



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 33° C L 25° C	H 35° C L 26° C	H 36° C L 26° C



Telangana to Re-Survey Caste Census

Re-Survey for Non-Participants Begins Feb 16

State to Push BC Quota Bill in Assembly

KCR, KTR Urged to Join Census

Online & Toll-Free Survey Options Available

Govt to Seek National Support for BC Quota

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 13
Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka announced that the state government will conduct a re-survey of the caste census from February 16 to 28 for those who did not participate earlier. He revealed that 3.1% of the population had missed the initial survey, either due to unavailability or intentional non-participation.

Bhatti urged those who had not provided their details earlier, including prominent leaders like K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and K.T. Rama Rao (KTR),

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Congress Reshuffle Begins



Leaders Compete for Key Congress Positions

Working President Post Draws Intense Interest

Congress High Command Plans Major Reshuffle

Senior and Junior Leaders in the Race for Top Roles

Congress to Finalize Leadership List Soon

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 13

The Telangana Congress is gearing up for an internal reshuffle before the local body election notification is issued. With preparations already underway, the competition for key party positions, particularly the post of Working President, is intensifying.

Several leaders believe that securing this

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Harish Rao to Launch Padayatra

Harish Rao's Protest March Begins

130 km Padayatra for Irrigation Projects

KCR to Join Final Day Meeting

BRS Pushes for Project Completion

Harish Rao Leads Fight for Farmers



TPN Correspondent Siddipet, Feb 13
Former Minister and Siddipet MLA Harish Rao is set to embark on a padayatra, demanding the immediate completion of the Sangameshwara

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Meeseva Centers Overcharging Applicants

Rs. 2,000 charged per application instead of Rs. 50.

Government allocates funds to Meeseva centers.

TPN, PARDHU Hyderabad, Feb 13

The state government's decision to reopen applications for ration cards has led to overcrowding at Meeseva centers. However, instead of the prescribed application fee of Rs. 50, reports indicate that some centers are charging as much as Rs. 2,000. In several parts of Hyderabad, particularly in the Old City, complaints have emerged about Meeseva operators overcharging applicants. Similar incidents have been reported across the state, leading to widespread allegations of fraud. Long queues have formed at these centers, with people arriving early in the morning in hopes of securing a ration card.

Government Announcement Triggers Chaos

The government recently provided an opportunity for those who missed applying during Gram Sabhas to submit their applications via Meeseva centers. However, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy clarified that individuals who had already applied do not need to reapply.

Officials have specified that applicants must submit copies of their Aadhaar card, electricity or gas bill, along with their application. Despite clear instructions that only Rs. 50 should be charged, complaints of excessive fees continue to surface. Many applicants are frustrated by the lack of enforcement against Meeseva operators violating these guidelines.

Public Anger Over Exploitation

Residents are outraged that Meeseva centers are exploiting their need for ration cards. Despite government warnings against overcharging, illegal fee collection persists. Complaints have also surfaced regarding delays in processing applications



Sudden government announcement leads to stampedes.

Long queues at Meeseva centers from early morning.

Allegations of exploitation despite official fee cap.

MEE SEVA BECOME MEE BAND

submitted through earlier programs such as Prajapalana, Prajavani, and Gram Sabhas. Many applicants have yet to receive digital ration cards or even see the official list of eligible beneficiaries.

Citizens are demanding immediate action against Meeseva centers engaging in fraudulent practices. They urge authorities to intervene and ensure strict enforcement of the official fee structure.

KTR, Harish Rao Lash Out at

Government

BRS leaders K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) and Harish Rao have strongly criticized the government's handling of ration card applications. KTR questioned why people are being forced to apply repeatedly despite having already submitted their forms through Prajapalana, Prajavani, and Gram Sabhas.

Harish Rao echoed these concerns, demanding clarity on the status of previously submitted applications. He criticized the administration for failing to address the issue, leaving citizens in distress.

With public frustration mounting, both opposition leaders and affected citizens are urging the government to take immediate action against the ongoing exploitation at Meeseva centers.

FARM HOUSE PARTY LEADS TO KTR..?

- Police Raid Uncovers Casino & Cockfights
- 64 Arrested, Luxury Cars & Cash Seized
- KTR's Alleged Link Sparks Political Storm
- BRS MLC's Farmhouse Under Scrutiny
- Social Media Abuzz with Allegations

TPN, PARDHU Hyderabad, Feb 13

The recent police raid on a farmhouse in Moinabad has triggered a major political controversy, with allegations linking the illegal activities to close associates of BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR). The farmhouse, allegedly used for running a casino, poker games, and cockfighting, has become the center of heated discussions on social media.

Political Links Under Scrutiny

The case took a political turn after

reports surfaced that the farmhouse belonged to Bhupathi Raju Shivakumar, a known associate of KTR. Congress party workers have been circulating old photos of Shivakumar with KTR, alleging that he was behind the illegal operations. Adding to the controversy, reports suggest that BRS MLC Pochampally



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No Need to Submit Me Seva Application Receipt

Civil Supplies Department Clarifies

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 13

The Civil Supplies Department has addressed confusion regarding Me Seva application receipts, clarifying that applicants do not need to submit the receipt anywhere. However, it advised that applicants should keep the receipt for their records.

The department emphasized that ration card applications are accepted continuously at Me Seva centers, with no specific deadline. It reassured applicants that there is no need to rush. Additionally, individuals who



have already applied through the Caste Census, Public Administration, or Public Hearing do not need to reapply.

Despite this clarification, some Me Seva ad-

ministrators have reportedly advised applicants to submit their receipts at the Civil Supplies Department or Tahsildar offices. As a result, many people have been visiting these offices unnecessarily, causing frustration. Applicants are particularly upset about being asked to provide physical receipts after applying online.

In response, officials have reiterated that submitting a physical receipt is not required. The Civil Supplies Department urged the public to follow official instructions and avoid unnecessary visits to government offices.

Government Releases Rythu Bharosa Funds

Farmers Advised to Check Accounts

TPN Correspondent
Telangana, Feb 13

The Telangana government has made a key announcement regarding the Rythu Bharosa scheme, urging farmers to check their accounts. The scheme, launched by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on January 26, aims to provide financial security to farmers across the state.

Under Rythu Bharosa, the government provides Rs. 12,000 per year to eligible farmers in two installments. In the first phase, Rs. 6,000 was already deposited into the accounts of many farmers. On Wednesday, the government announced the release of additional funds, benefiting farmers culti-



vating up to three acres of land.

Previously, the government had deposited funds for farmers owning one acre and later extended support to those with two acres. Now, as part of the latest release, farmers

cultivating up to three acres have received their payments. The Agriculture Department has advised all eligible farmers to verify their bank accounts to ensure they have received the funds.

Meanwhile, the ruling Congress government continues to emphasize its commitment to farmers, countering criticism from the opposition BRS, which has introduced similar schemes in the past. To maintain transparency, the government has also made details of the fund disbursement public.

Farmers are encouraged to check their bank accounts to confirm the deposit and report any discrepancies to the authorities. The government remains committed to ensuring timely financial assistance under the Rythu Bharosa scheme.

Shabbir Ali's Follower Accused of Land Grabbing



TPN Correspondent
Kamareddy, Feb 13

A land grabbing case involving Congress leader Shabbir Ali's follower is currently making waves on social media. Despite an FIR being registered, there has been no police action, raising concerns about official inaction.

The accused, Jeedipally Narasimha Reddy, is alleged to have illegally occupied government land in Palvancha village, Machareddy mandal, Kamareddy district. Reports indicate that he constructed 18 sheds without proper authorization, using the name of his daughter Deepika along with an associate, Kanneya.

The issue came to light late on Wednesday, exposing how officials, including the MDO and MPP, may have stakes in the illegal construction. Allegations suggest that some officials are shielding Jeedipally Narasimha Reddy instead of taking action against the encroachment.

Despite legal complaints and an FIR, no measures have been taken to remove the illegal constructions or hold the culprits accountable. Locals are demanding strict action and a transparent investigation into the involvement of officials in the land grab.

Authorities are under pressure to act swiftly and uphold the law, as the issue continues to spark outrage among residents and opposition leaders.

MLC Kavitha Announces Women's Shankharavam on March 8



TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 13

BRS MLC and Jagruthi President Kavitha has announced a large-scale agitation program, Women's Shankharavam, to be held at Indira Park on March 8, coinciding with International Women's Day. The event aims to demand the implementation of promises made to women by the Congress government during elections.

Unveiling the event's poster at a Jagruthi meeting, Kavitha urged women from across Telangana to participate in the protest and hold the government accountable. She alleged that women's welfare and security have deteriorated since the Congress took power, citing issues such as non-functional CCTV cameras and the failure to distribute promised scooties to 18-year-old girls.

Kavitha also criticized the Congress for neglecting pregnant women's welfare, stating that the KCR Kit and ambulance schemes have been discontinued. She accused CM Revanth Reddy of failing to provide the Rs. 1,000 per month aid to poor pregnant women, leading to declining trust in government hospitals.

Highlighting unfulfilled promises, Kavitha said that Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi had assured Rs. 2,500 per month for women, but each beneficiary is now owed Rs. 35,000. She further claimed that Rahul Gandhi canceled his Warangal visit out of fear that farmers would question the non-implementation of the Farmer Declaration.

Kavitha also targeted the Congress for failing to provide gas cylinders at Rs. 500 and 200 free electricity units, adding that the ration card application process should be continuous. She demanded regular salaries for RTC workers and the implementation of Rs. 4,000 aid for beedi workers.

Asserting that the women's movement against the Congress government has begun, Kavitha demanded that CM Revanth Reddy review and fulfill his promises. She declared that the real protest will unfold on March 8.

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FARM HOUSE PARTY LEADS TO KTR..?

Srinivas Reddy had purchased over 11 acres of land in the same area, raising further speculation about political involvement.

Casino and Cockfighting Operation Busted

Acting on a tip-off from locals, police conducted a sudden raid at the farmhouse on Tuesday night. A total of 64 individuals were detained, and authorities seized a large casino machine, gaming coins, 46 chicken knives, Rs. 30 lakh in cash, and 55 luxury cars. Several suspects are still absconding, and investigations are ongoing.

Past Controversies Resurface

This incident has reignited past allegations of illegal activities linked to KTR's followers. In the past, there were claims of drug use and foreign liquor consumption at a Diwali party, leading to police searches. The latest incident has once again put the BRS leadership under pressure, with opposition parties questioning their alleged connections to such activities.

As the political heat intensifies, all eyes are now on KTR and MLC Srinivas Reddy for their response to these allegations.

Telangana to Re-Survey Caste Census

to take part in the re-survey. He emphasized that people can also participate online or through a toll-free number.

In a major announcement, he stated that the Telangana cabinet will introduce a bill next month proposing 42% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs). The bill will be passed in the Assembly and sent to the Centre for approval. The state government plans to intensify pressure on the Union government to ensure its passage in Parliament. A delegation will also meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and engage with national political parties to garner support.

Bhatti Vikramarka reiterated that securing 42% BC reservation has been a long-standing demand and called upon socialists and intellectuals to support the initiative. He also clarified that local body elections in Telangana will be conducted only after the BC reservation issue is resolved. The government intends to pass the necessary legislation during the upcoming budget session and forward it to the Centre for approval.

Congress Reshuffle Begins

post will enhance their political careers. Some MLAs and MPs see it as a stepping stone to contest for the PCC president position in the future. Consequently, the party is actively considering candidates for the roles of Working President, General Secretary, and Vice President.

According to sources at Gandhi Bhavan, the party intends to appoint one Working President from each major social group. Currently, Mahesh Kumar, representing the BC community, holds the position. The party is reportedly planning to allocate one Working President post each to OC, SC, ST, and minority communities.

Given that BCs constitute over 50% of the state's population, a faction within the party is strongly advocating for another Working President from their community. Reports indicate that the party is under pressure to follow the previous formula in this regard. Among the names being considered are MPs Balaram Nayak and Bellaiah Nayak from the ST category, MLAs Kavvampalli Satyanarayana and Adluri Laxman Kumar from the SC category, Feroz Khan

from the minority community, and several MPs and former MPs from the OC category.

With both senior and junior leaders vying for key positions, the Congress is also exploring the idea of appointing one leader per district. In this regard, the party has instructed ministers and in-charge ministers from each district to recommend two candidates for consideration.

Party insiders suggest that ministers, MLAs, and MPs have recommended that only dedicated grassroots workers be included in the PCC executive committee. To facilitate this, the PCC president is compiling a list of committed party workers.

The Congress leadership aims to finalize party appointments within a week, following which the responsibility of overseeing local elections will be assigned to the newly appointed leaders. Those selected for key roles will be tasked with ensuring the party's success in the elections. Once the list is finalized at the state level, it will be sent to Delhi for approval, and an official announcement will be made after the AICC leadership's endorsement.

Harish Rao to Launch Padayatra

and Basaveswara irrigation projects. Reports indicate that he will begin the 130-kilometer march from the Sangameshwara Temple and continue for a week, covering key areas affected by the pending projects.

As part of the padayatra, Harish Rao will hold daily meetings in villages along the route, engaging with farmers and local communities about the need for swift project completion. The initiative aims to pressure the government into expediting the construction of these crucial irriga-

tion projects, which are vital for the agricultural sector.

A grand public meeting is planned for the final day of the padayatra, where BRS chief and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) is expected to attend. BRS leaders are making advance arrangements, anticipating that KCR's presence will energize party supporters and strengthen their position ahead of upcoming elections.

Party sources believe that Harish Rao's padayatra will increase public awareness about the delayed projects and serve as a significant political move for the BRS. Meanwhile, party workers are hopeful that KCR's return to active politics will boost morale and bring renewed momentum to the party.

With preparations underway, all eyes are now on Harish Rao's padayatra, which is expected to turn into a major political event in Telangana.

MP R. Krishnaiah Demands Implementation of Kamareddy BC Declaration

TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Feb 13

BJP Rajya Sabha MP R. Krishnaiah has demanded that the Congress government in Telangana fulfill its election promise by increasing BC reservations to 42% as per the Kamareddy BC Declaration.

Speaking to the media in Delhi, Krishnaiah accused the state government of deliberately delaying the implementation



of BC reservations. He alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is misleading the public by manipulating caste-wise population data and engaging

in diversionary tactics.

He pointed out that when the Supreme Court approved a 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) in upper castes, the reservation ceiling was lifted. He argued that the state government has no justification for not increasing BC reservations.

Criticizing the CM's announcement of giving party tickets to BC leaders without increasing

reservations, Krishnaiah called it a betrayal of the BC community. He warned that if the Congress government fails to pass a law in the Assembly to implement the promised reservations, BC associations will launch a large-scale agitation.

The demand for higher BC reservations has once again become a key political issue, with pressure mounting on the ruling Congress to act on its pre-election commitments.

VH Questions Selective Targeting of Opposition Leaders by BJP

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 13

Senior Congress leader and former MP V. Hanumantha Rao (VH) has accused the BJP-led central government of misusing its power by filing cases against opposition leaders while ignoring complaints against ruling party figures.



He urged party workers and the public to visit the grave of former Chief Minister Damodaram Sanjeevaiah on his birth anniversary, February 14. VH also criticized the delay in constructing a memorial for Sanjeevaiah, despite former AP CM Jagannathan Reddy allocating ₹2 crore for it.

VH cited the case against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who was summoned to appear in a Lucknow court on March 24 over alleged inappropriate comments on national security. He questioned why no action was taken on complaints filed against Home Minister Amit Shah and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, despite accusations of disrespecting the Constitution and insulting India's independence.

"Is there one law for Rahul Gandhi and another for Amit Shah and Mohan Bhagwat? Isn't the judicial system supposed to be equal for everyone?" VH asked.

He demanded that Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan take responsibility by appointing a chairman for the Sanjeevaiah Trust and renaming Kurnool district in his honor. VH's remarks have reignited the debate on political favoritism in judicial matters and the neglect of historical figures who championed social justice.

MLC Kavitha Slams Rahul Gandhi for Skipping Warangal Visit

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 13

BRS MLC K. Kavitha launched a scathing attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of lacking the courage to visit Telangana. Speaking at a meeting with Jagruti women leaders and activists at her residence, Kavitha alleged that Rahul Gandhi canceled his Warangal visit fearing protests over unfulfilled promises.

She criticized the Congress party for failing to implement the Warangal Farmer Declaration, which was announced by Rahul Gandhi before the elections. "He knew farmers would question him about the unfulfilled promises, so he chose to flee instead of facing them," she remarked. Kavitha asserted that the BRS would continue to hold Congress accountable until all election promises were fulfilled.



Students Forced to Walk for Mid-Day Meals: Kavitha

Kavitha also highlighted the struggles of government school students under the Congress regime. She pointed out the dire situation in Yellareddy Zilla Parishad High School in Kamareddy district, where stu-

dents are forced to walk a kilometer for their mid-day meal due to a lack of proper arrangements.

Expressing her outrage, she criticized the government for neglecting the mid-day meal program and the Gurukul system. "This is a failure of governance. How can students be expected to walk long distances just to have a meal?" she questioned.

Taking to social media platform 'X', she urged the District Collector to take immediate action by appointing mid-day meal organizers and ensuring that meals are served within the school premises. Kavitha's remarks reflect growing dissatisfaction with the Congress government's handling of key welfare programs, adding to the political tensions in the state.

Congress Should Seek Votes Only After Fulfilling Job Promises: Anji Reddy



TPN Correspondent
Vemulawada, Feb 13

Graduate MLC candidate Anji Reddy has called on the Congress government to seek votes only after fulfilling its job creation promises. Speaking at a media conference in Vemulawada as part of the Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Medak Graduates MLC elections, Anji Reddy said that while the recent Union budget provided a tax exemption of Rs. 12.75 lakh, bringing

relief to many, the Congress has failed to deliver on its commitments.

He criticized the Congress for misleading the youth for the past 60 years and challenged the government to first deposit Rs. 56,000 into citizens' accounts before seeking votes. He insisted that the Congress should create 2 lakh jobs and provide Rs. 7,500 crore in fee reimbursement as promised.

Anji Reddy highlighted the deteriorating condition of educational institutions under Congress governance, stating that students are struggling due to a lack of basic amenities. He emphasized that colleges can function properly only if fee reimbursements are provided on time. He urged voters to hold the Congress accountable for its unfulfilled promises before supporting its candidates in the upcoming MLC elections.

Aadi Srinivas Slams Harish Rao, Calls Him a 'Master of Lies'

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 13

Government Whip Aadi Srinivas launched a sharp attack on former BRS minister T. Harish Rao, accusing him of spreading lies against the government. Responding to Harish Rao's claims about the Rythu Bharosa scheme, Srinivas said that the former minister has been making baseless allegations out of frustration over the government's good work.

Srinivas alleged that internal conflicts within BRS have led leaders like Harish Rao, KTR, and Kavitha to make false claims. He criticized Harish Rao for misrepresenting facts regarding financial aid to farmers, particularly in the case of Nakirithi Kanakavva from Mustabad mandal, Rajanna Sircilla district. He clarified that Kanakavva had 11 eligible plots and received Rs. 1,650 accordingly.

Further, Srinivas accused Harish Rao of misleading people about the caste census and recalled that the previous BRS government never published its comprehensive survey. He stated that BRS's claim of providing 61% reservation for BCs was false, and the actual number was only 51%.

He asserted that Harish Rao is deliberately trying to create controversy because the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government is making significant progress in governance.



BJP MPs Urge Center to Officially Recognize Sewalal Jayanti



TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Feb 13

Telangana BJP MPs have appealed to Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to officially organize Sant Sewalal Maharaj Jayanti across the country. MPs DK Aruna, Raghunandan Rao, and Konda Vishweshwar Reddy jointly submitted their request to the minister.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, MP DK Aruna emphasized that there are 12 crore Banjaras in India, and Sant Sewalal Maharaj is their revered deity. The MPs urged the Union government to rec-

ognize his Jayanti at the national level.

Medak MP Raghunandan Rao noted that some states already celebrate Sewalal Jayanti officially. He stated that they met the Union Minister to push for nationwide recognition. If necessary, they plan to escalate the matter to Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Sant Sewalal Jayanti falls on February 15. The MPs requested the Center to issue orders as soon as possible, even if formal implementation is delayed.

CPI Leader Kunanneni Slams Congress for Ignoring Communists



TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 13

Telangana CPI State Secretary and MLA Kunanneni Sambasivarao has criticized the Congress government for sidelining communists despite their support in the elections.

Speaking to the media, Kunanneni reminded the Congress leadership that they won with CPI's backing. He expressed disappointment over the government's failure to acknowledge communist contributions and warned that ignoring them is not the right approach, given the cur-

rent political landscape.

He also criticized the Congress administration for failing to highlight its achievements. Referring to the Rs. 2 lakh farm loan waiver, he pointed out inefficiencies in its implementation. Additionally, he alleged that government officials are not responding to phone calls, indicating a lack of accessibility and transparency.

Kunanneni's remarks signal growing discontent among allies, raising concerns about Congress's handling of coalition dynamics in Telangana.

KTR Has No Right to Question

Minister Seethakka's Strong Response

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 13

Minister Seethakka lashed out at BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), stating that he has no moral right to question the government when he himself did not participate in the comprehensive family survey. Addressing the media, she criticized BRS leaders for repeatedly questioning the caste census, despite the survey being conducted for 50 days under the supervision of officials.

Seethakka emphasized that the comprehensive family survey included all communities and urged the opposition to stop misleading people. She assured that discussions on the BC Dedicated Committee's report will be held with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy before making a final decision.

The minister also announced that an official statement on local election reservations will be made within the next four days. Re-



sponding to concerns about dissatisfaction among BCs regarding the caste census report, she dismissed them as politically motivated attempts to create confusion.

Meanwhile, CM Revanth Reddy is set to meet with Panchayat Raj department officials today to discuss local body elections, including reservation policies and election arrangements. Minister Seethakka and Chief Secretary Shanthi Kumari will also participate in the meeting.



Meat Found Near Shivalingam, Probe Ordered

**Minister Konda Surekha Orders Probe
Police Register FIR, Investigation Underway
Hindu Groups Demand Strict Action
Endowment Officials Visit Site, Submit Report
Temple Premises Cleaned, Security Tightened**

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 13

Tension prevailed at the Tappachabutra Jirra Hanuman Temple in Hyderabad after meat lumps were found near the Shivalingam on Tuesday. Shocked devotees immediately alerted the police, who reached the scene and began an investigation.

As the news spread, Hindu groups gathered in large numbers, demanding strict action against those responsible for the act. They urged authorities to identify and punish the miscreants to prevent such incidents in the future.

Minister Konda Surekha Orders Inquiry
Expressing strong displeasure over the incident, Endowment Minister Konda Surekha directed senior officials of the Endowment Department to visit the site and submit a detailed report. She condemned the act, emphasizing that the government will not compromise on the beliefs of devotees.

Following her orders, local Endowment Department officials inspected the temple premises and assured the devotees that a thorough probe would be conducted. The minister further stated that strict action would be taken against those involved after a comprehensive investigation.



Police Register FIR, Cleanup Underway
Acting on Minister Surekha's instructions, the police registered an FIR against the accused. Senior officials collected evidence from the site and submitted a report to the minister's office. Authorities also took immediate steps to clean the temple premises and restore normalcy.

Minister Surekha reiterated that her government respects the religious sentiments of devotees and will take swift action against any attempts to disturb communal harmony. The incident has sparked outrage, with demands for enhanced security measures at religious sites to prevent such mischief in the future. Police are currently analyzing CCTV footage and conducting an investigation to identify the culprits.

Governor Dattatraya Takes Holy Dip at Mahakumbh

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 13

Haryana Governor Shri Bandaru Dattatraya participated in the grand Mahakumbh Mela in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, on the auspicious occasion of Magh Purnima. Accompanied by Lady Governor Smt. Vasantha Bandaru and other family members, he took a holy dip at Triveni Sangam.



vine glow of Sanatan culture.

The Governor praised how this ancient tradition continues in the modern era, showcasing the spiritual and cultural grandeur of India to the world. He urged devotees to embrace the spiritual essence of Mahakumbh, which has been a symbol of India's faith and heritage for centuries.

Governor Dattatraya described Mahakumbh as the world's largest spiritual gathering, emphasizing its significance as per Hindu

scriptures. He stated that taking a sacred bath during Mahakumbh brings prosperity, washes away sins, and frees one from negativity. He also highlighted that Prayagraj, known as the king of pilgrimage sites, radiates the di-

Mahakumbh, held every 12 years, attracts millions of pilgrims, saints, and spiritual seekers from across the globe, reaffirming its status as a sacred and timeless tradition.

Telangana Auto Drivers Association Calls for Strike



TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 13

The Telangana Auto Drivers Association has announced a statewide strike, demanding that the government fulfill its promises made to auto drivers. Telangana

Auto Drivers JAC convener, Venkatesham, criticized the Congress government for ignoring their concerns after coming to power, despite making several promises during the elections.

nam Prabhakar Goud had invited them for discussions. However, he claimed that the minister is now neglecting their demands.

The association has planned protests across the state on the 15th of this month and will meet with political parties on the 24th to seek their support. Venkatesham recalled that they had called for a strike four months ago, after which Transport Minister Pon-

The drivers are demanding the formation of a special corporation for auto workers in the upcoming Telangana budget, along with the release of funds. They also expressed concerns about being sidelined due to the Mahalakshmi Scheme and urged the government to fulfill the Rs. 12,000 per month assistance promised to auto workers.

TPCC to Hold PowerPoint Presentation on Caste Census



TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 13

The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) has planned a PowerPoint presentation on the BC Caste Census and SC Reservations initiated under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka. The presentation will take place on Friday at 2 PM at Prakasam Hall, Gandhi Bhavan, under the supervision of TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud.

CM Revanth Reddy and AICC General Secretary Deepa Das Munshi will attend the event as chief guests. Congress leaders will receive a detailed briefing on the ongoing BC caste census and SC classification efforts by the state government.

Prominent attendees include Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, Sub-Committee Chairman Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, Co-Chairman Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha, and Ministers Sridhar Babu, Ponnamp Prabhakar, Seethakka, along with MP Mallu Ravi and AICC Secretary Sampath Kumar.

Mahesh Kumar Goud has urged MPs, MLAs, MLCs, contested candidates, TPCC office bearers, DCC presidents, and senior leaders to attend in large numbers. He also directed DCC presidents to ensure full participation of public representatives and district leaders.



TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 13

The Mastan Sai and Lavanya case has taken a new turn as a video involving DI Srinivas, the investigating officer,

has gone viral. Mastan Sai was earlier arrested on charges of drugging, sexually abusing, and blackmailing young women with videos, following a complaint by Lavanya. He has been re-

New Twist in Mastan Sai and Lavanya Case

- Viral Video Sparks Controversy

manded for 14 days by the court.

However, in a surprising development, Cyberabad Commissioner of Police (CP) has ordered the transfer of DI Srinivas to the IG office after discovering that he was frequently communicating with Lavanya via WhatsApp. A video of these interactions has surfaced online, raising questions about his involvement in the case.

Senior police officials conducted an internal inquiry and confirmed the conversations between DI Srinivas and Lavanya. Following this revelation, authorities took swift action by reassigning him to the IG office.

The viral video has sparked debates on possible interference in the investigation, and authorities are closely monitoring further developments in the case.

KTR Demands Apology from CM Revanth Reddy

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 13

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has demanded that Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy apologize to the Backward Classes (BCs) for allegedly reducing their population in the recent caste census survey.



The Telangana government had initiated a caste census survey, but it was not fully completed. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka recently informed the media that some people had not cooperated with the process. As a result, the government has decided to reconduct the survey from February 16 to 28, ensuring that the remaining 3.1 percent of the population participates. The final report will be presented to the state cabinet in the first week of March.

Reacting to this, KTR took to Twitter, criticizing the Congress government for mismanaging the survey and causing distress among BC communities. He welcomed the government's acknowledgment of its mistake but insisted that elections should be conducted only after a comprehensive caste census and ensuring 42 percent reservation for BCs.

"CM Revanth, who reduced the population of BCs and caused them severe mental anguish, must issue a public apology. Until Congress fulfills its promise in the BC declaration, no BC will trust the party," KTR tweeted.

His remarks have intensified the political debate, with BRS leaders questioning the Congress government's commitment to BC welfare. The issue is expected to be a key political talking point in the coming weeks.

National BC Dal Demands Caste Census, Warns of Nationwide Protest

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 13

National BC Dal President Dundra Kumaraswamy has called for a nationwide movement to pressure the central government to conduct a caste census along with the population census. Addressing a press conference in Kacheguda on Wednesday, Kumaraswamy urged BJP Union Ministers to pressurize Prime Minister Narendra Modi to include a caste census in the upcoming population census for the future of Backward Classes (BCs).



He demanded that a BC Bill be introduced in Parliament, ensuring 50% reservation for BCs in legislative assemblies. He also appealed to opposition parties and all political groups to

unite in demanding a caste-based census. Kumaraswamy criticized the Modi government, stating that despite a BC leader becoming Prime Minister, BCs continue to face injustice. He warned that BC communities across the country would soon intensify their agitation if their demand was ignored.

Students Educated on Drug Awareness at Yusufguda

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 13

Students at Yusufguda Government School were urged not to accept chocolates or any items from strangers as part of an anti-drug awareness program conducted on Wednesday.

Anti-Drugs Inspector Srinivas addressed the students, emphasizing the importance of reporting suspicious individuals to teachers and parents. He also informed them about the government's initiative to establish anti-drug wall committees in all schools to curb drug-related activities.

Students were advised to report any incidents of drug-laced chocolates or substances being sold near schools to the wall committee or by

calling 1098. School principal Parameswaramma formed a special committee comprising four teachers and student representatives.

Following the awareness session, students took a pledge to fight against drugs and participated in a rally. Several faculty members, including NCC officer P. Prabhakar, physical directors Vishweshwar Rao and Maddishwar, and Telugu teacher Nagaraju, took part in the event.



Sangareddy Police Raid Illegal Sand Filter Bases

₹6 Crore Seized in Sangareddy Sand Mining Raid
32 Arrested in Sangareddy Sand Mining Bust
Sangareddy Task Force Raids Illegal Sand Filter Bases

TPN Correspondent Sangareddy, Feb 13

The Sangareddy District Task Force Police conducted raids on illegal sand filter bases near Ismail Khan Pet and Bathole villages, seizing property worth approximately ₹6 crore and detaining 32 individuals. District SP Chennuri Rupesh provided details of the operation.



SP Chennuri Rupesh warned that strict action would be taken against those involved in illegal sand mining, emphasizing that criminal cases will be filed against offenders. He also commended the task force staff and special teams for their successful operation.

Acting on reliable information, authorities discovered that some individuals had set up sand filter bases on the outskirts of these villages, engaging in illegal sand mining. The criminals were reportedly extracting sand by filtering soil, which negatively impacts soil fertility.

Two special teams, comprising the District Task Force Police and Special Party Teams, conducted the raids. In Ismail Khan Pet, officials seized three Itachis, two JCBs, five tractors with trolleys, and ten tractor engines. In Bathole village, authorities confiscated three Itachis. A total of 32 individuals were taken into custody and transferred to Sangareddy Rural Police Station for further investigation.

The crackdown on illegal sand mining highlights the police department's commitment to preserving natural resources and enforcing the law against unlawful activities in the district.

Bird Flu and Chicken Pox Outbreak in Nizamabad

- Over 1,000 Chickens Dead

TPN Correspondent Nizamabad, Feb 13
A major outbreak of bird flu and bird pox has been reported in Nizamabad district, leading to the deaths of over 1,000 chickens. The alarming situation has prompted Telangana state officials to tighten security at the Telangana-Andhra Pradesh borders, particularly at Kandakurthi and Salura check posts.



To prevent the spread of the disease, 24-hour surveillance has been implemented, restricting the entry of chickens and chicken feed into the state. The worst-affected areas include Birkur, Pothangal, Rudrur, Velpur, Bheemaling, Banswada, and Borlam, where a large number of chickens have already perished.

The outbreak has severely impacted chicken sales, which were already low, causing further distress to poultry farmers and vendors. In response, the Telangana government has imposed a

ban on chickens from Andhra Pradesh, leading to the establishment of 24 check posts across the state's borders, including three in the joint Nalgonda district. Officials are actively turning back vehicles transporting poultry from Andhra Pradesh.

Authorities continue to monitor the situation closely, urging poultry farmers to follow biosecurity measures to prevent further spread of the infection.

Young Man Attacks Woman with Petrol for Rejecting His Love



TPN Correspondent Khammam, Feb 13

A shocking incident in Huzurnagar, Telangana, has sparked outrage after a young man poured petrol on a woman for rejecting his love.

The accused, identified as Sundar Pramod Kumar, and the victim are both residents of Khammam district. The attack took place at the victim's workplace, a private company in Huzurnagar.

Locals intervened immediately, preventing further harm. In a dramatic turn, they caught the attacker, stripped him, and handed him over to the police. The entire incident was captured on CCTV footage, which later brought the case to light.

Police have registered a case and launched an investigation. Authorities have urged the public to report such crimes and assured strict action against perpetrators of violence against women.

Elderly Woman Tied Up, Robbed by Gang in Khammam

TPN Correspondent Khammam, Feb 13

A shocking robbery took place in Ward 9 of Vaira Municipality, where four unidentified men tied up an elderly woman, Seelam Venkatarama, and stole gold from her house.

According to the victim, one of the robbers was dressed in a police uniform. The gang arrived in a car, pretending to be conducting a survey. Once inside, they overpowered the woman and looted the gold.

The stolen gold belonged to the victim's recently married daughter, making the loss even more devastating.

Police have launched an investigation and are verifying CCTV footage to identify the culprits. Authorities have urged residents to remain cautious and report any suspicious activity.



CPI MLA Kunamneni Visits Chilkur Priest Rangarajan, Condemns Attack

TPN Correspondent Hyderabad, Feb 13

CPI State Secretary and MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao visited Chilkur Balaji Temple to express solidarity with Chief Priest Rangarajan, who was recently attacked by Ramarajyam Army founder Veeraghava Reddy.

Kunamneni assured Rangarajan of full support, stating that the attack exposed the intolerance of the assailants and highlighted Rangarajan's good deeds. He praised Rangarajan's progressive approach, especially his efforts in bringing Dalits into the temple, and criticized the

attackers as pseudo-devotees misusing religion.

Kunamneni emphasized that true devotion lies in inclusivity, hailing Rangarajan as a genuine Hindu devotee. He also acknowledged the visits of CM Revanth Reddy, central and state ministers, who have extended their support to Rangarajan beyond political affiliations.

Meanwhile, police have arrested Veeraghava Reddy and his associates involved in the attack. Devotees continue to demand strict punishment for the perpetrators.



Sri Akkonda Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Brahmotsavams Begin with Grandeur

TPN Correspondent Nirmal, Feb 13

The Brahmotsavams of Sri Akkonda Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy, an ancient temple nestled in the dense forests of Uttara Vahini along the Godavari River, are being celebrated with great fervor. The temple, located on the outskirts of Dildar Nagar in Kadem mandal, is one of the oldest in the region and attracts devotees from across the Adilabad district.

The festival features sandalwood offerings, Parveta Utsavam, Theppotsavam (boat festival), Rathotsavam (chariot festival), Pushpa Yagam (flower sacrifice), and Kalyanotsavam (celestial wedding). These rituals, conducted by Vedic scholars, create a divine and visu-



ally stunning experience for devotees. The temple committee has also organized an Annadanam (free food distribution) program, ensuring that pilgrims receive prasad. Thousands of devotees are flocking to the temple to seek blessings from Sri Akkonda Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy and witness the grandeur of the Brahmotsavams.

Former BRS MLA Bhupal Reddy Arrested During Protest

TPN Correspondent Narayanakhet, Feb 13

Former BRS MLA Bhupal Reddy was taken into police custody while protesting on the state highway alongside villagers, demanding the construction of roads that were approved during the previous BRS government's tenure.

A large number of BRS workers and villagers joined the protest, blocking roads and disrupting traffic. Senior police officials arrived at the scene but were unable to disperse the protest. Eventually, Bhupal Reddy was arrested at Mangalapeta and taken to the Narayanakhet police station.

Speaking after his arrest, Bhupal Reddy claimed that the BRS government had sanctioned tenders and approvals for road construction, but some Congress leaders were allegedly obstructing the work. He questioned why the road proj-

ects, awaited by villagers for two years, were being stalled.

The incident has sparked political tension, with BRS leaders accusing the ruling Congress of halting development projects.



Sammakka-Saralamma Chinna Jatara Begins

- Devotees Flock in Large Numbers

TPN Correspondent Mulugu, Feb 13

The Sammakka-Saralamma Chinna Jatara (Mini Medaram Jatara) has begun, attracting thousands of devotees. The four-day festival, held from February 12 to 15, is being celebrated with grandeur. Devotees are offering jaggery and fulfilling their vows, forming long queues since early Wednesday morning. The Telangana government has allocated ₹5.30 crore for organizing the festival. Over 40 lakh devotees from various districts and neighboring states are expected to visit. To accommodate the rush, the RTC has arranged 200 special buses, and 1,000 police personnel have been deployed. Authorities have also set up facilities for bathing and changing clothes at Jampannavagu.

Traditional Rituals and Celebrations

The Jatara features significant rituals, including Parveta Utsavam, Theppotsavam, Rathotsavam, Pushpa Yagam, and Kalyanotsavam. Special pujas are performed by the chief priests Kokkera Krishnayya and Kaka Sarayya, who maintain a strict vigil at the

gaddelas (sacred altars). Rituals similar to the Mahajatarata, held every two years, will be conducted, except for bringing the goddesses to the altars.

Transportation and Facilities

SP P. Shabarish announced designated routes for devotees arriving from different regions, including Hanumakonda, Bhupalapally, Karimnagar, Eturunagaram, Kothagudem, Pasra, and Tadwai. RTC Warangal Region is operating special buses round the clock, and women and girls can travel free under the Mahalaxmi scheme.

Lack of Toilets Raises Concerns

Despite the large budget, lack of toilets near the fairgrounds has caused inconvenience to devotees. Only 40 public toilets exist, which are insufficient for the expected crowd. Many devotees camp at Chikalagutta, Sriramsagar lake, Kongalamadugu, Kothur, and Reddygudem, where no toilets have been installed, raising hygiene concerns. While the festival continues with devotion and enthusiasm, authorities are urged to improve basic sanitation for devotees.





Understanding Oral Cancer: Causes, Symptoms, and Risk Factors



Dr. Mehaboob Shaik
 Professor & HOD, Maxillofacial Surgery | CARE Institution of Medical & Dental Sciences, Guntur

Oral cancer remains a significant global health concern, ranking among the top ten causes of cancer-related deaths. The condition, predominantly affecting men, is strongly linked to tobacco and alcohol consumption, as well as environmental and dietary factors. Dr. Mehaboob Shaik, Professor and Head of the Department of Maxillofacial Surgery at CARE Institution of Medical & Dental Sciences, Guntur, provides an in-depth analysis of oral cancer, its causes, and risk factors.

The Origins and Definition of Cancer
 The term "cancer" originates from the Latin word for crab, reflecting how the disease adheres to tissues in an aggressive and persistent manner. Cancer is a general term for malignant neoplasms, and according to Willis, a neoplasm is defined as "an abnormal mass of tissue, the growth of which exceeds and is uncoordinated with that of normal tissues and persists in the same excessive manner after the cessation of the stimuli which evoked the change."

Oral Cancer: A Growing Concern

Oral cancer accounts for a significant number of cancer-related fatalities worldwide. More than 90% of oral cancers are squamous cell carcinomas, and the disease exhibits a slight male predominance, with a male-to-female ratio of 1.7:1. The peak incidence occurs in men during their fifties, while women are more commonly affected in their sixties.

The incidence of oral cancer among women saw a nearly 50% rise from the late 1940s to the 1980s. This increase has been attributed to changes in smoking and alcohol consumption patterns among women, along with

other contributing nutritional and lifestyle factors.

Key Risk Factors: Tobacco, Alcohol, and Environmental Exposure

Tobacco use, both in smoked and smokeless forms, remains one of the leading causes of oral cancer. Tobacco products contain harmful carcinogens such as nitrosamines, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, nitrosodichthanolamine, nitrosoproline, and polonium. Additionally, tobacco smoke itself contains toxic substances like carbon monoxide, thiocyanate, hydrogen cyanide, and nicotine.

Common forms of smoked tobacco include bidis, cigarettes, hookahs, and chillum, while smokeless tobacco products include khaini, gutka, paan, and zarda. These products contribute significantly to oral cancer incidence.

Apart from tobacco and alcohol use, environmental factors such as prolonged exposure to sunlight can increase the risk of lip cancer. Nutritional deficiencies and a lack of protective nutrients found in fresh fruits and vegetables have also been linked to cancer development.

Clinical Features and Symptoms

Oral cancer commonly affects individuals between the fourth and sixth decades of life, with a male-to-female ratio of 4:1. The most commonly affected sites include the tongue, lips, and the floor of the mouth.

Early Manifestations:

- Persistent red or white patches in the oral cavity
- Non-healing ulcers
- Progressive swelling or enlargement of tissues
- Sudden tooth mobility without an apparent cause
- Unusual oral bleeding or nasal bleeding (epistaxis)
- Late Manifestations:
- Hard, indurated areas in the oral cavity
- Numbness or paresthesia in the affected area
- Airway obstruction
- Difficulty opening the mouth (trismus) and swallowing (dysphagia)
- Enlargement of cervical lymph nodes (lymphadenopathy)

Additional Risk Factors: Dental and Oral Health Issues

While the role of dental factors in oral cancer development is debated, some studies suggest that conditions like sharp teeth, ill-fitting dentures, faulty restorations, and changes in bite patterns may contribute to the risk. However, the evidence remains inconclusive.

Identifying Oral Cancer: Lesions and Staging

Oral cancer often presents as distinct lesions, which may appear in various forms:

- Patches or plaques (red, white, or mixed red-and-white)
- Ulcerations
- Black or brown pigmented lesions
- Exophytic growths (abnormal outward-growing masses)

The TNM staging system is used to determine the severity and extent of the disease. Staging plays a crucial role in treatment planning and prognosis assessment. It provides a standardized way for medical professionals to classify cancer cases and communicate about patient care.

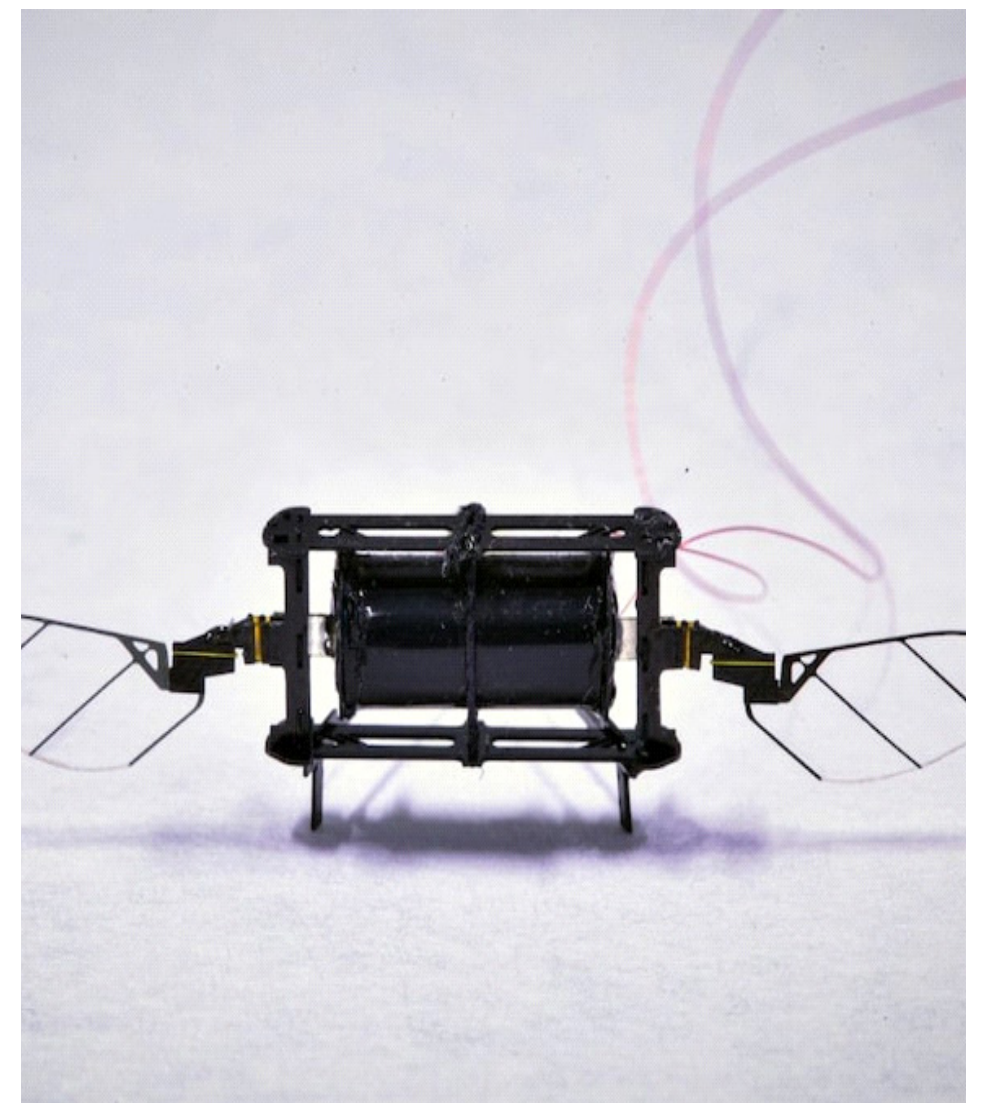
Cancer Awareness and International Maxillofacial Surgeon's Day

Raising awareness about oral cancer is crucial for early detection and prevention. International Maxillofacial Surgeon's Day, observed on February 13, serves as an important occasion to highlight the role of maxillofacial surgeons in diagnosing and treating oral cancers. Public awareness campaigns, early screening programs, and lifestyle modifications, such as quitting tobacco and alcohol, can significantly reduce oral cancer cases.

The general public is encouraged to prioritize oral health check-ups, recognize early warning signs, and adopt preventive measures, including a balanced diet rich in fruits and vegetables. Efforts to increase awareness and accessibility to healthcare can improve survival rates and enhance quality of life for affected individuals.

Survival Rates and Future Outlook

The overall five-year survival rate for oral cancer stands at approximately 52.5%, with females having a slightly higher survival rate (58%) compared to males (50%). Early detection and prevention strategies, including reducing tobacco and alcohol use, improving dietary habits, and maintaining good oral hygiene, are critical in reducing the burden of oral cancer. As research continues, efforts to enhance public awareness and early diagnosis remain vital in combating this life-threatening disease.



MIT's Robotic Insect Drones Achieve 100x Longer Flight Time

MIT researchers have made a groundbreaking advancement in robotic insect technology, developing drones capable of flying 100 times longer than their previous models. This significant improvement in endurance and efficiency is expected to revolutionize artificial pollination, offering a potential solution to declining bee populations and enhancing agricultural productivity.

The latest robotic insects have been engineered with a streamlined design that enhances flight dynamics while minimizing energy consumption. Unlike earlier prototypes that suffered from limited flight time and instability, these new drones incorporate structural modifications that allow for sustained operation in real-world agricultural settings.

Breakthrough in Flight Capabilities

A study published in Science Robotics details the advanced structural adjustments that have enabled these robotic insects to remain airborne for extended periods. Previously, robotic insect models struggled with lift and control due to excessive wing numbers and inefficient motion. The new design replaces the older eight-wing system with a more efficient four-unit structure, each equipped with a single flapping wing. This reduces airflow resistance and optimizes power usage, making the drones more stable and responsive during flight.

Kevin Chen, Associate Professor of Robotics at MIT, emphasized the significance of this breakthrough, stating that the demonstrated flight time in this research surpasses all previous attempts combined. The refined wing mechanism has not only improved endurance but also reduced mechanical stress, allowing the drones to carry integrated power sources essential for field deployment.

Challenges in Replicating Natural Flight

Despite these advancements, researchers continue to face challenges in mimicking the precise wing movements of real insects. Natural insects rely on finely tuned muscle-like contractions for flight, whereas early robotic versions lacked this level of precision. The MIT team is now focusing on refining signal transmissions within the robotic structure to closely replicate natural insect motion.

Another major hurdle is achieving the right balance between weight and battery capacity. While the latest iteration has made significant strides, further enhancements are required to ensure the drones can operate autonomously and navigate complex environments without human intervention.

Future Applications in Agriculture

Looking ahead, the team aims to integrate advanced sensors and computational systems into the robotic insects, improving their navigation and decision-making capabilities. Over the next five years, research will focus on refining these systems to allow the drones to function independently in agricultural settings. If successful, this technology could play a crucial role in supplementing natural pollinators, supporting food production, and mitigating the impact of environmental changes on agriculture.

With continued innovation, robotic insects may soon become a vital tool in global efforts to enhance crop yields and ensure food security.



Dr. Nadella Koteswararao
 Past President, AP Chapter HOD, Drs SNDS, Gannavaram



Dr. P.L. Vasundhar
 President, AOMSI-AP Chapter

Contributions to Oral Cancer Awareness:

Dr. P.L. Vasundhara, President of AOMSI-AP Chapter, and Dr. Nadella Koteswararao, Past President of the AP Chapter and Head of the Department at Drs SNDS, Gannavaram, have been actively working towards promoting awareness and early detection of oral cancer. Their contributions in this field continue to make a significant impact in cancer prevention and treatment.

Surajkund Mela 2025: Dates, Attractions, and Ticket Details

The much-awaited 38th edition of the Surajkund International Crafts Mela is set to bring a vibrant display of culture, art, and heritage to the Delhi-NCR region. Held annually in Faridabad, Haryana, this grand fair showcases India's rich craftsmanship and traditions while hosting artisans from across the globe. With over 648 artisans from 42 countries participating this year, the event promises a unique experience for visitors. Odisha and Madhya Pradesh have been chosen as the theme states for 2025. The Surajkund Mela 2025 will take place from February 7 to February 25 at Surajkund, Faridabad. Organized by the Haryana Tourism Department, the fair attracts artists, craftsmen, and cultural performers from India and beyond, transforming the venue into a bustling cultural hub.

Major Attractions at Surajkund Mela 2025



Authentic Handicrafts and Artworks

The mela is a paradise for handicraft lovers, featuring a vast collection of handmade treasures, including Phulkari embroidery, Madhubani paintings, Channapatna toys, Kashmiri Pashminas, and Dhokra metal art. Visitors can buy directly from artisans, ensuring authenticity and fair pricing. The Hunar Haat and Food Court sections offer a variety of regional delicacies from across India. Popular dishes include Rajsthani kulchas, and Bengal's rosogolla.

Cultural Performances and Folk Dances

Every evening, folk dancers, musicians, and theatre groups from different states showcase their talents. Performances include Rajasthan's Ghoomar, Maharashtra's Lavani, and Assam's Bihu, along with international acts. The open-air stage creates a lively atmosphere, immersing visitors in a cultural extravaganza. The fair offers various entertainment options, including Ferris wheels, camel rides, puppet shows, pottery-making, and interactive art sessions, making it enjoyable for visitors of all ages.

India 1st G-20 nation to meet Paris pact goals: PM Modi

- India first G-20 nation to meet Paris goals.
- Solar capacity up 32x; ethanol blending at 19%.
- Biofuels Alliance boosts sustainable energy

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday declared that India was the first country among the G-20 nations to meet the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement, a key international treaty aimed at combating climate change. The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015, strives to limit global warming to well below 2°C, with efforts to cap it at 1.5°C, while focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and aligning financial flows with low-emission development.

In his virtual address at the opening ceremony of India Energy Week 2025, which was held in France, PM Modi highlighted India's impressive strides in renewable energy and climate action. "In the last decade, India has moved from being the 10th to the 5th largest economy globally. In this time, we have increased our solar energy generation capacity by 32 times," Modi said.

The Prime Minister emphasized India's leadership in renewable energy, revealing that the country is now the third-largest solar power producer in the world. "Our non-fossil fuel energy

capacity has tripled, and we are the first among G-20 nations to achieve the Paris Agreement goals," he noted.

Modi also credited initiatives like ethanol blending for India's environmental progress. "India has achieved 19% ethanol blending, which has significantly reduced CO2 emissions, saved foreign exchange, and boosted farmer incomes. We are on track to reach a 20% ethanol blending target by October 2025," he explained.

In addition, PM Modi spotlighted the growth of India's biofuel industry, which is gaining momentum with the support of the Global Biofuels Alliance. Established during India's G-20 presidency, the alliance now includes 28 countries and 12 international organizations. "We have a sustainable feedstock of 500 million metric tonnes, and the Global Biofuels Alliance is turning waste into wealth, establishing centres of excellence," he added.

India's achievements in renewable energy and climate action reflect its commitment to sustainable development and global environmental leadership.



Kerala CM denies UDF allegation of failure of law and order, criminalisation of police

TPN Correspondent | Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday responded to opposition allegations of police criminalization and law and order failures in the state. The Chief Minister denied claims that criminals, or "goondas," were being shielded by the police, stating that appropriate action had been taken against errant officers.

Vijayan's remarks came in response to a notice moved by the Congress-led UDF seeking an adjournment of the House to discuss the failure of law and order in Kerala. The opposition had raised concerns following the recent Palakkad double murder case, where a 72-year-old woman and her 53-year-old son were allegedly hacked to death by their neighbor. The accused, identified as Chenthamara, had been out on bail after being involved in a previous murder case in 2019, where he had killed the elderly woman's daughter-in-law.

In his reply, Chief Minister Vijayan acknowledged the failure of the police in handling the situation. He revealed that the Nenmara police station's inspector had been suspended pending an investigation. The inspector had failed to take appropriate action on complaints made by the victims' family, who had alleged that they were being threatened by the accused prior to the murders.

Vijayan emphasized that strict action had been taken against police officers found neglecting their duties. He reassured the House that the government was committed to ensuring the safety of the public and that measures were in place to prevent such incidents from recurring.

The Chief Minister's response sought to address concerns over the state's law and order situation, asserting that the government was taking the necessary steps to ensure accountability and transparency within the police force.



Eknath Shinde Receives Mahadji Shinde Award

TPN Correspondent | Maharashtra

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde was honored with the Mahadji Shinde Rashtra Gaurav Puraskar on Tuesday at the 98th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan in Delhi. The award was presented to Shinde by Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar, in the presence of Union Ministers Jyotiraditya Scindia, Muralidhar Mohol, and writer Dr. Sadanand More.

In his acceptance speech, Shinde expressed his appreciation for the good relations he shares with Pawar, recalling that the NCP leader is the son-in-law of Sadas Shiv Shinde, a famous spin bowler known for his googly deliveries. He humorously added that while Pawar "bowls googly deliveries" in politics, he has never been caught off guard by them. Shinde further praised Pawar for his frequent calls and for showing interest in the development works being carried out in Maharashtra, emphasizing the importance of maintaining relationships beyond political divides.

However, Shinde's remarks and the award presentation stirred controversy in Maharashtra politics. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut criticized Pawar for presenting the award to Shinde, highlighting the political context in which the two leaders find themselves. Raut expressed disappointment, stating he did not expect Pawar to honor Shinde, especially given that both the Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP-SP are part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance. Raut, making a jab at Shinde's "googly" comment, suggested that those who play such tricks often end up "getting out by hit wicket." The Mahadji Shinde Rashtra Gaurav Award is named after the renowned strategist of the Maratha Empire, Mahadji Shinde, and recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to society.

India's Fighter Aircraft Development: A Generation Behind Global Powers



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India's ambitious goal of developing the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), a fifth-generation multirole stealth fighter, faces a significant delay, with its expected induction into the Indian Air Force not set to occur until 2035. By this time, global air forces, including those of Russia, the US, and China, will already be operating sixth-generation fighter jets, marking India's lag in the race for advanced aerial capabilities.

The AMCA, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), was displayed for the first time at the Aero India-2025 event in Bengaluru, generating significant attention. The aircraft, designed to be a twin-engine, medium-weight fighter, represents India's leap towards building cutting-edge military technology. However, it is set to enter service a decade after other major powers have begun developing sixth-generation fighters.

The development of these more advanced fighters is already underway globally. In August 2013, Russia announced its plans for the Mikoyan PAK DP, a sixth-generation fighter, which has since entered the development phase. Meanwhile, the United States launched its Next Generation Air Dominance (NGAD) Program, with a prototype already flown in 2020, although details remain classified. The first sixth-generation fighters from the US are expected to be fielded by 2030, developed by aerospace giants like Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman.

China, too, has begun research on sixth-generation fighter jets, with plans to bring their programme to fruition by 2035. Concepts of Chinese sixth-generation jets have already been shared publicly, and there have been reports of a new tailless aircraft being test-flown.

India's reliance on a fifth-generation aircraft for its future defense strategy places it behind these global powers, especially as advancements in sixth-generation technology promise to offer superior capabilities. As a result, India's AMCA program may face challenges in maintaining strategic parity with these rapidly evolving air forces.

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

TPN Correspondent | Maha Kumbh

On the occasion of Maghi Purnima, nearly 1.6 crore devotees took part in the sacred ritual of taking a holy dip at the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj, marking a significant event during the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela 2025. The ritual bath, which began early on Wednesday, saw an overwhelming turnout of people from across the country, in a religious observance that is integral to the Kumbh Mela festivities.

As the spiritual significance of Maghi Purnima draws pilgrims seeking purification and blessings, the Uttar Pradesh government reported that by noon, a staggering 1.59 crore devotees had bathed in the Sangam and other ghats. The event also marks the end of the month-long Kalpavas, where nearly 10 lakh 'Kalpavasis' (those who observe the month-long ritual) conclude their stay at the holy city and begin heading back to their respective destinations.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has been closely monitoring the event from Lucknow, ensuring that the administration is prepared for the large-scale congregation. The

local administration had made extensive arrangements for the smooth flow of pilgrims, urging them to follow traffic rules and park only in designated areas for safety.



PM Modi's France Visit: New Indian Consulate, Nuke Project Tour On Agenda

- PM Modi visits Marseille, recalls Veer Savarkar's 1910 escape attempt.
- Opens India's second consulate in France, boosting diplomatic ties.
- Tours ITER project with Macron, strengthening nuclear cooperation.

TPN Correspondent | France

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Marseille, France, on Wednesday, marking the final day of his three-day visit to the country. Speaking to the media, Modi recalled the valiant efforts of Indian freedom fighter VD "Veer" Savarkar, who had attempted a "courageous escape" from British custody in 1910. Modi's remarks were part of a wider focus on India's historic ties with France during British colonial rule.

The PM's visit to France is packed with initiatives aimed at strengthening India-French relations. On the agenda for the day is the opening of India's second consulate in France, following the Indian Embassy in Paris. This new consulate is expected to further enhance diplomatic



and cultural ties between the two countries. Modi will also visit the Mazargues War Cemetery to honor soldiers who died in the First and Second World Wars, paying tribute to their sacrifices.

Another key engagement includes a tour of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project, a global nuclear fusion collaboration. Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron will visit the ITER site as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation in science and technology.

Modi also took the opportunity to thank the people of Marseille and French activists for their support during India's freedom struggle, particularly when they opposed Savarkar's extradition to British custody. Savarkar had attempted to escape

British captivity in 1910 while being transported aboard the Morea ship but was later captured by French authorities and handed back to the British. He was subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment at the infamous Cellular Jail in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

On Tuesday, Modi and Macron addressed the AI Action Summit and the 14th India-France CEOs Forum in Paris. The summit saw the participation of leading business and innovation leaders from both nations. Modi emphasized the strategic partnership between India and France, highlighting their shared democratic values, trust, and commitment to global problem-solving.

Following the France visit, Modi is scheduled to travel to the United States on February 13.

Zelensky Willing to Swap Land with Putin, On Condition of US Mediation



TPN Correspondent | Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has expressed readiness to swap land with Russian President Vladimir Putin under one condition – if US President Donald Trump facilitates negotiations between the two nations. This development comes after Russia released at least one American prisoner, which Trump described as a gesture aimed at fostering peace in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Zelensky has historically rejected ceding any Ukrainian territory after Russia's invasion in February 2022. However, in a recent interview with The Guardian, he stated that Ukraine would consider trading territories, including the Kursk region of Russia, which Ukraine had seized following a surprise offensive last year. Zelensky remained noncommittal on which areas Ukraine might request in return but emphasized the importance of all

Ukrainian territories.

Zelensky also emphasized that Ukraine's security guarantees could not be fulfilled by European partners alone, asserting that security without the involvement of the United States would not be viable. He warned that a deal lacking firm military commitments, such as NATO membership or peacekeeping forces, would allow Russia the opportunity to regroup and potentially attack Ukraine again.

Furthermore, Zelensky sought to involve US businesses in Ukraine's reconstruction, offering lucrative deals to firms that contribute to rebuilding the war-torn nation. He stated that companies supporting Ukraine's defense would be integral in its post-war recovery, working alongside Ukrainian businesses to restore the country.

Trump has long advocated for ending the war in Ukraine, possibly using US financial aid as leverage to push Ukraine into making territorial concessions. Meanwhile, a recent visit by US envoy Steve Witkoff to Russia resulted in the release of Marc Fogel, an American imprisoned on drug charges, signaling potential diplomatic progress.

Nothing To Buy, Will Take It: Trump Doubles Down On Gaza Takeover Plan

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

US President Donald Trump has doubled down on his controversial proposal to "own" the Gaza Strip, asserting that the United States will take control of the region and manage its redevelopment, which would involve displacing the 2.2 million Palestinians living there. The plan was discussed during a meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah II in the Oval Office on Tuesday.

"We're going to have Gaza. We don't have to buy it. There's nothing to buy. We will have Gaza... We're going to take it, we're going to hold it, we're going to cherish it," Trump said, while also denying any personal involvement in real estate development in the region. He emphasized that the redevelopment would benefit the broader Middle East, creating jobs for the region's people.

Trump suggested that Palestinians in Gaza would be willing to leave, citing the dire



living conditions in the enclave following the ongoing conflict. "Look at the way they're living now. Nobody's living like that in the entire world," he stated, referring to the destruction caused by over a year of fighting following the October 7 terror attacks by Hamas.

While Trump has presented his proposal to take over Gaza as a potential solution, Jor-

dan's King Abdullah expressed opposition, emphasizing the Arab world's position against the displacement of Palestinians. He affirmed the importance of rebuilding Gaza without forcing Palestinians to leave and prioritizing the region's humanitarian needs. Abdullah added that Egypt was working on a plan that could align with Trump's vision without displacing Gaza's residents.

Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore to Return to Earth on March 12



TPN Correspondent | New York

NASA and SpaceX are expediting the upcoming crew rotation missions to the International Space Station (ISS), aiming to bring astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore back to Earth. The two astronauts have been stranded in space since June 2024 due to technical issues with Boeing's Starliner spacecraft, which had originally brought them to the ISS.

The Crew-10 mission, previously slated for a late March launch, is now targeting March 12, pending final mission readiness and the completion of NASA's flight certification process. NASA made the announcement on Tuesday, signaling that preparations are progressing ahead of schedule.

Williams and Wilmore are currently part of the Crew-9 mission, which also includes NASA astronauts Nick Hague and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov. The Crew-9 team will return to Earth after a few days of handover activities with the Crew-10 astronauts, who are set to arrive at the ISS.

The Crew-10 mission will carry NASA astronauts Anne McClain and Nichole Ayers, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Takuya Onishi, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Kirill Peskov to the space station. This accelerated launch was made possible after a decision to use a previously flown Dragon spacecraft, named Endurance, rather than a new Dragon spacecraft that was originally planned. SpaceX's teams are now conducting additional assessments of the spacecraft's hardware to ensure it meets NASA's Commercial Crew Program safety standards.

The decision to speed up the return of Williams and Wilmore comes after US President Donald Trump personally asked SpaceX CEO Elon Musk to help bring the astronauts home as soon as possible. Musk has expressed his frustration with the prolonged stay of the astronauts, calling it "terrible" that they have been stranded on the ISS for so long, despite NASA's coordination with SpaceX for their return.



Netanyahu Warns of Renewed Military Action If Hamas Fails to Release Hostages

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has issued a stern warning to Hamas following the group's recent announcement that it will not release Israeli hostages, citing a violation of the ceasefire-hostage agreement. Netanyahu emphasized that Israel will resume intense military action if Hamas fails to meet the Saturday deadline for releasing the hostages.

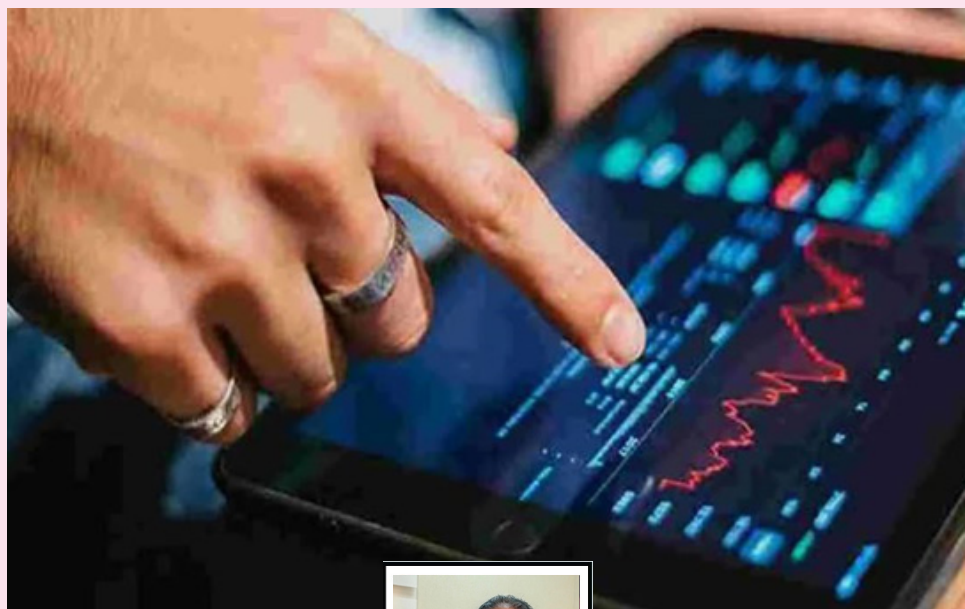
The Prime Minister's office released a statement on X (formerly Twitter) on Tuesday, indicating that Netanyahu had instructed the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) to mobilize inside and around the Gaza Strip. The military buildup is intended to prepare for a resumption of military operations, which Netanyahu said would focus on the "final defeat" of Hamas if the group fails to uphold the ceasefire.

"I have instructed the IDF to amass forces inside and surrounding the Gaza Strip. This action is underway and will soon be completed," Netanyahu's office stated. The post also clarified the government's position: "If Hamas does not return our hostages by Saturday noon, the ceasefire will end, and the IDF will resume intense fighting until the final defeat of Hamas."

The growing tensions come after Hamas broke the terms of the ceasefire agreement, which was intended to facilitate the release of hostages held by the militant group. The hostages' release had been a key element of the agreement, but Hamas now refuses to honor it, prompting Netanyahu's firm response.

Earlier, U.S. President Donald Trump also weighed in on the situation, advising Israel to take a tough stance on Hamas in order to secure the release of the hostages.

Markets Witness Volatility as Global Uncertainty Sparks



Sell-Off, Followed by Strong Recovery

Domestic stock markets have been in a major turmoil today. They resembled a roller coaster ride. Benchmark indices collapsed in the early hours due to negative signals from global markets and Trump's tariffs. Nifty 200 and Sensex fell by 600 points. Investors took buying in heavyweights, and metal, finance and bank shares stood firm, leading to a sharp recovery in the indices. They covered losses and went into profit. They ended with minor losses as profit-taking took place in the end.



of 23,144. It closed at 23,045, down 26 points. The Nifty Bank rose 76 points to settle at 49,479. In the Nifty50, 28 companies gained while 22 lost. Bajaj Finserv, SBI Life, Shriram Finance, HDFC Life, and Tata Steel were the top gainers. Mahindra & Mahindra, Eicher Motors, BEL, Power Grid, and IndusInd Bank were the biggest losers. PSU bank, finance, and metal indices rose. Auto, IT, pharma, realty, healthcare, and oil and gas indices rose.

Market breadth is more in favor of sellers on NSE today. Out of 2925 stocks traded, 1154 gained and 1685 lost. Shares of 18 companies reached 52-week highs while 611 reached 52-week lows.

India's retail inflation has reached a 5-month low. It has declined from

5.22 percent in December to 4.31 percent in January. The rupee has depreciated slightly against the dollar and settled at 86.88. Krasna Diagnostics' net profit has increased by 50% from Rs. 12.9 crore to Rs. 19.4 crore. Techno Electric's revenue has increased by 95.8% and EBITA by 60%. Man Industries has received an order worth Rs. 250 crore to supply various types of pipes. Kaveri Seed's net profit rose 36.4% to Rs 15 crore from Rs 11 crore. Kirloskar Brothers' net profit rose 44.5% to Rs 118 crore from Rs 82 crore. Hindustan Aeronautics' net profit rose 14% to Rs 1,253 crore from Rs 1,432 crore. Revenue rose 14% to Rs 6,957 crore from Rs 6,061 crore. HUDCO approved raising Rs 2,910 crore through private placement of bonds. Vijaya Diagnostics' net profit rose 36.4% to Rs 35.2 crore from Rs 25.8 crore.

1. Bajaj Finserv Ltd. (BAJAJFINSV): Bajaj Finserv is a prominent financial services conglomerate in India, operating across various sectors including lending, insurance, and wealth management. The company has demonstrated consistent growth in its loan book and maintains a strong presence in both the retail and corporate lending segments. Its subsidiaries, such as Bajaj Finance and Bajaj Allianz, contribute

significantly to its revenue streams. The company's prudent risk management practices and diversified portfolio have bolstered its financial stability.

2. SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd. (SBICARD): SBI Cards is a leading credit card issuer in India, offering a wide range of credit card products to various customer segments. The company has shown robust growth in its cardholder base and spends per card. Recent analyst upgrades highlight improving asset quality and declining credit costs. For instance, Nuva-ma upgraded SBI Cards to 'Buy', citing these positive trends.

3. Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ASHOKLEY): Ashok Leyland is a major player in the commercial vehicle sector in India. In the recent quarter, the company reported a 31.3% increase in profit, reaching ₹7.63 billion, driven by a significant rise in exports which offset domestic market challenges. Revenue from operations also saw a 2.2% uptick, amounting to ₹94.79 billion.

4. UltraTech Cement Ltd. (ULTRACEMCO): UltraTech Cement is the largest manufacturer of grey cement, ready-mix concrete, and white cement in India. The company has a strong market presence and has been focusing on capacity expansion and cost optimization to maintain its leadership position. Analysts have identified UltraTech Cement as a promising stock poised for growth, especially in light of infrastructure development initiatives.



5. Tata Consumer Products Ltd. (TATACONSUM): Tata Consumer Products is a key player in the food and beverages sector, with a diverse brand portfolio including Tata Tea, Tetley, and Tata Salt. In the fiscal year 2023-24, the company reported a 9% year-on-year increase in total revenue, surpassing ₹12,000 crore. This growth is attributed to innovation, brand development, and an expanded distribution network. The company also announced a dividend of ₹8 per share for the fiscal year, reflecting its commitment to rewarding shareholders.



Nirmala Sitharaman to Introduce Income-Tax Bill 2025 in Lok Sabha Today



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will introduce the Income-Tax Bill 2025 in the Lok Sabha today, aiming to replace the six-decade-old Income Tax Act of 1961. The new Bill seeks to simplify and consolidate existing tax laws without introducing any new taxes. If passed, the new law is expected to come into effect from April 2026. According to the official list of parliamentary business, Sitharaman will move for leave to introduce the Bill, which is designed to eliminate obsolete provisions, reduce litigation, and enhance compli-

ance. Experts believe the revamped law will make tax regulations more transparent and taxpayer-friendly. **Key Changes in the Income-Tax Bill 2025:** The Income-Tax Bill 2025 introduces a simplified tax structure by replacing complex terminologies with clearer language. It eliminates the distinction between 'assessment year' and 'previous year,' introducing a single 'tax year' starting from April 1 each year. Additionally, redundant provisions like the Fringe Benefit Tax have been removed, and excessive legal jargon has been streamlined

to improve clarity and compliance. The Bill also focuses on making tax laws more transparent and easier to understand. It removes lengthy explanations and provisos, ensuring straightforward provisions. Furthermore, commonly used legal terms like 'notwithstanding' have been replaced with 'irrespective' to enhance readability and interpretation for taxpayers. The move comes as part of the government's effort to modernize tax laws and create a simpler and more efficient tax system for individuals and businesses.

Massive Crackdown on GST Fraud

- ₹1.89 lakh crore GST evasion detected across multiple cases.
- ₹1,196 crore ITC scam busted by DGGI Pune Zonal Unit.
- Over 90,000 fake GST registrations identified in special drives.
- 132 arrests made, with ₹20,128 crore recovered.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Authorities have intensified their crackdown on Goods and Services Tax (GST) fraud, uncovering tax evasion cases amounting to ₹1.89 lakh crore through multiple operations. These include a nationwide investigation by Central GST (CGST) officers and a ₹1,196 crore fraudulent Input Tax Credit (ITC) scam unearthed by the Pune Zonal Unit of the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI). Between April and December 2024, CGST officials detected tax evasion worth ₹1.88 lakh crore across 72,393 cases, leading to 132 arrests and a recovery of ₹20,128 crore. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary informed the Lok Sabha that extensive operations in 2023 and 2024 revealed over 90,000 fake GST registrations, exposing tax fraud of nearly ₹50,000 crore. In the previous fiscal year (2023-24), ₹2.30 lakh crore in tax evasion was identified, with 223 arrests and ₹31,758 crore recovered.

In a separate case, the Pune Zonal Unit uncovered a complex network of shell companies involved in fake invoicing and fraudulent ITC claims worth ₹1,196 crore. A Muzaffarnagar-based director of a private firm, identified as the mastermind, allegedly created bogus firms and manipulated records to evade taxes. Investigators have seized crucial financial documents, company stamps, and digital evidence while freezing a linked bank account. Additionally, in Maharashtra's Thane district, authorities arrested Kapadiya Mahamad Sultan, who orchestrated another ITC fraud by setting up 18 fictitious firms to generate fake invoices. Officials confirmed that these fraudulent entities had no legitimate business operations. The government remains firm on curbing GST fraud through stringent enforcement measures, ensuring compliance with tax regulations nationwide.

Bharat Forge Q3 Profit Falls 16% to ₹212.78 Crore

- Bharat Forge's net profit declined by 16% to ₹212.78 crore.
- Revenue for the third quarter stood at ₹3,475.55 crore.
- EBITDA fell 8% YoY to ₹609.7 crore, with a slight margin dip to 29.1%.
- Bharat Forge declared an interim dividend of ₹2.5 per equity share.
- IFCI reported a net loss of ₹59 crore, rising 486% YoY.

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai
Bharat Forge Ltd (BFL) and IFCI Ltd announced their third-quarter financial results for the fiscal year 2024-25, showing a mixed performance across the corporate sector. While Bharat Forge witnessed a decline in net profit and revenue, IFCI reported a significant widening of net losses. Bharat Forge Ltd reported a 16% drop in its net profit for the quarter ending December 2024, with earnings at ₹212.78 crore compared to the previous year. The company's total revenue stood at ₹3,475.55 crore, reflecting a decline from the year-ago period. Despite lower total expenses of ₹3,165.37 crore against ₹3,529 crore in the corresponding quarter last year, profitability took a hit. The company's operational performance saw a decline as EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortization) dropped 8% year-on-year to ₹609.7 crore from ₹663 crore. The EBITDA margin for the quarter slightly fell

to 29.1% from 29.3% in the same period of the previous fiscal year. BFL's board declared an interim dividend of ₹2.5 per equity share of face value ₹2 each, at a rate of 125%. The company has scheduled the payment for March 12, with February 18 set as the record date. The announcement came after market hours, with Bharat Forge shares closing at ₹1,105.55 on the BSE, down by ₹6.85 or 0.62%.

IFCI's Net Loss Widens to ₹59 Crore

Meanwhile, IFCI Ltd, a PSU-NBFC, reported a sharp increase in its net loss for the October-December quarter. The company's standalone financial results revealed a net loss of ₹59 crore, marking a 486% surge compared to a net profit of ₹10.06 crore in the same quarter last year. The financial strain was evident in its net interest income (NII), which dropped 21% to ₹80 crore from ₹101 crore in the year-ago period. Net interest income is a crucial revenue source for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and institution-



al lenders. Additionally, the company's total revenue from core operations declined 10% to ₹193 crore from ₹215 crore in the same quarter last year, reflecting a weakened financial performance. Despite the loss, IFCI Ltd's share price saw a marginal gain of 1.26%, closing at ₹48.98 on Wednesday, compared to ₹48.37 in the previous session. The company released its results after market hours. IFCI shares have fluctuated significantly, hitting a 52-week high of ₹91.39

on July 25, 2024, and a 52-week low of ₹35.87 on March 14, 2024. The company's market capitalization stood at ₹12,801.37 crore as of the latest market close. While IFCI shares have delivered over 700% returns to investors in the last five years, they have dropped nearly 16% over the past year and are down 20.20% on a year-to-date (YTD) basis. As both companies navigate financial challenges, investors remain watchful of further developments in the coming quarters.

Samsung Galaxy F06 5G and Galaxy S25 Edge: Latest Updates

TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

Samsung has launched the Galaxy F06 5G in India as an affordable 5G smartphone, featuring a MediaTek Dimensity 6300 chipset and a dual-camera setup. The phone, available in Bahama Blue and Lit Violet, will be sold via Flipkart, Samsung's online store, and select offline retailers. It is priced at ₹10,999 for the 4GB+128GB variant and ₹11,499 for the 6GB+128GB model, with a ₹500 bank cashback offer available. The Galaxy F06 5G sports a 6.7-inch HD+ display with 800 nits brightness and runs on One UI 7.0 based on Android 15. Samsung promises four years of Android OS updates and security patches. The rear camera setup includes a 50MP primary sensor and a 2MP depth sensor, while the front has an 8MP selfie camera. A 5,000mAh battery with 25W fast charging powers the device, and it supports 12 5G bands, along with security features like Samsung Knox Vault.



Meanwhile, another Samsung smartphone, the Galaxy S25 Edge, has appeared on the GeekBench database with the model number SM-S937B. Expected to launch alongside the Galaxy S25 series, it is reportedly thinner than other models in the lineup. The

GeekBench listing reveals a single-core score of 2,806 and a multi-core score of 8,416. The device is powered by the Snapdragon 8 Elite chipset with CPU cores clocked at up to 4.47GHz and comes with 12GB of RAM. It runs on Android 15 and is expected to launch in April.

Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Set for Inauguration Expected to Begin Operations Soon

TPN Correspondent, Srinagar The eagerly awaited Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express is set to enhance connectivity between Jammu and Kashmir, marking a significant milestone in railway infrastructure. Though an official announcement from Indian Railways is awaited, multiple reports indicate that the train is likely to be inaugurated on February 17 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The launch is expected to coincide with the inauguration of the Sangaldan-Riyasi track, which will enable direct train services from Katra to Srinagar.



The train will operate on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), significantly reducing travel time between Jammu and Srinagar. It will pass through the iconic Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge, and make stops at key stations such as Udhampur, Banihal, Qazigund, Anantnag, and Awantipora. The train's introduction follows a successful trial run of the specially designed Vande Bharat for the region, conducted by Indian Railways last month. While the official ticket prices have not yet been announced,

early estimates suggest that fares for the AC Chair Car will range between ₹1,500 and ₹1,600, while the Executive Chair Car tickets may cost between ₹2,200 and ₹2,500. The train is expected to depart from Katra at 8:10 AM and reach Srinagar at 11:20 AM, while on the return journey, it will leave Srinagar at 8:55 AM and arrive in Katra at 12:05 PM. The Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express is equipped with advanced safety and passenger comfort features, including the KAVACH anti-collision system, modern ergonomic seating, automatic plug doors, fully sealed gangways, and a mini pantry with hot cases and freezers. The

train has been specifically designed to withstand extreme weather conditions, capable of operating in temperatures as low as -20 degrees Celsius. The onboard bio-toilets are equipped with technology to prevent water from freezing in harsh winter conditions. As of January 2025, Indian Railways operates 136 Vande Bharat train services across the country, with almost full occupancy, according to Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. The launch of the Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat is expected to provide a major boost to connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir, offering passengers a faster, more comfortable, and reliable travel option.

Hypervelocity Star With a Planet Spotted Racing Through the Galaxy



Key Observations: The system moves at an estimated 1.2M mph, possibly exceeding the Milky Way's escape speed. Microlensing data suggests a star-planet or rogue planet-moon system. Follow-up studies from Keck and Gaia confirmed a fast-moving host star. NASA's Roman Space Telescope will provide clearer insights into such planetary systems. Astronomers have identified a potential record-breaking exoplanet system moving at a staggering speed of 1.2 million miles per hour (540 km/s). If confirmed, this would mark the first known case of a planet orbiting a hypervelocity star, nearly doubling the speed of

the solar system's movement through the Milky Way. The discovery, published in The Astronomical Journal, was made using microlensing observations from the MOA project, which detected a significant lensing event in 2011. Researchers inferred the presence of two celestial bodies with a mass ratio of approximately 2,300 to 1. However, due to the system's unknown distance, the exact masses remain uncertain. David Bennett, Senior Research Scientist at the University of Maryland and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, stated that while the mass ratio is clear, further observations are required to confirm whether the system consists of a low-mass star with a large planet or a

rogue planet with a smaller moon. Follow-up studies using data from the Keck Observatory in Hawaii and ESA's Gaia satellite revealed a potential host star about 24,000 light-years away in the galactic bulge. Its movement between 2011 and 2021 confirmed its extraordinary speed, raising the possibility that it may be traveling fast enough to eventually leave the Milky Way. Sean Terry, a postdoctoral researcher at NASA Goddard, emphasized that future high-resolution imaging will be crucial in confirming the system's nature, eliminating the need for multiple observatories.

Mahindra Scorpio N Pickup Spotted Testing in India



TPN Correspondent, New Delhi

The Mahindra Scorpio N pickup has been spotted testing on Indian roads, capturing attention with its single-cab and twin-cab versions. This marks the first time the single-cab model has been seen, indicating Mahindra's plans to expand its utility-focused lineup. The test mule was spotted in Manali, suggesting the vehicle is undergoing trials on challenging terrains

to assess its off-road capabilities. The heavily camouflaged prototype offers glimpses of the final production design while keeping key details under wraps. The overall silhouette of the Scorpio N pickup closely resembles the existing SUV but with several notable changes. The flat bonnet and revised styling appear to prioritize practicality over a sporty look. The rear design hints at similarities with the previous

Scorpio Getaway, with halogen tail lamps replacing LED units. The tailgate design also contributes to a more utilitarian stance, moving away from the aggressive styling of the concept version unveiled in Cape Town. One major change is the rollbar, which has been modified from the concept version. The new test model features a taller rollbar, diverging from the original design aligned with the cabin's roofline. Additionally, the single-cab variant comes equipped with diamond-cut alloy wheels, differing from the concept version's wheel design. Inside, the cabin layout appears to draw from the Mahindra Scorpio N, hinting at a premium interior aimed at providing comfort and convenience. The presence of advanced features similar to those in Mahindra's SUV range is also anticipated, making the pickup more appealing to a broader audience.

2025 Vespa Scooters Launched in India With Updated Features



Vespa has introduced its latest range of scooters in India, featuring subtle design updates and advanced technology across its lineup. The newly launched models include the Vespa 125, Vespa S 125, Vespa 150, Vespa 150 S, Qala 125, Vespa Tech 125, Vespa S Tech 125, Vespa Qala 150, Vespa Tech 150, and Vespa S Tech 150. Additionally, a special edition Vespa S Oro with a

gold-tinted design has been unveiled. Diego Graffi, Chairman and MD of Piaggio Vehicles Pvt Ltd, emphasized Vespa's cultural significance, stating, "Vespa has always been more than just a mode of transport. It is a cultural icon, a symbol of self-expression for many generations, and an inspiration for artists and creators." He highlighted that the 2025 lineup marks a new era for Vespa in India, focusing on a vibrant color palette and futuristic features to attract younger riders.

The Vespa and Vespa S have received design refinements to enhance their youthful appeal, with the Vespa lineup now available in seven new colors and the Vespa S in eight dual-tone options. The Vespa S Oro, a premium gold-tinted variant, further adds to the exclusivity of the range.

Pricing Details:

- Vespa 125 – ₹1,32,500 (ex-showroom)
- Vespa S 125 – ₹1.36 lakh (ex-showroom)
- Vespa Tech 125 – ₹1.92 lakh (ex-showroom)
- Vespa S Tech 125 – ₹1.96 lakh (ex-showroom)

The new Vespa Tech and Vespa S Tech models introduce advanced features such as keyless ignition, TFT Smart Dash, Bluetooth connectivity, and navigation. Vespa has also launched the special edition Qala variant, inspired by the celebratory motifs of Mehendi, catering to Indian aesthetics.

National Equestrian Championship Showjumping 2025 Begins in Meerut



The National Equestrian Championship (NEC) Showjumping 2025 commenced Tuesday at the Modi Equestrian Academy, Meerut, marking a major event in India's equestrian calendar. With over 250 participants, riders will compete in five categories: Preliminary Tour, Novice Tour, Young Horse Championship, Medium Tour, and the Championship Tour, which will determine the National Champion for the 2024-25 season. The event features top riders, including Sehaj Singh Virk, Tejas Dhingra, Kirat Singh Nagra, Ashray Butta, and Yashaan Zubin Khambat-

ta. Notably, 15-year-old M Krishna Sahithi is competing in the Medium Tour, highlighting the championship's commitment to nurturing young talent.

EFI Secretary General, Retd. Col. Jaiveer Singh, emphasized that the NEC serves as a crucial stepping stone for Indian riders aspiring for international competition. The tournament features varying jump heights, with the Championship Tour reaching 150cm obstacles. The event is set to showcase the best of Indian equestrian sports over the coming days.

Sonam and Neeraj Shine at Rifle/Pistol National Selection Trials



Railway shooter Sonam Uttam Maskar and Army shooter Neeraj Kumar claimed victories on day four of the Rifle/Pistol National Selection Trials (Group A) at Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, Delhi.

Sonam, a three-time ISSF medallist, dominated the Women's 10m Air Rifle T1 final, shooting 253.2 to defeat national champion Ananya Naidu of Maharashtra, who finished 1.3 points behind. Earlier, Sonam topped the qualification round with 633.9, surpassing Olympians Elavenil Valarivan (632.6) and Ayonika Paul (630.4). She maintained her lead throughout the final, pulling ahead decisively after the

16th shot. Maharashtra's Arya Rajesh Borse secured third place.

In a stunning performance, Neeraj Kumar clinched the Men's 25m Rapid-Fire Pistol (RFP) T2 final, defeating Paris Olympics duo Anish and Vijayveer Sidhu, who settled for silver and bronze, respectively. Anish topped the qualification with 590, but Neeraj delivered an exceptional final, hitting four perfect 5s in six series, finishing three points ahead with 31. Meanwhile, Manu Bhaker, double Olympic bronze medallist, showcased her form in the Women's 25m Pistol T2 event, leading the first precision round with 297 out of 300.

India Thrash Macau 5-0 to Seal Quarterfinal Berth at Badminton Asia Championship

India made a dominant start to their campaign at the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship, defeating Macau 5-0 in their opening Group D match on Wednesday. With the victory, India, who won bronze in the previous edition, secured a spot in the quarterfinals.

The mixed doubles duo of Sathish Kumar Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath set the tone, beating Iok Chong Leong and Weng Chi Ng 21-10, 21-9. In men's singles, 2021 World Championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen delivered a solid performance, outsmarting Pang Fong Pui 21-16, 21-12, giving India a 2-0 lead. Malvika Bansod then sealed the tie with a clinical 21-15, 21-9 victory over Hao Wai Chan in women's singles.

India will face Korea in their second and final group tie on Thursday, aiming to continue their strong form ahead of the quarterfinals.



Delhi Open: Niki-Courtney Secure Hard-Fought Victory in Opener



India's Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha and Zimbabwe's Courtney John Lock kicked off their Delhi Open 2025 doubles campaign with a hard-fought 2-6, 7(7)-6(5), 10-6 victory over the Czech duo Marek Gengel and Dalibor Svrčina at the DLTA Complex on Wednesday. The second-seeded pair fought back from a tough

opening set, clinching the second-set tiebreaker before sealing the win in the decisive match tiebreak.

With top seeds Blake Ellis and Tristan Schoolkate withdrawing, Poonacha and Lock are now the highest-ranked pair in the draw. However, their replacements, Parth Aggarwal

and Sidharth Rawat, suffered a first-round exit against Enzo Couacaud and Kelsey Stevenson.

In singles, Mukund Sasikumar bowed out in the Round of 16, losing 6-4, 6-3 to Belgium's Michael Geerts. Meanwhile, third seed Tristan Schoolkate survived a three-hour battle to defeat Valentin Vacherot 7-6, 3-6, 6-4. Qualifier Andre Ilagan impressed with a commanding 6-2, 6-3 victory over eighth seed Timofey Skatov, while Kyrian Jacquet eased past Jay Clarke 7-5, 6-3.

In doubles, third seeds Clarke and Johannes Ingildsen dominated Siddarth Banthia and Parikshit Somani, while Shintaro Mochizuki and Kaito Uesugi edged past Ramkumar Ramanathan and Karan Singh 3-6, 6-1, 10-7. Michael Geerts and Kimmer Coppejans also secured a win over August Holmgren and Elmer Moller, while Kris Van Wyk and Eric Vanshelboom wrapped up the day's action with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over wild cards SD Prajwal Dev and Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta.

3rd ODI: Gill, Kohli, and Iyer Power India to 356 Against England



In the third and final ODI against England, India set a daunting target of 357 runs, finishing their innings at 356 all-out. Shubman Gill was the

standout performer, scoring a fluent 112 off 104 balls, marking his seventh ODI century. His knock, which included 14 boundaries and 3 sixes, was

instrumental in consolidating India's innings, with crucial partnerships alongside Virat Kohli (52) and Shreyas Iyer (78).

Gill's century helped push his average past 60 in ODIs and made him the only player to score a century in all three formats at the Narendra Modi Stadium. He was eventually dismissed by Adil Rashid, who took 4 wickets for 64 runs.

Kohli's knock of 52 saw him struggle against Rashid but showcased his classic stroke play, including a beautifully timed drive off Mark Wood. Iyer's 78 ended when he edged a Rashid delivery behind.

Hardik Pandya (17) and KL Rahul (40) added late runs but Rashid's brilliance in the middle overs limited India's progress.

NorthEast United FC Aim to Complete League Double Against Jamshedpur FC in ISL

Football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo has spoken candidly about the Ballon d'Or awards, acknowledging that he used to feel frustrated when Lionel Messi won the prestigious honor more times than him. However, he now believes the award has lost its credibility, stating that Real Madrid's Vinicius Jr. deserved to win in 2024 over Manchester City's Rodri.

In an interview with Spanish outlet La Sexta, Ronaldo admitted that while he used to be angry when Messi edged him in the Ballon d'Or race, he has now come to terms with it. "There is no credibility, Vinicius should be the Ballon d'Or winner. I have felt it many times and I felt angry. Over time I understood it, these are battles that you cannot win," said Ronaldo.

Despite winning the Ballon d'Or five times, Ronaldo trails Messi, who has won the award eight times, further intensifying the long-standing rivalry between the two legends.



Ronaldo: "I Am the Most Complete Player"

When asked about his position in football history, Ronaldo confidently declared himself the "most complete" player ever, despite fans debating between Messi, Pele, and Maradona.

"Taste is one thing, whether you prefer Messi, Pele, or Maradona, I hear it and I respect

it. But to say that Cristiano isn't complete is a lie. I'm the most complete. I don't see anyone better than me, and I say that with all my heart," he stated.

At 39 years old, Ronaldo continues to play at the highest level with Al Nassr in Saudi Arabia, proving his longevity in football. His comments have reignited discussions on the GOAT debate, with fans and pundits weighing in on his legacy compared to Messi's.



Vijay Deverakonda's New Movie Gets a Powerful Title, 'Kingdom' – Teaser is a Hit!

Vijay Deverakonda's upcoming film, directed by Gautam Tinnanuri, has recently revealed its official title – Kingdom, and the teaser has created a huge buzz. The movie, which was previously working under the title VD 12, has now been officially named Kingdom, and the teaser, voiced by NTR (Jr NTR), makes it even more powerful. The teaser showcases Vijay's new look, which is different from his previous roles, highlighting intense action sequences and

emotional moments that are sure to captivate the audience. After the success of Jersey, Gautam Tinnanuri's direction in this film promises to offer something special.

The music for Kingdom is composed by Tamil star music director Anirudh Ravichander. The movie is set to release worldwide on May 30 this summer, adding to the excitement surrounding it. Fans are eagerly awaiting what promises to be a thrilling cinematic experience.

Tensions in the Mega Family? Ram Charan Unfollows Allu Arjun Amid Growing Speculation

The Mega family, one of the most influential families in the Telugu film industry, has always been known for its close-knit ties, with celebrated figures like Megastar Chiranjeevi, Ram Charan, Varun Tej, and Sai Dharam Tej. Similarly, the Allu family, led by producer Allu Aravind and actor Allu Arjun, holds a significant place in Tollywood. However, recent developments have sparked speculation about tensions between the two families.

Fans were taken aback when Ram Charan unfollowed Allu Arjun on Instagram, following a similar move by Dhruva Tej, another member of the Mega family. This has led to questions regarding the relationship between the two stars.

Some believe that the tension might stem from the differing fortunes of their recent projects. Allu Arjun's



Pushpa 2 was a massive hit, grossing over Rs. 1300 crores, while Ram Charan's Game Changer faced a major setback. Additionally, a controversial remark by Allu Aravind about Game Changer fueled speculation, though he later clarified that there

was no ill intent. As no official statement has been made, fans are left wondering if this marks the beginning of a rift or a temporary misunderstanding in the Mega family. Time will reveal whether the issue is resolved or leads to a deeper

Nora Fatehi Begins Shooting for 'Kanchana 4' in Hyderabad

Bollywood actress and dancer Nora Fatehi has officially begun shooting for the much-anticipated Kanchana 4 in Hyderabad. Known for her mesmerizing dance performances, especially in hits like Dilbar, Nora is set to surprise audiences with her new role in this popular horror-comedy franchise.

The actress, eager to take on a new challenge, will be seen in a comic avatar, which marks a departure from her usual performances. Kanchana 4 is the fifth installment of the Kanchana series, directed by Raghava Lawrence, who also stars in the lead role. The franchise, which started with Muni in 2007, has gained a massive fan following over the years, with Kanchana 2 and Kanchana 3 being major successes. Joining Nora in this in-



stallment is Pooja Hegde, while speculations regarding Mrunal Thakur's involvement were recently dismissed by Raghava Law-

rence. Nora was last seen in the dark comedy Madgaon Express, where she showcased her comedic skills.

Baba Nirala's Return in Aashram Season 3 Part 2 Teaser Promises Darker Drama

The much-awaited Ek Badnaam Aashram Season 3 Part 2 teaser has been unveiled today, sending excitement through the fanbase. The gripping teaser hints at Baba Nirala's resurgence to power, accompanied by growing tensions within his loyal followers and the sinister secrets lurking in his inner circle.

Bobby Deol, who portrays the iconic character of Baba Nirala, expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "The journey has been incredible, and the love from fans is overwhelming. This time, the stakes are higher, and the drama bolder."

Amogh Dusad, Head of Amazon MX Player, praised the series for redefining digital storytelling, promising an even more explosive chapter ahead. Producer Prakash Jha emphasized that



this season will explore deeper psychological themes of power, control, and exploitation, exposing the darker side of faith. With suspense, betrayal, and re-

venge at its core, Aashram Season 3 Part 2 is set to deliver another thrilling, edge-of-the-seat experience for viewers.

Khushi Kapoor Shares Heartwarming Post for Sister Janhvi Ahead of Loveyapa Release

Khushi Kapoor's latest Instagram post has captured the hearts of fans, showing off her cozy, homey vibes and a sweet message for her older sister, Janhvi Kapoor. Sharing a mirror selfie, Khushi humorously apologized for borrowing Janhvi's shorts, writing, "Sorry I wore your shorts I will keep them back."

The carousel post also featured a bouquet of roses in appreciation for Loveyapa and some adorable pictures with her pet dogs. This comes just ahead of the release of her first theatrical film Loveyapa, where she stars opposite Junaid Khan.

In a heartwarming gesture, Janhvi posted a message on Instagram, expressing pride in Khushi's achievements and wishing her the best for her movie debut. She also teased Khushi with a playful caption, saying, "You better wear a t-shirt with my face on it when my movie releases." Fans are eagerly awaiting Loveyapa, a rom-com that releases tomorrow.



Mohammad Kaif and Ram Charan's Photo Breaks the Internet

A picture of former Indian cricketer Mohammad Kaif and Bollywood star Ram Charan has gone viral after Kaif shared it on social media. The duo met at the Indian Street Premier League (ISPL) event in Mumbai, where Ram Charan was supporting his team, Falcon Risers Hyderabad, which he announced he owned in December 2023. Kaif took to X (formerly Twitter) to share his thoughts on meeting the actor, writing, "You meet him and you want to do a Naatu Naatu step. Such a global superstar but so down to earth. You made all of us proud. Best wishes for many more hits. #ramcharan."

Ram Charan's presence at the event highlighted his support for street cricket in India. His recent film Game Changer faced disappointing box-office results, but he's now focusing on his upcoming project, RCI6, directed by Buchi Babu Sana, starring Janhvi Kapoor and others.

