

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

H 33° C
L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

H 35° C
L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

H 36° C
L 26° C

Centre Approves Caste Data in Next Census

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
In a landmark move, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday announced that caste enumeration will be included in the upcoming national census, marking the first such initiative since India's independence. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw made the announcement, emphasizing that the decision was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs and will be implemented in a "transparent" manner. This declaration is seen as a major shift in national policy, especially considering the long-standing opposition to a caste-based census by previous governments. Vaishnaw hit out at the Congress for failing to include caste enumeration during their 48 years of governance post-independence, stating, "Congress governments have always opposed a caste census." He recalled that in 2010, the UPA government led by Dr. Manmohan Singh considered caste enumeration but ultimately settled for a socio-economic survey instead. "Congress and its allies have used the caste census only as a political tool," the minister alleged. The decision comes months ahead of key elections in states like Bihar, where over 63% of the population falls under backward or extremely backward classes. The Cen-



Marks Major Policy Shift

Decision hailed as historic by BJP

Opposition accuses BJP of U-turn ahead of elections

tre's announcement follows similar exercises conducted by opposition-led governments in Bihar, Karnataka, and Telangana. In fact, Bihar under CM Nitish Kumar — then allied with the Congress and RJD — was the first to conduct and release a caste survey in October 2023. The BJP, then in the opposition in Bihar, offered lukewarm support to the move. However, the national leadership had maintained a cautious stance, avoiding full endorsement until now. Union Home Minister Amit Shah welcomed the move, calling it a "historic decision" that reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment to social equity. "This will empower all economically and socially backward classes, promote inclusion and pave new paths for the progress of the deprived," Shah wrote on X. Critics, however, argue that the decision comes under pressure from recent political developments and public demand. They point out that Congress MP Rahul Gandhi had consistently advocated for a national caste census and implemented it in states where the party is in power. State-led surveys, including Telangana's caste census under the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government, have reignited national discussions on equitable representation, leading to demands for reservation realignments. While the Centre's announcement marks a significant milestone in Indian governance, opposition leaders view the timing as politically motivated. Nonetheless, it sets the stage for a potentially transformative exercise that could reshape the country's socio-political structure.

Confined to farmhouse, ignoring public issues

CM questions KCR's absence from the assembly as opposition leader

Accuses BRS of failing to play a constructive opposition role

Challenges KCR to debate issues like Kaleshwaram, loan waiver, and job creation



TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Chief Minister Revanth Reddy launched a scathing attack on BRS chief K. Chandrashekar Rao, questioning his absence from the Telangana Assembly despite being the Leader of the Opposition. Speaking at a program held today, Revanth responded sharply to the remarks made by KCR during the BRS silver jubilee meeting, accusing him of isolating himself at his farmhouse while public issues remain unaddressed. Revanth criticized the BRS for failing to play a constructive role in opposition. "After looting the state for ten years, are you now calling us traitors of Telangana?" he asked, expressing strong disapproval of the former government's approach. He further alleged that for a decade, Telangana had been handed over to a

"group of monkeys." He emphasized that his government has not discontinued any welfare schemes and is open to discussions on any topic. Revanth issued a direct challenge to KCR to come to the Assembly and participate in a debate on major public concerns, including the Kaleshwaram project, farmer loan waivers, and employment generation. "Will he work only when in power? Will he abandon his responsibilities once he's out of it?" Revanth questioned. He urged the public to highlight any flaws in the current government's policies and avoid falling for baseless criticism. Concluding his remarks, Revanth predicted that his administration would remain in power for the next ten years, while KCR would remain confined to his farmhouse.

Bandi Sanjay Seeks Answers from TGPSC Over Group-1 Irregularities

Demands transparency in evaluation process

Alleges violations in result declaration

Questions Urdu medium top ranks

Seeks biometric attendance details

Calls for action on data leaks



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar has stepped into the controversy surrounding alleged irregularities in the Group-1 mains examination results conducted by the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TGPSC). Responding to multiple complaints and representations from thousands of candidates, he has written an official letter to TGPSC Chairman Burra Venkatesham, seeking detailed information on various aspects of the examination and evaluation process. The letter highlights serious concerns, including anomalies in mark allocations, potential data leaks, alleged favoritism, and improper evaluation

practices. Sanjay specifically raised issues about top ranks being bagged disproportionately by Urdu medium candidates and demanded transparency in publishing the full list of marks, categorized by medium, gender, and other parameters. He questioned the absence of biometric attendance, discrepancies in hall ticket numbers, and inconsistencies in the ranking of candidates from specific centers like Koti Women's College. The minister also pointed to a suspicious Telegram post predicting result patterns ahead of the official announcement. Bandi Sanjay asked TGPSC to furnish detailed data within seven days, covering

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Congress fully supports nationwide caste census: Rahul Gandhi



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Bhuharthi Act to Resolve Land Disputes Permanently

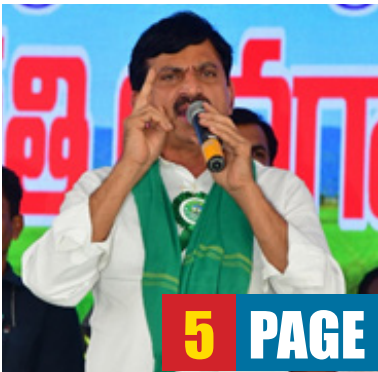


- New act will simplify land transactions.
- Farmers' rights to be protected and clarified.
- Awareness sessions held for better understanding.

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
The Bhuharthi Act, introduced by the Telangana government, aims to provide permanent solutions to land disputes and simplify land-related processes. Minister for Excise, Tourism, and Culture, Jupally Krishna Rao, stated that the Act, implemented on April 14, 2025, addresses issues left unresolved by the previous Dharrani system. The new Act will streamline services like registration, mutation, and corrections in land records, making processes easier for the public.

Revenue officials are tasked with addressing farmers' land issues promptly and ensuring they don't face unnecessary difficulties. Minister Krishna Rao emphasized that the Act would empower farmers by improving land records and allowing for easy amendments in case of discrepancies. District Collector Badavat Santosh highlighted that the Act was designed after studying 17 states to ensure it benefits farmers and resolves issues like delays in registration. The Act also ensures a two-tier appeal system for land disputes, with free legal aid for poor farmers. Awareness sessions are being held across the state to educate the public about the new system and its benefits.

Bhuharthi Act to Resolve Land Issues Sets National Example: Minister Ponguleti



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Govt Allocates ₹15,000 Crores for Rabi Paddy Procurement



- Record paddy yield expected in Rabi.
- 70 lakh metric tons of procurement.
- 8,381 procurement centers set up.
- ₹4,545.72 crores paid to farmers.

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
The Telangana government has released ₹15,000 crores for the procurement of Rabi paddy, as stated by the Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies, Captain N. Uttam

Kumar Reddy. He emphasized that Telangana is expected to create a record paddy yield, just as it did during the Kharif season. The state has cultivated paddy on 54.89 lakh acres, and the estimated yield for the Rabi season is 127 lakh metric tons. The government has made plans to purchase 70 lakh metric tons of paddy, with 8,381 procurement centers established across the state.

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High Court questions TGPSC on Group-1 irregularities

- Court seeks clarity on Telugu medium evaluation
- Petitioners allege same marks for consecutive hall ticket numbers
- Court questions lack of ‘key’ paper for Telugu medium evaluations
- TGPSC ordered to submit Telugu medium candidate data

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana High Court on Wednesday questioned the Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) over alleged irregularities in the conduct and evaluation of the Group-1 examinations. Hearing multiple petitions filed in this regard, a single bench raised critical concerns, especially over the evaluation of answer sheets written in the Telugu medium. Petitioners argued that candidates with consecutive hall ticket numbers were awarded identical marks, sparking doubts about the transparency of the process. They also pointed out that the delay in releasing the provisional marks list—about 20 days late—violated stipulated norms and raised suspicion of manipulation. Taking these allegations seriously, the bench inquired into the evaluation methodology adopted by TGPSC. The court specifically focused on how the answer scripts of Telugu medium candidates were assessed and whether evaluators had access to subject-specific ‘key’ papers. “Is there a separate key for Telugu, English, and Urdu? How were Telugu answers evaluated?” the bench asked. In its response, TGPSC stated that no key paper was



provided to evaluators, as the Group-1 exam was a descriptive written test. The commission clarified that subject experts conducted the evaluation based on their academic knowledge and expertise. The court, however, was not fully convinced and directed the TGPSC to submit detailed data on the number of candidates who wrote the exam in Telugu and how many were included in the final selection list. It also sought comparable data from previous Group-1 recruitment cycles. Acknowledging the significance of the case, the court remarked that thousands of aspirants in the state have been waiting for Group-1 opportunities for years. It stressed the importance of resolving the matter swiftly and fairly, without unnecessary delays. The hearing has been adjourned to Thursday.

Caste Census a Victory of Congress Ideology: TPCC Chief

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud has declared that the Centre's decision to include caste census in the upcoming national census is a significant victory for the Congress party and a direct result of the Telangana government's pioneering initiative. Speaking to the media, Mahesh Kumar Goud said, “It is a matter of great joy that the central government has now officially agreed to conduct a caste census along with the population census. This is a triumph of the Congress party's consistent stand and the efforts led by Rahul Gandhi.” He credited the Telangana Congress government under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for taking the bold step to implement the caste census at the state level, setting a benchmark for the rest of the country. “As per Rahul Gandhi's vision, CM Revanth Reddy and his team of ministers conducted the caste survey transparently and scientifically. This was the first such exercise in independent India's history,” he said. Goud recalled that while Rahul Gandhi had been demanding a caste census for a long time, the BJP-led central government had ignored the call. “Now, due to mounting public pressure and the impact of Con-



gress's policies in Telangana, the Centre has finally conceded,” he remarked. He also pointed out that the Congress government in Telangana has not only completed the caste census but also translated its findings into policy by offering 42% reservations to Backward Classes (BCs), thereby delivering social justice to disadvantaged communities. “In fact, the BJP used to mock our caste census initiative in Telangana. Today, they are forced to walk in our footsteps. This is a clear vindication of Congress's approach to equality and justice,” he said. Mahesh Kumar Goud concluded by urging the Centre to honour the democratic mandate and give legal recognition to the 42% BC reservation bill passed by the Telangana government. “Let this not just be a symbolic gesture. Let it be backed with legal legitimacy and fair implementation,” he demanded.

Setback for Senior IPS Officers in Telangana HC Over Bhoodan Land Case

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Senior IPS officers Mahesh Bhagwat, Swati Lakra, and Soumya Mishra faced a legal setback in the Telangana High Court regarding the controversial Bhoodan land case. The Division Bench of the High Court dismissed their petition seeking a stay on the orders issued by a Single Bench. The case involves allegations that certain Bhoodan lands in Survey Numbers 181, 182, 194, and 195 in Nagaram village, Maheshwaram Mandal of Ranga Reddy district, were illegally acquired by IAS and IPS officers and others. A petitioner named Birla Mallesh had approached the High Court, requesting a probe into these alleged irregularities. Acting on the plea, Justice C.V. Bhaskar Reddy, heading the Single Bench, issued significant orders on April 24, directing the Ranga Reddy District Collector and the concerned Sub-Registrars to list the said lands as “prohibited properties” from April 27 onwards. Challenging these orders, the IPS officers approached the Division Bench, arguing that Survey No. 194 was patta land and not Bhoodan land. Their



counsel claimed the Single Bench passed one-sided orders without considering their version and granted relief beyond what was sought by the petitioner. However, after hearing both sides, the Division Bench refused to stay the Single Bench's orders and clarified that further proceedings should continue before the Single Bench. As a result, the original orders remain in force for now.

Telangana 10th results out, 98.2% pass rate recorded

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana State Class 10 exam results have been officially released, marking a record-breaking year in student performance. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy released the results at Ravindra Bharathi Vedita, announcing a historic 98.2 percent overall pass rate in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exams. Telangana residential schools performed even better, registering a 98.7 percent pass rate. This year, a total of 5,09,403 students appeared for the Class 10 exams conducted from March 21 to April 4 at 2,650 centers across the state. Among the candidates, 2,58,895 were boys and 2,50,508 were girls. For the first time, changes have been made to the format of the marks memo. Unlike previous years where only subject-wise grades and CGPA were displayed, the updated memos now show written test scores, internal assessment marks, total marks, and the final grade. Importantly, a clear distinction has been made between pass and fail, with students marked as ‘pass’



TS SSC Results 2025
Telangana 10th Class Results

only if they meet the minimum marks criteria. Students can check their results by visiting the official website: <https://bse.telangana.gov.in>. The announcement has brought joy to lakhs of families and education stakeholders across Telangana, with the government hailing it as a reflection of improved academic standards and successful education policies.

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Govt Allocates ₹15,000 Crores for Rabi Paddy Procurement

Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy conducted a video conference with district collectors to ensure the smooth process of paddy procurement. He urged officials to address any issues swiftly and ensure that farmers receive the support price for their crops within 48 hours of purchase. The government has already distributed 13.71 crore gunny bags and plans to provide 3.79 crore more. Additionally, arrange-

ments for bonus payments to farmers are being made. The government has also identified 10 lakh metric tons of storage capacity in various warehouses for the procurement process. Minister Reddy also stated that the government is closely monitoring the weather and has taken steps to ensure that the procurement process continues smoothly without any disruptions.

Bandi Sanjay Seeks Answers from TGPSC Over Group-1 Irregularities

evaluation procedures, mark moderation methods, center-wise rank distribution, and security measures like CCTV footage and coding practices. He stated that, depending on the Commission's response, he may consider becoming a party (impleader) in the ongoing High

Court case related to Group-1 results. He emphasized the need to restore public trust in TGPSC and ensure merit-based recruitment on par with UPSC standards, stressing that no deserving candidate should be denied justice.

Summer holidays for Anganwadi children from Today

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

In a significant move, the Telangana government has announced summer holidays for Anganwadi children starting May 1, providing much-needed relief in view of the soaring temperatures. This is the first time in Anganwadi history that such holidays have been officially declared. The decision was taken following appeals from parents and Anganwadi unions. Minister for Women and Child Welfare Seethakka played a key role in this initiative, issuing orders for a month-long break for Anganwadi children. The announcement was made after discussions between Director of Women Development and Child Welfare Kanti Wesley and Anganwadi union representatives at the Commissionerate on Wednesday. Despite the holidays, the government has ensured that nutrition support for Anganwadi beneficiaries will continue uninterrupted. Special arrangements have been made to provide nutritious food to pregnant women and children



through take-home rations. The supply includes eggs and essential groceries to be distributed directly to mothers. While the Anganwadi centers will remain closed for regular activities, teachers have been instructed to carry out other assigned duties during the vacation period. These include door-to-door surveys, home visits, and identification of children for Anganwadi admissions, which will be treated as routine responsibilities.

Congress fully supports nationwide caste census: Rahul Gandhi

Calls Telangana caste survey a model

Says census is key step for equality

Telangana survey termed as an exemplary model

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has declared that the Congress party will extend full support to the caste census if the Central government proceeds with it. Addressing the media on Wednesday, he emphasized the need for a clear and specific time frame to carry out the process effectively, stating that a caste census is the first essential step towards equality and social justice.

Rahul Gandhi said the Centre's move appears to be a result of pressure built up over time, asserting that the caste census has long been part of the Congress party's vision. "We welcome the Centre's decision, but it should not remain symbolic. A detailed action plan with deadlines is essential to make it meaningful," he said.

He praised the Congress-led Telangana government's caste survey as a benchmark, noting it could serve as a blueprint for similar exercises across the country. "The Telangana caste survey is an exemplary model. It reflects our commitment to building a new development model rooted in social justice," he remarked.



Rahul stressed that broad public participation is vital for the success of this initiative. "Only when all sections of society are counted and represented, can we move towards true equality," he said, reiterating Congress's stance that social and economic

politics must be data-driven and inclusive.

He concluded by stating that the Congress party sees the caste census as a transformative step that aligns with its long-term vision for an equitable India.

BRS will shake upcoming polls, claims Madhavaram Krishna Rao

Congress leaders scared after Warangal rally success

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Kukatpally MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao has asserted that the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) will create a major political stir in the upcoming elections. Speaking at a media conference held at his camp office in Kukatpally, he said the recent BRS silver jubilee rally in Warangal was a massive success, claiming that it has sent shockwaves through the Congress leadership. Krishna Rao stated that lakhs of people from across Telangana attended the Warangal rally, calling it one of the largest political gatherings seen in the country. He alleged that the Congress ministers and leaders began to criticize BRS only after witnessing the overwhelming support the rally received. He further accused the Con-

gress government of deliberately blocking thousands of vehicles en route to the rally to prevent people from hearing BRS chief KCR's speech.

Criticizing the ruling party's performance, the BRS leader said the Congress came to power by making false promises but failed miserably in implementing them. He challenged the government to prove its sincerity by immediately delivering on its promises, including gold distribution to women, pensions, and Indiramma houses for the poor.

Krishna Rao expressed confidence that people are already disappointed with the Congress and will soon teach the party a fitting lesson in the upcoming elections. He warned that a party that fails to honour



its commitments cannot sustain itself for long in power.

Konda Surekha Hails Caste Census Move as Victory for Telangana's Social Justice Push

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana Forest, Environment and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha described the Union Cabinet's decision to include caste enumeration in the upcoming national census as a historic achievement and a victory for Telangana's sustained pressure on the Centre.

Speaking to the media on Wednesday, Minister Surekha said that while Bengal once served as a beacon for the nation, Telangana has now taken that mantle by championing social justice. "The Centre's agreement for a caste census is the result of Telangana's progressive leadership and persistent efforts," she stated.

As a BC leader and minister, she expressed



immense personal satisfaction at this development. Surekha credited Congress

leader Rahul Gandhi's consistent demand for caste enumeration during the Bharat Jodo Yatra, aimed at eradicating social inequalities, as a key influence on this decision.

She highlighted that the Telangana government had already conducted a caste census and enacted a law to increase BC reservations to 42% in education, employment, and political representation. Now, the Centre's willingness to adopt caste-based data collection is a step in the right direction.

Calling it a revolutionary move, Surekha said this decision would lay the foundation for true social equality and help eliminate deep-rooted disparities in Indian society.

Caste Census a Slap to Congress, Big Win for OBCs: Etala Rajender

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

BJP MP and senior leader Etala Rajender welcomed the Centre's decision to conduct a caste census, calling it a "historic recognition for OBCs" and a powerful rebuttal to the Congress party's decades-long neglect of backward communities.

In a sharp response to the Congress's support for caste census, Etala criticized the party for not conducting such an enumeration during its 48 years of rule in independent India. "Congress only shed crocodile tears after losing power. While they claimed to represent BCs, SCs, and STs, they only used their votes and never truly worked for their welfare," he said.

Highlighting the BJP's commitment to social justice, Etala pointed out that in 2014, an OBC child—Narendra Modi—became the Prime Minister. "This itself speaks volumes of the BJP's stand with backward communities," he remarked.

He also noted the inclusive nature of the



Union Cabinet under the Modi government. "Today, there are 27 OBCs, 12 SCs, 8 STs, and 5 minorities in the Cabinet. Sixty

percent of the Cabinet comprises leaders from oppressed communities. This is real empowerment," Etala said.

Recalling the elections of a Dalit as President in 2014 and a tribal woman in 2021, Etala emphasized that the BJP had consistently provided representation and respect to marginalized communities in key positions of power.

He hailed the announcement of the caste census as "heartening" and said it would lead to increased opportunities for OBCs in politics, education, and employment. "This decision is a game-changer for social justice. It's not just a statistical exercise—it's a powerful step towards equal opportunity," he noted.

Etala concluded by thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union ministers for this landmark move. "This proves once again that only the BJP truly stands with the backward and oppressed communities of this country," he declared.

BJP Slams Telangana Govt Over Degree Exam Delays



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

BJP State Spokesperson Smt. Rani Rudrama launched a scathing attack on the Congress-led Telangana government over the prolonged delay in conducting degree examinations across major state universities. Addressing the media at the party's state headquarters, she questioned the negligence of CM Revanth Reddy, who has retained the crucial Education portfolio but hasn't conducted a single departmental review in the past 15 months.

Rani Rudrama highlighted that universities like Kakatiya, Telangana, Satavahana, Palamuru, and Mahatma Gandhi have repeatedly postponed degree exams, severely impacting over one lakh students. She demanded immediate clarity on exam schedules and PG admission processes, questioning the government's financial priorities — particularly its Rs. 650 crore dues towards fee reimbursement for private degree colleges.

She accused the state of showing more interest in hosting beauty pageants and foreign tours than resolving student issues. Despite

students paying exam fees, colleges haven't transferred them to universities due to lack of reimbursements, stalling the exams.

Venkat Reddy pointed out that a special committee, led by Higher Education Council Chairman Prof. Balakrishna Reddy, had already submitted a report recommending recruitment. However, the government has taken no action on it.

He further alleged that students from backward communities are being forced to drop out due to lack of fee reimbursement and poor higher education opportunities. Expressing concern, he questioned whether CM Revanth Reddy, who also holds the Education portfolio, even understands the challenges in the sector.

He also condemned the Chief Minister's silence on serious crimes against women, including a recent incident involving a German woman. He demanded that the government prioritize education and women's safety instead of foreign trips and political publicity. The BJP called for urgent corrective steps to restore order in the state's education system.

CM Revanth misused Basaveshwara's Jayanti event for Politics



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

In a fiery speech, former Minister Harish Rao launched a scathing attack on Revanth Reddy, the Congress leader in Telangana. Rao accused Reddy of using Basaveshwara's Jayanti and the 10th class exam results for petty politics, damaging the dignity of the Chief Minister's office. He condemned Reddy for speaking disgracefully in front of students, claiming that the timing of the results was manipulated for political gain.

Rao questioned the Congress leader's track record, highlighting his failed promises, including the six guarantees, 2.5 lakh job creation, and schemes like Dalit Bandhu and Rythu Bandhu, all of which remained unfulfilled during the Congress's tenure. He pointed out the significant progress made by the TRS government, under KCR's leadership, which not only fought for Telangana but delivered it, unlike Congress, who he said "did not give Telangana."

Rao challenged Revanth to a public debate on various issues, including loan waivers and Kaleshwaram, stressing that the current Congress government was proving to be a failure in its 15 months of rule. He urged Revanth to focus on holding onto his chair for the next three years rather than making baseless accusations.

Key changes in Hyderabad Police Commissionerate

Several police stations renamed
146 CIs transferred for better governance
Secretariat Police Station renamed as Lake Police Station
Humayunnagar becomes Mehdiapatnam Police Station
Shahinayatganj now named Goshamahal Police Station

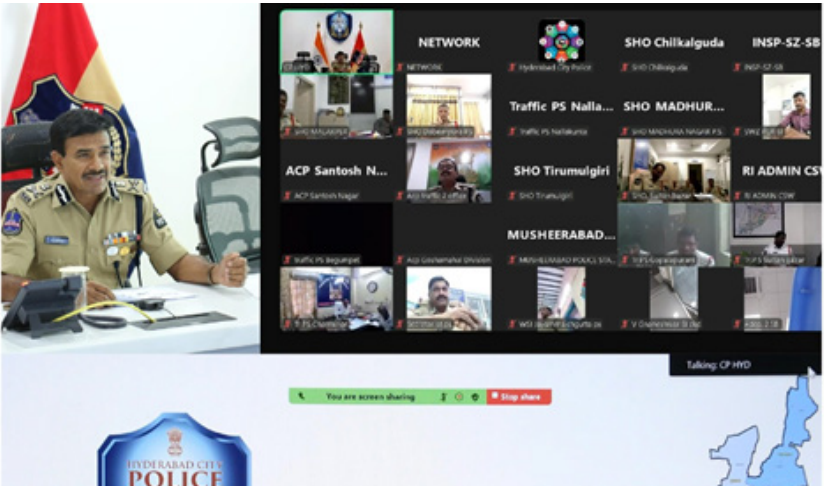
New Toli Chowki station established

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
In a significant administrative development, the Hyderabad Police Commissionerate has undergone key structural changes aimed at improving public understanding and operational efficiency. Police Commissioner CV Anand announced the renaming of several police stations to align with prominent localities and

also sanctioned the establishment of a new police station in Toli Chowki. Simultaneously, orders have been issued for the transfer of 146 Circle Inspectors (CIs) across the Commissionerate. The renaming of police stations is intended to simplify identification for the public by naming them after major landmarks or well-known areas. “Some stations were known by names

unfamiliar to the local population. By renaming them after prominent locations, we aim to eliminate confusion,” CP CV Anand stated. This administrative revamp includes the reorganization of police stations in Hyderabad, the first major exercise of its kind in 35 years. The city currently has 71 Law and Order and 31 Traffic Police Stations, and the reshuffling comes in response

to boundary-related challenges and public confusion regarding jurisdictions. In addition, a new Law and Order Police Station—Hyderabad’s 72nd—has been set up in the Toli Chowki area, a decision made in view of increasing urban activity and the need for better policing in the region. As part of internal restructuring, Commissioner Anand has transferred 146 Circle Inspec-



tors from various wings including law and order, traffic, and other operational departments. The reshuffle aims to enhance administrative efficiency and governance in the fast-growing metropolitan landscape.

The Hyderabad City Police is expected to upload the updated list of police stations, new names, and jurisdictional maps on its official website shortly for public access.

Miss World 2025

Hyderabad Hosts High-Level Coordination Meet for Grand Event

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Ahead of the 72nd edition of the prestigious Miss World 2025 pageant, a high-level coordination and security review meeting was held today at Hotel Trident, Madhapur. With the global event scheduled from May 7 to May 31, culminating in a grand finale at HITEX Exhibition Center, the meeting focused on finalizing logistics, safety, and cultural arrangements. Cyberabad Police Commissioner Avinash Mohanty, IPS, led the session, which saw comprehensive discussions on law and order, traffic control, inter-departmental coordination, medical preparedness, and guest services. Key issues included venue readiness, event scheduling, and the safety of women and children throughout the 28-day celebration.



Participants highlighted the event’s role in showcasing Telangana’s global hospitality standards, infrastructure, and cultural richness. Contestants will visit iconic sites like Charminar, Ramappa Temple, and Pochampally, and engage in cultural tours, sports, awareness drives, and social initiatives. Telangana Tourism Development Corporation MD Nyalkon-

da Prakash Reddy, IPS, stated the event positions Telangana as a premier global cultural and tourism destination. Other key attendees included Traffic Jt. CP Dr. Gajarao Bhupal, IPS, DCPs of Madhapur and Women’s Safety, and Miss World organizers. The session reaffirmed Telangana’s preparedness to host the landmark event with international standards.

Hyderabad CP C.V. Anand Felicitates 34 Retiring Police Officers

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
In a heartfelt farewell ceremony held today under the Hyderabad City Police Commissionerate, 34 police officers—comprising 11 Sub-Inspectors, 15 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 1 Head Constable, 1 Police Constable, and 6 LGE staff—were honored on their retirement by Hyderabad Police Commissioner DGP C.V. Anand, IPS. Speaking on the occasion, C.V. Anand extended warm retirement wishes to all officers, acknowledging their decades-long service of 35 to 43 years to the police department. He emphasized his commitment to attending every retirement function, as a gesture of gratitude to those who dedicated their lives to public service. He assured that efforts are being



made to ensure all benefits are provided to the retirees on the day of their retirement itself, to help them depart without any concerns. Anand also expressed his appreciation to the families of the retiring officers, recognizing their support throughout the years. He encouraged retirees to remain active daily for good

health and wished them a long, happy, and healthy life post-retirement. Also present at the event were Joint Commissioner of Police (Admin) Parimala Hana Nutan, Chief Administrative Officer Srinivas, Chief Accounts Officer Srinivas, and Police Officers’ Association President Y. Shankar Reddy along with other members.

123 New CCTV Cameras Installed in Bowenpally to Boost Public Safety and Crime Prevention



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
North Zone DCP Rashmi Perumal emphasized the importance of CCTV surveillance in enhancing public safety and controlling crime. Speaking at the inauguration of a new CCTV network in the Bowenpally area, she stated that surveillance cameras play a vital role in identifying and deterring criminals. A total of 123 new CCTV cameras have been installed across major roads and junctions in Bowenpally with the support of Gemini Edibles & Fats India Ltd. Along with company representatives, DCP Rashmi Perumal inaugurated the newly installed cameras and the associated Command and Control Center. “These cameras act like a force multiplier—one camera is equal to a hundred police personnel,” the DCP said. She noted that the cameras are equipped with advanced technology, including automatic number plate recognition, making it easier to track and identify offenders. She further added that the responsibility for maintenance has also been handed over to the sponsors for a period of three years. DCP Rashmi encouraged similar efforts across other police stations in the North Zone. She also appreciated the efforts of Bowenpally Inspector Lakshminarayana Reddy, DI Sardar Singh, and Admin SI Shivashankar for their key roles in the project.

Vishra Vidyalayas Achieve 100% Pass in SSC Results

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
In a proud moment for Vishra Vidyalayas, all 43 students who appeared for the Class 10 board exams have successfully passed, recording a 100% pass percentage in the SSC results officially released by the Telangana government. Director of Vishra Educational Institutions, Dorbala Hariharanatha Sharma, expressed happiness over the results and lauded the efforts of students and faculty. Among the 43 students, 5 secured more than 550 marks out of 600, and 20 students scored over 500 marks, showcasing outstanding academic performance.



Top performers included:
G. Siddharth Simha Arya – 581/600
B. Jeevan Balaji – 577
O. Manohar and A. Mayank – 562 each
K. Dixit – 552
A. Akshitha Reddy – 549
G. Bhanu – 548
N. Sachin – 547
Rohan Chavan – 545
The director highlighted the sub-

ject-wise excellence with multiple students securing 'A' grades: Telugu – 15, Hindi – 11, English – 14, Mathematics – 18, Science – 5, and Social Studies – 10. Achieving 100 out of 100 marks in several subjects was termed a remarkable achievement. Speaking on the institution’s consistent success, Sharma stated, “Achieving a 100% pass rate for the second time in the last three years reflects the dedication of our students and staff.” Principal Dudapaka Suresh joined Sharma in congratulating the students, teachers, non-teaching staff, and parents for their collective efforts and support.

GHMC Commissioner inspects Shastripuram ROB works

Focus on Aramgarh ramps and railway portion for timely project delivery

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner RV Karnan conducted an inspection of the ongoing Shastripuram Road Over Bridge (ROB) works being carried out from Aramgarh to Zoo Park. During his visit, the Commissioner directed officials to expedite the remaining works and ensure timely project completion. He specifically ordered the early completion of the up ramp and down ramp at Aramgarh, emphasizing that any pending land acquisition required for this purpose should be completed without delay. The Commissioner highlighted the importance of these ramps in improving traffic flow in the area. Additionally, RV Karnan instructed the engineering wing to coordinate closely with the Chief Engineer of Railways to complete the railway portion of the Shastripuram ROB. He stressed that once the railway segment is completed, the remaining civil

works should be taken up and finished at the earliest. The flyover project is expected to play a key role in easing traffic congestion between Aramgarh and Zoo Park, and the GHMC is keen on delivering it within the stipulated timeline. The Commissioner’s inspection reflects the civic body’s renewed focus on infrastructure and connectivity improvements across Hyderabad.



CCS Hyderabad Nabs Three in Illegal Ganja Possession, 24 Kg Seized



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Acting on credible information, the Special Zonal Crime Team of CCS, DD, Hyderabad, apprehended three individuals for illegal possession and sale of ganja. The arrested persons were identified as:
1. Mohd Omer (21), a cook helper
2. Mohd Ghouse Hussain (47), an auto driver
3. Mohd Sohail (20), resident of Zaheerabad
All three hail from Talabkatta, Bhavani Nagar, Hyderabad. Police seized 24 kilograms of dry ganja and three mobile phones from their possession while they were attempting to sell the contraband to local buyers. Following interrogation, the accused and the seized items were handed over to Bhavani Nagar Police Station, where a case was registered under Cr. No. 80/2025, U/s 8(c) r/w 20(b)(ii)(B) of the NDPS Act. Two other suspects, Sona Jaweed and Faisal, remain absconding. The operation was led by Inspector D. Bikshapathi and his team, under the supervision of ACP G. Venkateswara Reddy, Special Zonal Crime Team, CCS, Hyderabad.

Bhuharathi Act to Resolve Land Issues Sets National Example: Minister Ponguleti

Bhuharathi replaces Dharani with reforms
Ambedkar Jayanti launch marks significance
Four pilot mandals tested initially
Sadabainama provision included for farmers
Free application, officer visits promised

TPN Correspondent | Mahabubnagar
State Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy declared that the newly implemented Bhuharathi Act would serve as a model for the entire nation. Speaking at a public awareness seminar near Kurumurthy temple in Devarakadra constituency, the minister emphasized that the Act was not brought for any individual leader but to ensure no farmer suffers due to land issues. Introduced on April 14, Ambedkar Jayanti, by CM Revanth Reddy, the Act draws from revenue laws of 18 states and addresses loopholes in the previous Dharani system, which the minister criticized for lacking rules and being family-beneficial. Bhuharathi includes a provision for resolving Sadabainama (unregistered sale) issues, which Dharani excluded. The Act, already tested in four pilot mandals, will be extended to one mandal in each district after June 2. It mandates survey maps, simplifies application processes, and enables resolution at Tahsildar level, escalating only when necessary. Over 6,000 private surveyors and 1,000 new recruits



are to be appointed for support. Minister Ponguleti assured farmers need not spend a single rupee as officers will deliver services at their doorsteps. Every revenue village will get assigned officials, and annual online property records will be maintained under Jamabandi. Criticizing previous governance under KCR, he asserted that the Indiramma government is committed to welfare, free power, bus travel for women, subsidized gas, and comprehensive health coverage. The Bhuharathi Act is portrayed as a historic correction to restore faith and dignity among Telangana's farmers.

Caste Census a Historic Step Towards Social Justice: Dr. K. Laxman

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
BJP Member of Parliament and National President of the OBC Morcha, Dr. K. Laxman, welcomed the Union Cabinet's decision to include caste census in the upcoming national census as a "historic and courageous step" by the Narendra Modi-led government. He said the move would ensure inclusive development, social justice, and equitable policy-making across backward communities. Addressing the press through an official release, Dr. Laxman emphasized that the last caste census was conducted in 1931 under British rule and that no official census of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) or other communities—except Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes—had taken place since. He added that the absence of real data had hampered the formulation of effective welfare policies for decades. "The Modi government has shown political will and transparency by resuming this long-overdue process after 94 years," said Dr. Laxman. "This decision reflects the government's commitment to social empowerment and transparent governance." Taking a sharp dig at the Congress party, Dr. Laxman accused it of hypocrisy and inconsistency on the issue. "When in opposition, Congress raised slogans on caste census. But in power, it failed to act. The UPA's 2010 attempt was limited to a survey and the data was never fully released. Their approach lacked both transparency and sincerity," he said. He asserted that the BJP's stand is clear—real data must guide policy-making. "This caste census will allow for accurate representation and fair distribution of resources to genuinely needy communities. Unlike the Congress, which created confusion and division, the BJP believes in unity, transparency, and development for all," he noted. Dr. Laxman also highlighted the Modi government's achievements in ensuring 10% reservation for economically weaker sections and maintaining social harmony, adding that the caste census would further strengthen the socio-economic fabric of India. Calling upon other political parties to support the move, he said, "This is a nation-building initiative. I appeal to all parties to rise above politics and extend their cooperation." He concluded by stating that the caste census would not only empower backward communities but also expose the political negligence of the Congress party over the years.



Operation Kagar's Impacts on Adivasi Communities

TPN Correspondent | Mulugu
Telangana Minister Seethakka expressed serious concern over the impact of Operation Kagar on tribal and Adivasi communities living in Schedule 5 regions across Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh. Addressing a gathering after receiving a memorandum from tribal organizations, the minister highlighted the hardships faced by Adivasis due to the large-scale deployment of central forces. Minister Seethakka stated



that Adivasis are unable to access forests, their primary source of livelihood, due to fear and restrictions caused

by the ongoing operation. She stressed that many families are suffering without basic necessities like food and

drinking water, as people are being confined to their homes out of fear of security forces. She urged the central government to adopt a constitutional approach and initiate peace talks with Maoist groups, rather than resorting to aggressive military operations that disrupt the lives of innocent tribal citizens. The minister pointed out that summer is a crucial period when Adivasis gather forest produce for survival, and such operations are jeopardizing their economic and emotional well-being.

Relief for Contract Teachers in Tribal Ashram Schools

Minister Seethakka's intervention brings positive outcome

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

In a major relief to contract residential teachers (CRTs) working in tribal ashram schools across Telangana, the state government has issued orders approving the disbursement of salaries for the 21-day strike period. Additionally, the government has sanctioned an amount of ₹30,000 to each teacher as financial support from ITDA (Integrated Tribal Development Agency) funds. This long-standing demand was fulfilled following continuous representations and appeals made by the teachers to government officials and ministers. The CRTs expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Minister for Tribal Welfare



Seethakka, who played a crucial role in addressing their concerns. Leaders from the Telangana Ashram School Contract Teachers Association thanked the Telangana government, especially the caretaker Chief Minister, Panchayat Raj Minister, Child Welfare Minister, CTW Secretary Sarath, and all senior officials involved in

the decision-making process. They highlighted that the gesture would bring great relief to nearly 2,000 families affected during the strike. "This decision not only acknowledges our services but also shows the government's commitment towards the welfare of teachers working in tribal areas. We are thankful to Minister Seethakka for

standing with us and ensuring justice," the association stated. The decision to grant ₹30,000 and release wages for the strike duration is seen as a significant step in improving the conditions of contract teachers who have been serving under challenging circumstances in remote tribal regions.

We welcome Centre's caste census move: Owaisi

Owaisi calls it a long-pending demand



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Majlis Party chief and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi has welcomed the Centre's announcement to include caste enumeration in the upcoming national census. Speaking on Wednesday, Owaisi said that this was a long-standing

demand and its implementation was much needed in the current context. He recalled that he had called for a caste census as early as 2021, stressing the importance of collecting caste-based data to ensure justice in education and employment. "This is the first time in indepen-

dent India that such an effort is being made at the national level. I appreciate the Chief Ministers who have taken the initiative in their states. However, it is unfortunate that the BJP continues to oppose granting Scheduled Caste status to Dalit Muslims and reservation benefits to backward Muslims," he stated. Owaisi emphasized that backward classes must receive a fair share of opportunities according to their population and demanded that the caste census be used as a tool to ensure social and educational equity. Meanwhile, Union Minister of State Bandi Sanjay also commented on the development. In Hyderabad, he accused the Congress party of consistently opposing caste-based enumeration. "Why did Congress not include caste data in any

of the censuses during its regime? Their stand against caste census is now clear," he said. Bandi Sanjay also took aim at the Telangana government's ongoing caste survey, describing it as error-ridden and unscientific. "The caste census conducted by the Telangana government is full of mistakes. It lacks the scientific approach required for such an important task," he criticized. He assured that the caste census being planned by the Modi government would be conducted in a meticulous and scientific manner, and would form the basis for fair, population-based reservation policies. "It is to the credit of the Modi government that the country is now set to have an official, nationwide caste census. This will ensure justice to all communities," Bandi Sanjay added.

RTC buses to remain off roads from May 7 in Telangana

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) is bracing for a major shutdown, as the employees' Joint Action Committee (JAC) has called for an indefinite strike beginning midnight of May 6. All RTC bus services across the state are expected to come to a halt, causing widespread disruption in public transport and severely impacting thousands of daily commuters. The decision was taken after several rounds of discussions with the government reportedly failed to yield any results. The JAC has announced that buses will be confined to depots starting May 7, marking the beginning of a full-fledged strike. The employees have present-

ed a list of 21 major demands, prominently including the long-standing call for merger of the RTC with the state government to ensure job security, payment of pending salary arrears dating back to 2021, and withdrawal of moves to privatize bus depots under the guise of introducing electric buses. Union leaders expressed deep frustration at the state government's inaction and criticized the lack of response even after issuing a formal strike notice. Despite repeated representations to RTC management, the Labour Commissioner, and the government, the unions claim none of their key demands have been addressed. In a recent joint meeting of all unions, the slogan "One voice, one path – the path of strike"



was unanimously adopted, reflecting the unified stance of workers across departments. The JAC has appealed to all employee associations to set aside internal differences and unite in the fight to protect the rights and interests of the workforce. With buses going off roads across the state, the indefi-

nite strike is set to create severe inconvenience for commuters, especially in urban and semi-urban areas where RTC buses remain the primary mode of transport. The government is yet to issue any official response or initiate talks for resolution, raising fears of prolonged disruption.

From Samastipur to Stardom: The Rise of Vaibhav Suryavanshi



At just 14, Vaibhav Suryavanshi has done what seasoned professionals only dream of—he's become the youngest centurion in IPL and men's T20 history. Hailing from Tajpur village in Bihar's Samastipur district, Vaibhav's journey is not just about talent, but unshakable self-belief and relentless hard work.

When he scored a blistering 101 off 38 balls against Gujarat Titans, helping Rajasthan Royals chase down 210, the cricketing world stood still. It wasn't just his strokes or power that shocked everyone—it was his calm, composed demeanor. No nerves, no over-excitement. Just laser focus.

Vaibhav idolizes Brian Lara, and it shows in his high backlift and attacking mindset. The very first ball he faced in the IPL was launched for six—a clear sign of things to come. And while his talent is undeniable, it's the support system behind him that truly completes the story. His father traveled 90 km daily to Patna for his training; his mother sacrificed sleep to prepare meals; and his brother took up a job so their father could focus solely on Vaibhav's cricket.

When Rajasthan Royals paid ₹1.1 crore for him at 13, many questioned

the move. But his performances have already vindicated the faith shown by the franchise. With mentors like Rahul Dravid by his side, Vaibhav's early success is being carefully guided. But now comes the tougher part—sustaining success. History is filled with teenage prodigies who couldn't live up to the hype. Vaibhav will need discipline, humility, and the right people around him to avoid becoming just another name on that list.

For now, though, Indian cricket has a new star. And if nurtured right, Vaibhav Suryavanshi could be one of the brightest yet.



Sri Lanka's Prevention of Terrorism Act: A Legacy of Repression

In the long and violent history of Sri Lanka, the notion of "terror" has often been used as a justification for harsh state action. While non-state actors have certainly committed grave acts of violence, the Sri Lankan state has consistently failed to reckon with its own role in perpetuating terror—particularly against minority communities. Instead of self-reflection, the state has relied on sweeping laws to suppress dissent, often blurring the line between legitimate security concerns and political repression.

The most infamous of these laws is the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), introduced in 1979 under President J.R. Jayawardene. Ostensibly designed to counter insurgent threats, the PTA has been widely criticised for enabling systemic human rights abuses. Its roots are telling: the law was inspired by repressive legal frameworks from apartheid-era South Africa and colonial British laws used against Irish rebels. It replaced the 1978 "Proscribing of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and Other Similar Organizations Law", and marked the beginning of a long era of unchecked state power.

The PTA gave authorities sweeping powers to arrest individuals without a warrant, detain suspects for long periods without trial, and conduct searches and seizures with little oversight. It was a law built for control, not justice. Over the decades, it has disproportionately targeted Tamils, Muslims, activists, and journalists, creating a culture of fear and impunity. Numerous reports by international human rights organisations have documented torture, forced confessions, and indefinite detentions under the PTA.

Even in post-war Sri Lanka, after the defeat of the LTTE in 2009, the PTA has remained in use, often against peaceful protestors and critics of the government. Promises to reform or repeal the act have largely been symbolic, and attempts at replacing it have frequently retained many of its draconian features.

The enduring presence of the PTA underscores a deeper issue in Sri Lanka's governance—a reluctance to distinguish between genuine security threats and dissenting voices. As long as such laws remain in force, the cycle of state-sponsored violence and suppression is unlikely to end.

There Is A 'Third' Player In The India-Pakistan Conflict

China's Shadow in the India-Pakistan Conflict

The recent terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam has triggered a decisive moment for India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, vowing a strong response, has already taken bold diplomatic steps—most notably, suspending the Indus Water Treaty (IWT). This 1960 agreement, which withstood even wartime tensions, is now paused, drawing a sharp response from Pakistan, which called it an "act of war." Islamabad has even threatened to suspend the Simla Pact, a move that could reopen the door to internationalising the Kashmir issue.

While India weighs a measured but forceful military response, a new dimension has emerged: China. As highlighted by Najam Sethi in a recent interview, this is no longer just a bilateral issue. China's deep investment in Pakistan through the \$62 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), part of its Belt and Road Initiative, has made Beijing a strategic stakeholder. China has backed Pakistan publicly, both politically and diplomatically, and is now even allowed to deploy private security to protect its interests in Balochistan—where unrest and separatist attacks have severely disrupted the

CPEC's progress.

Pakistan, in turn, has signaled that it will respond in kind to any Indian action, perhaps by escalating conflict in Kashmir or targeting alleged Indian-sponsored groups in Afghanistan. With Pakistan's economy in distress and its reliance on Chinese backing growing, its response strategy appears increasingly aggressive and unpredictable.

Internally, Pakistan faces pressure too. Protests in Sindh against the army-backed canal project—linked to the IWT suspension. This move could deprive Pakistan of crucial hydrological data, worsening internal rivalries and unrest.

As both nations brace for the next move, India is expected to rely not only on its military capability but also on its diplomatic clout to manage global perception. With China now a visible third player, the dynamics of the India-Pakistan conflict have evolved into a far more complex geopolitical standoff—one where every move could have regional consequences.

Income Tax Bill 2025 and the Quiet Normalisation of Surveillance

Surveillance State Rising: The Hidden Costs of Tech-Enabled Tax Policing



When George Orwell envisioned Big Brother, he likely didn't imagine Instagram stories and WhatsApp groups becoming tools of state surveillance. Yet today, digital platforms are being co-opted for just that. With over ₹250 crore in concealed assets already unearthed, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently revealed that encrypted chats, social media activity, mobile data, and even Google Maps are now being used in tax enforcement. Technology, once a symbol of empowerment, is quietly evolving into a tool of state control.

At the heart of this transformation lies the Income Tax Bill 2025, which, if passed, would empower income tax officials to access digital communications—emails, financial accounts, social media—without prior notice. While positioned as a move against financial fraud, the Bill represents a deeper, more troubling shift in the relationship between state and citizen.

This isn't just about regulation. It's about power. The proposed law normalises surveillance under the guise of efficiency and the common good, all while sidestepping any meaningful discussion on individual privacy. In a country where agencies like the Income Tax Department and the Enforce-

ment Directorate are frequently accused of political bias, granting them unchecked digital access is fraught with risk.

Perhaps most concerning is the public's apathy. There is little discourse, little resistance. Citizens seem to have internalised a dangerous narrative: "If you've done nothing wrong, you have nothing to hide." This thinking not only erodes the presumption of innocence but reframes rights as conditional—granted only to those deemed harmless by the state.

In doing so, it also reduces citizens to passive data subjects rather than active digital participants with rights and agency. The rhetoric of the "common good" has become a convenient justification for sweeping changes, just as it was during demonetisation, the revocation of Article 370, and Aadhaar's rollout.

Digital sovereignty cannot be built on surveillance. It must be founded on public trust, transparency, and respect for autonomy. The real strength of a nation lies not in the data it controls, but in the freedom and dignity it affords its people. Without privacy, there is no autonomy—only obedience disguised as order.





Caste Census Sparks BJP-Congress Showdown

- **Rahul Gandhi demands caste census**
- **BJP highlights Congress past inaction**
- **First caste census since independence**
- **Debate over 50% quota cap**
- **Parties fight for political credit**

With the country preparing to undertake the first-ever nationwide caste census in independent India, a fresh political battle has erupted between the ruling BJP and the Opposition Congress over who deserves credit for the historic decision.

The Congress, led by Rahul Gandhi, claims that the government’s move is a result of its sustained pressure and consistent advocacy for a caste-based headcount. Congress leaders argue that Rahul Gandhi has long demanded such a census to ensure fair representation and resource allocation for OBCs, Dalits, and Adivasis.

On the other hand, the BJP has countered this narrative by pointing to the Congress’s own record in government, alleging that it never showed genuine intent to carry out such an exercise when it had the opportunity. BJP leaders highlighted the previous UPA regime’s reluctance to implement a full-fledged caste census, despite discussions and demands during its tenure.

The political significance of the caste census is immense, with both parties hoping to strengthen their appeal among backward and marginalised communities. The data from the census could potentially be used to revise reservation quotas, which are currently capped at 50% as per Supreme Court guidelines. This has renewed the demand to breach the ceiling to provide greater representation to disadvantaged groups.

Analysts believe that this issue will be a key electoral plank in upcoming state and national elections. The BJP is likely to project the move as a step towards data-driven policymaking, while the Congress is expected to present it as a victory for its ideological push for social justice.

Sources indicate that both parties are now working to control the narrative around the census, aware that the implications go beyond just statistics — they could reshape the contours of Indian politics.

With the census now on the cards, the debate is expected to intensify further as parties compete to claim the legacy of this politically charged and socially significant initiative.

Pakistan Airspace Ban Costs Indian Airlines

Indian airlines are likely to face additional weekly expenses of Rs 77 crore for international flights operated from north Indian cities as the airspace curbs result in increased fuel consumption and longer flight durations. An analysis of the number of overseas flights and back-of-the-envelope calculations based on increased flight time as well as approximate expenses by PTI showed that the additional monthly operational costs could be over Rs 306 crore. Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan due to the Pahalgam terror attack, Pakistan on Thursday said it will bar Indian airlines from using its airspace. Alternative flight path is resulting in additional flying time of up to 1.5 hours for international flights from Delhi and north Indian cities. A senior airline industry official, who has extensive experience in the commercial side, told PTI that the additional time for a



16-hour flight to North America will be around 1.5 hours. For 1.5 additional hours, the cost will be around Rs 29 lakh, including landing and parking charges on account of a technical halt in an airport enroute, the official said. Similarly, the additional flight time for a 9-hour flight to Europe will be about 1.5 hours, and the extra cost will be around Rs 22.5 lakh.

In the case of Middle East flights, the additional time will be around 45 minutes, and the resultant cost will be about Rs 5 lakh, the official said. Indian carriers are scheduled to operate more than 6,000 flights one way to various international destinations in April, data from aviation analytics firm Cirium showed. Over 800 weekly flights are operated by Indian airlines to and from north Indian cities

to overseas destinations, including North America, the UK, Europe and the Middle East. Out of the total monthly flights, nearly 1,900 are operated with narrow-body planes to the Middle East. For Europe and North America, nearly 1,200 flights are operated with wide-body aircraft. The total additional monthly expenses will be about Rs 307 crore and Rs 77 crore on a weekly basis.

17 Women Lawmakers Billionaires, 28% Criminally Charged



A new report by the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR) reveals that 17 women MPs and MLAs across India have declared assets over Rs 100 crore, while 28% face criminal cases. The report analyzed affidavits of 512 out of 513 current women

legislators.

Among the 17 billionaire lawmakers, six are Lok Sabha MPs, three from Rajya Sabha, and eight are MLAs from various states and Union Territories. The data shows that 143 women

legislators have declared criminal charges against themselves, including 24 Lok Sabha MPs, 10 Rajya Sabha MPs, and 109 MLAs.

Of these, 78 women legislators (15%) face serious criminal charges such as attempt to murder and murder. These include 14 from the Lok Sabha, 7 from Rajya Sabha, and 57 MLAs.

Some states show especially high percentages of women lawmakers with criminal backgrounds. In Telangana, 67% of women MPs/MLAs face criminal cases; in Andhra Pradesh, 58%; in Punjab and Kerala, 50%; and in Bihar, 43%.

Party-wise, the BJP, with 217 women lawmakers, has 23% with criminal cases and 11% with serious charges. The Congress has 83 women legislators, with 34% facing criminal cases and 20% serious ones. The TDP has 65% of its 20 women legis-

lators with criminal cases and 45% with serious ones. AAP’s 13 women legislators show 69% with criminal cases and 31% with serious charges.

Financially, the total declared assets of 512 women legislators amount to Rs 10,417 crore, with an average of Rs 20.34 crore each. Andhra Pradesh leads with the wealthiest women legislators averaging Rs 74.22 crore, followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Rs 71.44 crore) and Haryana (Rs 63.72 crore). The least wealthy are from Assam, Mizoram, and Manipur.

In education, 71% are graduates or higher. Most women MPs and MLAs (64%) are aged 41–60, with an average age of 49 years.

The 18th Lok Sabha has 74 women MPs (13.6%), slightly lower than the 78 (14.4%) in the 17th. BJP leads with 31 women MPs. Kerala is the only large state without a woman MP.

Rajnath to Attend Moscow Victory Day

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will represent India at the 80th anniversary celebrations of Victory Day in Moscow next month, official sources confirmed.

The Indian government has informed the Russian side about Rajnath Singh’s participation in the event, which will include a military parade at Moscow’s Red Square on May 9. The celebrations mark the Soviet Union’s victory over Nazi Germany in World War II and hold great symbolic significance for Russia.



toric event without interruption.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov stated that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not be attending the event. “India will not be represented at the highest level,” Peskov said during a briefing, referring to the absence of Prime Minister Modi.

Russian President Vladimir Putin had extended formal invitations to both PM Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping to attend the grand parade. While Modi has opted out, India’s participation at the ministerial level reflects continued diplomatic engagement between New Delhi and Moscow.

In a significant gesture, Russia has also declared a temporary ceasefire in its ongoing conflict with Ukraine from May 8 to May 10 to observe the Victory Day commemorations. The truce is expected to allow the Russian population to mark the his-

Russian state-run media quoted President Putin recalling the historical moment from World War II: “On the banks of the Volga, our troops halted and crushed the enemy. A decisive blow was delivered to the Nazi war machine, marking a turning point in the war and opening the road westward — to Berlin and to the Great Victory, whose 80th anniversary we will solemnly celebrate on May 9.”

The Victory Day celebration, with its military parade, is one of the most important annual events in Russia, showcasing its armed forces and paying tribute to veterans of the Second World War. Rajnath Singh’s presence underscores India’s acknowledgement of the shared historical struggle against fascism and the importance of maintaining strong ties with Russia amid shifting global dynamics.

AAP Ex-Ministers Booked in Rs 2,000-Cr Scam

- **Sisodia, Jain booked in scam**
- **Rs 2,000 crore cost irregularities**
- **Classrooms built at inflated costs**
- **Contracts linked to AAP members**
- **CVC report cites major violations**

The Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) has registered a case against former Delhi ministers Manish Sisodia and Satyendra Jain in connection with an alleged Rs 2,000 crore scam related to classroom construction projects in Delhi government schools.

A senior official confirmed that the case involves irregularities in the construction of over 12,700 classrooms during the tenure of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led government. The FIR has been filed under the Prevention of Corruption Act and sections of the Indian Penal Code, based on complaints by BJP leaders Harish Khurana, Kapil Mishra, and Neelkanth Bakshi.

The complaint alleges that classrooms were constructed at an inflated cost of Rs 24.86 lakh per unit, whereas similar structures are typically built for around Rs 5 lakh in Delhi. “The project was awarded to 34 contractors, many allegedly



linked to AAP,” said Joint Commissioner of Police and ACB Chief Madhur Verma.

Following the complaint, the ACB conducted a preliminary investigation that revealed multiple violations, prompting a formal request for legal action. This proposal has now been approved by the competent authority.

Initial findings show that the 2015-16 finance committee’s cost and timeline limits were widely breached. Project delays and cost overruns ranged from 17% to 90%, with Rs 205.45 crore spent on upgraded construction specifications. These specifications were introduced without fresh tenders, allegedly violating Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) guidelines.

Vietnam Marks 50 Years Since War's End With a Message of Peace and Reconciliation



TPN Correspondent | Vietnam

On April 30, 2025, Vietnam commemorated the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and the reunification of the country with a grand military parade in Ho Chi Minh City. The event, filled with symbolism and pageantry, drew thousands of spectators who camped overnight to secure spots along the parade route, many with faces painted in the colors of the Vietnamese flag.

Floats featuring national emblems, portraits of revolutionary leaders like Ho Chi Minh, and a tank symbolizing the war's end set the tone. The parade was also notable for the participation of troops from China, Laos, and Cambodia, underscoring regional solidarity. Aircraft flew overhead as the procession passed by Independence Palace, where the historic moment of reunification occurred in 1975.

Vietnamese Communist Party General Secretary To Lam described the war's end as a "glorious landmark," and acknowledged international allies including the former Soviet Union and China. However, his speech also emphasized the importance of reconciliation and a peaceful future—marking a shift from past commemorations that focused primarily on military triumph.

"The war is long over," said 69-year-old veteran Pham Ngoc Son, who once drove supply trucks along the Ho Chi Minh trail. "Now it's time for peace and friendship."

This softer tone aligns with Vietnam's growing global presence and its 30-year diplomatic relationship with the United States. In 2023, Vietnam elevated U.S. ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership, placing Washington on

par with China and Russia in terms of diplomatic standing.

Still, challenges remain. U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff policies have threatened Vietnam's export-driven economy. Recent cuts to USAID funding also jeopardize joint efforts to address war legacies, such as unexploded ordnance and Agent Orange contamination.

Analysts note that while Vietnam balances ties with both the U.S. and China, America's shifting policies under Trump raise questions about its long-term role in the Indo-Pacific.

The day's events—joined by 13,000 participants—reflected Vietnam's desire to honor the past while focusing on a stable, peaceful, and prosperous future in a rapidly changing global landscape.

Bangladesh High Court Grants Bail to Spiritual Leader Chinmoy Krishna Das



TPN Correspondent | Bangladesh

Spiritual leader and minority rights advocate Chinmoy Krishna Das was granted bail by the Bangladesh High Court in a seditious case after spending six months in custody. His arrest on November 25, 2024, at Dhaka airport was linked to charges of allegedly insulting the national flag of Bangladesh—a move that triggered widespread controversy and unrest.

Das, formerly associated with ISKCON as the divisional organising secretary in Chattogram and currently the President of Pundarik Dham, has long been a vocal proponent of religious freedom and minority rights. He also served as spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sammilit Sanatani Jagran Jote, a platform representing Hindu voices in Bangladesh. His application for bail was initially denied by a lower court, prompting an appeal to the High Court, where Justices Md Atoar Rahman and Md Ali Reza ruled in his favour.

His arrest provoked strong reactions both domestically and internationally. Protests erupted in various parts of Bangladesh, particularly outside the Chattogram Court Building on November 27, just two days after his detention. These demonstrations escalated into violent clashes between his followers and law enforcement personnel, tragically resulting in the death of a lawyer and intensifying tensions between India and Bangladesh.

India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had earlier expressed "deep concern" over the handling of the case. In a statement issued in January 2025, the MEA criticised the denial of bail and highlighted the broader context of ongoing attacks against Hindu and other minority communities in Bangladesh. It noted that while peaceful religious leaders like Das faced legal persecution, those responsible for violent acts such as arson, looting, and desecration of temples have largely escaped accountability.

Chinmoy Krishna Das, born in May 1985 in Karianagar village, Satkania Upazila, began his spiritual journey early. A gifted child orator, he took diksha and joined ISKCON as a brahmachari at the age of 12. Despite being removed from all positions in ISKCON Bangladesh, his influence among Hindu communities remains significant.

His release may ease some diplomatic friction, but the larger issues of minority rights and religious freedom in Bangladesh remain unresolved.

UAE Leads Global Dialogue on Innovative Aid Solutions at DIHAD 2025

TPN Correspondent | Abu Dhabi

The UAE Aid Agency convened a high-level roundtable with its strategic partners during the Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development Conference and Exhibition (DIHAD 2025), focusing on advancing sustainable and innovative solutions to the world's most pressing humanitarian, developmental, and philanthropic challenges.

The session brought together leading international aid organisations, government entities, and development stakeholders to enhance global coordination and improve the efficiency of humanitarian response systems. Participants emphasized the urgent need for more effective collaboration among aid actors to ensure timely and impactful delivery of assistance to vulnerable communities worldwide.

Central to the discussions was the drive to streamline operational frameworks and strengthen partnerships with global institutions. The goal is to build a unified approach



that prioritises community-specific needs and shared humanitarian values while addressing evolving global threats.

The roundtable also focused on aligning international aid strategies with broader development goals. Delegates called for scaling up efforts in key sectors such as education, healthcare, clean water access, infrastructure, food security, and poverty reduction. These areas, they noted, are crucial to building resilience in

fragile communities and supporting long-term development. In addition, the session addressed the increasing urgency of mitigating global health risks and responding to climate change. Attendees explored how aid agencies can adopt more sustainable, climate-sensitive models of assistance that are adaptable to the growing frequency of natural disasters and pandemics.

The importance of innovation and technology in humanitarian aid was another major theme. Participants highlighted the role of digital tools, data-driven decision-making, and agile funding mechanisms in transforming traditional aid models to meet 21st-century challenges more effectively. The UAE Aid Agency reaffirmed its commitment to fostering inclusive and strategic cooperation with its partners, underscoring the UAE's role as a global leader in humanitarian diplomacy. The session concluded with a shared vision to move beyond reactive aid and toward proactive, development-driven humanitarianism that prioritises dignity, sustainability, and long-term impact.

Tariff talks with India going great, think will have deal: Trump

President Donald Trump on Tuesday expressed confidence that the United States is on the verge of finalising a trade agreement with India, describing the ongoing negotiations as "going great." Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One en route to Michigan for a rally marking his administration's 100-day milestone, Trump stated, "India's coming along great. I think we'll have a deal with India."



straightforward.

This optimism was echoed earlier in the day by U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who highlighted significant progress in bilateral trade discussions. Speaking at a White House press conference, Bessent remarked that negotiations with India were among the most promising of the U.S.'s current international trade efforts.

"We are very close on India," Bessent said. "In fact, India is, in a funny way, easier to negotiate with than many other countries because they have very high and very visible tariffs." He explained that confronting clearly defined tariffs, as opposed to navigating non-tariff barriers, made discussions with India more

Bessent emphasized that unlike the more opaque barriers imposed by other nations, India's transparent tariff structure allowed for more direct negotiations. "Non-tariff barriers can be much more insidious and harder to detect. India, with posted and clear tariffs, is easier to engage with," he said.

When asked about timelines for trade announcements with key Asian partners, Bessent noted that significant strides had been made with India, Japan, and South Korea. "Vice President Vance was in India last week. He and Prime Minister Modi made very good progress," he revealed, suggesting that a formal trade announcement could be expected soon.

Chinese Astronauts Return After Six Months Aboard Tiangong Space Station

TPN Correspondent | China

Three Chinese astronauts safely returned to Earth on April 30, 2025, after completing a six-month mission aboard the Tiangong space station, marking another milestone in China's ambitious space program. The landing took place in Dongfeng, Inner Mongolia, near the Gobi Desert, following a one-day delay caused by high winds and poor visibility—a common occurrence during the spring sandstorm season in the region.

Astronauts Cai Xuzhe, Song Lingdong, and Wang Haoze had been launched into orbit in October 2024 aboard the Shenzhou 19 spacecraft. During their stay on Tiangong—meaning "Heavenly Palace"—they conducted numerous scientific experiments, improved station systems, and supported ongoing research in space life sciences, microgravity physics, and new technologies. A standout mo-



ment from their mission included a record-setting nine-hour spacewalk by Cai and Song, the longest ever undertaken.

Their return followed a formal handover of command to the newly arrived crew, transported by Shenzhou 20, which also delivered scientific equipment and supplies for the continued operation of the station.

Tiangong represents a major leap

for China's presence in space. Constructed independently after being excluded from the International Space Station due to U.S. national security concerns, Tiangong has become the centerpiece of China's extraterrestrial ambitions. The country's space program, led by the People's Liberation Army, has rapidly evolved in recent years. It has successfully deployed missions to the Moon—including a rover on the far side—and to Mars.

Markets End Flat Amid Global Uncertainty; Profit Booking Dominates, Nifty Faces Resistance at 24,400



Domestic stock market indices ended flat on Wednesday. They fluctuated in a range-bound manner since the beginning. The reasons for this are mixed signals from global markets and investors' inclination to take profits. Nifty has a strong resistance above 24400. Investors are continuing to sell in the face of uncertainty. On the other hand, there is still no clarity on the India-Pakistan border tension. With this, Nifty lost one point and Sensex lost 46 points. If any positive signals are received, there is a possibility of a rebound.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 80,288 in the previous session, started at 80,370 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 79,879. It reached an intraday high of 80,525. Finally, it closed at 80,242, losing 46 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,342, touched a low of 24,198 and a high of 24,396. It closed at 24,334, down one point. The Nifty Bank fell

304 points to settle at 55,087.

In the Nifty50, 24 companies gained while 26 lost. HDFC Life, Maruti, SBI Life, Bharti Airtel, Sun Pharma were the top gainers. Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, Trent, Tata Motors, and SBI were the top losers. Micro and smallcap indices were mixed today. India Vicks rose 4.90% to 18.22. PSU Bank, Media, Finance indices gained, while Consumer, Telecom, IT, Metal and Private Bank indices lost moderately. Auto, Pharma, Healthcare and Realty indices did not perform well.

Market breadth on NSE today completely shifted in favour of sellers. Out of a total of 2927 shares traded, 613 gained. A total of 2228 lost. 24 shares reached their 52-week high



and 30 shares reached their 52-week low. 37 touched the upper circuit and 81 touched the lower circuit.

Bandhan Bank's net profit increased significantly in the fourth quarter. It reached Rs. 317 crore from Rs. 54.60 crore. Paras Defence's net profit increased by 97% from Rs. 10 crore to Rs. 19.7 crore. The rupee strengthened by 76 paise to settle at 84.49 against the dollar. Sonata Software shares rose for the third consecutive day. Ajanta Pharma's net profit rose 11.2% to Rs 225 crore from Rs 202 crore. Defense stocks, which surged yesterday, faced selling pressure today. Nomura has maintained a buy rating on Oberoi Realty with a target price of Rs 2000. Sebi chief Tuhin Kanta Pandey has warned investors to be cautious about SME IPOs. Adani Power's net profit fell to Rs 2600 crore from Rs 2737 crore. Citi has maintained a buy rating on BPCL with a target price of Rs 390.

Brisk Gold Buying Marks Akshaya Tritiya Despite Record Prices

Industry Projects 35% Surge in Value



Despite soaring gold prices, India witnessed strong gold and silver buying on the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya on Wednesday, with the industry projecting a 35% increase in sales value compared to last year. The All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) estimated that while gold sales by volume are expected to remain steady at 20 tonnes, the overall value of transactions would rise significantly due to higher prices.

Gold prices were trading between ₹99,500 and ₹99,900 per 10 grams across India, a sharp 37.6% increase from ₹72,300 on Akshaya Tritiya in 2024. Despite this steep rise, consumer turnout remained strong, particularly in South India, where footfalls were higher in the first half of the day. Increased activity was expected later in the day in Maharashtra and northern states as extreme weather conditions eased.

GJC Chairman Rajesh Rokede noted that many hesitant consumers are now buying as prices have stabilized slightly from their recent peak. "Affordability has been impacted, but the cultural and emotional significance of Akshaya Tritiya ensures people are buying according to their budgets," he said. Younger consum-

ers aged 25-40 are increasingly participating, buying jewellery, coins, and bars.

World Gold Council India CEO Sachin Jain echoed this sentiment, saying the buying spirit remains strong despite the price surge. PNG Jewellers CMD Saurabh Gadgil added that around 50% of purchases are financed through gold exchanges, helping consumers manage festive or wedding needs without stretching budgets. He predicted a marginal dip of 8-9% in volume, but a 20-25% increase in value.

Trends like studded jewellery and lab-grown diamonds also gained traction. GSI India MD Ramit Kapur observed increased interest in embellished ornaments, while Aukera CEO Lisa Mukhedkar noted a growing preference for lab-grown diamonds.

All India Jewellers and Goldsmith Federation President Pankaj Arora estimated total sales of ₹16,000 crore—₹12,000 crore in gold (12 tonnes) and ₹4,000 crore in silver (400 tonnes). Experts said India's gold demand remains resilient, with the country importing 700-800 tonnes annually.

SEBI Delays Adani Group's Settlement Pleas Amid Review of Regulatory Process

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has postponed the Adani group's settlement pleas, as well as those from its off-shore investors, while it reviews its internal processes, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter confirmed. The delay comes as the market regulator evaluates its settlement rules, a process that began after the appointment of SEBI's new chief in March.

According to the first source, the regulator is scrutinizing the lack of uniformity in its settlement procedures and the ambiguity surrounding the penalties it imposes. These concerns have led to a broader review of the settlement system, with the aim of improving transparency and consistency in how such matters are handled.

The review is expected to take about three months, after which the Adani group's settlement pleas will be addressed under the revised processes, as per the second source. SEBI's settlement framework allows market participants to resolve regulatory charges by paying a monetary fine or agreeing to specific regulatory directions, without formally admitting or denying any guilt.

This move by SEBI to hold off on processing the Adani group's settlement requests signals a shift in the regulatory landscape, as the market watchdog seeks to streamline its procedures for handling such complex matters. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, emphasized that details surrounding the ongoing investigations and settlement discussions remain confidential.

The Adani group, embroiled in a series of regulatory charges, had hoped to resolve the issues through SEBI's settlement process. However, the delay in finalizing these pleas highlights SEBI's evolving approach to regulatory enforcement in the Indian market. Investors and stakeholders will likely be closely monitoring the outcome of this review to understand how the new rules might impact future settlement requests and their implications for market participants.

Crisil Ratings Forecasts Decline in Banks' Return on Assets for FY26 Due to RBI Rate Cuts

Crisil Ratings has predicted a decline in Indian banks' return on assets (RoA) for the fiscal year 2026, citing the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent rate cuts as a key factor. The rating agency anticipates that the reduction in rates will compress net interest margins, with loan interest rates dropping faster than deposit rates.

According to Crisil, the RoA, a crucial profitability indicator, will decline by 0.10-0.20 percentage points, reaching 1.1-1.2% in FY26 from a peak of 1.3% in FY25. This decrease is attributed to a similar compression in net interest margins, which is expected to be the primary driver of the slip in RoA.

The agency explained that in a falling interest rate environment, interest rates on loans are expected to adjust more quickly than those on deposits. Of the total loan assets, 45% are linked to an external benchmark, primarily the repo rate, meaning these loans are repriced swiftly following rate cuts. In contrast, reductions in term deposit (TD) rates are slower to materialize, applying only to new deposits and renewals, which results in a delayed transmission of the RBI's rate cuts to banks'

deposit rates.

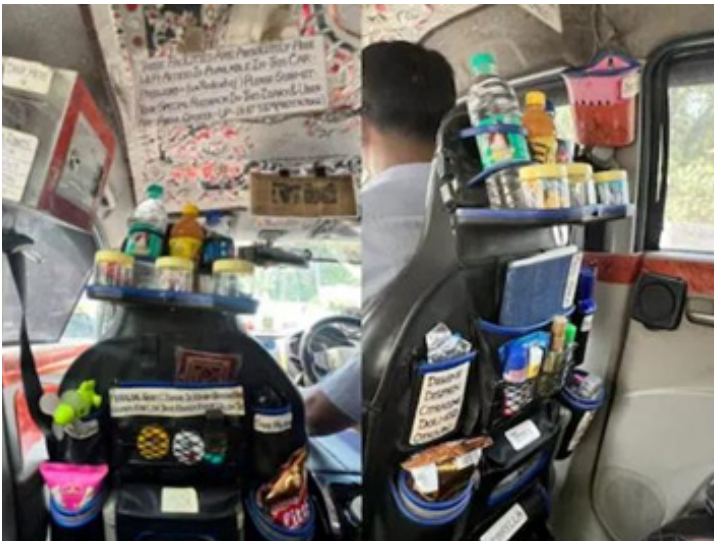
Crisil also highlighted that credit costs have bottomed out, and increased competition for deposits will limit banks' ability to manage their costs effectively. The agency's forecast underscores the challenges banks may face in maintaining their profitability as the RBI continues its accommodative monetary policy.

As the financial landscape adjusts to these rate cuts, Crisil's outlook suggests that banks will need to adapt to a more competitive environment, with careful management of both loan and deposit rates to protect their margins.



Cab Transforms Into Mini 1BHK Home

A video capturing the interior of an unusually decorated cab has taken the internet by storm, impressing millions with its creativity and warmth. Shared by Akaanksha Shenoy on social media, the clip reveals a cab that offers much more than a regular ride — it’s a mobile haven filled with essentials and thoughtful amenities, earning it the nickname “1BHK on Wheels.”



The cab, now widely circulated on platforms like X (formerly Twitter), features an impressive setup that turns a simple ride into a comfortable and homely experience. From the moment one steps inside, it’s evident this isn’t an ordinary vehicle. The interiors are decked out with items typically found in a small home: a pantry with snacks and cold drinks, a box of water bottles, medicines, tissue papers, hairbands, and even shoe polish — all neatly organised and easily accessible.

But that’s not all. The cab also offers free WiFi, making it convenient for passengers to stay connected during their ride. The overall presentation is warm and welcoming, reflecting the driver’s attention to detail and customer comfort.

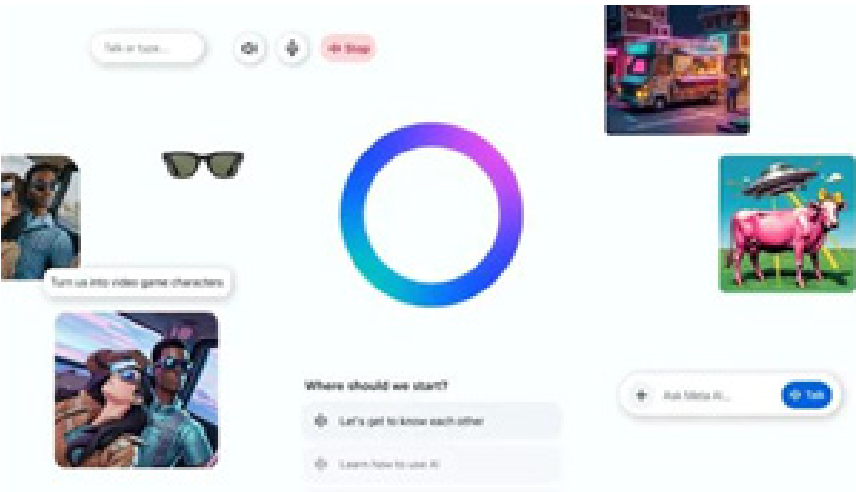
The video has not only gone viral but also sparked admiration from social media users

across the country. Many praised the cabbie’s dedication and innovative approach to customer service. Comments poured in, calling the cab a “life-saver on wheels” and appreciating the driver’s effort to go above and beyond the usual standards.

This initiative is a fresh take on everyday travel, turning a routine cab ride into something memorable and even comforting. In a world where hustle and rush dominate daily life, such thoughtful gestures remind us of the power of small innovations and personal touch. The “1BHK on Wheels” is a testament to how creativity can redefine even the most ordinary experiences.

Meta AI App Debuts Beyond WhatsApp

Meta has officially launched a stand-alone AI assistant app, expanding its presence beyond WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram. The new Meta AI app is now available on mobile devices and the web, offering a ChatGPT- or Gemini-like experience powered by the advanced Llama 4 model. This move marks Meta’s bold entry into the mainstream AI assistant space, aiming to provide a more personal and seamless experience to users.



Until now, Meta AI was limited to select platforms like WhatsApp. With the standalone app, the company now has full control over the user experience. The AI assistant supports both text and voice commands, making it accessible and interactive for daily tasks. Users can generate and edit images, get contextual answers, and even enjoy real-time conversation features.

Meta AI comes with several voice options, similar to Apple’s Siri or Google’s Gemini Live, and introduces a full-duplex mode—allowing natural conversations without requiring repeated wake words. However, this feature is currently experimental and doesn’t access past memory or personal data unless permitted.

In addition, the app includes safety features like

toggle switches to prevent unintended voice responses. These functionalities are currently live in select countries, including the US, Canada, and Australia.

Meta is also integrating its AI with Ray-Ban smart glasses in limited regions, allowing users to access Meta AI through wearable devices. On the web, Meta is testing a new AI document editor capable of generating content and analyzing imported files, further enhancing productivity.

The app draws from Meta’s broader ecosystem, using optional access to platforms like Facebook and Instagram to personalize results based on user interests—such as travel, dining, and more. A new Discover Feed aims to make AI interactions feel more social and connected.

Asus ExpertBook P1: Capable, Affordable, Slightly Flawed



The Asus ExpertBook P1 marks a shift in strategy for Asus, breaking away from the traditional B2B-only model. It is now being sold directly to businesses and individual consumers through an exclusive Flipkart partnership. This new approach aims to offer affordable and reliable business laptops without the usual procurement barriers.

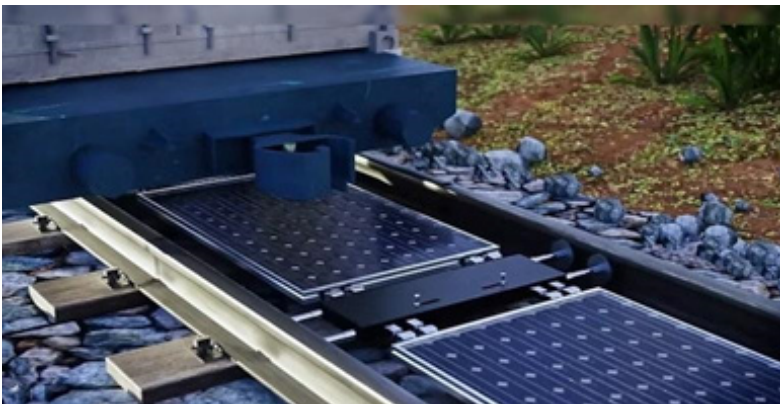
Starting at ₹39,990, the ExpertBook P1 is designed to appeal to startups, small businesses, and professionals seeking performance without overspending. The review unit, priced at ₹72,990, is a higher-end variant offering more powerful specs.

At first glance, the 14-inch Full HD display is sharp and reasonably bright, suitable for work and casual media use. Its matte finish helps reduce glare, enhancing usability in varied lighting conditions. The laptop is powered by Intel’s Core i7 (13th Gen) CPU in the top variant, coupled with 16GB RAM and a 512GB SSD, ensuring smooth multitasking and quick boot times. However, the battery life is average, typically lasting around 5 to 6 hours on moderate usage. That might not be ideal for mobile professionals who rely on all-day battery power. The design is also basic, with a utilitarian aesthetic that prioritizes function over flair. It lacks a premium feel, especially at the higher price point.

One area where the ExpertBook P1 excels is security, offering features like a TPM chip, fingerprint scanner, and webcam privacy shutter, making it a reliable pick for business users concerned about data protection.

Swiss Trains Go Green With Solar Tracks

Switzerland has taken a major leap toward sustainable rail transport with the launch of an innovative pilot project that installs solar panels directly between railway tracks. Developed by Swiss start-up Sun-Ways, the project aims to generate clean energy without disrupting rail operations. It’s currently being trialed on a 100-metre stretch in Buttes, a village in western Switzerland, with 48 solar panels placed between the rails. The concept was born in 2020 when Sun-Ways founder Joseph Scuderi envisioned using the unused space between tracks while waiting for a train. After initial pushback from the Federal Office of Transport (FOT) due to safety concerns, the startup revised its approach. With support from industry experts, the project received approval and was rolled out on a track section operated by transN.



Unlike traditional rooftop solar panels, these are installed in such a way that they can be easily removed for maintenance. Partnering with Swiss railway maintenance firm Scheuchzer, Sun-Ways claims that up to 1,000 square metres of panels can be installed or removed in just a

few hours—ensuring no disruption to train schedules or safety routines. The Rs 6.04 crore (585,000 Swiss francs) pilot aims to explore three possible uses of the electricity generated. Sun-Ways believes the third option offers the maximum efficiency. If scaled across Switzerland’s 5,320 km rail network, the technology could potentially generate 1 billion kilowatt-hours of solar energy annually—enough to power around 300,000 households. Government officials and environmental advocates have welcomed the trial. “It is good that rail and public transport companies are innovating, including in renewable energy production,” said Florence Pictet, spokesperson for FOT. If successful, the project could become a model for green transportation infrastructure worldwide, combining energy efficiency with rail innovation.

Maha Kumbh’s Monalisa Wows Again

Monalisa, the young girl who captured the internet’s heart during the Prayagraj Maha Kumbh, is once again in the limelight. Known for her natural charm and radiant appearance while selling rudraksha garlands, Monalisa—real name Moni Bhonsale—became an instant viral sensation. Now, she has stunned the internet yet again, this time with a breathtaking bridal makeover that has left fans mesmerized. Hailing from Khargone district in Madhya Pradesh, 16-year-old Monalisa has seen her popularity soar since her initial viral moment. Her expressive eyes and captivating smile first caught the public’s eye at the religious gathering, and now her latest transformation is earning her even more praise online.



Makeup artist Mohsina Ansari recently posted a video of Monalisa on Instagram, showcasing her dressed in a vibrant red bridal lehenga. Complementing her attire was a set of heavy gold jew-

elry adorned with green emerald stones, enhancing the traditional bridal look. The video was captioned, “Mahakumbh ki ‘MONALISA,’” celebrating her transformation and viral fame. Her makeup featured a glamorous touch—shimmery eyeshadow, sharp winged eyeliner, thick lashes, defined brows, rosy cheeks, and a subtle nude lip color. Her hairstyle was a neatly styled middle-parted bun with delicate face-framing strands that highlighted her youthful glow and elegance. Social media users flooded the comment section with admiration. “God!!! She looks so pretty,” wrote one user, while another added, “Ye bohot pyaari lag rahi hai.” The overwhelming reactions have only added to Monalisa’s growing popularity.

Bengaluru Bike Crash Shocks Netizens

A shocking road accident on Bengaluru’s Sarjapur Road has gone viral on social media, leaving netizens stunned. Caught on a car’s dashcam, the footage highlights the dangers of rash and wrong-side driving. Two bikers, riding without helmets and overtaking recklessly, had a miraculous escape after crashing and falling inches away from a moving bus.



The incident occurred on a busy Monday, with normal traffic flowing along the commercial stretch. The video begins with scooters and cars navigating the road beside roadside shops. Suddenly, two bikers, one rider and a pillion, speed past vehicles carelessly, weaving through traffic. Attempting to overtake a white car, they dangerously veer left to pass a bus ahead. In doing so, they fail to notice a parked auto-rickshaw and van.

In a split second, the bike crashes into the parked van, causing both men to be thrown off. The impact sends them flying onto the main road, just inches away from the bus’s front wheels. Fortunately, the bus halts a few meters ahead at a signal, narrowly avoiding a fatal run-over.

Onlookers rushed to the scene and helped move the injured bikers to a nearby hospital. Despite the reckless driving, both riders survived with minor injuries—a stroke of sheer luck considering the intensity of the crash.

The video has since gone viral, sparking a wave of reactions. Many users expressed shock, while others demanded strict action against the biker for endangering lives. Comments flooded in, urging authorities to penalize such drivers who not only risk their own safety but also pose threats to others on the road.

This incident serves as a grim reminder: wrong-side driving and reckless overtaking can have deadly consequences. Netizens are calling for stricter enforcement of traffic rules to prevent similar near-tragedies in the future.



Chahal Scripts History With Hat-trick vs CSK at Chepauk

Yuzvendra Chahal delivered one of the most memorable spells in IPL history as the Punjab Kings spinner picked up the first hat-trick of the 2025 season — and became the first ever to claim a hat-trick against Chennai Super Kings. His sensational 4-wicket over at Chepauk helped restrict CSK in the final moments of their innings on Wednesday. Introduced for his final spell in the 19th over after going for 23

runs in his initial two overs, Chahal struck gold. Although he was hit for a six off the first delivery by MS Dhoni, he made a stunning comeback by dismissing the CSK legend on the very next ball. He then removed Deepak Hooda, Anshul Kamboj, and Noor Ahmad in quick succession, sealing a hat-trick and wrapping up with figures of 4/32. This was Chahal's second IPL hat-trick and marked the first hat-

trick taken at the MA Chidambaram Stadium (Chepauk) since 2008, when Laxmipathy Balaji achieved the feat for CSK. Notably, Chahal is also the first bowler to ever take a hat-trick against CSK in IPL history. With this historic performance, Chahal not only helped PBKS gain crucial momentum in the closing overs but also etched his name into the IPL record books once again.

Kohli's brother hits back at Manjrekar over strike rate remarks

A social media clash has erupted after former Indian cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar's remarks about Virat Kohli's performance in IPL 2025 drew sharp criticism from none other than Kohli's brother, Vikas Kohli. Taking to the platform Threads, Vikas took a fiery dig at Manjrekar, questioning his own strike rate during his playing days. "Sanjay Manjrekar. Career ODI strike rate: 64.31. Easy to talk about 200 plus strike rates," Vikas posted, indirectly defending Virat, who is currently the highest run-scorer in IPL 2025.

This reaction came after Manjrekar commented that the much-hyped battle between Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah could no longer be seen as a 'best vs best' clash. He further stirred controversy by omitting Kohli from his list of top 10 batters in the ongoing tournament—despite Kohli's commanding form.

The RCB veteran has continued to impress in tough batting conditions, most recently scoring his sixth half-century of the season against Delhi Capitals, helping his side maintain their unbeaten record away from home.

Reflecting on the victory, Kohli said, "It was a top win, especially looking at the surface. The wicket played out differently and partnerships were key." Kohli emphasized that he constantly adjusts his strategy based on



match situations and conditions. "I try and make sure my singles and doubles don't stop so that the game doesn't get stagnant," he added.

Kohli also heaped praise on teammates Krunal Pandya, who scored his first IPL fifty in nine years, and Tim David, who provided a blazing finish. "We have the extra power in Tim David, there's Jitesh as well. That firepower helps. And now Romario as well," Kohli noted.

He further credited the spinners Krunal and Suyash Sharma, along with pace duo Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, calling them "world-class" for maintaining control during crucial phases.

As the debate over strike rates and batting approaches continues in the IPL 2025, Kohli has let his bat do the talking—and now, his brother too.

Iyer Stars As PBKS Knock CSK Out Of Playoffs Race

Punjab Kings dealt a massive blow to Chennai Super Kings' campaign in IPL 2025 with a stunning 4-wicket victory at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Wednesday, officially knocking the five-time champions out of the playoffs race. Shreyas Iyer's composed 72 off 41 and Yuzvendra Chahal's game-changing hat-trick were the standout performances in a match that swung dramatically in PBKS's favour.

put under pressure by CSK's Sam Curran, who smashed a blistering 88 off 47 balls, striking 9 fours and 4 sixes. At 170/4 in 18 overs, CSK looked set for a 200-plus total. But Chahal turned the tide in the 19th over, dismissing MS Dhoni, Deepak Hooda, Anshul Kamboj and Noor Ahmad to claim a sensational hat-trick — the first of IPL 2025 and his second in IPL history — finishing with figures of 4/32. CSK were eventually bowled out for 190.

brisk start before Prabhsimran Singh (54 off 36) and Shreyas Iyer stitched a crucial partnership to anchor the chase. Iyer was particularly ruthless, especially during a 20-run over off Matheesha Pathirana in the 17th, which all but sealed the match. A cameo from Shashank Singh and steady finish from the lower middle-order ensured PBKS crossed the line in the final over.

With this defeat, CSK became the first team to be eliminat-

ed from the playoff contention this season — a stark contrast to their typical late-tournament resurgence. Their spinners, Ravindra Jadeja and Noor Ahmad, failed to make an impact again, a concern that haunted them through the season.

A delighted PBKS coach Ricky Ponting was seen all smiles as the team avenged their painful 2010 Dharamsala defeat to CSK, when Dhoni's heroics had ended Punjab's playoff hopes.



Boult on facing 14-year-old Vaibhav: "Not worried, but excited"

Mumbai Indians pacer Trent Boult addressed the media ahead of their high-stakes clash against Rajasthan Royals, sharing his views on the tournament's breakout sensation — 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi. The young prodigy stunned the cricketing world with a record-breaking 38-ball century against Gujarat Titans, becoming the youngest ever to score a ton in the IPL and overall men's T20 cricket. Boult, who has bowled to legends like Chris Gayle and AB de Villiers, acknowledged the youngster's brilliance but didn't sound alarmed. "I've bowled to some brilliant batsmen around the world... I'll be careful not to say I'm worried about a 14-year-old," he said with a grin.

Describing the challenge as "exciting," Boult lauded Suryavanshi's fearless approach. "The whole world saw that performance the other night. It's the beauty of this tournament — young talent stepping up and grabbing the opportunity with both hands." While the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur is known for its batting-friendly surface and quick outfield, Boult believes his experience on this ground can give MI an edge. "It's a high-scoring ground... I've been lucky enough to experience this pitch over the last three seasons, and hope-



fully, I can put that to good use." Mumbai Indians, once near the bottom of the IPL table, have surged back into contention with five consecutive wins. Boult attributed this turnaround to team unity and consistency. "We came close in a few early games. In T20, it's often about a couple of boundaries. We've tried to improve a little — even five to ten per cent — and it's showing now." He also credited the resurgence to key contributions across the squad. "Different guys have stood up at different times — that's crucial in T20 cricket.

It's not about one or two players. Everyone has the desire to contribute." Boult praised pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who returned to form with a four-wicket haul against Lucknow Super Giants. "He's a leader. Since his return, he's lifted the whole group and will continue to play a major role." As MI aim to keep their momentum going against a strong Rajasthan Royals side, Boult's calm confidence and deep experience could play a crucial role — even against the IPL's youngest sensation.

Dravid on Sanju Samson: "Recovering well, but side strain is tricky"

Rajasthan Royals head coach Rahul Dravid offered a cautious update on captain Sanju Samson's injury status, confirming that while the star wicketkeeper-batter is recovering well from a side strain, he remains unavailable for the franchise's upcoming IPL 2025 clash against Mumbai Indians. Sanju has already missed three con-

secutive games — against Lucknow Super Giants, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, and Gujarat Titans — and Dravid indicated that the team is taking no chances with his recovery. "Sanju is recovering well, but we just have to take it day-by-day. It's a side strain and sometimes these can be a bit tricky. We don't want to harm him in the long run," Dravid said during a media interaction with Star Sports.

The injury setback has forced RR to make key adjustments mid-season, but Dravid emphasized that Samson's well-being remains the top priority. "Every day we get reports on whether he's available or not. He is very well looked after, and we are monitoring it closely," he added. Samson had only recently returned from a finger injury suffered during the T20I series against England in February, which led to him playing as a specialist batter in the early stages of the IPL.

Despite the absence of their regular captain, Rajasthan Royals have maintained strong form, but his return could prove crucial as the tournament heads into its decisive phase.





Balakrishna Joins Cast of Jailer 2

Nandamuri Balakrishna is officially joining the cast of Jailer 2, marking a major highlight for the much-anticipated sequel. Directed by Nelson, the first Jailer was a blockbuster that revitalized Superstar Rajinikanth's career, bolstered by star-studded cameos from Mohanlal, Shivarajkumar, and Jackie Shroff.

Rumors about Balakrishna's cameo circulated even during the first film, but things didn't materialize.



Now, it's confirmed that he has given the nod, and Nelson has crafted a unique role for him. Shivarajkumar also confirmed his return for the sequel, increasing expectations. With music by Anirudh Ravichander and production by Sun Pictures, the film is currently in production. Fans are excited at the prospect of Balakrishna's entry into the Jailer universe, and if his cameo clicks, it could spark demand for a full-fledged Balakrishna-Nelson collaboration.

Chiranjeevi's Vishwambhara Eyes September Release?

Megastar Chiranjeevi's highly anticipated socio-fantasy film Vishwambhara, directed by Vassishtha Mallidi, may finally have a new release date. Originally slated for January 9, 2025, the film was postponed, leaving fans eagerly awaiting updates.

While earlier buzz hinted at a July 24 release, fresh reports on social media now suggest that the makers are targeting September 25, 2025. However, an official confirmation is still awaited.



The film's first single received mixed reactions, falling short of the expected impact. All eyes are now on the makers' next move in their promotional strategy.

Vishwambhara features Trisha as the female lead and Kunal Kapoor as the antagonist. The cast also includes Aashika Ranganath, Ramya Pasupuleti, Esha Chawla, and Ashrita Vemuganti. Nandu-

ri. MM Keeravaani is scoring the music, with UV Creations backing the grand project.

Ram Charan Takes Break for London Trip

After creating a nationwide buzz with the teaser of Peddi, Ram Charan has taken a short break from the film's shoot. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the teaser highlighted the mega star in a powerful new avatar, leaving fans eagerly awaiting more.



The team recently wrapped up a hectic shooting schedule in Hyderabad. With summer temperatures soaring, Cha-

ran has opted for a three-week pause and is reportedly heading to London with his

family. The reason? A special moment awaits—the unveiling of his wax statue at the iconic Madame Tussauds Museum.

The break also comes as a much-needed respite for the crew. Once they regroup in June, filming will resume without further interruptions. Peddi continues to be one of the most anticipated films on the horizon.

Sharwanand's 'Bhogi' Teased with Grit and Grandeur

Sharwanand is teaming up with director Sampath Nandi for his 38th film, titled Bhogi, produced by KK Radhamohan under the Sri Sathya Sai Arts banner. The title was unveiled through a concept video titled First Spark, where Sharwa listens to the film's narration, visualizing the intense story. The climax of the video sees him accepting the role by taking a symbolic sword from the director.

The teaser hints at a gritty period backdrop and highlights Sharwanand's striking physical transformation. The film's shoot officially begins today on an expansive 20-acre set in Hyderabad, setting the tone for a large-scale cinematic experience. With leading ladies An-



upama Parameswaran and Dimple Hayathi also part of the cast, Bhogi is shaping up to be a visually rich and intense project, generating strong early buzz.

Daksha Joins Varun Tej's Horror Comedy

Mega Prince Varun Tej has teamed up with director Merlapaka Gandhi for a horror comedy titled Korean Kanakaraju. The film's announcement video has already created a strong buzz, promising a fun-filled entertainer.

The shooting is currently underway, and the latest buzz is that Zombie Reddy actress Daksha Nagarkar has joined the project for a special song. Though the makers haven't made an official an-



nouncement, Daksha confirmed her involvement by sharing a picture from her vanity van on Instagram, which also unveiled the film's title.

Produced by UV Creations, the movie also features popular comedian Satya in a key role. With an exciting mix of humor and horror, Korean Kanakaraju is shaping up to be a crowd-pleaser. More details about the remaining cast and storyline are expected to be revealed soon.

Rashmika Begins Shoot for Thama

Rashmika Mandanna has kickstarted the next schedule of her upcoming film Thama in the scenic hills of Ooty. The actress shared a stunning photo from the location, offering fans a peek into the picturesque shoot.

Thama is directed by Munjya fame Aditya Sarpotdar and features an impressive ensemble cast including Ayushmann Khurrana, Paresh Rawal, and Nawazuddin Siddiqui. With

such a powerful lineup and a captivating backdrop, the film is already gaining strong buzz.

Though the plot is under wraps, expectations are high. Rashmika continues to stay busy, also gearing up for her next Telugu film The Girlfriend, directed by Rahul Ravindran. With exciting projects in multiple languages, she remains one of the most sought-after stars in Indian cinema today.