



# Happy Ugadi from Point News!



Wishing you joy, prosperity and new beginnings this Ugadi!

Note: No newspaper on March 31 & April 1. Regular editions resume April 2.

# Has Hydra Lost Its Fear?

- Illegal constructions resuming in previously demolished areas.
- Municipal authorities accused of granting permits for money.
- Debate intensifies over Hydra's sudden silence.
- High Court has repeatedly taken a serious stance on the issue.

**TPN | V Krishna Kumar**  
**Hyderabad, March 30:** Hyderabad's anti-encroachment agency, Hydra, which once instilled fear among illegal builders, appears to be losing its momentum. After aggressively demolishing unauthorized constructions, Hydra now remains silent as new structures rise in the same locations. Allegations are surfacing that municipal officials are hurriedly granting permits in exchange for bribes, raising questions about the agency's effectiveness.

### Hydra's Establishment and Initial Actions

Upon taking office, Chief

Minister Revanth Reddy prioritized the protection of lakes, tanks, and government lands in Hyderabad and its suburbs. As part of this initiative, the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency (Hydra) was established in June 2024.

Hydra was tasked with preventing encroachments on water bodies and illegal constructions, along with removing unauthorized hoardings and advertisements. The agency was granted extensive powers and a dedicated police force. Its jurisdiction covers the Telangana Core Urban Region (TCUR),

including the Hyderabad Outer Ring Road (ORR), bringing municipalities, corporations, and GHMC areas under its purview.

The governing body includes the Chief Minister, key ministers, the Chief Secretary, DGP, Principal Secretary, and the GHMC Mayor, while AV Ranganath was appointed as Hydra Commissioner. The agency expanded the Disaster Response Force (DRF) from 800 to 2,200 personnel to support its operations.

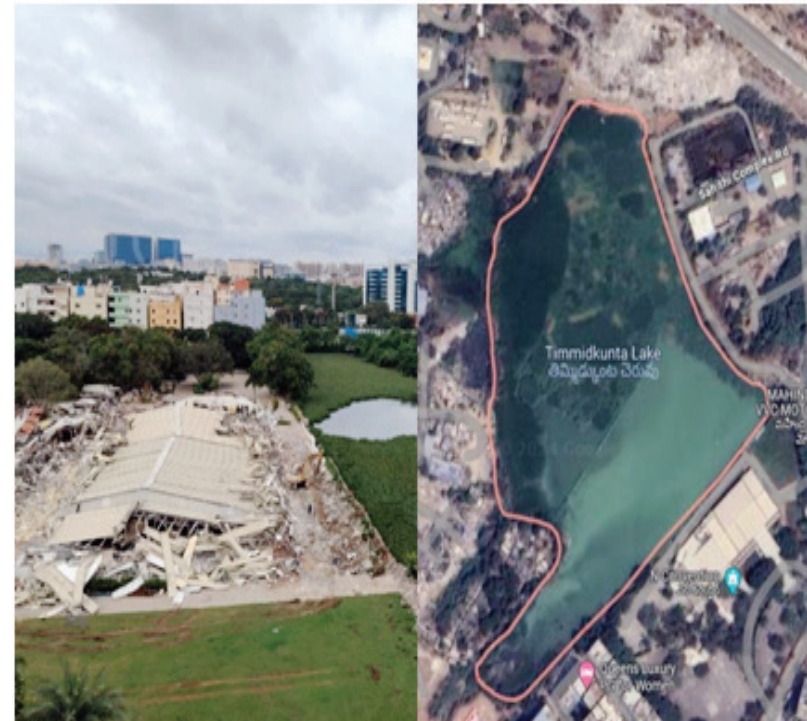
Initially, Hydra made bold moves by demolishing encroachments, including structures in Nagarjuna N Con-

vention, Ayyappa Society, and Aminpur lake. Even constructions in EPTL zones and buffer areas were flattened, causing widespread fear among illegal developers.

### Why Has Hydra Gone Silent?

Despite its initial success, Hydra has now gone quiet. New constructions have resumed in the very places where illegal buildings were once demolished. Reports indicate that illegal activity is picking up again in areas like Patan Lake, Aminpur, and various buffer zones, allegedly due to Gram Panchayat and municipal authorities issuing unauthorized permits for financial gain.

This shift has sparked widespread debate, with critics questioning whether Hydra has succumbed to political and bureaucratic pressure. The High Court has previously tak-



en a serious stance on Hydra's role, but its current silence is leading to speculation about government interference.

### Ranganath's Silence Raises Concerns

Commissioner AV Ranganath, once known for his strict enforcement, is now facing allegations of inaction. Many believe that unless he takes charge again, lakes, govern-

ment lands, and buffer zones will continue to be encroached upon.

While Hydra has undertaken demolitions in various locations, the lack of follow-through is raising doubts about its long-term impact. Point News will soon bring exclusive coverage on where illegal constructions are rising once again.

# CM Revanth Reddy Extends Ugadi Greetings

**TPN Correspondent | Telangana**

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy extended Ugadi festival greetings to the people of Telangana, wishing them prosperity and fulfillment in the Sri Vishwvasu Nama Telugu year beginning tomorrow. He hoped for abundant rains, good times, and prosperity for farmers through dairy crops.

Marking the festival, the CM announced the launch of a free rice distribution scheme for every ration card-holding family in the state, reaffirming his commitment to welfare programs. He expressed confidence that Telangana will witness remarkable development this year and set an example

for the nation in welfare initiatives.

### Kodangal Visit: Temple Darshan & Iftar Dinner

CM Revanth Reddy visited the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Kodangal as part of the Brahmotsavam celebrations, offering special prayers. Later, he participated in an Iftar dinner, where he addressed the gathering.

He acknowledged the support of Kodangal's people in elevating him to the CM's position. Referring to his critics, he remarked, "Some may be upset about losing their chair, but the people of



Kodangal know my work best." He also emphasized Congress' long-standing support for Muslim welfare, noting that 25% of MLA funds have been allocated

- Wishes for prosperity and welfare in the new Telugu year
- - Launches free rice scheme for ration cardholders on Ugadi
- - Participates in temple visit and Iftar dinner in Kodangal

for the development of Muslims in Kodangal. The CM assured the people of his constituency that any development needs will be addressed swiftly. He promised, "If you write a letter, I will personally visit and resolve the issue."

# Record Property Tax Collections in Telangana

**TPN Correspondent | Telangana**

Property tax collections in Telangana have crossed the ₹1,000 crore milestone, driven by the state government's one-time settlement (OTS) scheme for corporations and municipalities. The Municipal Administration Department introduced a 90% concession on interest for pending property tax, following the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) model.

Taking advantage of this relief, taxpayers cleared long-pending dues, leading to a total collection of ₹1,010 crore across urban local bodies. The Municipal Administration De-

partment confirmed that OTS applies to those who have paid 10% of the interest on property tax arrears as of March 31.

Despite March 30 and 31 being holidays, authorities have allowed property tax payments on these dates to facilitate maximum participation in the scheme. Officials have urged eligible taxpayers to utilize the opportunity before the deadline expires.



# Telangana RTC's "Luxury" Buses: Pay More, Suffer More!

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) is drawing severe criticism for its handling of special festival services. While the corporation claims to offer "luxury" buses for the Ugadi and Ramzan rush, passengers are alleging severe overcharging, poor maintenance, and unsafe travel conditions. Reports suggest that RTC is deploying damaged and repaired buses while increasing fares drastically, leaving passengers frustrated.

### Special Buses, but at What Cost?

During festival seasons, RTC diverts city metro buses to district routes, advertising them as special services. However, instead of providing upgraded buses, the corporation is allegedly running older, poorly maintained vehicles at luxury rates.

Passengers report being charged exorbitant fares, some-



times even for non-AC buses falsely labeled as air-conditioned. One traveler described his experience, stating that when he questioned the lack of AC, the conductor casually replied, "Just open the window for free oxygen."

Further complaints reveal that some buses lack proper doors, and RTC has been using iron sheets tied with ropes as makeshift safety measures. The promised entertainment facilities, such as TV screens, are also

# Phone Tapping Case Gains Momentum Again

- Shraavan Appears for SIT Interrogation on Supreme Court Orders
- Officials Question His Role in Phone Tapping for Six Hours
- Police Intensify Efforts to Bring Prabhakar Rao to India

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

After a long gap, the phone tapping case has regained momentum. Along with Prabhakar Rao, one of the main accused, Shraavan, the head of a media channel, appeared for interrogation by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) at the Jubilee Hills Police Station today. The police questioned him for nearly six hours and recorded his statement. Shraavan had earlier filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking protection from

arrest. However, the bench directed him to appear for interrogation before any decision on his arrest could be made. Following this, Shraavan, who had been staying abroad, returned and appeared before the police. It is reported that the police, after questioning him, sent him out through the back gate and instructed him to remain available for further interrogation if required.

The phone tapping controversy surfaced soon after the Congress party came to power



in Telangana. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy strongly condemned the alleged surveillance carried out under the previous BRS government, where top officials were reportedly targeted, and their phones were tapped. Taking the issue seriously, the government formed a special investigation team and assigned the responsibility to the SIT. The probe led to the collection of significant

evidence, resulting in the arrest of Radhakrishna, the then DCP of the Task Force, and Praneeth Rao, the DSP of the Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB). Following their arrests, police officers Thirupathanna and Bhujaranga Rao, who were involved in the operation, were also taken into custody and sent to jail.

The police have been making efforts to



## Hyderabad to Host 2027 Asian Karate Championship

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Hyderabad is set to strengthen its position as a sports hub, with the city selected to host the 2027 Asian Karate Championship. TPC President and Telangana State Karate Association President Mahesh Kumar Goud made the announcement at the closing ceremony of the four-day national karate competitions held at Gachibowli Stadium.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, known for his passion for sports, sent a message congratulating the winners and all participants.

He emphasized that the government is committed to developing sports in Telangana, stating that adequate funds have been allocated in the budget. He also highlighted the upcoming Sports University, which he

said would be highly beneficial for youth and athletes.

Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, and Haryana emerged as overall champions in the competition, which saw participation from 36 teams, including athletes from 28 states, as well as army and paramilitary departments.

Mahesh Kumar Goud, who presented prizes to the winners, noted that Hyderabad has successfully hosted major events like the Asian and Commonwealth championships in the past.

He assured that the 2027 Asian Karate Championship would be conducted on a grand scale in the city.

SAT Chairman Shivsen Reddy, MD Sonibala, Karate India President Bharat Sharma, and event organizers Kirtan and Ramaswamy were among those present at the ceremony.

## Telangana Govt to Fill 10,954 GPO Posts

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

In a major relief to the unemployed, the Telangana government has released guidelines for recruiting 10,954 Village Administrative Officer (GPO) posts under the Revenue Department. The state will accept applications from those who previously worked as Village Revenue Officers (VROs) and Village Revenue Assistants (VRAs), provided they have a degree or an intermediate qualification with at least five years of experience in the role. The selection process will in-

volve a screening test, and the appointed GPOs will handle village accounts and certificate verification tasks. Reports indicate that the Revanth Reddy government plans to absorb 6,000 former VROs currently serving in various departments as GPOs.

Additionally, notifications for over 4,000 more posts are expected soon. Since coming to power in 2023, the Congress-led Telangana government has so far filled 58,868 government posts, continuing its push for employment generation in the state.

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## Phone Tapping Case Gains Momentum Again

bring back SIB Chief Prabhakar Rao, who has been in hiding abroad since May 2024, along with Shraavan, who allegedly collaborated with him. Multiple attempts were made to extradite them to India, and eventually, red corner notices were issued. The CBI and CID were also involved in the operation. However, the SIT's previous efforts to secure bail for the officers in jail faced setbacks. With Shraavan's recent appearance for questioning, the stalled case is expected to gain momentum once again.

During the interrogation, the officials reportedly questioned Shraavan about key aspects of the case, including the individuals involved in the tapping, the pressures under which it was carried out, the sources of the required surveillance materials, and the extent of benefits derived from it. The investigators are also looking into whether Shraavan had met Prabhakar Rao abroad.

Now that Shraavan has appeared before the police, all eyes are on Prabhakar Rao. SIT officials are confident that he, too, will eventually be brought in for questioning. It is being speculated that based on Prabhakar Rao's statement, the investigation may lead to further action against top BRS leaders. The phone tapping scandal had previously left the BRS leadership in distress, and with recent developments, a similar situation appears to be unfolding again.

## Telangana RTC's "Luxury" Buses: Pay More, Suffer More!

missing, with staff advising passengers to "chat with fellow travelers" instead.

Passenger Frustrations Go Viral

A frustrated passenger recently shared photos and complaints with True Point News, highlighting cramped seating, broken-down interiors, and misleading ticket pricing. He sarcastically noted, "Saru Idea is making our whole body ache," referring to the poor travel experience despite RTC's claims of comfort.

RTC Faces Backlash

Passengers are now demanding that RTC improve its service standards and provide fair pricing. The festival rush has exposed serious management flaws, raising concerns about whether the corporation prioritizes profits over passenger safety and comfort. With growing public outrage, will RTC address these issues, or will passengers continue to suffer? True Point News will continue to monitor the situation and bring further updates.

# ₹6 Lakh Compensation for Lightning and Fire Victims: Minister Ponguleti

- Families of victims from the last five years to receive ₹6 lakh
- ₹1 lakh compensation for fire accident survivors
- First installment of ₹1 lakh for two-bedroom house beneficiaries

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has announced financial aid for families affected by lightning and fire accidents over the past five years. He stated that the government will provide ₹6 lakh compensation to the families of those who lost their lives in these incidents, while survivors of fire

accidents will receive ₹1 lakh. The Minister has directed Disaster Management Department officials to ensure timely assistance to the affected families. During a review meeting at the Secretariat on Friday, Minister Ponguleti also issued key instructions to district collectors regarding the allocation of two-bedroom houses. He emphasized that eligible homeless



individuals should be given priority and ordered the allotment of leftover houses from previous phases. Additionally, he directed that ₹1 lakh be disbursed as the first installment to beneficiaries who have completed construction up to the

basement level.

The Minister further instructed officials to expedite the completion of Warangal Super Specialty Hospital by the end of June and called for a permanent solution to the Madikonda dumping yard issue.

## Telangana Partners with Himachal for Major Hydropower Expansion

TPN Correspondent | Shimla

In a significant move towards enhancing its renewable energy capacity, the Telangana government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Himachal Pradesh to develop two major hydropower projects. The partnership is expected to strengthen Telangana's power generation while optimizing Himachal Pradesh's hydroelectric resources.

The proposed projects—Seli (400MW) and Meyar (120MW)—have been assigned to Telangana State Power Generation Corporation Limited (TSGENCO). These projects will cater to Telangana's increasing energy demand and contribute to its long-term energy security through clean and sustainable power.



The MoU was formalized in the presence of Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu and Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu in Shimla on Saturday, March 29.

Speaking on the occasion,

Deputy CM Bhatti praised Himachal Pradesh's hydropower potential and expressed confidence that this collaboration would provide affordable, reliable, and green power to Telangana.

"Himachal Pradesh is bless-

ed with perennial Himalayan rivers that allow hydropower generation for 9-10 months a year, unlike the limited period available on South Indian rivers. Compared to thermal power, hydropower has significantly lower variable costs. While the cost of thermal power production rises annually, hydropower generation costs decrease over time," Bhatti stated. He further emphasized that the Congress government, under Telangana's Clean & Green Energy Policy 2025, remains committed to ensuring energy security while addressing the state's rapidly growing electricity demand.

This strategic alliance is expected to enhance Telangana's renewable energy mix while enabling Himachal Pradesh to leverage its hydropower resources more effectively.

## Certificates for B.Tech Failures Too!

### Telangana Government's New Initiative

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana government has decided to introduce a new certification system for students who complete at least 50 percent of the subjects in the four-year B.Tech course. A committee will soon be appointed to formulate the rules and implementation guide-

lines for this initiative. Under the new system, students who pass half of the subjects will receive a certificate, providing them with an official academic qualification.

Currently, the B.Tech course consists of 160 credits, with 20 credits allocated per semester. To obtain a full B.Tech degree, students must secure passing

marks in all subjects, achieving a total of 160 credits. However, if a student fails in even a few subjects, they are currently ineligible for a degree, rendering their four years of study effectively unrecognized.

With the introduction of this new system, students who secure at least 80 credits by passing half of the subjects will

be awarded a certificate. This move is expected to help students seek employment opportunities, rather than leaving them with no formal academic proof of their education. The government is also considering discussions on examination fees in universities and reviewing the credit requirements for student promotions between academic years. The final procedures for implementing this policy will be decided soon.

## IPS Officer from Maharashtra Dies in Telangana Road Accident

TPN Correspondent | Nagarkurnool

A tragic road accident in Telangana claimed the life of Maharashtra IPS officer Dr. Sudhakar Patel and another person. The incident occurred on Saturday afternoon in the Nallamala forest region of Amrabad mandal, Nagarkurnool district, when an Innova car traveling towards Srisailem collided head-on with an RTC bus near Domala Penta village on the Srisailem Highway.

According to Eagalapenta SI Veeramallu, the impact of the crash left both occupants of the car severely injured. The victims were initially rushed to Achampet Government Area Hospital before being trans-

ferred to a private hospital near Veldanda on the Hyderabad main road. However, both succumbed to their injuries during treatment.

Dr. Sudhakar Patel, an IPS officer from Maharashtra, was serving at the Rajendranagar Police Academy. Reports indicate that he sustained critical head injuries, while the other victim, Bhagwat Krishna Rao,



suffered serious leg injuries. The authorities have launched

an investigation into the accident.



# Person Who Should Be in Jail Is the Chief Minister Today: RS Praveen Kumar

- Revanth Reddy accused of destroying constitutional institutions
- Telangana being ruled by 'monsters and vultures': RSP
- BRS leader slams cyber security misuse against opposition

**TPN Correspondent | Telangana**  
BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar has launched a scathing attack on Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, alleging that a person who should be in jail is today holding the position of Chief Minister and Home Minister. Speaking at a media conference, he accused Revanth Reddy of systematically dismantling constitutional institutions and failing to protect the rights of the people. He went on to claim that Telangana is being ruled by "monsters and vultures."

Amid the ongoing Assembly sessions, Praveen Kumar asserted that BRS had exposed Revanth Reddy's governance, presenting statistics inside and outside the House. He alleged

that the Chief Minister is unable to digest BRS's role as the main opposition and is now targeting critics on social media.

RSP pointed out that on March 15 and 16 alone, 15 cases were filed against individuals who questioned the government online, even extending to those who merely retweeted posts. He accused the government of misusing Section 67 of the IT Act, originally meant for obscenity, against BRS activists.

He recalled that the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau was formed in 2023 under KCR's rule with good intentions, aiming to protect citizens and institutions from cyber threats. However, he alleged that under Re-

vanth Reddy, the bureau is being misused to silence opposition voices. He claimed that certain officials are acting as the Chief Minister's pawns, filing copy-paste FIRs against BRS members while ignoring Congress and BJP-related cyber violations.

Praveen Kumar further questioned why cyber patrolling is focused on Telangana Bhavan while Gandhi Bhavan and BJP offices remain untouched. He accused the police of inaction against Congress and BJP leaders despite repeated complaints from BRS.

Taking a dig at Revanth Reddy, he noted the Chief Minister's contradictory statements about his time in jail, pointing out that while he claimed

mistreatment in the Assembly, he later stated in a TV interview that he was treated well. He also argued that cyber patrolling should be focused on the Secretariat, where he alleged that government files remain stagnant. He warned that honest police officers should not fear the ruling party, assuring that once BRS returns to power, officers who uphold integrity will be rewarded with promotions and medals. He also criticized the police for failing to register an FIR against Congress leader Mynampally, who allegedly made a violent remark about Harish Rao.

Praveen Kumar accused the Congress of scripting FIRs in Gandhi Bhavan and using the police to register them



against opposition leaders. He urged the Cyber Security Bureau to act responsibly and transparently, warning that those who misuse their positions will be held accountable in the future.

## CM to Launch Free Fine Rice Scheme on Ugadi in Huzurnagar

Minister Uttam reviews arrangements at Rajiv Gandhi Grounds



**TPN Correspondent | Suryapet**  
Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will launch the much-anticipated free fine rice distribution scheme on the occasion of Ugadi in Huzurnagar on Sunday. Ahead of the grand launch, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy conducted a thorough review of the arrangements at Rajiv Gandhi Grounds in Huzurnagar on Saturday.

During a whirlwind tour, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy held a series of preparatory meetings in Kodad and Huzurnagar to ensure the smooth

execution of the scheme. Addressing officials and local leaders, he emphasized the significance of the initiative in providing food security to the underprivileged and reiterated the government's commitment to welfare programs.

The event is expected to witness a large gathering, with local representatives, officials, and beneficiaries attending. The government has taken all necessary steps to ensure the seamless distribution of fine rice under the scheme, which aims to benefit lakhs of families across the state.

## Even if 100 Owaisis Come, the Bill Won't Be Stopped: Bandi Sanjay

**TPN Correspondent | Karimnagar**

Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay has asserted that the Waqf Board Amendment Bill will not be stopped, regardless of opposition from AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi. He declared that even if "100 people like Owaisi come" or even his ancestors, the bill would still move forward. Sanjay emphasized that the Muslim community and intellectuals across the country are in support of the bill and questioned whether a single leader like Owaisi could halt its passage. During his visit to Karimnagar, Bandi Sanjay sanctioned ₹15 lakh for a digital library for lawyers at the Karimnagar District Court Complex. Addressing a gathering later, he criticized Owaisi for his remarks on the Waqf Board Bill, stating that the legislation would be passed very soon. He accused Owaisi and certain "old secularists" of trying to give the bill a religious color to block it.



Sanjay further stated that the bill should not be viewed from a religious perspective and reaffirmed that the Modi government would not hesitate to take tough decisions in the interest of the nation. He recalled how a poor man in Karimnagar had his house construction halted by authorities on the grounds that it was Waqf Board land, despite his family living there

for generations. Highlighting his past struggles, Bandi Sanjay reminded the audience of his imprisonment while fighting for public causes. He also recounted his arrest for cutting trees in front of the court and for protesting against those who allegedly raised Pakistani flags during an India-Pakistan cricket match.

## MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy Slams Tax Hike, Vows to Raise Issue with CM

**TPN Correspondent | Rangareddy**  
Chevella MP and BJP Parliament Whip Konda Vishweshwar Reddy extended his support to the ongoing relay hunger strike in Mirpet, demanding a rollback of increased house taxes. The protest, led by BJP Maheshwaram constituency leaders Bikshapati Chari and Mukesh Mudiraj, entered its third day today in front of the Mirpet Municipal Corporation office.

Addressing the gathering, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy accused the Congress and BRS governments of pushing Telangana into financial distress, asserting that ongoing development



in the state is happening solely due to central government funds. He highlighted that gram panchayats are being developed through NREGS funds, while municipalities and corporations benefit from the Amrut Mission. Terming the increased house tax as a

burden on the middle class and poor, he demanded its immediate withdrawal and assured that he would bring the matter to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's attention. He also warned that the people would respond to the failures of Congress and BRS in the upcoming local body elections.

Former Chevella MLA K.S. Ratnam, Assembly Convener Devender Reddy, BJP state leader Kolan Shankar Reddy, along with several senior party members, Mahila Morcha activists, BJYM leaders, and local residents participated in the protest.

## TDP Formation Day Celebrated Enthusiastically in Malkajgiri

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) celebrated its formation day with great enthusiasm in Yadav Nagar, Malkajgiri. A large number of party workers and supporters gathered to mark the occasion, displaying their commitment to the party's ideology and future growth in Telangana. The celebrations included the hoisting of the party's national flag, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony, as the attendees expressed their happiness and dedication to the party's cause.

Local TDP leaders who participated in the event emphasized that the party is focused on strengthening its base in Telangana. They assured that a new president for the state unit would be appointed soon and that new committees would be formed to enhance the party's presence at the grassroots level. They highlighted that these organizational changes would help mobilize support and prepare for upcoming political challenges.

Telugu Youth State President Pugaku Jayaramachandra attended the event as the chief guest and motivated the cadre by reiterating the party's commitment to empowering the youth. He stated that TDP is giving priority to young leaders and activists, encouraging them to take an active role in shaping the party's future. He urged party workers to remain disciplined and work collectively to strengthen the party in Telangana.

The event witnessed high energy and participation, reflecting the TDP cadre's dedication. Leaders and workers vowed to work together to bring the party back to prominence in the state, ensuring that its vision and values continue to resonate with the people.



## Government Likely to Extend LRS Discount Deadline

**TPN Correspondent | Telangana**  
The Telangana government's 25% discount under the Layout Regularization Scheme (LRS) is set to expire on March 31. Due to this concession, thousands of applicants have been able to regularize their layouts at a lower cost. However, since many have yet to complete their payments, there is increasing demand for an extension. Initially, the LRS process moved at a slow pace, but after the discount announcement, applications surged. As the deadline nears, many applicants are queuing up, urging the government to extend the period by at least a month. Several MLAs have raised this issue in the Assembly, requesting the extension to benefit those unable to

pay in time. Wanaparthy MLA Megha Reddy has appealed for the deadline to be extended until the end of April. Mahabubnagar district witnessed significant participation in the scheme. Public representatives highlighted that many applicants could not pay due to financial constraints. Given the increasing demand, the government is reportedly considering an extension, though an official decision is pending.

In 2020, around 25.68 lakh people applied under LRS, with letters sent to 20 lakh applicants for fee payment. However, the response remained low, leading to the introduction of a 25% discount scheme. Official notifications were issued across all districts,

urging applicants to utilize the benefit before March 31. DTC Devender Reddy stated that while technical issues initially slowed the process, applications and payments increased significantly in the past two weeks. Government data reveals that ₹112 crore was collected under LRS in four years, whereas ₹950 crore was paid by 2.80 lakh people in the last 15 days alone. Officials estimate another ₹500 crore could be collected before the deadline. With the demand for an extension growing, experts believe a positive government response could benefit thousands. Authorities are advising applicants to complete their payments soon, even if the deadline is extended, to avoid last-minute technical issues.



## Governor Extends Ugadi Greetings to Telugu People

- Wishes for prosperity and happiness in the new year  
- Calls for embracing the spirit of Ugadi with optimism

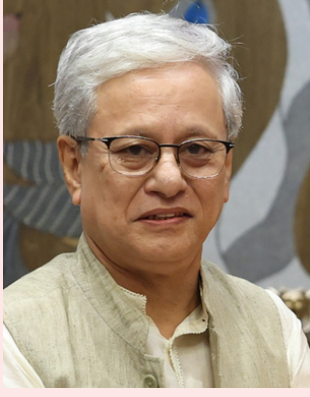
TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

On the auspicious occasion of Sri Viswvasu Nama Samvatsaram Ugadi, Hon'ble Governor extended heartfelt wishes to Telugu-speaking people across the world.

In a message released on Saturday, the Governor expressed hope that the new Telugu year would bring blessings and prosperity to all. "Ugadi is a festival of joy and hope, and the New Year shall bring with it new cheer and a bright future," the message read.

The Governor also emphasized the significance of Ugadi Pachadi, which represents life's different flavors, encouraging people to face challenges with optimism. "May this Sri Viswvasu Nama Samvatsaram usher in peace, prosperity, harmony, health, and happiness for all sections of society," the Governor conveyed.

Ugadi, the Telugu New Year, is being celebrated with traditional fervor across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, marking the beginning of a new year with prayers, festivities, and cultural programs.



## TGRERA Rejects Lake Claim in Narsingi Denies Plea to Revoke Building Permits

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TGRERA) has ruled that construction permits granted to Phoenix Global Space Private Limited for multi-story buildings in Pappalaguda, Rangareddy district, will remain valid, dismissing claims that the land contains Narsingi Cheruvu-2.

The decision was announced on Thursday after reviewing a complaint filed by Lubna Sarwath, a Puppallaguda resident, who sought the revocation of construction approvals in survey numbers 272/P, 273/P, and 274/P, alleging the presence of a water body.

Investigation and Findings TGRERA referred to findings from a joint committee appointed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which conducted a field



inspection in 2022. The committee reported that no lake existed in the specified survey numbers, stating that the lands were previously used for rice cultivation but had been left vacant due to urbanization. The findings were submitted to the NGT on August 18, 2022.

Additionally, RERA highlighted that the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department had already issued permissions for developing IT

parks and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in survey numbers 271 to 274. Further records from the Revenue Department and Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) classified the land as patta land (privately owned) with no mention of a lake.

Complainant's Allegations Lubna Sarwath cited government records, Survey of India topographic sheets, and satellite images to support her claim

that Narsingi Cheruvu-2 existed in the disputed area. She also mentioned petitions filed with the NGT in Chennai seeking the lake's restoration.

Despite these claims, RERA determined that there was no legal basis to revoke the construction permits. The agency noted that Phoenix Global Space Private Limited had transferred the project's construction responsibilities to Sumadhura Construction Private Limited through an agreement.

RERA's Decision Emphasizing that all official investigations and records confirm the absence of Narsingi Cheruvu-2 within the specified survey numbers, RERA ruled that the construction approvals for the multi-story project in Pappalaguda remain valid and cannot be canceled.

## GHMC Postpones Prajavani to April 4

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has postponed the Prajavani public grievance program, originally scheduled for April 1, to April 4, considering the observance of Ramzan. In a press release issued on March 29, GHMC urged petitioners to attend the rescheduled event on Friday instead.

Meanwhile, preparations for Eid ul Fitr prayers are in full swing across Hyderabad. The Telangana State Waqf Board and GHMC have allocated funds for maintenance and infrastructure work at Eidgahs in and around the city. At the historic Eidgah Mir Alam, workers are repainting the structure, leveling uneven pathways, and clearing weeds ahead of the festival.

The Mir Alam Eidgah, established around 1805 by Paigah noble Mir Alam Bahadur, is a significant venue for Eid ul Fitr prayers, drawing nearly two lakh devotees. Worshipers from neighboring districts such as Vikarabad, Nalgonda, Medak, Sangareddy, Mahabubnagar, and Ranga Reddy travel to Hyderabad to participate in the prayers. With Eid just days away, authorities are ensuring all necessary arrangements are completed to facilitate smooth congregational prayers.

## Osmania University Presents ₹815.69 Crore Budget

- 55.65% of the budget allocated to salaries, 38% to pensions
- ₹25 crore set aside for a new law classroom complex and court facility
- ₹30 crore allotted for hostel construction for male and female students

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Osmania University presented its annual budget for the financial year 2025-26, projecting an expenditure of ₹815.69 crore. However, the university faces a funding shortfall of ₹43.15 crore, despite pooling all available resources.

Presenting the budget, Prof. D Sreeramulu from the University College of Commerce and Business Management noted that the block grant allocated by the state government was inadequate. A significant portion of the budget—55.65%—is earmarked for

salaries, while 38% is dedicated to pensions. Additionally, 5.86% is allocated for contingencies, and 0.49% for employee loans.

Among the major budgetary provisions, ₹25 crore has been set aside for constructing a new classroom complex and court facility at the University College of Law. ₹10 crore has been earmarked for setting up a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AIML), while ₹2 crore will be used for a computational lab in the Civil Engineering department.

The budget also includes ₹39.50 crore for



completing a 300-capacity boys' hostel, interior work for the new administrative building, and university maintenance. Additionally, ₹30 crore has been allocated for constructing hostels for male and female students.

## BYST-HDFC Bank Parivartan 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Get-Together Held at OU

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The 4th Quarter Get-Together organized by Bharatiya Yuva Shakti Trust (BYST) - HDFC Bank Parivartan Hyderabad Cluster was successfully held on March 28, 2025, at ECE Block, Osmania University, Hyderabad. The event, themed "Cost Cutting & Production Enhancement", brought together entrepreneurs, mentors, and industry experts to exchange insights and celebrate achievements.

The session began with opening remarks by M. Koteswara Rao, Strategic Committee Vice-Chairman, BYST, Hyderabad. The

status of the third and fourth quarters was presented by P. Rajanikanth, Project Head - South Region 2, and Lakshmi Kanth, Cluster Head, Hyderabad, BYST. One of the key highlights was the Mentor-Mentee Experience Sharing session. P. V. Ramana, Chapter Committee Chairman, along with mentees Chaitanya Jain and Varun, partners of Vanaya Concrete Technology, shared their entrepreneurial journey, detailing challenges, growth strategies, and mentorship benefits.

Chief Guest SanjAnna, Deputy Director, National Productivity



Council, addressed the gathering on opportunities in cost-cutting and production enhancement. Special Guest T. Rajkumar, Deputy Manager - South India, Usha Social Services, Usha International Limited, introduced the USHA Mobile Application for the Garment Industry, highlighting its usefulness for entrepreneurs. The event concluded with the distribution of accreditation cer-

tificates to mentors and awards for the best entrepreneurs, recognizing their outstanding contributions and achievements.

The 4th Quarter Get-Together served as an inspiring platform for mentorship, learning, and networking, further strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem within the BYST-HDFC Bank Parivartan Hyderabad Cluster.

## Shooting Incident at Anam Mirza Expo in Hyderabad Creates Panic



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A shooting incident at the 'Anam Mirza' Expo in Gudimalkapur, Hyderabad, created panic among visitors on Saturday. The incident took place at the Kings Palace, where the expo was being held in the backdrop of the Ramzan season.

According to police, a dispute between two shopkeepers escalated into a confrontation, leading one of them to fire shots in the air. The sudden gunfire caused chaos, with visitors fleeing the venue in panic.

Upon receiving information, the police rushed to the spot and arrested the shopkeeper responsible for the firing. Officials confirmed that the accused fired two rounds before being subdued. A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway.

The expo was reportedly organized by Anam Mirza, the sister of renowned tennis player Sania Mirza. Authorities are now reviewing security arrangements at the event following the alarming incident.



## ADGP Mahesh Bhagwat Pays Tributes to Umesh Chandra on Birth Anniversary

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Additional Director General of Police (Law & Order) Sri Mahesh M Bhagwat, IPS, participated in the 59th birth anniversary celebrations of late Sri C. Umesh Chandra, IPS, at his statue in Hyderabad today.

Paying rich tributes to the valiant officer, Sri Mahesh Bhagwat recalled Umesh Chandra's exemplary service, dedication, and sacrifice in the line of duty. He highlighted that the late officer remains a source of inspiration for the police fraternity and urged officers to uphold his

values of integrity and commitment in public service.

The event was attended by Umesh Chandra's father C. Venugopal, former DGP of Andhra Pradesh Sri J. V. Ramudu, as well as relatives, friends, and admirers who gathered to honor his legacy.

## JCHSL Advisory Committee Discusses Housing Solutions for Journalists

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The first meeting of the Journalist Cooperative Housing Society Limited (JCHSL) Advisory Committee was held at the Hyderabad Press Club, with members and special invitees participating. The Managing Committee expressed gratitude to the attendees and termed the meeting a success, noting that valuable suggestions were received regarding securing housing for non-allotted members. During the discussions, three key proposals were put forth:

lobbying with the government to acquire the remaining land in Gopanapalli through legal means, securing government land near the city, and exploring land pooling as a society initiative. While legal constraints limit immediate action on the first proposal, the other two options will be further examined, with one requiring an in-depth study of a Supreme Court judgment. The Managing Committee assured that a detailed discussion on these possibilities will be held in the next meeting. Members stressed the need

for strong relations and effective consultations in securing land for non-allottees. To facilitate this, a consultation committee will be formed, comprising journalists with close ties to the government, Chief Minister, ministers, and officials. This committee, alongside the Managing Committee, will take the responsibility of ensuring housing allocation for all non-allottees as soon as possible.

The Managing Committee reiterated its commitment to addressing the housing concerns of journalists and



thanked the Advisory Committee members for their valuable inputs. Further discussions and concrete steps

will be taken in the upcoming meetings to bring these proposals to fruition.

# Kavitha Warns Congress, BJP Over BC Reservations

- BRS MLC Kavitha demands 42% BC reservation implementation
- Criticizes Congress, BJP for inaction on BC bills
- Calls for village-wise, caste-wise BC population details

**TPN Correspondent | Kamareddy**  
BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has warned that if the Telangana government fails to implement 42% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in political, educational, and employment sectors, Congress and BJP leaders will not be allowed to move freely in villages. Speaking at the BC round table meeting in Kamareddy, organized by Telangana Jagruti and United Poole Front, she criticized both parties for their inaction on BC reservations. Kavitha asserted that it was the responsibility of the Congress-led Telangana government to push for the approval of BC reservation bills at the Centre. "Whether they go to court or hold Modi's feet in Delhi, we don't care, but the Chief Minister must ensure the implementation of 42%

reservations," she said. She accused Congress of failing to secure an appointment with Prime Minister Modi regarding the BC issue, despite Chief Minister Revanth Reddy frequently visiting Delhi. She also slammed the Congress for not releasing the caste census data from the 2011 survey, despite spending ₹4,500 crore. Additionally, she alleged that the Congress government manipulated caste survey results, reducing the BC population count while inflating that of OCs. Kavitha demanded that the government publicly release village-wise and caste-wise BC population data, along with the Dedicated Commission's report. Highlighting the BJP's stance, she pointed out that the central government had submitted an affidavit in

the Supreme Court stating it would not conduct a caste census. She urged Telangana BJP MPs to press for the approval of BC reservation bills in Parliament and called on both Congress and BJP to exert pressure on the Centre to pass the reservation law. Referring to the Kamareddy BC Declaration, Kavitha reminded that the Congress had only promised increased political reservations for BCs, but the BRS had ensured reservations extended to education and employment. She claimed this as a victory for their fight and noted that Telangana currently implements 54% reservations, exceeding the Supreme Court's 50% limit due to EWS reservations introduced by the BJP-led central government. Kavitha also highlighted the BRS gov-



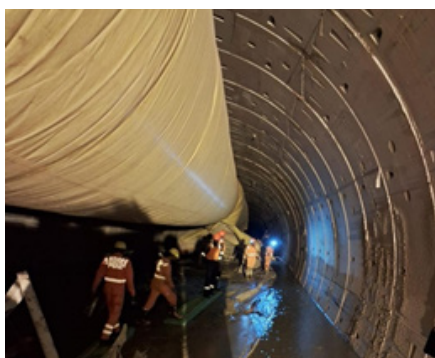
ernment's past efforts for BC welfare, stating that over ₹1.55 lakh crore was spent on BC development in the last decade. She criticized the Congress government for weakening caste-based professions over the past 15 months, contrasting it with the BRS's initiatives to strengthen them. She emphasized that under KCR's leadership, BC representation was ensured with five Rajya Sabha MPs, eight MLCs, and 58 corporation chairper-

sons. Prominent leaders who attended the meeting included former Yellareddy MLA Jajala Surender, former TSPSC member Sumitranand, former DCMS Chairman Mohan, and various United Poole Front and Jagruti leaders. The event saw strong participation from BC leaders and activists, reinforcing the demand for immediate action on BC reservations.

## SLBC Tunnel Mishap

### Efforts Underway to Remove Trapped Locomotive Engine and Cabins

**TPN Correspondent | Nalgonda**  
Efforts are in full swing to remove the locomotive engine and train cabins trapped under debris following the roof collapse inside the SLBC tunnel, which has remained inaccessible for the last 36 days. With the excavation process around the affected area completed, rescue personnel are now intensifying their search for survivors while accelerating recovery measures. A coordinated effort involving 12 rescue teams from the Central and State governments is ensuring the availability of essential resources for the ongoing operations. Advanced technology is being utilized to enhance the speed and efficiency of the rescue work, while critical facilities are being provided to support the teams on the ground. Shiva Shankar Lotheti, the special officer overseeing the SLBC tunnel operations, stated that multiple tasks, including water seepage



removal, excavation, and steel clearance, are being carried out simultaneously. Four excavators and two Bobcat machines are actively engaged in clearing the debris, while conveyor belts are being used to transport the removed materials outside the tunnel. Additionally, ventilation restoration work has been undertaken alongside excavation efforts to facilitate a smoother operation. Authorities continue to monitor the situation closely, with all efforts focused on completing the recovery process at the earliest.

## Harish Rao Slams Congress Over Gurukul Student's Death

**TPN Correspondent | Sangareddy**  
BRS senior MLA Harish Rao has strongly criticized the Congress government over the death of a Gurukul student, blaming it on administrative failure. He termed the loss of young lives due to minor illnesses as deplorable, calling it a clear reflection of the government's negligence in managing Gurukul schools. Harish Rao expressed grief over the death of Nikhil, a Class 9 student at Nallavagu Social Welfare Gurukul School in Sirgapur mandal, Sangareddy district. Offering condolences, he prayed for strength to the bereaved family. Angrily pointing out that 83 Gurukul students have died so far, he questioned why the Congress government failed to take even minimal cor-



rective measures. "If the government is unable to properly care for 400 students in a Gurukul, how can it manage integrated schools with 2,000 students?" he asked. He demanded ₹15 lakh compensation for Nikhil's family and urged the government to take immediate steps to safeguard the lives of Dalit and Bahujan students studying in Gurukul schools.

## IG Press Meet on Pastor Praveen's Death Case



**TPN Correspondent | Rajahmundry**  
The death of Pastor Pagadala Praveen has turned into a mystery, with Andhra Pradesh IG Ashok Kumar confirming that he died under suspicious circumstances while traveling from Hyderabad to Rajahmundry on his bike. Addressing a press meet in Rajahmundry, the IG stated that a special investigation team (SIT) has been formed under the leadership of the East Godavari District SP to probe the case. He also revealed that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is closely monitoring the investigation and has been in regular contact with the district SP. According to police findings, Praveen left Hyderabad at 11 AM on March 24, crossing the Choutuppal toll gate at 1:29 PM. Authorities are currently investigating his whereabouts in Vijayawada during a three-hour gap before he was last seen at the Konthamuru bunk at 11:40 PM. The incident reportedly occurred just two minutes later, at 11:42 PM. The IG noted that postmortem details are still pending but preliminary reports indicate injuries on Praveen's hands and face. Authorities are probing whether he lost control of his bike after a collision with another vehicle. The police have collected CCTV footage from Hyderabad, Vijayawada, and multiple toll gates, analyzing frames captured at 15 frames per second to trace his movements. Further investigation has revealed that Praveen had purchased land near Lala Cheruvu in Rajahmundry in his daughter's name and was planning to construct a building there. He had also rented a house nearby. Police confirmed that only his wife, Akash, and John were aware of his visit to Rajahmundry, and all family members have been questioned as part of the inquiry. IG Ashok Kumar warned against spreading false narratives regarding Praveen's death, urging people not to incite communal tensions. He assured that forensic reports will be thoroughly examined before reaching any conclusions.

## South Central Railway GM Inspects Malkajgiri Railway Station

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
South Central Railway (SCR) General Manager Arun Kumar Jain conducted an inspection of Malkajgiri Railway Station on Saturday, reviewing the ongoing development works under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS). Accompanied by Hyderabad Divisional Railway Manager Shri Lokesh Vishnoi and other senior railway officials, he assessed the progress of various infrastructure projects aimed at modernizing the station. The redevelopment of Malkajgiri Railway Station, undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs. 27.61 crores, is focused on enhancing passenger amenities and transforming the station into a key development hub. Officials reported that 70% of the planned works have been completed, with the remaining tasks progressing swiftly to meet the targeted



completion timeline within this year. During his visit, the General Manager inspected crucial improvements such as the station facade, the construction of a 12-metre wide Foot Over Bridge (FOB), and the installation of lifts and escalators to improve passenger accessibility. He also visited the "One

Station One Product" stall and interacted with vendors to understand the local products being promoted through the initiative. Emphasizing passenger safety and convenience, Arun Kumar Jain directed Hyderabad Divisional officials to ensure effective implementation of measures that enhance security and streamline passenger movement. With major infrastructure changes underway, the officials were instructed to take proactive steps in facilitating a seamless experience for commuters. The rapid progress of redevelopment works at Malkajgiri Railway Station is expected to significantly improve travel facilities and contribute to the station's transformation into a modern transport hub.

## Telangana Man Marries Two Women in Same Ceremony

**TPN Correspondent | Asifabad**  
In a rare and unconventional wedding, Suryadev, a young farmer from Gumnoor village in Telangana's Komaram Bheem Asifabad district, married two women—Lal Devi and Jhalkari Devi—in the same ceremony. The wedding, which took place in front of nearly 1,000 guests, has since gone viral, sparking discussions about evolving relationship norms in India. Suryadev had been in a relationship with both women for three years and, rather than choosing one, decided to marry them both. The ceremony followed traditional rituals and featured the lively beats of dhol, with the wedding card listing the names of both brides as equals.



Although village elders initially viewed the arrangement with skepticism, they eventually accepted the union. Suryadev pledged to treat both wives equally and ensure their happiness. The unique marriage has since gained traction on social media,

drawing mixed reactions. While some praised the couple's mutual understanding, others questioned its legal and social implications. Regardless, the wedding stands as a testament to the changing perspectives on marriage in contemporary society.

## Telangana to Witness Light to Moderate Rain on April 2, 3

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
The Meteorological Centre has forecast light to moderate rain or thundershowers in Telangana on April 2 and 3, providing some respite from the prevailing dry conditions. The state has been experiencing dry weather over the past 24 hours, with Adilabad recording the highest temperature of 40.8 degrees Celsius on Thursday. According to the daily weather report issued on Friday, maximum temperatures across Telangana are expected to rise by 2-3 degrees Celsius over the next three days. Despite the forecast for rain, dry weather is likely to persist for the next five days in most parts of the state. Meteorologists have advised residents to take necessary precautions as tempera-

tures continue to rise. With summer setting in, heatwave-like conditions may intensify in the coming weeks, particularly in northern districts.



# New Tax Rates, UPI, and GST: Key Changes from April 1, 2025

- New tax slabs with higher exemptions take effect
- Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) to benefit 23 lakh employees
- Stricter UPI security measures to prevent fraud
- GST updates include mandatory multi-factor authentication

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Starting April 1, 2025, several financial and regulatory changes will come into effect, impacting taxpayers, digital payment users, and businesses. These changes include revised income tax slabs, the implementation of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), updated Unified Payments Interface (UPI) security guidelines, and new Goods and Services Tax (GST) regulations.

## Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)

The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), introduced in August 2024, will be implemented from April 1, 2025. This scheme aims to provide financial security to over 23 lakh central government employees. Under UPS, employees with at least 25 years of service will receive a pension equivalent to 50% of their last 12 months' average basic salary.

## UPI Security Measures

To enhance security and efficiency in digital transactions, the National

## New Income Tax Slabs and Exemptions

Following the Union Budget 2025, the revised tax slabs announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will be enforced. The new structure provides tax exemptions for individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh per year. Additionally, salaried individuals will receive a standard deduction of ₹75,000, effectively making those earning up to ₹12.75 lakh tax-free.

Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has mandated new measures for banks and third-party UPI service providers such as PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm. Inactive UPI-linked mobile numbers will be phased out automatically. Banks must update their databases using the Mobile Number Revocation List (MNRL) and Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) on a weekly basis. Users with inactive numbers must update their details before April 1, 2025, to avoid losing UPI access.



## Revised Income Tax Slabs:

Income Range	New Tax Rate
₹0 - ₹4 lakh	No tax
₹4 lakh - ₹8 lakh	5%
₹8 lakh - ₹12 lakh	10%
₹12 lakh - ₹16 lakh	15%
₹16 lakh - ₹20 lakh	20%
₹20 lakh - ₹24 lakh	25%
Above ₹24 lakh	30%

## GST Updates for the New Financial Year

The GST regime will also undergo significant changes, improving security and compliance. Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) will become mandatory for all taxpayers accessing the GST portal. E-Way Bills (EWBs) can only be generated for base documents not older than 180 days. GSTR-7 filers (for tax deductions at source) must file returns in sequence and cannot skip months. Promoters and directors must now undergo biometric authentication at a GST Suvidha Kendra. These updates aim to enhance security, prevent tax evasion, and streamline compliance for businesses and taxpayers alike. With these changes coming into effect, individuals and businesses are advised to stay informed and update their financial details accordingly to ensure a smooth transition into the new financial year.

## Delimitation Debate

# A Necessary Reform for Balanced Representation

THE POINT DESK

The delimitation exercise, aimed at re-drawing the parliamentary and assembly constituencies based on population shifts, has been in a state of suspension for five decades. Initially deferred in 1975 and again in 2000, its postponement has been largely attributed to the need for stabilizing population growth. However, with India's demographic landscape evolving significantly since then, the time has come to reconsider the freeze and move towards a fair and updated electoral representation system.

Recently, a coalition of southern and regional leaders voiced their opposition to the upcoming 2026 delimitation process, arguing that it would unfairly reduce their representation in Parliament. The meeting in Chennai, convened by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and attended by leaders from Telangana, Kerala, Punjab, Karnataka, and Odisha, highlighted concerns that states with better population control measures would be penalized under a new seat allocation formula. However, the issue goes beyond a simplistic North vs. South debate.

## The Need for a Balanced Approach

At the heart of this discussion is a fundamental democratic principle: representation should be proportional to population. The purpose of delimitation is to ensure that every Indian citizen has equal political weight, preventing distortions where some constituencies have vastly different population sizes. While the concerns of southern states are valid—particularly in terms of their economic contributions and progress in social indicators—delimitation should not be viewed as a punishment but as a course correction to reflect demographic realities. Population shifts over the decades have led to an imbalance in representation, with some states having fewer MPs per voter compared to others. Ignoring this would only widen the democratic deficit.

Furthermore, the argument that delimitation would reduce the influence of progressive states overlooks the fact that economic weight and development parameters can also be factored into the process. The Centre must work on a multi-pronged approach where both population figures and state development indicators are considered in the seat allocation formula.



## Why Delimitation Should Proceed Without Further Delay

1. Reflecting Demographic Reality: India's population dynamics have shifted considerably since the last delimitation. Some states have experienced higher growth, while others have stabilized. Electoral representation should reflect these changes.
2. Enhancing Electoral Fairness: A voter in a less populated state should not have disproportionately greater influence than a voter in a high-population state. This imbalance needs rectification for a true representative democracy.
3. Strengthening Federalism: Contrary to fears that delimitation would harm federalism, an inclusive and transparent approach can strengthen India's unity. The process should be handled with consultations to address the concerns of all stakeholders.
4. Addressing Governance Challenges: A more balanced distribution of seats can ensure better policy-making and governance, particularly in regions experiencing high population growth. More representation means better outreach, policy implementation, and resource allocation.

## Constructive Solutions for Addressing Concerns

While delimitation is essential, the concerns of southern and smaller states should not be ignored. Several viable alternatives could mitigate the impact while upholding democratic fairness:

1. Weighted Representation: Seats could be allocated not just on population but also based on states' fiscal contribution and development indicators. This would reward states that have managed population growth effectively.
2. Strengthening the Rajya Sabha: Increasing the Rajya Sabha's strength and ensuring proportional representation there could offset concerns of parliamentary imbalance. This would allow regional voices to

remain influential even if Lok Sabha seat distribution changes.

3. Expanding Total Parliamentary Seats: Instead of merely redistributing seats among states, India could increase the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha to ensure all states see some level of gain rather than loss. This would be in line with global democracies that have adjusted their legislative strengths over time.

Unilateral Opposition Won't Help, Dialogue Will  
Some opposition leaders have framed the delimitation debate as an attempt to marginalize southern states, but such a narrative is over-simplistic and counterproductive. The reality is that fair representation benefits all citizens, and a transparent, consultative approach can ensure that no state feels disadvantaged. Moreover, accusations that the BJP-led NDA government is using delimitation for political gains overlook the fact that delimitation was originally frozen under previous governments. Any attempt to block the process further risks undermining democracy and delaying much-needed reforms. Instead of outright opposition, southern leaders should push for a negotiated framework that ensures their concerns are addressed while also respecting the core principles of democratic representation. Delimitation is an unavoidable necessity in a dynamic democracy like India. While there are concerns that need to be thoughtfully addressed, the larger goal should be to uphold electoral fairness and ensure every voter's voice carries equal weight. A transparent, data-driven approach with stakeholder engagement can make the delimitation exercise an opportunity for strengthening democracy rather than a cause for division. The Centre must take the lead in fostering dialogue and building a consensus-driven solution. Any further delay in delimitation will only deepen existing electoral imbalances, making India's democracy less representative over time. A strong, forward-looking decision is needed—one that embraces change while ensuring fairness for all states.



## Elon Musk's X-xAI Merger

Elon Musk's recent decision to merge X (formerly Twitter) with his artificial intelligence company, xAI, in a \$33 billion all-stock deal has sparked intense debate. The move raises X's valuation to \$45 billion and aligns it with Musk's vision of an AI-driven future. But beyond financial restructuring, the real question is: how does this benefit users?

## The Logic Behind the Deal

Musk has made it clear that he sees the future of social media and artificial intelligence as deeply connected. By integrating xAI's advanced models with X's massive user base of over 600 million, Musk aims to transform the platform into something beyond just a digital town square. He stated that this merger would "unlock immense potential by blending xAI's advanced AI capability and expertise with X's massive reach."

Musk's AI ambitions are not new. xAI, founded in 2022, has already positioned itself as a serious competitor in the AI space, developing sophisticated models and high-speed data centers. X, on the other hand, has undergone drastic changes since Musk's \$44 billion acquisition, including workforce reductions, rebranding, and feature revamps. This merger is expected to streamline operations, making X more efficient and AI-driven.

## How Users Will Benefit

Musk has long spoken about turning X into an "everything app," and this merger could be a crucial step in that direction. Users can expect several AI-powered enhancements:

**Smarter Content Curation:** AI-generated content recommendations will refine user feeds, making engagement more personalized and relevant.

**Improved Moderation:** AI-driven tools could help tackle misinformation and harmful content, ensuring a safer platform.

**Integration with Grok:** xAI's chatbot, Grok, is set to enhance user interactions, offering AI-powered assistance and real-time engagement.

**Expanded Services:** The "everything app" concept suggests future integrations like AI-driven commerce, payments, and real-time translations.

However, not everyone is optimistic. Experts warn that increased AI integration could lead to privacy concerns, with vast amounts of user data being analyzed to train AI models. Additionally, Musk did not seek investor approval before the merger, raising questions about corporate governance.

Despite the concerns, Musk remains confident that this transformation will push X to the next level. As CEO Linda Yaccarino put it, "The future could not be brighter." If executed well, this merger could redefine social media, making X the first truly AI-powered global platform.

# India Sends Urgent Aid to Quake-Hit Myanmar

- India sends 15-tonne aid
- IAF aircraft delivers supplies
- Quake kills 144 in Myanmar
- Relief includes food, medicine



India is sending approximately 15 tonnes of relief materials to Myanmar, which was severely affected by a devastating earthquake that struck on Friday. The powerful quake caused widespread destruction, toppling buildings, bridges, and even a monastery in Myanmar, while neighboring Thailand also reported significant damage. In response, India has swiftly organized humanitarian aid, which will be transported via a C-130J military aircraft of the Indian Air Force. The aircraft is scheduled to depart from the Hindon Air Force Station on Saturday, carrying essential supplies to assist those in distress. The relief package includes a range of

emergency provisions such as tents, sleeping bags, blankets, ready-to-eat meals, water purifiers, solar lamps, generator sets, and much-needed medicines. These supplies are expected to provide immediate support to survivors who have lost their homes and access to basic necessities due to the disaster. The earthquake has left at least 144 people dead in Myanmar, with countless others injured and displaced. In Thailand, the tremors led to the collapse of a high-rise under construction in Bangkok, resulting in at least 10 fatalities. Videos and images from Myanmar's hardest-hit regions depict widespread devastation, with rubble lining the streets and critical infrastruc-

ture reduced to ruins. India's rapid response reflects its strong ties with Myanmar and its longstanding commitment to humanitarian aid in times of crisis. As a neighboring country, India has frequently extended support to Myanmar, particularly during natural disasters, reinforcing its role as a dependable ally in the region. Officials have indicated that if the situation demands, India is prepared to send additional assistance to help Myanmar in its recovery efforts.

Meanwhile, international organizations and neighboring countries have also begun mobilizing resources to aid Myanmar in coping with the aftermath of the earthquake. Rescue and relief operations are underway, with efforts focused on locating survivors, clearing debris, and restoring essential services. With thousands left without shelter, immediate assistance is crucial in preventing further casualties and alleviating suffering. India's timely intervention is expected to bring much-needed relief to those affected, ensuring that displaced families receive food, medical care, and temporary shelter. The Indian government has reaffirmed its commitment to standing by Myanmar during this challenging period, pledging to provide continued support as the country works to recover from the devastating impact of the disaster.

## ISRO Successfully Tests Semicryogenic Engine for LVM3

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved a major milestone in its semicryogenic engine development program with the successful hot test of the Engine Power Head Test Article (PHTA) on March 28. The test was conducted at ISRO's Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu, marking a significant breakthrough in the design and development of the Liquid Oxygen/Kerosene engine with a high thrust of 2,000 kN (kilonewtons). This engine will power the semicryogenic booster stage of the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3), enhancing its payload capacity and performance.

The test was crucial in validating the integrated performance of key subsystems, including the pre-burner, turbo pumps, start system, and control components, by carrying out a short-duration hot-firing of 2.5 seconds. ISRO confirmed that the ignition and boost strap mode operation proceeded as expected, with all engine parameters meeting predictions. This success paves the way for a series of further tests on the PHTA to fine-tune and optimize the engine's performance before fully integrating it. The Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) is responsible for developing the semicryogenic propulsion engine and stage (SCI20), which will replace the existing L110 liquid core stage of LVM3. This transition will significantly enhance payload capacity, increasing it from 4 tonnes to 5 tonnes in Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

The semicryogenic propulsion system employs non-toxic and non-hazardous propellants—Liquid Oxygen and Kerosene—offering higher performance than the current L110 stage. The SE-2000 engine consists of critical subsystems, including the thrust chamber, pre-burner, turbo pump system, control components, and start-up system. These components, made of specialized materials to withstand high-temperature oxidizer-rich combustion, have been developed in collaboration with the Indian industry. Given the complexities involved, only a few nations possess this advanced technology.

To test and qualify the semicryogenic engine and stage, ISRO has developed the state-of-the-art Semicryogenic Integrated Engine Test facility (SIET) at its Propulsion Research Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri. This facility, dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February 2024, plays a crucial role in ISRO's future launch vehicle development. Before conducting integrated engine-level hot tests, ISRO is evaluating intermediate configurations like the Power Head Test Article (PHTA), which includes all engine systems except the thrust chamber. The test on March 28 was the first in a planned series aimed at validating the propellant feed system, turbo pumps, pre-burner, start system, and control components. ISRO has meticulously tested all subsystems before integrating them into the PHTA. The ignition sequence for the PHTA was derived from multiple single-element hot tests. Additionally, a Pre-burner Ignition Test Article (PITA) was developed to ensure smooth ignition, consisting of a pre-burner, feed systems, start systems, and related control components. A series of successful tests with the PITA led to the derivation of an optimal start sequence for the power head test article. With this crucial milestone, ISRO is now preparing for further tests to refine the engine's design, bringing India one step closer to the operational deployment of this advanced technology.



## Vijay Slams DMK, BJP at TVK Meet

Actor and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay held his party's first general council meeting on Friday, where he launched a sharp attack on both the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government and the BJP-led central government. Accusing them of having a secret understanding, Vijay called both parties fascists and alleged that while the DMK openly allies with the Congress for votes, it maintains a covert alliance with the BJP for financial benefits. He referred to the BJP as the "secret owner" of the DMK, criticizing their governance tactics. Addressing key national issues, Vijay opposed the delimitation exercise based on population, Hindi imposition, and the distribution of central funds, targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies. He warned the central government, emphasizing Tamil Nadu's history of resistance and asserting that the state has demonstrated its power multiple times. Vijay also took a strong stance against the proposed Waqf Bill and urged the Union government to withdraw it, aligning with a resolution recently passed by the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly. During the meeting, TVK passed 17 resolutions outlining its official stance on various issues, setting the stage for its political journey.

## CBI Rules Out Gang Rape in R.G. Kar Case

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which has been investigating the rape and murder of an on-duty doctor at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, informed the Calcutta High Court on March 28, 2025, that the incident was not a case of gang rape. The revelation came during a hearing before Justice Tirthankar Ghosh, where CBI Deputy Solicitor General Rajdeep Majumder stated that after thorough investigations and expert medical opinions, the agency has ruled out the possibility of gang rape in the August 9, 2024, incident. However, the CBI remains committed to probing other crucial aspects of the case, including potential conspiracy, cover-up efforts, and the destruction of evidence. The case, which has garnered wide-

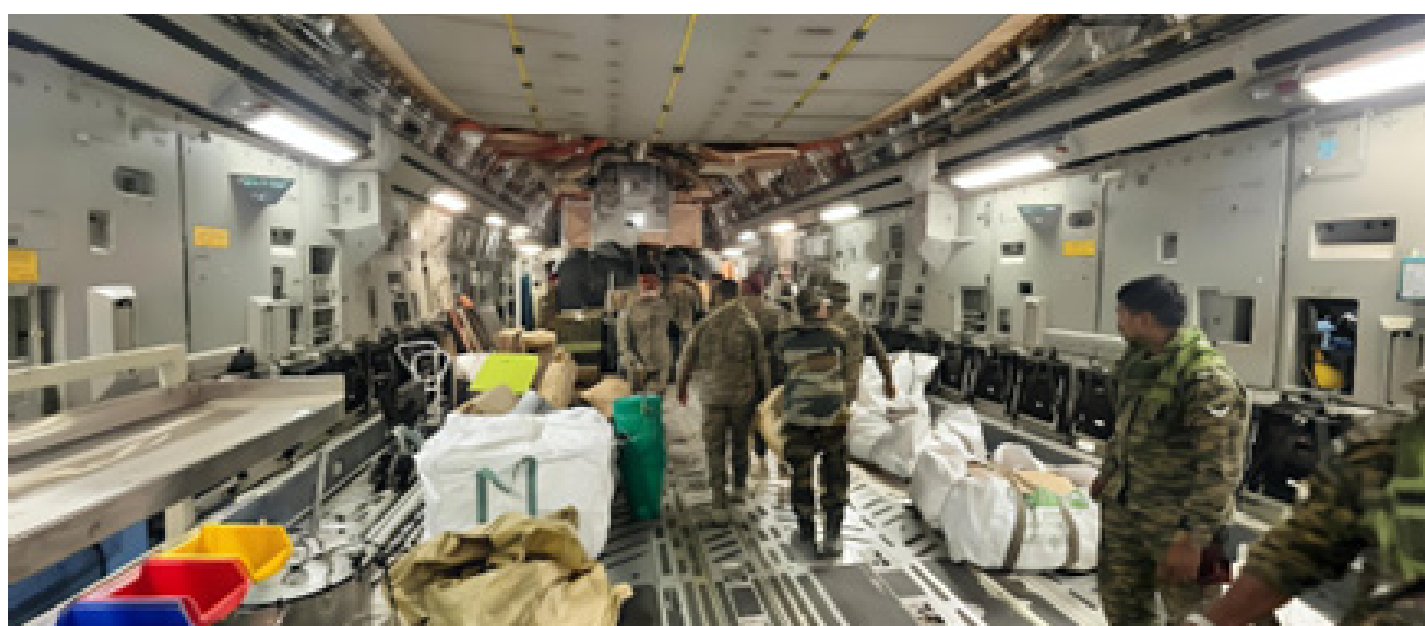
spread attention, saw a major legal development earlier this year. On January 18, the Additional District and Sessions Court in Sealdah convicted Sanjay Roy, a former civic police volunteer, for the rape and murder of the doctor. Two days later, on January 20, he was sentenced to life imprisonment. Despite this conviction, the victim's parents have continued to demand further investigation into the case, prompting the ongoing hearings. Meanwhile, the incident has sparked protests from the medical community, with doctors and nurses organizing marches demanding justice for the victim. On March 24, 2025, healthcare professionals took to the streets in Kolkata's Salt Lake area, demonstrating their outrage and calling for transparency



in the investigation. While the CBI's latest findings have ruled out gang rape, the agency's continued focus on conspiracy and evidence tampering

suggests that more revelations may emerge. The case remains a subject of intense public scrutiny, with calls for justice growing stronger.

## India Assists Myanmar with 'Operation Brahma'



India has launched 'Operation Brahma' to provide humanitarian aid to Myanmar following the devastating 7.7-magnitude earthquake that has claimed over 1,000 lives. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed that no casualties have been reported among the Indian community in Myanmar. Addressing a press conference on Saturday, MEA

Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had conveyed his condolences and assured Myanmar of India's full support in relief efforts. Modi spoke with Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the head of Myanmar's military-led government, reaffirming India's solidarity in this time of crisis. The Prime Minister also took to

social media to emphasize India's commitment to aiding Myanmar through relief and rescue operations. Highlighting India's immediate response, Jaiswal announced the launch of 'Operation Brahma', explaining that the name signifies creation and India's role in helping Myanmar rebuild after the devastation. The first relief aircraft, carry-

ing 15 tonnes of essential supplies, including tents, sleeping bags, blankets, ready-to-eat meals, water purifiers, solar lamps, generator sets, and medicines, took off from Hindon Air Force Base at 3 am and landed in Yangon by 8 am IST. India's Ambassador to Myanmar personally received the consignment before handing it over to the Chief Minister of Yangon. Following this, two more aircraft were dispatched, carrying search and rescue personnel, specialized equipment, and trained canines to assist in operations. Additionally, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar confirmed that a 118-member Indian Army Field Hospital unit is on its way from Agra to Mandalay. This team will provide first aid and emergency medical services to those affected by the disaster. India's swift response aligns with its 'First Responder' policy, reinforcing its commitment to assisting neighboring countries in times of crisis. The ongoing rescue efforts and relief supplies underscore India's dedication to regional cooperation and humanitarian assistance.



## "We Will Be Helping": Trump After Myanmar Hit By Huge Earthquake

TPN Correspondent | Washington

President Donald Trump expressed his support for Myanmar following a massive earthquake that struck the Southeast Asian nation on Friday, pledging U.S. assistance. The 7.7-magnitude earthquake, which also affected neighboring Thailand, resulted in over 150 fatalities and left hundreds more injured.

Speaking from the Oval Office, Trump called the earthquake "terrible," emphasizing the severity of the disaster. He confirmed that the United States had already been in contact with Myanmar's military rulers. "It's a real bad one, and we will be helping," Trump said in response to questions about the country's appeal for international aid.

Myanmar's ruling military junta, led by General Min Aung Hlaing, had earlier publicly invited "any country, any organization" to provide assistance for the disaster. The military regime has been grappling with the aftermath of a brutal civil conflict that began after their 2021 coup, which ousted the democratically elected government. The ongoing civil war has severely impacted Myanmar's infrastructure, including healthcare services, leaving the nation ill-equipped to handle such a large-scale natural disaster.

The earthquake's toll has placed further strain on the country, already facing dire humanitarian challenges. Myanmar's rulers have sought aid from global powers and organizations to help with relief efforts.

Despite the U.S. government's long-standing criticism of Myanmar's military regime, particularly regarding its violent suppression of opposition and political prisoners, the U.S. has pledged to assist in the aftermath of the disaster. This aid commitment comes as Myanmar deepens its ties with Russia. General Min Aung Hlaing recently visited Moscow to meet President Vladimir Putin, discussing a potential deal for Russia to help construct a nuclear power plant in Myanmar. As Myanmar continues to face both internal conflict and natural disasters, the international community, including the U.S., is responding to the urgent need for humanitarian relief.



TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Bangladesh police have filed a case against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and 72 others, accusing them of conspiring to overthrow the interim government led by Muhammad

# Curfew Lifted in Kathmandu After Violent Protests, Two Dead and Over 100 Injured

- 14 buildings burned, vehicles destroyed; 105 arrested.
- Former King Gyanendra's privileges revoked amid unrest.
- Government deploys Nepal Army, vows to restore stability.

TPN Correspondent | Kathmandu

Kathmandu, Nepal: Authorities in Nepal lifted a day-long curfew in the eastern part of Kathmandu on Saturday, following violent protests that resulted in two fatalities and left over 100 people injured. The curfew, which was imposed at 4:25 pm on Friday, was lifted at 7 am on Saturday after tensions in the area began to subside, according to a notice from the Kathmandu District Administration Office.

The violence erupted on Friday when pro-monarchy protesters clashed with security personnel in the Tinkune area of Kathmandu. The protesters pelted stones, set fire to vehicles, attacked political party offices, and looted shops. The clashes escalated into a deadly confrontation, with two people, including a TV cameraman, losing

their lives and at least 110 others suffering injuries, including 53 police officers, 22 Armed Police Force personnel, and 35 protesters.

To restore order, the Nepal Army was deployed, and police arrested 105 individuals involved in the unrest, including Dhawal Shumsher Rana, the general secretary of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party, and central party member Rabindra Mishra. Durga Prasai, the primary figure behind the violent demonstration, remains at large, according to Superintendent of Police Apil Bohara.

The protests led to widespread damage, with 14 buildings set on fire, nine damaged, and several vehicles destroyed. Among the property targets were government vehicles and media houses, including the Kantipur Television building and Annapurna Media House.



The unrest followed months of pro-monarchy activism. Protesters, led by monarchists, have been demanding the reinstatement of the monarchy and a return to a Hindu kingdom. This movement gained momentum after former King Gyanendra Shah appealed for support in a video message on Democracy Day in February 2025.

In response to the unrest, the gov-

ernment revoked King Gyanendra's state privileges and canceled his passport, accusing him of inciting the violence. Nepal's political landscape has shifted dramatically since 2008 when the country transitioned from a monarchy to a secular, democratic republic. The government's quick response, including the lifting of the curfew, aims to stabilize the situation as further security discussions continue.

## Over 1,000 Dead, 2,376 Injured: Myanmar-Thailand Quakes Flatten Buildings

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar and parts of neighboring Thailand on Friday, leaving a trail of destruction and causing a rising death toll. As of Saturday, the combined death toll in both countries has exceeded 1,000.

The earthquake, with a magnitude of 7.7, hit northwest of Sagaing, Myanmar, at 12:50 pm (0650 GMT) on Friday. It struck at a shallow depth of just 10 km. This was followed by a 6.7-magnitude aftershock and several smaller tremors.

The quake's effects were felt across the region, with buildings shaking from India in the west to China in the east, as well as in Cambodia and Laos.

Myanmar's military junta reported that the death toll in the country has surpassed 1,000. The ongoing civil conflict, following the military's seizure of power, has severely hampered emergency response efforts.

In Thailand, the earthquake led to at least 10 deaths, primarily due to the collapse of a high-rise building under construction near Bangkok's Chatuchak market. As many as 100 workers are



feared to be trapped in the rubble.

In Myanmar's Mandalay, entire buildings collapsed into rubble, with emergency workers and locals rushing to rescue those trapped beneath the debris. The historic Ava Bridge also collapsed

into the Irrawaddy River.

In an unprecedented move, Myanmar's military regime appealed for international aid. Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing urged assistance from any country or organization.

## Plot to oust Yunus govt? Case filed against Hasina in Bangladesh

Yunus. The case, led by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), alleges that Hasina and the others planned to bring her back to power through a civil war, according to media reports.

The Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court took cognizance of the case on Thursday, instructing the CID to launch an investigation into the matter. The allegations stem from an online meeting held on December 19, 2024, where participants reportedly formed a platform called the "Joy Bangla Brigade." During the meeting, the attendees discussed plans to reinstate Hasina through violent means, including waging

civil war. Police say that voice recordings from the meeting revealed conversations between Hasina and several key figures, including Dr. Rabbi Alam, who hosted the meeting. The participants allegedly expressed a determination to prevent the legitimate government from governing peacefully. A total of 577 individuals, both from Bangladesh and abroad, are said to have attended the meeting, showing support for Hasina's actions. Alam, the vice president of the Awami League's US chapter, is named as the second accused in the case. Hasina's government was ousted in August 2024 following a violent student-led uprising, and since then, she has

been living in India, secretly fleeing Bangladesh.

Since her removal, Hasina has faced over 100 charges, including accusations of mass murder and corruption. Many leaders and ministers from her government have been arrested or fled abroad to avoid trial. Yunus, who took over as Chief Adviser of the interim government, has been accused by Hasina's supporters and political analysts of orchestrating her ouster with the support of a Western government. Hasina and several of her party leaders are also facing charges at Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal for alleged crimes against humanity

## Violence Erupts in Nepal as Pro-Monarchy Protesters Clash with Authorities

TPN Correspondent | Kathmandu

Tensions flared in Kathmandu, Nepal, as a protest march organized by supporters of former King Gyanendra Shah turned violent on Friday, leading to the deaths of two people and injuries to at least 112 others. The march, demanding the restoration of the monarchy and a Hindu kingdom, escalated when protesters clashed with police after attempting to march toward the parliament building.

Pro-monarchy demonstrators threw stones, attacked political party offices, looted shops, and set vehicles on fire. The violence led to the death of a television cameraman and a protester, and police were forced to use rub-

ber bullets, tear gas, and live rounds to disperse the crowd. The army was later called in to restore order.

The authorities imposed a curfew in parts of Kathmandu starting at 4:25 pm on Friday, which was lifted on Saturday morning. As of Saturday, 105 individuals had been arrested, including prominent members of the pro-monarchy Rastriya Prajatantra Party. Among those arrested were the party's general secretary, Dhawal Shumsher Rana, and central member Rabindra Mishra. The key figure behind the protest, Durga Prasai, remains at large.

The violence marked a significant escalation in the ongoing debate about Nepal's political future. While the

monarchy was abolished in 2008, some citizens, including the protesters, seek its reinstatement. Gyanendra Shah, the last king of Nepal, has kept a low profile since his abdication, though recent public appearances and a video message in February reignited the pro-monarchy movement.

The unrest prompted strong condemnation from opposition parties, with former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' calling for accountability, accusing Gyanendra Shah of being behind the violence. The protests highlight deep frustrations over Nepal's political instability, which has hindered economic growth and failed to meet the public's expectations for jobs, security, and good governance.





# India's Current Account Deficit Widens to \$11.5 Billion in Q3 Due to Higher Trade Deficit

India's current account deficit (CAD) expanded to USD 11.5 billion, or 1.1% of GDP, during the December quarter of the fiscal year 2024-25, compared to USD 10.4 billion (1.1% of GDP) in the same period last year, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. This increase was primarily driven by a higher merchandise trade deficit.

However, despite the widening deficit, the CAD showed improvement when compared to the previous quarter (Q2 2024-25), which had seen a much larger deficit of USD 16.7 billion, or 1.8% of GDP. This decline in CAD from Q2 to Q3 reflects some stabilization in the trade imbalance.

In the third quarter, India's merchandise trade deficit increased to USD 79.2 billion from USD 71.6 billion in the same period of the previous year. Despite this, India saw growth in net services receipts, which rose to USD 51.2 billion in Q3 2024-25, up from USD 45 billion in Q3 2023-24. This increase was attributed to higher services exports across all major categories, providing a partial offset to the widening trade deficit.

The current account deficit for the April-December 2024 period also widened to USD 37 billion, or 1.3% of GDP, compared to USD 30.6 billion (1.1% of GDP) in the same period last year. This continued de-

terioration in the CAD was largely driven by the elevated merchandise trade deficit.

The RBI's data also highlighted that India's services sector continues to perform robustly, supporting the country's external position despite the challenges posed by the trade deficit.

In related fiscal developments, the Centre's fiscal deficit stood at 85.8% of the annual target by the end of February 2025. The fiscal deficit during the April-February 2024-25 period amounted to Rs 13.46 lakh crore, with an estimated total deficit of Rs 15.69 lakh crore for the financial year.



## Centre's Fiscal Deficit Reaches 85.8% of Annual Target by February

The Centre's fiscal deficit for the current financial year reached 85.8% of the revised annual target by February, according to official data released on Friday. This is slightly better than the 86.5% deficit recorded in the same period last year, driven by tight expenditure control, particularly in capital expenditure.

The data suggests that the government is on track to meet its fiscal deficit target of 4.8% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the 2024-25 fiscal year, despite challenges such as lower-than-expected disinvestment proceeds and the recently approved supplementary demands for grants. Analysts have pointed out that the disciplined approach to spending, especially in terms of curbing capital expenditure, has played a crucial role in managing the fiscal deficit.

Capital expenditure has been a focal point for the government this year, with efforts to limit spending in this area to ensure that the fiscal deficit remains within the target. At the same time, the government has faced challenges with disinvestment receipts, which have been lower than anticipated, impacting overall revenue generation. However, the government's prudent fiscal management and focus on essential expenditure appear to be mitigating these challenges.

Despite these hurdles, experts believe that the government will be able to achieve its fiscal deficit goal, provided there are no major revenue shortfalls in the final quarter of the financial year. The fiscal deficit target of 4.8% is seen as crucial for maintaining macroeconomic stability and for sustaining the confidence of both investors and credit rating agencies in the Indian economy.

As the end of the financial year approaches, the government will continue to monitor spending and revenue inflows to ensure that the fiscal deficit remains within the targeted limits, and fiscal consolidation remains a priority in the coming months.

## BSE Shares Surge Following Sebi's Proposal on Uniform Expiry for Equity Derivatives

Shares of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) surged nearly 18% on Friday after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) proposed a uniform expiry date for all equity derivatives contracts across exchanges. The BSE stock jumped by 17.81%, reaching Rs 5,519 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

The proposal, outlined in a Sebi consultation paper released Thursday, suggests that expiry dates for equity derivatives be standardized across exchanges, limiting them to either Tuesdays or Thursdays. This proposal is intended to optimize the spacing between expiries and avoid the complications of having either the first or last day of the week designated as an expiry day. Sebi further recommended that exchanges must seek Sebi's approval before launching or modifying any contract expiry or settlement day.

Meanwhile, the NSE, which had initially planned to shift the expiry date of all index and stock derivatives from Thursday to Monday starting April 4, 2025, has decided to defer the change for now. The exchange had previously announced that Nifty weekly contracts, which currently expire on Thursdays, would be moved to Mondays. Additionally, the expiry date for Nifty's monthly, quarterly, and half-yearly contracts was set to change from the last Thursday of the month to the last Monday.

However, following Sebi's consultation paper, the NSE decided to delay the implementation of these changes until further notice. In a circular issued late Thursday, the NSE confirmed the deferral, citing Sebi's ongoing consultation on final settlement days (expiry days) for equity derivatives.

Sebi's proposal aims to create a more consistent and streamlined system for derivatives contracts, benefiting both market participants and exchanges. Under the new framework, exchanges will still have the flexibility to choose one weekly benchmark index options contract for expiry on either Tuesday or Thursday. This move seeks to bring uniformity to the expiry process while enhancing market efficiency.



## India's Solar Manufacturing Capacity to Reach 125 GW by 2030: Pralhad Joshi

Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi, announced on Saturday that India's solar photovoltaic (PV) module manufacturing capacity will increase to 125 gigawatts (GW) by 2030, up from the current 80 GW. In addition, the country's installed solar cell manufacturing capacity will soon reach 40 GW, up from 25 GW. Joshi made these remarks during the inauguration of a state-of-the-art 5.4 GW solar cell manufacturing facility by Waaree Energies Limited in Gujarat's Navsari district.

Joshi highlighted India's impressive growth in the solar manufacturing sector, stating that in 2014, the country had no solar PV module manufacturing industry. Today, companies like Waaree are producing 80 GW of solar PV modules. By 2030, India aims to achieve a total solar PV manufacturing capacity of 125 GW. Similarly, solar cell manufacturing, which was non-existent in 2014, is now at 25 GW and is expected to soon reach 40 GW. The government's vision includes integrated solar manufacturing in India, spanning everything from polysilicon to modules.

India has become the third-largest producer of renewable energy globally, and the minister ex-



pressed confidence that the country would reach its renewable energy target of 500 GW by 2030, up from the current 220 GW. Joshi attributed this progress to the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that under his leadership, India has emerged as a global leader in renewable energy.

The minister also emphasized India's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint. Despite having 17% of the world's population, India contributes less than 4% to global greenhouse gas emissions. Nevertheless, India is taking significant steps to harness solar and wind energy to ensure a sustainable future for the next generation. Solar PV modules, which were once imported

## German firm from chemical sector to invest USD 1.5 bn in India: Goyal

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced on Saturday that a German chemical company has decided to invest USD 1.5 billion in India. While he did not disclose the name of the company or the state involved, Goyal revealed that the company's head is scheduled to meet the state's chief minister on Sunday. The company has already been allocated land for the project, and the foreign direct investment (FDI) is expected to flow into the country over the next 12 months.

The company is seeking a 250-acre parcel of land near a port, and Goyal emphasized that the land allotment would be finalized soon. Germany is currently India's ninth-largest investor, having contributed approximately USD 15 billion in FDI between April 2000 and December 2024. Goyal highlighted that more international companies are looking to India for business opportunities, citing improvements in the country's business environment.

The government, according to Goyal, has undertaken significant measures to reduce the compliance burden and decriminalize minor offences, which have bolstered investor confidence. He assured potential investors that the government is ready to assist them in overcoming any legal obstacles or unfair competition, particularly related to predatory pricing practices.



Addressing the topic of arbitration, Goyal discussed its potential to reduce judicial delays, provided both parties involved are sincere in accepting arbitration results. He acknowledged concerns about the quality of arbitration and emphasized the need for more robust arbitration processes. Goyal expressed concerns about whether the government presents its case effectively and whether arbitration decisions are influenced by larger corporate interests or international pressures.

He stressed the importance of strengthening arbitration and mediation mechanisms to ensure fairness and foster confidence among all stakeholders. Goyal also noted that as India's manufacturing sector grows, disputes will inevitably arise, and a more efficient dispute resolution system would help maintain an unclogged court system, thus supporting India's aspirations of becoming a global manufacturing hub.

from countries like China, are now being locally manufactured due to initiatives like the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. Joshi affirmed that the government's goal is for India to become a global leader in manufacturing everything from polysilicon and solar modules to green ammonia and methanol.

The growing demand for energy in India is expected to double by 2032. As part of this, the government aims to provide electric connectivity to 18,100 villages and transform India into a global manufacturing hub, leveraging its credibility and human resources. Over the past 60 years, India's electricity generation capacity has risen from 269 GW to 459 GW in just the last decade.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, who was present at the event, praised PM Modi for transforming Gujarat into a "development role model." He highlighted the state's pro-business policies and infrastructure, which have made Gujarat an attractive destination for industrialists and innovators. Under the state's Atmanirbhar Gujarat policy, 183 units have been established with an investment of ₹43,000 crore.



## Woman's Rs 1,000 Purchase Could Be Rs 8.5 Crore Renoir Drawing



A Pennsylvania woman, Heidi Markow, may have made an extraordinary discovery after purchasing a drawing for just \$12 (Rs 1,026) from an antique store. Experts now believe the artwork could be an authentic piece by the renowned French artist Pierre-Auguste Renoir, potentially worth over \$1 million (Rs 8.5 crore). According to a report by ABC News, the drawing is thought to be a rare Renoir charcoal sketch from the 1800s. Markow, who runs an antiques business, came across the 17.5-inch by 16.5-inch artwork at a collector's auction in Montgomery County in January. Something about the piece caught her attention, and she was determined to buy it. "There were paintings selling for \$1,000, \$2,000, or even \$3,000. I didn't know what this was, but I just had a feeling that it was special," she recalled. Encouraged by her instincts, she urged her husband to place a bid on the drawing. To her surprise, he managed to purchase it for only \$12. Now, Markow is working with experts to authenticate the artwork. If proven to be an original Renoir, she hopes to sell it for a significant amount, ideally in the six or seven-figure range. However, she emphasizes that she wants the piece to go to someone who truly appreciates its value and historical significance. For now, the art world eagerly awaits the final verdict on whether this extraordinary find is indeed a lost masterpiece by Renoir.

## Tourist Assaulted in Goa, Vows Never to Return



A tourist's harrowing experience in Goa has gone viral after he detailed being physically assaulted and verbally abused by two locals near Madgaon railway station. In a social media post titled "Got physically abused in Goa, will probably never come back," the man recounted the shocking incident that has left him shaken. According to his post, he had rented a car for his trip to avoid the scorching heat and was on his way to catch a train from Madgaon station after dropping his girlfriend at the airport.

While driving, he allegedly "cut" two men on a scooter, though he insists there was no contact between their vehicles. The two men allegedly followed him to the station, blocked his car, and threatened to break his windshield. "One guy got off, picked up a stone, and threatened to break the windshield if I didn't open the window," he wrote. When he complied, he claimed he was punched multiple times and verbally abused. The attackers allegedly taunted him for being an outsider, further adding to his distress. "I barely

managed to return the car and catch my train, thanks to some locals who helped me escape," he wrote. The incident has left him deeply disturbed. "This has scarred all the good times I had in Goa. I hate Goa now because of this," he expressed in his post. Though he plans to file a police complaint, he admitted he was unable to capture any footage of the attackers or their vehicle. The viral post has sparked outrage online, with many calling for stronger safety measures for tourists visiting the popular destination.

## iPhone Users Can Set WhatsApp Default



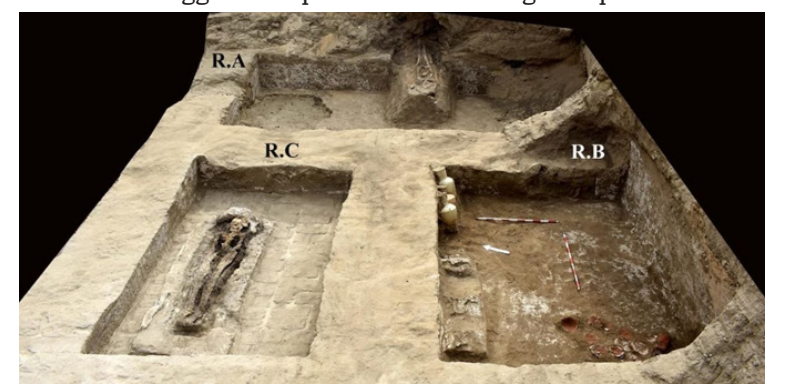
WhatsApp has rolled out a new update for iPhone users, enabling them to set it as their default calling and messaging app. This feature was initially announced by Apple for users in the European Union but has now been made available to all iPhone users with iOS 18.2. According to WaBetaInfo, to access this feature, users must update WhatsApp for iOS to version 25.8.74. This update allows users to bypass Apple's default Phone and Messages apps, integrating WhatsApp as their primary communication tool. This update marks a significant shift in iOS functionality, giving users more control over their preferred communication platforms. Apple had initially restricted third-party apps from

taking over core functions like calling and messaging, but regulatory pressure has led to increased flexibility. By setting WhatsApp as the default app, users can seamlessly make calls and send messages through the platform, which has over 2 billion users worldwide. This move is particularly useful for those who rely heavily on WhatsApp for communication, as it eliminates the need to switch between multiple apps. Apple's decision to allow third-party apps as defaults aligns with global efforts to enhance user choice and promote competition in the tech industry. As iOS continues to evolve, more such updates are expected to improve customization options for users.

## 3,200-Year-Old Tomb Linked to Ramesses III

Archaeologists in Egypt have uncovered a 3,200-year-old tomb that may have belonged to a military commander who served during the reign of Pharaoh Ramesses III. The discovery was made at Tell el-Maschuta, a site in northeastern Egypt, and was confirmed by the country's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The tomb is made of mud bricks and features a burial chamber along with three adjoining rooms. Inside, researchers found several artifacts, including a gold ring bearing the name of Ramesses III and a collection of bronze arrowheads. Other notable items recovered include an intricately carved ivory box and pottery vessels with inscriptions. One of the most intriguing aspects of the discovery is the presence of inscriptions referencing Horemheb, a

pharaoh who ruled between 1323 and 1295 B.C. Horemheb was known for his military career before ascending the throne, leading experts to question why his name appears on objects within the tomb. One theory suggests that some of the burial items were reused from an earlier period. However, the presence of artifacts linked to Ramesses III indicates that the tomb was likely in use during his reign, which lasted from around 1184 to 1153 B.C. While the tomb's artifacts suggest a possible connection to both Ramesses III and Horemheb, more research is needed to determine its true origins and purpose. Archaeologists plan to conduct further excavations and analysis to uncover more details about the individual buried there and the historical significance of the tomb. This discovery adds to the growing body of evidence about Egypt's rich and complex past, offering new insights into burial practices and political dynamics during the New Kingdom period.



## New Plastic Dissolves in Saltwater



A team of Japanese scientists at the RIKEN Center for Emergent Matter Science (CEMS) has developed a new type of plastic that remains strong during use but dissolves in saltwater, offering a potential solution to ocean pollution caused by microplastics. Traditional plastics are highly durable due to their strong covalent bonds, which prevent them from breaking down naturally. As a result, plastic waste accumulates in the environment, posing a major threat to marine life and human health. The newly developed plastic, however, is designed to maintain its strength while in use but break down harmlessly when exposed to seawater. The research, led by Takuzo Aida, focuses on supramolecular plastics—polymers held together by reversible interactions. The team used a combination of two ionic monomers that form cross-linked salt bridges, which provide both durability and flexibility. One of the monomers is sodium hexametaphosphate, a common food additive, while

the other is a guanidinium ion-based monomer. These materials are biodegradable, as they can be metabolized by bacteria after dissolving. "While supramolecular plastics have been considered weak due to their reversible bonds, our new material proves otherwise," said Aida. The key breakthrough was discovering how to create selectively irreversible cross-links that only break down when exposed to seawater electrolytes. During the manufacturing process, the researchers observed that when the monomers were mixed with water, two distinct liquid layers formed—one thick and viscous, containing essential salt bridges, and the other watery, containing expelled salt ions. The final plastic, named alkyl SP2, was created by drying the thick liquid layer. This innovative material could significantly reduce plastic waste in the ocean, paving the way for more sustainable alternatives to conventional plastics.

## MI's Start Goes From Bad To Worse, GT Claim First Win



In a thrilling encounter at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on March 29, 2025, Gujarat Titans (GT) secured their first victory of the season by defeating Mumbai Indians (MI) by 36 runs. Both teams entered the match seeking their inaugural win, having lost their opening fixtures. BIZNEWS INDIA

GT's Dominant Batting Performance GT set a formidable target, posting a total of 196/8 in their 20 overs. Opener B Sai Sudharsan led the charge with a stellar half-century, contributing 63 runs off 41 balls. Captain Shubman Gill added 38 runs from 27 balls, while Jos Buttler scored 39 off 24 balls, laying a strong foundation for the innings. Despite a late surge from MI's bowlers, including Hardik Pandya's two-wicket haul, GT managed to reach a competitive total. THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

MI's Chase Falters Under Pressure MI's chase got off to a challenging start, with Mohammed Siraj striking early by dismissing captain Rohit Sharma for just 8 runs in the first over. He followed up by removing Ryan Rickelton, leaving MI at a precarious 48/2 within the powerplay. Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma attempted to rebuild, adding 62 runs for the third wicket. However, the introduction of Prasidh Krishna shifted the momentum in GT's favor, as he dismissed both Yadav and Varma, reducing MI to 97/4. BUSINESS NEWS TODAY

Despite efforts from Hardik Pandya, who contributed 11 runs off 17 balls before falling to Kagiso Rabada, MI's batting order crumbled under pressure. The required run rate escalated, and wickets continued to fall at regular intervals. MI's chase concluded at 160/9, handing GT a well-deserved victory. BUSINESS NEWS TODAY

**Key Performances and Statistics**  
**Gujarat Titans:**  
 B Sai Sudharsan: 63 runs off 41 balls  
 Shubman Gill: 38 runs off 27 balls  
 Jos Buttler: 39 runs off 24 balls  
**Mumbai Indians:**  
 Suryakumar Yadav: 48 runs off 28 balls  
 Tilak Varma: 39 runs off 36 balls  
 Hardik Pandya: 11 runs off 17 balls; 2 wickets for 29 runs  
 This victory propels Gujarat Titans to a favorable position in the league standings, while Mumbai Indians will need to regroup and strategize for their upcoming matches to turn their season around.

## Delhi Capitals Eye Second Win as KL Rahul Returns to Face Wounded Sunrisers

Delhi Capitals are aiming to build on their morale-boosting win over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) as they prepare to face Sunrisers Hyderabad in their next IPL 2025 clash on Sunday. The Capitals, fresh off a thrilling victory, are further strengthened by the return of India wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul, who missed the season opener due to the birth of his first child. Rahul's return is expected to provide much-needed stability to Delhi's top order, which struggled in the previous match. Despite being absent in the first game, Rahul's presence will be crucial in the middle order, bolstering the batting lineup. His experience in big tournaments, including his contribution to India's Champions Trophy win in Dubai earlier this year, will be valuable for the squad. Rahul, who was picked by Delhi Capitals for ₹14 crore, will be keen to prove his worth after

a challenging stint with Lucknow Super Giants, where he was not retained. Now, he is looking to rediscover his form and push for a spot in India's T20 squad. Delhi's previous match saw them overcome a tough situation. Chasing a target of 211, they were reeling at 65/5 before Ashutosh Sharma (66\*) and Vipraj Nigam (39) engineered a thrilling one-wicket win. Rahul's return should provide the team with the much-needed stability, with his leadership also serving as a vital support for Axar Patel, who is captaining the team for the first time. Meanwhile, Sunrisers Hyderabad have had a mixed start to their campaign. After an explosive opening game where they posted 286/6, they faltered in their second match, posting just 190/9. Despite their strong batting line-up, SRH's lack of substantial totals in their recent loss highlights the need to convert starts into big scores.



## Manisha Bhanwala Wins Gold, Antim Panghal Bags Bronze at Asian Wrestling Championships

Indian wrestlers Manisha Bhanwala and Antim Panghal delivered stellar performances at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2025 in Amman, Jordan, on Friday, clinching gold and bronze medals in their respective categories. Manisha Bhanwala created history by securing India's first women's freestyle wrestling gold at the continental meet since 2021. She defeated Ok J Kim from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) 8-7 in a thrilling final. Manisha had a remarkable journey to the final, with wins over Kazakhstan's Tynys Dubek and Republic of Korea's Hanbit Lee. She also outperformed defending champion Kalmira Bilimbek Kyzy of Kyrgyzstan with a 5-1 victory. Despite trailing 2-7 in the final, Manisha showed incredible determination to turn the match around and clinch



the gold.

Meanwhile, Antim Panghal, making her return to international wrestling after the Paris 2024 Olympics, earned a bronze medal in the 53kg division. Panghal began her campaign with a strong 10-6 win over China's Jin Zhang, a World Championships silver medallist. However, she was defeated by Japan's 55kg world champion Moe Kiyooka in the semi-finals via technical superiority.

Panghal bounced back to defeat Chinese Taipei's Meng Hsuan Hsieh, securing a bronze medal with a dominant performance. These two medals pushed India's tally at the championships to seven—one gold, one silver, and five bronze. On Thursday, Reetika Hooda won silver in the 76kg women's freestyle category. Other bronze medalists include Muskan (59kg), Mansi Lather (68kg), and Greco-Roman wrestlers Nitesh (97kg) and Sunil Kumar (87kg). Unfortunately, wrestlers Neha Sharma, Monika, and Jyoti Berwal did not secure medals on the day. The Indian men's freestyle wrestlers, including Tokyo 2020 Olympian Deepak Punia, will be in action over the next two days, adding to India's medal hopes at the ongoing event.

## Chapman, Nathan Smith powers New Zealand to victory over Pakistan by 73 runs in first ODI

Mark Chapman's brilliant 132 and Nathan Smith's impressive four-wicket haul led New Zealand to a dominant victory over Pakistan in the first ODI of their three-match series at McLean Park, Napier, on Saturday. Chapman was awarded the Player of the Match for his outstanding performance, which guided the Kiwis to a comfortable win. With this victory, New Zealand takes a 1-0 lead in the series, with the second match scheduled for Wednesday in Hamilton. New Zealand, batting first, set a challenging target of 345



runs, finishing with 344/9 in their 50 overs. Apart from Chapman's brilliant knock, Daryl Mitchell contributed 76 runs off 84 balls, and Muhammad Abbas played a quick-fire innings of 52 runs from 26 balls. Pakistan's bowlers tried to keep the total in check, with Irfan Khan claiming 3 wickets for 51 runs in

5 overs, and Haris Rauf and Akif Javed both picking up 2 wickets each. In reply, Pakistan began their chase with a solid start from openers Abdullah Shafique and Usman Khan, who put on a partnership of 83 runs. Shafique scored 36 runs off 49 balls, and Khan added 39 runs off 33 balls before

being dismissed in the 13th over. Pakistan's middle order, led by Babar Azam (78 runs off 83 balls) and Salman Agha (58 runs from 48 balls), kept the chase alive, but it wasn't enough as the visitors were bowled out for 244 runs in the 45th over. Nathan Smith was the standout bowler for New Zealand, taking 4 wickets for 60 runs in 8.1 overs, while Jacob Duffy supported well with 2 wickets for 57 runs in 9 overs. William O'Rourke, Michael Bracewell, and Muhammad Abbas each took one wicket in their respective spells.



To become highest run-getter for in history of Indian Premier League

Former Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain MS Dhoni achieved a remarkable milestone on Friday, surpassing Suresh Raina to become the highest run-scorer in the history of the five-time Indian Premier League (IPL) champions. Dhoni reached this landmark during the eighth match of IPL 2025, held at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai, where he played an explosive knock of 30 not out off 16 balls, at a staggering strike rate of 187.5, which included three boundaries and two sixes. With this performance, the 43-year-old wicketkeeper-batter now holds the record for most runs for CSK, amassing a total of 4,699

runs in 204 innings, at an average of 40.50 and a strike rate of 139.43. This surpassed Raina's previous record of 4,687 runs, which he scored in 171 innings for the franchise before retiring from the sport. Other players on the list of top run-scorers for CSK include Faf du Plessis, who scored 2,721 runs in 86 innings, current captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, with 2,433\* runs from 67 innings, and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who has accumulated 1,939 runs in 127 innings. While Gaikwad and Jadeja continue to play for CSK, du Plessis has moved on to join Delhi Capitals as their vice-captain for the ongoing IPL season.

## MS Dhoni surpasses Suresh Raina



## Krithi Shetty's Glam Magic Lights Up Kollywood!

Krithi Shetty is making waves in Kollywood with her stunning presence! The actress recently turned heads at the JFW Movie Awards 2025, where she dazzled in a golden bralette, matching jacket, and a black thigh-slit skirt, paired with silver heels. Her sleek high bun and effortless confidence made her a true red-carpet sensation.

As she accepted her award, Krithi exuded glamour and poise, cementing her place as a rising star in the Tamil film industry. Fans are eagerly awaiting her upcoming Kollywood film LIK, where she will be seen alongside Pradeep Ranganathan. With her undeniable charm and talent, Krithi is all set to make a lasting mark in the industry.



## Ustaad Bhagat Singh Faces Major Delay



Pawan Kalyan's highly anticipated film Ustaad Bhagat Singh, directed by Harish Shankar, has hit a major roadblock. After completing a few schedules, the shoot was put on hold due to Pawan Kalyan's political commitments. As per sources,

the film is unlikely to resume production this year. The actor must first wrap up Hari Hara Veera Mallu and OG before returning to this project. Additionally, Pawan Kalyan is reportedly facing health issues and requires time to recover,

further delaying the shoot.

Despite the setback, Ustaad Bhagat Singh, produced by Mythri Movie Makers, remains one of the most awaited films. Fans will have to wait longer for an official update on its progress.

## Akshay Kumar's Film on Jallianwala Bagh Massacre



The Jallianwala Bagh massacre remains one of the darkest and most tragic events in India's fight for independence, where hundreds of innocent people lost their lives due to British brutality. Now, a film exploring the aftermath of this historical tragedy is set to release.

Bollywood star Akshay Kumar takes the lead role in Kesari Chapter 2, alongside Madhavan, Regina Cassandra, and Ananya Panday in pivotal roles. Directed by Karan Singh Tyagi, the film is produced by Karan Johar under the Dharma Productions banner. As a summer treat, Kesari Chapter 2 is slated for release on April 18. To build anticipation, the makers have unveiled the film's first look, generating excitement among audiences.

## Kalyan Ram's Naayaldhi Set to Drop Soon!



Nandamuri Kalyan Ram's much-awaited film Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi is all set to elevate the excitement with its first single, Naayaldhi, releasing on March 31st. Composed by B Ajaneesh Lokanath, the song is expected to be a high-energy dance number. A newly revealed poster showcases Kalyan

an Ram striking a stylish pose with his signature charm, hinting at a grand celebration. The film has already made waves in the industry, setting a new record in pre-release business with theatrical and non-theatrical rights selling at record-breaking prices. Directed by Pradeep Chilukuri, the film stars Vijayashanthi

as Kalyan Ram's mother, with Saiee Manjrekar as the female lead. The emotional mother-son bond is expected to be a major highlight. Produced by Ashok Vardhan Muppa and Sunil Balusu under Ashoka Creations and NTR Arts, Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi is shaping up to be a massive entertainer.

## Kajal Aggarwal's Strong Comeback in Sikandar



Salman Khan's much-awaited film Sikandar is set for a grand release tomorrow, marking his return to Eid releases. While the buzz around the film is steadily growing, reports confirm that Kajal Aggarwal, the female lead, has

a substantial role rather than a mere cameo. Once a leading actress, Kajal took a break after becoming a mother but is now making a strong comeback with major projects, including Sikandar. Directed by A.R. Murugadoss, the film

also features Sathyaraj as the main antagonist, while Rashmika Mandanna plays another key female role. With an exciting cast and high expectations, Sikandar is poised to make a big impact at the box office.