



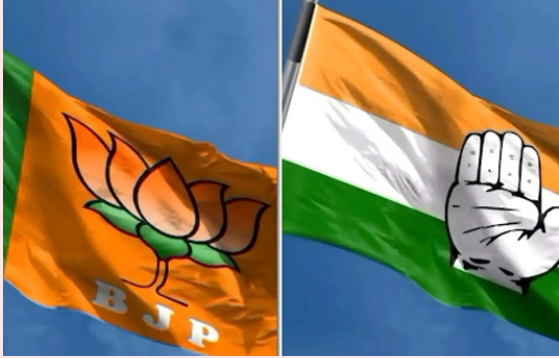
Weather Forecast

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

Congress, BJP locked in fierce battle for Telangana MLC polls

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Campaigning for the Graduate and Teacher MLC elections in Telangana has intensified as polling day approaches. Elections are being held for two teacher MLC seats and one graduate MLC seat in the state. Voting will take place on February 27 for the Medak-Adilabad-Nizamabad-Karimnagar teacher and graduate MLC seats and the Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal teacher MLC seat.



The BRS party has opted out of contesting these elections, while Congress, BJP, and several independent candidates are in the fray. As the election date nears, candidates have ramped up their outreach efforts, engaging with various sections of graduates

and teachers.

Congress campaign intensifies with Revanth Reddy's entry

Advocates, doctors, teachers, lecturers, and

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KCR took loans of ₹7 lakh crore, claims CM Revanth Reddy

Alleges employees were never paid salaries on the first date

Says BRS failed to issue job notifications for a decade

We are paying Rs.600 crore interest every month on KCR's loans



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has alleged that KCR's tenure left the state in a financial crisis, with a debt burden of ₹7 lakh crore. He stated that the government is now paying ₹600 crore every month in interest alone on loans taken by the previous BRS administration. Addressing graduates in Nizamabad as part of the MLC election campaign, he criticized KCR for failing to pay government employees on time throughout his decade in power.

Revanth Reddy questioned how BRS leaders, who allegedly did nothing for Telangana in ten years, were now blaming the Congress government after just one year. He slammed KCR for not issuing job notifications and for filing cases against those who attempted to do so. He highlighted that his government had already provided jobs to 55,163 people, including the recruitment of 11,000 teachers.

The CM accused the previous government of leaving retired employees with pending dues of ₹8,000 crore and neglecting promotions and transfers for teachers. He claimed that his administration swiftly resolved these issues. Revanth also touted the caste census initiated by his government, stating that it fulfilled Rahul Gandhi's vision and was an achievement no other state had accomplished in a century.

Taking a dig at KCR, Revanth said the people of Telangana had rejected him, yet he continued to conspire against the government from his

farmhouse. He criticized KCR for severing ties with Telangana and even changing his party's name. Revanth urged voters to support Congress only if they believed his government had delivered on its promises over the past year.

Why is the ED not arresting KTR in e-car racing case?

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has questioned why the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has not arrested BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) in connection with the e-car racing case. Speaking at a gathering of graduates in Nizamabad, he accused the BJP of having secret agreements with the BRS, shielding KTR from legal action.

Revanth alleged that BRS is deliberately staying away from the MLC elections as part of a deal with the BJP. He further claimed that former CM KCR is protecting his son KTR from being implicated in the phone tapping case, which is under investigation by the Central government. According to him, the BJP is leveraging this case to extract political support from the BRS in the upcoming MLC polls.

He also raised questions about the Central government's inaction in bringing back Prabhakar Rao and Sravan Rao, who fled to the United States. He alleged that despite requests for issuing red corner notices against them, the BJP-led government had ignored the matter.

Amgen launches innovation site in Hyderabad



Amgen expands operations in Hyderabad with a new innovation site

Plans to invest \$200 million (₹1,600 crore) by 2025

Focus on AI, data science, and biopharma job creation

TPN Correspondent, Hyderabad Amgen, America's largest biotechnology company, has launched its new technology and innovation site in Hyderabad, marking a significant expansion in India. Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and IT & Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu inaugurated the Amgen Innovation Site at the company's office premises near Hitech City.

Amgen Chairman and CEO Robert A. Broadway, US Consul General Jennifer Larsen, Amgen India Representative Som Chattopadhyay, and Amgen India Managing Director

Naveen Gullapalli participated in the inaugural event.

As part of this expansion, Amgen will invest \$200 million (approximately ₹1,600 crore) by 2025, with further investments planned in the coming years. The company aims to strengthen its presence in Hyderabad by leveraging AI, data science, and digital capabilities to enhance its range of medicines.

The initiative is expected to create more job opportunities in the biopharma sector, reinforcing Hyderabad's position as a global biotechnology hub.

Minister Komatireddy Oversees SLBC tunnel rescue operations

- Minister assures continuous monitoring of rescue efforts
- Govt deploying Indian Army, NDRF for swift action
- Medical equipment kept ready for trapped workers



TPN Correspondent | Nagarkurnool

State Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has emphasized the government's commitment to rescuing workers trapped in the SLBC tunnel at Domalapenta in Nagarkurnool district. He stated that he is constantly reviewing the rescue operations and working closely with officials to ensure all necessary measures are taken.

The minister clarified that security concerns if Chief Minister Revanth Reddy visited the site. He assured that the state government, with the assistance of the Indian Army and NDRF teams, is relentlessly carrying out rescue operations.

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Invest in AI City

Minister Sridhar Babu urges Queensland Representatives



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana IT and Industry Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu has called on representatives from the Australian and Queensland governments to invest in the state's ambitious 'AI City' project. The minister met a delegation led by Queensland Finance, Trade, Employment, and Training Minister Rosin Bates at his residence in Banjara Hills on Monday.

During the meeting, Sridhar Babu highlighted initiatives to strengthen Telangana-Queensland ties in key sectors. He particularly emphasized the upcoming Life Sciences University in Telangana, which has garnered interest from the visiting delegation. He stated that the representatives expressed their willingness to collaborate with Telangana, recognizing its leadership in life sciences and pharmaceutical manufacturing.

The minister also noted that the Queensland

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Kishan Reddy's open letter to CM Revanth Reddy

- Employees are being harassed by not paying retirement benefits
- People are unhappy with the 14-month rule
- What message Govt giving to employees who work honestly



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Union Minister Kishan Reddy has penned an open letter to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, strongly criticizing the Congress government for allegedly harassing employees by withholding their retirement benefits. He stated that the people are deeply dissatisfied with the 14-month rule of the Congress.

Kishan Reddy accused the government of mistreating employees, teachers, and pensioners by failing to clear pending dues, including DA, GPF, and other benefits. He condemned the imposition

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Farmers struggle for urea in Jagitial and Karimnagar



- Long queues seen in multiple districts as farmers wait for urea
- Some forced to place sandals in line due to the rush
- Limited supply leaves many farmers empty-handed

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The struggle for urea continues in Telangana as farmers in multiple districts, including Jagitial and Karimnagar, are facing severe shortages. Farmers in Thimmapur mandal's Nustulapur village were seen standing in long queues, some even placing their sandals in line to secure their place at the primary agricultural society.

The dire situation highlights the growing distress among farmers, who are left with no choice but to wait for hours, carrying their passbooks in hopes of obtaining the crucial fertilizer. However, the supply remains inadequate, forcing many to return empty-handed.

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Wanaparthi Congress leaders in a heated argument

- Chinna Reddy lashes out at MLA Thudi Megha Reddy
- Accuses police of acting as personal guards for the MLA
- Questions party leadership over neglecting senior leaders

TPN Correspondent | Wanaparthi
Internal conflicts within the Congress party in Wanaparthi have come to the forefront, with senior leader Chinna Reddy strongly criticizing Congress



MLA Thudi Megha Reddy and the local police. In a heated argument, Chinna Reddy questioned whether senior party leaders were being treated like "tissue paper" and accused the police of working at the MLA's behest. He alleged that police officials

were functioning as personal security for the MLA, taking action based on her instructions. "If the MLA wants to file a case, they do it. If she doesn't, they remove it. I have never seen the authorities and police so afraid of an MLA," he remarked.

Expressing his frustration, Chinna Reddy demanded to know why senior leaders like him, who have served the party for over four decades, were being sidelined in leadership decisions. "Don't we have the right to ask for the chairman post of Peberu Chinna Market?" he questioned. His remarks indicate growing discontent within the Congress ranks in Wanaparthi, adding to the challenges the party faces in managing internal disputes.

He further noted that a significant number of farmers are in-

Congress runs a '10% government': Kavitha

TPN Correspondent | Mahabubabad

BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha launched a scathing attack on the Congress government in Telangana, accusing it of misgovernance and neglecting public welfare. Addressing a gathering in Mahabubabad district, she criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, alleging that his administration is running on a "PPP mode"—which she defined as "phobia, politics, and percentage."

She claimed that Revanth Reddy is obsessed with former CM KCR and has no agenda other than criticizing him in every speech. Instead of addressing farmers' struggles and public grievances, he left for an election campaign in Nizamabad, she added. Kavitha further alleged that the Congress government is being widely referred to as a "10 percent government," with corruption dictating governance. She took a dig at the government's welfare policies, stating that women were promised ₹2,500 but have not received it, while misleading announcements are being made in neighboring states. She



also criticized the free bus travel scheme, arguing that it should not compromise women's self-respect. She urged the government to increase the number of buses so that all passengers, including women, could get seats.

Kavitha demanded that auto drivers be provided with ₹12,000 per year and accused the Congress government of halting developmental works initiated by the previous BRS regime. She further alleged

that the government is focused only on politics, not administration, citing the struggles of chilli farmers who have not received a proper support price.

Comparing Telangana's leadership to Andhra Pradesh, she pointed out that AP CM Chandrababu Naidu is actively lobbying the Centre for a better price for chilli farmers, while Revanth Reddy has shown no such commitment. She also criticized the Chief Minister for failing to visit the SLBC tunnel collapse site, instead prioritizing the MLC election campaign.

Farmers, she said, have been deceived in the name of loan waivers, with many villages still waiting for farmer assurance benefits. She also accused the Congress of failing to provide relief to flood victims, stating that CM Revanth Reddy did not even promise houses to those affected.

Kavitha concluded by asserting that Mahabubabad saw significant development under KCR's rule and urged the Congress government to continue the projects sanctioned during the BRS regime.

Farmers Commission urges special funds for agriculture

-Deputy CM responds positively

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Commission has requested the Telangana government to allocate special funds for agriculture and allied sectors. The commission, led by Chairman Kodanda Reddy, met Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, who responded positively to their appeal.

Kodanda Reddy stated that the commission had conducted a field-level survey, gathering opinions from farmers, agriculturists, and tenant farmers across the state. Based on their findings, he emphasized the need to prioritize vegetable, fruit, and orchard cultivation. He urged the government to introduce subsidy schemes to expand horticultural crop coverage and boost yields, with a particular focus on farmers relying on groundwater. He further noted that a significant number of farmers are in-



clined toward natural farming and called on the government to support this shift. Highlighting the labor shortage in the agricultural sector despite the presence of the Employment Guarantee Scheme, he proposed linking horticultural crop cultivation to the scheme. Additionally, he stressed the need for mechanization in turmeric, vegetable, and flower farming, recommending subsidies for small machinery to benefit small-scale farmers.

Addressing the persistent issue of crop damage caused by monkeys, Kodanda Reddy asserted that solar fencing is the most effective solution. He urged the government to provide subsidies for farmers to install solar fencing, which he said would significantly improve horticultural production.

The commission confirmed that Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka has acknowledged their recommendations and assured them of a favorable response.

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Kishan Reddy's open letter to CM Revanth Reddy

of financial restrictions on employee payments, calling it a disgraceful move that demoralizes hardworking staff.

He also slammed the government for delaying fee reimbursement payments to college managements, questioning their sincerity in promising to clear dues by April and May. He alleged that the Congress

was misleading institutions ahead of the Legislative Council elections and accused them of making false promises to unemployed youth before the polls.

The Union Minister warned that the Congress government would face consequences for its actions in the upcoming elections.

Invest in AI City

team agreed to cooperate on the proposed Sports University in the state. They appreciated the establishment of the Skill University and showed keen interest in industry-oriented courses designed to meet evolving workforce demands. Discussions also touched upon international collaboration in education, research and devel-

opment, and agriculture. Queensland Trade and Investment CEO Justin McGowan, Australian Consul General (Bangalore) Hilary McGechey, Consul Andrea Callister, Policy Research Associate Kritika Subramanian, Trade Commissioner Abhinav Bhatla, Manish Sharma, and other officials attended the meeting.

Minister Komatireddy Oversees SLBC tunnel rescue operations

"In addition to providing advanced medical care for the injured, we have kept life support equipment and rescue machines ready to protect the workers trapped inside the tunnel," Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said. He reaffirmed that the govern-

ment stands by every worker involved in the SLBC project, treating them like family. "We are making every effort to ensure the safe rescue of all eight trapped workers, drawing on expertise from similar tunnel rescue operations across the country," he added.

Farmers struggle for urea in Jagitial and Karimnagar

Officials eventually arrived and distributed urea bags to the farmers, but only a limited number could be accommodated, leaving many disappointed. The scarcity of urea at a critical time in the farming season is adding to the woes of the agricultural community, which is

already struggling with rising input costs and unpredictable weather conditions. Farmers have urged the government to take immediate steps to ensure an adequate supply of urea and prevent further distress in the farming sector.

Elections for MLA Quota MLC seats in AP and Telangana on March 20

TPN Correspondent | AP & TG

The Election Commission has released the schedule for elections to 10 MLC seats under the MLA quota in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, as these seats will fall vacant next month. The tenure of five MLCs in AP—Yanamala Ramakrishnu-du, Janga Krishnamurthy, D. Rama Rao, P. Ashok Babu, and Tirumal Naidu—will end on March 29. Similarly, in Telangana, Satyavathi Rathod, Mahmood Ali, Mirza Riazul Hasan,

Sheri Subhash Reddy, and Egge Malleshham will complete their terms in March.

According to the election schedule, the notification will be issued on March 3, and the nomination process will commence on March 10. Scrutiny of nominations is scheduled for March 11, while March 13 is the last date for withdrawal. Polling will take place on March 20 from 9 AM to 4 PM, with counting beginning at 5 PM on the same day.



Disagreements resurface in Patancheru Congress ahead of MLC elections

- Rift between Kata Srinivas Goud and MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy
- Congress leaders clash at Sitara Hotel meeting

TPN Correspondent | Patancheru

Internal conflicts within the Congress Party have once again flared up in Patancheru, with a fresh round of disagreements between senior leaders Kata Srinivas Goud and MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy. The tensions came to the forefront during a meeting of Patancheru Congress leaders at Sitara Hotel, held in the backdrop of the upcoming MLC elections. Congress election in-charge Mettu Sai Kumar attended the meeting, but MLA Mahipal Reddy remained absent, raising eyebrows within party circles.

Supporters of Kata Srinivas Goud openly questioned Mahipal Reddy's faction for skipping the meeting just two days before polling. They alleged that

the MLA's younger brother was actively campaigning for an independent candidate instead of supporting Congress nominee Narender Reddy. Furthermore, they accused Mahipal Reddy of failing to campaign even once for the party's official candidate, fueling further resentment within the party ranks.

The infighting left Congress in-charge Mettu Sai Kumar visibly upset as tensions between the two factions overshadowed the party's electoral preparations. With internal discord intensifying just before the elections, party leaders are concerned about its potential impact on the Congress' prospects in the constituency.



Liquor shops to remain shut for three days in Telangana



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana government has announced a three-day closure of liquor shops across the state in view of the upcoming MLC elections. The ban will be in effect from 4 PM on February 25 until 4 PM on February 27, covering the election period. This applies to liquor shops, toddy shops, and bars.

The decision comes as the Model Code of Conduct is in force for the MLC elections in seven erstwhile districts of Telangana. The elections, scheduled for February 27, are being conducted for three MLC seats—two teachers' constituencies and one graduates' constituency. Voting will take place in Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar for the teachers' and graduates' seats and in Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda for the teachers' seat. Excise department officials have issued directives to ensure compliance with the liquor ban, aimed at preventing any undue influence on voters.



Controversial Remarks by Anjan Kumar Yadav on Congress Leadership



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Feb 25 : Senior Telangana Congress leader and former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav made sensational comments recently. Addressing a gathering of Yadav community leaders at Old MLA Quarters in Hyderabad's Adarshanagar, Yadav expressed gratitude to the state government and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for completing the caste census, as promised by Rahul Gandhi. He commended the government's effort in calculating the BC communities and acknowledged the support for Yadavs. Yadav also questioned the critics who previously undermined Sonia Gandhi's role in Telangana statehood, asking who would believe such claims today.

He criticized the Congress party's decision during the Secunderabad Parliament elections, stating that if the seat had been allotted to the Yadavs, they would have won. Yadav claimed certain party members are still attempting to suppress the Yadav community. He also mentioned that his son was awarded a Rajya Sabha seat for his service to the party, with recognition from leaders like Sonia Gandhi and Lalu Prasad. GIVE IN 250 WORDS

Harish Rao Criticizes Opposition Over SLBC Tunnel Tragedy and Election Politics

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Feb 25 : In a strong critique of the opposition and the current government's response to the SLBC tunnel tragedy, BRS Minister Harish Rao accused the Congress of politicizing the issue. Speaking to the media, he condemned the delay in rescue operations and remarked that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy prioritized election campaigns over saving lives. He mocked the Chief Minister's absence at the accident site, sarcastically stating that despite the availability of a helicopter, the CM claimed there was none and stayed at home.

Harish Rao highlighted that the tragic incident, which claimed the lives of eight workers, was a result of the Congress government's negligence in the past. He specifically criticized Congress for not taking proper precautions and pointed to their hasty decision-making as a key factor in the disaster. Rao also accused Congress of failing to take necessary actions on safety measures, leading to accidents in three different projects during their one-year tenure.

Refuting the claims of Congress leader Uttam Kumar Reddy, who had blamed the BRS government for the incident, Rao defended the current administration. He pointed out that the BRS government had allocated Rs. 600 crore for the SLBC tunnel project, significantly more than the Congress government had done. Rao further criticized the Congress for alleging corruption over minor issues, using the example of a pillar collapse in Medigadda.

The Minister's comments reflect ongoing tensions between the BRS and Congress, especially surrounding the tragic tunnel incident and the subsequent political fallout.



CM Revanth Reddy and TPCC President Mahesh Goud to Lead MLC Election Rallies



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Feb 25 : In a significant move for the MLC (Member of Legislative Council) elections, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud are set to participate in multiple rallies today. As part of their campaign, they will address three public gatherings across different regions of Telangana.

The schedule for the rallies is as follows: the first one will take place in Nizamabad at 11:00 AM, followed by a second rally in Mancherla at 1:30 PM, and the third one will be in Karim-

nagar at 3:30 PM. The rallies will see the presence of several prominent leaders, including Ministers Sridhar Babu, Damodar Raja Narsimha, Ponnamp Prabhakar, Uttam Kumar Reddy, Seethakka, Jupally Krishna Rao, Konda Surekha, MLC Jeevan Reddy, MPs, MLAs, and DCC Presidents.

The TPCC has called upon the public to attend these rallies in large numbers, urging them to show their support for the party and its candidates. The leaders will continue to rally for the MLC elections, hoping to gain widespread support from the electorate.

Kavitha Criticizes Congress Government's Performance in Mahabubabad



TPN , Correspondent

Mahabubabad , Feb 25 : In a press conference in Mahabubabad, BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha made strong remarks against the Congress government, accusing them of neglecting public issues and focusing on political gains. She criticized Congress for operating in "PPP mode," describing it as a combination of "Phobia, Politics, and Percentage," with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy allegedly suffering from "KCR phobia."

Kavitha claimed that Revanth Reddy, instead of addressing the problems of the people, had left for election campaigning in Nizamabad while crucial issues such as farmer distress and public welfare were ignored. She pointed out that the Congress government failed to

deliver promised financial aid to women and had not implemented the free bus travel scheme effectively, which harmed women's self-respect.

She further highlighted the government's failure to address the plight of farmers, especially the mirchi growers, whose conditions were worsening. Kavitha condemned the Congress government for not fulfilling promises like loan waivers for farmers and support for flood victims. She urged the Congress to continue the developmental projects initiated under KCR's leadership, particularly in Mahabubabad, and called out the government for neglecting the region's progress.

Kavitha emphasized that the Congress government must focus on governance rather than political posturing.

MP Laxman Slams KCR and Revanth Reddy Over State's Financial Crisis

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Feb 25 : BJP Rajya Sabha member MP Laxman made explosive comments, accusing former CM KCR and current CM Revanth Reddy of plunging Telangana into a state of financial crisis. Speaking to the media at the Nalgonda BJP office on Monday, Laxman criticized KCR for accumulating a debt of Rs. 7 lakh crore, which was handed over to Revanth Reddy. He claimed that the current CM, with little experience, has only worsened the state's financial burden, leading it further into debt.

Laxman also highlighted the government's inability to provide retirement benefits to employees, describing the state's dire economic condition. He pointed out that retired employees are now forced to approach the courts to claim their due benefits. Additionally, he accused the government of failing to provide proper healthcare services to government employees, stating that due to unpaid bills, hospitals are neglecting their health schemes.



Congress, BJP locked in fierce battle for Telangana MLC polls

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unemployed graduates are conducting close-group meetings to garner support. Congress graduate MLC candidate Narendra Reddy has received strong backing from the ruling party. TPCC chief Mahesh Kumar, ministers, MLAs, and MLCs have been actively campaigning for him. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy joined the campaign in Mancherla on Monday, boosting confidence among Congress ranks. Congress ministers in charge of parliamentary constituencies, including Sridhar Babu, Damodar Rajanarsimha, Ponnamp Prabhakar, Seethakka, Jupally Krishna Rao, and Konda Surekha, along with MPs Gaddam Vamsi Krishna and Suresh Shetkar, are campaigning intensively in their assigned areas. MLAs Gaddam Vivek Venkataswamy and Gaddam Vinod, along with other Congress leaders, are coordinating efforts, with 50 graduate in-charges overseeing the campaign.

BJP steps up campaign with top leaders in action

For the BJP, graduate MLC candidate Anji Reddy and teacher MLC candidate Malka Komuriah are receiving support from Union Minister and BJP state president Kishan Reddy, Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, and MPs Raghunandan Rao, Dharmapuri Arvind, and Godam Nagesh. Seven BJP MLAs and key leaders are campaigning across four districts, reflecting the party's serious intent in the MLC elections.

The BJP is employing micro-level poll management by appointing 25 in-charges and intensifying focus on the Karimnagar region, which accounts for 45% of the total votes. Bandi Sanjay has conducted special meetings in Mancherla, Peddapalli, and Karimnagar to consolidate support. Additionally, the party has reportedly convinced former MLAs Gujjula Ramakrishna Reddy, Sugunakar Rao, and Raghunath Rao to join the campaign.

Tough competition among teacher MLC candidates

A fierce battle is unfolding for the Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal teacher MLC seat, where the BJP has fielded a candidate, while Congress and BRS have chosen to remain neutral. As a result, the competition among teachers' associations is proving to be the key deciding factor in this election.

Sitting MLC Alugubelli Narsi Reddy from UTF is seeking re-election. PCC official spokesperson and TPRTU founding president Gal Reddy Harshavardhan Reddy, TPRTU-TS state president Pingali Sripal Reddy, BJP-backed Puli Sarvottam Reddy, and former MLC Pula Ravinder, who has the backing of BC associations, are among the 19 candidates contesting.

Candidates and associations are implementing strategic campaigns to gain the support of 25,797 teachers spread across 12 districts. While UTF, TPRTU, and TPRTU have directly fielded candidates, independent candidates are working to attract non-affiliated teachers and smaller associations.

Key issues influencing teachers' votes

Teachers believe that all major associations have equal opportunities in securing votes from high school teachers. However, in the case of ashram schools, gurukuls, model schools, KGBV teachers, language pundits, gym teachers, and aided schools, voting may be influenced by specific issues rather than association affiliations.

Crucial factors like G.O. 371, spouse transfers, and pending DA arrears are playing a major role in the election, with candidates vying to win over teachers by addressing their demands.

With campaigning set to end on Tuesday evening, the political atmosphere remains charged as candidates make a final push for votes ahead of the crucial polling day.

Virat Kohli's Record vs KCR's Record: A Comparison by Minister Konda Surekha

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Feb 25 : In a recent match in Dubai, India achieved a stellar victory over Pakistan by 6 wickets, a moment of national pride. While cricket fans celebrated Virat Kohli's incredible achievement of scoring 14,000 runs, Telangana's opposition leader, KCR, has ironically set his own "record" for not attending the assembly for nearly 14 months.

Minister Konda Surekha pointed out the contrast between these two records—Kohli's achievement puts him in the headlines, while KCR's absence from legislative duties has raised questions about his accountability and connection with the people. She emphasized that Kohli's 14,000 runs are a remarkable milestone, while KCR's prolonged absence from the Assembly is a matter that warrants reflection, as it directly impacts the public's access to their elected leaders.

In her statement, Surekha brought to light KCR's failure to address public issues and highlighted how both Kohli and KCR, though in different fields, have captured attention in their own ways. However, she suggested that KCR's 'Virat Parvam' (largely inactive role) might need a closer examination.



Indira Shobhan Demands Reservations for BC, SC, ST Women in Legislative Bodies



TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Feb 25 : Congress leader Indira Shobhan has demanded that reservations be provided for BC, SC, and ST women in the 33% seats allocated for women in legislative bodies. She made this appeal to the national leadership of the Congress party, urging them to apply pressure on the central government.

On Monday, Indira Shobhan met with All India Mahila Congress President, Alka Lamba, at Gandhi Bhavan, Hyderabad, where she submitted a petition. In her petition, she emphasized that if reservations are not provided for women from BC, SC, and ST communities, it would be an injustice to female leaders from these marginalized groups. She highlighted the political influence and financial support enjoyed by upper-caste women and pointed out that women from other communities lack such advantages. Indira Shobhan further urged Congress to take a strong stance on this issue at the national level, ensuring that women from backward and weaker sections are empowered. She also appealed to Alka Lamba to bring this matter to the attention of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, recalling his efforts to address the concerns of marginalized communities.

Sridhar Babu Envisions Hyderabad as Global Life Sciences Capital at Amgen Inauguration

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Feb 25 : Telangana's IT & Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, at the inauguration of Amgen India's new office in Raheja Knowledge City, emphasized Hyderabad's transformation into the global capital of life sciences. Highlighting the state's commitment under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership, he stressed the city's growing role in healthcare innovation and its attractiveness to global giants. Minister Sridhar Babu detailed Telangana's efforts, such as the establishment of a Skill University, aimed at creating a skilled workforce for emerging industries. He revealed that Amgen's decision to set up op-



erations in Hyderabad was a result of proactive efforts by the state, with the campus expected to employ 600 by year-end and 2,000 in the coming years. The event also saw key figures including Amgen Chairman Robert A. Bradway and U.S. Consul General Jennifer Larson, with a focus on strengthening collaboration between Amgen and Telangana's universities, startups, and research institutions to foster innovation.

Amgen Opens New Technology and Innovation Site in Hyderabad

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Feb 25 : Amgen, the largest biotechnology company in the United States, has launched its new technology and innovation site in Hyderabad. The inauguration took place near the Hi-Tech City, at Amgen's office campus, with Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, IT and Industries Minister K.T. Rama Rao, and Amgen's Chairman and CEO Robert A. Bradway, American Consul General Jennifer Larson, Amgen India Representative Som Chattopadhyay, and Managing Director Naveen Gullapalli in attendance. As part of its expansion, Amgen is set to invest \$200 million (around ₹1600 crores) by 2025. The company has further plans for more investments in the coming years. This initiative is expected to generate numerous job opportunities in the biopharma sector.



Amgen's new site will focus on enhancing its pharmaceutical portfolio and advancing digital capabilities using AI and data science. With this new establishment, the company aims to expand its operations in the state, contributing to the growth of the healthcare sector.

Former Minister Srinivas Goud Leads Protest Against Neera Cafe Mismanagement

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Feb 25 : Former Minister Srinivas Goud, along with other leaders from the Goud community, held a press conference and protest at Neera Cafe, voicing strong opposition to the recent changes and alleged mismanagement of the establishment. Goud criticized the Telangana government, claiming that the Neera Cafe, a product of their hard work and vision, was being undermined. He highlighted that the Neera Cafe was built with immense effort, financial backing, and foresight under KCR's leadership, with the intention of reviving traditional community occupations and offering a space for the Goud community. Goud emphasized that the cafe's unique offering, such as Neera, was a significant achievement for the community. However, he lamented that recent decisions had undermined these efforts, with government authorities giving away the cafe's management and violating agreements made during their tenure.



Goud also expressed concern over the government's actions, including removing crucial elements like windows and air-conditioning, which had been part of the original plan. He accused the government of disregarding the community's dignity and questioned the coordination between departments in managing the cafe. The protest saw active participation from various community leaders, including former chairman of the corporation, BC Commission members, and Goud leaders, calling for immediate corrective measures and justice for the Goud community.

Roundtable Demands Immediate Closure of Dumping Yard in Sangareddy District

TPN , Correspondent
Sangareddy , Feb 25 : A roundtable meeting held in Sangareddy district has demanded the immediate closure of the dumping yard in Pyranagar-Nallavalli, Gummadidala mandal.



The meeting emphasized halting construction work and the removal of police checkposts in the area, which has been causing distress among the locals. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), in collaboration with a private company, started the construction of the dumping yard on 152 acres of land in Pyranagar, which is part of the Nallavalli gram panchayat. The local residents have strongly opposed the project, as they were neither consulted nor notified about the developments. Several panchayats have passed resolutions against the project, and farmers with land in the area have approached the High Court, leading to a temporary halt in construction. The concerns raised include potential environmental harm, as the site is close to important water bodies, including lakes and the Manjira river, which could become polluted. Locals fear that the project will lead to contamination of water resources and affect both agriculture and wildlife. Additionally, the increased presence of police checkposts has raised security concerns. The roundtable demands that the state government take immediate action to stop the dumping yard construction, relocate it away from populated areas, and address the environmental impact. The meeting also called for the removal of police checkposts and for all cases against farmers to be withdrawn.

Congress Focuses on Employment and Development in Graduate Constituency Elections

TPN , Correspondent
Karimnagar , Feb 25 : Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies, Captain N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, emphasized the need for the victory of Congress candidate Narendra Reddy in the upcoming Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Medak Graduate Constituency elections. Speaking at a massive public meeting in Karimnagar on Monday, Uttam Kumar Reddy highlighted the importance of continuing the justice and reforms Congress has provided for unemployed graduates. He pointed out that within just one year of Congress coming to power, 55,000 government jobs were filled, showcasing the party's commitment to employment. He also stressed that under Congress governance, government employees have received timely salaries and promotions, reflecting the party's support for public servants. Uttam Kumar Reddy noted that Congress had prioritized regional development, particularly in the historically neglected districts of Karimnagar,



Nizamabad, Adilabad, and Medak. He highlighted that industrialists from around the world are now investing in Telangana, bringing in more job opportunities for the unemployed. Reddy concluded by urging the graduates to vote for Narendra Reddy in the elections, ensuring continued development and employment opportunities in the region, which would be key to the state's progress.

HYDRAA Limits Complaints to Government Land Encroachments, Warns on Farm Plot Purchases

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Feb 25 : The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) has issued new guidelines for public complaints during the weekly Prajavani hearings. The agency has instructed that only complaints regarding encroachments on government lands and public spaces will be entertained. HYDRAA officials also clarified that they will not intervene in personal disputes or matters between individuals. Complainants are required to disclose if their issues are already pending in Civil or High Courts, with action being taken against those who conceal ongoing cases while filing complaints. In a related move, HYDRAA chief AV Ranganath issued a warning against the purchase of unauthorized farm plots in Hyderabad and surrounding districts. During the Prajavani grievance redressal program, he raised concerns about the illegal sale of plotted farmland, which violates the Telangana Municipalities Act 2019 and the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act 2018. He cautioned that layouts cannot be developed on farmland without proper authorization. Additionally, HYDRAA has launched a project to rejuvenate several lakes in Hyderabad, aiming for the restoration of vital water bodies. The agency has made significant progress in lake restoration, reclaiming 200 acres and resolving over 5,800 complaints.

GHMC Bill Collector and Associate Arrested for Accepting Rs 45,000 Bribe

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Feb 25 : The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested a Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) bill collector and his associate for accepting a bribe of Rs 45,000. The arrested individuals have been identified as C Madhu, a GHMC bill collector from the Ranga Reddy unit, and his associate V Ramesh. Reports suggest that Madhu had initially demanded a bribe of Rs 1 lakh from a factory owner in Rajendranagar to prevent a property tax hike. However, after negotiations, the bribe amount was reduced to Rs 45,000. Ramesh was found to be the intermediary who collected the money on Madhu's behalf. Following a complaint, ACB officials caught the duo red-handed,



with the bribe money recovered from Ramesh. A chemical test on Ramesh's right-hand fingers confirmed traces of the bribe money. Both Madhu and Ramesh were arrested and presented before the special judge for ACB cases in Nampally. An ongoing investigation is looking into further details. The Telangana ACB has urged citizens to report corruption and help track down government officials involved in bribery. The toll-free number 1064 is available for reporting such incidents.



Congress and BJP Ignoring Senior Leaders: Jivan Reddy and Ravinder Reddy's Debate

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Feb 25 : Accusations have surfaced that both Congress and BJP are not recognizing the contributions of senior leaders. On Monday, an intriguing exchange took place between Congress MLC Jivan Reddy and BJP leader Ravinder Reddy.

Both leaders expressed frustration, stating that the parties were only giving opportunities to those with money, while ignoring senior leaders who have worked for the party's growth. They lamented that despite their constant efforts to strengthen the party, they were sidelined in favor of others. The conversation, which reflected their discontent, has now gone viral on social media.

It appears that both leaders were campaigning for the MLC elections during this exchange.

Khammam Farmers Awaiting Rs. 250 Crore Loan Waiver



TPN , Correspondent

Khammam , Feb 25 : Farmers in Khammam district, despite being in a region with three prominent ministers, are expressing deep frustration over the pending loan waivers. They are seen circling government offices in search of answers, questioning when their loan waivers will be processed.

Khammam district, represented by Deputy CM Batti Vikramarka, Minister P. Srinivas Reddy, and Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao, is witnessing a major delay in the Rs. 250 crore loan waiver for farmers. The government has promised a waiver of Rs. 2 lakh per farmer, but those with loans exceeding this amount are still waiting for assistance. Farmers are struggling with interest payments due to poor crop yields and are urging the government to step in and support them.

CM Revanth Expresses Shock Over Telangana Lives Lost in Varanasi Accident

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Feb 25 : CM Revanth Reddy expressed deep shock over the tragic road accident in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, in which residents of Sangareddy district lost their lives. In a media statement on Monday, he instructed officials to coordinate with Uttar Pradesh authorities to provide immediate assistance to the injured and ensure better medical care. The deceased, including irrigation official Venkataramireddy and his family members, were returning from the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj when their car collided with a tipper truck near Varanasi. Venkataramireddy, his wife, and the driver died on the spot, while three others were severely injured. The victims hailed from Venkataramireddy's hometown, Nyalkal Mandal in Sangareddy. Local authorities have rushed the injured to the hospital.



CM Revanth Reddy Accuses BJP and BRS of Conspiring to Defeat Congress

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Feb 25 : CM Revanth Reddy addressed an MLC election meeting in Nizamabad, where he claimed that the BJP and BRS were conspiring to defeat the Congress party. He highlighted that while former MLC Jivan Reddy had previously won in this constituency, the Congress now fielded Narendra Reddy. He accused the BRS of struggling to find a candidate for the MLC elections, stating that people had rejected CM KCR. He also emphasized that Narendra Reddy



would serve as a representative for educated citizens, calling attention to the

10-year rule of the BJP at the center and the BRS in the state.

Revanth Reddy further pointed out that after the Congress assumed power in December 2023, they had only 8 months to govern before the general elections. He reiterated the ongoing conspiracy between BJP and BRS to undermine the Congress and urged graduates to vote for Congress if they believed in the promise of 50,000 jobs. Otherwise, he said, they should refrain from voting for the Congress.

Konda Surekha Leads 8th Wildlife Protection Board Meeting

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Feb 25 : The 8th meeting of the State Wildlife Protection Board was held at the Secretariat under the leadership of Telangana Forest, Environment, and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha. During the meeting, several proposals regarding the construction of mobile towers and other initiatives in forest areas were discussed. Four mobile towers, proposed for various forest regions, received a positive response from the Board. The revised proposals for the construction of Panchayat roads in the buffer area of the Kawal Tiger Reserve were also approved. A discussion took place regarding five BSNL 4G mobile cell towers, which will be taken up in future Board meetings.

Minister Surekha inquired about the relocation process of tribals, asking officials if they were being moved to beneficial areas under Section 1/70. The officials clarified that the relocation was taking place in accordance with the relevant laws and to areas designated as beneficial.

The Minister directed officials to take stringent actions to protect wildlife in forest areas and suggested no permission be granted for heavy vehicles on forest roads at night. She also advised a review of regulations governing vehicle movement in these areas, proposing amendments if necessary. Forest and Environment officials assured the Minister that they would review the matters.



BRS Opposes Congress Government's Move to Monopolize Sand Transportation in Telangana

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Feb 25 : The Telangana government's move to monopolize sand transportation has drawn strong opposition from the BRS. The Telangana Mineral Development Corporation (TMDC) has issued tenders for the empanelment of sand transportation agencies, limiting eligibility to only companies or transporters with a turnover of Rs. 5 crores. This move, according to BRS leaders, will severely impact small lorry owners and drivers across the state, as the awarded bidder will control sand transportation.

The Congress government, which has been criticized for its handling of sand mining and revenue losses, previously allowed 24-hour mining before extending the sand loading timings from 6 AM to 9 PM, violating environmental guidelines. BRS now demands the withdrawal of the tenders, which they claim will benefit only large contractors while leaving thousands of small-scale drivers to suffer. The party has vowed to continue pressuring the government on this issue, citing its negative impact on local transporters.

Additional Collector Instructs Strict Arrangements for March 2025 Exams in Nalgonda

TPN , Correspondent

Nalgonda , Feb 25 : Nalgonda's Additional Collector, J. Srinivas, held a review meeting with district officials on Monday, emphasizing the importance of conducting the upcoming Intermediate and SSC exams smoothly and without any errors. He called for strict adherence to procedures for the exams, set to take place from March 5 to March 25 for Intermediate and March 21 to April 4 for SSC students. The Intermediate exams will run from

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, while SSC exams will be held from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. In Nalgonda, 28,722 students are registered for the Intermediate exams, and 18,666 for SSC exams. To manage this, 52 exam centers have been set up for Intermediate and 105 regular and 3 private centers for SSC.

The Additional Collector instructed officials to implement Section 144, set up flying and sitting squads, and ensure tight security at exam centers. He also highlighted the need for uninterrupted

electricity, drinking water, and medical assistance during exams. The RTC and transport officials were directed to provide adequate buses for students, while postal officials were asked to ensure the safe storage of exam papers. Special focus will be given to prevent malpractice, paper leaks, and ensure no mobile phones are allowed inside exam centers.

Officials from various departments, including Education, Medical, and Police, attended the meeting.



MP Vaddiraju, MLCs Kavitha, Ravinder Rao, and Satyavathi Offer Special Prayers at Veerabhadra Swamy Temple

TPN , Correspondent

Mahabubabad , Feb 25 : On February 24, 2025, Rajya Sabha Member Vaddiraju Ravichandra, along with MLCs Kalvakuntla Kavitha, Takallapalli Ravinder Rao, Satyavathi Rathod, former MLA Chandravathi, and other prominent leaders, visited the Korivi Veerabhadra Swamy temple in Mahabubabad district to offer special prayers. The group received a warm welcome from BRS leaders, workers, supporters, and tribal women, who greeted them with traditional dances, including Gussadi, Lambadi, and Dappu, and hundreds of people participated in the grand reception.

Following the welcome, MP Ravichandra, MLCs Kavitha, Ravinder Rao, Satyavathi Rathod, and former MLA Chandravathi performed special rituals at the temple, offering coconut breaking, fruits, flowers, and traditional clothes to Lord Veerabhadra Swamy and Goddess Bhadrakali. The priests blessed the leaders with prayers, and they were presented with holy water and prasad. The visit was a significant event for the BRS leaders and their supporters in the region.



Rescue Operation Underway After Tunnel Collapse in Telangana, No Sign of Survivors Yet

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Feb 25 : A rescue operation continued into its third day on Monday night in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district after a portion of the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel collapsed on Saturday, trapping eight workers. Despite over 60 hours of intense efforts, including the deployment of teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the Army, and other agencies, there has been no sign of survivors. The collapse occurred at the 14th km point of the tunnel, where 50 workers were working when a section of the

roof collapsed by three meters. While 42 workers managed to escape, eight, including two engineers and two machine operators, remain trapped. The workers, hailing from Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir, are feared to be buried under rubble and water.

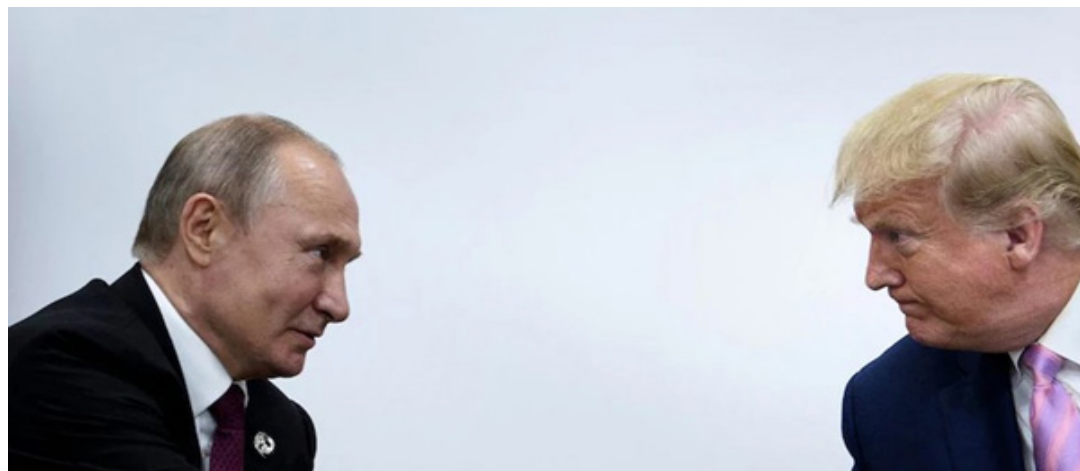
The rescue operation has been hindered by flooding, as the tunnel is submerged for nearly two kilometers. Teams have been working tirelessly to dewater and desilt the tunnel using heavy motors and advanced equipment such as endoscopic and robotic cameras. The op-

eration has also received help from rat miners who previously participated in the Silkyara Bend-Barkot tunnel collapse rescue in Uttarakhand in 2023. Telangana's Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Jupally Krishna Rao, and Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, along with senior officials, have been supervising the ongoing operation. Despite efforts, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao expressed that the chances of finding the trapped workers alive were slim, as no response was received when names were called out.

The Ukraine Conflict: A Global Power Struggle and Lessons for India

The ongoing Ukraine conflict, which has been a focal point of global geopolitics, has created significant shifts in alliances and tensions, particularly between Europe, the US, and Russia. Amidst these developments, Ukraine has found itself excluded from key diplomatic conversations. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, feeling sidelined, has declared that Ukraine will not honor any agreements reached without its participation. This discontent was further exacerbated when the Trump administration pressed Ukraine for a bilateral agreement that would provide preferential access to its natural resources in exchange for the \$500 billion of American aid to sustain its war against Russia. However, Zelenskyy rejected this proposal, insisting on security guarantees for Ukraine instead.

The political tensions were heightened when President Trump, in his second term (Trump 2.0), labeled Zelenskyy a "modestly successful comedian" and blamed him for starting the war. Zelenskyy, in turn, accused Trump of being influenced by Russian misinformation. These sharp exchanges and the calls for a new direction in the US foreign policy towards Russia have rattled European NATO members, who have long relied on American support to counter Russian aggression. The swift shift by Trump 2.0 towards repairing relations with Russia, without consulting NATO allies, has left Europe uneasy, especially as they continue to support Ukraine militarily and financially. This friction between the US and Europe is compound-

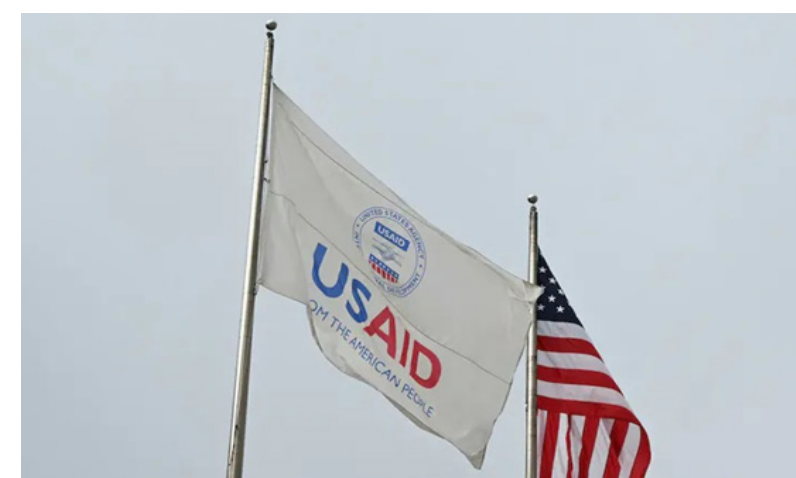


ed by Trump's criticism of European policies, particularly their approach to immigration and defense spending. Trump has pressured European NATO members to meet higher defense spending targets, further deepening the divide. Many European countries, especially those in Eastern Europe facing Russia directly, fear the erosion of NATO's collective security guarantee and the possibility of Ukraine being forced into a "Finlandization" scenario—where it would retain independence but be neutralized in terms of NATO membership.

Russia, meanwhile, has made it clear it will not make territorial concessions and continues to escalate its military campaign, hoping to exploit NATO's divisions. As the war drags on, the devastating human and economic costs for both Russia and Ukraine are mounting, with losses in the hundreds of thousands and profound economic setbacks for both nations.

The war's broader impact has led to global economic disruptions, including higher inflation and supply chain issues, particularly in hydrocarbons and precious metals. The conflict has also driven political polarization, with many countries reluctant to be forced into choosing sides.

For India, the conflict presents an opportunity to recalibrate its foreign policy. A resolution would allow India to strengthen its relations with both Russia and the US, lifting Western sanctions and improving economic interactions. Most importantly, the conflict underscores the importance of India's campaign for "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India), particularly in areas critical to national security and economic stability. The lessons from the Ukraine crisis highlight the vulnerabilities in global supply chains and the necessity for India to build resilience against such geopolitical shocks.



USAID and Its Role in India's Electoral Processes: Whose Interests Are Being Served?

The involvement of USAID in India's electoral processes raises serious questions about its motivations and the interests it serves. Ahead of the 2014 parliamentary elections, USAID funneled large sums into initiatives targeting voter turnout among marginalized communities in India. This sparked concerns about the true objectives of this funding and whose interests were being advanced.

US President Donald Trump criticized USAID's actions, arguing that the agency was not promoting democracy in India but rather undermining it. Trump's statement highlighted the US government's potential influence in shaping political outcomes in foreign countries. USAID's Democratic Elections and Political Processes (DEPP) programme allocated over \$318,000 annually to India-specific projects, with disbursements peaking during election years. In FY2014, a staggering \$21 million was spent on "voter awareness" campaigns, coinciding precisely with India's national election period. The funding dropped drastically after May 2014, suggesting that the primary goal was electoral rather than institutional.

In 2019, a similar pattern emerged, with \$486 million allocated regionally, though Indian agencies blocked some of these funds due to concerns over violations of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). This raised suspicions that USAID's efforts might align with political agendas rather than genuine democratic objectives.

Furthermore, USAID awarded funds to programs like a \$750,000 initiative aimed at "alleviating loneliness among migrant garment workers" in India. The vague nature of this program and the lack of clear beneficiaries call into question whether these initiatives truly serve the communities they claim to support or if they have ulterior motives.

Another contentious issue is the 2012 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India's Election Commission (ECI) and the US-based International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). While former Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi insists that no USAID funds were received directly by the ECI, leaked audits suggest that USAID's focus was on increasing voter participation in marginalized communities, which some critics argue aligns with specific political agendas.

The funding from USAID and its alignment with election cycles, as well as the involvement of organizations like IFES and private tech giants, raises concerns about foreign influence on India's democratic processes. With transparency lacking, these revelations call for a deeper investigation into how foreign interests may be shaping the nation's electoral landscape.

India Must Read the Fine Print in Trump's F-35 Fighter Jet Offer

The recent offer by U.S. President Donald Trump to sell India the advanced F-35 fighter jet has raised a crucial question: will the Indian Air Force (IAF) soon sport U.S. F-35s? While the F-35 is a cutting-edge fifth-generation stealth fighter, the IAF's decision to acquire it must be carefully considered in light of several challenges and potential conditions.

During his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the White House on February 13, Trump announced that the U.S. was willing



to negotiate an F-35 deal with India. This aircraft, already in service with key U.S. allies like Israel, the United Kingdom, and Japan, offers significant advantages, such as stealth technology and advanced combat capabilities. For India, the offer comes at a time when the IAF is grappling with a shortage of fighter aircraft. With only 31 active squadrons, well below the sanctioned 42, the IAF is eager to modernize and replenish its fleet. The MRFA (Multirole Fighter Aircraft) program, aimed at adding 114 fighters, has been delayed for over seven years, leaving India's defense forces in need of immediate solutions.

Given the growing threat posed by China's increasing fleet of fifth-generation J-20 fighters and Pakistan's acquisition of stealth J-35 jets, the IAF urgently needs advanced aircraft to maintain an edge. The F-35 could potentially fill this gap. However, before rushing into a deal, India must consider the complex conditions surrounding the F-35 offer. The U.S. has previously shown more interest in selling its F-21 aircraft, a variant of the F-16, to India, which is tailored to Indian needs but comes with more modest capabilities. The offer of the F-35 could be part of a transactional strategy, possibly requiring India to first purchase the F-21.

The Waning India-Pakistan Cricket Rivalry: A Battle of Unequals



The India-Pakistan cricket rivalry, once a fierce, breathless contest, has lost much of its intensity and significance over time. While the nostalgia of past moments — such as Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag's exploits during the 2003 World Cup, or Javed Miandad's iconic last-ball six in Sharjah in 1986 — still lingers in the minds of fans, the stakes of these encounters have changed significantly. What once was a do-or-die spectacle now feels less consequential, both in terms of the cricket field and the geopolitics that once revolved around these matches.

In the past decade, India has dominated their cricketing contests with Pakistan. Out of 10 ODI encounters since 2015, India has triumphed in eight, with Pakistan securing just one win in the 2017 Champions Trophy at The Oval. The two nations have also met in seven T20 internationals, with India winning five of those and Pakistan two. The last Test between them was back in 2007. These

figures reflect a one-sided rivalry, where India begins every contest as the overwhelming favorite, and Pakistan's sporadic victories are increasingly seen as rare surprises.

A key factor behind the shift in this rivalry is the stark contrast in the political and economic trajectories of both nations. India, under the leadership of Narendra Modi, has experienced political stability and economic growth. With Modi at the helm for three consecutive terms, India has become the world's fifth-largest economy and is on track to become the third-largest in the near future. The country has made remarkable strides in areas such as space exploration, with ISRO recently completing its 100th launch, and boasts 117 unicorns in the tech sector. Indian citizens today rarely discuss the prospect of war with Pakistan, focusing more on security concerns along the Chinese border.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's situation has be-

come increasingly dire. With mounting debt and an economy teetering on the brink, the country relies heavily on loans from China and the IMF. Its finance minister recently acknowledged Pakistan's lost credibility in the international arena. The country has been plagued by political instability, with no Prime Minister completing a full term in recent years, and the former Prime Minister, Imran Khan, now imprisoned. Internal insurgencies and rising sectarian violence continue to destabilize the nation, further exacerbating its economic and social woes.

Today, the India-Pakistan cricket encounter feels more like a contest between two unequally matched teams, with India's well-paid, confident squad facing a Pakistan team that is struggling amidst a battered economy and fractured political landscape. The intense rivalry that once captivated the imagination of millions has faded, leaving behind a sense of nostalgia for what was once a fiercely contested battle on and off the field.

PM Modi Transfers Rs 22,000 Crore to 9.8 Crore Farmers Under PM Kisan Scheme

- 19th PM Kisan installment boosts agricultural support
- Bihar event highlights rural and infrastructure growth

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday transferred over Rs 22,000 crore directly into the bank accounts of 9.8 crore farmers across India, marking the release of the 19th installment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. The event took place in Bihar, where the PM also inaugurated several developmental projects, furthering the government's commitment to strengthening infrastructure and promoting growth in the state.



Accompanied by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, several Union ministers, MPs, MLAs, and officials from both state and central ministries attended the event. The PM's visit aimed to highlight the government's ongoing efforts to uplift the agricultural sector, particularly focusing on the well-being of farmers across the nation.

During the event, Prime Minister Modi expressed the government's pride in India's 'annadatas' (farmers) and reiterated the govern-

ment's dedication to improving their lives. In a post shared on the social media platform X, responding to a thread by MyGovIndia, the PM reaffirmed, "We are proud of our annadatas and our commitment to improve their lives."

The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, launched in 2018, aims to provide financial assistance to farmers to support their agri-



cultural needs and enhance their livelihoods. This installment will continue to benefit millions of farmers, who receive direct cash transfers to support their farming activities and reduce financial burdens. The government's ongoing push to aid farmers aligns with its broader objective of enhancing rural development and promoting agricultural growth.



Omar joins Modi's anti-obesity relay campaign, ropes in Supriya Sule too

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam asserted that tariffs do not protect countries, and India needs to reduce them for its own benefit, regardless of external pressures. Speaking at the 69th Foundation Day of the All India Management Association (AIMA), Subrahmanyam emphasized that being open to global markets should be one of India's top priorities if it aims to become a developed nation.

He highlighted the need for India to finalize trade agreements with key economies such as the European Union and the United Kingdom to facilitate tariff reductions. Subrahmanyam further stressed the importance of deregulation at both the central and state levels to integrate India into global supply chains.

Subrahmanyam also observed that while there is global interest in India, many investors are choosing to explore other countries instead. He pointed to nations like Indonesia, Vietnam, and Turkey, which have benefitted from the "China plus one" strategy adopted by global companies seeking alternatives to China.

The NITI Aayog CEO argued that India's entry into global value chains requires more than just initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI); it also demands deregulation and a focus on skill development. He expressed concern about the bureaucratic red tape involved in business operations, which he claimed is stifling growth, particularly for MSMEs.

Subrahmanyam shared that NITI Aayog is working on integrating India into global supply chains across various sectors, including electronics, auto components, chemicals, textiles, and footwear. He also mentioned that the Aayog is awaiting Cabinet clearance for its recommendations on the electronics component supply chain and is preparing to launch a national manufacturing mission within three months.

In addition to manufacturing, Subrahmanyam identified education and agriculture as critical areas for India's development. He stressed the need to transform agriculture by shifting focus away from traditional crops like rice and wheat toward horticulture, floriculture, and dairy production. He also emphasized that states must be open to enterprises from other regions to stimulate growth, with a free-flowing enterprise environment being key to progress.

Subrahmanyam concluded by underscoring the effectiveness of the state rating system in encouraging reforms and highlighting the importance of fiscal health and efficient budget management for states.

Those who got Muslim votes could not stop riots: Bihar CM Nitish Kumar

TPN Correspondent | Patna

On Monday, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar criticized the opposition JRD-Congress alliance, accusing them of seeking Muslim votes without taking any substantial action to prevent communal clashes. Kumar made the remarks during a function in Bhagalpur, which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Governor Arif Mohammad Khan.

The event took place in Bhagalpur, a region historically remembered for the devastating communal riots of 1989, which resulted in the loss of nearly 1,000 lives. Speaking about the situation in Bihar when his government took over in 2005, Kumar highlighted the prevailing law and order problems. He emphasized that, under the previous administration, people were afraid to step out after dark due to the frequent Hindu-Muslim clashes. Without directly naming any party, he stated that those who relied on Muslim votes did nothing to stop these conflicts, but things started to improve only after his government assumed power.



Kumar, who is also the president of the JD(U), has often pointed to the trial and punishment of those responsible for the Bhagalpur riots as one of his government's key achievements. He has long claimed that during the 15-year rule of the JRD, the guilty parties were not punished because many of the accused were close to the party. At the event, Kumar expressed gratitude towards Prime Minister Modi for the financial assistance provided to the state by the Union government. He praised the latest budget for Bihar, which included several announcements for the state's development.

Gautam Adani Unveils Rs 1.1 Lakh Crore Investment Plan for Madhya Pradesh

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani made a significant announcement at the Madhya Pradesh Global Investors Summit (GIS) 2025, revealing a new wave of multi-sectoral investments worth over Rs 1.1 lakh crore for the state. Speaking at the event on Monday, Adani outlined a comprehensive investment blueprint of Rs 2.1 lakh crore, which is expected to generate more than 1.2 lakh jobs in Madhya Pradesh by 2030.

The announcement comes as part of Adani Group's ongoing efforts to contribute to the economic development of Madhya Pradesh, with a focus on infrastructure, energy, manufacturing, and other key sectors. The massive investment will help boost the state's industrial growth and attract more global investors, positioning Madhya Pradesh as an attractive hub for business and innovation.



Adani emphasized that the investments would have a long-term impact on the state's economy, contributing to job creation, skill development, and overall industrial modernization. With the planned investments, Adani Group aims to foster new opportunities across various sectors and ensure sustainable growth for Madhya Pradesh.

India, UK Aim To Triple Bilateral Trade In 10 Years. Leaders Meet In Delhi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the United Kingdom resumed today after a months-long pause. The meeting between UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Jonathan Reynolds, and India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi marks a significant step towards a mutually beneficial trade deal.

The proposed agreement aims to drastically increase bilateral trade between the two nations, currently valued at \$20 billion annually. Mr. Goyal described the potential FTA as "pathbreaking," emphasizing its potential to triple this trade within the next decade. While negotiations are advanced, he refrained from committing to a fixed timeline, stressing that the process should be thorough and focused on long-term benefits for both countries. He added, "Speed is important, but haste is not, as this agreement will benefit citizens for years to



come." Reynolds echoed the sentiment, calling the FTA a top priority for the UK

government and highlighting its long-term significance for both economies. A joint statement following the

meeting confirmed the resumed talks, noting the goal of a balanced, forward-looking deal that will strength-

en trade ties and unlock opportunities for businesses and consumers on both sides.

In addition to the FTA, the two ministers discussed parallel negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) and a Double Contribution Convention Agreement, which aim to further cement economic cooperation. When asked about immigration, Mr. Goyal made it clear that it has never been part of trade negotiations, while Mr. Reynolds emphasized the UK's welcoming stance on Indian professionals, students, and business mobility.

The India-UK FTA talks began on January 13, 2022, with the goal of eliminating or reducing tariffs and customs duties on goods traded between the nations. In 2023-24, bilateral trade between India and the UK rose to \$21.34 billion, up from \$20.36 billion in the previous year. The UK remains one of India's top investors, with \$35.3 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) since 2000.

Conservative Merz set to be new German Chancellor

- Merz set to be Germany's next chancellor
- Far-right AfD surges to second place in historic result
- Coalition talks uncertain as parties avoid AfD tie-up

TPN Correspondent | Berlin

In a national election on Sunday, opposition leader Friedrich Merz of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) emerged poised for a victory, while the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) achieved a historic surge in support. Projections from ARD and ZDF public television show Merz's conservatives leading with a modest win, while the AfD nearly doubled its support, marking its strongest showing since World War II.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz of the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) conceded defeat, calling it a "bitter election result" as his party finished in third place with its worst postwar performance in a national election.

Merz, who had led the CDU opposition, vowed to act swiftly in forming a coalition government. However, uncertainties remain regarding the coalition-building process, as no mainstream parties are keen on partnering with the AfD due to its far-right positions. This complicates the formation of a stable majority in the Bundestag, and the path to a functional government remains unclear.



The election was called seven months earlier than scheduled after Scholz's coalition government, which had been marked by internal conflicts, collapsed in November. His tenure had been characterized by growing discontent among voters, with little enthusiasm for any of the main political leaders. The dramatic rise of the AfD has set alarm bells ring-

ing across Europe, as it reflects a broader shift toward far-right populism in the region. Despite the setback for Scholz's SPD, the outcome of the election highlights the volatile political climate in Germany, with the focus now shifting to Merz's ability to navigate complex coalition talks and address the growing influence of the far-right.

Will have to create NATO within Ukraine: Zelenskyy continues to bid for Kyiv's seat



TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy continues to advocate for Ukraine's NATO membership, emphasizing that it is the "simplest and most logical solution" to end the ongoing war with Russia. In a post marking the third anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Zelenskyy argued that NATO membership is the most cost-effective way to prevent further conflict, warning that without joining the alliance, Ukraine would have

to "create a NATO within" itself.

Zelenskyy, who has been vocal in his push for NATO membership, outlined a strategy where Ukraine would be forced to build and maintain its own strong military, finance it, produce weapons, and work with international partners to deter Russian aggression. He highlighted the necessity of securing comprehensive security guarantees, including military, economic, and political support, in the absence of NATO membership.

In a bold move, Zelenskyy recently expressed his willingness to resign from office if it would lead to Ukraine's accession to NATO. "If there is peace for Ukraine, if you really need me to leave my post, I am ready... I can exchange it for NATO," he stated during a press conference. His willingness to step down underscores the high stakes Ukraine faces in its ongoing struggle against Russian forces.

Despite facing criticism from the Donald Trump-led U.S. administration, Zelenskyy remains firm in his stance, thanking those who continue to support Ukraine's quest for real security. Tensions have escalated between Zelenskyy and Trump, who has made disparaging remarks about the Ukrainian president, even calling him a "dictator." Trump, however, has expressed confidence that peace talks with Russia could soon resolve the conflict, even as Zelenskyy insists that NATO remains Ukraine's best path forward. Zelenskyy's calls for NATO membership continue to be a central focus in Ukraine's strategy to bolster its defenses and seek international support as the war with Russia grinds on.

Indonesia's Prabowo Subianto officially establishes new sovereign wealth fund

TPN Correspondent | Jakarta

President Prabowo Subianto of Indonesia officially launched the nation's new sovereign wealth fund, "Danantara Indonesia," on Monday, marking a significant step toward economic growth and development. The fund, which is modeled after Singapore's Temasek, is set to manage government stakes in state-run enterprises and is expected to play a crucial role in driving the country's economic future.

In a televised address, Prabowo announced the creation of Danantara Indonesia, which will manage assets worth over \$900 billion with the goal of achieving 8% economic growth over the next five years. While the president did not reveal the identities of the fund's executives and advisors, he stated that the team had already been appointed to steer the fund's operations.



Danantara Indonesia will focus on investing in high-impact, sustainable projects in several key sectors, including renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, food production, and downstream industries. The fund will oversee all government holdings in state companies currently managed by the State-Owned Enterprises Ministry, which includes major financial institutions such as Bank Mandiri, Bank Rakyat Indonesia, and Bank Negara Indonesia.

This strategic move aims to stimulate Indonesia's economy, create jobs, and support the government's long-term development goals. By leveraging the wealth generated from state-owned companies, Danantara Indonesia will promote sustainable investments and help fund projects that are essential for the country's growth. The fund's establishment is part of a broader effort to modernize Indonesia's economic infrastructure and attract global investors.

Danantara Indonesia is seen as a pivotal tool in Indonesia's efforts to diversify its economy and achieve sustainable growth, as it will help fund critical sectors that are vital for the country's future. With its vast financial backing, the fund is expected to make a significant impact on Indonesia's economic trajectory, providing the necessary capital for development while ensuring that resources are managed efficiently for long-term prosperity.

Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif's Big Claim On India Might Cost Him His Name



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has found himself embroiled in controversy after making a bold claim during a public rally in Dera Ghazi Khan. Known for his animated speeches, Sharif went beyond his usual rhetoric, stating that his name will cease to exist if Pakistan does not surpass India in terms of economic development and progress.

Sharif, visibly passionate during the rally, was seen gesturing fervently, raising his fist in the air, and occasionally jumping on the podium. In an emotional outburst, he assured the crowd that his government was working tirelessly to improve the nation's situation. However, it was his following statement that stirred controversy: "My name won't be Shehbaz Sharif if due to our efforts Pakistan does not leave India behind in development and progress."

Sharif further emphasized his commitment by swearing on his elder brother, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's life, saying, "I am Nawaz Sharif's fan, his follower. I swear on his blessed life that we will work together to take Pakistan to greatness and defeat India."

The statement quickly spread across social media, triggering widespread mockery and criticism. Critics accused Sharif of making "tall promises" without offering any substantial evidence of progress on the ground. Many questioned his ability to fulfill such lofty claims, given Pakistan's ongoing economic and financial struggles.

Just weeks earlier, Sharif had called for dialogue with India, but India has made it clear that any talks must first address the issue of terrorism emanating from Pakistan. With this latest inflammatory remark, Sharif's rhetoric has only added fuel to an already complex diplomatic situation.

Sharif's visit to Dera Ghazi Khan, during which he announced new infrastructure projects, was intended to assure locals that his government was addressing their concerns. However, his ambitious statements seem to have overshadowed his promises of development and economic recovery.

People Tired Of: Trump Hails Conservative Wave In German Election



TPN Correspondent | Berlin

In a landmark national election, Germany's conservative alliance emerged victorious, with Friedrich Merz set to become the next Chancellor. According to exit polls, the result marks a major shift in Germany's political landscape, with the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) achieving record gains, securing second place. US President Donald Trump praised the election results, stating that the German people had rejected the "no common sense" policies of the Olaf Scholz-led centre-left government, particularly in energy and immigration. Trump expressed his belief that this was a "great day for Germany."

Meanwhile, Merz, 69, vowed to strengthen Europe's independence from the United States, criticizing Washington's influence. While he previously supported transatlantic ties, Merz declared his intention to help Europe become "real independent" from the US. He called for unity within Europe, citing external pressures from both Russia and the US. He even questioned the future of NATO in its current form.

Despite his victory, Merz faces complicated coalition talks. His Christian Democratic Union (CDU/CSU) bloc emerged as the largest group, but it secured its second-worst post-war result, making it unclear whether Merz will need one or two coalition partners to form a majority. The surge of the far-right AfD, which garnered 20.5% of the vote, complicates coalition possibilities, as mainstream parties have ruled out working with the AfD due to its far-right stances.

The election also saw a decline for Chancellor Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD), which achieved its worst result since World War II, securing only 16.5% of the vote. The Greens and the far-left Die Linke party also saw reduced support, while the pro-market Free Democrats (FDP) and new party Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance (BSW) struggled to reach the 5% threshold for parliamentary representation. Voter turnout was a high 83%, with male voters leaning right and female voters showing more support for left-wing parties.

Stock Markets Face Heavy Losses Amid Mixed Global Signals, Nifty and Sensex Decline



Domestic stock markets endured significant losses on Monday, as investor sentiment was weighed down by mixed signals from international markets, weak US consumer data, and continued selling by Foreign In-

stitutional Investors (FIIs). The indices opened lower and struggled throughout the session, with the Nifty and Sensex both closing deep in the red.

The day began with a gap down open-

ing as global market indicators were less than favorable. The lackluster data from the US, coupled with earnings downgrades by rating agencies for some companies, added to the negative sentiment. While sectors such

as auto, FMCG, and pharma showed some resilience, sectors like IT, media, metal, and realty saw mixed performances. The selling pressure pushed the Nifty to a loss of 242 points, ending at 22,555, significantly lower than the 200-day exponential moving average (DEMA).

The BSE Sensex opened at 74,893 and went on to touch an intraday low of 74,387 before peaking at 74,907. Eventually, it closed at 74,454, down 856 points from the previous session's close of 75,311. Meanwhile, the NSE Nifty started at 22,609, hitting a low of 22,518, and managed a high of 22,668 before closing at 22,555. The Nifty Bank, a key indicator of the banking sector's performance, fell 329 points to end at 48,561.

Out of the 50 stocks in the Nifty50 index, only 12 gained, while 38 experienced declines. Some of the top gainers included Mahindra & Mahindra, Dr. Reddy's, Eicher Motors, Hero MotoCorp, and Nestle India. On the other hand, major losers included Wipro, HCL Technologies, TCS, Infosys, and Bharti Airtel. While the Auto, FMCG, and pharma sectors posted slight

gains, the overall market breadth favored the sellers, with a significant number of stocks declining.

Market data revealed a clear dominance of selling pressure on the NSE, with 775 stocks advancing against 2,097 decliners. Notably, 20 stocks hit 52-week highs, while 214 touched 52-week lows. In terms of market movements, 82 stocks reached their upper circuit limits, and 177 stocks hit lower circuits.



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The rupee closed flat at 86.70 against the US dollar. On the corporate front, notable developments included Adani Green Energy's launch of a 250 MW solar power project in Rajasthan, Rail Vikas Nigam's bid for a Rs 156.35 crore project in South Western Railway, and Bharti Airtel increasing its stake in Airtel Africa. India's crude oil imports reached an eight-month high in January, and economists are predicting a cut in the repo rate to 5.75% by mid-2025 due to ongoing growth concerns. Additionally, IRFC secured a bid to finance NTPC Renewables' Rs 7,500-crore project, while Varun Beverages and Power Finance Corporation saw notable trading volumes.

ICRA Predicts 7-8% Revenue Growth for India Inc in Q4

Domestic rating agency ICRA projected that Indian companies are likely to see a 7-8% revenue growth during the March quarter of the current fiscal year, driven by a revival in rural demand and increased government spending. However, the agency also highlighted that the private capital expenditure (capex) cycle is expected to remain subdued due to geopolitical uncertainties and a relatively weak outlook on merchandise exports from India.

ICRA noted that despite these challenges, certain sectors, particularly those receiving government support through production-linked incentive schemes, will continue to thrive. These include sunrise industries such as electronics, semiconductors, and electric vehicles (EVs), which are set to see increased investments. The agency further mentioned that the recovery in operating profit margins (OPM) for India Inc. observed in the past quarter is likely to be sustained, with expectations of margins staying between 18.2-18.4%. This growth will be support-



ed by rising demand, bolstered by improved consumer sentiments.

ICRA also emphasized the outlook for rural demand, which is expected to remain robust in the first half of CY2025. This will be supported by strong output from the kharif crops and a favorable forecast for the ongoing rabi season. However, the outlook for agriculture will depend on the arrival of a normal and well-distributed monsoon in 2025.

Urban demand, which has been weak in recent quarters, is anticipated to improve. This recovery will be driven by factors such as the significant income-tax relief in the Union Budget for 2025, monetary easing by the Reserve Bank of India, and expectations of a moderation in food inflation, which would aid discretionary consumption, according to Kinjal Shah, Senior Vice President and Co-Group Head of Corporate Ratings at ICRA.

Retail inflation eases slightly to 4.61% for farm workers, 4.73% for rural labourers

Inflation rates for agricultural and rural labourers in India have eased slightly, as the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) dropped in January 2025. According to the government data released on Monday, CPI-AL stood at 4.61 percent, while CPI-RL was recorded at 4.73 percent. These figures showed a decline from December 2024, when the inflation rates were 5.01 percent for CPI-AL and 5.05 percent for CPI-RL.



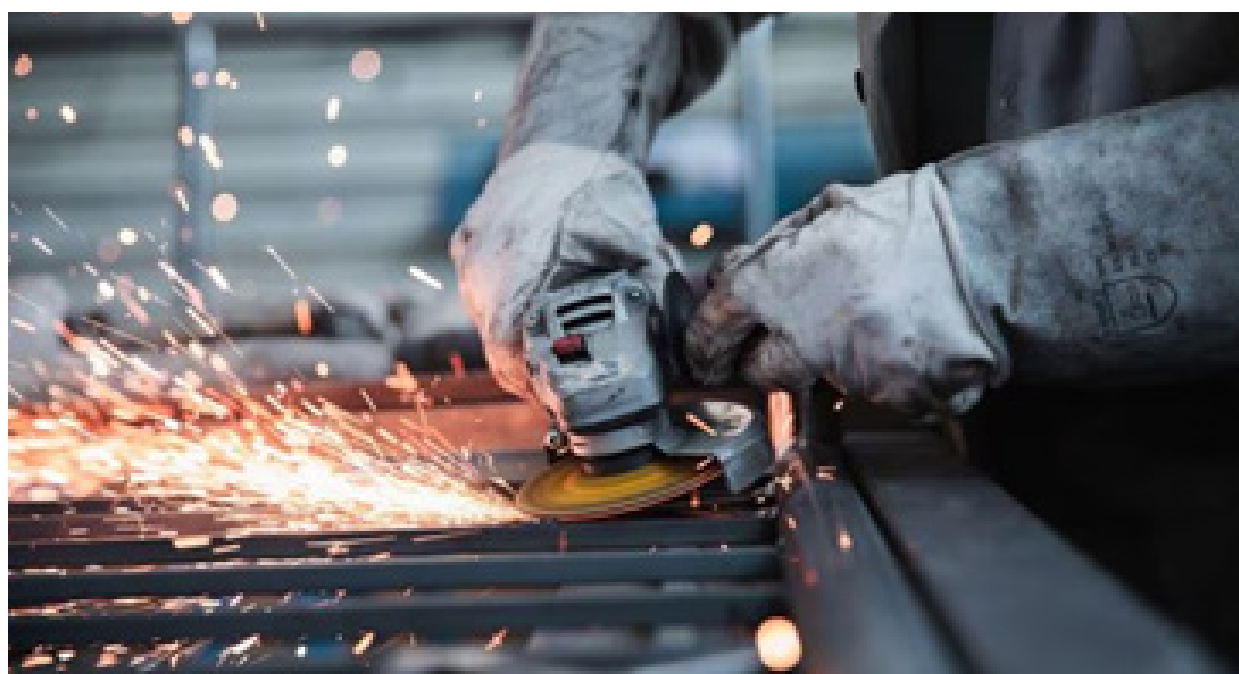
The All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) decreased by 4 points and 3 points, respectively, for January 2025, reaching 1,316 points and 1,328 points. In comparison, the CPI-AL and CPI-RL were at 1,320 points and 1,331 points, respectively, in December 2024.

In terms of year-on-year inflation, the figures for January 2025 showed a significant reduction in the inflation rates compared to the same month in the previous year. CPI-AL inflation fell from 7.52 percent in January 2024 to 4.61 percent in January 2025, while CPI-RL inflation dropped from 7.37 percent to 4.73 percent during the same period.

The CPI-AL and CPI-RL are important indicators of the cost of living for agricultural and rural workers in India, reflecting the price changes for essential goods and services. The decline in inflation is likely to bring some relief to these workers, as the cost of basic goods such as food, fuel, and household items has seen a slowdown in price increases.

The decrease in inflation also comes amid efforts by the government to control rising prices and ensure economic stability, particularly in rural areas where a large proportion of India's population depends on agriculture and manual labour for livelihood.

India's PMI Shows Strong Growth in February, Driven by Services Sector



India's private sector growth showed a notable uptick in February, as the Composite Flash Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 60.6, significantly higher than the previous month's reading of 57.7, according to an HSBC report. This increase follows three consecutive quarters of softening in the PMI, indicating a positive shift in the current quarter. The rise was primarily driven by a sharp acceleration in services sector activity, though the manufacturing sector also saw a healthy, albeit slower, expansion.

The report highlights that January and February data combined suggest that after a period of decline, the PMI composite index is likely to show an upward trend this quarter. The global restocking process continues to fuel India's new goods export orders, while a depreciation of the currency is expected to boost the country's rapidly growing services exports sector.

HSBC further noted that easing input prices have helped improve profit margins for businesses. Given the favorable economic indicators, the report anticipates a 25 basis point rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the upcoming April monetary policy meeting.

The flash PMI figures provide an early preview of the final manufacturing, services, and composite PMI data for the month. These flash readings, typically based on 80-90% of survey responses, are released about a week ahead of the final PMI figures, offering valuable insights into the health of India's economy.

Overall, the February PMI data suggests a positive outlook for the private sector, with growth momentum in both manufacturing and services continuing to strengthen.



Flying Car Worth Rs 2.5 Crore Rules The California Sky, Internet Say It 'Looks Fake'

Alef Aeronautics, a US-based company, has taken a major leap toward the future of transportation by releasing a video of its concept flying car, the Alef Model Zero, executing a vertical take-off. Priced at approximately \$300,000 (around Rs 2.6 crore), the futuristic vehicle has quickly gone viral, thanks to its impressive design and capabilities. In the video, the car is seen cruising down a California road before lifting off vertically and soaring over an SUV, creating a scene straight out of a science fiction movie.

The vehicle in the video is a special ultralight version of the Alef Model Zero. The test flight was conducted on a closed-off road for safety reasons. Powered by distributed electric propulsion with propeller blades hidden beneath the car, the vehicle successfully demonstrated its ability to transition from road travel to flight. Alef Aeronautics CEO Jim Dukhovny compared this breakthrough to the Wright Brothers' first flight, saying, "This drive and flight test represents an important proof of technology in a real-world city environment."

Alef Aeronautics is also working on a commercial version of the flying car, called the Alef Model A. This two-seat-

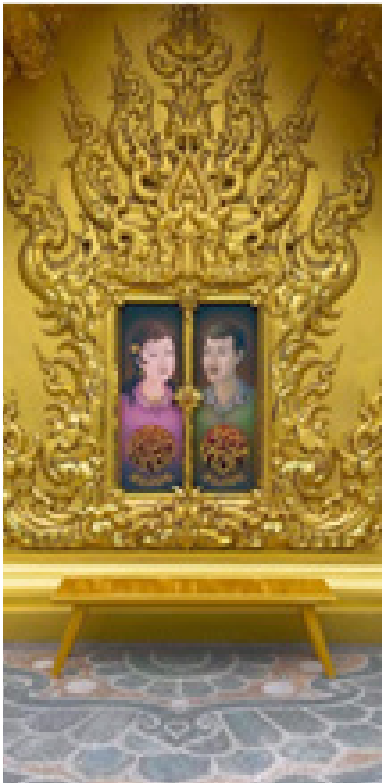
er vehicle is designed for both road and air travel and will feature a flying range of 110 miles and a driving range of 200 miles. Additionally, it will come equipped with autopilot flight capabilities. The company has already received 3,300 pre-orders for the electric flying car, signaling significant interest in the innovative vehicle.

The concept has sparked a flurry of reactions on social media, with users ex-

pressing excitement about the potential of flying cars. Some compared it to the animated series *The Jetsons*, while others raised concerns about safety and practicality. One user even warned, "Air traffic is going to be our next worry!" Despite these concerns, the Alef Model Zero has generated widespread attention, marking a significant step towards transforming transportation as we know it.



Lavish Washroom in Thailand Resembling a Palace Stuns Social Media Users



A lavishly designed washroom in Thailand has taken the internet by storm, leaving social media users in complete disbelief. The video, shared on Instagram by user Krishangi, has gone viral, capturing the extravagant design of the restroom.

The video opens with Krishangi saying, "I never thought I would make a video about a washroom, but today I could not stop myself. I mean look at this." The camera then pans to reveal a massive bathroom in cool tones, featuring intricate design details throughout. The sheer grandeur of the space is enough to astonish viewers, but what truly adds to its opulence is a garden outside the restroom,

further elevating its luxurious atmosphere.

Since being posted, the video has amassed over 4 million views and garnered more than 62,000 likes. The stunning visuals have led to an outpouring of amazement in the comments section, with many users expressing their astonishment at the level of detail and luxury in the washroom's construction.

One user commented, "Such a royal washroom!!!!!! Man, I want to go here, dress up nicely, and take so many pictures outside. The design on this is so beautiful, I am mesmerized." Another user jokingly wrote, "I'm going to sleep there no matter who says what. That's a whole palace."

Some users even shared background information about the washroom's location. One Instagram user revealed, "This (Wat Rong Khun) is in the Wat Rong Khun, which is popularly known as the White Temple of North Thailand's Chiang Rai. Had the opportunity to meet the owner Chalermchai in a programme."

The video continues to capture the attention of viewers around the world, with many commenting on how "amazing" and "beautiful" the washroom is. Others simply expressed awe at the opportunity to witness such a luxurious space. This viral post has shown just how far design innovation can go, even for something as everyday as a bathroom.

Japanese Police Academy Introduces Makeup Training for Male Cadets



A police academy in Japan has introduced a unique course teaching male cadets the basics of makeup application, which has garnered significant attention. In January, 60 police cadets, including those nearing graduation, started a beauty training program at the Fukushima Prefecture Police Academy in Fukushima Prefecture. The initiative quickly became a topic of online discussion.

The course focuses on essential beauty techniques such as applying primers, moisturising the skin, using eyebrow pencils, styling hair, and trimming eyebrows. To ensure a professional approach, the academy partnered with Shiseido, a leading Japanese cosmetics brand, for the training.

According to Takeshi Sugiura, the vice-principal of the academy, the goal is for police officers to maintain a clean and professional appearance as they frequently interact with the public. He explained that "as both members of society and future police officers, maintaining a proper appearance is crucial."

One of the male cadets who

participated in the course expressed his thoughts, saying, "I have never worn makeup before. I believe that being a police officer means often being in the public eye, so I want to ensure that I present myself well before going to work."

The introduction of the makeup training course has sparked mixed reactions on Japanese social media. Some users joked about the initiative, with one commenting, "Now they can throw loose powder into the suspects' eyes to catch them!" while others supported the idea, saying, "This may seem absurd, but isn't it a good idea for both men and women to take the make-up course?"

Traditionally, police academies in Japan have focused on legal and physical training, but the introduction of beauty courses is seen as a move to encourage more polite and courteous interactions with the public. In addition to Fukushima, a similar program is also being implemented at a police academy in Yamaguchi, where male cadets are even taught proper facial cleansing techniques.

Chinese Influencer Gu Xixi Earns ₹35 Lakh in One Day by Lying in Bed



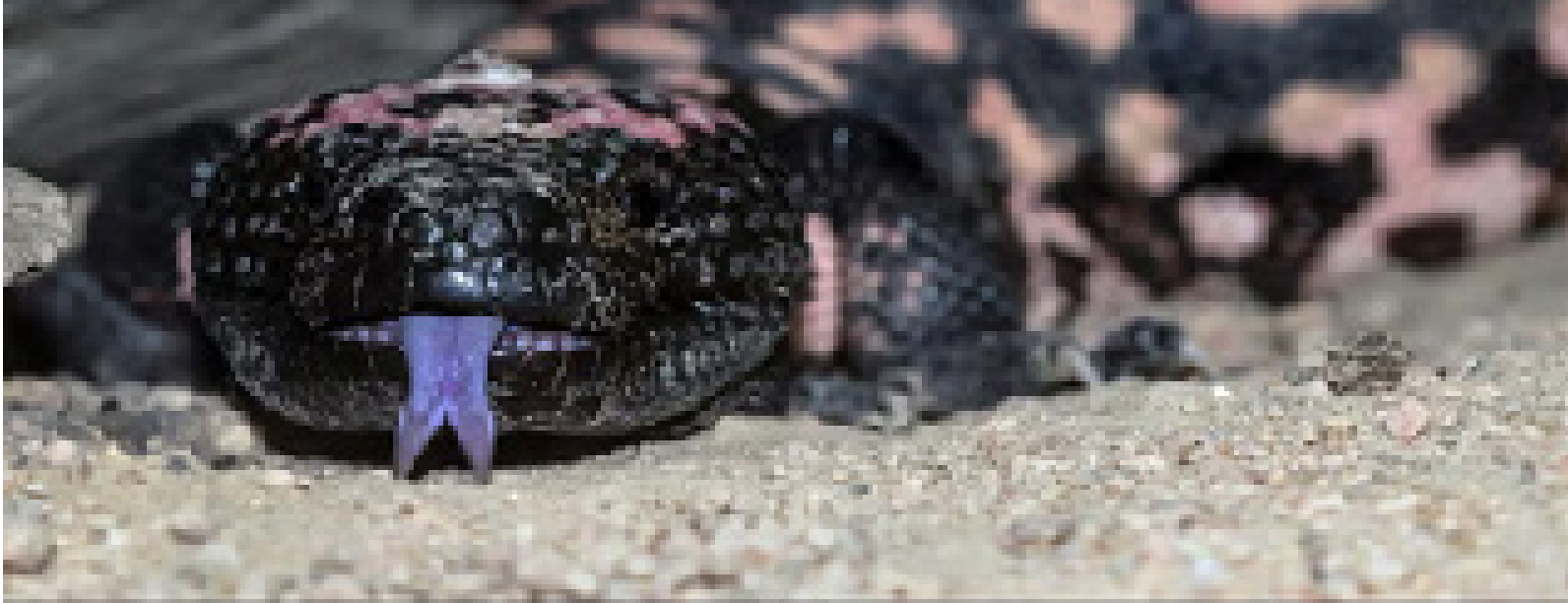
Chinese influencer Gu Xixi is making waves after revealing that she earned a staggering 3.03 lakh yuan (approximately Rs 35 Lakh) in a single day—all by simply lying in bed. The 25-year-old influencer, who operates a shop on Douyin (the Chinese equivalent of TikTok), shared the details of her impressive earnings between February 8 and 16. Over that period, Xixi raked in a total of 1.039 crore yuan (approximately Rs 12 Crore) on one platform, with a commission of around 27.9 lakh yuan (approximately Rs 3 Crore). On another platform, her

sales reached 89.4 lakh yuan within a week. In a recent live stream, Xixi described her earnings as "hard-earned" and revealed an interesting twist—she claimed that the more people criticize her, the more money she makes. "Today, I spent the entire day lying in bed, did nothing, and still made 11.6 lakh yuan in sales on my Douyin shop, with an estimated commission of 3.03 lakh yuan," she said. "The more you cannot stand seeing me doing well and the more you criticize me, the more I make." Xixi, who has amassed a large

following, made it clear that she doesn't just aim to earn a few hundred thousand yuan monthly. Her goal is far more ambitious: earning that much every single day. "It is not about earning hundreds of thousands of yuan per month; it is about earning hundreds of thousands of yuan per day. Understand?" she added.

Her unorthodox approach to business and success has garnered both admiration and criticism. While some are impressed by her entrepreneurial skills, others argue that such claims perpetuate unrealistic expectations. Regardless, Gu Xixi's rise in the influencer world demonstrates the growing power of social media platforms, where individuals can generate enormous income with innovative approaches.

Ozempic: How The Venom Of A Lizard Paved Way For Popular Diabetes Drug



The venom of the Gila monster, a lizard known for its toxic bite, has led to groundbreaking discoveries in medicine, particularly in the development of GLP-1 agonists like Ozempic and Wegovy, used for treating diabetes and obesity. Science Alert reports that while the Gila monster's venom is dangerous, it contains vital components that have led to life-changing treatments.

At the turn of the 20th century, endocrinologist Daniel Drucker sought a hormone that could mimic the appetite-suppressing and blood sugar-regulating effects of human GLP-1, but without breaking down too quickly. His research led him to endocrinologists John Eng and Jean-Pierre Raufman, along with biochemist John Pisano, who discovered

proteins in Gila monster venom that resembled human GLP-1.

Drucker and his team obtained a Gila monster from a zoo breeding program to investigate further. Their findings revealed that the venom of the Gila monster contained Exendin-4, a protein similar to GLP-1 but more stable in the body. This discovery eventually led to a synthetic version of the protein, which became an FDA-approved treatment for type 2 diabetes in 2005. The same compound has since been used for obesity management. The Gila monster is not the only animal to inspire medical advancements. Lisinopril, one of the world's top-selling drugs for heart failure and hypertension, originates from the venom of the Brazilian viper. Similarly, the Caribbean sea sponge

produces nucleosides that led to the chemotherapy drug cytarabine, which effectively treats leukemia and lymphoma.

Even scorpion venom has been used for cancer treatment. In 2004, oncologist Jim Olson discovered chlorotoxin, a peptide from the deathstalker scorpion, which specifically targets brain tumor cells. This discovery led to the development of Tozuleristide, a fluorescent dye that illuminates cancerous cells during surgery. These discoveries highlight the invaluable contributions of nature's most dangerous substances to modern medicine. However, as we continue to unlock these medical marvels, it is vital to protect the biodiversity that makes such life-saving innovations possible.

Virat Kohli: King of the Chase, Marks Milestone in India's Win Over Pakistan



In a thrilling India vs Pakistan Champions Trophy match on Sunday, Virat Kohli led India to a six-wicket victory with a brilliant 100* off 111 balls. His knock, which included only seven fours, was marked by intelligent running between the wickets, focusing on quick singles and doubles. The win nearly secured India's spot in the semifinals while pushing Pakistan to the brink of elimination. Kohli's performance was not just about the match-winning hundred. He also crossed a major milestone, becoming only the second Indian and third overall to reach 14,000 ODI runs. He achieved the feat in just 287 innings, faster than both Sachin Tendulkar and Kumar Sangakkara, who took more in-

nings to reach the mark. Kohli's remarkable consistency has made him the fastest to 13,000 and 14,000 ODI runs. Reflecting on his approach, Kohli explained his game plan—taking on pacers and being cautious against spinners. He credited his teammates, including Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, and Shreyas Iyer, for their contributions. Kohli also set a record for the most catches by an Indian fielder, surpassing Mohammad Azharuddin with his 158th catch during Pakistan's innings. As Kohli's form continues to shine, his impact on Indian cricket remains invaluable.

Ahlawat Struggles in Kenya Open, Benzema Shines in Saudi Pro League



Veer Ahlawat had a challenging third round at the Kenya Open, carding an 8-over 79 to slip to T-67 on the leaderboard. The Indian golfer's round included a nightmare 11 on the par-5 seventh hole, as well as four bogeys and just two birdies. Ahlawat had earlier posted rounds of 70 and 72. South Africa's Jacques Kruyswijk took the lead with a 7-under round, moving one stroke ahead as he aims for his first DP World Tour title. In France, Indian Grandmaster P Niyan finished as runner-up at the 41st Cappelle La Grande International Open Tournament. Niyan scored 7.5 points, including

six wins and three draws, but lost in the tie-breaks to French IM Mahel, who emerged victorious after nine rounds. Meanwhile, in Riyadh, former France striker Karim Benzema helped Al-Ittihad secure a dominant 4-1 win over Al-Hilal in the Saudi Pro League. Benzema sealed the win with a stunning goal, extending Ittihad's lead to seven points, while also continuing his strong scoring form with 16 goals in the league. Lastly, cricket legend Ian Chappell retired from journalism after five decades, marking the end of an era of insightful writings and stories from his playing days.

Barcelona Reclaims Top Spot with 2-0 Win Over Las Palmas



Barcelona secured a vital 2-0 win against Las Palmas on Saturday, returning to the top of the LaLiga table. Dani Olmo and Ferran Torres came off the bench to seal the victory, which sent Barca back to the summit with 54 points, tied with Real Madrid and one ahead of Atletico Madrid. The match was a dull affair for much of its duration, with both teams struggling to create meaningful chances. Barcelona finally broke the deadlock in the

62nd minute when Olmo scored from inside the box. Torres added a second in added time, capitalizing on a defensive error by Las Palmas to score from close range. Olmo expressed his satisfaction after the match, acknowledging the importance of the three points in the title race. "We had to be patient," he said. "Las Palmas defended very well, and in the second half, we found more chances and secured the win."

SFI Announces 2025 National Surfing and Stand-Up Paddle Event Calendar



The Surfing Federation of India (SFI) has revealed its 2025 National Surfing and Stand-Up Paddle (SUP) Event Calendar, aiming to further elevate the country's position in global surfing. After a historic 2024, where India secured its first-ever quotas for the 2026 Asian Games in Japan, the SFI is focusing on increasing ocean time and competitive exposure for the nation's top surfers. The 2025 calendar includes nine national-level events across Surfing and SUP, with competitions scheduled across key coastal regions to enhance training and provide valuable experience for Indian athletes. The season kicks off in February with the Varkala Surfing Championship in Kerala, followed by the Indian Open of

Surfing in May. The East Coast Pro Tour will feature stops in Pondicherry, Mahabalipuram, and Covelong in August, while SUP events will be held in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala throughout the year. SFI President Arun Vasu emphasized that these events are crucial for maintaining momentum from India's impressive international performances, including a 5th-place ranking in Asia. The support from local governments and international partners is key to India's rapid progress in the sport. India's surf scene continues to gain global recognition, with upcoming international events and growing support from the International Surfing Association.

Mirra Andreeva Clinches Dubai Championship Title



Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva claimed the biggest title of her career on Saturday, defeating Clara Tauson 7-6(1) 6-1 in the Dubai Championships final. The win will propel Andreeva into the top-10 of the WTA rankings for the first time in her career next week, making her the youngest player to achieve this feat since Nicole Pietrangeli in 2007. It was a remarkable week for the 17-year-old, who had previously secured impres-

sive victories over 2023 Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova, five-time Major winner Iga Swiatek, and 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina. With this achievement, Andreeva becomes the youngest player to defeat three Major champions at a single event since Maria Sharapova's 2004 WTA Finals performance. Andreeva's strong performance throughout the tournament signals the rise of a promising talent in women's tennis.

Savita Punia Reaches 300 International Caps; Hockey India Extends Congratulations

Indian women's hockey team goalkeeper Savita Punia achieved a remarkable milestone on Monday, earning her 300th international cap during India's match against the Netherlands in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 at Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. This achievement places her in an elite club, alongside Vandana Katariya as only the second Indian woman to reach this milestone. Savita is also the second In-

dian goalkeeper, after PR Sreejesh, to achieve this feat. Savita, who made her senior debut at 20, has been a cornerstone of Indian hockey, playing a crucial role in the team's historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Olympics and in other key tournaments, including the 2016 Rio Olympics and the 2018 World Cup. She has captained India to significant successes, including a bronze medal at the 2022 Common-

wealth Games and back-to-back golds in the Women's Asian Champions Trophy (2023-2024). Honored with the Arjuna Award and multiple FIH Goalkeeper of the Year awards, Savita expressed gratitude for her journey. Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey and Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh both lauded her leadership and dedication, celebrating her as a source of inspiration for aspiring athletes.





'Hari Hara Veeramallu' Second Song Released: A Mass Beat That Will Win Fans' Hearts!



The makers of Hari Hara Veeramallu have released the second song from the film, titled "Kollagottinadhiro," just ahead of its theatrical release on March 28. This energetic track has already become a sensation among fans, thanks to its vibrant mass beat and catchy lyrics. Pawan Kalyan, who stars as the titular character, is shown in all his glory in this song, which praises the valiant heroism of the character Hari Hara Veeramallu. The song is composed by the Oscar-winning music director MM Keeravani, with lyrics by Chandrabose. Singers Mangli, Rahul Sipligunj, Ramya Behara, and Yamini Ghantasala have given life to this energetic anthem. Directed by Krish Jagar-

mudi and produced under the Mega Surya Productions banner, the film also stars Nidhi Agerwal as the lead actress, with Bollywood stars Bobby Deol, Nargis Fakhri, and Nora Fatehi playing key roles. Hari Hara Veeramallu promises to be an epic historical action film, and with Pawan Kalyan's powerful performance, it is set to create a storm in theaters worldwide. Directed originally by Krish, the film had a major shift in direction when Krish stepped down from the project midway, and Jyothi Krishna, the son of producer A.M. Rathnam, took over. Fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release, with anticipation building over this high-budget spectacle.

"Partners": Malayalam Movie Gaining Popularity on OTT!



Partners, a Malayalam film, is currently creating a buzz on OTT platforms. The movie, which was initially released in theaters on July 5 last year, is now streaming on the Saina Play OTT platform since January 31, and it has been receiving remarkable feedback from viewers. Directed by Naveen John and produced by Dinesh, Partners revolves around a fake bank and the intriguing events surrounding it. The story follows a protagonist who starts working as a cashier in a small private bank. As he observes the bank's operations, he begins

to suspect something unusual. His suspicions grow when he realizes that everyone working at the bank has a criminal record, and he uncovers that the bank itself is a fraudulent operation. The film features performances by Dhyana Srinivasan, Sanju Sivaram, Kalabhavan Shajon, and Rony David Raj in pivotal roles, with music composed by Prakash Alex. While the film initially received positive responses in theaters, its content has found a strong audience on OTT platforms, bringing in more attention.

'HIT-3' Teaser Released: Nani as a Fierce Mass Cop!



On the occasion of Natural Star Nani's birthday today, the makers of HIT-3 released the highly anticipated teaser of the

film. The teaser, packed with unexpected shocks, has already left viewers excited and curious for more.

In this crime thriller, Nani is seen in the role of a tough, mass police officer, Arjun Sarkar. The teaser hints at a series of shocking murders in Srinagar and how the police officer investigates and solves these gruesome crimes. Nani's intense and powerful performance as a no-nonsense cop adds a gripping element to the teaser.

The visuals of HIT-3 are spine-chilling, with Mickey J. Meyer's background score taking the intensity to another level. Although a

few key characters like Rao Ramesh are revealed, the teaser deliberately keeps other important roles under wraps, building suspense.

The film, set to release on May 1, also stars Sreevidya Shetty alongside Nani. Directed by Sailesh Kolanu, the film promises to deliver a violent, edge-of-the-seat narrative, continuing the HIT Universe saga. After Nani's Dasara, HIT-3 seems to take the visuals to a whole new, thrilling level. Fans are eagerly awaiting this action-packed thriller.

Katrina Kaif Visits Maha Kumbh 2025 with Mother-in-Law Veena Kaushal



Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif visited the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj with her mother-in-law, Veena Kaushal, making a spiritual journey to the sacred event. Katrina, dressed in a powder pink Indian attire, was seen interacting with spiritual leaders Swami Chidanand Saraswati and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati. Photos from her visit have gone viral, showcasing her connection with the event.

Parmarth Niketan, a spiritual ashram led by Pujya Swami Chidanand, shared a tweet highlighting Katrina's presence at the Maha Kumbh. The tweet emphasized how her visit blended spirituality with entertainment, inspiring youth to recon-

nect with their roots.

Katrina Kaif is among several Bollywood personalities who visited the Maha Kumbh, including Akshay Kumar, Sonali Bendre, Vidhut Jambwal, and Vicky Kaushal, her husband. These stars participated in the holy dip, adding to the spiritual significance of the event.

In related news, Katrina recently praised her husband Vicky Kaushal's performance in Chhaava. She lauded his portrayal of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, calling him "outstanding" and sharing her admiration for the film's brilliance. Katrina also congratulated the entire team, including director Laxman Utekar, for their efforts.

IIFA Digital Awards 2025: Celebrating Digital Cinema and Creativity



The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) is set to mark a special milestone in 2025, celebrating 25 years of showcasing Indian cinema globally. This year, IIFA introduces a new highlight—the Sobha Realty Presents IIFA Digital Awards, Co-Presented by NEXA, a unique addition to the iconic event. The awards, which will take place in Jaipur, Rajasthan, aim to recognize the rapidly growing world of digital and OTT entertainment, shining a spotlight on talented storytellers who are shaping the future of

cinema.

Scheduled for March 8, the Sobha Realty IIFA Digital Awards will honor the best in digital content across various categories, including Best Film, Best Series, Best Performance in a Leading Role (Male & Female), Best Director, Best Reality or Non-Scripted Series, Best Docuseries/DocuFilm, and Best Music/Soundtrack. These awards will celebrate the creativity and innovation that define digital entertainment and its growing impact on the entertainment industry.

The event will be hosted by Vijay Varma, Abhishek Banerjee, and Aparshakti Khurana, ensuring an engaging atmosphere throughout the evening. Performances by music legends like Sachin-Jigar, Shreya Ghoshal, and Mika Singh will add to the excitement.

The nominations for the IIFA Digital Awards are out, with Panchayat leading with 10 nominations, followed by Amar Singh Chamkila and Heeramandi, each receiving 6 nods.

Chiranjeevi Celebrates India's Win with Cricketers Tilak Varma and Abhishek Sharma

Chiranjeevi took to Instagram to share a few pictures and glimpses from the high-energy India vs Pakistan Champions Trophy match that took place on Sunday, where India registered a stunning six-wicket victory over arch-rivals Pakistan. The match was especially thrilling as Virat Kohli scored his 51st ODI ton, guiding India to a remarkable win in Dubai.

In the pictures, Chiranjeevi can be seen interacting with fans and posing for a selfie with Indian cricketers Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma. GMR Chairman Srinivas Bommidala and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur also made appearances in the photos. The megastar's excite-

ment was palpable, as he expressed his joy at witnessing the spectacular match live.

Chiranjeevi wrote on Instagram, "Hurrahhhhhh!!! India spectacularly triumphs over Pakistan!!! What a match!!!! Kudos to the Entire Team!!! Such a treat to watch the fireworks from the SENSATIONAL Virat Kohli. Bravo, Shreyas Iyer, Shubman Gill, Kuldeep Yadav & Captain Rohit Sharma and the entire team!!!"

He added, "It's been Absolutely Electrifying watching this Super Thrilling match Live with some dear friends Anurag Singh Thakur, Bommidala GMR, & young cricketer Tilak Varma among others!!! More power to India!!! Jai Hind!!!"

