

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 27° C L 14° C	H 30° C L 19° C	H 26° C L 21° C



YS Jagan Pledges to Prioritize Activists in 'Jagan 2.0'

- Jagan promises to prioritize party activists in the upcoming "Jagan 2.0" phase.
- Jagan pledges to focus on the welfare of party activists in his second term.
- Criticizes Chandrababu for deceiving the public and exploiting their struggles.

TPN Correspondent Tadepalli, Feb 06

YSRCP Chief and Former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy addressed party corporators in Tadepalli on Wednesday, outlining his vision for "Jagan 2.0." In his remarks, Jagan emphasized that, while his first term (Jagan 1.0) largely focused on serving the people, he now intends to give more attention to the welfare of party activists. He assured his supporters that in the new phase, their well-being would be a priority, saying, "No one who troubles our activists will be left behind."

Jagan also reflected on the hardships he faced during his 16-month imprisonment, attributing the challenges to Congress and TDP leaders. He vowed to always stand by those who have been troubled, reiterating that he would remain committed to their cause. Jagan expressed confidence in his ability to lead the state for the next 30 years, bolstered by the unwavering support of the people.

The YSRCP leader took the opportunity to criticize opposition leader Chandrababu Naidu, accusing him of deceiving the public with unfulfilled promises, including the infamous 'Super Sixes and Sevens.' Jagan also highlighted the corruption within the TDP, particularly in sectors such as sand mining and industry. He stressed that Naidu's leadership had failed to reconnect with the people, even after the TDP's electoral losses.

Jagan asserted that his government had delivered on every promise, contrasting it with the TDP's failure to uphold its commitments. Looking ahead to "Jagan 2.0," he vowed that his administration would continue to serve the people while ensuring that party workers receive the support and recognition they deserve. With his vision for a stronger and more united Andhra Pradesh, Jagan is confident that his leadership will drive the state forward in the years to come.

EXIT POLLS PREDICT EXIT OF KEJRIWAL

- 'AAP-da' For Arvind Kejriwal?
- Delhi Exit Polls Predict Rout
- For Congress - Another Wipeout? with zero to three seats expected.
- AAP projected to win between 15 and 37 seats, while BJP could secure 38-60.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Exit polls for the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections indicate a major setback for Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), with most surveys predicting a shift in voter preference towards the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Out of seven exit polls, six suggest a BJP victory, while only one gives AAP a slim chance of crossing the halfway mark.

According to Matrize, AAP could secure up to 37 seats, just two above the majority mark of 35 in the 70-member assembly. However, other surveys predict a different outcome, with four agencies estimating AAP's seat tally between 15 and 35, while BJP is projected to win between 38 and 40-plus seats. People's Pulse exit poll has forecasted a BJP sweep with 51-60 seats. The aggregate of these polls suggests 26 seats for AAP and 43 for BJP.

Congress, which once held sway in Delhi politics, remains on the margins. The highest seat projection for

the party is three, while some exit polls predict zero seats.

While exit polls are not always accurate, they had correctly predicted AAP's victories in the last two elections, albeit underestimating the party's final seat count. This time, however, the mood appears different.

The BJP's campaign focused heavily on corruption allegations against AAP, which had risen to power on an anti-corruption plank. Over the past two years, several AAP leaders, including Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, have faced legal troubles and jail time over multiple corruption cases.

Congress Faces Another Wipeout

For Congress, the exit polls signal another dismal performance. Most surveys predict the party securing zero to two seats. Matrize and Peo-

SOURCE	AAP	BJP+	Congress
MATRIZE	25-37	33-45	0-1
PEOPLE'S PULSE	10-20	51-60	0
PEOPLE'S INSIGHT	15-30	40-50	0-1
P-MARQ	18-32	38-48	0-1
CHANAKYA STRATEGIES	20-35	37-45	2-3
JANMAT SURVEY	22-34	39-47	0-2
AGGREGATE (AVG.)	26	43	1
KK SURVEY	40	+26	0

Source: Regional and National Channels | Health Warning: Exit polls are not always accurate.

ple's Insight suggest Congress may win just one seat, while People's Pulse indicates a complete washout. Chanakya Strategies offers the most optimistic prediction for the party, estimating 2-3 seats—the highest

among all agencies. As Delhi awaits the official election results, the exit polls suggest a significant political shift, potentially ending AAP's decade-long dominance in the capital.

HERE SAND, SOIL BECOME OWN PROPERTY OF CHINTAMANENI?

- Illegal Excavations Plague Denduluru Constituency
- Illegal sand and soil excavations threaten the environment and local communities.
- Chintamaneni Prabhakar accused of extracting money through illegal mining.
- Pedavadu mandal sees increased attacks against those opposing illegal activities.
- Authorities' inaction fuels mafia activities and rising tensions.
- Environmental degradation from unchecked excavations along the Polavaram canal embankment.

In 2015, Chintamaneni Prabhakar attacked MRO Vanajakshi after she attempted to tackle the rampant sand mafia, a practice that flourished under the rule of Chandrababu Naidu. Despite allegations of benefiting from the illegal sand trade, Naidu could not end the mafia's dominance. Fast forward to 2024, with Naidu introducing a free sand supply scheme aimed at eliminating illegal mining. However, Chintamaneni continues to resist the government's control over the sand mafia, maintaining his hold over the sector. The issue persists despite official efforts, reflecting the difficulty in dismantling the mafia's influence.



TPN | KISHORE B. K. Denduluru, Feb 06



The Denduluru constituency in Eluru district is grappling with illegal sand and soil excavations, particularly in the areas of Denduluru, Pedavegi, Pedavadu, and Eluru Rural mandals. These regions, which have a mix of delta, metta, and kolleru areas, are facing a serious environmental threat due to unchecked soil mining activities. The Polavaram right canal embankment and Tamilleru sand pits are the central points where illegal excavations are taking place.



AP Govt Allows Treatment in Telangana Hospitals for Govt Employees

- AP government approves treatment in Telangana DME-identified hospitals.
- Decision benefits many employees and pensioners residing in Hyderabad.



TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 06

The Andhra Pradesh government has made a significant decision regarding the health insurance scheme for government employees. In a move to address the needs of employees and pensioners residing in Hyderabad, the state government has issued orders allow-

ing them to receive treatment at hospitals identified by the Telangana Directorate of Medical Education (DME). The orders direct the CEO of NTR Medical Services to identify appropriate referral hospitals for this purpose. Many employees and pensioners from Andhra Pradesh who have sought medical treatment in Telangana previously

faced issues with bill reimbursements due to a lack of proper documentation. Following the bifurcation of the state, a large number of Andhra Pradesh government employees and pensioners settled in Hyderabad, including those from Schedule 9 and 10 institutions mentioned in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act. The new decision

aims to ensure that these individuals have easier access to medical treatment and are reimbursed for their medical expenses. This initiative by the Chandrababu government aims to alleviate the healthcare challenges faced by employees and ensure smoother treatment procedures across state borders.



AP High Court Orders Investigation into CRZ violations in Visakhapatnam.

- Former MP Vijayasai Reddy's daughter Neha Reddy under scrutiny for unauthorized constructions.
- Officials directed to submit a report within a week.

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 06

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has taken a serious stance on alleged Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) violations involving Neha Reddy, daughter of former MP Vijayasai Reddy. The court has directed officials to submit a detailed report on whether her constructions in Bhimunipatnam, Visakhapatnam fall within restricted coastal areas.

During the hearing on Wednesday, the High Court expressed strong dissatisfaction over the lack of action by CRZ officials despite complaints regarding illegal constructions. The case was brought to the court's attention through a petition filed by Janaseena Corporator Murthy Yadav.

Taking serious note of the matter, the Chief Justice's bench appointed a committee consisting of the Visakhapatnam District Collector, Visakhapatnam Commissioner, and CRZ Member Secretaries to conduct a thorough inspection. The committee has been ordered to investigate:

- Whether the construction falls within CRZ limits.
- When the structures were built and whether they violate regulations.
- Actions taken (if any) to address the violations.

The court has set a one-week deadline for officials to submit their findings. If the report is not presented within the stipulated time, the committee members will have to personally appear before the court. Additionally, the High Court has ordered demolition of any structures found to be in violation of CRZ rules.

The case has been adjourned for next week, with the court making it clear that failure to comply with the orders will result in strict legal consequences for the responsible officials.



Minister Nara Lokesh Meets Union Ministers to Discuss Key Development Initiatives for AP

- Nara Lokesh seeks support for defense cluster and educational reforms in AP.
- Lokesh thanks Union Minister Kumaraswamy for funds to revive Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Feb 06

On his visit to Delhi, Andhra Pradesh State Minister Nara Lokesh met Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, where he discussed the establishment of a defense cluster in Andhra Pradesh. He emphasized the potential for large-scale investments and job creation in defense manufacturing and sought the Union government's cooperation. Lokesh also informed Singh about the ongoing development projects in the state, including the progress of Amaravati and Polavaram. He

thanked the Central Government for aiding AP's recovery from a crippling debt burden. In another key meeting, Lokesh met Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. He requested that Andhra Pradesh host the All India Education Ministers' Conference in August 2025 and called for increased funding to improve the state's education system. Lokesh pushed for the approval of 1,514 additional schools under the PM Shri scheme and proposed substantial investments under the Purvodaya scheme for higher education infrastructure. Lastly, Lokesh expressed his gratitude to

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy for releasing Rs. 12,000 crore for the revival of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. He praised Kumaraswamy for his proactive approach in addressing the concerns of workers and improving the plant's productivity. Lokesh also urged the Center to expedite the approval process for the establishment of a new steel industry in Anakapalle, which would generate significant employment opportunities for AP's youth. These discussions reflect Lokesh's continued efforts to secure vital support for Andhra Pradesh's growth and development.



AP Govt Forms SIT to Investigate Liquor Irregularities During YSRCP Rule

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 06

The Andhra Pradesh government has set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to look into allegations of irregularities in liquor transactions during the YSRCP regime. The allegations claim that approximately Rs. 90,000 crores were involved in cash transactions related to liquor sales from October 2019 to March 2024. Further accusations include large-scale irregularities concerning the use of holograms on liquor bottles.

In response, the government has appointed a seven-member SIT led by Vijayawada Police Commissioner Rajasekhara Babu. The SIT will receive full cooperation from the Excise Department, which has been instructed to provide detailed information on liquor sales. The investigation will be supervised by the CID DIG, and the team is mandated to submit progress reports to the government every 15 days. The appointed SIT members include Red Sandalwood Task Force SP Subbarayudu, Additional SP Kollu Srinivas, CID ASP Srihari Babu, Don DSP Srinivas, and CI Shivaji, who will work together to ensure a thorough investigation into the alleged irregularities.

Food Safety Officers Inspection at M/s. Sanjeeva Reddy Institute of Medical Sciences



TPN Correspondent
Prakasam Dist, Feb 06

On Wednesday, an inspection was conducted at the food premises of M/s. Sanjeeva Reddy Institute of Medical Sciences, located in Trovagunta, Ongole, Prakasam District. The inspection was carried out by the Assistant Food Controller, along with a Food Safety Officer. During the inspection, it was found that the kitchen conditions were unhygienic, posing a potential health risk. Furthermore, the premises lacked a valid FSSAI License, which is mandatory for food establishments under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. In response to these findings, a notice was issued to the management of the institute under Sections 31 and 32 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. These sections pertain to the maintenance of hygiene and licensing requirements for food businesses. To further ensure the safety of food served, a legal sample of Idly Rava was taken from the premises, which bore the Code No. 008/PKM/DI/48205/2025. The sample will be sent to the State Food Laboratory in Nacharam, Hyderabad, for analysis. This inspection emphasizes the ongoing efforts to ensure food safety standards are upheld across food establishments. Authorities will continue to monitor and take action against any violations to protect public health and ensure compliance with food safety regulations.

Home Minister Anitha Emphasizes CCTV Installation in Jails and Industrial Safety

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Feb 06

Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha has announced key measures aimed at enhancing security and improving industrial safety across Andhra Pradesh. Addressing the media, she stated that due to the MLC election code, a planned meeting on industrial safety had to be postponed but assured that a high-level committee would soon be formed to monitor and enforce safety standards in industries. She stressed that industries must be prepared to take immediate relief measures in case of accidents, reinforcing



the government's commitment to preventing disasters and mitigating risks. On law enforcement, Minister Anitha highlighted that a rowdy sheeter had been arrested in connection with the KGH hospital incident and that se-

curity at King George Hospital (KGH) would soon be reviewed. In a significant move, she announced that CCTV cameras would be installed in both government and private hospitals to improve surveillance and prevent criminal activities. Furthermore, the minister emphasized the government's strict stance on crime prevention, particularly against rowdy sheeters and drug-related offenses. She revealed that the government is using drones to track and eliminate cannabis cultivation while taking harsh measures against suppliers. The Preventive Detention (PD) Act is being invoked to tackle repeat offenders.

HERE SAND, SOIL BECOME OWN PROPERTY OF CHINTAMANENI?

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In Pedavadu mandal, which is predominantly metta land, and Denduluru, which has a mix of metta and delta, excavations are being carried out far beyond what is allowed. Official permissions from the Water Resources Department permit soil transportation for agricultural and personal use, but these guidelines are being blatantly ig-

nored. Excavations meant for specific uses are now being commercialized, with soil being sold illegally by powerful local factions. These activities are largely carried out at night, violating the prescribed hours for excavation, and excessive amounts of soil are being extracted. The soil mafia operating in the area is making significant profits, exploiting the situation by illegally selling

the soil obtained from the Polavaram canal bankment. In the past, Chintamaneni Prabhakar raised concerns about illegal sand mining under previous governments, but now they are being accused of continuing the same practices and profiting from it. Even as the mafia flourishes, those who have attempted to stop these illegal activities face retaliation. Opposition leaders from the YSRCP, who have tried to

challenge the soil and sand mining operations, are facing attacks, and counter-cases have been registered against them. The situation in Pedavegi mandal has worsened, with rising intimidation against those attempting to halt the illegal activities. Despite court cases being filed against the mafia and authorities, there has been little action taken to stop the illegal mining. Local residents are increas-

ingly vocal in demanding that the authorities act with integrity to curb these illegal practices. They are calling for immediate intervention to ensure that the law is enforced and that peace is restored in the constituency. However, without strong action from the authorities, the soil mafia seems set to continue operating unchecked, with severe consequences for the environment and local communities.

Jagan Has a Habit of Talking to Spirits at Night – Nara Lokesh



TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Feb 06
Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh has strongly countered YSRCP Chief YS Jaganmohan Reddy's recent remarks, ridiculing him for what he called "a habit of talking

to spirits at night." Speaking to the media on Monday, Lokesh stated that people are still suffering from the impact of Jagan 1.0 and are in no mood to endure another term under his leadership. He questioned, "Where was

the real freedom for the people under Jagan's rule?", alleging that his tenure was marked by suppression, violence, and illegal cases against opposition leaders. Lokesh further accused the former CM of ordering attacks on Dalits, minorities, and weaker sections, stating that several innocent people lost their lives due to political vendettas. He also revealed that 23 false cases were filed against him as part of Jagan's political witch-hunt. The AP Minister reiterated the coalition government's commitment to introducing a permanent land law that will safeguard public lands from encroachment and prevent further land disputes. "Jagan's tenure was filled with land scams, corruption, and destruction of industries. Will the people forget all this?" Lokesh questioned. With political tensions heating up ahead of the upcoming elections, Lokesh made it clear that the NDA government will continue exposing Jagan's misdeeds and ensuring justice for the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu Criticizes Jagan's Tenure



TPN Correspondent
East Godavari, Feb 06
Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu, during his participation in the MLC election awareness conference at the TDP party office in Kovvur, East Godavari, stressed the importance of ensuring the victory of Perabathula Rajasekhara in the upcoming MLC elections. Ramanaidu stated that the state had faced significant setbacks under Jaganmohan Reddy's leadership since 2019, surpassing even the losses experienced during the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. He criticized Jagan for driving out businesses that had been brought to the state since 2014 and highlighted the challenges the state faced under the current administration. The minister called on alliance

leaders and activists to unite and focus on securing a large majority for Rajasekhara in the MLC elections. He emphasized that booth conveners should take personal responsibility for meeting voters and ensuring a successful campaign. With more than 3 lakh graduate voters in both Godavari districts, Ramanaidu pointed out the critical importance of these elections, urging unity among alliance leaders to ensure Rajasekhara's victory. Nominations for the elections are already underway and will close on February 10. The polling is scheduled for February 27, with counting taking place on March 3. A total of 440 polling stations will be set up for the elections, with 3,15,261 eligible voters.

Assembly Speaker Appoints New Chairman's for Key Finance Committees

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Feb 06
Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Ayyana Patrudu has officially finalized the chairmen for three important finance committees in the Legislative Assembly. Pulaparthy Ramanjaneyulu, representing Jana Sena, has been appointed as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). Koona Ravikumar, from the TDP, will lead the Public Sector Undertakings Committee (PSUC). Vegulla Jogeswara Rao, also from the TDP, will head the Estimates Committee.



The notification for these appointments was issued. Given that the YSRCP holds only 11 seats in the Assembly, the PAC has been assigned to the ruling party's control. The new chairpersons are expected to play a significant role in overseeing financial and governmental operations, ensuring transparency and accountability in the state.

MLA Jyothula Nehru Emphasizes a Strong Campaign for Perabathula Rajasekhara's Victory



TPN | V. Ananthkumar
Jaggampeta, Feb 06
In a show of solidarity, Jaggampeta MLA and TTD board member Jyothula Nehru emphasized the importance of collective effort to secure a win for Perabathula Rajasekhara, the MLC candidate from the Godavari districts. Speaking at an intimate meeting of graduate MLC voters held at the Parinaya Function Hall in Jaggampeta, Nehru stressed that the goal should be to secure Rajasekhara's victory with a large majority. The meeting, chaired by Kakinada district TDP president Jyothula Naveen, saw participation from key leaders, including Pendurthi former MLA

Gandhi Babji, Pattabattula Rajasekhara (MLC candidate), and Jaggampeta constituency in-charges from Jana Sena and BJP, Tummalapalli Ramesh and Datla Krishna Varma. Nehru outlined a strategic plan to meet each of the 6,500 voters in the Jaggampeta constituency, highlighting the development and welfare initiatives carried out by the coalition government. He encouraged leaders to coordinate the efforts of 14 booth in-charges in the constituency to ensure a successful campaign. He further urged educated voters to cast their ballots in favor of the coalition's agenda, praising the leadership and development under Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. The meeting was attended by leaders, activists, and supporters from the Telugu Desam Party, Jana Sena, and BJP.

Somireddy's Counter to Jagan: "Will Jagan 2.0 Turn into 0.5?"

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 06
YSRCP chief Jaganmohan Reddy's recent statements on launching 'Jagan 2.0' and ruling for 30 years have sparked sharp reactions from TDP leaders. Former minister and TDP MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy launched a scathing attack on the former Chief Minister, ridiculing his claims and questioning his political future. "Jagan seems to have landed from London and is calling it 2.0. But will it actually turn into 0.5? This is the last version of YSRCP. The alliance government is here, and investors are coming with lakhs

of crores in investments." Somireddy said. Referring to Jagan's rift with his family, he further criticized, "You have even distanced your own mother and sister. How can you claim to look after others? First, ensure that your party doesn't collapse before trying to threaten us." He also took a dig at Jagan's legal troubles, mentioning A2, a reference to YSRCP leader Vijayasai Reddy, who was jailed for 16 months during the CBI investigation. "Even A2 has left you. Who will believe your claims now? Stop making empty threats."

YSRCP Leaders Condemn Attack on Mudragada Padmanabham's House

TPN Correspondent
Jaggampeta, Feb 06
In a show of solidarity, political leaders have strongly condemned the recent incident at the residence of Mudragada Padmanabham in Kirlampudi. Padmanabham, known for his leadership in the Kapu movement, faced an attack on his home late at night. Several leaders, including Kottu Satyanarayana, Ambati Rambabu, and Nani, expressed their concerns over the situation. Kottu Satyanarayana criticized the apparent behind-the-scenes instigation, calling it a politically motivated act. He emphasized that such actions should not be taken lightly, as they were aimed at causing unrest and fear within the community. He further questioned who might have been encouraging or supporting such an

incident. Ambati Rambabu expressed disbelief at the attack, stressing that Mudragada Padmanabham is a significant figure in the Kapu movement and should not be subjected to such intimidation. He condemned the act as an affront to the Kapu community, calling for stronger condemnation from all democratic forces. Ram-



babu also mentioned the long history of struggles faced by Padmanabham and his family during their fight for the Kapu caste. Nani echoed concerns about the government's inaction, saying the incident highlighted the failure to control law and order, particularly regarding the involvement of individuals under the influence of substances like marijuana. He demanded accountability from the leadership, specifically Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan, questioning whether they would take responsibility for the incident. The political leaders called for a firm response to ensure such incidents are not repeated, urging the government to uphold law and order.

YCP Leaders Defend Their Position Amid TDP Accusations and Cross-Voting Concerns



TPN Correspondent
Guntur, Feb 06
In the ongoing political battle in Guntur, Ambati Rambabu, a prominent leader of the YSR Congress Party (YCP), expressed deep concerns over cross-voting in the Standing Committee elections. He accused the TDP of luring corporators into changing parties through coercion and manipulation. Rambabu also pointed out that TDP's efforts to destabilize the YCP's position were disheartening but emphasized that the party was not afraid of facing a no-confidence motion in Guntur Corporation. He further criticized Pawan Kalyan, leader of Jana Sena, for remaining silent during these political issues and claimed

that Kalyan was encouraging the irregularities alongside Chandrababu Naidu. Rambabu called for Kalyan to break his silence and speak out against TDP's alleged corrupt practices. Meanwhile, Mayor Manohar Naidu addressed the coalition's victory in securing six seats in the Standing Committee, a win YCP opponents celebrated as significant. Naidu reiterated that despite the coalition's success, the YSR Congress Party remains dominant, having won 151 seats in 2019. He dismissed suggestions of switching allegiances and reaffirmed his commitment to Jaganmohan Reddy. Deputy Mayor Diamond Babu took aim at corporators who had committed cross-voting, denouncing them for backstabbing and undermining the YCP. He emphasized the party's dedication to the people, not to power-hungry tactics like those of the TDP.

High Court Orders Case Against Former Minister Vidadala Rajini

Court directs police to register FIR within two weeks



TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Feb 06
The Andhra Pradesh High Court has directed the police to register a case against former minister Vidadala Rajini within two weeks. The court issued these orders while hearing a petition filed by Pilli Koti from Chilakaluripet, who alleged that he was harassed and falsely implicated in cases for questioning Rajini during the previous YSRCP government. In his petition, Pilli Koti claimed that he was beaten up by the police at Rajini's behest

and that she derived "demonic pleasure" from watching his torture live. He also alleged that she threatened to kill him if he continued to work for the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Previously, he had appealed to Palnadu SP Srinivasa Rao to take action against former Chilakaluripet CI Suryanarayana, Rajini's PA, and other officials, but no case was registered. Following police inaction, he approached the High Court, which has now ordered the police to file an FIR and submit details of the case. This legal setback for Rajini comes amid rising political tensions in Andhra Pradesh, as the YSRCP faces growing challenges from the NDA alliance. The court's decision is expected to intensify political debates in the state.

AIMSA-FMSW, AP Meets Key Govt Officials to Address FMGs' Issues

- AIMSA-FMSW delegation discusses issues with Special Chief Secretary and Director of Medical Education, AP.
- Officials pledge to expedite Permanent Registrations and address concerns on new compensation letter format.
- FMGs urged to follow other states' practices for verification of compensation certificates.

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 06

A delegation from the All India Medical Students' Association - Foreign Medical Students' Wing (AIMSA-FMSW), Andhra Pradesh, met with key government officials, including Special Chief Secretary Sri T. Krishna Babu, IAS, and Dr. DSVL Narsimham, Director of Medical Education, AP, to discuss the pressing concerns of Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs) in the state. The meeting, following a prior appointment with the Chief Minister, led to several positive assurances, although some concerns remain. Officials assured the delegation that the process for issuing Permanent Registrations (PRs) to eligible FMGs would be expedited, pending verification of valid compensation letters. They also pledged to issue Temporary Registrations (TRs) and No Objection Certificates (NOCs) promptly, and announced a public notice to clarify counselling guidelines. In line with National Medical



Commission (NMC) regulations, officials indicated plans to revise allotment orders from two or three years to one year. However, a significant point of contention was the new format for compensation letters required for PR issuance. AIMSA-FMSW raised concerns about the logistical difficulties in obtaining these letters, especially since universities would need to reissue them in a new format. This could lead to delays, further affecting the timelines for PR issuance. The association emphasized that other states have successfully issued PRs by veri-

fying the genuineness of previously issued compensation certificates, urging Andhra Pradesh to follow a similar approach to avoid further delays. Officials assured that the new compensation letter format would be available on the APMC website in the next 1-2 days, with the revised process taking effect immediately. AIMSA-FMSW expressed gratitude for the government's attention to these issues and is hopeful that the revised procedures will enable FMGs to begin their postgraduate studies promptly.

Excise Commissioner Nishanth Kumar Reviews Operations in Machilipatnam and Vuyyuru

- Strict action against illicitly distilled (ID) liquor offenders.
- Application deadline for excise licenses extended to February 8, 2025.
- Emphasis on law enforcement and transparency in excise operations.

TPN Correspondent
Machilipatnam, Feb 06

Excise Commissioner Nishanth Kumar conducted inspections at the Machilipatnam and Vuyyuru Excise Stations on February 5, 2025, to review the excise department's operations, law enforcement, and the ongoing application process. During his visit to Machilipatnam, Commissioner Kumar emphasized a zero-tolerance policy for illicitly distilled (ID) liquor and directed officials to take strict action against those involved in such illegal activities. He highlighted the importance of effective implementation of Navodayam 2.0, ensuring that all excise policies were followed diligently. In response to requests from applicants, the application deadline for excise-related licenses has been extended until 5 PM on February 8, 2025, providing them with additional time to complete the process. At the Vuyyuru Excise Station, Kumar engaged with appli-



cants, receiving positive feedback on the simplified application procedure, which has been streamlined for greater efficiency. The Commissioner also issued stern directives regarding individuals under "Bind Over" orders. He instructed staff to work closely with Revenue officials to recover bond

amounts from those who persist in criminal activities, reinforcing the seriousness of law enforcement. Kumar reaffirmed the government's commitment to curbing illegal liquor activities, ensuring transparency in the excise process, and taking proactive steps to maintain law and order.

Heavy Ration Rice Seized In Gannavaram Constituency

- 26 tons of PDS rice seized in Kotha Mallavalli Industrial Area.
- Veeravalli Police inspect lorries, uncover illegal transport of rice.
- Police and revenue officials investigate the case.

TPN Correspondent
Gannavaram, Feb 06

In a routine check, the Veeravalli Police seized approximately 26 tons of Public Distribution System (PDS) rice from two Eicher lorries parked in the Kotha Mallavalli Industrial Area under the limits of Veeravalli Police Station in Bapulapadu Mandal. The lorries were found to be carrying around 500 PDS rice bags, which were confiscated during the inspection.

Upon discovering the large quantity of rice, the Veeravalli Police took both lorries into custody and notified the PDS District Team (DT) for further action. Police and revenue officials are currently working together to gather full details regarding the origin and intended destination of the seized rice.

The authorities are continuing their investigation to determine whether this was an illegal diversion of government-subsidized rice meant for public distribution.



Resurvey to Follow Legal and Natural Justice Principles, Says CCLA Chief Commissioner

TPN Correspondent
Guntur, Feb 06

Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA) G. Jayalakshmi called for a resurvey process that adheres strictly to legal frameworks and natural justice principles. She made these remarks during a state-level training and review conference for Resurvey Deputy Tahsildars at Nagarjuna University Auditorium.

Jayalakshmi stressed the importance of using the powers granted to resurvey officials effectively and rectifying past mistakes in



land records. She highlighted that the resurvey should be conducted based on real-world conditions to ensure rightful beneficiaries receive their due recognition, in line with the vision of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. She also warned that errors would not be tolerated and that strict action would be taken against

those responsible for any lapses. Survey Settlement and Land Records Commissioner Dr. Prabhakar Reddy, in his keynote address, emphasized the need for accountability and legal compliance in the resurvey process. He noted that resurvey officials must apply existing laws appropriately and ensure that all orders issued are legally sound. Dr. Reddy also mentioned the receipt of 2,80,000 complaints in revenue conferences and assured that any challenges faced at the field level would be addressed. Additional Commissioner for

Survey Settlement and Land Records, Govind Rao, encouraged officials to leverage advanced technology for a modern and effective resurvey and to understand the available legal provisions. Around 600 Resurvey Deputy Tahsildars from across the state attended the conference, where officials were urged to prioritize accuracy and efficiency in the resurvey process. Other key participants included Guntur District Joint Collector Bhargava Teja and senior officials from various departments.

MLA Venigandla Ramu Inspects Dosapadu Canal and Addresses Irrigation Issues

TPN Correspondent
Gudivada, Feb 06

Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu conducted an inspection of the Dosapadu channel canal in Nandivada Mandal on Wednesday, accompanied by farmers and officials. The tour spanned from Nehrali drop to the Ilaparru regulator, where farmers highlighted issues with the canal's water flow due to accumulated mud and horse hooves.

MLA Ramu noted that the canal's condition was deteriorating due to inadequate maintenance, with minimal efforts to remove the obstacles that hindered water flow. He urged irrigation officials to take immediate corrective actions and assured farmers that he would raise the issue with higher authorities



to prevent further negligence. In a media interaction, MLA Ramu criticized the previous government for turning irrigation and drainage canal projects into profit-making ventures, leading to the poor state of the infrastructure. He expressed concerns over the YSRCP's exploitation of irrigation

works and the lack of proper maintenance by contractors who were awarded contracts with minimal oversight. He made it clear that such exploitation would no longer be tolerated under the coalition government, and contractors would be held accountable for adhering to maintenance standards. MLA Ramu also emphasized the importance of water associations ensuring that farmers receive the best services. He announced plans to modernize the Dosapadu channel, which was damaged during floods, to improve water flow and prevent future flooding issues. This modernization initiative aims to safeguard farmers and optimize irrigation in the region.

Police Recovers 310 Lost Mobile Phones Worth ₹36 Lakhs, Handover to Victims

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 06

Krishna District SP R. Gangadhara Rao IPS recently handed over 310 mobile phones, valued at Rs. 36 lakhs, to victims who had lost them. The phones were recovered through the special "Missing Mobile Tracking System (MMTS)," implemented under the direct supervision of the SP.

This recovery follows the previous success of the Krishna District Police, where 392 mobile phones worth Rs. 45 lakhs were retrieved and returned to their rightful owners. The MMTS, which involves a state-of-the-art tracking system, has been instrumental in identifying and recovering lost and stolen mobile phones. Special teams, in-



cluding IT core and CCS staff, have been dedicated to this cause. On Wednesday, the police handed over 175 phones recovered by Gudivada CCS, 83 by Penamalur CCS, and 52 by Bandaru CCS,

making a total of 310 mobile phones returned to victims. Speaking during the handover, SP R. Gangadhara Rao encouraged the public to use the MMTS service. Anyone who has lost or had a mobile phone stolen can message "Hi" or "Help" to the WhatsApp number 9490617573 with details of their lost phone to initiate the recovery process. The SP emphasized the importance of reporting found phones to the nearest police station instead of using or purchasing them from unknown sources. He also rewarded the CCS and IT Core staff for their efforts in recovering the phones and facilitating the handover process.



Former Himachal CM Jayaram Thakur Visits Sri Kalahastheeswara Swamy Temple



TPN | Ganesh
Tirupati, Feb 06

Former Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Jayaram Thakur, along with his family, visited the Sri Kalahastheeswara Swamy temple and had darshan of the deity along with Sri Gnana Prasunamba. Temple inspector Hariyadav extended a warm welcome to the dignitary upon his arrival. During the visit, Vedic scholars chanted sacred hymns at Gurudakshinamurthy, and temple officials conducted traditional rituals. As part of the proceedings, the former Chief Minister was presented with Tirtha Prasadam as temple honors. BJP State Secretary Kola Anand, Temple APRO Ravi, and other temple officials and staff participated in the program.

TTD Chairman Expresses Gratitude to Srivari Sevaks



TPN | K. Kanaiah
Tirumala, Feb 06

TTD Chairman Sri B.R. Naidu stated that serving the devotees of Srivari in Tirumala is akin to serving the Lord Himself. Speaking at Srivari Seva Sadan-2 on Wednesday evening, he expressed gratitude to the Srivari Sevaks for their service, especially during Rathasaptami.

He recalled how he once visited Tirumala three to four times a year for Srivari Darshan and now considers it a divine blessing to serve devotees in his role as TTD Chairman. Addressing the volunteers, he assured that more devotees would be given opportunities for Srivari Seva.

Later, an automatic allotment system was used to select 520 volunteers online through the dip system for future service at the Srivari temple.

During the meeting, Srivari Sevaks from Bangalore, Siddipet, Nalgonda, Prakasam, and London shared their experiences. A devotee from Bangalore expressed joy at fulfilling his dream of participating in the Chakrasnanam on Rathasaptami. Soumya from Siddipet highlighted the discipline and devotion learned through Srivari Seva, while Rita from London praised TTD's efforts in food distribution, cleanliness, and water supply for devotees.

Following the session, Chief Public Relations Officer Dr. T. Ravi honored the TTD Chairman with a shawl and a Srivari memo, presenting a progress report on Srivari Seva from its inception to the present.

Warden Refutes Allegations Against E.M.R. School

TPN | C. Sekhar
Tirupati, Feb 06

The warden of E.M.R. School in Buchnaidu Kandriga mandal has strongly denied allegations being circulated against him in the media. Addressing the controversy, he stated that certain individuals are spreading false propoganda as part of a conspiracy.

He dismissed claims that he mistreats students, asserting that he treats them like his own children. Refuting allegations that he consumes alcohol and beats students in the evening, he clarified that there is no truth to such accusations.

The warden emphasized that a structured daily menu is followed in the school hostel, ensuring proper meals and snacks from morning to night without any compromise. He believes that impatience from certain individuals has led to these false reports.

He encouraged people to verify with the students regarding his conduct and insisted that he has only ever treated them as family members. He highlighted his daily routine, ensuring students wake up on time, engage in studies, and participate in various games in the evening to promote their health and well-being.



Leopard Cub Search Operation Conducted at SV University

TPN | Ganesh
Tirupati, Feb 06

Several reports about leopard cubs spotted at Sri Venkateswara University (SVU) led forest officials to conduct a large-scale search operation on Wednesday. Forest Range Officers (FROs) Nagabhushanam and Sudarshan, along with Forest Biologist Soujanya, discussed the situation with SVU Vice-Chancellor Apparao, Registrar Bhupathi Naidu, and NSS & Media Coordinator Dr. Pakanati Harikrishna before initiating the search.

The "perambulation" operation began at 10:30 AM and involved



a four-layered search team:

- 1. 20 forest officials and staff in the first layer,
- 2. University security personnel in the second layer,

- 3. NSS volunteers in the third layer, and
- 4. University students in the fourth layer.

The search started from the

Engineering College Triple and covered areas including the Pharmaceutical College and Central Library, continuing until 4:30 PM. Despite an extensive search, no leopard cubs were found. Additionally, four cages set up over the past four days remained empty. Forest Biologist Soujanya explained that leopards are highly intelligent animals that tend to avoid human presence and primarily feed on stray dogs. Varsity Cultural Coordinator Pattipati Vivek, Academic Consultant Dr. Mani, and Security Incharge Madan Mohan Reddy also participated in the operation.

SP Damodar IPS Inspects Police Stations In Prakasam Dist



TPN | N. Kasirao
Prakasam Dist, Feb 06

Prakasam SP AR Damodar IPS carried out an extensive four-day inspection of police stations across the Markapuram and Darsi subdivisions to assess law enforcement efficiency.

On Wednesday, he visited Tripurantakam, Kurichedu, and Donakonda police stations, reviewing case records, station cleanliness, and security measures. He directed officials to speed up investigations, ensure immediate action on women and child-related cases, and adopt technological tools like CCTV and drones for better crime control.

The SP emphasized road safety, instructing officers to conduct awareness programs and enforce strict traffic regulations. He stressed that wearing a helmet is a life-saving necessity.

Encouraging community engagement, he urged police personnel to be approachable, accountable, and responsive to public concerns. He also visited Sri Tripurantakeswara Swamy Temple, overseeing arrangements for Shivaratri celebrations.

SP Damodar reiterated the importance of proactive policing and urged officers to maintain law and order with dedication and transparency.

ACB Arrests Food Safety Inspector and Assistant for Bribery in Eluru

Caught Red-Handed While Accepting ₹22,000 Bribe

TPN | Kishore
Eluru, Feb 06

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested Food Safety Inspector Kavya Reddy and her assistant Pullarao in Eluru on Wednesday while accepting a ₹22,000 bribe from a local businessman.

According to ACB officials, Namburi Sai Gokul, a resident of Katlampudi village in Eluru Rural Mandal, runs a soda manufacturing unit named Oops Goli Soda Company. During an inspection, food safety officials accused him of selling adulterated soda and demanded ₹25,000 to drop the case. Unable to bear the pressure, Sai Gokul approached the ACB, which set a trap to catch the officials.

On Wednesday, as Sai Gokul handed over ₹22,000 at the food safety office, ACB officials raided the premises and caught Kavya Reddy and Pullarao red-handed. Upon further investigation, officials found ₹87,000 in cash, tied in six bundles, inside their car.

ACB DSP V Subbaraju stated that the total amount seized was ₹1.9 lakh, and further searches were being conducted at their residences. However, no additional incriminating evidence had been found in their homes so far.



Child Rights Commission Chairman Visits Hospitalized Students Due to Food Poisoning

TPN A. Narasimhulu
Vizianagaram, Feb 06

State Child Rights Commission Chairman Kesali Apparao visited the Vizianagaram District Central Hospital, where students were receiving treatment after consuming contaminated food at the Government Social Welfare Girls' Hostel on Sunkari Road. He discussed the incident with the hospital superintendent and Mission Vatsalya staff.

Apparao stated that complaints about poor food quality at the

hostel had been raised for two weeks, leading to prior warnings to the staff. However, with the latest incident confirming continued negligence, he visited the hostel on Sunday, interacted with students and staff, and issued strict instructions to improve food safety.

Following the recurrence of food-related illness the same evening, he ordered an inquiry and assured immediate action against those responsible to ensure student welfare.



Food Safety Officials Inspects Subbayya Group of Hotels in Kakinada



TPN | Dhanalakshmi
Kakinada, Feb 06

On Wednesday, officials from the Food Control Department conducted inspections at Sub-

bayya Group of Hotels in Kakinada following a customer complaint about food safety violations. The complaint alleged that various food powders sold

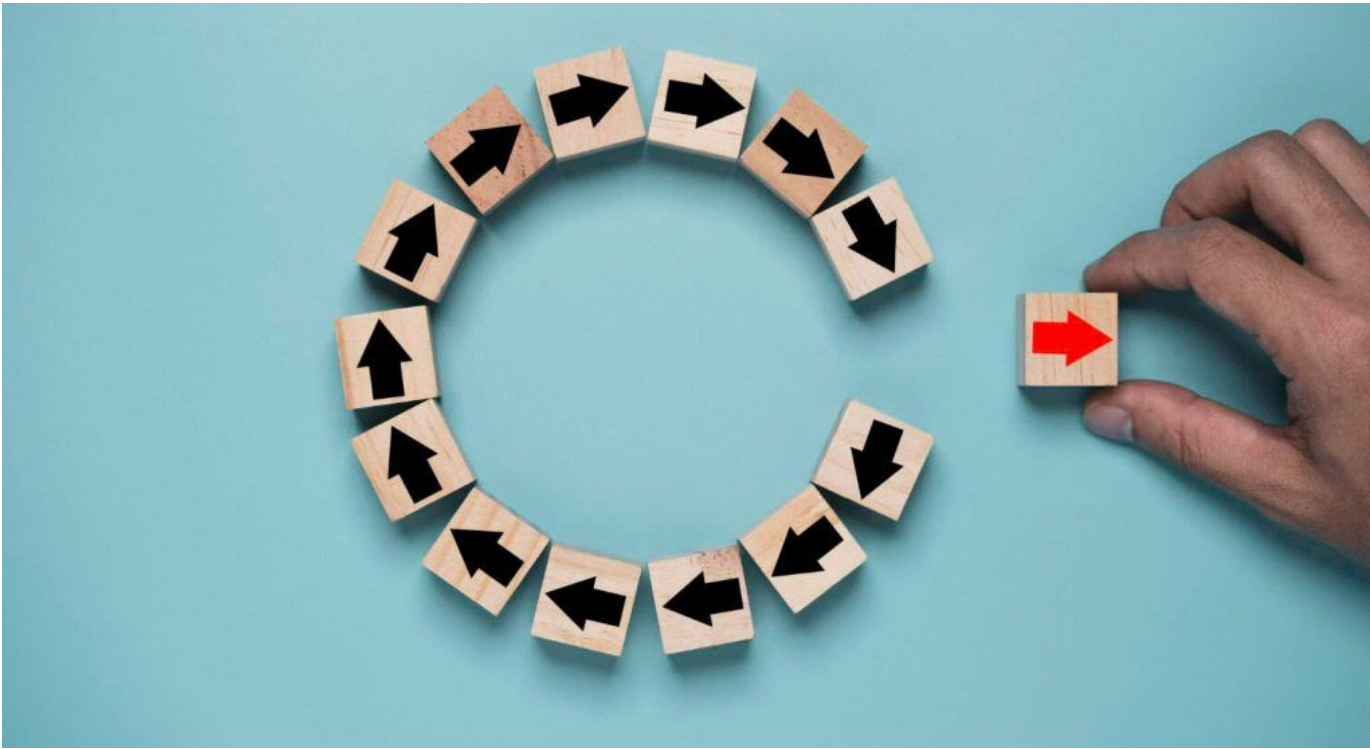
by the hotel lacked expiry date labels, raising serious concerns about food quality and compliance.

Acting on the complaint, Food Control Department Officer B. Srinivas and Food Inspector K.V. Subbarao led the inspection at multiple outlets of the Subbayya Hotels chain. They verified packaging and labeling standards and found that several food products did not carry the mandatory expiry date. Officials emphasized that such violations pose potential risks to public health and consumer safety. Following their findings, the

officials registered a case against the hotel management for non-compliance with food safety regulations. They also instructed the hotel staff to rectify the issue immediately and ensure that all food items meet the prescribed standards.

Authorities have assured that further action will be taken based on the investigation findings, and they have urged consumers to report any food safety violations they encounter. The Food Control Department has reiterated its commitment to ensuring hygiene and quality standards in all eateries across the region.

CHANGE3|CHANGE



In the intricate tapestry of life, change takes on the role of a gentle breeze, softly nudging us forward on our journey. Imagine change as a trusted friend, always there to guide us through the twists and turns of our existence. Can you feel its presence? It's like a comforting hand on our shoulder, encouraging us to step beyond our comfort zones and explore the vast landscape of possibilities that lie ahead. No one is stopping us from changing; it's our comfort zone that often holds us back, along with the weight of old experiences that tether us to the past. Old experiences can act as anchors, keeping us rooted in familiar patterns and preventing us from venturing into the unknown. They whisper tales of caution, reminding us of past failures or discomforts, and urging us to stay within the confines of what we already know. But change is like a river, flowing ever forward, and to resist its current is to stagnate. It's in those moments of uncertainty that we truly discover our strength and re-

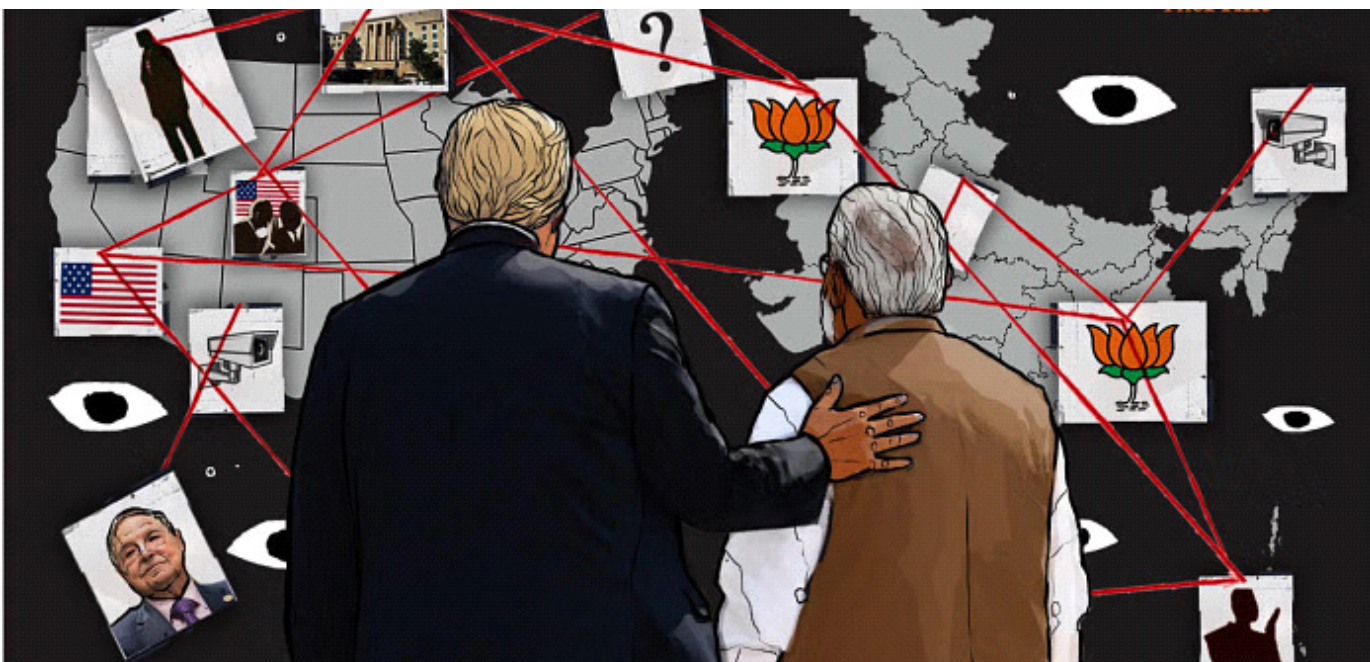


Sandeep Sagar Kola

silience. Yet, amidst the excitement of change, there's often a hint of apprehension – a whisper of doubt that lingers in the corners of our minds. Yet, like a reassuring voice, change reminds us that growth lies on the other side of fear. It beckons us to release the shackles of the past and embrace the possibilities of the present and fu-

ture. Think of change as a caterpillar undergoing its miraculous transformation into a butterfly. It's a journey of growth and renewal, a reminder that even in our darkest moments, there's always the promise of something beautiful waiting to emerge. Yet, despite its transformative power, some shy away from change, clinging to the safety of what's familiar. But oh, the wonders that await those who dare to embrace it! Like a seed bursting through the soil to reach for the sun, change opens up a world of opportunity and possibility. Those who welcome change with open arms are like captains navigating the seas of life. They may face storms along the way, but they also discover hidden treasures and uncharted territories beyond the horizon. So let's embrace change as a cherished companion on our journey – a friend or a colleague who challenges us, inspires us, and ultimately leads us to our fullest potential. Together, let's dance to the rhythm of change, knowing that with each step forward, we're one step closer to realizing our dreams.

The Deep State and the Great Game: Echoes of Power and Espionage



In 1900, Rudyard Kipling wrote **Kim**, placing the titular character at the heart of the Great Game, the covert struggle for control and influence between the British Empire and Tsarist Russia in Central Asia. Set in the late 19th century, the novel explores the complexities of espionage and political intrigue, following Kimball O'Hara, an Irish orphan in Lahore, who becomes embroiled in the shadowy world of spies. Kim befriends a Tibetan lama and is eventually recruited by Mahbub Ali, a Pashtun horse trader working for the British Secret Service, to gather intelligence in Afghanistan and Tibet.

Though the so-called Great Game is often viewed as a period of strategic competition, with British imperialists fearing Russian expansion in Central Asia, the reality of this geopolitical struggle is debated by historians. The British Empire, particularly through figures like

Viceroy George Curzon, depicted Tsarist Russia as a looming threat to British interests in India. National papers, including *The Civil and Military Gazette* in Lahore and *The Statesman* in Calcutta, reflected this sentiment, supporting the narrative of Russian encroachment. However, a century later, many historians question the extent and authenticity of the Great Game, suggesting that the geopolitical tensions may have been exaggerated to justify British military and diplomatic endeavors.

The concept of the "deep state" bears striking similarities to the Great Game, both involving shadowy power structures and covert agendas. While the Great Game revolved around imperial interests in Central Asia, the modern discourse surrounding the deep state focuses on the hidden forces that supposedly control or influence national policy and international relations.

Whether or not the deep state truly exists, operates in every country, or connects through global networks like the dark web remains unclear. The idea often becomes a matter of ideological debate rather than empirical analysis.

Some individuals, like former intelligence officers AS Dulat and Asad Durrani, have presented themselves as central figures within the deep state. In their 2018 book **The Spy Chronicles: RAW, ISI and the Illusion of Peace**, they discuss their roles in the tense relationship between India and Pakistan. However, their self-appointed stature as arbiters of this complex geopolitical relationship has drawn heavy criticism. Much like the figures in Kipling's **Kim**, those who claim insider knowledge of shadowy power structures may shape the narrative, but the true extent and influence of these forces remain open to interpretation.

US Navy Successfully Tests High-Energy Laser Weapon, HELIOS



The US Navy has achieved a major milestone in its efforts to incorporate cost-effective laser weaponry into its arsenal. In 2024, the Navy successfully tested its High-Energy Laser with Integrated Optical Dazzler and Surveillance (HELIOS) system aboard the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Preble, marking a significant step towards enhancing the US military's defense capabilities against emerging threats.

HELIOS, developed by Lockheed Martin, is a high-powered laser weapon designed to counter a range of threats, including drones, fast attack boats, and missiles. The system is versatile, offering two modes of attack: Hard Kill, which directly destroys a target, and Soft Kill, which disrupts electronic components to disable enemy systems. According to Lockheed Martin, HELIOS is characterized by its "deep magazine, low cost per kill, speed-of-light delivery, and precision response," with the ability to generate over 60 kilowatts of directed energy, potentially reaching 120 kilowatts with future upgrades.

The successful test saw HELIOS engage an aerial drone, validating its operational capabilities in a real-world setting. While the exact location and date of the test remain classified, a photo included in the Pentagon's annual Director, Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E) report captured the moment the laser engaged its target. This test was designed to assess the system's functionality, perfor-

mance, and overall capability.

HELIOS is particularly important because it provides a more affordable alternative to traditional missile defense systems, which rely on costly ammunition. In regions like the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, where Iranian-backed Houthi rebels have launched drone and missile attacks against US and allied warships, the need for advanced defensive technology is increasingly urgent. Vice Adm. Brendan McLane pointed out that directed-energy weapons, such as HELIOS, could effectively counter asymmetric threats posed by groups like the Houthis.

Despite the success of this test, there are still challenges to overcome. One major hurdle is the power supply required to support high-energy lasers aboard ships. Additionally, environmental conditions such as fog, wind, and other weather factors could impact the performance of the laser. Another challenge is integrating HELIOS with existing defense systems on naval vessels.

The Department of Defense has invested \$1 billion annually into high-energy lasers, and while progress has been slow, the success of HELIOS represents a significant step toward expanding directed-energy weapons in the Navy's arsenal. The ability to disable drones and missiles affordably could fundamentally change naval warfare, reducing reliance on expensive interceptors while providing more efficient defense systems.

Delhi Assembly Polls 2024: A Three-Way Battle Between AAP, Congress, and BJP

The upcoming Delhi Assembly elections are set to be a fierce three-way contest between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the Indian National Congress (INC). As the first of two crucial state assembly elections this year, the political atmosphere in the national capital is charged with high stakes and intense rivalry.

AAP, led by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, has decided to contest the elections independently, fueling speculation about a possible rift within the opposition alliance, I.N.D.I.A. The party's focus remains on local governance issues, with Kejriwal pushing for demands like reservations for Delhi's Jat community, aiming to garner support from this crucial vote bank. Kejriwal's strategy of playing on regional identity and local concerns is expected to be central to his campaign in the face of strong opposition.

On the other hand, the BJP is banking on issues like the alleged liquor excise policy scam and ongoing pollution problems in Delhi to gain political mileage. The party hopes to capitalize on these issues to secure an edge over AAP, who has been under scrutiny for its handling of both matters. The BJP's national leadership, including figures like Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari, are expected to focus heavily on these local grievances, portraying the AAP as failing in its governance duties.

Meanwhile, Congress, which has struggled to make significant inroads in Delhi in recent years, is attempting to assert it-

Delhi votes...



self in this election. While the party has distanced itself from any formal alliance with AAP or BJP, it has not hesitated to attack its erstwhile partners. Congress aims to make a comeback by targeting both the AAP and the BJP for their handling of governance issues in the capital, including the state of the economy and social welfare.

With multiple contenders in the fray, the Delhi Assembly election promises to be a high-octane contest, as AAP defends its reign, BJP seeks to capitalize on local issues, and Congress looks to revive its fortunes in the national capital. As the campaign intensifies, all eyes will be on the outcome, which could significantly impact the political dynamics in Delhi and the wider region. Stay tuned to the latest developments, analysis, and updates on Deccan Herald for comprehensive coverage of the election race.

Hat-trick of zeros for Congress in Delhi? Exit polls suggest no revival for party

- People's Pulse predicts a strong BJP lead, while Matrize sees a close contest.
- Mind Brink and Wee Preside project AAP ahead with 44-52 seats.
- Final results will be revealed when votes are counted on February 8.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

As the exit polls pour in for the Delhi Assembly elections, the Congress party is staring at yet another electoral disaster, with most projections suggesting a third consecutive wipeout. According to six exit polls, two have predicted that Congress could fail to secure any seats in the Delhi Assembly, continuing its struggle to regain political relevance in the national capital.

The Congress's decline in Delhi began in 2015 when it lost all 70 seats, a result that was replicated in 2020. Once a formidable force under the leadership of Sheila Dikshit, the party has seen its influence erode significantly, with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) dominating the political scene. This trend is expected to persist, according to the latest exit polls, all of which predict a poor showing for Congress.

Exit poll projections for Congress vary slightly, but the consensus remains bleak. Matrize, JVC, and Pmarq predict 0-1 seat for the party, while People's Pulse and WeePreside forecast zero seats. Mind Brink, the only poll showing a glimmer of hope for Congress,



predicts one seat. If these predictions hold true, Congress will once again fail to make its presence felt in the Delhi Assembly. In contrast, the exit polls have painted a more optimistic picture for the BJP and AAP. Three exit polls suggest that the BJP, after a 27-year

hiatus, may stage a major comeback in the city, with seat projections ranging from 39 to 60. However, two exit polls, Mind Brink and WeePreside, predict a third consecutive term for AAP, with the party securing between 44 and 52 seats.

TTD Takes Action Against Employees for Non-Hindu Practices

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD), the administrative body overseeing the famous Tirupati temple, has taken significant action against 18 employees for allegedly engaging in non-Hindu religious practices, despite having taken an oath to uphold the Hindu faith upon joining the institution. These employees have been barred from participating in any religious activities or events related to the temple, which is one of the holiest sites for Hindus.



The TTD board, committed to maintaining the spiritual sanctity of the temple and its activities, has issued orders to transfer these employees to roles outside the religious operations of the temple. This could involve redeploying them to various government departments or offering them an option for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS).

TTD Chairman BR Naidu emphasized that the Tirumala temple must remain a symbol of Hindu faith and that the integrity of religious practices must be preserved. According to a statement from the board, the employees in question have been accused of participating in non-Hindu religious practices, which, according to the board, adversely affects the sentiments of millions of Hindu devotees. Their involvement in Hindu religious events like fairs, festivals, and functions, while adhering to non-Hindu practices, has been deemed inappropriate and detrimental to the sanctity of the temple's rituals.

Sikkim CM Dismisses Merger Rumors with Darjeeling, Stresses Article 371F Protection

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Amid growing rumors about a potential merger between Sikkim and Darjeeling, Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang has firmly denied these claims, labeling them as false. Following a session in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, the Chief Minister stated that Sikkim's special status under Article 371F of the Indian Constitution would continue to safeguard the state's autonomy.

"This is well-known to every Sikkimese. Even those spreading these rumors have been asked about the merger and they have confirmed it will never happen. It is not possible. The opposition lacks real issues to address, and so they resort to such baseless claims," he asserted.

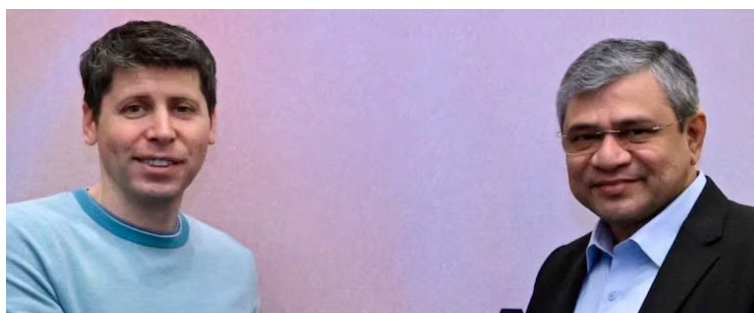
On Tuesday, during the foundation day celebration of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM), Mr. Tamang reiterated his stance, saying, "There is no merger between Sikkim



and Darjeeling. We are protected by Article

371F. No state can take over Sikkim, and no region can merge with us. Sikkim has its own identity, just as Darjeeling has its own."

The Chief Minister also clarified that the upcoming delegation traveling to New Delhi on February 10 to demand tribal status for 12 marginalized communities would not include representatives from Darjeeling hills. This, he explained, is in contrast to previous delegations, such as the Limboo Tamang tribal status demand in the early 2000s, which did include Darjeeling representation. "The meeting was initially scheduled in Kolkata, as the committee's chairman is from there. However, we decided to change the venue to New Delhi due to our infrastructure at Sikkim House. The Legislative meeting that finalized this decision did not include representatives from Darjeeling," Tamang said. He clarified that only Sikkimese communities would be represented in the upcoming meeting with the concerned ministry.



India's AI Ambitions: Minister Vaishnaw Meets OpenAI's Sam Altman for Key Talks

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

As the global artificial intelligence (AI) race intensifies, India has outlined a comprehensive strategy to build an entire AI ecosystem, from hardware to software applications. Union Minister for Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, recently met OpenAI's Co-founder and CEO Sam Altman in New Delhi, where the two discussed India's AI roadmap and the potential for collaboration between OpenAI and India in this sector. Vaishnaw took to social media, highlighting that Altman was impressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to democratize technology and make AI more accessible.

During the meeting, Vaishnaw shared India's plan to develop a full AI stack, including GPUs, models, and applications, and OpenAI expressed willingness to collaborate in these areas. The Minister emphasized that PM Modi's vision for AI aligns with OpenAI's goals, with both parties recognizing the importance of harnessing AI for the benefit of the public. Altman, who oversees the development of the popular AI models like ChatGPT, acknowledged India's significant role in the AI space, calling it the second largest market for OpenAI. He further emphasized that while AI models remain expensive, they are within reach, and India has the potential to become a leader in AI technology.



Himanta Sarma Inaugurates Redeveloped Kerbside At Guwahati Airport

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the newly redeveloped kerbside at Terminal 1 (T1) of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport, marking a significant upgrade to the airport's infrastructure. The inauguration was attended by key stakeholders from the LGBI Airport ecosystem, highlighting the airport's commitment to enhancing passenger experience.

This redevelopment aims to provide a safer, more secure, and enjoyable travel experience for passengers. The upgrades include an expanded passenger movement area, now increased by 700 sqm to better accommodate the rising number of travelers. In addition, the number of departure gates has risen from five to seven, which will reduce wait times for passengers. These gates now feature a total of 14 entry lanes, streamlining the entry and exit processes.

To further improve accessibility, two new entry points have been added, and the airport has optimized the traffic flow with segregation lanes, including FastTag-enabled entry and exit points. A safe and convenient walking path with a zebra crossing has also been created from the parking area to the terminal for pedestrian safety.

The revamped kerbside area offers a traffic-free lane, providing a more streamlined and pleasant experience for passengers. Retail and food outlets along the kerbside have been thoughtfully curated, allowing travelers to shop and dine in a vibrant atmosphere that operates 24/7, 365 days a year.

The upgraded terminal is part of Guwahati International Airport Limited's (GIAL) broader vision to modernize and improve passenger facilities. "As the Gateway to the Northeast, the refurbished T1 will help foster economic growth, educational development, and job creation in the region," said a GIAL spokesperson.

BJP Confident of Victory in Delhi Assembly Elections, Predicts Over 50 Seats

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

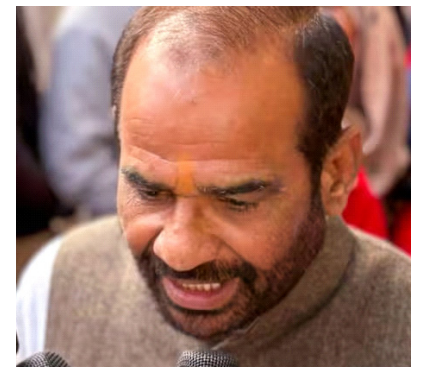
Following the release of exit poll predictions showing a clear majority for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Delhi Assembly elections, Ramesh Bidhuri, BJP's candidate from Kalkaji, expressed strong confidence in his party's victory. He attributed the projected success to what he described as a "Modi wave" and emphasized that the BJP would surpass the 50-seat mark in the Assembly.

The exit polls came soon after the voting concluded across all 70 constituencies in Delhi on February 5, with the majority indicating a BJP-led government in the national capital. "This is Modi wave. The people of Delhi want development just like there has been development across the rest of the country under PM Narendra Modi. The hard work put in by our party workers and the guidance and strategy of our leaders have reaped fruit," Bidhuri said to ANI, reiterating his belief that the BJP's seat count will exceed projections.

Bidhuri's remarks followed the exit poll projections that placed the BJP in a commanding position, with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) trailing behind. In a video shared by ANI, he confidently stated, "I don't believe in these exit polls, the number of our seats will rise further. BJP will cross the 50-seat mark."

Similarly, Parvesh Verma, BJP's candidate from New Delhi, echoed this optimism, stating, "It is certain that Lotus will bloom on 8th February. We will give good governance, clean Yamuna, and employment in Delhi. Arvind Kejriwal is confident that he is losing."

The exit polls from multiple pollsters suggested a clear victory for the BJP. The Matrize Exit Poll forecasted that the BJP would secure between 35 and 40 seats, while the AAP was expected to win between 32 and 37 seats. Congress was predicted to win 0-1 seat.



Elon Musk Given 'Read-Only' Access to Treasury Payments Data

US Treasury confirms access amid concerns over government efficiency reforms.

- Team can view but not alter Treasury payment data as part of a cost-cutting review.
- Democratic lawmakers demand an investigation, citing legal and ethical concerns.
- Lawsuits filed to block Musk's team from accessing taxpayer information.

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Elon Musk, the world's wealthiest individual, has been granted "read-only" access to the US Treasury Department's highly sensitive payment system, which manages trillions of dollars in transactions, including Social Security, Medicare payouts, and federal salaries. The move has raised concerns among Democratic lawmakers, prompting calls for an investigation into the decision.

Musk, who is leading the federal cost-cutting initiative under the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), reportedly pushed for his team to gain access to the Treasury's payment system as part of his efforts to streamline government operations. His request was approved by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, allowing Musk's IT executive Tom Krause to lead the team with access to the payment system.

In response to growing concerns, Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ron Wyden sent a letter to the congressional watchdog agency, urging an investigation into how Musk and his team were granted access. The Democratic lawmakers have expressed apprehension over the ethical and legal implications of allowing private individuals, such as Musk, to view government financial data.

The Treasury Department clarified in a letter to Congress that the access granted to Musk's team is "read-only," which



means they can view the data but cannot alter it. The department emphasized that this type of access is similar to the permissions granted to auditors reviewing Treasury systems.

Despite this assurance, Democratic lawmakers and labor unions have voiced their opposition to Musk's involvement in the Treasury's operations. Some groups have filed lawsuits against DOGE, arguing that it is illegal for Musk or his team to access personal taxpayer information, demanding that a federal judge block this access.

In a post on X, Musk defended the move, stating that "the only way to stop fraud

and waste of taxpayer money is to follow the payment flows and pause suspicious transactions for review." Musk's cost-cutting initiative has faced increasing resistance, with critics raising concerns over the potential misuse of sensitive government data.

The decision to grant Musk's team access to the Treasury's payment system came after a career official was placed on administrative leave for refusing to approve the request, leading to their eventual retirement. This development has intensified the debate over the government's transparency and the role of private entities in reviewing public financial data.

India A Very Important Market For AI, Can Be A Leading Force: Sam Altman



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India is on the brink of making significant strides in artificial intelligence (AI), with Sam Altman, Co-founder and CEO of OpenAI, recognizing the country as one of the most important markets for AI. Speaking at an event attended by Union Minister for Railways and Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Altman shared that India is the second biggest market globally for OpenAI.

The event comes as OpenAI has announced a monumental \$500 billion project called 'Stargate' aimed at building new AI infrastructure in the US over the next four years, alongside major partners like SoftBank, Oracle, and MGX. Altman emphasized that India, with its immense potential, should be a leader in the AI space, particularly in large language models (LLMs).

Altman also addressed his previous comments on India's ability to develop large language models, clarifying that his statement had been "taken out of context." He affirmed that India's growth in AI is possible, acknowledging that while AI models are still expensive, they are becoming more accessible.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw spoke about India's ambition to make significant innovations in AI, similar to the success of missions like Chandrayaan. He highlighted the country's drive to bring AI solutions that reduce costs, making them more accessible to entrepreneurs, researchers, and students. In line with this vision, the Indian government is working towards launching an indigenous AI model within the next six months. This model aims to be not only safe and secure but also affordable, positioning India as a leading global player in ethical AI solutions.

The IndiaAI initiative is rapidly progressing, with efforts underway to customize AI solutions that address the unique needs of the Indian context, including Indian languages. Scientists, researchers, and developers are currently working on foundational models, and the AI computation facility has already been equipped with 10,000 GPUs. Additional GPUs are set to be added to further enhance the model's capacity.

As China Slaps US With Retaliatory Tariffs, The Trade War Begins

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

Trade tensions between the United States and China have reached new heights, as China retaliates with counter-tariffs on US imports in response to President Donald Trump's 10% tariff on Chinese goods. The intensification of this trade war has reignited concerns about the impact on the global economy. China's Finance Ministry has condemned the US tariffs, claiming that they violate World Trade Organization (WTO) rules.

In a strongly worded statement, China warned that it may be forced to take additional countermeasures, asserting that there are "no winners in a trade war." China's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Fu Cong, criticized the US decision, calling it an "unwarranted increase" and affirming that it breaches international trade norms.

To counter the US tariffs, China has imposed its own set of retaliatory measures. These include a 15% tariff on US coal and liquefied natural gas exports, as well as a 10% tariff on crude oil, agricultural machinery, and large-displacement cars. These new tariffs are set to take effect on February 10. Additionally, China has implemented export controls on rare metals, such as tungsten, tellurium, ruthenium, and molybdenum, citing national security concerns.

In a surprising move, China has also launched an anti-trust investigation into Google, accusing the tech giant of monopolistic practices. This probe is seen as a strategic response to the escalating trade conflict, with China's State Administration for Market Regulation alleging that Google violated the country's Anti-Monopoly Law.

The tariffs, which came into effect on Tuesday, are part of President Trump's broader strategy to pressure China into curbing the flow of illicit drugs, particularly fentanyl. The White House stated that the tariffs are intended to hold countries like China accountable for failing to halt illegal immigration and drug trafficking. However, China has countered by urging the US to address the issue from its own perspective and focus on the demand side of fentanyl rather than blaming other countries.



Could Change History: Israel's Netanyahu On Trump's Gaza Take Over Plan

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made headlines on Tuesday when he praised US President Donald Trump's proposal for the United States to take control over the Palestinian territory of Gaza. Speaking at a joint press conference held at the White House, Netanyahu described the plan as an idea that could "change history."

Netanyahu's remarks came as he responded to Trump's suggestions, which have raised eyebrows internationally. He emphasized the significance of the proposal, hinting at the potential transformative effect it could have on the region. While Netanyahu did not go into extensive detail, he stressed that it was a development that deserved serious consideration, acknowledging the gravity of the moment.

The idea, if implemented, would mark a dramatic shift in the longstanding geopolitical situation in Gaza and the broader Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Since the early 2000s, Gaza has been a flashpoint for tensions, with the Palestinian group Hamas controlling the area, leading to frequent conflicts and humanitarian concerns. The US plan, by potentially placing the region under American oversight, would be a historic departure from previous strategies and proposals surrounding the governance and future of the territory.

Netanyahu's statement hints at the evolving dynamics of Israeli politics and its relationship with the United States. Trump's administration has been a vocal supporter of Israel, and this latest proposal is seen by some as a further deepening of the bond between the two countries. However, the plan's implications could extend far beyond bilateral relations, affecting the broader Middle East peace process and the ongoing struggles of the Palestinian people.

The White House press conference, held at a critical time in the Middle East, signaled the possibility of a new direction in US foreign policy under Trump's leadership, particularly in relation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While the exact details of the plan remain unclear, Netanyahu's endorsement of it suggests that Israel may be open to significant changes in how the region is governed in the future.



Tulsi Gabbard Clears Senate Intelligence Committee Vote for DNI Nomination

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Former U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard has passed a significant hurdle in her bid to become the next Director of National Intelligence (DNI), clearing the Senate Intelligence Committee vote. The vote, which was closely contested, passed 9-8 along party lines, bringing Gabbard one step closer to full Senate confirmation.

After the vote, Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Tom Cotton (R-Ark.) expressed his confidence in Gabbard's nomination, saying, "The Intelligence Committee just voted for Tulsi Gabbard's nomination to be the Director of National Intelligence favourably to the full United States Senate. We look forward to her confirmation and working with her to keep America safe." This marks a crucial moment in Gabbard's journey to leading the U.S. intelligence community, a position responsible for overseeing the nation's 17 intelligence agencies.

The vote came on the heels of an important announcement from Senator Todd Young (R-Ind.), a pivotal swing vote in the process. Young publicly declared his support for Gabbard, endorsing her nomination via social media. He praised her ability to engage with him on key issues, ensuring that U.S. intelligence professionals would be supported under her leadership and that policymakers would receive unbiased information. His endorsement played a significant role in tipping the balance in favor of Gabbard's nomination.

Gabbard, who served as a U.S. Representative from Hawaii from 2013 to 2021, has been a prominent figure in American politics. Known for her independent views, she has often taken a more non-interventionist stance on foreign policy and criticized U.S. military involvement abroad. Her nomination to lead the U.S. intelligence community has garnered attention for her unconventional political career and her potential to reshape how intelligence is gathered and analyzed at the highest levels of government.

Markets End With Moderate Losses Amid Global Uncertainty



Domestic stock markets ended with moderate losses on Wednesday, taking a breather after heavy declines in the previous session. While the benchmark indices opened with gains, they lost momentum due to weak global cues, a record-low rupee, and selling pressure on FMCG stocks. Despite the short-term dip, market experts remain optimistic about a bullish trend in the medium term.

At close, the Nifty settled at 23,696, down 42 points, while the Sensex lost 312 points to finish at 78,271. The BSE Sensex, which opened at 78,704, touched an intraday high of 78,735 before slipping to a low of 78,216. Sim-



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ilarly, the Nifty oscillated between 23,680 and 23,801 before closing lower. Meanwhile, the Nifty Bank index defied the trend, gaining 185 points to settle at 50,343. Out of the 50 Nifty stocks, 25 advanced while 25 declined.

Top gainers included Hindalco, ITC Hotels, ONGC, Apollo Hospitals, and BPCL, while Asian Paints, Titan, Nestle India, Britannia, and Tata Consumer saw the biggest losses. FMCG, realty, and consumer durables stocks remained under pressure, while media, metal, PSU banks, and oil & gas sectors saw positive movement.

On the NSE, market breadth was positive, with 1,969 stocks advancing, 857

declining, and 33 touching 52-week highs, compared to 34 stocks at 52-week lows.

Swiggy's Q3 losses widened to ₹800 crore from ₹574 crore, while the rupee hit a fresh low of 87.46 against the US dollar. The Finance Ministry imposed a ban on DeepSeek and ChatGPT AI tools. In corporate earnings, Solar Industries reported a 55% surge in net profit to ₹315 crore, while Thangamayil's net profit jumped 72% to ₹28 crore. Several stocks, including Laurus Labs, JK Cement, Muthoot Finance, UPL, Bajaj Finance, and Essar F, hit 52-week highs. JM Financial anticipates Zomato and Jio Finance joining the Nifty50 index. Meanwhile, Page Industries saw a 35% rise in net profit to ₹205 crore, Arvind Passions' profit soared 60% to ₹30 crore, and Tega Industries' profit climbed from ₹35 crore to ₹54 crore. JB Chemfarm also posted a 21% increase in net profit, with revenue rising by 14%.

REC Ltd:

The stock remained stable amid a volatile session, backed by strong financials and consistent government support for the power sector. Investors



are optimistic about REC's long-term growth, given its role in financing key infrastructure and energy projects. The company's strong loan book and improved asset quality have also strengthened investor sentiment.

ONGC:

The oil and gas giant saw buying interest as global crude prices remained firm, boosting revenue expectations. Investors are optimistic about ONGC's deepwater exploration projects and rising domestic energy demand. The company's strong dividend yield and ongoing efforts to expand production capacity have further enhanced its appeal in the market.



Naukri (Info Edge):

The job portal's stock gained traction as hiring activity improved across sectors. Increased recruitment in IT, BFSI, and startup ecosystems has bolstered revenue expectations for Info Edge. The company's diverse digital portfolio, including platforms like 99acres and Jeevansathi, also contributes to long-



term growth potential.

Hindalco:

The aluminum major remained among the top gainers, supported by strong metal prices and improved demand from the construction and auto industries. The company's expansion plans, coupled with higher global aluminum consumption, are driving positive sentiment. Additionally, Hindalco's strategic partnerships in the renewable energy sector further boost its long-term prospects.



IndusInd Bank:

The private lender's stock saw steady movement as investors remained confident in its asset quality and robust credit growth, particularly in retail and MSME segments. The bank's digital transformation efforts and focus on expanding its loan portfolio have further strengthened investor sentiment. Analysts anticipate stable growth ahead, supported by improving economic conditions and increasing corporate lending.



India's Adani Wilmar bets on urban revival, quick grocery delivery to boost growth

Adani Wilmar, a leading player in India's food and edible oil industry, is forecasting a 10% growth in its sales volume for the next fiscal year. CEO Anshu Mallick shared this optimistic outlook with Reuters on Wednesday, citing the rise of 10-minute grocery delivery apps and the expected recovery in urban consumer spending, driven by recent tax cuts. The company anticipates that the personal income tax cuts announced by the Indian government will put more disposable income in the hands of consumers, ultimately driving demand. According to Mallick, a surge in disposable income typically leads to an increase in demand for high-quality food products, and Adani Wilmar expects its food business to grow by more than 20% by March 2026.

However, in the third quarter of the current fiscal year, the company saw only a modest 5% growth in its sales volume. This was despite the edible oil business, which produces the well-known 'Fortune' cooking oil brand, showing a 4% growth. Mallick emphasized that the company is focused on turning this around, with projections for a 6% growth in its edible oil business for the coming

year. This segment is expected to be a key driver in helping Adani Wilmar achieve its overall sales target of around 10% growth.

The 10-minute grocery delivery services, a growing trend in urban areas, are expected to further support this growth. The convenience and rapid delivery offered by these services have seen a surge in popularity, particularly in cities where consumers are increasingly looking for ways to shop quickly and efficiently.

With this combination of favorable consumer trends and tax policy changes, Adani Wilmar is positioning itself to benefit from increased demand for quality food and cooking products in the coming year. The company's optimistic sales forecast reflects confidence in the growing food sector and its ability to capture a larger share of the market amidst evolving consumer preferences and consumption patterns. As the fiscal year progresses, the company is closely watching the impact of these trends on its performance and will continue to adapt its strategies to maximize growth opportunities.

SEBI Introduces New Rules for Algorithmic Trading and API Usage

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced new regulations requiring stock exchanges to empanel algorithmic trading providers and establish guidelines for the use of application programming interfaces (APIs). These steps are part of SEBI's ongoing efforts to streamline the algorithmic trading environment and address the risks posed by existing regulatory gaps.

Algorithmic trading, or algo trading, involves executing trading orders through computer programs that follow predefined rules, enabling traders to place orders at speeds and frequencies far beyond human capabilities. This method is already widely used in India, particularly by institutional investors, but has previously lacked adequate regulatory oversight, leaving room for potential risks and irregularities.

To address these concerns, SEBI has mandated that all algorithmic trading providers must be empaneled by the stock exchanges. This means brokers can only partner with algo trading providers that meet the criteria set by the exchanges. Additionally, brokers must seek approval from the exchanges before implementing algorithmic trading strategies. They will also be required to establish mechanisms for handling grievances and ensuring

that prohibited activities, such as market manipulation, are monitored and avoided.

A significant development in the new regulations is the formation of a framework by the Brokers' Industry Standards Forum. The forum is tasked with developing a set of industry standards for algorithmic trading, which will be implemented before April 1, 2025. These standards will take effect from August 1, 2025, and will focus on improving transparency and accountability within the algo trading landscape.

These measures are designed to enhance investor protection by closing the loopholes that existed in previous regulations. SEBI's focus on enforcing stricter oversight and requiring exchanges to play a more active role in regulating algorithmic trading is expected to reduce market manipulation risks, improve trading transparency, and increase overall market efficiency.

As algorithmic trading continues to grow in India, these regulatory updates aim to strike a balance between innovation and investor protection, ensuring that the benefits of advanced trading technologies do not come at the expense of market integrity.



Valentine's Week 2025: A Seven-Day Celebration of Love

Valentine's Day is fast approaching, and with it, the anticipation of a week full of love, joy, and affection. Starting on February 7, the world will celebrate Valentine's Week, a seven-day period dedicated to honoring the people who matter most in our lives. The week is not just about romantic love, but also about showing appreciation for friends, family, and even ourselves.



Valentine's Week begins on February 7 with Rose Day and leads up to Valentine's Day itself on February 14. Each day has its own special theme, providing a unique opportunity to express love and care through gestures, gifts, and words.

February 7, Friday: Rose Day
The first day of the week is dedicated to giving roses, a timeless symbol of love and appreciation. People often present roses to their loved ones to express their admiration and affection, kicking off the celebrations with a colorful display of love.

February 8, Saturday: Propose Day
Propose Day is all about taking the plunge and declaring your feelings. Whether it's proposing to a significant other or confessing your love to a crush, this day encourages romantic gestures and declarations of love.

February 9, Sunday: Choco-

late Day
Sweet treats take center stage on Chocolate Day, with people gifting chocolates to their loved ones. Whether you buy a box of chocolates or make some yourself, this day is all about indulging in the sweetness of life and love.

February 10, Monday: Teddy Day
Teddy Day is a celebration of comfort and warmth. Couples exchange cuddly teddy bears, which symbolize the tenderness and security found in their relationship. It's a simple but meaningful way to show affection and care.

February 11, Tuesday: Promise Day
Promise Day is dedicated to reaffirming commitments and strengthening bonds. It's a day for making promises, whether big or small, to ensure the relationship continues to thrive and grow.

February 12, Wednesday: Hug Day
On Hug Day, people celebrate the simple yet powerful gesture of a hug. A warm embrace can convey love, comfort, and support, bringing people closer together and nurturing their relationships.

February 13, Thursday: Kiss Day
Kiss Day is an opportunity to express love through a kiss, a gesture that speaks volumes. It's a day to show appreciation and remind your partner of how special they are to you.

February 14, Friday: Valentine's Day
The final day of the week is the grand celebration of love. Valentine's Day is marked by thoughtful gifts, heartfelt messages, and spending quality time with loved ones, making it the perfect conclusion to the week-long celebration of love.

Google Pixel 9a Expected to Offer Attractive Freebies and Impressive Specs

Google is gearing up to unveil its budget-friendly Pixel 9a, slated to launch on March 19, marking the earliest release date in the Pixel A series history. The highly anticipated mid-range model is expected to come with some enticing offers and powerful features to attract buyers.



According to a recent leak from Android Headlines, Pixel 9a buyers could enjoy several premium subscriptions as part of their purchase. The freebies include six months of free Fit-bit Premium, three months of free YouTube Premium, and a three-month subscription to 100GB of Google One storage. These offers resemble those provided with the Pixel 9 series, although the Pixel 9a will not come with the 2TB+ AI plan for Google One, and users will need to pay extra for any Gemini Advanced features.

The Pixel 9a is expected to maintain the same Tensor G4 processor found in the flagship Pixel 9 series. The device is likely to feature a 6.3-inch Actua display with a peak brightness of 2,700 nits and Gorilla Glass 3 protection for durability. With 8GB of RAM and 256GB of internal storage, the Pixel 9a promises a smooth and spacious user experience. It is also expected to have an IP68 rating, ensuring dust and water resistance.

For photography, the Pixel 9a is rumored to include a dual-camera setup, consisting of a 48-megapixel primary camera and a 13-megapixel ultrawide camera. The phone is likely to be equipped with a robust 5,100mAh battery, supporting 23W wired and 7.5W wireless charging. Additionally, it is expected to feature an in-display fingerprint scanner for enhanced security and convenience.

NASA Astronaut Shares Stunning Image of Burj Khalifa from Space

Imagine soaring high above Earth, gazing down at the shimmering city of Dubai, where one building stands out as a beacon of human achievement—the Burj Khalifa, the tallest man-made structure on the planet. Now, picture witnessing this architectural marvel from space. Thanks to NASA astronaut Don Pettit, this extraordinary view has been captured and shared with the world. Currently stationed aboard the International Space Station (ISS), Pettit recently shared a captivating night-time image of Dubai, with the Burj Khalifa standing tall like a dazzling jewel in the darkness.

The photo showcases the iconic skyscraper gleaming brilliantly against the backdrop of the Earth's vast, dark canvas, offering a perspective that few have the privilege to see. "Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building from space," Pettit wrote as a caption for the awe-inspiring shot. The image is part of his ongoing tradition of sharing breathtaking photographs from his vantage point in orbit. Over time, Pettit has delighted followers with numerous photos of our planet from space, each one offering a unique and stunning view of Earth's natural beauty and human-made won-

ders. This recent image is a testament to both the wonder of space exploration and the marvels of human ingenuity on the ground. From the quiet expanse of space, Pettit's photos offer a perspective that both humbles and amazes, reminding us of the incredible achievements we've made and the vastness of the world we call home. For many, this image of Burj Khalifa from space is a dream come true—a rare and breathtaking sight captured from the unique vantage of an astronaut, making it an unforgettable visual experience.

Five More Cheetahs Released Into Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park

On Wednesday, five adult cheetahs were released into the wild at Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh, marking another significant step in India's ambitious cheetah reintroduction program. The release took place during a special event attended by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, organized by the state's Forest Department at the park in Sheopur.



The preparation for the cheetah release was meticulously carried out under the supervision of a steering committee and senior forest officials. This marks the second time adult cheetahs have been released into an open boma (enclosure) at KNP. With this release, a total of seven out of 12 adult cheetahs have now been successfully set free in the park, bringing the reintroduction project closer to its goal of restoring cheetah populations in India after their extinction over 70 years ago.

In an exciting development, five-year-old South African cheetah, Veera, gave birth to two healthy cubs just a day before the release, adding to the growing cheetah population at

Kuno. The first batch of cheetahs, consisting of eight individuals brought from Namibia, was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17, 2022. A second batch of 12 cheetahs from South Africa arrived on February 18, 2023.

The Chief Minister expressed optimism that the expanding cheetah population will not only boost wildlife conservation efforts but also positively impact Madhya Pradesh's tourism industry. "With the increase in cheetah numbers, tourism in Madhya Pradesh is getting a boost and opening new doors for employment," he

said. However, reports suggest that the third batch of 18 cheetahs, scheduled to be relocated from South Africa in February 2025, may face delays as authorities are waiting for updates on the progress of the cheetah population. The new batch is expected to be relocated to both Kuno National Park in Sheopur and Gandhi Sagar in Mandasaur.

India's Project Cheetah is part of a bold conservation effort to reintroduce the species to the country, with plans for further releases and support for their long-term survival.

Woman Scammed of Rs 93,600 While Booking Hotel Through Fake Google Listing

In a recent online scam, a woman lost Rs 93,600 while attempting to book a hotel stay through a fraudulent Google listing. The incident occurred when content creator Shreya Mitra was planning a trip to Puri and searched for hotels online. She came across a listing for Mayfair Heritage Puri and, trusting its legitimacy, clicked on the first result that appeared on Google.



After finding the contact number, Mitra called to inquire about booking a stay, and the scammers provided pictures and details of the room, convincing her to proceed with the payment. They even sent her a fake invoice for the booking. However, when she requested an email confirmation, the fraudsters cited a system outage as an excuse and assured her the booking was secure.

The following day, she received another call from the scammers, instructing her to use Google Pay and enter a provided booking ID to receive confirmation. Sensing something was wrong, Mitra refused to com-

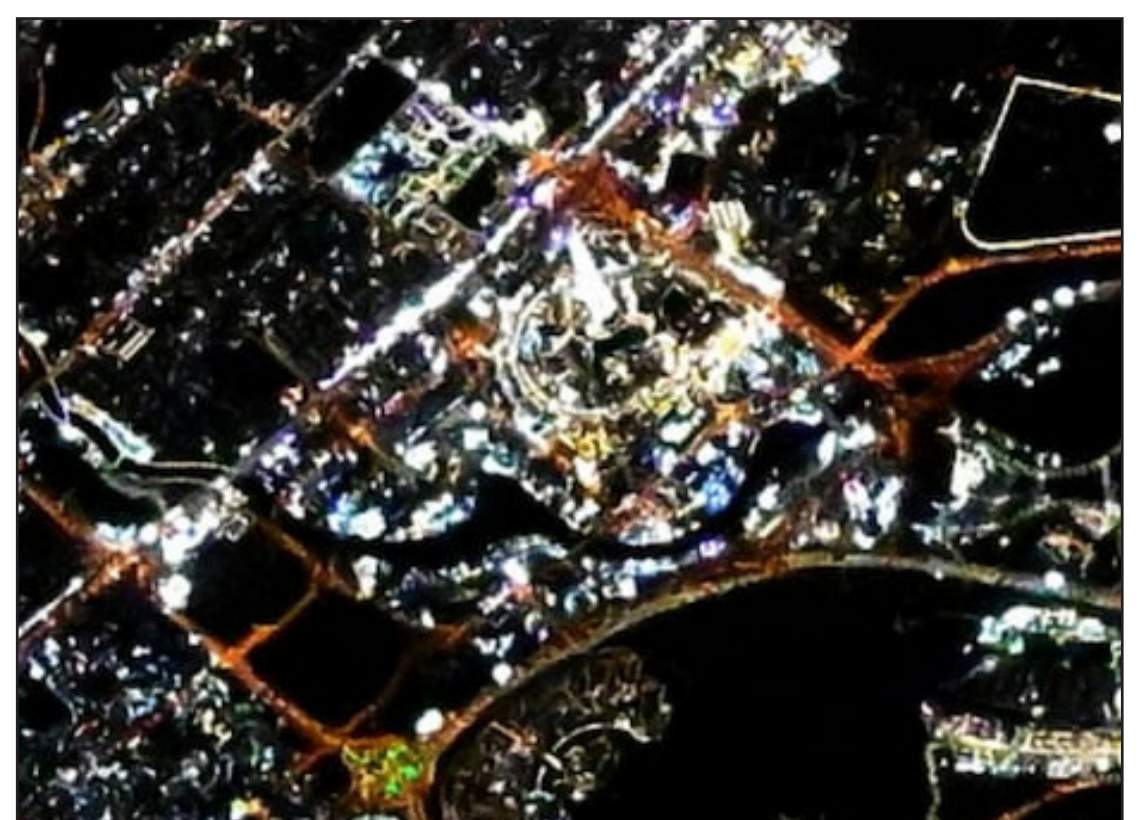
ply and insisted on an official email confirmation. The fraudsters abruptly ended the call, leaving her suspicious of the situation.

Realizing she had been scammed, Mitra took immediate action and searched for the official contact details of Mayfair Heritage Puri. Upon contacting the hotel, she confirmed that the listing she had used was indeed fake.

Mitra shared her experience on Instagram, urging others to be cautious and warning travelers,

especially those looking to book accommodations in the East, to avoid falling for similar scams. She highlighted that the scammers' phone number remains active, and they are using multiple bank accounts to carry out fraudulent transactions.

The fake Google listing has since been taken down by the Cybercrime department, but the incident serves as a reminder to always double-check online listings and verify contact details before making any payments.



India vs England: Key Concerns for Rohit Sharma, Gautam Gambhir Ahead of ODI Series

As India enters the final phase of Champions Trophy 2025 preparations, the three-match ODI series against England, starting in Nagpur on Thursday, holds critical importance. Form and fitness of senior players, selection dilemmas, and bowling combinations remain areas of concern for head coach Gautam Gambhir and captain Rohit Sharma.

Rohit and Kohli Under Scrutiny

Both Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have faced criticism after a lackluster run in red-ball cricket. While they were the top two run-getters in the 2023 World Cup, their recent form has raised doubts. The duo played a three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka post-World Cup, but their Test form has been worrying. The upcoming England series is crucial as it serves as India's only preparation for the Champions Trophy.

Wicketkeeper Dilemma: KL Rahul or Rishabh Pant?

The debate over who will take the wicket-keeper-batsman role continues. KL Rahul, who played a vital role in the 2023 World Cup, provides stability, while Rishabh Pant offers an aggressive X-factor in the middle order. If both are included, Shreyas Iyer might lose his place.

Bowling Concerns and Injuries

- Jasprit Bumrah is unavailable due to a back problem.
- Mohammed Shami and Kuldeep Yadav re-



turn from injury, and their performance will be crucial.

- Varun Chakaravathy, India's mystery spinner, might get his ODI debut.
- The spin all-rounder's slot remains open between Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, and Washington Sundar.

England's Struggles

England, having lost consecutive ODI series against Australia and West Indies, will look to bounce back. Joe Root returns, but Jamie Smith is likely to miss the first two ODIs due to injury.

With India eyeing a strong squad for the Champions Trophy, the upcoming series will be a crucial test for their top-order, bowling attack, and team balance.

Rashid Khan Breaks T20 World Record, Becomes Highest Wicket-Taker in History

Afghanistan's Rashid Khan has etched his name in cricket history by surpassing Dwayne Bravo to become the highest wicket-taker in T20 cricket. Rashid achieved this feat during MI Cape Town's Qualifier One match against Paarl Royals in the SA20 league.

During the match, Rashid took 2/34 in four overs, dismissing Dunith Wellalage and Dinesh Karthik, as MI Cape Town successfully defended their total of 200 runs. This took Rashid's overall tally to 633 wickets in 461 matches, at an astonishing average of 18.07, with best figures of 6/17.

Top 5 T20 Wicket-Takers

- Rashid Khan (Afghanistan) – 633 wickets in 461 matches
- Dwayne Bravo (West Indies) – 631 wickets in 556 matches
- Sunil Narine (West Indies) – 574 wickets in 536 matches
- Imran Tahir (South Africa) – 531 wickets in 428 matches
- Shakib Al Hasan (Bangladesh) – 492 wickets in 444 matches

Match Recap

Paarl Royals won the toss and elected to field first. MI Cape Town's openers Ryan Rickelton (44 off 27) and Rassie van der Dussen (40 off 32) gave a solid start with an 87-run stand in 9.2 overs. A mini-collapse saw them stumble to 91/3, but late fireworks from George Linde (26 off 14), Dewald Brevis (44 off 30), and Delano Potgieter (32 off 17)** powered them to 199/4. In response, Paarl Royals struggled, despite David Miller's fighting 45 off 26 balls and Dinesh Karthik's 31 off 28. Rashid Khan's historic landmark wicket came when he clean-bowled Wellal-



age, helping MI Cape Town restrict Royals and win comfortably.

What's Next?

With this victory, MI Cape Town advances to the final at Wanderers on Saturday, while Paarl Royals will play in Qualifier 2 on Thursday for another shot at the title. Delano Potgieter was named Player of the Match for his all-round performance.

Simona Halep Announces Retirement After Emotional Home Defeat

Former world number one Simona Halep has announced her retirement from professional tennis, following a 6-1, 6-1 first-round defeat at the WTA Cluj-Napoca tournament in Romania. The 33-year-old addressed her home crowd, revealing that her body could no longer keep up with the demands of the sport. "I don't know if it is with joy or sadness that I speak to you, but I made this decision with a clear conscience. My body no longer follows, but today I wanted to play and say my goodbyes on the court," Halep said to an emotional Romanian audience. A Storied Career Comes to an End

three other Grand Slam finals (French Open 2014, 2017; Australian Open 2018). Doping Controversy and Comeback Struggles Halep's career took a dramatic turn in 2022 when she tested positive for roxadustat, a banned substance. She was handed a four-year ban, later reduced to nine months after appealing to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). Despite maintaining her innocence, Halep struggled to regain form upon her return in March 2024.

Citing persistent knee and shoulder pain, she withdrew from the 2025 Australian Open qualifiers. Her loss at Cluj-Napoca marked the end of her career, as she struggled to reclaim the dominance that once made her a household name in women's tennis. With her farewell on home soil, Simona Halep leaves behind a remarkable legacy, inspiring future generations of Romanian and global tennis players.



Ranji Trophy Quarterfinal: Mumbai vs Haryana Shifted to Eden Gardens

The Ranji Trophy quarterfinal clash between defending champions Mumbai and Haryana has been shifted from Lahli to Eden Gardens, Kolkata, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) confirmed. The quarterfinals will be five-day matches, scheduled from February 8 to 12. While the BCCI has not provided an official reason for the venue change, it is believed that receding winter conditions in northern India, particularly morning fog in Lahli, could have disrupted the match proceedings.

Mumbai vs Haryana: A High-Stakes Clash

Mumbai, the most successful team in Ranji history with 42 titles, will have a star-studded lineup, including:

- Suryakumar Yadav (India's T20 captain)
- Ajinkya Rahane (Skipper)



- Shivam Dube (All-rounder)
 - Shardul Thakur (Pacer)
- Haryana, on the other hand, will be banking on its pace sensation Anshul Kamboj, who has been in brilliant form this season.

Other Quarterfinal Fixtures

Apart from the Mumbai-Haryana clash, the other three Ranji Trophy quarterfinals will take place at the following venues:

- Saurashtra vs Gujarat – Rajkot
- Vidarbha vs Tamil Nadu – Nagpur
- Jammu & Kashmir vs Kerala – Pune

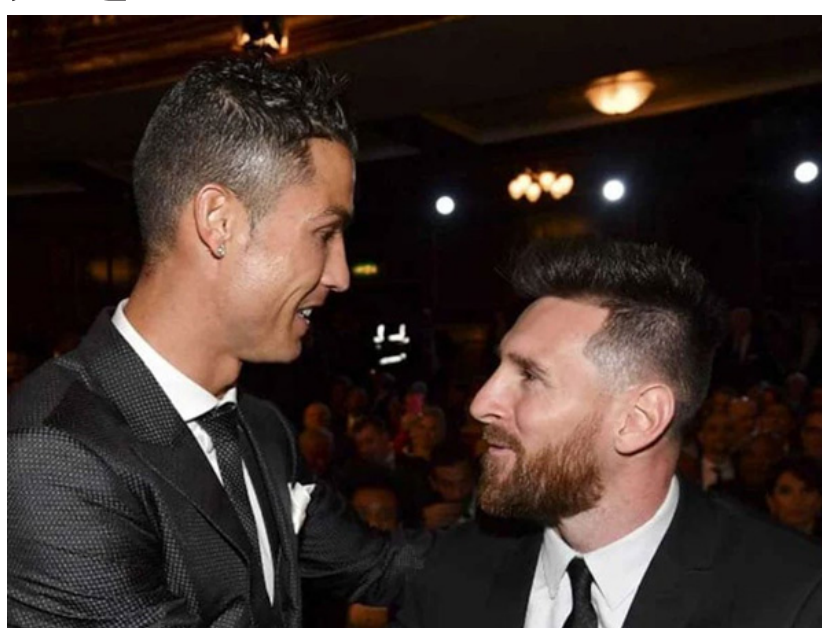
With the quarterfinals promising intense competition, fans can expect thrilling cricket as teams battle for a place in the semifinals.

Cristiano Ronaldo on Ballon d'Or: "You Can't Win," Questions Award's Credibility

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

In an interview with Spanish outlet La Sexta, Ronaldo admitted that while he used to be angry when Messi edged him in the Ballon d'Or race, he has now come to terms with it.

"There is no credibility, Vinicius should be the Ballon d'Or winner. I have felt it many times and I felt angry. Over time I understood it, these are battles that you cannot win," said Ronaldo.



Ronaldo: "I Am the Most Complete Player"

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

"Taste is one thing, whether you prefer Messi, Pele, or Maradona, I hear it and I respect it. But to say that Cristiano isn't complete is a lie. I'm the most complete. I don't see anyone better than me, and I say that with all my heart," he stated.

At 39 years old, Ronaldo continues to play at the highest level

with Al Nassr in Saudi Arabia, proving his longevity in football. His comments have reignited discussions on the GOAT debate, with fans and pundits weighing in on his legacy compared to Messi's.

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



Marvel Unveils First Teaser for 'The Fantastic Four: First Steps' – Meet the New Superheroes

Marvel Studios has finally released the first teaser for its highly anticipated film, 'The Fantastic Four: First Steps', offering fans a glimpse into the retrofuturistic world of the iconic superhero team. The film is set to hit theatres in July this year and marks the grand introduction of the Fantastic Four into the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU).

The teaser opens with Reed Richards (Mr. Fantastic) and Sue Storm (Invisible Woman) walking a guest through their headquarters at the Baxter Building, while H.E.R.B.I.E. (the robotic assistant) and Ben Grimm (The Thing) prepare a meal.

One of the standout moments of the teaser is an emotional exchange between Reed and Sue as they reflect on their past transformations.

"Before we went up the first time, you couldn't turn invisible, Ben wasn't a rock, and Johnny never caught fire," says Reed. "Ben has always been a rock. Johnny is... Johnny. And I am right here. Whatever life throws at us, we'll face it together, as a family," Sue replies.

Other thrilling visuals include Johnny Storm (Human Torch) flying into outer space without a spacesuit, fire clouds over Manhattan, and John Malkovich in a mysterious role.



Cast and Crew

The film stars Julia Garner as Shalla-Bal (a version of Silver Surfer) alongside Paul Walter-Hauser, Natasha Lyonne, and Sarah Niles. Directed by Matt Shakman (WandaVision) and written by Ric Pearson, Josh Friedman, Jeff Kaplan, and Ian Springer,

the film was shot overseas from July to November 2024.

Produced by Kevin Feige for Marvel Studios, 'The Fantastic Four: First Steps' is set in an alternate 1960s and promises to redefine the MCU's next chapter. Fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release this July.

Asif Ali's Thriller Becomes Biggest Malayalam Hit of the Year! 6 Crore Budget, 75 Crore Box Office Collection

The Malayalam crime investigative thriller, starring Asif Ali and Anaswara Rajan, has become a massive box office success, earning over ₹75 crore despite a modest budget of ₹6-9 crore. Directed by Jofin T. Chacko and produced by Venu Kunnappilly, the film has emerged as the first blockbuster of 2025 in the

Malayalam film industry. Released on January 9, the film received immense appreciation for its gripping storyline and strong performances. The story follows police officer Vivek Gopinath, who is suspended but later assigned to a high-profile murder case. During his investigation, he discovers a connection to a 40-year-old homicide,

leading to shocking revelations.

The movie, which also features Siddique, Jagadeesh, Sai Kumar, and a special appearance by Mammooty, collected ₹50 crore in just 13 days and surpassed the ₹75 crore mark within 25 days.

Fans eagerly await its OTT release on SonyLIV later this month.



Bada Naam Karengge OTT Release Date: When and Where to Watch it Online?



The highly anticipated series Bada Naam Karengge, produced by Rajshri Productions, is set to premiere on Sony LIV on February 7, 2025. Directed by Palash Vaswani, the series explores modern relationships, family

values, and ambition, making it a relatable watch for contemporary audiences. This marks Rajshri Productions' first OTT venture, bringing their signature storytelling style to the digital platform.

When and Where to Watch Bada Naam Karengge?

The series will be exclusively available on Sony LIV from February 7, 2025. Subscribers of the platform can stream all episodes upon release.

Plot and Trailer Details

The official trailer introduces a heartfelt story about love, family expectations, and dreams. The plot revolves around Rishabh and Surbhi, played by Ritik Ghanshani and Ayesha Kaduskar, as they balance their aspirations while respecting traditional values.

Cast and Crew

The series features an ensemble cast, including Kanwaljeet Singh, Alka Amin, Rajesh Jais, Jameel Khan, Rajesh Tailang, and Anjana Sukhani. Directed by Palash Vaswani, with Sooraj Barjatya as the showrunner, the series promises a blending of emotions, drama, and romance in a fresh OTT format.

Game Changer OTT Release: When and Where to Watch Ram Charan's Action Film Online



Ram Charan and Kiara Advani's highly anticipated political action thriller, Game Changer, is set to arrive on OTT after its theatrical release on January 10, 2025. Directed by S Shankar, the film made waves during its Sankranti release, drawing attention for its gripping storyline centered on political corruption and electoral reforms. When and Where to Watch Game Changer Online? Amazon Prime Video India has officially announced that Game Changer will be available for streaming from February 7, 2025. The film will be accessible in Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam, while the Hindi-dubbed version's release date is yet to be confirmed.

Plot and Trailer

The teaser was unveiled at a grand event in Lucknow, attended by the film's team, including director Shankar, Ram Charan, and Kiara Advani. The movie follows Ram

Charan as an IAS officer who takes on corrupt politicians in a battle for justice and electoral transparency. The film blends high-energy action sequences with an intense political drama backdrop.

Cast and Crew

Alongside Ram Charan and Kiara Advani, the movie features SJ Suryah, Prakash Raj, Sunil, Nassar, and Jayaram in pivotal roles. Produced by Dil Raju under Sri Venkateswara Creations, the music is composed by Thaman S.

Box Office Performance and Reception

Game Changer opened with a ₹51.25 crore collection in India and grossed ₹130.1 crore domestically. While Ram Charan's performance received praise, the screenplay faced criticism. The film holds an IMDb rating of 6.1/10.

Fans who missed the theatrical release can now experience the action-packed Game Changer on Prime Video starting February 7, 2025.

'Dark' (Amazon Prime) Movie Review: A Thrilling Sci-Fi Horror Experience

The much-anticipated Tamil sci-fi horror thriller 'Black' has been released on Amazon Prime Video under the title 'Dark' in Telugu. Originally hitting theatres on October 11, 2024, the film gained widespread attention, grossing ₹50 crore worldwide against a modest ₹5 crore budget.

Directed by KG Balasubramani, 'Dark' seamlessly blends science fiction and supernatural horror. The story revolves around Vasanth (Jeeva) and Aranya (Priya Bhavani Shankar), who buy a luxurious villa near Chennai for a romantic getaway.

However, their dream vacation soon turns into a nightmare as they experience strange occurrences, eerie noises, and an unseen presence watching them. Their investigations lead them to a shocking mystery from 1964, connecting their fate to a gruesome double murder.

With stunning cinematography by Gokul Benoy, haunting music by Sam CS, and engaging performances, 'Dark' delivers a gripping thriller. Fans of sci-fi horror can now stream it on Amazon Prime Video.

Rating: *** (3/5)

