



HUMAN TRAFFICKING FROM OTHER STATES TO AP, SHAME ON US

- **The Police raided a spa center where prostitution was taking place.**
- **20 girls, 10 customers taken into custody.**
- **All these girls are from Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.**
- **The main accused, Chalasani Bhargav, condemned the allegations.**
- **Allegedly, 200 girls from other states are in Vijayawada for this activity.**
- **Mr. Bhargav is allegedly running almost 15 centers like this.**

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 23

What's going on in Vijayawada? The capital region of Andhra Pradesh is losing its image because of the negligence of a few Police officials and the lenience given by a few politicians. On human trafficking, Deputy CM Mr. Pawan Kalyan pointed out the issue before the elections, and Chief Minister Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu has also spoken about this issue many times. But what about human trafficking from other states to Andhra Pradesh? The girls caught in the raid belong to Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Delhi. What signals are we giving to the country about our state?

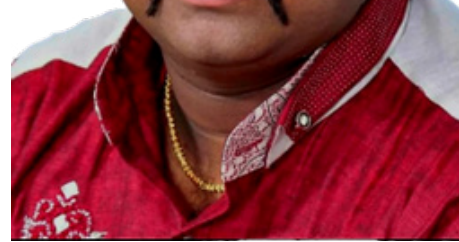
The POINT had given a detailed story on Chalasani Bhargav earlier. We had mentioned all the allegations arising in Vijayawada. The Government did not react at all, but Mr. Bhargav's team threatened legal action against POINT. Now, the Police raid has proven that those allegations were true. However, Mr. Bhargav is still condemning these allegations and even the Police action. He claims that the premises were leased to Mr. Kishore by him and that he is in no way connected to the activities taking place there. He further reiterated that his own YouTube channel has all the necessary permissions as per the rules and that no illegal activity is being conducted in the channel's office. He alleged that a few Police officials, in collusion with YSRC leaders and an IPS officer, are hatching a conspiracy against him, as he possesses details of their ₹200 crore scam.

As per sources, Mr. Chalasani Bhargav is allegedly running almost 10 to 15 centers in Vijayawada and surrounding areas in Krishna District. These centers are officially spa centers but are allegedly engaged in brothel activities. Almost 200 girls



are present in Vijayawada, allegedly brought from other states by Mr. Bhargav. It is also alleged that he sets up spy cameras in these spa centers to record videos of young people visiting them and then blackmails them. When the police seized Bhargav's phone during previous raids on spa centers, they reportedly found more than a hundred nude videos of young people from the city. The police found that he blackmails these young people using those nude videos.

Mr. Bhargav is allegedly giving a 40% commission to the Police and 10% to a few media persons to maintain secrecy regarding his activities. An ACP-level official is allegedly cooperating with him in running these activities. The task force police, who are supposed to control such activities, have remained silent on Bhargav's operations for no apparent reason, with suspicions that they are receiving bribes from him. The ACP official allegedly has a habit of visiting these centers for personal enjoy-



ment along with receiving commission payments. If a raid is planned, this ACP reportedly informs Bhargav in advance, allowing him to escape. Mr. Bhargav has a strong legal team, and because of that, even the Police fear taking action against him.

However, Mr. Bhargav stated on his own channel, "All these allegations are because of my fight against the YSRC government earlier. We exposed many illegal activities of YSRC at that time. That is why they have registered many cases against us. Even now, people affiliated with them are targeting us. The Inspector who registered the case against me now had also faced allegations and was sent to VR. Now he has been posted in the same station—I don't know how."

CM Naidu Holds Key Meeting on Chilli Farmers' Issues



- **CM Chandrababu discusses chilli farmers' concerns with traders**
- **Efforts to stabilize chilli prices amid export challenges**
- **Government intervenes to prevent market fluctuations**

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 23

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu held a crucial meeting with chilli farmers and traders on Saturday to address ongoing concerns about chilli prices and market stability. Officials from the Agriculture, Marketing, and Animal Husbandry Departments, including Special Chief Secretary Guruthu Rajasekhar, Agriculture Director Delhi Rao, and Marketing Director Vijaya Sunitha, participated in the discussions.

The price of chilli has been declining due to increased cultivation in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and China, key export destinations for Andhra Pradesh's produce. However, market experts anticipate a price hike as crop yields in these countries are not meeting expectations. CM Naidu assured traders and farmers that the government is actively working to prevent distress sales and stabilize prices.

Amidst demands from YSRCP chief Jagan to fix chilli prices, CM Naidu recently met Union Agriculture Minister in Delhi, securing a commitment from the Central Government to support farmers. Following this, the CM's meeting with traders in Guntur aimed to ensure that farmers receive fair prices and are not affected by speculative pricing.

This year, farmers reduced chilli cultivation to 2 lakh acres, opting for alternative crops. Despite the

limited supply, previous stocks have been cleared from godowns, and daily procurement continues. CM Naidu urged traders to cooperate in maintaining price stability and assured farmers that the government would take all necessary steps to protect their interests.

CM Assures Support to Chilli Farmers

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has pledged support to chilli farmers struggling with price fluctuations. He urged traders and exporters to cooperate with the government in ensuring fair prices.

The CM announced that if the chilli price drops below ₹11,781 per quintal, the government will procure it through central agencies. He also assured financial assistance for farmers storing chillies in cold storages, facilitating bank loans to prevent distress sales.

To boost exports, the government has approved chilli transportation via Krishnapatnam Port, improving market access.

During his visit to the Guntur chilli market yard, Chandrababu expressed displeasure over lorry owners' actions, stressing the need for fair trade practices. He directed officials to resolve market issues and ensure transparent transactions. The government is committed to stabilizing chilli prices and safeguarding farmers from market uncertainties.

SLBC Tunnel Collapse



- **Eight trapped in SLBC tunnel collapse, including two engineers.**
- **42 workers escaped after water seepage triggered the incident.**
- **CM Revanth Reddy orders urgent rescue operations.**
- **PM Modi assures support, speaks to Revanth Reddy.**
- **NDRF teams deployed from Vijayawada and Hyderabad.**
- **Minister Uttam assures all efforts to rescue trapped workers safely.**

TPN Correspondent | Nagarkurnool

Eight persons, including two engineers from Robbins Tunnel Boring Machines Manufacturing Company, are trapped inside the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel after a collapse near Domalapeda in Amrabad Mandal, Nagarkurnool, early this morning.

CM Revanth Reddy Orders SLBC Rescue Ops

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has responded to the SLBC tunnel accident, expressing shock over the tunnel roof collapse. He directed the Nagarkurnool District Collector, SP, Fire Department, Hydra, and Irrigation Department officials to take immediate rescue measures.

Telangana Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, accompanied by Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, visited the mishap site and assured that the government would make every effort to rescue those trapped. He confirmed that assistance from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is being sought to expedite the rescue operations.

Addressing a press conference, Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that the trapped individuals include two engineers, two machine operators, and four workers. Among them, six workers hail

from Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, while the engineers are employed with Robbins.

Minister revealed that 42 workers had managed to escape. According to him, 50 workers had entered the tunnel at 8 am, and the boring machine was started at 8:30 am. One of the machine operators noticed water seeping into the tunnel and immediately raised an alarm, enabling 42 workers to move to safety. However, before others could escape, a significant portion of the earth collapsed, trapping the remaining eight on the other side.

Rescue operations are underway, with authorities working tirelessly to ensure the safe evacuation of those trapped.

PM Modi Calls CM Revanth Reddy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to inquire about the SLBC tunnel accident near Domalapeda in Nagarkurnool district. Several workers were injured, while eight remain trapped inside the collapsed tunnel.

During the call, Revanth Reddy briefed the Prime Minister on the ongoing rescue efforts. He informed Modi that Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Jupally Krishna Rao were at the site, overseeing operations. Modi assured full cooperation from the Centre in the rescue efforts.

AP Assembly Budget Sessions Begin Feb 24th

Governor to address both Houses on the first day

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 23

The Andhra Pradesh Assembly Budget Sessions are set to begin on February 24, with the state budget scheduled for presentation during these sessions. On the first day, the Governor will address both Houses, followed by a Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting, which will determine the duration of the session.



Jagan and YSRCP MLAs Expected to Attend Assembly

Amid these sessions, YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and several party MLAs are expected to attend the Assembly. This development follows recent remarks by AP Assembly

Speaker Chintakayala Ayyannapatru and Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju, who stated that MLAs absent for 60 consecutive working days face disqualification. With Jagan's prolonged absence, his legislative membership is reportedly at risk. To avoid disqualification, it is speculated that

Jagan and other YSRCP MLAs may attend the Assembly for a single day before leaving. However, the ruling TDP and NDA alliance are closely monitoring the situation. Further clarity on the session's schedule and agenda will emerge following the BAC meeting.



NDA Leaders Urge Support for MLC Candidate Pakalapati Raghuvarma in Pendurthi

- NDA leaders backed Pakalapati Raghuvarma for MLC.
- Govt credited for 16,000 teacher recruitments.
- Gandhi Babji, Ramesh Babu attended the meet.

TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam, Feb 23

A meeting was held at RK Function Hall in Sujathanagar, Pendurthi constituency, where TDP leaders and party workers were urged to ensure the victory of teacher MLC candidate Pakalapati Raghuvarma.

During the event, speakers highlighted the government's initiatives, particularly the recruitment of 16,000 teachers through the Mega DSC, which they credited as a significant step towards strengthening the education sector. They emphasized that the government is actively working on welfare and development programs to benefit the people.

Prominent leaders who attended the meeting included Pendurthi in-charge, State Oil Federation Chairman, Visakhapatnam TDP President, and former MLA Sri Gandhi Babji, who has been a key figure in the party's efforts in the region. Pendurthi MLA Panchakarla Ramesh Babu, GVMC Four Leader Pela Srinivasa Rao, along with corporators from wards 94, 95, and 96, and other senior leaders were also present.

The leaders called on party workers to mobilize strong support for Pakalapati Raghuvarma, stressing the importance of electing a representative committed to the welfare of teachers and the education sector.

Amaravati Capital Works to Commence From March 15th

Govt plans to complete capital works in 2.5 years

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 23

The construction of Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh's capital, is set to begin on March 15, marking a significant milestone in the state's development. Officials have confirmed that 30,000 workers will be deployed for the project by the first week of April. The finalization of tenders was delayed due to orders from the Election Commission (EC), which had issued instructions to halt the process. Despite this, the CRDA and ADC have called tenders for 62 works, with projects worth ₹40,000 crores currently under process. Additionally, tenders for 11 more works will be called soon. Since coming to power, the coalition government has prioritized Amaravati's development. CM Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Narayana have personally toured the region, inspecting stalled projects. A team of experts



from IIT Chennai and IIT Hyderabad conducted a structural study of key buildings like the Secretariat and Assembly, confirming their stability. Their report also affirmed the strength of MLA and MLC quarters, IAS and IPS buildings.

The government has cleared encroachments and jungle overgrowth in the region, ensuring smooth progress. With work set to begin in March, officials are optimistic that the entire Amaravati project will be completed within 2.5 years.

Three Senior IPS Officers from Telangana Directed to Report at AP



TPN Correspondent
AP/TG, Feb 23

The Union Home Ministry has issued orders directing three senior IPS officers currently serving in Telangana to report to Andhra Pradesh. This decision follows the recommendations of the Khandekar Committee, which was consti-

tuted in 2024 to oversee the redistribution of officers between the two states.

The officers who have been instructed to move to Andhra Pradesh are:

- Anjani Kumar (1990 batch) – Chairman of the Road Safety Authority
- Abhilasha Bist (1994 batch) – Director of the Telangana Police Academy

- Abhishek Mohanty (2011 batch) – Commissioner of Police, Karimnagar

The transfer of these officials is seen as a crucial administrative step in balancing the police cadre between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, following the bifurcation of the united state in 2014. The Khandekar Committee, after reviewing the staffing patterns and vacancies in both states, had recommended the reallocation of certain officers to ensure a more equitable distribution of senior police personnel.

This latest directive from the Union Home Ministry is expected to strengthen Andhra Pradesh's police administration by adding experienced officers to key positions. The officers are likely to take charge of their new assignments soon, aligning with the state's ongoing efforts to enhance law and order.

With these transfers, the Andhra Pradesh government is expected to reinforce its police force, ensuring that critical departments receive the necessary leadership and expertise.



New Ration Cards to Be Issued from Next Month: Minister Nadendla Manohar

TPN Correspondent
Nellore, Feb 23

State Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar announced that new ration cards will be issued across Andhra Pradesh from next month, featuring QR codes with modern technology.

The minister, accompanied by Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy and MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy, participated in various development programs in Nellore district. As part of his visit, he inspected a rice mill in Sangam and reviewed stock supplies at Jenda Dibba stock point, inquiring about grain procurement, stock details, and supply chain management. Speaking with local women, Minister Manohar emphasized the government's commitment to women's welfare and encouraged their active participation in development programs.

He reiterated that the government, under CM Chandrababu Naidu, has fulfilled the Deepam-2 scheme promise from the election manifesto, providing free gas cylinders to 4 lakh beneficiaries in Nellore district alone. Statewide, 93.42 lakh gas connections have been issued, with a target of 1.50 crore connections this year. The minister also assured that good quality rice will be distributed for midday meal schemes in welfare hostels and schools starting in May. The ration card issuance process will be facilitated through village and ward secretariats, ensuring a transparent and efficient system for beneficiaries.



TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Feb 23

The AP Group-2 Mains examination has caused uncertainty among aspi-

AP Group-2 Mains Exam Sparks Confusion Among Candidates

rants due to ongoing discussions on roster reservations. The state government has written to the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC), requesting that roster reservations be postponed until a final decision is reached.

Despite these concerns, the APPSC has confirmed that the Group-2 Mains exam will proceed as scheduled for Sunday (i.e. today). According to the commission, Paper 1 will take place from 10 AM to 12:30 PM, followed by Paper 2 from 3 PM to

5:30 PM. Candidates, however, remain apprehensive about the impact of the ongoing deliberations on their results and the selection process. With no clarity on whether the roster-based reservations will be applied immediately or later, aspirants are left in a state of confusion. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has stepped in, assuring that errors in the roster system will be corrected and that the Group-2 Mains recruitment will be conducted fair-

ly. He reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring transparency and protecting candidates' interests. Meanwhile, various student groups and aspirants have urged the government and APPSC to clarify the impact of the roster changes on recruitment at the earliest. As the exams continue as per schedule, the final decision on the implementation of reservations and further recruitment processes remains awaited.

Inquiry into Sajjala Family's Alleged Land Encroachments Continues



- Second day of inquiry into land encroachments by Sajjala family.
- Officials identified 55 acres of forest land in a previous survey.
- Resurvey ordered, to continue for another three days.

**TPN Correspondent
Kadapa, Feb 23**

The investigation into alleged land encroachments by the Sajjala family in Kadapa district has entered its second day, with officials conducting a detailed review. The inquiry is being led by Kadapa RDO, DFO, and Lands & Survey AD, who are verifying land records and encroachment claims. A previous survey had identi-

fied 55 acres of forest land under encroachment, prompting the state government to order a fresh investigation. The focus of the inquiry is now on 165 acres of land registered under the Sajjala family's name in Maddimadugu village, Chintakommadinne mandal. Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan had earlier directed officials to investigate allegations of encroachment on forest lands by the Sajjala family. Following his instructions, the government has now initiated a resurvey, which is expected to continue for another three days. Officials will take further action based on the findings of the resurvey, which will be reviewed by the concerned authorities before any decisions are made.

Workers Play a Vital Role in Achieving Developed India-2047: Union Minister Srinivasa Varma



15th Triennial Inaugural Meeting of the Public Sector Employees National Confederation (affiliated with Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh - BMS) in Bhubaneswar, he acknowledged that 30 crore workers have registered on the e-Shram portal launched by the Central Government to promote their economic self-reliance.

The minister praised BMS founder Datto Pant, recognizing the organization's 70-year legacy of standing by workers. He reiterated that the NDA government has taken significant steps, such as amending the Maternity Act to increase leave from 12 to 20 weeks, raising the minimum wage from ₹10,000 to ₹21,000, and enhancing contract workers' wages in public sector enterprises from ₹12,000 to ₹18,000.

Further reforms include revising the Employees' Pension Scheme, increasing the minimum pension to ₹1,000 per month, and raising the gratuity limit from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh since 2018. Additionally, the death insurance coverage for ESI subscribers has been raised from ₹3.6 lakh to ₹6 lakh, benefiting many workers, including those in the unorganized sector. Srinivasa Varma noted that the previous budget extended e-Shram portal benefits to gig workers, including those from Swiggy and Zomato, impacting over one crore workers. He assured that the government will continue introducing new reforms for workers' welfare.

- Workers' participation is crucial for Atmanirbhar Bharat across all sectors.
- Government initiatives have benefited 30 crore unorganized sector workers.
- Minimum wage, pension, and insurance coverage significantly increased.

**TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Feb 23**

Union Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma emphasized that workers are key to achieving the vision of Developed India-2047 under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. He highlighted the government's efforts toward the welfare of unorganized sector workers and their role in building a self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat). Speaking as the chief guest at the

Chandrababu Committed Massive Corruption in Fiber Net - Gautham Reddy



**TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh**

Former Chairman of Fiber Net Corporation, Poonuru Gautham Reddy, has alleged that former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu deliberately conspired to weaken Fiber Net, a crucial infrastructure initiative in Andhra Pradesh. Speaking to the media, he claimed that the previous government had set the stage to privatize Fiber Net, jeopardizing its potential as a public asset. Gautham Reddy asserted that Fiber Net had turned profitable under the YSRCP administration. He accused Chandrababu of massive corruption between 2014-19, stating that irregularities took place in every contract related to Fiber Net. He also alleged that an investigation conducted during the YSRCP regime confirmed these corrupt dealings, with the CID gathering evidence of financial mismanagement. Furthermore, Gautham Reddy claimed that after assuming office as Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu is now attempting to dismiss cases filed against him related to Fiber Net corruption. He criticized the alleged efforts to dismantle a once-profitable public sector initiative for private interests.

MP Putta Mahesh Kumar Appeals for MLC Candidate Rajasekhar's Victory



**TPN Correspondent
Eluru, Feb 23**

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar has called for strong support to ensure the

victory of Perabathula Rajasekhar, the coalition MLC candidate from the graduates' constituency of the joint Godavari districts. Addressing a

gathering of private school teachers and educationists at a local guest hotel on Saturday, the MP emphasized that Rajasekhar's win would ensure better representation and solutions for graduates' concerns. The meeting was organized under the auspices of A.P.P.U.S.M.A., with MP Putta Mahesh Kumar, MLA Badeti Chanti, and ZP Chairman Ghanta Padmasree Prasad attending as chief guests. Speaking on the occasion, Putta Mahesh Kumar highlighted that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh are working tirelessly for the state's progress. He credited Minister Nara Lokesh's efforts for generating four lakh jobs in just eight months, sig-

nificantly improving employment opportunities for the youth. He urged graduates to give first preference to Rajasekhar and vote for him in the upcoming MLC elections. As part of the event, sample ballot papers were distributed, and attendees were educated on the voting process. MLA Badeti Chanti, ZP Chairman Ghanta Padmasree, MLC candidate Rajasekhar, and observer Achanta Sunitha reiterated that the problems of the educated youth can only be addressed if Rajasekhar secures victory. Several private school teachers participated in the meeting, extending their support for Rajasekhar's candidacy.

MLA Battula Balaramakrishna Urges Support for MLC Candidate Pera Battula Rajasekhar



**TPN | Sk Gani
Rajanagaram, Feb 23**

A media conference was held at the Janaseena Party Office in Korukonda, Rajanagaram constituency, East Godavari district, where MLA Battula Balaramakrishna urged graduates to support MLC candidate Pera Battula Rajasekhar. He emphasized that the alliance government is actively working on implementing the Super Six guarantee schemes, ensuring that villages continue on a path of development.

The MLA assured that the Pre-Bus Scheme for women will commence in June, and the Annadata Sukhibhava Scheme will provide relief to farmers. He also stated that the government is committed to addressing unemployment issues and enhancing educational opportunities through targeted initiatives. The Mother's Greeting initiative will be introduced at the start of the academic year to strengthen the education system.

Focusing on the upcoming MLC elections for graduates, Battula Balaramakrishna described Pera Battula Rajasekhar as a well-educated leader from a common background, who understands public concerns. He appealed to graduates to vote for Pera Battula Rajasekhar as their first preference, ensuring strong representation in the Legislative Council.

I'll Not Attend Any Hearing: Akepati Amarnath Reddy Denies Land Encroachment



**TPN Correspondent
Annamayya Dist, Feb 23**

Annamayya District YSRCP President Akepati Amarnath Reddy has responded to allegations that he and his family have encroached on government lands. Speaking to the media, he firmly denied any illegal occupation and challenged authorities to take back the land if any encroachment is proven. Amarnath Reddy clarified that his family has only built houses in their native village and dismissed the allegations as politically

motivated. He further stated that he had not received any notice from the Annamayya District Joint Collector regarding the issue. He also asserted that he will not attend any hearing on the matter. These comments come in response to opposition parties demanding an investigation into alleged land encroachments in the district. While the controversy continues to unfold, the district administration has yet to make an official statement regarding the allegations.

Kakani Govardhan Reddy Says SECI Agreement Exposes Chandrababu's False Allegations

**TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Feb 23**

Former minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy has slammed Chandrababu Naidu and certain media outlets for making baseless allegations regarding the SECI agreement. He stated that the YSRCP government had signed the agreement with SECI at a low price to ensure a stable electricity supply for households and agriculture, prevent-

ing any power shortages. Despite this, TDP and its supporting media spread false claims, alleging corruption in the agreement. However, the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) has confirmed that the SECI agreement was entirely legal and followed all regulations, proving these accusations to be false. Kakani accused TDP and its allies of at-

tempting to tarnish Jagan Mohan Reddy's image by falsely claiming that he had accepted bribes through the agreement. He pointed out that Chandrababu Naidu tried to manipulate public opinion by portraying his own agreements as beneficial while branding YSRCP's initiatives as corrupt. He further stated that false propaganda regarding ISTS charges was deliberately spread to mislead the public.



Strict Action Against Ganja Trade: DGP Harish Kumar Gupta

3,737 kg of ganja and 4.22 kg of liquid ganja destroyed. Seized drugs valued at ₹1.87 crore were burned at Jindal Company, Edlapadu. DGP warns of strict action against those involved in ganja trade.



TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, Feb 23 Andhra Pradesh DGP Shri Harish Kumar Gupta IPS has reiterated his commitment to eradicating ganja cultivation, transportation, and sale in the district, warning that strict action will be taken against offenders. In a significant step against drug trafficking, 3,737 kg of

ganja and 4.22 kg of liquid ganja, valued at ₹1.87 crore, were destroyed by the Krishna District Drug Disposal Committee at Jindal Company premises, Edlapadu, Palnadu district. The seized contraband was collected from 183 cases registered in four sub-divisions of Krishna district under the NDPS Act over the past two years. Speaking on the occasion, DGP

Harish Kumar Gupta IPS emphasized that a zero-tolerance policy is being adopted against ganja trafficking, with special vigilance on drug rackets and continuous raids. He also urged parents to monitor the behavior of college-going students and take preventive measures to keep them away from drugs. The DGP encouraged citizens to report any information regarding ganja cultivation, sale, or usage by calling 112 or the toll-free number 1972, assuring that informants' details would remain confidential. The event was attended by Eluru Range IGP G.V.G. Ashok Kumar IPS, Eagle IGP A.K. Ravi Krishna IPS, Krishna District SP R. Gangadhara Rao IPS, Palnadu SP K. Srinivasa Rao IPS, and other officials.

Strong Arrangements for MLC Elections in NTR Dist – Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha

TPN Correspondent NTR Dist, Feb 23

The district administration has made extensive arrangements for the Krishna-Guntur District Legislative Assembly Graduate Constituency elections, scheduled for February 27. NTR District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha stated that 224 Presiding Officers (POs) and Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs) have undergone comprehensive training in two phases to ensure the elections proceed smoothly.



In a virtual meeting led by Election General Observer V. Karuna, Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha provided an overview of the preparations:

- 112 POs and 112 APOs assigned across 112 polling stations, with two additional officers per station for support.
- 90 personnel in reserve for contingency needs.
- 112 Micro Observers deployed, with 19 more on standby.
- Ballot Box Readiness: 224 re-

quired, with 324 available, including reserves.

- Security Deployment: 454 police officers and personnel assigned for law and order.
- Flying Squad Teams (FST): 24 teams monitoring the field.
- Static Surveillance Teams (SST): 22 teams deployed in two shifts at 11 check posts.
- Video Surveillance Teams (VST): Seven teams monitoring polling stations.
- Webcasting at all polling sta-

tions for transparency. The District Election Authority has identified distribution, reception, and strong rooms in Vijayawada, Nandigama, and Thiruvuru divisions to ensure secure ballot storage. Dr. Lakshmi Sha assured that all arrangements are in place to conduct free, fair, and peaceful elections. DRO and Assistant Returning Officer M. Lakshmi Narasimham participated in the virtual review meeting.

Gudivada Municipality Mutation Scam No Action Despite Multiple Investigations

Revenue officials siphon off Rs. 2 crore through mutation fraud. Two investigations completed, but no action taken yet. Allegations of cover-up and involvement of political leaders.

TPN Correspondent Gudivada, Feb 23

A massive mutation scam has come to light in Gudivada Municipality, where revenue officers and staff allegedly misappropriated Rs. 2 crore through fraudulent property mutations during the financial year 2023-24.

Acting on orders from the Municipal Administration Department, Tadigadapa Municipal Commissioner Bhavani Prasad conducted two separate inquiries on January 24 and February 12. However, despite the completion of investigations, no action has been taken against those responsible, raising suspicions about whether the real culprits will face consequences or if junior staff will be scapegoated.

The mutation process involves changing the name of the property owner in municipal records, requiring payment of 1% of the market value as tax. Under the previous YSRCP government, certain permanent municipal employees, allegedly with political backing, manipulated this process:

- 144 properties in prime locations such as Rajendranagar and Satyanarayanapuram were undervalued.
- Owners were charged high commissions but paid lower mutation fees to the municipality.
- Under-assessments were made to reduce annual property taxes, leading to losses in crores of rupees.

The scam was orchestrated online using the Municipal Commissioner's ID and password, with involvement from:

- Revenue Inspectors and Officers, who allegedly facilitated the fraud.
- Skilled computer operators, said to have manipulated records with the backing of political leaders.
- Certain staff members, who reportedly provided "special services" to select individuals and destroyed official registers to cover their tracks.

During questioning, 132 individuals were interviewed. Some officials allegedly tried to shift the blame onto lower-level staff.

- Mandapadu resident Loya Shivaji provided a written statement that land was transferred in his name without his knowledge, exposing irregularities.

When questioned, Municipal Commissioner B. Srinivasa Rao stated that a report would be submitted to the Municipal Regional Director (RD) and further action would be taken based on orders from higher authorities.

With public outrage growing, locals are demanding swift legal action against those responsible for the multi-crore scam and ensuring transparency in municipal revenue collections.

Farmers Protest Illegal Gravel Excavation in Annavaram

TPN Correspondent Jaggayyapet, Feb 23

Farmers in Annavaram village of Jaggayyapet mandal have raised concerns over illegal gravel excavation from land previously allocated to a society by the district collector. While farmers struggle with water shortages and face restrictions on their agricultural needs, excavation for private ventures continues unchecked. Expressing frustration, the farmers ques-

tioned why special permissions are needed for them to excavate soil for farming, while large-scale ventures operate freely. They pointed out the bureaucratic hurdles faced even in times of natural calamities, asking, "Even when floods wash away our lands, we still need permission to restore our fields?"

They further criticized officials, questioning their inaction despite clear evidence of illegal activities. Farmers are urging the government to take immediate legal



action against those responsible for unauthorized soil excavation and ensure fair treatment for agricultural needs.

Endowment Dy Commissioner Reviews Maha Shivaratri Arrangements at Ailur Rameshwara Swamy Temple

TPN Correspondent Krishna Dist, Feb 23

Endowment Deputy Commissioner DLV Ramesh Babu visited the historic Ailur Rameshwara Swamy Temple, also known as Dakshin Kashi, as part of Maha Shivaratri preparations. Speaking on the occasion, he stated that temple inspections are being conducted across the district in line with the Commissioner's instructions. As Maha Shivaratri will be celebrated on February 26, officials are reviewing arrangements and addressing any shortcom-

ings to ensure a smooth experience for devotees.

He mentioned that important Shiva temples across seven districts are being visited, and volunteers from all departments, aid organizations, and service groups are being involved in managing the festival. Every effort is being made to provide essential facilities to devotees.

Temple Manager BVS Gopala Rao, Inspector Anuradha, CFOR Madhavi Latha, and other staff members accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.



Gudivada Rural Police Conduct Awareness Program on Good Samaritan Road Safety



TPN Correspondent Gudivada, Feb 23

In response to the rising number of road accident fatalities, Gudivada Rural Police conducted an awareness program on the Good Samaritan Law under the directions of Krishna District SP Shri R. Gangadhar Rao, IPS. The event was led by Gudivada SDPO Shri V. Dheeraj Vinil, Rural CI Shri SLR Someswara Rao, and SI N Chantibabu along with their team.

The police informed the public that helping accident victims reach the hospital prompt-

ly can save lives. They reassured citizens that those who assist will not be required to reveal their identity to the police or act as witnesses in any legal proceedings. Additionally, individuals who rescue accident victims will be recognized with a Good Samaritan award and a ₹5,000 reward from the government.

Authorities urged passengers and bystanders to act swiftly in emergencies and take injured individuals to the nearest hospital without hesitation.

Police Seize Gold Worth ₹5 Crore in Mangalagiri

TPN Correspondent Mangalagiri, Feb 23

In a major breakthrough, Guntur district police cracked a 5 kg gold theft case within six days, recovering 4 kg and 8 grams of gold ornaments, ₹2 lakh in cash, and two two-wheelers. A total of eight accused have been arrested for their involvement in the meticulously planned theft. The police formed six special teams to investigate the case and successfully recovered gold ornaments worth ₹5 crore. The theft took place when Ramu, the owner of DVR Jewelers in Vijayawada, entrusted his employee Nagaraju with a bag containing gold ornaments meant for delivery to various jewelry shops in Nalgonda, Suryapet, and Naker-

ekallu. However, Nagaraju later claimed the bag was stolen and informed his employer over the phone.

Following the investigation, the police identified Nagaraju as the main culprit. His accomplices, Bharat, Naveen, Irfan, Mohan, Lokesh, Chandu, and Arun, assisted in executing the crime. Some of the stolen gold was melted into lumps to avoid detection, but the police successfully recovered a major portion of it. One of the accused, Irfan, is still absconding, and efforts are underway to recover the remaining gold from him. Guntur District SP Satish Kumar congratulated the police teams for their swift action and successful resolution of the case.





Strict Action Against Illegal Soil and Gravel Excavation: District Collector Warns

TPN Correspondent
Rajamahendravaram, Feb 23

District Collector P. Prashanthi has issued a stern warning against illegal soil and gravel excavation, stating that violators will face strict legal action under the Andhra Pradesh Small Scale Minerals Rules, 1966. In a statement on Saturday, she emphasized that quarrying and mineral transportation without proper authorization from the Mines and Geology Department is punishable by law.

The official procedure for securing a quarry lease or temporary permit includes:

Online application at www.mines.ap.gov.in with required documents (Aadhaar, PAN, land details, etc.). Advance payment of cess, DMF & MER-IT fees, and applicable taxes.

No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the local Tahsildar and a field inspection to verify mineral availability.

Approval of Mining Plan, Environmental Clearance (EC), and Consent to Operate (CTE & CTO).

Under MOEF guidelines (S.O. 1224(E), dated 28.03.2020), the following activities do not require environmental clearance:

Excavation for village roads, ponds, and MGNREGA projects.

Digging wells for irrigation or drinking water.

Foundation digging for buildings.

NHAI roadwork approved before March 21, 2024.

Farmers can level cropland for agriculture without permission.

However, selling or transporting excavated soil requires approval from the Mines Department.

The Collector cautioned that any unauthorized mineral excavation or transportation within the district limits will result in legal consequences, including action against landowners and lessees violating the Small Scale Minerals Rules, 1966.

Kapu Movement Leader Tsavatapalli Nagabhushanam Arrested in Mummdivaram

- Kapu leader and Janasena supporter arrested by Katrenikona police.
- Arrest linked to an altercation with SI Avinash during a Sankranti event.

TPN Correspondent
Mummdivaram, Feb 23

Kapu movement leader and Aqua Rythu State Association advisor Tsavatapalli Nagabhushanam, who is also a Janasena Party supporter, was arrested by Katrenikona police on Saturday. The arrest follows a case registered against him on January 16. According to Katrenikona police, a dance program was organized by some youths in Cheyeru village, Katrenikona mandal, on Kanuma night as part of the Sankranti festival celebrations. Upon learning about the event, SI Avinash intervened and stopped the program. During this time, Nagabhushanam arrived at the scene and engaged in a heated argument with the SI. Based on a complaint filed by Head Constable Chinna Rao, a case was registered against Nagabhushanam, leading to his arrest on Saturday. He was produced in the Mummdivaram court later that day.

Speculations arise over political motives ahead



of the MLC elections

However, Nagabhushanam's arrest has sparked political speculation, with some Janasena activists alleging that it is linked to the upcoming MLC elections. They claim that the arrest was orchestrated to create dissatisfaction among the Kapu community and affect the chances of alliance MLC candidate Perabathula Rajasekhar, who is from the Kapu

community. Some activists believe that Mummdivaram MLA Datla Subbaraju is behind this move to weaken the support for Rajasekhar. There are also social media posts in Janasena circles urging voters not to support the alliance candidate as a response to Nagabhushanam's arrest.

With tensions rising, it remains to be seen how the alliance leaders will address the situation and counter the political fallout.



SI Vishwanath Naidu Cracks Down on Unfit School Buses

TPN | C. Sekhar
Tirupati, Feb 23

In a bid to enhance student safety, SI V. Vishwanath Naidu conducted inspections of school buses on Saturday at the Buchinaidu Kandriga police station premises in Tirupati district. During the inspection, officials verified drivers' licenses and bus-related documents. SI Vishwanath Naidu emphasized that students' safety is the prime responsibility of drivers and urged them to adhere to speed limits. He issued a stern warning against the use of mobile phones while driving, stating that such behavior poses a serious risk. He further cautioned that strict action would be taken against both drivers and school management if violations were found. The police advised school administrations to regularly inspect and maintain buses to ensure they meet safety standards. Additionally, school bus drivers were educated on their responsibilities and the necessary precautions to be taken while transporting students. Authorities reiterated that road safety is a shared responsibility and urged school managements to take necessary steps to prevent accidents and ensure the well-being of students.

Eluru Municipal Corporation Commissioner Bhanu Pratap Measures to Ensure Water Supply



TPN Correspondent
Eluru, Feb 23

Eluru Municipal Corporation Commissioner A. Bhanu Pratap has assured that proactive measures are being taken to prevent water shortages in Eluru during the upcoming summer season. On Saturday, the Commissioner, along with Electrical AE Sambasiva Rao and Co-option Member SMR Pedababu, inspected the water works tanks at Denduluru, which play a crucial role in supplying water to Eluru city. He noted that water reserves have decreased due to insufficient inflow from the Godavari through the Eluru canal. To address the situation, a review meeting was held last month with MLA Badeti Chanti, City Mayor Noorjahan Pedababu, and engineering officials. As part of the monitoring process, officials are regularly tracking water levels in the storage tanks. Commissioner Bhanu Pratap emphasized that pumping motors are being utilized to transfer water from the Godavari canal to the Denduluru tanks, ensuring that Eluru residents do not face drinking water shortages in the summer months.

Visakhapatnam Range DIG Emphasizes Rigorous Investigation in Drug Cases



TPN Correspondent
Srikakulam, Feb 23

A special workshop on drug control and case investigation was held at Sri Venkateswara Engineering College, Etcherla, Srikakulam, where Visakhapatnam Range DIG Sri Gopinath Jatti IPS emphasized the importance of meticulous investigations to ensure criminal convictions in cannabis and narcotics cases.

Addressing police officers from Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, and Manyam districts, DIG Gopinath Jatti highlighted that the state government prioritizes making Andhra Pradesh a drug-free state. He urged officers to identify and dismantle cannabis transportation networks, ensure error-free case registration, and follow legal procedures rigorously to increase conviction rates.

Customs, Excise, and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal Officer A. Rangadham provided insights into legal provisions and investigative precautions under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

DIG Jatti noted that workshops on NDPS cases are being conducted across Visakhapatnam Range, with five districts (Srikakulam, Anakapalle, Vizianagaram, Manyam, Alluri Seetharamaraju) covered so far, training 320 officers from SI to Additional SP level. He stressed that strict adherence to procedures from case registration to charge sheet filing is crucial to ensure that drug traffickers face legal consequences.

Srikakulam District SP KV Maheshwara Reddy reinforced that officers should utilize expert legal advice in case investigations and acknowledged A. Rangadham's contributions by felicitating him with a memento. Senior police officials, including Additional SP KV Ramana, Parvathipuram Manyam ASP Ankita Surana, and DSPs VV Appa Rao, M. Srinivasa Rao, Prasad Rao, and M. Rambabu, along with CIs and SIs from three districts, participated in the event.

Hosting Ceremony Held at Srikalahasti for Mahashivratri Brahmotsavams

- Sacred rituals performed with Vedic mantras and scholarly guidance.
- Temple EO Bapireddy and devotees participated in the event.

TPN | C. Sekhar
Srikalahasti, Feb 23

On the second day of the Mahashivratri Brahmotsavams, the Hosting ceremony was conducted with grandeur at the renowned Srikalahastheswara Devasthanam Temple, often referred to as the Kailasa of the South.

As part of the rituals, Lord Swami was placed on a silver chariot near the pole. The sacred Kalasthapan, Ganapati Punya Vachana, and flower worship to the Kala were performed with devotion. A ritual fire was lit in the Gundam, followed by special pujas at the pole, conducted amidst Vedic chants by scholars. The Hosting ceremony then took place with great spiritual fervor.

Subsequently, Deepa Dhupa Naivedyam, Akhanda Deeparadhana, Kumbha Aarti, and final aarti were offered to the presiding deity. Temple EO Bapireddy, along with other temple officials and a large number of devotees, participated in the auspicious event.



The Brahmotsavams will continue with various spiritual and cultural festivities, drawing devotees from far and wide to witness the divine celebrations.

MLA Somireddy Reviews Establishment of Model Primary Schools



TPN Correspondent
Nellore, Feb 23

MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy held a review meeting with Mandal Education Officers (MEOs) of Sarvepalli constituency at the Nellore R&B Guest House on Saturday, discussing key reforms in the education sector.

He criticized the previous YCP government, stating that the Nadu-Nedu program led to disruptions, including the merger of Classes 3, 4, and 5 into high schools, causing confusion in the primary education system.

Under the leadership of Nara Lokesh, the current government is implementing a structured approach to primary education, introducing:

Foundation schools for Classes 1 & 2.

Basic primary schools with two teachers for Classes 1-5.

Model primary schools with five teachers for Classes 1-5, ensuring better learning outcomes.

To support students, the government has committed ₹600 per child for transportation expenses in cases where schools are located farther away.

MLA Somireddy emphasized that these educational reforms are aimed at providing quality education to poor children, urging cooperation from all stakeholders to secure a brighter future for students.

Re-Survey to Be Conducted in Presence of Farmer's - JC Sethu Madhavan

TPN | Narasimhulu
Vizianagaram, Feb 23

Joint Collector S. Sethu Madhavan has directed officials to conduct the re-survey process in the presence of farmers to ensure transparency and accuracy.

On Saturday, he inspected the ongoing re-survey work in Rawada village, Bhogapuram mandal, which has been chosen as a pilot project. During his visit, he verified land records, inspected ground truthing, and interacted with farmers to understand their concerns.

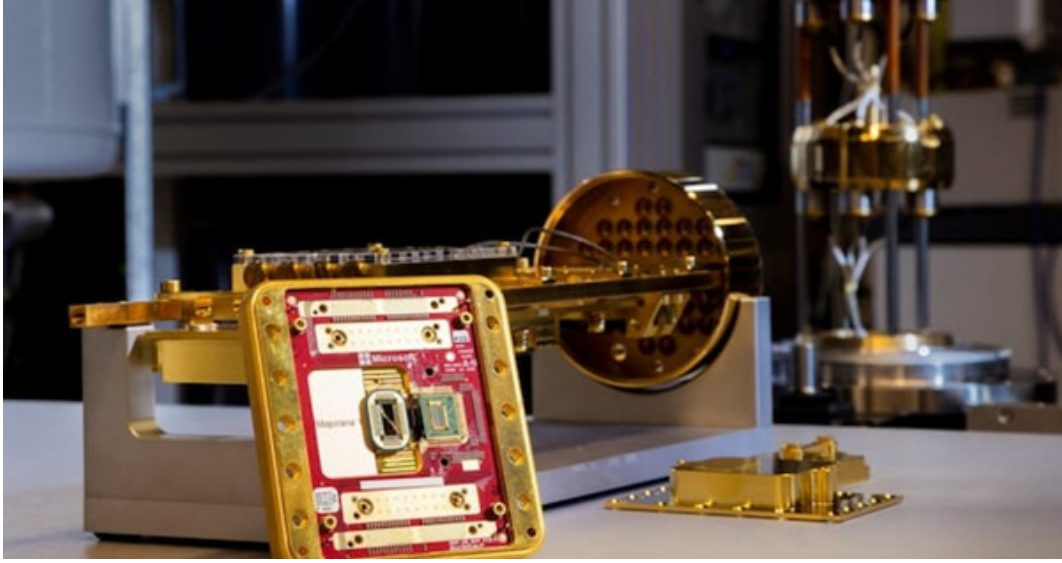
Addressing the officials, JC Madhavan emphasized that landowners must be summoned for the re-survey, and neighboring farmers should also be involved to prevent disputes. He urged authorities to complete the process without errors and within the stipulated time frame.

Tahsildar Suresh, Deputy Survey Inspector Bhagwan, and other revenue and survey officials were present during the inspection.





India's Quantum Leap: Harnessing AI and Quantum Computing for a Viksit Bharat



India stands at the threshold of a technological revolution that could redefine its future. With the advent of quantum computing and generative AI, India has a unique opportunity to leapfrog traditional technological progress, positioning itself at the global forefront.

Recent breakthroughs in quantum computing, such as Microsoft's unveiling of the Majorana 1 chip, have brought practical quantum computing closer than ever. Unlike traditional qubits, the topological qubits in Majorana 1 are stable, offering the potential for solving problems once thought unsolvable, such as climate change, drug discovery, and materials science. Meanwhile, advancements in generative AI, like xAI's Grok 3, are pushing the boundaries of creativity, problem-solving, and automation. These technologies, while transformative, also introduce challenges, including ethical concerns and potential job displacement. However, for India, they present a powerful opportunity to take a giant leap in technology.

India's strong public digital infrastructure, coupled with a thriving startup ecosystem and a growing tech workforce, gives it a unique edge to integrate quantum computing and AI directly into its governance and economic systems. Initiatives like the National Quantum Mission (NQM) launched in 2023 aim to develop quantum technologies, with a focus on applications for India's needs—opti-

mizing transportation, energy grids, and agriculture.

In AI, India's vast population generates massive datasets that can be leveraged to develop region-specific solutions. From translating educational content into multiple languages to improving monsoon predictions and AI-driven healthcare, India is well-positioned to use generative AI for social advancement and economic growth.

To fully capitalize on this opportunity, India must invest in indigenous quantum and AI ecosystems. This includes establishing quantum computing infrastructure, expanding AI supercomputing centers, and developing in-house AI models and chips to reduce reliance on foreign technologies. The government's Skill India initiative must also be aligned to create a workforce of quantum and AI specialists.

Moreover, fostering deep-tech startups is crucial. By offering incentives such as tax breaks and venture capital, India can fuel innovation in quantum and AI sectors. Strategic policy frameworks must also address AI governance, ensuring ethical use while mitigating risks like deepfakes. By embracing these technologies and building in-house capabilities, India can not only accelerate its journey to a Viksit Bharat but also become a global leader in the digital age. The future is quantum, the future is AI, and the future is India's to seize.



BJP Ready to Accelerate After Lok Sabha Speedbreaker

The BJP's victories in Haryana, Maharashtra, and Delhi have not only reinforced its political dominance but also revived its confidence following a minor setback in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Despite losing around 30 seats, which some saw as a major blow, the party has come back stronger, proving the previous defeat was just a temporary hurdle.

Just months after the 2024 Lok Sabha results, many Congress leaders and regional figures expressed optimism about the BJP's challenges ahead, especially with Rahul Gandhi positioning himself to lead the Opposition. However, those prospects now seem distant, as the BJP has firmly consolidated its position, especially in states like Haryana, Maharashtra, and Delhi, where it was previously considered to have lost its grip. The Delhi win, in particular, was seen as impossible due to the Aam Aadmi Party's dominance, but BJP's resilient strategy led to an unexpected

victory.

The BJP's success can be attributed to a careful and continuous course correction. Campaigning was adjusted with a focus on smaller, targeted meetings rather than large rallies, reaching out to voters through door-to-door interactions. The party's messaging was refined, with a strong emphasis on achievements and promises, avoiding any overstatements about possible outcomes.

One crucial aspect of the BJP's campaign strategy was its ability to neutralize the 'Constitution in danger' narrative that had caused trouble during the Lok Sabha elections. Leaders like Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Shah made concerted efforts to dispel fears about reservations and highlighted the government's welfare steps for marginalized sections of society. These efforts were reinforced by the extensive outreach from RSS workers, who ensured that no misconceptions about the party's

stance gained ground.

The BJP's alliance, initially viewed with skepticism due to its dependence on regional leaders, has now become more stable. Issues like the Waqf Amendment have been handled diplomatically, allowing the central government to function smoothly despite coalition dynamics.

Behind the scenes, the RSS played a pivotal role in strengthening the BJP's ground game, providing real-time feedback and strategizing minute-to-minute adjustments. The RSS's intense outreach, particularly through data-driven campaigns and local gatherings, ensured that every voter received key messages directly related to their concerns.

With momentum on its side, the BJP is now looking to capitalize on this success in upcoming state elections, especially in Bihar and West Bengal, where workers are rejuvenated and ready to continue the party's progress.

A Window of Opportunity: President's Rule and the Future of Manipur

The imposition of President's Rule in Manipur marks a critical juncture in the state's turbulent political and ethnic landscape. With Chief Minister Biren Singh's resignation on February 9, 2025, amid political instability and escalating ethnic violence, the state has entered a period of governance under direct control of the Union Government. This presents a crucial opportunity for the BJP and the Centre to address the underlying causes of the ongoing conflict and lay the foundation for lasting peace between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities.

The violence in Manipur has claimed over 200 lives and displaced more than 50,000 people. The need for constructive intervention has never been more urgent. The BJP, having failed to form a consensus on a successor to Biren Singh, opted for President's Rule to stabilize the situation and avoid a constitutional crisis. The central leadership now has a window to take the necessary steps to address ethnic tensions and create a sustainable political environment for the state.

One of the first priorities for the Centre is the role of Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla. With his neutral stance—neither aligned with the Meitei nor the Kuki-Zo community—Bhalla's leadership can facilitate dialogue and reconciliation between these divided groups. His efforts thus far, including visiting relief camps and engaging with displaced people, set the tone for a more inclusive approach to restoring peace. However, while President's Rule has garnered support from Kuki-Zo groups, it has been met with opposition from



the Congress and Meitei organizations. The Centre must, therefore, balance these diverse views and ensure a fair and comprehensive peace process. To this end, the BJP must take proactive steps. First, it needs to re-engage with the Kuki-Zo legislators who have distanced themselves from the party

since the ethnic violence erupted. Establishing communication between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo factions within the party is critical for fostering unity. A new peace committee, inclusive of all stakeholders, must also be formed to facilitate meaningful dialogue. Previous efforts have faltered due to lack of

action and resistance from influential groups like Kuki-Inpi and COCOMI. A more robust and dynamic approach is required this time.

The BJP's next chief ministerial candidate will likely be from the Meitei community, which dominates the state assembly. However, the party must en-

sure that the selected leader represents all communities and is capable of making decisions in the broader interest of the state, fostering a sense of inclusivity. Additionally, the BJP needs to strengthen its relationships with current allies like the Naga People's Front (NPF) and the National People's Party (NPP) to ensure a stable and united government.

Moreover, extending an olive branch to the Kuki People's Alliance (KPA), which had withdrawn support from the BJP due to disagreements with Biren Singh, could signal a commitment to reconciliation. Restoring ties with this faction will send a positive message to the Kuki-Zo community and help heal the rift that has deepened over the past year. Finally, the Centre must take a firm stance against militant groups from both the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities. The recent crackdown on militants is a step in the right direction, but it must be sustained without compromise. The continued dismantling of armed groups will play a pivotal role in ensuring long-term peace and stability in Manipur.

In conclusion, President's Rule in Manipur offers a temporary yet crucial opportunity for the BJP and the Centre to address the root causes of the state's ethnic strife. By taking strategic actions—engaging in dialogue, restoring trust, and fostering political consensus—the BJP can pave the way for a more peaceful and stable future for Manipur. The next few months are critical, and how the Centre handles this period will shape the state's trajectory for years to come.

Trump's third attack on \$21mn USAID

'Why are we caring about India's turnout?'

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Former US President Donald Trump has once again criticized the \$21 million USAID funding for 'voter turnout' in India, questioning why American taxpayers' money is being spent on foreign elections. His remarks, made during an address to US governors, mark the third time he has publicly raised concerns over the issue.

"USD 21 million going to my friend Prime Minister Modi in India for voter turnout. Why are we caring about India's turnout? What about us? I want voter turnout too," Trump said in a video shared by National Desk. He also took aim at another USAID allocation, stating, "\$29 million to strengthen the political landscape in Bangladesh went to a firm that nobody ever heard of."

On Friday, Trump went further, calling the funding a "kickback scheme." He said, "Why do we need to spend \$21 million for voter turnout in India? I guess they were trying to get somebody else elected." He also compared the controversy to allegations of Russian interference in US elections, adding, "When we hear that Russia spent about two thousand dollars on internet ads here, it was a big deal. But this is a total breakthrough."



India's response

The Indian government has taken note of Trump's statements, with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirming that the matter is under review. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated, "Relevant departments and authorities are looking into the information put out by the American ad-

ministration regarding certain US activities and funding. These are obviously very deeply troubling."

The issue has raised concerns about the transparency of foreign funding in political processes, with both Trump's campaign and Indian authorities closely monitoring further developments.

Drive Against Illegal Poppy Cultivation in Arunachal Faces Death Threats

TPN Correspondent | Arunachal Pradesh

A large-scale crackdown on illegal poppy cultivation in Arunachal Pradesh has uncovered direct links between narcotics and insurgency for the first time. Led by the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) and supported by security forces and the state government, the operation targeted poppy plantations across multiple districts, including Lohit, Namsai, and Changlang.

Over 6,000 hectares of poppy fields were destroyed in the past two months, despite insurgent groups issuing death threats to officials and workers involved in the operation. The estimated value of the destroyed poppy plantations exceeds ₹500 crore.

Insurgent outfits such as the NSCN (K-YA) and ULFA (Independent) reportedly threatened those participating in the drive, warning them to withdraw or face fatal consequences. These threats led to a shortage of workers, affecting the operation's overall progress.

Despite these challenges, security forces, particularly the Assam Rifles, played a crucial role in ensuring the operation proceeded as planned. However, due to bad weather and other logistical issues, officials were able to achieve only 60% of their initial target.



Over 150 Nepalese Students Leave Odisha University After Student's Death

TPN Correspondent | Nepal

Days after the alleged suicide of a Nepalese student at Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) in Odisha, 159 Nepalese students have returned home, citing mistreatment and safety concerns. The students crossed the Raxaul border, according to Assistant Chief District Officer of Parsa, Suman Kumar Karki.

Prakriti Lamsal, a 20-year-old third-year B-Tech (Computer Science) student, was found dead in her hostel room on February 16. Following her death, unrest broke out on campus, and Nepalese students claimed they were forced to vacate the hostel under harsh conditions.

A group of students who returned to Nepal alleged they were subjected to "inhuman treatment" by university staff and security guards.

"We were beaten up in the presence of university teachers and forced to leave immediately," they said, adding that they no longer felt safe to continue their studies at KIIT despite reassurances from the administration. The students have demanded a thorough investigation into Lamsal's death and justice for those mistreated. Protests were held in Birgunj and Bhairahawa, Lamsal's home district, calling for accountability.

Nepal's Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba confirmed that the issue had been taken up diplomatically. She stated that after discussions with Odisha Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, the Odisha government formed a high-level inquiry committee to ensure a fair investigation. The college administration has since apologized and taken action against staff involved in the alleged mistreatment.

BBC World Service India Fined ₹3.44 Crore For Foreign Exchange Violation

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has imposed a penalty of ₹3.44 crore on BBC World Service India for allegedly violating foreign direct investment (FDI) regulations. The agency has also fined three of its directors ₹1.14 crore each under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

A BBC spokesperson, responding to PTI, stated that neither the company nor its directors had received any adjudication order from the ED. "The BBC is committed to operating within the rules of all countries we are based in, including India. We will carefully review any order when it is received and consider next steps as appropriate," the spokesperson added.

The adjudication follows a show-cause notice issued on August 4, 2023, to BBC WS India, its three directors, and the finance head for alleged violations. The ED's FEMA probe was initiated a few months after an Income Tax survey at the BBC's Delhi office in February 2023.

According to sources, BBC WS India, a 100% FDI company, was engaged in streaming news and current affairs on digital media but did not comply with the FDI limit of 26% mandated by the Indian government under the Press Note 4 of 2019 issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry



and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

The total penalty includes ₹5,000 per day for non-compliance beyond October 15, 2021. The three fined directors—Giles Antony Hunt, Indu Shekhar Sinha, and Paul Michael Gibbons—were allegedly responsible for overseeing operations during the period of violation.

Following the 2023 Income Tax survey, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) stated that the income and profits reported by BBC's entities were "not commensurate" with their Indian operations and that certain foreign remittances had not been taxed.

The BBC had then maintained that it would continue cooperating with authorities and hoped for a resolution soon.

Bhutan PM Calls Modi 'Elder Brother, Mentor' at Leadership Conclave

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay on Friday praised Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, calling him an "elder brother" and "mentor" during his keynote address at the School of Ultimate Leadership (SOUL) conclave in New Delhi. Speaking in Hindi at several points, Tobgay's remarks received enthusiastic applause from the audience.

"Without a doubt, I see an image of an elder brother in you, who always guides me and helps me ('Nisandeh, aap mei ek bade bhai ki chhavi dekhta hun, jo sadaiv mera margdarshan karte hain, aur mujhe sahayta dete hain')," he said, addressing Modi directly. Tobgay lauded the SOUL initiative as a "brainchild of Modi," emphasizing that it reflected his dedication to nurturing leadership and empowering individuals to serve India.

He stated that he had come to the event not as a leader but as a student eager to learn. "Leadership is not about titles or positions; it is about vision, courage, and the ability to inspire change. It is about trans-



formation, about guiding society toward a more prosperous and peaceful future," Tobgay said.

He highlighted the role of great leaders in history, who have not only led nations but also inspired revolutions in thought and progress. "Aadarniya Pradhan Mantri, mere bade bhai,

aapne apni buddhimani, saahas aur karuna se bhare netritav se Bharat ko das hi varshon mein pragati ke path par agrasar kiya hai" (Hon'ble Prime Minister, my elder brother, with your wisdom, courage, and compassionate leadership, you have led India on the path of development in just ten years), he added.

"Cheating Passengers": Shivraj Chouhan Slams Air India Over "Broken" Seat

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Saturday criticized Air India for allotting him a "broken" seat during his flight from Bhopal to Delhi. The Minister alleged that despite the airline being aware of the seat's poor condition, it was still sold to passengers.

Chouhan, who was traveling to Delhi to inaugurate the "Kisan Mela" and attend meetings on natural farming, shared his experience on X. He stated that he was assigned seat 8C on Air India flight AI436, which was damaged and uncomfortable.

"When I asked the airline staff why the seat was broken, they admitted that the management had already been informed about it and that it should not have been sold," Chouhan wrote in Hindi. He further claimed that multiple seats on the flight were in a similar condition.

Despite being advised by co-passengers to switch to another seat, the former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister chose to complete his journey in the same seat, arguing that he did not want to inconvenience another passenger.

Expressing his disappointment, Chouhan remarked, "I thought Air India's service would improve after Tata took over, but I was mistaken." He also criticized the airline for



charging passengers full fare while offering defective seating, calling it "unethical" and equating it to "cheating passengers."

Air India responded to his complaint, apologizing for the inconvenience and assuring that the issue would be addressed to prevent such occurrences in the future. The airline also requested an opportunity to discuss the matter with Chouhan.

India slams Turkish President's Kashmir remark



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India has strongly objected to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's remarks on Kashmir during his recent visit to Pakistan. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) called his comments "objectionable and unwarranted," reaffirming that Jammu and Kashmir remain an integral part of India.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated, "We reject such objectionable comments on matters that are internal to India. We have lodged a strong protest with the Turkish ambassador. Such unwarranted statements on India's territorial integrity and sovereignty are unacceptable."

India also criticized Pakistan's continued involvement in cross-border terrorism, suggesting that Erdogan should have instead condemned it rather than commenting on India's internal affairs. "No other country has any locus standi to comment on Jammu and Kashmir. It would have been more appropriate if Pakistan's policy of using cross-border terrorism against India, which remains the biggest threat to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, had been called out," the MEA said.

Erdogan's remarks, made during his two-day visit to Pakistan, called for resolving the Kashmir issue through UN resolutions and dialogue while expressing solidarity with the people of Kashmir. India's strong response underscores its firm stance against any external interference in its territorial matters.

PM Modi to be guest of honour at Mauritius' National Day celebrations

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the 'Guest of Honour' at Mauritius' 57th National Day celebrations on March 12, as announced by Mauritian Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam. Modi is set to visit Port Louis on March 11-12, underscoring the deep ties between India and the island nation.

Addressing the Parliament, Ramgoolam expressed his delight over Modi accepting the invitation despite his packed diplomatic schedule, which recently included visits to Paris and the United States. "It is indeed a singular privilege for our country to host such a distinguished personality who is doing us this honour," he said.

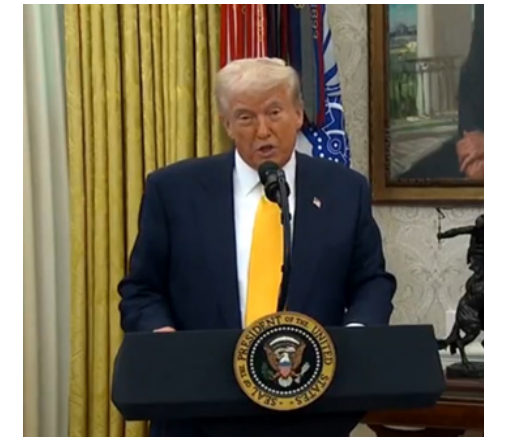
Highlighting the historical and cultural ties between the two nations, Ramgoolam noted that Modi's visit reaffirms the enduring friendship between India and Mauritius. "The visit of Modi is a testimony to the close re-



lations between our two nations," he added.

Mauritius marks its National Day on March 12, commemorating its independence from British rule in 1968 and its transition to a republic within the Commonwealth in 1992. India and Mauritius share strong

diplomatic and cultural relations, with nearly 70% of Mauritius' 1.2 million population being of Indian origin. Modi had earlier congratulated Ramgoolam on his electoral victory in November 2024, emphasizing his commitment to strengthening their "special and unique partnership."



Trump Announces Reciprocal Tariffs on India and China

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

Former US President Donald Trump has announced plans to impose reciprocal tariffs on countries like India and China, stating that the United States will match the tariffs these nations impose on American goods. "We will soon impose reciprocal tariffs—they charge us, we charge them. Whatever a company or a country, such as India or China, charges, we want to be fair; hence, reciprocal," Trump said during a press conference on Friday. He added that the US was prepared to take this step earlier but was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Before his recent bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Trump had criticized India's tariff structure, calling it the "highest" and describing the country as a difficult place to conduct business. He reiterated these concerns when discussing Tesla CEO Elon Musk's meeting with PM Modi. "India is a very hard place to do business because of the tariffs. They have the highest tariffs... It's a hard place to do business," he remarked.

Trump also referenced India's past trade policies, citing the example of Harley-Davidson motorcycles, which faced high import duties, forcing the company to establish manufacturing units in India. "India charges tremendous tariffs. I remember when Harley-Davidson couldn't sell their motorbikes in India because the tax was so high. Harley was forced to build," he said, according to US Network Pool via Reuters.

His comments reflect long-standing concerns about India's trade practices, which have been a point of contention in US-India economic relations.

Hamas completes first phase of hostage release

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Hamas released six Israeli hostages from Gaza on Saturday, marking the completion of the first phase of the ceasefire agreement that began last month. However, uncertainty looms over the next stage of the truce as negotiations continue. Among those released, Tal Shoham and Avera Mengistu were handed over to the Israeli military by the Red Cross in Rafah and have crossed into Israel, according to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Three others—Omer Shem Tov, Eliya Cohen, and Omer Wenkert—were transferred to the Red Cross in Nuseirat, while Hisham al-Sayed was



released at a separate site in Gaza City.

These six individuals are the final living hostages whose release was agreed upon during last month's negotiations in Qatar. Following this exchange, Hamas and its allies continue

to hold 63 Israeli hostages in Gaza, at least 32 of whom are believed to be deceased, as per the Israeli government. Hamas stated that it expects Israel to release 602 Palestinian prisoners and detainees as part of the agreement. Among them, 50 have been sentenced to life imprisonment, 60 are serving long sentences, and 445 were detained in Gaza since October 7, 2023.

While the current phase has concluded, Hamas has signaled readiness to release all remaining Israeli hostages in a single exchange if Israel agrees to withdraw its troops from Gaza as part of the next ceasefire stage.



Kash Patel Sworn In as FBI Director, Takes Oath on Bhagavad Gita

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

Indian-American Kash Patel has been sworn in as the ninth Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), taking his oath on the Bhagavad Gita. Patel, confirmed by the US Senate, succeeds Christopher Wray in leading the agency.

The ceremony took place at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, where US Attorney General Pam Bondi administered the oath. Patel's family and girlfriend stood beside him, with other relatives seated in the front row.

Following the oath, Patel spoke about his journey, calling it a testament to the American dream. "Anyone who thinks the American dream is dead, look right here. You are talking to a first-generation Indian who is about to lead the law enforcement agency of the greatest nation on earth," he said. He also promised accountability within the FBI, both internally and externally.

US President Donald Trump praised Patel's appointment, calling him

"tough and strong" and highlighting the respect he commands among FBI agents. "He will go down as the best ever at that position," Trump said. He added that Patel's approval was easier than expected, citing strong endorsements, including one from former congressman Trey Gowdy. The White House welcomed Patel's confirmation, stating that it aligns with Trump's agenda to restore integrity and uphold the rule of law. In a post on X, the White House wrote, "@FBI Director Kash Patel's confirmation as FBI Director is a crucial step in executing President Trump's agenda to restore integrity and uphold the rule of law."

Patel, a close ally of Trump, expressed gratitude for the support of the President and Attorney General Bondi, vowing to rebuild the FBI as a "transparent, accountable, and committed" agency.

His nomination faced opposition from Republican Senators Lisa Murkowski and Susan Collins, but he secured confirmation with a narrow 51-49 vote, as all Senate Democrats voted against him.

Germany's Gen Z Tilts Right as Nation Prepares for Sunday Vote



TPN Correspondent | Berlin

As Germany approaches its national election this Sunday, a notable shift is underway among Generation Z voters, born between 1997 and 2012, who are increasingly favoring right-of-center parties. Once staunch supporters of environmental and social justice causes, young Germans are now prioritizing immigration, a faltering economy, and the fallout from the Ukraine war, marking a dramatic departure from their 2021 preferences.

Germany's right-wing political spectrum includes the moderate CDU/CSU coalition, currently the second-largest party with strongholds in the west, and the far-right Alternative für Deutschland (AfD), which is gaining traction, particularly in the east. In last year's eastern regional elections, the AfD saw significant support from 18- to 24-year-olds, outpacing the Greens, according to polling institute infratest dimap. The CDU/CSU, focusing on immigration and economic stability, topped the youth vote in the 2024 European elections, with the AfD close behind.

This shift contrasts sharply with 2021, when the Greens, bolstered by the Fridays for Future movement, led among young voters with their green energy and multicultural agenda. However, backlash against these policies has eroded their support. Unlike older generations tied to party loyalty, Gen Z voters are pragmatic, seeking solutions to immediate concerns. Analysts note that this cohort, distanced from World War II's legacy, views the AfD's rise with less apprehension than their predecessors.

Social media, particularly TikTok, has amplified this trend, with both the AfD and far-left Die Linke leveraging platforms to polarize and mobilize young voters. Recent surveys underscore this rightward lean, though 30% of all voters remain undecided, potentially deciding the election's outcome. As Europe tilts right, immigration remains a flashpoint, challenging left-leaning parties' liberal stance. With the CDU/CSU and AfD capitalizing on these shifts, Germany's political landscape faces a transformative moment this weekend.

New Bat Coronavirus Found in China

Scientists Assess Human Transmission Risk

TPN Correspondent | Beijing

A new bat coronavirus, HKU5-CoV-2, has been discovered in China, raising concerns about its potential to infect humans. The virus, identified by a team of virologists led by Shi Zhengli, shares similarities with SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the South China Morning Post (SCMP), HKU5-CoV-2 belongs to the merbecovirus subgenus, which also includes the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) virus. The researchers found that it can bind to human ACE2 receptors, a key mechanism used by SARS-CoV-2 to infect human cells.

Lab tests revealed that the virus could infect human cell cultures in mini-organ models, suggesting a potential zoonotic risk. The study, published in Newsweek, stated that "bat merbecoviruses, which are phylogenetically related to MERS-CoV, pose a high risk of spillover to humans, either through direct transmission or facilitated by intermediate hosts." However, it emphasized that the possibility of human transmission "remains to be investigated."

Despite the discovery, experts caution against panic. Dr. Michael Osterholm, an infectious disease expert at the University of Minnesota, called concerns about another pandemic "overblown," citing increased immunity in the population against SARS-like viruses since 2019.



Ex-RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Appointed Principal Secretary to PM

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has been appointed as the Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to a government notification issued on Saturday. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) confirmed that Das' tenure will be co-terminus with the term of the Prime Minister or until further orders, whichever is earlier. His appointment comes as a significant move, given his vast experience in economic policy and governance.

Das, who served as RBI Governor for six years since December 2018,

played a crucial role in steering India's financial policies, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis. His tenure saw critical interventions in monetary policy, liquidity management, and regulatory reforms aimed at stabilizing the economy amid global and domestic challenges.

A 1980-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, Das has held key positions in the central and state governments in areas including finance, taxation, infrastructure, and industry. His expertise in fiscal management and economic policy-making was instrumental in shap-

ing several government initiatives. In another key decision, the government extended the tenure of NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam by one year, starting from February 24, 2025. A 1987-batch IAS officer, Subrahmanyam was initially appointed for a two-year term in February 2023. His extension signals continuity in policy advisory at the country's premier think tank.

With Das assuming the crucial role of Principal Secretary to the PM, his experience in macroeconomic management and financial governance is expected to further strengthen the decision-making process at the highest level of government.

CIE Automotive India Q4 2025 Profit Rises 9.49% YoY Despite Revenue Dip



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

CIE Automotive India reported its Q4 2025 financial results on February 20, 2025, posting a profit of ₹184.98 crore, reflecting a 9.49% year-over-year (YoY) increase. However, revenue declined 5.82% YoY to ₹2,109.95 crore.

Quarter-over-quarter, revenue fell 1.16%, and profit declined 5.25%, indicating a slowdown. Operating income also witnessed a 12.9% q-o-q and 12.41% YoY decline. Meanwhile, Selling, General & Administrative expenses increased 0.67% q-o-q but dropped 1.42% YoY.

Earnings per share (EPS) for Q4 stood at ₹4.72, up 1.29% YoY, signaling financial stability despite revenue pressures.

CIE Automotive India's stock performance has been mixed, delivering a 0.27% return in the last week, but experiencing a 26.48% decline over six months and 10.6% year-to-date losses.

The company holds a market capitalization of ₹15,995.81 crore, with its stock trading between a 52-week high of ₹622.4 and a low of ₹405.3. Analysts maintain a 'Buy' recommendation, signaling long-term confidence despite near-term revenue challenges.

Debock Industries Reports ₹0.2 Cr Loss in Q3 2025 as Revenue Plunges 97.01% YoY
Debock Industries announced its Q3 2025 financial results on February 21, 2025, re-

vealing a sharp revenue decline of 97.01% year-over-year (YoY), resulting in a ₹0.2 crore loss. In the same quarter last year, the company had posted a profit of ₹0.32 crore.

Compared to the previous quarter, revenue fell 95.74%, reflecting severe financial challenges. The company's operating income also suffered, dropping 107.84% quarter-over-quarter and 155.56% YoY, further highlighting its struggles in the current market.



Earnings per share (EPS) for Q3 stood at ₹-0.01, marking a 125% YoY decline, emphasizing the ongoing financial downturn.

Despite a 0.39% return in the last week, Debock Industries has seen a 63.87% decline in the past six months and a negative 17.83% year-to-date return.

The company currently holds a market capitalization of ₹41.99 crore, with its stock trading between a 52-week high of ₹9.6 and a low of ₹2.43.

Zomato Faces Scrutiny Over Ticket Sales for Honey Singh's Concert



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

The Maharashtra Cyber Cell is set to issue a show-cause notice to Zomato for allegedly selling tickets for singer Honey Singh's Millionaire India Tour concert without including buyers' names. The move comes as part of efforts to curb black marketing and ensure ticketing transparency for high-profile events.

Officials have raised concerns that omitting buyer names on tickets could lead to potential security risks and unauthorized resales. According to an NDTV report, the cyber cell has sought an explanation from Zomato regarding this practice and whether it violates ticketing regulations.

However, Zomato has denied the allegations, stating that it has not received any notice yet. In response to the controversy, a company spokesperson told Livemint, "This is not true. We have not received any notice yet. As and when we receive it, we will work with the authorities to demonstrate that our practices comply with applicable laws. We have always ad-

hered to the laws of the land and will continue to do so. Further, every M-ticket issued through the District app for music events or other experiences, including the Honey Singh concert, has consistently included the buyer's name." The scrutiny on Zomato follows the Maharashtra Cyber Cell's directive last year, instructing ticketing platforms like Zomato and BookMyShow to print buyers' names on tickets for major events to prevent resale at inflated prices.

Maharashtra Cyber Cell Chief Yashasvi Yadav highlighted the issue, stating, "A problem arose that many people held many tickets with themselves and resold them through social media platforms, with a manifold increase in ticket prices."

The Millionaire India Tour marks Honey Singh's major comeback, covering ten cities across India. The tour kicks off in Mumbai, with the first concert scheduled for February 22 at Nesco Pvt Ltd. Tickets for the event have been made available on Zomato and Insider.in.

Coldplay Concert Black Marketing Controversy

The show-cause notice against Zomato comes shortly after a similar controversy involving BookMyShow over the alleged black marketing of Coldplay concert tickets. The concert, held between January 19-21, 2025, faced backlash after fans accused BookMyShow of enabling third parties to resell tickets at exorbitant prices.

Advocate Amit Vyas filed a complaint against the platform, alleging that genuine users were logged out or blocked, allowing scalpers to sell tickets initially priced at ₹2,500 for up to ₹3 lakh.

BookMyShow had started selling Coldplay concert tickets on September 22, 2024, and they were sold out within minutes. The platform later issued warnings against illegitimate resellers.

With growing concerns over black marketing, the Maharashtra Cyber Cell is expected to tighten regulations further, ensuring that ticketing platforms comply with transparency measures.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Tesla's much-anticipated entry into the Indian market is set to come with a hefty price tag, even if the government reduces import tariffs. A recent report by global capital market company CLSA has highlighted

that despite lower duties, Tesla's electric vehicles (EVs) will remain significantly more expensive than their domestic competitors, including Maruti Suzuki and Mahindra & Mahindra.

Tesla's Expected Price in India
With the Indian government

Tesla's Entry into India

Higher Costs Expected Despite Lower Tariffs

considering slashing import duties to as low as 15-20%, the cheapest Tesla model is still expected to cost between ₹35 lakh and ₹40 lakh. Currently, the Tesla Model 3, which is the company's most affordable EV in the United States, is priced at approximately \$35,000 (around ₹30.4 lakh).

The CLSA report explains that, even with reduced tariffs, the cost will further increase due to additional charges such as road tax, insurance, and other levies. "With tariffs lowered to around 15-20% in India, along with other costs, the on-road price would be close to USD 40,000 (₹35-40 lakh)," the report states.

Tesla vs Domestic EV Makers
Tesla's arrival in India has gen-

erated significant excitement, but the high pricing of its vehicles may prevent it from disrupting the domestic EV market. Competitors like Mahindra, Hyundai, and Maruti Suzuki already have established electric vehicle models at significantly lower price points.

These domestic players already dominate India's EV market with competitive pricing and established production lines. In contrast, Tesla's Model 3, even at its lowest projected price, remains at least 15-20% more expensive than these options.

According to industry experts, unless Tesla introduces a locally manufactured entry-level model under ₹25 lakh, it may struggle to gain a major

market share. The CLSA report also notes that concerns about Tesla's entry have already impacted Mahindra & Mahindra's stock prices.

Tesla's India Plans & Hiring Process

To overcome cost barriers, Tesla would need to establish a manufacturing facility in India, allowing the company to reduce its dependency on imports and make its vehicles more competitively priced. However, no official announcement has been made regarding setting up a local factory.

In a significant step towards its Indian entry, Tesla has begun hiring for key positions. On February 18, the company listed a job opening for the position of

Consumer Engagement Manager in Mumbai. This marks the beginning of Tesla's recruitment drive in India, with a total of 13 roles currently listed for the country.

Tesla is expected to launch its initial models in key metro cities like Delhi and Mumbai in the coming months. Industry analysts believe the EV giant will use these cities as testing grounds before expanding further. While Tesla's arrival is expected to bring innovation to India's electric vehicle market, its high price point and strong domestic competition could pose challenges to its success unless it commits to local production.

NASA Lowers Risk of Asteroid 2024 YR4 Impact in 2032



TPN Correspondent | Washington, D.C. NASA has significantly reduced concerns regarding asteroid 2024 YR4, revising its estimated impact probability in 2032 from 1 in 32 to 1 in 360. The 55-meter-wide asteroid, initially considered the most hazardous object on NASA's Center for Near-Earth Object Studies (CNEOS) Sentry Risk Table, now has a 99.72% chance of completely missing Earth.

The reassessment follows new observational data collected between February 18 and February 20, allowing for refined calculations of the asteroid's trajectory. As a result, NASA has downgraded its classification to Level 1 on the Torino Scale, which assesses the threat posed by near-Earth objects. Richard Binzel, creator of the Torino Scale, indicated that further observations might move

2024 YR4 to Level 0, signifying no risk. Despite the risk reduction, asteroid 2024 YR4 remains the most concerning object on the Sentry Risk Table, followed by asteroid 1950 DA, which has a 0.039% chance of impacting Earth in the year 2880. Experts stress that continuous monitoring will provide greater clarity, especially when the asteroid makes another approach in 2028.

David Rankin, an astronomer with the Catalina Sky Survey, explained that small uncertainties in measurements could result in large trajectory shifts over time. However, he reassured that additional observations will likely continue lowering any remaining impact probabilities.

NASA also acknowledged a minor possibility that 2024 YR4 could collide with the Moon, though the likelihood remains extremely low. The asteroid is now moving away from Earth and will not be visible to ground-based telescopes until 2028, when further tracking will refine its projected path. Scientists remain confident that it will continue its orbit around the Sun without posing any danger to Earth.

Amazonian Town Faces Crisis as Massive Sinkholes Expand



TPN Correspondent | Buriticupu

The city of Buriticupu in Brazil's northeastern Amazon is facing a growing crisis as massive sinkholes continue to expand, threatening the homes of at least 1,200 residents. The municipal government recently declared a state of emergency as the situation worsened.

In a decree issued earlier this month, officials warned that the sinkholes have been expanding "exponentially" in recent months, putting more homes at risk. Several buildings have already collapsed, and the danger continues to increase.

The issue has been unfolding for nearly 30 years due to heavy rains eroding sandy soils, worsened by deforestation and poorly planned construction. Known

as "voco-roca" in Brazil—a term of indigenous origin meaning "to tear the earth"—these sinkholes have now reached a critical stage.

The situation is particularly dire during the current rainy season, according to geographer Marcelino Farias of the Federal University of Maranhao. Long-time resident Antonia dos Anjos, 65, expressed her fears, saying, "There's this danger right in front of us, and nobody knows where the next hole will open up."

Buriticupu's secretary of public works, Lucas Conceicao, admitted that the municipality lacks the resources to handle the crisis. "The challenges range from stopping the erosion to relocating people from risk areas," he said.

Boult Launches Mustang Q Headphones, Torq and Dyno TWS Earbuds in India



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Boult has introduced its latest range of audio products in India, unveiling the Mustang Q over-the-ear Bluetooth headphones alongside Mustang Torq and Mustang Dyno truly wireless (TWS) earbuds. Developed in collaboration with Ford's Mustang, these new offerings feature a design inspired by the iconic car, complete with Mustang-themed stripes, logos, and color shades.

The Boult Mustang Q is priced at ₹2,499 and comes in a single Blue variant. The Mustang Torq and Mustang Dyno earbuds are priced at ₹1,499 and ₹1,299, respectively. The Torq model is available in Silver and Yellow, while the Dyno variant comes in Grey. All three products are now available for purchase in India.

The Boult Mustang Q headphones boast

an IP67-rated water-resistant build and promise up to 70 hours of battery life on a single charge with active noise cancellation (ANC) enabled. They are equipped with 12mm drivers, environmental noise cancellation (ENC), and Bluetooth 5.4 connectivity, ensuring seamless compatibility with Android and iOS devices. The headphones also offer four EQ modes—Bass, Rock, Vocal, and Pop—and support dual-device pairing. A 10-minute charge provides up to 10 hours of playback time. The Mustang Torq and Mustang Dyno earbuds feature 13mm drivers for enhanced bass and support AAC and SBC codecs. With a quad-mic setup and ENC, these earbuds aim to provide clear call quality with minimal background noise. They also support AI voice assistants and

offer touch controls for managing calls and media playback.

For gamers, both models feature a low-latency mode with a 45ms response time, which can be activated through the Boult Amp app. They are IPX5-rated for sweat and water resistance, ensuring durability for workouts and outdoor use. With Bluetooth 5.4 connectivity, the earbuds support dual-device pairing and USB Type-C fast charging. The Mustang Torq offers up to 60 hours of total playback and provides two hours of listening time with just a 10-minute charge.

Boult's latest lineup aims to cater to music lovers and gamers alike, combining extended battery life, enhanced durability, and premium design inspired by Ford's Mustang.

Digital photo snan at Maha Kumbh goes viral, sparks debate



TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj

A viral video from the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj has left the internet amused, showing a man offering a "digital photo snan" service for remote devotees. For a fee of ₹1,100, he claims to purify people's souls by immersing a photocopy of their picture in the sacred waters of the Triveni Sangam.

Identified as Deepak Goyal, the man in the video explains that devotees can send their photos via WhatsApp, which he prints and

dips in the holy river within 24 hours. The unusual service, which he refers to as his "startup," has sparked mixed reactions online. The video, shared by Instagram user Akash Banerjee, has garnered over 4.3 million views and more than 124,000 likes. Many users mocked the idea, calling it "next-level AI" and comparing it to a "billion-dollar startup," while others criticized it as exploiting people's faith. "China has DeepSeek, so what we have is DeepSnaan," one user joked, while another

commented, "This is what Digital India looks like." Some, however, defended him, saying he was simply using an opportunity.

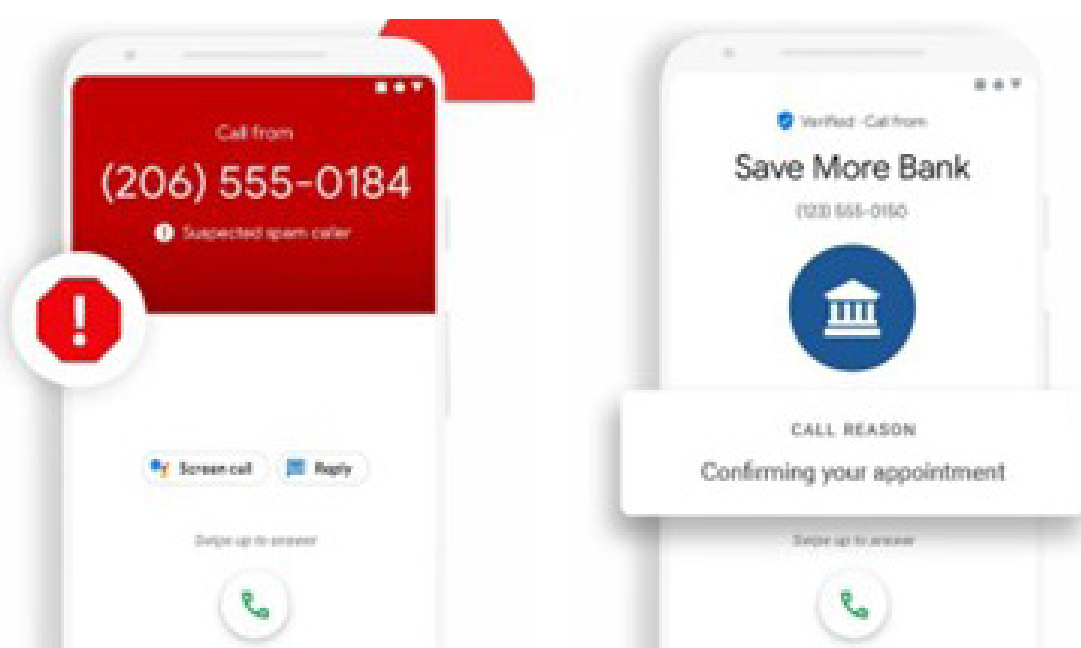
The Maha Kumbh Mela, which began on January 13 and will conclude on February 26, has drawn millions of devotees, including top political leaders, foreign dignitaries, industrialists, and film personalities. Many have participated in the ritual of taking a holy dip at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and mythical Saraswati rivers.

Google rolls out new filters for call history sorting on Android

Google is introducing a new feature in its Phone app that enhances call history sorting by categorizing calls based on type, such as spam, contacts, or unknown callers. This update, initially available to beta users, is now reportedly rolling out to all Android users.

According to a report by Android Authority, the new feature allows users to filter call history into categories like all, missed, contacts, spam, and non-spam. This makes it easier to find specific callers without scrolling through an extensive list of unrelated calls. However, users currently do not have the option to filter calls by incoming or outgoing status.

Call filters were first introduced with the 159.0.718038457-public-beta-pixel2024 update of the Phone app last month. At that time, it was limited to beta users with no official announcement on a public rollout. The latest report indicates that the feature is now becoming



widely available, though it may be a phased rollout controlled via a server-side update. As a result, some users, including Gadgets 360 staff members, have yet to see the feature on their devices, including Pixel phones.

Additional Spam Protection Features
The new call sorting feature

adds to Google's ongoing efforts to improve spam protection and enhance user convenience. One of the key tools in this regard is the Call Screen feature available on Pixel devices. It acts as an intermediary, screening calls by asking the caller their name and reason for calling, then providing a transcript to the receiver

before they decide whether to answer.

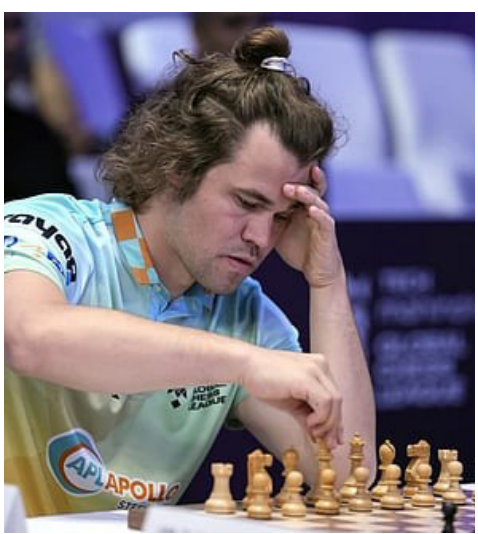
Another notable feature is reverse lookup, which helps users identify unknown numbers and filter out spam calls. These measures are part of Google's broader strategy to reduce call spam and improve the overall calling experience for Android users.

Andreeva Becomes Youngest WTA 1000 Finalist



Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva made history by becoming the youngest player to reach the final of a WTA 1000 event. The 17-year-old defeated sixth-seeded Elena Rybakina 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 at the Dubai Championships. Andreeva, who trailed 1-3 in the third set, won the last five games to secure her spot in the final. "If I lose 6-0, 5-0 or win 7-5, 6-4, it doesn't matter. I just go for my shots and try to bring out my best level," Andreeva said after the match.

Magnus Carlsen Auctions Jeans for Charity After Dress Code Dispute



Chess grandmaster Magnus Carlsen is turning his controversial jeans into a charitable contribution. The Norwegian player is auctioning off the pair of Italian luxury brand Corneliani jeans that led to a dress code dispute at the December World Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships. After being fined \$200 for wearing the jeans, Carlsen quit the competition in protest, although the tournament's governing body later loosened the dress code.

Now, fans and collectors have the opportunity to own Carlsen's infamous size 32 regular fit jeans, which are being sold on eBay with proceeds going to Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. The auction, set to end on March 1, had already reached an offer of \$8,200 as of February 21.

The proceeds will support the charity's mission of mentoring youth, including funding chess clinics and community events. According to Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, chess has long been a favorite activity that helps participants develop critical thinking and life skills. Carlsen's jeans will now help inspire the next generation of young minds.

India vs Pakistan: A Crucial Clash in ICC Champions Trophy 2025



The highly anticipated Pakistan vs India match in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 is set to take place on February 23 at Dubai International Stadium. This thrilling encounter will be pivotal for both teams, especially Pakistan, who must win to stay in contention for the title. India enters as the favorite, having won 8 of their last 12 ODIs against Pakistan in the past 15 years. Pakistan's squad includes key players like Babar Azam and Shaheen Shah Afridi, while India will rely on the form of Shubman Gill and Mohammed Shami. The match will start at 2:30 PM IST and is expected to feature a slow pitch, favoring spinners, with dew playing a significant role in the latter stages. The game will be broadcast live on Star Sports in India and PTV Sports in Pakistan, with online streaming available on JioHotstar and Myco. Fans can purchase tickets via the PCB website.

Manu Bhaker to Lead 35-Member Indian Shooting Team at South America World Cups



ACE shooter Manu Bhaker will lead a 35-member Indian shooting team at the upcoming ISSF World Cups in South America, scheduled for April. The events will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina (April 1-11) and Lima, Peru (April 13-22). The squad includes several Paris Olympians, and Bhaker, recently awarded the Dhyana Chand Khel Ratna for her performance in Paris, will compete in the women's 10m air pistol and

25m pistol events. Prominent shooters such as Anish Bhanwala, Vijayveer Sidhu, Esha Singh, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, and Sift Kaur Samra will also be part of the team. Ahead of the World Cups, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) will hold a training camp from March 14 at the Karni Singh Shooting Range, with expert coaches like Jaspal Rana and Jitu Rai.

Manu Bhaker to Lead 35-Member Indian Shooting Team at South America World Cups



Mumbai Indians secured a thrilling four-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the Women's Premier League on Friday, with key contributions from skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Amanjot Kaur. RCB posted a competitive total of 167/7, thanks to Ellyse Perry's explosive 81 off 43 balls, which included 11 fours and two sixes. Despite being at 57/4 at one stage, Perry, along with Richa Ghosh (28) and Smriti Mandhana (26), helped RCB recover. In reply, Harmanpreet Kaur's 50 off

38 balls, along with Nat Sciver-Brunt's quick-fire 42 off 21 and Amanjot's unbeaten 34 off 27, guided Mumbai to victory with one ball to spare. Amanjot was named Player of the Match for her all-round performance, including 3/22 with the ball.

Brief Scores:
 • Royal Challengers Bangalore: 167/7 (Perry 81, Ghosh 28; Amanjot 3/22)
 • Mumbai Indians: 170/6 in 19.5 overs (Harmanpreet 50, Sciver-Brunt 42, Amanjot 34*; Wareham 3/21, Garth 2/30)

Ranji Trophy: Kerala Makes History, Set to Face Vidarbha in Final



Kerala has created history by reaching their first-ever Ranji Trophy final, setting up a thrilling title clash against Vidarbha. This milestone came after a dramatic two-run first-innings lead over Gujarat in the semifinal. Despite Gujarat needing only 29 runs to surpass Kerala's score, left-arm spinner Aditya Sarwate took all three remaining wickets to bowl them out for 455. Kerala, who made their debut in the Ranji Trophy 68 years ago, had previously reached only their second semifinal. Vidarbha Reaches Final with 80-Run Victory Over Mumbai. In the other semifinal, Vidarbha's Harsh Dubey

stole the show with a match-winning five-wicket haul, leading his team to an 80-run victory over defending champions Mumbai. Dubey's 66-wicket season performance brought Vidarbha closer to their fourth Ranji Trophy final. They will now face Kerala in a highly anticipated final.

Brief Scores:
 • Vidarbha: 383 & 292
 • Mumbai: 270 & 325 all out (Thakur 66, Mulani 46; Dubey 5/127)
 • Kerala: 457 & 114/4 (Saxena 37*; Hingrajia 2/22)
 • Gujarat: 455 all out (Panchal 148, Patel 79, Desai 73; Sarwate 4/111, Saxena 4/149)

Rahul Dravid Comes Out of Retirement to Play Alongside Son Anvay

Former Indian cricket captain and coach, Rahul Dravid, made an unexpected return to the cricket field on Saturday, joining his son Anvay for a match with the Vijaya Cricket Club (Malur) in the Third Division (Group I) for the Nassur Memorial Shield. This marks a rare father-son cricketing moment, with Dravid, who had retired from professional cricket

years ago, playing alongside his son. Dravid, who had been in Guwahati for the Rajasthan Royals' pre-season camp, returned to the city recently and took the field for this special occasion. The match saw AG Aditya take four wickets (4/60) for the Young Lions.





Chiranjeevi to Share Screen with Bollywood Actress Rani Mukerji in Upcoming Film



Megastar Chiranjeevi is gearing up for a series of projects, with his current focus on the film Vishwambhar. However, another exciting venture is on the horizon with director Srikant Odela, who recently hit a major success with Dasara. In this untitled project, there is buzz that Bollywood actress Rani Mukerji will star opposite

Chiranjeevi. The role of the heroine holds significant importance in the storyline, and Srikant Odela has recommended Rani Mukerji for the part. After considering the suggestion, Chiranjeevi reportedly gave his approval, and this news is creating a stir in Bollywood circles. The film will be presented by actor Nani.

Rakul Preet Singh's Movie "Mere Husband Ki Biwi" Offers Bumper Deal to Audiences



Rakul Preet Singh's latest Hindi film Mere Husband Ki Biwi was released yesterday, starring Arjun Kapoor and Bhumi Pednekar. To attract more viewers, the producers have come up with a "Buy One, Get One Free" offer for movie tickets, similar to promotional tactics often seen in business to boost sales. However, the film's

collections have not been as impressive as expected. Meanwhile, Vicky Kaushal and Rashmika Mandanna's Chhava is creating waves at the box office. Despite the exciting offer, the audience turnout for Rakul's movie remains lukewarm. The promotional strategy hopes to draw more crowds into theaters.

SSMB 29 Shooting Underway in Hyderabad, SS Rajamouli's Press Meet Expected Soon

Superstar Mahesh Babu's eagerly awaited film SSMB 29, directed by SS Rajamouli, is currently under production, with the team using advanced technology, including 35mm/70mm scanners, similar to those used by Hollywood director Christopher Nolan. The film, with a budget surpassing Rs. 1000 Crores, promises a global-scale adventure. The first schedule is taking place in

Hyderabad, featuring large sets such as a replica of Varanasi's Manikarnika Ghat. The movie will take audiences on a journey from Varanasi to African jungles. Mahesh Babu stars in a powerful role, with Priyanka Chopra Jonas playing the female lead. A press meet with Rajamouli and Mahesh Babu is expected soon, where more details on the film's story and characters will be shared.

"Odela 2" Teaser Unveiled: Tamannaah's Intense Role Raises Anticipation

The teaser of Odela 2, starring Tamannaah in the lead role, has been released, and it promises to deliver thrilling moments. The film, a sequel to the successful 2022 movie Odela Railway Station, has generated massive expectations among fans. Directed by Akosh Teja, with renowned director Sampath Nandi providing the story and producing the film, Odela 2 has captured attention for its intense scenes.

The teaser, released during the Mahakumbh Mela, showcases Tamannaah as a fierce character resembling a "lady Aghora," adding to the suspenseful vibe. Her portrayal as Shiva Shakti leaves the audience intrigued, and the overall visual experience has caught the public's eye. The film's music is composed by Ajneesh Loknath, with Madhu Creations producing under the banner of D. Madhu.



Mahath Raghavendra's Romantic Comedy Series "Emoji" Set to Stream on Aha



A new romantic comedy series Emoji, aimed at the youth, is all set to stream on the OTT platform Aha starting February 28th. This series, originally a hit in Tamil in 2022, is now making its way to Telugu audiences. The story revolves around love and marriage, blending humor and emotions.

Starring Mahath Raghavendra, Manasa Chaudhari, and Devika in key roles, Emoji

follows the journey of a young man and woman who fall in love, only for a series of events to pull them apart. The young man, deciding to move on, begins a new relationship with another girl, but his first love reappears, creating tension. Directed by Sampath, this series is expected to captivate viewers with its light-hearted yet meaningful storyline.

Vicky Kaushal Honoured After PM Modi Praises "Chhaava"



Actor Vicky Kaushal expressed his immense gratitude after Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised his historical action drama Chhaava. During the inaugural function of the 98th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan (ABMSS), Modi highlighted the success of the film, stating, "Chhaava is making headlines everywhere right now." The film, which has grossed over Rs 300 crore globally, features Kaushal portraying Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, son of the

Maratha empire's founder, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Kaushal took to Instagram, saying, "Honoured beyond words! Grateful to Hon. PM Narendra Modi ji. #Chhaava." Rashmika Mandanna, who plays Yesubai in the movie, also shared her thanks on social media. Chhaava has been declared tax-free in Goa and Madhya Pradesh, and the film has received widespread recognition for its portrayal of Sambhaji Maharaj's legacy.



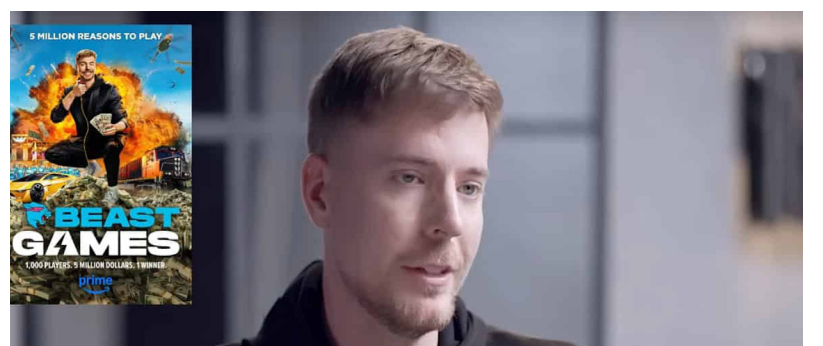
Ali Fazal and Sonali Bendre Join Forces with "Paatal Lok" Director Prosit Roy for an Action Thriller



Ali Fazal is set to star in a high-octane action thriller series helmed by Prosit Roy, the director of Paatal Lok Season 1. Alongside Fazal, Bollywood actress Sonali Bendre will play a key role in the series, adding to the excitement of the project. The shoot is scheduled to begin in April, with Fazal expected to showcase a never-before-seen avatar. The series, which remains untitled, promises to be a large-scale action spectacle, combining intense sequences

with a compelling narrative. A source close to the production shared that Prosit Roy's storytelling expertise and Fazal's dedication, combined with Bendre's strong screen presence, will make this an exceptional project. In addition to this, Fazal is busy with Rakht Brahmmand, a period fantasy drama by Raj & DK, and is also preparing for several upcoming projects, including Mirzapur: The Film, Metro In Dino, Lahore 1947, Thug Life, and Rule Breakers.

MrBeast Admits Losing Rs 86 Crores on "Beast Games" Show, Talks Mental Health Struggles



YouTube star MrBeast, real name Jimmy Donaldson, revealed that his biggest project, Beast Games, ended up costing him a staggering Rs 86 crores in losses. Despite being one of the most popular YouTubers with a net worth of around Rs 5000 crores, the

show, although a massive success on Prime Video, didn't recoup its massive production cost. In an interview on The Diary of a CEO podcast, MrBeast shared that he spent over Rs 860 crores on the project, with Rs 440 crores coming from his own savings.