

REVANTH WILL COMPLETE FULL TERM NO CHANGE, BUT BE CAUTIOUS: HIGH COMMAND

TPN | Suraj Reddy
Hyderabad, Mar 12:

As per the sources from Delhi the ongoing speculations about a leadership change in Telangana, the Congress high command has made it clear that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will complete his full term. However, the party leadership has also advised him to proceed cautiously, given the internal conflicts and growing dissatisfaction within the party.

For some time now, rumors of a possible CM replacement have been circulating, especially as some Congress leaders are reportedly unhappy with Revanth Reddy's decision-making. Though it has been nearly 15 months since the government was formed, key ministerial positions remain vacant, with Revanth allegedly favoring his close aides for

appointments. The Congress high command has taken note of this, sending Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan to resolve internal differences within the party.

Despite these internal struggles, there is still no clarity on cabinet expansion. The BRS has been trying to corner Revanth Reddy politically, while the BJP, though critical, has praised certain aspects of the CM Revanth's work. Meanwhile, Revanth Reddy, who initially displayed strong momentum, now finds himself under pressure from multiple fronts.

Congress and its Strategies'

When the Congress named Revanth Reddy as CM, the party considered adopting a rotational leadership policy, similar to what was attempted in Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh. However, this strategy has proven to be impractical due to the strong presence of senior



leaders in all three states. The party initially planned to replace the CM midway through the term, but growing internal conflicts and political instability have forced the leadership to reconsider.

A similar power struggle is

currently unfolding in Karnataka, where CM Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar are locked in a battle for dominance. The Congress high command wants to avoid a similar crisis in Telangana and has decided to back Revanth for

now, fearing that a leadership change could further weaken the party.

Congress Struggles to Maintain Popularity

The Congress government in Telangana is already facing public dissatisfaction, main-

ly due to unfulfilled election promises and internal conflicts among party leaders. At this stage, removing Revanth could backfire, as the party lacks an alternative leader with the oratory skills and public appeal necessary to counter rising opposition.

Meanwhile, the BJP and BRS appear to have concluded that it is best to leave Revanth in his current predicament, allowing the Congress to struggle with its internal crisis. However, Telangana's political landscape is set to become more intense in the coming months.

Former CM KCR is preparing for a massive public meeting in Warangal, signaling the BRS's renewed political offensive. At the same time, the BJP is expected to announce a new state president soon, positioning itself for a stronger electoral fight.

In such a >> **PAGE 2**



Let's fight on Reservation & Farmers Issues - KCR's key instructions to MLAs

TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad, March 12: BRS President K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) has directed party MLAs and MLCs to strongly raise issues concerning farmers, electricity shortages, irrigation problems, and drinking water supply in the Assembly and Council. He urged them to fight relentlessly against the Congress government's alleged failures and expose corruption and anti-people policies.

A BRS Legislative Party (BRS LP) meeting was held at Telangana Bhavan on Tuesday under KCR's chairmanship. Addressing the meeting, he emphasized that party leaders should be present at the Assembly sessions half an hour early and aggressively counter the government's accusations against BRS. >> **PAGE 2**

Rajiv Yuva Vikasam for the Youth

- Self-employment schemes for 5 lakh youth with ₹6,000 crore
- BRS has neglected youth development for the last decade
- Applications accepted online from March 15
- Scrutiny of applications from April 6, selection of beneficiaries
- Distribution of sanction documents to selected beneficiaries on June 2
- ₹540 crore allocated for Chakali Ailamma University

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana government has launched Rajiv Yuva Vikasam, a major initiative aimed at providing self-employment opportunities for five lakh unemployed youth from SC, ST, BC, and minority communities. Announcing the scheme at a media conference held at Veera Vanitha Chakali Ailamma Mahila University, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu stated that the government has allocated ₹6,000 crore for this purpose.

Criticizing the previous BRS government, Bhatti Vikramarka accused it of neglecting youth development over the last decade.

He stated that the Congress-led Praja government, under CM Revanth Reddy, is committed to empowering the youth through self-employment schemes. Each beneficiary under the Rajiv Yuva Vikasam scheme will receive ₹3 lakh through SC, ST, and BC minority corporations.

The application process for the scheme will begin on March 15, with online submissions accepted until April 5. The scrutiny of applications and selection of beneficiaries will take place from April 6 to May 31, and sanction documents will be distributed to the selected candidates on June 2, coinciding with Telangana Formation Day.



The government is also preparing detailed guidelines for beneficiary selection.

₹540 Crore Allocated for Chakali Ailamma University Development
Alongside youth development, the state government has allocated ₹540 crore for the infrastructure development of Chakali Ailamma University. Deputy CM Bhatti Vikra-

marka revealed that a master plan has been prepared to develop the university into one of the country's premier institutions.

As part of the development plan ₹15.5 crore will be used for renovating heritage buildings on campus and ₹100 crore has been sanctioned for new construction projects. The university's main >> **PAGE 2**

Kavitha to State, Centre Govt's over Turmeric Farmers' plight



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC K Kavitha on Tuesday criticized both the Telangana government and the Centre for neglecting the concerns of

turmeric farmers in Nizamabad district. She questioned why the Telangana government was ignoring farmers' protests and accused Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind of failing to address their issues

- Questions inaction of Nizamabad MP Arvind
- Demands turmeric procurement at ₹15,000 per quintal as promised

despite advocating for the National Turmeric Board.

Kavitha also targeted Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, stating that despite his assurances at the board's inauguration, turmeric farmers have not received any substantial support. She further accused the Congress of betraying farmers, pointing out that during the Telangana Assembly election campaign, Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had promised to procure turmeric at ₹15,000 per quintal,

yet current market prices remain below ₹9,000 per quintal.

Urging the Telangana government to fulfill its promise, Kavitha demanded that the state procure turmeric at the assured price and called on the Centre to implement measures to safeguard farmers' interests.

National Turmeric Board and its impact
The National Turmeric Board was officially inaugurated in Nizamabad on January 14 by Union Commerce and Industry Minister >> **PAGE 2**



Hyderabad-Machilipatnam National Highway in Two Packages - Minister Komatireddy

- Nitin Gadkari assures all clearances for RRR in two months
- Hyderabad-Vijayawada six-lane highway construction to be expedited
- Special meeting to be held for 62-km Srisaillam elevated corridor >> **PAGE 2**



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**REVANTH WILL COMPLETE FULL TERM
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scenario, if the Congress removes Revanth Reddy, it could trigger a political crisis that might lead to by-elections, potentially weakening the party further. For now, the high command's decision to let Revanth continue as CM seems to be a strategic move to maintain stability and prevent an internal collapse ahead of crucial political developments in the state.

Rajiv Yuva Vikasam for the Youth

gate and surrounding structures will be reopened and upgraded. Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka personally inspected the heritage structures and discussed the renovation plans with officials. Special CS Ramakrishna Rao, I&PR Commissioner Harish, and University VC Surya Dhanujaya were among those present at the meeting.

Let's fight on Reservation & Farmers Issues

- KCR's key instructions to MLAs

KCR instructed legislators to question the government about the condition of dried crops, irrigation challenges, power outages, and the burning of agricultural motors. He also called for a strong stance on government employees' pending retirement benefits, delayed Dearness Allowances (DAs), and the proper implementation of the Pay Revision Commission (PRC).

Demanding Accountability on Key Issues

Reservation Bills: KCR directed BRS members to voice strong support for BC and SC reservation bills and highlight the weakening of Gurukuls in the state.

Implementation of Guarantees: He accused the Congress government of deceiving people with unfulfilled guarantees and urged MLAs to demand clarity on women's welfare promises.

Student and Farmer Welfare: He raised concerns over the non-release of overseas scholarships for students and deteriorating standards in the medical sector.

Livelihood Programs: KCR insisted on pushing the government for proper implementation of sheep farming and fish distribution programs.

KCR urged party members to intensify their fight inside and outside the Assembly, ensuring that the government is held accountable for failing to address the people's issues effectively.

**Kavitha to State, Centre Govt's over
Turmeric Farmers' plight**

Piyush Goyal, with BJP leader and turmeric farmer Palle Gangareddy appointed as its chairman for a three-year term. The board aims to boost the turmeric sector by supporting value addition and infrastructure development.

During 2023-24, India exported 1.62 lakh tonnes of turmeric products worth \$226.5 million. The board is expected to provide better market access and economic support to farmers.

Political battle over the Turmeric Board

The demand for a dedicated turmeric board has been a long-standing issue in Nizamabad. During the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, BJP candidate Arvind Dharmapuri, who defeated Kavitha, pledged to establish the board within five days of his victory, even signing the promise on stamp paper. However, in March 2023, the Centre told Parliament that there were no plans to establish such a board, leading to criticism from the BRS.

Now that the board has been officially formed, the political fight over its effectiveness and implementation continues, with leaders across parties using it as a key issue in Telangana's political discourse.

Group-2 Results Released in Telangana

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana Group-2 examination results have been released by the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TGPSC). The results, including the marks of candidates, were officially announced by TGPSC Chairman Burra Venkatesham, along with the general rankings list.

Candidates who appeared for the Group-2 examination can now download their OMR

sheets from the TGPSC website.

TGPSC had issued a notification for the recruitment of 783 Group-2 posts, receiving 5,51,943 applications. The exam was conducted in four papers on December 15 and 16, 2024, but only about half of the applicants appeared.

With the results now available, candidates can access the General Rankings List, OMR Sheets, and Final Keys from the official website: <https://www.tspsc.gov.in/>.

**Hyderabad-Machilipatnam
National Highway in Two Packages**

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has assured that all necessary permissions for the Regional Ring Road (RRR) will be granted within two months, after which the matter will be brought to the attention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to Telangana Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy.

Speaking to the media after a meeting with Gadkari regarding the RRR and national highways, Komatireddy stated that the tendering process for the RRR from Sangareddy-Bhuvanagiri-Choutuppal has been completed, and 95% of the land

acquisition has been finalized. He also confirmed that 12 Road Over Bridges (ROBs) worth ₹1,000 crore have been sanctioned. Gadkari has directed officials to fast-track the construction of the six-lane Hyderabad-Vijayawada National Highway. Additionally, in response to delays in the Hyderabad-Machilipatnam road expansion project, the Union Minister instructed officials to split the project into two packages one as Gudimalkapur to Vijayawada and another as Vijayawada to Machilipatnam. A special meeting will be convened to discuss the 62-km Srisailem elevated corridor, Komatireddy added.

**Political Storm Over
Navodaya Vidyalaya in Nizamabad**

MP Arvind blames MLA Sudarshan for blocking school establishment



TPN | Suraj Reddy

Nizamabad, Mar 12: A political row has erupted in Nizamabad district over the establishment of a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV), a prestigious central educational institution. The proposal, initially pushed forward by MP Dharmapuri Arvind, has hit

roadblocks due to alleged interference from Bodhan MLA Sudarshan Reddy.

Following the bifurcation of districts, the demand for a Navodaya Vidyalaya in Nizamabad grew stronger. MP Arvind had repeatedly urged the Union Minister to sanction a new Navodaya school for the dis-

trict, even submitting necessary proposals. A 30-acre land parcel in Jakranpally mandal was identified for the school. However, allegations have surfaced that the state government manipulated these proposals, stalling the establishment of the institution.

Political Interference and Land Dispute

Bodhan MLA Sudarshan Reddy insisted on setting up the Navodaya Vidyalaya in his constituency, despite a lack of suitable land. He reportedly proposed the disputed Nizam Sugars land as the site. Using his influence at the commissioner level, he allegedly altered the earlier proposals, resulting in central authorities rejecting the new location due to unsuitability.

MP Arvind Slams MLA Su-

darshan Reddy

Reacting strongly, MP Arvind Dharmapuri accused MLA Sudarshan Reddy of obstructing the project for personal gains. He criticized the senior MLA for neglecting student welfare and prioritizing his constituency over the district's collective interests.

Arvind pointed out that his proposed Navodaya Vidyalaya site falls in Nizamabad Rural, currently represented by a Congress MLA, Bhupathi Reddy. Despite the project's setback, MLA Bhupathi Reddy has remained silent, further fueling political tensions.

With no resolution in sight, the fate of Nizamabad's Navodaya Vidyalaya remains uncertain, as political rivalry overshadows the district's educational development.

**Newly Elected MLCs Meet TPCC Chief
Mahesh Kumar Goud**

TPCC president urges MLCs to counter opposition propaganda and promote government welfare programs

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The newly elected MLCs of Congress and CPI—Addanki Dayakar, Shankar Nayak, Vijayashanti, and Nellikanti Satyam—paid a courtesy visit to TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud at the MLA camp office. On this occasion, Mahesh Kumar Goud honored the newly elected members and held discussions regarding their future course of action.

Following the meeting, the

TPCC chief hosted a lunch for the MLCs and set the political direction for their tenure. He advised them to play an active role in countering opposition propaganda and to take the lead in highlighting the development and welfare initiatives of the Congress-led government.

Mahesh Kumar Goud also assured CPI leaders of continued cooperation, acknowledging their alliance's contribution. He emphasized the importance of strengthening



their political partnership to ensure effective governance and political stability in the state.

- Survey aims to promote sustainable cooling solutions and reduce carbon emissions
- BEE directs state agencies to encourage public participation
- India targets a 45% carbon intensity reduction by 2030 under Paris Agreement

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad


The Union Government has launched a nationwide survey to shape energy-efficient cooling solutions and reduce carbon emissions. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, has urged Telangana to play a crucial role in promoting the initiative.

The survey, titled "Shaping the Future of Energy-Efficient Cooling," seeks inputs from stakeholders, industries, and consumers to identify sustainable cooling technologies that minimize electricity consumption and environmental impact. The survey is live on MyGov.in and will be open until March 25, 2025.

BEE Secretary Milind Deore, in a letter to state-designated agencies (SDAs), highlighted that the initiative aligns with the vision of Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. He emphasized that the survey will influence policies, enhance energy efficiency, and contribute to India's Net-Zero commitments. Telangana State Renewable Energy Development Corporation Limited (TSREDCO) has been directed to actively pro-

**Telangana to take part in national
energy-efficient cooling survey**

Energy-Efficiency Efforts



- Reduce Power Consumption, CO₂ Emissions.
- Telangana key to national survey on energy-efficient cooling and carbon reduction.
- AC use is 10% of India's power, adding grid stress and emissions. Sustainable cooling can save 10 billion kWh, cutting CO₂ by 7.66 million tonnes.

mote participation.

With India's cooling demand expected to increase eightfold by 2050, the need for efficient cooling technologies has become crucial. Studies indicate that air conditioners alone contribute to 10% of India's electricity consumption, with inefficient models worsening power grid stress and carbon emissions. BEE's Standards & Labeling (S&L) program suggests that transitioning to 5-star-rated appliances can improve efficiency by 60%, cutting energy use and household electricity bills.

The survey will gather insights on optimal AC temperature settings, transition to energy-effi-

cient appliances, integration of renewable energy, and market incentives like buyback schemes. These findings will help shape future policies and market strategies to drive India's transition towards sustainable cooling solutions. To maximize outreach, BEE has urged SDAs, including TSREDCO, to promote the survey in schools, industrial associations, government departments, and among electricity consumers. Dissemination through social media, WhatsApp groups, and public engagement programs has also been recommended.

India has committed to reducing its carbon intensity by 45%

by 2030 as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. Sustainable cooling solutions are a key factor in meeting this goal. The initiative supports the India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) and Mission LiFE, both aimed at fostering environmentally friendly lifestyles. Given Telangana's potential in energy efficiency, the survey is expected to enhance consumer access to high-quality, energy-efficient appliances, particularly in domestic and building sectors. The Centre has called for active participation to drive impactful policy reforms and ensure a greener future.

Power Struggle in Palakurthi

Congress Cadre Frustrated Over 'Family Panchayat'
Leaders distance themselves due to MLA and her aunt Jhansi Reddy's behavior
Allegations of sidelining loyal party workers in favor of a select few
Local leaders escalate complaints to the Congress high command

TPN Correspondent | Palakurthi
Internal tensions are boiling within the Palakurthi Congress as the party finds itself divided over what is being dubbed the "Family Panchayat." The conduct of MLA Yashaswini Reddy and her aunt Jhansi Reddy has sparked discontent among party leaders and cadre, leading to widening gaps within the organization. Yashaswini Reddy's victory in Palakurthi was a political sensation, as she managed to defeat seasoned politician Errabelli Dayakar Rao. At the time of her triumph, both she and her aunt, Jhansi Reddy, assured that their focus would be on the development of the constituency. However, recent developments suggest a stark contrast to those promises. Leaders and party workers who played a crucial role in the Congress victory are now openly criticizing the "Family Panchayat" duo. Dissatisfaction is not limited to the general public; even Congress leaders have started distancing themselves. Allegations have surfaced that Jhansi Reddy, who is overseeing the party's affairs in the constituency, has sidelined key Congress workers while favoring a select few who once belonged to rival factions. "My word is law" appears to be the approach Jhansi Reddy has adopted, according to

disgruntled party members. Some leaders have accused her of being dictatorial, refusing to entertain any opposition within the party ranks. They claim that the true party loyalists, who carried the Congress flag through thick and thin, have been pushed aside in favor of those who merely perform "bhajans" and flatter the leadership. This growing dissatisfaction reached a tipping point when local leader Suresh Babu, who had joined Congress with high hopes of serving the people, resigned from the party. Frustrated by the internal politics and the attitude of the leadership, he announced that he could no longer continue under such circumstances. In response to these issues, local Congress leaders have taken the matter to the party high command. They have formally raised concerns with Meenakshi Natarajan, who recently took charge of state affairs. There are growing apprehensions that if corrective measures are not implemented soon, the party could face further turmoil in Palakurthi. Reports suggest that Jhansi Reddy is facing increasing resistance from grassroots leaders. In an attempt to counteract the criticism, she is allegedly deploying her supporters to create a positive image for her through orchestrated media campaigns.



However, these efforts seem to be falling flat, as frustration among party members continues to mount. With discontent simmering and high command now aware of the situation, all eyes are on how the Congress leadership will address the internal power struggle in Palakurthi. Will the party intervene and restore unity, or will the rift deepen, leading to further damage? The coming days will be crucial in determining the political fate of the Congress in the constituency.

Farmers in crisis as Congress abandons irrigation projects: KTR

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao has accused the Congress government of pushing Telangana's agriculture sector into crisis by neglecting irrigation projects initiated during the tenure of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao. He alleged that water meant for Telangana's farmers was being diverted to Andhra Pradesh while the Congress remained silent, leaving crops to wither. Rama Rao pointed out that under the BRS regime, lakes and reservoirs had sufficient water even during dry months, ensuring irrigation for two crop cycles per year. "Today, Congress has left farmers in despair," he said, blaming the government for failing to provide irrigation water, free electricity, quality seeds, and fertilizers. He further criticized the ruling party for not procuring crops from farmers, pushing them into financial distress. "Agriculture, which was once a celebration under Chandrashekhara Rao's pro-farmer policies, has now turned into a crisis under Congress," he remarked, warning that the sector was suffering across the state, from Alampur to Adilabad and Ashwaraopet to Zaheerabad. Rama Rao slammed the Congress for betraying Telangana's farmers with unfulfilled promises and alleged that its mismanagement had led to drought-like conditions in the state.



Congress leader Neelam Madhu accused of land grab in Patancheru



Estate in 1997. Recently, when the buyers attempted to construct houses on their plots, revenue officials stopped them, stating that the land was assigned and could not be used for housing. However, Neelam Madhu allegedly began building houses on the same land, preventing the rightful owners from reclaiming their property. Victims claim that when they tried to stop the construction, Madhu filed cases against them. One of the affected individuals stated that even their lawyer expressed helplessness, admitting he could do nothing against Madhu's alleged encroachments.

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Several victims in Chitkul village, Patancheru, have accused Congress leader Neelam Madhu of illegally occupying their land and proceeding with construction despite their protests. The disputed land, consisting of seven plots in Survey No. 286, was purchased from Parada Real

Locals also allege that Madhu has constructed boundary walls on a Nala, yet the authorities have not intervened. They fear that land encroachments are rising in the Patancheru area, warning that even legally purchased properties are not secure.

KCR to Hold BRS Silver Jubilee Meeting in Warangal on March 27

Harish Rao asserts BRS as the voice of Telangana

TPN Correspondent | Warangal
The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) will hold its silver jubilee meeting in Warangal on March 27, former minister Harish Rao announced on Tuesday. Speaking to the media at Haritha Kakatiya, he stated that Warangal shares an inseparable bond with BRS, and two locations have been shortlisted for the massive gathering. The final venue will be decided soon. Harish Rao emphasized that the schemes introduced by BRS chief K. Chandrasekhara Rao (KCR) have served as a model for the nation, with even the Central government taking inspiration from them. He criticized the Congress government, stating that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has failed to fulfill the promises made before the elections. "The recent MLC election results have made it clear who is competent and who is not," he remarked, calling for Revanth Red-



dy's resignation over Congress' defeat. He further accused the Congress party of having a history of failing to implement promises, contrasting it with the BRS government, which, according to him, delivered welfare schemes beyond its manifesto commitments. Predicting

Congress' downfall in the upcoming elections, Harish Rao claimed that the MLC poll outcome was a referendum on Revanth Reddy's governance. Asserting that BRS is prepared to win any election, including local body polls, he reminded that under KCR's leadership, the party had successfully prevented the transfer of Godavari floodwaters to Andhra Pradesh. He also accused CM Revanth Reddy of being fearful of his political mentor, Chandrababu Naidu, and alleged that the BJP lacks the courage to question Naidu's influence. Calling for a grand silver jubilee rally, Harish Rao urged BRS cadres to ensure its success with lakhs of attendees. He described the event as a culmination of 14 years of movement and 9 years of governance, hinting that KCR is set to re-enter active politics with renewed vigor.

Clash erupts between BRS and Congress in Uppal



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
A tense situation unfolded in Uppal as a brawl broke out between BRS and Congress workers during the visit of Minister D. Sridhar Babu. The clash erupted between supporters of BRS MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy and Congress Uppal in-charge Parameshwar Reddy,

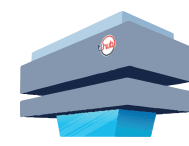
leading to chaos in the area. Eyewitnesses reported that the altercation began with verbal exchanges before escalating into a heated argument and physical confrontation. Slogans were raised, and both groups attempted to overpower each other. The situation threatened to spiral out of control before the police intervened. Law enforcement officials rushed to the scene and managed to disperse the rival factions, preventing further escalation. No major injuries were reported, but tensions remained high in the locality. Authorities have warned political workers against engaging in such clashes and assured that strict action will be taken if law and order is disrupted.

BRS has colluded with BJP, alleges MLA Adi Srinivas

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Telangana MLA and Government Whip Adi Srinivas accused the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) of secretly aligning with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) while pretending to oppose it in public. He claimed that BRS leaders, including KCR, KTR, and Harish Rao, have repeatedly supported the BJP despite their criticisms of the Congress government. Speaking on Tuesday, Adi Srinivas stated that Harish Rao and KTR were attacking the Congress as if they had now shifted their loyalty toward the BJP. "While Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is waging a relentless battle against the BJP, KCR, KTR, and Harish Rao have joined hands with them," he alleged. The Government Whip further pointed out that BRS had previously extended support to the BJP on multiple occasions, despite claiming to be an opposition party. He accused the BRS leadership of misleading the people of Telangana while secretly working in coordination with the saffron party. Adi Srinivas reiterated that no matter how many conspiracies the opposition parties hatch, CM Revanth Reddy re-



mains committed to fulfilling the promises made to the people. He assured that the Congress government would continue working for the welfare of the people, undeterred by political attacks.



Encroachment Threatens Turaka Cheruvu in Rangareddy

Illegal constructions continue despite complaints
Officials accused of negligence



TPN | Suraj Reddy
Hyderabad, Mar 12: The once-sprawling Turaka Cheruvu in Shankarpalli Dontanpalli village, Rangareddy district, is now facing severe encroachment as land sharks continue to devour its area. Despite repeated promises from successive governments to protect water bodies, the Full Tank Level (FTL) and buffer zones of the lake are being encroached upon, turning them into prime real estate. The rising land rates in Shankarpalli mandal have fueled this unchecked occupation, with squatters dumping soil into the lake and constructing houses, farmhouses, and other structures. Locals have approached multiple authorities, including the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority

(HMDA), Revenue, and Irrigation departments, but have received no concrete action in return. Instead, officials have been engaged in blame games, passing letters from one department to another without any real steps to halt the illegal activity. Police cases filed, but encroachment continues. Turaka Cheruvu, originally spanning 28.08 acres, has seen major portions taken over illegally. A case has been registered at Shankarpalli police station against four individuals under Sections 447, 427, 432 IPC, and 3 PDPPA for encroachment:
A1: Srinivasa Raju – occupied land in Survey Nos. 9, 10, 11, 18
A2: Mohammed Arif Khan – encroached land in Survey No. 6/2
A3: Rahim – involved in illegal



construction
A4: Rajesh Jain – took over land in Survey Nos. 12, 22, 26
Locals are questioning how these illegal constructions are taking place within the III GO-regulated area, where strict rules prevent new developments. Residents have raised concerns that while common people face numerous hurdles in getting permissions for their own properties, large-scale encroachments are being ignored by authorities. **Authorities under fire for inaction**
Despite repeated complaints, Revenue and Irrigation officials have failed to act, only resorting to exchanging letters instead of taking decisive steps. The Hyderabad Metropolitan Development

Authority (HMDA), which is responsible for urban planning and lake protection, has also remained silent on the issue. Villagers recall that Turaka Cheruvu was once a crucial water source for agriculture, but now, it has been reduced to a land grab. With Raj News receiving multiple complaints from residents, the channel has launched an investigation, exposing the large-scale encroachment. Locals are demanding immediate demolition of illegal structures and restoration of the lake to its original state. The question remains: Will the authorities finally act, or will Turaka Cheruvu become yet another victim of unchecked urban expansion?

JK Artekraft & Dormakaba Unveil One of Hyderabad's Premier Lifestyle Showrooms

Key Highlights of the Showroom
One of Hyderabad's Largest Lifestyle Showrooms
Premium Solutions for Luxury Homes & Villas
Designed for Boutique Hotels & Modern Office Spaces
Live Demonstrations of Cutting-Edge Products



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Hyderabad's demand for high-performance lifestyle and access solutions continues to grow, driven by economic stability and evolving consumer aspirations. Responding to this trend, JK Artekraft, in collaboration with Dormakaba, has launched one of the city's largest lifestyle showrooms, offering cutting-edge solutions for luxury homes, boutique hotels, and modern office spaces. The exclusive experience center showcases a curated selection of premium lifestyle products that seamlessly blend aesthetics with functionality. Designed for architects, interior designers, and homeowners, the showroom serves as a one-stop destination to explore world-class solutions that enhance contemporary living spaces. The showroom was formally inaugurated by Natesh Balakrishna (Managing Director, Dormakaba India), Nemchand Gala (Chairman, JK Group India), Architect Nirup Reddy, Architect Pallavi Anchuri (Chairman, IIID), and Architect Ravi Anchuri.

"The demand for sophisticated, high-performance lifestyle products is growing rapidly. This showroom brings together innovation and elegance, creating a space where customers can experience solutions tailored to their evolving aspirations," said Natesh Balakrishna, SVP Market India. As Hyderabad cements itself as a hub for premium living, JK Artekraft and Dormakaba are committed to shaping the future of lifestyle solutions, offering a seamless blend of design, security, and convenience. Visit the JK Artekraft Showroom in Hyderabad and discover world-class solutions designed to elevate contemporary living spaces.

Pixelin Sciences Introduces Revolutionary Products to Boost Agri Productivity



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Pixelin Sciences, a leader in agricultural innovation, has launched three groundbreaking products—Polyhalite Complex, Belenus, and Vervactor—designed to enhance crop yields, improve soil health, and strengthen pest resistance. "Developed after years of research, these products integrate natural ingredients, sus-

tainable nutrient delivery, water conservation, and disease resistance. Farmers can now increase crop yields by 20 to 50 percent while reducing fertilizer use," said Tummalayugandhar. Company management members Basanth Nadella, Pradeep Yallanki, Murali Nadendla, Hari Nadendla, Rambabu, and Satish Nalajala emphasized that Pixelin Sciences is

committed to sustainable agriculture. They stated that the company's products will empower farmers with eco-friendly and cost-effective solutions to address modern farming challenges. **Key Features of Pixelin Sciences Products**
Vervactor: A modern granulated mineral fertilizer that enhances plant growth and development, supplying essential nutrients such as potassium, sulfur, calcium, magnesium, and sodium.
Belenus: Aids in activating photosynthesis and the synthesis of fats, proteins, and carbohydrates. Polyhalite Complex: Supports thermal resistance in plants and improves the accumulation of essential vitamins (provitamin A, B1, and C) and sugars. With these innovative products, Pixelin Sciences aims to revolutionize agricultural productivity while promoting sustainable and efficient farming practices.

Massive fire breaks out at plastic crate warehouse in Quthbullapur

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
A massive fire broke out at a plastic crate warehouse in Subhashnagar, Quthbullapur, on Monday, triggering panic among local residents. The fire, which started suddenly, spread rapidly due to the highly combustible materials stored inside, leading to thick black smoke billowing into the sky. Upon receiving information, fire department officials rushed to the scene and deployed multiple fire tenders to control the blaze. Firefighters battled for hours to contain the fire and prevent it from

spreading to nearby residential and commercial buildings. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained, but preliminary reports suggest that a short circuit or accidental ignition of plastic materials could be a possibility. Local police cordoned off the area to ensure public safety, while authorities advised residents to stay indoors to avoid inhaling the toxic fumes. No casualties have been reported so far, but officials are assessing the extent of property damage. Further investigations are underway to determine the exact cause of the incident.



Couple kills two children, dies by suicide in Habsiguda

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
A tragic incident unfolded in Hyderabad's Habsiguda area on Monday, where a couple allegedly killed their two children before dying by suicide. The deceased were identified as Chandrasekar Reddy, his wife Kavita, their son Viswan Reddy, a Class 5 student, and their daughter Sritha Reddy, a Class 9 student. According to the police, the incident is believed to have occurred between 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM but was reported around 9:00 PM after locals noticed the bodies and alerted authorities. Upon reaching the scene, the Osmania University police recovered a suicide note from the couple, which cited financial distress as the reason behind their extreme step. A case has been registered under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and further investigation is underway.



Dr. Anil Kumar takes charge as Addl DGP at Telangana Police HQ

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Dr. Anil Kumar assumed charge as the Additional Director General of Police (Personnel) at the Telangana Police Headquarters on Monday, March 10. His appointment comes as part of a major reshuffle of IPS officers by the state government, which saw 21 officers transferred to various positions. Anil Kumar, who previously led the Telangana Special Protection Force (TSPF), will continue to hold the additional charge of TSPF Director-General until further orders. During the tenure of the previous BRS government, he also served as the state's intelligence chief.

21 IPS officers transferred
The Telangana government issued transfer orders on March 7, reshuffling 21 IPS officers across different postings. Some key changes include:

- K Shilpavalli appointed as Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central Zone, Hyderabad, replacing Akshansh Yadav.
- Ch Sindhu Sarma posted as Superintendent of Police, Intelligence, filling an existing vacancy.
- M Srinivasulu appointed as Inspector General of Police, CID, after serving as Commissioner of Police, Ramagundam.
- Potharaju Sai Chaitanya named Commissioner of Police, Nizamabad, relieving Ch Sindhu Sarma of the additional charge.
- Gauth Alam transferred as Commissioner of Police, Karimnagar, replacing Abhishek Mohanty.
- Sunpreet Singh promoted to Deputy Inspector General of Police and posted as Commissioner of Police, Warangal. Other transfers affected positions in districts such as Adilabad, Sangareddy, Kamareddy, and Suryapet, among others. These changes are aimed at strengthening the state's law enforcement administration and ensuring efficient governance.



Turmeric farmers stage rasta roko in Metpally

Farmers demand MSP assurance

TPN Correspondent | Jagtial

Turmeric farmers in Telangana staged a massive rasta roko at the Metpally old bus stand on Tuesday, demanding a minimum support price (MSP) of ₹15,000 per quintal for their crop. The protest, led by the Rythu Joint Action Committee (JAC), brought vehicular traffic on National Highway 63 to a halt as farmers refused to withdraw until they received a clear assurance from the government.

In response to the steep decline in turmeric prices, the JAC had issued a 'Chalo Metpally' call, mobilizing farmers from Jagtial, Nizamabad, and Nirmal districts. The protesters took out a rally from Metpally market yard to the old bus stand before blocking the highway.

The farmers demanded that both the State and Central governments intervene under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) and establish procurement centers to purchase turmeric directly from farmers. They also urged authorities to take action against traders forming syn-



dicates to manipulate prices, calling for the cancellation of their licenses and legal action against them.

Recalling the Congress party's election promise in Warangal to provide MSP for turmeric, the farmers insisted on the immediate implementation of the Warangal Declaration. The protest was called off after Metpally RDO Srinivas arrived at the site and assured them that their

demands would be conveyed to the government.

Farmers from Metpally, Korutla, Mallapur, Ibrahimpatnam, Kathalapur, Medipalli, Jagtial, Kammarpally, Ergatla, Khanapur, Laxmanachanda, and Mamada mandals participated in the agitation, highlighting the widespread distress among turmeric growers in the region.

BRS mocks CM Revanth with 'Pay CM' QR code protest

BRS launches 'Pay CM' campaign

QR code posters claim a 20% commission is needed to clear bills

Inspired by Karnataka Congress' 2023 'Pay CM' campaign

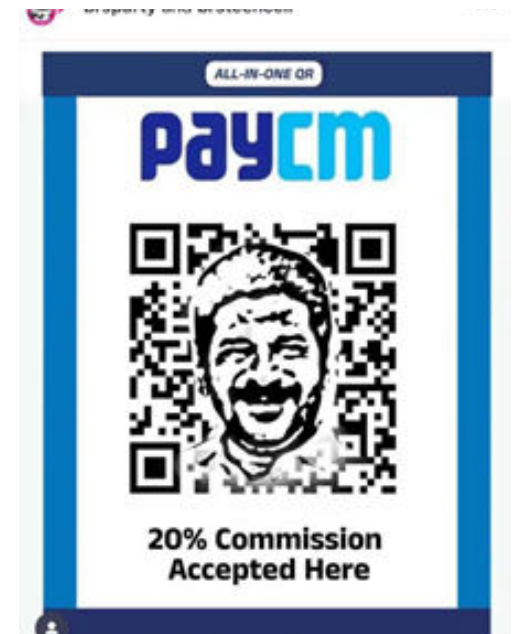
TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has launched a scathing attack on Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy through a 'Pay CM' campaign, alleging corruption in the payment of dues to contractors. The campaign, unveiled on Monday, March 10, features QR code posters with Revanth Reddy's face and the message "20% commission accepted here," mocking the state government's alleged demand for bribes to clear pending bills. The protest aligns with the grievances of small contractors who have accused the Telangana government of withholding payments unless a hefty commission is paid. Civil contractors have staged protests, claiming that middlemen are demanding a 20% bribe to approve their bills, leading to financial distress among them.

BRS's campaign draws parallels to the 'Pay CM' drive launched by Karnataka Congress in 2023 against then-Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, in which they accused the BJP government of running a commission-based administration. The posters in Telangana now suggest that payments can be "effortlessly scanned" to clear bills stuck under the state's bu-

reaucacy.

Civil contractors in Telangana have been raising their concerns for weeks, holding protests and press conferences to highlight the financial strain caused by delayed payments. The issue has become a political flashpoint, with BRS using it to attack the Congress government while CM Revanth Reddy faces growing pressure to address the controversy.



Bhargavi Demands Death Penalty for Husband's Killers

Bhargavi's husband Banti murdered by her family Calls for fast-track court to ensure swift justice

TPN Correspondent | Suryapet

Bhargavi, the wife of Vadakondla Krishna (Banti), who was brutally murdered in an honor killing in Suryapet last January, has demanded the death penalty for her husband's killers. She urged the government to establish a fast-track court for her case to ensure swift justice.



Banti, who belonged to the Mala community, fell in love and married Bhargavi, the younger sister of his close friend Naveen, who belongs to a BC caste. However, Bhargavi's family, enraged by the inter-caste marriage, allegedly plotted and murdered Banti. His body was found near the Musi River in Pillamarri village. The police have since arrested the accused.

Bhargavi's plea comes in the wake of the

court's verdict in the Pranay honor killing case, where one of the accused was sentenced to death, and others received life imprisonment. Drawing parallels, she insisted that her husband's killers deserve the same punishment to serve as a deterrent against caste-based murders.

She emotionally stated that no other woman should endure the pain she has suffered and hoped that her husband's murder would be the last case of honor killing.

Adilabad police bust cyber fraudster gang, six arrested

TPN Correspondent | Adilabad

The Adilabad police arrested a six-member cyber fraudster gang that was allegedly planning large-scale cybercrimes across the country using old mobile phones. The accused were presented before the media on Tuesday, with police seizing 2,125 discarded mobile phones, 107 SIM cards, 600 mobile batteries, and five two-wheelers from their possession.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Akhil Mahajan identified the gang leader as Thabaraq and his associates as Mohammad Merujal, Mahabub Alam, Mohammad Jamal, Md Ujir, and Abdullah—all hailing from Dalan in Katihar district, Bihar.

During interrogation, Thabaraq confessed that his gang collected old mobile phones in exchange for plastic household appliances from rural areas. These phones were then repurposed for phishing scams, with the fraudsters posing as bank officials to swindle unsuspecting victims.

The SP revealed that Thabaraq had previously procured 12,000 mobile phones from Karnataka as part of a larger criminal conspiracy. By using phones and SIM cards registered under innocent individuals' names, the gang aimed to evade law enforcement.

SP Akhil Mahajan commended cybercrime DSP Haseebullah, Adilabad DSP Jeevan Reddy, II Town Inspector Karunakar Rao, and CCS Inspector Chandrashekhar for successfully dismantling the fraud operation.

Constable stabbed while chasing thief in Sathupalli



TPN Correspondent | Khammam

A constable was critically injured after being stabbed multiple times while attempting to apprehend an interstate thief in Sathupalli, Khammam district.

The incident occurred late Monday night when Constable Mallela Naresh of Sathupalli police station spotted Tiruveedula Surender, a suspected thief from Chatrai village in Andhra Pradesh's NTR district, moving suspiciously at the bus stand. Upon attempting to stop him, Surender fled on a motorbike, prompting Naresh to give chase. When Naresh intercepted him on the outskirts of the town, Surender attacked him with a knife, inflicting serious injuries before escaping.

Naresh sustained stab wounds to his head and arm. Locals rushed him to a nearby government hospital for treatment. Sathupalli CI Kiran and SI Raghu visited the crime scene and launched an investigation.

CP Sunil Dutt visits injured constable

Khammam Commissioner of Police Sunil Dutt visited the hospital where Naresh is receiving treatment. He spoke to the doctors, ensuring that the constable receives the best possible medical care. He also consoled Naresh's family and directed local officers to extend necessary support.

Commandant Thota Gangaram Dies in Lift Accident

TPN Correspondent | Nizamabad

Commandant Thota Gangaram, who was serving as the Chief Security Officer (CSO) in the Telangana Secretariat, tragically lost his life in a lift accident at a district headquarters apartment.

The incident occurred at midnight when Gangaram, believing the lift had arrived, opened the door and stepped forward, only to fall from the third floor to the first floor. He sustained severe injuries and succumbed before reaching the hospital.

Gangaram hailed from Siddulam Gramini in Kotagiri Mandal of Nizamabad district. He is survived by his wife Rekha, son Satish Kumar, and two daughters, Gautami and Meenal.

Medak revenue inspector caught red-handed taking bribe

TPN Correspondent | Medak

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials caught Medak municipality revenue inspector Janaiah red-handed while allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹12,000 from a household in the town.

Janaiah, who was working in the tax collection department, had reportedly demanded the bribe from a citizen, prompting the complainant to approach ACB officials. Following the trap, a search operation was conducted at his office to gather further evidence.

ACB officials are continuing their investigation into the case.

TGRERA fines builder Rs 6 lakh for failing to deliver Amenities

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (TGRERA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 6 lakh on a builder for failing to provide the amenities promised to homebuyers in RDB Coconut Grove Apartments. The authority warned that if the deficiencies are not addressed within 90 days, a heavier penalty will be imposed under Section 63 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016.

Residents of the apartment complex filed a complaint stating that the builder failed to deliver key facilities, including a clubhouse, central park, swimming pool, jogging track, and visitors' parking. They also pointed out that only two lifts per tower were installed instead of the promised three, leaving an open provision for a third lift, which posed a safety hazard. Additionally, only 360 out of 500 flats had access to Manjeera water. Several other promised facilities—such as a mini-theatre, guest rooms, landscaped gardens, a basketball court, gas pipelines, and a mineral water plant—were not constructed despite being ad-

vertised in the builder's brochures. Some amenities were replaced with temporary, substandard alternatives, with the clubhouse being substituted by a single flat per tower, now serving as a makeshift gym, banquet hall, and indoor games area.

In response, the builder cited legal disputes with neighboring landowners and claimed that most amenities were provided in alternative locations. They also argued that the project should be exempt from RERA regulations, as building permissions were obtained before the Act came into effect in 2016.

However, TGRERA rejected these claims, ruling that since the project lacked a completion certificate, it qualifies as an ongoing project and is subject to RERA regulations. The authority found the builder guilty of violating RERA norms by failing to register the project and not fulfilling commitments made to buyers.

The builder has been directed to rectify the deficiencies within 90 days, failing which stricter penalties will be imposed under Section 63 of the Act.





China's Expanding Surveillance on India

A Cause for Concern?

In recent diplomatic engagements, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi emphasized that India and China should "support each other rather than undermine each other," advocating for cooperation over suspicion. On the surface, these remarks suggest an improvement in bilateral relations, particularly since October 2024, when talks resumed after a four-year deadlock following the Galwan clashes. Discussions on border patrolling and disengagement have restarted, and Beijing continues to insist that the border dispute should not define the entirety of India-China relations. However, behind these diplomatic niceties, China's surveillance and monitoring activities along India's borders tell a different story.

China's Expanding Influence in South Asia

China's growing strategic footprint in South Asia has been evident for years, largely through its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), launched in 2013. Using economic leverage, Beijing has established a strong presence across multiple countries, often leaving them in heavy debt. Sri Lanka and the Maldives are two prime examples of how China's economic influence has led to significant security concerns for India.

Sri Lanka and the Maldives: Beijing's Strategic Docking Points

One of the earliest signs of China's strategic expansion came in 2017 when Sri Lanka was forced to lease the Hambantota Port to China for 99 years after failing to repay its debts. This move immediately raised security alarms in New Delhi, as the port's location holds significant geostrategic importance. In addition to economic control, China has used Sri Lanka as a docking station for its surveillance ships under the pretext of research, allowing it to monitor naval movements in the Indian Ocean. A similar challenge has emerged in the Maldives. Since President Mohamed Muizzu assumed office, Male's growing tilt towards Beijing has been a growing concern for India. Chinese research vessels, including the advanced Xiang Yang Hong 03, have docked in the Maldives, sparking fears that these ships are collecting critical maritime data. Further talks between China and the Maldives about installing Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) in the Indian Ocean only add to India's security concerns.

To counter these developments, India



is strengthening its maritime capabilities. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Mauritius on March 11-12 is expected to finalize agreements that will enhance India's ability to monitor Chinese activities in the region. Additionally, India has ramped up its defense presence by establishing INS Jatayu in Lakshadweep's Minicoy island, a strategic naval base aimed at countering China's growing influence in the Indian Ocean.

Surveillance from the Skies and Across Borders

China's surveillance is not limited to maritime activities. Reports indicate that Beijing has recently deployed a Large Phased Array Radar (LPAR) in Yunnan province, close to Myanmar. With a staggering range of 5,000 kilometers, this radar gives China the capability to monitor significant portions of Indian territory, including critical military movements and missile launches. One of the key threats posed by this development is its ability to detect missile tests from Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast—India's primary launch site for nuclear-capable missiles like Agni V and K4 submarine-launched ballistic missiles. This level of surveillance significantly compromises India's strategic preparedness. To address this, New Delhi is reportedly in discussions with Russia to acquire the Voronezh early-warning radar system, which has an extended range of 8,000 kilometers and would provide India with a much-needed technological edge.

China's Sophisticated Space Reconnaissance

Beyond ground-based surveillance, China has developed an advanced space-based reconnaissance system. Since

2006, Beijing has launched over 140 Yaogan satellites, which specialize in remote sensing and surveillance. Combined with other satellite programs like Gaofen and Shiyang, China now possesses the capability to track even small objects in the Indian Ocean and beyond. This vast surveillance network places India at a significant disadvantage. Beijing reportedly operates 245 operational reconnaissance satellites, compared to India's modest fleet of 26. The superior range, resolution, and all-weather capability of Chinese satellites give them a major edge in intelligence gathering and military monitoring.

Can India Trust China's Calls for Normalization?

Despite Beijing's diplomatic overtures, India has ample reasons to remain cautious. China's defense budget for 2025 stands at a staggering \$246 billion, more than three times India's allocation of \$82 billion. While China continues to advocate for better trade ties and people-to-people exchanges, it is simultaneously expanding its surveillance, military, and intelligence-gathering capabilities along India's borders. New Delhi has been consistent in its approach—stating that diplomatic progress must be linked to resolving border tensions. However, China's relentless pursuit of strategic advantages suggests that trust and mutual respect remain elusive goals. As Beijing strengthens its security infrastructure across land, sea, and space, India must remain vigilant and take decisive steps to counterbalance China's growing surveillance network.

The question that remains is: Can India-China relations ever be built on genuine trust, or will security concerns continue to dictate their trajectory?



X Outage: A Cyber Attack or a Convenient Narrative?

THE POINT DESK

The recent cyber attack on X, formerly known as Twitter, has raised serious concerns about digital security, political narratives, and the implications of corporate leadership intertwining with governance. While U.S. officials are still investigating the nature and origin of the attack, Elon Musk's swift assertion that the attackers had "IP addresses originating in the Ukraine area" has fueled speculation, controversy, and political posturing.

The Attack and the Unanswered Questions

On Monday, thousands of X users reported difficulties accessing the platform. While outages are not uncommon in the digital world, this particular incident was quickly labeled a cyber attack by U.S. officials, triggering an immediate investigation. However, as of now, the authorities have not determined the perpetrators or their motives.

Musk's claim that Ukrainian IP addresses were involved has only added to the confusion. Cybersecurity experts were quick to point out that an IP address does not confirm the geographical origin of an attack. Hackers routinely use VPNs and compromised servers worldwide, making it difficult to trace the actual source. Musk's choice to highlight Ukraine, without presenting concrete evidence, raises questions about whether this was a genuine concern or an attempt to shape a particular narrative.

Musk's Political Entanglement

Musk's influence in both business and politics has grown significantly, particularly under Donald Trump's administration. His role in the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), an agency created by Trump to downsize federal bureaucracy, has placed him in a powerful but controversial position. His ownership of X, Tesla, and SpaceX, combined with his direct advisory role to Trump, creates an unprecedented intersection of corporate power and governance. It is also worth noting that Musk's political leanings have alienated a significant portion of Tesla's consumer base. Traditionally, Tesla has appealed to environmentally conscious consumers, many of whom lean left politically. However, Musk's increasingly vocal support for right-wing policies and aggressive government downsizing has led to protests and even acts of vandalism against Tesla. On Monday, as X suffered its outage, Tesla's stock took a 15% hit, its largest one-day drop since September 2020. This raises an important question: Is Musk's alignment with Trump costing him his customer base?

Trump's Support and the Narrative Shift

Trump, never one to miss an opportunity for political theater, quickly took to his own social media platform to defend Musk. Announcing his decision to purchase a Tesla, he framed it as an act of solidarity against what he perceives as unjust backlash. "Why should he be punished for putting his tremendous skills to work in order to help MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN???" Trump posted, further tying Musk's struggles to the larger MAGA agenda. This incident highlights how cybersecurity threats are increasingly politicized. The rush to blame Ukraine without conclusive evidence plays into broader geopolitical tensions, particularly given Musk's past controversial comments about Ukraine and Russia's war. Meanwhile, his continued political entanglements are not just shaping his public image but also affecting the businesses he leads. The X outage may have been a cyber attack, but the bigger story is how narratives surrounding it are being crafted to serve political and corporate interests.

India's Air Pollution Crisis: The Stark Reality of 2024 Rankings

THE POINT DESK

The latest 'World Air Quality Report 2024' by Swiss firm IQAir has once again put India's pollution crisis in the spotlight. A staggering 13 out of the world's 20 most polluted cities are in India, with Byrnihat, a town on the Assam-Meghalaya border, ranking as the most polluted. Surprisingly, Delhi, Mumbai, and Pune were not at the top, though the capital still retained the title of the world's most polluted capital city.

Byrnihat's Alarming Air Quality

Byrnihat's pollution crisis is a direct consequence of unchecked industrial expansion and heavy vehicular emissions. Its PM2.5 levels reached a hazardous 128 micrograms per cubic meter, making it the worst in the world. The presence of iron and steel plants, distilleries, and a constant movement of trucks between Assam and Meghalaya contribute significantly to its deteriorating air quality.

Despite public protests in January against worsening pollution, authorities have only recently taken action, shutting down seven industrial units in Byrnihat for environmental violations. However, this is merely a band-aid solution to a problem that demands long-term sustainable measures.

Delhi's Unyielding Pollution Problem

Delhi remains the world's most polluted capital, with its PM2.5 levels rising from 102.4 micrograms per cubic meter in 2023 to 108.3 in 2024. The national capital battles year-round pollution exacerbated by vehicular emissions, industrial smoke, stubble burning, and firecracker use. The winter months worsen the crisis due to stagnant air trapping pollutants.

Efforts to control pollution, such as the implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) and vehicular restrictions, have had limited impact. Without stricter enforcement of policies and a shift towards greener



energy alternatives, Delhi's pollution crisis will persist.

India's Broader Pollution Problem

India's pollution crisis extends far beyond Byrnihat and Delhi. Cities such as Mullanpur, Faridabad, Gurugram, Ganganagar, Noida, and Muzaffarnagar have dangerously high pollution levels. The country's overall PM2.5 levels saw a slight 7% improvement from 2023, with India dropping from the third to the fifth most polluted nation. However, this progress is minimal, as over 35% of Indian cities still report air

pollution levels exceeding WHO's safety limits by more than tenfold.

The issue is not confined to India alone. Four cities in Pakistan and one in China also ranked among the world's top 20 most polluted cities. However, India's vast industrial and population growth, coupled with weak enforcement of pollution control measures, has made its air quality crisis particularly severe.

A Call for Action

The dangers of PM2.5 pollution cannot be ignored. These microscopic particles infiltrate the lungs and blood-

stream, leading to severe respiratory diseases, heart conditions, and even cancer. With industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust, and agricultural burning being primary sources, India needs urgent intervention.

Tackling air pollution requires a multi-pronged approach: enforcing stricter industrial regulations, promoting public transportation, transitioning to cleaner energy, and holding local authorities accountable. The government must act decisively, not just for the sake of rankings but for the health and well-being of millions of Indians.

PM Modi gets 'Order of the Star and Key of Indian Ocean' from Mauritius PM

PM Modi Becomes 1st Indian To Get Mauritius' Highest Honour



TPN Correspondent | Mauritius

Mauritius.

Mauritian Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam announced on Tuesday that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be conferred with the prestigious "Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean," the highest honor of Mauritius. This makes PM Modi the first Indian to receive this distinguished award, recognizing his significant contributions to enhancing bilateral relations between India and

The honor highlights PM Modi's efforts in fostering stronger ties between the two nations, particularly in areas such as trade, culture, and people-to-people connections. The award also emphasizes his leadership in promoting regional cooperation and strategic partnerships in the Indian Ocean region.

This recognition marks the 21st international award that PM Modi has

received from a foreign country, underscoring his global stature and the positive impact of his foreign policy. Ramgoolam also mentioned that PM Modi is only the fifth foreign national to be honored with this award, further highlighting the exceptional nature of this recognition.

The Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean is a prestigious award given to foreign dignitaries who have made remarkable contributions to strengthening Mauritius' relationship with other nations. This honor not only celebrates PM Modi's leadership but also serves as a testament to the long-standing friendship between India and Mauritius.

The announcement of this award further solidifies the strong diplomatic ties between the two countries, built on shared values and cooperation in various sectors. PM Modi's recognition will undoubtedly strengthen India's relations with Mauritius and inspire continued collaboration in the years to come.

Treated like cows, drunkards ruined Iftar: Police complaint against actor Vijay's Ramzan event



TPN Correspondent | Tamil Nadu

A police complaint has been lodged against Tamil film star Thalapathy Vijay following his Iftar event during Ramzan. The Tamil Nadu Sunnat Jamath, a Muslim organization, accused the event's organizers of allowing "drunkards and rowdies" to participate, which they claim insulted the Muslim community. The group also alleged that attendees were treated disrespectfully, likening their treatment to that of "cows."

Syed Kous, the treasurer of Tamil Nadu Sunnat Jamath, voiced his grievances, stating, "Muslims were insulted at the Iftar program organized by Vijay. We believe the presence of individuals with no connection to fasting or Iftar, such as drunkards and rowdies, dishonored the community." He further criticized the presence of "foreign guards," alleging that they disrespected attendees, further fueling the group's anger.

The complaint emphasized that the action taken was not for publicity, but to prevent such incidents in the future.

Kous insisted that legal action should be pursued against Vijay to ensure such behavior does not repeat.

Thalapathy Vijay, who is also the founder of Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK), hosted the Iftar event in Chennai on March 7, 2025. During the event, he expressed his gratitude toward the Muslim community for participating and hailed the values of brotherhood and humanism. Dressed in a white shirt, dhoti, and a skullcap, Vijay joined in the prayers with the attendees and broke his fast.

Following the Iftar, the actor-politician appeared from the sunroof of his campaign van and waved at his supporters who had gathered along the streets and on a flyover. A video of the actor praying and breaking his fast quickly went viral on social media. While some praised his display of secularism, others criticized it as mere "appeasement."

As the controversy continues to unfold, both the actor's supporters and critics await further developments.

Monitoring Situation In Afghanistan, Held Discussions With Taliban: India At UN

TPN Correspondent | United Nations

India has expressed its ongoing engagement with Afghanistan's Taliban regime, focusing on humanitarian aid and potential development projects. During a recent UN Security Council meeting on Afghanistan, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, highlighted the significance of India's historical and special people-to-people ties with Afghanistan as the foundation for its current engagement.

In January, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi in Dubai, marking the highest-level contact between India and the Taliban since the latter's takeover of Kabul in 2021. The two sides discussed various bilateral matters, including regional developments and the continuation of India's humanitarian support for the Afghan people. The Afghan side expressed appreciation for India's assistance, particularly in terms of providing ongoing aid.

Harish noted that India remains committed to monitoring Afghanistan's situation closely while working with international partners to ensure stability. India's approach involves providing humanitarian assistance, with an emphasis on health, food security, education, and capacity-building. India has also contributed 27 tonnes of relief material, 50,000 tonnes of wheat, and over 300 tonnes of medical supplies since the Taliban's rise to power.

India has a long-standing partnership with Afghanistan,

including more than 500 projects across the country since 2001. It has also partnered with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to support Afghan drug users, particularly women, by providing hygiene kits, food, and medical supplies.

The Afghan authorities, meanwhile, have expressed an interest in further cooperation, including the strengthening of cricket ties, which are highly valued by the youth in Afghanistan. Additionally, the use of the Chabahar port for trade, including humanitarian aid, was discussed as part of the bilateral talks.

India remains committed to working with all stakeholders to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in Afghanistan while continuing to support the Afghan people's welfare.



India Becomes the Second-Largest Arms Importer After Ukraine

Global Arms Transfers Remain Stable, India Shifts Focus from Russian Arms

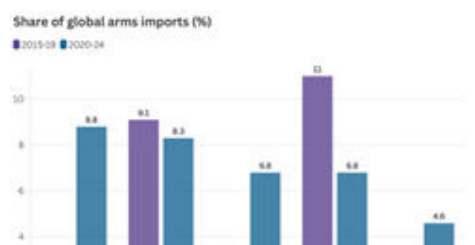
TPN Correspondent | NEW DELHI

India has diversified its arms imports in recent years, with a notable pivot away from Russian military hardware. According to the latest Economic Survey, France has emerged as a key supplier to India, securing major deals including 36 Rafale fighter jets and six Scorpene-class conventional submarines. Additional contracts for 26 Rafale-M jets and three submarines are expected to be finalized soon. France was the second-largest exporter of major arms to India, after the United States.

While the overall volume of global arms transfers remained stable between 2015-19 and 2020-24, it was 18% higher than the 2005-2009 period. Imports in Europe and the Americas increased, offsetting declines in other regions. Italy saw significant progress, jumping from 10th to 6th

place in the arms exporter list, holding a 4.8% share of global sales.

The report also highlighted the global shift in arms imports, with at least 35 countries sending weapons to Ukraine since the war began in 2022. Ukraine received 8.8% of global arms imports in 2020-24, with the United States accounting for 45% of the total arms supplied, followed by Germany (12%) and Poland (11%).



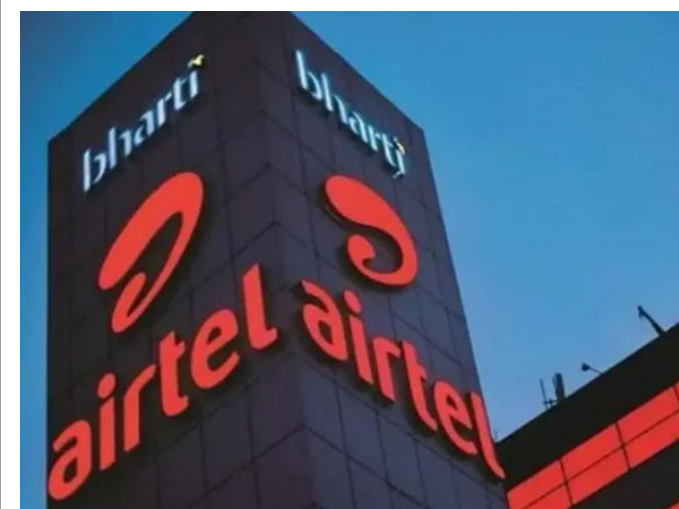
European countries have significantly increased arms imports as part of their rearmament efforts, spurred

by the ongoing conflict with Russia. Despite these increases, some major arms importers, including Saudi Arabia, India, and China, experienced substantial declines in



import volumes. Mathew George, a programme director at SIPRI, noted that the figures reflect the shifting security dynamics, with countries like India looking to reduce their dependence on Russian arms due to changing geopolitical and strategic priorities.

Airtel Partners with SpaceX to Bring Starlink Satellite Internet to India



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Airtel has signed a partnership agreement with SpaceX to introduce Starlink's satellite internet services in India, pending approval from authorities. This collaboration aims to enhance internet access across the country, particularly in remote and rural areas.

The agreement outlines several areas of collaboration. Airtel may sell Starlink equipment through its stores and offer the service to businesses. The two companies also plan to use Starlink to connect rural schools, health centers, and other remote locations, ensuring high-speed internet access where traditional

networks are limited. Additionally, Airtel and SpaceX will explore ways Starlink can support Airtel's network infrastructure, and how Airtel's existing infrastructure can help SpaceX expand its footprint in India.

Airtel already partners with Eutelsat OneWeb for satellite internet, but the inclusion of Starlink is expected to further boost the company's coverage in underserved regions. This will provide businesses and communities in remote locations with better connectivity options, improving access to high-speed broadband.

Gopal Vittal, Managing Director and Vice Chairman of Bharti Airtel, expressed enthusiasm

about the partnership, calling it a significant milestone for the company. He stated, "Working with SpaceX to offer Starlink to Airtel customers in India is a major step in advancing satellite connectivity. This collaboration will help bring world-class, high-speed broadband to even the most remote parts of the country, ensuring reliable internet for individuals, businesses, and communities."

Gwynne Shotwell, President of SpaceX, shared her excitement about the collaboration, highlighting the potential of Starlink to transform lives in India. "We are thrilled to work with Airtel and unlock the transformative impact Starlink can bring to the people of India," Shotwell said. "The Airtel team has played a pivotal role in India's telecom development, making this collaboration a natural fit."

With this partnership, Airtel and SpaceX are set to bring significant improvements in internet connectivity across India, especially in areas that have previously faced challenges accessing reliable broadband services.

US-Ukraine Peace Talks Begin



TPN Correspondent | Washington

US and Ukrainian officials have initiated peace talks in Saudi Arabia's Jeddah, with discussions led by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Andriy Yermak, Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine. The talks are taking place after Ukraine launched its largest drone attack on Moscow, marking a significant escalation in the ongoing war.

Yermak shared on social media that the meeting with the US delegation had begun positively, describing the discussions as "constructive" and reaffirming Ukraine's readiness to work towards peace. "We are ready to do everything to achieve peace," Yermak stated, emphasizing Ukraine's commitment to negotiating an end to the conflict

with Russia.

This meeting follows a strained encounter between US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during their previous White House meeting. Tensions flared when Trump criticized Zelenskyy for not being sufficiently grateful for US military aid, while US Vice President JD Vance also reprimanded the Ukrainian leader, calling him "disrespectful." The meeting's fallout had soured relations between the two countries, prompting Zelenskyy to seek a fresh approach in Jeddah.

In the backdrop of the peace talks, Ukraine launched an unprecedented drone strike on Moscow, deploying 91 drones overnight. The attack killed at least one person, led to air-

- Amid Rising Tensions Following Kyiv's Largest Drone Attack on Moscow
- US Secretary of State Marco and Ukrainian official Andriy lead negotiations
- future US aid and ceasefire terms under discussion

port closures, and caused significant flight diversions, adding pressure to the negotiations.

Secretary of State Rubio acknowledged the importance of understanding Ukraine's position in the talks, noting that both sides would need to make concessions for a ceasefire and an eventual end to the war. A central topic of discussion will be the US's continued support and military aid to Ukraine, particularly in light of Trump's previous comments and the evolving dynamics of international relations.

The outcome of these peace talks is seen as crucial in shaping the future of US-Ukraine relations and the ongoing conflict with Russia.



India Says "No Commitments" To Tariff Cuts After Trump's Tax Cut Claim

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India has refuted claims made by President Donald Trump that it had agreed to significantly reduce tariffs on U.S. products, stating that no such commitment had been made. This clarification comes after Trump's recent remarks about India slashing import duties, which he framed as a positive development in the ongoing trade discussions between the two countries.

In his speech last week, Trump expressed frustration with India's "massive tariffs," calling them "almost restrictive" and accusing the country of unfair trade practices. He claimed that India had agreed to "cut their tariffs way down" in response to global pressure. However, India's government quickly denied these claims, telling a parliamentary panel that no formal commitment had been made to reduce tariffs. Instead, India has requested more time to address the issue, with a deadline set for September.

India's Commerce Secretary, Sunil Barthwal, emphasized that both countries were working towards a mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement that would prioritize long-term cooperation rather than focusing solely on immediate tariff cuts. This statement signals India's intent to approach the issue carefully, considering its broader trade relationship with the U.S.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has cultivated a strong personal rapport with President Trump, has also voiced hopes for a trade agreement that would benefit both nations. Following his visit to the White House last month, Modi reiterated that the two countries would soon seal a deal aimed at fostering deeper economic ties.

While the U.S. is a critical market for India's information technology and services sectors, India has also become a significant customer of U.S. military hardware in recent years. This diverse trade relationship could influence the negotiations, as both sides seek to expand their economic and strategic cooperation.

Amidst these discussions, Trump may visit India later this year for a summit involving the Quad nations—Australia, India, Japan, and the United States—which could further shape the future of U.S.-India trade relations.

Zelenskyy Meets Saudi Crown Prince To Discuss Peace Efforts and Strengthen Bilateral Ties



TPN Correspondent | Ottawa

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during his visit to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where they discussed the pursuit

of a "sustainable, fair, and comprehensive" peace in Ukraine, as per a joint statement released by the Saudi state news agency (SPA) on Tuesday.

The meeting, part of ongoing diplomatic

talks, aims to explore ways to end the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Zelenskyy, along with U.S. officials including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, arrived in Saudi Arabia on Monday for crucial discussions with both Ukrainian and U.S. officials, focused on finding a path towards peace.

In addition to peace efforts, the two leaders also talked about strengthening bilateral relations, particularly in key sectors such as energy, food industries, and infrastructure. They expressed interest in expanding cooperation in areas like oil, gas, and petrochemicals.

The talks highlight the growing partnership between Saudi Arabia and Ukraine, as both nations aim to enhance their investment relations and explore opportunities for mutual growth in these crucial industries.

Saudi Arabia's Mega-City Faces Mega Problem: The Price Of A Desert Paradise



TPN Correspondent | Saudi

Saudi Arabia's \$500 billion Neom mega-city project, intended to revolutionize urban living, is encountering significant hurdles. Despite an extravagant event to showcase the city's future vision, reports reveal substantial delays, budget overruns, and leadership issues.

The first phase of the project, Sindalah, has been plagued by problems. Originally slated to cost \$1.3 billion, the luxury resort's price tag has surged to nearly \$4 billion, years behind schedule. Notably, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the project's mastermind, was absent from the event, and weeks later, Neom's CEO, Nadhmi al-Nasr, was replaced, signaling deeper issues within the project.

Since its inception in 2017, Neom has already consumed over \$50 billion, but its most ambitious concepts, such as a floating business district, a desert ski resort, and a 170-kilometre-long linear city, remain unrealized. A Wall Street Journal report uncovered widespread financial mismanagement within Neom's leadership, revealing that executives, with the help of consultants McKinsey & Co., inflated financial projections to justify escalating costs. An internal audit found evidence of "deliberate manipulation" of figures by senior management.

The project's future appears daunting, with a draft 2023 board presentation estimating that completing Neom by 2080 would require \$8.8 trillion, more than 25 times Saudi Ara-

bia's annual budget. Even the first phase, which is expected to run until 2035, is projected to cost \$370 billion.

Neom's centerpiece, The Line, was envisioned as a futuristic city within two parallel skyscrapers stretching 170 kilometres. However, the scope of the project has proven overwhelming. Initial plans to build 16 km of The Line by 2030 have been revised to a more modest 2.4 km, with only a half-mile section, including a stadium, expected by 2034. The city's ambitious design, which includes towering structures over 1,640 feet tall, has faced engineering challenges, prompting cost-cutting suggestions, including reducing the height to 1,000 feet, though Crown Prince Salman has rejected this idea, insisting on maintaining the original vision.



US Intel Chief Tulsi Gabbard To Visit India During Multi-Nation Trip To Indo-Pacific

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US Director of National Intelligence (DNI) Tulsi Gabbard announced on Monday that she has begun a multi-nation trip to the Indo-Pacific region, which will include visits to Japan, Thailand, and India. Gabbard highlighted the importance of fostering strong relationships, mutual understanding, and open communication to further the objectives of peace, freedom, and prosperity set by US President Donald Trump.

In a post on X, Gabbard shared her excitement for the trip, stating, "I am #WheelsUp on a multi-nation trip to the Indo-Pacific, a region I know very well having grown up as a child of the Pacific. I'll be going to Japan, Thailand, and India, with a brief stop in France enroute back to DC. Building strong relationships, understanding, and open lines of communication are vital to achieving President Trump's objectives of peace, freedom, and prosperity. First stop: Honolulu where I'll visit IC partners and INDOPACOM leaders, and our troops engaging in training."

This marks the first visit by a senior White House official to India under the Trump administration. Gabbard's visit comes shortly after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's trip to the United States in February, where he met with Gabbard and praised her as a "strong votary" of the India-US relationship. Gabbard expressed her honor in welcoming PM Modi and reiterated her commitment to strengthening the friendship between the two nations.

Markets End Flat Amid Volatility Oil Price Drop and Quality Stocks Support Recovery



Domestic stock markets closed flat on Tuesday. Benchmark indices started the morning gap-down on the back of a crash in the US markets and negative signals internationally. Investors bought on the back of falling oil prices, falling dollar index, improving domestic earnings and availability of quality stocks at attractive prices. As a result, the indices recovered their intraday losses. As long as the Nifty is trading above 22,300 and the Sensex above 73,700, there is scope for short-term bullishness.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 74,115 in the previous session, opened at 73,743 on Tuesday. It touched an intraday low of 73,663. It reached an in-

traday high of 74,195. It finally closed at 74,102, down 12 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,345, touched a low of 22,314 and a high of 22,522. It closed at 22,497, up 37 points. The Nifty Bank lost 362 points and settled at 47,853.

In the Nifty50, 33 companies gained while 17 lost. Realty, oil and gas, PSE, infra, finance, healthcare, and metal stocks rose. Bank, IT, auto, media, and FMCG stocks faced selling pressure. Trent, BPCL, Sun Pharma, ICICI Bank, Shriram Finance were the top gainers. IndusInd, Infi, M&M, and Ba-



MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM
Stock Market Analyst
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jaj Finserv lost the most.

Market breadth turned in favour of sellers on NSE today. 2958 stocks traded while 1850 lost. 1041 gained. 14 shares reached 52-week highs and 200 shares touched 52-week lows. 46 shares reached upper circuit and 205 reached lower circuit.

Poly Medicare gets Medical Device Regulation certification for 54 products in Europe. CG Power signs long-term supply agreement with Kynet Railway Solutions. Godrej Agrovet to acquire 48.06% stake in Creamline Dairy Products for Rs 930 crore. Rupee strengthens 12 paise against dollar to settle at 87.21. HSBC has given a buy rating to SBI Cards with a target price of Rs 1000. It has maintained a buy rating on BPCL, HPCL and IOC. Jefferies has retained a buy rating on Voltas with a target price of Rs 1990. Zydus Life Sciences will acquire French company Medtech Amplitude Surgical for Rs 2447 crore. Hindustan Zinc Board has approved the issue of NCDs worth Rs 500 crore. Anupam Rasayyan signs a ten-year agreement with a Korean multinational company. Bharat Electronics has secured orders worth Rs 843 crore.

KSB Ltd

KSB announced a ₹150 crore investment to expand its pump manufacturing facilities, targeting increased demand in infrastructure, agricul-

ture, and water management. The company's robust order book and focus on premium pump solutions ensure steady revenue growth. Analysts maintain a 'Buy' rating with a good target based on its strong fundamentals and expansion strategy.

BPCL (Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd)



BPCL announced a ₹10,000 crore investment to expand refining capacity by 15% over the next two years. Improved refining margins, lower crude oil prices, and stable domestic demand are positive indicators.

Laurus Labs

Laurus Labs invested ₹200 crore to expand its API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient) production. The company's CDMO (Contract Development



and Manufacturing Organization) segment is showing strong future growth potential despite near-term headwinds. Analysts maintain a 'Hold' rating with a good target price

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

Chennai Petroleum posted a 20% rise in Q3 net profit, attributed to better refining margins and improved operational efficiency. The company continues to strengthen its presence in the refining sector with increased output and cost control strategies.



Tube Investments of India (TII India)

TII India has diversified its business into EV components, enhancing its future growth trajectory. The company's strategic partnerships and investments in innovative technologies are expected to drive revenue growth. Jefferies maintains a 'Buy' rating with a target price of ₹3,600, highlighting the company's strong positioning in the engineering sector.



India's Coal Imports Drop by 8.4%, Saving Rs 42,315 Crore in Foreign Exchange

India's coal imports witnessed a notable decline of 8.4% in the April-December period of the current fiscal year, reaching 183.42 million tonnes (MT), compared to 200.19 MT in the same period last year. This reduction in imports resulted in significant foreign exchange savings, estimated at approximately Rs 42,315 crore (USD 5.43 billion), according to the Ministry of Coal.

The decline in coal imports was particularly evident in the non-regulated sector, excluding the power sector, which saw a sharper drop of 12.01% year-on-year. Despite this overall decrease, coal-based power generation registered a growth of 3.53% from April to December 2024, compared to the previous year. Notably, imports for blending by thermal power plants saw a sharp decline of 29.8%, reflecting the country's efforts to reduce reliance on foreign coal.

Several government initiatives, such as the commercial mining reforms and the "Mission Coking Coal" program, have contributed to this decline by boosting domestic coal production. These initiatives aim to increase the availability of coal within the country, thereby reducing the need for imports.

Additionally, India's coal output during the April-December period of the current fiscal grew by 6.11%, as compared to the same period in 2023-24. The government's focus on enhancing



domestic production, along with ongoing efforts to reduce imports, has played a key role in this positive shift.

Overall, the reduction in coal imports and the resulting foreign exchange savings reflect India's ongoing commitment to improving energy security and reducing dependency on foreign sources.

RBI to issue Rs 100 and Rs 200 notes bearing signature of Guv Malhotra

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on Tuesday that it will soon release new banknotes in the denominations of Rs 100 and Rs 200, featuring the signature of the newly appointed RBI Governor, Sanjay Malhotra.

According to the statement issued by the central bank, the design of these new notes will be identical to the Rs 100 and Rs 200 banknotes currently in circulation under the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series. The RBI assured the public that all previously issued Rs 100 and Rs 200 notes, regardless of the signature, will continue to remain valid and legal tender.

Governor Sanjay Malhotra, who assumed office in December 2024, replaces Shaktikanta Das, whose term as RBI Governor concluded after an extended period. As part of the usual currency replacement cycle, the issuance of these new notes with Malhotra's signature marks a continuation of the central bank's routine process of updating currency designs to reflect leadership transitions.

The RBI's move to issue new notes comes at a time when the Indian economy is closely monitoring various monetary and fiscal measures. This step is expected to have little immediate impact on the everyday circulation of currency, as the new notes will closely mirror the existing ones in terms of design and security features.

While there is no change in the look or feel of the Rs 100 and Rs 200 denominations, the signature update highlights the shift in leadership at the RBI, underscoring the institution's role in managing the country's monetary policy and financial systems.

Overall, the issuance of these new banknotes is part of the RBI's ongoing efforts to ensure smooth currency circulation while commemorating leadership changes at the central bank.



Rupee gains 1 paisa to 87.30 against US dollar in early trade



The Indian rupee traded almost flat against the US dollar on Tuesday morning, gaining just 1 paisa to reach 87.30. This marginal gain was supported by a weaker American currency and a dip in global crude oil prices. However, the rupee's progress was tempered by ongoing volatility in domestic equity markets, which have been negatively affected by concerns over a potential recession in the United States and uncertain-

ties surrounding trade relations.

Forex traders noted that despite the positive movement from the US dollar's weakness and lower oil prices, investor sentiment remained cautious. Fears of an economic slowdown in the US and the resulting uncertainties in global trade have raised concerns among market participants, contributing to instability in the Indian stock markets. These factors have impacted the rupee's ability to make more significant gains, as traders remain wary of the broader economic environment.

The combination of these global and domestic factors has led to a mixed outlook for the rupee, with investors closely monitoring developments in both the equity markets and international trade negotiations. Although the weakening of the US dollar has provided some short-term support to the Indian currency, the outlook remains uncertain, and much depends on the resolution of key geopolitical and economic challenges.

Overall, while the rupee's small gain on Tuesday was a positive sign, the forex market's volatility suggests that further fluctuations could occur as investors continue to navigate global uncertainties.

2025 BYD Seal, Atto 3 Launched in India; Bookings Open



BYD has launched the 2025 models of the Seal electric sedan and the Atto 3 electric SUV in India, marking its first anniversary in the country. The new models come with several feature upgrades, while bookings have officially opened.

2025 BYD Seal: Key Updates

The BYD Seal electric sedan receives several enhancements, including:

New standard features: Power sunshade, upgraded AC system with enhanced purification, and silver-plated dimming canopy.

Connectivity: Wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

Suspension Upgrades: The Performance variant gets BYD's DiSus-C intelligent damping system, while the Premium variant comes with Frequency Selective Dampers for improved ride comfort.

Battery, Range, and Variants
Seal Dynamic – 61.44 kWh battery, 510 km ARAI range.

Seal Premium – 82.56 kWh battery, 650 km ARAI range.

Seal Performance – 82.56 kWh battery, 580 km ARAI range.

The pricing for the Seal sedan is yet to be announced.

2025 BYD Atto 3: Key Updates

The Atto 3 electric SUV gets a refreshed feature list, including:

All-black interior for a sportier look.

Ventilated front seats for improved comfort.

Upgraded low-voltage Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) battery, claimed to have five times better self-discharge control and a 15-year lifespan.

Battery, Range, and Variants

The Atto 3 is available in three variants:

Dynamic – 49.92 kWh battery, 468 km ARAI range.
Premium & Superior – 60.48 kWh battery, 580 km ARAI range.

Booking and Pricing

Bookings for both models are now open.

The BYD Seal requires a booking token of ₹1.25 lakh, with pricing yet to be revealed.

The Atto 3 will be offered at 2024 model prices for the first 3,000 customers, starting at ₹24.99 lakh (ex-showroom).

Would you consider these EVs for your next car purchase?

SAFF U19 Championship 2025 India Drawn With Nepal, Sri Lanka in Group B

India's Fixtures
May 9: India vs Sri Lanka
May 13: India vs Nepal
May 16: Semi-finals
May 18: Final

The draw for the SAFF U19 Championship 2025 was conducted on Tuesday in Kathmandu, placing defending champions India in Group B alongside Nepal and Sri Lanka. The tournament will be hosted at the Golden Jubilee Stadium in Yupia, Arunachal Pradesh, from May 9 to 18, 2025. Maldives, Bhutan, and Bangladesh have been placed in Group A. The competition format

sees the top two teams from each group advancing to the semi-finals on May 16, with the final set for May 18. The draw was based on the latest FIFA men's rankings as of December 2024.

India won the previous edition in 2023, defeating Pakistan 3-0 in the final held in Kathmandu. In 2024, the tournament was played at the U20 level, where India exited in the semi-finals after a penalty shootout loss to Bangladesh. This will be the fourth time India hosts a SAFF age-group competition, following previous tournaments in Bhubaneswar (U20 men, 2022), Jamshedpur (U18 women, 2022), and Kalyani (U15 men, 2019).



Lauki for Skin Health The Secret to Naturally Glowing and Hydrated Skin

THE POINT DESK

Lauki, or bottle gourd, is more than just a common kitchen ingredient—it's a powerhouse of skin-nourishing nutrients. With a high water content (92%) and rich reserves of vitamin C, zinc, iron, and antioxidants, lauki helps maintain clear, glowing skin. From fighting acne to preventing premature aging, this humble vegetable offers multiple skincare benefits.

How Lauki Boosts Skin Health

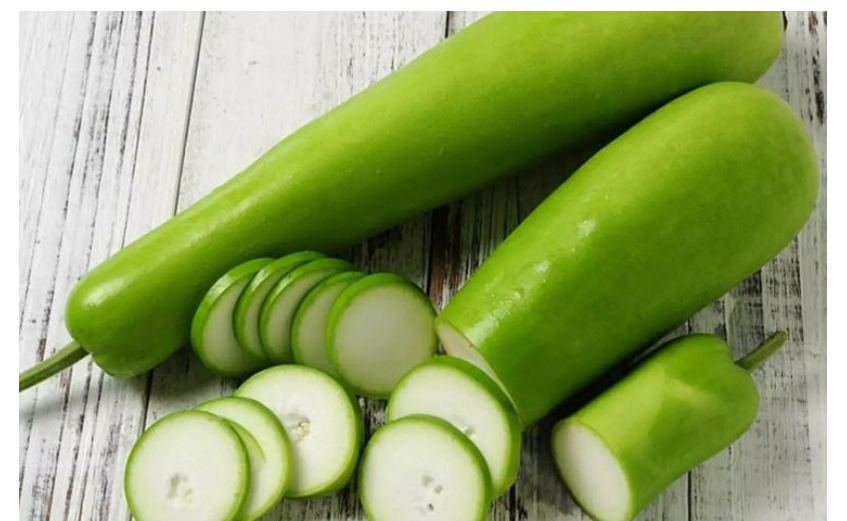
- **Deeply Hydrates** – Keeps skin soft and supple by maintaining hydration.
- **Promotes Natural Glow** – Rich in vitamin C, it boosts collagen and enhances

skin elasticity.

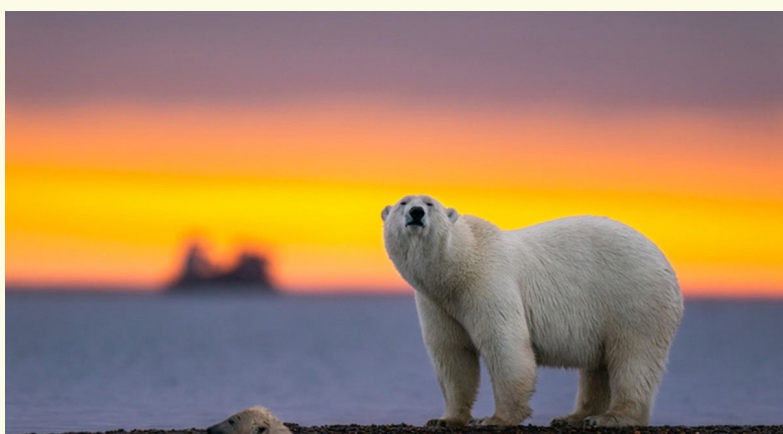
- **Fights Acne & Blemishes** – Its antibacterial properties control oil and prevent breakouts.
- **Detoxifies the Skin** – Flushes out toxins, reducing impurities and inflammation.
- **Reduces Skin Inflammation** – Soothes redness, puffiness, and sunburn.
- **Delays Premature Aging** – Packed with antioxidants that combat fine lines and wrinkles.
- **Evens Out Skin Tone** – Helps lighten dark spots and pigmentation.
- **Heals Sun Damage** – Repairs and

soothes tanned or sunburnt skin.

- **Prevents Dark Circles** – Hydrates and refreshes under-eye skin, reducing puffiness.
- **How to Use Lauki for Skincare**
- **Drink Fresh Lauki Juice** – Detoxifies and enhances skin clarity.
- **Include in Diet** – Add to curries, soups, or smoothies for long-term benefits.
- **Apply as a Face Mask** – Mix lauki juice with turmeric or aloe vera for a soothing skin treatment.
- **A natural skincare secret**, lauki can be your go-to solution for achieving youthful and radiant skin!



6 Places Where the Sun Never Sets



Imagine a world where the sun refuses to sleep, where midnight feels like midday, and night is just a concept. Welcome to the land of the midnight sun! In regions near the Arctic and Antarctic Circles, Earth's tilt keeps the sun visible for weeks or even months. If you've ever wanted to experience broad daylight at 2 AM, these destinations should be on your travel list.

1. Tromsø, Norway



From late May to late July, Tromsø enjoys uninterrupted daylight. Locals embrace the sun with late-night hikes, music festivals, and even midnight golf—because why sleep when the sun never sets?

2. Svalbard, Norway

Four months of continuous daylight? Yes, you read that right. From April to August, this Arctic archipelago basks in endless sunshine, making it perfect for glacier trekking and polar bear spotting.

3. Reykjavik, Iceland

Between mid-May and mid-July, Reykjavik experiences nearly 21 hours of daylight, with the sun merely hovering near the horizon. Celebrate with the Secret Solstice Festival or soak in a geothermal lagoon at midnight.

4. Yukon, Canada

In June and July, the Yukon basks in endless daylight. The Midnight Sun Baseball Game, played at 10:30 PM without artificial lights, is a must-see. Road-trippers can also drive through the

Arctic Circle under a never-ending sunset.

5. Finland

Lapland experiences up to 70 days of continuous daylight, known as "yötön yö" or "nightless night." Midnight marathons, sauna sessions, and lakeside parties make the most of this surreal phenomenon.

6. St. Petersburg, Russia

Though not fully sunlit 24/7, St. Petersburg's "White Nights" (late May to mid-July) keep the city glowing. The White Nights Festival transforms the city into a vibrant cultural hub with ballet, opera, concerts, and fireworks.

How Do People Sleep Here?

Locals rely on blackout curtains, sleep masks, and sheer exhaustion from taking full advantage of the endless daylight. Some stick to a routine, while others embrace the midnight sun lifestyle.

Would you visit one of these places to experience the magic of a sleepless sun?



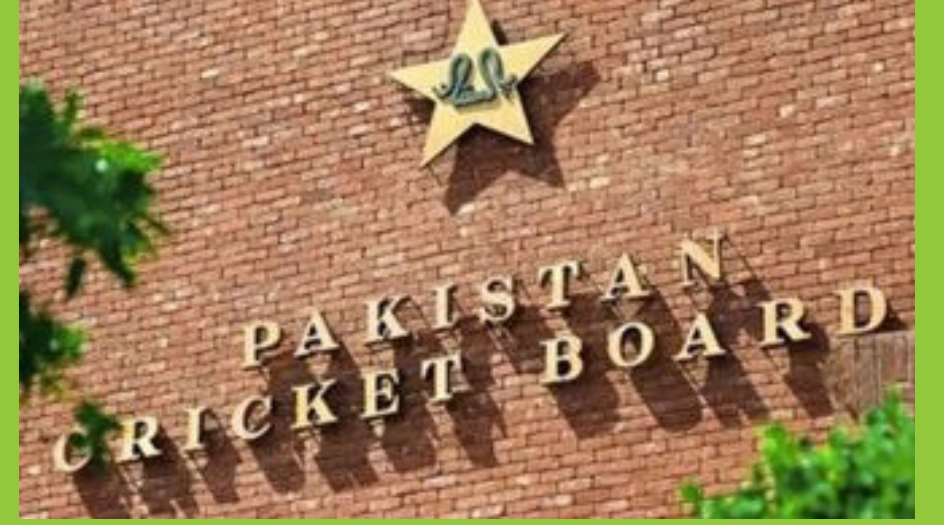
Rohit Sharma Joins Elite Captains' Club After CT Win



Indian skipper Rohit Sharma has etched his name alongside legendary captains after delivering a match-winning performance in the Champions Trophy final against New Zealand in Dubai. Rohit became only the fourth captain and the second Indian, after MS Dhoni, to win the Player of the Match award in an ICC tournament final. Joining an exclusive list featuring Clive Lloyd (1975), Ricky Ponting (2003), and Dhoni (2011), Rohit powered India's chase with a blistering 76 off 83 balls. His aggressive approach dismantled New Zealand's 251-run defense, ensuring India's four-wicket triumph at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

Despite wickets tumbling at the other end, Rohit anchored the innings with calculated aggression. His explosive start in the powerplay set the tone, and even after his dismissal, India remained in control. Speaking after the match, Rohit emphasized his consistent approach, saying, "I have not done anything different. I know how important it is to score runs in the powerplay because after 10 overs, it becomes difficult when the field spreads and spinners come into play." His fearless batting and leadership sealed India's dominance, adding another ICC trophy to his captaincy record.

PCB's Financial Struggles Exposed Amid Drastic Cost-Cutting



The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is facing serious financial concerns, as evidenced by a series of cost-cutting measures, including a drastic reduction in domestic match fees and downgraded player facilities. The upcoming National T20 Championship will see player match fees slashed from ₹100,000 to just ₹10,000 per match, with reserve players receiving ₹5,000. According to sources, PCB's domestic cricket head, Abdullah Khurram Niazi, has overseen multiple facility downgrades in recent months. Players who previously stayed in four and five-star hotels are now being accommodated in budget lodgings, and air travel privileges have been reduced. Additionally, outstanding payments from the previous season remain unpaid for players and umpires.

Despite these cuts, the PCB continues to pay hefty salaries to top officials, selectors, and mentors. Misbah ul Haq, Waqar Younis, Shoaib Malik, Sarfaraz Ahmed, and Saqlain Mushtaq—appointed as mentors—are reportedly receiving ₹5 million per month under two-year contracts. Meanwhile, the PCB has spent approximately ₹1.8 billion on stadium upgrades for the upcoming Champions Trophy. The financial strain has also affected former cricketers, with the board yet to implement the promised annual pension increase. The stark contrast between the PCB's cost-cutting for players and its lavish spending on officials has raised serious questions about its financial management.



Manchester United Plans 100,000-Seater Stadium

Manchester United has announced plans to build a new 100,000-capacity stadium near Old Trafford, with co-owner Jim Ratcliffe calling it the "world's greatest" football ground. The decision follows extensive consultations on whether to upgrade Old Trafford or construct a new venue as part of the Old Trafford Regeneration Task Force. The club estimates that the stadium, expected to cost around £2 billion (\$2.6 billion), will take approximately five years to complete. However, a start date has yet to be confirmed. The project, designed by renowned architects Foster + Partners, aims to transform the surrounding area and potentially contribute £7.3 billion per year to the UK economy while creat-

ing 92,000 jobs. "Our current stadium has served us brilliantly for 115 years, but it has fallen behind the best arenas in world sport," Ratcliffe said. "United is the world's biggest football club, and it deserves a stadium that reflects its stature." The move has received backing from legendary former manager Sir Alex Ferguson, who emphasized the need to "be brave and seize this opportunity to build a new home, fit for the future, where new history can be made." Old Trafford, England's largest club ground with a 74,000 capacity, has been United's home since 1910 but has faced increasing criticism over maintenance issues. The proposed

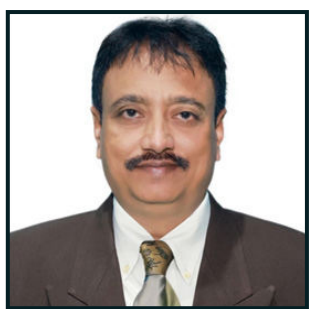
new stadium will feature an umbrella-like design covering a public plaza twice the size of Trafalgar Square and three towering masts known as "Trident," visible from 40 kilometers away. Concerns remain over funding, with United already burdened by nearly £1 billion in debt. CEO Omar Berrada stated that financing options are being explored, calling it a "very attractive investment opportunity." The Manchester United Supporters' Trust urged the club to involve fans throughout the process, questioning potential ticket price increases, impact on atmosphere, and whether the project would divert resources from squad investments.

52nd Senior National Carrom Championship in New Delhi

Top players to compete in national event from March 17-21

The All India Carrom Federation (AICF) is set to host the 52nd Senior National Carrom Championship (Men & Women) for 2024-25, from March 17 to 21, 2025, in New Delhi. The event, which will witness participation from top carrom players across the country, promises to be a grand affair, with a strong lineup of officials and umpires ensuring smooth conduct. Key Officials Overseeing the Championship The championship is being organized under the leadership of Mrs. Bharti Narayan, General Secretary of AICF, along with Mr. V. D. Narayan and Mr. Shahid Farooq, General Secretary and Secretary of the Delhi Carrom Association (DCA), respectively. International umpires Mr. Gurinder Singh and Mr. Kashi Ram will be officiating matches, while Mr. S. Shoban Raj, Convener of the Um-

pires Committee, will oversee umpiring responsibilities. Several other senior officials, including Mr. SK. Abdul Jaleel, Mr. J. Srinivasan, and Mr. M. P. Hemantha Kumar, will also play key roles in the tournament's management. The Championship Committee includes several prominent personalities, led by AICF President and Member of Parliament, Mr. Rakibul Hussain. Other notable members include: Mr. Girish Vyas - Patron, AICF Dr. Neeraj Kumar Sampathy - Senior Vice President, AICF Mr. B N Singh - Associate Vice President, AICF Mr. S. Madan Raj - Treasurer, AICF Mr. Prabhjeet Singh Bachher, Mr. Gurinder Singh, and Mr. Vijay Kumar - Vice Presidents, AICF Mr. Nazar Khan, Mr. Khursheed Khan, Mr.



Santhosh Kumar, Mr. Maneksh P.S., and Mr. Sooraj Khatri - Associate Vice Presidents, AICF Participation and Expectations The tournament will bring together top carrom players from across India, competing for national honors. With Delhi hosting the event, anticipation is high for a competitive championship that will showcase the best talent in the sport. The AICF's commitment to promoting carrom at the highest level is evident in the meticulous planning and the presence of experienced officials.

Satwik, Chirag and Lakshya Sen Drop Out of BWF Top 10

Indian badminton stars Satwik-Isairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty and Lakshya Sen have suffered a major setback, dropping out of the top 10 in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings. This marks the first time since November 2021 that the men's doubles duo has fallen outside the top 10, slipping five places to 12th. The decline follows a rough phase for Rankireddy and Shetty, who last played at the Badminton

Asia Team Mixed Championships in February. Their disappointing run at the 2024 Paris Olympics led to significant changes in their training setup, including parting ways with coach Mathias Boe. They are now under the mentorship of Tan Kim Her, the coach who originally paired them together. Despite the drop, they remain India's highest-ranked men's doubles pair. In men's singles, Lakshya Sen has also fallen in the rankings, slipping

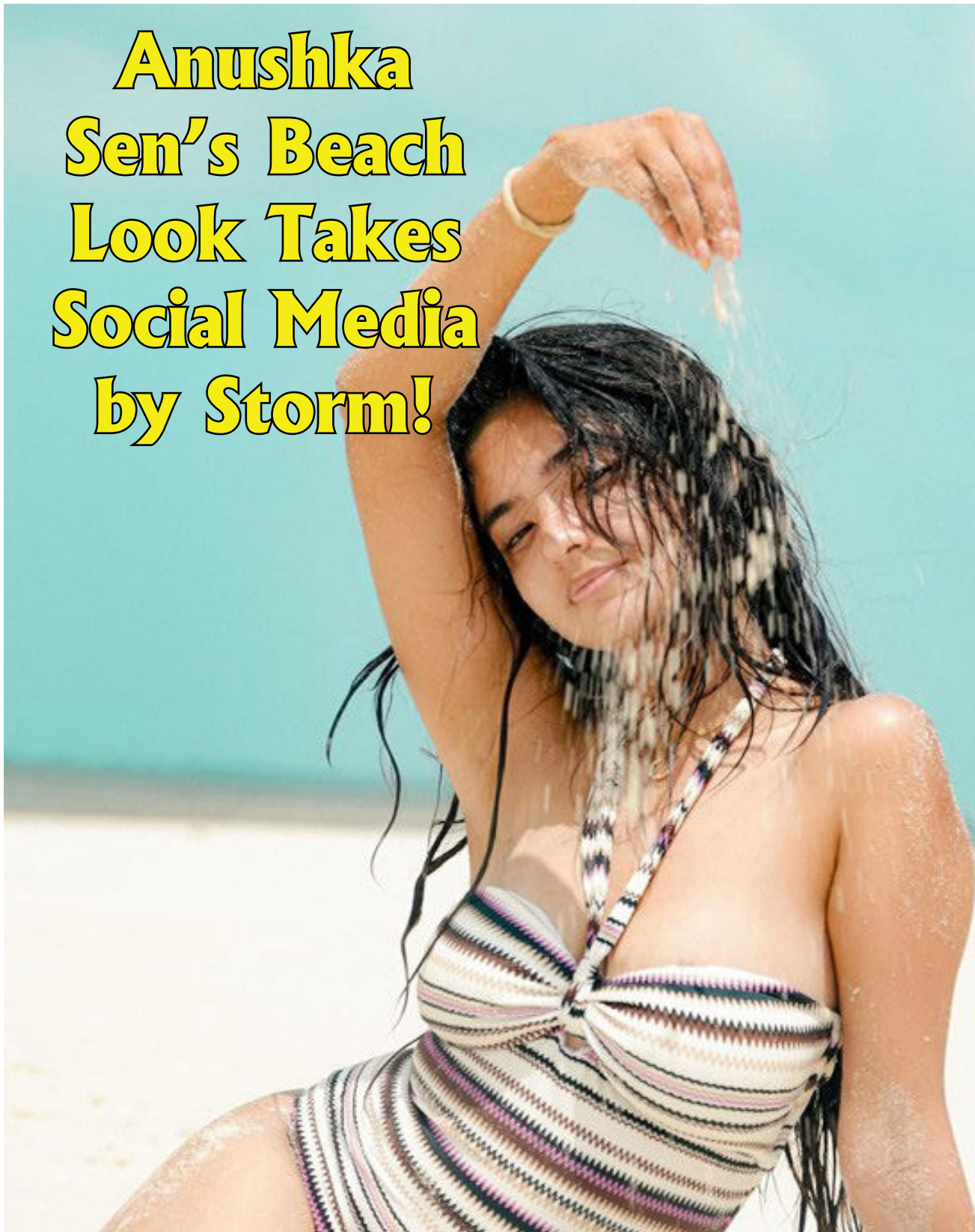
from 10th to 15th. His early exits at the Malaysia Open and India Open, along with a Round of 16 finish at the Indonesia Masters Super 500, have contributed to his decline. Meanwhile, PV Sindhu has dropped one place to 16th in women's singles but remains the only Indian shuttler in the top 20. In contrast, the women's doubles duo of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand continues to hold the ninth spot, keeping India's pres-

ence strong in the category. In mixed doubles, Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila reached a career-best ranking of 19th, making Crasto the first Indian female shuttler to break into the top 20 with three different partners across categories. Among emerging talents, Ayush Shetty climbed to a career-high 43rd after his semi-final run at the Orleans Masters, solidifying his position as India's fifth-highest-ranked men's singles player.





Anushka Sen's Beach Look Takes Social Media by Storm!



Bollywood sensation Anushka Sen, known for her vibrant screen presence, is once again in the spotlight. At just 22, she has carved a niche for herself in films, TV shows, web series, and music videos. With a massive fanbase of over 40 million followers on Instagram, every post of hers grabs instant attention.

Recently, Anushka's stunning beach look set the internet ablaze. The actress shared a series of breathtaking pictures from her beach getaway, exuding effortless charm and confidence. Dressed in a chic yet breezy outfit, she perfectly complemented the sun-kissed shores, leaving fans in

awe of her style.

Her post quickly went viral, with fans flooding the comments section with heart and fire emojis, praising her beauty and elegance. Known for her impeccable fashion sense, Anushka continues to be a trendsetter for Gen Z.

From television to digital platforms, Anushka Sen's journey has been nothing short of inspiring. Whether it's her acting prowess or her social media presence, she never fails to make headlines. With several exciting projects in the pipeline, the young starlet is all set to take her career to even greater heights.

Rajamouli Infuses Mythological Essence Into SSMB 29

Superstar Mahesh Babu's much-anticipated film with master storyteller SS Rajamouli, tentatively titled SSMB 29, has been creating a buzz ever since its announcement. Initially promoted as a high-stakes action-adventure set against a dense forest backdrop, new reports suggest the film carries a deeper narrative rooted in Indian history and mythology.

According to sources, SSMB 29 will unravel an intriguing storyline that originates in the ancient city of Kashi. The film is expected to weave together elements of divinity and history, setting the stage for an intense action saga that unfolds in the present era. Since filming in Kashi poses logistical challenges, the makers are recreating a grand set in Hyderabad to bring the historical elements to life.



These revelations have further heightened anticipation, with Rajamouli reportedly planning to deliver a visually spectacular cinematic experience. The film is set to be shot across breathtaking locations in India, Africa, and other international destinations, ensuring a global scale for its narrative. Currently, the team is shoot-

ing crucial sequences in Odisha. SSMB 29 boasts a stellar cast, with Priyanka Chopra and Prithviraj Sukumaran playing key roles alongside Mahesh Babu. The legendary MM Keeravani is composing the music, promising yet another memorable soundtrack for this ambitious project.

Vicky Kaushal's Chhaava Overtakes Gadar 2 Becomes 10th-Highest-Grossing Indian Film



Vicky Kaushal and Rashmika Mandanna's historical drama Chhaava continues its strong run at the box office, surpassing Gadar 2 to become the 10th-highest-grossing Indian film. Released on February 14, the film has maintained its momentum, collecting ₹6.25 crore on its 25th day across all languages, as per a report by Sacnilk. With this, Chhaava has amassed a total domestic collection of ₹526.05 crore, overtaking Gadar 2, which had a lifetime collection of ₹525.7

crore.

Following the film's entry into the ₹500 crore club, Vicky Kaushal took to Instagram to express his gratitude. Sharing a poster of the film, he wrote, "What you all have given to Chhaava goes much beyond numbers... you all have made this an emotion." He further thanked audiences for celebrating the legacy of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj and urged them to continue watching the film.

Directed by Laxman Utekar, Chhaava is adapted from

Shivaji Sawant's Marathi novel of the same name. Vicky Kaushal portrays Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, while Rashmika Mandanna plays Maharani Yesubai. The film also features Akshaye Khanna as Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, Diana Penty as Aurangzeb's daughter Shehzadi Zinat-un-Nissa Begum, and Ashutosh Rana as Sarsenapati Hambirao Mohite. The film is produced by Dinesh Vijan under Maddock Films.

Kim Soo Hyun Denies Dating Rumors With Late Actress Kim Sae-Ron

Sae-Ron



Kim Soo Hyun has found himself at the center of controversy following allegations about his alleged past relationship with the late actress Kim Sae-Ron. The rumors surfaced after Kim Sae-Ron's aunt made serious accusations in a video posted on the YouTube channel Garosero Research Institute. She claimed that Kim Soo Hyun had been in a six-year relationship with Kim Sae-Ron, which allegedly began when she was just 15. The aunt also accused the actor of distancing himself from her after her DUI incident in 2022 and alleged that his agency, Gold Medalist, played a role in her financial struggles, which she claimed contributed to her tragic passing last month.

In response, Gold Medalist strongly refuted these claims, calling them "baseless and malicious." In an official statement, the agency stated, "The claims made by Garosero Research Institute regarding Kim Soo Hyun on YouTube today are completely false. They alleged that our company and Kim Soo Hyun colluded with YouTuber Lee Jin Ho to ha-

arrass the late Kim Sae-Ron, that Kim Soo Hyun had been dating her since she was 15, that our agency's response to her drunk driving accident was unfair, and that our manager had a close relationship with YouTuber Lee Jin Ho." The agency further stated that they are reviewing legal action against Garosero Research Institute for spreading false information.

Expressing their sorrow over Kim Sae-Ron's passing, Gold Medalist added, "We are deeply heartbroken by the news of the late Kim

Sae-Ron's death, as she was once part of our company, and we mourn her passing. However, the dissemination of such false information directly continues the very same cyber harassment that caused her great distress during her lifetime." The agency also criticized Garosero Research Institute for spreading baseless rumors and condemned the false claims made by Kim Sae-Ron's aunt. They urged fans to refrain from spreading, amplifying, or reproducing false information.

Why Pooja Hegde Was the First Choice for Suriya's Retro

Pooja Hegde has made a name for herself in Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi cinema, working alongside some of the biggest stars. After her Bollywood debut with Hrithik Roshan in Mohenjo Daro, she is now gearing up for her next Tamil film, Retro, alongside Suriya.

Stone Bench Films, the production house behind Retro, recently

revealed why Pooja Hegde was their top choice for the female lead. They highlighted her dedication and willingness to dub in her own voice for the Tamil film, a first for her.

The team shared that when director Karthik Subbaraj was searching for the lead actress, several names were considered, but Pooja stood out. Even the

film's lead character, Pandiyaa, was convinced she was the perfect fit. The only concern was her fluency in Tamil. However, known for taking on challenges, Pooja assured the team that she would overcome the language barrier.

After an impressive look test, she started daily Tamil training and surprised everyone by delivering

lengthy monologue sequences effortlessly. The team also recalled fun moments on set where they tested her with difficult Tamil words.

Retro features Suriya and Pooja Hegde in lead roles, along with Joju George, Jayaram, and Karunakaran in key supporting roles. The film is set to release in theatres on May 1, 2025.

