



Weather Forecast

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

SLBC tunnel Accident

Navy team joined in rescue operations in Srisailam

SLBC tunnel roof collapse leaves eight people trapped.

Heavy mud obstructs rescue efforts; 15 feet of debris at the site.

Navy team arrived in

TPN Correspondent | Nagarkurnool

The roof of the SLBC (Srisailam Left Bank Canal) tunnel collapsed at Domalapenta in Nagarkurnool district on Saturday morning, trapping eight people inside. As the victims have been stuck since yesterday morning, concerns over their condition are growing.

At the 14th kilometer of the tunnel, a 100-meter-long thick mud was found. Rescue teams are trying to cross the mud in the tunnel. Fishing boats, tires, wooden planks... are being used to cross the mud. Only after crossing the 100-meter-long mud will they reach the accident site.

Rescue teams have managed to advance 50 meters towards the collapse



in Srisailam on Sunday night. Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy and Jupally Krishna Rao are closely monitoring the rescue efforts at the site.

Rahul Gandhi speaks with Revanth Reddy

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi called Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to inquire about the accident. He was briefed on the situation, including details about the trapped individuals—two engineers, two operators, and four laborers—and the measures being taken to rescue them. Their conversation lasted about 20 minutes.

Rescue workers have ventured 13.5 kilometers inside Sarangam to reach the trapped victims. However, they still need to cover another half kilometer, where mud and water are creating further obstacles. Teams are working tirelessly to overcome these challenges and reach the accident site.



Rajalingamurthy Murder Case



- Bhupalapalli police crack the sensational murder case.
- Seven arrested, main accused identified as Renukuntla Sanjeeva.
- Land dispute confirmed as motive
- Manhunt underway for absconding accused.

TPN Correspondent | Bhupalapalli

The mystery surrounding the sensational Rajalingamurthy murder case in Telangana has been unraveled. After an intense investigation by six special teams, Bhupalapalli police have identified the culprits behind the crime and arrested seven individuals involved in the murder conspiracy. A manhunt is still underway for a few

more absconding accused. According to police reports, the murder, which took place on the 19th of this month, was driven by a long-standing land dispute. The investigation revealed that Renukuntla Sanjeeva, along with his relatives and associates, planned and executed the killing. The police have named Renukuntla Sanjeeva as A-1, Pingali Semanth alias Bablu as A-2, More Kumar as A-3, Kothuri Kiran as A-4, Renukuntla Komurayya as A-5, Dasarapu Krishna as A-6, and Renukuntla Sambayya as A-7 in the case. The brutal murder has sparked political controversy in the state, drawing strong reactions from various quarters. The police are continuing efforts to apprehend the remaining suspects and ensure justice in the case.

Revanth Reddy couple attend Maha Kumbhabhishekam at Yadadri



CM Revanth Reddy and his wife participate in Maha Poornahuti rituals.

Grand Maha Kumbhabhishekam and Maha Samprokshan at Yadadri temple.

Special pujas conducted at Panchatala Vimana Gopuram.

TPN Correspondent | Yadadri

The Maha Kumbhabhishekam and Maha Samprokshan rituals at Sri Lakshminarasimhaswamy Temple in Yadadri were conducted with great splendor. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and his wife attended the event as chief guests.

Several dignitaries, including MP Kiran Kumar Reddy, Bhuvanagiri MLA Anil Kumar Reddy, Government Whip Beerla Ilayya, and Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, also participated in the auspicious ceremonies.

As part of the program, the Chief Minister and his wife took part in the Panchakundathamka Maha Poornahuti ritual. Later, they entered the Antaralayam Mada streets and performed special pujas, including offerings at the Swarnamaya Panchatala Vimana Gopuram.

A large number of devotees and party activists gathered to witness the sacred event, marking a significant spiritual occasion at the temple.

Congress's hand of protection... has become a stubborn hand

- Union Minister Kishan Reddy criticizes Telangana govt.
- Says Congress has failed to implement election promises.
- Accuses the govt of neglecting unemployment and teachers' issues.



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Union Minister and BJP Telangana chief Kishan Reddy launched a scathing attack on the Congress-led Telangana government, accusing it

of failing to fulfill its promises and misleading the public with mere announcements. He remarked that the Congress' so-called "hand of protection" had now turned into

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BJP shielding Congress CM Revanth Reddy: KTR

- KTR accuses BJP of protecting Telangana CM Revanth Reddy.
- Claims BJP ignored corruption allegations despite evidence.



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is acting as a protective shield for Telangana Chief Minister and Congress leader A. Revanth Reddy. He accused the BJP of turning a blind eye to alleged financial irregularities involving central funds, including the Amrit tenders and the Civil Supplies scam. KTR claimed that despite BRS submitting evidence of misappropri-

ations to the central government, the BJP has not taken any action against Revanth Reddy. He pointed out that while the Centre swiftly responded to the Kaleshwaram project issue, it has remained silent on other key matters such as

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Congress, BJP locked in fierce battle for Telangana MLC polls

Congress and BJP face off in the Karimnagar-Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad graduates' constituency.

BRS stays away, leading to a direct fight between the two parties.

BJP hopes to replicate its Lok Sabha success

Congress aims to retain its seat.

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A high-stakes battle is set between Telangana's ruling Congress and the opposition BJP for the Legislative Council seat from the Karimnagar-Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad graduates' constituency. With the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) opting out, the contest has turned into a direct fight between the two nation-



al parties ahead of the February 27 election. Congress has fielded V. Narender Reddy, chair-

man of a chain of educational institutions from Karimnagar, while the BJP has nominated in-

dustrialist C. Anji Reddy. The outcome is expected to be a crucial indicator of political sentiment—a win for Congress will be seen as a vote of confidence in its 14-month rule, while a BJP victory will boost its prospects in North Telangana, where it made major gains in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

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Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Reviews Progress of BTPS Development Works

- Deputy CM Pushes for Timely Completion of BTPS Works
- Three-Member Committee Proposed for Quick Resolution of Technical Issues at BTPS
- Non-Technical Jobs for Locals and Ash Utilization for Brick-Making Encouraged



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Feb 24 : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu has urged Gen-co officials to accelerate the pending development works at Bhadradi Thermal Power Plant (BTPS) to meet the stipulated timelines. During a review meeting at Praja Bhavan on Sunday, the Deputy CM emphasized the need for fixed timeframes for BHEL to complete electrical, mechanical, and civil works as per the agreement. Mr. Vikramarka also proposed forming a three-member committee, consisting of a Director, Chief Engineer, and an official, to swiftly address technical issues and restore power generation in case of snags. He stressed that the committee

should ensure prompt resolution of problems and submit reports within a fixed timeframe to prevent any losses. The Deputy CM also inquired about pending works like coal storage shed construction and railway line works for coal transport. He directed officials to maintain quality standards while carrying out these works and to ensure timely completion. Additionally, he recommended recruit-

ing non-technical workers from local communities via the ITDA Project Director and encouraged tribal youth to set up brick-making units using ash from the plant. Mr. Vikramarka also instructed the development of a 3D walkway model for the BTPS. The meeting was attended by Energy Secretary Sundeep Kumar Sultania, Gen-co Directors, and other senior officials.

CM Revanth Reddy to Visit Manchiryala Today



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Feb 24 : Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will be visiting Manchiryala on February 24 to attend a significant meeting organized by local Congress leaders. The event will take place at the Collector's office premises, where Manchiryala MLA Kokkarala Prem Sagar Rao and Congress District President Kokkarala Surekha will be hosting a gathering for graduates. Along with CM Revanth Reddy, TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, IT Minister Sridhar Babu, Women and Child Welfare Minister Dhanasari Seethakka, and Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar will also attend the event. The meeting is being held in support of Aloor's leader Narender Reddy, who is contesting for the Graduates MLC seat representing the combined districts of Karimnagar, Adilabad, Medak, and Nizamabad. MLA Prem Sagar Rao and District Congress President Surekha inspected the venue at the Naspur Collectorate and instructed party leadership to arrange transportation for a large number of workers and the public to attend the event.

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Congress's hand of protection... has become a stubborn hand

a "stubborn hand," showing arrogance instead of governance. Speaking at an event, Kishan Reddy expressed disappointment over the government's inaction on key issues, particularly unemployment and teachers' grievances. He alleged that the Congress had only focused on publicity stunts while neglecting real developmental work in the state. "There is no proper governance in Telangana, and the public's concerns remain unaddressed. In just 14 months, the government's anti-people attitude has

been exposed. The people of Telangana are eagerly waiting for the day when the Congress government will step down," he remarked. He further criticized the administration for making grand promises before the elections but failing to take concrete steps toward their implementation. The BJP leader asserted that the people of Telangana were growing increasingly frustrated with the Congress rule and would soon reject its leadership.

BJP shielding Congress CM Revanth Reddy: KTR

the Sunkisala and SLBC mishaps. "The BJP protecting Revanth Reddy has become a million-dollar question," KTR remarked, alleging that a secret political deal might be in place.

"There is suspicion that Revanth Reddy has assured the BJP of joining at the right time, which is why the central government is shielding him," he added.

Congress, BJP locked in fierce battle for Telangana MLC polls

The BJP, which won all four Lok Sabha seats in this region—Karimnagar, Medak, Nizamabad, and Adilabad—is banking on its growing influence. Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar are leading an aggressive campaign. BJP has also fielded candidates in the Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda teachers' constituencies, aiming to expand its presence in the Legislative Council. Congress, meanwhile, has deployed senior leaders, including Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud, to counter the BJP's push. The ruling party is highlighting welfare schemes and job recruitments, while the

BJP is targeting Congress for unfulfilled promises, including the commitment to provide two lakh jobs in a year. Adding to the intrigue, both Congress and BJP are accusing each other of having a secret deal with BRS. Congress alleges that BRS is staying away to help BJP, while the saffron party claims that Congress and BRS have a tacit understanding. Political analysts believe the election outcome could reflect the mood among educated voters across 42 Assembly segments. With BJP's recent rise in Telangana and Congress striving to consolidate its rule, the battle for this MLC seat is shaping up to be a crucial test for both parties.



TPN , Correspondent

Warangal , Feb 24 : Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, criticized the Congress party's stance on rice farming in Telangana. Addressing a gathering of teacher voters at Vagdevi Engineering College during his election campaign for the MLC polls, Sanjay termed Congress's call to refrain from rice cultivation as "absurd."

He highlighted that despite ample rainfall and full rivers, Congress's incompetence prevented the state from utilizing water resources effectively. Sanjay pointed to the government's poor handling of Krishna water and the damage caused to the Kaleshwaram project as major contributors to the water scarcity in northern Telangana, turning it into a "desert." The Minister slammed Congress for ad-

vising against rice cultivation, claiming it was against the interests of Telangana's farmers. He urged graduate and teacher voters to understand the difficulties faced by the people and teach Congress a lesson in the upcoming elections. He also stated that the BRS had to pull out from the race due to a lack of candidates, while Congress brought in an outsider to contest.

"Congress Shouldn't Speak Against Rice Farming" – Union Minister Bandi Sanjay

Ponnam campaigns for MLC Elections in Vemulawada



TPN , Correspondent

Vemulavada , Feb 24 : A preparatory meeting for the upcoming Urban Mandal Graduate MLC elections was held at Sri Convention Hall in Agraharam. The event was attended by AIICC Secretary Vishwanathan, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, Government Whip and Vemulawada MLA Aadi Srinivas, Sir-cilla Constituency In-charge K.K. Mahender Reddy, PCC General Secretary Mahesh, and District Library Chairman Nagula Satyanarayana. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar urged Congress workers to take

responsibility and ensure the victory of Congress candidate Narender Reddy by personally engaging with over 800 voters in the region. He highlighted the development work done by the Telangana government in the past 15 months and criticized the BJP for its lack of action on local issues such as the Vemulawada temple development and the Mid-Maneru flood-affected villages. Prabhakar called on local leaders to work diligently for the victory of Congress, as Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is scheduled to visit Karimnagar tomorrow.

BJP MLA Raja Singh Receives Threatening Calls Again



TPN , Correspondent Hyderabad , Feb 24 : BJP MLA from Goshamahal, Raja Singh, has once again fallen victim to threatening calls. On Sunday afternoon, he received two separate calls within a span of 30 minutes from different numbers, with the callers issuing severe threats. The callers allegedly warned Raja Singh that they would “cut off his head” either on that day or the next. Additionally, they claimed that neither Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath nor Prime Minister Narendra Modi could protect him. The first call was made at 3:30 PM, and the second followed at 3:54 PM. After receiving these threats, Raja Singh immediately informed the police and filed a formal complaint. As per the

report, the police have registered a case and are investigating the origins of the calls and the identity of the callers. This is not the first instance of threatening calls for the Goshamahal MLA. Previously, Singh has received similar calls, and these recurring threats have raised concerns about his safety. Authorities are taking the matter seriously and have launched a thorough investigation to ensure the protection of the MLA. They are focusing on tracking down the callers and determining the motive behind the threats. Further details of the investigation will emerge as the inquiry progresses. The incident has drawn attention to the increasing security concerns faced by public figures and politicians.

Minister Sridhar Babu Confident of Winning Hat-Trick in MLC Elections



TPN , Correspondent Hyderabad , Feb 24 As Telangana gears up for the upcoming Graduate and Teacher MLC elections on February 27, the ruling Congress and BJP parties have been vigorously campaigning. However, the opposition BRS (Bharat Rashtra Samithi) seems to be staying away from the election race, fueling speculation that they are preparing for defeat. In response to these developments, Minister Sridhar Babu addressed the media, emphasizing that the BRS is not concerned with political gains from the elections but instead focused on the welfare of backward communities. He clarified the party's stance on the recently conducted caste survey, explaining that it was not aimed at gaining political leverage, but to ensure the upliftment of marginalized sections. During his address, Sridhar

Babu also raised a pertinent question regarding the BJP's willingness to make constitutional amendments. He pointed out that the BRS had already set up a commission to address the issue of SC (Scheduled Caste) categorization, indicating the party's commitment to resolving the matter through institutional means. Confident about the party's performance in the upcoming elections, Minister Babu boldly stated, “We will complete a hat-trick in the MLC elections.” His optimism stands in stark contrast to the perceived lack of enthusiasm from the BRS's opposition, with rumors suggesting that the ruling party may face challenges in the upcoming polls. As election day approaches, the focus shifts to whether the BRS can indeed secure a victory despite being sidelined in the ongoing electoral battle.

MP Eatala Rajender Accuses Congress of Deceiving People in Telangana

TPN , Correspondent Hyderabad , Feb 24

Telangana MP Eatala Rajender has accused the Congress government of misleading the people with false promises and claims of providing “heaven in the palm of the hand.” Speaking at an election campaign event in Sangareddy on Sunday, Rajender took a strong stance against the growing trend of fake news and malicious campaigns circulating on social media platforms.

He called on teachers and graduates, whom he described as educated and aware, to avoid falling for the deceptive narratives being spread online. According to Rajender, those without real strength and credibility are the ones behind the circulation of such rumors. He urged the public to remain cautious and discerning when confronted with false information.

Rajender also highlighted the BJP's active and united election campaign, which has been gaining momentum over the past month. He emphasized that the BJP is moving forward with a coordinated effort, with everyone in the party involved in pushing the campaign ahead strongly. In his remarks, the MP also accused Congress of trying to weaken BJP leaders by



spreading malicious rumors. He assured the public that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the upcoming 2024-25 Union Budget would allocate a significant Rs. 4 lakh crore to tackle unemployment and address critical issues

facing the nation. Rajender's comments reflect the growing political tension as parties gear up for the upcoming elections, with accusations and counter-accusations flying between political rivals.

KTR Accuses BJP of Shielding CM Revanth Reddy's Wrongdoings



TPN , Correspondent Hyderabad , Feb 24

BRS Working President and former minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has accused Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of receiving protection from the BJP at the Centre, despite his alleged involvement in irregularities and governance failures. In a series of posts on social media, KTR questioned why the BJP continues to back the Revanth government in the face of numerous allegations. KTR raised concerns over the Rs 1,137 crore contract awarded to Revanth's brother in the Amrit scam, claiming that he possesses evidence showing that the contract was approved despite the recipient lacking the required qualifications. He emphasized that the BJP's backing of the Revanth government, despite such serious allegations, raises questions about the integ-

egrity of the central leadership. The BRS leader also pointed to the Centre's inaction on critical issues, including the collection of RR tax from builders, which Prime Minister Modi had personally acknowledged. Despite this, the Centre has failed to take any concrete steps to address the situation, KTR remarked. Further criticizing the Centre, KTR highlighted the silence surrounding the Enforcement Directorate's ongoing investigation into Minister Pungulapati's alleged wrongdoings. With over 150 days having passed since the investigation began, he pointed out that the Centre had remained passive, failing to take any decisive action. KTR's comments reflect growing political tensions in Telangana as both the ruling BRS and opposition parties intensify their campaigning ahead of the upcoming elections.

Teensmaar Mallanna's Shocking Remarks on Caste Survey

TPN , Correspondent Hyderabad , Feb 24 :

In a bold statement, Congress MLC Teenmaar Mallanna (alias Chintapandu Naveen) has sharply criticized the recent caste survey conducted by the Telangana government, labeling it inaccurate and flawed. Speaking about the survey, Mallanna expressed concerns over the lack of proper supervision and coordination during the process, which he believes led to its failure. Mallanna revealed that one of the officials involved in the survey confessed that there was little genuine interest in conducting a thorough caste enumeration. Instead, the process was rushed, resulting in a poor-quality survey. He emphasized that this lack of diligence could undermine the

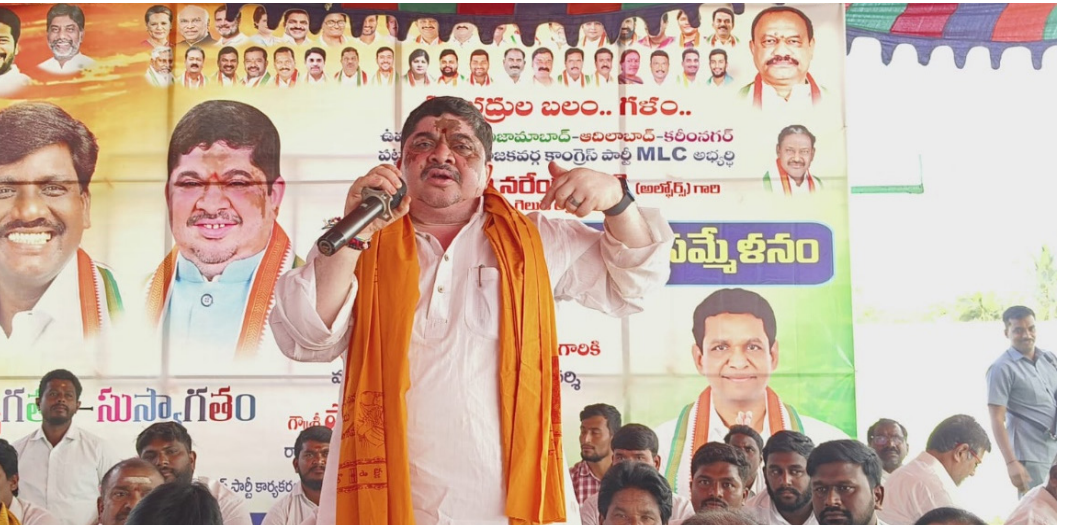
intended goals of the survey, which was meant to gather crucial data about caste-based demographics. Interestingly, Mallanna also praised former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) for his efforts in conducting the 2014 family survey, which he claimed was more comprehensive and well-executed, with no family being missed in the process. His comments have sparked a fresh debate on the accuracy and effectiveness of the current caste survey, with many questioning whether the rushed execution could lead to flawed data that may impact policy decisions. The controversy around the caste survey continues to gain traction, with both political leaders and citizens closely watching the developments.



Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar Leads Pattabhadrula Aatmiya Sammelan in Husnabad

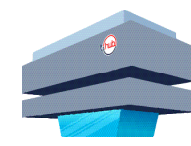
TPN , Correspondent Husnabad , Feb 24 :

The Pattabhadrula Aatmiya Sammelan was held in Husnabad under the leadership of Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, bringing together influential leaders from 7 mandals and several villages. AICC Secretary P. Vishwanathan was the chief guest at the event, where he educated attendees about voter awareness, urging them to ensure that every vote counts in the upcoming elections. Key leaders like Riyaz (Chairman of the State Library Board), Lingamurthy (Chairman of Siddipet Library Board), Congress leader Bomma Sriram Chakravarthy, and various committee chairpersons also attended. Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar emphasized the importance of personal outreach to voters, stressing that every vote must be secured



for Congress candidate Narendra Reddy. He reflected on the success of the previous Parliamentary elections in Husnabad and reaffirmed his commitment

to development. The minister called for unity and hard work to ensure Congress' victory in the upcoming Pattabhadrula elections.



Welyke Makeup and Hair Academy Opens in Hyderabad to Shape Future Beauty Professionals

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Feb 24

Welyke Makeup and Hair Academy has officially opened its doors in Yousufguda, promising to be a premier destination for beauty education. Founded by Mumait Khan, along with co-founders Javed and Keith, the academy seeks to foster the next generation of beauty professionals specializing in hairstyling, makeup artistry, skincare, and wellness.

The grand inauguration, attended by notable personalities including actress Jyothi, Aksa Khan, rapper Roll Rida, and choreographer Joseph, marked the beginning of an exciting educational journey for aspiring beauty experts. Welyke aims to provide top-tier training in advanced hairstyling, makeup, skincare, and nail technology, delivered by internationally trained instructors with vast industry experience.

"We aim to inspire and equip passionate individuals with hands-on training, personalized mentorship, and exposure to the latest industry trends," said Mumait Khan. The academy is dedicated to offering a supportive, inclusive environment, ensuring students have the resources and guidance to unleash their creative potential.

To celebrate its launch, Welyke is hosting a grand opening event on February 23rd,



featuring campus tours, live demonstrations, and networking opportunities. This event invites students, professionals, and the community to experience the academy's offerings firsthand. With a focus on building skills, confidence,

and professionalism, Welyke Makeup and Hair Academy is set to be a game-changer in the beauty industry, offering aspiring beauty experts the training and exposure needed to succeed in the fast-evolving beauty world.

AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan Admitted to Hyderabad Apollo Hospital



TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Feb 24

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has been admitted to Apollo Hospital in Hyderabad after complaining of fever and severe back pain. Upon his arrival, doctors promptly conducted a series of scans and medical tests to evaluate his condition. Following an initial review of the test results, the medical team advised that further tests might be required to determine the full extent of his health concerns.

Despite the ongoing health issues, it was confirmed that Pawan Kalyan will attend the upcoming Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Budget sessions, which are set to begin tomorrow. His

participation in the sessions is seen as critical as the state prepares to address important financial matters in the Assembly.

Doctors have assured that while Pawan Kalyan's condition is being closely monitored, he plans to undergo additional medical tests in the first week of March for a more detailed assessment. The public and political circles have expressed concern for the Deputy Chief Minister's health, with many wishing him a speedy recovery. The hospital management has assured that they are providing all necessary medical attention and care during his stay. Pawan Kalyan's dedication to attending the legislative sessions despite his health challenges has been acknowledged by his supporters and colleagues.



Eight IPS Officers Transferred in Telangana; Two Relieved to Join Andhra Pradesh Cadre

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Feb 24

The Telangana government has transferred eight Indian Police Service (IPS) officers as part of a major reshuffle in the state's police department. The new postings include P Vishwa Prasad as Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime), Dr. B Naveen Kumar as Superintendent of Police (CID), Dr. Gajurao Bhupal as Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic Cyberabad), D Joel Davis as Joint Commissioner of Police (Hyderabad), Siriseti Sankeerth as ADC to the Governor, B Ram Reddy as Superintendent of Police (CID), Ch Sridhar as Superintendent of Police (Intelligence), and S Chaitanya Kumar as Deputy Commissioner of Police (SB Hyderabad).

In a related development, two IPS officers, Anjani Kumar (former Telangana DGP and Chairman for Road Safety) and Abhilasha Bisht (Director of Police Academy), were relieved from their duties in Telangana to join the Andhra Pradesh cadre. This move follows an order from the Union Home Ministry. Additionally, Karimnagar Police Commissioner Abhishek Mohanty has also been directed to report to the Andhra Pradesh cadre.

Liquor Shops Closed for Three Days in Telangana Due to Elections



TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Feb 24

In a move to maintain the integrity of the upcoming MLC elections, the Telangana state government has announced that liquor stores will remain closed for three days, from February 25 to 27. This directive follows an order from the Election Commission, ahead of the elections scheduled for February 27 in the combined districts of Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Medak, and Adilabad. The closure is intended to prevent any electoral malpractices and ensure a fair and peaceful voting process.

The decision to close liquor shops has come at a time when the state has also witnessed an increase in beer prices, adding to the challenges of the liquor industry. The Election Commission's instruction aims to eliminate any potential influence on voters and maintain the transparency of the electoral process.

The closure will impact the availability of liquor in these districts, and the election authorities are working to ensure that all procedures are followed for a smooth election day. With this move, the government hopes to uphold the integrity of the election process and facilitate a more transparent and fair environment for voters.

Governor of Telangana Ensures Vigilance in Ongoing Tunnel Collapse Rescue Operations

TPN , Correspondent
Nagarkurnool , Feb 24

Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, spoke over the telephone with the District Collector of Nagarkurnool to receive updates on the ongoing rescue operations following the tunnel collapse in the district. The Governor was briefed on the extensive efforts being made to ensure the safe rescue of individuals trapped inside the tunnel.

The District Collector informed the Governor that rescue teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and the Army, along with expert personnel, are actively engaged in the rescue operation. These teams are working around the clock to extricate the trapped individuals and provide them with the necessary medical assistance.

In response, Shri Jishnu Dev Varma instructed the authorities to intensify their efforts to ensure that all individuals are safely rescued as soon as possible. He emphasized the need to expedite the operations and ensure that every possible resource is utilized to bring the trapped individuals to safety.

The Governor also requested regular updates from the local authorities on the progress of the rescue operation, stressing the importance of quick action to save lives. The incident has sparked widespread concern, and the efforts of the rescue teams have been commended for their dedication and tireless work in the face of adversity.



Key Decision by Revanth Reddy Government: Indiramma Houses Without Pillars

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Feb 24

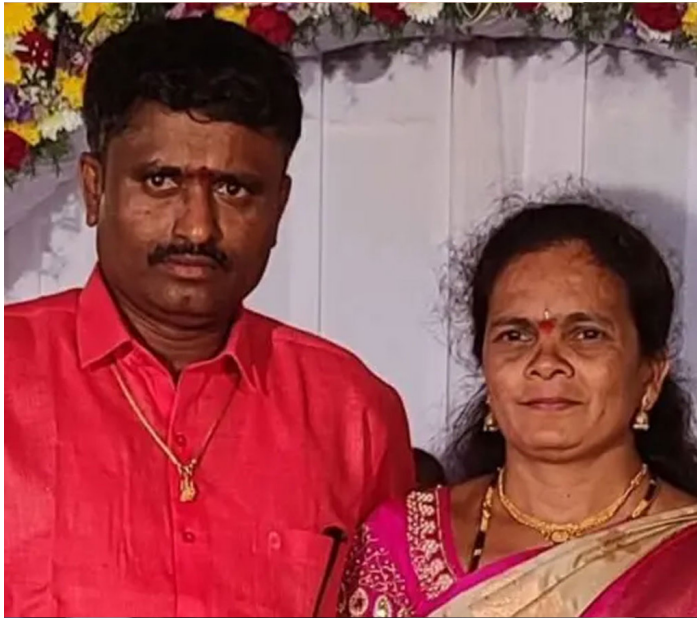
The Telangana government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, has announced a significant change in its Indiramma housing scheme. The new decision, aimed at reducing construction costs, involves building the houses without pillars. This move is seen as a way to avoid the additional expenses and delays that often arise from pillar-based construction, which has led to the stalling of many housing projects in the past.

Reports on social media suggest that the government plans to adopt this new construction method in order to expedite the process and complete housing projects within budget. The houses will be built without pillars, with the government focusing on constructing model houses in every mandal without compromising on the quality and safety of the structures. The initiative is part of the Telangana government's continued efforts to provide affordable housing for the people. Plans include distributing between three to five thousand Indiram-

ma houses per constituency, with distribution beginning from January 26. The government has already finalized a list of beneficiaries who are eligible for the scheme, ensuring that the process will move forward smoothly. This new approach is seen as a significant step towards addressing the housing needs of the state's economically disadvantaged communities. By reducing construction costs and speeding up the process, the Revanth Reddy government hopes to provide more families with a permanent and affordable place to live.



Rajalingamurthi Murder Case Mystery Solved: Police Arrest Seven



TPN , Correspondent Hyderabad , Feb 24 : The mystery surrounding the murder of Rajalingamurthi has been solved, with the police confirming that the crime was a result of a land dispute. In connection with the case, seven individuals have been arrested, while three others remain at large. SP Kiran Khare presented the arrested suspects before the media, including A1 Renikunta Sanjeev, A2 Pingili Seemanth, A3 More

Kumar, A4 Kotturi Kiran, A5 Renikunta Komurayya, A6 Dasari Krishna, and A7 Renikunta Sambayya. However, A8 Kotha Haribabu, A9 Pulla Naresh, and A10 Pulla Suresh are still on the run. The investigation revealed that four individuals were directly involved in the murder, while two others assisted in the crime. SP Kiran Khare confirmed that further investigation is underway, and more details will emerge soon.

Police Encourage Student to Overcome Fear and Write Gurukula Eligibility Exam



TPN , Correspondent Hyderabad , Feb 24 : The Gurukula eligibility exam for classes 6 to 9 under Telangana Social Welfare Gurukula Schools was held on Sunday. During the examination, a student, accompanied by his father, expressed fear and refused to enter the exam center. The student said he was scared and hesitant to take the test. At this moment, KYC Inspector Ravi Kumar and

Hanmakonda ACP Devennder Reddy, who were on duty, stepped in to calm the student, offering encouragement and moral support. Their gentle persuasion helped the student overcome his fears and enter the exam center. The video of this heartwarming interaction is now going viral, and many people have praised the police officers for their compassionate approach in supporting the student.

Confusion in Gurukula Entrance Exam: Same Hall Ticket Issued to Two Students



TPN , Correspondent Hyderabad , Feb 24 : The Telangana government conducted the Gurukula entrance exam across the state on Sunday. However, confusion arose during the exam held at the Swarnabharati College in rural mandals. Two students were assigned the same hall ticket, leading to one student, Mulakapathi Dheeraj, being denied entry to the exam. Dheeraj, who arrived first, was unable to sit for the test as the authorities did not allow him inside, leaving him disappointed. His parents have demanded justice, blaming the officials for the mistake. Similarly, a student from Kusumanchi and another from Nella-kondapalli faced issues due to errors in their documents and income certificates. Parents have appealed to the district collector to allow their children to retake the exam.

Kodandaram Supports Ashok Kumar in MLC Elections, Emphasizes Teacher Issues



TPN , Correspondent Siddipet , Feb 24 : Telangana Jana Samithi President and MLC, Professor Kodandaram, expressed that only a fellow teacher can truly understand the challenges faced by educators. Speaking at the Siddipet Press Club, he extended his support to Karimnagar MLC candidate, V. Ashok Kumar, urging teachers to vote for him, as Ashok is well aware of their

problems. Telangana Pradesh Teachers Federation (TPTE) President, Anil Kumar, echoed similar sentiments, encouraging teachers to prioritize their fellow teacher, Ashok Kumar, in the election. Ashok Kumar thanked Kodandaram for his support and promised to raise key teacher issues such as CPS, GO 317, and KGBVs in the legislative assembly if elected.

SLBC Tunnel Collapse: Workers Reveal Delays and Govt's Negligence

TPN , Correspondent Hyderabad , Feb 24 : The SLBC tunnel collapse in Telangana has become a hot topic, with opposition parties blaming the Congress government for its failure to prevent the incident. A worker who narrowly escaped from the tunnel revealed to national media that they were aware of the impending danger, as water had already started accumulating at the work site. Despite these warnings, work continued, ultimately leading

to the tunnel's collapse as water pressure increased. The worker emphasized that the authorities should have halted work earlier, preventing the disaster. They demanded that the government rescue the trapped workers, whose photos are now going viral. The incident has raised serious questions about the safety measures and accountability surrounding the SLBC tunnel project, with calls for urgent action to protect workers in the future.



SLBC Tunnel Accident: Worker Claims Authorities Were Aware in Advance



TPN , Correspondent Hyderabad , Feb 24 : A worker who survived the SLBC tunnel accident in Telangana has made explosive claims that authorities were aware of the potential danger before the incident occurred. In an interview with national media, the worker stated that there was water inside the tunnel when work began

four days ago, and the possibility of an accident was already apparent. He alleged that despite the water inflow, the work continued, ultimately causing the tunnel's roof to collapse as the water pressure increased. The worker demanded that the government take immediate action to rescue those trapped inside. The tragic incident has sparked intense criticism from opposition parties, accusing the Congress government of failure in handling the situation.

Yadadri Temple Unveils Golden Vimana Gopuram Worth Rs 80 Crores

TPN , Correspondent Yadadri , Feb 24 : The Yadadri Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Telangana has unveiled a magnificent Golden Vimana Gopuram as part of its ongoing Brahmotsav celebrations. The grand structure, weighing 68 kilograms of gold, has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 80 crores. The unveiling ceremony was attended by Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and his family, who played a pivotal role in the event.

The Golden Vimana Gopuram, a symbol of devotion and architectural brilliance, is expected to enhance the temple's prominence and attract an influx of devotees and tourists. The state government has funded the entire project, underscoring its commitment to promoting religious and cul-

tural heritage. The Brahmotsav celebrations, which mark the temple's annual festival, are a significant event in the region, drawing thousands of devotees from across the state. The unveiling of the Golden Vimana Gopuram adds a new dimension to the festivities, elevating the temple's reputation as a spiritual and cultural landmark. The temple's administration has expressed hope that the Golden Vimana Gopuram will become a major attraction for devotees and visitors, further strengthening the religious and cultural fabric of the region. The Yadadri Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple remains one of the most revered pilgrimage sites in Telangana, with this new addition set to become a lasting symbol of devotion and grandeur.

Nine Maoists Surrender to Telangana Police in Mulugu, Citing Welfare Programs as Motivation

TPN , Correspondent Mulugu , Feb 24 : In a significant development, nine Maoists from the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) surrendered to the Telangana police in Mulugu district on Sunday, February 23. The individuals, including women, laid down their arms after being encouraged by the police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) welfare initiatives aimed at the tribal communities, as well as the rehabilitation and support

offered under the state's "Operation Cheyutha" program. The surrendered Maoists have been identified as Madakam Unga (32), Madakam Idimi (23), Podiyam Kosa (32), Sodi Jogi (21), Kunjam Ithe (20), Sodi Bhudra (32), Kunjam Kosa (31), Podiyam Ithe (18), and Kunjam Kosa (30). The surrender was made possible due to the police's efforts in educating the Maoists about the benefits of reintegration into society and the development

initiatives for their communities. This surrender follows a similar incident in Warangal, where female Maoist leader Vanjem Kesha, accused of killing two police officers, also surrendered. In addition, 19 Maoists from Chhattisgarh's Kanker, Bijapur, Dantewada, and Sukma districts surrendered to the Bhadradi Kothagudem Police and CRPF, motivated by the ongoing welfare programs for tribals.

Telangana Allocates Rs 41.45 Crore for National Highway Repairs Post-Flooding

TPN , Correspondent Telangana , Feb 24 : In a significant move to restore essential infrastructure, the Telangana government has allocated Rs 41.45 crores for the repair and maintenance of national highways that were damaged by recent floods. The decision, formalized on Saturday through an order issued by Ramakrishna Rao, the Special Chief Secretary of the state's Finance Department, aims to ensure that the highways remain safe and functional for public use. The funds are divided into two primary categories: Rs 23.19 crores for general works under the Na-

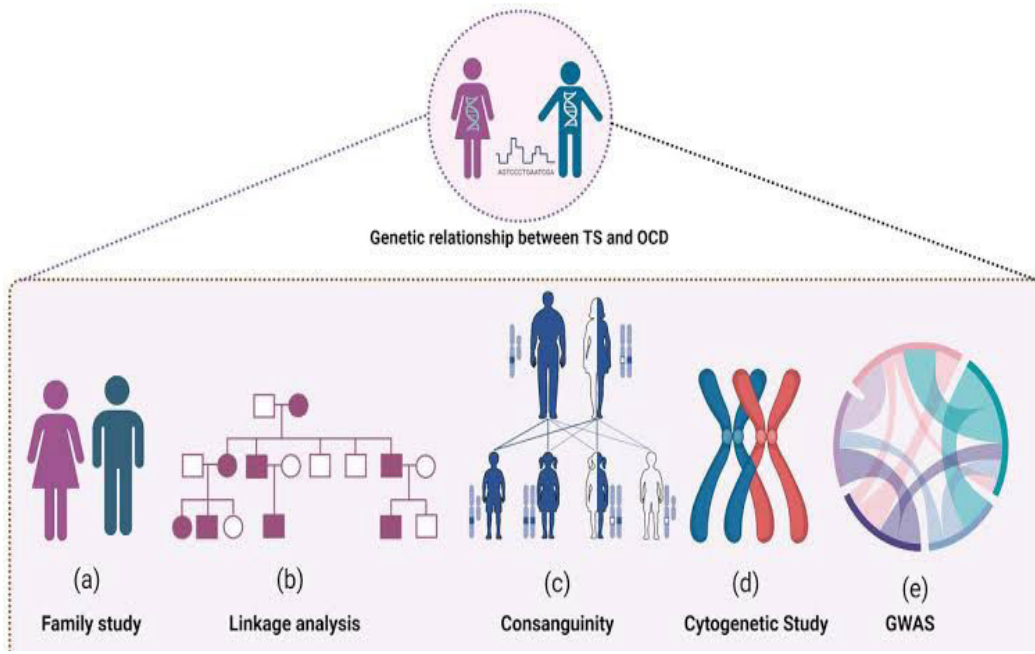
tional Highways (NH) sector and Rs 18.26 crores for repairs specifically related to flood damage and ongoing maintenance. These financial provisions are part of the budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 and will be transferred to the National Highways division within the Roads and Buildings (R&B) de-



partment. The allocation comes in the wake of widespread flooding that disrupted traffic and caused significant damage to the road network. With this timely intervention, the state government aims to expedite repairs and prevent any further deterioration of the national highways, which are crucial for transportation and economic activities. The repair works will ensure that the highways remain safe for commuters, addressing urgent infrastructural concerns while facilitating smoother connectivity across the state.

CONSANGUINITY

Family Bonds or Genetic Burdens? The Scope of Advanced Testing in Predicting Genetic Disorders in Marriages among close relatives



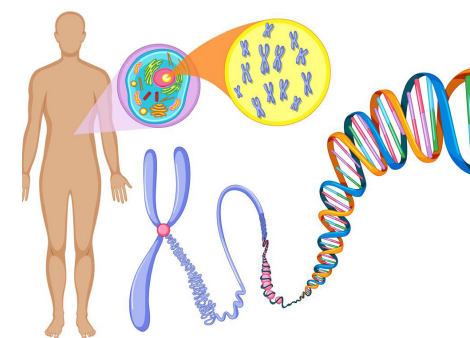
Family Bonds or Genetic Burdens



Imagine getting married to someone who has the same grandparents as you. In many cultures around the world, especially in India, this isn't just a thought—it's a reality. Consanguineous marriages, which are unions between closely related people, have been part of cultural practices for a long time. These marriages are seen as a way to preserve traditions and strengthen family bonds. However, they carry a hid-

den risk: a higher chance of passing on genetic disorders. In the general population, about 6% of children are born with birth defects due to genetic issues. But in consanguineous marriages, this risk doubles. When close relatives marry, both might unknowingly carry the same genetic mutations, increasing the chances of birth defects or inherited health problems in their children.

Inside the Genetic Blueprint: The secrets Hidden in Our DNA



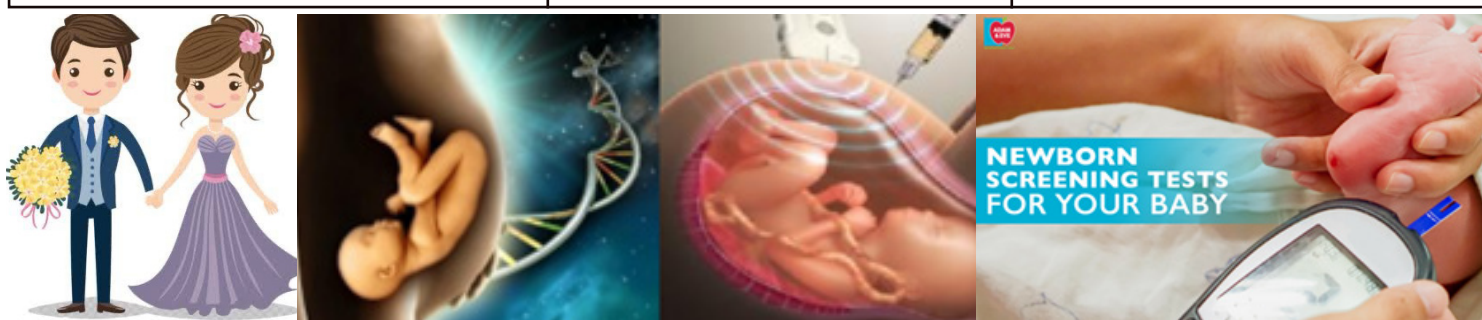
from the mother come together during fertilization, the child gets half of their DNA from each parent. Sometimes, genetic disorders are caused by "hidden" faulty genes, which are known as recessive genes. For a child to have a recessive condition, both parents must carry the same defective gene.

The human body is made up of tiny cells that contain our genetic material, called DNA, arranged in 46 chromosomes. DNA is like a blueprint for our body and is passed down from both parents, shaping traits like eye color, height, and even the likelihood of certain health problems. When a sperm from the father and an egg

from the mother come together during fertilization, the child gets half of their DNA from each parent. Sometimes, genetic disorders are caused by "hidden" faulty genes, which are known as recessive genes. For a child to have a recessive condition, both parents must carry the same defective gene. In marriages between close relatives, there's a higher chance that both partners carry the same genetic mutations. In India, conditions like thalassemia, sickle cell anemia, heart defects, and hearing loss are more common among children born to closely related parents. Therefore, genetic testing is crucial for these families to mitigate these risks.

Proportion of genetic code shared between close bond relatives

Relationship	Relationship Type	Proportion Of Genetic Code They Have in Common
Identical Twins		All (100%)
Non-identical Twins, Siblings, Parents & Children	First Degree relatives	Half (50%)
Uncles & Aunts, Nephews & Nieces, Grandparents and half- siblings	Second Degree relatives	Quarter (25%)
First cousins, half-uncles & aunts, half-nephews & nieces	Third Degree relatives	Eighth (12.5%)



Stage	Genetic Test/Procedures	Description
Pre-marital & pre-conceptual counseling	Carrier Screening by WES; SMA & DMD carrier screening by MLPA	If both partners are carriers, they can explore options like avoiding marriage or alternatives (e.g., adoption, IVF with donors)
Pre-natal testing	Chorionic Villus Sampling & Amniocentesis	If there is a family history of a genetic disease, the specific variant is analysed using the appropriate genetic test.
Newborn screening	Bloodspot Screening by Heel Prick method	Biochemical markers are checked that can indicate genetic disorders like congenital hypothyroidism, which can be treated early.
Child growth milestone tracking	Regular Paediatric checkups	Tracking a child's growth up to 3 years old helps detect early signs of genetic disorders or delays, ensuring timely support for healthy development.

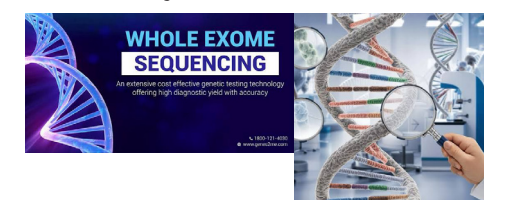
Genetic Testing for Couples: From Engagement to Baby born



Think of trying to complete a tricky puzzle where some pieces are missing or don't fit quite right. That's similar to figuring out certain genetic disorders. Ultrasound scans can detect major physical defects in a fetus, but they can't confirm genetic issues. For genetic abnormalities, tests like the nuchal translucency scan or TIFFA scan can help, though they only suggest potential problems, not confirm them. Prevention at Every Step: The Power of Genetic Testing Before, During, and After Pregnancy. Couples in consanguineous marriages can benefit greatly from genetic counseling and testing at different stages.

(WGS) is a test that reads and analyzes a person's entire DNA, providing a comprehensive map of their genetic information to help identify potential health issues and shorten the diagnostic journey.

- Whole Exome Sequencing (WES) can identify potential genetic conditions by examining the protein-coding regions of the genome, which contain over 20,000 genes.
- MLPA (Multiplex Ligation-dependent Probe Amplification) helps identify gene deletions or mutations for commonly observed conditions like Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) or Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD).
- Chromosomal Microarray is a test that detects chromosomal abnormalities, such as missing or extra pieces of chromosomes, which can lead to developmental delays, genetic disorders like Down Syndrome, and other syndromes.



Genetic Testing Worldwide: Reducing Genetic Disorder

Countries like Iran, Cyprus, Israel, and the UAE have implemented genetic testing programs to reduce genetic disorders, offering valuable lessons for India. Iran's nationwide thalassemia screening since the 1990s has halved its incidence, while Cyprus and Israel have reduced conditions like thalassemia, Cystic Fibrosis, and Tay-Sachs through pre-marital screen-

ings. In January 2025, the UAE introduced a mandatory genetic testing program for Emirati couples, screening 570 genes linked to over 840 medical conditions. These programs show how genetic testing, combined with education and counseling, can effectively reduce genetic disorders, offering insights for improving health in India.

The Wake-Up Call: The Importance of Genetic Testing

As science advances, so do the methods to detect genetic disorders. Tests like Whole Genome Sequencing and trio exome sequencing offer powerful tools to identify even the smallest genetic variations, providing a clearer picture of health. However, there's no one-size-fits-all solution, and choosing the right test can be complex. This is where genetic counseling becomes essential, guiding families to the best approach for an

accurate diagnosis. In consanguineous marriages, where inherited conditions are more common, genetic testing can help identify potential health risks early. It's not about criticizing traditions, but using science to prevent inherited diseases. By embracing genetic testing, we can create healthier families and communities worldwide—why wait for surprises when we can avoid them?



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh, MD
Director
Asian institute of Fetal medicine and Reproductive genetics



Judiciary Doesn't Have Right to Amend Constitution

TPN Correspondent | Maharashtra

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar asserted that the judiciary does not have the authority to amend the Constitution, emphasizing that only Parliament and state legislatures hold that right. Speaking at the inauguration of the Constitution Awareness Year celebrations, he underscored the importance of nationalism, urging people to prioritize the nation above politics and personal interests. Dhankhar warned against external influences in India's democratic system, referring to recent reports of alleged USAID funding aimed at influencing voter turnout. "By getting funds from outside, the democratic system is being made unholy. The persons of their choice are made to win polls. This is dangerous and cannot be tolerated," he remarked. Highlighting the importance of constitutional awareness, he praised the Constitution's framers for their meaningful dialogue and high-level debates. "They never let the prestige of the temple of democracy go down," he said, while criticizing disruptions in parliamentary proceedings. "The more we learn about the Constitution, the more we will turn towards nationalism," Dhankhar stated, adding that fundamental rights must be nurtured responsibly. He also recalled the Emergency of 1975 as the "darkest hour" in India's democratic history, condemning the Supreme Court's decision at the time to uphold the government's stance. Referring to the historical significance of the Constitution, he noted that it contains 22 demonstrative images representing India's rich cultural heritage, including Lord Ram, Lord Krishna, and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Reiterating the supremacy of elected legislatures in constitutional amendments, Dhankhar stated, "No one else has this right, not even the judiciary."

Udit Raj seeks protection over threats from BSP workers

- Udit Raj said Mayawati should be "throttled".
- He approached Delhi Police, citing threats from BSP workers.
- A viral video allegedly called for his killing with a ₹1 lakh reward.
- He claims unusual movements near his house and seeks security.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Congress leader Udit Raj has approached the Delhi Police, seeking protection against alleged threats from Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) workers, including its leader Akash Anand. The move follows a controversy over his recent remarks against BSP chief Mayawati. In a letter to the Delhi Police Commissioner, Udit Raj claimed that a video circulating on the YouTube channel 'Bahujan Dastak' features an interviewer inciting the public to attack him. "The interviewer has openly called for my throat to be slit and even announced a reward of ₹1 lakh for such an act," he stated. He further alleged that since the release of the video, he has noticed unusual movements near his house, raising serious concerns about his safety. "I apprehend that any untoward incident may occur if adequate security is not provided immediately," he wrote, urging the police to file an FIR and take strict legal action against those responsible. Udit Raj, who also heads the All India Unorganised Workers and Employees Congress (KKC) and the Dalit, OBC, Minority, and Adivasi Parisangh (DOMA Parisangh), revealed that he has been receiving threatening calls



since February 17, the day after his controversial remarks against Mayawati. He claimed that on the evening of February 17, a caller allegedly told his PSO that Mayawati and Akash Anand had ordered him to harm Udit Raj. The Congress leader insists that the threats have escalated, making immediate police intervention necessary. The controversy erupted after Udit Raj's remarks in Lucknow, where he suggested that Mayawati should be "throttled" for allegedly suppressing social welfare movements. His statement triggered a strong backlash from Mayawati, who accused the

Congress of historically opposing the ideology of B.R. Ambedkar. Political reactions have been swift. BJP national spokesperson Shahnawaz Hussain criticized Udit Raj, saying, "Congress is insulting Dalits with this statement. They are targeting a prominent Dalit leader like Mayawati. This will cost them dearly." JD(U) leader Rajeev Ranjan Prasad also condemned the remark, stating, "Such statements are unacceptable in a democracy. The Congress is speaking out of frustration." As tensions rise, Udit Raj awaits police action, demanding both security and accountability for the alleged threats.

"Will Keep Indian Culture Alive Abroad"

Kash Patel's Uncle On His FBI Oath



TPN Correspondent | Vadodara

Krishnakant Patel, the uncle of Indian-American Kash Patel, expressed pride and joy over his nephew's appointment as the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He highlighted the significance of Patel taking his oath on the Bhagavad Gita, calling it a powerful symbol of preserving Indian culture abroad. "I want to say that he took oath on the Bhagavad Gita, which shows that he will keep his Indian culture alive abroad. That is the biggest thing," Krishnakant Patel told ANI. Kash Patel, who officially assumed office as the ninth FBI Director, has ancestral roots in Bhadrans village, Anand district. His uncle confirmed that the family still maintains a house there. "I found out yesterday itself that he has become the FBI's director. I am very happy about it. We have not contacted him for a long time. We will do it now," he said. During the swearing-in ceremony, Patel acknowledged his Indian heritage while celebrating the opportunities offered by the United States.



Nationalists Respect Each Other Jaishankar on Modi-Trump Chemistry

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar described Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the US as highly successful, highlighting the strong chemistry between Modi and former US President Donald Trump. During the official working visit on February 12-13, both leaders discussed a wide range of bilateral issues. Speaking at an event in New Delhi, Jaishankar emphasized that both leaders, being nationalists, share mutual respect. "Trump is an American nationalist, and I think in many ways, nationalists respect each other. Trump accepts that Modi is in it for India, and Modi accepts that Trump is in it for America," he stated. Jaishankar noted that Trump's rapport with world leaders has been mixed,

but with Modi, the relationship has remained positive. He pointed out that in a picture book curated by Trump after his presidency, the highest number of images featured India, including the 'Namaste Trump' event held at Ahmedabad's Motera Stadium in 2020. Discussing the strategic aspect of their meeting, Jaishankar said, "The purpose of the discussion was to find common ground and work together for mutual benefit. The talks were open, conducted with humor, geniality, and cordiality." At the DU Literature Festival, where he was speaking about his book *What Bharat Matters*, Jaishankar also drew an analogy from the Ramayana. He described Ravana's arrogance and complacency as lessons in strategic miscalculation, suggesting that similar traits can be observed in global politics today.

UK Presents Honorary Knighthood Medal to Sunil Bharti Mittal



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal was honored with the insignia of the Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE) at a

special investiture ceremony in New Delhi on Saturday. The ceremony, held at the British High Commissioner's residence in the presence of friends and family, followed the announcement earlier in 2024 that King Charles III had conferred the Honorary Knighthood upon Mittal for his contributions to UK-India business relations. Expressing his gratitude, Mittal said, "It is an honor to receive the KBE from His Majesty, King Charles III. As India and the UK continue to strengthen bilateral ties, I take this recognition as both a privilege and a responsibility. I remain committed to advancing India-UK business relations." Lindy Cameron, the British High Commissioner to India, praised Mittal's contributions, describing him as a great friend of the UK with major investments in BT, Gleneagles, Norlake Hospitality, and OneWeb. "I was delighted to present Sunil Bharti Mittal the KBE medal on behalf of His Majesty the King. His leadership has significantly strengthened the UK-India partnership, including his work with the India-UK CEO Forum," Cameron stated. Mittal recently led a senior Indian business delegation to the UK, meeting Prime Minister Keir Starmer and key Cabinet Ministers to explore opportunities for enhancing economic cooperation between the two nations.

Maharashtra Suspends Bus Services to Karnataka After Attack on Driver



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Maharashtra Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik on Saturday announced the suspension of state transport bus services to Karnataka after an MSRTC bus was attacked in Chitradurga. The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) bus, traveling from Bengaluru to Mumbai, was attacked around 9:10 pm on Friday by pro-Kannada activists. The assailants blackened the face of the driver, Bhaskar Jadhav, and assaulted him, Sarnaik said. A police case has been registered in Karnataka regarding the attack. "Bus services to Karnataka won't resume unless the Karnataka government makes its stand clear on the issue," the minister stated. On the same day, a Karnataka transport corporation conductor was allegedly assaulted

near Belagavi for not responding to a girl in Marathi. The incident has led to heightened tensions between the two states. In response to the Belagavi incident, Karnataka police arrested four individuals for assaulting the conductor, Mahadevappa Mallappa Hukkeri. However, the conductor has also been booked under the POCSO Act following a counter-complaint by the 14-year-old girl, alleging derogatory remarks. Belagavi Police Commissioner Iada Martin Marbaniang assured a neutral investigation, stating that law and order would be maintained. Meanwhile, pro-Kannada activists staged protests, blocking roads and burning effigies, while Marathi groups condemned the assault on the MSRTC driver. The Belagavi region has long been a flashpoint due to border disputes and linguistic tensions, with this latest episode adding to the ongoing friction.

Despite Their Attacks

Giorgia Meloni Backs Modi, Trump At CPAC

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni delivered a sharp critique of the global Left, accusing liberals of hypocrisy and reacting with "hysteria" to the rise of right-wing leaders. Speaking via video link at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington DC, she praised US President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance while condemning left-wing "elites."

PM Meloni argued that liberals have grown increasingly frustrated with the electoral success of conservative leaders, especially following Trump's return to the White House.

"When Bill Clinton and Tony Blair created the global leftist liberal network in the 90s, they were called statesmen," she remarked. "Today, when Trump, Meloni, (Javier) Milei, or maybe (Narendra) Modi talk, they are called a threat to democracy. This is the Left's double standard, but we are used to it. And the good news is people no longer believe in their lies. Despite all the mud they throw at us, citizens keep voting for us," she said.

She described Trump as a resilient leader committed to global conservative cooperation,

claiming that left-wing forces were growing anxious. "The Left is nervous, and with Trump's victory, their irritation has turned into hysteria. Not only because conservatives are winning, but because conservatives are now collaborating globally," she added.

As leader of the far-right Brothers of Italy party, PM Meloni was the only EU head of government to attend Trump's inauguration in January.

Her participation in CPAC drew strong opposition in Italy, particularly after Steve Bannon, Trump's former chief strategist, appeared to use a Nazi salute during the conference. Critics, including opposition MPs, called on Meloni to cancel her address, pointing to French far-right leader Jordan Bardella's decision to withdraw from the event over Bannon's gesture.

Elly Schlein, leader of Italy's center-left Democratic Party, condemned Meloni's association with CPAC. "She should have the decency to disassociate herself from this neo-fascist gathering," Schlein said. "She has not said a word for days about Trump's insults and frontal attacks on Ukraine and the European Union. She is unable to defend Italian and European interests



because she does not want to displease the new American administration." Amid concerns in Europe over Trump's approach to Russia and NATO, Meloni insisted that trans-

atlantic ties remain firm. "The United States and Europe will remain close under Trump," she stated.

They Take Advantage Of Us

Trump's Fresh Attack On USAID Funds For India



TPN Correspondent | Washington

US President Donald Trump has renewed his criticism of USAID, questioning why the United States is providing financial assistance to India while accusing the country of imposing high tariffs on American goods. Addressing the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington, Trump alleged that USAID funds were being used to influence India's election process.

"Eighteen million dollars for helping India with its elections. Why the hell? Why don't we just go to old paper ballots and let them

help us with our elections, right? Voter ID. Wouldn't that be nice? We're giving money to India for elections. They don't need money," Trump said.

Trump further accused India of taking economic advantage of the US. "One of the highest tariffed nations in the world. We try and sell something, they have a 200 per cent tariff. And then we're giving them a lot of money to help them with their election," he remarked.

Trump's comments have sparked fresh debate over USAID's role in India and the broader economic ties between the two nations.

USAID Was Allowed Here In Good Faith

Jaishankar On USAID Voter Turnout Fund

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has voiced concerns over reports from the US alleging that millions of dollars were funneled into India to influence elections. His remarks come after US President Donald Trump claimed that \$21 million had been allocated for "voter turnout" in India before his administration scrapped the initiative.

Speaking at the Delhi University Literature Festival, Jaishankar emphasized the growing threats posed by external influences. "Your security can be threatened without you leaving your house because the thought processes, the influences, the narratives, your morale, your sense of what is right and wrong, are all influenced by your phone, what you read every day, the pictures you see," he stated.

Jaishankar acknowledged the concerns raised by Trump's administration, suggesting that certain activities may have been aimed at pushing a particular narrative. "As a government, we are looking



into it because such organizations have an obligation to report. And my sense is, the facts will come out," he said.

India Begins Probe Into Alleged Funding

Trump had previously announced that the US Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) had scrapped several taxpayer-funded initiatives, including the alleged \$21 million earmarked for India's voter turnout.

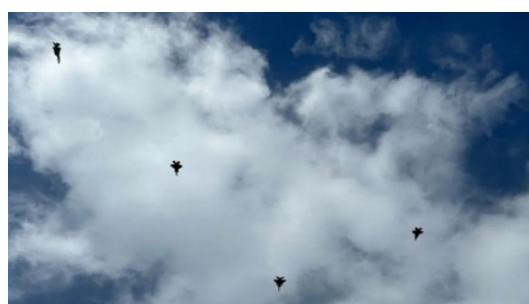
"USAID was allowed here in good faith, to do good faith activities. Suggestions are being made out of America that there are activities which are in bad faith. So, it surely warrants a look," Jaishankar

added, indicating that the government will investigate further.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) and other security agencies have begun preliminary inquiries into Indian entities and individuals who may have served as conduits for the alleged funds. Reports suggest that non-profits, social workers, media firms, and business entities are now under scrutiny for possible violations of anti-money laundering laws.

As the investigation unfolds, concerns over foreign influence in India's democratic process have reignited debates over transparency and accountability in funding activities within the country.

Israeli Jets Fly Over Hezbollah Chief's Funeral Amid Mass Gathering



TPN Correspondent | Beirut

Israeli fighter jets flew over Beirut today as thousands gathered for the funeral of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, nearly five months after his death in an Israeli airstrike. The low-flying aircraft momentarily drowned out the chants of Hezbollah supporters, intensifying the tension surrounding the event.

Visuals from the funeral showed four Israeli F-16 jets passing over the stadium, an act seen as a show of dominance by Israel. Meanwhile, the Israeli army marked the occasion with a post on X, stating, "Today is Hassan Nasrallah's funeral. Today the world is a better place."

Nasrallah, who led Hezbollah for decades, was killed in an Israeli strike that dealt a severe blow to the Iran-backed militant group. His death was part of a broader Israeli offensive that significantly weakened Hezbollah's command structure. The mass funeral, held at the 55,000-seat Camille Chamoun Sports City stadium in Beirut's

southern suburbs, was attended by a sea of Hezbollah supporters carrying flags and portraits of their slain leader.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei issued a statement vowing continued resistance against Israel. "The enemy should know that resistance against oppression and arrogance is not over. It will continue until the desired goal is achieved," he declared.

Hezbollah has faced a series of setbacks in recent months, with much of its leadership eliminated and its military strength eroded. The impact was worsened by the fall of its key ally, Bashar al-Assad, in Syria, disrupting Hezbollah's supply routes.

Despite these challenges, supporters at the funeral vowed to keep the movement alive. "We may have lost a great leader, but we have not lost the spirit of resistance," said Hassan Nasreddine, a mourner who traveled from southern Lebanon for the event. The ceremony also honored Hashem Safieldine, who briefly led Hezbollah after Nasrallah's death but was killed in an Israeli strike before he could be officially named as his successor. Nasrallah was initially buried next to his son, Hadi, who died fighting for Hezbollah in 1997. His formal funeral was postponed until the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, as part of a U.S.-brokered ceasefire that ended last year's war.

Kremlin Calls Putin-Trump Talks 'Promising'



TPN Correspondent | Moscow

The Kremlin has welcomed the dialogue between Russian President Vladimir Putin and former U.S. President Donald Trump as "promising," calling both leaders "extraordinary" figures capable of shaping global politics. The remarks come amid secret U.S.-Russia discussions in Saudi Arabia on restoring ties and exploring a possible Ukraine ceasefire—talks that notably excluded Kyiv and European allies.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov emphasized the significance of the Putin-Trump engagement, stating, "This is a dialogue between two extraordinary presidents. That's promising. It is important that nothing prevents us

from realizing the political will of the two heads of state." Trump's outreach to Moscow earlier this month was hailed as a breakthrough for Putin, ending nearly three years of diplomatic isolation following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Despite these discussions, the Kremlin has made it clear that it will "never" give up occupied territories in eastern Ukraine. Peskov reaffirmed Russia's stance, citing Moscow-held referendums widely condemned as illegitimate. "No one will ever sell off these territories. That's the most important thing," he declared.

Meanwhile, Putin marked Russia's "Defender of the Fatherland Day" by framing the war

in Ukraine as a divine mission. Addressing Russian servicemen, he stated, "Fate willed it so, God willed it so. A mission as difficult as it is honorable—defending Russia—has been placed on our and your shoulders." The statement came just a day before the third anniversary of the war, as Russia escalated attacks on Ukraine. Kyiv reported that Moscow launched a record 267 drone strikes overnight, with 138 intercepted and 119 lost, while multiple regions, including the capital, were hit.

Trump's engagement with Putin and his harsh rhetoric against Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky have unsettled Western allies. Trump has falsely claimed that Kyiv started the war and questioned Zelensky's popularity. In response, Zelensky urged continued Western unity, stating, "We must do our best to achieve a lasting and just peace for Ukraine. This is possible with the strength of all partners—Europe, America, and all who seek peace."

Moscow, however, has seized on Trump's attacks on Zelensky. Peskov dismissed the Ukrainian leader's criticism of Trump, saying, "No president would tolerate that kind of treatment. So his reaction is completely understandable."

Stock Markets May Remain Mixed Amid Global Uncertainty



Nifty has strong support at the 22,800 level.

Wabag Technology



After hitting a lifetime high in December, these shares have corrected by 42%, finding support at the crucial ₹1,200 level. Trading and delivery volumes are rising, indicating a potential trend reversal. Investors should consider entering at ₹1,400, with a target of ₹1,550/₹1,600. A stop-loss at ₹1,360 is advised.

SAIL

This stock has been in a downtrend since May last year but has been forming a base since January. Tight price action and strong investor interest following quarterly results indicate potential growth.



Investors should enter at ₹110/₹107, targeting ₹125/₹130, with a stop-loss at ₹103.

Godrej Industries

After facing resistance at ₹1,246 in January, these shares have corrected by 34% but have rebounded from the crucial ₹780 level. They surged 40% in



the last two sessions on heavy volumes. Investors should consider taking a position at ₹1,050/₹1,000, targeting ₹1,250/₹1,350, with a stop-loss at ₹960.

JSW Energy

In a downtrend since September, this stock found support at ₹420 and



has gained in the last four sessions. It broke through the 10- and 20-day moving averages with heavy volume. Investors should enter at ₹470, with a target of ₹550/₹600, and set a stop-loss at ₹445.

InterGlobe Aviation

Despite overall market weakness, this stock is showing strength and outperforming the Nifty. After an



initial downtrend, increasing losses are attracting investors, and EPS saw significant growth in the last quarter. Investors should take a position at ₹4,545, targeting ₹4,750, with a stop-loss at ₹4,410.

Market movements will largely depend on global cues, with investors awaiting clarity on trade policies and economic conditions.

Domestic stock markets are expected to remain mixed this week, with indices struggling for direction amid a lack of positive global cues. Investors remain cautious as former U.S. President Donald Trump continues to make successive announcements on tariffs, adding to market uncertainty. With benchmark indices already at lower levels, consolidation seems un-

likely in the near term. Last week, stocks in the metal, commodities, public sector, and oil and gas sectors performed well, while small-cap and mid-cap indices also saw a recovery. However, auto, pharma, FMCG, and IT stocks faced selling pressure. The



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India leading in AI adoption, also shaping its governance: Nirmala Sitharaman



TPN Correspondent | Kottayam

Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday asserted that India is not only at the forefront of Artificial Intelligence (AI) adoption but is also actively shaping global AI governance.

Speaking at the 6th convocation of the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Kottayam, Sitharaman said, "We're not just leading in AI adoption. We're also shaping how AI is governed. The recent AI Action Summit in Paris, where India was co-chair, highlights our leadership in this space. Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi emphasized that AI governance is a global responsibility, not just a national concern."

She underlined the importance of responsible AI use, stressing ethical implementation. "AI should be inclusive, ethical, and trustworthy. If AI is misused or used unethically, fears regarding its impact will persist," she added. The minister further pointed out that the Indian government is not merely experimenting with AI but is actively engaging stakeholders and formulating policies to ensure its proper implementation.

Highlighting India's growing presence in AI, she quoted Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, who referred to India as the "use case capital of AI." She noted that India is not just conducting research but also implementing AI on a large scale. India witnessed a remarkable surge in AI-related app downloads, recording 3 billion in 2024, surpassing the US (1.5 billion) and China (1.3 billion). The country's innovation landscape also saw significant progress, with its rank in the Global Innovation Index improving to 39th in 2024, up from 81st in 2015. Additionally, India's patent-to-GDP ratio rose from 144 in 2013 to 381 in 2023, reflecting a growing emphasis on research and development.

India also secured a strong position in global intellectual property, ranking 6th in worldwide IP filings in 2023. The country holds the 7th spot in intangible asset intensity, outperforming several high-income nations. Moreover, India's Network Readiness Index ranking improved from 79th in 2019 to 49th in 2024, highlighting advancements in digital connectivity and technological adoption.

Sitharaman emphasized that these advancements reflect India's progress toward greater innovation and self-reliance in the technology sector.

Adani Group's Tax Contribution Rises to ₹58,104 Crore in FY24

The Adani Group reported a significant rise in its tax contributions, with payments reaching ₹58,104 crore in the financial year 2023-24, up from ₹46,610 crore in the previous year. The conglomerate, led by billionaire Gautam Adani, released its Tax Transparency Report, detailing its financial contributions across its portfolio of companies.

The taxes paid include direct contributions such as global taxes, duties, and levies borne by Adani's companies, as well as indirect taxes collected on behalf of stakeholders. Additionally, it covers social security contributions made for employees' benefits.

"For FY 2023-24, Adani Group's total global tax and other contributions to the exchequer amounted to ₹58,104.4 crore, marking a notable rise from the previous year's ₹46,610.2 crore through its listed entities," the company said in a statement.

The independent Tax Transparency Reports were published by seven key Adani Group companies, including Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, Adani Green Energy, Adani Energy Solutions, Adani Power, Adani Total Gas, and Ambuja Cements. The report also accounts for tax contributions from NDTV, ACC, and Sanghi Industries, which are part of Adani's broader business portfolio.

Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, emphasized the importance of financial transparency, stating, "As one of India's largest contributors to the exchequer, our responsibility extends beyond compliance. Every rupee we contribute reflects our commitment to transparency and good governance. By voluntarily sharing these reports, we aim to foster greater stakeholder confidence and set new benchmarks for responsible corporate conduct."

The conglomerate's voluntary tax disclosure aligns with a growing global trend, where companies proactively release tax transparency reports despite the absence of regulatory mandates. The initiative aims to enhance stakeholder trust and reinforce Adani's commitment to ethical corporate practices.

"Adani Group considers tax transparency an integral part of its broader ESG framework. We strive to harmonize growth with social responsibility, aiming to transform India's infrastructure landscape while fostering innovation and long-term stakeholder value," the company stated.

With the global tax environment evolving, major corporations are now publishing transparency reports to enhance credibility and showcase accountability. The Adani Group engaged an independent professional agency to verify its contributions to the exchequer, ensuring that its disclosures meet high standards of corporate responsibility.

"By emphasizing transparency and integrity in tax compliance and reporting, the group aims to build trust with stakeholders and demonstrate its commitment to responsible business practices," the statement added.

Assam CM inaugurates Reliance's new Campa Cola plant in Guwahati

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated Reliance Consumer Products' new Campa Cola bottling plant in Guwahati on Saturday. Set up in collaboration with Jericho Foods and Beverages, the facility is expected to generate employment opportunities for 1,300 people in the state.

Reliance Consumer Products Ltd, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, announced the launch through a social media post on platform X. The plant marks a significant expansion of the company's Campa portfolio in Northeast India, reinforcing Reliance's strategy to revive heritage brands while fostering regional economic growth.

The manufacturing facility spans 6 lakh square feet, making it one of the largest beverage production units in the region. According to the company, the plant has an initial production capacity exceeding 10 crore litres of carbonated soft drinks and nearly 18 crore litres of packaged drinking water. It will manufacture popular beverages such as Campa Cola, Campa Orange, Campa Lemon, Power Up, and drinking water under the Independence and Sure Water brands.

"Our operations here will generate new employment opportunities, directly contributing to local economic growth.



This expansion is a key step in our strategy of reviving India's heritage brands while fostering sustainable development for the region," said Ketan Mody, Chief Operating Officer of Reliance Consumer Products Ltd. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma praised the initiative, stating that it would strengthen the brand and create more expansion opportunities. "I believe that this brand will grow from strength to strength and

will have an opportunity to expand more. I wish all the best to Reliance Consumer Products Limited, as well as to Jericho," he said at the inauguration event.

He also emphasized the affordability of Campa products, which he said offers an advantage in the competitive market. "While they are giving at an affordable price, they are not compromising with the quality, which is at par with other global standards," he added.

In a social media post, the Assam CM reiterated that the plant's establishment will provide employment for 1,300 youths, contributing to the state's economic development. The project is expected to further bolster Assam's position as an emerging hub for manufacturing and industrial growth.





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.

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.

Record Number Of Olive Ridley Turtles Arrive For Nesting At Odisha Beach



TPN Correspondent | Berhampur

The Rushikulya river mouth in Odisha's Ganjam district has witnessed a record-breaking mass nesting of endangered Olive Ridley turtles, with over 6.82 lakh turtles laying eggs so far. This sur-

passes the previous high of 6.37 lakh turtles recorded in 2023.

The mass nesting began on February 16, and the numbers are expected to increase further, said Berhampur Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Sunny Khokkar. Favorable climatic conditions are believed

to be a key factor behind the increased nesting activity. "The better climatic conditions this year have helped more turtles lay eggs in the Rushikulya river mouth, which is emerging as a major rookery," said senior scientist Bivas Pandav from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun.

Experts also anticipate a higher number of hatchlings due to the timely nesting. "Since the mass nesting has occurred on time, we expect a good number of hatchlings," said Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) scientist Basudev Tripathy.

Meanwhile, conservation efforts are in full swing. The government has installed protective fencing along a 9-km stretch from New Podampeta to Prayagi to safeguard the eggs from predators. "We have taken utmost care to protect the eggs, which may hatch after 45 days," said Dibya Shankar Behera, Range Officer of Khalikote.

Additionally, researchers have recaptured over 330 turtles that were GPS-tagged between 2021 and 2023, providing valuable insights into their migratory patterns, said ZSI scientist Anil Mohapatra.

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.

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.

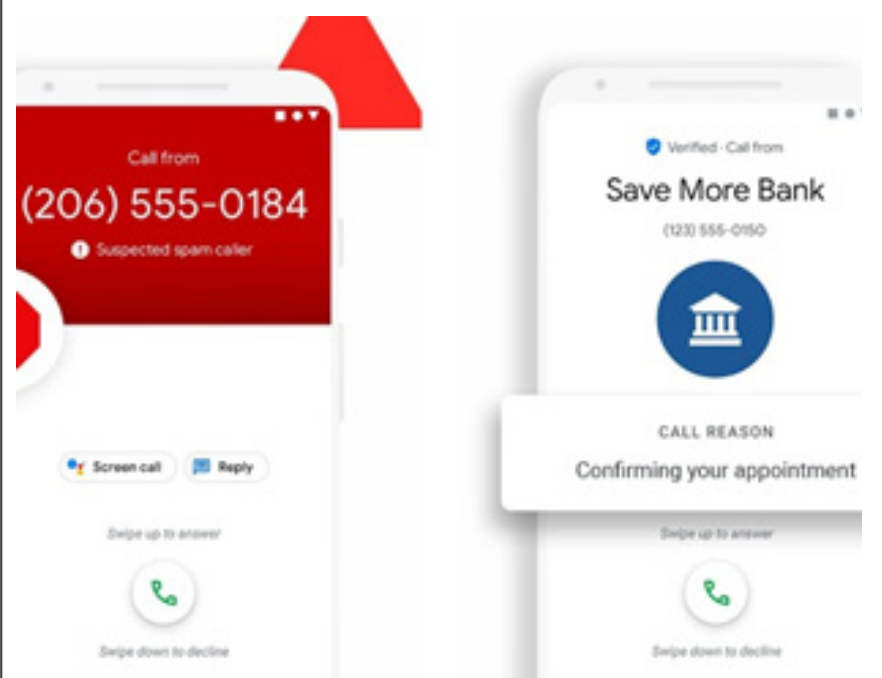
Call filters were first introduced with the 159.0.718038457-public-beta-pixel2024 update of the Phone app last month. At that time, it was limited to beta users with no official announcement on a public rollout. The latest report indicates that the feature is now becoming wide-

ly 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.



Virat Kohli's 51st ODI century powers India past Pakistan in Champions Trophy clash



Virat Kohli once again proved his dominance in high-pressure encounters, smashing his 51st ODI century to lead India to a commanding six-wicket victory over Pakistan in the Champions Trophy 2025. The win not only strengthened India's hold on the top spot in Group A but also virtually secured their place in the semifinals.

Chasing a target of 242, Kohli anchored the innings with an unbeaten 100 off 111 balls, featuring seven fours. He found valuable support from Shreyas Iyer (56 off 67) and Shubman Gill (46 off 52) as India comfortably overhauled the total with more than seven overs to spare.

The match began with Shaheen Shah Afridi giving Pakistan a brief moment of hope, dismissing Rohit Sharma (20) with a toe-crushing yorker. However, Kohli remained unfazed, expertly handling Pakistan's pace attack and playing cautiously against leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed. His partnership with Iyer, worth 114 runs for the third wicket, effectively shut Pakistan out of the contest.

Earlier, Pakistan struggled to accelerate despite a fighting half-century from Saud Shakeel (62 off 76) and a steady 46

from skipper Mohammad Rizwan. The duo added 104 runs for the third wicket, but tight bowling from Kuldeep Yadav (3/40) and Hardik Pandya (2/39) restricted them to 241.

Babar Azam (23) looked promising but edged behind while attempting an expansive drive off Pandya. Imam-ul-Haq (10) was run out after a mix-up, leaving Pakistan at 47/2. Their innings stagnated as India's disciplined bowling attack denied them easy runs, with a 55-ball stretch without a boundary in the middle overs.

Shakeel and Rizwan stabilized the innings before India struck back. Rizwan was bowled by Axar Patel, while Shakeel holed out attempting a pull shot off Pandya. The lower order, including Shaheen and Naseem Shah, fell cheaply to Kuldeep's spin, while Khushdil Shah's late 38-run cameo pushed Pakistan past 240.

Despite brief injury concerns for Mohammed Shami and Rohit Sharma during Pakistan's innings, India remained in full control. Kohli, underlining his big-match temperament, became the fastest player to reach 14,000 ODI runs during his innings, adding yet another feather to his illustrious cap.

Megastar Chiranjeevi attends India-Pak match in Dubai



Megastar Chiranjeevi was among the distinguished personalities who attended the highly anticipated India-Pakistan clash in the Champions Trophy at the Dubai International Stadium. Known for his love for sports, the legendary actor was seen enjoying the electrifying contest that had fans across the world glued to their screens. Chiranjeevi was seated in the VIP gallery alongside some of India's rising cricket stars. He was spotted with young cricketers Tilak Varma and Abhishek

Sharma, sharing insights and enjoying the thrilling game. A photograph of this memorable moment has gone viral on social media, drawing admiration from both cinema and cricket fans alike.

The India-Pakistan rivalry has always been one of the biggest spectacles in world cricket, and with Chiranjeevi's presence adding to the star-studded ambiance, the event became even more special for those in attendance.

MS Dhoni watches India-Pakistan clash with Sunny Deol



Former Indian captain MS Dhoni was spotted enjoying the high-stakes Champions Trophy 2025 match between India and Pakistan alongside Bollywood actor Sunny Deol. The video of the duo watching the game at the Dubai International Stadium quickly went viral on social media.

The India-Pakistan rivalry, one of the most intense in cricket, has always drawn massive attention from fans worldwide. Given the politi-

cal tensions between the two nations, bilateral series have not been played for over a decade, making ICC tournaments the only stage where the two teams face off.

In a video shared by Star Sports India on Instagram, Dhoni and Deol were seen engaged in discussion while seated among enthusiastic fans. The presence of the legendary cricketer and the Bollywood star added to the excitement surrounding the marquee clash.

Jasprit Bumrah in Dubai for India-Pakistan clash, receives all ICC awards



Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah arrived in Dubai ahead of the much-anticipated India-Pakistan Champions Trophy clash, where he was felicitated with his prestigious ICC awards for 2024. The International Cricket Council (ICC) shared a picture of Bumrah posing with his accolades at the Dubai International Stadium.

Bumrah received multiple top honors, including ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year, ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year, ICC Men's Test Team of the Year, and ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year. His stellar performances across formats in 2024 solidified his place as one of the greatest bowlers of his generation.

Despite his achievements, Bumrah is missing the ongoing Champions Trophy due to a back injury sustained during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test in Sydney earlier this year. Harshit Rana has

replaced him in the squad.

The Indian fast bowler had a sensational 2024, leading the charts with 86 wickets in 21 international matches at an average of 13.76. His dominance in Test cricket was unmatched, scalping 71 wickets in 13 matches at a staggering average of 14.92, including five five-wicket hauls. His performance in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, where he took 32 wickets in five Tests, was a standout, even as India lost the series 3-1 to Australia.

Bumrah's brilliance extended to T20 cricket as well, where he played a pivotal role in India's T20 World Cup-winning campaign, bagging 15 crucial wickets at an average of 8.26 and earning the 'Player of the Tournament' award. His efforts in IPL 2024 also saw him finish as the leading wicket-taker for Mumbai Indians with 20 scalps in 13 matches.

Vivek Oberoi bumps into Venkatesh Prasad during India-Pak clash



Bollywood actor Vivek Oberoi, who was last seen in the streaming series Indian Police Force, is currently in Dubai, soaking in the excitement of the India-Pakistan Champions Trophy clash. During the match, he had a chance encounter with former Indian cricketer Venkatesh Prasad.

Taking to Instagram, Vivek shared a picture from the Dubai International Stadium, where he was seen posing with the legendary fast bowler. Recalling one of Prasad's most iconic moments in Indo-Pak cricket history, Vivek wrote, "The legend! So good to see you, Venky Anna, and thank you for blessing my son! Who can for-

get that Ind-Pak match where you dismissed Aamir Sohail! Battles like that are what make Ind-Pak matches so memorable!"

Beyond his cricket admiration, Vivek has recently been making headlines for his views on wealth creation and financial planning. A resurfaced video of the actor shared on social media highlights his investment philosophy, where he advises maintaining savings worth three times one's annual income as a safety net. "Your income of one year, whatever it is, keep three times that in savings. That way, you are sorted for three to five years in case of any uncertainties in life," he shared.

Lionel Messi And Inter Miami Held By New York City In MLS Opener

Lionel Messi showcased his brilliance in stoppage time to help Inter Miami secure a dramatic 2-2 draw against New York City FC in their Major League Soccer (MLS) season opener on Saturday. Despite playing most of the match with 10 men after Tomas Aviles' early red card, Miami managed to avoid defeat, thanks to Messi's two crucial assists, including a last-gasp equalizer.

With Javier Mascherano making his MLS debut as Miami's head coach, the team featured several new faces but struggled for cohesion. The match started perfectly for Miami, with Messi setting up Aviles for an early fifth-minute lead. However, things quickly turned south as Aviles was sent off in the 23rd minute for bringing down Alonso Martinez. New York capitalized on the advantage, equalizing through Mitja

lenic and later taking the lead after Jordi Alba's misplaced pass gifted a goal to Martinez. Messi, facing a resolute New York defense and limited support from an ineffective Luis Suárez, still managed to make an impact. In the dying moments, he delivered a precise assist to Telasco Segovia, who chipped the ball past goalkeeper Matt Freese to secure a crucial point for Miami.





Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala Spread Joy at Child Care Centre

Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala recently visited the St. Jude India Child Care Centre in Hyderabad, where they spent quality time with children battling cancer. The couple shared heartwarming moments with the kids, with Naga Chaitanya seen bonding with the children and even dancing with them. Sobhita, who looked effortlessly stylish in a white shirt and baggy denim jeans, was also seen taking a selfie with one of the children.

The couple, who got married in December last year in a traditional Telugu cer-

emony, made a lasting impression on the kids and staff with their warm gestures. In a post shared by a fan page on Instagram, the caption read, "Smiles & laughter with the cancer warriors." Naga Chaitanya recently opened up about how Sobhita handled the wedding planning, praising her for bringing out the beauty of Telugu culture in every detail. Both actors are continuing their work in the entertainment industry, with Naga Chaitanya recently starring in Thandel and Sobhita in Love, Sitara on ZEE5.



Mark Strong Meets Tabu in Mumbai, Calls Himself Her Biggest Fan

British actor Mark Strong, currently in India, reunited with his *Dune: Prophecy* co-star Tabu in Mumbai, calling it a "wonderful reunion." The 61-year-old actor shared photos with Tabu on Instagram, expressing his admiration for the Bollywood star, writing, "The glamorous beautiful talented Tabu and her biggest fan." Tabu also posted pictures from their meeting, captioning, "Javico and Francesca re-unite!!!" referring to their roles in the *Dune* prequel. Strong, known for films like *Kingsman* and *Sherlock Holmes*, is touring India and recently visited Rajasthan, where he explored Amber Fort and Johari Bazaar. Tabu welcomed him to India in a comment on his post.

Love Scout Review

A Slow-Burn Workplace Romance With Depth

Love Scout is a refreshing K-drama that stands out by offering a subtle and thoughtful exploration of workplace dynamics, personal growth, and romance. Set in a headhunting firm, it presents the relationship between the ambitious female boss, Kang Ji-yun (Han Ji-min), and her warm, empathetic male secretary, Yu Eun-ho (Lee Jun-hyuk), in a grounded, slow-burn manner that avoids clichés.

What makes *Love Scout* truly special is its careful handling of secondary characters and its nuanced take on power and vulnerability. The series focuses not on dramatic climaxes but on the quiet, meaningful development of relationships, highlighting human connection and respect. The slow evolution of Ji-yun and Eun-ho's bond feels authentic, with moments of intimacy and understanding.

With thoughtful direction, a beautiful soundtrack, and understated cinematography, *Love Scout* proves to be a rare gem, challenging conventional gender roles while handling romance with elegance and restraint.



Kangana Ranaut Criticizes Bollywood's Impact on Marriages



New Delhi: Amid the success of Sanya Malhotra's *Mrs.*, which addresses themes of patriarchal oppression and domestic struggles in arranged marriages, Kangana Ranaut has shared her perspective on the Indian marriage system. Without directly referencing the film, Kangana took to Instagram Stories, urging people not to generalize the concept of Indian joint families.

She shared her experiences of growing up, stating that women in her family commanded their households with authority and managed everything, including finances and family dynamics. Kangana emphasized that marriages should focus on duty, as defined by the Dharma in ancient scriptures, rather than seeking attention or validation. She criticized Bollywood for distorting traditional views on marriage, calling out the industry's portrayal of love stories that undermine the real purpose of relationships.

Indie Film Festival Awards: Chandu Champion and Laapataa Ladies Earn Nominations

New Delhi: The first edition of the Indie Film Festival Awards – New York has announced its nominations for Hindi films of 2024, with *Chandu Champion* and *Laapataa Ladies* earning nods. *Chandu Champion*, directed by Kabir Khan and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, tells the inspiring story of Paralympic swimmer Murlikant Petkar, starring Kartik Aaryan. Meanwhile, Kiran Rao's *Laapataa Ladies*, a comedy-drama that explores themes of identity and empowerment, follows the journey of two women on an unexpected adventure. The film, featuring Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta, and Sparsh Shrivastava, was also India's official entry for the Oscars. Both films have captured significant attention for their impactful storytelling and performances.



Dhanashree Verma and Yuzvendra Chahal Officially Divorced: Request for Privacy

New Delhi: Cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal and choreographer Dhanashree Verma have officially settled their divorce, as confirmed by Chahal's lawyer, Nitin K Gupta. The divorce petition, filed by mutual consent, is currently under judicial review at the Bandra Family Court in Mumbai. The couple, who married on December 11, 2020, has requested the public to refrain from speculating or commenting on the matter.

Chahal's lawyer emphasized that further legal steps are underway, and both Chahal and his family have decided not to discuss media reports. Dhanashree's family also refuted rumors of a Rs 60 crore alimony demand, calling them completely false and irresponsible. The couple's divorce rumors began in 2023 after Dhanashree dropped "Chahal" from her Instagram handle.

