

Weather Forecast: HYDERABAD (H 27°C, L 14°C), VIJAYAWADA (H 30°C, L 19°C), TIRUPATHI (H 26°C, L 21°C)

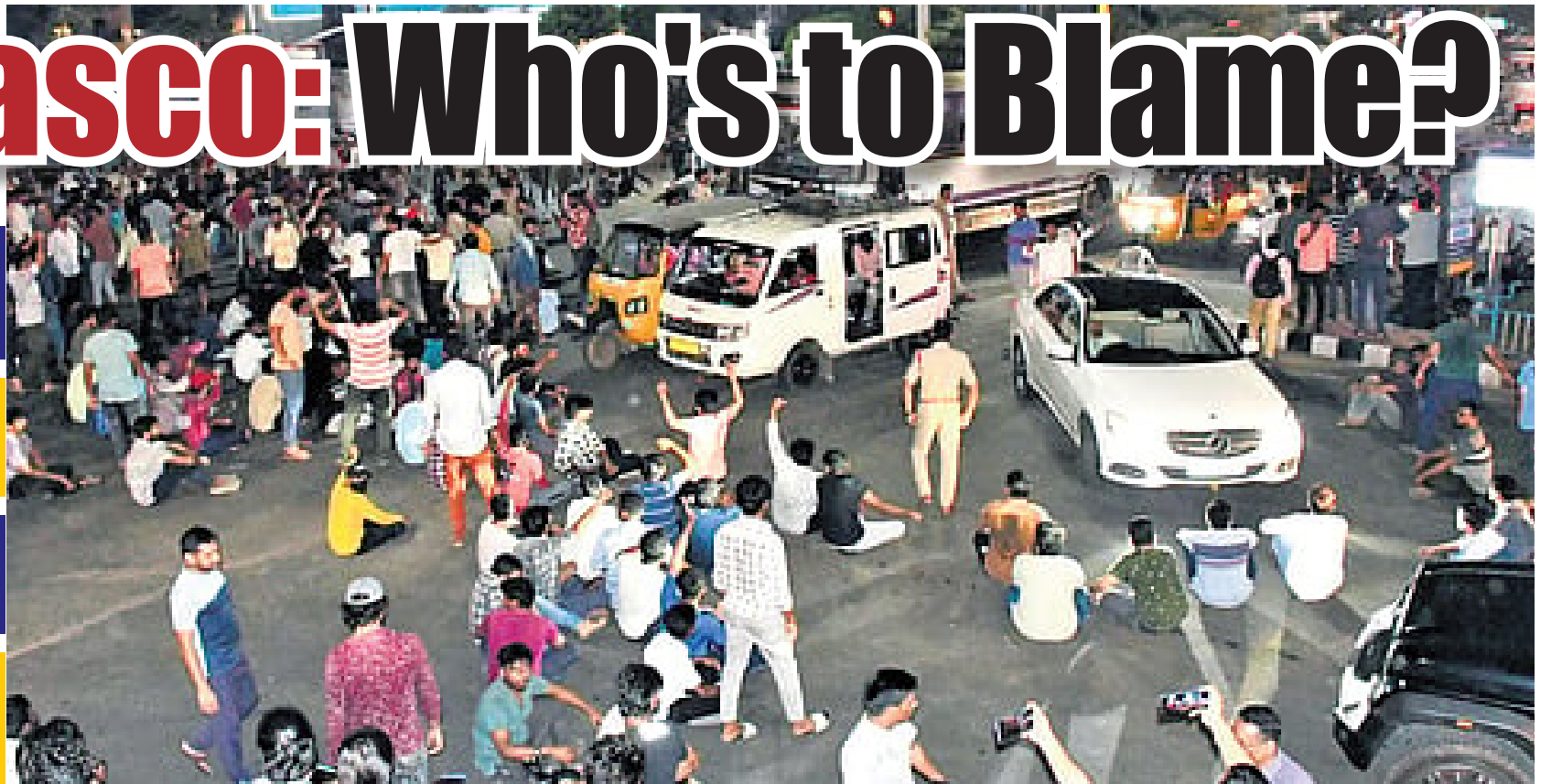
Group 2 Fiasco: Who's to Blame?

YCP's flawed 2023 notification sparked the Group 2 exam mess.

Govt sought cancellation, but APPSC cited election code hurdles.

High Court ruled the exam must proceed on February 23, 2025.

Aspirants took the test amid political and legal chaos.



TPN | Avinash Amaravati, Feb 24

The Group 2 exam saga has sparked heated debates across Andhra Pradesh, with fingers pointing in all directions over who botched the process.

● No Boycott Impact on Group II Mains Exam



The Group II Mains examination concluded smoothly today, with 92,250 candidates appearing for the test. Despite calls for a boycott, the turnout remained unaffected, recording an impressive 92% attendance.

mains, only for the roster mess to trigger a judicial showdown. The High Court stepped in, mandating that the mains proceed as scheduled on Febru-

ary 23, 2025—a date that's now etched in stone. Enter the new NDA government under Chandrababu, which inherited the

mess. They fired off a plea to the APPSC to scrap the exam, citing widespread anxiety among students. But the APPSC shot back, pointing to the MLC election

code as a roadblock—hinting that any cancellation might conveniently tilt the scales for the ruling coalition, as opposition voices grumbled. Meanwhile, YSRCP bigwigs have stayed mum, likely because the blunder traces back to their watch.

Nara Lokesh, Kesineni & Sukumar Attend India vs Pakistan Clash



TPN Correspondent | Dubai

The highly anticipated India vs Pakistan match in the ongoing Champions Trophy 2025 is witnessing star-studded attendance, with Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh and acclaimed filmmaker Sukumar among the high-profile guests at the Dubai International Stadium.

2 PAGE

Will Jagan Walk Through Gate-4 as a Regular MLA?



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh Assembly budget session begins today, with the 2025-26 financial year budget set to be presented. YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy, along with his party MLAs, will be attending the session.

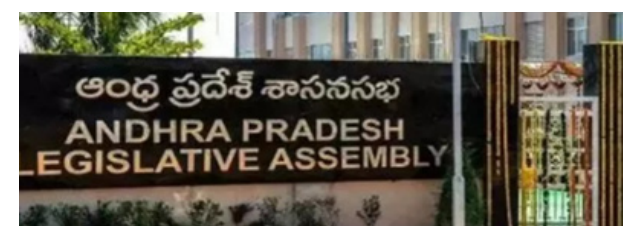
- AP Assembly budget sessions from today
- Jagan, who does not have the status of Leader of Opposition
- According to the protocol, he has to walk from Gate 4

assigned based on position. The Governor, Chief Minister, Deputy CM, Speaker, and Deputy Speaker enter through Gate No. 1, while ministers use Gate No. 2. Regular MLAs and MLCs must enter through Gate No. 4.



AP Eyes Tesla Investment with Land and Port Offer?

2 PAGE



AP Assembly Budget Sessions Begin Today

Jagan Set to Enter the Assembly: Strategic Move or Forced Compromise?

KS Shekar | SPL Correspondent | East Godavari | TPN

The echoes of "I am coming," which were heard before 2019, are now making waves again on social media. However, this time, it's not about Jagan Mohan Reddy returning to power but about his long-awaited entry into the Andhra Pradesh Assembly.

tion, are celebrating one fact—Jagan is finally coming to the Assembly. But will his presence have a lasting impact, or is it just a calculated decision?

Opposition Status: A Stumbling Block?

There have been two major reasons why Jagan has stayed away from the Assembly. One is open, and the other remains a closely guarded secret. The open reason is YSRCP's demand for the official opposition status, which has even led the party to approach the courts.

the Speaker. If the Speaker signs off on it, the coalition government might see it as a setback, as it would appear that Jagan has won a political victory. For this reason, the government has been reluctant to acknowledge YSRCP's demand. The secret reason lies deep within Jagan's mind. Entering the Assembly means bowing before Speaker Tammineni Sitaram and addressing Deputy Speaker Raghu Rama Krishna Raju as "President."

These factors have kept him away from the Assembly for so long. However, whether he has changed his mind or is simply making a calculated move remains unclear.

Will He Face Ragging in the Assembly?

As an MLA without opposition status, Jagan will not be entitled to the privileges usually accorded to the Leader of the Opposition. He will only have the same speaking rights as an ordinary MLA, limiting his ability to counter the government effectively.

sition, as political opponents are expected to target him with criticism. The challenge for Jagan is whether to endure these attacks in silence—potentially gaining public sympathy—or to engage in heated debates, which could lead to further criticism. If he chooses to boycott the session after a brief appearance, he risks being accused of running away. Meanwhile, the ruling alliance is prepared to remind him of how YSRCP MLAs once humiliated Chandrababu Naidu in the Assembly when Jagan was in power. Now, they see this as the perfect moment to settle scores.

2 PAGE

AP Assembly Budget Sessions Begin Today



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh Assembly budget sessions are set to begin today, with Governor Justice Abdul Nazeer addressing both houses. After his speech, the house will be adjourned to the next day, followed by a Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting to finalize the session's duration and agenda. The budget sessions are expected to last for two to three weeks.

YSRCP chief and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, along with other party MLAs, will be attending the sessions. In light of this, authorities have implemented strict security measures, including regulated movement and entry into the premises. Special passes have been issued to ministers, MLAs, MLCs, media personnel, visitors, and police officers. Only those with valid passes will be allowed inside, with different color codes designating access to various areas within the assembly and council.

As per the new protocol, only the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Minister, and Deputy Chief Minister can enter through Assembly Gate 1, while ministers will use Gate 2. MLAs and MLCs will enter through Gate 4. Unauthorized access to corridors used by the Speaker, CM, and Chairman of the Council has been strictly prohibited.

For security reasons, weapons, batons, placards, and whistles are banned inside the assembly premises. Personal assistants of ministers and members will only be allowed if deemed necessary. Additionally, members and ministers have been instructed to hold media interactions only at designated media points within the Assembly. Protests, dharnas, and demonstrations have been completely restricted in the Legislative Assembly premises.

Saraswati Devi Yagam Performed at Indrakiladri

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

On the occasion of Moola Nakshatra, the priest staff of Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Temple performed the Sri Saraswati Devi Yagam in the temple's Yagashala. The ritual was conducted amidst the chanting of Vedic mantras and the sounds of auspicious musical instruments. This special yagam is performed on Moola Nakshatra to invoke the blessings of Goddess Saraswati, the deity of wisdom and learning. The ritual aims to promote education and knowledge across the state, seeking divine grace for academic excellence and enlightenment.



Tributes Paid to Erram Naidu on His 68th Birth Anniversary

TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam

The 68th birth anniversary of former Union Minister Kinjarapu Erram Naidu was observed with great reverence at his native village, Nimmada, in Srikakulam district on Sunday. Fondly remembered as "Sikkolu Simham," Erram Naidu was instrumental in bringing recognition to Srikakulam, from the Parliament in Delhi to the streets of Andhra Pradesh. Srikakulam MLA Gondu Shankar, along with senior leaders and members of the Telugu Desam Party, paid floral tributes at Erram Naidu Ghat. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Shankar reminisced about the late leader's contributions, stating that his absence has left an irreplaceable void. "Erram Naidu's path is an inspira-



tion to all. Remembering such great leaders and their legacy is a matter of pride," he said. Union Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, State Minister Kinjarapu Acham Naidu, and Vizianagaram MP Kaliseti Appalanaidu were among the prominent leaders who participated in the tribute ceremony.

My Close Friend Erram Naidu: Chandrababu

AP Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu paid tribute to late TDP leader Erram Naidu on his birth anniversary, recalling his unwavering commitment, honesty, and close association in public service. He described Erram Naidu as a leader with a spotless political career spanning over three decades and emphasized the importance of remembering his contributions. Meanwhile, Erram Naidu's son and Union Minister Rammohan Naidu, along with his brother and State Minister Atchan Naidu, visited Erram Naidu's memorial at Nimmada in Kotabommali Mandal, Srikakulam district. They paid their respects at his grave, honoring his legacy.

AP Eyes Tesla Investment with Land and Port Offer?

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh is making a strong push to attract global electric vehicle giant Tesla as it prepares to enter the Indian market. With reports suggesting Tesla is keen on a large-scale entry into the country, several state governments are in a race to secure the investment. The TDP-led government, under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and IT Minister Nara Lokesh, is actively working to position Andhra Pradesh as the ideal destination.

According to national media reports, the state's Economic Development Board (EDB) has presented a compelling case to Tesla, highlighting Andhra Pradesh's strategic advantages, including port connectivity and a vast land bank. The state government is offering prime industrial land and access to its well-developed ports to facilitate Tesla's initial import operations before it sets up a full-fledged manufacturing unit.

The groundwork for Tesla's entry into Andhra Pradesh began in October 2024 when IT Minister Nara Lokesh engaged in discussions with Tesla's Chief Financial Officer, Vaibhav Taneja, during his visit to the United States. With Tesla intensifying its hiring efforts in India following a recent meeting between CEO Elon Musk and Prime Minister



Narendra Modi, Andhra Pradesh has stepped up its efforts to establish direct communication with the company and expedite a potential agreement.

Andhra Pradesh has a proven track record of successfully onboarding global automotive companies, with Kia Motors being a notable example. The seamless setup and rapid growth of Kia's operations in the state serve as a case study to attract Tesla, which prioritizes efficiency and results. The Naidu government is leveraging this success story to convince Tesla of Andhra Pradesh's investment-friendly environment. Additionally, the state's past engagement with Tesla could prove beneficial in securing the deal. In 2017,

Chandrababu Naidu signed an MoU with Tesla, and Elon Musk committed to providing technological expertise for the development of two solar energy storage units in the state. This previous association, coupled with the government's proactive approach, strengthens Andhra Pradesh's position in the competition for Tesla's investment. With a well-established industrial ecosystem, extensive port infrastructure, and a business-friendly government, Andhra Pradesh is emerging as a strong contender to host Tesla's India operations. As the race among Indian states heats up, the coming months will determine whether Tesla chooses Andhra Pradesh as its preferred destination.

Jagan Set to Enter the Assembly: Strategic Move...

Continued from page
Fear of Expulsion?

There has been speculation that Jagan is attending the Assembly out of fear of being expelled. The Speaker and Deputy Speaker have stated that an MLA who fails to attend for 60 consecutive working days could face automatic disqualification. However, Jagan has dismissed these claims, asserting that he is not intimidated by such warnings. YSRCP leaders have also pointed out that Chandrababu Naidu skipped Assembly sessions for nearly two years in the past without facing any disqualification threats. This raises the question—has Jagan truly been forced to attend, or is he executing a well-planned strategy?

A Crucial Assembly Session Awaits

Jagan's announcement of his attendance has electrified YSRCP supporters, who are celebrating his return to the House. On the other hand, the ruling alliance is equally eager, seeing this as an opportunity to challenge him with tough questions.

However, the Assembly should not become a battleground for political vendettas. It should serve as a platform for constructive debate, where both the government and opposition fulfill their democratic responsibilities. Whether Jagan's return will mark the beginning of serious opposition politics or simply serve as political theater remains to be seen.

Vijayagouri Promises to Address Teachers' and Workers' Issues



TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam

Uttarandhra Upadhyaya PDF MLC candidate K. Vijayagouri has pledged to prioritize the resolution of employment, teachers, workers, and public welfare issues if elected. Speaking at a press conference at the local UTF office, he urged voters to support him with their first priority vote for the teachers' cause. He demanded the immediate appointment of the 12th PRC chairman and the announcement of 30% IR (Interim Relief). He also called for the regularization of contract teachers, payment of pending financial dues, and the implementation of the Wage Act, health cards, and special pension schemes. Vijayagouri emphasized that teachers should focus solely on teaching, ensuring that the primary and upper primary school system remains unchanged. He demanded leave policies be enforced as per rules, PF accounts for municipal teachers, and the upgradation of high school posts. He also insisted on formulating a transfer law for tribal welfare school teachers and upgrading Pandit and PET posts. Further, he stressed the need for the appointment of wardens and ANMs in ashram schools, implementation of GO 114 in degree and junior colleges, continuation of plus two schools with regular teacher appointments, and renewal of GO No. 23.



Congress Demands Immediate Relief to Chilli and Tomato Farmers

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Andhra Pradesh's chilli and tomato farmers are facing severe losses, with the Congress party accusing the Chandrababu-led coalition government of failing to support them.

Sharmila highlighted that chilli farmers, who invest ₹1.5 lakh per acre, are now forced to sell their produce at a massive loss of ₹15,000 per quintal due to falling prices. She criticized the government for claiming relief by offering ₹11,000 per quintal while farmers continue to struggle. Tenant farmers are also suffering additional losses of ₹50,000 per acre, further worsening their plight.

Demanding urgent intervention, Sharmila urged the Central government to set a minimum price of ₹26,000 per quintal for chilli. If the Center fails, she insisted the state government implement a price stabilization fund and provide a bonus to chilli farmers to offset their losses.

Tomato farmers, too, are in distress. With production costs reaching ₹2.5 lakh per acre, many are barely earning ₹50,000, as market prices have crashed. While tomatoes sell for ₹15 per kg, farmers are receiving just ₹3 to ₹4 per kg, pushing them into financial despair.

The Congress party has demanded immediate action from the government to stabilize tomato prices and provide urgent relief to struggling farmers.

Newlywed Appears for Group-2 Exam in Wedding Dress



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Amidst controversies and protests, the Group-2 Mains exams have commenced in Andhra Pradesh. The exams are being conducted in 175 centers, with 92,250 candidates appearing. The AP Public Service Commission (APPSC) has ensured all necessary arrangements for the process.

At the Padmavati Women's Degree College examination center in Tirupati, a unique sight grabbed attention—a newlywed woman, Namita, arrived for the exam with cumin jaggery on her head, a traditional ritual. Having married earlier in the day, she appeared in her wedding attire while her family and friends wished her success.

Meanwhile, protests have erupted across the state, with candidates demanding the postponement of the exams due to alleged errors in the roster system. While the government responded positively to their concerns, the APPSC refused to reschedule, citing the ongoing MLC election code, and proceeded with the exams as planned.

Nara Lokesh, Kesineni & Sukumar Attend India vs Pakistan Clash

Continued from page 1

electrifying contest alongside Sukumar and Andhra Pradesh Cricket Association Chairman and Vijayawada MP Kesineni Chinni. The trio, along with Sukumar's family, appeared in high spirits as they soaked in the thrilling atmosphere. Adding to the excitement, Lokesh sported Team India's signature blue jersey, passionately cheering for the team from the stands. The presence of these notable personalities has sparked buzz online, with fans sharing glimpses of their spirited support for Indian cricket.

YV Subbareddy Gave Clarity on Jagan's Assembly Attendance

YV Subbareddy confirms Jagan's participation in assembly sessions
Asserts Jagan is attending to address state issues, not out of fear
Demands Z-plus security for Jagan



TPN Correspondent |
Andhra Pradesh

YSRCP Rajya Sabha MP YV Subbareddy has clarified that party chief Jagan Mohan Reddy will attend the

assembly sessions, asserting that his participation is driven by pressing issues in the state rather than political pressure.

He accused the coalition government of neglecting security concerns during Jagan's recent visit to the Guntur Mirchi Yard, alleging that inadequate security arrangements endangered him. He stated that this matter would be brought to the attention of the central government and demanded Z-plus security for Jagan at all times.

Subbareddy also criticized the government for not granting Jagan the status of Leader of Opposition and alleged that the administration is ignoring key problems in the state, particularly those faced by farmers. He reiterated that Jagan's assembly attendance is to highlight these issues, not due to any external pressure or fear.

Chandrababu Brought Kia, Lokesh Will Bring Tesla: Minister Subhash

TPN Correspondent |
Andhra Pradesh

Tesla, the global electric vehicle giant led by Elon Musk, is set to enter India, with the company actively hiring employees for its operations. The move has sparked widespread interest, as major states compete to host Tesla's manufacturing plant. The Andhra Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, is keen on bringing Tesla to the state, citing its favorable conditions for investment. AP leaders believe that the state offers all the necessary advantages for Tesla's establishment.

Amid this, AP Minister Vasansetty Subhash made an interesting remark on social media. "Chandrababu brought Kia... Lokesh will bring



Tesla. If visionary leaders govern, the state will flourish. Kia is ours... Tesla is also ours," he tweeted, drawing attention to the government's ambitions.

Jagan Attending Assembly Out of Fear, Not for People



TPN Correspondent |
Andhra Pradesh

With the Andhra Pradesh Assembly budget session set to begin tomorrow (February 24), YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy is making a return to the Assembly after nearly seven months. Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu responded sharply to this, alleging that Jagan has been avoiding the Assembly for years. Ramanaidu stated that Jagan is not attending out of concern for the people or to discuss public issues but out of fear of losing his MLA post. He criticized Jagan, claiming he is appearing in the Assembly only to safeguard his position.

Jana Sena Legislative Party Meeting Held Under Pawan Kalyan's Chairmanship

TPN Correspondent |
Andhra Pradesh

The Jana Sena Party (JSP) Legislative Party meeting commenced under the chairmanship of party chief and Deputy Chief Minister Shri Pawan Kalyan. The meeting focused on explaining the procedures to be followed during the upcoming Assembly sessions and outlining the party's legislative approach.

Senior leaders, including Ministers Shri Nadendla Manohar and Shri Kandula Durgesh, along with Members of Parliament (MPs), Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs), and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), participated in the meeting.

Shri Nadendla Manohar delivered the welcome address, setting the tone for discussions. Senior



MLAs Shri Konatala Ramakrishna and Shri Mandali Buddha Prasad, as well as Minister Shri Kandula Durgesh, shared their valuable experiences in the Legislative Assembly, providing insights into effective parliamentary engagement.

The meeting aimed to prepare JSP legislators for active participation in Assembly proceedings while reinforcing the party's commitment to addressing key issues concerning the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Jagan Meets Vamsi in Jail but Skips Kodi Kathi Case Hearing



TPN Correspondent | Vizag

YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's recent jail visit to meet Vallabhaneni Vamsi, who is on remand in a kidnapping case, has stirred controversy. His visit has now become a major talking point, especially in light of his absence from the latest hearing in the Kodi Kathi case at the Vizag NIA court. At the recent hearing, the accused in the case, Kodi Kathi Srinivas, was present, while Jagan, the complainant, skipped the session. The court has now

adjourned the case to March 21. This repeated absence has drawn sharp criticism from SC Committee convenor Busi Venkatrao, who accused Jagan of conveniently avoiding legal proceedings while actively participating in political activities.

Venkatrao questioned how Jagan could find time to visit Vamsi, who is facing serious charges, but not attend court in a case where he himself is the victim. He alleged that Jagan is deliberately avoiding the legal process despite the case dragging on for years.

The Kodi Kathi case has already gone through over 20 hearings, yet Jagan has not appeared for a single one. Meanwhile, the accused, Srinivas, has remained out on bail, waiting for the final verdict. Venkatrao pointed out that while Srinivas spent five years in jail over the case, Jagan's reluctance to appear in court shows a disregard for due process.

Critics argue that Jagan's actions raise serious questions about his credibility. While he engages in political meetings and visits accused party members in jail, he continues to ignore court proceedings in his own case. With the next hearing set for March, all eyes will be on whether Jagan finally appears before the court or continues to sidestep legal scrutiny.

AP BC Association Demands ₹20,000 Crore Allocation for BC Welfare

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh BC Association has urged the state government to allocate ₹20,000 crore for BC welfare in the upcoming budget. In a meeting held at the association's state office, State President Dr. N. Maresh emphasized the need for direct loan disbursement to BCs without bank intermediaries.

Dr. Maresh demanded an increase in the number of BC Gurukuls from 100 to 200, along with the construction of dedicated buildings for them. He also called for expanding BC welfare hostels in proportion to the community's population and providing better facilities.

Highlighting the importance of economic empowerment, he stressed the

need for training BCs as entrepreneurs and offering incentives for small and medium-sized industries. He insisted that funds allocated under the BC sub-plan should be used exclusively for BC welfare and sought self-employment loans for BC women.

The association also pressed for increasing scholarships to match rising educational expenses and granting research fellowships for BC students in universities. A demand was raised to establish a task force commission to support traditional BC professions and revive welfare schemes with a transparent beneficiary selection process.

Additionally, the association emphasized large-scale budget allocations for the education and health sectors

to ensure comprehensive development for BC communities. Several BC community leaders participated in the meeting, expressing their support for these demands.



Will Targeting Babu Backfire on BRS Again?

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) seems to be walking down a familiar and risky path—attacking Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. A recent statement by senior BRS leader Jagadeeswar Reddy has sparked controversy, raising questions about whether the party has learned from its past mistakes.

During a public address, Reddy claimed that the former BRS government had "kicked and sent away Babu" in reference to Krishna water disputes. His statement, "Babu ni thanni tharimesam," was meant to portray K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR) as a strong leader who aggressively defended Telangana's interests against Naidu's administration from 2014 to 2019. However, the use of such language has drawn criticism from political observers and

voters alike.

This incident brings back memories of a similar miscalculation by BRS in 2023. When Naidu was arrested by the Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government, BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) dismissed the issue, stating that there was no reason for protests in Telangana. This remark hurt the sentiments of Andhra settlers in the state, leading to electoral consequences. Realizing the damage, KTR later softened his stance and spoke respectfully about Naidu.

Despite the lessons from that experience, Jagadeeswar Reddy's latest remarks indicate that some within BRS continue to underestimate the political impact of attacking Naidu. Analysts point out that while BRS remained silent when Jagan diverted Krishna waters for the Pothreddy padu project,

they are now trying to claim dominance over Naidu, who was known for his balanced approach in negotiations. The bigger question is whether such rhetoric will benefit BRS or prove counterproductive. Telangana's political landscape has changed significantly, and settlers from Andhra Pradesh play a key role in several constituencies. Repeating past mistakes could alienate these voters further.

As BRS works to rebuild its political presence after its 2023 defeat, targeting Naidu in an aggressive manner might not be the most strategic move. Observers suggest that instead of focusing on rhetoric, the party should focus on constructive opposition and relevant issues that matter to Telangana's people. Whether BRS realizes this or continues with its old playbook remains to be seen.



Corruption Allegations Mount in Vijayawada Municipal Corporation



- Yesterday, corrupt supervisors in CMHO
- Today, a collection king biologist in the Malaria Department
- Another corruption scandal emerges in the Park Section

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Corruption scandals continue to surface in the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC), exposing rampant mismanagement across multiple departments. Following allegations against corrupt supervisors in the Chief Medical Health Office (CMHO) and a "collection king" biologist in the Malaria Department, new revelations indicate massive irregularities in the Park Section as well. According to reports, several workers in the Park Section, including both permanent and contract employees, are not at-

tending their duties properly but continue to draw salaries without accountability. The maintenance of parks and roadside greenery in the city is officially managed under the supervision of the Assistant Director of Horticulture (ADH). However, discrepancies have been found in records related to plant procurement and placement. Concerns have been raised about where the plants are being purchased from, at what cost, and how many are actually being procured. There are allegations that the process is riddled with financial irreg-

ularities, pointing to possible misappropriation of funds. Further, corruption is alleged in the operation of water tankers that have been contracted from a private vendor to irrigate plants along roadsides and medians. Despite awarding the contract, there is no official oversight to ensure that the tankers are actually being used for watering plants. Crucial details, such as diesel expenditure, issuance of fuel coupons, and the officials responsible for certifying the contract payments, remain unclear. It is also alleged that water tankers are being operated in violation of government regulations, yet the contractor continues to get bill approvals without scrutiny. Sources claim that officials in the Park Section are receiving bribes from contractors in exchange for signing off on these transactions, resulting in the neglect of greenery maintenance across the city. Adding to the concerns, several citizens have complained that the Commissioner is not responding to grievances. Meanwhile, CMHO supervisors are reportedly claiming that no action will be taken against them, further fueling allegations of systemic corruption. It remains to be seen whether the Commissioner will intervene to address these serious allegations or if the corrupt officials will continue their unchecked activities. **More details on another corruption scandal will be revealed in tomorrow's report.**

YSRCP Corporator Arrested in Kidnapping and Attempted Murder Case



- Tenali YSRCP corporator Ahmed Baig arrested
- Victim Sheikh Mastan Vali tortured, released after a ₹10 lakh extortion deal
- Police searching for two more accused involved in the case

TPN Correspondent | Tenali
Tenali police have arrested YSRCP corporator Ahmed Baig and his associate Rahman in connection with the kidnapping and attempted murder of carpenter Sheikh Mastan Vali. According to Tenali Three Town CI Ramesh Babu, Baig abducted Mastan in broad daylight on February 5, forcing him into a car and taking him to Vijayawada. Inside the vehicle, the victim was brutally assaulted, and Baig demanded ₹10 lakh from him. After forcing Mastan to agree to the payment, the accused released him back in

Tenali. Following the attack, the victim was admitted to a government hospital, where he reported the crime to the police. Ahmed Baig has a criminal history, with two previous kidnapping cases and a rowdy sheet opened against him for violent activities during the YSRCP regime. Based on a tip-off, police tracked and arrested Baig and Rahman, while two other accused, Sheikh Irfan and Sheikh Humayun Christie, remain absconding. Authorities have assured that they will be arrested soon.

YCP Leader Shankar Nayak Caught in Prostitution Case



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
YSRCP leader and founding president of the Tribal Association, Shankar Nayak (GVS), was caught by the police while engaging in prostitution at a massage center in Vijayawada. Nayak, who previously served as a member of the State ST Commission during Jagann Reddy's tenure as Chief Minister, was apprehended by the police during a raid. The incident has sparked widespread discussion, with many questioning whether political motives are involved. The involvement of individuals in criminal activities under the guise of political leadership continues to raise con-

cerns. The latest example of this is Shankar Nayak being caught at a spa center in Vijayawada. According to reports, the police conducted a raid at the massage center and caught Nayak red-handed while he was with a young woman from North India. Sources indicate that he attempted to evade arrest by hiding in a concealed area, but the police managed to locate and apprehend him after a thorough search. The incident has drawn criticism, raising concerns about the misuse of political influence. Authorities are expected to take further action following the investigation.

Vijayawada Police Recover 420 Stolen Phones Worth ₹50 Lakh



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Vijayawada police have successfully identified and recovered 420 lost and stolen mobile phones, valued at approximately ₹50 lakh, and returned them to their rightful owners. City Police Commissioner Rajasekhara Babu stated that the recovery was made possible through advanced technology and swift action by the police teams. "We identified and tracked the phones using technology. If people inform the police immediately after losing their phones, there is a high chance of quick recovery. We have conducted similar seizures in the past as well," said CP Rajasekhara Babu. He emphasized the importance of mobile phones in today's life, as they are linked to bank transactions and government identity cards. The Commissioner also noted that more stolen phones

are yet to be identified and assured that they will be seized soon. Additionally, CP Rajasekhara Babu warned about the rising cases of investment frauds. "Fraudsters first gain your trust by returning small amounts, then lure you into investing larger sums and eventually steal lakhs from your accounts. People must remain cautious and avoid falling for such scams," he cautioned. Highlighting the efforts in cyber and road safety, he urged citizens to stay vigilant. "Safety committees are working effectively, and under the leadership of Krishna Lanka CI Nagaraju, CCTV cameras have been installed across Vijayawada to solve cases efficiently. So far, 1,260 cameras have been set up in various parts of the city," he added. He also announced a new initiative set to launch in March, mandating apartment complexes to install CCTV cameras both inside and outside their premises. In a bid to curb vehicle thefts, the police are deploying technology that will enable the immediate identification of stolen bikes. Urging people to follow traffic rules, the Commissioner said, "Every citizen should wear helmets and seat belts while driving. Remember, your safety is crucial for your family's well-being."

Police Crack ₹5 Crore Gold Theft Case in Mangalagiri



- Jewelry shop clerk Nagaraju masterminded the theft with his friends
- CCTV footage exposed the staged robbery
- Police arrested all accused and recovered stolen gold

TPN Correspondent | Guntur
Mangalagiri police have successfully cracked the ₹5 crore gold theft case within six days and arrested the culprits. The case, which initially appeared to be a daring robbery, turned out to be an inside job orchestrated by a jewelry shop clerk, Nagaraju, along with his associates. Guntur district SP Satish Kumar disclosed the details of the case to the media. According to the police, Ramu, the owner of DVR Jewellers in Vijayawada, regularly supplies gold ornaments to shops in Nalgonda, Suryapet, and Nakrekal. As part of this, he handed over 5 kg of gold ornaments to Nagaraju for delivery to his residence in Mangalagiri. Later, Nagaraju called Ramu, claiming that two men on a bike had snatched the

gold bag while he was riding a two-wheeler near Atmakur in Mangalagiri. Upon receiving the complaint, police formed six special teams and analyzed CCTV footage of the incident. The footage showed that Nagaraju did not put up any resistance when the alleged robbers took the bag, raising suspicions. When interrogated, Nagaraju confessed to planning the theft with his former colleagues from a jewelry shop. The police arrested Nagaraju's accomplices—Bharat, Naveen, Irfan, Mohan, Lokesh, Chandu, and Arun—who had assisted him in the heist. Investigations revealed that the stolen gold ornaments were hidden inside tires and some of the gold had already been melted. The police successfully recovered all stolen property.

Potina Mahesh Slams Govt Over Group-2 Exam Confusion



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
The YSRCP has strongly criticized the state government for misleading Group-2 candidates, accusing it of creating confusion and chaos over the exam. YSRCP leader Potina Venkata Mahesh alleged that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has deceived not only unemployed youth and government employees but all sections of society. "For three weeks, he pretended to listen to the objections of Group-2 candidates, giving them false hope. In the end, he has pushed them into a pit of uncertainty," Mahesh said. He also pointed out the contradictory statements made by TDP leaders. "Lokesh garu says one thing, while Chandrababu Naidu garu says another. On one hand, they claim the exam is being postponed, and on the other, they say it is not in their hands. This proves the incompetence of the government," he added. "This is the most confused and chaotic government I have ever seen. The administration kept misleading Group-2 candidates till the last moment,

making them believe the exam would be postponed," he remarked. He demanded that the government hold an emergency meeting to provide clarity to the candidates, asserting that conducting the exam amid such confusion was completely unacceptable. The YSRCP also condemned the police action against protesting candidates. "We strongly oppose the lathi charge on students and demand the immediate and unconditional release of those who were detained," Mahesh stated. He called the police crackdown a brutal attack on young aspirants and another example of how the government was deceiving the people. Criticizing the handling of job recruitment, he pointed out that the DSC notification issued by the previous YSRCP government was canceled, and the so-called "Mega DSC" has only caused delays without providing a single job. "The government releases a job calendar every January, but never follows through. It promised ₹10,000 to volunteers while simultaneously terminating 2.4 lakh jobs," he said.

Ensuring Healthcare as a Right: Experts Urge Govt Action



Dr. Sujatha Rao criticizes privatization, calls for policy reforms

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati
Retired IAS officers have strongly advocated for making health a fundamental right in the country, criticizing the increasing privatization of the healthcare sector. Speaking at a conference on 'Health Sector in Andhra Pradesh - Social Responsibility' at SV Medical College Auditorium, Tirupati, former Health Secretary Dr. K. Sujatha Rao and senior IAS officer Dr. PV Ramesh Kumar voiced their concerns over government neglect in the health sector. The event was organized by Vemana Vigyan Kendra, Praja Arogya Vedika, and SV Medical College.

Dr. Sujatha Rao lamented that despite discussions on health policy beginning in 1948, it was only in 1983 that the country adopted a formal health policy. "Over the years, governments have shirked their responsibility, pushing healthcare into the private sector. As a result, the poor are unable to access basic medical services," she said. She pointed out that while Kerala has set an example with low mortality rates and accessible healthcare, Andhra Pradesh lags in providing quality public health services.

Highlighting alarming statistics, Dr. Sujatha Rao noted, "In India, the mortality rate for children under five is 32 per thou-

sand, while in Andhra Pradesh, it stands at 27, and in Kerala, just 10. In Germany, it is only four." She criticized the Andhra Pradesh government for privatizing Chittoor Government Hospital, partnering with private institutions for medical colleges, and permitting exorbitant capitation fees for students.

"The government has allowed the medical sector to become a business, where profit matters more than people's well-being. Corporate hospitals exploit patients by making unnecessary MRI and CT scan recommendations, looting crores in the process," she remarked. She further slammed the privatization of district hospitals in Madhya Pradesh, citing public resistance that prevented nine out of ten hospitals from being privatized. Dr. Rao also criticized the media for failing to promote scientific understanding. "Instead of educating people about healthcare and technology, media channels focus on pujas, mantras, and temples," she said. She demanded the abolition of the capitation fee system and emphasized that scholarships and infrastructure should be prioritized to improve medical education.

Dr. PV Ramesh Kumar dismissed the state government's claim that insurance-based



Dr. PV Ramesh Kumar rejects insurance-based healthcare as a solution

healthcare is a solution. "Providing insurance does not ensure healthcare; it simply shifts the government's responsibility to private players," he asserted. He urged people to vote against parties that treat health as a business rather than a right. Recalling an experience in Davos in 2015 with then-CM N. Chandrababu Naidu, Dr. Ramesh said, "When a colleague was injured, we sought the best private hospital. But in Switzerland, private hospitals don't exist—government hospitals provide the best care. This is what India should strive for."

He further pointed out that medical education is turning into a business, leading to unemployed doctors, similar to engineers. "What's the use of producing doctors who paid crores for their degrees but lack knowledge? Their sole focus will be on recovering their investment, not on public service," he said.

The conference unanimously passed a resolution, introduced by Praja Arogya Vedika General Secretary Kameswara Rao, demanding the implementation of a Health Security Act in Andhra Pradesh, recognizing health as a fundamental right, and preventing excessive privatization.

State President of Praja Arogya Vedika, NV Ramanaiah, emphasized the organization's contributions during the COVID-19 crisis and called for effective public healthcare policies. The event saw participation from senior medical professionals, including SWIMS Deemed University Dean Alladi Mohan, SV Medical College Principal Dr. P.A. Chandrasekhar, and Ruia Hospital Superintendent Dr. Ravi Prabhu, along with faculty and students from various medical institutions.

Pawan Kalyan's Secretary Krishna Teja Praised for Uplifting Orphaned Children



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan is widely known for his commitment to helping those in distress. He never waits for government intervention but instead takes swift action to provide financial and emotional support to those in need. His personal secretary, Krishna Teja, seems to embody the same spirit of service, proving that leadership is not just about administration but also about compassion.

Krishna Teja, an IAS officer from the Kerala cadre, was brought to Andhra Pradesh on deputation by Pawan Kalyan, who recognized his strong administrative skills and dedication to public welfare. While his governance abilities have already been acknowledged, a remarkable initiative from his past has now come to light, earning him widespread appreciation.

During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2022, Krishna Teja was serving as the District Collector of Alappuzha, Kerala. The pandemic had left countless families devastated, with many losing their primary breadwinners. Among them, 292 children in Alappuzha were orphaned, left without parents or guardians to care for them. Moved by their plight, Krishna Teja took it upon himself to en-

sure their well-being, going far beyond the call of duty.

Recognizing that education and shelter were critical for these children's future, he initiated a program to enroll them in schools by co-ordinating with government bodies and voluntary organizations. However, he knew that education alone was not enough—these children needed stable homes to rebuild their lives. With limited government resources available, Krishna Teja personally took the initiative to raise funds for the construction of homes.

Reaching out to friends, colleagues, and philanthropists, he mobilized the necessary funds, ensuring that every orphaned child received a place to call home. Over time, 286 homes were built and handed over, while the remaining six were completed recently and officially handed over on Saturday.

Despite relocating to Andhra Pradesh, Krishna Teja remained committed to fulfilling his promise to these children. He ensured that the project was completed, proving that true leadership transcends borders and positions.



CM Chandrababu Attends Wedding of Yadava Corporation Chairman's Son



TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu attended the wedding ceremony of the son of Tirupati Lok Sabha TDP in-charge and State Yadava Corporation Chairman, Narasimha Yadav, today. Chandrababu arrived at Renigunta Airport from Gannavaram and proceeded to RPR Kalyanamadapam near Tukivakam, where he was welcomed

by party leaders and supporters.

The newlyweds bowed at Chandrababu's feet, seeking his blessings. The Chief Minister blessed the couple, presented them with bouquets, and extended his best wishes. He also posed for photographs with the family. Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani was also present at the wedding ceremony

Rescue Efforts Intensify at Collapsed Telangana Tunnel as Water, Debris Hinder Progress

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Rescue operations continue in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district as authorities struggle to reach eight workers trapped inside a collapsed tunnel near the Srisailem dam for over 24 hours. The tunnel roof collapsed yesterday morning while workers were inside to repair a leak, cutting off all communication with them.

Muck mixed with water has spread over a 200-metre stretch, making access difficult for rescue teams. Four NDRF teams are en route to the site, while several agencies are already engaged in efforts to clear debris and dewater the tunnel.

Reports indicate that shifting boulders have made the collapsed section unstable. Water is gushing in from a fracture on the tunnel wall, necessitating dewatering before any significant rescue progress can be made. The collapsed section is about 13 km from the tunnel's



entrance.

Exclusive footage from inside the tunnel showed rescuers calling out the trapped workers' names in an attempt to locate them. However, an NDRF official confirmed that no response was received. A team had ventured inside the tunnel overnight, covering 11 km by locomotive and 2 km on a conveyor belt, but their efforts to establish contact were unsuccessful.

The situation is being monitored at both the state and central levels. The Union Home Ministry is coordinating with the Telangana government to provide necessary assistance.

Three Arrested in Theft Cases, ₹4.75 Lakh Worth Property Recovered



TPN Correspondent | Bhimavaram

West Godavari District SP Adnan Naem Asmi has intensified efforts to curb a series of thefts in the Aividu circle. Under the supervision of Bhimavaram DSP R.G. Jayasurya, Aividu CI Jagadishwar Rao, and Undi SI M.D. Nasirullah, special teams were formed to investigate the cases.

On Sunday at 11:30 am, the police arrested three accused—Anupuju Krishna Vamsi (21), Dokku Sai Kiran (24), and Naramamidi Haribabu alias Harish (30)—at Pedapulleru in Undi mandal. The police seized three motorcycles, 27 grams of gold ornaments, a cellphone, and ₹30,000 in cash, with the total recovered property valued at ₹4.75 lakh.

Criminal History of the Accused:

- Krishna Vamsi has multiple theft cases registered against him at Bhimavaram 1 Town, 2 Town, Bhimavaram Rural, Mudinepalli, Mandavalli, and Kaikaluru police stations.
- Sai Kiran has a history of theft and a ganja-related case, with cases registered against him in Undi and Palakoderu police stations.
- Haribabu, who is known for concealing stolen property, has bag-cutting theft cases against him at Bhimavaram 1 Town and Veeravasaram police stations.

West Godavari Additional SP V. Bhimarao commended the police officers for their efforts in solving the case.

Aster Ramesh Hospitals Expands Healthcare Services with New Ongole Facility



TPN Correspondent | Ongole

Aster Ramesh Hospitals has inaugurated a new 100-bed facility in Ongole, expanding its multi-specialty services in Prakasam district. Managing Director Dr. Pothineni Ramesh Babu announced the expansion to meet the growing demand for quality healthcare, particularly benefiting Aarogyasri patients.

Dr. Ramesh Babu, who pioneered cardiac care in Vijayawada in 1988, highlighted the hospital's achievements, including

- New 100-bed expansion to enhance multi-specialty services in Prakasam district
- Focus on advanced cardiac care, AI-driven diagnostics, and Tele ICU services
- Dedicated wing for maternal and child health under Aarogyasri scheme

over 2 million treated patients and 24,000 heart surgeries. Aster Ramesh Hospitals is recognized for advanced cardiac diagnostics like CT Angio and Calcium Score tests, allowing early detection and prevention of heart diseases.

The hospital has integrated AI-driven healthcare solutions, including Tele ICU, ensuring 24/7 monitoring of critical patients from remote locations. It has also gained international recognition, treating patients from countries like Pakistan and Belgium. With over 3,000 dedicated

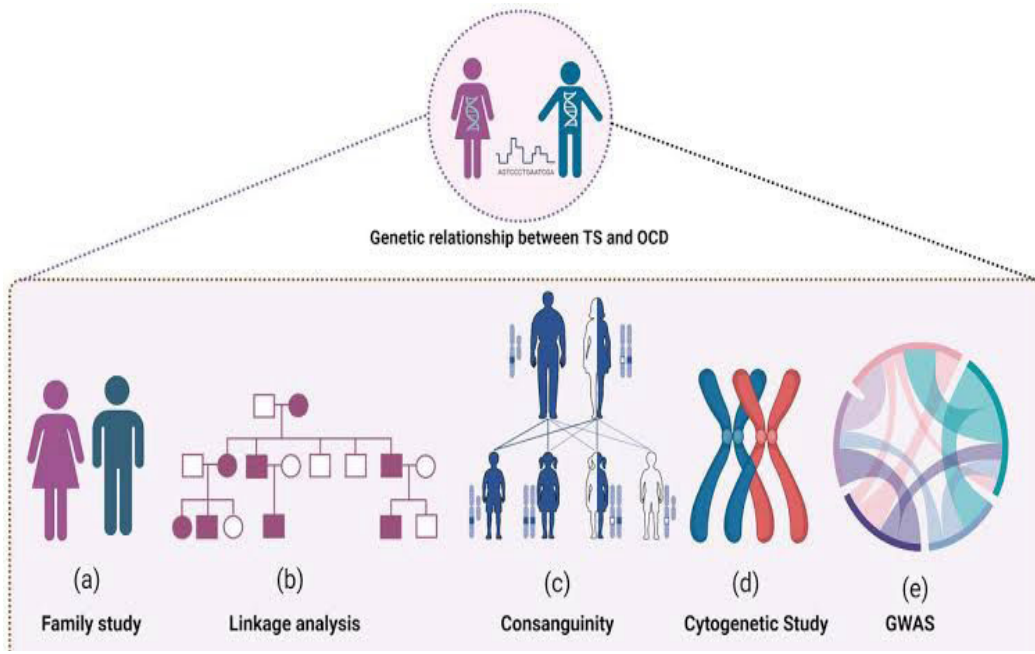
healthcare professionals, the hospital continues to set benchmarks in medical education and patient care.

The newly inaugurated facility prioritizes Aarogyasri beneficiaries, introducing the "Birth and Beyond" maternal and child health wing. The hospital aims to enhance emergency medical services with its ₹5000-per-bed-per-day Tele ICU model. Future plans include establishing a quaternary care hospital in Amaravati, expanding cancer care, and introducing organ transplantation and robotic surgeries.

The inauguration ceremony saw the presence of Minister Sri Dola Sri Bala Veeranjaneya Swamy, MP Sri Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy, District Collector Smt. Thameem Ansaria (IAS), MLA Sri Damacharla Janardhana Rao, and other dignitaries.

CONSANGUINITY

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



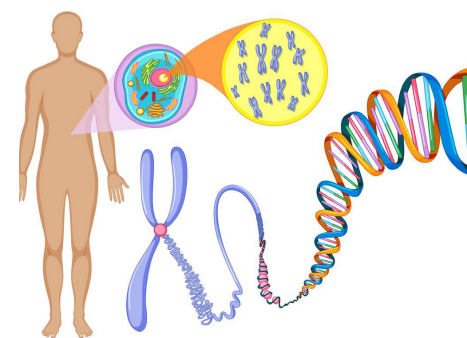
Family Bonds or Genetic Burdens



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



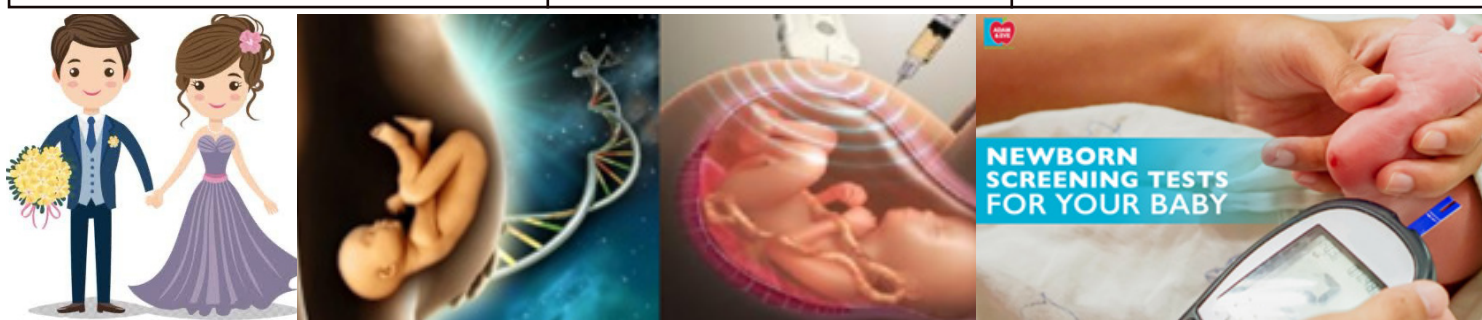
from the mother come together during fertilization, the child gets half of their DNA from each parent. Sometimes, genetic disorders are caused by "hidden" faulty genes, which are known as recessive genes. For a child to have a recessive condition, both parents must carry the same defective gene.

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



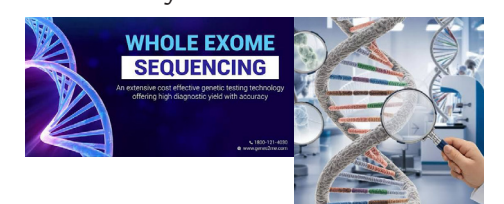
Think of trying to complete a tricky puzzle where some pieces are missing or don't fit quite right. That's similar to figuring out certain genetic disorders. Ultrasound scans can detect major physical defects in a fetus, but they can't confirm genetic issues. For genetic abnormalities, tests like the 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.

The latest and advanced genetic testing that are available are:

- Whole Genome Sequencing



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 | Vadodra

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.

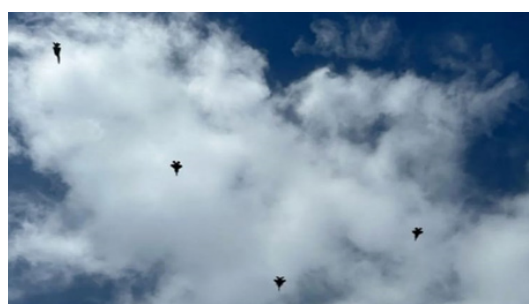
"USAID was allowed here in good faith, to do good faith activities. Suggestions are being made out of America that there are activities which are in bad faith. So, it surely warrants a look," Jaishankar

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 Safieddine, 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



MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM
Stock Market Analyst
+91 988 555 9709

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.

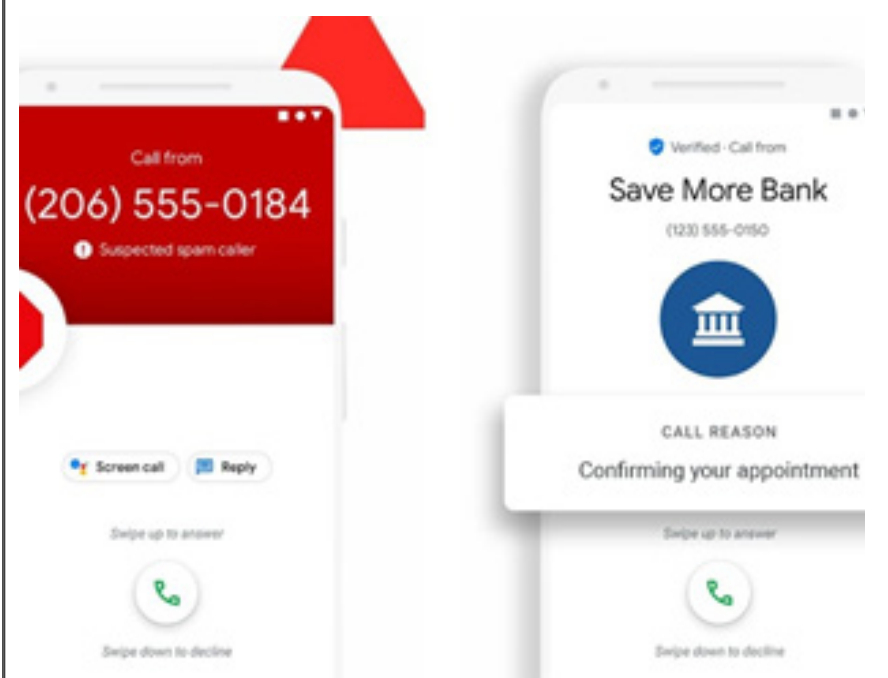
Call filters were first introduced with the 159.0.718038457-public-beta-pixel2024 update of the Phone app last month. At that time, it was limited to beta users with no official announcement on a public rollout. The latest report indicates that the feature is now becoming wide-

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.

