




**IPL 2025 Opener: KKR vs RCB at Eden Gardens**



The much-anticipated IPL 2025 season kicks off today with defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) facing Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the opening match at Eden Gardens, Kolkata. The match is set to begin at 7:30 PM IST. KKR, led by Ajinkya Rahane, will look to start their title defense on a strong note, while RCB, captained by Rajat Patidar, aims for a winning start. Fans can expect an exciting clash as two powerhouse teams battle it out in front of a packed Eden Gardens crowd. The tournament promises thrilling cricket over the next two months.

**BJP-Congress targeting BRS, alleges Rao.**

**CM, Bhatti silent on central funds.**

**Maheshwar Reddy shields government, says Rao.**

**People know the truth, claims Rao.**

**Met CM for pending SDF funds.**

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

BRS senior leader and former minister Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on both the BJP-led central government and the Congress-led Telangana government. Speaking to the media in the Assembly lobby on Friday, Harish Rao alleged that the "Bade Bhai - Chote Bhai" (Narendra Modi - Revanth Reddy) connection was exposed during the Assembly session. He criticized the Telangana Fi-

# Harish Rao Slams BJP & Congress, Accuses Them of Secret Alliance



nance Minister, Bhatti Vikramarka, for not uttering a single word against the Center despite the lack of funds for the state.

He further accused both BJP and Congress of being equal enemies of the BRS and asserted that his party would maintain equal distance from both while fighting for the people. He pointed out that Chief Min-

ister Revanth Reddy, along with Bhatti Vikramarka, did not criticize the central government, highlighting their alleged collusion. He also took a jibe at BJP's legislature party leader Maheshwar Reddy, stating that instead of focusing on the budget, he was more interested in attacking BRS.

Harish Rao accused BJP and

Congress of joining hands to target the BRS. He emphasized that no matter how much mud is slung at his party, the people are well aware of the reality.

He also defended his stance in the budget discussion, stating, "No one else has spoken as strongly against CM Revanth Reddy as I did. My entire speech was about the failures

of his government. However, Maheshwar Reddy seemed more interested in covering up for the government rather than holding it accountable."

**Meeting with CM Revanth Reddy**

Clarifying his recent meeting with Telangana CM Revanth Reddy, Harish Rao stated that he, along with Padma Rao Goud, met the Chief Minister to discuss the pending release of SDF (Special Development Funds) for Seethaphalmandi.

He explained that during the BRS tenure, ₹32 crore was allocated to set up a high school, junior college, and degree college in one location at Seethaphalmandi.

However, due to the election code, the funds were halted. Rao emphasized that their meeting was solely to request the release of the pending SDF funds and that they submitted a formal representation to the Chief Minister regarding the matter.



## SC Collegium Proposes Transfer of Delhi HC Judge Yashwant Varma

**After reports of huge pile of cash at residence**

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Justice Yashwant Varma of the Delhi High Court has been transferred back to his parent court, the Allahabad High Court, following a recommendation by the Supreme Court Collegium. This decision comes after a large amount of cash was discovered at his residence following a fire incident, raising concerns about unaccounted money.

The incident occurred when a fire broke out at Justice Varma's official residence. >> PAGE 2



## NABARD Chairman Meets CM Revanth Reddy, Discusses Low-Interest Loans

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy met NABARD Chairman Shaji KV and officials in Hyderabad to discuss financial support for cooperative societies and micro-irrigation projects. During the meeting, CM Revanth Reddy urged NABARD to strengthen existing cooperative societies and establish new ones across the state. He also requested low-interest loans under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) and financial assistance for micro-irrigation projects.

The Chief Minister emphasized the need for a special scheme for Self-Help Group (SHG) women's associations.

He proposed linking Integrated Cooperative Development Projects (ICDPs), godowns, and rice mills with NABARD to enhance the milling capacity in Telangana. Additionally, NABARD suggested setting up District Cooperative Central Banks (DCCBs) in newly formed districts to improve financial services at the grassroots level.

Kaloji University Vice-Chancellor Meets CM

Meanwhile, Kaloji Narayana Rao University of Health Sciences (KNRUHS) Vice-Chancellor Dr. PV Nandakumar Reddy also met CM Revanth Reddy at his office. The meeting was a courtesy visit, where they discussed various health and medical >> PAGE 2

## Shocking: Two More BRS MLAs Meet CM Revanth Reddy

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

Political developments in the Telangana Assembly have taken an interesting turn, as BRS MLAs continue to meet Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. In a fresh development, senior BRS leaders and MLAs Malla Reddy (Medchal) and Marri Rajasekhara Reddy (Malkajgiri) met the Chief Minister in his chamber on Friday. They were accompanied by their family members for what was described as a courtesy visit.

Following the meeting, Ra-

jayashankar Reddy clarified to the media that the visit was solely to discuss increasing medical college seats. However, this meeting comes amid growing speculation about a possible shift in political alignments.

Earlier, senior BRS leaders Harish Rao and Padma Rao Goud also met CM Revanth

Reddy. They reportedly raised concerns about protocol violations in their constituencies



**Medical college seats discussed in meeting.**

**BRS protests against Congress government.**

**Unmet election promises fuel dissatisfaction.**

**Political realignment speculations intensify.**

and sought the CM's intervention. Meanwhile, outside the Assembly, BRS >> PAGE 2

- BRS neglected job recruitment for decade.
- ₹2.30 lakh crore spent unlawfully.
- CAG exposed financial mismanagement, loans.
- ₹16.70 lakh crore usage questioned.
- ORR lease deal raised corruption concerns.
- Congress vows financial discipline, reforms.

## BRS Governance Destroyed a Generation: Bhatti Vikramarka



The Telangana Assembly budget session witnessed a heated debate as Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka launched a scathing attack on the opposition BRS. He accused the previous government of neglecting job recruitment for an entire decade, leading to a lost generation of unemployed youth. The failure to fill key vacancies not only left many job aspirants in distress but also

weakened crucial administrative sectors due to manpower shortages, he stated.

Bhatti Vikramarka criticized the BRS government for presenting massive budgets while failing to utilize allocated funds. He alleged that ₹2.30 lakh crore was spent without Assembly approval, as revealed by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). He further accused the previous administration of reckless >> PAGE 2



## Anchor Syamala Gets Relief, High Court Stays Arrest

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## India Sets Record in Coal Production: Kishan Reddy

TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad

Union Minister Kishan Reddy announced that India has achieved a historic milestone in coal production, surpassing the 1 billion tonne mark. He stated that this achievement is a matter of national pride and highlights India's growing energy sector. Reddy credited the BJP government at the Center for implementing advanced tech-

nologies and efficient mining practices, which have significantly boosted coal production. He emphasized that this surge in production will help meet the rising electricity demand across the country, ensuring energy security and economic growth. The minister praised the hard work of coal industry workers, acknowledging their crucial role in reaching this milestone. He also highlighted

that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India is emerging as a global leader in energy production.

This achievement not only strengthens the country's industrial growth but also enhances India's self-reliance in energy resources. With continued advancements and policy support, India is on track to becoming a dominant force in the global energy sector.





## CM Revanth Reddy Reaches Tamil Nadu for Key Meeting

TPN, Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has arrived in Tamil Nadu to participate in an all-party meeting led by Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin. The meeting, scheduled for today in Chennai, will focus on the contentious issue of delimitation. Accompanying CM Revanth Reddy is TPCC chief Mahesh Goud.

The meeting was called by Stalin to unite southern states against the proposed delimitation process by the central government.

Tamil Nadu strongly opposes delimitation based on the 2026 census, arguing that it would reduce the representation and political rights of southern states in Parliament. Instead, Tamil Nadu is demanding that delimitation be based on the 1971 census and is even pushing for constitutional amendments if necessary.

With growing concerns about the potential impact on political representation, Stalin has invited Chief Ministers



from seven southern states for discussions. Telangana's participation highlights its commitment to addressing regional concerns regarding political equity.

Security has been tightened in both states, with police ensuring smooth arrangements for CM Revanth Reddy's visit. The Telangana delegation will return to Hyderabad after the meeting.

As the delimitation debate intensifies, this meeting marks a crucial moment for southern states to strategize and present a united stance against what they see as an unfair political restructuring.

# Bhatti Slams BRS Over ₹ 2.30 Lakh Crore Spending

- BRS failed to utilize allocated funds.
- ORR leased for ₹7,000 crore.
- CAG report exposes financial mismanagement.
- ₹16.70 lakh crore spent, no projects.
- BRS blamed for excessive state debt.

TPN, Correspondent | Hyderabad

Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka made serious allegations against the previous BRS government, claiming that it spent ₹2.30 lakh crore without the approval of the Telangana Legislative Assembly. Speaking during the Assembly budget session, he criticized the previous administration for failing to utilize allocated funds effectively.

He pointed out that despite presenting a large budget, the previous government left a significant amount of funds unspent. According to Bhatti, the government failed to use ₹8,000 crore in 2016-17, ₹40,000 crore in 2018-19, ₹48,000 crore in 2021-22, ₹52,000 crore in 2022-23, and ₹58,571 crore in 2023-24. Bhatti also accused the BRS government of financial mismanagement, stating that it sold the Outer Ring Road (ORR) for ₹7,000 crore on a 30-



year lease. He claimed that despite spending ₹16.70 lakh crore over a decade, the BRS government failed to deliver major infrastructure projects such as Nagarjuna Sagar, SRSP, ORR, or a new airport.

He further stated that the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report confirmed these

financial irregularities. Bhatti blamed the BRS government for excessive borrowing without financial discipline, putting Telangana into heavy debt.

The Deputy CM's remarks have intensified the political debate over the state's financial management under the previous administration.

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## SC Collegium Proposes Transfer of Delhi HC Judge Yashwant Varma

residence in Delhi, while he was away from the city. The fire department responded promptly and extinguished the flames. However, after the fire was brought under control, firefighters discovered a significant amount of cash in various rooms of the bungalow, sparking an official inquiry.

Following the report of the fire and the subsequent discovery of unaccounted cash, the Supreme Court Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna, recommended Justice Varma's transfer to the Allahabad High Court. Justice Varma had been serving on the Delhi High Court bench since his appointment in October 2021.

While the transfer order has been issued, some members of the Collegium expressed concerns that the incident should lead to more than just a transfer. According to reports from The Times of India, these members suggested that the Chief Justice should request Justice Varma's resignation and proposed the formation of an in-house inquiry committee if Varma refuses to resign. The committee would serve as the initial step toward the removal of a judge from office by Parliament.

The procedure for addressing corruption charges against judges, established in 1999, involves the Chief Justice seeking a response from the judge involved. If the response is unsatisfactory, an in-house inquiry committee can be formed, headed by a Supreme Court judge and the Chief Justices of two High Courts.

The controversy surrounding Justice Varma underscores the importance of judicial accountability and transparency within the Indian legal system.

## Shocking: Two More BRS MLAs Meet CM Revanth Reddy

activists staged a protest against the Congress government. They accused the Revanth Reddy-led administration of failing to fulfill promises made during the 2023 Assembly elections. The protesters raised concerns about the delay in implementing schemes such as minimum support prices for farmers, financial aid for women, job opportunities for youth, and distribution of scooters to female students.

As political tensions continue to rise, these meetings between BRS MLAs and the Chief Minister have fueled speculation about potential political realignments in the state.

## BRS Governance Destroyed a Generation: Bhatti Vikramarka

financial mismanagement, burdening the state with indiscriminate loans.

The Deputy CM questioned how ₹16.70 lakh crore was utilized over the past ten years. He demanded transparency regarding these expenditures and slammed the BRS for mortgaging the state's financial future. Bhatti Vikramarka specifically pointed out the alleged irregularities in the Outer Ring Road (ORR) leasing process, accusing the previous government of selling state assets and compromising long-term revenue sources.

The ongoing Assembly budget discussions continue to spark intense political confrontations, with the ruling Congress government vowing to rectify past misgovernance and implement financial discipline.

## NABARD Chairman Meets CM Revanth Reddy, Discusses Low-Interest Loans

education initiatives in the state. These meetings highlight the state government's focus on financial and infrastructural development, especially in agriculture, cooperatives, and healthcare sectors.

## Harish Rao Calls Telangana Assembly Session a Dark Day

- Harish Rao slams Telangana Assembly adjournment.
- Congress dodging election promises, says Harish.
- BRS government credited for past schemes.
- Loan waivers, fee reimbursement questioned.
- Bhatti, Speaker condemn inappropriate language.

TPN, Correspondent | Hyderabad

Former minister and BRS leader Harish Rao criticized the Telangana Assembly proceedings, calling it a dark day in the state's legislative history. He expressed outrage over the abrupt adjournment of the Assembly without providing clarifications on crucial questions raised by the opposition.

Harish Rao accused the Congress government of dodging key election promises. He alleged that the government was taking credit for jobs filled through notifications issued

during the previous KCR-led BRS government. He also highlighted that BRS had initiated several welfare programs, including project construction, Rythu Bandhu, and ₹2,000 pensions.

The BRS leader questioned the Congress administration on interest-free loans for women, loan waivers for farmers, and fee reimbursement schemes, stating that they failed to deliver on these promises. He also criticized the government for backtracking on its LRS stance and misleading the public about ₹1 lakh crore



interest-free loans. Furthermore, he alleged that Congress was diverting attention from unfulfilled promises with unnecessary distractions.

Assembly erupts in controversy over Harish Rao's remarks

During the budget discussion, Harish Rao fiercely attacked the Congress government, blaming it for Telangana's financial decline. His remarks sparked controversy when he commented that Congress leaders lacked intelligence.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka

condemned Harish Rao's comments, stating that calling Assembly leaders ignorant was inappropriate. He urged Harish Rao to withdraw his remarks, emphasizing that proper language should be maintained in the House.

Even Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar intervened, criticizing the remarks and stressing that Assembly debates should maintain decorum. The heated exchange escalated tensions between BRS and Congress members, setting the stage for a contentious Assembly session.

## Telangana Achieves Record Power Demand of 17,162 MW

TPN, Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana has set a new record in power demand, reaching a peak of 17,162 megawatts (MW) without any supply disruptions, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Finance, Planning, and Power Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu announced on Thursday. He emphasized that the state government has ensured uninterrupted and high-quality power supply to all sectors, including agriculture, industry, and households.

The previous highest power demand was 15,623 MW, recorded on March 8, 2024. However, on March 20, 2025, at 4:39 PM, Telangana's power utilities successfully handled a record-breaking demand of 17,162 MW.

Bhatti Vikramarka credited this achievement to key reforms and proactive measures taken by the government since December 2023. He highlighted that the government had ant-



icipated the increased summer power demand and took necessary steps, including boosting power generation and strengthening transmission and distribution networks.

The Deputy CM noted that the rise in industrial, commer-

cial, and IT activities contributed to the significant increase in power consumption. Despite this surge, Telangana has maintained a steady and uninterrupted power supply across all sectors. He commended the dedication of TGENCO, TG-

TRANSCO, TGSPDCL, and TGNPDCL employees, acknowledging their efforts in ensuring seamless power distribution. He also urged them to continue their commitment to providing uninterrupted and reliable electricity in the future.

## Kavitha Slams CM Revanth Reddy Over Telangana Budget

1. Calls Congress corrupt and cunning.
2. Accuses CM of financial falsehoods.
3. Claims Telangana reputation at risk.
4. Says Congress lacks clear vision.
5. Criticizes mismanagement of state funds.

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
BRS MLC Kavitha strongly criticized the 2025-26 Telangana budget presented by the Congress government, calling it a perfect proof of "Congress-mark corruption and cunningness." She accused CM Revanth Reddy of repeatedly lying about the state's financial situation and sarcastically suggested he deserves a Guinness World Record for it. Speaking in the Legislative Council, Kavitha condemned Revanth

Reddy for tarnishing Telangana's reputation in national media by claiming the state is financially bankrupt. She argued that former CM KCR had projected Telangana as a wealthy state to attract investors, while Revanth Reddy falsely claims he cannot even manage ₹500 crore per month. According to her, the Congress government spent ₹33,087 crore under capital expenditure in its first year, averaging ₹2,750 crore per month. She insisted that BRS leaders



would tolerate criticism against KCR but not falsehoods about Telangana's financial health. Congress Lacks Vision Kavitha remarked that BRS had initially refrained from criticizing the government, following KCR's advice to give the new administration some time. However, with the second budget, it was time for Congress to take full responsibility.

She argued that instead of focusing on development, the government was still blaming KCR. She further criticized the budget for lacking a clear priority sector, unlike KCR's early focus on rural economy, irrigation, and industrial development. According to Kavitha, the Congress government has no vision and is merely distributing funds without a strategic focus.

## Seethakka's Counter to Kavitha's Claims

1. Seethakka counters, accuses BRS of corruption.
2. Women's schemes funds misused under BRS.
3. Farmers suffered despite BRS's tall claims.
4. Congress filled 59,000 jobs in year.
5. People rejected BRS, Congress gained power.

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
Minister Seethakka strongly countered MLC Kavitha's comments on CM Revanth Reddy, accusing him of tarnishing Telangana's reputation. She stated that it was actually Kavitha's family that brought shame to the state, particularly through their alleged involvement in Delhi-based business dealings. Seethakka criticized the BRS for its history of corruption and injustice over its ten-year rule. She pointed out that in the first five years of BRS governance, there were no women ministers or members in the Women's Commission. Additionally, she accused BRS of withholding ₹1,800 crore of women's savings under the Abhaya Hastham scheme and failing to pay ₹3,700 crore in interest to women's groups.

The minister questioned BRS's claims about Telangana's development, asking why farmers struggled despite promises of prosperity. She dismissed allegations that Congress was blocking irrigation projects, instead blaming BRS for inflating estimates and engaging in financial mismanagement. Seethakka defended the Congress government's job recruitment efforts, stating that within a year, 59,000 jobs had been filled, unlike the BRS, which neglected employment opportunities for years. She further questioned why, if the BRS administration was so effective, the people voted them out. Urging BRS leaders to accept reality, she reminded them that Congress returned to power with 65 seats, more than BRS's initial victory with 63 seats.



## Telangana Model Unclear, Says BJP Leader Maheshwar Reddy



**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
BJP Legislature Party leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy criticized the Telangana budget presented by Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka in the Assembly, calling it a document that buries promises made to the people. He remarked that Telangana was expected to transform lives, but instead, the state has accumulated massive debt. He alleged that the previous government borrowed lakhs of crores over the past

decade and misused public funds. Despite 15 months in power, the Congress government has failed to investigate corruption and irregularities of the previous administration, he said. Maheshwar Reddy also questioned Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's past allegations against the BRS government. "If his accusations were true, why hasn't the government taken action or filed cases?" he asked. He demanded that the looted wealth be recovered and utilized for implementing the six guarantees promised by the Congress during elections. He further stated that the allocated funds for six guarantees are insufficient and accused the Congress government of discontinuing welfare schemes introduced by the previous administration. He also criticized the lack of transparency and accountability, questioning whether hiding financial details about state debts was the government's definition of transparency. Maheshwar Reddy called for greater clarity and accountability in the government's financial management and urged the Congress to fulfill its election promises instead of making excuses.

## MP Etela Rajender Seeks Central Funds for Musi Cleanup & Safe Water



**TPN,Correspondent|NewDelhi**  
Telangana MP Etela Rajender raised concerns in Parliament regarding the urgent need for central

funds to address Musi River pollution, sewage treatment, and safe drinking water supply in Hyderabad. Speaking during discussions on grant demands for the Ministry of Jal Shakti, he highlighted the severe impact of rapid urbanization on infrastructure. Rajender pointed out that Malkajgiri, one of Telangana's fastest-growing urban areas, is struggling with sanitation and water supply issues due to an increasing population. He urged the central government to allocate special funds for these essential services. He emphasized that Hyderabad, once known as the 'City of Lakes,' is now facing severe environmental challenges due to unchecked sewage discharge into its lakes

and rivers. Contaminated water is leading to groundwater pollution and public health crises. He called for immediate funding to restore lakes, strengthen sewage treatment plants (STPs), and implement modern wastewater management solutions. Focusing on the Musi River, Rajender highlighted its alarming pollution levels caused by industrial waste and untreated sewage. He urged the government to upgrade STPs, regulate waste disposal, and restore the river's ecosystem. He further appealed for financial assistance to Telangana to improve drinking water facilities, ensuring safe and clean water for all residents in rapidly expanding urban areas.

## Minister Komatireddy Slams BRS Over ORR Sale in Assembly Debate

1. BRS sold ORR for ₹7,300 crore.
2. Worth ₹1 lakh crore, says Minister.
3. Harish Rao controlled, alleges Komatireddy.
4. Assembly heated over land sales.

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
A heated exchange took place in the Telangana Assembly between the ruling Congress and the opposition BRS regarding the state government's decision to sell lands. The opposition questioned the government's move, prompting a sharp counter from Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy. Accusing the previous BRS government of corruption, Minister Komatireddy alleged, "They sold the Outer Ring Road (ORR) for just ₹7,300 crore due to their greed for commissions. A road worth ₹1 lakh crore was sold at a fraction of its actual value, and yet they dare to talk about land sales now." The minister further criticized BRS leader Harish Rao, claiming that he was being controlled from behind the scenes. "Harish Rao doesn't know anything. He is being led by two people from behind while he is put forward to speak," Komatireddy remarked. The Assembly witnessed intense arguments as the opposition continued to question the Congress government's land policies. In response, the ruling party de-



fended its stance, asserting that all decisions were being made transparently for the state's welfare. Komatireddy's remarks have further intensified the political rivalry between Congress and BRS, as both parties continue to trade allegations over past and present policies. The debate is expected to continue, with both sides determined to prove their stance before the public.

## Minister Konda Surekha Emphasizes Forest Conservation on World Forest Day

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
On the occasion of World Forest Day, Telangana's Minister for Forests and Environment, Konda Surekha, participated in a special event at KBR Park. She highlighted the deep-rooted connection between Indian culture and tree conservation, stating, "Vruksho Rakshati Rakshitah" - If we protect trees, they will protect us. The minister emphasized that forests are essential for ecological balance and biodiversity. She expressed concern over rapid deforestation caused by urbanization, industrialization, infrastructure projects, and shifting cultivation. She warned that the loss of forests is leading to severe environmental challenges, including global



warming and climate imbalance. Surekha urged people to recognize the vital role of forests in sustaining life and called for collective efforts to protect them. She reminded that the United Nations designated March 21 as World Forest Day to raise awareness about the need for forest conservation. The Telangana government is taking significant steps to increase green cover through large-scale af-



orestation programs like Haritha Haram and Vanamahotsavam. She stressed that government initiatives alone are not enough—public participation is crucial for expanding forest cover. She concluded by thanking Miss World 2024 Christina Peskova, forest department officials, NGOs, civil society organizations, and citizens for their commitment to environmental conservation.

## KTR Slams BJP and Congress Over Telangana's Industrial Neglect

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad**  
BRS leader K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) criticized both the BJP-led central government and the Congress-led Telangana government for their negligence towards the state's industrial development. Taking to social media, KTR questioned why the BJP failed to establish a steel plant in Bayyaram while putting the Adilabad Cement Corporation of India (CCI) factory up for auction. He accused BJP's Telangana MPs and MLAs of remaining silent on this injustice.

Similarly, he slammed Congress, stating that despite having eight MPs and 64 MLAs, none had raised their voice against this unfair treatment. He accused the Congress government in Telangana of demolishing industries instead of demanding new ones, while the BJP government at the center was selling off public sector enterprises. KTR emphasized that both BJP and Congress prioritize votes and seats over Telangana's progress. He called upon the people of Telan-

gana to recognize this neglect and take a stand, urging them with the slogan: "Jago Telangana Jago!"





## Anchor Syamala Gets Relief, High Court Stays Arrest



TPN, Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a major relief for TV and film anchor Syamala, the Telangana High Court has directed the police not to arrest her in the ongoing betting app promotion case. Syamala had approached the court seeking protection from arrest, following al-

legations that she promoted illegal betting apps. During the hearing on Friday, the court instructed the police not to arrest her but permitted them to continue their investigation. The court also directed Syamala to appear before the police on Monday for questioning and fully cooperate with the investigation.

The Telangana police have been cracking down on betting apps, which have led to multiple financial losses and even suicides. As part of their action, the police registered FIRs against several celebrities

for allegedly endorsing these apps. Many actors and influencers have already been interrogated, including Vishnu Priya, Ritu Chowdhary, Tasty Teja, and Kiran Goud. The police are also seeking to question Ajay Sunny, Supreeth, and Sunny Sudhir, while Harsha Sai, Imran, and Bhayya Sunny Yadav are reportedly absconding. Syamala has also filed a petition to quash the FIR registered against her. The court's interim relief has given her temporary respite, but the case remains under investigation.

## BRS MLA Sudheer Reddy Faces Another Shock as Women's Commission Summons Him



TPN, Correspondent | Hyderabad

BRS MLA from LB Nagar, Sudheer Reddy, has received another shock as the Telangana State Women's Commission has summoned him for a hearing on March 27. The summons were issued following a complaint filed by Hastinapuram Corporator Sujatha Naik, who accused the MLA of making inappropriate remarks against her. Taking the complaint seriously, the Women's Commission has directed Sudheer Reddy to appear for the hearing. This is not the first time the Commission has taken note of his comments. Earlier as well, the Commission had expressed its displeasure over his remarks and had issued summons,

asking him to explain his stance. The Commission has strongly condemned the MLA's alleged comments against a woman holding a constitutional post. It emphasized that such behavior from an elected representative is unacceptable. The Women's Commission has warned of strict action if the MLA fails to attend the hearing or provide a valid explanation. This development has created a stir in political circles, with growing demands for accountability. The issue highlights the importance of respecting women in public life and ensuring that elected representatives uphold dignity in their speech and actions.

## Government Approves ₹1,000 Crore for New Court Buildings: Minister Sridhar Babu

TPN, Correspondent | Hyderabad

IT & Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu announced in the Legislative Council that the government has granted administrative approval for the release of ₹1,000 crore for the construction of new court buildings across 13 newly formed districts.

Addressing concerns raised by members during the introduction of the Advocates and Clerks Welfare (Amendment) Bill, 2025, the minister assured that the government



is committed to strengthen-

ing judicial infrastructure. He also reminded the House that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has allocated 100 acres for the construction of a new High Court building. The estimated cost for the High Court and judges' residential quarters stands at ₹2,600 crore.

To support the legal fraternity, Sridhar Babu announced that health cards with ₹2 lakh coverage will be issued to 19,830 advocates and their 55,000 family members. Additionally, the government will provide a ₹10 lakh acci-

dent insurance policy for advocates.

Emphasizing advocate safety, the minister assured that a new law will be introduced to protect lawyers. Citing the brutal murders of advocate Vaman Rao and his wife, he stressed the urgent need for enhanced security measures. The government aims to ensure that legal professionals can perform their duties without fear, reinforcing its commitment to their welfare and safety.

## Telangana Government Likely to Host State Iftar on March 24

TPN, Correspondent | Hyderabad  
The Telangana government is expected to host its annual state iftar party on March 24, continuing a decade-long tradition of organizing the event during the month of Ramzan. The grand programme is likely to be conducted at an estimated cost of ₹70 crore, with Lal Bahadur Shastri Stadium being the usual venue. However, the proposed expenditure has sparked criticism from activists and minority welfare organizations, who argue that the funds should be redirected toward education, employment, and the overall development of minorities in Telangana. Activists Lubna Sarwath, Anwarullah Khan, and Syed Ismail have written to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, urging the government to reconsider spending such a large amount on the event. They emphasized that Islam discourages extravagant gatherings and that Prophet Muhammad never en-

dorsed such practices. The Welfare Party of India (WPI) has also called for a boycott of the state-sponsored iftar, citing unfulfilled promises by the Congress government and the absence of Muslim representation in the cabinet. WPI Telangana president Syed Kamal Ather and general secretary advocate Mohammad Waseem have urged Muslim Congress leaders to stand in solidarity with the community by boycotting the event. The Telangana government has yet to make an official announcement regarding the iftar's date.



## Minister Seethakka Slams False Propaganda on Drinking Water Supply

TPN, Correspondent | Hyderabad

Minister Seethakka strongly condemned the spread of false propaganda regarding drinking water supply in the state, stating that despite no major issues, some individuals are deliberately misleading the public. She directed Congress leaders and local authorities to counter these false claims and instructed officials to report any misleading news published in newspapers.

During a video conference with officials at the Mission Bhagiratha office in Erramanzil on Friday, the minister warned that action would be taken if false news about water supply was not refuted or if supply issues were not addressed. She urged Mission Bhagiratha staff to remain vigilant and ensure uninterrupted water supply.

Officials assured that reservoirs have adequate drinking water reserves and that even villages previously facing shortages are now receiving water supply. To further support water distribution, the gov-



ernment has allocated ₹2 crore to each district collector.

Minister Seethakka emphasized that baseless allegations should not create unnecessary panic among the public. She reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing safe drinking water

to all and instructed officials to actively monitor and respond to any misinformation. The state remains focused on maintaining consistent and efficient water distribution through Mission Bhagiratha.

## Hyderabad Gears Up for IPL Match with 2,700 Police Personnel

TPN, Correspondent | Hyderabad

The much-awaited IPL 2024 is set to begin on March 22, with preparations in full swing. Hyderabad will host its first match on March 23 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Uppal, where Sunrisers Hyderabad will face Rajasthan Royals. In light of the event, the police have implemented stringent security measures to ensure safety. Rachakonda Commissioner of Police stat-

ed that 2,700 police personnel will be deployed for security. A total of 450 CCTV cameras have been installed across the stadium, with a special control room set up to monitor the proceedings under the supervision of an ACP-ranked officer. Additionally, sniper dogs and bomb squads will be stationed at entry points to enhance security. The police have also activated SHE Teams to ensure the safety of women attending the match.

To facilitate smooth traffic movement, five dedicated parking areas have been set up for cricket fans. Authorities have imposed restrictions on carrying certain items, including water bottles, laptops, matchboxes, and other electronic devices, into the stadium. With these robust security arrangements, the Hyderabad police are leaving no stone unturned to ensure a safe and seamless experience for IPL fans attending the match.



## Businessman Arrested for Cheating Job Seekers and Farmers

TPN, Correspondent | Hyderabad

A 43-year-old businessman, Guru Sriranga Srinivas Bodanaboina, was arrested in Langer Houz on March 21 for allegedly cheating unemployed individuals and farmers under false promises of hand loans and business partnerships.

Bodanaboina, a resident of Padmaja Colony in Guntur and a native of Prakasam district, initially worked as a software employee in Begumpet before shifting to real estate. His fraudulent activities date back to 2019 when he allegedly duped a farmer by selling fake okra seeds under an unregistered brand. After the seeds failed to germinate, he promised compensation but later cut off contact.

In 2022, he allegedly deceived another victim's son into signing a sale deed instead of a mortgage deed for a ₹3 lakh loan, later misusing the property for further financial gains. In 2023, he reportedly tricked an individual into investing ₹17.50 lakh in a fake software start-up partnership.

Based on a tip-off, police arrested Bodanaboina in Langer Houz and booked him for fraud. Investigations are currently underway to uncover more details regarding his schemes.

## HC Seeks Clarification on Osmania University's Protest Ban

TPN, Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana High Court has sought clarification from Osmania University (OU) and the state government regarding a circular that bans protests and slogans on campus. The court issued notices to the OU Registrar and the Higher Education Department following a petition challenging the directive.

The petition was filed by a student, P. Rafi, who argued that the circular infringes on students' fundamental right to protest and ex-

press dissent. Justice B. Vijayasen Reddy, presiding over the case, heard arguments from the petitioner's lawyer, who claimed that the circular contradicts constitutional rights.

The circular states that strict action will be taken against those who unlawfully enter the campus, conduct protests, chant slogans, obstruct administrative work, insult officials, or use inappropriate language. However, the petitioner raised concerns about the lack of clarity in the term "unlawful entry," question-

ing which areas or individuals it applies to.

Referring to a Supreme Court ruling in Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan vs. Union of India, the lawyer emphasized that the right to dissent is an integral part of democracy. The court was urged to annul the circular due to its vague nature and its restriction on students' rights. After reviewing the arguments, Justice Reddy directed OU and the government to file counter-affidavits. The hearing has been adjourned until April 9.

### Students Smuggling Drugs Under the Guise of Tours



**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad** In a disturbing trend, students are allegedly misusing educational tours to smuggle drugs into Hyderabad. They travel to other states, purchase drugs such as marijuana at lower prices, and then return to Hyderabad to sell them at higher rates. Police have identified that students themselves are acting as agents, supplying drugs near educational institutions. Recently, the Excise Special Task Force (STF) arrested a B.Tech second-year student from an engineering college in Ghatkesar. The student was caught smuggling marijuana from Bidar to Hyderabad, intending to sell it to fellow college students. With drug networks expanding around colleges, the Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau has intensified surveillance in educational hotspots. Authorities are closely monitoring the movements of suspected individuals, tracking their communications and interactions. Strict inspections, including urine sample tests, are being conducted to identify drug consumers. The growing involvement of students in drug smuggling has raised concerns among law enforcement agencies, prompting them to take stringent action against offenders.

### Teacher Accused of Misconduct and Assaulting Students in Hyderabad

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad** A shocking incident has come to light at Shloka School in Bhagyalatha, Hayathnagar, Hyderabad, where an English teacher allegedly misbehaved with 8th-grade girl students. Reports suggest that the teacher not only behaved inappropriately but also physically assaulted the students when they questioned his actions. According to sources, the students informed their parents about the teacher's misconduct. Upon learning this, the teacher, identified as Pasha, reportedly beat the students again. When confronted by parents, he allegedly defended his actions, stating that he punished the students for speaking in Telugu instead of English.



Outraged by the incident, parents rushed to the school and confronted the teacher, demanding strict action. As news of the incident spread, student unions staged a protest at the school premises, condemning the teacher's behavior. The situation escalated, leading to police intervention to bring the situation under control. Authorities are currently investigating the matter, and action is expected against the accused teacher. Parents and student organizations are demanding stringent measures to ensure such incidents do not recur in educational institutions.

### Lightning Strikes House in Medak Amid Unseasonal Rains



**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad** Unseasonal rains have been lashing several parts of Telangana, bringing thunderstorms and hailstorms. On Friday evening, heavy rain accompanied by strong winds hit various districts, including Adilabad, Nizamabad, and Karimnagar. Farmers suffered heavy losses as hailstorms damaged standing crops in several areas. In a shocking incident, lightning struck a house in Jambikunta, Medak town. The house, belonging to a man named Siddayya, sustained significant damage. Fortunately, no casualties were reported as the house was empty at the time of the incident. Meanwhile, heavy rains in Nizamabad's Dharpalli and Indalwai mandals led to paddy crops falling to the ground. Similarly, in Karimnagar's Choppadandi market, harvested maize got drenched due to unexpected showers. Strong winds and thunderstorms in Medak and Papanapet mandals also caused severe damage to mango crops. Farmers expressed distress, stating that their produce was destroyed just before harvest, causing them huge financial losses. The unseasonal rains have added to their woes, making recovery difficult.

### Husband Kills Wife Over Alcohol Money in Ranga Reddy District

**TPN,Correspondent|Rangareddy** A horrific incident took place in Ayavari Palli village, Farooq Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy district, where a man brutally murdered his wife with an axe after she refused to give him money for alcohol. The shocking crime has left the village in distress. According to Shadnagar Town CI Vijay Kumar, the accused, Pichakuntla Parushuramulu, frequently quarreled with his wife, Janamma. He had completely neglected his family responsibilities and had become addicted to alcohol. Every day, he demanded money from his wife to buy

liquor. When she refused, he lost his temper and, in a fit of rage, attacked her with an axe, killing her on the spot. Locals revealed that Parushuramulu had turned into an idle wanderer, spending his days drinking and harassing his wife for money. His addiction had driven him to commit the brutal crime. Police have registered a case and taken the accused into custody. The incident has once again raised concerns about alcohol addiction and domestic violence, leaving the village community in shock and grief.

## Allegations Against Jadcherla MLA Anirudh Reddy for Encroaching Lake Land

**TPN,Correspondent|Jadcherla** Jadcherla Congress MLA Anirudh Reddy and his brother Janampalli Dushyant Reddy are facing serious allegations of encroaching upon a lake. Reports suggest that they have occupied around four acres of land in Nallakunta, located in the heart of Jadcherla town, by filling it with soil and constructing a compound wall. Despite the High Court's orders to remove the encroachments, MLA Anirudh Reddy has allegedly ignored them. It is also reported that, instead of complying with the court orders, the MLA and his brother have started construction activities



on the disputed land. Although the occupied land falls under the Full Tank Level (FTL) category, authorities have remained silent, raising suspicions of negligence or political influence. The situation has angered the locals, who are questioning how Anirudh Reddy, who often complains about lake encroachments in Hyderabad, is ignoring illegal activities in his own constituency. The issue has sparked widespread outrage, with residents demanding immediate action to reclaim the lake land and hold those responsible accountable.

### Congress Supporter Alleges Land Grabbing by Minister Ponnam Prabhakar

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad** Film director and Congress supporter Syed Rafi has accused Telangana Minister Ponnam Prabhakar of encroaching on his land. Addressing the media on Friday, Rafi expressed his disappointment, stating that despite working hard for the Congress party's victory in the last elections, the minister has now targeted his private property. Rafi alleged that while a land parcel worth ₹30 crore was allocated for a temple, the adjacent private land belonging to him was encroached upon by Ponnam Prabhakar. He further claimed to have concrete evidence to expose the minister's involvement in the land-grabbing issue. The allegations have stirred political controversy, raising concerns about misuse of power and illegal land occupations. Local Congress supporters and residents are closely watching the developments, as Rafi has vowed to reveal more details about the alleged encroachment.



### Station Ghanpur Sub-Registrar Caught Red-Handed Taking ₹20,000 Bribe



**TPN,Correspondent|Station Ghanpur** The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has arrested Station Ghanpur Sub-Registrar Ramakrishna while accepting a ₹20,000 bribe. According to reports, he had demanded the amount from an individual for processing a house registration. Following the complaint, ACB officials advised the complainant to hand over the bribe. As soon as Ra-

makrishna accepted the money, he was caught red-handed by the ACB team. The officials later interrogated him and transferred him to the local police station for further proceedings. The incident has once again highlighted the deep-rooted corruption in the registration department, raising concerns about unethical practices among officials.

### Speeding Lorry Collides with Auto-Trolley in Mahabubabad

**TPN,Correspondent|Mahabubabad** A tragic road accident occurred in Mahabubabad district on Friday morning when a speeding lorry crashed into an auto-trolley carrying laborers. The incident took place near Peddanagar Stage in Narsimhulapet Mandal. According to reports, five individuals are in critical condition, while eight others sustained severe injuries. The injured were immediately rushed to the Mahabubabad District Area Hospital for treatment. The victims, primarily women, are identified as residents of Charlapalem village in Thorrur Mandal. They were on their way to a chili farm for harvesting when the accident happened. Authorities are investigating the cause of the accident.



### Zomato's 300 Drones Light Up Hyderabad's Sky for Ramzan

**TPN,Correspondent|Hyderabad** Hyderabad witnessed a mesmerizing drone show on March 18 as Zomato celebrated Ramzan with 300 drones lighting up the night sky over T-Works. The event captivated onlookers as drones formed symbolic images related to the holy month. The show began with drones creating a crescent moon and star, marking the start of Ramzan. It then transitioned to the iconic Charminar before illustrating heartwarming scenes such as elders gathering for iftar, newlyweds celebrating their first Ramzan, and friends enjoying late-night meals together. A highlight of the night was a tribute to Hyderabad's famous haleem. Drones shaped a steam-

ing bowl of haleem alongside a Zomato delivery box, followed by the glowing words, "Get Haleem in 10 mins." Logos of renowned haleem brands like Pista House, Shah Ghouse, and Mehfil also lit up the sky, drawing cheers from the crowd. The spectacle ended with a dazzling display of "Ramzan Mubarak" accompanied by fireworks. Meanwhile, Hyderabad's markets are buzzing with activity as the holy month nears its end. Shops near historical sites remain open all night, catering to shoppers who begin after iftar and continue until seher. Eid-ul-Fitr will be celebrated on March 31 or April 1, depending on the crescent moon sighting.

# RSS @100 :Unstoppable journey

The RSS's decision not to alter its ideology for electoral advantages has enhanced its credibility and fostered trustworthiness.

The Congress party's initial goals for the freedom struggle and the communist's anti-capitalist movement have shifted to focus on electoral objectives, resulting in the total transformation into political organizations. In contrast, the RSS has retained its non-political position while guiding its political affiliate, the BJP. Similar mentor guiding organisations the communists and Congress parties are lacking.



**Dr. Buragadda Srinadh**

identity.

**RSS remained as foundational organisation and basic ideology not compromised for electoral gains**

For sixty years, the Congress and Communist parties have been the principal political entities in India, frequently altering their manifestos and ideologies to secure electoral advantages. They have often taken the Hindu community for granted, testing their patience. In contrast, since its establishment in 1925, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has remained steadfast in its core ideology, without seeking power or making compromises for political gain. Although the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) serves as its political arm, the RSS retains its identity as the foundational organization. While the Congress and Communist parties have lost their distinct identities, lacking a guiding force like the RSS for the BJP, the RSS has continued its work with unwavering commitment for 100 years.

**Millions of patriotic Indians desire a deep national identity with our culture and heritage**

The current circumstances have evolved into a critical juncture, prompting genuine patriotic citizens to express deep concerns regarding the threats associated with global religious intolerance and instability. There is a pronounced yearning among the populace to preserve India's culture, which is rooted in peace and harmony. In this context, the nation is looking to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to assume a vital role in steering and unifying society. The expectation is that the RSS will help safeguard cultural heritage and identity, ensuring that the values held dear are protected against these challenges.

The dreams and ambitions of millions of patriotic Indians embody a deep and meaningful connection to their national identity. This sense of belonging is not merely a superficial sentiment; it is rooted in a rich history, shared values, and a collective vision for the future. As these individuals strive for progress and unity, their aspirations serve as a testament to their commitment to the nation, highlighting the importance of cultural heritage and the desire to contribute positively to the country's development. This profound sense of national identity fosters a spirit of solidarity among citizens, encouraging them to work together towards common goals and a brighter future for all.

Bharatiya culture is the life-breath of Hindustan. It is, therefore, clear that if Hindustan is to be protected, we must first nourish our own Bharatiya culture. If our culture perishes in Hindustan itself, and if the true Bharat society ceases to exist, it will hardly be appropriate to refer to the mere geographical entity that remains as Hindustan. Mere geographical landmasses do not make a nation. The entire society should be vigilant and organized so that no one dares to cast an evil eye on any of our sacred traditions.

Strength, it should be remembered, comes only through organization. Every patriotic Indian, therefore, must do their best to consolidate society. The Sangh is carrying out this supreme task. The present fate of the country cannot be changed unless lakhs of young men dedicate their entire lifetime to this cause. Molding the minds of youth toward this goal is the supreme aim of the Sangh—a true torchbearer and pathfinder for the glory of our nation.



## Why Is Trump Invoking JFK? Hint: Russia

**“Let's get out of the Defense mess before it's too late... Be brave, Jack.”**

Less than two years before his assassination in November 1963, U.S. President John F. Kennedy (JFK) received this letter from filmmaker Rod Serling, best known as the creator of *The Twilight Zone*. The poignancy of this postscript in a March 26, 1962, letter needs to be examined afresh today, especially after the latest release of another tranche of the JFK Files.

Keeping his promise, President Donald Trump recently declassified over 2,000 documents related to JFK's assassination. JFK, who lived by the media and also died on screen, continues to dominate the public imagination six decades after his death. As experts analyze more than 64,000 pages of these declassified files, conspiracy theories surrounding JFK's assassination have resurfaced.

**Who'll Tell the Conspiracy Theorists?**

Did the CIA have JFK assassinated to continue its Vietnam experiment? Did Lee Harvey Oswald conspire with the Soviet Union? Was the Chicago mob involved? Or did Vice President Lyndon Johnson orchestrate it? No definitive answers exist, fueling the enduring allure of conspiracy theories.

However, some question the purpose of these declassified documents, which inadvertently exposed sensitive details of hundreds of political, military, and congressional personnel.

**The CIA's Role in the Cold War**

The documents shed light on the CIA's vast influence during the Cold War. They reveal details about U.S. intelligence operations, including CIA bases in New Delhi and Kolkata, sabotage efforts against Cuba, and covert strategies to undermine foreign governments. Instead of painting the CIA as the villain behind JFK's assassination, the files reinforce its image as a formidable player in global politics.

Interestingly, JFK aide Arthur Schlesinger Jr. once described the CIA as possessing “many of the characteristics of a state within a state.” Even today, the agency remains one of the most powerful arms of the U.S. government.

**Why Is Trump Bringing Back JFK?**

At a time when Trump's second term is facing domestic and international criticism, reviving JFK's legacy serves multiple purposes. The former president, who was often skeptical of intelligence agencies, has long positioned himself as an outsider challenging Washington's deep state. By declassifying the JFK files, Trump reinforces his narrative of exposing government secrets while invoking the legacy of a leader associated with peace efforts.

JFK, who campaigned for nuclear disarmament, signed the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty just a month before his assassination. Today, as the Trump administration navigates strained relations with Russia, leveraging JFK's image as a peacemaker helps frame Trump's diplomatic approach in a historical context.

This isn't the first time Trump has leaned on JFK's memory. In his 2016 campaign, he promoted conspiracy theories linking his rival Ted Cruz's father to JFK's assassination. Now, as Trump seeks to shape his second-term foreign policy, invoking JFK may be a calculated effort to justify his approach to Russia.

**A Battle of Perception**

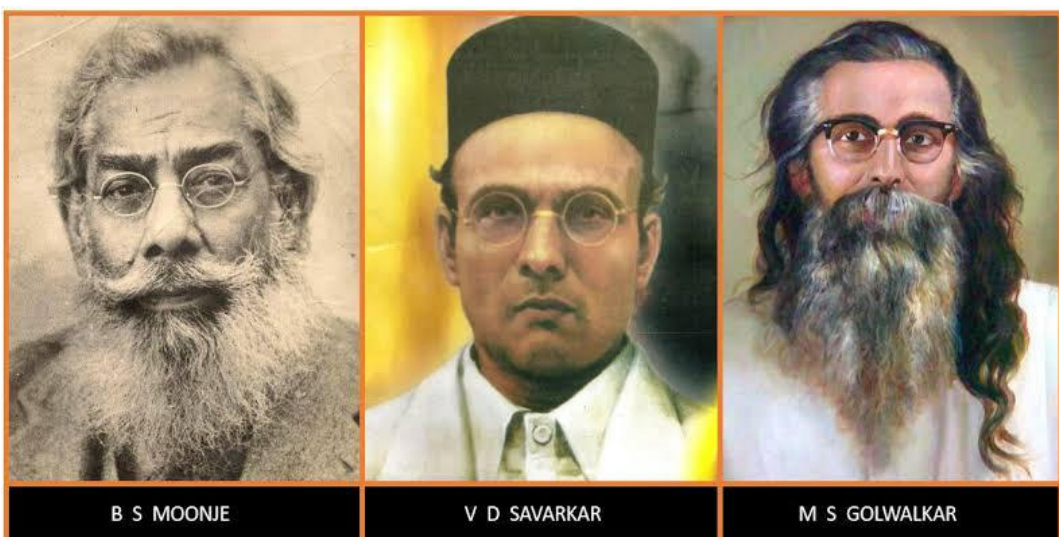
Ultimately, Trump's decision to declassify the JFK files is not just about historical transparency—it's about political optics. Like JFK, Trump understands the power of media and public perception. Whether this move will serve his broader agenda remains to be seen.

## India's Immigration Overhaul: A Much-Needed Reform for a Changing World

Migration has shaped civilizations, economies, and national identities for centuries. In today's interconnected world, however, it has also become a pressing political and security challenge. Nations across the globe are grappling with balancing border control, economic opportunities, and humanitarian obligations. Against this backdrop, India's Immigration & Foreigners Bill, 2025 is a timely and necessary reform that modernizes outdated laws and aligns the country's immigration policy with contemporary global realities. India's historical experience with migration has been unique. From the mass displacement during Partition to the influx of refugees from Bangladesh in 1971, and the continued movement of persecuted minorities from neighboring countries, India has had to balance security with humanitarian concerns. However, the country has also emerged as a global hub for skilled migration, with millions of Indians contributing to economies worldwide. The need for a robust and forward-looking immigration policy is more critical than ever.

The Immigration & Foreigners Bill, 2025 replaces colonial-era laws that no longer serve India's security and economic interests. By consolidating and updating immigration regulations, the bill enhances border security, streamlines entry and exit procedures, and ensures stricter compliance with visa norms. It introduces firm penalties for illegal migration while ensuring smoother processes for legal travelers, skilled professionals, and tourists.

One of the bill's most significant aspects is its focus on technology-driven immigration management. Initiatives such as e-Visas, biometric-based entry systems, and real-time visa tracking through digital platforms reduce bureaucratic inefficiencies and enhance security. These reforms position India as a country that values both national security and economic openness, ensuring that global mobility benefits its growth and international standing.



### Congress and communism were founded by foreigners

Historically, before independence, India witnessed the emergence of various political entities, notably the Communist Party, inspired by German national Karl Marx's ideology against capitalism in 1848, and the Indian National Congress, established in 1882 by British national Allan Octavian Hume to foster civil and political dialogue among educated Indians. Both institutions were foreign in origin and lacked a true understanding of Indian sentiments. Initially, neither functioned as a political party in the conventional sense. Over time, the Communist Party evolved into a global force, while the Congress emerged as the dominant political power in post-independence India. As these parties engaged in a power struggle, they failed to comprehend the sentiments of the vast majority of Indians, particularly Hindus.

The movement for India's independence was a prolonged struggle that united various groups, leaders, and ideologies against British rule. The Congress Party capitalized on the gains of the independence movement, with many people following its leadership, influenced by the reverence for Gandhi, often suppressing their own sentiments. A thousand years of foreign domination had devastated indigenous Indian culture, leading to the destruction of temples and the imposition of penalties, such as the jizya tax, for practicing one's faith. This resulted in feelings of humiliation and marginalization, leaving a lasting emotional scar on millions of Indians.

### Communist served British interest due to alliance in Second world war

During World War II, Britain, the United States, Russia, and China constituted the main Allied powers. Indian communist parties were primarily influenced by Russian and Chinese communist leaders. Due to their alliance with the British, Indian communists largely overlooked local aspirations and served British interests in India. Alongside their opposition to capitalism, they also began mocking Hindu beliefs. The Communist Party, with its strong cadre-based structure, identified the Jan Sangh, the political arm of the RSS, as a rising cadre-based party that openly supported Hindu nationalism and posed a potential political threat. Rather than opposing the Jan Sangh on political grounds, the Communists shifted their focus to criticizing Hindu beliefs, diverting their struggle from capitalism to communal-

ism. Millions of Indians remained passive in the face of these attacks on Hindu faith by both political parties. The intellectuals associated with these parties misinterpreted this silence as consent, leading to an escalation in their criticism of Hinduism until growing Hindu discontent reached a critical threshold.

**Secularism means Hindu bashing for Congress and communists for electoral gains**

Under the leadership of Nehru, the Congress Party began undermining Hinduism for electoral benefits and self-image building. Hindus remained silent, and their silence was taken for granted by political parties. The attacks on Hinduism reached their pinnacle under Sonia Gandhi's leadership.

One of the most contentious aspects of her tenure was the discourse surrounding Hinduism. For instance, Sushil Kumar Shinde, the Home Minister during her tenure, introduced the term “Hindu terrorism,” which many saw as an unfair label targeting a significant portion of the population to appease minority groups. This narrative was intensified by former Home Minister Shivraj Patil, who made offensive comments about the Bhagavad Gita, equating it to jihad—an analogy that many Hindus found deeply disrespectful. Sonia Gandhi reportedly advised party leaders that criticizing Hinduism was crucial for obtaining ministerial roles, leading Congress leaders to attack Hindus for political gain.

Current party president Mallikarjun Kharge has mocked the Kumbh Mela, a significant Hindu religious event, further alienating a large segment of the electorate. Several controversial bills and actions during the UPA administration were seen as attempts to win minority support. Sonia Gandhi denied Sri Pranab Mukherjee the Prime Minister position twice due to his Hindu identity, and the UPA government assigned all key portfolios to non-Hindus, sidelining others. Under her leadership, former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao faced humiliation both in life and posthumously. The UPA government, led by Sonia Gandhi, targeted Ram Sethu and took significant steps to dismantle it, even filing a petition in the Supreme Court against it. These actions were perceived as part of a broader strategy by Sonia Gandhi to bolster her political standing among minority communities through an anti-Hindu stance, reminiscent of historical efforts by invaders to undermine India's dominant religious and cultural

## Rahul Gandhi Slams Merit System as 'Upper Caste Narrative', BJP Calls Him 'Entitled Dynast'



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has sparked controversy by calling the system of merit an "unfair and upper caste narrative," drawing sharp criticism from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He made these remarks while advocating for a caste census, arguing that it would expose the "truth of inequality and discrimination." In a video interaction with former UGC chairman Sukhdeo Thorat, Rahul Gandhi criticized India's education and bureaucratic entry systems. "There is a completely flawed concept of merit where I confuse my social position with

my capability. For anybody to say that our education system or our bureaucratic entry systems are fair to Dalits, OBCs, and tribals – that's just a complete fallacy," he said. He further argued that the prevailing notion of merit is deeply biased. "The entire narrative is an upper caste narrative. This notion of merit is, actually, itself an unfair idea," he asserted. Rahul Gandhi also reiterated his commitment to social justice, stating, "Babasaheb's dream is still incomplete. His fight is not just for the past, it is a fight for today as well – we will fight it with all our might." BJP Reacts Strongly

BJP leader Amit Malviya criticized Gandhi's comments, accusing him of undermining hardworking individuals. "Does Rahul Gandhi even know what he speaks? The dolt just ran down millions of people who come from poor and socially marginalized backgrounds and rise up in life on the dint of merit and sheer hard work. But how can one expect an entitled dynast to even understand what it means to compete and excel?" Malviya remarked. Rahul Gandhi's remarks have reignited the debate over caste-based reservations and the merit system, with political parties taking strong positions on the issue.

## Nitish Kumar's 'World Will End' Remark Triggers Tejashwi Yadav's 'Anti-Tech' Jibe

TPN Correspondent | Patna

Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav has hit out at Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for his remark that mobile phone usage could lead to the world's destruction in 10 years, calling it "conservative and anti-technology." A controversy erupted in the Bihar Assembly after CM Nitish Kumar objected to the use of mobile phones inside the House. Criticizing JD(U) MLA Kumar Krishna Mohan alias Soday Yadav for referring to his mobile while asking a question, Nitish Kumar de-

manded strict action. "It is already banned in the House. I request you (Speaker) that whoever comes with a mobile phone should be thrown out of the House," he said, adding, "If this continues, the world will end in the next 10 years." Tejashwi Slams Nitish's Remark Tejashwi Yadav mocked the Chief Minister's statement, saying, "Bihar has a computer-illiterate Chief Minister who is against technology, youth, students, and women." He further criticized Kumar's

stance, stating, "It is unfortunate and condemnable that Bihar has such a conservative Chief Minister." Yadav also pointed out the contradiction in Nitish Kumar's argument, stating, "From an environmental perspective, the Bihar Assembly is going paperless, and members are encouraged to ask questions online." The remarks have sparked a fresh political debate, with the opposition questioning whether Nitish Kumar is out of touch with modern governance.



## Nagpur violence: Fahim Khan, 5 others charged with sedition

TPN Correspondent | Nagpur

Nagpur police have booked key accused Fahim Khan and five others on charges of sedition and spreading misinformation on social media following the recent violence in the city. Officials confirmed on Thursday that curfew had been lifted or relaxed in certain areas three days after the unrest. Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi, a cleric from the Barelvi sect, has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah demanding a ban on the film Chhava, alleging that it incited communal tensions and was directly responsible for the violence in Nagpur. Amid growing demands from right-wing groups for the removal of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's tomb in Maharashtra's Sambhajinagar district, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has placed tin sheets on two sides of the historic structure. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee condemned the violence, emphasizing India's unity in diversity. "Our country is known for its unity in diversity. After the demolition of Babri Masjid, I hit the streets to protect communal har-

mony," she stated in Kolkata. According to officials, the violence in Nagpur was triggered by rumors that a 'chadar' with holy inscriptions was burnt during protests led by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) seeking the removal of Aurangzeb's tomb. Investigations suggest that initial misinformation spread via social media fueled the unrest, with subsequent videos further glorifying the violence. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber Crime) Lohit Matani said that six individuals, including Khan, the city chief of the Minority Democratic Party, have been booked for sedition. The cyber crime department has sought information from Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and YouTube regarding 230 accounts and requested their immediate blocking. Maharashtra Cyber officials have also identified over 140 objectionable posts and videos allegedly inciting communal tensions. Authorities have urged the public to be cautious while sharing online content and to refrain from spreading unverified or inflammatory information.



## "Not Just About MPs...": MK Stalin's Message Before Big Delimitation Meet

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has reiterated his strong opposition to the proposed delimitation exercise, warning that it is not just about parliamentary representation but a direct assault on federalism. In a video statement, he called for "fair delimitation" and urged leaders from multiple states to form a 'Joint Action Committee' to protest the move. Stalin's concerns stem from fears that a delimitation exercise based on the 2026 population will reduce Tamil Nadu's representation in Parliament. He argued that states that have controlled population growth should not be penalized, while others, particularly in the north, could gain more Lok Sabha seats, shifting political influence in their favor. "Our fight is not just about the number of MPs but about all states' rights. This strikes at the foundation of federalism in India. Our voices in Parliament will be silenced, and our rights compromised," Stalin stated. Tamil Nadu has long opposed a population-based delimitation, arguing it would disproportionately benefit Hindi-speaking states, which are considered BJP strongholds. The DMK-led government is demanding that the current seat proportions be retained to ensure fair representation. Saturday's meeting follows a resolution passed by nearly 60 Tamil parties on March 5,

urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to retain the 1971 population as the basis for delimitation for another 30 years. Stalin has also written to the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Punjab, and Bengal, urging collective action. While the central government, including Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has assured that no state will be disadvantaged, Tamil Nadu remains skeptical. Stalin has insisted that while assurances have been given that southern states won't lose seats, there has been no commitment that northern states won't gain disproportionately. With the Congress backing this stance, and leaders like Telangana CM Revanth Reddy and Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah terming delimitation a move to weaken southern states, the upcoming meeting is expected to shape a larger opposition strategy against the proposed changes.



## Annapurna Devi Seeks SC Action on Allahabad HC's 'Not Rape' Verdict



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Minister Annapurna Devi has strongly opposed the Allahabad High Court's ruling in an "attempt to rape" case, stating "no place in a civilized society." She urged the Supreme Court to intervene and review the judgment. The Allahabad High Court, in its order on March 20, modified the charges against two accused, ruling that their act did not constitute an attempt to rape but "aggravated sexual assault." Reacting to the verdict, Annapurna Devi said, "I am completely against this decision, and the Supreme Court should take serious note of it. Such a ruling has no place in a civilized society."

She also warned of the broader implications, stating, "Somewhere, this will have a negative impact on society, and we will discuss this matter further." Strong Criticism from Women Leaders Former DCW chief and AAP MP Swati Maliwal also condemned the judgment, calling it "very unfortunate." "I am very shocked at the comments made in the judgment. It is a very shameful scenario," she told NDTV. Demanding Supreme Court intervention, Maliwal added, "How can the act committed by those men not be considered an attempt to rape? I don't understand the logic behind this judgment. The Supreme Court needs to step in."

# Gabbard's India visit reinforces US-India ties: US official

Discussions Focus on Defense, Counterterrorism, and Intelligence Cooperation

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, recently visited India, marking a significant step in the growing strategic relationship between Washington and New Delhi. The discussions during her visit primarily focused on intelligence-sharing, defense cooperation, counterterrorism efforts, and addressing transnational threats, according to a report by the news agency PTI, citing a senior US official.

A spokesperson from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) emphasized that Gabbard's visit underscores the longstanding partnership between the United States and India. The strategic relationship between the two nations has been increasingly solidified, particularly under the leadership and camaraderie between US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The visit is part of ongoing efforts to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in crucial areas such as security, defense, and intelligence operations. The discussions were aimed at strengthening the collaboration to combat global and regional security challenges, including counterterrorism and the growing threat of transnational crimes.

Gabbard's visit to India represents the contin-



ued deepening of US-India ties, which have evolved from a primarily economic partnership into a comprehensive strategic alliance in recent years. Both nations are working together to address shared concerns about security, trade, and regional stability, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

The US-India partnership has been marked by growing defense cooperation, joint mili-

tary exercises, and increased collaboration on counterterrorism measures. With both countries facing common threats, such as terrorism and cyber-attacks, the strengthening of intelligence-sharing mechanisms plays a key role in ensuring mutual security. This visit further cements the US and India's commitment to strengthening their strategic alliance and working together to tackle global security challenges.



## Modi-Yunus Meeting Unlikely at BIMSTEC Summit Amid Strained Ties

TPN Correspondent | Bangladesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh interim government chief Muhammad Yunus are set to attend the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit next month, but a formal meeting between the two leaders seems improbable, according to reports.

The sixth BIMSTEC summit is scheduled for April 3-4 in Bangkok, Thailand. While both Modi and Yunus are expected to be present, a recent Hindustan Times report, citing three unnamed sources familiar with the matter, suggested that the current state of India-Bangladesh relations would make a formal bilateral meeting difficult. The report mentioned that while an informal exchange of pleasantries might occur due to the leaders' shared presence, nothing more substantial is anticipated.

Bangladesh's de facto foreign minister, Touhid Hossain, confirmed on March 20 that Dhaka had formally requested a meeting between the two leaders on the summit's sidelines. However, sources indicated that such a meeting is unlikely due to the ongoing tensions between the two countries. "A formal meeting looks difficult, especially with the frequent criticism of India by some members of Bangladesh's interim government," one source remarked.

The bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh are at a low point, with India expressing concerns about the interim government's handling of attacks on religious minorities, particularly Hindus, in Bangladesh. Additionally, issues such as the release of violent extremists and deteriorating law and order in Bangladesh have further strained relations. Bangladesh, on the other hand, has raised concerns over the presence of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in India and has requested her extradition.

Furthermore, the growing engagement of the Bangladesh military with Pakistan's armed forces, including interactions with the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), has also fueled tensions. In February, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met with Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs Advisor Hossain on the sidelines of the Indian Ocean Conference in Oman, highlighting ongoing diplomatic efforts amid these challenges.

## If US messes with Iran it will get hard slap: Ayatollah Khamenei

Asserts Iran Doesn't Need Proxies as Houthis Act on Their Own Motivation

TPN Correspondent | Iran

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei declared on Friday that Tehran does not require proxies in the region, clarifying that the Houthis in Yemen, who are aligned with Iran, operate based on their own motivations. Khamenei responded to US accusations, particularly remarks by President Donald Trump, who earlier stated that Iran would be held responsible for any attacks carried out by the Houthis. This comes as the US expands its military operations in the Middle East, marking the largest deployment since Trump's return to office.

Over the years, Iran has cultivated ties with various groups in the Middle East that consider themselves part of the "Axis of Resistance" against US influence and Israel. This alliance includes groups like Hamas, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Shi'ite militias in Iraq. Despite these alliances, Khamenei strongly rejected the notion of these groups being Iranian "proxies."

In his statement, Khamenei questioned the term "proxy," saying, "Americans make a big mistake by calling regional resistance centres Iranian proxies. What does proxy mean?" He emphasized that groups like the Houthis in Yemen act on their own motivations, and Iran does not need such proxies to assert influence in the region. The Supreme Leader also addressed the escalating tensions, asserting that while Iran has never initiated conflict, it would respond strongly to any acts of aggression. He warned that any malicious actions against Iran would result in "severe slaps" in return.

# Trump Signs Order to Begin Shutting Down the Department of Education



TPN Correspondent | Washington

On Thursday, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order aimed at eliminating the Department of Education, a long-standing goal of conservative factions in the country. The order marks one of the most drastic steps in Trump's overhaul of the federal government, seeking to transfer education control back to the states.

During a special ceremony at the White House, Trump signed the order while surrounded by schoolchildren. He declared, "We're going to shut it down and shut it down as quickly as possible. It's doing us no good. We're going to return education back to the states where it belongs."

While the Education Department was created in 1979, it cannot be dissolved without congressional approval. However, Trump's order aims to defund and reduce the department's staff, which could lead to its gradual dismantling. The directive tasks Education Secretary Linda McMahon with taking all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the department and return authority over education to individual states.

The move is part of Trump's campaign promise to reduce federal government control, a

theme he has consistently championed. The president has argued that the U.S. education system lags behind those of Europe and China, and that eliminating the department will save money and improve educational standards.

The order has been met with heavy criticism from Democrats and educators. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer condemned the action as a "tyrannical power grab." Republican leaders, including Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and Texas Governor Greg Abbott, attended the ceremony and supported the move.

Although the order seeks to dismantle the department, a smaller office may remain to handle essential functions, such as student loans and grants for low-income students. Trump's education secretary, McMahon, who has already started reducing the department's staff, emphasized the need to remove Washington's bureaucratic interference and return educational funding to the states.

The decision follows a broader trend of Trump's efforts to reduce the size and influence of federal agencies, including efforts to dismantle the U.S. Agency for International Development earlier this week, which was halted by a federal judge.



## North Korea claims to test anti-aircraft missiles in response to US-South Korea military drills

TPN Correspondent | SEOUL

North Korea announced on Friday that it successfully test-launched new anti-aircraft missiles, marking its sixth weapons test of the year. The launch occurred just hours after the U.S. and South Korean military concluded their joint Freedom Shield exercises, which North Korea considers a provocative rehearsal for an invasion.

According to North Korea's state news agency, Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the missile tests on Thursday and described the newly tested missiles as a significant addition to the country's defense arsenal. This missile launch came in the wake of heightened tensions following the U.S.-South Korea military drills, which were the first major exercises held since the inauguration of President Donald Trump in January.

The U.S. and South Korea insist that their combined military exercises are purely defensive, aimed at strengthening the allies' readiness and deterrence capabilities. However, North Korea has consistently condemned the drills, viewing them as an imminent security threat. The recent North Korean missile tests were launched on the same day the two countries concluded the Freedom Shield exercise. Earlier in March, North Korea fired several ballistic missiles into the sea as the drills began, signaling its displeasure. On Friday, North Korea's Defense Ministry issued a strong statement, accusing the U.S. and South Korea of simulating operations to destroy underground tunnels in the North, targeting its nuclear weapons. The North warned of grave consequences if the two countries continued with such "provocative" actions.



# Stock Markets Rally to Record Highs; Best Weekly Performance in Four Years

Domestic stock markets set new records. They posted their best weekly close in four years. This was due to positive signals from global markets and increased positive sentiment among investors. The strengthening rupee also contributed to this. Investors bought after the falling trendline resistance broke in the benchmark indices. They invested in media, PSE, oil, energy and healthcare shares. Overall, the Sensex gained 557 points and the Nifty 159 points. The Nifty settled at 23,350. If there is consolidation at this level and the resistance breaks, the index is sure to rise further.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,348 in the previous session, opened at 76,155 on Friday. It touched an intraday low of 76,095. It reached an intraday high of 77,041. It ended at 76,905 with a gain of 557 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,168, touched a low of 23,132 and a high of 23,402. It rose by 159 points in total and closed at 23,350. The Nifty Bank rose by 530 points and settled at 50,593.

In the Nifty50, 38 companies gained and 12 lost. Media, PSE, oil, CPSE, energy, PSU bank, healthcare, pharma, private bank, infra, commodities, finance, bank, realty and auto stocks were the winners. Metal and consumer stocks were the losers. SBI Life, ONGC, NTPC, BPCL, Bajaj Finance were the top gainers. Trent, Infi, Wipro, Hindalco and Tata Steel were the biggest losers.

Market breadth turned in favor of buyers on NSE today. Out of 2988 stocks trad-

ed, 2120 gained. 804 lost. 33 shares hit 52-week highs and 49 shares hit 52-week lows. 192 shares crossed the upper circuit and 53 shares crossed the lower circuit.

Markets set their best weekly record in four years. Nifty rose 4% this week. Midcap index rose 8% after April 2020. Smallcap index rose 9% for the first time since June 2020. The market capitalization of BSE listed companies increased by Rs 22 lakh crore this week. The rupee strengthened by 39 paise to settle at 85.97 against the dollar. Yes Research has main-

tained its neutral rating on Tata Steel, raising its target price to Rs 168 from Rs 145. Godrej Agrovet will take a 47.38% stake in Creamline Dairy Products. Sunita Tools has signed a deal to supply artillery shells worth Rs 200-300 crore to the Ministry of Defense. Tata Capital has finalized ten investment bankers for its Rs 15,000 crore mega IPO. Hindalco Industries has prepared investment plans of Rs 45,000 crore. Shares of BEL and Bharat Dynamics rose after the Defense Acquisition Council approved proposals worth Rs 54,000 crore.



## India's Steel Imports Could Drop 50% in FY26 With Proposed Safeguard Duty

India's steel imports could potentially decrease by 50% in FY26, while domestic manufacturers' profitability is expected to improve, following the government's proposal to impose a safeguard duty on steel imports, experts suggest. The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), the investigation arm of the Ministry of Commerce, has recommended a 12% provisional safeguard duty for 200 days on specific steel products to shield domestic steelmakers from the surge in imports.

The final decision on whether to impose the safeguard duty will be taken by the Ministry of Finance. However, experts view this development as credit positive for the domestic steel industry. Girish Kadam, Senior Vice President and Group Head - Corporate Sector Ratings at ICRA Ltd., believes that the duty could lead to a significant 50% reduction in India's steel imports by FY26.

With steel imports expected to drop considerably, the domestic market is anticipated to experience growth, with demand forecasted to increase at a healthy rate of 7-8% in FY26. As a result, ICRA projects that the industry's capacity utilization will improve, rising to a more comfortable level of 83% in FY26, up from the four-year low of 78% seen in the current fiscal year.

Dhruv Goel, CEO of BigMint, a market research firm, also echoed similar sentiments, pointing out that the safeguard duty would provide domestic manufacturers with an opportunity to capture a larger share of the domestic market. The anticipated reduction in imports is expected to improve the profitability of Indian steel producers, as it would give them a competitive edge over foreign suppliers.

The proposed safeguard duty aims to protect Indian steelmakers from being undercut by cheaper imports, which have been growing in recent years. If implemented, this move could help stabilize the domestic steel industry, reduce dependence on foreign steel, and boost the government's "Make in India" initiative.

## India's Crude Oil Import Dependency Hits 88.2% Amid Rising Demand

India's reliance on imported crude oil has increased to over 88% during the first 11 months of the current financial year (FY25), driven by growing demand for fuel and other petroleum products, alongside stagnant domestic crude output. This upward trend suggests that the import dependency for the entire fiscal year could surpass the record high seen in the previous year.

According to the latest data from the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, India's oil import dependency stood at 88.2% from April to February, marking a slight increase from 87.7% during the same period in FY24. For the full FY24, India's import dependence reached 87.8%.

The rising demand for petroleum products, especially in sectors like transportation and industrial activities, coupled with stagnant domestic oil production, has led to a heightened need for imported crude. Industry experts suggest that the import dependency for FY25 could exceed the current level by a small margin, just as it did in the previous fiscal year.

This growing import dependency highlights the challenges India faces in reducing its reliance on foreign oil, despite efforts to boost domestic production and diversify energy sources. As the world's third-largest oil importer, India continues to rely heavily on oil imports to meet its fuel needs, making it vulnerable to global price fluctuations and supply disruptions.

To address these challenges, the government has been exploring various strategies, including increasing domestic oil exploration, enhancing energy efficiency, and investing in renewable energy sources to reduce the country's dependence on imported crude in the long term. However, in the short term, the rising import dependency remains a significant concern for policymakers, particularly as global oil prices remain volatile.

## Exponent Energy to Launch 1.5MW Rapid Charging Technology, Competing with BYD's Innovations

Bengaluru-based Exponent Energy announced on Wednesday that it will launch its new 1.5 megawatt (MW) rapid charging technology later this year, following China-based BYD's introduction of a 1MW charging system capable of charging electric vehicles (EVs) in just five minutes. Exponent Energy currently manufactures 1MW chargers for electric buses, enabling a full charge in about 15 minutes.



Arun Vinayak, CEO and Co-founder of Exponent Energy, expressed confidence in India's ability to develop and own the full spectrum of electric vehicle (EV) technology. "We've historically been followers in internal combustion engines (ICE), but with EVs, we must not repeat that pattern," he said. Highlighting that Exponent Energy already has a 1MW charging system in place, Vinayak emphasized that the company uses standard off-the-shelf cells, making its technology ten times more accessible than BYD's 1MW charger, which leverages advanced cell material science. Vinayak also expressed optimism about forming partnerships with Indian cell manufacturers soon to further enhance capabilities.

Founded in 2020 by former Ather executives Arun Vinayak and Sanjay Balyal, Exponent Energy focuses on developing integrated EV charging solutions, including battery packs, charging stations, and connectors. Their system offers a 15-minute rapid charge and a 3,000-cycle life warranty for EVs. Currently, the company is targeting three-wheeler cargo and passenger vehicles as well as inter-city buses for the coming year.

On the other hand, BYD, backed by Warren Buffett, has introduced a Super e-Plat-

form capable of charging at 1,000 kilowatts, enabling EVs to travel up to 400 km on a five-minute charge. This announcement significantly impacted the global EV landscape, with BYD's shares rising by 4.1% on March 18. Meanwhile, Tesla, which typically takes 15 to 20 minutes to charge its vehicles up to 80%, saw its share price dip by 5.5%, reflecting growing competition in the EV sector. Tesla, which plans to enter the Indian market, faces stiff competition from BYD, which has been in India since 2007 and currently holds a 3% market share.

## SEBI Proposes Rule Changes to Benefit Startup Founders Holding ESOPs After IPO

**Ensures Founders Retain Stock Options, Enhances Investor Protection**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a change in regulations that would allow startup founders to retain their Employee Stock Option Plans (ESOPs) even after their company goes public. This move is aimed at providing relief to founders, particularly in new-age technology firms, who often receive ESOPs as part of their compensation instead of cash salaries during the early stages of their companies.



ESOPs are designed to align the interests of employees, including founders, with other shareholders. However, as startups raise investments, founders' ownership is often diluted, which complicates matters when the company eventually files for an initial public offering (IPO).

Under current SEBI regulations, founders are considered promoters when they file for an IPO. The existing rules prohibit issuing ESOPs to promoters, which creates a challenge for founders who were granted stock options before their companies went public. SEBI highlighted that employees who later become promoters due to their shareholding may be re-

quired to forgo their ESOP benefits, which could be considered unfair.

To address this issue, SEBI has proposed a clarification stating that founders who become promoters will still be able to exercise their vested and unvested ESOPs after the IPO. This clarification will be included in the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP).

However, the rule preventing the issuance of new ESOPs to promoters will remain in place.

This proposed change is expected to benefit startup founders who have received equity-based compensation, ensuring that they do not lose their ESOP benefits once their company goes public.

Additionally, SEBI has partnered with DigiLocker to enhance investor protection by allowing them to track their securities holdings securely. Through this collaboration, investors can store and access details of their demat accounts, mutual fund holdings, and other financial assets in one centralized, secure platform, helping to reduce unclaimed financial assets and improve accessibility.



## Eid-ul-Fitr 2025: Awaiting the Crescent Moon for Celebration



Eid-ul-Fitr, one of the most significant festivals for Muslims worldwide, marks the end of Ramadan and the beginning of Shawwal, the tenth month of the Islamic calendar. The festival is determined by the sighting of the crescent moon, which means that celebrations often vary by a day across different regions. In India, Eid-ul-Fitr 2025 is expected to fall on either March 30 (Sunday) or March 31 (Monday), depending on the moon sighting.

According to the central government's holiday calendar, Eid has been designated as a gazetted holiday on March 31 (Monday). However, since the Islamic calendar follows lunar cycles, the final con-

firmation will depend on the sighting of the crescent moon on the evening of March 29. Eid-ul-Fitr is a time of joy, gratitude, and charity. Muslims across the world end their month-long fasting (roza) with special prayers, feasting, and giving to the underprivileged. A key aspect of the festival is 'Zakat,' a form of charity where Muslims donate food, clothes, and money to those in need before offering their Eid prayers. The festival is also associated with delicious traditional foods. The most famous among them is Seviyan, a sweet dish made with vermicelli and milk, which has given Eid-ul-Fitr the popular name "Meethi Eid" or "Sweet Eid." Families and friends

gather to exchange greetings, gifts, and sweets, strengthening bonds of love and community. In Saudi Arabia and the UAE, Ramadan began on March 1, which means that Eid-ul-Fitr is also expected to fall on March 30 or 31. In the UAE, if Ramadan lasts 30 days, the public sector will get an extended holiday until April 2. The official moon sighting committees in these countries will confirm the festival date based on lunar visibility. As India and the world eagerly await the sighting of the crescent moon, Eid-ul-Fitr 2025 will once again bring joy, spiritual reflection, and a reaffirmation of faith through charity and community celebrations.

## Online Video Criticizing Indian Flyers' Behavior Gains Widespread Support



A recent video by Instagram user Inderjit S Pannu has sparked an online debate, drawing widespread agreement for its criticism of the behavior of Indian flight passengers. In the video, Pannu calls out the irrational and entitled attitude of many Indian travelers, referring to them as "jaahil log" (ignorant people) and "padhe likhe jaanwar" (educated animals). He highlights common issues

faced by airline crew, such as passengers disregarding boarding announcements and rushing into queues irrespective of their assigned seat numbers. He also points out how many passengers insist on using the restroom during turbulence, ignoring safety instructions from the pilot. The video has resonated with many, garnering strong support from social media users,

including airline staff who expressed gratitude for the recognition of their challenges. Comments under the video overwhelmingly agreed with Pannu's observations, with some stating that such behavior is common not just on domestic flights but also on international routes.

One user humorously remarked, "Wo 'safar' karte hain, isliye aviation staff 'suffer' karte hain" (They travel, so aviation staff suffer). Another pointed out that while flight crew members are commendable, their management often fails to address such issues effectively.

A former cabin crew in charge, with 12 years of experience, thanked Pannu for voicing concerns that flight attendants have long endured. The viral discussion sheds light on the need for better passenger etiquette and a greater appreciation for airline staff who work tirelessly to ensure a smooth travel experience.

## Man Performs Self-Surgery Using YouTube, Recovers at Home



In a shocking incident from Uttar Pradesh's Vrindavan, a 32-year-old man attempted to cure his persistent stomach pain by performing surgery on himself after watching YouTube tutorials. Raja Babu, a resident of Sunrakh village, used surgical blades, stitch cords, and needles purchased from the market to cut and stitch his own abdomen on Tuesday. However, his condition worsened the next day, prompting his nephew, Rahul, to rush him to the Vrindavan Joint District Hospital for medical attention. Emergency medical officer Dr. Shashi Ranjan provided initial treatment and referred him to SN Medical College in Agra for further care. Surprisingly, instead of seeking advanced medical treatment, Raja Babu decided to return home. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ajay Verma confirmed that Raja

Babu had been given first aid at the hospital but had not followed the referral advice. Fortunately, his condition has since improved. According to Rahul, the self-performed surgery only affected the upper layer of the abdomen, leaving the internal organs unharmed. The wound was dressed at the hospital, and Raja Babu is now reportedly recovering well at home. This incident highlights the risks of self-medication and medical procedures attempted without professional supervision. While access to online resources can be beneficial for learning, attempting complex medical procedures without expertise can be life-threatening. Medical professionals strongly advise against such dangerous practices, emphasizing the importance of seeking proper healthcare for any serious medical condition.

## Russian Man Retires at 23 After Just Two Years of Work, Sparks Debate

A 23-year-old Russian man has shocked the internet by securing full retirement benefits after working for only two years, thanks to a loophole in the country's pension system. His story has gone viral, igniting discussions about pension policies, financial strategies, and potential reforms. According to Oddity Central, the man took advantage of a special provision in Russia's pension system designed for military personnel and certain government employees. By meeting specific requirements, he became eligible for lifelong pension payments at an age when most individuals are just beginning their careers.

His early retirement has sparked mixed reactions. Some have praised his ingenuity in navigating the system to his advantage, while others argue that such loopholes create an unfair burden on taxpayers. Many online users have also questioned whether similar cases could arise in the future if the policy remains unchanged.

The International Record Registration Agency (INTERRECORD) officially verified his retirement and included it in the Register of Records of Russia, commonly known as the Book of Records of Russia. This recognition further amplified the story's reach, drawing

attention from financial experts and policymakers.

As the debate continues, experts suggest that cases like this might prompt authorities to reassess pension regulations. Governments often design pension systems to support retirees after decades of service, and instances of early retirement due to loopholes could lead to stricter eligibility criteria in the future.

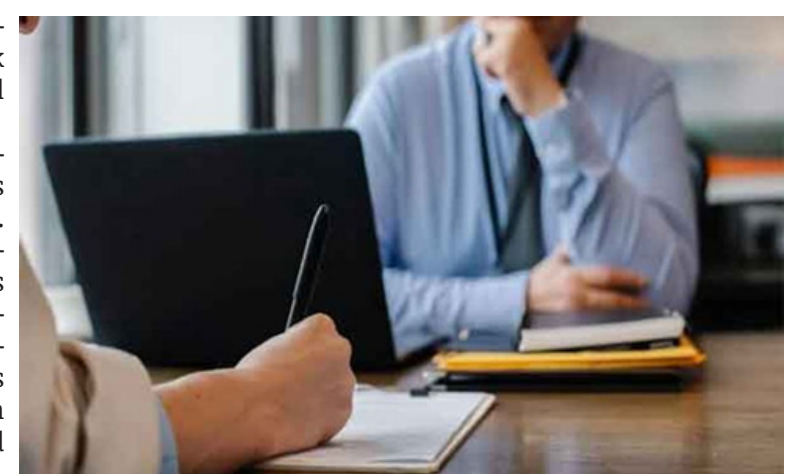
While the young retiree enjoys a financial milestone many only dream of, his case raises broader questions about policy effectiveness, fairness, and the sustainability of pension systems worldwide.



## Mumbai CEO Rejects Candidate Over Husband's Involvement, Sparks Debate

A senior-level job candidate in Mumbai was recently rejected after requesting that her husband meet the company's leadership before she joined. The incident, shared on X by Vinod Chendhil, founder and CEO of the healthy noodle brand Naturally Yours, has sparked an intense debate about professional independence and gender dynamics in the workplace. Chendhil called the request a "huge red flag" and stated that it led to her "instant" rejection. He explained that the candidate wanted her husband to interview the senior management team to assess the company's suitability for her. To him, this signaled a concerning

level of dependency and lack of professional autonomy. Social media reactions were divided. Many supported Chendhil's decision, arguing that workplace decisions should remain personal and professional, without external interference. "There's no way it would have worked. Good call," commented one user. Another added, "Even a junior-level hire shouldn't make such a request." However, others defended the woman, suggesting that her request might have been influenced by personal cir-



cumstances. "Maybe the husband has mandated it—she could be in a toxic situation and has no choice," one user speculated. Another commented, "Women face additional challenges in career decisions. She deserved better opportunities." The debate raises larger questions about workplace autonomy, gender

roles, and the boundaries between personal and professional decision-making. While some view the candidate's request as a lack of independence, others argue that such considerations are valid, especially for women navigating complex personal and societal expectations.

# IPL 2025: All You Need to Know About Teams, Schedule, Prize Money



The Indian Premier League (IPL) is set to return for its 18th season, with defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) kicking off the tournament at Eden Gardens on March 22. The two-month-long T20 spectacle will conclude with the final on May 25 at the same venue.

### Tournament Format & Schedule

IPL 2025 will follow a league-style format, where all 10 teams will play each other twice. The top four teams at the end of the league stage will qualify for the playoffs.

The playoff structure includes:

- Qualifier 1 (May 20, Hyderabad) – Top two teams compete, with the winner advancing to the final.
- Eliminator (May 21, Hyderabad) – The third and fourth-placed teams face off, with the winner progressing.
- Qualifier 2 (May 23, Kolkata) – The loser of Qualifier 1 plays the winner of the Elimina-

tor for a spot in the final.

- Final (May 25, Kolkata) – The two remaining teams battle for the title.

Matches will be played at two different times:

- Day matches: 3:30 PM IST
- Night matches: 7:30 PM IST

### Team Captains for IPL 2025

Several teams have changed leadership for this season. Here's a look at the captains:

- Chennai Super Kings: Ruturaj Gaikwad
- Delhi Capitals: Axar Patel
- Gujarat Titans: Shubman Gill
- Kolkata Knight Riders: Ajinkya Rahane
- Lucknow Super Giants: Rishabh Pant
- Mumbai Indians: Hardik Pandya
- Punjab Kings: Shreyas Iyer
- Rajasthan Royals: Sanju Samson
- Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Rajat Patidar
- Sunrisers Hyderabad: Pat Cummins

Biggest Signings of IPL 2025

The IPL 2025 auction saw some record-breaking bids:

- Rishabh Pant (Lucknow Super Giants): Most expensive player at \$3.2 million.
- Shreyas Iyer (Punjab Kings): Purchased for \$3.17 million.

### Prize Money for IPL 2025

The financial stakes are high, with lucrative rewards for the top-performing teams:

- Champion: \$2.32 million
- Runners-up: \$1.5 million
- Third place: \$810,800
- Fourth place: \$752,894

As excitement builds for IPL 2025, cricket fans worldwide eagerly await another thrilling season of high-octane matches, big-money signings, and intense competition among the world's best cricketers.

## Yuva All-Stars: Jaipur, Sonipat, Kurukshetra & Pune Shine on Day 14



The Yuva All-Stars Championship 2025 witnessed an action-packed Day 14 in Haridwar, with Yuva Paltan, Jaipur Pink Cubs, Kurukshetra Warriors, and Sonipat Spartans emerging victorious in their respective matches.

Sonipat Spartans defeated Vasco Vipers 43-34, with Harish Kumar shining with 15 points. Kurukshetra Warriors edged out Yuva Mumbai 44-39 in a closely contested battle, with Umesh Panwar and Ajay Sangwan leading the charge. Jaipur Pink Cubs overcame Palani Tuskers by four points, securing their top spot in Pool A. Yuva Paltan dominated Junior Steelers with a 14-point victory, thanks to Ajay Gulia's 10-point performance.

Upcoming matches on March 19 include Chandigarh Chargers vs. Yuva Yoddhas (10:15 AM) and Junior Steelers vs. Jaipur Pink Cubs (5:30 PM). Fans can expect more thrilling encounters as the tournament progresses.

## Diksha Dagar Starts Strong with 4-Under 67 at NSW Open



India's Diksha Dagar made a solid start at the Women's NSW Open, shooting a 4-under 67 to tie for fourth place. The two-time Ladies European Tour winner carded eight birdies but dropped four bogeys, including three towards the end of her round. Spain's Nuria Iqurrioz and Australia's Kirsten Rudgeley led with 6-under 65s.

Among other Indians, Pranavi Urs shot an even-par 71 to sit at T-37, while Avani Prashanth posted a 1-over 72 (T-54). Iturrioz and Rudgeley dominated the leaderboard with consistent birdies despite challenging winds. Sweden's Anna Magnusson trailed by one shot at 5-under.

Diksha, runner-up at the season-opener in Morocco, remains in contention in this 72-hole stroke-play event featuring 132 players. Seven players, including Diksha, are tied for fourth at 4-under, setting up an exciting tournament ahead.

## Elite Women's National Boxing Championships Kick Off in Greater Noida



The 8th Elite Women's National Boxing Championships began in Greater Noida, featuring 188 boxers from

24 state federations. The tournament, held from March 21-27 at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex,

promises top-tier competition as India's best female boxers battle for glory. Olympians Jaismine

(57kg) and Pooja Rani (80kg), alongside World Champion Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) and Simranjit Kaur (65kg), headline the star-studded lineup. Rising talents like Pema Bhutia and Preeti will challenge the veterans. With 44 bouts scheduled for the opening day, the event serves as a crucial platform for selection in international tournaments. The presence of World Champion Nikhat Zareen and IOA President PT Usha adds to the excitement. The championships will showcase intense action as young and seasoned boxers compete for national supremacy.

## Ujjawal Choudhary Sets National Record at Indian Open Throws Competition



Haryana's Ujjawal Choudhary set a new national record in the U20 discus throw event at the 4th Indian Open Throws Competition in Navi Mumbai, winning gold with a 59.34m throw, surpassing the previous record of 58.11m. Vaibhav (53.48m) and Ritik (52.88m) secured silver and bronze, respectively.

In men's javelin qualification, Karnataka's ShankPatil topped with 72.48m, followed by Nitesh Yadav (72.34m) and Sunny Sheoran (71.43m). Reliance Foundation's Usmanali Khan won U18 discus gold with 55.11m, while Haryana's Seema clinched senior women's discus gold with 56.39m. Nikita Kumari (46.78m) won U20 women's discus, and Maharashtra's Aryan Satpute claimed U18 shot put gold (18.06m).



## Samantha Wins Best Actress Award for OTT Performance



Actress Samantha, known for her work in multiple languages, has won the Best Actress award for her performance in the OTT series Honey-Bunny. Despite not featuring in recent Telugu films, she continues to captivate audiences through web series.

A leading media house honored Samantha for her outstanding performance in Honey-Bunny. Expressing her gratitude, she dedicated the award to those who believed in her. She credited directors Raj & DK and co-star Varun Dhawan for their support in completing Citadel: Honey-Bunny, especially during her battle with myositis.

Samantha, who underwent extensive treatment for the autoimmune condition, is now fully recovered and back in action. Her unwavering dedication and stellar performance have once again proven her mettle as a versatile actress.

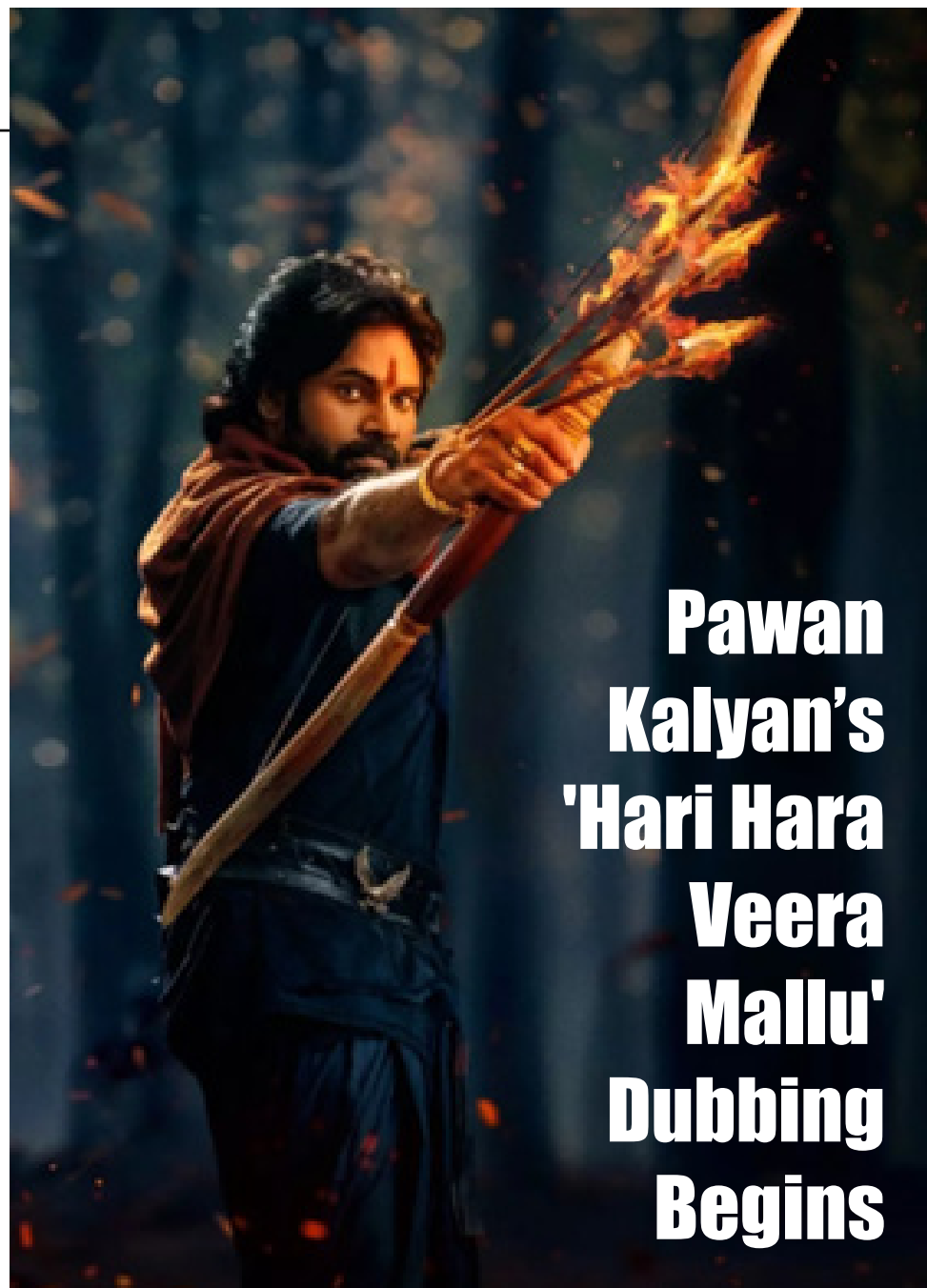


## Mahesh Babu Learns Gen-Z Lingo from Daughter Sitara in Viral Ad

Superstar Mahesh Babu and his daughter Sitara Ghattamaneni continue to set father-daughter goals. In a new viral advertisement for a clothing brand, Sitara gives her father a crash course in Gen-Z slang. From words like “drip” and “vibe” to “fam-jam,” the adorable exchange has won fans’ hearts.

Despite his busy schedule, Mahesh Babu always makes time for his kids, Gautam and Sitara. In an interview, Sitara revealed how she often bunked school because of her dad, as he would persuade Namrata Shirodkar to let her stay home. She also expressed admiration for her father’s superstar image but sees him as just “dad” at home.

Sitara, who debuted on-screen with Penny from Sarkaru Vaari Paata, hinted at a future in cinema. Meanwhile, Mahesh Babu is gearing up for SS Rajamouli’s SSMB29, co-starring Priyanka Chopra. Fans eagerly await further updates!



## Pawan Kalyan's 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' Dubbing Begins

Power Star Pawan Kalyan’s much-awaited period action film Hari Hara Veera Mallu, directed by Krish and Jyothi Krishna, is set for a grand worldwide release on May 9. Touted as The Sword of Spirit, the film is produced under the Mega Surya Production banner with A.M. Rathnam’s presentation.

The makers have officially announced that dubbing work has begun. They teased fans by stating that the wait to witness Pawan’s unparalleled heroism on screen is almost over.

The film stars Nidhi Agerwal as the female lead, while Oscar-winning composer M.M. Keeravani is providing the music. Fans eagerly await this epic project, which promises to showcase Pawan Kalyan in a powerful new avatar.

## Kiara Advani Becomes One of India's Highest-Paid Actresses

Kiara Advani has taken a massive leap in her career, becoming one of the highest-paid actresses in India. The Game Changer star has reportedly hiked her fee to ₹15 crore for her upcoming film Toxic, surpassing top Bollywood actresses like Alia Bhatt and Shradha Kapoor. Previously, she earned around ₹5-7 crore per film.

Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups, directed by Geetu Mohandas, features Yash in the lead and boasts a massive budget. The film will be released in multiple languages, including Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and English. Kiara will be seen alongside stars like Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, and Tara Sutaria.

Meanwhile, Kiara and her husband, Sidharth Malhotra, recently announced they are expecting their first child, making Toxic possibly her last film before a break. With blockbuster hits, record pay, and personal milestones, Kiara is truly at the top of her game!

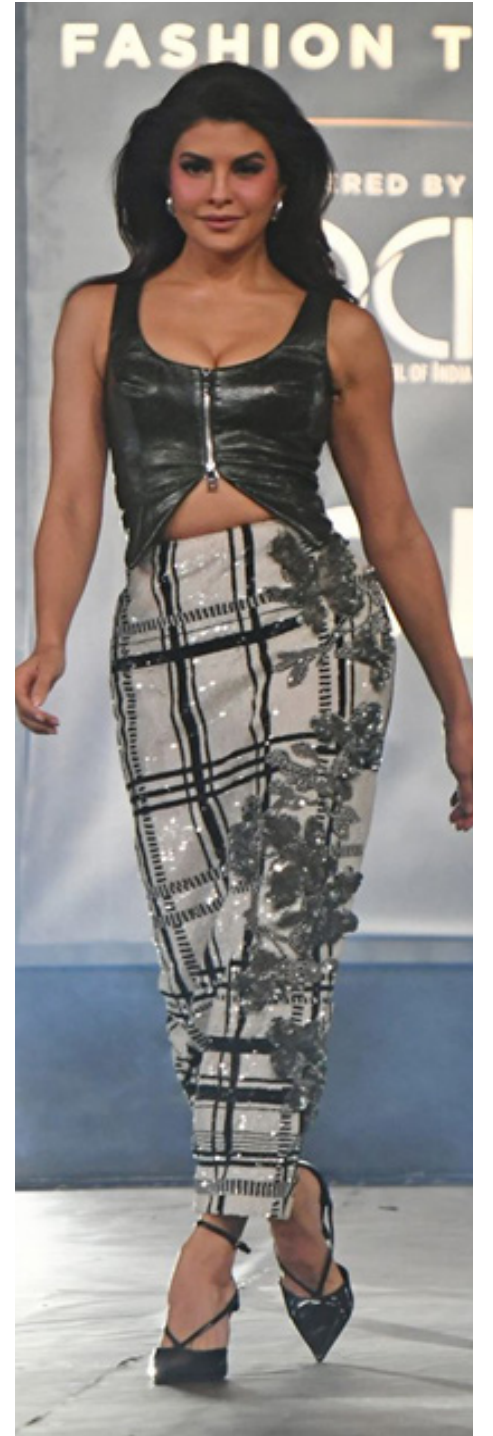


## Jacqueline Fernandez Hopes 'Kick 2' Happens Soon

Jacqueline Fernandez is eager to be part of Kick 2, the sequel to the 2014 blockbuster starring Salman Khan. While Salman and director Sajid Nadiadwala announced the sequel last year, Jacqueline said, “I really do hope it happens soon. Kick changed my life, and fans have shown so much love for the franchise.”

Apart from Kick 2, Jacqueline has an exciting 2025 ahead, with multiple big releases. She will return for Housefull 5, reuniting with Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, and an ensemble cast. The film, directed by Tarun Mansukhani, promises another dose of comedy and entertainment.

She is also part of Welcome To The Jungle, the latest installment in the Welcome franchise, directed by Ahmed Khan. Calling it a “crazy comedy,” she shared her excitement about working with a star-studded cast. Additionally, Jacqueline’s debut web series is set to premiere in April.



## Alia Bhatt Praises Netflix's Adolescence: "Perfection"

Bollywood star Alia Bhatt is the latest to heap praise on Netflix’s miniseries Adolescence, directed by Philip Barantini. Sharing the show’s poster on Instagram, Alia called it “truly perfection,” lauding its writing, cinematography, and raw performances. She admired the cast’s ability to bring every scene alive, making the energy palpable.

Alia also applauded the crew’s dedication, saying, “The magic of storytelling... every department giving their heart and soul to every second on screen.” Jigra co-star Vedang Raina echoed her sentiments, calling Adolescence “one of the most brilliantly acted and moving pieces of film/TV.”

The series follows the Miller family, whose world shatters when 13-year-old Jamie is accused of murder. Shot in continuous takes, it explores family, truth, and justice. Meanwhile, Alia is currently filming Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s Love & War with Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal.