



Weather Forecast

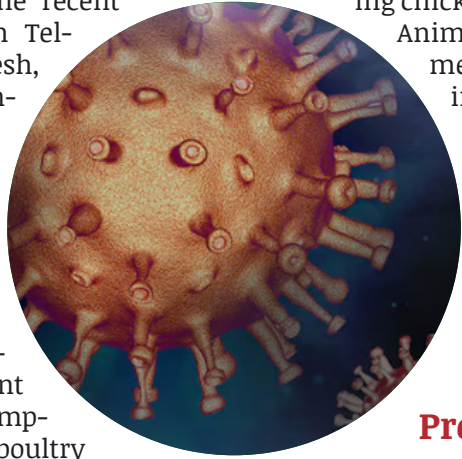
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- Thousands of Chickens Dead, Public Alarmed
- Government Issues Health Advisory
- Poultry Farmers Asked to Follow Biosecurity Measures
- What is Bird Flu?
- How Bird Flu Spreads to Humans
- Symptoms in Chickens and Humans
- Is Bird Flu Fatal?
- No Vaccine Yet, But Treatment Available
- How to Stay Safe While Eating Chicken



Bird Flu Outbreak in TELANGANA and AP

TPN correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 12: The recent outbreak of bird flu in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh has raised concerns among poultry farmers and consumers. Thousands of chickens have died due to the spread of the influenza A virus, leading to a decline in egg production and a significant drop in chicken consumption. Despite falling poultry prices, people are hesitant to buy chicken, fearing infection.



ed by warning people to avoid consuming chicken for a few days. The Animal Husbandry Department is actively working on the Centre's directives, and Special Chief Secretary Savyasachi Ghosh has instructed district collectors to implement strict biosecurity measures in poultry farms.

- Maintain hygiene in poultry farms and feed storage areas.
- Report any signs of infection to authorities immediately.

Officials are closely monitoring the situation, and reports indicate a high number of chicken deaths in Borlam Camp village of Banswada mandal, Kamareddy district.

Understanding Bird Flu (Avian Influenza)

Bird flu, scientifically known as avian influenza, is a viral infection that primarily affects birds, including chickens, turkeys, and ducks. The disease is caused by various strains of the influenza A virus, including H5N1, H7N9, and H5N8. While not all



Precautionary Measures for Poultry Farmers

- Poultry farmers have been advised to:**
- Follow strict biosecurity protocols.
 - Ensure the proper disposal of infected chickens.
 - Refrain from selling dead

Central and State Governments on High Alert
The alarming rise in chicken deaths has prompted the Central Government to issue an advisory to states, urging them to take immediate preventive measures. The Telangana government has responded

Deputy CM Assures 24/7 Electricity Supply

1912 Helpline to Reach All Consumers

Awards for Outstanding Power Sector Staff

Substations to Be Completed by March 1

More Staff and Funds for Power Department

Officials Directed to Prevent Power Disruptions



TPN correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 12: The Telangana government is fully prepared to meet electricity demand in the upcoming summer, ensuring uninterrupted power supply, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu announced during a review meeting with electricity officials on Tuesday. The meeting, held at the

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat under the Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (SPDCL), focused on power supply strategies for the season.

The Deputy CM directed officials to ensure that there are no power interruptions, even

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Piracy Haunts Tollywood

• HD Prints Leak Online Hours After Release

• Producers Demand Tougher Action Against Pirates

• APSRTC Bus Screens Tandel, Sparks Controversy

• Film Chamber Steps Up Anti-Piracy Efforts

• Cable TV Channels Air Game Changer Illegally

• Fan Wars Fuel Online Film Leaks



TPN correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 12: Tollywood continues to battle the menace of piracy, with newly released films appearing online in high-definition (HD) prints within hours of their theatrical debut. From Attarintiki Daredi to the latest release Tandel, several films have fallen victim to piracy, causing

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I Will Not Re-Enter Politics – Chiranjeevi

Pawan Kalyan Will Fulfill My Political Aspirations

- Chiranjeevi clarifies he has no intention of returning to politics.
- Expresses confidence that Pawan Kalyan will fulfill his political vision.
- Says his focus remains on cinema and public service.



by his brother, Jana Sena Party chief and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. "I will not return to politics. My political goals will be achieved through Pawan Kalyan. He is dedicated to public service and is working tirelessly for the betterment of the people," Chiranjeevi stated. Chiranjeevi, who had launched the Praja Rajyam Party (PRP) in 2008,

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TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 12
Actor and former politician Chiranjeevi has put an end to speculations about his political comeback, stating that he has no plans to re-enter politics. Speaking at a recent event, Chiranjeevi said he is completely focused on cinema and public service and that his political aspirations will be carried forward

Telangana Moves SC on PG Medical Quota

- State Appeals Against HC Ruling
- SC Agrees to Full Hearing
- Govt Seeks Larger Bench Review
- Hearing Adjourned to April 4



TPN correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 12: The Telangana government has challenged the High Court's verdict invalidating the local quota in postgraduate (PG) medical seats in the Supreme Court. A bench led by Justice B.R. Gavai allowed the state government's petition for a full hearing.

larger bench for review.

After considering Telangana's appeal, the Supreme Court stated that it would first conduct a detailed hearing before deciding whether to transfer the matter to a larger bench. The next hearing has been scheduled for April 4.

During the hearing, Telangana's counsel cited a recent ruling by a three-judge Supreme Court bench, headed by Justice Sudhanshu Dulia, which also declared the local quota in PG medical seats invalid. Based on this ruling, the state requested that its petition be transferred to a

The Telangana government argues that local quotas are essential to ensure equitable access to PG medical education for students from the state. The outcome of this case could have significant implications for medical admissions and reservation policies in Telangana.

KCR Predicts By-Elections in Telangana

By-elections inevitable for defecting MLAs

BRS welcomes new leaders into the party

People will teach defectors a lesson: KCR



TPN correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 12: Former Telangana Chief Minister and BRS chief K. Chandrababu Naidu (KCR) has asserted that by-elections are inevitable in the constituencies of MLAs who have switched parties. Speaking at a gathering in Erravalli, where former Station Ghanpur MLA Thattikonda Rajaiah and other leaders met him, KCR made key remarks about the political landscape in the state.

with KCR welcoming them by presenting the party's signature pink scarf. He emphasized that the people of Telangana are ready to hold accountable those MLAs who have defected to other parties, expressing confidence that they will face defeat in upcoming elections.

During the event, leaders Kirti Venkateswarlu and Malkireddy Rajeshwar Reddy joined the BRS party,

Specifically targeting Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari, KCR predicted his loss and expressed strong belief that Rajaiah would reclaim the seat in the next election. The meeting highlighted KCR's continued efforts to strengthen BRS and counter party defections.



Strict Action on Sand Smuggling: CS Directs Collectors

TPN correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 12: Telangana Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari held a teleconference with district collectors on Tuesday, issuing key directives regarding the construction of Indiramma houses. She emphasized the need for adequate sand availability to ensure smooth progress in the housing scheme.



CS Shanti Kumari instructed collectors to provide sand at reasonable prices to consumers and to formulate an action plan for its distribution. She also stressed the importance of regular inspections of sand reaches and stockyards across all districts to prevent irregularities. Additionally, she directed officials to take strict action against sand smuggling to ensure fair access to resources.

The Congress government in Telangana is actively implementing the Indiramma housing scheme, offering essen-

tial construction materials like cement, iron, and sand at affordable prices to beneficiaries. As part of the implementation process, officials have categorized applications into three groups—L-1, L-2, and L-3. The government will prioritize L-1 applicants, who own land but currently reside in makeshift homes such as huts, thatched houses, or mud structures.

This initiative aims to provide permanent housing for the underprivileged, with district administrations playing a crucial role in facilitating resource distribution and ensuring transparency in the selection process.

JEE Main First Session Results Released: Two Telugu Students Score 100 Percentile

TPN correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 12: The results of the first session of JEE Main, conducted for engineering admissions at the national level, were released today. A total of 14 students from across the country achieved a perfect 100 percentile.

In the girls' category, Guthikonda Manojna from Andhra Pradesh secured a 100 percentile score. Telangana student Banibrata Maji also attained a perfect score, making them the top

performers from the Telugu states.

The first session of JEE Main was held from January 22 to 29 this year, with nearly 9 lakh students appearing for the exam. The second session is scheduled to take place from April 1 to 8.

From both sessions, approximately 2.5 lakh students will be shortlisted for JEE Advanced, which serves as the gateway to prestigious IIT



admissions.

Students can check their results on the official JEE Main website: [https://jeemain.nta.nic.in] (https://jeemain.nta.nic.in).

PAC Meeting Turns Chaotic as BRS Members Stage Walkout

TPN correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 12: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meeting held in the Telangana Assembly on Tuesday witnessed heated exchanges, leading to a walkout by opposition BRS members. The situation escalated when PAC Chairman Arikepudi Gandhi cut off the microphone while BRS leaders were speaking. In protest, BRS members boycotted the meeting, opposing Gandhi's appointment as PAC Chairman.

BRS leaders Vemula Prashanth Reddy, Satyavathi Rathore, and L. Ramana walked out mid-session, expressing their strong

objection. Speaking to the media, they questioned Gandhi's tenure as chairman, stating that the Supreme Court is currently reviewing the disqualification of MLAs who defected from their parties. They also pointed out that traditionally, the PAC post is given to the opposition.

The BRS leaders demanded that the position be assigned to a representative recommended by party chief K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR). Their protest highlights growing tensions over committee appointments and the political realignments in the Telangana Assembly.

Tragic Road Crash: 7 Nacharam Pilgrims Dead

TPN correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 12: A tragic road accident claimed the lives of seven pilgrims from Nacharam, Hyderabad, who were returning from the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The accident occurred around 8:30 AM on Tuesday near Sihora in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, when a lorry carrying cement took the wrong route and collided with their minibuss (AP29W1525).

Eyewitnesses reported that seven passengers died instantly, while the remaining seven were trapped inside the bus. Locals helped rescue the injured and rushed them to a nearby hospital. Two passengers sustained severe injuries, with one in critical condition.

Government Leaders Express Condolences
CM Revanth Reddy expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives and conveyed condolences to the families. He directed officials to provide immediate relief

and ensure proper medical care for the injured.

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar contacted the Jabalpur SP and Collector to gather details. He confirmed that one injured passenger is in a coma while another is in critical condition. He instructed officials to expedite the process of sending the deceased's bodies to their families.

Union Minister Kishan Reddy also expressed grief and spoke to affected families. He coordinated with officials from Madhya Pradesh, Rangareddy, and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts to ensure necessary assistance.

The deceased were identified as Naveen, Anand, Ravi, Shashikant, Mallareddy, and Santosh, while Balakrishna and others are undergoing treatment. Authorities have registered a case and are investigating the incident.

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Bird Flu Outbreak in TELANGANA and AP

strains are dangerous to humans, some can lead to severe health complications.

Symptoms of Bird Flu in Chickens

- Swollen heads.
- Purple discoloration of legs and bodies.
- Difficult breathing.
- Diarrhea, coughing, and sneezing.
- Sudden death in severe cases.

In mild cases, infected chickens may survive but continue spreading the virus. However, in severe outbreaks, chickens can die within hours or a few days.

Can Bird Flu Spread to Humans?

Although rare, bird flu can spread to humans through direct contact with infected birds or contaminated surfaces. The virus can also become airborne through poultry waste, increasing the

risk of transmission. If chicken meat or eggs are not cooked properly, the virus can survive and infect humans. Cooking poultry products at a minimum of 75 degrees Celsius is essential to kill the virus.

Symptoms of Bird Flu in Humans

- Fever and cough.
- Sore throat and body aches.
- Headache and eye infections.
- In severe cases: Pneumonia, respiratory failure, brain damage, and high mortality rates.

The H5N1 strain has a fatality rate of nearly 50% in infected humans. However, human infections are rare.

Is There a Vaccine for Bird Flu?

Currently, there is no specific vaccine for bird flu in humans. Doctors prescribe antiviral medications like Tamiflu and Relenza for treatment. Hospitalization

Government's Warning to the Public

Health officials are urging people to be cautious while consuming poultry products. They advise:

- Avoiding raw or undercooked chicken and eggs.
- Ensuring thorough cooking of poultry at 75 degrees Celsius or higher.
- Practicing good hygiene when handling raw chicken.

The Telangana government has emphasized the importance of public awareness and preventive measures to control the spread of the virus. As the situation unfolds, officials remain vigilant, and further advisories may be issued based on developments in the outbreak.

Piracy Haunts Tollywood

massive financial losses to producers. Despite investing hundreds of crores and employing thousands of technicians over months, filmmakers see their hard work vanish in mere hours due to online leaks.

While stringent anti-piracy laws exist, their enforcement remains questionable. Authorities rarely take action against those responsible, raising concerns about the effectiveness of legal measures. The rise of piracy websites and the misuse of social media platforms for sharing pirated links further compound the problem.

Tandel Piracy in APSRTC Buses

The latest victim of piracy is Tandel, starring Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi. Within two days of its release, an HD print was reportedly screened on an APSRTC bus, sparking outrage. Producer Bunny Vasu has demanded strict action against those involved and has appealed to APSRTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao to investigate the matter. He also stated that the issue would be brought to the attention of Pawan Kalyan.

Bunny Vasu expressed his frustration over the increasing piracy menace, revealing that pirated copies are widely circulated on WhatsApp and Telegram groups. He warned that those responsible for sharing illegal links could face imprisonment.

Game Changer Faces Heavy Losses

Ram Charan's Game Changer also suffered a major setback when its HD print was aired illegally on local cable channels in Andhra Pradesh. The police arrested cable operators involved in the piracy, but the damage had already been done. Filmmakers lament that thousands of people work hard to create a film, only to suffer massive losses due to piracy.

While stringent anti-piracy laws exist, their enforcement remains questionable. Authorities rarely take action against those responsible, raising concerns about the effectiveness of legal measures. The rise of piracy websites and the misuse of social media platforms for sharing pirated links further compound the problem.

The Role of Fan Wars in Piracy

Social media fan wars have further worsened the situation. Some fan groups leak crucial film clips online or even threaten to release full HD prints. Videos recorded in theaters are often uploaded on social media, fueling piracy.

Legal Measures and Call for Stricter Action

A 2023 report estimated that the Indian entertainment industry loses over ₹20,000 crore annually due to piracy. The Cinematography Act, 1952, was recently amended to impose stricter penalties, including up to three years of imprisonment and fines amounting to 5% of a film's production cost. Authorities are required to remove pirated content from digital platforms within 48 hours of receiving complaints.

Despite these measures, Tollywood urges both the central and state governments to enforce stricter action against piracy to protect the industry's future.

Deputy CM Assures 24/7 Electricity Supply

for a moment, and assured that the government will provide all necessary resources. He emphasized that electricity is a critical service and urged officials and staff to remain vigilant. He instructed immediate meetings at all levels to address potential field-level challenges and raise consumer awareness.

Bhatti Vikramarka assured staff that from linemen to the Minister of Power, the entire department should function as a family. He encouraged employees to escalate issues to higher officials if

needed, and even to him directly if required. He also approved all requests for infrastructure enhancements and ordered the completion of substations and related works by March 1.

To improve efficiency, the Deputy CM announced awards for staff providing the best services, recognizing their dedication, especially during recent heavy floods. He stressed the importance of staying updated on global advancements in power demand and alternative energy sources.

Additionally, he ordered widespread publicity of the 1912 helpline, including SMS notifications to all consumers and its inclusion on electricity bills. He affirmed the government's commitment to increasing staff and funding to strengthen the power sector.

The meeting included Principal Secretary for Energy Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Transco CMD Krishna Bhaskar, SPDCL CMD Musharraf Ali, Energy Department OSD Surender Reddy, and other officials.

I Will Not Re-Enter Politics – Chiranjeevi

later merged it with the Congress. However, his political journey did not go as expected, and he eventually stepped away from active politics. Since then, there have been occasional speculations about his possible return, especially with the rise of Pawan Kalyan in Andhra Pradesh politics.

Reiterating his stance, Chiranjeevi emphasized that he is proud of Pawan Kalyan's leadership

and trusts him to achieve what he initially envisioned. "Pawan has a clear vision and is committed to the welfare of the people. I have no doubts about his ability to bring about positive change," he added.

With Pawan Kalyan now holding a key posi-

tion in the Andhra Pradesh government, his influence in state politics has grown significantly. Political analysts believe that Chiranjeevi's open endorsement further strengthens Pawan's leadership and sends a clear message about the family's political direction.

While Chiranjeevi remains a revered figure in the film industry and continues his philanthropic work, his unwavering support for Pawan Kalyan has solidified the latter's role as the family's political torchbearer.

KTR Slams Congress Over Ration Card Delays

TPN correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 12: BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has criticized the Congress government for repeatedly asking people to submit applications for ration cards without taking any action. Taking to the X platform, he questioned, "How many more applications should be given? Does the government actually intend to issue ration cards?"

KTR expressed frustration over the process, stating that applications were already submitted during public administration programs, at Praja Bhavan, Gandhi Bhavan,



and even in Gram Sabhas. Yet, for fresh submissions. "A year the government continues to ask has passed, and the applications

have been thrown into the garbage. Should people keep applying again and again under "Your Service?" he asked, accusing the government of playing with the poor. He further criticized Congress, saying its governance is limited to "applications and office visits," which he claimed is humiliating for the poor. KTR demanded clarity on whether the government truly intends to distribute ration cards or is merely stalling. He warned, "If the government cannot provide them, let them admit it instead of misleading people. Otherwise, the public will not stay silent."

TPCC President Challenges KTR to Debate on Governance



TPN correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 12: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud has thrown an open challenge to BRS leader K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), daring him to debate ten years of BRS rule versus one year of Congress governance.

Criticizing KTR, Goud stated, "Stop boasting about your lineage. If you have the courage, contest the MLC elections." He alleged that KTR is speaking out of frustration after setbacks involving his family members.

Goud also accused BRS of having a secret pact with the BJP in the MLC elections and questioned KTR's stance on issues like the BC caste census and SC classification. He asserted that KTR lacks the moral right to criticize Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, reminding him of the electoral setbacks faced by his sister and brother-in-law.

The TPCC president emphasized that Revanth Reddy and his ministers are focused on rebuilding Telangana after what he described as "ten years of BRS destruction." He further claimed that BRS, which is already divided, will disappear from Telangana's political landscape by the next assembly elections.

Gutta Sukhender Reddy Lauds Telangana's Historic Socio-Economic Survey



TPN correspondent

Nalgonda, Feb 12: Telangana Legislative Council Chairman Gutta Sukhender Reddy stated that the state has taken a historic step by conducting a comprehensive socio-economic, educational, employment, political, and caste

survey, unlike any other state in the country. Speaking to the media, he emphasized the significance of this initiative in shaping inclusive policies for Telangana's future.

Addressing discrepancies between the voter list census and the government survey, Reddy clarified that such differences arise because individuals have the right to vote in two places. He suggested that linking voter IDs to Aadhaar cards would resolve this issue and ensure accuracy in electoral rolls.

Highlighting the government's commitment to social welfare, Reddy noted that beneficiaries who had been waiting for new ration cards for the past ten years have finally received relief. He also revealed that he has written to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, requesting the issuance of both Below Poverty

Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) cards to deserving families.

Reddy urged political leaders to uphold moral values, criticizing the tendency to speak one way while in power and another while in opposition. He also pointed out the previous government's reservation policies in local elections, stating that out of 12,728 Gram Panchayats, 2,625 seats were reserved for Backward Classes (BCs). Similarly, in Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) elections, BCs were allotted 1,224 out of 5,781 total seats in the state.

Emphasizing the need for fair representation and welfare measures, Reddy reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing long-standing issues and ensuring justice for marginalized communities.

BJP MP R. Krishnaiah Criticizes Telangana Caste Census



TPN correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 12: BJP MP R. Krishnaiah has strongly criticized the caste census conducted by the Telangana government, calling it a "trap of mistakes." Speaking to the media in Delhi, he alleged that the survey was incomplete as it did not cover all households and claimed that the number of Backward Classes (BCs) was deliberately reduced.

Krishnaiah accused the Congress government of treating the caste census as a mere formality rather than conducting it thoroughly. He demanded that the state government fulfill its promise of increasing BC reservations to 42 percent before holding elections. He insisted that a law should be passed in the Assembly to guarantee this reservation.

He further warned that if the government fails to act, a large-scale movement similar to the Telangana agitation will be launched. Krishnaiah also criticized the state for neglecting BC welfare, stating that the budget allocation for BCs is insufficient and that they are being denied fair representation in government jobs. He urged the Telangana government to take immediate steps to rectify these issues and ensure justice for BCs through proper reservations and budgetary support.

Kavitha Sets Deadline for Government on Women's Welfare Promises



TPN correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 12: BRS MLC and Telangana Jagruti president K. Kavitha has issued a deadline to the Congress-led state government to fulfill the promises made to women during the elections. She announced that if the government fails to implement these commitments by March 8, International Women's Day, a public movement will be launched.

While welcoming the free bus travel scheme for women, Kavitha demanded an increase in the number of buses to improve accessibility. She accused the Congress government of neglecting other key promises, including the Rs. 2,500 monthly assistance for women, which she claimed has accumulated to Rs. 35,000 per beneficiary. She also questioned the delay in fulfilling promises related to gold

distribution and electric scooters for women.

Kavitha warned that if the government does not announce a concrete plan for implementing these promises by Women's Day, large-scale protests will be organized. She emphasized that women's welfare should not be ignored and urged the Congress to honor its commitments without further delay.

Minister Jupally Slams KTR and Harish Rao Over BRS Rule



TPN correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 12: Minister Jupally Krishna Rao strongly criticized BRS leaders K.T. Rama Rao and Harish Rao, accusing them of failing the people during their ten-year rule. Speaking to media representatives at the State Secretariat on Tuesday, he highlighted the hardships faced by farmers, unemployed youth, students, and

women under BRS governance.

Jupally lashed out at the previous government for not even issuing ration cards despite being in power for a decade. He alleged that both the education and healthcare sectors were deliberately weakened. He further claimed that no significant improvements were made in any system under BRS rule.

The Minister questioned KTR's recent protest in Kodangal, asking why he was holding a dharna there when a pharma city already exists in Hyderabad. He accused BRS leaders of engaging in corruption and irregularities while doing little for the state. "For ten years, they only boasted but failed to deliver real progress," Jupally remarked.

His statements reflect the Congress government's ongoing criticism of the previous BRS administration, signaling intensifying political confrontations in Telangana.

Uttam Kumar Reddy Rallies Cadre for MLC Polls



TPN correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 12: Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy has termed the upcoming Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Medak Graduate MLC elections as a prestigious battle for the Congress party. During a video conference with party leaders at his residence in Banjara Hills on Tuesday, he urged the cadre to mobilize at the grassroots level and prepare a strategic roadmap for the victory of Congress candidate Narender Reddy.

Reddy emphasized that these elections would serve as a rehearsal for the upcoming local body elections and that every vote would be crucial. He stated that a well-coordinated effort at the field level would ensure a smooth victory. The minister called on party members to widely promote the government's achievements ahead of the local body polls, particularly highlighting the teacher recruitments conducted within a year of Congress assuming power after a decade-long gap.

He assured that issues in the joint Karimnagar district would be swiftly addressed and pledged his continuous support to party representatives in the region. The video conference was attended by Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Ponnampati Prabhakar, MLC Jeevan Reddy, Government Whip Adi Srinivas, and several MLAs and party leaders, including Komatireddy Narender Reddy and Harkara Venugopal Rao.

Boinapalli Vinod Calls for MLC Voter Registration Reform

TPN correspondent

Hyderabad, Feb 12: BRS leader and former MP Boinapalli Vinod Kumar has emphasized the need to change the British-era methods in the MLC voter registration process. Speaking to the media on Tuesday, he dismissed PCC chief Mahesh Kumar Goud's claims that BRS colluded with the BJP in the graduate MLC elections.

Vinod Kumar asserted that neither Congress nor BJP candidates would secure victory in the elections.

He clarified that BRS staying away from the contest was not unusual, citing past instances of the party doing so. He urged the government to reform the MLC voter registration system and introduce a modernized process.



Rahul Gandhi Cancels Telangana Visit



TPN correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 12: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's surprise visit to Telangana has been cancelled. According to Congress sources, he called off his visit to participate in key bill debates in Parliament.

Earlier, Rahul Gandhi was expected to meet party leaders and ministers in Hanamkonda as part of his Telangana tour. He was scheduled to depart from Kazipet at 7:30 PM on an express train to Chennai. However, until Tuesday morning, there was no official confirmation of his visit details. Interestingly, even top Congress leaders were unaware of his final schedule. The sudden cancellation of his visit, after it was initially confirmed, has led to confusion within party circles.

PIL Filed Against Hyderabad Metro Expansion

Legal Challenge to Metro Expansion Heritage Sites at Risk Next hearing to the 17th

TPN correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 12: A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Telangana High Court challenging the expansion of the Hyderabad Metro Rail, citing potential threats to historical monuments. The petition was filed by the Andhra Pradesh Wakf Protection Forum (APWPF), alleging that construction activities are being carried out without adequate consideration for heritage structures.

The PIL lists the Chief Secretary of the Telangana Government, the Principal Secretary of the

Municipal Administration Department, the Managing Director of Hyderabad Metro Rail, and the CEO of the Waqf Board as respondents. The petitioner argues that under the Telangana Heritage Act-2017, historical monuments must be preserved. However, the Metro Rail expansion in the Old City is reportedly endangering significant heritage sites such as Charminar, Falaknuma Palace, Purana Haveli, and the Mughal Pura tombs.

The petition requests that metro construction proceed only af-



ter obtaining approval from the High Court or a panel of experts. It highlights concerns that the heritage value and structural integrity of these monuments could be compromised due to large-scale construction in their vicinity.

The Telangana High Court has

taken note of the petition and adjourned the next hearing to the 17th of this month. The case is expected to draw attention from heritage conservationists and city planners as it raises a crucial debate on balancing infrastructure development with historical preservation.

Farmers Protest with Bullocks Against Dump Yard in Gummadidala

TPN correspondent
Sangareddy, Feb 12: Farmers in Gummadidala staged an innovative protest against the proposed dump yard, expressing their strong opposition to its establishment. The demonstration took place on the outskirts of Nalpalali and Pyara Nagar villages, where farmers rallied with buffaloes and bullock carts, highlighting the potential threat to their livelihoods.

As part of the protest, farmers kneeled on the roads and wrote messages on their buffaloes, stating, "No dumping yard, don't beat our stomachs." The unique demonstration has gone viral, with photos and videos circulating widely.

Local residents have raised serious concerns about the dump yard, fearing environmental hazards. They warn that wastewater from the facility could pollute the Ra-

yarao tank, impacting water sources, agricultural lands, and livestock. Villagers are demanding that authorities reconsider the project to prevent long-term damage to their communities.



BC Welfare Association Demands Fresh Caste Census

TPN correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 12: National BC Welfare Association Vice President Gujja Satyam strongly criticized the Congress government's BC caste census, calling it completely inadequate. Speaking at a press conference in Kacheguda, he alleged that the BC community had been misled with the "Adarabadara" report submitted to the government on February 10.

He questioned the secrecy surrounding the report and accused the government of trying to evade the 42% BC reservation in local elections. Satyam pointed out that states like Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh had made their BC census reports public, unlike Telangana.

He further condemned the Bhusani Venkateswara Rao Dedicated Commission for submitting its findings in

strict confidence to Chief Secretary Shanta Kumari. The lack of an official announcement, he argued, raises serious doubts about the government's intentions.

Demanding a fresh BC caste census and full transparency, he warned of large-scale protests if justice was not ensured for the BC community.



Patancheru MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy Faces New Controversy

TPN correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 12: Patancheru Congress MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy has found himself in yet another controversy. His close aide, Yadagiri, has filed his nomination as an independent candidate for the Karimnagar Graduate MLC seat. However, what caught attention was the participation of Mahipal Reddy's brother, Madhusudhan Reddy, in the nomination process.

The controversy arises as the Congress high command has already declared Narender Reddy, head of Alfors organizations, as its official candidate for the MLC seat. This move by Mahipal Reddy's faction has sparked anger among Congress loyalists, who see it as a challenge to the party's decision. Reports suggest that the Kata Srinivas Goud faction is now preparing to lodge a formal complaint against Mahipal Reddy, further escalating tensions within the party.



Nominations Begin for GHMC Standing Committee Election

TPN correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 12: The nomination process for the GHMC Standing Committee election has officially begun, with four corporators filing their papers today. Among them, two nominations were from the Congress and two from the BRS.

From the BRS, Kukatpally Corporator Jupally Satyanarayana and Addagutta Corporator Prasanna Lakshmi submitted their nominations. Meanwhile, Himayath Nagar Corporator Mahalakshmi Goud and Ramach-



andrapuram Corporator Pushpa filed their nominations on behalf of the Congress. The corporators submitted their papers to the GHMC Returning Officer, marking the start of the election process. The nomination filing

will continue until February 17.

Congress corporators expressed confidence that they would secure a place in the Standing Committee, as they have been left out for a long time. On the other hand, BRS corporators claim that BJP members, regardless of party affiliations, will also support them in the election.

With both parties confident of victory, the upcoming GHMC Standing Committee election is expected to be closely contested.

Demolition of Houses in Nizampet Journalist Colony Sparks Outcry

TPN correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 12: Authorities demolished several houses near Journalist Colony under the Nizampet Municipal Corporation in Medchal district, leaving residents devastated. The affected families, who had been living there for the past ten years, claimed that their homes were razed without prior notice or time to vacate, leading to emotional protests.

Adding to the distress, officials reportedly ordered police action against res-

idents who tried to resist the demolition. There are also allegations that Bachupalli R.I. Bhanuchander misbehaved with media personnel who were documenting the incident.

Authorities maintain that the demolished houses were illegal structures, but the victims are demanding answers, questioning why they were allowed to reside there for a decade before facing eviction. The incident has sparked outrage, with residents and activists calling for immediate intervention.



Ramanna Alleges Conspiracy Against BCs in Caste Survey

TPN correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 12: Former minister and BRS leader Jogu Ramanna has strongly criticized the Telangana government's caste enumeration survey, alleging a conspiracy to undermine Backward Classes (BCs).



litical parties.

The state government recently conducted the caste enumeration survey over 50 days, and the cabinet approved the report prepared by the Planning Commission. With this, the caste survey has now taken official status in Telangana. However, the report has sparked controversy, drawing criticism from various communities and po-

BJP leaders have raised concerns over the classification of "Muslim BCs", while several BC communities have accused the government of trying to diminish their representation.

Jogu Ramanna, speaking on the issue, accused the Congress government of manipulating the survey to reduce BC population figures. He pointed out discrepancies in the data, alleging that while OC (Open Category) population was recorded at 7% in 2014, it has now jumped to

15.79%, which he claims is an intentional move to dilute BC reservations.

He warned that BC communities will respond strongly in the upcoming local body elections, showing the Congress party its true position. The former minister called upon BCs to unite and fight against the Congress for allegedly deceiving them.

The controversy surrounding the caste enumeration survey is expected to intensify in the coming days, as opposition leaders and BC organizations demand transparency and fairness in the report.

Harish Rao's Canal Visit: Selfie with Farmers



TPN correspondent
Siddipet, Feb 12: Former minister and BRS leader T. Harish Rao visited the Ranganayaka Sagar canal in Siddipet and took a selfie with farmers, calling it a beautiful sight. He inspected the canal in Salendri village of Chinnakodur mandal and expressed happiness over the flow of Godavari water, which is benefiting local farmers with irrigation facilities.

During his visit, Harish Rao interacted with farmers and inquired about their challenges. He later toured the sunflower fields in Mettupally village, where he held direct discussions with the farmers regarding their concerns over marketing difficulties and low crop prices.

Harish Rao urged the government to take immediate action to address the pricing issues faced by sunflower farmers. He emphasized that it is the government's responsibility to provide a proper Minimum Support Price (MSP) and called for the establishment of special purchase centers to ensure fair prices. Additionally, he recommended that the government include crop details online to inform farmers about market conditions in advance.

Highlighting the achievements of the previous BRS government, Harish Rao credited the Kaleshwaram project and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao for transforming drought-prone areas into fertile lands with irrigation water. However, he criticized the current government for its negligent attitude towards farmers, stating that they are facing serious hardships. He vowed to continue fighting for farmers' rights and to hold the government accountable for its shortcomings.

Minister Konda Surekha Reviews Mahashivratri Preparations



TPN correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 12: Endowment Department Minister Konda Surekha held a review meeting at the Secretariat with senior officials and Executive Officers (EOs) of the Endowment Department to discuss preparations for the upcoming Mahashivratri festival in Shiva temples across Telangana.

The minister emphasized the need for proper arrangements at major temples, including Vemulawada, Kaleshwaram, and Bhadrakali, where large crowds are expected. She directed officials to plan based on last year's experience to ensure a smooth festival.

During the meeting, Surekha reviewed key aspects such as queue management, water supply, traffic regulation, parking facilities, outdoor lighting, installation of water canopies, and temporary toilets. She stressed the importance of ensuring devotees' convenience and urged the district administration to work in coordination with police to manage traffic effectively.

Instructions were given to install sign boards in local and English languages at major intersections in temple towns for better guidance.

Principal Secretary of the Endowment Department Shailaja Ramayyar, Commissioner Sridhar, Additional Commissioner Krishnaveni, Warangal DC Sandhyarani, RJC Ramakrishna, Hyderabad DC Krishna Prasad, District Assistant Commissioners, and EOs of prominent Shiva temples attended the meeting.

ASF BBQ Hosts Special Dinner for Kids

Spreading Joy Through Food
Bringing Smiles, One Meal at a Time
Nourishing Lives, Creating Memories

A Feast of Love and Kindness
ASF's Commitment to Giving Back

TPN correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 12: ASF BBQ & Grill, as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts, organized a special dinner for underprivileged children at Road No. 36, Jubilee Hills. The event aimed to bring joy and a sense of belonging to children from underserved communities while reinforcing the company's commitment to social welfare.

praised the initiative, stating, "Bringing smiles to these children is a meaningful way to give back to society. It's heartwarming to see businesses take responsibility for community welfare."

The event welcomed over 70 children from various NGOs, offering them an evening of games, storytelling, music, and engaging conversations. A specially curated BBQ-themed menu provided the children with delicious and nutritious meals, ensuring a joyful experience.

The dinner was graced by Minister of Women and Child Welfare Danasari Anasuya Seethakka, who served as the Chief Guest, alongside Kada Akhil, CMO, and Arif Ali, COO of ASF BBQ & Grill. Seethakka

ASF BBQ & Grill reaffirmed its dedication to community wel-



fare, education, and nutrition for underprivileged children, with plans to expand CSR initiatives in collaboration with more NGOs. Arif Ali emphasized, "Food has the power to bring people together. This is a small step towards making a

difference." The company encourages other businesses and individuals to contribute to creating a more inclusive and compassionate society.

Kranthi Kiran Slams Government Over Farmers' Struggles

TPN correspondent
Sangareddy, Feb 12: Andol EMLA Kranthi Kiran has criticized the Telangana government for failing to provide remunerative prices to farmers. He accused the Congress government of neglecting the agricultural sector by not ensuring support prices for crops cultivated with great effort.

at the BRS party office in Andol, Kranthi Kiran expressed concern over the plight of farmers. He highlighted that kandi (red gram) and chillies are ready for sale, yet farmers are forced to sell them to middlemen at lower prices due to the absence of government purchase centers.

Speaking at the BRS state diary and calendar launch program

He pointed out that while the support price for kandi is ₹7,500 per quintal, farmers are sell-



ing it for ₹6,800 due to a lack of procurement centers. Similarly, dry chilli farmers are traveling to Warangal Enumamula market in search of buyers but

are selling to middlemen for ₹9,000 per quintal instead of the ₹13,000 support price.

Kranthi Kiran demanded the immediate establishment of purchase centers to prevent farmer exploitation and warned of protests if the government fails to act. BRS leaders, including Jaipal Reddy and Asampally Narayana Lingam Goud, participated in the event.

MP Chamala Kiran Opposes Amendments to Insurance Act

TPN correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 12: MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy has urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to reconsider the proposed amendments to Section 42(2) of the Insurance Act, 1938, which would allow LIC agents to sell insurance plans from private companies.

Speaking at the CITU Parliament March organized by the LIC Agents Organization of India at Jantar Mantar, Reddy warned that the amendment could weaken LIC's market po-

sition, reduce job opportunities, and jeopardize the job security of Development Officers.

He emphasized that LIC's success over 68 years was built on a strong agent recruitment system and that allowing agents to work for private insurers could compromise their loyalty.

Calling the move unjust, he urged the Finance Minister to intervene and prevent the amendment, ensuring the stability of LIC and the insurance sector.

KTR Predicts Public Backlash Against Congress

TPN correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 12: BRS Working President Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao (KTR) has strongly criticized the Congress government, stating that the days are near when people will take sticks to punish Congress leaders who made grand promises but failed to deliver. Speaking at a meeting of Khammam constituency activists at Telangana Bhavan, KTR accused the Congress of misleading the people and failing in governance.

ministers for using helicopters for birthdays but failing to deploy them for rescue operations during the floods. Expressing disappointment over Puvvada Ajay's electoral defeat, KTR alleged that a family was swept away in the floods due to the Congress government's negligence. He asserted that BRS had driven significant progress in Khammam since 2014 and blamed Congress's political strategies for BRS's setbacks in the district. KTR further accused the Congress of lacking leadership and urgency during disasters. He recalled how, during the BRS regime, four helicopters were dispatched to Bhupalpalli district during floods to rescue stranded villagers, unlike the present government. He urged BRS leaders to stand by the people despite setbacks and reaffirmed the party's commitment to Telangana's welfare.

KTR claimed that the people of Telangana feel the absence of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR). He pointed out that during the recent Khammam floods, people remembered former Minister Puvvada Ajay, who, he said, had played a crucial role in the district's development. He criticized Congress

Former Sarpanch Attempts Suicide Over Political Discontent

TPN correspondent
Manthani, Feb 12: In a shocking incident, Ande Satyanarayana, a former Sarpanch of Vilasagar village and a senior Congress worker, attempted suicide by consuming pesticide on Tuesday morning. Before the act, he released a video message expressing his anguish over being sidelined in party affairs. Satyanarayana, a longtime supporter of the Congress party, alleged that those who had worked for years to ensure victories for leaders like Sripada Rao and Minister Sridhar Babu were

being ignored, while newcomers from other parties were being given key positions. He criticized Minister Sridhar Babu for prioritizing new entrants over loyal workers and accused him of allowing "jackals" into the party after coming to power.

Distressed over being neglected, he resorted to consuming pesticide. His family members noticed the incident in time and rushed him to a private hospital in Warangal for treatment.



His condition is currently under medical observation. The incident has sparked political discussions, raising concerns over internal conflicts and dissatisfaction within the Congress party ranks.

Paris AI Action Summit 2025: From Data to Development

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping societies around the globe, but its transformative potential remains inaccessible to many, particularly in developing nations. While wealthy countries harness vast datasets to spur technological progress, many others grapple with fragmented, unreliable, or inaccessible data. Without equitable access to high-quality, local data, the benefits of AI for development remain largely untapped. This is not just a technological issue but a critical development challenge.

The Paris AI Action Summit, held with the aim of supporting AI development in the interests of all, including developing countries, represents a step toward addressing this gap. One of the key discussions at the summit will focus on ensuring that AI innovations are accessible to all, with a particular focus on democratizing access to data.

Data is the backbone of AI development, and its importance cannot be overstated. Data-driven solutions have the potential to address complex societal challenges. For example, the Bermuda Principle's data-sharing arrangements in the 1990s, as part of the American Human Genome Project, revolutionized vaccine development. In a similar vein, the rapid creation of COVID-19 vaccines was facilitated by transparent and real-time data sharing. Locally accessible, contextually relevant data can drastically improve living standards, as seen in London's Transport for London (TfL) system, where making non-public data publicly available fostered the creation of over 600 services benefiting millions of residents.

However, in developing countries, barriers like limited computing infrastructure, lack of skilled talent, and inadequate funding prevent AI from reaching



its full potential. A critical issue is the lack of usable, local data for AI development. This challenge is compounded by underdeveloped data governance frameworks, which hinder the creation of policies that protect citizens' data while fostering innovation. These nations must balance the desire to participate in global AI development with the need to maintain control over their data resources and ensure digital sovereignty.

International dialogues such as the Paris AI Action Summit are vital to overcoming these barriers. With non-standardized systems for cross-border data sharing, countries are often isolated in their AI efforts, limiting collaborative opportunities. Developing regions still struggle to access quality datasets suited to their local needs, which exacerbates global in-

equalities in AI. India's approach to leveraging technology for development offers valuable insights for other emerging economies. With initiatives like the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), India has made significant strides in financial inclusion and technology-driven growth. Prime Minister Modi's participation in the Paris AI Summit could steer global discussions toward inclusive and equitable AI-driven progress.

The Paris AI Action Summit 2025 presents an opportunity to cast AI as a tool for equitable, inclusive, and effective global development. By prioritizing collaborative policies and data democratization, the summit can help bridge the AI divide, ensuring that no region is left behind in the race for AI innovation.



Can Gautam Gambhir Silence His Critics as India's Head Coach?

Being the head coach of the Indian cricket team is no easy feat. The immense pressure to deliver results, especially in the face of fierce scrutiny, makes the role incredibly challenging. Gautam Gambhir, a veteran with a rich cricketing legacy, is now in that hot seat. Having played a key role in India's World Cup victories and led the Kolkata Knight Riders to three IPL titles, Gambhir took over the reins as head coach with high expectations. However, his journey has been anything but smooth.

Gambhir's appointment as India's head coach was met with skepticism. Critics questioned his lack of coaching experience, drawing a sharp distinction between mentoring an IPL team and managing an international squad. The pressure grew when India faced disappointing defeats, including a historic loss to Sri Lanka in a bilateral ODI series and a whitewash in a home Test series. The critics were quick to blame Gambhir, doubting whether he was the right man for the job.

However, it's essential to understand that coaching an international team involves a different set of challenges than playing for one. A top-level athlete's individual approach to the game, honed over years, doesn't change overnight just because they transition to a coaching role. Gambhir, known for his no-nonsense attitude as a player, has carried this persona into his coaching role. While it has ruffled some feathers, it's this very tenacity that has allowed him to handle the pressure.

Gambhir's tenure has been marked by a rough start. Taking over after the high of India's T20 World Cup victory, he inherited a team with its own set of expectations, following the leadership of Rahul Dravid. His early challenges were inevitable. Critics began to point fingers when results didn't match the standards set by his predecessors. However, it's important to note that Gambhir has had less than seven months to settle into the role, a brief period to adapt to new dynamics and refine his strategies.

Recent successes, like the 4-1 T20 series win against England and a commanding 2-0 lead in the ongoing ODI series, have given Gambhir some breathing room. These victories have quieted critics for now, but the real test lies ahead, with the Champions Trophy looming large.

The ODI format, where India has seen solid results, is of particular importance as the team prepares for the upcoming Champions Trophy. Success in this format has proven vital, with players like Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill finding form, and Ravindra Jadeja's confidence surging after his stellar domestic performance. Gambhir's emphasis on a high-risk, high-reward approach in T20s seems to be slowly filtering into the ODI setup.

Despite the recent improvements, challenges persist. India's Test team still needs attention, especially with a five-Test series in England later this year. Gambhir will need to work on finding the right balance and ensuring that players like Virat Kohli return to form. The ongoing issue with KL Rahul's form and Jasprit Bumrah's fitness will also need careful consideration.

Ultimately, the only way to silence the critics is through consistent success, particularly in ICC tournaments. If Gambhir can lead India to an ICC title, even the harshest critics will be forced to acknowledge his efforts.

How To Reproduce With Two Fathers - And No Biological Mother

In March 2023, Japanese researcher Katsumi Hayashi made a groundbreaking announcement at the Third International Summit on Human Genome Editing. Hayashi revealed that he had successfully reproduced mice using two male parents. This achievement was the result of his development of a complex method that transformed male pluripotent stem cells into female-like stem cells, enabling the production of eggs from male cells. His work was published in *Nature*, marking a significant milestone in genetic research.



field of genetics.

Almost two years later, a team of Chinese researchers led by Zhi-kun Li, Wei Li, and Qi Zhou of the Chinese Academy of Sciences built upon Hayashi's findings, but with a unique twist. Their procedure also produced a baby mouse from two males, but it eliminated the need for maternal biological involvement beyond gestation. Their work, published in *Cell Stem Cell*, has once again shaken the

The new procedure focuses on overcoming genetic imprinting, a mammalian control system that prevents the combination of two same-sex gametes (sperm or eggs) from resulting in a viable em-

bryo. In mammals, embryos must derive genetic material from both a male and a female to survive, as certain genes are only expressed when inherited from a specific parent. The Chinese team used CRISPR gene-editing tools to deactivate this imprinting barrier, allowing sperm cells to behave like egg cells, making it possible to combine two sperm to create a viable embryo. This embryo was then gestated by a female mouse, and the resulting mice were derived entirely from two male parents.

However, there are still significant challenges with this method. The mice produced through this process are infertile and can only reproduce via cloning. Furthermore, over half of the mice born to two fathers either fail to survive, die prematurely, or do not mature properly. Previous research from this team showed that mice born from two mothers had a higher survival rate, which suggests that the process is far from perfected.

India's AI Moment: The Race To Catch Up With China And The US

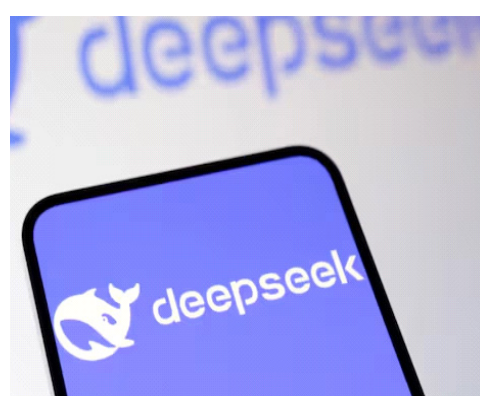
In 2023, OpenAI's CEO, Sam Altman, made a bold statement, claiming it was "totally hopeless to compete with us on training foundation models" for any small team with just \$10 million. However, just two years later, that assertion has been proven wrong. The rise of China's DeepSeek, which trained an open-source large language model (LLM) for just \$5.6 million, has shattered the notion that only deep-pocketed companies can develop cutting-edge AI models. This breakthrough came despite the U.S.'s stringent restrictions on chip exports, signaling that necessity and innovation can overcome even geopolitical obstacles.

This raises an important question: if China can do it, why can't India? India's AI Awakening

India, a nation that has long been a sleeping giant in AI, is now starting to awaken. The Indian government has recognized AI's strategic importance and launched the IndiaAI Mission in March 2024, with a budget of Rs 10,371 crore (\$1.2 billion). This initiative, coupled with significant increases in AI funding and the establishment of Centres of Excellence, underscores the government's commitment to AI development. In fact, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently announced that the government is collaborating with at least six developers to build India's first indigenous LLM.

However, while financial resources are on the rise, India faces a major challenge: a talent drain.

The Talent Drain and Research Deficit



India has the potential for a thriving AI ecosystem, but much of its talent is working abroad, particularly in Silicon Valley. With India investing just 0.64% of its GDP in research and development (R&D), compared to China's 2.41% and the U.S.'s 3.47%, India lags behind in fostering innovation domestically. This research deficit could hinder India's

ability to keep pace with global AI advancements.

The Role of the Private Sector

India's private sector is stepping up to bridge the gap. Leading conglomerates like Reliance Industries, Adani Group, and Nxta are investing heavily in AI infrastructure, including supercomputers and data centres. These investments, if executed well, will be critical for India's AI ambitions.

US GPU Restrictions: A Major Hurdle

Despite these advancements, India faces a major challenge: U.S. restrictions on high-end GPUs, essential for training AI models. However, the Indian government is exploring ways to bypass these restrictions by facilitating access to GPUs through partnerships and the

IndiaAI Mission.

India's Strategic Leverage

With the geopolitical landscape shifting, India has an opportunity to use its ties with the U.S. to influence key decisions. If India can push for an end to GPU export restrictions and secure a stake in initiatives like the U.S.'s StarGate AI project, it could solidify its position as a global AI leader.

The Bigger Picture

AI is not just a technological pursuit—it is a geopolitical one. Nations leading in AI will define global economic and security landscapes. India cannot afford to lag behind in this race. With strategic investments, collaboration, and diplomatic maneuvering, India has the potential to become a formidable AI player.

Need To Be Careful About AI Biases: PM Modi At AI Summit In Paris

- Modi stresses AI's role in daily life at Paris summit.
- Calls for transparent, bias-free AI and global collaboration.
- Emphasizes AI-driven innovation in healthcare, education, and jobs.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a global Artificial Intelligence summit in Paris today, emphasizing the transformative role AI is playing in daily human life. Speaking to a gathering of world leaders, PM Modi called for collective global efforts to harness AI's potential, particularly focusing on the need for inclusivity, transparency, and addressing biases in AI systems.

"We must pool our resources and talent to develop open-source systems that foster trust and transparency while ensuring the creation of quality datasets free from biases," PM Modi stated. He stressed that AI applications must be people-centric, ensuring that they serve the global population equitably, especially the Global South. The Prime Minister also raised concerns about the risks posed by AI, including cybersecurity issues, disinformation, and deep fakes, calling for urgent solutions to mitigate these challenges.

PM Modi also highlighted the potential of AI to revolutionize sectors like healthcare, education, and agriculture, suggesting that AI could accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. "AI can help transform millions of lives," he said, noting that its application could make the path to sustainable development faster and more efficient.



Addressing concerns about AI-induced job loss, the Prime Minister assured that technological advancements do not equate to the disappearance of work. "The nature of jobs changes with time, and new types of jobs are created," he explained. To ensure the workforce is prepared for an AI-driven future, PM Modi emphasized the importance of investing in skilling and re-skilling programs to equip people with the necessary tools for emerging job markets.

The Prime Minister also acknowledged the

high energy demands of AI systems, underscoring the need for green energy solutions to fuel AI's future. "We must scrutinize the high-energy intensity of AI and explore sustainable power options," he added.

PM Modi, co-chairing the AI Action Summit alongside French President Emmanuel Macron, used the platform to advocate for a global approach to AI development that benefits all and minimizes risks, ensuring technology remains a force for good in the world.



Deepika Padukone Talks About Mental Health On 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' 2025

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The second episode of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2025', set to air on Wednesday, promises an insightful discussion on mental health and well-being, featuring Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone. Known for her candidness about mental health struggles, Deepika will engage with students, focusing on the importance of mental well-being, particularly in the context of education.

In a video preview shared by the actress, she responds to a student's question about ways to improve mental health. Deepika emphasized the importance of expressing one's feelings rather than suppressing them, encouraging students to share their thoughts with family and friends. "Always express, never suppress. Be it with anybody," she advised.

During the episode, Deepika will also open up about her personal battle with depression, shedding light on her journey and the significance of mental health awareness. "I want to thank our Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving us this platform to come out as warriors, not worriers," she said, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to speak on such an important issue.

The 39-year-old actress has been an advocate for mental health, using her platform to encourage open conversations about mental well-being. Her candid admission about her struggles has inspired many, making her an influential voice in promoting mental health awareness.

In a post on Instagram, Deepika shared her excitement for the upcoming episode: "Pariksha Pe Charcha' is back with its 8th edition! And this time, we'll also be discussing the importance of mental health. Thank you, Honourable Prime Minister @narendramodi, for your commitment to this cause. I look forward to launching our episode... #PPC2025."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative, 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', provides a platform for students and educators to discuss relevant issues, including education, stress, and mental health, fostering a supportive environment for young people across the country.



India-Indonesia business ties get fresh boost with Prabowo visit

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

During the State Visit of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto to India from January 24-27, 2025, a series of business meetings, government-to-government interactions, and industry-level talks were held, fostering stronger trade and investment ties between the two nations. The visit marked a significant step towards deepening economic collaboration, with new initiatives aimed at boosting bilateral trade and enhancing mutual investment opportunities.

The President's entourage included over 100 delegates from the Indonesian National Chamber of Trade and Industry (KADIN), all of whom were keen to strengthen Indonesia's economic relationship with India. These meetings focused on fostering deeper business connections and exploring new avenues for trade across various sectors. The discussions encompassed industries such as manufacturing, infrastructure, agriculture, and renewable energy, aiming to identify opportunities for cross-border investments and partnerships. During the visit, both nations expressed a shared commitment to advancing their trade relations, leveraging India's growing market and Indonesia's strategic position as a key player in Southeast Asia. The discussions also focused on overcoming trade barriers and creating a more conducive environment for long-term economic growth.

In addition to formal talks, the visit included networking events, workshops, and roundtable discussions that provided a platform for businesses from both countries to explore potential collaborations. As a result, new avenues of cooperation in areas like digital economy, health, and sustainable development were identified, paving the way for stronger economic ties moving forward. This visit is expected to result in significant improvements in India-Indonesia trade relations, with the possibility of future trade agreements and expanded cooperation in various sectors. Both governments expressed their enthusiasm for strengthening their partnership and ensuring that the momentum generated during the visit leads to tangible benefits for businesses and industries in both countries.



Sundar Pichai Advocates for Global AI Regulation at AI Action Summit 2025

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Google CEO Sundar Pichai called for balanced regulations to address the risks associated with Artificial Intelligence (AI) while ensuring the continued innovation and positive impact of the technology. Pichai made these remarks on the first day of the AI Action Summit in Paris, France, where global leaders and tech experts are gathered to discuss the future of AI.

In his speech, Pichai emphasized the need for a global AI regulatory framework that is aligned across nations. He highlighted the importance of drawing from existing laws to fill in regulatory gaps, rather than creating entirely new laws from scratch. "It's essential to develop regulations that are not overly restrictive, allowing AI to continue driving progress while addressing the risks it may pose," he said.

Pichai's comments come at a time when AI technology is evolving rapidly and raising concerns regarding its potential misuse, including issues of bias, privacy, and job displacement. While acknowledging these concerns, Pichai urged policymakers to strike a balance between regulation and innovation. He stressed that an international approach would ensure consistency across borders and help prevent fragmented rules that could stifle technological advancements.

The Google CEO also discussed the transformative potential of AI across industries, including healthcare, education, and climate change. He urged governments to foster collaboration with the private sector to develop AI technologies that can contribute positively to global challenges.

The AI Action Summit aims to bring together leaders to discuss AI's future role in society, its ethical implications, and how it can be harnessed for the greater good. Pichai's speech marked a key moment in the ongoing global dialogue on how best to regulate and harness the potential of AI in a responsible and sustainable way.

J&K Legislative Assembly Holds First Full Session After Seven Years

TPN Correspondent | Jammu

The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly has convened its first full session after a seven-year hiatus, with a significant turnout from the 90 Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs). A total of 82 MLAs have submitted nearly 800 questions and 80 private members' bills, demonstrating active participation and a strong desire to address critical issues.

This session marks a significant shift in the legislative process, as the introduction of bills is now subject to approval by the Law Department—a procedural change brought about following the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories (UTs) in 2019. Previously, such a requirement did not exist when the region functioned as a state.

The decision to hold a comprehensive session is seen as a much-needed platform for MLAs to introduce reforms, engage with the concerns of their constituencies, and address pressing issues. As part of the session, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly had instructed each MLA to submit 20 questions—10 in starred and 10 in unstarred categories—along with three private member's bills by February 10. Notably, all eligible legislators have complied with this requirement, reflecting a commitment to active participation and governance. However, since the reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, there have been changes in the scope of legislative discussions. MLAs are no longer permitted to raise questions about the Police Department, anti-militancy operations, law and order, or All India Services, as these fall under the jurisdiction of the central government.

Welcome to Paris, my friend: Emmanuel Macron welcomes PM Modi ahead of AI Summit

- Modi welcomed in Paris for AI Action Summit with Macron.
- Indian diaspora celebrates, requests cultural center in France.
- Modi, Macron to inaugurate India's first Marseille consulate.

TPN Correspondent | France

French President Emmanuel Macron warmly welcomed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Paris, expressing excitement for the upcoming AI Action Summit, which the two leaders are set to co-chair. Macron also extended a greeting to US Vice President JD Vance, who will be attending the summit alongside global tech leaders. Sharing the moment on social media, Macron wrote, "Welcome to Paris, my friend @ NarendraModi! Nice to meet you dear @VP Vance! Welcome to all our partners for the AI Action Summit. Let's get to work!"

Upon arrival in Paris, PM Modi was greeted enthusiastically by members of the Indian diaspora, with some even singing 'Hare Krishna' in celebration. One member of the community shared their joy, stating, "Today is my birthday, it's a big day for me and he (PM Modi) blessed me." Another expressed pride in the Prime Minister's visit, noting the importance of the AI summit and the



opening of a new consulate. The communi-

ty also made a request for a cultural center to be established in the city.

The visit is significant not only for the AI summit but also for the deepening India-France strategic ties. Modi and Macron will discuss key advancements in AI for societal benefit, and jointly inaugurate India's first consulate in Marseille, marking a key diplomatic milestone. The two leaders will also review the Horizon 2047 Roadmap, which focuses on long-term cooperation in various sectors.

During his stay, PM Modi will travel to Marseille with Macron to visit the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), a major nuclear fusion research initiative. Additionally, he will pay tribute to Indian soldiers who lost their lives during the World Wars by visiting the Mazargues War Cemetery. Following his visit to France, PM Modi will travel to the United States for a two-day visit at the invitation of President Donald Trump.



Bangladesh govt aims to hold polls by December: Ex-PM Khaleda Zia

TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Bangladesh is working towards holding its general elections by December, according to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) following a meeting with Muhammad Yunus, the chief adviser to the interim government. Yunus, the Nobel Peace laureate, has been leading the caretaker government since August, when mass protests forced then-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign and seek refuge in neighboring India.

The BNP, led by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, and Hasina's Awami League have alternated in power for most of the past three decades, marking a longstanding rivalry between the two political parties. Despite the ongoing political turbulence, there is growing anticipation for the upcoming elections as both major parties prepare for what could be a contentious battle for power.

In a statement following the meeting, a BNP official revealed that the party had once again pressed Yunus on the timeline for the elections. Yunus reassured them that efforts were underway to ensure the elections are held by December. The caretaker government, which is tasked with overseeing the election process, has been working to stabilize the country and maintain order during this transitional period.

The announcement comes amid increasing pressure from the political opposition to ensure free and fair elections, with the BNP seeking guarantees from the interim government. The opposition party has expressed concerns over the potential for election manipulation under Hasina's rule and is pushing for reforms to ensure the integrity of the election process.

As Bangladesh heads towards the critical December deadline, the country is bracing for heightened political activity, with both the Awami League and BNP gearing up for what promises to be a high-stakes election.



Be Psychologically Prepared For Terror Attack: Singapore Minister Warns People

TPN Correspondent | Singapore

Singapore's Law and Home Affairs Minister, K Shanmugam, issued a stark warning on Tuesday, urging the public to mentally prepare for a possible terror incident, as the city-state has seen a rise in radicalized individuals. The minister highlighted recent cases where a teenager, a housewife, and a cleaner were detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) for their extremist plans.

Speaking at the Sri Thendayuthapani Temple during the Thaipusam 2025 celebrations, Shanmugam referenced a disturbing case involving an 18-year-old student who had been arrested for promoting far-right extremist ideologies. The student, who had been consuming racist and far-right propaganda, idolized the Australian white supremacist responsible for the 2019 Christchurch mosque attacks. He had plans to attack Muslims at a mosque in Singapore and had even gotten tattoos and T-shirts featuring neo-Nazi and far-right symbols.

The Internal Security Department (ISD) detained the student in December 2024. Additionally, Shanmugam noted that a housewife and a cleaner were also targeted for their support of Islamist militant groups. The housewife, a Singaporean Muslim, had been managing social media groups that supported terrorist organizations. Meanwhile, the Malaysian cleaner was arrested in November 2024 and repatriated to Malaysia.

Shanmugam emphasized that while Singapore's authorities have been proactive in combating radicalization, the increasing number of cases signals that the threat is growing. He reassured that ISD's swift actions had prevented many potential threats, but warned that Singaporeans must remain psychologically prepared. "It's not like in other countries.

Ukraine May Be Russian Someday: Trump Ahead Of Zelensky-Vance Meeting

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

US President Donald Trump has sparked controversy by suggesting that Ukraine "may be Russian someday," signaling a potential shift in American policy toward Moscow. His remarks came just days before his vice president, JD Vance, was scheduled to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The comments also come nearly three years after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as Russian forces continue to make steady progress on the battlefield, while Kyiv struggles with shortages of soldiers and weapons.

In an interview with Fox News, Trump discussed the ongoing conflict, saying, "They (Ukraine) may make a deal. They may not make a deal. They may be Russian someday, or they may not be Russian someday." Trump also expressed a desire for the US to secure a return on the financial aid sent to Ukraine, suggesting the possibility of brokering a trade deal for Ukraine's natural resources, such as rare earth minerals. He claimed that Ukraine had essentially agreed to provide the US with \$500 billion worth of these resources.

Ukrainian officials have previously shown interest in partnering with the US and oth-



er allies for resource extraction in exchange for security guarantees, though no specifics have been disclosed regarding such an arrangement. Meanwhile, Zelenskyy has insisted on tough security guarantees from the West, fearing that any agreement without military commitments—such as NATO membership or peacekeeping forces—would allow Russia to regroup for another attack.

As part of his efforts to end the war, Trump

revealed plans to send his special envoy, Keith Kellogg, to Ukraine on February 20, just days before the third anniversary of Russia's invasion. Kellogg is tasked with drafting a proposal to halt the conflict, though Trump has not yet outlined a clear strategy to bring both sides to the negotiating table. Despite his push for peace, both Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin have previously ruled out direct negotiations, with significant barriers remaining between the two sides.

Pakistan: Imran Khan requests court to conduct open hearing of his cases

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has formally requested that his legal cases be heard in an open court, filing a petition with the Islamabad High Court. In the petition, Khan claimed that several "false" cases had been filed against him and that his trial was being conducted in a "controlled" environment at Adiala Jail. He argues that the trial in prison violated both legal procedures and the Constitution of Pakistan.

Since his arrest in 2023, Imran Khan, the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has not been presented in an open court. His trials have instead been conducted in makeshift courts set up within the jail. The petition highlights concerns about the lack of transparency in the proceedings, with Khan's legal team facing harassment and restricted access. It also states that the jail administration has not allowed international media to cover the trial, with only a few selected reporters permitted to attend. Additionally, the media was instructed not to use Khan's



name but to refer to him only as the "PTI founder."

In the petition, Khan's legal team urged the Islamabad High Court to issue an order for an open trial to ensure fairness and transparency, as guaranteed under Pakistan's Constitution. Khan's legal representatives

argued that conducting the trial in such a restricted manner violated his fundamental rights, including the right to a fair trial and the right to public and media scrutiny of legal proceedings. Meanwhile, Imran Khan's sister, Aleema Khan, revealed that her brother would write a third letter to Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, General Asim Munir, next week. This follows two previous letters that Khan had sent to General Munir, which were shared with the media. The military establishment, however, has denied receiving any communication from Khan. Imran Khan's petition and his ongoing attempts to secure a fair trial have sparked widespread attention in Pakistan, raising concerns about the integrity of his legal proceedings and the state of justice in the country.

Domestic stock markets are reeling under Donald Trump's blow

They fell sharply for the second consecutive day.



Negative sentiment prevailed after Trump said that he would impose 25% tariffs on aluminum and steel imports. In addition, equity shares crashed due to the sharp fall in the rupee, the rise in the value of the dollar, and the rise in bond yields. Mid and small cap indices fell by 2-3 percent. Investors lost wealth worth Rs 10 lakh crore as Nifty 350 and Sensex fell by 1100 points intraday.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 77,311 in the previous session, opened at 77,384 on Tuesday. It touched an intraday low at 76,030. It reached an intraday high at 77,387. It ended at 76,293, down 1,018 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,383, touched a low of 22,986 and a high of 23,390. It closed at 23,071, down 309 points. The Nifty Bank fell 577 points to settle at 49,403. Markets Plunge as Trump's Tariff Shock and Rupee Weak-

ness Trigger Heavy Sell-Off

Six companies gained and 44 lost in the Nifty50. Auto, Media, PSU Bank, Realty, Healthcare, Consumer Durables, Oil and Gas indices fell by 2-3%. Adani Enterprises, Grasim, Trent, Airtel, Britannia were the top gainers. Eicher, Apollo Hospitals, Shriram Fin, CoalIndia, BEL were the top losers.

Today, the market breadth in NSE has completely shifted in favor of sellers. Out of a total of 2918 shares traded, only 326 gained. 2532 lost. Shares of 18 companies reached 52-week highs. 407 shares reached 52-week lows.

Birla Soft's net profit in the third quarter fell 27% to Rs 116 crore from Rs 161 crore. IRCTC's net profit increased by 13.7% to Rs 341 crore from Rs 300 crore. Indo Count's net profit increased by 30%

to Rs 75.5 crore from Rs 58 crore. The rupee strengthened by 65 paise against the dollar and settled at Rs 86.83. Canara Bank reduced its one-month MCLR rate by 10 basis points. Morgan Stanley has given an overweight rating to Apollo Hospitals with a target price of Rs 8,159. Procter & Gamble's net profit rose 18% to Rs 364 crore from Rs 308 crore. Devyani International shares fell 5% on the decline in profit. BLS's net profit rose 43% to Rs 121 crore from Rs 84 crore. Campus Activewear's net profit rose 86% to Rs 46.5 crore from Rs 25 crore. Jefferies has given a buy rating to Grasim Industries with a target price of Rs 3150. Raymond Lifestyle MD and CEO Sunil Katharia has resigned. Bajaj Group shares rose today. Adani shares rose. IIFL Finance's Q3 profit fell 22.7%. HSBC has given a buy rating to Rainbow Medicare with a target price of Rs. 1720.

Patanjali Foods See 71% Jump In Q3 Profit On Cooking Oil Boost



Indian consumer goods manufacturer Patanjali Foods posted a 71% increase in its third-quarter profit on Monday, bolstered by robust demand for its flagship cooking oils. The maker of Ruchi Gold oil reported a profit of 3.71 billion rupees (\$42.4 million) for the three months ending December 31, up from 2.17 billion rupees in the same period last year.

The demand for edible oils, an essential item in Indian households, has remained strong despite the broader challenges posed by inflation. Consumers, who have been avoiding branded goods due to price hikes, continued to purchase cooking oils, even as manufacturers raised prices to offset the rising cost of raw materials.

Patanjali's revenue from its edible oils segment, which accounts for almost three-fourths of the company's total revenue, saw a growth of 22.5% during the quarter. This

surge helped drive a 15% increase in overall revenue, which reached 91.03 billion rupees.

However, not all of Patanjali Foods' segments performed well. Revenue from its food and fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) segment dropped 18%, reflecting weaker demand in the category. The company's expenses also rose by 13%, largely due to a hike in import taxes on crude and refined edible oils that came into effect in mid-September. This increase in input costs had a significant impact on the company's profitability.

Despite the challenges in certain sectors, Patanjali Foods' strong performance in the edible oils market highlights its resilience and the ongoing demand for essential consumer goods, particularly in a climate of inflation. The company's focus on this key segment has provided a solid foundation for growth during the quarter.

India Launches EFTA Desk to Strengthen Economic Ties with Europe

India has launched a dedicated desk to foster deeper economic engagement between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, namely Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. The formal launch took place at Bharat Mandapam, with Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, representing India at the event.

The newly established EFTA Desk aims to assist businesses from the four EFTA countries in preparing for the opportunities created by the EFTA-India Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), signed on March 10, 2024. The desk will act as a central point of contact for EFTA businesses looking to expand into India, offering support and guidance on market entry, investment opportunities, and resolving potential issues.



While the TEPA is still in the process of being ratified, businesses across the EFTA nations are already exploring investment opportunities and strengthening their commercial ties with Indian partners. Over 100 EFTA businesses are visiting India this week to explore potential collaborations, an outcome of ongoing efforts by EFTA countries to raise awareness about the benefits of the agreement.

Tea trade bodies push for minimum sustainable price and 100% auction of teas

In a significant development for the Indian tea industry, major tea trade bodies have announced plans to implement a minimum sustainable price for teas, alongside a proposal for 100 percent auction of all teas. This decision aims to ensure better profitability and sustainability for tea producers, especially small tea growers, across the country.

An interactive session was held today in Kolkata, bringing together stakeholders from the organized tea sector and small tea growers from both North and South India. The event provided a platform for dialogue on the challenges and opportunities within the tea industry, with a focus on sustainable growth strategies for the future. Key topics of discussion included improving quality control, optimizing production processes, and ensuring fair pricing mechanisms that benefit all players in the supply chain.

The proposal for a minimum sustainable price comes at a crucial time when the tea industry is grappling with fluctuating market prices, increased production costs, and competition from global markets. By establishing a baseline price, trade bodies hope to provide a more stable income for small tea growers, who often face financial instability due to market volatility.



The move is expected to help safeguard the livelihoods of farmers and ensure the continued production of high-quality tea.

Additionally, the push for 100 percent auctioning of teas aims to increase transparency and fairness in the trade process. Auction systems have long been seen as an effective way to determine market-driven prices, and this approach is intended to create a more competitive and equitable environment for all tea produc-

ers, big and small.

The event in Kolkata marked a critical step towards improving collaboration between different sectors of the tea industry. It highlighted the need for collective action to address issues such as price instability and access to markets, while also emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices in ensuring the long-term health of the tea industry in India.

SEBI Bars LS Industries and Promoter for Stock Price Manipulation

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a ban on LS Industries Ltd., its promoter Profound Finance, and four other entities from participating in the securities market, following an investigation into stock price manipulation. The regulator's attention was drawn by an article published on the NDTV Profit website on February 3, which highlighted the inexplicable valuation of LS Industries at Rs 5,500 crore despite having almost negligible revenue.

SEBI's investigation followed concerns regarding the company's inflated market value, raising ques-

tions about the authenticity of the stock's trading activity and the role of various entities involved in the manipulation. The regulator's actions aim to safeguard market integrity and protect investors from potentially harmful practices. The regulatory body's decision has sent a strong message to the market, reinforcing its commitment to ensuring transparency and fairness in trading practices. The case underscores the importance of scrutiny around corporate valuations and the need for regulatory oversight to prevent stock market manipulation.



When It Rained Meat: The Bizarre Kentucky Meat Shower Of 1876



Imagine taking a peaceful stroll one morning, only for chunks of meat to suddenly rain down from the sky. This bizarre occurrence took place on March 3, 1876, in Bath County, Kentucky, leaving residents utterly confused and intrigued. Known as the Kentucky Meat Shower, this strange phenomenon has puzzled historians and scientists for generations, sparking numerous theories about its origins. The event unfolded between 11 am and afternoon when local resident Mary Crouch was outside making soap near Olympia Springs. She was stunned to witness what can only be described as a “meat storm,” with pieces of meat falling over an area roughly 100 by 50 yards.

The meat varied in size, with some chunks measuring 5 cm² and others up to 10 cm². Locals quickly gathered to inspect the mysterious shower. Among them was Harrison Gill, who noted that the meat had landed on fences and the ground, appearing fresh enough to spark curiosity. In a remarkable display of frontier daring, some brave individuals even sampled the strange meat, with reports describing it as tasting like venison or mutton. As the unusual event made its way into the news, various theories were proposed about the meat’s origin. Some suggested it was noster, a gelatinous substance produced by cyanobacteria that can resemble meat during rainfall.

Others ventured more outlandish theories, even invoking divine intervention. However, the most plausible explanation came from LD Kastenbine, who theorized that vultures, known for their habit of vomiting their meals when startled, might have been the source. As the birds flew overhead, they could have ejected their partially-digested meal, which fell to the ground below. Despite some confusion, a piece of the “meat” is preserved at Transylvania University in Lexington, adding to the mystery. Though the exact nature of the Kentucky Meat Shower remains unclear, it stands as a strange reminder of the unexpected wonders and oddities nature can throw our way.

“Kurchi Madathapetti” Conquers Global Music Charts



Apple has rolled out an urgent security update, iOS 18.3.1, just one week after the release of the major iOS 18.3 update. The new patch addresses critical security vulnerabilities found in Apple iPhones, highlighting the company’s ongoing efforts to keep devices secure and protect user privacy. For users already running iOS 18.3, the iOS 18.3.1 update is about 450 MB in size. It specifically targets a newly discovered zero-day exploit, which could have allowed unauthorized access to iPhones, including potentially enabling law enforcement to unlock devices. This vulnerability posed a significant security risk, as it could have allowed unauthorized parties to bypass iPhone security measures, jeopardizing user data and privacy. Apple has emphasized the importance of installing this update as soon as possible to mitigate the risks associated with these vulnerabilities. As part of its commitment to security,

Apple regularly releases patches like iOS 18.3.1 to address newly discovered threats and bolster device protection. Users are encouraged to download and install the update promptly by going to ****Settings > General > Software Update****. Those who haven’t yet updated to iOS 18.3 can apply this critical update directly, which will include all the security fixes in the previous update as well. While Apple doesn’t typically release details about specific vulnerabilities, the rapid rollout of iOS 18.3.1 underscores the severity of this security concern. With the growing sophistication of cyberattacks and exploits, keeping software up-to-date is essential to maintaining the security and integrity of devices. By quickly addressing vulnerabilities like the one patched in iOS 18.3.1, Apple continues to reinforce its commitment to user safety, ensuring that iPhones remain protected from emerging threats.

: Elephant Family Gives ‘Z Class Security’ To Calf In Anamalai Tiger Reserve



Supriya Sahu, the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, recently shared a touching moment from the Anamalai Tiger Reserve. In a post that has since captured the hearts of many, she observed a peaceful elephant family and highlighted their protective nature towards their baby elephant, drawing an endearing comparison to ‘Class Z’ security. Sahu, who heads the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, noted how the elephant family slept peacefully in the deep jungles of the reserve. “Observe how the baby elephant is given Z class security by the family,” she remarked, pointing out how the young elephant sought reassurance from its family members. Her post reflected the similar dynamics often seen in human families, where the young find comfort and safety in the presence of loved ones. The touching scene was captured by wildlife photographer Dhanu Paran in a brief 15-second video,

which shows the bond within the elephant family. The video features a parent elephant, a young one, and three calves, including a newborn, peacefully resting together. Supriya Sahu’s post, along with the video, quickly garnered attention on social media, with many users expressing their admiration for the beauty of the moment. One user wrote, “Wonderful and rare sight to see such beautiful things. Amazing..Thanks for showing us while another commented, “Love is the binding force amongst all beings in the world, which humans are moving away from!” The video not only highlighted the loving family dynamics of elephants but also sparked reflections on the importance of preserving such moments of peace in nature. This heartwarming display from the Anamalai Tiger Reserve serves as a reminder of the deep emotional bonds that animals, too, share within their families, resonating with people on a universal level.

Cobra In Amazon Package: Bengaluru Couple Shocked To Find Venomous Snake In Parcel

In an unexpected and alarming turn of events, a Bengaluru couple received a shocking surprise with their latest Amazon delivery. What was meant to be a simple package containing an Xbox controller turned out to have an entirely different kind of guest— a dangerous spectacled cobra. The family, residing on Sarjapur Road, eagerly awaited their package, expecting to find their gaming accessory inside. However, their excitement quickly transformed into fear when they opened the package and noticed a venomous snake attached to the packaging tape. The spectacled cobra, also known as the Indian cobra (*Naja naja*), is a highly venomous species commonly found across the Indian subcontinent. Its venom is a powerful neurotoxin that can cause severe respiratory paralysis, potentially leading to death if not treated immediately. This species is known for its iconic hood and is a symbol of cultural importance in Hindu mythology, often depicted in religious art and folklore. While once used by snake charmers, this practice is now illegal in India due to concerns about animal welfare. Fortunately, the family remained unharmed, but the discovery highlights the unpredictable nature of deliveries and the potential risks associated with them. It’s unclear how the snake made its way into the package, but experts suggest that it may have entered the parcel while it was in transit or during the packaging process. This incident serves as a stark reminder of the unusual oc-



currences that can sometimes accompany online shopping. While it’s highly unlikely to encounter such a scenario regularly, it’s always important for consumers to carefully inspect their deliveries upon receipt.

Japanese Influencer After Eating 600 Fried Chickens And 100 Burgers In One Go

Yuka Kinoshita, Japan’s reigning mukbang queen, has announced her retirement from competitive eating, leaving a significant void in the world of food consumption videos. Known for her ability to devour massive quantities of food, Kinoshita has garnered a dedicated following of 5.2 million subscribers on YouTube. However, after years of entertaining fans with her food challenges, she revealed that health concerns and the toll of constant eating have led her to step away from the spotlight. In a heartfelt video, Kinoshita explained the decision, citing both her health and age as major factors. “Well, I am retiring from eating a lot,” she said in the video, which was shared with her followers in both Japanese and English translations. “I will turn 40 on February 4 and I have been feeling tired from eating a lot. It’s hard for me to continue working as a big eater. My health has deteriorated over the years, and I now



find it difficult to continue at the pace I once did.” Kinoshita further elaborated on how she no longer felt capable of eating at the same extreme levels, revealing that even when she wasn’t full, the act of eating left her exhausted. “It is no problem to eat like a normal person, but I will feel tired even when I am not full,” she shared. The announcement follows a seven-month hiatus she had taken from content creation due to a bipolar affective disorder,

highlighting the significant physical and mental toll that her eating challenges had taken on her. Her fans have flooded social media with messages of support, expressing their sadness at her departure while also thanking her for the years of entertainment she provided. Kinoshita’s decision to retire marks the end of an era in the mukbang community, but she remains an iconic figure for those who enjoyed her entertaining feats of food consumption.



Jasprit Bumrah Ruled Out of ICC Champions Trophy 2025, Harshit Rana and Varun Chakravarthy Named as Replacements



Jasprit Bumrah has been officially ruled out of India's squad for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 due to a persistent lower back injury, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed late Tuesday. Following his exclusion, 23-year-old pacer Harshit Rana has been named as Bumrah's replacement in the final 15-man squad. In another significant change, mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy has been included in place of young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, who was initially part of the provisional squad. India's revised squad for the tournament includes: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (WK), Rishabh Pant (WK), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, and Varun Chakravarthy. Non-traveling substitutes: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Mohammed Siraj, and Shivam Dube will travel to Dubai if required.



Chelsea Owner Todd Boehly Acquires 49% Stake in Trent Rockets, Beats KKR and Amit Jain

Todd Boehly, co-owner of Chelsea Football Club, has acquired a 49% stake in the English cricket franchise Trent Rockets, beating Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Indian investor Amit Jain in the process. Boehly's real estate firm, Cain International, purchased the stake for approximately 39 million British Pounds (around Rs 420 crore), valuing the franchise at GBP 79 million. KKR, owned by Shah Rukh Khan's Red Chillies Entertainment, had been in the running to acquire the team, which would have expanded their global reach, already spanning Trinbago Knight Riders, LA Knight Riders, and Abu Dhabi Knight Riders. Boehly's acquisition further strengthens his sports portfolio, which includes ownership of Chelsea, French side RC Strasbourg, and MLB's Los Angeles Dodgers. The Trent Rockets, based in Nottingham, represent the counties of Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and Leicestershire and won The Hundred tournament in 2022.

Pankaj Advani Wins Indian Snooker Championship, Secures 36th National Gold

Pankaj Advani, India's most decorated snooker player, clinched his 36th overall national title and 10th men's snooker crown at the Yashwant Club. Advani demonstrated exceptional skill and determination throughout the tournament, overcoming an early setback to defeat Brijesh Damani in the final. Damani claimed the opening frame, but Advani bounced back to win the remaining frames, including a standout 84 break in the final frame to seal the championship. The tournament, which serves as the selection event for the Asian and World Championships, proved to be a turning point for Advani. After suffering a loss to Damani in the group stage, Advani's resilience was on full display as he made a stunning comeback in the round of 48, saving his tournament bid and setting the stage for his eventual victory. Advani now prepares for the Asian Snooker Championship starting February 15.



India Chess Star Arjun Erigaisi Criticizes Ministry's Decision to Stop Cash Rewards for Grandmasters



Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi has slammed the Indian sports ministry's recent decision to end cash rewards for players achieving Grandmaster (GM) and International Master (IM) titles, a move that has sparked controversy within the chess community. Previously, players received Rs 4 lakh for a GM title and Rs 1.5 lakh for an IM or International Women Master (IWM) title. The ministry now offers rewards only for winning world-level competitions. Erigaisi, who recently achieved a 2800 ELO rating and won the men's Olympiad gold in 2024, expressed that the removal of these rewards would demotivate parents, who often face financial strain supporting their children's chess careers. "Such incentives encouraged parents to back their children's pursuits in chess," he said. While Erigaisi remains focused on his chess ambitions, including qualifying for the Candidates tournament, he acknowledged that the change could affect young players' motivation.

India to Play International Football Matches in Shillong Ahead of AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has announced that India will play two international matches in Shillong's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium during the FIFA international window in March. This will be the first time the stadium hosts senior men's international matches since its refurbishment last year.



India will face Maldives in a friendly on March 19, as part of their preparation for the AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers Final Round. The second match will be against Bangladesh on March 25, marking India's first game in the AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers. The 15,100-seat stadium, which has hosted several domestic events like the Durand Cup and Indian Super League matches, is now set to stage international fixtures. India is placed in Group C for the AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers, alongside Hong Kong, Singapore, and Bangladesh.

Pakistan Finalize 15-Man Squad for Champions Trophy 2025, Haris Rauf Cleared for Fitness

Pakistan has confirmed its 15-man squad for the 2025 Champions Trophy, making no last-minute changes despite widespread criticism. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) reviewed the selection after concerns about the inclusion of batter Khushdil Shah and all-rounder Faheem Ashraf. However, there will be no alterations, and the same players will represent Pakistan in the tournament.

The squad faced scrutiny for having only one specialist opener and a lone specialist spinner, Abrar Ahmed. However, captain Muhammad Rizwan defended the team, stating the emphasis would be on pace bowlers. Haris Rauf, who suffered a muscle injury in the tri-series, is expected to recover in time for the Champions Trophy opener on February 19.

The final squad for the tournament includes Mohammad Rizwan (c), Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, and Shaheen Shah Afridi, among others.



Cristiano Ronaldo Agrees to Extend Contract with Al Nassr Until 2026



Cristiano Ronaldo has reached an agreement with Saudi Arabian football club Al Nassr to extend his contract until June 2026. The Portuguese star's current contract was set to end in June 2025, but the extension, though not yet signed, has been agreed upon by both parties, with an official announcement expected soon. Ronaldo, who turned 40 last week, joined Al Nassr in January 2023 and has scored 82 goals in 90 appearances since. In August, Ronaldo had expressed his intention to likely end his career with Al Nassr, where he feels happy and comfortable. Despite joining for a high-paying deal that initially raised eyebrows, Ronaldo's influence has helped attract other aging stars to the Saudi Pro League. Though he has not won a major trophy with Al Nassr yet, his performances continue to push him toward the milestone of 1,000 career goals.



Surya Son of Krishnan to Re-release on Valentine's Day



The Tamil film *Surya Son of Krishnan*, starring Surya in a dual role alongside Simran, Sameera Reddy, and Ramya, will be re-released in Telugu on February 14, coinciding with Valentine's Day. Directed by Gautam Vasudev Menon, the film was initially released in Tamil as *Varanam Aayiram* and later dubbed into Telugu. Released in 2008, the film became a major success, particularly in Telugu-speaking regions. CLN Media Production House, the team behind the Telugu release, expressed their excitement about bringing the film back to the-

aters. They highlighted Surya's remarkable performance, Gautam Vasudev Menon's direction, and Harris Jayaraj's timeless music as the movie's key strengths. The re-release will feature over 300 shows across Telugu-speaking regions, including Karnataka and overseas, with special screenings on February 12 and 13. PVR Theatres is also hosting a "Lovers' Day Week" event. The film's enduring popularity and iconic songs continue to resonate with youth, and the production team is confident that this re-release will be a hit.

How and Where to Buy IIFA 2025 Tickets Hosted by Shah Rukh Khan

The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2025 is set to be an unforgettable event, and you can be part of the action! Scheduled for March 8th and 9th, 2025, the iconic Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre (JECC) in Rajasthan will host this glamorous occasion, which marks the 25th edition of the prestigious awards.

Ticket Prices for IIFA 2025: Ticket prices for the IIFA 2025 event range from Rs 3,000 to Rs 1.5 lakh, offering different levels of access to the star-studded event. While some categories are already sold out, there are still a few seats left, so don't miss out!

How to Book Your Tickets: Booking tickets is a breeze! You can head to District by Zomato's official website or visit the official IIFA website. Once there, click on the "Buy Tickets" option, which will direct you to the IIFA 2025 Jaipur ticket section. Choose your preferred seats, complete the payment, and secure your place at Bollywood's most glamorous event!

Event Highlights: For the first time ever, Shah Rukh Khan will co-host the event with Kartik Aaryan, alongside the charismatic Karan Johar. Get ready for electrifying performances



from Bollywood's brightest stars like Kareena Kapoor, Shahid Kapoor, Nora Fatehi, and Madhuri Dixit.

So, are you ready for an evening filled with glitz, glamour, and unforgettable memories? Book your tickets now and be part of the biggest celebration in Bollywood!

NIFFA 2025 Line-Up: Superboys of Malegaon to Open the Festival, Rome Roam Mein as Closing Night Film

The National Indian Film Festival of Australia (NIFFA) has announced an exciting lineup for its 2025 edition, set to be the biggest celebration of Indian cinema in Australia. The festival, which will run from 13 February 2025, will feature 36 Australian premieres, three world premieres, and films in various languages, many never seen in Australian theatres before.

The festival will open with the highly anticipated *Superboys of Malegaon*, a film that garnered acclaim at TIFF and BFI London. It will have its Australian premiere at the red carpet gala in Sydney, followed by events in Canberra, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, and Melbourne. The film will be released nationwide by Forum Films on 27 February 2025. The closing night film will be Tannishtha Chatterjee's directorial debut, *Rome Roam*



Mein, which has already received critical acclaim.

Other notable films include *Wingman* by Anuj Gulati, *Parikrama* by Goutam Ghose, and the world premiere of *The Man Who Hurls News* by Ananth Mahadevan. The festival promises a diverse and engaging selection of films, marking a historic moment for Indian cinema in Australia.

Deepika Padukone Opens Up About Her Student Life on 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'

Actor Deepika Padukone reflected on her school days during an episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's *Pariksha Pe Charcha* (PPC) programme. She recalled being a mischievous child, often jumping from one sofa to another. Deepika also candidly shared her struggles with mathematics, admitting that she was weak in the subject and still is.

In a clip shared by PM Modi on his official X page, Deepika highlighted the importance of mental health and well-being, which is a focal point of this year's *Pariksha Pe Charcha*. The actress, who has been vocal about her battle with clinical depression, emphasized the need for students to focus on mental wellness, especially during exams. The full episode, which features discussions on overcoming exam stress and other relevant topics, will be broadcast on February 12 at 10 am. Deepika's participation in this session aligns with her commitment to spreading awareness about mental health.



Makers of 'Sanam Teri Kasam' Celebrate Film's Historic Box Office Return

The 2016 romantic drama *Sanam Teri Kasam*, starring Harshvardhan Rane and Mawra Hocane, has made an incredible return to the box office, emerging as the highest-earning film this past weekend. Directors Vinay Sapru and Radhika Rao have expressed immense pride and satisfaction with the film's renewed success, believing it has finally received the recognition it truly deserves.

The film was re-released on February 7, 2025, and its performance has exceeded expectations. The opening day saw earnings of Rs 4.25 crore, followed by Rs 5.25 crore on Saturday and Rs 6 crore on Sunday, bringing its opening weekend total to Rs 15.75 crore — over 170% higher than its original lifetime earnings. This remarkable box office return highlights the enduring emotional connection the film has with its audience.

Harshvardhan Rane, reflecting on his journey with the film, shared an interesting story about his casting. Despite being four months late for the auditions, he passionately begged the makers for an opportunity to audition, even offering to per-

form just for the sake of it. His persistence paid off, eventually landing him the role that would become a turning point in his career.

Sanam Teri Kasam's success at the box office marks an extraordinary chapter in the film's journey, proving that its emotional story and performances have found a lasting place in the hearts of viewers.



Renu Desai Criticizes Ranveer Allahbadia Over Controversial Comments



Renu Desai recently expressed her strong disapproval of social media influencer Ranveer Allahbadia's inappropriate remarks made during an episode of *India's Got Talent*. In the episode, Ranveer posed a highly offensive question to a female contestant, asking whether she would ever witness her parents' intimate moments or participate in such acts herself. His comments were met with shock and outrage from the show's participants and viewers alike. Although Ranveer lat-

er issued an apology, the backlash continued. Renu Desai took to Instagram to criticize his behavior, warning parents to keep their children away from such influencers. She emphasized the importance of raising children responsibly and highlighted how vulgarity, disguised as "freedom of speech," is being accepted by today's youth. Her post quickly went viral, with many agreeing that her message was spot on, urging accountability from influencers and their content.