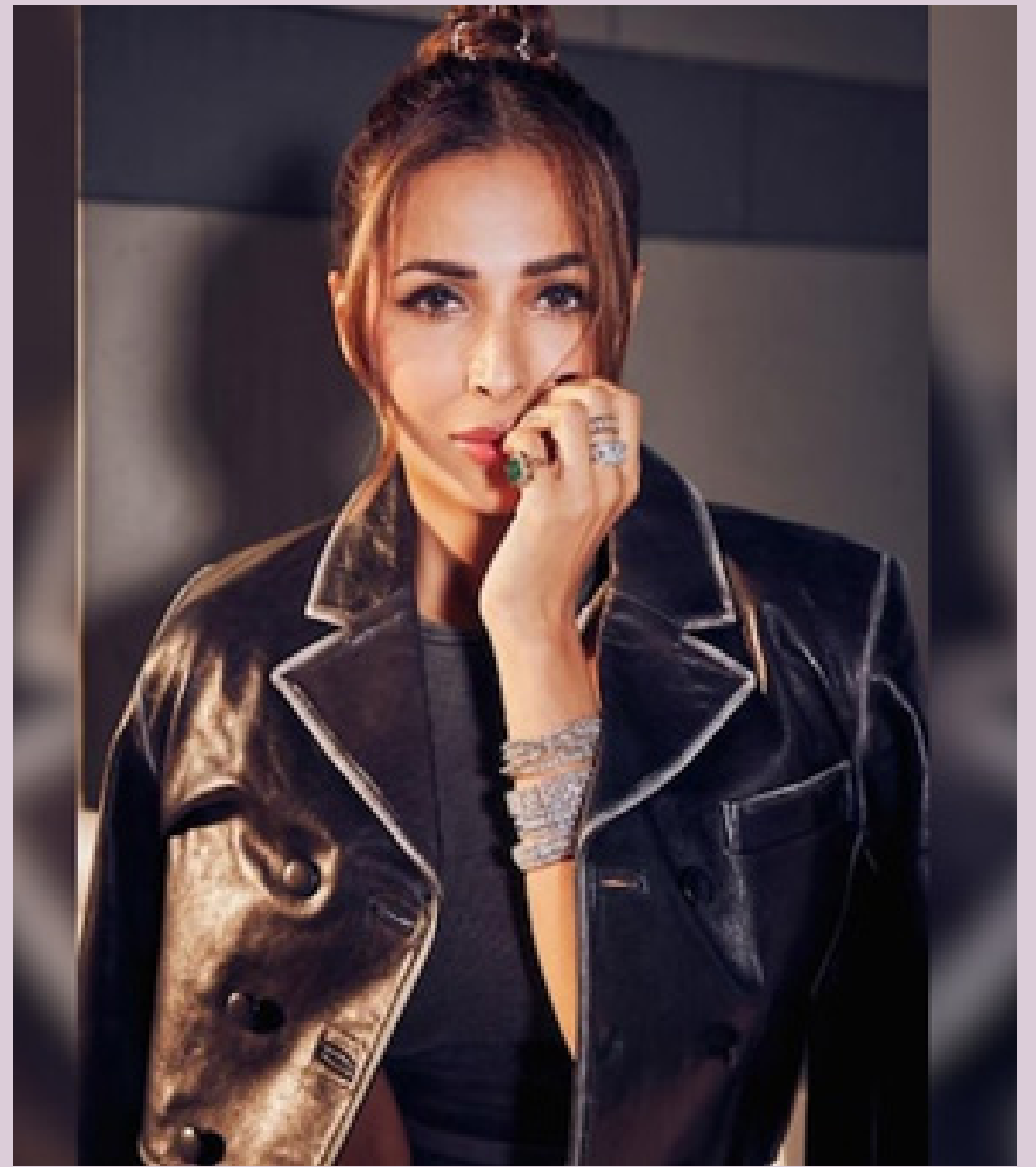


The much-anticipated comedy entertainer Sankranti Ki Vastunnam, directed by Anil Ravipudi and starring Venkatesh, is set to premiere on both ZEE5 and ZEE Telugu on March 1, 2025, at 6 PM. After its massive success in theatres, the film will be available in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam dubbed versions. Venkatesh, who plays the lead role of Raju, expressed his joy in portraying a character that brings laughter to the audience. Director Anil Ravipudi praised the film's stellar cast, including Aishwarya Rajesh and Meenakshi Chaudhari, highlighting its appeal. With an exciting dual release, Sankranti Ki Vastunnam promises to entertain audiences on TV and OTT platforms.

## Malaika Arora Shares Cryptic Post on Love After Breakup with Arjun Kapoor

Malaika Arora's recent Instagram post has sparked interest, as the actress shared a cryptic quote about love being the "real luxury" in life. The quote emphasized the importance of time, health, meaningful conversations, and the people you love. Malaika's reflective post comes after her breakup with Arjun Kapoor last year. Arjun, during a recent interview, spoke about his views on relationships, highlighting

comfort, silence, and mutual understanding as key elements. Despite their split, the two were seen together recently on India's Best Dancer vs Super Dancer, where Arjun made a witty remark about Malaika's performance. Malaika and Arjun began dating in 2018, frequently making headlines for their public outings. Though neither has openly discussed their breakup, Arjun confirmed his single status at a Diwali party last year.



## Shree Vishnu's 'Mrityunjay' Title Teaser Released on His Birthday



Actor Shree Vishnu, known for his unique style and versatile performances, has unveiled the title teaser of his 18th film, Mrityunjay, on his birthday. Directed by Sha Kiran, this investigative thriller is produced by Sandeep Guna and Vinay Chilakapati

under the Light Box Media and Picture Perfect Entertainment banners. Reba John stars opposite Vishnu in the lead role. The teaser hints at Vishnu's role as both an investigator and a prisoner, with the dialogue "Game over Jay" and "Until I say, the game isn't finished"

hinting at an intriguing character arc. The film's post-production is ongoing, with cinematography by Vidhyasagar and music by Kalabhairava. The release date will be announced soon, adding to the excitement surrounding this highly anticipated project.

## Akshay Kumar on Reuniting with Madhoo After 20 Years in Kannappa: "She Hasn't Changed At All"



Akshay Kumar is excited to reunite with actress Madhoo after 20 years in the upcoming Telugu film Kannappa, which marks his debut in the Telugu film industry. During the trailer launch, Akshay reminisced about their past collaborations in films like Elaan and Zaalim and praised Madhoo for her timeless beauty. He humorously remarked, "It seems she goes into the fridge to sleep at night," adding that she hasn't changed at all. In Kannappa, Akshay plays the role of Shiva, while Vishnu Manchu stars in the titular role. Directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh, the film also features Mohan Babu, R. Sarathkumar, and others in supporting roles, with special appearances by Mohanlal, Prabhas, and Kajal Aggarwal.

## Madhu Chopra Reveals Priyanka Chopra's Difficulties on Dostana Set: "If You Want Priyanka To Die On..."



Madhu Chopra recently shared an insightful story about Priyanka Chopra's challenges while filming Dostana in an interview with Lehren Retro. Priyanka, who was starring alongside John Abraham and Abhishek Bachchan, fell ill with a high fever during the shoot. When Madhu called director Tarun Manshukhani to request time off for Priyanka, he sarcastically replied, "How convenient." Madhu, upset by his response, fiercely defended her daughter, saying, "If you want her to die on your set, I'll send her. But if something happens, you'll be responsible." Madhu revealed that Tarun later teased her, recalling her strong remark each time they met. This candid conversation highlighted the difficulties Priyanka faced while working on Dostana despite her commitment.

## Oscars 2025 to Celebrate James Bond Legacy with Tribute to Its Iconic Music

The 97th Academy Awards will pay tribute to the legendary music of the James Bond franchise, recognizing its timeless influence on cinema. The special segment will honor long-time producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson, who were awarded Honorary Oscars at the 15th Governors Awards. This tribute will celebrate the unforgettable theme songs that have become synonymous with the 007 franchise, showcasing the grandeur and cultural impact of Bond films. While details are still limited, it remains unclear whether the tribute will focus on Oscar-nominated and winning songs or feature all 26 Bond theme songs. The tribute promises to bring together the world of cinema and music in a spectacular celebration.

