



# CM to inaugurate HYDRA Police Station on May 8



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad  
Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will inaugurate the newly established Hydra Police Station in Hyderabad on

May 8, marking a major step in the state government's efforts to clamp down on encroachments of public lands, ponds, and lakes in the capital region. The Hydra Police Station has been specifically created to register and investigate cases of encroachments, particularly those related to water bodies, government lands, and ecologically sensitive zones, which have often been neglected or entangled in legal delays. Officials revealed that encroachment cases previously handled by various local police stations across Hyderabad and surrounding areas may now be

Station to handle exclusive cases of land, lake, and pond encroachments

Old encroachment cases from other police stations might shift here

transferred to this dedicated unit to ensure focused investigation and faster resolution. The formation of this new police station comes in the backdrop of increasing pressure from civil society and the judiciary, particularly in response to cases such as violations of GO 111 near Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar. The Telangana High Court has also recently sought explanations from various government departments regarding unregulated construction in restricted zones. Hydra Police Station is expected to play a central role in monitoring, investi-

gating, and taking legal action against illegal occupation and misuse of public lands and natural water bodies. It will also act as a nodal point for coordination with municipal, irrigation, and environmental authorities. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has been vocal about ensuring transparency and accountability in land administration and urban development, and the inauguration of this police station aligns with his government's broader promise to curb corruption and illegal real estate activities. The government also intends to equip the station with specialized staff and digital monitoring tools, including satellite imagery and land records, to improve the accuracy and speed of enforcement.



## PHONE TAPPING CASE

# High Court rejects anticipatory bail Prabhakar Rao

Passport also cancelled

TPN Correspondent | Telangana  
In a major development in the ongoing phone tapping investigation, former Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB) chief T Prabhakar Rao has been officially booked in the case. The Telangana High Court on Thursday rejected his anticipatory bail petition, paving the way for legal action. The case pertains to alleged illegal surveillance and unauthorized phone tapping during the previous government's tenure. Following the rejection of his bail plea, authorities have also cancelled Prabhakar Rao's passport to prevent the possibility of him fleeing the country. The Telangana Police had earlier arrested several officers in con-

nection with the illegal surveillance scandal. With the inclusion of the former SIB chief, the investigation has reached higher levels of the intelligence network, raising serious questions about the misuse of power and resources. Officials said that efforts are now underway to locate Prabhakar Rao, who has reportedly gone into hiding since the case began gaining traction. The cancellation of his passport is seen as a significant move to bring him under the purview of the law. The phone tapping case has stirred political and administrative circles across the state, with demands for a thorough and impartial probe intensifying.

## 208 Pakistanis Residing in Hyderabad

156 on long-term visas, 13 on short-term, rest on medical visas

Police verifying details, alert after Jammu & Kashmir attack

No Pakistani citizen in Hyderabad has SAARC visa

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## “Who’s Controlling Illegal Madrasas in Telangana?” asks Raghunandan Rao

MP alleges most madrasas in Telangana lack official permits

Serious suspicions raised over activities in Jinnaram Madrasa

Says he will write to CM, approach Governor and Union Home Minister



TPN Correspondent | Telangana  
Medak MP and BJP leader Raghunandan Rao made sensational allegations on Tuesday regarding the unregulated growth of madrasas across Telangana, particularly pointing to suspicious activities at a madrasa in Jinnaram, Sangareddy district. Speaking at the BJP state office, he demanded that the state government reveal how many

newly-established madrasas in Telangana have valid permits and under whose supervision they operate. Raghunandan Rao claimed that the Jinnaram madrasa has 70 students, of whom 65 are from Kishanganj district in Bihar, near the Bangladesh border. The teachers, too, hail from the same area. He alleged the possibility of

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## After bail, Raghav Reddy Faces Mob Attack

- 20 unidentified men assault Veera Raghav Reddy
- Police suspect retaliation over earlier attack on Rangarajan



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad  
Veera Raghav Reddy, who was recently involved in the attack on Chilkur Balaji Temple chief priest Rangarajan, was severely assaulted on Thursday within Moinabad Police Station limits. The incident occurred shortly after Reddy, who is out on conditional bail, visited the station to mark his attendance as per court orders. According to police sources, Reddy had stopped at a local tea stall near the police station after signing the bail register when he was suddenly attacked by around 20 unidentified individuals. Eyewitnesses say the attackers beat him indiscriminately before fleeing the scene. Reddy, who sustained serious injuries, rushed to the Moinabad police station and lodged a

formal complaint. Police personnel immediately shifted him to a nearby hospital for treatment. A case has been registered, and efforts are underway to identify and apprehend the attackers. According to local reports, there is suspicion that the assailants may have been supporters of Rangarajan, seeking revenge for the earlier assault. The incident has heightened tensions in the area, and security around the Chilkur Balaji Temple and surrounding regions has been strengthened as a precaution. Police are scanning CCTV footage from the vicinity and gathering details from locals to trace the culprits.

## Singareni Should Transform into a Mine of Jobs



Providing employment to unemployed youth is our goal

Age limit for compassionate appointments raised from 35 to 40

21 beneficiaries receive jobs in Singareni under relaxed age criteria

Rajiv Yuva Vikasam appointment letters to be distributed on June 2

TPN Correspondent | Telangana  
In a significant move aimed at strengthening the future of the historic Singareni Collieries and addressing unemployment, Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Sri Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu stated that Singareni must transform into a “mine of jobs” and serve as a source of livelihood for thousands of youth. Speaking at the appointment letter distribution ceremony at Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan on Friday evening, he stressed the importance of hard work, discipline, and dedication to ensure the sustained development of the organization. He handed over appointment letters to 21 individuals who secured jobs under the compassionate appointment scheme after the state government increased the maximum age limit from 35 to 40 years. Bhatti Vikramarka said that the move was made with a humanitarian approach after requests from

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## 208 Pakistanis Residing in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In the backdrop of heightened national security following the terror attack in Pahal-gam, Jammu and Kashmir, the Union government has directed all Pakistani nationals residing in India to leave the country within a specified deadline. Responding to these directives, the Hyderabad city police have intensified checks on Pakistani citizens currently registered in the city.

According to the Hyderabad City Police Special Branch, a total of 208 Pakistani nationals are currently registered in the city. Of these, 156 are residing on long-term visas (LTVs), typically granted to individuals married to Indian citizens or those who are closely related by blood. Additionally, 13 Pakistanis hold short-term visas, while the rest are in Hyderabad for medical treatment on medical visas.

These Pakistani citizens are not registered at the usual FRRO office in Shamshabad but instead with a dedicated Special Branch office located in Purani Haveli, under the

Hyderabad Police Commissionerate. Officials from this branch have begun verifying the current addresses and documents of all 208 individuals to ensure compliance with the Centre's directive. It has been reported that the Pakistani Embassy has communicated to its nationals in India regarding the government's order and advised them to exit the country promptly.

Hyderabad police are coordinating with the immigration department to track the exit records. Authorities have warned that any individual who remains in the country after the deadline will be traced and deported. A senior official clarified that none of the Pakistani citizens in Hyderabad currently hold SAARC visas. The Special Branch, with assistance from local police and residents, is actively collecting details of their current locations.

With major religious and tourist sites like Tirumala and Yadagirigutta under enhanced surveillance, the focus remains on preemptive action to maintain law and order in Telangana.

## “Who’s Controlling Illegal Madrasas in Telangana?” asks Raghunandan Rao

Bangladeshi nationals entering illegally and receiving training at this institution.

He further expressed concern over the land ownership of the madrasa, questioning how it was allowed to function on the premises of the historic Kodandaramaswamy temple. “Illegal immigrants from Bangladesh are known to be involved in land encroachments in Kishanganj. How did these elements reach Jin-naram, and who is backing them here?” he asked.

Raghunandan also highlighted broader concerns about illegal foreigners in the state. He revealed that Aadhaar cards were issued to 247 Nepali nationals in Inapur, also part of his constituency, and questioned the govern-

ment's inaction on identifying and deporting such individuals.

He announced plans to formally write to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy seeking immediate clarification and action, and added that he would escalate the matter to the Governor and Union Home Minister if necessary. He also appealed to the public to remain vigilant about activities in madrasas operating in their neighborhoods. The BJP MP concluded by reiterating his demand: “The government must reveal who is controlling the madrasas, who is behind these activities, and what steps are being taken to curb any illegal operations.”

## Singareni Should Transform into a Mine of Jobs

workers and unions. He emphasized that the primary objective of the government is to create job opportunities for unemployed youth.

The Deputy CM pointed out that Singareni now faces competition in the open market and highlighted the need to reduce production costs and improve efficiency. He urged the newly appointed workers to take their responsibilities seriously and contribute to the company's growth rather than looking for easy roles.

He announced that on June 2, Telangana Formation Day, appointment letters would be distributed to the beneficiaries of the Rajiv Yuva Vikasam scheme. Launched with a massive ₹9,000 crore budget, the scheme aims to provide large-scale self-employment opportunities for lakhs of unemployed individuals across the state.

Singareni CMD N. Balaram, who chaired the event, lauded the government's support and called the age relaxation a unique and unprecedented-

decision that has brought hope to many families. He thanked both the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister for their visionary leadership.

Recognized Workers' Union General Secretary Mr. Raj Kumar described the age hike as a historic step and advised the new employees to work diligently and aim for growth within the company. INTUC Secretary General and State Minimum Wages Advisory Board Chairman B. Janak Prasad highlighted the government's welfare initiatives, including bonuses to contract workers and ongoing efforts to expand Singareni. He revealed that six new mines could open under Bhatti Vikramarka's leadership, creating nearly 20,000 new jobs.

The event was attended by senior officials including Director (P&P, Personnel) K. Venkateswarlu, Officers' Association President Lakshmi-pathi Goud, GM (Personnel) IR PM Kavitha Naidu, and others.

### SHEEP SCAM

## Main accused Mohinuddin Arrested at RGIA

- He had fled abroad after case registration
- ACB and ED investigations reveal misuse of ₹700 crore govt funds

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The multi-crore sheep distribution scam in Telangana has gained momentum again with the arrest of absconding contractor Mohinuddin, who was detained by ACB officials upon arrival at Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. He had been on the run ever since the Anti-Corruption Bureau registered a case against him and several others involved in the irregularities.

Acting on a tip-off from immigration authorities, the ACB team waited at the airport after learning that Mohinuddin was flying in from Dubai.



Upon his arrival, he was immediately taken into custody and shifted to the ACB headquarters in Banjara Hills for further interrogation.

According to ACB sources, Mohinuddin played a key role in the ₹700 crore scam linked to the state's sheep distribution

scheme. Instead of delivering the sheep to the actual beneficiaries under the scheme, he allegedly diverted them for profit, without compensating the owners. The investigation revealed that funds were misappropriated in large volumes through fraudulent procure-

ment and distribution processes.

So far, 17 people—including senior officials from the Animal Husbandry Department—have been arrested in the case. The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is conducting a parallel probe into money laundering aspects of the scam, has also registered a case. ED officials have already collected crucial data from the concerned department and are expected to interrogate Mohinuddin in the coming days, following the ACB's lead.

With the arrest of the prime accused, the probe is likely to intensify further as investigators aim to expose the full extent of the financial fraud and the political or bureaucratic links involved.

## HC pulls up govt over GO 111 violations at Osman Sagar, Himayat Sagar

High Court seeks responses from officials and convention hall owners over unchecked constructions in eco-sensitive zones

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana High Court has issued notices to multiple government departments



and private parties over alleged violations of GO 111 around Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar reservoirs, raising alarm over the surge in urbanisation within these protected zones.

The court acted on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Mandadi Madhava Reddy, a resident of Moinabad mandal in Rangareddy district. The PIL accuses the state of failing to enforce the environmental protections enshrined in GO 111, which has been in effect since 1996 and restricts concrete constructions within a 10-kilometre radius of the twin reservoirs.

The PIL, represented by advocate P Sasidhar Reddy, pointed to the construction of five large convention halls in Janwada, an area falling within the protected bio-conservation zone. These halls, each with a capacity to host up to 5,000 people, are said to be contributing significantly to sewage discharge, solid waste generation, air pollution, and traffic congestion, potentially endangering the health of the reservoirs.

The petitioner argued that the replacement of green cover with concrete structures and compound walls

is disrupting the natural water flow and escalating ecological damage. The PIL also accused the government of inaction and criticised HYDRAA, the specialised lake protection authority, for its inability to stop illegal developments.

The High Court, taking serious note of the matter, issued notices to the State Government, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department, Irrigation Department, Pollution Control Board, and the owners of the five convention centres, directing them to file their responses within four weeks.

The bench, comprising Acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Renuka Yara, stressed the significance of strictly implementing GO 111 and noted that it may consider appointing an expert committee or an Advocate Commissioner to assess the extent of encroachment and environmental degradation. The court has adjourned the matter for further hearing, reiterating that protection of Hyderabad's reservoirs and their surrounding catchment areas is both a legal obligation and an environmental imperative.

## Telangana First State to Conduct Caste Census

- TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana has become the first state in independent India to conduct a caste census, marking a significant milestone in the state's history. TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud made this statement today, highlighting the progressive steps taken under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

Goud outlined the legal backing given to the 42% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in political and educational jobs, following the Kamareddy Declaration. He emphasized that under CM Revanth Reddy's leadership, the Telangana government increased the reservation for BCs and sent the bill to the President on April 8. The bill was subsequently approved by Governor Jishnu Dev Verma and sent to the President for final approval. Telangana's BC ministers and leaders expressed their gratitude to Governor Verma for his support in this historic move.

In his address, Goud credited Rahul Gandhi for the caste census initiative, noting that the decision to carry out the caste census at the state level

had already been established under the Congress leadership. Goud praised Gandhi's vision, stating that the caste census is a testament to his determination to uplift the weaker sections of society.

The decision to include caste data in the 2025 national census, backed by the center, was also seen as a victory for the Congress government. Goud pointed out that the BJP at the center has acknowledged the Telangana model of caste census, which is now being hailed as a role model for the rest of the country.

Goud further emphasized that the successful implementation of the caste census in Telangana was aligned with Rahul Gandhi's long-standing ambition. CM Revanth Reddy, along with a dedicated team of ministers, conducted the caste census in a scientific and thorough manner, ensuring that the data collected will contribute to more informed policy decisions in the future. This move, according to Goud, will serve as a model for the nation, benefiting marginalized communities across India by ensuring they receive fair representation and opportunities in all sectors.

## ‘DOST’ 2025 Notification Released in Telangana

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCH) has officially released the Degree Online Services Telangana (DOST) 2025-26 notification for online degree admissions, offering a major opportunity for students seeking undergraduate courses in the state.

The notification was unveiled by TSCH Chairman Balakrishna Reddy and Commissioner of College Education Sri Devasena. As per their announcement, a total of 4,67,456 seats are available this academic year across 987 participating degree colleges in Telangana. Another 70 colleges are not part of the DOST system.

Balakrishna Reddy stated that admis-



sions will be conducted in three phases, beginning with Phase 1 applications from May 3 to May 21. Students can exercise their web options from May 10 to May 22, selecting their preferred courses and colleges. The first seat allotment results will be released on May 29, and classes will

commence from June 30.

A key feature this year is the introduction of the bucket system, which will guide how students apply for and are allotted seats. Moreover, all seat allocations will follow the state's reservation policies as per the latest government orders.

Out of 1,057 total degree colleges in the state, 987 will admit students via DOST. Students are advised to visit the official portal at <https://dost.cgg.gov>.

in for complete details on eligibility, application steps, and timelines.

Officials expect lakhs of students to enter higher education through this seamless online platform, designed to make degree admissions more transparent and efficient across Telangana.



# Sonia, Rahul Gandhi Get Delhi Court Notice in National Herald Case

ED investigation continues over alleged money laundering  
Congress leaders accuse the Centre of political vendetta.

**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi**  
A Delhi court on Friday issued formal notices to Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in connection with the ongoing National Herald money laundering case, stemming from a legal dispute that has spanned over a decade. Special Judge Vishal Gogne emphasized the importance of ensuring the right to be heard during the legal process, stating, “Right to be heard at any stage breathes life into a fair

trial.” The court set the next hearing for May 8. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) began its formal investigation into the case in 2021 after a magistrate court took up a private criminal complaint filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy in June 2014. The complaint alleged criminal conspiracy and financial misconduct involving top Congress leaders regarding the acquisition of the National Herald newspaper’s parent company, Associated Journals

Limited (AJL). The case centers around the creation of Young Indian, a non-profit entity, in which Sonia and Rahul Gandhi hold a 38% stake. The ED claims that this structure was designed to facilitate the indirect acquisition of prime real estate assets valued at over Rs 2,000 crore, originally owned by AJL. These assets include properties in Delhi, Lucknow, and Mumbai. According to the ED, Congress provided an unsecured loan of approximately Rs 90 crore

to AJL, which was later transferred to Young Indian for a nominal sum of Rs 50 lakh. This arrangement allegedly allowed Young Indian to take control of AJL and its valuable properties. The ED accuses the Gandhis and other Congress figures of laundering around Rs 988 crore through this scheme. The Congress party has strongly denied the allegations, accusing the ED and the Centre of using investigative agencies as tools of political vendetta.



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge recently stated that the party would not be intimidated by what he called “a spirit of vendetta,” referring to the charges against Sonia and Rahul Gandhi in the Nation-

al Herald case. The Congress maintains that Young Indian is a legitimate, not-for-profit entity and has rejected all claims of financial misconduct.

## Kishan Reddy feeling like a failure as BJP president



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
TPCC Working President Jagga Reddy has criticized Union Minister Kishan Reddy, stating that he is currently in shock and grappling with the perceived failure of his leadership as the Telangana BJP president. Speaking at a press conference, Jagga Reddy explained that Kishan Reddy’s recent behavior—frequent statements on controversial issues—suggests pressure from the BJP high command. He speculated that the party’s leadership must be questioning Reddy’s effectiveness in Telangana, prompting him to make unwarranted remarks. Jagga Reddy particularly criticized Kishan Reddy for his comments on the BC caste census. Reddy had claimed that there were mistakes in the survey. Responding to this, Jagga Reddy clarified that the caste census was conducted meticulously, and the results would soon be shared. He emphasized that the caste census had been carried out after a gap of 95 years, stressing the importance of its accuracy. He also pointed out that while Kishan Reddy had been absent in Delhi during the census, he was now misleading the public with his statements. Further, Jagga Reddy took a jab at Bandi Sanjay, another BJP leader, for his silence in recent times. Reddy asserted that the Congress party had consistently prioritized social justice over political gain. He also highlighted that Rahul Gandhi’s approach is centered on the welfare of the people, and not on securing votes for the party.

## HC rejects Eatala Rajender’s plea to quash FIR

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
The Telangana High Court on Wednesday dismissed a petition filed by BJP MP Eatala Rajender seeking to quash an FIR registered against him for allegedly slapping a realtor during a land dispute incident. Justice K Lakshman, delivering the verdict, noted that the investigation is still underway and stated that the court cannot engage in a mini-trial at this preliminary stage. He directed the police to continue their probe strictly as per the law without any interference from the court.



The FIR was filed in January 2025 by the Pocharam IT Corridor police after Rajender allegedly slapped a realtor while accusing him of encroaching on land reserved for the poor

on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The altercation reportedly occurred during the MP’s visit to the disputed site, where the realtor was present in the capacity of a security guard. While Rajender maintained that the action was provoked by illegal occupation of government-allotted land, the police registered a case against him following a complaint by the victim. With the High Court’s decision, the case will now proceed through standard investigation protocols, and Rajender will have to face the legal process as per the FIR.

## Slot booking system to expand to 25 additional offices

*Positive feedback from 94% of users in the pilot phase.*

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Telangana Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has announced the expansion of the slot booking system, introduced as a pilot project in the Stamps and Registrations department, to an additional 25 offices starting from May 12. This move comes after the successful implementation of the system in 22 offices across the state. The minister made the announcement following a review meeting held on Thursday at the State Secretariat in Hyderabad, where he shared that the pilot project had received overwhelmingly positive feedback. The system, which was first launched on April 10, has already seen an average of 866 documents being registered daily by the end of the month. The second phase of the system’s rollout will cover offices in various areas, including Farooqnagar, Shadnagar, Maheshwaram, Vanasthalipuram, Serilingampally, Uppal, Ghatkesar, Narapally, Malkajgiri,



Jangaon, Ghanpur, Narsampet, Bibinagar, Mancherial, Peddapalli, Kalwakurthy, Wanaparthi, Gadwal, Gajwel, Siddipet, Ranga Reddy, Warangal, Hyderabad, and Hyderabad South Sub-Registrar offices.

Feedback collected from users in the existing 22 offices via postcards revealed that 94 percent of respondents were satisfied with the new system. Minister Reddy also personally spoke to a user from Champapet to understand their experience and instructed officials to enhance internet speeds to further streamline the process. Looking ahead, the minister directed that the slot booking system be implemented in all registration offices across the state starting from the third week of June. To further expedite the registration process, the government is planning to introduce Aadhaar-based e-signatures. Minister Reddy commended the staff and officials for their efforts in successfully implementing the new system. In a separate meeting, he also reviewed procedures, necessary equipment, and guidelines for newly selected surveyors in the Survey and Land Measurement department.

## Case filed over morphed post against CM Revanth Reddy

**TPN Correspondent | Telangana**  
The Hyderabad cyber crime police have registered a criminal case against an X (formerly Twitter) user for allegedly posting a morphed and offensive image targeting Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. The move follows a formal complaint lodged by Kailash Sajjan, state secretary of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) social media department. The post in question was made from the handle “Digvtelugu” and allegedly portrayed the chief minister in an objectionable and derogatory manner. According to the complaint, the image was “fake, morphed, vulgar, abusive and derogatory,” and was shared with a “malicious intent to defame the chief minister and



the Congress party.” Kailash Sajjan also claimed that the user behind the account is a “habitual troublemaker” who frequently posts content designed to stir public unrest and hatred against the government. Acting on the complaint, the cyber crime police registered a case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including Section 352 (in-

tentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), Section 353(2) (statements conducive to public mischief), and Section 336(4) (forgery for the purpose of harming reputation). Police have initiated further investigation and stated they would write to X to obtain the identity and details of the person operating the “Digvtelugu” account.

## Owaisi’s PoK Demand in Front of PM Modi Sparks Stir

**“If camps are evacuated, go capture PoK,” says Hyderabad MP**

**TPN Correspondent | New Delhi**  
Hyderabad MP and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi made a sensational appeal to the Centre, demanding decisive military action to capture Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) following the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing the escalating threat of cross-border terrorism, Owaisi directly challenged the BJP-led government to go beyond statements and act. Taking a dig at the ruling BJP’s frequent rhetoric—“Ghuske maareng” (We will enter and kill)—Owaisi remarked, “If the terrorist camps in PoK are being evacuated out of fear of India, then why wait? We should go there and destroy them.” He asserted that if the government is serious this time, it should fulfil the long-pending parliamentary resolution that PoK is part of India and act accordingly. “Terrorism must end,” Owaisi



said passionately, recalling personal encounters with victims of past terror attacks. He mentioned Lumbini Park and Dil-sukhnagar blasts in Hyderabad, sharing the emotional story of a Telugu scholar, Sharmaji, who lost his daughter in one of those attacks. “He often comes to meet me and says he still misses his daughter,” Owaisi said, underlining the human cost of terrorism. He also recounted how a young bride from Nizamabad was killed in the 26/11 Mumbai attack at

the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal, describing how “the henna on her hands was still fresh.” Referencing other major attacks like Pulwama, Uri, and Pathankot, Owaisi said, “These tragedies keep repeating. This time, enough is enough—capture PoK.” Responding to Pakistan’s recurring nuclear threats, Owaisi said, “Pakistan talks about nuclear power every time. But if they keep sending terrorists to kill our people, they should not expect us to sit quietly.” He criticised Pakistani terror groups, comparing their tactics to those of ISIS and condemned the targeting of Indian civilians based on religion. Owaisi’s sharp statements, made in the backdrop of heightened public outrage over the Pahalgam attack that killed 26 people, mark a rare moment where the AIMIM leader has called for strong retaliatory action, aligning in sentiment—if not political tone—with national security hawks.



# Miss World Chairperson Julia Morley arrives in Hyderabad

To review arrangements for Miss World 2025 pageant  
Telangana officials to brief her on Miss World 2025 preparations  
Key venues, travel plans, and event arrangements under review

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Julia Evelyn Morley, Chairperson and CEO of Miss World Limited, London, arrived in Hyderabad this morning to oversee and review the ongoing preparations for the Miss World 2025 pageant scheduled to be held in the city. She was warmly received by Telangana government officials with a traditional welcome at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad. Accompanying her was Miss World official Ms Kerry. The visit marks

a crucial step in ensuring the city's readiness to host the prestigious global beauty event, which will bring together contestants from over 130 countries. Telangana officials, in coordination with various departments and event partners, are facilitating detailed reviews of all logistical, hospitality, and security arrangements. During her visit, Julia Morley will inspect the primary venue designated for the main Miss World event, as well as locations chosen for sub-

events and cultural tours where contestants will be participating. She will also interact with key stakeholders to assess the city's infrastructure, hospitality readiness, and coordination plans across departments involved in the pageant. The Telangana government is treating the event as a prestigious global opportunity to showcase the state's cultural vibrancy and hospitality on an international platform. Official discussions are scheduled throughout



the day with various agencies to finalize details of the week-long pageant and ensure a flawless experience for participants and global guests.

## Ensure Foolproof Security Arrangements for Miss World Events

- DGP Dr. Jitender, IPS, Directs Police Officers



**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**  
Telangana Director General of Police Dr. Jitender, IPS, has instructed police officials to ensure foolproof security arrangements for the upcoming Miss World events hosted by the state government. A high-level meeting was held on Friday at the DGP office to review the comprehensive security plan with senior police officers and district units. The DGP said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had clearly directed the police to treat this event as an opportunity to ele-

vate Telangana's global brand image. Dr. Jitender emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts, noting that participants from 116 countries have already confirmed attendance and are set to begin arriving. The grand inaugural ceremony is scheduled for May 10, with the final event planned at HITEX on May 31. The Miss World contestants will be touring across the state over the course of a month. Sites include Ramappa Temple in Mulugu, Buddhavanam in Nalgonda, Pillalamarri in Mahabubnagar, and various heritage locations in Warangal.

In Hyderabad, key places like Charminar, Lal Bazaar, Yadagirigutta Temple, Ramoji Film City, and Uppal Stadium are part of the itinerary.

To manage security efficiently, a centralized control system will be set up. Dr. Jitender stated that the Telangana Police, known for its top-ranking performance nationwide, will use this opportunity to showcase its professional capacity and hospitality to the global audience.

**According to the schedule shared:**

- May 12: Visit to Buddhavanam, Nagarjunasagar
- May 13: Charminar, Lad Bazaar, Chowmohalla Palace
- May 14: Warangal heritage and Ramappa Temple
- May 15: Yadagirigutta and Po-champally
- May 16: AIG Hospital (Medical Tourism), Pillalamarri Tree, Eco Park
- May 17: Sports finals at Gachi-

bowli, Ramoji Film City

- May 18: Telangana Police Integrated Command Center, State Secretariat
- May 20: IPL match at Uppal Stadium
- May 21: Visit to Shilparamam
- May 31: Miss World Final at HITEX

The meeting was attended by senior officials including Additional DGP (L&O) Mahesh M. Bhagwat, ADGP Stephen Ravindra (Nodal Officer), Director Fire Services Nagi Reddy, and Commissioners from Hyderabad, Cyberabad, and Rachakonda. Tourism Director Prakash Reddy and IGPs from various zones were also present.

DGP Jitender interacted with field officers of Warangal, Mulugu, Nalgonda, and Mahabubnagar through video conference. He concluded by stating that Telangana Police will leave no stone unturned to ensure the safety, comfort, and success of the Miss World events.

## Tensions erupt over Koheda land dispute

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

A long-standing land dispute in Koheda under Hayath Nagar limits turned violent on Thursday, with two groups clashing over ownership of a 7.5-acre plot. The confrontation led to a knife and stone attack that left four individuals injured. The dispute centers on survey numbers 951 and 952 in Koheda, where villagers Kangula Gandaiah, Eedaiah, Ramulu, and Pochaiah had obtained a General Power of Attorney (GPA) decades ago. In 1970, they developed the land into 170 residential plots and sold them. However, the Kangula family heirs later declared the GPA invalid and sold the same parcel to Sanreddy Bal Reddy of Brahmanpalli in 2013. Since then, legal battles and on-ground tensions have escalated.

Bal Reddy built a farmhouse and fenced the disputed land, sparking opposition from the plot owners. In March 2025, the district court issued interim orders in favour of the plot owners. Based on this, they filed a complaint with the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA), which demolished the encroaching fence two months ago.

Bal Reddy, challenging this action, secured a High Court order restraining HMDA, police, and revenue officials from interference. Despite this, some plot owners brought in a JCB on Thursday to level parts of the layout. When Bal Reddy and his



associates objected, the situation quickly escalated into violence. Stones, sticks, and knives were used in the attack, injuring Satyanarayana Reddy, Naveen, Venkatesh, and one other.

Police rushed to the scene and dispersed the crowd. A case has been registered based on complaints from both sides. Investigation is ongoing, and officials are examining court orders and land documents to ascertain the facts. Authorities have urged both parties to refrain from taking the law into their own hands while the matter remains sub judice.

## Cyberabad CP Flags Off SHE Teams Vehicles

BGL Donates 12 Scooters to SHE Teams under CSR Initiative with SCSC

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

In a significant move toward women's safety and empowerment, and to strengthen public safety and ensure rapid response, Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Avinash Mohanty, IPS; Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Dr. Gajarao Bhupal, IPS; and representatives from Bhagyanagar Gas Ltd (BGL) jointly flagged off 12 Honda Activa scooters for the SHE Teams. This initiative aims to enhance surveillance and ensure the protection of citizens—particularly women and children—within the Commissionerate limits.

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, Bhagyanagar Gas Ltd, through the Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC), donated the two-wheelers to the Cyberabad Police. The launch was led by Cyberabad CP Avinash Mohanty, who also serves as Chairman of SCSC. This initiative is designed to empower SHE Teams with



improved mobility, enabling them to respond swiftly to sensitive locations, prevent crimes, and maintain law and order more effectively.

The donation was made in partnership with the Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC), highlighting the importance of public-private collaboration in advancing community safety goals. Key features of the initiative include enhanced patrolling, quicker emer-

gency response, increased visibility of SHE Teams, and stronger operational synergy between Cyberabad Police and SCSC, backed by the strategic support of BGL.

The event was graced by several dignitaries, including SB DCP Sai Sri; Women & Child Safety Wing (W&CSW) DCP Srujana Karnam; CAR Headquarters DCP Sanjeev; SCSC CEO Naved Khan; CAR Headquarters ADCP Shameer; W&CSW ACP Prasanna Kumar; SHE Teams Inspectors Ramana Reddy and Prathap Lingam; BGL Managing Director Ram Mohan Rao Karnati; BGL Director of Commercial Yeleswarapu Danuta; BGL GM, Commercial & Marketing Rohit Garg; GM, CGD Omeshwar Kappala; OIC Hyderabad A. Ramakrishna; Manager, HR Sangram Pati; Manager, Projects & O&M Suraj Yedla; Deputy Manager, Admin & Security Sai Prasad; MTO RIs Prashanth and Veeralingam; Traffic Admin BNS Reddy; members of the SCSC; and other senior police officials.

## STF seizes over 3 kg Ganja in two Separate Raids

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

In a crackdown on illegal narcotics, the Special Task Force (STF) team conducted two separate operations in Hyderabad and seized a total of 3.278 kg of ganja. Officials also arrested two main accused and registered cases against three others.

In the first case, the STF team led by Anji Reddy raided the Jiyaguda area near Puranapoli and seized 2.078 kg of ganja. The contraband was being sold on a TVS scooty when the team apprehended the accused. A man identified as Sanjay Singh was



arrested at the scene, and a case has also been registered against three others — Thakur Ashish Singh, Laxman Singh, and Neeraj Rai — who are suspected to be involved in the racket.

In the second case, the STFD team conducted simultaneous raids in the Moosapet JP and



Bharatnagar areas and seized 1.20 kg of ganja from Kompally Yashwant Sai Shanmukha, a native of East Godavari district. D Team Sub-Inspector Jyoti said the accused was caught with ganja, a two-wheeler, and a mobile phone, all of which were handed over to the Balanagar

Excise Station.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Yashwant Sai had previously run a business named "Karu Wala" but shut it down. After staying with relatives for a

while, he allegedly travelled to Araku to procure ganja and began selling it in Hyderabad. Officials confirmed that further investigations are underway to trace the entire supply network and crack down on other possible links.

## Hyderabad man duped of ₹20.39 lakh in crypto scam

Cyberabad police recover ₹2.8 lakh via Seychelles-based exchange

**TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad**

In a rare and significant breakthrough for cybercrime investigations, a Hyderabad man who lost over ₹20 lakh in a cryptocurrency scam has managed to recover ₹2.8 lakh—marking the first instance in Cyberabad where defrauded cryptocurrency funds have been successfully refunded to the victim.

According to officials, the victim was added to a fraudulent WhatsApp group that promised high returns through cryptocurrency investments. The fraudsters manipulated him into transferring 24,275.8 USDT (approximately ₹20.39 lakh) via third-party apps and suspicious links to various private wallets under the pretext of trading.

Upon realizing he had been duped, the victim promptly lodged a complaint with the Cyberabad cybercrime police. During their investigation, officials traced a portion of the stolen funds—3,125.42 USDT (equivalent to about ₹2.68 lakh)—to a wallet linked with a Seychelles-based cryptocurrency exchange.

With the help of the exchange, which provided the suspect's wallet and KYC details, the police secured a court order to freeze the wallet. Following due legal process, the authorities successfully arranged for the refund of the recoverable amount directly into the victim's wallet.

This case has become a milestone in Cyberabad's cybercrime response, as it is the first time cryptocurrency stolen in an online fraud has been partially recovered and returned to the victim.

Cyberabad police have advised the public to remain cautious of investment offers received via social media platforms, especially those promising unusually high returns.



## Ex-gratia for Heatwave Deaths Raised to ₹4 Lakh

“Heatwave is now a declared disaster in Telangana. Every department must act responsibly to prevent loss of life,” says Minister Ponguleti

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a proactive move to tackle the severe heatwave conditions forecasted for summer 2025, Telangana Revenue, Housing, Information and Civil Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced a comprehensive response plan after reviewing preparedness with 12 key departments on Friday. Speaking at the meeting held in the Secretariat, the Minister released the Telangana State Heatwave Action Plan – 2025, jointly prepared by the State Disaster Management Department and the Indian Meteorological Department. He stressed the urgent need for coordinated efforts from all departments to safeguard public health, especially in view of IMD’s warning of high temperatures continuing till June. As part of the plan, Ponguleti revealed that the ex-gratia amount for heatwave-related deaths has been increased from ₹50,000 to ₹4 lakh, declaring the



heatwave a notified disaster under the State Disaster Response Fund. Of the 612 mandals in Telangana, 588 have been identified as heatwave-prone. A nodal officer has been appointed for each district to monitor and coordinate relief measures. Cooling stations with drinking water, ORS packets, and buttermilk will be set up across all urban centres, with special focus on Hyderabad, Warangal, Khammam, Mahabubnagar, Ni-

zamabad, Kothagudem, Medak, and Karimnagar. The Minister called on corporate companies to supply necessary materials under their CSR initiatives. The Minister issued specific directives to various departments: Health Department: Launch awareness campaigns, prepare hospitals with cool wards, and conduct fire safety audits. Industries and Commerce: Instruct factories to implement rotational shifts for workers in

high-heat environments. Labour Welfare: Ensure rest, water, ORS, and shelter for sanitation and waste workers. Local Bodies & GHMC: Provide shelters, summer alerts via LED screens and public systems, ensure water supply for birds and stray animals. Panchayati Raj & Rural Development: Supply chlorinated drinking water and dispatch tankers to vulnerable villages. He emphasized that any deaths due to the heat must be responded to immediately and humanely, with ex-gratia paid without delay. He also asked departments like Forest, Electricity, Information & Public Relations, Animal Husbandry, and Irrigation to implement coordinated actions to reduce the heat impact. Senior officials including Arvind Kumar (Disaster Management), Sandeep Kumar Sultania (Planning), Nagi Reddy (Fire Safety), Vinay Kumar Reddy (I&PR), Dr. Nagaratna (IMD), and GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan attended the review meeting.

## Karimnagar Workers Meet TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Karimnagar constituency workers met Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud at Gandhi Bhavan to discuss recent issues within the party. During the meeting, party leaders raised concerns regarding a recent brawl that took place during a Karimnagar constituency meeting. The leaders expressed their concerns about the conflict and

urged TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud to take immediate action. In response, Goud emphasized the need for unity and cooperation within the party. He directed all party members, irrespective of their seniority or position, to work together for the success of the party. The TPCC President reiterated that internal issues should be resolved amicably and that the focus must remain on strengthening the party in the constituency and beyond. He also



stressed that everyone should put the party’s interests first, leaving aside any personal differences.

## Paddy Purchase Center Inaugurated in Muduchintalapalli

TPN Correspondent | Medchal In a bid to support local farmers, a new paddy purchase center was inaugurated in Muduchintalapalli mandal. The ceremony, held in the villages of Lakshmapur, Kesavaram, and Jaganguda, was attended by Malkaj Giri MP Etala Rajender and Medchal MLA Chamakura Mallareddy. During the inauguration, MP Etala Rajender encouraged farmers to take full advantage of the newly established grain purchase centers, emphasizing



the importance of selling their produce directly through these centers rather than relying on

moneylenders. He highlighted that the centers are set up with the intention of buying ev-

ery grain produced by farmers within the society. Medchal Market Committee Chairman Narsimhulu Yadav, DCMS Vice Chairman, Shamirpet Society Chairman Madhukar Reddy, and Vice Chairman Ailaiah Yadav, along with other leaders, also attended the event, reinforcing their support for the initiative. The purchase center aims to offer fair prices and transparency in the rice-buying process, benefiting the local farming community.

## Three children drown in Nagar kurnool pond

TPN Correspondent | Nagarkurnool

In a heartbreaking incident, three children drowned in a pond in Telangana’s Nagarkurnool district on Thursday evening while swimming. The victims were identified as A Ganesh Reddy (13), his sister A Rakshitha (10), and B Shravan Kumar (7). Ganesh and Rakshitha, children of A Dharma Reddy and Savitha, had come from Hyderabad to Peddakothapally village to spend their summer vacation. Shravan Kumar, a Class 2 student, was a local resident of the same area. According to sources, the tragedy occurred around 5 pm when the three children,

while playing near the pond, entered the water. Unaware of the depth, they began to drown and were unable to call for help in time. Their bodies were recovered shortly after the incident and shifted to a nearby government hospital for post-mortem examination. The incident has left the village in deep shock, with locals mourning the untimely loss of young lives. Authorities have urged parents to remain vigilant and not allow children near water bodies without supervision, especially during the summer holidays when such incidents are more likely to occur.

## ACB Catches Vikarabad District Prohibition and Excise Office Assistant Accepting Bribe

TPN Correspondent | Vikarabad

A senior assistant in the Vikarabad district Prohibition and Excise office, T. Sridhar, was caught red-handed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) while accepting a bribe of Rs. 8,000. The ACB officials from the Rangareddy unit nabbed the officer at 4:20 pm on May 2, following a complaint from the

public. According to ACB officials, T. Sridhar had demanded the bribe in exchange for assisting the complainant in processing a Travelling Allowance (TA) bill. The officials confirmed that the officer had acted unethically and corruptly by taking the bribe to perform his official duties. After the arrest, the entire bribe

amount was recovered from Sridhar. A subsequent chemical test revealed that his right hand fingers tested positive for traces of the bribe. Following this, T. Sridhar was arrested and is set to be produced before the Special Judge Court in Nampally, Hyderabad. The investigation is ongoing. Public Appeal The ACB has urged the public to report

any cases of government employees demanding bribes. Citizens can contact the ACB through its toll-free number 1064, WhatsApp at 9440446106, Facebook (Telangana ACB), or Twitter (@TelanganaACB). The authorities assured that the identity of the complainant will remain confidential.



## ENC Hari Ram in Custody in Kaleshwaram Project Case Court Grants 5-Day Custody to ACB for Investigation

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a key development in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) irregularities case, the ACB court has granted a five-day custody of Engineering-in-Chief (ENC) Bhukya Hari Ram, who is currently on remand in Chanchalguda jail. Following the court’s order, the ACB officials took Hari Ram into their custody on Thursday. The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) will conduct its investigation from May 2 to May 6. During this period, officials are expected to interrogate Hari Ram extensively regarding his role in the alleged financial and administrative irregularities that occurred during the execution of the multi-crore Kaleshwaram project. Sources in the ACB confirmed that the custody is aimed at gathering more evidence on contract approvals, cost escalations, and procedural violations in the project under Hari Ram’s tenure. Officials are also looking into the decision-making process and key communications that may have facilitated the misuse of public funds. ENC Hari Ram had earlier been remanded in judicial custody after his alleged involvement came to light in the investigation into large-scale corruption and mismanagement related to the Kaleshwaram project. The ACB has already seized several documents and digital evidence, which they believe will be further substantiated during this custodial interrogation. The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, one of the largest irrigation ventures in India, has come under increasing scrutiny in recent months following allegations of substandard construction, inflated costs, and irregular approvals. This latest action against a top engineering official marks a significant step in the probe. The ACB is expected to submit a progress report after the five-day custody ends. Further action may follow based on the findings from this interrogation.

## Minister Ponnamp Praises Telangana's 42% BC Reservation Law



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar addressed the media at Raj Bhavan, highlighting the Telangana government’s landmark law providing 42 percent reservation for backward classes (BCs) in political, educational, and government jobs. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, this initiative is being presented as a role model for the nation. Minister Prabhakar explained that before enacting the law, extensive empirical data was collected, a sub-committee was formed, and the cabinet and legislature approved the proposal. The law was then sent to the central government for approval. After reviewing the legal aspects, the governor sent it to the president for final approval. Praising the efforts, the Minister noted that the Telangana Congress and BC leaders met the governor to express their gratitude for his support in facilitating the law. The caste census conducted in Telangana was also hailed as a model for the nation. Minister Prabhakar welcomed the BJP government’s recent announcement to conduct a nationwide caste census in 2025. The Minister expressed discontent over criticisms from those who had opposed the caste census in the past but were now critiquing the Telangana government’s actions. He urged these critics to introspect and emphasized that the government’s decision was in the best interest of the weaker sections across the country. He concluded by urging the central government to approve the law for BC reservation in political and educational jobs, in line with the caste census data from Telangana, and prove their sincerity towards the welfare of BC communities.



# Can Mark Carney Reset Canada-India Relations?



The 2025 Canadian federal election, though somewhat overshadowed by U.S. President Donald Trump's escalating trade war, marked a significant political shift within Canada. The Liberal Party, now under the leadership of Mark Carney, returned to power with 168 seats—just shy of a majority—securing a fourth consecutive mandate. This outcome signals both continuity and change: a new face at the helm and a political landscape reshaped by shifting public sentiment.

Carney's rise to leadership played a piv-

otal role in the Liberals' resurgence. A former central banker with international credibility, Carney brings economic expertise at a time when Canada's economy faces mounting challenges. His technocratic and pragmatic style stands in stark contrast to the more ideologically driven leadership of his predecessor, Justin Trudeau. With the New Democratic Party (NDP) weakened—having lost nearly 12% of its vote share and with leader Jagmeet Singh losing his seat—Carney has more freedom to craft his own foreign and economic agenda.

This is especially relevant for India, given the NDP's past support for Khalistani elements, which strained India-Canada relations.

The fall of Singh and the NDP's reduced influence opens the door for a recalibrated approach to New Delhi. Carney, unburdened by Trudeau-era baggage, has the political space to rebuild bridges. While a dramatic reset in bilateral ties is unlikely in the near term, cautious re-engagement seems plausible. Strong economic ties, the influence of a vibrant Indian diaspora, and enduring cultural links provide a solid foundation.

Meanwhile, Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre's defeat—along with the rejection of his populist, Trump-inspired rhetoric—reflected voter fatigue with divisive politics. Ironically, Trump's inflammatory remarks about Canada only galvanized nationalist sentiment, indirectly benefiting Carney.

Going forward, Carney must navigate a tense US-Canada relationship and a need for greater trade diversification. With ties to China and India currently strained, India emerges as a key potential partner. Whether Carney can capitalize on this opening will depend on his willingness to depart from the Trudeau legacy and pursue a more balanced, interest-driven foreign policy.

## Caste Census: Will Political Parties Commit to Real Change?

Caste is fast becoming a central theme in Indian politics, with the recent announcement of its inclusion in the upcoming decadal census marking a turning point. On April 30, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw declared that the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs had approved caste enumeration, claiming it would "strengthen the social and economic structure" of society. The Congress quickly took credit, with Rahul Gandhi demanding the removal of the 50% cap on reservations and a clear timeline for the census.

While the announcement is politically significant, real questions loom: will this exercise lead to transformative change or remain a tool for electoral calculations? The Congress has posed the critical question—what happens after the census? A proper caste enumeration could reveal that backward castes and Dalits make

up a larger share of the population than previously acknowledged. Will political parties be prepared to translate those numbers into proportional representation and policies?

India's socio-economic landscape reveals stark caste-based inequalities. Upper-caste groups dominate 62% of micro and small businesses, 90% of media leadership, and a significant share of the judiciary. Dalits and other oppressed castes remain landless, underrepresented in decision-making roles, and continue to face educational and employment barriers.

A caste census is just the beginning. The challenge lies in reworking entrenched systems—land distribution, access to capital, leadership in institutions, and quality education. Without structural changes, caste enumeration risks be-

ing reduced to tokenism. Real justice demands a redistribution of power and resources, which may trigger resistance from dominant groups accustomed to privilege.

States like Bihar, Karnataka, and Telangana have already conducted caste surveys, often facing backlash. In Karnataka, for example, dominant communities have questioned the data, while Telangana's results show inconsistencies. The Hindi heartland, with its complex caste politics, could see stronger resistance.

Caste enumeration, if taken seriously, implies a reshaping of India's social contract. But that requires courage from political leaders—not just to collect data, but to act on it. Until then, the promise of social justice risks remaining rhetoric, rather than a revolution in policy and society.



## The impact of suspending a water treaty

### India's Hydro-Political Response To Pakistan's Proxy War Doctrine



In a dramatic move signaling a significant escalation in India-Pakistan tensions, India has announced the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) of 1960. The decision follows the killing of 26 tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, by terrorists from The Resistance Front—a group India links to Pakistani support. The Indian Cabinet Committee on Security declared that the treaty would be "held in abeyance with immediate effect," contingent on Pakistan "credibly and irrevocably abjuring" its support for cross-border terrorism.

The suspension effectively signals India's intent to walk away from the longstanding water-sharing pact, though the legal framework complicates any such action. The IWT, brokered by the World Bank, has no clause allowing unilateral termination. Article XII (4) of the treaty clearly states it shall remain in force unless "terminated by a duly ratified treaty concluded for that purpose between the two governments."

Some Indian legal experts suggest that provisions under Articles 60 and 62 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT) could potentially be used to argue for suspension or withdrawal. These articles pertain to fundamental breaches of a treaty or changes in circumstances. However, India is not a signatory to the VCLT, and Pakistan has signed but not ratified it—making reliance on this legal route contentious and difficult to enforce internationally.

The suspension may also have unintended consequences, including the risk of internationalising the water-sharing dispute. Pakistan is already exploring legal and diplomatic countermeasures. Aqeel Malik, Pakistan's Minister of State for Law and Justice, stated that Islamabad is weighing three options: raising the issue with the World Bank (a guarantor of the treaty), filing a case with the Permanent Court of Arbitration or the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague under the VCLT, or taking the matter to the United Nations Security Council.

### 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 Enforcement 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.



# Pro-Khalistani Leader Urges Sikh Soldiers to Reject War with Pakistan



TPN Correspondent | Kerala

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comments at the inauguration of the Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala today have reignited discussions around Congress MP Shashi Tharoor. Modi, in a rare direct reference to the four-term Congress MP from Thiruvananthapuram, remarked that Tharoor's presence at the event would "disturb the sleep" of some, suggesting that his involvement in the event carried a deeper political message.

"Today, Shashi Tharoor is sitting here. Today's program will disturb the sleep of some people. The message has gone wherever it had to go," Modi said, as the crowd reacted. The remark came at a time when speculation about Tharoor's standing within the Congress party, particularly in Kerala, has been intensifying. Tharoor has repeatedly positioned himself as a prominent figure within the party, often voicing concerns about a "leadership vacuum" within the state unit. His comments on the

state leadership and his meetings with senior Congress figures, including Rahul Gandhi, have sparked debate over his future. The situation was further highlighted when Tharoor personally received PM Modi at the Thiruvananthapuram airport, despite facing delays due to what he termed the "dysfunctional" Delhi airport. A photo of the encounter quickly went viral, adding fuel to the growing conversation around his role in Congress and his relationship with the party's leadership. Over the past months, Tharoor's comments praising India's vaccine diplomacy and the government's handling of the Russia-Ukraine conflict have not gone unnoticed. These remarks were seen by some as tacit approval of the Modi government's actions, even though Tharoor did not name the Prime Minister directly. Despite this, Tharoor has consistently denied any intention of leaving the Congress party, stating that his remarks have often been taken out of context. He has, however, hinted that he would consider other options if the party no longer needed his services. The Vizhinjam International Seaport, an Rs 8,867 crore project, was the focal point of today's high-profile event. Developed by Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd, the port aims to become a critical transshipment hub for international maritime trade.



## Jaishankar Advocates for Pluralism and Ethical AI at WAVES 2025

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized the importance of pluralism and ethical technology use during his address at the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 in Mumbai. He highlighted that colonialism and big power dominance had historically suppressed diverse traditions and ideas, and stressed the need to amplify these voices in the evolving global order. Jaishankar advocated for a more diversified and democratic re-globalization, where multiple centers of production and consumption coexist, moving beyond a singular narrative.

The minister also discussed the significant role of artificial intelligence (AI) in shaping the future, cautioning against its irresponsible use. He underscored the necessity of reducing bias, democratizing content, and

prioritizing ethics in AI development. Jaishankar emphasized that technology and tradition must go hand in hand, suggesting that modernity should not reject the past but build upon human achievements.

Furthermore, Jaishankar highlighted the importance of smoother mobility for talent to foster stronger creativity, noting that innovation and digital connectivity are key to India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047. He pointed out that in today's information-rich era, the challenge lies not in the abundance of content but in capturing attention, making it crucial to prepare young talent for this dynamic landscape.

In conclusion, Jaishankar's address at WAVES 2025 underscored the need for a global order that embraces diversity, ethical technology use, and the free flow of talent to foster creativity and innovation.

# IAF Jets Land on Ganga Expressway for Emergency Trial Exercise

## 3.5-km airstrip near Shahjahanpur tested for military emergency use



TPN Correspondent | Shahjahanpur

In a major step toward bolstering national defense infrastructure, the Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted special trials on the Ganga Expressway in Uttar Pradesh on Friday. The objective of the exercise was to test the expressway's readiness for emergency landings and take-offs of military aircraft.

A 3.5-kilometre-long stretch of the expressway near Shahjahanpur has been developed as a dedicated airstrip for such operations. The IAF has deployed its frontline aircraft—including Rafale, Sukhoi-30MKI, Mirage-2000, MiG-29, Jaguar, C-130J Super

Hercules, AN-32 transporters, and Mi-17 V5 helicopters—to validate the airstrip's operational capability.

The trials, which began early in the morning and continued until 10 pm, are part of the IAF's broader strategy to create backup runways that can be used in times of war, natural disasters, or other national emergencies. These airstrip trials help ensure uninterrupted air operations if primary air bases are ever compromised.

Security was heightened in the area during the trials. The Uttar Pradesh government, in coordination with the Air Force, in-

stalled around 250 CCTV cameras for real-time surveillance and deployed security forces to maintain a strict perimeter. The Air Force assumed complete control of the airstrip zone starting Thursday night to ensure seamless execution of the trial.

With this exercise, the Ganga Expressway becomes the fourth such expressway in the state equipped with an emergency airstrip, following similar developments on the Agra-Lucknow, Purvanchal, and Bundelkhand Expressways. These dual-use infrastructure initiatives are part of India's growing focus on integrating military readiness with civilian development projects.

## Mangaluru on High Alert

# Gatherings Banned After Hindu Activist Killed

Suhas Shetty was killed by five assailants

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Mangaluru has been placed on high alert after the brutal murder of Suhas Shetty, a prominent Hindu activist and prime accused in the 2022 murder of a 23-year-old man, Mohammed Fazil. Shetty, in his early thirties, was killed by at least five assailants armed with machetes and swords in broad daylight on a busy road. The chilling attack was captured on CCTV footage.

In response to the killing, police in Mangaluru enforced prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, banning public gatherings, meetings, and processions until May 6. The orders also prohibit the carrying of items that could be used as weapons.

Suhas Shetty had several cases registered against him, including charges related to assault and unlawful assembly. He was a key figure linked to local Hindutva groups and was reportedly involved in the murder of Mohammed Fazil, which had been widely regarded as a retaliatory act following the assassination of BJP youth worker Praveen Nettaru. Following Shetty's murder, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara condemned the incident as a "gruesome" act. He assured that four separate police teams had been assigned



to track down the perpetrators and emphasized that the administration would not compromise in bringing the culprits to justice. Additional forces have been deployed in Mangaluru to maintain peace and harmony in the region. The attack on Shetty is the second murder within a week in Mangaluru. On April 27, Ashraf, a resident of Wayanad in Kerala, was allegedly beaten to death over a dispute during a cricket match on the outskirts of the city. Preliminary investigations suggested that the victim was assaulted after shouting "Pakistan Zindabad," leading to a violent confrontation. The police had detained 25 individuals for questioning, and 20 of them have been arrested following further investigations into the assault.

## "Not A Time For Politics": Congress Working Committee on Pahalgam Attack



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Congress party, in a resolution passed by its Working Committee (CWC) on Friday, emphasized that the Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 people on April 22, is a moment for national unity and strength rather than political division. Chaired by party president Mallikarjun Kharge, the CWC meeting was attended by senior leaders including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Jairam Ramesh, K C Venugopal, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. In the resolution, Congress urged the Centre to take firm action against Pakistan for its continued export of terror, and

called for a time-bound investigation into the lapses in security and intelligence in one of the country's most heavily-guarded regions. "The entire country awaits accountability, answers and justice," the resolution stated. The party reiterated that this is not a time for politics but for national resolve, unity, and strength. It called on the government to act decisively in isolating and penalizing Pakistan for its role in perpetuating terrorism. "We must rise above partisan divides and send out an unambiguous message that India stands together," Congress emphasized. The Congress Working Committee also expressed its unwaver-

ing support for the families of the victims of the attack, stressing that compensation alone is insufficient. The party demanded long-term rehabilitation, mental health support, and national recognition to honor the victims. "The pain of these families is the pain of the entire nation. The CWC stands with them, not only in words but in enduring solidarity," the resolution stated. In addition, Congress reaffirmed its call for transparency and accountability in the handling of security and intelligence issues surrounding the attack. The party urged for a comprehensive, time-bound inquiry into the lapses.





# Ukraine's air force says Russia launched 150 drones in overnight attack

**TPN Correspondent | Russia**

Russia launched a significant drone offensive against Ukraine, deploying 150 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The Ukrainian Air Force successfully intercepted and destroyed 64 of these drones. An additional 62 drones were rendered ineffective, likely due to Ukraine's advanced electronic warfare measures. The fate of the remaining 24 drones remains unreported .

This attack marks one of the most

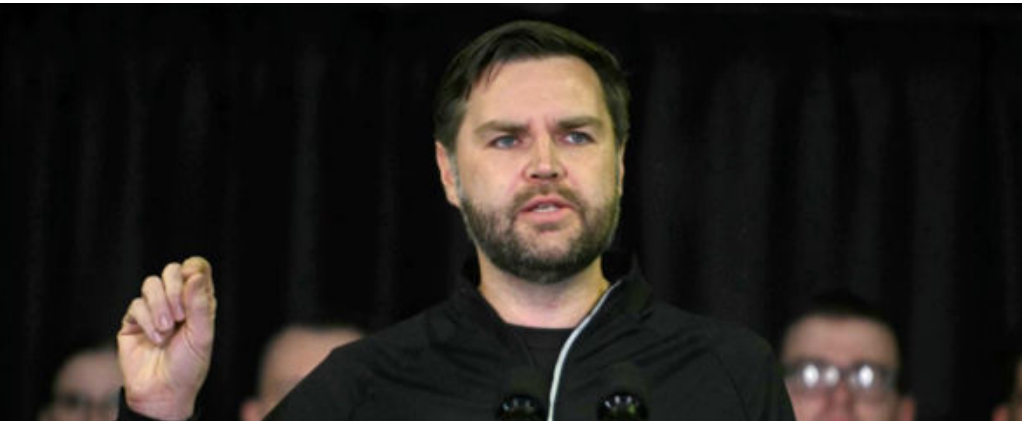
extensive UAV offensives since the conflict's inception. The targeted regions included Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, and Dnipropetrovsk, with several drones reportedly striking civilian infrastructure. In Zaporizhzhia, a drone strike resulted in 29 injuries, including a child .

Ukraine's air defense systems, bolstered by electronic warfare capabilities, played a crucial role in mitigating the impact of this large-scale assault. The country's electronic warfare units have pre-

viously demonstrated effectiveness in neutralizing UAV threats, underscoring their strategic importance in modern defense operations .

Despite the high interception rate, the persistent threat of drone warfare continues to challenge Ukraine's defense infrastructure. The international community remains vigilant, monitoring the evolving dynamics of this conflict and its implications for regional stability.

## Pahalgam attack: Indian response to Kashmir attack should avoid regional war: J.D. Vance



**TPN Correspondent | WASHINGTON, D.C.**

The Vice President reiterated the U.S. commitment to remaining in close contact with both India and Pakistan. He expressed hope that Pakistan, "to the extent that they're responsible," will take accountability and work with India to ensure that terrorists allegedly operating from within their borders are tracked down and held responsible.

Vance's remarks come at a time of heightened diplomatic strain. In the immediate aftermath of the Pahalgam attack, India took several measures, including suspending the 1960 Indus Water Treaty and closing the Attari land-transit point with Pakistan. The attack also drew widespread international condemnation, with many global leaders expressing solidarity with India.

Vice President Vance had earlier taken to social media to condemn the Pahalgam attack and extend condolences to the victims and their families.

With cross-border tensions on the rise, Vance's appeal highlights Washington's concern about stability in South Asia and its support for counterterrorism cooperation without triggering further escalation.

U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance has urged India to exercise restraint in response to the recent Pahalgam terror attack, emphasizing the importance of avoiding a wider regional conflict. Speaking to Fox News on May 1, 2025, Vance also called on Pakistan to cooperate with India in identifying and neutralizing militants that may be operating from its territory.

Vance's comments came while he was visiting India with his family on a four-day trip, coinciding with the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam — the deadliest since the 2019 Pulwama incident. The attack, which claimed 26 lives, has significantly escalated tensions between India and Pakistan.

"Our hope is that India responds to this terrorist attack in a way that doesn't lead to a broader regional conflict," said Vance during Fox News' "Special Report." When asked if the situation between the two nuclear-armed nations was concerning, Vance acknowledged, "Anytime you see a hotspot flaring up, especially between two nuclear powers, it's a cause for concern."

## Pro-Khalistani Leader Urges Sikh Soldiers to Reject War with Pakistan Amid Pahalgam Attack Fallout



**TPN Correspondent | Islamabad**

In a provocative video message, pro-Khalistani activist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun has called on Sikh soldiers in the Indian Army to refuse participation in any military conflict between India and Pakistan. Pannun, leader of the banned group Sikhs For Justice, claimed that Pakistan is a "friendly" nation for Sikhs and Khalistan supporters, and urged Sikh personnel to "serve langar" to the Pakistani army in the event of war.

The appeal comes in the wake of the deadly Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, which resulted in the deaths of 26 people, including 25 tourists and one local. The attack, carried out by militants from The Resistance Front (TRF), a Pakistan-based offshoot of Lashkar-e-Taiba, has heightened tensions between India and Pakistan. The TRF initially claimed responsibility for the attack but later retracted its statement.

Pannun's comments have been met with criticism from Indian officials, who view them as an attempt to incite division among Sikh soldiers and undermine national unity. The Indian government has not responded directly to Pannun's remarks, but the Ministry of External Affairs has condemned the Pahalgam attack and called for international cooperation in combating terrorism.

The situation remains tense, with both India and Pakistan on high alert. The international community continues to monitor developments closely, urging restraint and dialogue to prevent further escalation in the region.



## Canadian PM Mark Carney to Meet US President Donald Trump Amid Rising Tensions

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announced on Friday that he will meet with U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House on Tuesday. This high-stakes meeting comes amid escalating tensions between the two countries over trade disputes and sovereignty concerns.

Carney's Liberal Party secured a narrow victory in the recent federal elections, defeating Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre. The election result was seen as a response to Trump's aggressive trade policies and threats to Canadian sovereignty. In his victory speech, Carney emphasized that Canadians elected his government to stand up to President Trump and build a strong economy. He vowed to defend Canada's interests and negotiate future cooperation terms with the U.S. .

The upcoming meeting between Carney and Trump is expected to address immediate trade challenges and the broader economic outlook. Carney has emphasized the importance of promptly engaging with the U.S. administration to resolve these issues.

In addition to the meeting with Trump, Carney announced that King Charles III will deliver a speech outlining the Canadian government's priorities on May 27, when Parliament resumes. This marks the first time a monarch has performed this ceremonial duty since Queen Elizabeth II in 1957.

As the two leaders prepare for their meeting, all eyes will be on how they navigate the complex issues at the heart of the Canada-U.S. relationship.

## Pakistan Reopens Wagah Border for Stranded Citizens Amid Visa Row



Pakistan announced on Friday, May 2, 2025, that it would continue to allow the use of the Wagah border crossing for its citizens stranded in India, following New Delhi's decision to revoke visas in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror incident.

The Attari-Wagah border, located near Amritsar in India and Lahore in Pakistan, was shut on Thursday, May 1, 2025, after being kept open until April 30. Reports indicated that as many as 70 Pakistani nationals were stranded at the border on Thursday, as the deadline for leaving India expired a day earlier.

In response to media queries, a spokesperson for Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) acknowledged reports of Pakistani nationals, including children, stranded at the Attari border on the Indian side. The spokesperson stated, "We are aware of the media reports indicating that some Pakistani nationals are stranded at Attari. We are open to receiving our citizens in case the Indian authorities allow them to cross the border from their side." The MoFA also criticized India's decision to revoke visas of Pakistani citizens, stating that it was creating serious humanitarian challenges, including disruptions to medical treatments and family separations.

India had issued the 'Leave India' notice to Pakistani nationals after 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed by terrorists with Pakistan links in Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22. The deadline for exiting India for those holding SAARC visas was April 26, for medical visas was April 29, and for other categories of visas was April 27. After the expiry of the deadline, no one from Pakistan or India could cross over to each other's country.

Mirroring India's steps, Islamabad had also closed the Wagah border post, canceled visas given to Indians under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES), and asked military advisers at the Indian High Commission to leave. Pakistan had stated, "All cross-border transit from India through this route shall be suspended, without exception."



# Markets End Week on a High Note; Reliance Leads, Profit-Booking Caps Gains

Domestic stock markets closed with moderate gains on Friday. The benchmark indices, which had reached highs in the beginning due to mixed signals from international markets, fell sharply after noon. This was due to investors taking profits. However, it is noteworthy that the markets have closed in profit for three consecutive weeks after December 2024. Big brother Reliance Industries has gained 10% this week, a record increase in five years. Defense stocks performed better. Overall, the Nifty 12 and the Sensex rose by 259 points.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 80,242 in the previous session, opened at 80,300 on Friday. It touched an intraday low of 81,177. It reached an intraday high of 80,168. Finally, it closed at 80,501 with a gain of 259 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 24,311, touched a low of 24,238 and



a high of 24,589. It closed at 24,346, up 12 points. The Nifty Bank rose 28 points to settle at 55,115.

In the Nifty50, 17 companies gained while 32 lost. Adani Ports, Bajaj Finance, IndusInd Bank, SBI, Hindalco were the top gainers. JSW Steel, Bajaj Auto, Eicher Motors, HDFC Life, Hero Moto suffered the most losses. Oil, media, IT, PSU bank, finance indices rose today. Consumption, healthcare, telecom, pharma, metal, auto, FMCG indices turned red.

Market breadth in NSE is in favor of sellers. Out of a total of 2938 stocks traded, 2938 gained and 1651 lost. 26 shares touched their 52-week high and 31 shares touched their 52-week low. 63 shares reached the upper circuit and 67 shares reached the lower circuit.

Today, Marico released its fourth-quarter results. Net profit rose 7.8% to Rs. 345 crore from

Rs. 320 crore. The rupee weakened slightly against the dollar and settled at Rs. 84.56. Jefferies maintained a buy rating on Sona BLW with a target price of Rs. 565. Jindal SA reduced its net profit to Rs. 291 crore from Rs. 502 crore. Citi has given a sell rating to JSPL with a target price of Rs. 675. Indus Tower has been given an underperform rating with a target price of Rs 345. Citi has maintained a buy rating on Exide Industries at Rs 540. SBI, Kotak and DMart will release results on Saturday. Capacity Infra Project Company has received a letter of acceptance for an infrastructure project worth Rs 384 crore. M&M Financial's board has approved a rights issue worth Rs 3000 crore. 40 lakh shares have changed hands in Nykaa. Jefferies has given a hold rating to Eternal with a target price of Rs 250. Godrej Properties' net profit has decreased by 19% to Rs 382 crore. Indian Overseas Bank's net profit has increased by 30% from Rs 808 crore to Rs 1051 crore. Latent View's net profit rose 18.4% to Rs. 53.5 crore from Rs. 45.2 crore.

## Amazon Posts Strong Q1 Results Amid Trade Uncertainty, Shares Dip After-Hours



Amazon reported strong first-quarter earnings on Thursday, with both profit and revenue surpassing analysts' expectations, reinforcing the company's dominance in e-commerce and cloud computing despite economic headwinds and mounting trade tensions.

For the quarter ending March 31, Amazon posted a net income of \$17.13 billion, or \$1.59 per share—up from \$10.43 billion, or 98 cents per share, in the same period last year. Revenue climbed 9% year-over-year to \$155.7 billion, compared to \$143.3 billion in Q1 2024.

Amazon Web Services (AWS), the company's powerhouse cloud computing division, posted a 17% increase in sales, reaching \$29.3 billion for the quarter. The growth underscores AWS's continued strength in the tech landscape, particularly as Amazon ramps up investments in generative artificial intelligence and data infrastructure. The company is investing billions in AI development, including custom chips and expanded data centers.

Despite the strong quarterly performance, Amazon shares dipped more than 2% in after-hours trading, as investors weighed the company's cautious outlook amid growing economic and geopolitical concerns.

CEO Andy Jassy acknowledged challenges ahead, particularly around President Donald

Trump's trade policies, which include steep 145% tariffs on China. These policies are expected to impact consumer prices and supply chains. Still, Jassy emphasized Amazon's ability to navigate turbulent markets.

“When there are uncertain environments, customers tend to choose the provider they trust most,” said Jassy. “Given our broad selection, low pricing, and fast delivery, we’ve consistently emerged from these periods stronger.”

To mitigate the impact of tariffs, Amazon and many of its third-party sellers accelerated imports ahead of policy changes. However, further strain is expected as the U.S. prepares to end a duty exemption on low-value shipments from China—affecting platforms like Shein and Temu, and potentially impacting Amazon's new China-based storefront, Amazon Haul.

Amazon said it spent \$25.02 billion on property and equipment in Q1, up from \$14.92 billion a year ago. It also announced a \$4 billion rural delivery network expansion through 2026.

For Q2, Amazon expects sales between \$159 billion and \$164 billion, slightly under analysts' average estimate of \$161.2 billion. Operating income is forecast between \$13 billion and \$17.5 billion—just below the \$17.6 billion expected by Wall Street.

## India's GST Collections Hit Record High of Rs 2.37 Lakh Crore in April

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections reached an all-time high of Rs 2.37 lakh crore in April, marking a significant 12.6% year-on-year increase. This surge follows a consistent upward trend in GST revenue, with March and February collections rising by 9.9% and 9.1%, respectively.

The April 2025 collections represent a robust performance, surpassing the previous high of Rs 2.10 lakh crore recorded in April 2024. In comparison, March 2025 saw a collection of Rs 1.96 lakh crore. The government had set a target of an 11% increase in GST revenue for the fiscal year, estimating total collections to reach Rs 11.78 lakh crore.

Breaking down the data, revenue from domestic transactions rose by 10.7% to about Rs 1.9 lakh crore. Additionally, GST revenue from imported goods saw a notable increase of 20.8%,



amounting to Rs 46,913 crore. The government also issued a significant amount of refunds in April, totaling Rs 27,341 crore, which marks a 48.3% rise from the previous year.

The growth in GST collections can be attributed to a combination of factors,

including strong domestic consumption and improved compliance. The rise in revenue from imported goods indicates the continued recovery of the global economy and the resilience of India's trade sector.

With the GST system now fully integrated and operational since its rollout on July 1, 2017, this record collection further strengthens the government's position on the effectiveness of the tax regime. As India's economy continues its growth trajectory, analysts expect this upward trend in GST collections to continue, reflecting a healthy recovery across key sectors.

India's fiscal health appears to be improving, with the significant rise in GST collections helping to boost the government's tax revenue base, supporting budgetary allocations for key infrastructure and welfare initiatives.

## Deloitte Forecasts India's Economic Growth at 6.6% for FY2025-26

Deloitte has projected India's economic growth to remain steady at 6.6% for the fiscal year 2025-26, amid a balancing act between domestic tax incentives and uncertain global trade conditions. The global consultancy firm highlighted that while domestic tax measures are expected to stimulate consumer demand, global trade volatility, particularly potential tariffs on exports to the US, poses a significant risk to the growth trajectory.



The forecasted growth is shaped by the Indian government's efforts to boost domestic consumption through tax stimulus, which is expected to offset some of the adverse impacts of trade-related uncertainties. However, the outcome of ongoing US-India trade negotiations will

play a crucial role in determining the future course of India's economy. A positive trade relationship with the US could bolster India's exports, while tariffs could undermine trade growth.

Deloitte's report also noted that despite a slowdown in the global economy, In-

dia's economy showed resilience, with growth rates moderating to 6.1% year-on-year through the third quarter of FY2025. The slowdown was attributed to factors such as uncertainty surrounding the general elections, unusual rainfall patterns in the first half of the year, and ongoing vola-

tility in global trade.

For FY2026, Deloitte emphasized that India's economic outlook hinges on evolving trade relations, particularly with major partners like the US, and the continued success of government policies aimed at stimulating domestic demand. The tax incentives provided by the government, including relief to consumers, are expected to support demand in the short term, but the external trade environment will remain

a critical factor in shaping India's growth prospects.

While the outlook remains positive, India's ability to navigate global uncertainties and capitalize on its domestic growth engines will be crucial in achieving the forecasted 6.6% growth rate.



# Sam Altman’s Ghibli-Style Photo with Satya Nadella Sparks Buzz

Amid ongoing speculation about a growing rift between Microsoft and OpenAI, a whimsical Ghibli-style image of their CEOs has caught the internet’s attention. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman shared an AI-generated picture of himself with Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella, seemingly attempting to downplay the tension with a lighthearted social media post.

“Fun showing @satyanadella our new office and talking about some of our latest progress!” Altman wrote on X (formerly Twitter) on May 1, 2025, alongside the stylized image. The post quickly went viral, not just for the high-profile subjects but also because it used a trending anime-inspired Ghibli filter. Nadella responded warmly, saying, “Great to see you today, @sama. Love the new office!”

The post sparked a flurry of online reactions. While many users appreciated the playful tone between the two tech leaders, others criticized the use of AI filters. “You guys are so cute,” commented one user. Another pointed out, “Satya looks older in this than he really is,” while a skeptical user asked, “Are they friends again?” One



particularly critical comment read, “I hate these phoney f\*\*king images so much. Cringeworthy and signals for me to disagree with whatever is being messaged.”

This moment of online levity comes amid a serious backdrop. A recent Wall Street Journal report claimed that the tech giants — once seen as tightly allied in the AI race — may be heading toward separation. According to the report, Microsoft has taken steps to reduce its reliance on OpenAI by hiring talent from a rival AI firm,

fueling speculation of internal disagreements. The story also suggested Altman and Nadella have been clashing behind closed doors.

With Microsoft investing heavily in developing its own AI models, the companies appear to be positioning themselves as independent leaders in the AI landscape. Altman’s post, however, surprised many and seemed to project unity, even if just for the cameras — or in this case, for the AI-generated illustration.

# Divorce Celebrations: A New Era of Empowerment and Renewal

Once seen as a symbol of failure and sorrow, divorce is increasingly being viewed as a chance for personal



growth and renewal. A recent viral video exemplifies this shift in perception. In the video, a woman celebrates the end of her marriage, not with tears, but with a joyful party atmosphere. Adorning her hands with intricate mehndi designs, she boldly displayed the words “Finally DIVORCE” in a gesture that turned a traditional symbol of joy into one of liberation.

But this wasn’t just any mehndi. The artwork featured symbolic motifs that humorously reflected the emotional and legal aspects of marital dissolution. Phrases like “100 grams of love,” “200 grams of compromise,” and the scales of justice appeared on her hands, blending humor and introspection into the design. It wasn’t a bridal mehndi; it was a testament to the end of a chapter and the beginning of something new.

The video quickly went viral, sparking a wide array of reactions. Some viewers were shocked, call-

ing it a reflection of “Ghor Kalyug” (a sign of societal decline), while others applauded the woman’s courage, calling it a powerful statement of “women’s empowerment” and personal freedom. For many, the video encapsulated a moment of transformation, where divorce was no longer seen as something shameful, but as an opportunity to reclaim one’s life and identity.

This change in perspective mirrors the evolving attitude toward relationships, particularly for women, who are increasingly rejecting the notion that a successful marriage is the sole path to happiness. Instead, the focus is shifting to individual well-being, personal growth, and empowerment.

While divorce will always carry emotional weight, more and more people are embracing it as an opportunity for a fresh start, marked by self-love and a celebration of new beginnings.

# Weekend Marriages: Redefining Commitment in a Fast-Paced World

In a world where professional ambition often overshadows personal time, a new relationship model is quietly gaining ground among young couples — the “Weekend Marriage.” This unconventional arrangement sees spouses living apart during the week and reconnecting on weekends, reshaping the traditional understanding of marriage.



Rather than a sign of emotional distance, weekend marriages are often a practical solution to modern challenges. Career demands, academic pursuits, and the desire for personal space have led many couples, particularly in metropolitan cities, to maintain separate households. Yet, the emotional foundations of these marriages — love, trust, and shared goals — remain intact.

Take the example of a Bengaluru-based software engineer whose wife lives and works in Pune. “We see each other every weekend, and those two days are sacred,” he shares. “We don’t take each other for granted,

and we actually argue less now.”

This growing trend reflects a shift in cultural norms and individual priorities. With both partners often pursuing high-pressure careers, living apart is less about drifting away and more about balancing self-growth with relationship goals. Mental well-being is another key factor. A marketing executive who meets her spouse twice a month says, “Living separately gives me space to focus on myself, my friendships, and still have a fulfilling marriage.”

Some couples adopt this lifestyle out of necessity — long-distance or digital relationships that naturally evolve into weekend marriages. Oth-

ers make a deliberate choice to live apart while pursuing studies or specialized training.

Technology has become an essential enabler, bridging the physical gap through constant communication, video calls, and shared calendars. Relationship experts stress that the success of a weekend marriage depends on emotional maturity, communication, and clearly defined expectations.

While critics argue it dilutes the essence of traditional marriage, supporters say it offers a balanced approach. The time spent together feels more intentional, conflicts decrease, and personal development flourishes. However, it does come with challenges — managing logistics, shared responsibilities, and sustaining intimacy.

For many modern couples, the weekend marriage is not a compromise, but a conscious adaptation — a way to nurture love while honoring individual dreams in an increasingly demanding world.

# Understanding Ophidiophobia: The Fear of Snakes and How It Affects Lives

Snakes have captivated and terrified humans for centuries, inspiring both awe and dread. From ancient folklore to modern movies like Snakes On A Plane and the Anaconda franchise, snakes have long been a symbol of mystery and fear. Their portrayal in popular culture, such as the Indian TV series Naagin or Harry Potter’s ability to speak Parseltongue, has deepened their fascination. However, for many, this fascination comes with an overwhelming sense of fear, leading to a condition known as ophidiophobia.

## What Is Ophidiophobia?

Ophidiophobia, an extreme fear of snakes, is more than just a mild discomfort or unease. It is a specific type of anxiety disorder that goes beyond typical fear. People with this phobia experience intense anxiety or panic at the mere thought of snakes, even if they are harmless or merely imagined. This phobia affects around 2–3% of the global population, although many more people report some level of fear towards these reptiles.

## How Does Ophidiophobia Impact Lives?



The effects of ophidiophobia can range from mild unease to intense psychological and physical reactions. Common symptoms include an increased heart rate, shortness of breath, sweating, trembling, nausea, dizziness, and chest tightness. In extreme cases, panic attacks can occur. People with ophidiophobia may also experience psychological effects like a sense of terror or impending doom. This can lead to avoidance behaviors, such as steering clear of areas where snakes might be present, like forests, zoos, or even outdoor activities like hiking or camping.

## Why Do People Develop A Fear of Snakes?

The origins of ophidiophobia are com-

plex and varied. Some individuals may develop this fear after traumatic experiences, such as being bitten by a snake or hearing about a snake-related death. Evolutionary psychology suggests that humans may have a built-in instinct to avoid snakes as a survival mechanism. Additionally, the portrayal of snakes in culture—whether in myths, folktales, or movies—can also contribute to the development of ophidiophobia.

## Can Ophidiophobia Be Treated?

Ophidiophobia can be treated through various therapeutic approaches. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) helps individuals identify and challenge negative thought patterns related to their fear. Exposure Therapy, where individuals are gradually exposed to snakes in controlled settings, is another effective treatment. In severe cases, anti-anxiety medications may also be prescribed to manage symptoms.

While the fear of snakes can be debilitating, with the right treatment, individuals can overcome it and reclaim control over their lives.

# Generation Beta: Shaping a New Era of Technology and Sustainability



As 2025 marks the beginning of Generation Beta, experts predict a time of rapid technological change and profound societal transformations. This cohort, which spans from 2025 to around 2039, follows Generation Alpha (2010-2024), Gen Z (1996-2010), and millennials (1981-1996). While the precise dates for generational classifications may evolve, one thing is clear: Generation Beta will face challenges and opportunities shaped by both technology and the environment.

Mark McCrindle, a demographer and futurist, notes that environmental sustainability will be central to Generation Beta’s values. He emphasizes that “sustainability will not just be a preference but an expectation,” highlighting the growing need for climate action, responsible urbanization, and sustainable living practices during the generation’s formative years.

In terms of technology, Generation Beta is set to have an even closer relationship with artificial intelligence (AI) and smart devices. Unlike previous generations, who have grown up with social media and content-driven platforms, Generation Beta will engage with AI not just as a tool, but as an integral part of daily life and problem-solving. McCrindle also points out that Gen Z parents, as the most tech-savvy

caregivers, are already pushing back against the early and overwhelming exposure of technology to children. This may influence how Beta interacts with technology in their own childhoods.

Growing up in a post-pandemic world, Generation Beta will not experience the same disruptions that affected earlier generations. According to Jason Dorsey, a generational researcher, while Beta will learn about the pandemic as a historical event, it won’t be part of their direct experience. As Beta matures, they will witness a shift in leadership, with Millennials and Gen Z addressing global challenges like climate change.

Despite the increasing reliance on generational labels to define experiences, experts caution against oversimplifying the diversity of lived realities. The Pew Research Center has recently moved away from using generational labels, noting that factors such as race and class often play a more significant role in shaping experiences than age alone.

Generation Beta will likely navigate a world defined by both technological advancements and environmental imperatives. How they address these challenges will shape the future for years to come.



## Gujarat Titans Defeat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 38 Runs in IPL 2025 Showdown

Gujarat Titans (GT) continued their strong campaign in IPL 2025 with a dominant 38-run victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in a thrilling encounter at home. Powered by a stellar 76 from Shubman Gill, along with vital contributions from Jos Buttler (64) and B Sai Sudharsan (48), GT posted a commanding total of 224/6 in their 20 overs.

The Titans' innings were built on a solid foundation, with Gill anchoring the batting, and Buttler and Sudharsan adding valuable runs in the middle order. While GT's top order fired, it was the disciplined bowling from SRH that tried to rein in the scoring. However, the impressive total was always going to be a challenging target for the visitors.

In reply, SRH had a rocky start when Travis Head was dismissed for a duck following a spectacular catch by Rashid Khan, who leapt high to take a one-handed stunner at mid-off. Despite the early setback, Abhishek Sharma rose to the occasion, playing a stunning knock of 74 from 41 balls, which briefly raised hopes of an SRH revival. But the target proved too steep, as GT's bowlers tightened the screws.

Prasidh Krishna was the standout performer with the ball for Gujarat, producing an exceptional spell of 2/19 in his four overs. His timely breakthroughs and control with the ball helped seal the victory for GT.

Despite Sharma's valiant effort, SRH's chase fell



short, and they finished at 186/8 in their 20 overs. This result not only secured two crucial points for Gujarat but also lifted them to second place in the points table. On the other hand, SRH's loss leaves them with slim chances of progressing to the playoffs in IPL 2025.

Gujarat Titans' all-around performance showed their strength, while SRH's inconsistent showing has left them on the brink of elimination from the playoff race.

## Indian Men's Hockey Team Narrows Camp Squad to 40 After Intense Selection Phase

The Indian Men's Hockey Team has trimmed its national camp squad from 54 to 40 players following a week of rigorous evaluation that began on April 25. The decision to streamline the group was based on recent performances and current form, particularly during the 15th Senior Men's National Championship and the early days of the ongoing camp.



Out of the original 54 probables, 38 have retained their spots from the previous core group, while two new talents have earned their call-ups thanks to standout showings. Chief Coach Craig Fulton confirmed that the selection process was thorough and focused on maintaining competitive intensity across all departments.

The goalkeeping department remains unchanged, with Krishan B Pathak, Suraj Karkera, Pawan, and Mohith Honnenahalli Shashikumar continuing to don the gloves.

In defense, 10 players have been retained, including Amit Rohidas, Varun Kumar, Jugraj Singh, Nilam Sanjeev Xess, Amandeep Lakra, Harmanpreet Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh, Sanjay, Yashdeep Siwach, and Mohammed Raheel Mouseen. A new addition to this group is Pratap Lakra from Hockey Madhya Pradesh, who impressed selectors with his recent performances.

The midfield unit showcases a solid mix of experience and rising talent. Raj Kumar

Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Hardik Singh, Sumit, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Poovanna Chandura Bobby, Rajinder Singh, Vishnu Kant Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, and Shamsheer Singh make up this dynamic lineup.

The forward line has been further strengthened with seasoned players like Gurjant Singh, Abhishek, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Dilpreet Singh, and Sukhjeet Singh. They are joined by Shilan and Lakra, Aditya Arjun Lalage, Bobby Singh Dhami, Selvam Karthi, Sunil Jojo, Sudeep Chirmako, and Angad Bir Singh. Newcomer Uttam Singh from UP Hockey has also earned a spot following his notable performance.

Coach Fulton praised the depth and balance of the selected group, stating, "This group gives us depth across all departments. The young players stepping up and challenging the seniors is a positive sign as we prepare for major upcoming tournaments."

## Europa League Lifeline: Manchester United and Tottenham Secure Crucial First-Leg Wins

Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur have revived their troubled seasons with impressive first-leg victories in the UEFA Europa League semifinals, keeping their hopes alive for silverware and an unlikely route to Champions League qualification.

On Thursday, May 1, 2025, United delivered one of their best performances of the season with a dominant 3-0 win over Athletic Bilbao at the San Mames in Spain. Meanwhile, Spurs earned a convincing 3-1 home win against Norwegian side Bodo/Glimt, giving both Premier League strugglers a lifeline in Europe.

For Manchester United, who sit 14th in the league and are facing a record-low domestic finish, European competition has provided rare joy. Casemiro opened the scoring in



the 30th minute with a header from Harry Maguire's cross. Moments later, Rasmus Hojlund won a penalty after being fouled by Dani Vivian, who was sent off after a VAR review. Bruno Fernandes converted from the spot and added a third just before halftime with a composed finish. Fernandes now has 19 goals and 16 assists this season, second only to Liverpool's Mohamed Salah in goal

contributions.

United could have extended their lead further, with Nussair Mazraoui and Casemiro both hitting the post. The return leg takes place at Old Trafford next Thursday, with the final set to be held in Bilbao on May 21.

Tottenham, also mired in domestic struggles and under

pressure, gave manager Ange Postecoglou a timely boost. Brennan Johnson scored within a minute, and James Maddison made it 2-0 by the 34th. Dominic Solanke added a third from the penalty spot in the 61st minute. Though Bodo/Glimt pulled one back in the 83rd via Ulrik Saltnes, Spurs take a strong lead to Norway for the second leg.

Postecoglou expressed confidence in his squad, saying, "All you want is to be in a good position after the first leg — and we've done that."

In the UEFA Conference League, Chelsea added to the English success with a 4-1 win over Djurgarden in Sweden, thanks to a brace from Nicolas Jackson. Real Betis beat Fiorentina 2-1, with on-loan United winger Antony continuing his strong form.

## Liverpool's Premier League Win Causes Seismic Shockwaves at Anfield

Liverpool's emphatic 5-1 victory over Tottenham Hotspur on April 27, 2025, was more than just a sporting triumph—it quite literally shook the earth. In an extraordinary scientific study conducted by researchers from the University of Liverpool, seismic activity was recorded at Anfield during the match, highlighting the passionate fervor of the club's supporters.

Using advanced seismic monitoring instruments typically deployed in earthquake-prone regions like Chile and Italy, scientists measured the ground movement generated by over 60,000 fans. The result? A peak magnitude of 1.74 on the Richter scale was recorded when Alexis Mac Allister fired a thunderous goal from outside the box, putting the Reds ahead in a pivotal moment of the game.



Other goals in the match also registered significant tremors. Mohamed Salah's second-half strike in front of the iconic Kop measured 1.60, while Cody Gakpo's contribution registered 1.03. Even an own goal by Tottenham's Destiny Udogie scored 1.35, and Luis Diaz's initially disallowed equaliser reached 0.64 on the seismic scale.

The research team, which included Dr. Antoine Septier, Dr.

Farnaz Kamranzad, and Professor Ben Edwards, partnered with Liverpool Football Club to execute this groundbreaking experiment. According to Professor Edwards, the seismic data provides a "scientific record of the magnitude of Liverpool's historic title-clinching win," underscoring the intensity and unity of the fanbase.

"These seismic bursts mimic those caused by natural earthquakes," said Edwards. "They're

triggered not by tectonic plates, but by the roaring energy of fans reacting to pivotal goals."

Dr. Septier expressed hope that the findings would inspire future seismological research and potentially lead to innovations in enhancing stadium experiences.

Liverpool's victory secured their 20th top-flight English title, bringing them level with arch-rivals Manchester United. The Reds sealed the championship with four games remaining, as challengers Arsenal faltered in the closing weeks of the season.

This landmark win was not only a footballing milestone but also a testament to the electrifying spirit of Anfield—a force now proven to move the earth itself.

## Indian women's hockey team falls 0-2 to Australia



The Indian women's hockey team displayed grit and determination but ultimately fell short in their third match of the Australia tour, losing 0-2 to the Australian national team at the Perth Hockey Stadium on Thursday.

This encounter marked India's first match against the senior Australian team following two earlier contests against Australia A. Despite a valiant effort, India couldn't overturn the early deficit, with Australia capitalizing on key opportunities to seal the win.

The hosts started on the front foot, testing India's defense early and earning a penalty corner within the opening minutes. Although India held off the initial threat, Australia broke through in the 9th minute when Courtney Schonell scored a well-placed field goal, giving her side a 1-0 lead.

India struggled to gain momentum in the opening quarter as Australia continued to dominate possession and looked threatening with another penalty corner, though they couldn't convert the chance. The Indian defense did well to prevent further damage before the end of the quarter.

In the second quarter, India came out with renewed energy and intent. They earned back-to-back penalty corners and showed better control in midfield. However, despite these opportunities, the equalizer remained elusive. Australia's defense stayed compact, and India went into the halftime break trailing 0-1.

The third quarter was closely contested, with both teams creating chances but failing to find the net. Each side had a penalty corner opportunity, but the goalkeepers and defenders stood tall to keep the scoreline unchanged heading into the final quarter.

As the match approached its climax, India continued to press for an equalizer but were unable to break through a disciplined Australian backline. In the 52nd minute, Australia doubled their lead through Grace Stewart, effectively sealing the game.

While the Indian team showed flashes of promise and resilience throughout the match, the inability to convert scoring chances proved costly. The squad will look to regroup and address these concerns as they prepare for their remaining fixtures on the tour.





# First Look of Bhakasaura Restaurant Unveiled: Praveen Shines in a Comedic Lead Role

The much-anticipated first look of Bhakasaura Restaurant has finally been revealed, putting to rest the recent buzz and speculation surrounding the project. In recent weeks, rumors spread like wildfire suggesting that popular comedian and actor Praveen was venturing into the restaurant business with a new eatery named Bhakasaura. However, it's now clear that the name refers to a movie, not a business endeavor. Praveen is playing the lead role in this upcoming comedy film, which is already capturing the audience's attention.

Unveiled on Friday, the film's first look poster presents Praveen in a humorous avatar, holding a giant ladle in a kitchen-like setting. The image features other cast members, including Viva Harsha and Shining Phani, in quirky and expressive poses, hinting at the film's lighthearted and eccentric tone.

Directed by SJ Shiva in his debut, Bhakasaura Restaurant promises to be a "hunger comedy entertainer," according to the filmmaker. The story aims to blend humor, thrill, and originality, offering something new to audiences of all ages. SJ Shiva stated that each scene is designed to deliver

both laughs and excitement, with Praveen set to reveal a fresh dimension of his acting prowess.

Alongside Praveen, the film stars Viva Harsha in a significant title role, supported by a diverse cast that includes Shining Phani (Bumchik Bunty), KGF Garuda Ram, Krishna Bhagavan, Srikant Iyengar, Uppena Jayakrishna, Vivek Dandu, Amar, Rampatas, Ramya, Prachi Thakur, and Jabardasth Apparao.

Produced by Lakshmaiah Achari and Janardhan Achari under the SJ Movies banner, the film has completed its shooting and is gearing up for release. With cinematography by Bala Saraswati, editing by Marthand K. Venkatesh, and music by Vikas Badisa, the technical crew brings strong credentials to the project. Art direction is led by Sri Raja CR Tangala, while publicity is managed by Eluru Srinu and Maduri Madhu, and executive production by Vinay Kotti.

The buzz generated by the first look indicates that Bhakasaura Restaurant might serve up a delightful cinematic treat. Would you like a glimpse of the first-look poster?



## Nani's Hit 3: The Third Case Smashes Box Office Records with ₹43 Crore Opening Day

Natural Star Nani has delivered yet another blockbuster with his latest release, Hit 3: The Third Case. The crime thriller, which hit theatres yesterday, has taken the box office by storm, grossing an impressive ₹43+ crore worldwide on its opening day. The film's makers confirmed the figure on social media, celebrating the success with an enthusiastic post:

"SARKAAR'S BOX OFFICE MAYHEM collects a whopping 43+ CRORES GROSS WORLDWIDE on DAY 1 Natural Star @NameisNani's HIGHEST DAY 1 GROSSER #HIT3 is the #1 INDIAN FILM WORLDWIDE YESTERDAY."

This stunning debut marks a personal milestone for Nani, setting a new record for his highest-ever day-one collections. Compared to the previous installments in the Hit franchise, the third chapter has outperformed by a significant margin, proving Nani's rising popularity and box office draw. The film's gripping storyline, combined with a powerful promotional campaign, played a key role in driving footfalls across theatres.

Directed by Sailesh Kolanu, Hit 3 has also made a strong impact overseas. The film earned more than \$1.2 million on its first day abroad, becoming Nani's highest-grossing overseas opening to date. The overwhelming response from international audiences showcases the global appeal of the Hit franchise and Nani's growing stardom beyond Indian borders.

Adding to the impressive performance, online ticketing platform BookMyShow reported over 2.7 lakh tickets sold within just 24 hours, signaling massive interest and strong word-of-mouth buzz.



Produced by Prashanthi Tipirneni under the banners of Wall Poster Cinema and Nani Unanimous Productions, Hit 3 continues the franchise's reputation for gritty crime thrillers with high production values. Following the success of this installment, the makers have confirmed that a fourth part in the Hit series is already in the pipeline, further exciting fans of the franchise.

With its stellar opening, Hit 3: The Third Case has firmly cemented Nani's position as one of the most bankable stars in Indian cinema today. Have you had a chance to watch Hit 3 yet?

## Mahesh Babu's Athadu Set for Historic IMAX Re-Release on 20th Anniversary

Mahesh Babu's iconic action thriller Athadu is all set to make a spectacular return to the big screen, nearly 20 years after its original release in 2005. Directed by Trivikram Srinivas and co-starring Trisha, the film was a decent box office success upon its release, but truly gained cult status following its satellite premiere, becoming one of the most beloved films in Telugu cinema. Now, Athadu is poised to create history by becoming the first Indian film ever to be re-released in the IMAX format. This marks a groundbreaking moment in Indian cinema, as no other film from the country has previously been re-released in such a grand and technically upgraded format. The re-release is being planned as a special celebration for Mahesh Babu's birthday in August 2025. The film will return to theaters across both Telugu states with a major technical makeover—featuring 4K Ultra HD resolution and Dolby audio mastering for a visually and sonically immersive



experience. This upgrade ensures that both new audiences and longtime fans will get to enjoy Athadu in a way never seen—or heard—before. To mark the occasion, the makers have launched a 100-day countdown poster, adding to the excitement and anticipation. The poster, released earlier today, has already begun trending among Mahesh Babu fans and film enthusiasts, setting the tone for what is expected to be a grand cinematic event.

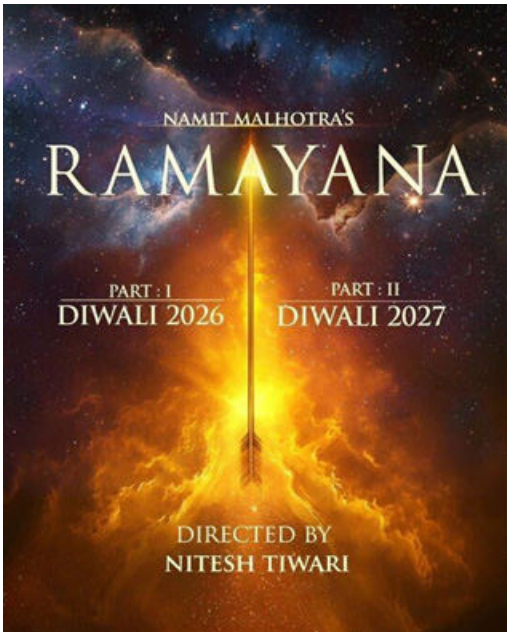
Produced by veteran actor and filmmaker Murali Mohan, Athadu originally stood out for its gripping screenplay, stylish execution, and stellar performances. Its timeless soundtrack, composed by Mani Sharma, continues to be a fan favorite even today. With this historic IMAX re-release, Athadu is not just revisiting the past—it's redefining how classics can be celebrated in the future. Fans are eagerly awaiting the chance to relive Mahesh Babu's sharp and suave performance as Nandu on the big screen, this time bigger and better than ever.

## Ranbir Kapoor's Ramayana Teaser to Be Showcased at WAVES Summit 2025

Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana is quickly emerging as one of the most ambitious and eagerly awaited mythological films in the history of Indian cinema. Headlined by Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama and Sai Pallavi as Sita, the epic saga is being made in two parts and is drawing attention for its grand vision, scale, and star power.

The film is back in the spotlight as it has been confirmed that a special teaser of Ramayana will be unveiled during the inaugural World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES), which began yesterday in Mumbai and continues through May 4, 2025. While this teaser will be presented at the event, it will not be released to the general public just yet, meaning fans will need to wait a bit longer for their first glimpse of this cinematic spectacle.

Ramayana boasts a stellar ensemble, with Kannada superstar Yash portraying the iconic role of Ravana. The film is being produced on an enormous scale by Namit Malhotra's



DNEG, in collaboration with Yash's own production house, Monster Mind Creations. Adding further weight to the project is its exceptional music lineup, featuring two of the world's most celebrated composers—AR Rahman and Hans Zimmer. Their involvement signals an audio-visual experience like no other.

The first installment of the two-part saga is currently slated for a grand Diwali 2026 release, with the second part expected to hit theatres during Diwali 2027. Given the film's mythological roots, powerful cast, and global production values, Ramayana is anticipated to set a new benchmark for Indian cinema.

With the teaser being privately screened at WAVES, industry insiders and select attendees will get a taste of the scale and storytelling that awaits. As anticipation builds, fans across the world are counting down to the moment they can witness Tiwari's vision for themselves.

## Ajay Devgn's 'Raid 2' Revives Bollywood with Blockbuster Opening

At a time when Bollywood has been grappling with underwhelming box office performances, Ajay Devgn's latest release, Raid 2, has brought a much-needed boost to the industry. Opening to an impressive first-day collection of ₹18.25 crore in India, the film has exceeded expectations and marked a strong comeback for the star-driven thriller genre.

A sequel to the 2018 hit Raid, Raid 2 explores the high-stakes world of Income Tax raids, with Ajay Devgn reprising his role as a tough-as-nails IT officer. This time, Riteish Deshmukh steps in as the antagonist, delivering a powerful performance that has been widely appreciated. Directed by Rajkumar Gupta, the film has been made on a budget of ₹48 crore and is jointly produced by Bhushan Kumar, Abhishek Pathak, and Krishna Kumar.

The cast also features Vaani Kapoor, Rajat Kapoor, Supriya Pathak, Saurabh Shukla, Govind Namdev, Yashpal Sharma, Amit Sail, and Brijendra Kala in significant roles. Saurabh Shukla, who played the villain in the



first installment, also appears in the sequel, but this time in a different capacity, adding depth to the storyline.

What makes Raid 2 stand out is its strong narrative, rooted in real-life-inspired tax raids, combined with taut performances and a gripping screenplay. The film has struck a chord with audiences, particularly in North India, where it is being celebrated as a one-sided hit.

Trade analysts are optimistic about the film's prospects over the weekend, with early predictions suggesting that Raid 2 might achieve break-even status within its first three days. In addition to its domestic success, the movie is also performing well overseas, with estimated collections of around ₹5 crore on day one, taking its global first-day tally to approximately ₹22 crore.

As Bollywood continues to search for consistent box office successes, Raid 2 comes as a refreshing win and could set the tone for a positive summer at the movies.