



**Weather Forecast**

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 35° C L 21° C	H 36° C L 23° C	H 36° C L 23° C

# SAME BARRACK FOR JAGAN? ARREST SPECULATION INTENSIFIES

TPN SPL CORRESPONDENT | ANDHRA PRADESH

Speculation is mounting over the possible arrest of former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy as investigative agencies focus on the liquor scam, which allegedly involves financial irregularities running into thousands of crores. With the NDA government nearing its first anniversary, reports suggest that preparations are underway for Jagan's arrest, a move that could significantly impact Andhra Pradesh politics. This development brings back memories of September 10, 2023, when the AP CID arrested Chandrababu Naidu in connection with the skill development scam. Now, TDP leaders are closely watching whether Jagan will face the same fate and whether he will be lodged in Rajahmundry Central Jail, in the same barrack where Naidu was held.

## Key Factors in Jagan's Possible Arrest

According to sources, the case against Jagan is gaining momentum due to two critical elements:

**Key Evidence** - It is reported that MP Lavu Srikrishna Devarayulu has submitted crucial evidence to Union Home

## NDA government planning Jagan's arrest soon

**Liquor scam linked to thousands of crores**

**Governor's approval to fast-track legal process**

**Amit Shah's decision holds the key**



**Vijayasai Reddy may turn key approver**

**TDP leaders eagerly await major development**



Minister Amit Shah.

**Approver Testimony** - Former YSRCP leader Vijayasai Reddy is rumored to be considering turning approver, which could strengthen the case against Jagan.

Unlike Naidu's arrest, which faced legal scrutiny due to Governor's permission, the TDP-led government is reportedly planning to hand over the liquor scam case to the Enforcement Directorate (ED). If the ED takes charge, the arrest process becomes significantly easier, bypassing potential legal hurdles.

## Amit Shah's Nod—The Final Step?

Reports indicate that if Amit Shah approves, ED and other agencies will act swiftly. The coalition government is keen to move forward, and discussions are ongoing about whether Jagan's arrest will happen within this year or take a few more months.

Amid this uncertainty, Jagan appears to be exercising caution—avoiding public gatherings, canceling scheduled events, and limiting his movements. With growing political pressure and heightened speculation, Andhra Pradesh could soon witness another high-profile arrest.



## TDP and Jana Sena Leaders Clash at RO Plant Inauguration in Pithapuram

**TPN Correspondent | Pithapuram:** A clash erupted between Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Jana Sena Party (JSP) activists at the inauguration of an RO water plant in Chandurthi village, Pithapuram constituency. The incident occurred when TDP leaders confronted JSP in-charge Marreddy Srinivasa Rao over the exclusion of former MLA SVSN Varma from the event. Supporters of both parties engaged in heated arguments, which soon escalated into a scuffle, creating intense tension at the event. Despite the confrontation, the inauguration proceeded with the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Former MLA SVSN Varma, a senior TDP leader who has been supporting party workers in Pithapuram for 25 years, was reportedly upset over not being invited. Varma had earlier sacrificed his ticket for JSP leader Pawan Kalyan in the last elections but was later denied an MLC seat, leading to dissatisfaction among his followers. Adding to the controversy, during the JSP foundation day meeting in Chitrada village, Pawan Kalyan's brother and Deputy CM Konidela Nagababu made remarks about Varma's role in Kalyan's defeat in Pithapuram. This statement further fueled tensions between supporters of both parties.



## CM Naidu's Relentless Push: Frequent Meetings with PM & FM for AP's Economic Revival

- CM's focus on economic recovery and governance
- Urges officials to find solutions, not excuses
- ₹7 lakh crore investment secured for development

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The two-day District Collectors' Conference concluded in Amaravati on Wednesday, with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu addressing key governance and financial issues. On the second day of the meeting, the CM made crucial remarks regarding the state's economic condition, urging district collectors to work towards practical solutions rather than citing challenges. CM Naidu stated that he has never met the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister so frequently in his life, highlighting his relentless efforts to revive Andhra Pradesh's economy. He reassured officials that his role is to provide solutions and support rather than just point out problems. He instructed collectors to work closely with planning board chairmen and secretaries to address issues efficiently.

"We need solutions, not excuses. Financial constraints exist, but I am continuously engaging with Delhi to secure necessary funds," he said. The CM noted that Andhra Pradesh has ₹9.70 lakh crore in debt, stressing the importance of timely loan repay-

ments to maintain financial credibility. Despite the challenges, he confirmed that ₹2,000 crore would be available for development projects.

Jokingly, CM Naidu remarked that while he previously ran the administration alone, this time, all district collectors must match his pace. He pointed out that 20,000 kilometers of roads have been repaired, positively impacting public perception. Addressing the issue of Nala fees, he stated that laws should not hinder development and assured alternative revenue generation methods. The CM reiterated his "Zero Poverty" goal and encouraged officials to attract high-net-worth individuals for state development. He highlighted that Telangana's high per capita income on Wednesday results from his long-term vision, stressing that Andhra Pradesh is on a similar path. He announced the establishment of five Ratan Tata Innovation Hubs, reinforcing his commitment to the "One Family, One Entrepreneur" initiative. Additionally, he confirmed that electricity would be provided at ₹1.50 per unit for aquaculture units adhering to environmental standards.

## YS Jagan Attends Iftar Dinner in Vijayawada, Extends Ramadan Greetings



- Wished Eid Mubarak to Muslim brothers in Urdu
- Special prayers and Namaz held at NAC Kalyana Mandapam

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

YSRCP chief and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy attended an Iftar dinner organized in Vijayawada on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. The event, held at NAC Kalyana Mandapam, witnessed a large gathering of Muslim community members, party leaders, and religious elders.

YS Jagan, dressed in traditional Muslim attire, including a sacred hat and scarf, actively participated in the special prayers alongside his Muslim brothers. Addressing the gathering, he wished Eid Mubarak in Urdu and conveyed his heartfelt Ramadan greetings in advance. He expressed his best wishes for everyone's prayers to be successful and hoped that Allah's blessings would bring prosperity and well-being to all.

Following the prayers, YS Jagan joined the community for the Iftar feast, sharing a meal with Muslim brothers in a gesture of unity and inclusivity. Several senior leaders of YSRCP, including former ministers, MLAs, and MLCs, also participated in the event.

The Iftar dinner, organized under the auspices of the YSR Congress Party, was part of the party's outreach efforts during Ramadan. Leaders emphasized the importance of respecting traditions and fostering communal harmony. The event concluded with prayers for peace, prosperity, and well-being for all communities, with YS Jagan reiterating his commitment to standing with the Muslim community.



## Promise Fulfilled: Dy CM Expresses Happiness Over Pithapuram ROB Sanction

**TPN Correspondent | Amaravati:** Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Pithapuram MLA Pawan Kalyan expressed happiness over the approval of funds and permissions for the construction of a road over bridge in his constituency. He recalled that he had promised to undertake this project during the election campaign.

The ₹59.70 crore bridge, planned at the railway crossing on the Uppada-Samarlakota road, is expected to significantly ease traffic congestion and reduce travel time for commuters. Pawan Kalyan emphasized that the bridge will provide much-needed relief to residents struggling with frequent traffic jams due to train movements. The project is being undertaken under the Central Road Infrastructure Fund's 'Setu Bandhan' scheme. Pawan Kalyan extended his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister for Highways Nitin Gadkari, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, and State R&B Minister BC Janardhan Reddy for their support in sanctioning the funds. He expressed hope that the construction work would be completed swiftly, bringing relief to the people of Pithapuram.



# CM Naidu Held Meeting With Japanese Delegation in Amaravati

- Strengthening economic ties with Japan
- Focus on investments in shipbuilding, electronics, and education
- Discussions on expanding Japanese presence in AP

**TPN Correspondent | Amaravati**

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu met with a delegation led by Japanese Ambassador Keiichi Ono in Amaravati on Wednesday. The meeting focused on strengthening economic cooperation and expanding Japanese investments in Andhra Pradesh. CM Chandrababu Naidu took to Twitter to share details of the discussions, highlighting the state's commitment to fostering interna-

tional partnerships for economic growth. He emphasized that the meeting explored opportunities in various sectors, including shipbuilding, electronics, chemicals, automobiles, and education. "On wednesday, we met with a delegation led by Japanese Ambassador Keiichi Ono in Amaravati. Discussions were held on strengthening economic ties and expanding Japanese investments in Andhra Pradesh. Our discussions continued on exploring cooperation in various

sectors such as shipbuilding, electronics, chemicals, automobiles, and education to provide new opportunities for growth," CM Chandrababu Naidu tweeted. The meeting is part of the state government's broader efforts to attract foreign investments and facilitate industrial expansion in Andhra Pradesh. CM Naidu reiterated his vision to position the state as a prime investment destination by ensuring business-friendly policies and infrastructure support.

Officials present at the meeting expressed optimism about Japan's role in contributing to AP's economic development. They highlighted that Japan has been a key partner in Andhra Pradesh's industrial growth, with several Japanese companies already operating in the state. With ongoing efforts to enhance bilateral cooperation, the state government is keen on leveraging Japanese expertise in technology and manufacturing to boost employment and economic progress.



## First Free Gas Cylinder Available Until March 31, Says Minister Nadendla

**TPN Correspondent | Amaravati**

As part of the Deepam-2 Scheme, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Nadendla Manohar has urged eligible beneficiaries to book their first free gas cylinder before the March 31 deadline. He emphasized that the coalition government is fulfilling its promise of providing three free gas cylinders per year to poor households. Minister Nadendla stated that so far, 98 lakh beneficiaries have availed the first free gas cylinder. He assured that gas will be delivered within 24 hours in urban areas and 48 hours in rural areas. The full amount paid will be credited back to beneficiaries' accounts within 48 hours of cylinder delivery.

**The government has set a structured timeline for availing the free cylinders:**

- April – July (01 Cylinder)
- August – November (01 Cylinder)
- December – March (01 Cylinder)

Consumers must ensure their Aadhaar and bank accounts are linked to their gas connection. Those who have not yet received their free cylinder are advised to book it immediately. For complaints or further information, beneficiaries can call the toll-free number 1967.

## SP Narasimha Kishore Assures Transparent Probe into Pastor Praveen's Death

- Special teams formed for investigation
- SP urges restraint, warns against misinformation
- Case registered under Section 174 CrPC



**TPN Correspondent | Rajahmundry**

East Godavari District SP Narasimha Kishore assured a fair and transparent investigation into the death of Pastor Praveen Pagadala. Addressing the media at a press conference held at Jampeta Mahila Police Station on Wednesday evening, he expressed deep condolences to the pastor's family. The SP confirmed that a case has

been registered under Section 174 CrPC and that multiple teams have been deployed to investigate from all possible angles using advanced technology. He urged anyone with relevant evidence to come forward through religious leaders to aid in the probe. He appealed to Christian leaders, pastors, and youth to maintain peace and avoid protests or agitation, emphasizing that the police are committed to uncovering the

truth. Furthermore, he warned of strict action against individuals spreading misinformation or attempting to incite unrest through social media. Any post that disturbs communal harmony will lead to legal consequences. The investigation is being conducted under the supervision of a DSP-level officer to ensure accuracy and integrity. Senior police officials, including SPs and CIs, were present at the press conference.

## Cyber Fraud Cases Escalate in AP, ₹633 Crore Lost in 8 Months

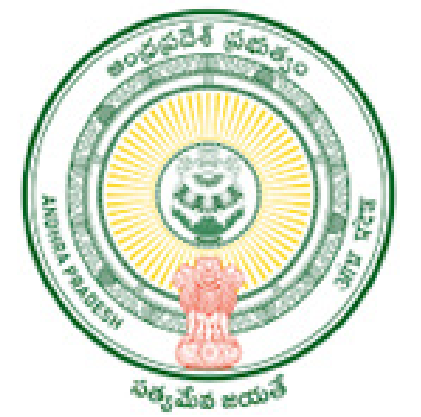
**TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh**

Cyber fraud cases in Andhra Pradesh have surged alarmingly, with fraudsters looting ₹633 crore in the past eight months. According to official reports, over 35,000 complaints have been registered since July last year through the cyber-crime toll-free number 1930. On average, cybercriminals have been swindling ₹2.56 crore daily through various online scams. While authorities have managed to recover ₹1.46 crore from fraudulent transactions, they have also frozen



₹65.59 crore in bank accounts to curb further losses. Officials continue to caution citizens against falling prey to cyber

scams, urging them not to share personal details and to report suspicious activities promptly to the 1930 helpline.



## AP Govt Re-allocates Land to Lulu Group for Mall & Hypermarkets

- Lulu Group regains 13.83 acres in Visakhapatnam
- Land to be used for shopping mall and hypermarkets

**TPN Correspondent | Amaravati**

The Andhra Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, has taken a crucial decision to reallocate land to Lulu Group for its commercial projects in Visakhapatnam. A government order (GO) was issued on Wednesday, confirming the reallocation of 13.83 acres near Visakhapatnam Harbor Park, which had been previously allotted to the group but later canceled by the YSRC government.

As per the new orders, the land is designated for the construction of a shopping mall and hypermarkets by Lulu Group. The government has directed the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) to oversee the land allotment, while the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) has been instructed to transfer 13.43 acres of land in Harbor Park to APIIC for this purpose. The Industries Department had already cleared Lulu Group's proposal through the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) for setting up an international-standard shopping mall in Visakhapatnam. Lulu Group initially planned an international convention center at the same location in 2017, but the YSRC government revoked the land allocation in 2023, leading the company to explore investment opportunities in Tamil Nadu.

Following the change in government in 2024, Lulu Group's chairman met CM Chandrababu Naidu in January, expressing renewed interest in investing in Andhra Pradesh. With this, the coalition government has now taken steps to restore the land and facilitate Lulu Group's commercial ventures in Visakhapatnam.

## Polavaram Project to be Completed by December 2027: Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu

**TPN Correspondent | Eluru Dist**

Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu announced that the Polavaram project is set for completion by December 2027. Inspecting the project site on Wednesday ahead of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's visit, the minister assured that coordinated efforts involving the Central Water Commission (CWC), Polavaram Project Authority (PPA), and international experts are in place to ensure timely completion.

Minister Nimmala highlighted that Chandrababu Naidu had worked relentlessly for 18 months to construct the diaphragm wall, which was later damaged due to negligence under



the previous YSRC government. He claimed that former CM Jagan Mohan Reddy's leadership led to setbacks, forcing the reconstruction of the dia-

phragm wall at an additional cost of ₹990 crore. He further stated that the delay in the Polavaram project over the last

five years resulted in a loss of ₹50,000 crore for the state. Minister Nimmala credited CM Chandrababu Naidu for securing ₹12,157 crore in central funds after forming the NDA coalition government. Of this, ₹5,052 crore has already been released as advance funds for the project. The minister also alleged that the previous government had diverted central funds meant for Polavaram, leading to severe project setbacks. He emphasized that the "double-engine government" of the state and center is now ensuring visible progress. Irrigation officials accompanied the minister during the inspection, ahead of CM Naidu's scheduled visit to review project developments.

## AP High Court Grants Temporary Relief to YCP MP Mithun Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh



The Andhra Pradesh High Court has granted temporary relief to YSRCP MP P. Mithun Reddy in connection with the ongoing CID investigation into the alleged liquor scam during the YCP regime. The court has ordered that Mithun Reddy should not be arrested until April 3, providing him interim protection. The CID registered a case following complaints about irregularities in liquor businesses under the YCP government. Mithun Reddy was included as an accused, prompting him to seek anticipatory bail from the AP High Court. After reviewing his petition, the court issued a directive preventing his arrest until further hearings.

Meanwhile, the liquor scam issue has taken center stage in national politics, with TDP MP Srikrishna Devaraya raising the matter in the Lok Sabha. The discussion gained further momentum when Union Home Minister Amit Shah summoned Devaraya to his office in Parliament to review the details of the case personally. These developments have heightened political tensions in Andhra Pradesh, as the case is expected to have wider legal and political ramifications in the coming days.

## Eluru Municipal Budget Approved Amid TDP-YCP Clash



- Budget passed with a surplus of ₹11.82 crore
- Heated argument between TDP and YCP members
- Municipal Commissioner intervenes to restore order

TPN Correspondent | Eluru  
The annual budget meeting of the Eluru Municipal Corporation witnessed heated exchanges between TDP and YSRCP corporators, creating a tense atmosphere. The meeting, held at the municipal corporation office under the leadership of Mayor Sheikh Noorjahan Pedababu, saw disruptions during the budget presentation.

The mayor presented the municipal corporation's budget for the 2025-26 financial year, showing a surplus of ₹11.82 crore. She stated that with an initial reserve of ₹46.20 crore and expected revenues of ₹165.14 crore, the total available funds would be ₹211.34 crore. The projected expenditure for the year stands at ₹199.51 crore, leaving the municipality with a surplus budget.

The tensions escalated when YSRCP corporators Gudideshi Srinivasa Rao and Jujjuvarapu Vijayanirmala raised several issues. TDP co-option member Chode Venkataratnam interrupted, asserting that only the ruling party's decisions mattered. This angered YSRCP corporator Srinivasa Rao, who retorted that co-option members had no authority to dictate terms and that elected corporators had the right to speak. The verbal clash led to a chaotic situation, prompting Mayor Noorjahan to intervene. Despite her efforts, the argument intensified, forcing Municipal Commissioner A. Bhanupratap to step in and address the concerns raised by the members. Some corporators also criticized that development activities were being conducted without their knowledge. However, co-option member SMR Peddababu refuted these claims, stating that no projects were undertaken without informing corporators.

## KA Paul Demands CBI Probe into Pastor Praveen's Death

TPN Correspondent | Rajahmundry

Pastor Praveen Kumar's tragic death in an accident on the outskirts of Rajahmundry has sparked controversy, with Christian evangelist KA Paul demanding a thorough investigation. A postmortem was conducted at the Rajahmundry Government Hospital on Wednesday, where KA Paul arrived to inspect the process. However, police officials denied him entry into the postmortem room. Speaking to the media outside the hospital, KA Paul insisted that the case be handed over to the Central

Bureau of Investigation (CBI), citing suspicions surrounding Praveen's death. He claimed that the Christian community harbors doubts about the circumstances of the accident and urged the authorities to provide clear evidence explaining what transpired. Paul further alleged that he had sent messages to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Home Minister V. Anita, seeking their intervention, but had not received any response. He emphasized the need for transparency and accountability in the investigation to dispel concerns within the Christian community.

## CM Chandrababu Naidu Laughs Off CPI MLA Kunamneni's Remarks on Tourism

- Kunamneni recalls Naidu's tourism push in united AP
- CM quips that it took communists 30 years to recognize his vision
- Emphasizes tourism potential from Rayalaseema to Uttarandhra

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Telangana CPI MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao's remarks in the Telangana Assembly regarding Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's focus on tourism have sparked discussions in both Telugu states. During his speech, Kunamneni humorously recalled that when Naidu was the Chief Minister of united Andhra Pradesh, he prioritized tourism over ideology, remarking that "if there was any 'ism' that cost nothing, it was tourism." Chandrababu Naidu responded with laughter, stating that communists had once criticized his vision but were now acknowledging its importance. He quipped that it had taken them 30 years to recognize what he had been advocating for decades. Naidu emphasized that tourism is not just about luxury and entertainment but also plays a

crucial role in economic development. He pointed out that a well-planned tourism strategy leads to increased government revenue and significant employment generation with minimal investment. The Chief Minister reiterated his commitment to tourism development across Andhra Pradesh, from Rayalaseema to Uttarandhra. He directed district collectors to focus on tourism-based growth, highlighting the state's vast potential in religious, heritage, and eco-tourism. Naidu stressed that Andhra Pradesh, with its rich history and scenic beauty, could emerge as a top destination in the country with the right policies and infrastructure. He further added that his government is working on strategic initiatives to boost the sector, ensuring that local communities benefit from the influx of visitors. He called upon officials to prioritize sustain-



able tourism models that preserve cultural heritage while enhancing economic opportunities.

## MLA Vegulla Jogeswara Rao Holds Public Forum in Mandapeta

TPN Correspondent | Mandapeta

MLA Vegulla Jogeswara Rao conducted a public grievance forum at the Municipal Office chamber in Mandapeta on Wednesday. The program, held under the chairmanship of the State Estimates Committee, was organized as per the instructions of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu to ensure direct interaction with the public every Wednesday at Mandal Headquarters. Speaking at the event, MLA

Vegulla Jogeswara Rao stated that the coalition government introduced this initiative to understand and resolve public issues efficiently. He emphasized that all received petitions would be uploaded online to bring them to the immediate attention of the government, facilitating faster resolutions. The MLA personally received grievances from the people and instructed officials to act swiftly. He warned that negligence in addressing public concerns would not be tolerated. Several key officials attended



the forum, including Municipal Commissioner T.V. Ranga Rao, MPDO Satyanarayana, Electrical AD Sridhar, A.E. Muni, and other department staff.

## Bhumana Demands Action Over Boating in Tirumala's Papavinasanam Dam

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

Former TTD Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy has strongly condemned the boating activities conducted in Papavinasanam Dam, calling it a serious violation of Tirumala's sanctity. Speaking at a media conference, he questioned the leaders of the ruling alliance, who had previously promised to preserve the spiritual integrity of Tirumala. Reddy criticized forest officer Vivek, who reportedly stated that illegal activities were taking place in the dam area. He found it ridiculous that the forest department was suggesting the conversion of the area into a tourist attraction. He demanded that TTD EO and Additional EO clarify their stance on how such activities were allowed in Tirum-



ala's sacred waters. Accusing the tourism department of interfering in religious matters, Reddy alleged that this was part of a broader attempt to

commercialize spiritual sites. He linked this to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's recent statements on tourism development, claiming that TDP's agenda threatens the sanctity of religious traditions. Expressing deep concern, he asked, "Who authorized the trial run of boating? Who were the forest personnel involved?" He insisted that strict action be taken against officials who permitted these activities. Furthermore, Reddy questioned the silence of religious leaders like Pavana Nanda Swami, asking why they remained passive while such incidents were taking place in the forest areas under their jurisdiction. He urged immediate action to protect Tirumala's sacred status and prevent any further corruption of its spiritual significance.

## Immediate Action Needed on Online Betting – YCP MP Gurumurthy

- Online betting causing financial distress
- Youth losing money, leading to suicides
- Mafia gangs running illegal betting apps

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Tirupati MP Dr. Maddila Gurumurthy raised concerns over online betting and gambling apps during Parliament's Zero Hour on Wednesday. He urged the Central Government to take immediate and strict action to curb these activities, which are leading to

severe financial and social problems. Addressing the House as part of the Budget Session, MP Gurumurthy stated that the easy availability of online betting apps is creating dangerous situations in society. He highlighted that many families are suffering due to financial losses incurred by users, particularly the youth. He pointed out that students and employees are losing their earnings and falling into debt due to their involvement in these platforms. The MP warned that the lure of making quick money through these betting apps is driving people towards fraud, theft, and other illegal activities. He expressed deep concern over the increasing incidents of youth suicides caused by heavy losses in gambling. He also accused organized mafia gangs of running these apps and continuously reintroducing them under new names to bypass government regulations.

MP Gurumurthy demanded that the Central Government take urgent steps to eliminate online betting. He suggested forming a special task force under the Cyber Crime Department to completely shut down these platforms. Additionally, he emphasized the need for nationwide awareness campaigns to educate people about the risks associated with online betting.



## MP Kesineni Shivanath Attends NDA MPs Meeting Chaired by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri

Meeting focused on constituency issues and central schemes  
MP Kesineni seeks aerospace and defence industries for AP  
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh responds positively to the request

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivanath (Chinni) participated in a crucial meeting of NDA MPs in Delhi, chaired by Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri. The meeting, part of the NDA government's initiative to engage with MPs every three months, aimed to discuss constituency-level issues, implementation of central schemes, and fund allocations.

During the discussion, MP Kesineni briefed Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh about the need to establish aerospace and defence industries in Andhra Pradesh. Rajnath Singh responded positively, expressing his willingness to cooperate in facilitating such developments. Kesineni also discussed various developmental initiatives for the Vijayawada Parliament constituency with Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.



The NDA MPs received guidance from Hardeep Singh Puri and Rajnath Singh on parliamentary policy and constituency development strategies. In a statement, MP Kesineni praised the warm hospitality extended by Hardeep Singh Puri and his wife, former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General Lakshmi Murdeshwar Puri, who specially prepared South Indian dishes for the guests.

The meeting saw participation from

several NDA MPs, including V. Satish (Delhi), Bharatsinh Dabhi Thakur (Gujarat), B.Y. Raghavendra (Karnataka), M. Mallesh Babu (JD(U)), Dr. Rajesh Mishra (Madhya Pradesh), Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo (Odisha), Mamata Mohanta (Rajya Sabha), Dr. Dinesh Sharma (Uttar Pradesh), Samik Bhat-tacharya (West Bengal), Vijaya Lakshmi Kushwaha (Bihar), Rangvra Narzari (Assam), and TDP MPs Bastipati Nagaraju Panchalingala and Kesineni Shivanath from Andhra Pradesh.

## New RPF Women Barracks Inaugurated in Vijayawada

30-bedded facility built at ₹1.5 crore  
Training on human trafficking conducted for RPF & GRP personnel  
South Central Railway commits to women personnel's welfare



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

A newly constructed RPF Women Barrack was inaugurated near the Railway Court in Vijayawada by Inspector General and Principal Chief Security Commissioner (IG & PCSC), South Central Railway, Ms. Aroma Singh Thakur. This 30-bedded barrack, developed at a cost of ₹1.5 crore, will serve as a rest facility for women RPF staff, Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel, and state police deputed for railway duties. The barrack includes a recreation room, dining area, fully equipped kitchen, and solar panels for sustainable energy.

On this occasion, a special training session on "Human Trafficking" was organized at the Railway Auditorium in Vijayawada. The session aimed

at equipping Anti-Human Trafficking (AHT) units with essential skills and knowledge. The event, attended by 125 personnel from RPF and GRP across Vijayawada, Guntur, Guntakal, and Waltair (ECOR) Divisions, was conducted by the Association of Voluntary Action (AVA), an expert organization in tackling human trafficking cases.

Ms. Aroma Singh Thakur emphasized the importance of these barracks in improving the quality of life for women personnel. She lauded the training initiative, highlighting its significance in addressing one of society's most heinous crimes. Senior railway officials, including Shri Konda Srinivasa Rao (ADRM, Operations) and Shri Valleswara B. Thokala (Sr. DSC), were present at the event.

## Concerns Over Illegal Autos and Safety in Vijayawada

Unlicensed Autos Flood in Vijayawada  
Rising Crime, Traffic Chaos, and Public Safety Concerns  
15,000 autos operating without city permits  
Reports of anti-social activities involving auto drivers  
Demand for stricter monitoring, including geo-tagging and cameras

TPN VVS MADHU BABU | Vijayawada  
Vijayawada is grappling with an alarming situation as thousands of unauthorized autos operate within the city, raising concerns over public safety and traffic disruptions. While 13,300 autos possess valid city permits, nearly 15,000 are reportedly running without proper authorization. Furthermore, over 10,000 autos are being driven without licenses or necessary documents.

A significant portion of these autos are being misused for illegal activities. Reports indicate that some drivers operate under the influence of intoxicants such as alcohol, drugs, and 'blood batch,' leading to reckless driving and incidents of harassment towards passengers, particularly women. Cases of rowdy behavior at auto and bus stands have also been reported, causing distress among the public. The lack of adherence to traffic rules by many auto drivers further compounds the issue. Frequent violations

such as driving in one-way lanes, running signals, stopping haphazardly, and overloading passengers pose severe risks to commuters and pedestrians alike. Additionally, allegations have surfaced regarding the use of autos for smuggling contraband substances like marijuana, facilitating robberies, and even human trafficking.

Despite these issues, enforcement remains lax. A loophole in the 2015 government order (GO) allowed CNG autos from nearby mandals to operate in the city. However, some auto owners and brokers have exploited this rule by running multiple autos with duplicate number plates, making it difficult for authorities to track them. To curb these problems, the coalition government issued GO 8-32 in 2025, restricting the sale and purchase of CNG autos from surrounding mandals while allowing only new CNG autos to operate within the city. This move aims to address both pollution



concerns and unauthorized vehicle operations.

Citizens are demanding increased security measures, including the geo-tagging of all autos and the installation of dashboard cameras to monitor driver behavior. Many believe such steps will ensure safer transport for women and restore order in Vijayawada's public transport system.

## Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu Proposes ₹86 Crore for Infrastructure Development

TPN Correspondent | Gudivada  
Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu announced that proposals worth ₹86 crore have been prepared to improve basic infrastructure in poor and low-income areas of Gudivada town. He held discussions with public health and municipal officials at his residence in Rajendranagar.

During the meeting, officials presented detailed plans, including ₹22.50 crore for drinking water supply pipelines and new tanks, ₹10.90 crore for essential urban amenities, and ₹52.74 crore for upgrading the town's 13-km drainage system, covering areas like Pedda Veedhi, Kothapeta, Mubarak Center, and Bypass Road. Plans for a sewage treatment (MLD) tank were also reviewed using satellite maps.

MLA Ramu emphasized his commitment to transforming Gudivada and stated that he would seek financial

support from Amrut 2.0 with MP Vallabhaneni Balasouri. He assured that with CM Chandrababu Naidu's



support, the required funds would be secured. Highlighting the growing urban population, he stressed the need for new water tanks and urged public cooperation in development efforts.

Officials from public health and municipal departments, including Public Health E.E. Swamy Naidu, Municipal M.E. A.S.N. Prasad, and CIST Consultancy Director Shastri, participated in the discussions.

## Interstate Gang Busted for Transformer and Wire Theft in Penamaluru

TPN Correspondent | Penamaluru

The Kankipadu police have busted an interstate gang involved in stealing transformers and current wires from motor homes, causing distress to farmers across Krishna and NTR districts. Acting on the orders of Krishna District SP Gangadhar Rao IPS, the arrests were made under the supervision of Gannavaram Sub-Division Officer Srihari Srinivasa Rao and Kankipadu CI Muralikrishna. SI Sandeep and his team apprehended three suspects near Gunatanapadu Adda Road, Poddutur village, Kankipadu mandal, while conducting vehicle checks on NH-65. The accused, aged



between 30 and 40, attempted to escape but were swiftly caught.

During the operation, police seized 2,400 meters of copper wire weighing 300 kg, valued at ₹4.5 lakh. The stolen materials were linked to 216 motors and seven transformers. The gang's modus operandi involved cutting current wires with pliers, burning

them into copper balls, and selling them. Similarly, they broke transformers to extract and sell copper coils.

Investigations revealed that the gang was involved in 22 cases across multiple police stations. The accused have confessed to their crimes, and further investigations are underway.

## Chilli Farmers Demand Justice After Devastating Cold Storage Fire

TPN Correspondent | Jaggayyapet

A massive fire broke out at Sai Tirumalagiri Agri Products Private Limited Cold Storage in Jaggayyapet, leaving hundreds of farmers in distress. Firefighters are working tirelessly to control the blaze. Officials estimate that around 14,000 bags of chilli, stored by 385 farmers, have been lost in the fire. The controversy surrounding the incident has intensified as farmers staged a protest against the local police, demanding an impartial investigation. They alleged that the cold storage owners had transported chillies in lorries under suspicious circumstances on the night before the fire. Farmers are urging the authorities to examine CCTV footage for evidence of foul play.

Adding to their grievances, the farmers pointed out that while the cold storage management had renewed its insurance from Union Bank on February 22, they had not secured a fresh loan. Reports suggest that Rs. 6.6 crore was obtained in the names of 19 individuals, raising concerns about financial irregularities.



Jaggayyapet CI Venkateshwarlu faced the anger of the farmers, who accused him of siding with the cold storage owners instead of helping them. They questioned why the facility was allowed to operate without proper fire safety measures and why no arrests had been made. Farmers also expressed fears that political pressure was being exerted to suppress the case and protect those responsible.

They have demanded immediate government assistance and a thorough investigation into insurance fraud. CI Venkateshwarlu assured the farmers that a probe was underway based on the Mandal Tahsildar's report and that all necessary action would be taken to ensure justice.

## Villagers Protest Employment Guarantee Irregularities in Ponumadu

TPN Correspondent | Krishna Dist

Residents of Ponumadu village in Unguru mandal, Gannavaram constituency, have raised serious concerns over irregularities in employment guarantee work. They allege that officials released over ₹4 lakh for work that was never carried out in fields and huts across the village. The villagers expressed anger over the lack of drought-related employment un-

der the scheme, which they believe is essential for their survival. Adding to their frustration, an FA (Field Assistant) who had served for eight years was allegedly removed due to political affiliations. Further controversy surrounds the appointment of a new FA, whom the villagers claim lacks the required educational qualifications, having studied only up to the sixth standard. Additionally, they pointed out that the new FA is already a



ward member in the village panchayat,

raising concerns about conflict of interest. When questioned about the irregularities, Assistant Project Officer (APO) reportedly provided inconsistent responses, further aggravating the villagers. In response, the frustrated residents have taken their grievances to the District Collector through a formal petition, as local mandal officials have remained silent on the issue.

## Heavy Security Arrangements for CM Chandrababu's Visit to Polavaram



**TPN Correspondent | Eluru Dist**

In preparation for Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's visit to Polavaram, District SP Kommi Prathapa Sivakishore has ordered strict security measures to prevent any untoward incidents. On Wednesday evening, the SP conducted a review at the Polavaram project site and instructed officials to monitor the ar-

rangements using drone cameras to ensure close surveillance of all key areas. Police forces from various departments have been strategically deployed at locations where the CM will visit. The SP has also directed the appointment of special commando teams along important routes and the readiness of strike forces and quick reaction teams to handle emergen-

- Forces placed on high alert
- Drone surveillance for careful monitoring
- SP Sivakishore reviews security measures

cies effectively. For the security operation, two Additional SPs, DSPs, 14 Inspectors, 25 Sub Inspectors, ASIs, Female ASIs, 15 Head Constables, 82 Head Constables/Female Advance Constables, 169 Police Constables, 31 Women Constables, 113 Home Guards, and 65 other personnel, including Special Party officers from other districts, have been deployed. Additional SPs N. Suryachandra Rao, N.S.S. Sekhar, SB Inspector Malleswara Rao, DSPs M. Venkateswara Rao, D. Shraavan Kumar, Ravichandra, Prasad Rao, AR DSP Chandrasekhar, and other officials participated in the security review.

## MLA Baggu Ramanamurthy Assures Housing for All Eligible Beneficiaries



**TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam**

MLA Baggu Ramanamurthy assured that every eligible person without a house will be granted one. Speaking at a review meeting with Housing Department officials at the Kathirivanipet Camp Office on Tuesday, he emphasized the need to accelerate housing construction in the constituency. During the meeting, the MLA reviewed the ongoing construction projects and directed officials to promptly address any challenges in the implementation. He reiterated the coalition government's commitment to ensuring that no eligible individual is left with-

out a home. Expressing gratitude to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, the MLA highlighted the government's additional financial assistance of ₹50,000, ₹75,000, and ₹1 lakh for houses under construction under the PMAY Urban and PMAY Rural schemes. He urged the Housing Department to expedite the demand survey process, which is set to conclude by the end of this month, to ensure all beneficiaries are registered online without delay. Housing Department DE, four Mandal AES, work inspectors, and other officials participated in the program.

## Palamaner MLA Amaranatha Reddy Reviews Development Works

**TPN Correspondent | Palamaner**

Palamaner MLA Amaranatha Reddy conducted a review meeting with municipal, forest, and revenue officials on Wednesday to assess the progress of development works in the constituency. The discussion focused on addressing the ongoing water shortage, evaluating the condition of drinking water boreholes within municipal limits, and reviewing available water reserves. The MLA also discussed measures to prevent inconveniences faced by street vendors and assessed the status of the municipal shopping complex project, which remains incomplete. Additionally, he reviewed the ongoing house title investigations in Gantavuru Colony with revenue officials. As part of his review, MLA Amaranatha Reddy examined the Elephant Hub project at Musalimadugu in Palama-



ner mandal with local Forest Range Officer Narayana. He assured officials that he would personally inspect the progress soon and pledged to resolve any challenges affecting the project's implementation. Officials present at the meeting included Tehsildar Inbhanathan, Municipal Commissioner Ramana Reddy, RO Ravi Reddy, Survey Officer Venkataramana Reddy, MEPM CMM Baba, DE Suresh Kumar, AE Swapna Priya, TPS Indira, and VRO Krishna.

## Nara Bhuvaneshwari Visits Agastya International Foundation in Kuppam



**TPN Correspondent | Kuppam**

Nara Bhuvaneshwari visited the Agastya International Foundation in Kuppam constituency and participated in an interactive session with students. During her visit, she observed various educational activities designed to foster scientific curiosity and creative thinking among young learners. The Agastya International Foundation is known for its innovative teaching methods, offering hands-on learning experiences in science and technology. Bhuvaneshwari appreciated the foundation's efforts in providing quality education to students and encouraging them to think beyond textbooks. She emphasized the importance of experiential learning in shaping a student's understanding

of concepts and real-world applications. During the interaction, students showcased their projects and discussed their learning experiences. Bhuvaneshwari engaged with them, offering words of encouragement and motivating them to make the most of the resources provided by the foundation. She stressed the need for such institutions to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application. She also commended the faculty and management of the Agastya International Foundation for their commitment to fostering a culture of innovation. She assured support in promoting such initiatives that empower students and help them achieve academic excellence.

## Water Hyacinth to Be Repurposed as Fertilizer in West Godavari



**TPN Correspondent | Amaravati**

West Godavari District Collector Chadalavada Nagarani has announced an initiative to convert water hyacinth, which has been obstructing irrigation canals, into organic fertilizer. Speaking at the collectors' conference, she stated

that the district administration is encouraging industries to participate in processing the aquatic plant into a useful resource. The uncontrolled growth of water hyacinth has been affecting water flow in irrigation canals, and repurposing it into fertilizer offers a sustainable solution. Alongside this, the district aims to boost its per capita income to ₹3.50 lakh in the upcoming financial year and expand aquaculture from 1.33 lakh acres to 1.50 lakh acres. Furthermore, plans are in place to introduce new horticultural crops across 612 hectares. The collector also emphasized the urgent need for repairs to veterinary hospitals and requested support for the construction of new facilities.

## 50% Discount on Property Tax for Payments by March 31



**TPN Correspondent | Eluru**

Eluru Municipal Corporation Commissioner A. Bhanu Pratap announced that property owners who clear their house tax and vacant land tax arrears in a single lump sum by March 31 will receive a 50% discount. This initiative is aimed at improving tax collection across municipal corporations. As per existing regulations, house tax and vacant land tax must be paid in two installments—by June-end for the first half of the financial year and by December-end for the second half. Failure to pay

on time results in a 2% interest charge on the pending amount. To encourage settlements, the municipal corporation is offering a one-time concession for those who clear their arrears in full by the deadline. This discount is also applicable to taxpayers who have already cleared their dues without pending arrears for the current financial year. The commissioner urged all property owners with outstanding taxes to make use of this opportunity before March 31 to avoid additional penalties and benefit from the concession.

## "Workers Are the Leader" Program Held at Pithapuram TDP Office

**TPN Correspondent | Pithapuram**

Former MLA SVSN Varma conducted the "Workers Are the Leader" problem resolution program at the Pithapuram Telugu Desam Party office on Wednesday, as per the directive of the National Telugu Desam Party. The event, held in Kakina-da district, saw the participation of party workers, with around 100 grievances submitted for resolution. Varma expressed gratitude to Nara Lokesh for launching this initiative. Addressing the gathering, Varma praised Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, State Party President Palla Srinivas, and Minister Nara Lokesh for implementing this program. He stated that the initiative would be held every Wednesday to listen to workers' concerns, resolve issues, and appreciate dedicated party activists. Varma recalled the hardships faced by

TDP workers during the previous YSRCF government, including unjust arrests, halted development works, and denial of essential facilities. He demanded that cases filed against TDP workers during the YSRCF regime be withdrawn and that pending bills from the 2014-19 period, particularly for house construction, be cleared. He also pointed out that many party supporters were denied housing plots between 2019-24 and called for authorities to recognize and rectify these injustices. Petitions concerning housing, infrastruc-



ture, pending bills, and financial aid under the CM Relief Fund were collected and forwarded to the relevant officials via email and WhatsApp. Varma lauded the TDP's strong grassroots presence, emphasizing its one crore-strong membership. He credited Nara Lokesh's padayatra for the party's return to power, stating that it brought attention to key issues affecting farmers, fishermen, handloom workers, and unemployed youth. He assured that under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and BJP MP Daggubati Purandeswari, the state would move forward under the coalition's Vision 2047. The event saw the participation of mandal and town party presidents, former ZPTC members, councilors, coordination committee members, and other key leaders.

## Special Focus on Children with Special Needs in Nellore



**TPN Correspondent | Nellore**

A large-scale distribution of assistive equipment for children with special needs took place on Thursday in Nellore. Zilla Parishad Chairperson Anam Arunamma handed over the devices at the ZP office, under the supervision of Joint Collector Karthik. Speaking on the occasion, Anam Arunamma emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring inclusive education for 3,989 students with special needs across 38 Bhavita Centers in the district. She highlighted that 72 additional educational resource persons are providing continuous primary education and physiotherapy services to 734 specially-abled students. Additionally, 35 special educators are working to support these students, offering assistance

from feeding to fulfilling their daily requirements. She noted that home-based education is also being provided with the help of eight physiotherapists who offer physiotherapy services. As part of the initiative, students received various assistive devices, including wheelchairs, hearing aids, CP chairs, rollators, digital education tablets, and trolley kits. In total, 262 devices were distributed to 198 students. Furthermore, ₹38.43 lakh has been deposited in the accounts of disabled students under Escort Allowance, Transport Allowance, and Home-Based Education Allowance through DCS, while ₹26.86 lakh has been allocated as stipends for these students. Expressing her happiness over these initiatives, Anam Arunamma urged the School Education and Comprehensive Education Departments to take necessary steps to enroll more disabled students in Bhavita Centers, ensuring they receive education and essential support to secure a better future.

## TIHAR JAIL TO MOVE NEW SITE

# Asia's Biggest Prison Held Many Top Inmates

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Delhi government has announced plans to shift Tihar Jail, South Asia's largest prison complex, to the outskirts of the national capital to alleviate severe overcrowding. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, in her Budget speech on March 25, allocated ₹10 crore for survey and consultancy services related to the relocation.

"In order to decongest the existing Tihar Jail Complex for the welfare of prisoners, a new scheme for the development of a new Jail Complex by shifting the existing Tihar Jail Complex to another location has been formulated," Gupta said while presenting the budget in the assembly.

The relocation is part of the ₹1 lakh crore budget presented by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government after securing power in Delhi following 27 years. The move comes as the prison, designed to house around 10,025 inmates, currently accommodates over 19,000, leading to severe congestion and security challenges.

### History of Tihar Jail

Established in 1958, Tihar Jail, officially known as Tihar Prisons, was initially a small facility meant to house convicts from Delhi. It functioned under Punjab's administrative control until 1966, when it was transferred to the Delhi administration. Over the years, as Delhi's crime rate increased, the jail expanded into a sprawling complex spanning over 400 acres, with nine prisons in total—six in Mandoli, one in Rohini, and the rest in Tihar.

Located in West Delhi, near Tilak Nagar and Hari Nagar, Tihar Jail has long struggled with overcrowding. The Delhi government has been working on new prison complexes in Narela to address the issue, and sources indicate that an alternative site for relocation is being sought.



### Infamous inmates of Tihar Jail

Tihar Jail has housed several high-profile inmates, including political figures, activists, and criminals. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, along with his colleagues Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh, and Satyendar Jain, were imprisoned in Tihar in connection with the Delhi Liquor Policy case.

Other notorious inmates include gangster Chhota Rajan, former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav (fodder scam case), international serial killer Charles Sobhraj, and Kashmiri separatists Afzal Guru and Maqbool Bhat, both of whom were executed in Tihar.

Prominent political figures such as former Union Minister P. Chidambaram, Karnataka Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, and anti-corruption activist Anna Hazare have also spent time in Tihar. Business tycoon Subrata Roy and Olympian wrestler Sushil Kumar are among other well-known inmates.

The recently released Netflix crime drama *Black Warrant*, based on the book of the same name, depicts the

harsh realities of life inside Tihar Jail. The series follows the experiences of a jailer, played by Zahan Kapoor, highlighting the complex dynamics of India's most infamous prison.

### Where will Tihar Jail be shifted?

Authorities have been scouting for locations to relocate the jail. Initially, a request was made for land in Baprola, but due to encroachments, it was deemed unsuitable. Tihar Jail officials have now written to the Delhi government to provide 100 acres of land elsewhere. Currently, Tihar's Jail Numbers 1 to 9 are designed for around 5,000 inmates but house over 12,000 prisoners. Meanwhile, Jail Numbers 10 to 16, meant for 3,700 inmates, currently accommodate over 3,900. Certain jails, such as Jail Number 4 in Tihar and Jail Number 12 in Mandoli, function as Mulaija Jails for first-time offenders, yet remain overcrowded.

In her budget presentation, Chief Minister Gupta also announced the formation of a new society under the Delhi Jail administration to oversee the welfare and rehabilitation of prisoners.



## Proof of Citizenship to Vote Trump's New Order and the Future of US Elections

TPN | G Avinash

**Hyderabad, March 27:** Donald Trump's new executive order requiring proof of citizenship to vote in federal elections has sparked intense debate. The move, which also mandates that all ballots be received by Election Day, is being hailed by some as a necessary step toward election integrity, while critics argue it could lead to voter suppression. Regardless of where one stands, one undeniable fact remains—every democratic nation has its own rules for conducting elections, and the US, which often lectures other countries on electoral fairness, has long operated under a system that lacks a fundamental safeguard present in many democracies: proof of citizenship for voting.

### The Case for Proof of Citizenship

In most democratic nations, voters are required to present official identification or proof of citizenship to participate in elections. Whether in India, Germany, or Canada, national voter ID systems are commonplace and widely accepted as essential tools to prevent fraud. Strangely, the US has lagged behind in this regard, allowing voter registration with minimal verification, a practice that has raised concerns over election security. Trump's executive order addresses these concerns by enforcing citizenship verification and tightening ballot submission deadlines. The directive also compels federal agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration to share data with election officials to identify non-citizens on voter rolls. If implemented effectively, this could prevent fraudulent voting and restore faith in the electoral process.

### US Elections: A Double Standard?

The irony in this situation is that while the US government has frequently criticized other countries for their electoral processes, it has failed to establish basic voting safeguards at home. Even more puzzling is that Democrats, who often advocate for transparency and fairness, have opposed voter ID laws and even pushed for measures that would allow non-citizens to vote in elections. This contradiction raises a crucial question: How can the US claim to be the beacon of democracy while neglecting fundamental election integrity measures?

For years, Democrats and their allies have argued that requiring proof of citizenship would disenfranchise marginalized communities. However, a 2023 report by the Brennan Center for Justice suggested that nearly 21.3 million US citizens of voting age lack immediate access to proof of citizenship documents. While this is a legitimate concern, it is not insurmountable. Instead of opposing ID laws altogether, efforts should be made to provide accessible and free documentation for all eligible voters.

### Legal Challenges Ahead

Trump's order is expected to face legal opposition, as the US Constitution grants states the primary authority over elections. While Congress has intervened in election matters through acts like the Voting Rights Act, the states remain in control of setting rules for voter registration and ballot access. This means that states unwilling to comply with Trump's directive could challenge it in court, leading to another prolonged battle over election laws.

### Is Trump's Move Good or Bad for Democracy?

Love him or hate him, Trump's decision at least makes logical sense. Every democratic country has rules to ensure election integrity, and the US should be no different. While implementation must be done carefully to avoid disenfranchising voters, ensuring that only US citizens vote in federal elections is not an unreasonable expectation. If anything, it might just be the first step toward making American elections as fair and transparent as the country claims they are.

The debate over voter ID laws will continue, but one thing is certain: Trump's move forces the US to address the contradictions in its electoral system. Whether this leads to stronger, more credible elections or an intensification of political battles remains to be seen.

### India is The Right Example for The World

India, with a population of over 1.4 billion people and around 968 million eligible voters, sets a remarkable example of how elections should be conducted. In the 2024 general elections, around 642 million people exercised their fundamental right to vote, in this 312 million women voters, demonstrating a high level of civic responsibility. Despite the vast and diverse geography, elections are held efficiently across remote areas with polling booths reaching every corner of the country. India's Election Commission ensures results are delivered on time without delay, setting a global standard for free and fair elections. While China and Russia follow predictable outcomes, and Western nations struggle with outdated processes, it is India that exemplifies how a democracy should function. As the world's fifth-largest economy, India's electoral success should serve as a model for other nations instead of being on the receiving end of lectures on democracy from those who fail to uphold the same standards.

## Will Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra Resume?

The recent diplomatic engagement between India and China at the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) meeting in Beijing has reignited discussions on the future of cross-border exchanges, including the much-awaited resumption of the Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra. This development, coupled with efforts for better border management, signals a cautious yet notable shift towards stability in India-China relations. However, the larger question remains—can this be a real breakthrough, or is it another diplomatic effort that may fall short of expectations?

### A Renewed Diplomatic Push

The 33rd WMCC meeting saw India and China emphasizing the need for peace at the border as a prerequisite for normalizing bilateral ties. This marks a continuation of the efforts initiated by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi during their Special Representatives (SR) dialogue in December 2024. The meeting also followed Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's recent visit to Beijing, reflecting India's sustained engagement with China on border and diplomatic matters. The discussions were led by Joint Secretary (East Asia) Gourangalal Das from the Indian side and Hong Liang, Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Affairs Department of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The focus remained on effective border management and strengthening diplomatic and military mechanisms, which are essential given the longstanding tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), particularly in eastern Ladakh.

### Border Management and Military Stability

One of the critical aspects discussed in



the meeting was the situation along the LAC, where both India and China have stationed approximately 50,000 to 60,000 troops. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) highlighted the necessity of maintaining peace and stability in these areas, underscoring that border tranquillity is crucial for fostering broader bilateral cooperation. Interestingly, China's ambassador to India, Xu Feihong, took to social media platform X to share insights into the meeting. He mentioned that both sides engaged in a "comprehensive and in-depth exchange of views" on implementing decisions made in the SR meeting. He further stated that both nations are working on "concrete and effective measures" to ensure long-term stability in the border regions.

### The Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra

Among the most anticipated outcomes of these diplomatic engagements is the potential resumption of the Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra, a significant pilgrimage for Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains. The Yatra was suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions and escalating tensions following the Galwan Valley clash in 2020. Restoring this pilgrimage route would not just be a goodwill gesture but also an indication of improving India-China relations. The decision to restart cross-border ex-

changes, including the pilgrimage and discussions on trans-border river cooperation, showcases a willingness to rebuild trust. However, the skepticism remains—will China's commitment to this dialogue translate into tangible action, or will it remain a strategic maneuver to ease tensions without addressing core issues?

### The Road Ahead

While the WMCC meeting and the possible resumption of the Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra are positive steps, they are not enough to resolve the deep-rooted tensions between India and China. Future engagements must focus on sustained trust-building measures, verifiable military disengagement, and increased transparency in diplomatic negotiations. India must continue its strategic patience while ensuring that border stability does not come at the cost of its security interests. China, too, needs to demonstrate a genuine commitment to peaceful coexistence, as mere diplomatic gestures without meaningful action will not lead to a long-term resolution. For now, the WMCC meeting offers a glimmer of hope, but whether it paves the way for lasting peace or remains another chapter in the complex India-China equation is something that only time will tell.

# Adani Green Energy Gallery Attracts 7 Lakh Visitors to London's Science Museum

The Adani Green Energy Gallery' at the Science Museum in London has drawn an impressive 7 lakh visitors in its first year, showcasing groundbreaking technologies aimed at creating a low-carbon future. Sponsored by Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) and curated by the Science Museum, the gallery was inaugurated on March 26, 2024, by Gautam Adani, Chairman of Adani Green Energy.

The gallery, which offers free entry, explores renewable energy's critical role in combating climate change. It highlights how the world can generate and utilize energy sustainably to accelerate the shift toward decarbonization. In a statement, AGEL revealed that within just one year, 700,000 visitors had explored the exhibit, emphasizing the public's growing interest in sustainable energy solutions.

Over the past year, the gallery has hosted more than 40 guided tours for prominent organizations, including the Climate Change Committee, the Met Office, the World Energy Council, Unverscience, and various UK Government departments. These curator-led tours have provided deep insights into the rapid energy transition and the urgent need for decarbonization to mitigate climate change's effects.

Recognized for its commitment to sustainability, the gallery won the prestigious 2024 Brick Awards in the innovation category for its groundbreaking low-carbon brick bench. The exhibit features the world's first 100% hydrogen-fired brick, showcasing an innovative approach to sustainable manufacturing. This unique bench serves as a testament to how the construction industry can significantly reduce carbon emissions, demonstrating an 81-84% reduction in emissions compared to traditional natural gas-fired brick production.

One of the gallery's standout features is its decarbonization tracker exhibit, which measures the carbon intensity of Britain's electricity supply. This exhibit tracks how many grams of carbon dioxide (CO2) were emitted per unit of electricity generated each year. According to the latest data, the UK achieved a record low in CO2 emissions per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity supplied in 2024. The exhibit will continue to track emissions data up to 2035, offering valuable insights into the country's progress toward a cleaner energy future.

Designed by award-winning architectural firm Unknown Works, the gallery empha-



sizes sustainability in its construction. Key elements of the design include the reuse of redundant shelves from the Science Museum's former object store and the incorporation of recyclable aluminum to minimize environmental impact. The gallery's carbon footprint has been meticulously monitored to ensure adherence to eco-friendly practices.

As one of the world's leading renewable energy companies, AGEL boasts an operation-

al portfolio exceeding 13 gigawatts across wind, solar, and hybrid renewable energy sources. The company remains committed to advancing global net-zero goals and driving meaningful change in the renewable energy sector.

The gallery continues to serve as an important educational platform, fostering awareness about climate science and inspiring visitors to explore solutions for a sustainable energy future.



## India Rejects US Religious Freedom Report, Labels USCIRF 'Entity of Concern'

India has firmly dismissed the latest report from the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), calling it biased, politically motivated, and a misrepresentation of India's religious landscape. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) expressed strong disapproval, emphasizing that the commission's assessments were not only inaccurate but also undermined India's democratic principles and pluralistic society.

The MEA's spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, addressed the media, stating that the USCIRF's 2025 Annual Report continued a long-standing pattern of issuing assessments that were neither fair nor objective. According to Jaiswal, the USCIRF's report "misrepresents isolated incidents" and projects them in a way that casts doubt on India's commitment to religious freedom. The Indian government also accused the USCIRF of pursuing a politically motivated agenda rather than addressing genuine concerns about religious freedom in India.

India, with a population of 1.4 billion people practicing various religions, including Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, and others, prides itself on its diversity and multicultural fabric. The MEA emphasized that India's pluralistic framework, which supports harmonious coexistence of its many communities, was a testament to the country's respect for religious freedom.

The MEA spokesperson went on to state that the USCIRF's report failed to acknowledge the reality of this framework, choosing instead to focus on isolated incidents that did not reflect the broader societal context. India's government further criticized the commission for being unwilling to engage with the country's constitutional safeguards, which ensure religious freedom and protect minorities. The government's response suggested that such biased assessments not only misrepresented India but also undermined the country's standing as a global beacon of democracy and tolerance.

For years, the Indian government has rejected similar reports from the USCIRF, accusing the panel of being influenced by external political and geopolitical factors rather than providing an impartial review of the situation. The government also pointed out that the USCIRF's methods were flawed, relying on unreliable sources, and ignored India's legal framework that upholds religious freedoms. India's response to the 2025 USCIRF report underscores the country's growing frustration with external criticism, particularly when such reports fail to acknowledge the complex, pluralistic nature of Indian society. The MEA concluded by stating that it was the USCIRF, rather than India, that should be considered an "entity of concern" in the context of its politically-driven assessments.

# Parliament Budget Key Discussions and Legislative Moves

- **Rahul Gandhi denied speaking opportunity in Lok Sabha.**
- **Congress MPs meet Speaker over protest.**
- **Lok Sabha debates Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill.**
- **Rajya Sabha discusses Banking Laws Amendment Bill.**
- **Lok Sabha passes Finance and Boilers Bills.**



The Budget Session of Parliament continued with significant discussions on March 26, 2025, in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The

session was marked by heated exchanges and legislative progress on key bills. In the Lok Sabha, Speaker Om Bir-

la adjourned the House before lunch, urging members to follow the procedures expected to uphold the House's dignity. This came after Congress Leader of Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, tried to raise an issue, prompting the Speaker to take action. Subsequently, several Congress MPs, including Deputy Leader Gaurav Gogoi, General Secretary K.C. Venugopal, and Whip Manickam Tagore, met the Speaker to protest the denial of an opportunity for Rahul Gandhi to speak.

The Lower House also discussed the Tribhuvan Sahkari University Bill, 2025, with debates expected on its provisions. Additionally, Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal is set to introduce the Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Goa's Assembly Constituencies Bill, 2024, to address the concerns

regarding the representation of Scheduled Tribes in Goa's legislative assembly.

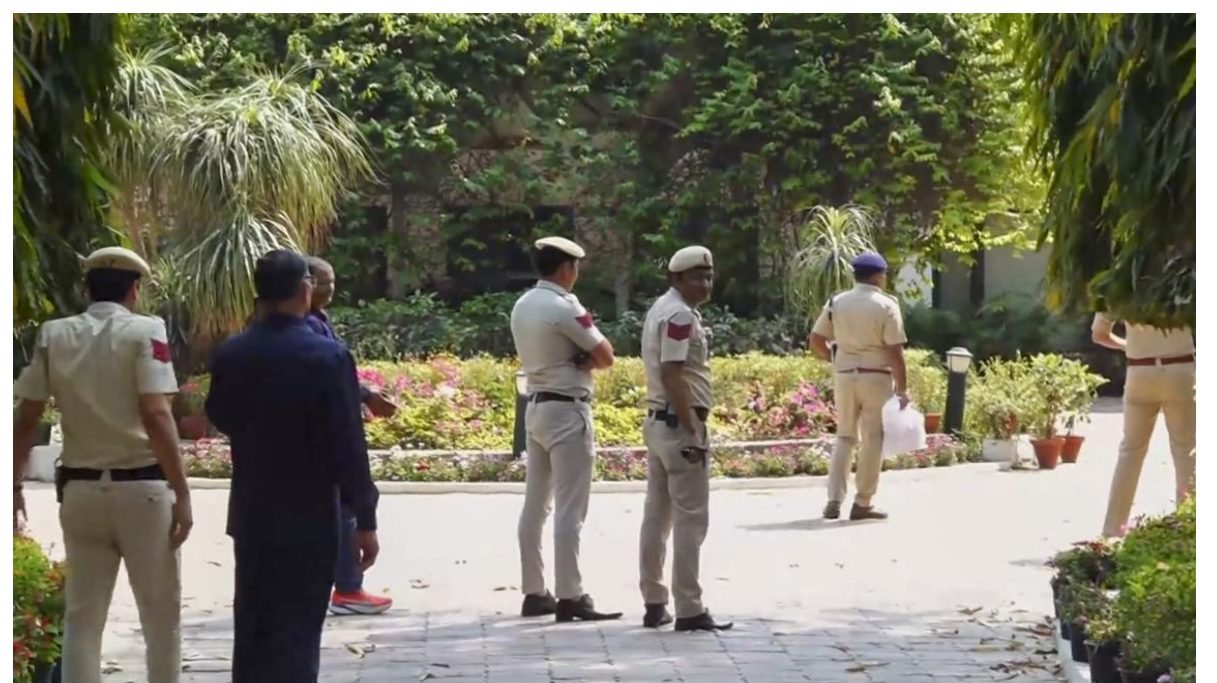
In the Rajya Sabha, discussions shifted to the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which is being debated for potential changes to the banking sector. The Rajya Sabha also scheduled deliberations on the working of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Both Houses had a relatively smooth day of functioning on March 25, 2025. The Lok Sabha successfully passed the Finance Bill, 2025, and the Boilers Bill, 2024, while the Rajya Sabha passed the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024. These legislative moves reflect the government's continued focus on financial reforms and disaster management improvements.

## Cash Found at Justice Varma's Residence, Police Investigate

A team of Delhi Police officers, led by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) from New Delhi, visited the residence of Delhi High Court Judge Justice Yashwant Varma on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, following reports of cash being found at his house in connection with an ongoing investigation. According to official sources, the police team arrived at Justice Varma's residence around 1:50 p.m. and spent approximately two hours at the location. The visit was reportedly linked to an investigation that began after a fire broke out at Justice Varma's home, during which the alleged discovery of cash was made. While the police team was at the house, they did not engage with the media, and no public statements were issued during or after their visit. After completing their inspection, the police team left

Justice Varma's residence and returned to the Tughlaq Road Police Station for further proceedings. The specific details of the cash found and the investigation remain unclear, and no further information has been released by the police at this stage. The authorities are expected to provide more details as the investigation progresses. This incident has raised questions regarding the circumstances surrounding the fire and the discovery of cash at the residence of a sitting high court judge. However, for now, the police are continuing their inquiry and have refrained from making any public comments on the matter. The situation has attracted attention, given the sensitive nature of the case involving a prominent judiciary figure, and it remains to be seen how the investigation unfolds in the coming days.



# "Entity Of Concern": India Shreds US Religious Freedom Body Over Demand To Sanction RAW

- India slams USCIRF for biased, politically motivated claims on minority rights.
- MEA rejects allegations of religious intolerance and misrepresentation of facts.
- Sanctions on R&AW dismissed, calls on US to ignore unfounded accusations.

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

India has strongly rebutted the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) following its annual report that criticized the treatment of minorities in India. In a scathing statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), New Delhi accused the USCIRF of issuing biased, politically motivated assessments and misrepresenting facts.

The MEA expressed concern over the report's claims that religious minorities in India face deteriorating conditions. It particularly objected to the panel's recommendation of sanctions on India's external intelligence agency, R&AW, over its alleged involvement in assassination plots targeting 'Khalistani' separatists and extremists overseas.

"We have seen the recently released 2025 Annual Report of the USCIRF, which once again continues its pattern of issuing biased and politically motivated assessments," the In-



dian government said. The MEA questioned the authenticity of the panel's claims, suggesting that the USCIRF's evaluations were driven by an agenda rather than genuine concern for religious freedom.

India further criticized the USCIRF for distorting isolated incidents to undermine India's image as a multicultural society. "The

USCIRF's persistent attempts to misrepresent isolated incidents and cast aspersions on India's vibrant multicultural society reflect a deliberate agenda," the foreign ministry said. It also emphasized India's pluralistic framework, highlighting that the country is home to 1.4 billion people practicing a wide range of religions, but expressed no expectation that the USCIRF would recognize this harmonious coexistence.

Labeling the USCIRF as "an entity of concern," the Indian government made it clear that such efforts to undermine India's democracy and tolerance would not succeed. The statement further added that despite the recommendations, it is unlikely that the US government would sanction R&AW, as the USCIRF's views are non-binding.

The USCIRF report also alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling BJP propagated "hateful rhetoric" against Muslims and other religious minorities, a claim that India firmly rejected.



## "Clear Signal" Moscow Not Pursuing Real Peace: Zelensky On Russian Strikes Condemns Russian Drone Attacks After Black Sea Ceasefire Agreement

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky sharply criticized Russia's latest wave of drone attacks, which saw over 100 drones launched overnight, just hours after tentative agreements for a Black Sea ceasefire were brokered. Zelensky's remarks came after the United States announced it had facilitated ceasefire discussions between the two sides in Saudi Arabia, with former President Donald Trump calling for a swift resolution to the ongoing conflict, which has now persisted for over three years.

Despite these diplomatic efforts, implementation of the ceasefire remained uncertain, as the Kremlin stated that the agreement to halt attacks on the Black Sea could only be enforced if restrictions on its agricultural sector were lifted. This condition raised doubts about the feasibility of the ceasefire taking effect anytime soon.

Zelensky condemned Russia's actions, stating that the large-scale drone strikes following ceasefire negotiations sent a clear message to the world: Moscow was not committed to pursuing genuine peace. "Launching such large-scale attacks after ceasefire negotiations is a clear signal to the whole world that Moscow is not going to pursue real peace," he wrote on social media.

Overnight, Russia launched 117 drones at Ukrainian targets, of which 56 were shot down, and 48 disappeared from radar without causing significant damage, according to Ukraine's air force. However, the strikes still inflicted damage on buildings in the central city of Kryvyi Rig and in the border region of Sumy, where images of burning structures were shared by local authorities.

The frontline areas also continued to suffer attacks, with the eastern Donetsk region reporting the deaths of three individuals in the past 24 hours, according to regional governor Vadym Filashkin. Zelensky called for stronger international pressure on Russia, urging more sanctions and robust action, particularly from the United States, to stop the ongoing strikes.

As the conflict continues, Zelensky emphasized the need for the world to act decisively to hold Russia accountable and stop the escalation of violence.

## Hostages To Return "In Coffins" If Israel Tries To Free Them By Force: Hamas

TPN Correspondent | Doha

Hamas has issued a stern warning on Wednesday, stating that hostages could be killed if Israel continues its attempts to retrieve them by force while airstrikes persist in the Gaza Strip. In a statement, the Palestinian militant group expressed concern over the safety of the captives, saying, "Every time the occupation attempts to retrieve its captives by force, it ends up bringing them back in coffins." The group claimed it was doing everything possible to keep the hostages alive, but warned that Israeli airstrikes were endangering their lives. Israel resumed its airstrikes and launched ground operations in Gaza last week, following a period of relative calm under a ceasefire that had been in place since January. These actions have resulted in a significant escalation of violence.

Since Israel renewed its military operations, at least 830 Palestinians have been reported killed, according to Gaza's health ministry, which operates under Hamas. The violence comes on the heels of the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel that killed 1,218 people, mostly civilians, according to official figures. Israel's ongoing military offensive has resulted in devastating casualties in Gaza. According to the health ministry in the Hamas-controlled territory, the toll has reached at least 50,183 Palestinian deaths, the majority of whom are civilians. The current escalation follows the violent and deadly events of October 7 and continues to wreak havoc in the region, with no sign of a peaceful resolution in sight.



## US Lawmakers Push for Sanctions on Pakistan Army Chief and Demand Release of Imran Khan

TPN Correspondent | New York

Two US lawmakers have introduced a bipartisan bill seeking to impose sanctions on Pakistan's Army Chief, General Asim Munir, accusing him of engaging in the wrongful persecution and imprisonment of political opponents, including former Prime Minister Imran Khan. The bill, named the "Pakistan Democracy Act," was introduced on Monday by Republican Representative Joe Wilson from South Carolina and Democratic Representative Jimmy Panetta from California.

The legislation accuses General Munir of "knowingly engaging in the wrongful persecution and imprisonment of political opponents," and seeks to impose sanctions on the military leader under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act. The proposed sanctions would include restrictions such as denial of entry into the United States and ineligibility for US visas. The bill also calls for identifying other individuals responsible for the alleged persecution and applying similar restrictions to them.

The bill gives the US President the authority to lift the sanctions if certain conditions are met, including the end of military rule in Pakistan, the restoration of rule of law, and a civilian-led democracy. Additionally, the release of all wrongfully detained political prisoners, including Imran Khan, would be a prerequisite for lifting the sanctions.

Representative Joe Wilson, in support of the bill, referred to Imran Khan, 72, as a "political prisoner" and blamed Pakistan's powerful military for his "unjust detention." The introduction of the bill comes amidst growing international pressure on Pakistan regarding its treatment of political opponents, particularly following Khan's imprisonment and the ongoing political turmoil in the country.

This move signals increasing concerns in the US over human rights violations in Pakistan and the role of the military in suppressing political dissent. The bill's passage could significantly impact US-Pakistan relations, especially if the sanctions are enforced.

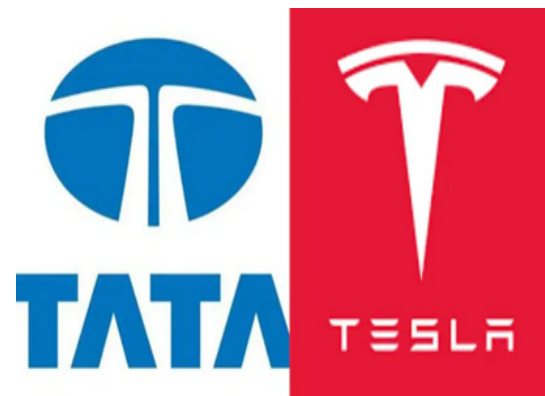
## Tata Group Now Tesla's Global Supplier, Eyes Role In India Expansion

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Tata Group has reportedly become a global supplier for Elon Musk's electric vehicle (EV) company, Tesla. Several Tata firms, including Tata Technologies, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Tata AutoComp, and Tata Electronics, are now integral to Tesla's supply chain, according to a report by The Economic Times (ET). These companies have signed global agreements to supply critical components and services to Tesla, which holds a significant share of the global automotive market.

In the fiscal year 2024, Tata firms contributed approximately \$2 billion worth of supplies to Tesla, including components such as castings, forgings, electronics, and fabricated parts. As Tesla looks to diversify its supply chain, the sourcing from India is expected to increase in the future.

With Tesla exploring the possibility of setting up a manufacturing unit in India, Tata Group is positioning itself to capitalize on expanded opportunities. Tesla has been in



talks with Indian suppliers about establishing facilities near their existing manufacturing centers to strengthen the supply ecosystem. Industry sources indicated that once Tesla starts manufacturing in India, it is expected that Indian suppliers, including those from Tata, will benefit from increased sourcing opportunities.

Tesla's expansion plans in India are under careful evaluation, with the company considering various factors such as government incentives, tax benefits, and potential duty waivers before finalizing its decision.

The EV giant is reportedly in talks with multiple states, including Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Telangana, to assess suitable locations for a production facility.

If Tesla moves forward with its plans, Tata Group's role in the supply chain could further grow. Tata companies such as Tata AutoComp, Tata Technologies, TCS, and Tata Electronics provide specialized EV products, product lifecycle management services, circuit-board technologies, and chips, respectively. These contributions are crucial to Tesla's production of advanced electric vehicle components.

While Tesla maintains strict non-disclosure agreements with its suppliers, it is expected to source key components like electric motors, wiring harnesses, suspension systems, and electronic components from Tata, particularly for Tesla's battery management systems and motor controllers. The growing collaboration between Tata Group and Tesla could strengthen India's position as a key player in the global EV supply chain.



# Markets Tumble as Profit Booking and Global Cues Weigh on Sentiment



Market breadth on NSE today completely shifted in favour of sellers. Out of 2985 stocks traded, only 622 gained. 2303 lost. 52 shares hit 32-week highs. 187 shares hit 52-week lows. 52 shares touched the upper circuit and 180 shares touched the lower circuit.

25 lakh shares changed hands in NMDC. Cult Fit has reportedly selected five banks as lead bankers for the IPO. Bharti Airtel has paid additional spectrum dues of Rs 6000 crore in advance. LTI Mindtree has expanded its partnership with Arenco Group. Hinduja Leyland has approved allotment of one crore shares to Ashok Leyland at Rs 200 each. Shares of Awas Finance, SBI Card and Chambal Fertilizers hit 52-week highs. Julian Bear's Mark Matthews said that \$10 billion in US tariffs will do nothing for the \$4 trillion Indian economy. Banks may cut interest rates from April. NetWeb shares have fallen 37% in 6 months. Bharti Airtel launched IPTV services in 2000 cities. Shares of Amara Raja and Exide rose after the inclusion of lithium-ion batteries in the list of core auto components. LT received orders worth Rs 15,000 crore from different companies.

**HCL Technologies :**  
HCL Technologies has scheduled its Q4 FY2024 results announcement for May 2025. The company has consistently demonstrated robust financial



performance in previous quarters. Investors are keenly awaiting the upcoming results to assess the company's growth trajectory.

**Bharti Airtel :**



In Q2 FY2024, Bharti Airtel reported a consolidated net profit of ₹3,593 crore, a 168% year-on-year increase, driven by tariff hikes. The average revenue per user (ARPU) rose to ₹233 during this period. The Q3 FY2024 results are anticipated to be announced on February 6, 2025.

**Siemens India :**  
For Q1 FY2024, Siemens India reported a 21.6% year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit, reaching ₹426.8 crore, despite a slight decline



in revenue. The company's strategic initiatives and operational efficiencies have contributed to this profit growth.



**Ambuja Cements :**  
Ambuja Cements' Q3 FY2024 results, announced on January 29, 2025, indicated a net sales figure of ₹5,043.18 crore, reflecting the company's steady market presence. Detailed financial metrics and performance indicators were provided in the official release.

**Varun Beverages :**  
In Q1 CY2024, Varun Beverages reported significant growth, with net sales increasing to ₹5,043.18 crore. The company's expansion strategies and increased market penetration have contributed to this upward trend.



Domestic stock markets, which started flat today, ended with heavy losses. Mixed signals from global markets, benchmark indices touching key resistance levels, investors booking profits, Donald Trump's tariffs coming into effect from April 2, and US GDP figures are due. Investors started selling from intraday highs. Shares in media, realty, oil, healthcare and PSE sectors were volatile. Overall, Nifty 181 points and Sensex lost 728 points.



intraday high of 78,167. It ended at 77,288, down 728 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,700, touched a low of 23,451 and a high of 23,736. It closed at 23,486, down 181 points. The Nifty Bank lost 398 points and settled at 51,209.

In the Nifty50, 9 companies gained and 41 lost. Media, realty, healthcare, oil, PSE, PSU bank, CPSE, IT, finance, pharma, commodities, private bank and energy stocks were the top gainers. IndusInd, Trent, Hero Moto, Gramsim, Power Grid were the top gainers. NTPC, Tech Mahindra, Cipla, Bajaj Finance and Axis Bank were the biggest losers.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 78,017 in the previous session, opened at 78,021 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 77,194. It reached an

## Indian Stock Markets and Rupee Recover All Losses in 2025



two rate cuts in 2025 have further boosted investor confidence.

On Monday, the 30-share Sensex surged by 1,078.87 points, reaching a six-week high of 77,984.38. During the day, it briefly rose 1.56% to 78,107.23. The 50-share Nifty also climbed by 307.95 points to 23,658.35, reflecting strong market momentum. In March alone, the Sensex gained 4,786.28 points, or 6.53%, and in just six trading days, it added more than Rs 27 lakh crore to investors' wealth.

In contrast, February saw a decline of 5.55%, and January recorded a small dip of 0.81%. The recent rally has been driven by value buying, with valuations returning to long-term averages and early signs of earnings growth recovery emerging.

The Indian stock markets and the rupee have successfully recovered all their losses in 2025, as investor sentiment improved significantly. On Monday, the benchmark indices, BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty, rose by 1.4% and 1.32%, respectively, as foreign institutional investors (FIIs) turned net buyers. The rupee also extended its gains for the seventh consecutive session, appreciating by 31 paise to close at 85.67 against the US dollar, bolstered by lower global crude prices and a weakened greenback.

FIIs' return to the Indian markets after a prolonged period of selling, coupled with bargain hunting at lower levels and better valuations, has supported the rally. Additionally, the Federal Reserve's signals of

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Ltd., noted that increased government spending and expectations of monetary easing are likely to drive growth in rate-sensitive sectors such as banking, NBFCs, autos, consumer durables, and real estate. These sectors are expected to outperform in the near future. However, the sustainability of the rally will depend on upcoming economic data, including PMI figures and Q4 earnings.

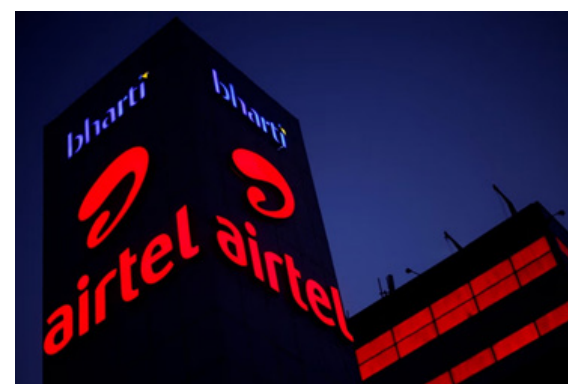
The broader market also saw positive movement, with the BSE midcap and smallcap indices rising by 1.32% and 1.17%, respectively. All sectoral indices closed higher, with the banking sector leading the charge, up 2.53%.

## Bharti Airtel Prepays Additional Rs 5,985 Crore in High-Cost Spectrum Liabilities

Bharti Airtel, alongside its subsidiary Bharti Hexacom, has prepaid an additional Rs 5,985 crore of high-cost spectrum liabilities to the Department of Telecom (DoT), further reducing its debt burden, the telecom giant announced on Wednesday. Airtel stated that the prepayment of these liabilities, related to the 2024 auctions, has fully settled the high-interest debt of 8.65%. As part of its broader financial strategy, Airtel's subsidiary, Network i2i Ltd, has also voluntarily redeemed \$1 billion worth of perpetual debt securities.

Airtel emphasized its commitment to financial prudence and operational efficiency, noting that these prepayments contribute to a reduction in both its debt and the cost of debt. So far, Airtel has prepaid Rs 25,981 crore of spectrum liabilities for the fiscal year 2025, bringing the total amount prepaid to Rs 66,665 crore. This is part of Airtel's ongoing effort to lower its debt load, with the prepayments made roughly seven years ahead of their original maturities.

The company pointed out that the interest rates on the prepaid spectrum liabilities averaged 9.74%, with previous prepayments clearing debts carrying interest rates of up to 10%. These proactive prepayments have



eliminated Rs 1,16,405 crore in scheduled instalments that would otherwise have been payable over the remaining tenure of the liabilities. As a result of these actions, Airtel has reduced its cost of debt on the residual spectrum liabilities to approximately 7.22%, based on the remaining Rs 52,000 crore in spectrum dues. These liabilities are set to be paid off in annual instalments until FY 2042.

Additionally, Airtel's subsidiary, Network i2i, has exercised its call option to redeem \$1 billion in perpetual notes, which had an interest rate of 5.65%. After this redemption, Airtel will have approximately \$479 million in outstanding perpetual notes, which are callable in FY 2026.

## India's Fuel Consumption Declines in February 2025 Amid Shift to Alternative Fuels

India's fuel consumption saw a noticeable decline in February 2025, primarily driven by a growing shift towards alternative fuel sources like electric vehicles (EVs) and compressed natural gas (CNG), according to a report by SBI Securities.

The report revealed that petrol consumption in India fell to a 12-month low of 3.1 million metric tonnes (MMT) in February, marking a 5.4% decline compared to the previous month. However, when

compared to February 2024, petrol consumption was still 3.5% higher on a year-on-year (YoY) basis. Despite the monthly decline, this was the lowest petrol consumption recorded in the current financial year. In contrast, May 2024 had witnessed the highest petrol consumption at 3.4 MMT.

The shift in fuel consumption patterns is attributed to the increasing adoption of electric vehicles and CNG, especially in the light commercial vehicle segment, which

traditionally relied heavily on diesel. Diesel consumption, a key fuel for transportation and industrial activities, also saw a drop in February 2025. Diesel usage stood at 7.3 MMT, marking a 5.1% drop month-on-month (MoM) and a 1.2% decrease compared to February 2024.

The decline in diesel demand highlights a significant change in the fuel mix, with alternative energy sources like electric vehicles gaining traction across the country. The ongoing transition to EVs and

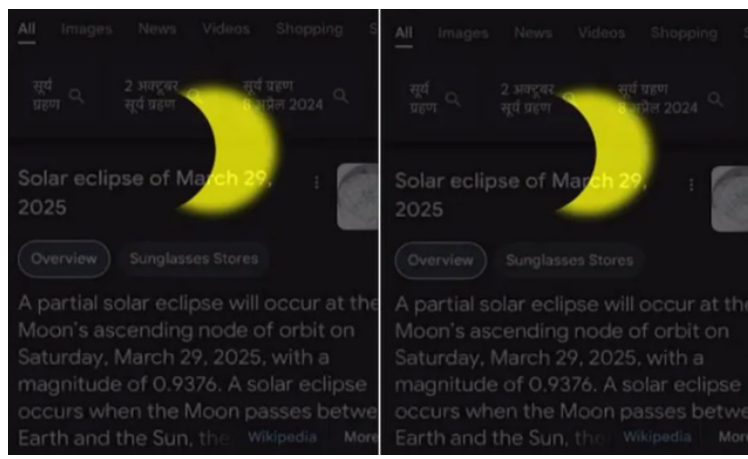
CNG in the commercial sector, coupled with growing environmental awareness and government incentives, has contributed to the decrease in traditional fuel consumption.

As more consumers and businesses move towards sustainable energy solutions, the trend of reduced petrol and diesel consumption is expected to continue, signaling a shift towards greener alternatives in India's transportation and energy sectors.



## Google Celebrates March 29 Solar Eclipse with Special Animation

Google is gearing up for the much-anticipated total solar eclipse on March 29, 2025, with a special interactive Doodle. Users searching for eclipse-related terms, such as “solar eclipse,” “solar eclipse 2025,” or “total solar eclipse” on Google, will be treated to a unique animated overlay illustrating the celestial event. The animation visually depicts the moment when the moon passes between the Earth and the Sun, blocking sunlight and revealing the Sun’s corona, its outermost layer. The Doodle, which will appear as an overlay on the search results page, serves as an engaging way for users to learn about this remarkable astronomical event. It offers a vivid de-



picture of the eclipse, where the Moon will obscure the Sun, and users will get a glimpse of the Sun’s corona – a feature visible only during a total solar eclipse.

### Visibility of the Solar Eclipse

While the solar eclipse will be a spectacle for many, it

won’t be visible from India. This total solar eclipse is expected to be partially visible in several regions across Europe, Asia, Africa, North America, and parts of the Arctic. In India, the eclipse will not be observable due to its specific alignment and the time difference.

The event will occur between 2:20 pm IST and 6:13 pm IST, with the peak of the eclipse at 4:17 pm IST. However, since the Moon’s shadow will not cross India, the country will miss the sight of the eclipse.

### When and Where to View the Eclipse

The eclipse will begin around 4:50 am EDT in the US and will peak at 6:47 am EDT, lasting until 8:43 am EDT. Areas like New York City, Boston, Montreal, Quebec, parts of Europe, and regions in Siberia and Africa will have the best views. This will be the first solar eclipse of 2025, offering a spectacular display for viewers across several continents, even though it will not be visible in India.

## Kozhikode Youths Develop AI-Powered ‘Coco-Bot’ To Solve Kerala’s Coconut Farming Woes

The tradition of climbing coconut trees to harvest coconuts in Kerala is rapidly fading, leaving farmers struggling with labor shortages. Despite initiatives by the Coconut Development Board, which has trained over 32,000 individuals in the past 12 years, only a small fraction of them continue in the profession. In response to this growing crisis, four young innovators from Kozhikode have introduced an AI-powered machine, ‘Coco-Bot’, designed to transform coconut harvesting. While machines for coconut cutting have existed in the past, ‘Coco-Bot’ stands out due to its efficiency and ease of use. Unlike traditional methods that often require multiple workers, this semi-automatic device can be operated by just one person,



providing a practical solution to the labor shortage in the sector. Coconut farmer K. Sadanandan, who has tested the machine, praised its effectiveness, saying, “With Coco-Bot, harvesting coconuts has become remarkably easier. It saves both time and effort.” The inspiration for the

machine came from an unexpected source – the bathroom. In 2020, Ashwin P. Krishna, the founder of ‘Coco-Bot’, was looking at a coconut tree from his balcony when the idea struck him: could an automated machine be developed to harvest coconuts? This thought led him to begin extensive research

and development. After two years of hard work and innovation, the team successfully created the ‘Coco-Bot’, a machine that promises to revolutionize coconut harvesting in Kerala. As the demand for efficient and labor-saving technology grows in agriculture, ‘Coco-Bot’ emerges as a promis-

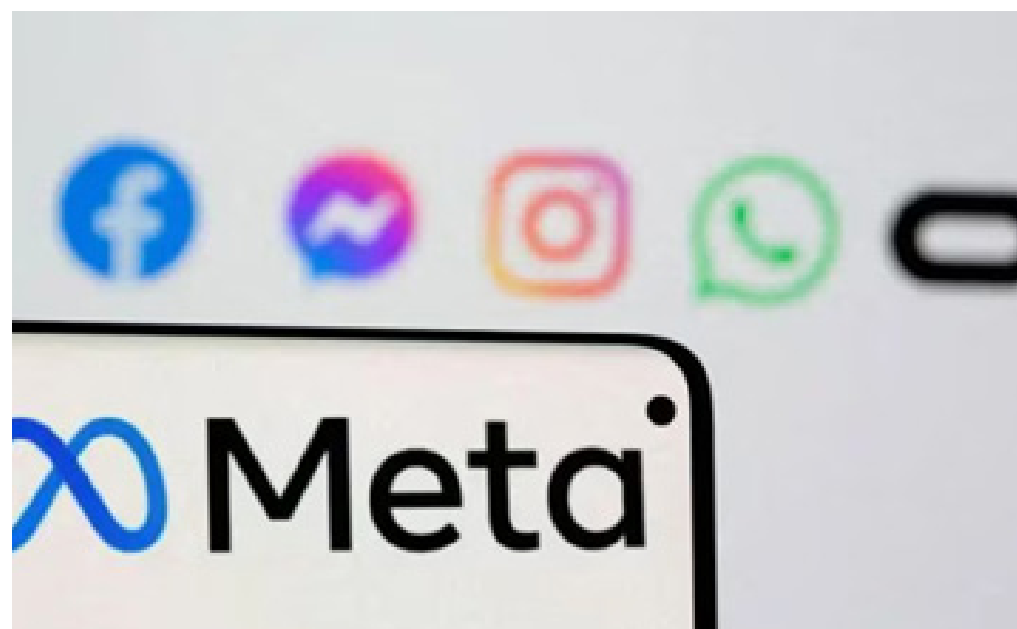
ing solution, offering a glimpse into the future of coconut farming in the state. The machine not only addresses the immediate issues of labor shortages but also provides an easier, more sustainable way to harvest coconuts, ensuring that the industry continues to thrive amidst changing times.

## Facebook and Instagram Restore Services After Widespread Outage

Facebook and Instagram services were briefly disrupted, causing widespread frustration among users. The outage, which appeared to affect millions globally, led to issues with logging in, posting content, and accessing features on both platforms. Many users took to Downtdetector, a website that tracks service disruptions, to report the problems, which seemed particularly prominent in the US and the UK.

For several hours, users across multiple regions experienced being logged out of their accounts and were unable to log back in. Some also encountered errors when trying to refresh their newsfeeds, post content, or send messages. The outage affected both Facebook and Instagram, leaving many unable to interact with the platforms as usual. On Instagram, additional issues included difficulties accessing and engaging with comments, with some users unable to see or interact with comments under posts.

The issue prompted a flood of complaints on social media and downtime tracking sites, as users struggled to use the apps for work, entertainment, and communication. Many of the com-



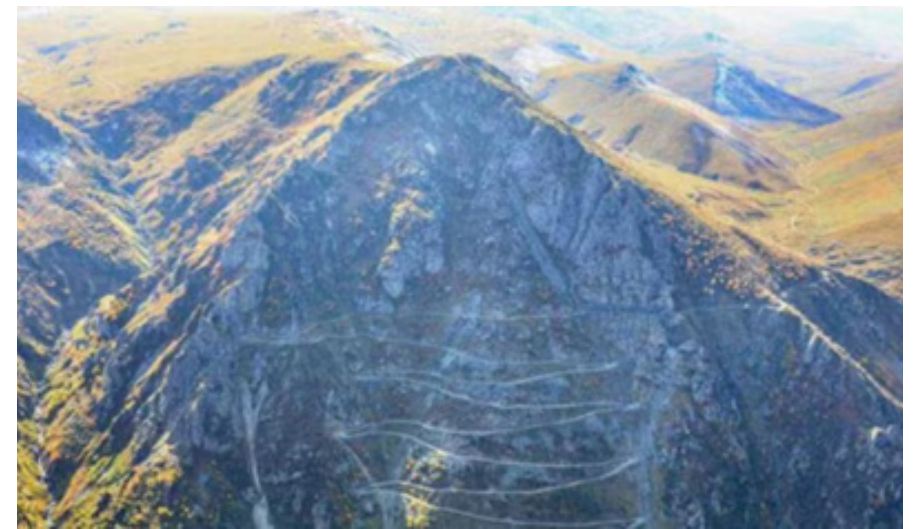
plaints pointed to errors that hindered basic activities, such as viewing, liking, or commenting on posts.

By the following day, services were largely restored, and both platforms confirmed that the issue had been resolved. However, the outage left users questioning the reliability of major social media platforms. Although these platforms have become integral to online communication, disruptions like

these can lead to significant user frustration.

The outage served as a reminder of how reliant people have become on social media platforms, both for personal and professional use. While Facebook and Instagram have not disclosed the cause of the disruption, it highlights the ongoing challenges in maintaining global online services for billions of active users.

## This Is The World’s Most Dangerous Road



Driving on a long, open road can often be a relaxing experience, but some roads are so treacherous that even the most skilled drivers would think twice before venturing onto them. One such road, regarded as the most dangerous in the world, is located in Turkey. The thrill of navigating its perilous mountain passes offers a unique challenge, but it can also be nerve-wracking for those brave enough to attempt the journey.

According to an Audit Central report, the 105-kilometer-long D915 road connects the cities of Of in Trabzon province to Bayburt in eastern Turkey. This route links Turkey’s northeast Anatolia region to the Black Sea, but it has gained infamy for its treacherous twists and sharp turns that make driving extremely difficult. The narrow and winding path offers minimal room for error, with steep cliffs and sharp bends that

add to the perilous nature of the journey.

The history of D915 dates back to 1916, when the Russian army captured the city of Trabzon. To ensure strategic movement, the army constructed the road using basic hand tools. Over the years, some parts of the road have been paved with asphalt, but a majority of the route remains covered with loose gravel. While it might seem manageable at first, the gravel sections make the journey increasingly treacherous as the drive progresses.

Driving on D915 is a test of both skill and courage, with the combination of unpredictable terrain, sharp turns, and steep drops making it one of the most dangerous roads in the world. For those who dare to take on the challenge, the journey is as exhilarating as it is risky, offering an adventure that few would forget.

## Study Suggests First Stars May Have Created Water in the Early Universe

A groundbreaking study published in Nature Astronomy on March 3, 2025, proposes that the universe’s earliest stars could have been responsible for the creation of water. The study, led by astronomer D.H. Whalen from the University of Portsmouth, suggests that water may have first appeared in the cosmos as these ancient stars exploded in supernovae. This discovery challenges existing theories and could push back the timeline for the emergence of life-bearing planets.

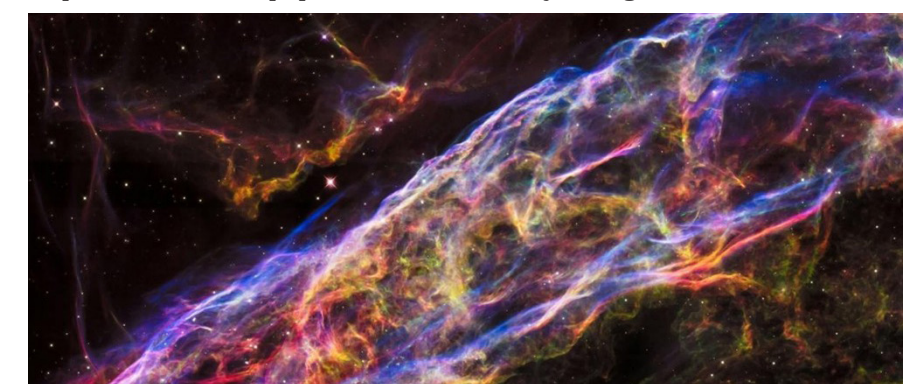
Water, the third most abundant molecule in the universe, has long remained a mystery in terms of its origins. Following the Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago, the first stars formed a few hundred million years later. These stars were primarily composed of hydrogen and helium and burned hydrogen in their cores. Once they exhausted their hydrogen, they exploded as supernovae, leaving behind remnants of oxygen and other elements.

In this new study, Whalen and his team ran 3D simulations of supernovae from population III

stars, the universe’s oldest stars made entirely of hydrogen and helium. They discovered that the conditions created by these stars were capable of forming water when oxygen produced during the supernovae combined with hydrogen. The formation of water in the early universe would have been crucial for creating the elements necessary for life.

While the formation of water could not have occurred before these supernovae exploded, the study suggests that the first stars might have formed enough water to significantly impact the infant universe. Water likely played a role in forming the early planets, which could have been home to life far earlier than scientists previously believed.

The findings imply that planets and even the basic elements needed for life could have been present long before the first galaxies took shape. If these results are confirmed, astronomers will have to reconsider the timeline of life’s potential emergence in the universe, pushing it back billions of years earlier than previously thought.



## KKR Secure First Win of IPL 2025 as RR Suffer back-to-back Defeats



Kolkata Knight Riders secured their first win of IPL 2025 with a dominant eight-wicket victory over Rajasthan Royals on Wednesday. South African opener Quinton de Kock led the charge with an unbeaten 97, guiding KKR to chase down 152 with 15 balls to spare.

After electing to field, KKR's spinners Moeen Ali and Varun Chakravarthy played a key role in restricting Rajasthan Royals to 151/9. Despite a brisk start, RR struggled against disciplined bowling, losing wickets at regular intervals. During the chase, De Kock

provided a solid foundation, smashing eight fours and six sixes in his 61-ball innings. Although Moeen Ali (5) and skipper Ajinkya Rahane (18) fell early, impact substitute Angkrish Raghuvanshi contributed 22 runs in an unbeaten 83-run partnership with De Kock.

The South African opener sealed the win in style, smashing a six off Jofra Archer. With this victory, KKR bounced back from their opening loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru, while Rajasthan Royals suffered their second consecutive defeat.

## Pant-Goenka Chat After LSG's Loss to DC Sparks Meme Fest



Delhi Capitals pulled off a thrilling one-wicket victory over Lucknow Super Giants in their IPL 2025 clash on Monday, thanks to an explosive 66-run knock from Ashutosh Sharma. However, the post-match focus shifted to an intense conversation between LSG captain Rishabh Pant, head coach Justin Langer, and team owner Sanjiv Goenka. The interaction quickly became a talking point on social media, with fans drawing parallels to Goenka's viral chat with KL Rahul after a heavy defeat in IPL 2024. Memes flooded the internet, with some jokingly speculating about Goenka's disappointment over LSG's failure to defend 210 runs.

debut for Delhi, turned the game around after DC struggled at 65-5. His power-hitting, combined with a crucial 39-run cameo from Vipraj Nigam, guided DC to victory with three balls to spare. Lucknow had a chance in the final over with six runs needed, but a stumping opportunity against Mohit Sharma went begging as Pant failed to collect the ball cleanly. Ashutosh capitalized on the miss, smashing a six off Shahbaz Ahmed to seal the win. After the loss, LSG players looked dejected, while DC captain Axar Patel cheekily remarked, "Be prepared for it now. It's going to be like this only under my captaincy—things will be up and down a little."

## BCCI Central Contracts Shreyas Iyer Set for Return Debate Over Senior Players' A+ Retention

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is yet to finalize its central contracts for men, amid discussions on key changes in the A+ category following the retirement of stalwarts Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Ravindra Jadeja from T20 Internationals. The delay has sparked speculation about possible reshuffling, with differing opinions among stakeholders on the retention of senior players in the top category.

The A+ grade, offering a ₹7 crore retainer-ship, is traditionally reserved for players active across all formats. With Kohli, Rohit, and Jadeja now playing only Tests and ODIs, Jasprit Bumrah remains the lone all-format certainty. While some in the BCCI favor retaining the trio in A+, others argue for a revision based on current format participation.

In the A category (₹5 crore retainership), Ravichandran Ashwin's retirement means his exclusion is certain. Axar Patel, a key all-rounder and vice-captain for the England T20I series, is a strong contender for promotion from Grade B.

Shreyas Iyer, who missed out last season, is set to return after featuring in 11 ODIs this



year. Young talents like Yashasvi Jaiswal, Akash Deep, and Sarfaraz Khan are likely to be inducted, with their performances meeting the selection criteria. Nitish Kumar Reddy, having played the full Border-Gavaskar series and multiple T20Is, is also expected to be included.

Meanwhile, players like Shardul Thakur and Ruturaj Gaikwad may miss out, as they

do not currently meet the required match count. However, the selection committee, in consultation with the head coach and secretary, retains the discretion to make exceptions.

The final contract list, expected soon, will reflect BCCI's strategic decisions regarding player retention, promotions, and future squad planning.

## Chelsea Eye Permanent Jadon Sancho Deal Despite Cancel Clause

Chelsea are reportedly set to proceed with Jadon Sancho's permanent signing from Manchester United, despite having a £5 million (\$6.4 million) clause that could allow them to cancel the deal. The winger joined Chelsea on loan last August in a deal that included an obligation to buy him for £25 million.

Sancho, 24, made a promising start at Stamford Bridge but has struggled for consistency, scoring just twice in all competitions and failing to find the net since December. His lack of impact has led to speculation that Chelsea could invoke the clause to back out of the deal.

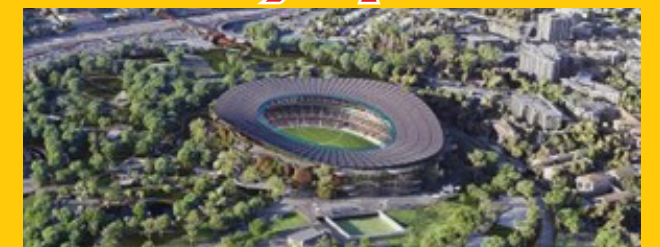
However, reports indicate the club remains committed to signing

him, believing he can recapture the form he showed during his Borussia Dortmund spell, where he played a key role in their Champions League final run. Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca has publicly praised Sancho's progress, stating he has been impressed by his performances despite his struggles.

Sancho's move to Chelsea followed a fallout with Manchester United boss Erik ten Hag, which saw him frozen out of the squad before being loaned to Dortmund in January 2024. Meanwhile, Chelsea were linked with United winger Alejandro Garnacho in January and could still look to reinforce their attacking options in the summer, even if Sancho stays.



## Australia Unveils Plans for New Stadium for 2032 Olympics



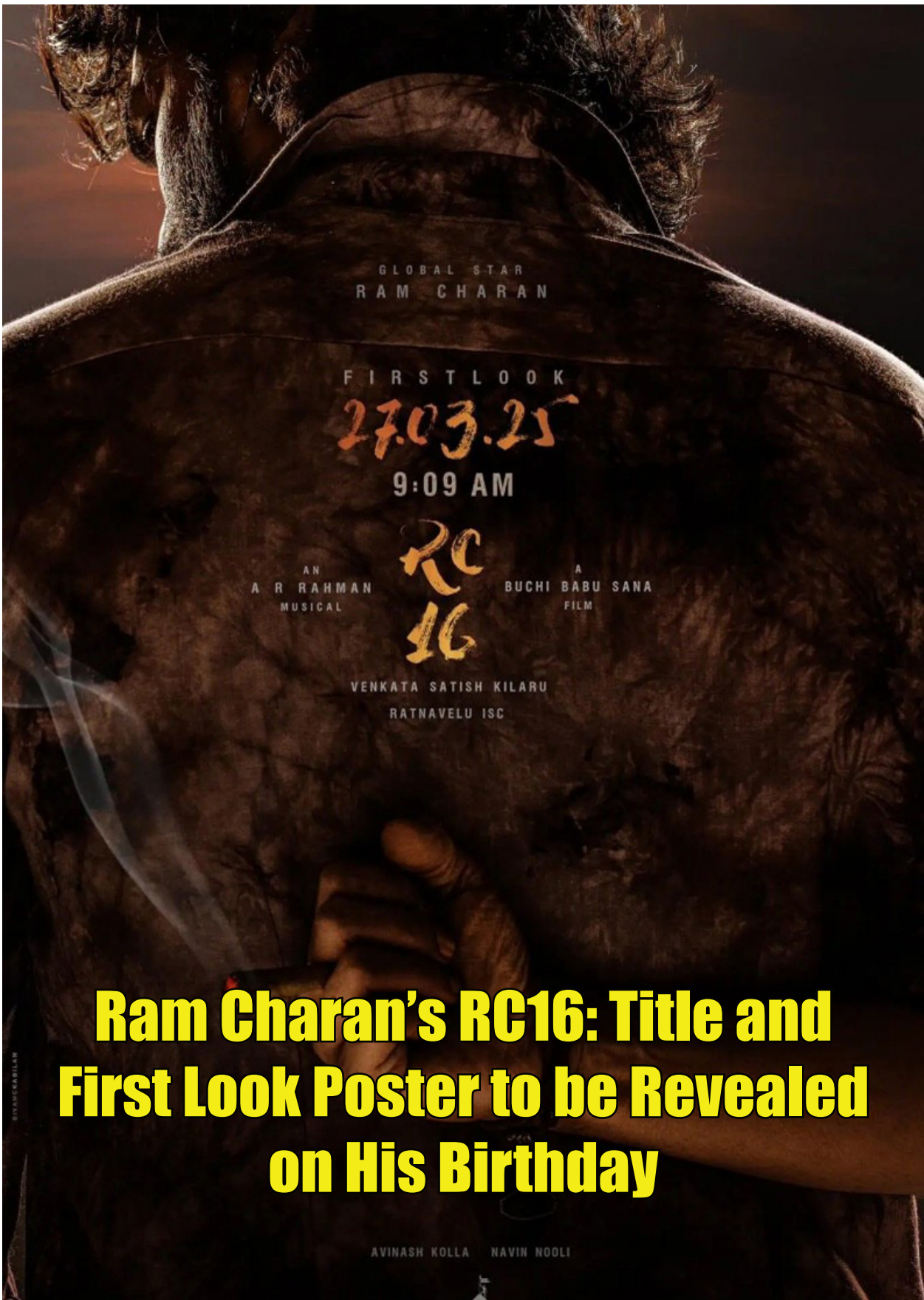
Australia has announced plans for a new 63,000-seat stadium and an indoor aquatic centre as part of preparations for the 2032 Olympic Games in Brisbane. Queensland Premier David Crisafulli revealed the updated infrastructure strategy, emphasizing long-term benefits over short-term spending.

"Finally, Queensland has a plan. The time has come to just get on with it. And get on with it we will," Crisafulli stated, confirming that the new stadium would be a permanent world-class venue for future sporting events. The aquatic centre, with temporary seating increasing capacity to 25,000, will host swimming, diving, water polo, and other aquatic sports. The main athletes' village will be constructed at

the Brisbane Showgrounds, with additional accommodation hubs on the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast.

This new plan replaces an earlier proposal by the previous Labor government, which aimed to renovate the historic Gabba cricket ground and build a 17,000-seat indoor stadium. Crisafulli scrapped those ideas, arguing that billions would have been wasted on temporary venues that lacked lasting value.

In addition to the new stadium and aquatic centre, authorities have earmarked funds for upgrading smaller venues, including the Queensland Tennis Centre and the Gold Coast Hockey Centre. While specific costs have not been disclosed, Australia has set aside approximately \$4 billion for Olympic infrastructure.



## Ram Charan's RC16: Title and First Look Poster to be Revealed on His Birthday

Tollywood fans are buzzing with excitement as Ram Charan's birthday approaches, with a highly anticipated update about his upcoming film, RC16. After much speculation and intrigue, the team behind the movie has officially announced that the title and first look poster of RC16 will be unveiled tomorrow, March 27th, at 9:09 AM, in celebration of the actor's special day. In anticipation, a striking pre-look poster has already been released, featuring a clenched fist holding a beedi, a powerful image that has sent the actor's fans into a frenzy. In RC16, Ram Charan will be seen in a rugged, intense role,

portraying a champion of traditional rural sports such as power cricket, kabaddi, and wrestling. The film promises to be a gripping rural sports drama, filled with action-packed sequences. The shooting for the movie took place across various locations, including Mysore, Hyderabad, and New Delhi, setting the stage for some thrilling sequences on screen. A special addition to the cast is Kannada star Shiva Rajkumar, who returns to work after overcoming cancer. He will play the role of Ram Charan's coach, adding another layer of depth to the movie. Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor makes her second ap-

pearance in Tollywood with this project, and Mirzapur fame Divyendu Sharma will also have a pivotal role in this pan-India action drama. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the filmmaker behind Upenna, RC16 is produced by the Vriddhi Cinemas banner, with Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings presenting the film. The music for this highly-anticipated movie is composed by the legendary AR Rahman, adding further excitement to the already star-studded project. With the title and first look coming tomorrow, fans are eagerly awaiting what promises to be another hit for the charismatic Ram Charan.

## Keerthy Suresh to Romance Ranbir Kapoor in Upcoming Film

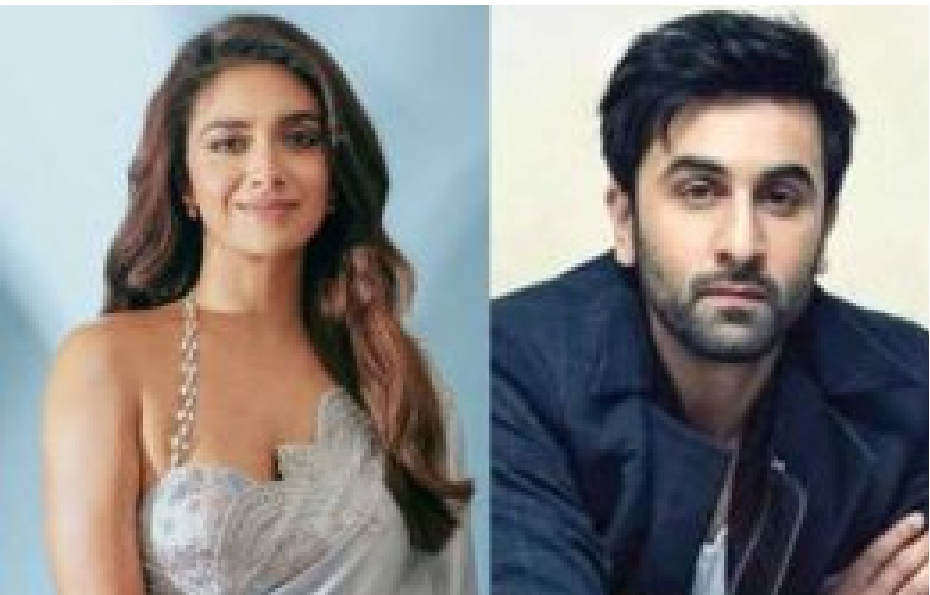
Keerthy Suresh, one of the leading stars in South Indian cinema, is making waves in Bollywood after her Hindi debut in Baby John, which, despite being a box office disappointment, hasn't deterred her career. The actress, known for her versatile per-

formances, has signed a major new project that has everyone talking. According to recent updates, Keerthy will star opposite Bollywood heartthrob Ranbir Kapoor in an upcoming film. Although the details about the director and plot are still un-

der wraps, the news of Keerthy landing a role alongside Ranbir Kapoor has already stirred excitement. Securing a project with such a prominent Bollywood star is a significant achievement, and many are applauding Keerthy's resilience in continu-

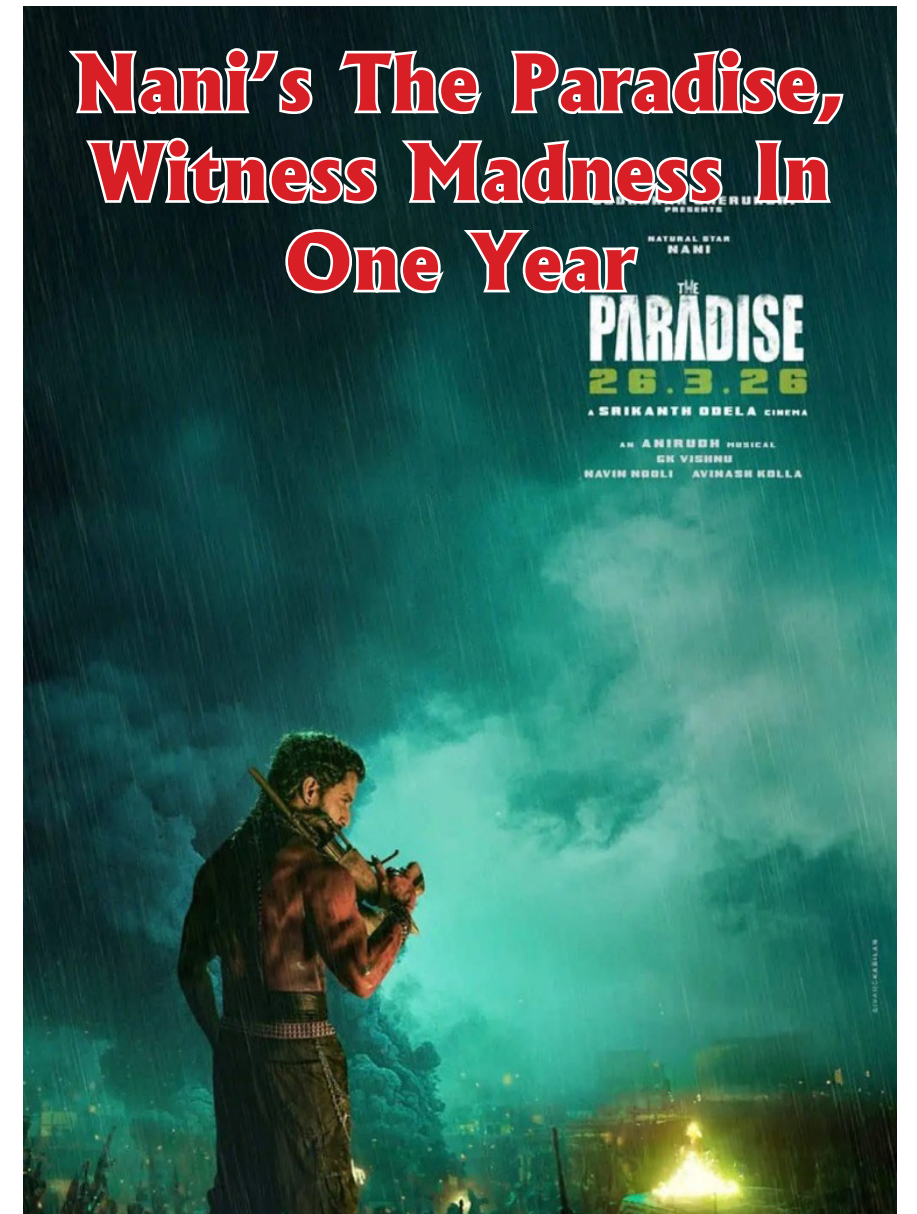
ing to bag impressive roles despite her earlier setback. In addition to this exciting new venture, Keerthy will soon be seen in the Hindi series Akka, where she will take on a negative role. This shift to a more complex character further highlights her versatility and growing presence in the Indian entertainment industry.

As the buzz around Keerthy's pairing with Ranbir Kapoor continues to grow, fans are eagerly awaiting more details about this collaboration. With both stars known for their acting prowess, expectations for the film are already running high. Stay tuned for more updates as this promising project unfolds.



Natural Star Nani is once again taking a bold step in his career with his upcoming project *The Paradise*, directed by Srikanth Odela, who made a massive impact with his debut film *Dasara*. The first glimpse of *The Paradise* has already set high expectations, showcasing Nani in a never-before-seen rugged and intense look, which has intrigued audiences and raised the bar for the movie. Scheduled for release on March 26th, 2026—exactly one year from today—*The Paradise* has now dropped an exciting new poster that further fuels the anticipation. In this striking visual, Nani is seen holding a gun, surrounded by explosions and armed men, exuding a fierce and rugged persona. The poster not only highlights Nani's powerful character but also emphasizes the grand production scale of the film.

Produced by Sudhakar Cherukuri under the SLV Cinemas banner, *The Paradise* is set for a global release, marking an international reach for the film. In an exciting move, the film will



also be available in both English and Spanish, expanding its audience beyond the Indian subcontinent. With music composed by the talented Anirudh Ravichander and cinematography by GK

Vishnu, the film is expected to deliver an immersive cinematic experience. As fans eagerly await the release, one thing is certain: *The Paradise* promises to be a thrilling, action-packed film

that will keep viewers on the edge of their seats. With a year still to go, the excitement is already building for what is expected to be one of the biggest cinematic experiences of 2026.

## Varun Tej's New Film VT15 Begins Shoot with Exciting New Promo

Mega Prince Varun Tej has teamed up with director Marlapaka Gandhi for his upcoming project VT15, which is being jointly produced by UV Creations and First Frame Entertainment. The film's pooja ceremony took place yesterday, and the regular shooting of the movie has also officially begun. In the meantime, the makers have released an intriguing promo that blends the chilling thrills of Korea with the excitement of India. The fusion showcased in this promo hints at the unique backdrop

and genre of the film, sparking curiosity among the audience. Alongside Varun Tej, the promo also features director Merlapaka Gandhi, actor Satya, and a Korean girl who adds an element of mystery, giving fans a glimpse into the film's exciting narrative. The promotional video strikes a lively and fun tone while teasing the chilling experience the movie aims to deliver. VT15



promises to be an action-packed thriller, mounted on a grand scale with a high budget. The movie's technical aspects are expected to be top-notch, with the talented S Thaman on board to compose the music. While the rest of the cast and crew details

are expected to be revealed soon, VT15 is already generating buzz for its intriguing concept and the fresh fusion of Korean and Indian elements, making it one of the most awaited films. Fans are eager to see how Varun Tej's new venture unfolds on the big screen.

## Pradeep Ranganathan's Next Bilingual Film Announced with Grand Pooja Ceremony

Pradeep Ranganathan's rise in the film industry has been meteoric, following his successful directorial debut with *Comali* and his blockbuster performance in *Love Today*. His recent film, *Dragon*, has also become a hit in both the Tamil and Telugu markets. Now, the talented actor-director is all set to take on a new challenge with his next bilingual project, #PR04, which has been officially announced by Mythri Movie Makers. The film, directed by first-time filmmaker Keerthiswaran, was launched with a grand pooja ceremony, marking the beginning of an exciting new chapter in Pradeep's career. The first glimpse of the film, captured during the



muhurtham sequence, showcases an intriguing blend of intensity and charm. In a captivating moment, Pradeep's character transitions from a serious stare to a playful kiss, teasing the audience with the promise of a fresh and fun storyline. In #PR04, Pradeep Ranganathan stars opposite Mamitha Baiju, who gained recogni-

tion for her role in *Premalu*. Senior actor Sarath Kumar also plays an important role, adding depth to the cast. The technical team behind the film is equally impressive, with music composed by the young sensation Sai Abhyankkar and cinematography by Niketh Bommi, ensuring a high-quality cinematic experience.