

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

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VIJAYAWADA

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TIRUPATHI

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36°

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26°

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Published from : Hyderabad - Vijayawada - Delhi - Bangalore

Wednesday, 16th April, 2025 | 12 Pages

National Herald Case: ED files chargesheet against Sonia, Rahul

Case involves alleged money laundering tied to National Herald operations.

Congress calls probe political vendetta, denies all wrongdoing.

ED accuses Gandhis of misusing party funds via Young Indian Pvt Ltd.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A Delhi court on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, scheduled April 25 as the date to consider the chargesheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and party veteran Sam Pitroda in connection with an alleged money laundering case linked to the National Herald newspaper.

The ED's chargesheet, submitted ear-

lier this month, accuses the Congress leaders of financial irregularities and misuse of funds in the acquisition and operations of Associated Journals Limited (AJL), the publisher of the now-defunct National Herald. The case, which has been under investigation for several years, revolves around allegations that Congress funds were diverted illegally to take control of AJL's assets.

The court's decision to consider the chargesheet on April 25 marks a significant step in the legal proceedings, which have drawn considerable political attention, especially as the 2024-25 election season unfolds.

Congress has strongly denied the allegations, terming the ED's action as "politics of vendetta." The party

maintains that the case is politically motivated and aimed at tarnishing the image of its top leadership. "This is a textbook example of how central agencies are being misused to target political opponents," a senior Congress spokesperson said.

ED chargesheet against Sonia, Rahul nothing but 'politics of vendetta':

Congress

The case first gained prominence in 2012, when BJP leader Subramanian Swamy filed a private complaint alleging that Sonia and Rahul Gandhi had acquired control over AJL through the non-profit Young Indian Pvt Ltd, in which they held majority shares. The complaint claimed that AJL's real estate assets, valued in the hundreds of crores, were effectively transferred to Young Indian, bypassing legal procedures and financial accountability.

While the Congress leadership has repeatedly dismissed these claims as baseless, the ED has continued its investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), citing fresh financial evidence and witness testimonies.

The outcome of the April 25 hearing could set the tone for the next phase of the legal battle, with implications not only for the Gandhis but also for the political landscape in the run-up to the next general elections.

Hindu Petitioners Challenge Constitutional Validity of Waqf Act in Supreme Court

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Amid intensifying legal scrutiny of the recent amendments to the Waqf Act, 1995—modified under the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025—a group of Hindu petitioners has approached the Supreme Court, questioning the constitutional validity of key provisions in the law. The petition, filed by Advocate Hari Shankar Jain and others, was mentioned for urgent listing before the apex court on Tuesday by Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain.

The petition argues that several provisions of the Waqf Act unfairly favor the Muslim community and facilitate the alleged illegal acquisition of public and Hindu religious properties. It claims that these provisions violate Articles 14 (right to equality) and 25 (freedom of religion) of the Constitution by granting "undue benefits" to Muslims while threatening the property and religious rights of Hindus.

The plea specifically targets Sections 4 and 5 of the Act, which empower Waqf Boards to survey and register properties as Waqf without requiring public notice or giving affected parties a chance to be heard. This, the petitioners argue, is "illegal, ar-

bitrary, and non-transparent," leading to wrongful classifications of public lands and Hindu properties as Waqf.

The petition also asserts that the current law has allowed a "Waqf empire" to emerge, generating crores in revenue, allegedly at the expense of the general public and other religious communities. It highlights instances where government land, public infrastructure, and gram sabha land have reportedly been included under Waqf jurisdiction without due process. In their plea, the petitioners have sought several directions from the court, including: Declaring that no actions under Sections 4 and 5 can affect Hindu or non-Muslim properties.

- Government-led identification and restoration of Hindu properties allegedly misclassified as Waqf.
- Empowering civil courts to hear grievances of Hindus and other non-Muslims against Waqf-related actions.
- Mandating public notice and hearing before any property is declared Waqf.

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Tamil Nadu CM Stalin Forms High-Level Panel to Review Centre-State Relations

Push for Greater Autonomy

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a significant move aimed at strengthening federalism and enhancing State autonomy, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday announced the formation of a high-level committee to review the Constitution, laws, and policies concerning Centre-State relations.

Addressing the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, CM Stalin said the three-member committee would critically examine the existing legal and constitutional framework that governs the balance of power between the Centre and the States. The objective, he noted, is to recommend practical and legal steps that can help protect and reinforce the rights of States within the federal structure of India.

The committee will include legal and constitutional experts and senior policy advisors

who are expected to conduct a comprehensive review of central laws that have implications for state autonomy, including fiscal relations, administrative control, and legislative competencies. It will also examine the roles and limitations of institutions such as the Governor and the role of the Union government in areas traditionally managed by the States.

"This committee will play a vital role in charting a course

for a truly cooperative federal structure, one where States are not treated as subordinates but as equal stakeholders," Stalin said in the Assembly.

The DMK government has long advocated for greater devolution of powers to the States and has frequently raised concerns over what it describes as the Union government's growing interference in subjects under the State List. Stalin has also called for the redefini-

tion of federalism in line with evolving needs and challenges faced by individual States.

The announcement comes amid growing tension between regional governments and the Centre over issues ranging from GST revenue sharing to the role of Governors and centrally-imposed schemes that allegedly dilute state authority.

Political observers believe this move could set a precedent for other non-BJP-ruled states to explore legal avenues to assert greater autonomy and push back against centralized governance trends.

The Chief Minister concluded by saying that the committee's recommendations would be made public and tabled in the Assembly, reaffirming his government's commitment to transparency and democratic engagement on the issue of federal balance.

RJD's Tejashwi Yadav Meets Congress Leadership in Delhi to Discuss Bihar Poll Strategy

In a significant political development ahead of the upcoming Bihar assembly elections, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav met with senior Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and party president Mallikarjun Kharge, in the national capital on Tuesday. The closed-door meeting was held at Kharge's residence and focused on poll preparedness and seat-sharing strategy within the Mahagathabandhan (Grand Alliance).

Yadav was accompanied by RJD MPs Manoj Jha and Sanjay Yadav. Representing the Congress were general secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal, Bihar Congress chief Rajesh Kumar, and AICC Bihar in-charge Krishna Allavaru.

The meeting underscored the commitment of both parties to present a united front under the INDIA bloc banner to challenge the ruling

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Union Minister Gadkari Promises June Completion Of Mumbai-Goa Highway

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

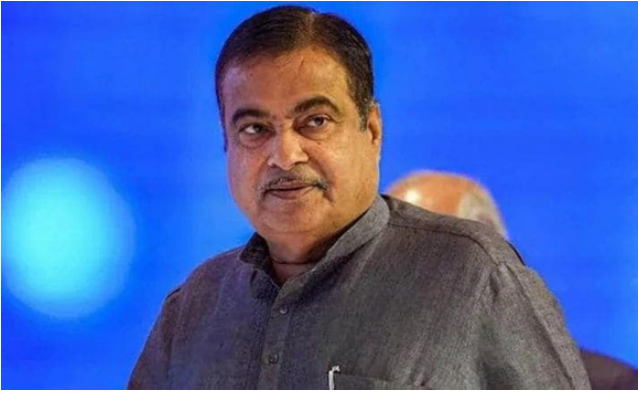
Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced that the long-awaited Mumbai-Goa highway project will be completed by June this year, bringing long-overdue relief to commuters and travelers heading to the Konkan region. The project, plagued by delays for years, has been a major concern due to poor road conditions and pothole-ridden stretches.

Speaking at the Vasant Vyakhyanmala event organized by Amar Hind Mandal in Mumbai's Dadar area on Monday, Mr. Gadkari said the highway will not only reduce travel time between Mumbai and Goa but also accelerate development across the Konkan belt.

“There were numerous difficulties with the Mumbai-Goa highway, including land acquisition issues and legal disputes,” he said. “Fights among family members over land, court cases, and complications in providing compensation all contributed to the delay. But all of that has now been resolved, and we will complete the highway 100% by June.”

He acknowledged that the Mumbai-Goa and Delhi-Jaipur highways have been “black spots” in the ministry's infrastructure plans due to persistent challenges.

Looking ahead, Mr. Gadkari expressed optimism about India's road network. “In the next two years, India's road infrastructure will be better than that of the United States,” he declared.



The minister also reiterated the government's plan to eliminate physical toll booths nationwide. He said the Centre is set to introduce a new toll policy within the next 15 days. “I won't go into detail now, but once the new policy is implemented, there will be no reason for anyone to complain about tolls,” he assured.

The upcoming toll system will leverage advanced technology, including satellite tracking and automatic number plate recognition. This will enable automatic toll deductions directly from vehicle owners' bank accounts, eliminating the need for manual toll collection and long queues at toll plazas.

Mr. Gadkari's announcement has raised hopes among daily commuters and tourists who have long struggled with delays, poor road conditions, and toll-related issues along the Mumbai-Goa highway.

Petitions in SC Seek Probe into Waqf Law-Related Violence in West Bengal

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Two petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court, calling for a court-monitored investigation into the recent violence in West Bengal following the enactment of the Waqf (Amendment) Act. The petitions, which highlight concerns over the law's impact, come in the wake of fresh violence reported in the Bhargar area of South 24 Parganas district on April 14.

The violence erupted as tensions surrounding the Waqf law continue to escalate. The petitions urge the court to step in and ensure a thorough and impartial investigation into the incidents, which are believed to be linked to the new legislation. The Waqf (Amendment) Act, which seeks to amend provisions relating to the management of Waqf properties, has sparked widespread protests, particularly in West Bengal, with critics alleging that it could lead to the mismanagement and unlawful occupation of Waqf lands.

Despite the violence, the police have stated that the situation in Murshidabad, another district that was previously a hotspot for riots related to the law, remains under control. However, the renewed unrest in Bhargar has raised concerns about the law's



potential to ignite further clashes across the state.

Authorities are working to restore peace and order in the affected areas, but the petitions in the Supreme Court highlight the urgency of a fair and transparent investigation into the violence. Legal experts argue that a court-monitored probe would help ensure accountability and prevent further unrest.

The Supreme Court's intervention could play a critical role in addressing the legal and social concerns raised by the protests, which have led to clashes between different communities in the state. As the situation remains tense, many are watching closely to see how the judiciary will respond to these petitions and the ongoing crisis in West Bengal.

IIT-Delhi Partners with Micron Technology to Advance Semiconductor Research

TPN Correspondent| Delhi

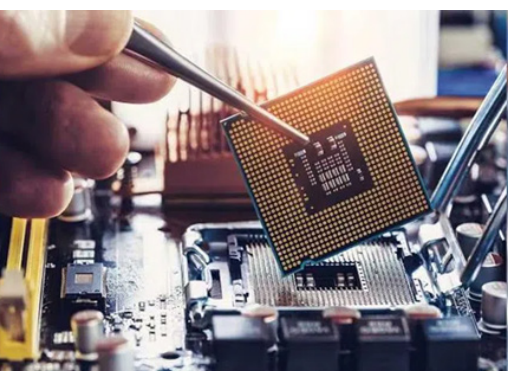
The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-Delhi) announced a strategic collaboration with Micron Technology, Inc. on Tuesday, aiming to boost advanced research in electronic materials and artificial intelligence (AI)-driven modelling, particularly in the semiconductor sector.

This partnership, formed through IIT Delhi's Corporate Relations office, seeks to bridge the gap between academic research and industrial needs in the rapidly advancing semiconductor industry. The collaboration will focus on

developing innovative solutions using cutting-edge technology and scientific knowledge to address key challenges in semiconductor manufacturing.

Research teams will work on electronic materials, utilizing AI-powered neural models to predict and prevent fatigue and fracture in copper-based electronic components, ultimately enhancing the reliability and performance of semiconductor devices. This research initiative is expected to play a pivotal role in advancing semiconductor technologies.

Professor Preeti Ranjan Panda, Dean



of Corporate Relations at IIT Delhi, expressed the institution's pride in this collaboration. “At IIT Delhi, we are committed to fostering industry-academia partnerships that drive im-

pactful research and innovation. Our association with Micron Technology is a perfect blend of academic excellence and industrial expertise, propelling advancements in electronic materials and AI-driven modelling to address critical challenges in the semiconductor industry,” he said.

Gurtej S Sandhu, Vice President at Micron Technology, also lauded the partnership, stating, “Micron's collaboration with IIT Delhi will drive our joint efforts in developing advanced AI models and crystal plasticity frameworks, reinforcing our commitment to innovation and the future of semiconduc-

tor technology.”

The semiconductor sector is of growing importance in India, with approximately 20% of the global semiconductor design workforce based in the country. The Indian government estimates the chip demand, currently valued at \$45-50 billion, will more than double to \$100-110 billion by 2030. S Krishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), emphasized the need for Nano Centres to foster innovation and build a skilled workforce of 85,000 professionals to support India's growing semiconductor sector.

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RJD's Tejashwi Yadav Meets Congress Leadership in Delhi to Discuss Bihar Poll Strategy

National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Bihar. Sources said the leaders discussed key constituencies, campaign coordination, and the importance of a cohesive narrative centered on development, social justice, and democratic values.

Congress President Kharge and Rahul Gandhi reiterated the party's stand that any decision regarding the chief ministerial face will be a “collective one” by alliance partners. Last month, the Congress had already initiated internal preparations for the Bihar elections, and Tuesday's discussions with the RJD are seen as a crucial next step in formalizing the alliance's roadmap.

The timing of the meeting is significant, as Mahagathbandhan allies are expected to engage in tough negotiations over

seat-sharing. Both the RJD and Congress are seeking to expand their footprints, even as they navigate the complexities of coalition politics. Leaders from both sides emphasized the importance of maintaining alliance unity to prevent vote fragmentation and ensure a strong challenge to the BJP-led NDA.

Images released by the AICC showed Tejashwi Yadav with Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge in a cordial setting, highlighting the sense of camaraderie and urgency within the alliance.

With Bihar set to go to polls later this year, the Mahagathbandhan hopes to capitalize on anti-incumbency, rural dissatisfaction, and calls for social inclusion to reclaim power in the politically crucial state.

Hindu Petitioners Challenge Constitutional Validity of Waqf Act in Supreme Court

The Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 was passed during the Budget session of Parliament and has been widely debated. While the government claims the amendments aim to increase transparency and curb corruption, critics argue that

the changes undermine Waqf autonomy and pose threats to community rights. The Supreme Court is set to hear multiple petitions challenging the law's constitutionality in the coming weeks.

President Murmu Urges New IAS Officers to Focus on Upliftment of the Underprivileged

TPN Correspondent | Manipur

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday urged newly inducted Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers to make a concerted effort towards the upliftment of underprivileged communities. Addressing the 2023 batch of IAS officers, who are currently serving as assistant secretaries in various Union ministries and departments, Murmu emphasized that being part of the IAS offers a unique opportunity to bring about transformative changes in the lives of many people.

She reminded the officers that their role comes with great responsibilities, stating, “The duties of a public servant are their responsibilities, and their rights are the means to fulfill those duties.” Murmu also highlighted the personal journey these officers have undertaken,

noting their hard work and determination in reaching their positions. “This achievement has brought about a transformative change in your personal lives, and now, with even more dedication, you have the chance to make a transformative difference in the lives of countless citizens,” she said.

The President encouraged the officers to use their vast service areas and authority to positively impact society, especially during their first postings. She also advised them to focus on the welfare of marginalized sections of society and to assess the long-term effects of their work over time by revisiting their places of service.

Murmu further emphasized that their true success would not be measured by social media followers but by the tangi-

ble impact of their work. “Your real social net worth will be determined by the good work you do,” she added.

Stressing the importance of integrity, Murmu urged the officers to uphold honesty and moral values in their service. “The people who follow values of honesty, truth, and simplicity lead happier lives,” she said, underscoring the importance of public servants setting examples of integrity.

In the digital age, where public expectations and accountability are rising, the President advised the officers to engage closely with citizens and address public concerns raised by elected representatives, reminding them that their local and state-level development work will contribute to achieving national goals.

Ranveer Allahbadia, Samay Raina appear before Maharashtra cyber cell in obscene remarks case

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

YouTube star Ranveer Allahbadia and stand-up comedian Samay Raina appeared before the Maharashtra Cyber Cell in Mumbai on Tuesday in connection with the ongoing investigation into the controversial show India's Got Latent. The duo is being questioned over allegedly obscene and inappropriate content featured during the show, which has triggered significant public backlash.

According to sources, both Allahbadia and Raina have been issued summons three times each as part of the inquiry. Their recent appearance

marks a key step in the ongoing probe, which has drawn attention to the growing scrutiny of digital content in India. Samay Raina, a popular comedian and online personality, had previously issued an apology on social media, acknowledging the controversy and expressing regret over any unintended offense caused. Ranveer Allahbadia, known widely by his YouTube alias “BeerBiceps,” had failed to appear before the Cyber Cell last week to record his statement, citing scheduling issues. His absence drew criticism and added pressure for him to cooperate with authorities.

The show India's Got Latent featured a group of digital content creators and influencers engaging in candid and often controversial discussions. Clips from the show went viral for all the wrong reasons, with many viewers accusing the participants of making vulgar and obscene remarks under the guise of comedy and free speech. In response to public complaints, the Maharashtra Cyber Cell launched an investigation into whether the content violated the Information Technology Act and other relevant laws. Officials are currently examining wheth-

er the remarks made during the show constitute criminal offenses under obscenity and defamation provisions. Authorities have also warned that stricter action could be taken if further violations are found, as digital platforms come under increasing regulatory oversight. As the probe continues, both Allahbadia and Raina are expected to remain in close contact with investigators. The incident has sparked broader conversations around content regulation, freedom of expression, and accountability in India's digital creator space.

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta reacts to private schools' fee hike

‘No right to harass students, will take action’



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday responded strongly to allegations of steep fee hikes by several private schools in the city, assuring parents that the government would not tolerate any exploitation or harassment of students and their families.

Speaking to reporters at the Delhi Secretariat, Gupta confirmed that her office had received numerous complaints from concerned parents about abnormal increases in school fees. “Parents have been meeting me with their grievances. No school has the right to harass or threaten students and their families with unjustified fee hikes. There are rules in place, and if any school is found violating them, strict

action will follow,” she said.

The chief minister added that notices are being issued to schools named in complaints and that authorities would take all necessary steps to protect parents’ rights. “Notices will go out today to all those institutions against whom we’ve received credible complaints,” she said.

The matter came into the spotlight after a protest last week by parents of students at a private school in Dwarka. Protesters alleged that their children had been subjected to a “library arrest” — confined to the school library for the past 25 days — after families opposed the fee hike. The incident has sparked widespread outrage and demands for government intervention.

Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood also addressed the situation, confirming that a special inspection team had visited the Dwarka school and that the government had begun a broader crackdown on fee irregularities. “Sub-divisional magistrates (SDMs) have been instructed to inspect schools across the city and collect responses to an 18-point compliance questionnaire,” he said.

Sood added that a committee has been formed, comprising the Deputy Director of Education and the Director of Accounts, to further investigate the matter. The education department has also launched a dedicated email ID for parents to submit complaints about arbitrary fee hikes.

Meanwhile, AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal criticized the BJP-led central government, accusing it of undermining the education system in Delhi and enabling fee exploitation under its governance. “The education system has fallen into the clutches of mafias,” Kejriwal claimed, calling for reforms and accountability.

Mamata Banerjee calls rioters messengers of peace

Yogi Adityanath's attack over Murshidabad violence

TPN Correspondent | UP

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a sharp critique of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday, questioning her “silence” over the recent violence in Murshidabad and other parts of the state, sparked by protests against the newly-enacted Waqf (Amendment) Act.

Addressing reporters, Adityanath accused Mamata Banerjee of failing to take strong action against the rioters, stating, “Bengal is burning, but the Chief Minister remains silent. She calls the rioters ‘messengers of peace’, but those who understand only force will not listen to words.” The Uttar Pradesh CM further condemned the situation, saying, “In the name of secularism, they have given complete freedom to rioters to create unrest. The entire Murshidabad has been on fire for the last week, yet the government remains silent. Such anarchy must be brought under control.”

Adityanath also took aim at



the Congress and the Samajwadi Party, accusing them of remaining mute on the violence. “The Congress and the Samajwadi Party have remained silent on the riots in Murshidabad. I thank the judiciary for deploying central forces to ensure the safety of minority Hindus in the area,” he said.

The violence, which has led to the deaths of three individuals, erupted in Murshidabad last week as protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act intensified. The district saw widespread destruction, with large crowds setting fire to houses, shops, and other prop-

erties. Many residents fled the area, seeking refuge in the neighboring district of Malda.

In addition to Murshidabad, clashes also broke out in South 24 Parganas’ Bhangar on Monday, following a rally against the Waqf law. The Calcutta High Court ordered the deployment of central forces to control the unrest, while the West Bengal police have arrested over 150 individuals involved in the violence.

As the situation continues to unfold, Adityanath’s remarks have sparked a fresh political debate over the handling of the unrest in West Bengal.

People have right to protest, not to take law into their hands: West Bengal CM Mamata

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In the wake of violent protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act across various parts of West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday (April 15, 2025) called for peace and responsible civic behavior. Emphasizing the democratic right to protest, Banerjee asserted that while peaceful demonstrations are welcome in a democracy, no one should take the law into their own hands or incite unrest.

Speaking at the inauguration of a new

skywalk near the renowned Kalighat Kali Temple in South Kolkata, Banerjee said, “Everyone has the right to raise their voice and protest peacefully. But violence and disruption in the name of protest will not be tolerated. The law will take its own course.”

Her remarks come in the backdrop of escalating tensions and violent incidents reported from areas like Murshidabad and South 24 Parganas, where protests over the recently amended Waqf Act turned violent, resulting in damage to public property and clashes with law enforcement.



Reiterating her appeal for harmony, Banerjee urged people to uphold the sanctity of religion and not misuse it for political or disruptive purposes. “Religion should unite us, not divide

us. Don’t use religion as a shield for non-religious, divisive, or unlawful activities,” she said, indirectly addressing the political rhetoric surrounding the protests.

She also warned that strict action would be taken against those found guilty of instigating violence or spreading misinformation. “The state will not allow any force to destabilize the peace of Bengal. We are committed to protecting the harmony of our land,” she added.

The Chief Minister also lauded the ef-

forts of law enforcement for managing the situation on the ground and urged the public to cooperate with authorities to maintain order.

Banerjee’s statements highlight her administration’s stance on balancing the right to protest with maintaining public order, as political parties and community groups continue to express their concerns over the implications of the amended Waqf legislation.

Waqf Act Amendments Aim to Correct Past Mistakes, Not Target Muslims: Kiren Rijiju

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday clarified that the recent amendments to the Waqf Act are not aimed at targeting the Muslim community but are instead intended to correct “mistakes of the past.” Speaking to the media in Kochi, Kerala, Rijiju emphasized that the move is focused on preventing the forceful and unilateral takeover of land under the guise of Waqf property.

“The intention of the government is clear—there should be no provision for any individual or institution to arbitrarily take over someone else’s land,” Rijiju said. He noted that earlier provisions in the Waqf Act gave “unprecedented power” to Waqf Boards, which needed to be reconsidered in the interest of fairness and transparency.

Rijiju, accompanied by Union Minister of State George

Kurien and Kerala BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar, stated that the amended law would ensure that no land can be arbitrarily declared as Waqf property, a move that he believes will help restore balance and justice in property-related matters.



His remarks come amid ongoing protests against the Waqf Act amendments, particularly in West Bengal, where some demonstrations have turned violent. Several Muslim organizations have raised concerns, arguing that the changes undermine the rights of the community.

The Waqf Bill, recently passed

by Parliament and receiving Presidential assent on April 5, has sparked political debate. While the ruling NDA has defended the law as necessary and beneficial for minorities, opposition parties have strongly criticized it, calling it “anti-Muslim.”

Adding to the controversy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a public rally in Hisar, Haryana on April 14, said that the misuse of Waqf land has led to the marginalization of Muslim youth. “If Waqf land had been honestly used for the welfare of the poor, my young Muslim boys wouldn’t have been forced into fixing cycle punctures,” he remarked.

Despite the backlash, the Centre has maintained that the amendments are meant to ensure transparency, accountability, and equitable use of public and religious properties, not to single out any community.

100% Smells Of Revenge: Congress MP Slams Bhagwant Mann Over Case Against MLA



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Punjab Congress President and Ludhiana MP Amarinder Singh Raja Warring has strongly criticized the AAP-led Punjab government following the registration of an FIR against Leader of Opposition and senior Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa in connection with a grenade attack incident.

Warring accused Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann of using state machinery to settle political scores. “It seems it was the Chief Minister’s personal decision on when and how to send Partap Bajwa to jail. The way the FIR was lodged reeks

of political revenge. Within no time, officers arrived, and the FIR was filed the same evening. This level of coordination clearly shows this was pre-planned,” Warring said.

He also alleged that the case was registered merely half an hour after Bajwa gave a media interview, suggesting a larger conspiracy by the government to trap him. “This is not coincidence. It’s a strategy. The Punjab government is trying to frame him intentionally,” he added.

Warring further questioned why the information used to file the case against Bajwa—

information that had already appeared in multiple Punjabi newspapers—was ignored earlier. “If this was so sensitive, why was no action taken before?” he asked.

Citing the grenade attack on BJP leader Manoranjan Kalia’s house, Warring also criticized the performance of Punjab’s Intelligence wing. “They had prior information about the attack but did nothing. Now the CM says there was no intel. This reflects complete failure of the government,” he asserted.

Issuing a caution to the police, he warned, “I advise the DGP and officers not to act like puppets. Work ethically, because political winds can change anytime.”

In his defense, Bajwa clarified that his remarks about bombs in Punjab came from a concerned source who feared for Bajwa’s safety. “My source warned me about a serious threat. I shared this to stay alert,” he said.

Delhi to Get Six New Air Quality Monitoring Stations as AQI Holds ‘Moderate’ for Fourth Day



- **Total CAAQMS in the city will rise to 46.**
- **Air quality expected to worsen to “poor” midweek.**
- **Temperature hits 37.8°C; both max and min above normal.**

TPN Correspondent| New Delhi

The Delhi government will install six new Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) across the city, bringing the total number of such stations in the Capital to 46. The announcement was made by Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Monday, who said the initiative is part of the government's ongoing efforts to improve the city's air quality.

The new stations will be set up at key locations including Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Delhi Cantonment, Netaji Subhash University (West Campus), and the Commonwealth Games Sports Complex.

“We are targeting completion of in-

stallation by June 30. The Delhi government is committed to enhancing our pollution-monitoring infrastructure to take informed actions for cleaner air,” said Sirsa.

This development comes as Delhi recorded its fourth consecutive day of “moderate” air quality. According to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the city registered a 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) of 194 at 4 pm on Monday.

The AQI was 178 on Sunday, 166 on Saturday, and 164 on Friday — all in the “moderate” category. However, on Thursday, the city experienced “poor” air with an AQI of 256.

Forecasts from the Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS) suggest that air quality is likely to deteriorate again, moving into the “poor” cat-

egory on Tuesday and Wednesday, before returning to “moderate” levels by Thursday. The outlook for the following six days indicates a range between “moderate” and “poor.”

Meanwhile, temperatures in the Capital continued to climb due to clear skies. Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 37.8°C on Monday — 1.7°C above the seasonal average. The minimum temperature also rose slightly to 21.6°C, up from 20.2°C the previous day, and stood 0.6°C above normal.

As pollution levels and temperatures both trend upward, the government's plan to expand monitoring infrastructure aims to strengthen real-time data collection and enable more targeted interventions to tackle Delhi's persistent air quality issues.

Delhi Airport Terminal-2 Shuts For Maintenance, Flights Shifted To Terminal 1

TPN Correspondent| New Delhi

IndiGo and Akasa Air will shift all their domestic flight operations to Terminal 1 (T1) at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), as Terminal 2 (T2) will be temporarily closed for maintenance work.

Currently, both airlines operate several flights from T2, which handles approximately 270-280 air traffic movements and serves over 46,000 passengers daily. With the closure of T2, the newly expanded T1 will now be fully operational, taking over its load.

IGIA, managed by Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), has three terminals—T1, T2, and T3—and four runways. While T3 serves both international and domestic flights, T1 and T2 have been used exclusively for domestic operations. One of the runways is also closed for maintenance alongside T2.

IndiGo, which operates the highest number of domestic flights in the country, said it has taken proactive steps to ensure a smooth transition for travelers. “Passengers and travel agents are being notified via SMS, calls, and emails,” the airline said in a statement. It also recommended that passengers check their flight terminal details using the airline's website or mobile app before heading to the airport.

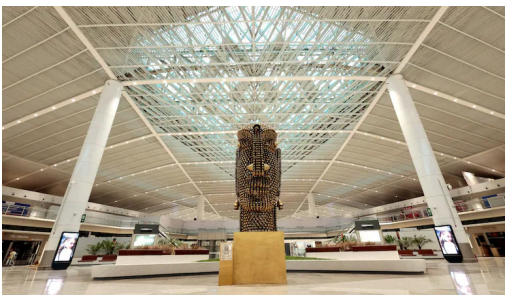
Akasa Air also announced on social media that all its Delhi operations will shift to T1 (Terminal 1D) starting April 15. “Our teams are working diligently to ensure a

seamless transition,” the airline stated.

According to DIAL, the newly upgraded T1 terminal can now accommodate up to 40 million passengers annually—almost triple its earlier capacity. It will feature 100 check-in counters, including 36 Self Baggage Drop kiosks, 108 Common Usage Self-Service kiosks, and 20 Automated Tray Retrieval Systems to streamline security checks.

Additional facilities include 10 baggage reclaim carousels, and the baggage handling capacity has increased from 3,240 to 6,000 bags per hour. The terminal area has expanded from 55,740 sq m to 206,950 sq m, with integrated arrival and departure zones designed to enhance passenger convenience.

Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlunmang Vualnam assured that T1 and T3 would effectively manage passenger traffic, and congestion is unlikely despite the temporary shutdown of T2.



Woman found dead with bullet wounds in Delhi’s GTB Enclave

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A woman, believed to be around 20 years old, was found dead with bullet wounds near a park in the GTB Enclave area of Delhi's Shahdara late Monday night, prompting a police investigation into what appears to be a case of targeted violence.

According to the Delhi Police, the body was discovered in the vicinity of the park by local residents, who immediately alerted authorities. The woman had sustained multiple gunshot wounds, and preliminary investigation suggests that the incident may be linked to personal enmity. However, officials have not ruled out other possibilities and said that the probe is ongoing from all angles.

The identity of the victim has not yet been confirmed. Police officials stated

that efforts are underway to establish her identity, including examining missing person reports and speaking with locals in the area.

“We are investigating the matter from every possible angle. At this point, we suspect personal enmity may be the motive behind the killing, but we are keeping all leads open,” a senior police officer said.

To determine the sequence of events leading up to the murder, authorities are reviewing CCTV footage from cameras installed in and around the area. The footage is expected to help identify the suspects or provide insights into the woman's movements before the incident occurred.

The body has been sent for post-mortem examination, and the results are ex-



pected to shed more light on the cause and time of death. Police teams are also speaking with local residents to gather any eyewitness accounts or relevant information that could aid the investigation.

The incident has sparked concern in the neighborhood, with residents calling for increased security and surveillance in public areas, especially parks that remain open late at night.

Air India's Chennai-Delhi Flight Delayed, Passengers Deboarded After An Hour



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Passengers aboard Air India flight AI 2836 from Chennai to Delhi faced a frustrating delay of nearly five hours on Tuesday, prompting criticism over the airline's handling of the situation. Scheduled to take off at 11:20 am, the flight was delayed due to what airline staff described as a “technical snag.”

According to passengers, they were initially boarded onto the aircraft but were asked to deboard after waiting inside for nearly an hour. One passenger said that staff informed them the delay was caused by the unavailability of a crucial part, which had to be flown in from Delhi. The aircraft reportedly had around 180 passengers on board.

The delay sparked a wave of complaints online. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Air India responded to mounting criticism by stating the flight was delayed “due to operational reasons” and that it would be departing shortly. “Our team is trying their best to minimize the inconvenience caused. Requesting your patience in this

regard,” the airline said in a reply to a passenger's complaint.

Frustrated travelers expressed concerns over the lack of clear communication and comfort during the extended wait. Some also questioned why the issue wasn't addressed before boarding had commenced.

The flight, which was originally expected to land in Delhi at 2:15 pm, is now rescheduled to depart at 4 pm and reach the national capital around 7 pm. The delay comes at a time when Delhi's air traffic operations are already under strain. Just last week, the Indira Gandhi International Airport faced massive congestion, with over 450 flights delayed and several others canceled due to a sudden dust storm that disrupted schedules.

This latest disruption adds to growing passenger dissatisfaction with airline operations, especially during peak travel times. Many have called for improved transparency and better contingency planning from airlines like Air India to avoid such inconveniences in the future.

Delhi's IGI Airport Ranked 9th Busiest in the World in ACI's 2024 Global Rankings

TPN Correspondent| Delhi

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has secured the 9th position in Airports Council International (ACI) World's preliminary rankings for 2024, making it one of the busiest airports globally and the only Indian airport to feature in the top 10 list.

The recognition marks a significant milestone for IGI Airport, which handled an impressive 7.7 crore (77 million) passengers in the calendar year 2024. The airport has steadily climbed the global rankings over recent years. It was ranked 10th in 2023, 13th in

2021, and 17th in 2019 — demonstrating consistent growth in passenger traffic and operational scale.

Operated by the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), IGIA has emerged as a key hub not just for domestic travel but also for international connectivity, serving millions of passengers annually. The airport's strategic location, modern infrastructure, and expanded capacity have contributed to its rising status on the global stage.

The Airports Council International (ACI) World compiles its rankings

based on actual passenger traffic data from airports across the globe, reflecting both domestic and international passenger movements. IGIA's inclusion in the top 10 underlines India's growing prominence in the global aviation sector.

In recent years, Delhi Airport has



undergone major infrastructure upgrades, including terminal expansions, improved runway capacity, and the integration of advanced technologies to enhance passenger experience and operational efficiency. The newly expanded Terminal 1 and continuous enhancements at Terminals 2 and 3 have collectively enabled the airport to handle increased volumes of air traffic.

A DIAL spokesperson welcomed the global recognition, attributing the success to coordinated efforts by airport staff, airlines, government authorities, and support agencies.

“This achievement is a testament to our commitment to providing world-class services to passengers and strengthening Delhi's role as a major international aviation hub,” the spokesperson said.

As India's aviation industry continues to expand, Delhi Airport's growing global stature is a reflection of both increased passenger demand and the country's investment in high-quality airport infrastructure.

Robert Vadra Deems ED Summons Politically Motivated

Vows Full Cooperation in Gurugram Land Case



TPN Correspondent | Gurugram

Businessman Robert Vadra, the son-in-law of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Delhi on Tuesday in connection with the Gurugram land deal case. Addressing the media during a break in questioning, Vadra strongly asserted that he would not be intimidated by the government or any investigative agency.

"This government or any agency cannot scare me. I have always cooperated and will continue to do so. I will answer all

their questions," Vadra told ANI, dismissing the summons as a politically motivated move.

Vadra claimed that the ED's latest action was an attempt to divert attention from core national issues. "They summon me whenever they want to distract people from real issues. There's absolutely nothing in this case," he said.

He further highlighted that he had already submitted an extensive set of documents in relation to the same matter. "Back in 2019, I submitted more than

23,000 documents. The case they are referring to is over 20 years old. We have always followed all rules and regulations during any transaction," Vadra added.

Walking from his residence to the ED office earlier in the day, Vadra spoke to reporters and maintained that the case lacked substance. "Case mein kuch nahin hai yaar (There's nothing in this case)... I just hope this ends soon," he said.

Vadra reiterated that such summons are part of a pattern by the ruling government to misuse investigative agencies for political gains. Despite the circumstances, he maintained a calm and cooperative stance. "They can ask me as many questions as they like. I have nothing to hide. Everything is good," he assured.

The Gurugram land case has been under ED scrutiny for years, with allegations related to land deals and potential money laundering. Vadra, however, continues to deny any wrongdoing and frames the investigation as part of a larger political vendetta.

As the inquiry proceeds, Vadra's defiant tone and willingness to engage with investigators signal his intent to fight back legally and politically.

Karnataka Truckers' Strike Disrupts Economic Activities Amid Fuel Price Hikes and Toll Issues

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Truckers in Karnataka have launched an indefinite strike in protest against rising fuel prices and issues related to toll plazas, which began at midnight between Monday and Tuesday. The strike, led by the Federation of Karnataka State Lorry Owners and Agents Association (FOKSLOAA), is expected to significantly disrupt economic activities in the state.

FOKSLOAA, an umbrella organization representing 129 trucker associations with a membership of six lakh individuals—including drivers, agents, and truck owners—has called the strike to address long-standing grievances regarding fuel price hikes and alleged harassment by toll operators. The truckers' strike could have serious repercussions, including higher prices for essential goods, as transportation disruptions are likely to lead to supply chain issues.

Harish Sabharwal, president of the All India Motor Transport Congress, confirmed that the initial response to the strike has been successful, with

trucks from all parts of India halting their operations in the state. "Neither trucks from other states will enter Karnataka, nor will trucks from the state be allowed to leave," Sabharwal said, indicating that the strike has taken effect across the region.

Somasundaram Balan, Honorary General Secretary of FOKSLOAA, expressed frustration with the state government, stating that their repeated requests for addressing these pressing issues have gone unanswered. According to Balan, the unresolved problems related to fuel price hikes and toll-related concerns were the primary reasons for the strike's escalation.

As the strike progresses, it is feared that disruptions in the road transport sector will affect not only freight movement within the state but also the distribution of essential goods, potentially causing price hikes and shortages. With the indefinite strike continuing, truckers have made it clear that they will persist with their protests until their demands are addressed by the state government.

Language Row Erupts Over Hindi Display at Bengaluru Airport; BIAL Clarifies



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Amid ongoing debates over language imposition between the Centre and southern states, a social media post has reignited controversy after claiming that Hindi was removed from display boards at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

The post, shared on X last week, featured a video showing digital flight information screens at the airport displaying details such as flight numbers, destinations, and gate numbers solely in Kannada and English. The user who posted the video said, "Today, a surprise awaited at the T1 terminal of Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru. All the digital boards displaying flight information, arrivals, and departures were only in English and Kannada."

Following this, the user shared multiple videos confirming the absence of Hindi on the digital displays, which quickly went viral and sparked a heated debate online.

In response, the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which manages KIA, issued a statement clarifying that no changes had been made to the flight information display system. According to a BIAL spokesperson, it has long been standard practice to feature only Kannada and English on digital flight

information boards to effectively assist passengers. However, the spokesperson added that wayfinding signage throughout the airport terminals continues to include English, Kannada, and Hindi.

The social media post revived an ongoing national conversation around language representation at public infrastructure like airports, railway stations, and bus terminals, particularly in states that have opposed what they see as the imposition of Hindi.

Reactions online were sharply divided. Some users supported the development, applauding what they saw as resistance to Hindi imposition and a step toward preserving regional identity. One user called it a "really good development," noting the importance of local language inclusion.

Others criticized the move, suggesting that omitting Hindi from international travel hubs could be unhelpful. "Not having Hindi at the metro station is understandable, but it has to be there at the airport and railway station," one comment read. Another user added, "Airports and railway stations should help travelers, not punish them."

The incident has once again highlighted the delicate balance between promoting regional languages and ensuring inclusivity in public spaces.

'Made in Sri City' Tag for Vande Bharat Sleeper Express Train Components

TPN Correspondent | TIRUPATI

The interiors, modular toilet cabins, and aerodynamic front ends of the sixteen-coach Vande Bharat Sleeper Express trains now proudly carry the 'Made in Sri City' label. This achievement highlights the contribution of BFG India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bahrain-based BFG International, which manufactures these essential components at its state-of-the-art plant located in Sri City.

Established in 2009, BFG India's Sri City facility has long been known for its advanced Fibre-Reinforced Plastic (FRP) solutions. The company has gained recognition for its expertise in producing lightweight, durable, and fire-resistant FRP products, which are widely used across various sectors, including railways, marine, wind energy, and infrastructure.

As a key player in the production of components for the Vande Bharat Sleeper Express trains, BFG India ensures that its products meet the highest standards of quality and safety. These advanced FRP components play a crucial role in enhancing the overall performance and comfort of the Vande Bharat trains, which are designed to provide a modern and efficient travel experience.

The 'Made in Sri City' label not only signifies the commitment of BFG India to excellence but also underscores the growing prominence of Sri City as a manufacturing hub for world-class products. With its robust infrastructure and strategic location, Sri City has become a key center for industries across multiple sectors, contributing significantly to India's manufacturing capabilities.

The Vande Bharat Sleeper Express, with its cutting-edge design and engineering, is expected to revolutionize train travel in India, providing passengers with a more comfortable and faster alternative to conventional trains. As the project progresses, it is clear that the collaboration between BFG India and the Indian Railways is playing a vital role in transforming India's railway infrastructure.

61-day fishing ban begins in TN; fishermen urge vigilance against illegal trawling

TPN Correspondent | Tamilnadu

The 61-day annual fishing ban along Tamil Nadu's coastline commenced early Tuesday and will continue until June 14, as per the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983. The ban, enforced during the peak breeding season, aims to safeguard marine biodiversity by preventing mechanised boats and trawlers from venturing into the sea.

As part of the enforcement, nearly 1,500 mechanised vessels across various coastal jetties have been anchored, including 809 boats in Chennai alone. In Thoothukudi district, more than 550 boats at local fishing harbours such as Thoothukudi, Tharuvaikulam, and Vembar are staying ashore.

Fishermen leaders have called on the Tamil Nadu government to ramp up coastal surveillance to prevent illegal fishing during the ban. They have urged for the deployment of the Indian Coast Guard and the state's marine police to monitor the waters and catch violators. "We must ensure no unauthorized fishing takes place, especially by boats from Kanniyakumari or Kerala," said Pugal, Secretary of the Deep Sea Fishermen Welfare Association.

Traditional country boats, however, are permitted to operate during the ban. Officials have also warned fishermen to avoid venturing into Andhra Pradesh waters, where a complete fishing ban is in place, including for traditional boats. There have been past incidents of confrontation with locals, with fishermen being assaulted and their equipment seized.

To aid the affected fishermen, the Tamil Nadu government has announced a financial relief of ₹8,000 for each registered fisherman. Boat owners are encouraged to use the break for vessel maintenance. However, many in the fishing community



are demanding higher compensation due to inflation and rising prices.

Ahead of the ban, fish prices surged. At the Kasimedu fishing harbour in Chennai, Seer fish was sold at ₹900-₹1,000 per kg, white pomfret at ₹1,100 per kg, and red snapper at ₹500-₹600 per kg. With local fishing halted, markets will rely on fish from neighbouring states like Kerala and Karnataka, while consumers may visit coastal hamlets to buy directly from traditional fishermen.

BJP-AIADMK Reunion: Strategy Over Sentiment



In a dramatic political shift, the BJP and AIADMK have reunited in Tamil Nadu ahead of the 2026 state assembly elections. After a bitter fallout in 2023, this renewed alliance is seen as a strategic move by both parties to counter the rising influence of the ruling DMK and regain lost ground.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the reunion on April 11, confirming that the alliance will contest the 2026 polls under the leadership of AIADMK chief Edappadi K. Palaniswami (EPS). The NDA is also likely to include parties like PMK and TMC (Moopanar), adding more strength to the coalition.

The reunion comes after a disappointing performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The AIADMK secured 20.46% of the vote, while the BJP-led alliance got 18%. Meanwhile, the DMK-led alliance's share rose to 47%, thanks in part to the opposition split. A united front, BJP and AIADMK believe, can consolidate votes and offer a strong alternative to DMK.

A major development was the replacement of state BJP chief K. Annamalai with senior MLA Nainar Nagendran. While Annamalai did boost the BJP's vote share from 3.7% in 2019 to 11.24% in 2024, his feud with AIADMK—especially with EPS—and controversial remarks about Jayalalithaa and Annadurai damaged ties. Both Annamalai and EPS hail from the Gounder community in western Tamil Nadu, making them rivals for the same voter base.

Nagendran, a Thevar leader from southern Tamil Nadu, brings caste balance and minority appeal. He is aligned with the BJP's broader strategy of combining Hindu Dalits and the most backward classes. The BJP has also agreed not to interfere in AIADMK's internal affairs, and any decisions about sidelined leaders like OPS or TTV Dhinakaran will be taken jointly.

Amit Shah's declaration that EPS will lead the alliance also aims to restore stability within the AIADMK.

The reunion is also a response to growing concerns over MK Stalin's rising influence in national politics and the emergence of actor Vijay's TVK party, which has criticized both DMK and BJP—but remained silent on AIADMK.

By reviving this alliance, the BJP and AIADMK aim to rejuvenate their base and challenge the DMK more effectively in 2026, making Tamil Nadu's political landscape more competitive than ever.

Google, Growth & SEO: A Digital Media Rant



Imagine working for a boss who never speaks to you, constantly changes your targets, and punishes you without warning. That, in a nutshell, is what it feels like to work in digital media under Google's ever-changing search algorithm.

Since its arrival on the web, Google has revolutionized how we find information, but for digital newsrooms, it's a constant game of trying to stay in its good graces. Every headline, image tag, and sentence is a calculated move in the SEO war — and Google keeps changing the rules.

In the early 2010s, SEO felt like a wild west adventure. Simpler times, when tossing keywords like “Salman Khan Diet” or “Smartphones Under 10K” into a headline guaranteed a traffic surge. We weren't optimizing — we were gaming the system. And it worked. “Content is king” was the mantra, but only when “king” was dressed in SEO glitter.

Then came the updates — Panda, Penguin, Hummingbird — innocent names with ruthless consequences. Keyword stuffing was suddenly taboo. User experience took center stage. Articles that once pulled in lakhs of views began to vanish overnight. emails. No clarity.

Just a mysterious “core update” that sent content into Search Result Purgatory.

It's exhausting. One day you're on top, the next you're invisible. Editors scramble to decipher trends, and SEO experts now sound more like modern-day astrologers — predicting the stars (or algorithms) to save a site's traffic. “Mars is in retrograde, and your CTR is falling” might as well be actual advice in these meetings.

Growth, once the golden goal, now feels like a treadmill on fire. CTRs, bounce rates, scroll depth — numbers that once excited us are now the source of daily burnout. We don't write what matters anymore; we write what ranks.

Still, we chase the numbers. Because traffic equals ad revenue. Ad revenue equals survival. The mission is clear, but the method is chaotic. For those who've been here long enough, it's no longer about storytelling — it's about surviving a search engine's mood swings. So here we are — digital media's resilient warriors — fighting for visibility in a system where the rules shift without notice and growth feels more punishing than rewarding. And yet, we log in every day and play the game. Because what choice do we have?

Congress at the Crossroads: Struggling for Relevance and Revival

The Indian National Congress finds itself at a critical juncture, grappling with a deep identity crisis, organizational erosion, and a vanishing grassroots presence. The recent All India Congress Committee (AICC) session in Ahmedabad only reaffirmed the party's long-standing challenges rather than resolving them. Intended as a moment of reflection and resurgence, the session instead underscored the vacuum of ideological clarity and leadership that continues to plague the party.

Held in Gujarat—a state where Congress has been out of power for over three decades and which now symbolizes the BJP's political dominance—the session seemed rich in symbolism but lacked substance. The Congress's attempt to reclaim the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a towering national figure, was seen more as a defensive reaction

to the BJP's narrative than a proactive reassertion of its own historical roots. Despite marginal gains in Parliament following the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress has failed to convert that momentum into electoral victories. Its presence in only three state governments reflects the larger reality of an organization that has steadily lost its footing across the country. The BJP, on the other hand, has managed to recover lost ground in the past year, further cornering the Congress in key states.

What remains most concerning is the absence of a compelling political narrative from the Congress. In an era when the BJP has mastered messaging and mobilization, the Congress has struggled to offer a coherent alternative. Instead, the party's internal deliberations often get bogged down by factionalism, outdated strategies, and an over-re-

liance on legacy politics.

Analysts believe the Congress must not only modernize its organizational structure but also reimagine its ideological vision in ways that resonate with India's evolving electorate. It needs to go beyond symbolic gestures and develop a grounded, issue-based political strategy. Whether it's the economy, social justice, federalism, or youth aspirations, the Congress must articulate clear, actionable positions.

The path forward will demand bold decisions—about leadership, alliances, and policy direction. Without this, the party risks becoming increasingly irrelevant in the national conversation. As the 2026 state elections and the 2029 general elections approach, time is running out for the Congress to find not just its voice, but also its purpose.



Fear, Polarisation, and the Waqf Act: A Volatile Mix in West Bengal

The recently passed Waqf Amendment Act, 2025 has sparked widespread unrest, particularly in West Bengal, where Muslims make up over 27% of the population. Districts like Murshidabad, with a Muslim majority, have witnessed violent protests that tragically led to loss of life and the deployment of central forces under orders from the Calcutta High Court. The violence bears echoes of the 2019 CAA-NRC agitations, especially in the same region.

West Bengal's history of political violence is well known, but the recent pattern of frequent communal clashes is alarming. This trend stems from



growing polarisation — driven in part by both the BJP and Trinamool Congress since around 2017. Their competitive tactics to consolidate vote banks have fostered radicalisation among

both majority and minority groups, bringing religious extremism into the political mainstream and fraying the state's delicate communal balance.

While restoring law and order in affected areas like Murshidabad is urgent, it is equally vital to examine the deeper causes behind the volatility. Since 2014, several central policies — including the abrogation of Article 370, the construction of the Ram Mandir, the Assam NRC, the CAA, and moves toward a Uniform Civil Code — have raised fears among Muslims. These developments have left the community feeling targeted and marginalised. The Waqf Amendment Act appears to

reinforce those anxieties.

However, in Bengal, misunderstandings surrounding the Act are also fanning the flames. A clear, fact-based understanding of the legislation is essential to avoid further misinformation and unrest.

The Act, now renamed the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, introduces significant structural changes. It redefines what qualifies as “waqf” property and centralises control over its management. Waqf properties — religious or charitable endowments such as mosques, madrasas, orphan-

ages, and graveyards — are a crucial part of Muslim religious and cultural life. Critics argue that the new provisions infringe on constitutional guarantees of religious freedom, equality before the law, and federalism.

If not handled sensitively, the legislation may worsen communal divisions. The protest movement must stay peaceful and democratic. Political leaders must also resist exploiting the situation for electoral gain. What West Bengal — and India — needs is a commitment to constitutional principles, inclusive governance, and communal harmony, not further escalation of fear and polarisation.

India Defends Waqf Act Amid Protests

- India rejects Pakistan’s criticism
- Act targets Waqf property misuse
- Modi defends reforms as justice
- Opposition alleges anti-Muslim bias
- Protests erupt, especially in Bengal

India has hit back at Pakistan for criticizing the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, calling its remarks baseless and irrelevant. The Ministry of External Affairs stated that Pakistan has no right to comment on India’s internal affairs and should instead reflect on its poor record of minority rights.

“Pakistan has no locus standi. It should focus on its abysmal treatment of minorities rather than commenting on a matter entirely internal to India,” said Foreign Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

The Waqf Amendment Act, passed by Parliament on April

4 and signed by the President on April 5, aims to overhaul the management of Waqf properties — religious and charitable endowments under Muslim personal law. The government argues that the Act focuses solely on property governance and not on religion.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi defended the move, alleging that many Waqf properties were misused by land mafias and failed to benefit poor and marginalized Muslims. He said the new law is a step toward ensuring justice for disadvantaged groups like Pasmanda Muslims, widows, and orphans. Only practising Mus-



lims for five years can dedicate property to Waqf. Women must receive their legal inheritance before a property is declared Waqf. A senior government official, not the Waqf Board, will decide disputes involving government land. Any government land previously registered as Waqf will be derecognized. However, the Act has faced sharp criticism from the opposition. Parties have accused the government of targeting minorities and undermining constitutional values. AIMIM

leader Asaduddin Owaisi tore a copy of the bill in Parliament, comparing the law to South African apartheid-era legislation. Violent protests have broken out in parts of West Bengal, where Muslims make up over 27% of the population. At least three people have died in the unrest, prompting the deployment of central forces. While the government frames the Act as a push for reform and transparency, critics say it deepens communal fault lines and risks disenfranchising India’s Muslim community even further.



Tejashwi Says Nitish ‘Hijacked’, NDA Out

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav launched a sharp attack on Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday, claiming he has been “hijacked” and asserting that the NDA will not return to power in the state after the upcoming assembly elections later this year.

After meeting senior Congress leaders in Delhi, Tejashwi expressed strong confidence in the opposition alliance, ‘Mahagathbandhan’, winning the Bihar polls. He also said that the alliance partners would collectively decide on the chief ministerial candidate, hinting that the leadership issue would be resolved amicably.

“We will discuss and unanimously decide the CM face. Nitish Ji to hijack ho chuke hain (Nitish Kumar has already been hijacked). NDA is not forming the government in Bihar this time,” Tejashwi told reporters. The next meeting of the opposition alliance is scheduled to be held in Patna on April 17, where strategy and seat-sharing are likely to be discussed.

Earlier, Tejashwi had also criticized Nitish Kumar for speaking during the national anthem, calling him “not mentally and physically stable,” further intensifying his political attack ahead of the elections.

The political temperature in Bihar is rising rapidly, with both camps preparing for a fierce battle for control of the state later this year.



Jaishankar Slams Pakistan’s ‘Old Habits’

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday delivered a sharp rebuke to Pakistan, saying India need not waste its “precious time” on a neighbor that continues with its old habits and refuses to change, even as India has transformed significantly over the last decade.

Speaking at Charotar University of Science and Technology in Gujarat, Jaishankar pointed to the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks as a turning point in India’s perception of Pakistan. “That was when the Indian public, cutting across political lines, felt this was too much to tolerate,” he said. He noted that while public sentiment was clear, the government of the time may not have responded with sufficient clarity.

Jaishankar highlighted the significant changes in India’s global stature and domestic growth since 2014, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership. “India has changed. I wish I could say the same for Pakistan. Unfortunately, they continue with their bad habits,” he said.

He asserted that Pakistan has been given a firm message in recent years — that acts of terrorism will have consequences. “Our economic and political stature has grown globally, but Pakistan sticks to its old playbook,” he added.

Jaishankar also criticized Pakistan’s role in Afghanistan, saying it tried to play both sides during the US and NATO presence, maintaining ties with both the Taliban and the Afghan government. “Pakistan was playing a double game. But after the Americans left, that game collapsed. The very terrorism industry they nurtured has now turned against them,” he remarked.

Responding to a question on why India doesn’t talk much about Pakistan anymore, Jaishankar remarked, “Why waste precious time on them?”

The Minister’s comments come amid heightened tensions in the subcontinent following debates around the Waqf Amendment Act, which Pakistan had criticized. India firmly rejected Pakistan’s remarks, calling them baseless and pointing to Islamabad’s poor record on minority rights.

Jaishankar’s sharp tone reflects New Delhi’s current stance of strategic firmness and minimal engagement with Pakistan until it takes credible steps against cross-border terrorism.

India, US Push Trade Talks Forward

India has taken a significant step toward trade liberalisation with the United States, as both nations signed the terms of reference for a bilateral trade agreement’s first phase. Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal confirmed on Tuesday that the process has formally begun, with virtual discussions slated for this month and in-person negotiations set for mid-May.

This development follows a February agreement between the two countries to begin working on a phased trade deal, targeting completion by the end of 2025. The broader goal is to increase bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030.

“India has decided to go for a path of trade liberalisation with the US,” Barthwal told reporters, underlining New Delhi’s willingness to move ahead while bal-



ancing domestic interests.

Rajesh Agrawal, additional secretary in the commerce ministry, outlined the timeline for the next round of negotiations. The discussions are expected to cover tariff reduction, regulatory coherence, and trade facilitation measures.

In a parallel move, US President Donald Trump announced a 90-day pause on most tariff hikes

for key trading partners, including India. However, duties on Chinese goods were raised, signalling Washington’s dual-track approach to global trade. This pause provides Indian exporters with temporary relief, particularly in sectors vulnerable to tariff swings. Despite referring to India as a “tariff abuser” and the “tariff king,” Trump has signalled interest in rebalancing the trade relationship. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, one of

the first world leaders to visit Trump after his return to office, used the opportunity to push for stronger economic ties and resolve ongoing disputes.

The US currently faces a \$45.6 billion trade deficit with India. To address concerns and advance talks, India has committed to increasing purchases of American defence and energy products — a gesture aimed at improving trade balance and building trust.

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal recently reiterated that India will protect its sovereign interests during negotiations, emphasizing that any deal must benefit Indian citizens and industries. This renewed momentum in India-US trade talks reflects a broader strategy of economic engagement amid shifting global alliances and trade dynamics.



India’s Astronauts Ready for ISS

India’s astronaut-designates are ready for liftoff, having completed intensive NASA training ahead of a historic mission to the International Space Station (ISS) aboard the SpaceX Falcon-9 and Crew Dragon. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla has been selected as the primary astronaut, with Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair as his backup for the nearly two-week Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4).

Houston-based Axiom Space announced the successful completion of training at NASA’s Johnson Space Center, where the international four-member crew has been preparing since August 2024. Their training included simulations, emergency drills, micro-gravity adaptation, underwater re-entry practice, and photo documentation tasks. The mission could launch as early as end-May. The team marked the end of training with a traditional NASA patch-hanging ceremony, symbolizing their formal readiness for

spaceflight. India is covering the full cost of this commercial mission, estimated at \$60–70 million. Group Captain Shukla, an Indian Air Force officer, underwent rigorous drills in fire-fighting, first aid, and medical response for in-space emergencies. He also trained in European centers to adapt to zero-gravity environments and re-entry water landings.

Onboard the ISS, Shukla will perform seven simple scientific experiments developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), contributing to India’s long-term space research goals. His personal mission includes photo-documenting daily activities in orbit. This will be India’s second human spaceflight, following Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma’s milestone 1994 journey to a Russian space station. Shukla, who wasn’t born then, will make history again under the Gaganyaan initiative, through ISRO’s collaborations with NASA and Axiom Space.

India’s Haj Quota Raised to 1.75 Lakh

India’s Haj quota for 2025 has been increased to 1,75,025, a significant rise from 1,36,020 in 2014, the year Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office, the Ministry of Minority Affairs announced on Tuesday.

The Ministry said the rise reflects the government’s continued efforts to facilitate the pilgrimage for Indian Muslims. “The Government of India accords high priority to facilitating the Haj pilgrimage for Indian Muslims. Due to sustained efforts, India’s Haj quota has risen from 136,020 in 2014 to 175,025 in 2025 — finalized annually by Saudi authorities,” it stated.

Of the total quota, 1,22,518 pilgrims are being accommodated through the Haj Committee of India under the main quota. The Ministry confirmed that all necessary arrangements including flights, transport, Mina camps, accommodation, and services have been completed in line with Saudi guidelines.

The remaining quota was allotted to 26 Combined Haj Group Operators (CHGOs), which replaced over 800 individual private tour operators due to new Saudi regulations. These CHGOs were tasked with managing arrangements for their share of pilgrims. However, many failed to meet Saudi deadlines and were unable to finalize contracts for crucial services like accommodation and Mina camp bookings.





Trump Warns Iran Amid Renewed Nuclear Deal Talks, Hints at Possible Military Strike

As Iran moves closer to finalising a new nuclear agreement with the United States, President Donald Trump has issued a stern warning to Tehran, asserting that the U.S. will not hesitate to use military force if Iran pursues nuclear weapons. Trump's comments come amid renewed diplomatic engagement between the two countries, with American and Iranian officials recently holding "constructive" talks in Oman.

Speaking to reporters following a meeting between U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff and a senior Iranian official in Oman, Trump accused Iran of deliberately delaying progress on the deal. "I think they're tapping us along," Trump said. He added, "Iran has to get rid of the concept of a nuclear weapon. They cannot have a nuclear weapon."

When asked whether military options are on the table should Iran continue its nuclear ambitions, Trump responded unequivocally: "Of course it does." He emphasized the urgency of the matter, claiming that Tehran is "fairly close" to developing a nuclear weapon, and urged swift action from Iranian authorities to avoid a severe response.

Despite U.S. suspicions, Iran has repeatedly denied that it is developing nuclear weapons, maintaining that its nuclear program is intended solely for peaceful purposes.

Both Washington and Tehran described the Oman discussions as positive, and a second round of talks is expected to take place in Rome soon. According to a Reuters report, these meetings aim to explore a broad framework for a potential agreement, possibly reviving the spirit of the 2015 nuclear deal.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi is also scheduled to visit Russia this week to consult on the ongoing negotiations. Russia, a signatory to the original 2015 deal, along with China, has remained an active diplomatic player in the matter.

Previous efforts at indirect dialogue during President Joe Biden's administration made little headway, with the last direct U.S.-Iran negotiations taking place during Barack Obama's presidency. Trump had withdrawn from the 2015 deal during his earlier term, prompting Iran to gradually scale back its commitments. In March, Trump re-engaged with Iran after returning to office, sending a direct message to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei urging talks and cautioning against defiance.

New York City declares April 14 as Dr B.R. Ambedkar Day

TPN Correspondent | Newyork

In a historic gesture recognizing global contributions to social justice and equality, New York City Mayor Eric Adams has officially proclaimed April 14, 2025, as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Day. The announcement was made in the heart of the city, home to over 8.5 million residents, highlighting the enduring legacy of Dr. Ambedkar, a key architect of the Indian Constitution and a tireless advocate for human rights.

The proclamation was announced by Dilip Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Mayor's Office for International Affairs, during a special commemorative event held at the United Nations headquarters on Monday. The occasion marked the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar, drawing diplomats, community leaders, and dignitaries from around the world.

Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale delivered the



keynote address at the event, emphasizing Dr. Ambedkar's vision for an inclusive and egalitarian society. He praised Ambedkar's work in eradicating social discrimination and ensuring dignity for marginalized communities, both in India and as a global inspiration.

"Dr. Ambedkar's message of equality, justice, and human dignity continues to inspire movements across the world. This recognition by New York City is not just a tribute to an Indian icon, but to a universal champion of civil rights," Athawale said.

"Set An Example": Barack Obama As Harvard Rejects Trump's Demands

- **Trump administration freezes \$2.2B in Harvard's federal funding.**
- **Dispute centers on antisemitism, student activism, and civil rights.**
- **Tensions rise post-October 7 Hamas-Israel conflict amid campus protests.**

TPN Correspondent | Ukrain

In the deadliest strike on Ukraine this year, two Russian ballistic missiles devastated the northern city of Sumy on Sunday, killing at least 32 people and injuring over 80, according to Ukrainian officials. The brutal attack, which occurred on Palm Sunday, drew widespread condemnation from Ukrainian leaders and prompted fresh calls for international action against Moscow.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy posted a harrowing video on social media showing bodies lying on the street near a charred bus and destroyed cars. "Only scoundrels can act like this. Taking the lives of ordinary people," Zelenskyy said, adding that the strike targeted civilians on a religious holiday when many were heading to church.

The Russian government has not issued a statement regarding the attack, and Reuters noted that no immediate response was received from Russian authorities.



Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said the missiles struck a busy street where people were out in vehicles, on foot, or in nearby buildings. He labeled it a "deliberate destruction of civilians" on a day of religious significance. Zelenskyy's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, revealed that the missiles used in

the attack contained cluster munitions, further indicating a deadly intent to cause maximum civilian casualties.

Sumy, a city of around 250,000 people located just 25 kilometers from the Russian border, has previously been a military hub for Ukrainian operations. Though Ky-

iv's cross-border offensives into Russia last year were largely repelled, the region remains a sensitive target.

Maryana Bezuhla, a Ukrainian lawmaker known for her candid criticism of the military leadership, suggested on Telegram that the strike may have followed a leak regarding a potential troop gathering in the area. However, this claim remains unverified.

This attack comes just weeks after another missile strike on Kryvyi Rih—Zelenskyy's hometown—that killed 20 people, including nine children.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha confirmed that Kyiv is sharing detailed evidence of the strike with international partners and institutions. The International Criminal Court in The Hague, which Ukraine joined officially this year, is currently investigating such incidents as potential war crimes under international law.

Singapore Announces General Elections On May 3, Dissolves Parliament



TPN Correspondent | Singapore

Singaporeans will head to the polls on May 3 in a pivotal election that will test Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's leadership as the city-state grapples with global economic instability triggered by renewed U.S. tariffs. This will be

the first election under Wong, who took over from Lee Hsien Loong, son of founding father Lee Kuan Yew, marking a historic leadership transition for the long-ruling People's Action Party (PAP).

Parliament was dissolved on Tuesday, formally launching the elec-

toral process. The PAP, in power since 1959, is widely expected to retain its majority, but the opposition is gaining momentum, particularly among younger voters seeking political diversity and greater representation.

The election comes at a time of heightened economic uncertainty. President Donald Trump's return to the White House has reignited trade tensions, with sweeping tariffs disrupting global supply chains. As a trade-dependent hub, Singapore is feeling the heat. Its trade ministry recently downgraded the 2025 economic growth forecast to between 0 and 2 percent, down from the previous 1 to 3 percent.

PM Wong has warned of the end of the rules-based global trading system and the potential risks of Singapore being "squeezed out" of international markets. He is now seeking a strong mandate to steer the nation through this turbulence and reinforce Singapore's econom-

ic resilience. Analysts say this may be PAP's toughest electoral battle yet, with the Workers' Party (WP) aiming to expand on its 2020 success, where it won a historic 10 out of 93 seats. This year, 97 seats are up for grabs following boundary changes that opposition parties have criticized as gerrymandering.

Political experts believe Singapore could be moving toward a "one-and-a-half party system," where PAP remains dominant but faces more robust opposition scrutiny. Rising WP figures like Harpreet Singh argue for a more inclusive and balanced political landscape, calling for respectful dialogue and an end to treating dissent with suspicion.

As voters weigh economic fears against the desire for more opposition voices, the outcome will reveal how far Singaporeans are willing to go in reshaping their political future while maintaining the PAP's leadership at the helm.

US-China Trade War Escalates, Beijing Suspends Boeing Jet Deliveries

TPN Correspondent | US

In a significant escalation of trade tensions between the United States and China, Beijing has reportedly directed its domestic airlines to suspend all new aircraft deliveries from American aerospace giant Boeing. The decision, reported on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, comes amid growing friction between the two largest global economies and could have wide-ranging implications for the aviation industry.

The directive appears to be a direct response to recent actions by the United States, including the imposition of steep tariffs on a wide range of Chinese imports. Since President Donald Trump took office in January 2025, the U.S. administration has ramped up protectionist trade policies, with tariffs on Chinese goods now reaching up to 145%. These measures have triggered a retaliatory response from Beijing, further straining bilateral ties.

The aviation industry, which had previously been somewhat insulated from the ongoing tariff battles, is now clearly caught in the crossfire. Boe-



ing, a longtime supplier of commercial aircraft to Chinese carriers, stands to lose significantly from the move. China represents one of Boeing's most crucial international markets, both in terms of current deliveries and future orders.

Industry experts note that the suspension of Boeing deliveries may also signal China's intent to strengthen its domestic aircraft manufacturing capabilities. The country has been aggressively promoting its homegrown aerospace company, COMAC (Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China), which is developing the C919 jet to compete directly with Boeing's 737 series.

Markets Rebound Sharply

Sensex Surges 1577 Points on Global Cues, Tariff Relief, and Sectoral Strength



Domestic stock markets were dusty today. They rebounded in an unprecedented manner on Tuesday. They ended with huge gains. Positive signals were received from global markets. On the other hand, US President Donald Trump's suspension of tariffs on Indian goods helped. Demand for financial, capital goods, realty, metal and auto shares increased. Banking stocks also gained momentum with the reduction in deposit rates. On the other hand, there was interest in the impact on the global supply chain and the results of companies. Overall, the Nifty 500 and Sensex rose by 1577 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at



75,157 in the previous session, opened at 76,852 on Tuesday. It touched an intraday low at 76,435. It reached an intraday high at 76,907. Finally, it closed at 76,734 with a gain of 1577 points. NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,368, reached a low of 23,207 and a high of 23,368. It rose by 500 points in total and closed at 23,328. Nifty Bank rose by 1377 points and settled at 52,379.

While 49 companies gained in Nifty50, ITC was the only loser. IndusInd Bank, Shriram Finance, Tata Motors, Axis Bank, Dr. Reddy's were the top gainers. Today, realty and defense indices rose by 5%. Finance, auto, metal, media, tourism, bank, consump-

tion, energy, PSE, and healthcare indices were the strongest.

The market breadth in NSE today completely turned in favor of buyers. Out of a total of 3009 shares traded, 2547 gained. 377 lost. 48 shares reached 52-week highs and 18 shares reached 52-week lows. 187 stocks touched the upper circuit and 32 stocks touched the lower circuit.

The rupee strengthened by 28 paise against the dollar to settle at 85.77. The India Meteorological Department has predicted that 2025 will see more than normal rainfall. Property stocks have risen to their highest level in the last ten months. Fear Index India Vicks has cooled by more than 19 percent today. Car sales in India have reached a record high. However, the growth rate has reached a four-year low, SIAM said. Angel One will release its fourth-quarter results on April 16. Tata Power Company signs power purchase agreement with NTPC. Capacity Infra Projects wins Rs 220 crore contract. Godrej Properties wins Rs 396 crore contract for Ahluwalia project in UP. Morgan Stanley cuts Sensex target to 82000 from 93000. Bharti Airtel partners with Blinkit to deliver SIMs in 10 minutes. GM Breweries' net profit falls 30% to Rs 605 crore from Rs 866 crore in Q4. Wholesale price inflation falls to 2.1% in March.

1. BSE Ltd (Bombay Stock Exchange) BSE stock witnessed steady buying interest as investors showed confidence in the exchange's core business strength and its recent traction in SME and startup listings. Improved



revenue from listing fees and transaction charges has helped sentiment. The counter is gaining attention as a long-term value stock in the financial services sector.

2. CAMS (Computer Age Management Services)

CAMS has been on an upward trend with improving investor confidence,



driven by strong growth in mutual fund AUMs (Assets Under Management) and digitization in financial services. With mutual fund SIP flows at record highs, CAMS remains a critical beneficiary in the backend services space. The stock is witnessing accumulation at lower levels.

3. Titan Company

Titan continues to show resilience, buoyed by strong demand for jewelry and premium watches. The company's robust brand recall and expanding Tanishq footprint in Ti-



er-II and Tier-III cities support long-term growth. Festive demand and wedding season outlook are expected to further fuel sales momentum. Stock remains favored in the discretionary consumption space.

4. MCX (Multi Commodity Exchange)



MCX has attracted investor interest following increased trading volumes in bullion and energy segments amid global volatility. The upcoming launch of new tech platforms and regulatory reforms may support future growth. However, some volatility persists due to margin revisions and policy headwinds. Still, it holds strong potential for medium-term upside.

5. Hindustan Unilever (HINDUNILVR)

HUL remains a defensive bet amidst global uncertainty. The company's consistent performance across product categories like hygiene, food, and personal care helps it stay resilient. Rising rural demand and softening input costs may support margins in the coming quarters. It continues to be a steady performer in the FMCG pack, suitable for conservative portfolios.



Hindustan Unilever Limited

India's Trade Deficit Widens to \$21.54 Billion in March Amid Global Market Uncertainty

India's trade deficit surged to \$21.54 billion in March 2025, a sharp increase from the three-year low of \$14.05 billion recorded in February, according to official data released on Tuesday. The spike in the trade gap was driven by a rise in imports, while export growth remained relatively steady. Economists had earlier predicted the deficit to be around \$16 billion, as per a Reuters poll, making the actual figure significantly higher than expectations.

Merchandise exports in March stood at \$41.97 billion, a notable improvement from \$36.91 billion in February. However, imports saw an even sharper jump, increasing to \$64.51 billion in March compared to \$50.96 billion the previous month. This imbalance between exports and imports led to the wider trade gap.

For the fiscal year 2024-25, India's total merchandise exports were recorded at \$437.42 billion, slightly higher than the \$437.07 billion reported in FY24. Meanwhile, the country's overall exports, which include both goods and services, rose by 5.5% year-on-year to reach \$820.93 billion, reflecting growth in service sector earnings and resilient global demand in certain sectors.

March also saw a rise in total exports (merchandise plus services), reaching \$73.61 billion—an increase from \$71.71 billion in the same month in 2023. On the flip side, overall imports for March rose to \$77.23 billion, compared to \$73.63 billion a year ago, pointing toward heightened domestic consumption and possibly increased input costs for Indian manufacturers.

Global trade volatility and ongoing geopolitical tensions, including tariff threats from the U.S. and other policy shifts, are believed to be influencing trade flows. Analysts suggest that the widening trade deficit could place additional pressure on India's current account, especially if global commodity prices remain elevated.

As the new fiscal year begins, policymakers are expected to closely monitor global developments and adjust trade strategies to safeguard the country's economic interests while aiming to boost export competitiveness.



India's Wholesale Inflation Drops to Four-Month Low of 2.05% in March 2025

India's wholesale inflation eased to a four-month low of 2.05% in March 2025, down from 2.38% in January, according to official data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday. The latest figure came in below economists' expectations, as a Reuters poll had projected the Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation to be around 2.5%.

WPI inflation, often seen as a proxy for producer prices, provides an indication of cost pressures faced by manufacturers and can be a leading indicator for retail inflation trends. The softening in March inflation was primarily attributed to a moderation in food and primary articles' prices.

Government data showed that the easing inflation rate in March was largely due to a slower rise in the prices of food articles, primary goods, and fuel-related



commodities. However, prices of manufactured food products, textiles, and electricity remained on an upward trend, contributing to the overall positive rate of inflation. Wholesale food inflation, in particular, saw a significant decline, slowing to 4.66% in March from 5.94% in February. This decline came amid easing prices of vegetables and pulses. The inflation rate for primary articles also dropped notably to 0.76% from 2.81% in the previous month.

On the other hand, inflation in manu-

factured products continued to be positive, reflecting higher input costs and sustained demand in sectors such as food processing, textiles, and chemicals.

The data signals some relief for policymakers who are keeping a close watch on inflation trends, especially as global commodity prices remain volatile and could impact domestic pricing in the coming months. While WPI inflation has moderated, retail inflation continues to stay above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) medium-term target, keeping the central bank cautious in its monetary policy stance. Experts believe that the moderation in wholesale inflation may help ease cost pressures on businesses, which could eventually reflect in consumer prices. However, continued monitoring of food and energy prices will be essential to ensure price stability going forward.

SEBI Cracks Down on Gensol Engineering Promoters Over Fund Diversion, Halts Stock Split

In a major regulatory move, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has barred Gensol Engineering Ltd (GEL) and its promoters, Anmol Singh Jaggi and Puneet Singh Jaggi, from participating in the securities market until further notice. The decision comes amid serious allegations of financial misconduct, including fund diversion and falsification of documents. SEBI has also directed Gensol Engineering to suspend its recently announced stock split, citing ongoing investigations into irregularities in the company's financial practices. Additionally, the market watchdog has appointed a forensic auditor to conduct a thorough examination of the company's books.

The action follows a complaint received in June 2024, which alleged manipulation of GEL's share prices and misappropriation of company funds. Upon

investigation, SEBI uncovered evidence indicating that the promoters diverted corporate funds for personal use, violating the principles of corporate governance and investor trust.

In a 29-page interim order, SEBI stated, "The prima facie findings have shown mis-utilisation and diversion of funds of the company (GEL) in a fraudulent manner by its promoter directors, Anmol Singh Jaggi and Puneet Singh Jaggi, who are also the direct beneficiaries of the diverted funds."

It further revealed that the promoters submitted forged conduct letters, falsely claiming they were issued by company lenders. These misleading documents were reportedly used to deceive SEBI, credit rating agencies, lenders, and investors.

SEBI accused the Jaggi brothers of running GEL like a personal proprietorship rather than a publicly listed company. Funds were allegedly siphoned off to related parties and used for purposes unrelated to business operations. The regulator warned that such diversions, if not recovered, may have to be written off, resulting in financial losses to shareholders. "The company reflects a culture of weak internal controls," SEBI's whole-time member Ashwani Bhatia stated. "There is prima facie evidence of blatant violations of corporate governance rules. Borrowed funds ring-fenced for specific purposes were freely rerouted at the whims of the promoters." This crack-down underscores SEBI's commitment to upholding market integrity and protecting investor interests, as the forensic probe into Gensol Engineering continues.



An unusual and symbolic moment near the Jagannath Temple in Puri has captivated devotees and netizens alike. A video of an eagle soaring into the sky while carrying what appeared to be a sacred cloth resembling the temple's flag has gone viral, sparking widespread theories and interpretations online. The incident occurred around 5 PM on Saturday evening, just as a brief Nor'wester storm swept through the coastal city. The eagle was seen circling above the Srimandir, clutching the cloth, before flying toward the sea and vanishing. Eyewitnesses reported that it first approached the temple's western gate before heading seaward, disappearing from sight. The origin of the cloth remains uncertain. Though it strongly resembles the sacred flags traditionally flown atop the Jagannath Temple, officials have yet to confirm whether the item was indeed a temple flag or simply a similar-looking piece of fabric. Regardless, the symbolism has stirred deep sentiment among

devotees and observers. While some online speculations have labeled the event a "bad omen," suggesting it could forewarn of conflict or disaster, many others interpret it positively. One viral comment likened the event to divine intervention, suggesting that Garuda — the mythical eagle mount of Lord Vishnu — was carrying Lord Jagannath's blessings skyward. The act, they said, symbolizes renewal, divine protection, and the global spread of Lord Jagannath's spiritual energy. Theories continue to swirl online, blending mythology, faith, and a sense of cosmic mystery. For many, the eagle's flight isn't just a curious natural event but a powerful, celestial metaphor — one that connects earth and sky, tradition and transcendence. As discussions grow, the moment stands as a reminder of how deeply faith and symbolism are interwoven in India's spiritual landscape — and how even a fleeting sight in the skies above a temple can ignite imaginations and stir the collective soul.

Zuckerberg Testifies in Antitrust Trial



Meta CEO and co-founder Mark Zuckerberg appeared in court on Monday in a pivotal U.S. antitrust trial, where Meta is accused of monopolistic practices tied to its acquisitions of Instagram and WhatsApp. The case, led by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), alleges that Meta leveraged its dominant market position to eliminate potential competition before it could emerge. At the heart of the case are Meta's high-profile purchases: Instagram in 2012 for \$1 billion, and WhatsApp in 2014 for \$19 billion. FTC lawyers argue that these takeovers weren't just strategic business decisions, but calculated moves to suppress rivals and maintain Facebook's dominance in the social media landscape. According to the FTC, Meta's behavior fits a pattern of "buy or bury" — a

tactic used to absorb emerging competitors that posed any threat to Facebook's supremacy. Zuckerberg's internal communications and past public comments are key components of the case, as they reportedly reflect his belief that controlling fast-growing platforms was crucial to keeping Facebook relevant. Zuckerberg's testimony is considered a landmark moment, given his central role in the company's strategic direction. On the stand, he defended Meta's actions, arguing that both Instagram and WhatsApp were significantly developed and scaled after acquisition, suggesting their success was driven by Meta's investments and innovation — not monopolistic suppression. This case is one of the most significant antitrust challenges faced by a tech giant in the U.S. in recent years and could set a precedent for how regulators approach big tech consolidation. If the FTC succeeds, it could potentially lead to court-ordered divestitures of Instagram and WhatsApp, reshaping the future of Meta and the social media industry at large. The trial continues, with more testimonies and evidence expected in the coming weeks.

Fitness Influencer Slammed for Train Stunt

A fitness influencer from Delhi is facing widespread backlash after a video of her performing a dangerous stunt near a speeding train went viral. Piku Singh, known for her unique running videos on Instagram, shared a clip of herself sprinting alongside a railway track as a train zoomed past her at high speed. The post was captioned simply: "Running with train." While the video gained traction quickly, garnering views and comments, it also sparked fierce criticism from viewers who called out the recklessness of the act. Many argued that such stunts not only put the performer's life at risk, but could also

inspire copycat behavior, especially among impressionable followers seeking viral fame. Despite some users admiring her fitness and daring, the overwhelming sentiment was negative. Critics questioned her motive, stating that chasing virality should not come at the cost of safety. "Risking your life for likes? What message are you sending to your followers?" one comment read. Another user pointed out that railway premises are restricted areas, and such behavior



could lead to legal consequences. Authorities have not yet issued an official statement, but such stunts are punishable under Indian Railways laws which prohibit unauthorized access to tracks. This incident adds to a growing list of social media personalities who have come under fire for endangering themselves or others in pursuit of online attention.

Katy Perry's Space Trip Explained

Pop icon Katy Perry recently made history as part of an all-female crew that journeyed to the edge of space aboard Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin rocket, New Shepard. The suborbital flight, which launched from western Texas, carried six women, including Bezos' fiancée Lauren Sanchez, past the Karman Line — the widely accepted boundary of space — reaching over 60 miles above Earth. The entire trip lasted around 10 minutes. After landing safely, Perry shared her thoughts, calling the experience "a 10 out of 10." She added, "You never know how much love you have to give and how loved you are until the day you launch." She was even seen kissing the ground after exiting the capsule. In a heartwarming moment, she sang What a Wonderful World during the flight, sharing that the act came from a deeper spiritual impulse rather than a performance mindset. Other members of the crew included civil rights activist Amanda Nguyen, entrepreneur and former NASA rocket scientist Aisha Bowe, TV presenter Gayle King, and film



producer Kerianne Flynn. The journey symbolized empowerment, exploration, and a message of inclusion in the field of space travel. While Perry's voyage was by invitation, commercial space travel is becoming increasingly accessible — for those who can afford it. A seat on a Blue Origin flight typically starts with a refundable deposit of \$150,000. Some seats in earlier flights were sold for up to \$28 million.

Other space tourism options include:

- Virgin Galactic: 90-minute suborbital flight for \$450,000
- Space Perspective: 6-hour stratosphere journey for \$125,000
- Axiom Space: 10-day trip to the ISS for \$55 million

Katy Perry's journey marks another milestone in making space accessible, especially for women — but for now, it remains a dream reserved for the wealthy and well-known.

TUP SI Mistakes Judge for Accused



In a bizarre case of negligence, a sub-inspector in Uttar Pradesh attempted to arrest a judge instead of the actual accused in a theft case, leaving officials stunned and the incident widely ridiculed. The incident occurred in Firozabad district, where a theft case dating back to 2012 involved an accused named Raj Kumar alias Pappu. The Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Nagma Khan, had issued a non-bailable warrant against Raj Kumar and later invoked Section 82 of the Criminal Procedure Code

(CrPC), proclaiming him as an absconder. However, instead of locating Raj Kumar, Sub-Inspector Bhanwarilal bizarrely misread the legal order. Believing the proclamation was against CJM Nagma Khan herself, he launched a search for the judge. Mistaking her for the accused, he even visited her official residence and later submitted a report to the court stating that "Nagma Khan" was not found at the mentioned address. The confusion came to light on

March 23 during a court hearing when the case file was reviewed. It was then discovered that the sub-inspector had wrongly assumed the name of the judge as that of the proclaimed offender. According to Bar and Bench, the SI had failed to understand who issued the order, for whom it was intended, and what action was required. The court came down heavily on the SI for his gross negligence, stating that such carelessness from a police officer reflects poorly on the law enforcement system. The court noted that not reading judicial orders properly and mistaking a magistrate for a criminal was a serious dereliction of duty. The judge labeled the act a violation of fundamental rights and directed senior police officials to initiate disciplinary action against the SI. As a result, Sub-Inspector Bhanwarilal has been suspended, and the court has forwarded its order to the Inspector General (IG) of Agra Range to ensure such incidents are not repeated in the future.



OpenAI on Monday announced the launch of its latest artificial intelligence models — GPT-4.1, along with lighter variants GPT-4.1 mini and GPT-4.1 nano. These new versions boast significant upgrades in coding capabilities, complex instruction following, and comprehension of longer context inputs, marking a notable leap in AI performance. According to OpenAI, the GPT-4.1 series delivers improvements across all fronts compared to previous models, even outperforming the company's already powerful GPT-4o model. These models are currently accessible via OpenAI's API, allowing developers to integrate the enhanced AI into their own applications.

Among the key features of GPT-4.1 is its refined coding proficiency, making it more reliable for software development tasks and debugging. It also shows remarkable improvements in understanding extended conversations and documents, addressing limitations seen in earlier versions. In addition to the flagship GPT-4.1, OpenAI introduced GPT-4.1 mini and nano — streamlined versions aimed at devices and applications where speed, efficiency, or limited computing resources are essential. These models retain many of the core strengths of GPT-4.1 while offering greater accessibility for smaller-scale deployments. The launch follows a February

2025 research preview of GPT-4.5, which was shared with a select group of developers. OpenAI has since promised to gradually expand access to newer models, and GPT-4.1 appears to be the next major step in that rollout. This release comes at a time when demand for highly capable, context-aware AI tools is skyrocketing across industries — from education and healthcare to coding and content creation. OpenAI's latest launch reaffirms its position at the forefront of the AI race, continuing to set the benchmark for performance and innovation in large language models. Further details on pricing and broader availability are expected in the coming weeks.



Su Bingtian Hints at Retirement After 100m Struggles

China's Su Bingtian, Asia's fastest man and the first Asian-born sprinter to break the 10-second barrier, may have run his last 100m race. The 35-year-old clocked 10.49 seconds at a domestic meet in Guangdong and said he no longer feels competitive. Su set the Asian record of 9.83 at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, becoming only the second Asian to reach an Olympic 100m final since 1932. "I have done everything I could... I have no regrets," Su said. He also helped China secure bronze in the Tokyo 4x100m relay. While he may bow out from individual sprints, Su hopes to assist Guangdong in the relay at China's National Games and confirmed he will stay involved in athletics. "I will give back what I've learned," he added, signaling a new chapter beyond competition.

Punjab Kings Edge Out KKR in Low-Scoring IPL Thriller



Punjab Kings clinched a tense 16-run win over Kolkata Knight Riders in a low-scoring IPL 2025 thriller at Mullanpur on Tuesday. After being bowled out for just 111 — the third-lowest total this season — PBKS bounced back to dismiss KKR for 95. Openers Priyansh Arya (22) and Prabhsimran Singh (30) provided a quick start, but a middle-order collapse, sparked by Harshit Rana (3/25), Varun Chakaravarthy (2/21), and Sunil Narine (2/14), left Punjab in disarray. Despite the modest target, KKR faltered under pressure. Punjab's bowlers tightened the screws, sealing a dramatic comeback. Ramandeep Singh starred in the field with three catches, all off Rana's bowling. With both sides struggling to find rhythm, PBKS's grit under pressure proved decisive in this nail-biting encounter, keeping their playoff hopes alive in a tightly contested season.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant were crowned champions of the Reliance Foundation Development League (RFDL) 2024-25 after a commanding 3-0 win over Classic Football Academy in the final held at Reliance Corporate Park, Mumbai, on Monday. Pasang Dorjee Tamang was the star of the show, netting a brilliant hat-trick to seal the victory for the Mariners. He opened the scoring in the 8th minute with a stunning strike from the edge of the box into the top right corner. Tamang doubled the lead shortly after, capitalizing on a defensive lapse by Classic FA. Despite some opportunities, Classic FA failed to convert in the final third. Mohun Bagan dominated possession and controlled the pace throughout the match, never letting their grip slip. The win marks a dominant end to their RFDL campaign, with Tamang's heroics leading the charge.



Mohun Bagan Clinch RFDL Title with Tamang Hat-Trick

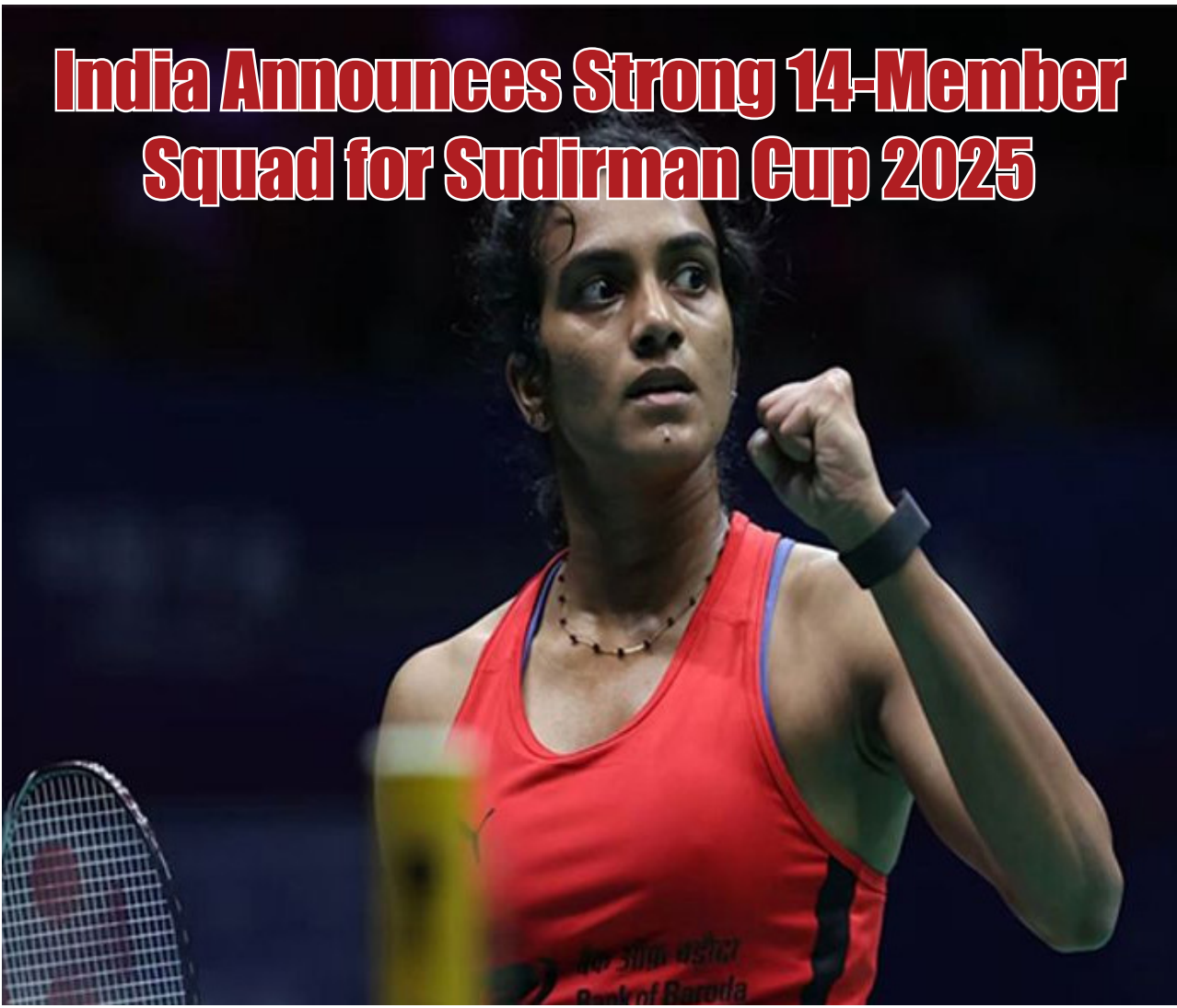
Dalilah Muhammad Named Ambassador for TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2025

Olympic champion Dalilah Muhammad has been announced as the International Event Ambassador for the 17th edition of the TCS World 10K Bengaluru, set to take place on April 27, 2025. The American track star is a two-time Olympic medalist and former world record holder in the 400m

hurdles. Her historic performances include gold at the 2016 Rio Olympics and a record-breaking run of 52.16s at the 2019 World Championships in Doha. Muhammad, who also won silver at Tokyo 2020 with an astonishing 51.58s, is celebrated globally for her achievements and con-

tributions to athletics. Off the track, she advocates for diversity in sports and mentors young athletes. "It's an honour to be the International Event Ambassador," she said. "I'm excited to experience Bengaluru's vibrant running community and share my journey with fellow athletes and fans."





India Announces Strong 14-Member Squad for Sudirman Cup 2025

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) has announced a 14-member squad for the BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2025, scheduled from April 27 to May 4 in Xiamen, China. The team includes stars like PV Sindhu, Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, and the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty. Placed in a challenging Group D alongside Indonesia, Denmark, and England, India aims to secure a knockout berth. General Secretary Sanjay Mishra

expressed confidence in the squad, highlighting depth across all categories despite injury setbacks. The team also features Dhruv Kapila-Tanisha Crasto in mixed doubles, Anupama Upadhyaya in women's singles, and young pair Priya Konjengbam-Shruti Mishra in women's doubles. India qualified based on world rankings and hopes to build on its momentum from recent strong performances, particularly at the Badminton Asia Championships.



Star Heroes Gear Up for Dual Roles



Telugu cinema continues its love for dual roles, with several top stars set to entertain fans with powerful double performances in their upcoming films. Balakrishna returns with Akhanda 2, reprising Muralikrishna and Akhanda Rudhra Sikander. After hits like Baahubali and Kalki, Prabhas is back in a double role in

The Raja Saab, playing a grandfather and grandson in a horror-comedy. Allu Arjun joins the trend, playing dual roles for the first time in his ambitious project with director Atlee, involving international VFX teams. Kalyanram continues his dual act as Bimbisara and Devadutta in Bimbisara 2, set for

a 2026 release. Vijay Deverakonda, reuniting with Rahul Sankrityan for a Rayalaseema-set period thriller, will portray a father and son, having trained in horse riding for the role. Jr NTR, fresh off Devara, will reprise his roles in Devara 2, which begins after his current project with Prashant Neel.

Why Vijay Sethupathi Chose Puri

Vijay Sethupathi surprised many by signing a film with director Puri Jagannath, whose recent work Double iSmart was a box office flop. While some Tamil fans criticized the move, Vijay clarified his decision in a recent interview. The actor said he doesn't judge directors by their past results. "If I like the story, I'll do the film. Puri



narrated a story I haven't done before, and I always want something new," Vijay explained.

He also expressed excitement about co-starring with Tabu, saying, "She's a great performer, and I've never worked with her before. I look forward to it." Despite setbacks, fans of Puri Jagannath hope this film marks a strong comeback. With a fresh pairing and an intriguing concept, the project has already stirred buzz in the industry.

Shruti Haasan's Stylish Comeback Begins



After a brief break from the limelight, Shruti Haasan is back—and she's making it count. With multiple Telugu and Tamil films in the pipeline, 2025 is shaping up to be her big comeback year. Spotted recently at a public event, Shruti turned heads with her bold, chic look. She rocked a grey leather jacket and matching pants, paired with statement earrings and boots, blending elegance with an edgy, confident flair. It was a reminder that her fashion sense is as sharp as ever. What truly amps up the excitement is her upcoming projects with Rajinikanth, Prabhas, and several other top stars. With her stylish presence and power-packed film slate, Shruti's second innings in cinema promises to be anything but quiet—she's back, and she's owning it.

Kesari 2 Earns Early Praise

Kesari Chapter 2 is already winning hearts ahead of its release. The film, starring Akshay Kumar and R Madhavan, received glowing reviews following a special screening in New Delhi on Tuesday. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri called the film a "powerful and moving tribute to India's freedom movement and the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh." He praised its emotional depth and patriotic spirit. Delhi CM Rekha Gupta also lauded the film, sharing photos with the lead actors and writing, "Each scene is filled with pride and inspiration." She wished the team success and thanked Minister Puri for the invite. Entrepreneur Rahul Sharma, husband of former actress Asin, was



among those impressed. With early buzz this strong, Kesari Chapter 2 is shaping up to be a potential

National Award contender and a must-watch for audiences.

HIT 3 Trailer Sets New Record



Nani's HIT: The Third Case trailer has taken the internet by storm, crossing 21.31 million views in 24 hours. Known for his family-friendly roles, Nani's intense and brutal portrayal in this A-rated crime thriller surprised many, boosting expectations. The trailer's performance even surpassed Rajamouli's RRR trailer (20.45M views), placing HIT 3 in the top 10 most-viewed Tollywood trailers within

a day. While Pushpa 2 leads the chart with 44.67M views, other top contenders include Guntur Kaaram (37.68M), Game Changer (36.24M), Salaar (32.58M), and Sarkaaru Vaari Paata (26.77M). Directed by Sailesh Kolanu, HIT 3 stars Srinidhi Shetty as Nani's love interest. The film, produced by Nani and Prashanti Tipirneni, is all set for a May 1st, 2025 theatrical release.

Amyra Dastur Stuns in Bold Look



Amyra Dastur, once a Telugu sweetheart with Raju Gadu, has carved her niche in Hindi and Punjabi films. Though her roles have been brief, her screen presence continues to captivate. Her latest photo has left fans stunned. Posing boldly in a black backless outfit, Amyra exudes summer charm while lounging on a grassy patch surrounded by flowers. A striking eye tattoo on her back adds an edgy flair, evoking Bigg Boss vibes. With a book in hand and a confident gaze, she strikes the perfect balance between elegance and allure. Last seen as Noor in the Punjabi film Furteelaa, Amyra is now gearing up for her return in 3 Roses Season 2. If her latest look is any indication, she's all set to bring the heat to screens once again.