

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 26° C

Stalin Seeks Multi-Party Meet with PM Modi on Delimitation Concerns

JAC urges 25-year extension of Lok Sabha seat freeze.

Meeting with CMs accuses Centre of opacity on delimitation.

Resolution cites population control goals for delay.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin requested a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, proposing to lead a delegation of MPs from various parties to discuss the Joint Action Committee's (JAC) stance on delimitation. Sharing his letter on X, Stalin underscored the bipartisan voices from the JAC's March 22 meeting, reflecting citizens' demands for equitable representation in India's parliamentary democracy. In his letter, Stalin emphasized the issue's gravity, seeking to present a memorandum from the JAC, formed to address delimitation as the 25-year freeze on Lok Sabha seats nears its 2026 end. "The concerns transcend

political boundaries," he wrote, urging Modi for a dialogue. The JAC, convened with Chief Ministers Pinarayi Vijayan (Kerala), Revanth Reddy (Telangana), Bhagwant Mann (Punjab), Karnataka's DK Shivakumar, and other leaders, resolved to push the Centre to extend the seat freeze by another 25 years, citing unfinished population stabilization goals. The March meeting showcased opposition unity against the BJP, with leaders criticizing the Union Government's opacity on delimitation plans. Stalin framed it as a state-versus-Centre battle, a narrative he aims to leverage ahead of Tamil Nadu's 2026 polls. The resolution stressed transparent



delimitation, involving states and parties, to enhance democracy's "content and character." It cited the 42nd, 84th, and 87th Constitutional Amendments, which froze seats based on the 1971 Census to reward states controlling population growth—a target yet unmet, justifying the extension plea.

Stalin's move, as of April 1, 2025, signals a strategic escalation. The JAC's demand challenges the BJP's silence, especially after Amit Shah's recent claim of no injustice in delimitation and prediction of DMK's electoral ouster. With the Supreme Court's March 17 deadline looming for delimitation in four states, Sta-

lin's multi-party push aims to safeguard southern states' representation, fearing a post-2026 seat reallocation favoring populous northern states. This meeting with Modi, if granted, could shape the discourse, balancing regional equity with national policy as India nears a pivotal democratic juncture.

No land will be taken under Waqf Amendment Bill: Kiren Rijiju tells Lok Sabha

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju moved the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, for consideration in the Lok Sabha, asserting that "no land will be taken" under the legislation. Introducing the bill—backed by the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)—Rijiju dismissed fears of property seizures as "baseless rumors," emphasizing it safeguards Muslim rights while reforming Waqf governance. Rijiju hailed the JPC's deliberations as unprecedented, thanking its members for their extensive efforts. "The discussion on this bill in the Joint Committee has been unmatched in India's parliamentary history," he said, noting that 284 delegations from 25 states and union territories were consulted. The JPC's report, finalized in February after months of heated debates, shaped the bill now under debate for eight hours. Addressing opposition concerns, Rijiju cited a 1970 Delhi case where the Waqf Board claimed properties like the CGO Complex and Parlia-



ment building. He alleged the UPA government denotified 123 properties in 2013, handing them to the Waqf Board. "Without this amendment, even this Parliament could've been claimed as

Waqf property," he warned, framing the bill as a corrective measure. Rijiju also criticized the Congress-led 2013 Waqf Act amendment, which allowed non-Muslims—Sikhs, Hindus, Parsis—to create Waqf. "Waqf is for Muslims to dedicate in Allah's name. Congress changed this pre-2014 elections," he said, questioning its intent. The 2025 bill, he argued, restores clarity while ensuring justice for ordinary Muslims, a point he's defended amid opposition cries of unconstitutionality. As of April 2, 2025, Rijiju's assurances aim to quell a stormy Lok Sabha debate, with the INDIA bloc vowing to block the bill. The minister's examples—like the Parliament claim—underscore the BJP's narrative of rectifying past overreaches, while his nod to the JPC's inclusivity counters bias allegations. With the session nearing its Friday end, the bill's fate hinges on this clash, testing the government's resolve against a united opposition challenging its implications for religious freedom and property rights.

Jaishankar and Dutch FM Veldkamp Discuss Cooperation in Emerging Technologies



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India and the Netherlands are expanding their cooperation in emerging technologies, with a particular focus on semiconductors and green hydrogen, during a bilateral meeting between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Dutch Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp on April 1, 2025, in New Delhi.

Veldkamp highlighted the importance of these technological collaborations, emphasizing how both countries are working together to advance the semiconductor industry. India is eager to develop its own chip-making capabilities, particularly for military and space applications, and sees the Netherlands, home to semiconductor giant ASML, as a critical partner in this endeavor. Over the past year, the two nations have held three rounds of talks on semiconductors, which are pivotal for India's technological and defense ambitions.

In addition to semiconductors, Jaishankar and Veldkamp also discussed the growing importance of green hydrogen as a sustainable energy source. The bilateral partnership on this front aligns with the shared goal of advancing clean energy solutions, building on discussions between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof in December 2024, which further emphasized cooperation in defense, semiconductors, and green hydrogen.

Beyond technology, the two ministers also explored areas of migration, mobility, and youth exchanges. The Netherlands is keen on facilitating the movement of skilled Indian professionals

Waqf Amendment Bill, chorus from Srinagar: India should not become another Myanmar

president Mehbooba Mufti termed the proposed amendment a conspiracy to disempower Muslims

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

As the Waqf amendment bill was tabled in the Indian Parliament, political parties in Jammu and Kashmir have come together in strong opposition. The ruling National Conference (NC) and the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) voiced their concerns about the proposed changes, criticizing it as a threat to the rights of Muslims.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti expressed her disapproval of the bill, calling it a "conspiracy to disempower Muslims." Mufti further stated that the amendment sought to undermine the autonomy of the Waqf institutions, which manage charitable and religious properties in the



Muslim community. She urged the people of India to rise against the proposed changes, emphasizing the need for unity in defending the rights of religious minorities.

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Pakistan Army Violates Ceasefire After Mine Blast Along LoC in Poonch



TPN Correspondent | Jammu

The Pakistan Army violated the ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district following a mine blast on April 1, 2025. According to an official statement from the Indian Army, the incident took place at around 1:10 PM, when the mine explosion occurred in the Krishna Ghati sector,

where Pakistani troops were reportedly patrolling. This was followed by unprovoked firing, prompting a response from the Indian Army.

A defence spokesman confirmed that the Indian Army "effectively" responded to the ceasefire violation and

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Local cuisine to be available in more trains: Railway Minister Vaishnaw

- Pilot launched in Southern Railways, including Tamil Nadu.
- Aims to shift from generic to region-specific train meals.
- Supports local food businesses and cultural diversity.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced an initiative to offer local cuisines on trains, depending on the regions they traverse. This move aims to enhance the travel experience by offering passengers a taste of regional flavors. The minister's statement followed a query from DMK member Sumathy Thamizhachi Thangapandian, who requested that South Indian cuisine be made available on Vande Bharat trains running in Tamil Nadu.

Vaishnaw explained that the initiative is already underway with the Southern Railways, where a pilot experiment has been launched to incorporate regional cuisines on select trains. The goal is to make train journeys more enjoyable by providing passengers with authentic food that reflects the diverse culinary heritage of the areas through which the trains pass.

This move is expected to create a significant shift in the way food is served on trains, moving beyond generic offerings to more region-specific meals. The Railway Minister also emphasized that this experiment would allow them to assess the feasibility and demand for incorporating



local foods on a larger scale across the railway network. It is anticipated that, if successful, this initiative could eventually be extended to other parts of India, ensuring that travelers can experience the rich diversity of Indian cuisine during their journeys. Thamizhachi Thangapandian's request specifically mentioned the inclusion of South Indian dishes on Vande Bharat trains operating in Tamil Nadu, citing the region's rich culinary traditions. She expressed hope that the trains would serve local dishes, giving passengers a more authentic experience of Tamil Nadu's gastronomic culture. The introduction of local cuisines is part of the Indian Railways' ongoing efforts to improve services and passenger satisfaction. By offering regionally inspired meals, the railways not only aim to support local food businesses but also promote the cultural diversity of India. This initiative is poised to become a significant feature of train travel in the future, making it a more immersive and culturally enriching experience for passengers.

Ireland's Supreme Court Judge Justice Gerard Hogan Visits India's Supreme Court

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On Wednesday, April 2, 2025, Justice Gerard Hogan of Ireland's Supreme Court visited the Supreme Court premises in New Delhi, where he was warmly welcomed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna. The visit was marked by a formal introduction of Justice Hogan to the courtroom, where he was recognized for his extensive contributions to legal scholarship and jurisprudence.



CJI Sanjiv Khanna took the opportunity to announce Justice Hogan's presence to the lawyers and litigants present in the courtroom. He highlighted Justice Hogan's distinguished career, which includes his tenure as a judge at the Supreme Court of Ireland. Prior to his current position, Justice Hogan had served in the Court of Appeals and as the Advocate General for the European Court of Appeals. His experience and expertise in constitutional and international law have earned him a prominent place in legal circles globally.

In his address, the CJI specifically noted Justice Hogan's important contributions to the legal field, particularly in his work on landmark judgments regarding the Right to Life and the Safe Harbour principles. These rulings, which have had far-reaching implications, demonstrate Justice Hogan's deep understanding of fundamental human rights and international law, areas in which his judgments have

helped shape legal interpretations both within Ireland and in broader European and international contexts.

Justice Hogan's visit to India represents a continuing collaboration between the Indian judiciary and international legal bodies. It underscores the importance of cross-border exchanges of legal knowledge and perspectives. The meeting also provided an opportunity for members of the Indian legal community to engage with a prominent international jurist and gain insights into the evolving legal landscape in Europe and Ireland, particularly on issues of human rights and constitutional law.

The visit reflects the growing relationship between India and Ireland in the field of law, and both countries stand to benefit from such exchanges that promote a deeper understanding of legal frameworks on a global scale.

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Pakistan Army Violates Ceasefire After Mine Blast Along LoC in Poonch

continued to maintain dominance over the LoC. The situation was said to be under control after the exchange of fire. Official sources indicated that the mine blast and subsequent firefight resulted in five Pakistani soldiers being injured, though the Indian Army did not report any casualties on their side.

This incident comes after several weeks of relative calm along the LoC, following a renewed ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan in February 2021. However, tensions had recently resurfaced, with incidents of cross-border firing and attacks in areas like Poonch-Rajouri sector

in February 2025. In one such incident, an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack in the Akhnor sector led to the death of two Indian Army personnel, including a captain.

The latest ceasefire violation marks an escalation of tensions despite efforts to de-escalate, including a brigade-commander level flag meeting between the Indian and Pakistani militaries in February. Both sides had expressed a desire to maintain peace and stability along the border. The Indian Army continues to monitor the situation closely and has assured that it is in control of the situation along the LoC.

Waqf Amendment Bill, chorus from Srinagar: India should not become another Myanmar

The National Conference also joined the opposition in condemning the bill. The party made it clear that its Members of Parliament (MPs) would strongly oppose the bill in the legislative assembly, stating that it undermines the autonomy of religious institutions. Both the NC and PDP are deeply concerned that the bill would allow greater government control over Waqf properties, potentially diluting their intended purpose.

The opposition parties argue that the proposed amendment could lead to further centralization of power and an infringement on the religious rights of Muslims,

as the bill allows non-Muslim members to be part of the Waqf boards. This has raised fears among local leaders that it could result in outside interference in the management of religious affairs in the Valley.

The political landscape in Kashmir has long been shaped by sensitive issues related to religious identity, autonomy, and governance. As the debate over the Waqf amendment bill intensifies, it remains to be seen whether the opposition in Jammu and Kashmir can sway the broader national conversation on this matter.

Jaishankar and Dutch FM Veldkamp Discuss Cooperation in Emerging Technologies

to work in the country, which will help address labor shortages while also fostering stronger people-to-people ties between the two nations.

During his official visit to India from March 31 to April 1, 2025, Veldkamp also met with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval to discuss further avenues of coop-

eration in security and defense.

This deepening partnership reflects the growing strategic ties between India and the Netherlands, focusing on key areas such as defense, technology, clean energy, and human resources to benefit both nations in the coming years.

India's Defence Exports Hit Record Rs 23,622 Crore In 2024-25: Rajnath Singh

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced that India's defence exports soared to a record ₹23,622 crore (approximately USD 2.76 billion) in FY 2024-25, reflecting a 12.04% jump from ₹21,083 crore in 2023-24. Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated this as a "proud milestone" in India's quest for self-reliance and global leadership in defence manufacturing, sharing his enthusiasm on X. Singh highlighted a ₹2,539 crore increase, crediting the growth to robust contributions from Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and private firms. DPSUs saw a striking 42.85% export rise, contributing ₹8,389 crore, while the private sector added ₹15,233 crore—up slightly from ₹15,209 crore last year. The ministry noted this surge underscores India's growing clout in global markets and its integration into the interna-



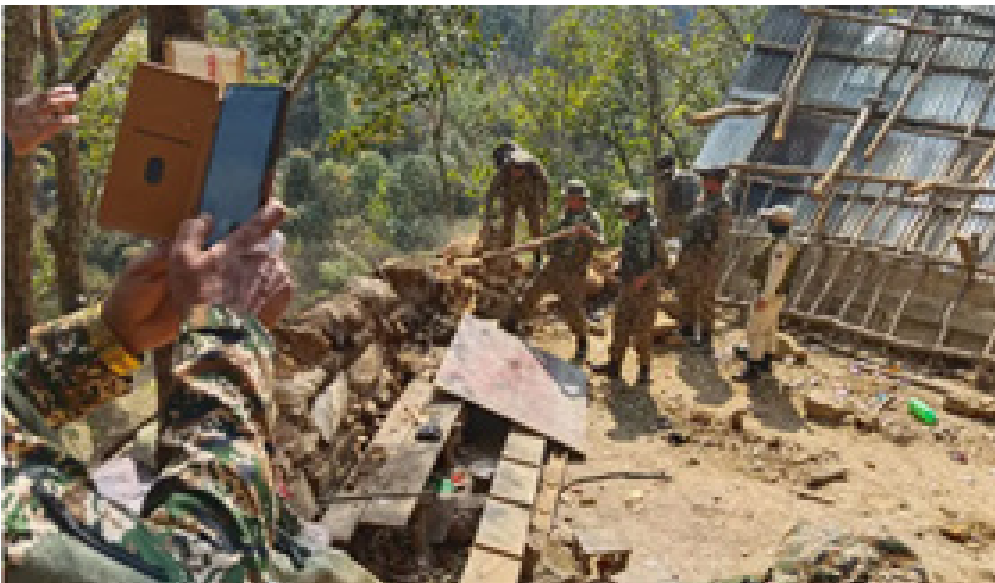
tional supply chain. The minister congratulated stakeholders, emphasizing that under Modi's leadership, India is on track to hit ₹50,000 crore in defence exports by 2029. "This achievement reflects our focus on indigenous production and self-reliance," Singh posted on X. The ministry's readout detailed exports of diverse items—ammunition, arms,

subsystems, and components—to about 80 countries in 2024-25, a testament to India's expanding reach. A dedicated export authorization portal facilitated this growth, issuing 1,762 permits in 2024-25, up from 1,507 the previous year, with a 17.4% rise in exporters. "India has shifted from import dependency to a powerhouse of homegrown defence innovation," the ministry stated, highlighting a strategic pivot. Modi's endorsement framed the milestone as a step toward global leadership, while Singh tied it to national ambition. The DPSUs' export leap—from ₹5,874 crore in 2023-24 to ₹8,389 crore—signals rising trust in Indian products worldwide. As of April 1, 2025, this record haul positions India as an emerging defence exporter, blending private and public prowess to chase a bold 2029 target, fueled by policy support and a relentless drive for 'Make in India.'

Meitei Alliance Urges PM Modi for NRC in Manipur Before Delimitation

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Meitei Alliance, a prominent global body of Manipur's Meitei community, appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to prioritize a National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise in Manipur before initiating delimitation. This follows the Supreme Court's March 17 directive, giving the Centre three months to complete delimitation in Manipur, Assam, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh, reversing a 2020 deferment. In a letter to Modi, the Alliance argued that an NRC tailored to Manipur's context is critical to protect genuine citizens and ensure political stability, security, and communal harmony. "Delimitation without addressing security and demographic issues risks derailing peace efforts by the government, civil society, and Manipur's people—especially its youth yearning for stability," the group warned. Citing historical records, the Alliance alleged "rampant illegal immigration" since Manipur's 1949 integration with India. A 1973 letter from MP P Haokip to Home Minister KC Pant noted 1,500 Kuki refugee families from Myanmar in Manipur since 1967, while another from the Burma Kuki Refugees' Association sought aid, securing ₹3.92 lakh



(₹23 lakh in 2025 terms). The Alliance claimed many such immigrants, ineligible under the 1955 Citizenship Act, have gained citizenship and Scheduled Tribe benefits, violating constitutional norms and fueling further influxes. The group stressed the need to update the NRC to rectify wrongful inclusions, safeguard indigenous interests, and restore harmony. It linked Manipur's ongoing violence—tied to two dozen Kuki militant groups under a Suspension of Operations deal—to vested interests exploiting instability for un-

constitutional gains. "This systematic breakdown demands intervention before delimitation," the letter asserted. The plea aligns with broader concerns over Manipur's ethnic tensions and demographic shifts, intensified since clashes erupted in May 2023. As of April 1, 2025, the Meitei Alliance's call for an NRC-first approach challenges the Centre to balance judicial timelines with local realities, framing it as a prerequisite for sustainable peace and fair delimitation in a state grappling with complex socio-political fault lines.

In wake of Myanmar earthquake, Delhi govt gets ball rolling for a new emergency centre



- National Disaster Management Authority to assist Delhi’s efforts.
- March 12 DDMA meeting, led by LG Saxena, prioritized logistics fixes.
- Aims to address vulnerabilities from non-compliant buildings.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi BJP government is accelerating the establishment of an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to spearhead disaster response, particularly for earthquakes, sources revealed on April 1, 2025. The EOC, long-delayed despite Delhi’s precarious position in seismic Zone IV, aims to bolster the city’s resilience against natural calamities. With many residen-

tial structures flouting building norms, the capital remains highly vulnerable to seismic damage, amplifying the urgency of this initiative. Government insiders noted that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has pledged support to operationalize the EOC, a project stalled for years under prior administrations. Delhi’s seismic risk, coupled with lax construction standards, has heightened

calls for a centralized hub to coordinate emergency efforts. The EOC is envisioned as a nerve center, streamlining disaster mitigation and response in a city where unplanned urban sprawl exacerbates exposure to earthquakes. The push gained momentum following a March 12 meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), chaired by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena and attended by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the DDMA vice-chairperson. Sources said Saxena urged Gupta to tackle logistical bottlenecks “neglected by the previous government,” signaling a shift in priority under the BJP’s rule. The meeting underscored the need for robust infrastructure to safeguard Delhi’s 20 million residents from natural disasters. As of April 1, 2025, the EOC’s expedited development marks a proactive stance by the BJP government, elected in February, to address a glaring gap in disaster preparedness. The collaboration with NDMA reflects a broader intent to align with national expertise, ensuring the centre meets modern standards. While specifics on timeline and funding remain under wraps, the initiative promises to centralize command during crises, potentially saving lives in a seismically active zone. Delhi’s seismic Zone IV status—indicating high earthquake risk—combined with its non-compliant housing stock, has long worried experts. The EOC’s creation could herald a turning point, offering a lifeline to a city racing against its vulnerabilities. With Saxena and Gupta at the helm, the BJP aims to deliver on a promise of safety, rectifying years of inertia.

Waqf Bill: INDIA bloc meets to come up with joint strategy

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

leaders of the INDIA bloc, a coalition of opposition parties, convened in Parliament House to forge a unified strategy to resist the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, slated for discussion and passage in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. The meeting underscored the bloc’s determination to challenge the contentious legislation, which proposes significant changes to the governance of Muslim charitable properties, amid escalating tensions with the ruling BJP. The INDIA bloc’s huddle focused on coordinating their approach for the upcoming debate, set to span eight hours as announced by Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju. The opposition has consistently decried the bill as unconstitutional, arguing it infringes on religious freedoms and minority rights enshrined in Articles 15 and 30 of the Constitution. Leaders from parties like Congress, AIM-IM, and DMK, who have vocally opposed the bill since its introduction in August 2024, aimed to align their arguments and voting stance to block its passage. The bill’s journey has been fraught with discord. Referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) last year, it faced



accusations of bias and inadequate consultation, with opposition MPs clashing with BJP members. The JPC’s February report, adopting 14 of 23 BJP-backed amendments while rejecting all 44 opposition proposals, further fueled the rift. Tuesday’s meeting sought to consolidate this dissent into a cohesive parliamentary offensive, with the bloc planning to highlight the bill’s perceived overreach and rally support across party lines. As of April 1, 2025, the INDIA bloc’s strategy session reflects a critical push to

counter the BJP’s legislative agenda. With the session nearing its Friday close, the opposition views Wednesday’s debate as a make-or-break moment to protect constitutional values. By pooling their voices—fortified by whips like Congress’s to ensure MP presence—the bloc aims to disrupt the bill’s momentum, setting the stage for a high-stakes showdown in the Lok Sabha that could reshape Waqf governance and test India’s political fault lines.

T.N. Assembly unanimously adopts resolution on Katchatheevu retrieval from Sri Lanka

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution pressing the Union government to reclaim Katchatheevu island from Sri Lanka, just days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s scheduled visit to the neighboring country. Moved by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, the resolution framed the retrieval as a critical step to safeguard Tamil Nadu fishermen’s traditional rights and end their recurring ordeals at the hands of the Sri Lankan Navy. Stalin’s resolution stated: “Retrieval of Katchatheevu island is the only permanent solution to protect the traditional fishing rights of Tamil Nadu fishermen and to mitigate the sufferings faced by them due to the Sri Lankan Navy.” The tiny islet in Palk Bay, ceded to Sri Lanka in 1974 under a bilateral agreement, has

long been a flashpoint, with fishermen from Tamil Nadu frequently detained or attacked for crossing maritime boundaries they claim as ancestral waters. The timing of the resolution, ahead of Modi’s visit, amplifies its political weight, signaling Tamil Nadu’s urgency to resolve a decades-old grievance. Stalin, leading the DMK, has consistently championed the fishermen’s cause, accusing the Centre of neglecting their plight. The unanimous support across party lines in the Assembly underscores a rare consensus.



sus, reflecting the issue’s deep resonance in the state. Katchatheevu’s handover has fueled tensions, with Tamil Nadu arguing it compromises livelihoods and cultural heritage. Fishermen face arrests, boat seizures, and alleged brutality, stoking demands for its return. The resolution positions retrieval as a diplomatic priority, urging Modi to leverage his trip to press Sri Lanka on the matter. As of April 2, 2025, the move puts the Centre on notice, testing its stance amid warming India-Sri Lanka ties. With Modi set to engage Colombo, Tamil Nadu’s plea adds a layer of complexity, blending local sentiment with bilateral diplomacy. Whether this spurs action or remains symbolic hinges on New Delhi’s response, but for now, Stalin has rallied the state to amplify a long-standing cry for justice.

DELHI POLITICS

Akhilesh Yadav mocks BJP over election of new chief, Amit Shah retorts with ‘dynastic’ jibe



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A fiery exchange unfolded in the Lok Sabha on April 2, 2025, during the Waqf Amendment Bill debate, as Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav mocked the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for its delay in electing a new national president. “A party claiming to be the world’s biggest can’t even elect its own president,” Yadav quipped, sparking a sharp retort from Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Shah hit back with a jab at dynastic politics, saying, “Your parties pick presidents from five family members instantly, but our process involves 12-13 crore members, so it takes time.” The spat overshadowed the bill discussion, which the SP opposes vehemently. Yadav accused the BJP of pushing the Waqf Amendment Bill to seize administrative control, warning it could deepen communal divides. “This bill is about taking over everything. One wrong administrative move has already caused rifts between Hindus and Muslims, visible even today. The BJP will control Waqf and bend decisions

in their favor,” he charged, framing it as a vote-grabbing tactic. Shah’s riposte highlighted the BJP’s democratic process, contrasting it with what he called the opposition’s nepotism. JP Nadda, appointed acting BJP president in June 2019, was formally elected in January 2020 and remains in office, though internal elections have lagged, fueling Yadav’s barb. The exchange underscored broader political tensions as the bill—allocating eight hours for debate—neared a vote. Yadav reiterated the SP’s resolve to block the legislation, echoing opposition claims of its unconstitutionality. The bill, debated since its August 2024 introduction and JPC review, has split Parliament, with the BJP defending it as a reform for Waqf governance. As of April 2, 2025, the verbal duel between Yadav and Shah amplified the stakes, blending personal jibes with policy critique. The Waqf debate, already a flashpoint, now carries the weight of this rivalry, testing the BJP’s legislative push against a galvanized opposition in a session ending Friday.

That Waqf bill is interference in Muslim affairs is only fear-mongering for vote-bank: Shah



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah strongly defended the Waqf bill in the Lok Sabha on April 2, 2025, dismissing claims that the bill interferes with Muslim religious affairs. He described the criticism as fear-mongering intended to mobilize vote-bank politics. Shah emphasized that non-Muslims included in Waqf councils and boards would not have any role in religious decisions, but would only ensure that Waqf properties are administered according to their stated objectives.

Shah clarified that the inclusion of non-Muslims in these bodies was solely to ensure the proper management and protection of Waqf properties, which are meant to benefit the public. The bill, he said, aims to address the exploitation of Waqf assets by those misusing them for personal gain. He further stated that the Waqf law introduced in 2013 was “extreme” and primarily driven by appeasement politics. According to Shah, if that law

hadn’t been enacted, this new bill might not have been necessary. The Home Minister also responded to the objections raised by some Members of Parliament, particularly regarding the acceptance of the law by minorities. Shah asserted that the law was passed by the Indian government and Parliament, and everyone, regardless of their community, would have to accept it. He emphasized the BJP-led government’s strong mandate, claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership had secured three consecutive terms for the party, and predicted that the government would remain in power for three more terms.

Shah’s comments were part of a broader debate on the Waqf bill, which has sparked discussions regarding the role of non-Muslim members in managing religious properties. While some see it as necessary for accountability and transparency, others fear it could lead to undue interference in religious matters. The bill’s passage marks a significant moment in Indian politics, as the government seeks to balance religious concerns with governance and legal oversight.

As India-China Ties Turn 75, New Delhi Reminds Beijing Of "Lessons" Learnt

TPN Correspondent| New Delhi

India and China marked 75 years of diplomatic relations, India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri delivered a speech highlighting key lessons and future opportunities for both nations. The event, held at the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi, also saw Misri and Chinese Ambassador Xu Feihong cutting a cake to commemorate the occasion.

Misri began by emphasizing that while India and China have only had 75 years of formal diplomatic ties, their civilizations share millennia of cultural and historical connections. He acknowledged the contributions of historical figures like Bodhidharma, Kumarajiva, Xuanzang, and Rabindranath Tagore in fostering these ties. According to Misri, these long-standing connections offer valuable lessons for contemporary relations.

- Recent leadership efforts resolve border tensions, boost peace.
- Progress includes high-level talks and Kailash-Mansarovar resumption.
- Mutual respect, sensitivity, and interest key to stronger ties.

He then spoke about the second lesson, acknowledging the challenges in recent years. However, he credited the leadership of both nations for their continuous diplomatic, military, and political efforts, which have helped resolve border issues. Misri stressed the importance of maintaining peace in the border areas as a crucial element for developing overall bilateral relations. He also referenced the recent meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi Jinping in Russia, which laid the foundation for

a stable and amicable path forward.

Highlighting recent progress, Misri outlined steps taken in the past few months to strengthen ties, including two meetings between foreign ministers, the resumption of high-level talks on boundary issues, and defense meetings. These efforts, he said, are vital for rebuilding trust and enhancing people-to-people connections. Additionally, practical cooperation initiatives such as the resumption of the Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra



and discussions on transport, rivers, and direct air services were also underway.

Finally, Misri underscored the three-fold formula of mutual respect, sensitivity, and interest as essential for

rebuilding the relationship. While acknowledging the path ahead may be challenging, he expressed optimism that recent steps would lead to tangible benefits for both countries' citizens, fostering a more stable and cooperative future.

Project linking Yamuna e-way with Delhi-Agra NH approved



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

A significant infrastructure boost was greenlit as authorities approved a Rs 1,645 crore road project connecting the Yamuna Expressway with the Delhi-Agra National Highway. Shyam Bahadur Singh, ex-officio CEO of the Uttar Pradesh Braj Teerth Vikas Parishad, announced that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) can now initiate land acquisition, paving the way for construction to begin. Singh, who also serves as Vice-Chairman of the Mathura-Vrindavan Development Authority, detailed the project: a 15-km, six-lane road linking the Yamuna Expressway (Noida-Agra) at its 101st km to the Delhi-Agra Highway near Joint in Mathura. The ambitious plan includes a bridge over the Yamuna River, enhancing connectivity and easing traffic flow between these key arteries. The approval marks a milestone for Uttar Pradesh's infrastructure landscape, promising to streamline travel between Noida, Agra, and Delhi while bolstering economic activity in the Braj region. The six-lane corridor is expected to reduce congestion on existing routes, offering a faster, safer alternative for commuters and

freight alike. The Yamuna bridge will further bridge geographical divides, linking rural and urban hubs more efficiently. Singh highlighted the project's strategic importance, noting its alignment with regional development goals. Costing Rs 1,645 crore, the initiative reflects a hefty investment in modernizing transport networks, with the NHAI tasked to execute it seamlessly. Land acquisition, the next critical step, will involve coordination with local authorities to ensure minimal disruption while meeting timelines. As of April 1, 2025, this clearance sets the stage for a transformative upgrade in Mathura's connectivity. The linkage of the Yamuna Expressway—known for its high-speed Noida-Agra stretch—with the bustling Delhi-Agra Highway near Joint positions the region as a vital transit node. With the bridge component, the project promises not just convenience but a catalyst for growth, spotlighting Uttar Pradesh's push to enhance infrastructure and drive economic progress in the Braj Teerth area. Construction timelines remain pending, but the approval signals momentum for this mega road endeavor.

Delhi Braces for 39-40°C Heat as Northwest India Faces Temperature Spike

TPN Correspondent| New Delhi

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) warned on April 2, 2025, that Delhi's temperatures could hit 39-40°C in the coming days, with northwest India expecting a 3-5°C rise over the next week. Delhi's current maximum and minimum temperatures hover between 34-36°C and 14-17°C, respectively, but dry westerly winds and high solar insolation are set to push the mercury higher. Skymet Weather's Mahesh Palawat noted low wind speeds will amplify the heat across the region. Heatwave conditions are forecast to persist in isolated pockets, with Saurashtra and Kutch facing elevated temperatures for the next week, west Rajasthan from April 5-8, Gujarat from April 6-8, and east Rajasthan on April 7-8. An orange alert has been issued for Saurashtra, Kutch,

and nearby Gujarat areas, urging preparedness for emergencies. The IMD cautioned that prolonged sun exposure or heavy work in such heat could trigger illnesses, posing heightened risks to infants, the elderly, and those with chronic conditions, who should avoid heat and dehydration. Tuesday's data showed maximum temperatures already soaring to 39-41°C in parts of Gujarat, south Rajasthan, southwest Madhya Pradesh, southeast Uttar Pradesh, south Marathwada, Telangana, Vidarbha,



and interior Odisha. Meanwhile, readings of 35-38°C were recorded across Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, north interior Karnataka, coastal Karnataka, south Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh, signaling a broad warming trend. As of April 2, 2025, Delhi and northwest India are gearing up for a heat surge, driven by meteorological shifts and minimal wind relief. The IMD's alert underscores health concerns, particularly for vulnerable groups, as temperatures climb. With heatwaves already gripping parts of the country and Gujarat on high alert, authorities face pressure to mitigate impacts. Delhiites, accustomed to milder early April weather, now confront a sweltering forecast, testing the city's resilience as the northwest braces for a week of escalating heat.

Delhi Police 'Tachar' Squad Boosts Women's Safety at Govindpuri Metro



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Delhi Police Constable Renu, 29, stood watch outside the bustling Govindpuri metro station in south Delhi. Clad in plain clothes alongside her 'Tachar' squad colleagues, she seamlessly blended with the crowd, her sharp eyes scanning for eve-teasing, harassment, or any threats to women. As dusk settled, her focus shifted to a cluster of e-rickshaw drivers aggressively approaching commuters disembarking from the station.

Without hesitation, Renu stepped in, ordering the drivers to keep their distance. "Women feel uneasy when they're swarmed like that," she said, her tone firm yet calm. Her quick action led to the detention of four e-rickshaw drivers, a move aimed at curbing the unease that often greets female commuters in crowded transit hubs. The 'Tachar' squad, a specialized unit of the Delhi Police, is tasked with enhancing women's safety through discreet vigilance and rapid response. Renu's intervention reflects a broader effort to make public spaces safer in a city where harassment remains a persistent concern. Positioned at a key metro station in south-east Delhi, the squad's plainclothes approach allows them to observe and act without drawing attention, catching offenders off-guard. The Govindpuri incident underscores the daily challenges women

face—rushed by drivers vying for passengers—and the squad's role in restoring order and confidence. As of April 1, 2025, such awareness drives and patrols signal Delhi Police's proactive stance on gender-based crimes. Earlier that day, 'Tachar' members conducted an awareness campaign at a nearby bus stop, educating commuters on safety measures. Renu, a seasoned officer, views her role as both enforcement and empathy. "It's about making women feel secure, not just catching culprits," she noted. The detentions sent a clear message: harassment won't be tolerated. With e-rickshaw drivers often a flashpoint for commuter friction, the squad's presence offers a deterrent and a lifeline. As night deepened over Govindpuri, Renu resumed her watch, embodying a quiet resolve to safeguard Delhi's women, one intervention at a time.

Delhi govt tables CAG report on pollution

TPN Correspondent| Delhi

Delhi BJP government tabled a scathing Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report exposing the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) lapses in tackling air pollution during its tenure. Presented by Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa in the Assembly, the report—titled Performance Audit of Prevention and Mitigation of Vehicular Air Pollution in Delhi—criticized AAP's handling of vehicular emis-

sions, public transport expansion, electric vehicle adoption, and pollution monitoring placement. Sirsa accused AAP of squandering crores on ineffective or abandoned initiatives. "Arvind Kejriwal looted Delhi in the name of pollution control," he charged, citing ₹22 crore spent on smog towers that failed within a year and ₹53 crore on the "ineffective" odd-even scheme. The CAG flagged 214,000 Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates issued with-

out proper scrutiny, underscoring lax enforcement. Sirsa claimed many schemes existed only on paper, with funds siphoned off through publicity



stunts rather than tangible results. The report, the eighth CAG audit tabled since BJP's February 2025 takeover, painted a grim picture of AAP's environmental governance. It highlighted inadequate efforts to curb vehicular pollution—a key contributor to Delhi's annual air crisis—alongside failures to boost public transport and strategically position pollution monitors. Sirsa argued these shortcomings exacerbated the city's smog woes, leaving residents to bear the

brunt of AAP's mismanagement. As of April 1, 2025, the BJP leveraged the findings to intensify its attack on AAP, framing it as a corrupt regime that prioritized optics over action. "No area was left untouched by their plunder," Sirsa said, pointing to a litany of stalled or illusory projects. The report's release aligns with BJP's broader audit push, with eight of 14 promised CAG reviews now public, including one on AAP's liquor policy scandal.

Assam launches entrepreneurship support scheme for women



- **‘Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan’ offers three-stage aid.**
- **Billed as state’s biggest initiative for women entrepreneurs.**
- **Aims to empower women with funding and training.**

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Bharatiya Janata Party-led Assam Government rolled out the ‘Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan,’ touted as the state’s most ambitious women’s entrepreneurship initiative. Unveiled by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the Chief Minister Women Entrepreneurship Campaign aims to empower women economically through a robust three-stage financial assistance framework, marking a significant push toward gender-inclusive development. The scheme targets women across Assam, offering structured support to kickstart and sustain entrepreneurial ventures. In its first phase, eligible women will receive initial seed funding to launch their businesses, followed by subsequent stages providing capital for expansion and operational stability. While exact funding details are yet to be fully disclosed, officials hailed it as the “biggest” such program in Assam’s history, designed to uplift thousands of women, particularly from rural and marginalized communities. Sarma emphasized that the initiative aligns with the BJP’s vision of self-reliance, aiming to transform Assam’s economic landscape by fostering women-led enterprises. “This

is a game-changer for women who’ve long been sidelined. It’s not just aid—it’s an investment in their potential,” he said at the launch. The scheme also includes training and mentorship components to equip participants with skills for sustainable success. The campaign responds to long-standing demands for economic empowerment in a state where women’s workforce participation has lagged. By prioritizing entrepreneurship, the government seeks to boost local economies, reduce dependency, and create role models for future generations. Officials noted that applications would open soon, with a focus on inclusivity across caste, creed, and region. As of April 1, 2025, the ‘Mukhya Mantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan’ positions Assam as a frontrunner in women-centric policy, reflecting the BJP’s broader narrative of development and ‘nari shakti.’ With its three-tier aid structure, the scheme promises to bridge financial gaps, though its success will hinge on effective roll-out and outreach. For now, it’s a bold step toward redefining women’s roles in Assam’s economic fabric, with the potential to ripple beyond state borders.

Pakistani Army Opens Fire at Line of Control, India Retaliates: No Casualties Reported

TPN Correspondent | Bhopal

In a recent escalation along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, the Pakistani Army initiated unprovoked firing in the Poonch district, violating the ceasefire agreement, according to sources in the Indian Army. The incident occurred on April 1, 2025, following a mine blast in the Krishna Ghati sector while Pakistani troops were conducting a patrol along the border.

Sources stated that the Pakistani Army’s actions were followed by unprovoked firing, marking a significant ceasefire violation. In response, Indian forces effectively retaliated to the fire, ensuring that the situation remained under control. The Indian Army reiterated its commitment to maintaining peace and stability along the Line of Control while asserting that Indian troops continue to dominate the region.

Despite the intensity of the incident, no casualties have been reported on either side. The Indian Army also emphasized the importance of adhering to agreements and understandings that have been put in place between the two countries, particularly those established by their respective Di-



rector Generals of Military Operations (DGMO). These understandings, which were reinforced during a key meeting in 2021, focus on preventing violence and maintaining peace along the LoC.

During the 2021 meeting, top military officers from both sides agreed to address any concerns that could potentially lead to conflict, ensuring that such issues would be dealt with promptly to avoid escalation. The meeting emphasized the significance of adhering to the ceasefire and resolving issues diplomatically.

While the situation remains tense, the Indian Army has reassured the public that the situation is under control and continues to monitor developments closely. The ongoing adherence to ceasefire agreements remains a critical aspect of efforts to maintain peace along the volatile LoC.

INS Tarkash Seizes Over 2500 kg of Narcotics in Western Indian Ocean

TPN Correspondent | Dehradun

The Indian Navy’s frigate INS Tarkash has intercepted and seized over 2500 kg of narcotics in the Western Indian Ocean, marking a significant achievement in maritime security operations, according to a statement released by the Navy on Wednesday, April 2, 2025. The ship has been actively engaged in maritime security operations since January 2025, contributing to the ongoing efforts to combat illegal drug trafficking and other illicit activities at sea.

INS Tarkash, which is currently deployed in the region, is supporting the Combined Task Force (CTF) 150, a multinational coalition focused on maritime security and counter-terrorism operations. The task force operates under the umbrella of the

Bahrain-based Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). As part of its contribution to global security efforts, INS Tarkash is also taking part in the joint multinational operation known as “Anzac Tiger,” which focuses on enhancing cooperation and coordination among participating forces.

The recent narcotics seizure is part of a broader series of successful operations conducted by the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard in the region. The Navy highlighted that such recoveries are a critical part of the ongoing fight against drug trafficking and other illegal activities, which pose a significant threat to regional and global security. The seized narcotics were confiscated from vessels operating in the area, although further details regarding

the operation and the specific drug types involved have not been disclosed.

This operation is part of India’s larger commitment to maritime security and the enforcement of international laws on the high seas. The seizure of such a large quantity of drugs highlights the Indian Navy’s role in safeguarding maritime trade routes and preventing the illegal flow of narcotics into various countries.

The Indian Navy’s continued efforts, along with its partnership with multinational forces like the CMF, underline its dedication to ensuring the security of vital sea lanes while contributing to the global fight against transnational crime.



CBI books ex-Chhattisgarh CM Baghel in Mahadev betting app case



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

six days after raiding the private and official residences of former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) confirmed that Baghel has been named as an accused in their First Information Report (FIR) linked to the Mahadev gambling app case. The development marks a significant escalation in a probe that has shadowed Baghel since his tenure ended. The case originated in March 2024 when the Chhattisgarh Police’s Economic Offences Wing (EOW) first booked Baghel, alleging his involvement in the illegal betting racket. The investigation, however, stalled under the BJP-led state government, drawing sharp criticism from the Chhattisgarh Congress, helmed by Baghel. Accusing the ruling party of dragging its feet, the Congress ramped up pressure, leading to the case’s transfer to the CBI in August 2024. The agency registered an FIR, but its details remained undisclosed until Tuesday’s revelation. CBI sources confirmed that Baghel’s inclusion in the FIR follows extensive searches conducted on March 26, 2025, at his

properties, signaling a deepening probe into the multi-crore Mahadev app scandal, which involves online gambling and alleged money laundering. While the FIR lists Baghel among the accused, specific charges against him were not immediately detailed, though the case broadly centers on financial irregularities and illicit operations tied to the app. The Congress has long framed the investigation as a political witch-hunt by the BJP, leveraging it to rally support ahead of state and national elections. Baghel, a prominent tribal leader, has denied wrongdoing, accusing the BJP of weaponizing agencies to tarnish his image after his party’s electoral loss. The CBI’s move now intensifies this narrative clash, with potential ramifications for Chhattisgarh’s political landscape. As of April 1, 2025, the naming of Baghel in the FIR shifts the Mahadev case into a higher gear, spotlighting the intersection of crime and politics. With the CBI tightening its grip, the former CM faces a formidable legal battle, while the Congress braces for a showdown with its rival over the probe’s credibility and intent.

Waste management company raises ₹6 crore based on operations in Bengaluru

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Hasiru Dala Innovations (HDI), a Bengaluru-based waste management firm focused on inclusive circularity, announced it raised ₹6 crore in a pre-series A equity funding round. The investment, led by Rainmatter Fintech Investments, also marked the debut direct portfolio investment from Next Bharat Ventures IFSC, a Suzuki-backed alternative investment firm, signaling strong backing for HDI’s sustainable mission. A company press release outlined the funding’s purpose: to fuel HDI’s expansion in critical areas. The capital will scale its plastics circularity business, boosting recycling capacity and operational efficiency to tackle India’s waste crisis innovatively. Additionally, it will support the growth of HDI’s bio-gas plant through a joint venture with Carbon Masters, advancing its waste-to-energy solutions and reinforcing its environmental commitment. Founded to integrate waste pickers into a circular economy, HDI has carved a niche by blending social impact with sustainability. The ₹6 crore infusion will accelerate its efforts to process more plastics and convert organic waste into renewable energy, aligning with India’s push for greener practices. Rainmatter, known for backing purpose-driven startups, and Next Bharat Ventures, with Suzuki’s muscle, bring financial heft and strategic synergy to HDI’s vision. The funding comes as HDI eyes a larger footprint in waste management, a sector ripe for disruption amid rising urbanization and regulatory focus on circularity. By enhancing its recycling infrastructure and bio-gas operations, HDI aims to set a benchmark for scalable, inclusive solutions. The Carbon Masters partnership, in particular, underscores its pivot toward energy innovation, turning waste into a resource.



A Visionary and Founder of RSS – Dr. Keshav Baliram Hegdewar

This article serves as a heartfelt tribute to Dr. Hegdewar, paying profound respect to his contributions and legacy. It emphasizes the considerable impact he had on society and the principles he advocated, honoring his vision and commitment to the community. Through this recognition, we not only celebrate his accomplishments but also acknowledge the lasting influence he continues to have on future generations. For the country's longevity and general well-being, RSS is a doctor's prescription.

Commemorating Dr. Keshav Baliram Hegdewar on His Birth Anniversary

Today, we pay tribute to Dr. Keshav Baliram Hegdewar, an extraordinary visionary and statesman often regarded as an unsung Bharat Ratna. His unwavering dedication to nation-building, cultural preservation, and social reform played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Dr. Keshav Baliram Hegdewar (April 1, 1889 – June 21, 1940), known as “Doctorji,” was an Indian physician and a prominent Hindutva activist who founded the RSS in Nagpur in 1925, driven by the ideals of Hindu nationalism. His great-great-grandfather migrated from Kandakurthi, Nizamabad in Telangana to Nagpur. Hegdewar's ideology was influenced by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's Hindutva, as well as the teachings of Samarth Ramdas and Lokmanya Tilak. He frequently quoted Tukaram in his letters.

Established on Vijayadashami, the RSS aimed to foster cultural unity, spiritual revival, discipline, and national consciousness among Indians, viewing these as essential for India's independence. Hegdewar deliberately chose the term ‘Rashtriya’ to emphasize Bharat's identity, believing that India's ancient civilization deserved restoration after centuries of foreign rule. He envisioned the RSS as a platform for cultivating individuals of strong character and unwavering commitment to the nation.

Strong Nationalism Rooted in Cultural Heritage

Dr. Hegdewar believed that nationhood is not merely political but deeply civilizational. He emphasized reviving and strengthening India's cultural identity, ensuring that people remained connected to their roots. He saw Bharat as a great civilization (Vishwa Guru) and envisioned a society that took pride in its heritage while embracing modernity. As the founder of the RSS, Dr. Hegdewar dreamed of an India that was self-reliant and culturally vibrant. He firmly believed that the strength of a nation lies in its society. Thus, he devoted his life to nurturing a disciplined, patriotic, and service-oriented citizenry. Understanding that social fragmentation and disunity were major challenges, he sought to unify Hindus across caste, regional, and linguistic lines under a common national identity.

Organizing Society for National Strength

Hegdewar saw social fragmentation as one of India's greatest weaknesses. His goal was to unify all sections of Hindu society, cutting across caste, region, and language, to foster a shared national consciousness. He believed that an organized, disciplined, and service-minded society was essential for Bharat's strength. He envisioned a nation of individuals with high moral standards, discipline, and a spirit of selfless service. To achieve this, he developed the Shakha system, which promoted physical fitness, ideological clarity, and leadership skills.

Selfless Service and Social Transformation

Dr. Hegdewar strongly believed in Seva (selfless service) as a cornerstone of nation-building. Under his leadership, the RSS engaged in social service, disaster relief, rural development, and tribal welfare. What began as a modest initiative has now evolved into the world's largest NGO. Today, the RSS runs over 150,000 social service projects and operates 73,117 daily Shakhas, with approximately 60 lakh volunteers actively contributing to society.

Character Building and Discipline

Hegdewar's vision centered on building strong individuals with high moral character, discipline, and a sense of national duty. The Shakha system was designed to instill these values through structured training in physical fitness, leadership, and ideological clarity. He emphasized a “nation-first” mindset, where personal ambitions took a backseat to national progress.

National Security and Awareness

He firmly believed that a nation must remain vigilant and prepared to defend itself against potential threats. To this end, he promoted martial and physical training to develop strength and



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh
Author, Former National consultant for NRHM, Ministry of Health, Govt of India

resilience among the younger generation. His vision underscored the importance of self-reliance in defense, economic stability, and effective governance. He aimed to ensure that India would never again fall under foreign domination, advocating for a robust framework that empowered the nation to stand independently and confidently in the face of external challenges.

Political Non-Alignment but Ideological Influence

Despite his strong nationalist ideology, Dr. Hegdewar chose not to involve the RSS directly in political activities. However, he was deeply committed to fostering socially aware individuals capable of effecting meaningful change in governance. His vision laid the groundwork for subsequent political movements, influencing the leadership trajectory in India. The RSS has played a significant role in shaping India's political landscape, contributing to the rise of two prime ministers, two presidents, and numerous chief ministers across various states. This influence is largely credited to Dr. Hegdewar's foundational work and vision. Through its extensive grassroots network, the RSS has nurtured leaders who have left an indelible mark on India's governance and development.

Legacy of Dr. Hegdewar

Dr. Keshav Baliram Hegdewar's contributions to nation-building, cultural revival, and social unity continue to inspire generations. His legacy lives on through the RSS and its countless initiatives that uphold his vision of a disciplined, united, and service-oriented Bharat. As we commemorate his birth anniversary, we honor a man whose unwavering dedication helped

shape the nation's path toward self-reliance and cultural resurgence.

In the last hundred years, various ideological movements and political parties have appeared, flourished, and eventually disappeared around the world, including in India. As we progress through time, each new generation experiences significant advancements in technology and knowledge that can make certain ideologies outdated, contributing to their decline. However, amid this continuous transformation, the ideology of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), founded by Dr. K.B. Hegdewar, has demonstrated remarkable resilience and flexibility in adapting to changing circumstances. It's important to note that although many young people and educated elites often overlook traditional ideologies, there is a contradiction in the increasing acceptance of RSS principles among these demographics. This rise in recognition indicates that RSS ideology is not just a historical artifact but a vital foundational structure that contributes to the nation's long-term viability. By adapting to modern values while upholding essential traditional beliefs, the RSS has succeeded in maintaining its relevance in today's socio-political environment, showcasing its important role in shaping the future of India. This article serves as a heartfelt tribute to Dr. Hegdewar, paying profound respect to his contributions and legacy. It emphasizes the considerable impact he had on society and the principles he advocated, honoring his vision and commitment to the community. Through this recognition, we not only celebrate his accomplishments but also acknowledge the lasting influence he continues to have on future generations.



Delimitation Row: It's Not Just A North vs South Story

Delimitation, the process of reallocating seats in Parliament and state assemblies based on population, has remained dormant for the last 50 years, with its last freeze occurring in 2000 due to a constitutional amendment. The exercise, scheduled for 2026, is now in limbo, awaiting the completion of the Census, which was delayed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 22, 2025, a significant meeting in Chennai brought together Chief Ministers from Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Kerala, and Punjab, along with leaders from regional parties. These leaders—MK Stalin (Tamil Nadu), Revanth Reddy (Telangana), Pinarayi Vijayan (Kerala), Bhagwant Mann (Punjab), and others—agreed to propose that the upcoming delimitation exercise either be delayed again or conducted in a manner that ensures fairness. Notably absent from the meeting was Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, whose earlier stance against delimitation in 2000 raised questions about his current position.

The key takeaway from the Chennai meeting is that the delimitation issue cannot be reduced to a simple North-South divide. A straightforward approach based on population numbers would disadvantage states like those in the South, which have successfully stabilized their populations through family planning initiatives. This could dilute the political strength of these states in Parliament. Leaders from states like Punjab, too, are concerned about the potential erosion of their political representation, fearing their states might align with smaller, less populated neighbors like Haryana.

The BJP has labeled the push for delimitation a political move, suggesting it is a distraction from the government's governance challenges. Despite repeated assurances from Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the concerns voiced at the meeting remain unresolved. The leaders from the meeting are planning to convene again in Hyderabad to continue the discussions.

In the next year, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Assam, and West Bengal will hold assembly elections, which adds a layer of political significance to Stalin's involvement in the delimitation discussions. The move is seen as a way for Stalin to strengthen his national political profile, especially as he prepares for the future leadership transition of the DMK to his son, Udhayanidhi.

As for the delimitation process itself, there are two primary options: it could proceed based on the 2011 Census or await the results of a new Census, with no clear timeline in sight. Some leaders suggest freezing the exercise for another 25 years, allowing other states time to stabilize their populations. Alternatively, delimitation could occur for state assemblies without affecting the balance in the national Parliament.

Several proposals have emerged from the Chennai meeting to create a more equitable formula, including considering states' fiscal contributions and development levels or increasing the Southern states' representation in the Lok Sabha. Another option includes strengthening the Rajya Sabha to balance the Lower House's composition.

Ultimately, the BJP-led government must work collaboratively with all stakeholders to find a solution that respects India's federal structure. Unilateral actions will only deepen distrust and disrupt the delicate balance of power between the center and states.

Indian Army Urges Pakistan to Honor Ceasefire

The Indian Army has called on the Pakistan Army to adhere to the 2021 ceasefire agreement following a recent skirmish along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir. On Wednesday, a spokesperson from the Army's Jammu-based unit reiterated the importance of maintaining peace and respecting the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMO) understanding established between the two nations in 2021. The statement comes after reports of ceasefire violations in the Poonch sector, where Pakistani forces allegedly engaged in unprovoked firing. In response, the Indian Army emphasized its commitment to peace along the LoC while also reaffirming its readiness to protect national security if provoked. The 2021 DGMO agreement was a significant diplomatic break-



through between India and Pakistan, aimed at reducing border tensions by ensuring both sides strictly observe the ceasefire. Since its implementation, there has been a considerable decline in cross-border firing incidents,

bringing relief to civilians living along the LoC. However, sporadic skirmishes and alleged violations have continued to threaten the fragile peace in the region. India's latest appeal to Pakistan underscores the need for con-

tinued adherence to the agreement to prevent escalation and ensure stability in the border areas. Defense experts believe that sustained dialogue and mutual trust between the two nations' military leadership are essential to maintaining long-term peace along the LoC. While the Indian Army remains committed to upholding the agreement, officials have also made it clear that any aggression will be met with a firm response. Meanwhile, security forces remain on high alert, closely monitoring movements along the border to prevent any further escalation. The situation along the LoC remains tense, but diplomatic and military efforts are expected to continue in order to uphold the principles of the 2021 ceasefire understanding and ensure a peaceful environment in the region.



India, Chile to Begin Talks on Economic Pact

India and Chile have agreed to commence negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), marking a significant step toward strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The announcement came following a high-level meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chilean President Gabriel Boric Font, who is currently on an official visit to India. Describing Chile as India's key partner in Latin America, Modi highlighted the growing ties between the two nations and emphasized Chile's role as the "gateway to Antarctica". He stated that discussions will focus on critical minerals, supply chain resilience, and economic diversification, ensuring mutual benefits for both countries. Modi further outlined key areas of collaboration, particularly in agriculture and food security, where India and Chile will leverage each other's expertise to enhance production and distribution capabilities. Given Chile's vast natural resources, cooperation in critical minerals is expected to be a focal point of the agreement, strengthening India's supply chains for industries such as renewable energy, electric vehicles, and electronics manufacturing. Additionally, Modi stressed the growing defense cooperation between the two nations, describing it as a reflection of deep mutual trust. He proposed the development of joint defense industrial manufacturing and supply chains, ensuring that both countries benefit from enhanced military production and technology sharing. Beyond trade and defense, security cooperation was also a key topic of discussion. Modi emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to combat organized crime, drug trafficking, and terrorism, signaling deeper engagement between Indian and Chilean law enforcement agencies. The India-Chile CEPA is expected to significantly boost bilateral trade and investment, offering new market opportunities and strengthening economic ties between the two nations. Both leaders expressed optimism about the agreement, viewing it as a milestone in India-Chile relations that will foster long-term growth and stability. As negotiations begin, the partnership between India and Chile is poised to expand across multiple sectors, enhancing diplomatic and economic cooperation on a global scale.

Savitri Jindal Becomes India's Richest Woman



Savitri Jindal, the matriarch of the OP Jindal Group, has been named India's richest woman in the Forbes Billionaire List 2025, with a net worth of \$35.5 billion. She is now India's third wealthiest individual, trailing only Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani, and remains the only woman in India's top 10 billionaires. Jindal chairs the Jindal Group, a vast conglomerate with interests in steel, power, cement, and infrastructure. The company was founded by her late husband, Om Prakash Jindal, who passed away in a 2005 helicopter crash. Following his death, the business was divided among their four sons, each overseeing different sectors. Her son Sajjan Jindal, based in Mumbai, leads JSW Steel, JSW Cement, and JSW Paints, and took JSW Infrastructure public in 2023. In 2024, he expanded into the electric vehicle sector, acquiring a 35% stake in MG Motor India, a subsidiary of China's SAIC Motor. Savitri Jindal's wealth surge highlights the continued expansion of the Jindal Group, which has played a pivotal role in India's industrial growth. Despite inheriting the business under tragic circumstances, she has successfully steered the company's growth and diversification, cementing her status as one of India's most influential business leaders.

India Seeks to Rebuild Ties with China

In a significant diplomatic move, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri has emphasized the opportunity to rebuild relations between India and China, despite past challenges. Speaking at an event hosted by the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi on Tuesday night to mark 75 years of diplomatic ties, Misri acknowledged the complex history between the two nations but stressed the need for a stable and cooperative future. Highlighting the importance of peace and tranquility along the border, Misri underscored that resolving military tensions in Eastern Ladakh is crucial for the smooth development of bilateral relations. He noted that while some border issues have been addressed, lasting progress requires mutual respect, sensitivity, and shared interests—a three-fold principle that India believes is essential for rebuilding trust. Acknowledging the difficulties ahead, Misri affirmed India's commitment to walking the challenging path toward normalization. He also cited recent engagements, including the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, as positive steps toward restoring a stable and



predictable partnership. Misri outlined several areas of renewed cooperation, including joint efforts on river management, direct air connectivity, and the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. These initiatives, he said, are part of a broader effort to turn recent diplomatic "promising beginnings" into tangible benefits for both nations. China's Ambassador to India, Xu Feihong, echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing the need to repair and strengthen ties between the two countries. Both leaders acknowledged that

a healthy bilateral relationship between India and China is not just important for their respective nations but also plays a critical role in global stability and progress. As geopolitical shifts continue to reshape Asia's power dynamics, India's willingness to engage in dialogue with China marks a significant diplomatic development. While past tensions remain a challenge, both nations appear to be moving cautiously toward rebuilding cooperation through strategic diplomacy and confidence-building measures.

India, Nepal Sign MoUs for Development Projects

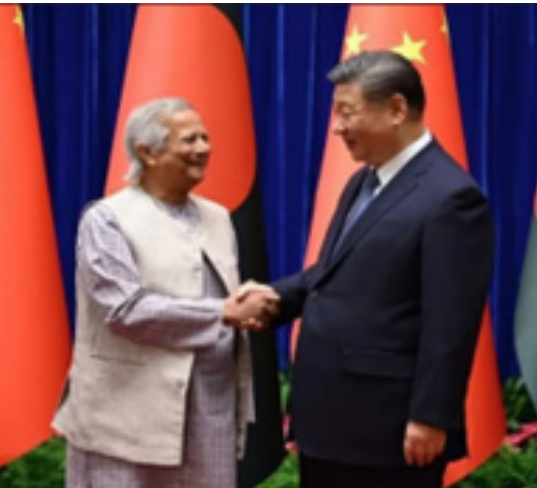
India and Nepal have signed 10 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to support high-impact community development projects across Nepal, with financial assistance from India amounting to Nepalese Rs. 625 million. The agreements, inked on April 1, 2025, focus on advancing infrastructure and services in the education, health, and cultural sectors of the Himalayan nation. According to a statement released by the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu, these MoUs aim to enhance Nepal's public infrastructure and strengthen bilateral ties between the two neighboring countries. The projects funded under these agreements will support schools, hospitals, and cultural institutions, contributing to long-term socio-economic development in Nepal. India has been a key partner in Nepal's growth, providing assistance in various sectors through grants, infrastructure development, and humanitarian aid. Over the years, several such agreements have been implemented to improve essential services, particularly in rural and underserved communities. The latest MoUs reflect India's continued commitment to fostering stronger people-to-people ties and promoting sustainable development in Nepal.



Officials from both sides expressed optimism about the impact of these projects. Nepalese authorities welcomed the initiative, highlighting the positive role of Indian assistance in uplifting local communities and strengthening regional cooperation. Meanwhile, Indian officials emphasized the shared historical, cultural, and economic ties

between the two nations, reiterating India's support for Nepal's development agenda. The newly signed agreements will facilitate the construction and renovation of schools, healthcare centers, and heritage sites, ensuring better access to education, medical facilities, and cultural preservation efforts. These initiatives are expected

to improve the quality of life for thousands of Nepalese citizens while reinforcing the deep-rooted friendship between India and Nepal. With these MoUs in place, both countries look forward to efficient execution and timely completion of the projects, further solidifying their strategic and developmental partnership in the region.



"Break Up Bangladesh": Tripura Ex-Royal On "Extension Of China" Remark

TPN Correspondent | China

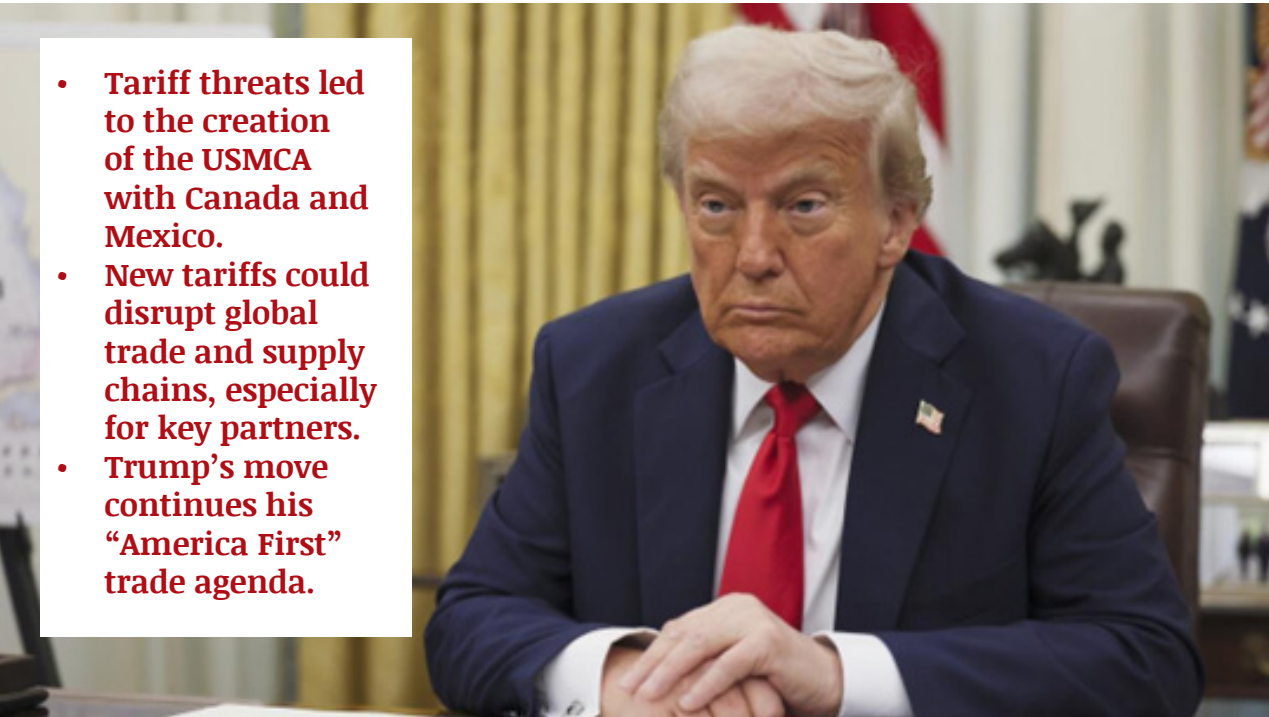
Bangladesh's interim government adviser, Muhammad Yunus, sparked controversy during a recent four-day visit to Beijing by subtly urging China to "extend" its influence in the region, leveraging the landlocked status of India's northeastern "seven sister states." In a video that surfaced on social media upon his return, Yunus suggested that Bangladesh, as the "guardian of the ocean" for India's northeast, could serve as a strategic base for China. He framed this as an economic opportunity, encouraging Beijing to build infrastructure, market goods, and export through Bangladesh, indirectly pressuring India's isolated states.

"The seven states of India... are completely landlocked. They have no way to reach the ocean. We are the only guardian of the region," Yunus stated, adding that this "opens up a huge possibility for China." Defence analysts criticized the remarks as provocative, while Sanjeev Sanyal, a member of PM Modi's economic advisory council, questioned their intent on X, asking, "What exactly is the significance of 7 Indian states being landlocked?"

During his Beijing visit, Yunus held talks with Xi Jinping, securing agreements to deepen China-Bangladesh ties. These include Chinese investment in modernizing Mongla Port with \$400 million, expanding the China Economic and Industrial Zone in Chattogram with \$350 million, and \$150 million for technical assistance. Yunus also sought a 50-year partnership on river water management, praising China as a "master" in the field. Bangladesh requested aid for managing the Teesta River, shared with India, shifting away from previous direct cooperation with New Delhi, and signed a hydrological data-sharing deal for the Yarlung Zangbo-Jamuna River.

The remarks and agreements signal a strategic pivot toward China, raising eyebrows in India. While Yunus thanked Beijing for enhancing maritime and economic collaboration, his comments about India's northeast have drawn scrutiny. As of April 1, 2025, this development underscores Bangladesh's balancing act between its powerful neighbors, with Yunus seemingly testing New Delhi's patience while courting Chinese investment to bolster Dhaka's regional clout.

Donald Trump's global trade war: A timeline



- **Tariff threats led to the creation of the USMCA with Canada and Mexico.**
- **New tariffs could disrupt global trade and supply chains, especially for key partners.**
- **Trump's move continues his "America First" trade agenda.**

TPN Correspondent | Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump's highly anticipated reciprocal tariffs are set to take effect on April 2, 2025. These tariffs, which will apply to all countries, are expected to significantly impact major trade partners such as India, China, and the European Union. Trump, a known advocate for protectionist policies, is no stranger to using tariffs as a tool in international trade negotiations. During his first term, he initiated a trade war, primarily targeting China. He imposed tariffs on a wide range of Chinese goods, aiming to reduce

the U.S. trade deficit with China and push Beijing into negotiating more favorable trade terms. In response, China imposed its own retaliatory tariffs on U.S. products, ranging from agricultural goods to automobiles, escalating tensions between the two largest economies in the world. The tariffs also played a key role in reshaping North American trade relations. Trump used the threat of additional tariffs to pressure Canada and Mexico into renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), ultimately leading to the creation of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) in 2020. The deal was touted as a

victory for Trump, as it included provisions meant to address U.S. concerns over labor, intellectual property, and trade imbalances.

With the implementation of the new reciprocal tariffs, Trump is signaling his continued commitment to an "America First" trade policy. These tariffs are expected to further complicate global trade dynamics, as countries like India, China, and the EU may face additional costs and retaliatory measures. As trade negotiations intensify in the coming months, businesses and governments worldwide will be closely monitoring the potential ripple effects on global supply chains and markets.



Consequences to be 'catastrophic': Russia after Trump's Iran bombing threat

TPN Correspondent | Israel

Russia has issued a stern warning following U.S. President Donald Trump's recent threat to bomb Iran's nuclear facilities unless the country agrees to a deal over its nuclear program. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov condemned the threat, emphasizing the "catastrophic" consequences of any military action against Iran's nuclear infrastructure.

In an interview with International Affairs on Tuesday, Ryabkov stated, "Threats are indeed being heard, ultimatums are also being heard," referring to the heightened rhetoric coming from Washington. He went on to express Russia's strong opposition, saying, "We consider such methods inappropriate, we condemn them, and we see them as an attempt to impose the U.S. will on Iran."

This warning comes as tensions between the U.S. and Iran continue to escalate. Trump's administration has taken a hard-line stance against Iran's nuclear ambitions, demanding that Tehran agree to new terms that would curb its nuclear activities. Iran, however, has resisted U.S. pressure, maintaining that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes and rejecting calls for further concessions.

Obama Tried To Block Kamala Harris' Nomination After Biden's Exit: Book

TPN Correspondent | Washinton

Barack Obama played a crucial, behind-the-scenes role in preventing Kamala Harris from becoming the Democratic nominee after Joe Biden withdrew from the 2024 race, according to an upcoming book. Co-authored by Jonathan Allen, FIGHT: Inside the Wildest Battle for the White House, the book reveals Obama's reluctance to support both Biden's continuation in office and Harris as his successor.

Sources close to Obama suggest that the former president did not believe Biden should run again and actively worked to block Harris from assuming the nomination. Despite Harris gaining support from key party figures, Obama pushed for an open convention instead of automatically endorsing her. Allen recounts that Obama "did not think that she was



the best choice for Democrats" and was working "behind the scenes for a long time" to have a mini-primary or open convention to prevent Harris's automatic ascension. Obama's skepticism extended be-

yond the formal endorsement. When Biden "passed the baton" to Harris, Obama spoke with her but delayed offering his endorsement. His hesitation was apparent to Democratic insiders, including

Representative James Clyburn, who quickly endorsed Harris to avoid being drawn into Obama's potential efforts to push for the open convention route.

Despite Obama's initial resistance, both Barack and Michelle Obama eventually endorsed Harris five days after Biden's exit. In a video call, Obama expressed his support, saying, "We couldn't be more excited for her – or more thrilled to endorse Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee for President of the United States."

In the 2024 election, however, Harris faced a tough challenge. Donald Trump ultimately won the presidency, defeating Harris with 312 electoral votes to her 226, while also securing the popular vote with approximately 49.8% compared to Harris's 48.3%.

"Living In Hell": Monks Clear Rubble From Quake-Hit Myanmar Monastery



TPN Correspondent | Mandalay

Bare-handed monks are slowly clearing the rubble of a historic Buddhist monastery in Mandalay, Myanmar, a heartbreaking reminder of the powerful earthquake that struck the city five days ago. The Thahtay Kyaung Monastery, which housed centuries-old buildings, now lies in ruins.

"Some of these buildings have been around longer than I have," said Wayama, a grey-haired monk, reflecting on the destruction. "It makes me sad to see them destroyed."

Wayama's young colleagues, dressed in simple crimson cloths, worked tirelessly to remove debris. In pairs, they gathered bricks and broken materials, using large pieces of fabric to carry the rubble

aside and clear paths for walking. Despite the destruction at the monastery, Wayama's concern extended to the city as a whole. "Many buildings that have stood for over 100 years were destroyed here," he said. "It's not just the monastery; I want everyone to be okay."

The deadly earthquake, which has already claimed nearly 3,000 lives, left a devastating impact on the Southeast Asian country, home to over 50 million people. With infrastructure already weakened by years of civil conflict, relief efforts are struggling to cope with the scale of the disaster, and the death toll is expected to rise.

At the time of the quake, Nyo Nyo San, a resident of Mandalay, was inside the monastery. Initially, she thought the tremors were

nothing more than minor quakes she had experienced before. However, the shaking intensified, and bricks began falling. "I felt like I was living in hell," she recalled, running outside to escape.

Mandalay, with over 1.7 million residents, is one of the worst-hit areas. Many people are still sleeping in makeshift tents, unsure of when they will return to their homes. Infrastructure already damaged by years of civil unrest has now suffered further destruction.

Nyo Nyo San plans to return to her village, but with roads and bridges, including the Sagaing bridge, damaged, she faces uncertainty. "I hope to go home the day after tomorrow," she said, as the region continues to grapple with the aftermath of the disaster.



Two days of consecutive losses came to an end. Domestic stock markets closed with huge gains on Wednesday. They partially recovered yesterday's losses. US President Donald Trump's clarity on tariffs and positive signals from global markets led to positive sentiment in the market sectors. Investors bought attractive shares. Finance, auto, pharma, IT, manufacturing and healthcare stocks saw demand. Overall, Nifty rose by 166 points and Sensex by 592 points. Nifty has strong support at 23000.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,024 in the previous session, opened at 76,146 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 76,064. It reached an intraday high of 76,680. It finally closed at 76,617 with a gain of 592 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,192, touched a low of 23,158 and a high of 23,350. It closed at 23,332, up 166 points. The Nifty Bank fell 520 points to settle at 51,348.

In the Nifty50, 29 companies gained and 18 lost. Tata Consumer, Titan, IndusInd Bank, Maruti, and Tech Mahindra rose. BEL, UltraTech Sem, Nestle India, Power Grid, and LT lost the most. Finance, pharma, IT, auto, manufacturing, healthcare, PSU bank, private bank, metal, media, infra, and energy sector indices were strong.



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Market breadth turned unfavorable for buyers on the NSE. A total of 2977 shares were traded, of which 2148 gained. 757 lost. 29 shares reached 52-week highs and 43 companies reached 52-week lows. 247 shares touched the upper circuit and 26 shares touched the lower circuit.

The rupee weakened slightly against the dollar and settled at 85.51. PNB Housing Finance's affordable segment loan book value crossed Rs.5000 crore. Bharat Dynamics' turnover crossed Rs.3300 crore in fy2024-25. Jefferies has selected Bharti Airtel as its top pick in the telecom sector. Morgan Stanley has given an underweight rating to MCX with a target price of Rs.3400. Macquarie has selected IRCTC, AB Capital and Delhivari as rising stars with a potential to grow by 65% in the next three years. NBCC has received two orders worth Rs 215 crore. Tata Consumer shares rose by 7% today after Goldman Sachs upgraded them from neutral to buy. Kalyan Jewellers shares rose by 9% today. Central Bank of India shares fell by 10% after QIP. RBI has given permission to Shriram Finance to acquire 100% stake in Shriram Overseas Investments. Morgan Stanley has given an overweight rating to Coal India with a target price of Rs 525. Maruti Suzuki production increased by 17% in March. ICICI Mutual Funds bought 5.95 lakh shares

markets Rebound Strongly as Global Cues Turn Positive

in Galaxy Surfactants. GPT Infra received an order worth Rs 481 crore from CAO Construction.

Kalyan Jewellers India Ltd.
Kalyan Jewellers is one of India's largest jewellery retail chains,



known for its extensive collection of gold, diamond, and other precious ornaments. With a strong presence across India and the Middle East, the company has been expanding its showroom network aggressively. It caters to a wide range of customers, from traditional to contemporary jewellery buyers. Kalyan's recent financial performance has been strong, driven by festive and wedding season demand, along with growing traction in its online and regional showroom sales.

Polycab India Ltd.



Polycab India is a leader in the Indian electrical industry, specializing in manufacturing wires, cables, and electrical accessories. It has a well-diversified product portfolio catering to both industrial and household segments. The company has

been focusing on innovation and expansion, launching new energy-efficient cables and solutions.

With the government's focus on infrastructure, electrification, and smart city projects, Polycab has benefited from increased demand for high-quality electrical products. Additionally, its entry into the fast-moving electrical goods (FMEG) segment, which includes fans, lighting, and switches, has further strengthened its market position.

TVS Motor Company Ltd.

TVS Motor is one of India's leading two-wheeler manufacturers, offering a wide range of motorcycles, scooters, and electric vehicles (EVs).



The company has a strong domestic presence and is expanding its global footprint, particularly in Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia.

TVS has been at the forefront of electric mobility in India, launching the TVS iQube electric scooter, which has gained significant market traction. With increasing demand for EVs and sustainable mobility solutions, the company has been investing heavily in research and development.

Shoppers Stop Ltd.

Shoppers Stop is a leading Indian retail chain specializing in fashion, beauty, and lifestyle products. It operates department stores across major cities, offering premium and international brands alongside its



in-house labels.

The company has been focusing on digital transformation, enhancing its e-commerce platform to cater to the rising demand for online shopping. Strategic partnerships with leading global fashion brands and the expansion of its beauty segment have contributed to its recent growth.

United Spirits Ltd. (Diageo India)

United Spirits, a subsidiary of global beverage giant Diageo, is India's leading alcoholic beverage company. It has a strong portfolio of premium and mass-market liquor brands, including McDowell's, Royal Challenge, Signature, and Johnnie Walker.



The company has been shifting its focus toward premiumization, emphasizing higher-margin products over low-cost liquor. This strategy aligns with evolving consumer preferences, as more Indians opt for premium whiskey, vodka, and rum brands.

Nestle India Shares Fall 3.67% After BoFA Downgrade

Shares of FMCG giant Nestle India were under pressure on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, as the stock slipped by up to 3.67%, reaching an intraday low of ₹2,150. This decline brought the stock close to its 52-week low of ₹2,115, making it the top loser on the 30-share BSE Sensex at the time of reporting.

The drop in Nestle's stock price came after global brokerage firm BoFA Securities downgraded the stock to "Underperform" from its previous rating of "Neutral." Despite the downgrade, BoFA maintained a target price of ₹2,140 for the stock.

BoFA analysts expressed concerns over Nestle India's high valuations relative to its growth outlook and the performance of its peer group. The stock's current price-earnings (PE) ratio stands at 63.07, which the analysts believe is expensive considering the broader market dynamics. The downgrade raised questions about the company's future earnings potential, which led to the significant fall in its share price.

Nestle India, known for its popular brands such as Maggi, Nescafé, and KitKat, has long been considered a stable performer in the FMCG sector. However, the recent downgrade highlights growing concerns about its premium valuation amidst pressures on growth. With the stock now nearing its 52-week low, investors are re-evaluating the company's ability to sustain its market performance.

As the market continues to react to the BoFA downgrade, Nestle India's ability to navigate changing consumer preferences and improve its growth trajectory will be crucial to restoring investor confidence. The company's next quarterly results and any forward-looking statements could further influence its stock performance in the near term.



Paytm's Stock Rises 3% After Partnership with GHMC for Property Tax Collection

Shares of One 97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm, rose nearly 3% on Wednesday following the announcement of a strategic partnership with the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). The collaboration will see the deployment of 400 card machines for property tax collection, boosting the company's market visibility and operational reach.



ing investor optimism around the company's new initiatives.

This positive movement marks the second consecutive day of gains for Paytm's stock, following a period of sluggish performance. Despite the recent gains, the stock has fallen by 19.5% year-to-date, compared to a relatively modest 1.61% decline in the benchmark Nifty 50. The company currently holds a market capitalization of ₹52,340.3 crore.

The partnership with GHMC is a significant step for Paytm, as it expands

its presence in digital payment solutions for government services. The initiative to deploy card machines for property tax payments aims to enhance convenience for taxpayers while supporting the broader adoption of digital payment methods in public administration. This move comes at a time when Paytm is looking to diversify its revenue streams beyond its traditional payment platform and extend its reach within government and municipal services.

As the company continues to implement new strategies and strengthen its business operations, Paytm's stock performance will be closely watched by investors, with hopes that the partnership with GHMC could help boost its financial growth and market position in the coming months.

Bharat Electronics Shares Drop 6% Following Missed Revenue Guidance

Shares of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a Navratna defense PSU, experienced a significant decline on Wednesday, April 2, 2025. The stock fell by 6%, reaching an intraday low of ₹274.50 per share on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

The sharp fall in BEL's share price came after the company announced that it had missed its revenue guidance for the financial year 2025 (FY25). BEL reported a provisional and unaudited turnover of approximately ₹23,000 crore for FY25, marking a 16% growth compared to ₹19,820 crore in the previous financial year. While the company achieved growth, it still fell short of its projected targets, which led to investor concerns.

Despite the missed revenue target, BEL's export sales showed positive growth. The company reported export sales of around \$106 million for FY25, a 14% increase from \$92.98 million in FY24. However, this did little to quell investor disappointment, as the overall financial performance fell short of expectations.


The revenue shortfall has raised questions about BEL's ability to meet its growth projections, and investors reacted negatively to the news, causing the stock to experience pressure throughout the trading session. BEL's performance is closely watched due to its role in India's defense sector, and any signs of weakness can have a ripple effect on investor sentiment.



As the defense sector faces ongoing challenges, including changing government policies and global supply chain disruptions, BEL's ability to maintain consistent growth remains a critical factor. The market will continue to closely monitor the company's next moves, as it works to address the gaps in its financial performance for the fiscal year.

Heated Seat Argument in Delhi Metro

Another dramatic incident from the Delhi Metro has gone viral, this time featuring a heated argument between a man and a group of women over a seat. The incident took place on the Blue Line near Janakpuri West, where a man, seemingly engrossed in his own world with earphones in and a backpack on, refused to give up his seat for a female passenger. When bystanders urged him to “be the bigger person” and offer his seat, he responded sarcastically, further fueling the tension inside the metro coach. The woman at the center of the dispute did not hold back either, mocking the man in return, escalating the confrontation even more. Despite repeated requests from those around, the man remained firm, refusing to vacate his seat. The intense back-and-forth was captured on camera by one of the women involved, who could be heard expressing frustration, saying, “You’ve caused a commotion in the entire coach.” She also urged him to “try being quiet for once” and “show some manners.” The video, now making rounds on social media, has sparked a debate on gender equality, with netizens divided over the issue. Some argue that chivalry should still be upheld, while others emphasize that equality means both men and women should be treated the same when it comes to public seating. Many online users pointed out that Delhi Metro already designates special seats for women, and outside those, seating should be on a first-come, first-served basis. The incident highlights an ongoing societal debate on gender expectations and etiquette in shared public spaces, with opinions continuing to pour in from all sides as the video garners widespread attention.



SP Leader’s ‘Blue Drum’ Gift Stirs Political Storm



In a dramatic turn of events, Samajwadi Party leader Deepak Ranjan sparked a political controversy by presenting a blue drum to Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak at an event in Lucknow. The unusual gift, which has since gone viral on social media, was a pointed reference to the shocking Meerut murder case. The case, which left the country in shock, involved the brutal killing of Merchant Navy officer Saurabh Rajput by his wife, Muskan Rastogi, and her lover, Sahil Shukla. To cover up the crime, the duo dismembered his body and concealed it in a blue drum filled with cement. Since then, the blue drum has become an infamous symbol associated with the gruesome crime, flooding social media with memes and discussions. By handing over the drum, Ranjan was taking a jibe at the Uttar Pradesh government’s handling of law and order, triggering a fresh debate. The exchange took place at the ‘Lantrani Hasya Utsav’ in Lucknow and quickly became the talk of the town. As the image of the gifting moment circulated online, political reactions poured in, with many questioning the gesture’s intent and its impact on public discourse. Meanwhile, the chilling details of the case continue to haunt people, with reports indicating that sales of blue drums have declined in places like Aligarh and Meerut due to their new association with fear and crime. Shopkeepers have even pleaded with customers to separate the object from the heinous act, arguing that the real culprits are in jail. As political tensions rise, the incident further highlights how crime, politics, and social narratives intertwine in unexpected ways.

Alchemist’s Bold Menu: Butterflies, Pig Blood & More

A viral video has shed light on the daring and unconventional menu of Alchemist, a two-Michelin-starred restaurant in Copenhagen. A woman documented her five-hour, \$700 dining experience, sharing jaw-dropping details of a meal that included edible butterflies, lamb brain mousse, jellyfish, and desserts shaped like coffins and blood drops. The video, now circulating widely on social media, has sparked fascination and controversy alike. The meal began with crunchy oxidized apple juice, followed by a series of meticulously crafted appetizers. Among them was a puffed gluten ball topped with langoustine, caviar, and cream, as well as edible butterflies presented on nettle leaves—intended to highlight the potential of insects as sustainable protein sources. Other courses included fluffy dumplings with a cotton candy-like texture, a delicate jellyfish dish in herb broth, and an eye-shaped gel inspired by George Orwell’s 1984, filled with caviar and razor clams. One particularly striking dish



featured chicken feet served in a small cage, symbolizing the inhumane conditions of caged farming. Later, a deboned chicken foot was presented alongside a fragrant Tom Yum broth. The meal’s dramatic conclusion came with a pig and deer blood dessert, described as having a slightly metallic taste. While some praised the restaurant’s artistry and innovation, others found the concept unsettling. One social media user commented, “People will eat anything if you convince them it’s trendy,” while another remarked, “This is what they serve in hell.” The bold and experimental approach of Alchemist continues to push culinary boundaries, leaving diners—and the internet—both intrigued and divided.

Elon Musk Sparks Debate Over Netflix’s Adolescence

Netflix’s latest hit, *Adolescence*, has been dominating the streaming platform, gaining massive viewership worldwide. The four-episode series follows 13-year-old Jamie Miller, accused of murdering his classmate, Katie, and explores his emotional turmoil and inner conflicts. While the show has received widespread praise, it has also sparked controversy, with billionaire Elon Musk weighing in on the debate. Musk reacted to a post on X by social media user Ian Miles Cheong, who claimed that *Adolescence* was loosely inspired by real-life crimes like the Southport murder. The post accused the show of “race-swapping” the actual killer from a Black migrant to a white boy and portraying him as radicalized by online right-wing influences, calling it “anti-white propaganda.” However, many social media users rejected this claim, arguing that the show is entirely fictional. One user pointed out, “Adolescence was announced in March 2024, and filming started in July 2024. The Southport murders also happened in July 2024. There’s no way this show is based on that case.” Others emphasized that the series critiques the harmful effects of social media on young minds rather than making any racial statements. Co-creator Jack Thorne also addressed the controversy in an interview, stating, “Nothing is further from the truth. We’re not making a point about race with this. We’re making a point about masculinity and the problems young boys face.” He reinforced that *Adolescence* is not based on a single real-life case but rather explores broader themes of toxic masculinity and social media influence.





Rishabh Pant’s ₹27 Crore IPL Struggles

Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) captain Rishabh Pant is under fire after another disappointing batting performance in IPL 2025, putting owner Sanjiv Goenka’s ₹27 crore investment into question. In LSG’s recent match against Punjab Kings at Ekana Cricket Stadium, Pant managed only 2 runs off 5 balls. Despite a decent total of 171/7, LSG suffered a crushing 8-wicket defeat as Punjab chased the target with 22 balls to spare. This loss marked LSG’s second defeat in three matches, amplifying concerns over Pant’s form and leadership. Pant’s poor performances—0 (6) vs. Delhi Capitals, 15 (15) vs. Sunrisers Hyderabad, and 2 (5) vs. Punjab Kings—have led to criticism from fans and analysts. Many now question whether Nicholas Pooran would have been a better choice as captain. Considering his hefty price tag, Pant’s lack of significant contributions has become a major talking point. Goenka, who previously faced backlash for his fallout with ex-LSG captain KL Rahul, looked visibly disappointed as his team faltered again. Last season, Goenka’s public outburst after a heavy defeat to SRH led to Rahul’s departure. Rahul later joined Delhi Capitals for ₹14 crore and later admitted that the incident affected the entire LSG squad. With the tournament still in its early stages, Pant has time to turn things around. However, if his struggles continue, questions about LSG’s decision-making and Goenka’s high-stakes gamble will only intensify.

Gujarat Titans (GT) secured a commanding eight-wicket victory over Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in their IPL 2025 clash. Opting to bowl first, GT's bowling attack, led by Mohammed Siraj (3/19), dismantled RCB's batting lineup, restricting them to 169/8.

Virat Kohli (7) departed early, while Phil Salt, Rajat Patidar, and Devdutt Padikkal followed, leaving RCB struggling at 42/4. Liam Livingstone (54 off 40) and Jitesh Sharma (33) provided some resistance, with Tim David's quickfire 32 helping RCB cross 150.

GT's chase was smooth, with their top order efficiently pacing the innings. The slow and gripping pitch didn't deter their batsmen, who comfortably secured the win. This victory strengthens GT's position in the IPL 2025 standings, while RCB will need to reassess their strategy for upcoming matches.



PLAZONE

BCCI Announces 2025 Home Season; Guwahati to Host Maiden Test

The BCCI has unveiled the Indian men's team's 2025 home season schedule, featuring series against West Indies and South Africa. The season begins on October 2 with a two-match Test series against West Indies in Ahmedabad and Kolkata. India will then host South Africa for an all-format series, starting with a historic Test in Guwahati from November 22, marking the city's first-ever Test match. The tour includes three ODIs in Ranchi, Raipur, and Vizag, followed by a five-match T20I series in December. BCCI's statement highlighted the season's exciting encounters across formats. Fans can look forward to high-intensity cricket as Team India gears up for these major home fixtures.



Dream Sports Championship Welcomes Norwich City FC to National Finals

The Dream Sports Championship Football 2025 National Finals will kick off in Goa on April 8, featuring an international challenge as Norwich City FC's Youth Team joins the tournament. Organized by the Dream Sports Foundation (DSF), the event will see eight boys' and eight girls' teams competing, with AIFF-nominated state teams debuting in the girls' category. Matches will be held at SAG Benaulim and Utorda, with the grand finale at Raia Foot-

ball Ground. DSF's Dream Again initiative will host coaching workshops led by Norwich City coaches. Seven Indian youth teams, including Punjab FC, Reliance Foundation Young Champs, and Mohun Bagan Super Giant, have qualified. AIFF scouts and football fans will closely watch the event, which offers young talent a platform to shine. DSF aims to boost grassroots football and promote inclusivity in the sport.

Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini Felicitates Asian Wrestling Championship Medalists



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini met Asian Wrestling Championship 2025 medalists, including gold winner Manisha Bhanwala, silver medalist Reetika Hooda, and bronze winner Muskan Nandal, along with coach Mandeep. Olympic medalist Yogeshwar Dutt was also present at the event. CM Saini congratulated the athletes, wishing them a bright future. On his official X handle, he wrote, "May the blessings of

Mata Rani always remain with you all." Manisha Bhanwala secured India's first women's freestyle wrestling gold since 2021, making a stunning comeback to defeat DPR Korea's Ok J Kim 8-7. Reetika Hooda won silver in the 76kg category, while Muskan Nandal clinched bronze in 59kg. Other Indian wrestlers, including Antim Panghal and Sunil Kumar, also bagged medals, bringing glory to the nation at the continental meet in Amman, Jordan.

Hockey India Names 40-Member Core Group for Sr Women's Coaching Camp

Hockey India has announced a 40-member core group for the ongoing Senior Women's National Coaching Camp at SAI, Bengaluru. The camp, which began on March 23, initially featured 65 players, but has now been trimmed based on performances in the 15th Senior Women's National Championship and training sessions. While 28 players retained their spots, 12 new faces, including goalkeeper Samiksha Saxena and

forward Dipimonika Toppo, have been added. The squad features experienced names like Savita, Nikki Pradhan, Neha, and Navneet Kaur. Chief Coach Harendra Singh praised the selection process, stating, "We have identified some great talent, and I am excited to see how these young players develop." The camp aims to refine the squad as India prepares for upcoming international competitions.



Barcelona & Real Madrid Legends Set for 'Legends Faceoff' in Mumbai



Football icons will reignite the legendary FC Barcelona vs. Real Madrid rivalry in the 'Legends Faceoff' at DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai, on April 6. Barcelona's Carles Puyol and Real Madrid's Luis Figo will captain their respective squads in this highly anticipated clash. Xavi Hernandez, Rivaldo, Patrick Kluivert, and Michael Owen are among the stars set to feature. Organized by The Sports Front, the event promises an unforgettable experience for Indian football fans. "This match will be special," said Puyol, while Figo called it a "privilege" to bring this historic rivalry to India. With football's growing popularity in the country, the Legends Faceoff aims to offer fans a thrilling spectacle. Excitement is at an all-time high as Mumbai prepares to witness football greatness on Indian soil.



Nani Calls HIT 3 His Most Intense Action Film Yet

Natural Star Nani has raised excitement for his upcoming film HIT 3, calling it his “massiest action film.” The film has already created a buzz with its teaser and a chartbuster song. Nani’s character, Arjun Sarkaar, has become a hot topic since the teaser dropped.

Adding to the anticipation, Nani revealed that HIT 3 will be “violent and brutal,” promising to shock audiences. Unlike the previous HIT films, this installment will focus not just on who committed the crime but how it was done, bringing a fresh take to the fran-

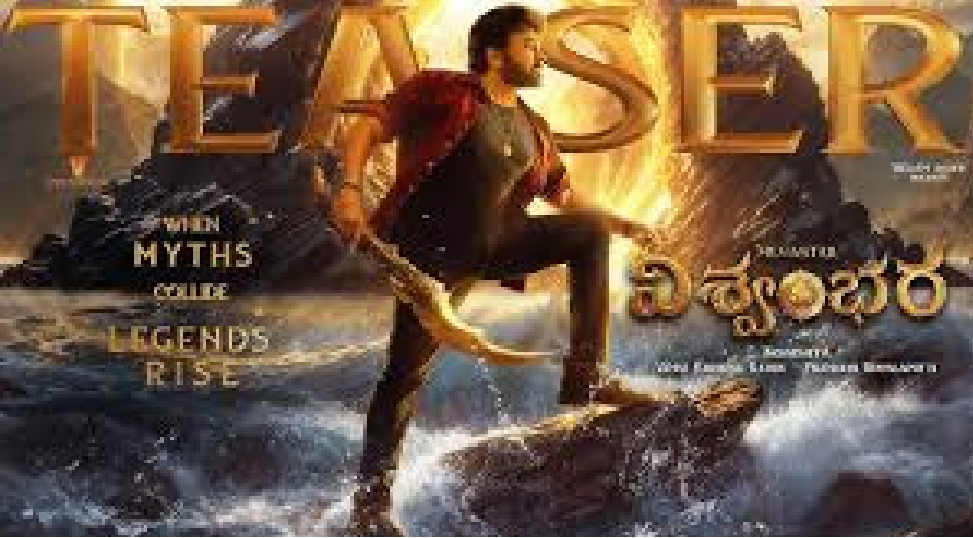
chise. Directed by Sailesh Kolanu, the film presents Nani like never before, with the team confident that this intense action thriller will be loved by all. Produced by Prashanthi Tirpineni, HIT 3 is all set to hit theaters on May 1st, 2025.

Uncertainty Looms Over Chiranjeevi’s Vishwambhara

Megastar Chiranjeevi’s highly anticipated socio-fantasy film Vishwambhara, directed by Vasishtha and co-starring Trisha Krishnan, is facing delays with no confirmed release date.

Originally planned for a January release, the film was later pushed to May, but the makers have yet to make an official announcement. The lack of updates on social media has left fans anxious, especially with #Mega157 already generating buzz.

Sources suggest that the delay is due to VFX issues, causing setbacks in post-production. UV Creations, the film’s producer, has



remained tight-lipped about the situation. Fans are now hoping for a major update on Srirama Navami, which could clarify the film’s status.

Until then, Vishwambhara remains in limbo, keeping fans eagerly waiting for any news on its final release date.

The Paradise Glimpse Costs a Whopping ₹1 Crore

Young director Srikanth Odela, who shot to fame with Dasara, is following the same promotional strategy for his upcoming film The Paradise starring Nani. Just like he did before Dasara, Srikanth released a glimpse of The Paradise, creating significant buzz among fans and industry insiders.

The teaser, titled Ra Truth Ra Language, showcases raw content and provides insight into Nani’s intense character, narrated through a gripping female voice-over. The glimpse has sparked widespread discussion, making it a trending topic. Reports suggest that the makers spent a staggering ₹1 crore on the glimpse alone.



With Dasara elevating Nani to the ₹100 crore club, Srikanth Odela is aiming to take The Paradise to the next level with grand production values and a powerful narrative. Fans are now eagerly awaiting more updates on this highly anticipated film.

Divya Bharathi Breaks Silence on GV Prakash Dating Rumors



Actress Divya Bharathi has finally addressed rumors linking her to music director-turned-actor GV Prakash. The speculation began after their strong on-screen chemistry in Bachelor and Kingston, especially following GV Prakash’s divorce announcement from singer Saindhavi. Many assumed Divya was involved in his personal life. GV Prakash had previously dismissed these claims, calling Divya a good friend. Now, the actress has issued her first and final statement on the matter via Instagram. She clarified, “My name has been dragged into a personal family matter that has absolutely nothing to do with me. I have no connection to GV’s family issues. To be blunt, I would never date an actor, and certainly not a married man.” With this firm response, Divya Bharathi aims to shut down all speculation, making it clear that she is not involved in GV Prakash’s personal affairs.

Dragon Fame Kayadu Lohar’s Rising Popularity

Kayadu Lohar, popularly known as the Dragon beauty, is making waves in the South Indian film industry. With her stellar performance in Dragon alongside Pradeep Ranganathan, Kayadu has gained immense popularity, especially among the youth. Before Dragon, her career was progressing at a moderate pace, but post its success, her demand skyrocketed. Now, she is bagging offers in both Telugu and Tamil cinema. She recently secured a crucial role in director Anudeep KV and actor Vishwak Sen’s upcoming project. Given Anudeep’s previous success with Jathi Ratnalu and Vishwak Sen’s mass appeal, this film is expected to be a major boost for her career. Beyond films, Kayadu is also making an impact on social media, where her posts frequently go viral. With her growing fan base and strategic career choices, Kayadu Lohar is emerging as one of the most promising talents in South cinema.

