



Miss World at Yadadri Temple

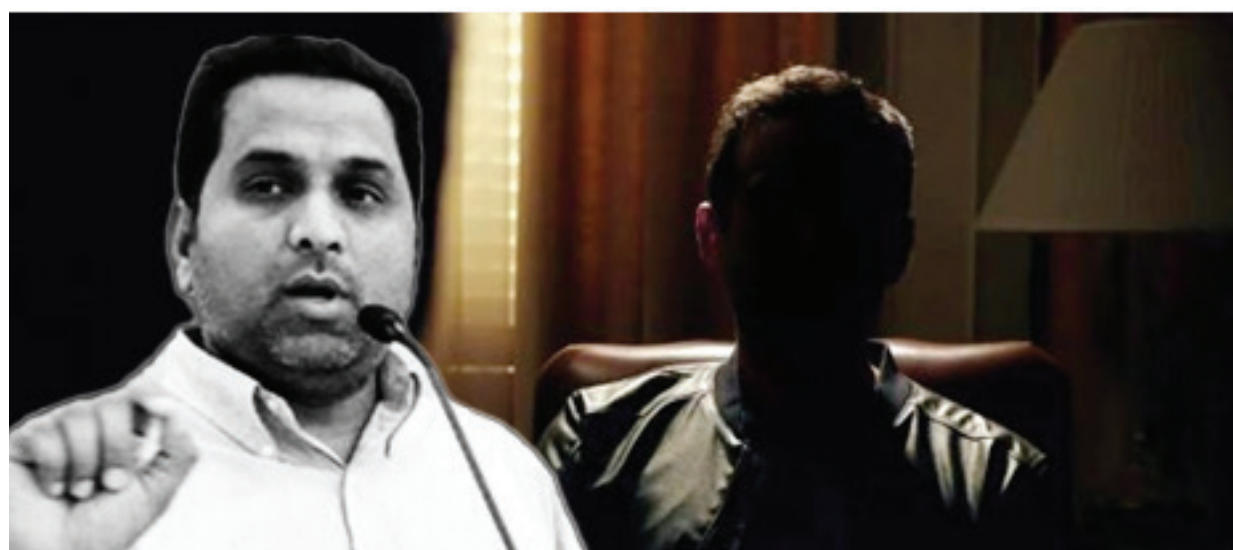
Miss World 2024 title winner Kristina Pizkova from the Czech Republic arrived in Telangana as part of her world tour. During her visit, she offered prayers at the renowned Yadagirigutta Lakshminarasimha Swamy temple in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. Draped in a saree that reflected Indian tradition, Pizkova performed special pujas and expressed admiration for the temple's architectural grandeur. She remarked that visiting Yadagirigutta brought her immense joy and a sense of spirituality, >> PAGE 2

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Yes. Not only a big hero, many big shots were cheated by Kasireddy Rajasekhar Reddy allegedly. In the case of land at Guttala Begumpet, on which the High Court has canceled the denotification issued by the then District Collector of Rangareddy, Mr. Amoykumar, all these big shots have lost their money believing Kasireddy. So, first, Kasireddy cheated YS Jaganmohan Reddy, promising him that he would double the money and took away more than Rs. 2000 crores. Then he tried to procure a disputed land, which was under High Court proceedings. The land, originally valued at thousands of crores, was bought for hundreds of crores by using the influence of Mrs. Kavitha, MLC, allegedly.

For the public, it's fortunate and unfortunate for Kasireddy, as the High Court of Telangana smelled the conspiracy behind the denotification of the land and canceled it. Before that, Mr. Kasireddy Rajasekhar Reddy tried to sell the land in parts. He offered many big shots the land at a cheaper price. Tempted by his offer, a big hero and many other big shots paid him the money. But before the reg-

A Big Hero Fallen For Kasireddy's Sketch



istrations could take place, the High Court threw brakes on Kasireddy's plan. However, Mr. Big Hero and other celebrities were shocked as they were unable to recover the money given to

Kasireddy. Since Mr. Kasireddy Rajasekhar Reddy was in the power circle at that time, he later escaped abroad and has not been available to them till now. The pity or fate is that all these

big shots seem to have paid him black money. That's why they are unable to come forward and proceed with legal action. The big shots and NRIs who suspected something fishy about the

land being offered at half the price and rejected the deal are now somewhat relieved.

In this case, many people worked for Kasireddy in influencing celebrities. Those who lobby with movie celebrities and big shots used their influence to make them invest money with Kasireddy for that land, allegedly. Now, the names of those people are coming out one by one. The celebrities who were cheated are revealing those names in their closed circles. They are trying to sort it out through known police officials and influential people in politics. But all their efforts have gone in vain. Mr. Kasireddy Rajasekhar Reddy seems to be very intelligent in cheating anybody, allegedly. He even managed Ex-

Chief Minister Mr. YS Jaganmohan Reddy.

After reading the story in True Point, many leaders of YSRC have also reacted, saying, "We have alerted Jagan, but he didn't listen to us and blindly believed Kasireddy." Recently, we have seen celebrities lose their money by investing in health apps and are now unable to recover it. The problem is that these big shots generate black money by avoiding tax payments, invest in such deals, and lose everything. A financial expert has suggested, "You better pay tax and invest whatever you have officially. Then you will not lose money, and moreover, you will be helpful to the people and the country through tax payment."



Telangana Cabinet to Approve Budget Tomorrow

- Cabinet to meet for budget approval.
- Vikramarka to present budget in Assembly.
- Focus on Congress guarantees implementation.
- Key announcements on employees, projects expected.

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana Cabinet is set to meet tomorrow, March 19, at 9:30 AM to approve the state budget for the year. The meeting will be followed by the presentation of the budget in the Legislative Assembly by Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister, B. Vikramarka, at 11:45 AM. This budget will mark the second one presented under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's gov-

ernment.

As the state eagerly anticipates the announcements, the focus will be on the implementation of the six guarantees made by the Congress party during the election campaign. The government's budget allocation for various welfare schemes is expected to draw significant attention, with people eagerly awaiting to see how much funding is allocated to each program.

In addition, >> PAGE 2

BJP Wrong Steps in Telangana

TPN | Kishore Katta

Hyderabad, Mar 19: The duo of Modi and Shah has long been celebrated for their political acumen and unyielding strategies. However, despite their victories in Maharashtra, Haryana, Delhi, and other states, the BJP has yet to secure its foothold in Telangana. While the party has achieved surprising successes across India, Telangana remains an elusive goal for the saffron party. Despite these hurdles, BJP has set its sights on capturing Telangana in the 2028 assembly elections.

Currently, the BJP rules in 21 states across India, with 15 states governed independently and 6 states under alliances. Their victory in Delhi, after a 27-year gap, highlights their electoral strength. Telangana, which has remained a stronghold for regional parties like TRS, is seen as the next battleground for the BJP.

The BJP's high command is focused on securing Telangana. As part of this effort, the leadership is deliberating on the choice of a new state president. Key contenders like Bandi Sanjay, Kishan Reddy, and Etala Rajender are vying for the role, but a division among party leaders has complicated the decision-making process. Etala

- ◆ BJP ruling in 21 states
- ◆ Forming governments on its own in 15 states
- ◆ Telangana, an unattainable target for BJP so far
- ◆ BJP's victory in Delhi after 27 years
- ◆ Plans to make a splash in Telangana by 2028
- ◆ Suspense continues over the choice of the president
- ◆ BJP has a chance in 2028 with BRS alliance

Rajender, in particular, faces opposition from senior leaders, such as Bandi Sanjay and Kishan Reddy, who argue that his support within the party is weak.

Furthermore, there are ongoing discussions regarding potential alliances with parties in neighboring Andhra Pradesh, including the TDP and Janasena. Some BJP leaders oppose these alliances, fearing that they might give leverage to the BRS party in Telangana. Despite this, there is speculation that such alliances could help the BJP in South Telangana, where it has struggled to make an impact.

In the absence of strong BJP leadership across various districts, it remains to be seen



whether the party can effectively expand its base in Telangana. However, if the BJP can maintain its strategy, secure

the presidency, and form strategic alliances, it could potentially make significant strides in the 2028 elections.

- SC Martyrs' Families to Receive Benefits
- SC Reservations to Be Increased
- Historic Decision for SC Categorization
- Government's Commitment to Dalit Upliftment
- One-Man Commission Formed for Categorization
- Indiramma Houses for Martyrs' Families



CM Revanth Reddy Announces Major Welfare Measures for SCs

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy made significant announcements regarding welfare measures for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the state. Speaking in the Assembly today, he confirmed that the government would prioritize the families of martyrs who lost their lives during the SC reservation struggle. These families would be provided with Indiramma houses,

and the Rajiv Youth Development Scheme would also prioritize them. Additionally, CM Revanth Reddy assured that the state government would increase SC reservations based on the 2026 census.

While addressing the Assembly regarding the SC categorization bill approval, CM Revanth highlighted the historic decision to address a long-standing issue. He expressed his commitment to the

upliftment of Dalits, mentioning the contributions of leaders like Damodaram Sanjeevayya, the first Dalit Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh, and Mallikarjun Kharge, the current President of the Indian National Congress, who was appointed to lead the party by the Congress. He praised the government's efforts in providing a permanent solution to this issue, which had been >> PAGE 2



KTR's Petition Undergoing Hearing in HC



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a significant development, the Telangana High Court is hearing a petition filed by K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), challenging the FIR registered against him at the Mahadevpur Police Station. KTR seeks the quashing of the case that was filed against him for allegedly flying a drone without permission over the Medigadda Barrage. The Public Prosecutor (PP) argued that the barrage is a restricted area and flying a drone over it could pose a security threat.

On the other hand, KTR's lawyer countered, stating that the state government had only

notified the Medigadda Barrage as a restricted zone and that there was no such notification from the central government. The lawyer further pointed out that, based on the issues raised in the petition, the case should only attract a fine, rather than criminal charges.

KTR's legal team also accused the police of altering the sections of the case for political reasons. They argued that the statements from the witnesses were consistent with each other, which strengthened their defense.

The High Court has reserved its judgment on the matter, and the final decision will be awaited soon.

Telangana's 'Future City' Vision Unveiled

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana Minister Sridhar Babu presented a detailed vision for the development of a new, world-class urban space called "Future City" during the Legislative Council session on Tuesday. The proposed city aims to position Hyderabad as a model metropolis, akin to Chandigarh in its planning and infrastructure. The Minister highlighted the state government's commitment to transforming Hyderabad into a global-standard city, with sustainable growth and modern infrastructure as its key objectives. The "Future City" will be located around Shamshabad Airport and the Outer Ring Road (ORR), an area already witnessing rapid urbanization. It will span 770 square kilometers, incorporating 56 revenue villages across seven mandals in the Rangareddy district. This vast area will be developed into a state-of-the-art city, designed



to meet global standards while ensuring high-quality living for its residents. To manage the development, the government has created a dedicated governing body, the "Future City Development Authority." The city will serve as an economic pillar for Telangana, contributing significantly to industrial growth, job creation, and the state's overall development.

Sridhar Babu emphasized that the "Future City" is not just about urban expansion but also about creating a sustainable and vibrant environment that fosters economic prosperity for the people of Telangana.

CM Revanth Announces ₹ 6000 Crore Aid for Congress Workers

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a significant announcement, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy stated that ₹6000 crore will be allocated to support Congress party workers. Speaking to the media, the CM revealed that under a self-employment scheme, workers who have been loyal to the party would receive financial assistance ranging from ₹4 lakh each. This initiative aims to empower workers economically and help them establish their own businesses.

The CM assured that this



financial aid will be disbursed within the next two months. The assistance will benefit

approximately 4,000 to 5,000 workers in each constituency. Revanth Reddy emphasized

that the Congress party is committed to ensuring the welfare of its grassroots workers, who have been pivotal in the party's activities and success.

This announcement is expected to boost the morale of Congress workers across Telangana, providing them with the resources to improve their livelihoods and contribute further to the party's mission.

The scheme is seen as a major step toward strengthening the party's presence at the grassroots level, especially ahead of the upcoming elections.

BJP MLAs Protest Against Congress Government

- BJP MLAs protest outside Assembly gates
- Accuse Congress of failing on promises
- Police detain Eleti Maheshwar Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana Assembly sessions saw heated protests outside the legislative assembly as BJP MLAs voiced their discontent against the Congress government. Led by BJP leader Eleti Maheshwar Reddy, the protest was sparked by allegations that the Congress government was attempting to prevent him from entering the Assembly. Along with Maheshwar Reddy, BJP MLAs Payal Shankar, Palwai Hareesh Babu, Dhanpal Suryanarayana Gupta, and Pawar Ramarao Patel participated in the protest, which saw them sitting in front of the Assembly gates.

The BJP leaders criticized the Congress government for failing to deliver on the six promises made to the public, accusing them of ignoring their electoral commitments. They expressed their discontent by highlighting that the Congress had made several promises, but none had been fulfilled. They claimed that the government's inability to act on these promises was a sign of its administrative failure.

Further intensifying the protest, the BJP leaders claimed that the Congress government was attempting to stop Maheshwar Reddy from attending the Assembly to avoid public scrutiny. According to the BJP,



this was an effort by the Congress to silence their opposition, fearing backlash. Eleti Maheshwar Reddy spoke out against the Congress government, accusing them of trying to suppress voices that stood for the people's rights.

In a dramatic turn of events, the police detained Maheshwar Reddy while he was en route to the Assembly. Despite the po-

lice action, Reddy and his colleagues made it clear that their fight was for the people, and they would continue to press the Congress government until the promises made to the public were honored. The BJP leaders also stressed that they would keep exposing the failures of the Congress government, regardless of the challenges they faced.

Telangana Minister Thanks AP CM for TTD Approval

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana Endowments Minister Konda Surekha has expressed her heartfelt gratitude to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for approving the acceptance of recommendation letters from Telangana legislators at the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), effective from March 24.

This positive outcome came after Surekha raised concerns over the delay in accepting recommendation letters from Telangana's public representatives in a letter to the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister. Following her request, TTD decided to resume accepting these letters,



allowing Telangana legislators to make recommendations for the temple services at Tirumala.

Minister Surekha also thanked Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kaly-

an, TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu, Executive Officer Shyamala Rao, Additional Executive Officer Venkaiah Chowdary, and other officials for their cooperation and support. She specifically acknowledged the contri-

butions of Ganesh Kumar, the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to TTD from Telangana, for his efforts in facilitating this matter.

This development marks a positive step toward enhancing cooperation between the two states, ensuring that Telangana's public representatives can effectively contribute to the temple management at the famous Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams.

Minister Surekha's initiative and the subsequent response from the Andhra Pradesh government reflect a strong commitment to addressing the concerns of Telangana's leaders while fostering better relations between the neighboring states.

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CM Revanth Reddy Announces Major Welfare Measures for SCs

pending for years. The Chief Minister further explained the steps taken by the government, including the formation of a one-man commission and consulting legal experts to ensure fair categorization and reservation distribution. He emphasized the government's firm stance on providing Indiramma houses to the families of those who sacrificed their lives in the SC categorization struggle.

In conclusion, CM Revanth assured the Assembly that once the 2026 census is complete, SC reservations would be enhanced based on the data, and the government would ensure fair and transparent implementation of these measures.

Miss World at Yadadri Temple

adding that the experience gave her peace of mind.

Telangana is set to host the 72nd edition of the Miss World pageant from May 7 to 31 this year, with young women from over 120 countries, including India, participating. The event's opening, closing ceremonies, and grand finale will be held in Hyderabad, making it a significant international occasion for the state.

Telangana Cabinet to Approve Budget Tomorrow

the budget presentation is likely to include important decisions concerning government employees, including their pay and allowances, as well as updates on major ongoing projects across the state. This could be a crucial moment for the government as it seeks to fulfill the promises made to the public during the elections and ensure progress on various developmental fronts.

The cabinet meeting and budget approval are key events in Telangana's political landscape, with several significant announcements expected to follow during the session.

SC/ST Atrocity Case Against BRS MLA Sudheer Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A case under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act has been registered against LB Nagar BRS MLA Sudheer Reddy. Hastinapuram Corporator Banothu Sujatha lodged a complaint, alleging that the MLA had made caste-based derogatory remarks against her. Following the complaint, the police registered a case and initiated an investigation.

The dispute began over protocol issues in the LB Nagar constituency. While MLA Sudheer Reddy had earlier laid the foundation stone for multiple development projects, BJP Corporator Koppula Narasimha Reddy performed another foundation stone-laying cere-

mony for the same works on Monday, sparking a political clash.

BRS activists protested, questioning how the foundation stone could be laid again. Police intervened to pacify both sides. However, tensions flared when another foundation stone was laid elsewhere, leading to protests from BRS leaders. Several party activists were detained and taken to Abdullapurmet police station. Upon learning about the arrests, MLA Sudheer Reddy reached the station and secured their release.

The situation escalated further when Sudheer Reddy confronted the police over alleged mistreatment of the detained activists. He later visited the DCP office to discuss the matter



with higher officials before addressing the media. During his remarks, he accused Congress leader Madhuyashki Goud of orchestrating the attacks and also mentioned Corporator Sujatha's name, which fueled the controversy further.

Following his comments,

Sujatha expressed outrage, leading to protests from her supporters. Subsequently, she filed a complaint, prompting the police to book a case against Sudheer Reddy under the SC/ST Atrocities Act. Investigations into the matter are currently underway.



Harish Rao Criticizes Government for Avoiding Questions in Assembly



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Former Minister Harish Rao expressed strong criticism of the current government for avoiding key questions in the

Legislative Assembly. Speaking in the Assembly lobby, he accused the government of deliberately canceling the Question Hour to avoid answering difficult questions. He pointed out that despite having crucial matters to address, including issues related to HMDA land mortgages and the state's mounting debts, the government chose to dismiss the Question Hour. Harish Rao highlighted the state's growing debt, with the government set to raise ₹50,000 crores by mortgaging assets like HMDA, GHMC,

and HMWS properties. He also criticized the government's failure to purchase adequate amounts of paddy, claiming that only 52 lakh metric tons of rice had been purchased, as opposed to the 70 lakh metric tons during Congress rule. Rao stated that several farmers were suffering due to the lack of proper support and timely crop procurement centers, which had resulted in their losses. Furthermore, he raised concerns over the government's neglect of the 'Raitu Bhro-

sa' scheme, with farmers in districts like Warangal and Mahabubnagar losing crops to insufficient irrigation. He accused the government of not taking responsibility for these issues and demanded that the Speaker protect the rights of the members in the House.

Rao concluded by stating that the government was avoiding the essential accountability that the Assembly and the people of Telangana deserved, particularly when it came to the issues of farmers and public welfare.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Proposes Bills for Increased Reservations in Telangana



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, addressing the Legislative Council, proposed two significant bills to increase reservations in political and job opportunities. These bills aim to enhance the representation of backward classes in Telangana by raising reservations to 42%. He highlighted that these initiatives were part of the vision expressed during the Telangana movement, where promises were made to ensure justice for backward classes and minorities once the state was formed.

Prabhakar recalled how, during the movement, leaders like Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi emphasized the importance of caste enumeration and strengthening backward classes. The Minister further noted that the previous government attempted similar proposals in 2017 but faced legal hurdles. However, he expressed optimism that the current bills, backed by a thorough survey and the support of the BRS, BJP, CPI, and MIM, would be successful.

The bill aims to bring Telangana closer to Tamil Nadu, which has implemented a 68% reservation under constitutional amendment 76. Prabhakar stressed the importance of a united effort to pass this bill in the Parliament, seeking support from all political parties. He emphasized that the bills would provide a historic opportunity to uplift the weaker sections of society, ensuring their rightful place in the state's development.

MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha's Key Remarks on BC Reservations Bill

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In her speech, MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha criticized the Congress party for its double standards regarding BC reservations. She accused Congress of causing injustice to BC communities in India, pointing out that important reports like the Kalelkar Committee and BP Mandal Commission were ignored by Congress governments for years. She highlighted that even former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi spoke against BC reservations, which reflected the party's indifference towards the BC community's welfare.



Kavitha raised concerns about the lack of transparency regarding the 42% BC reservations promised by Congress, questioning the basis of their calculations.

She pointed out the failure to disclose the BC population details categorized by castes and villages, which is critical for accurate implementation. Kavitha also criticized

the Telangana government for not revealing the Dedicated Commission's report on BC reservations and the low allocation of funds, despite promising Rs 20,000 crore annually for BC welfare.

She stressed the importance of providing opportunities for BCs, SCs, STs, and women, asserting that the country would surpass the US in development if reservations were properly implemented. Kavitha called for efforts to reduce economic disparities among BCs, urging both central and state governments to empower them financially and provide equal opportunities.

Congress Criticizes BRS over Singareni Crisis and Worker Welfare

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Congress has sharply criticized the BRS government over the ongoing crisis in Singareni Collieries, accusing the party of failing workers and jeopardizing their future. According to Congress, BRS leaders have no moral right to discuss Singareni due to corruption and malpractices in coal mining areas that led to workers completely rejecting the party. They highlighted that no new coal mines have been opened under BRS rule, and several existing ones have been shut down.



Congress pointed out that BRS MPs supported the MMDR Act in 2015, and now they are misleading the public with false propaganda. The party accused the BRS government of pushing the Singareni workers' future into danger by not opening new coal blocks and pushing privatization. They also criticized

BRS for failing to address workers' welfare, including bonuses, pensions, and safety measures. Congress reiterated its commitment to worker welfare, asserting that it will work to strengthen Singareni and protect workers' rights. The party condemned BRS's inaction and vowed to implement measures for the benefit of workers. Congress also urged the public and workers to reject BRS's deceptive politics and support the government's efforts for real development and worker rights protection.

Congress Party's Commitment to Dalit Welfare: Dr. Balmoori Venkat

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana MLC Dr. Balmoori Venkat hailed the Congress party's long-standing support for Dalits, stating that from the Indiramma era to Rahul Gandhi's leadership today, the Congress has consistently stood by the Dalit community. He expressed his satisfaction with the Telangana government's key step in addressing the long-standing issue of SC reservation categorization,

a problem that has plagued the community for decades. Dr. Venkat praised the Telangana government's proactive approach in taking initiative on the SC categorization issue, especially with the Supreme Court's ruling, which paved the way for the bill's introduction in the state assembly.

He highlighted the numerous sacrifices and struggles made by young people for the Telangana movement, as well as the ongoing ef-

orts for SC categorization, which began because many SC groups did not receive adequate reservations corresponding to their population. The Congress party's commitment to ensuring justice for all was emphasized, with Dr. Venkat pointing out that significant advancements for Dalit welfare, including the approval of the SC categorization bill, have occurred only under Congress governance. He also reflected on the historic achievement of

Congress electing the country's first Dalit Chief Minister, Damodaram Sanjeevayya, in 1960.

He concluded by reaffirming Congress's dedication to improving the lives of Dalits, citing various milestones including the elevation of Meira Kumar as the Lok Sabha Speaker and the introduction of Sub-Plan for Dalit development. The party's focus on social justice remains unwavering, Dr. Venkat stated.

Chamal MP Highlights Telangana's Leadership in BC Reservation and Progress



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

MP Chamal lauded Telangana Chief Minister K. Revanth Reddy for his dedication to the welfare of backward classes (BCs) and his role in introducing a historic 42% BC reservation bill in the Assembly. He emphasized that Telangana is the first state in India to conduct caste-based enumeration, setting a precedent in the country. The MP praised the Telangana government's commitment, noting that it is not just about promises but also about taking action to fulfill them.

He also criticized the Maharashtra government for focusing on irrelevant issues like criminal raids and neglecting development, contrasting it with Telangana's focused efforts to improve its economy. Chamal highlighted that the Telangana government, despite financial challenges, has been proactive in meeting central ministers multiple times to improve the state's economic conditions. Furthermore, Chamal urged the eight BJP MPs from Telangana to push for the passage of the 42% BC reservation bill in Parliament, following its approval in the Assembly. He called for the implementation of similar BC, SC, ST, and other welfare plans across the nation, stressing that Congress is committed to supporting the marginalized communities for their growth and development.

Uttam Kumar Reddy's on SC Categorization in Assembly

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Minister and SC Categorization Cabinet Sub-Committee Chairman, Uttam Kumar Reddy, addressed the Assembly today, marking a historic moment. He emphasized that for decades, there was no progress on the issue of SC categorization in both united Andhra Pradesh and in the newly formed Telangana state, despite widespread support

from various sections of society. However, under the leadership of CM Revanth Reddy, the Congress government has successfully implemented SC categorization with sincerity. Uttam Kumar Reddy expressed that he considered it a privilege to be a part of this historic decision, a process that he has supported since his time as an MLA. He recalled that in every legislative session

and Parliament, all political parties discussed the need for SC categorization. But today, the Congress government is credited with passing the SC Categorization Act with a concrete plan in place. Uttam Kumar Reddy concluded by stressing that the Congress government has always been committed to SC categorization and highlighted this achievement as a significant milestone for the party.





Russian Delegates Show Interest in Investing in Telangana



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana's Minister for IT and Industries, Sridhar Babu, expressed gratitude to Russian government representatives for their interest in investing in the state, offering full support for their initiatives. During a courtesy meeting at the Assembly on Tuesday, the minister outlined the state's industrial development strategies and incentives for entrepreneurs. Minister Sridhar Babu emphasized Telangana's goal of becoming the Global Capital of AI, mentioning the development of a 200-acre AI City. He encouraged Russian companies to invest in this ambitious project. He also highlighted the Young India Skills University, which aims to train experts in AI and emerging technologies. The minister proudly pointed out that Telangana is home to many global companies, including Hyderabad, which has become a hub for Global Capability Centers (GCCs) and vaccine production, with Amgen's second-largest GCC established in the city. He also noted the role of institutions like T-Hub and T-Works in fostering innovation. Minister Sridhar Babu further expressed the state's interest in collaborating with Russia in IT, innovation, and emerging technologies, while also looking to adopt Russia's best practices for improving public service delivery. The meeting was attended by key Russian officials, including Lidmila Ogorodova, Dmitry Starostin, Ramil Khismatullin, and Vera Pronchina.

Telangana High Court Imposes ₹1 Crore Fine

1. Telangana High Court fines petitioner ₹1 crore.
2. Petitioner misled court with multiple petitions.
3. Fine imposed for trying to bypass proceedings.
4. Case involved illegal government land occupation.

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a landmark ruling, the Telangana High Court imposed a massive ₹1 crore fine on a petitioner who attempted to mislead the court by filing multiple petitions in different benches, intentionally hiding the pendency of the case. Justice Nagesh Bhimapak delivered the judgment, which has caused a stir in the legal community. The case revolved around attempts to illegally occupy government land. The petitioner, while having an ongoing case related to government land in the High Court, filed petitions before a different bench without disclosing the pendency of the case. The High Court considered this act an attempt to mislead the court and waste its time. Justice Bhimapak expressed serious con-



cerns about the petitioner's actions, criticizing their attempt to bypass the ongoing legal proceedings by seeking relief from another bench. He pointed out that this

was an unethical attempt to misdirect the judicial process. The judge questioned why a petition was filed in another court while the same issue was being examined by the High Court, which led to severe reprimanding of the petitioner. As a result, the court imposed a fine of ₹1 crore on the petitioner for filing false petitions and attempting to manipulate the judicial system. This decision has set a strong precedent, sending a clear message that any attempts to manipulate the legal process will not be tolerated. The ruling has drawn widespread attention as it reinforces the integrity of the judicial system and serves as a warning to those who try to abuse the process.

Liquor Prices to Rise Again

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Liquor prices in Telangana are set to increase once again, as liquor traders have reportedly reached a decision to hike prices across various categories. Sources indicate that discussions took place among liquor syndicates, and they are preparing to meet with government officials for approval. Following this, the government is expected to stamp the price increase after the budget sessions of the Assembly. The price hike will apply to various liquor categories, includ-

ing cheap, medium, premium, and imported liquors, with an estimated increase of 18%. The Telangana government is also planning to finalize contracts with distilleries, distributors, and suppliers shortly after the price hike. Reports suggest that beer prices will also be reviewed, with the possibility of a further ₹10 increase per beer. In a separate development, Telangana will introduce 37 new liquor brands, including 15 foreign brands and 15 domestic ones, into the market. The Excise Department has already initiated the process for new



suppliers, with a notification released last month. The department will carefully examine these applications before making any agreements, considering factors such as pricing and track records. With the expected price in-

creases, it is anticipated that the government will increase liquor revenue, which has been estimated to reach ₹30,000 crores in the upcoming budget. However, the final decision will depend on budget forecasts and market conditions.

Congress Fails to Fulfill Promises, Says Opposition Leader

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In the Legislative Council, Madhusudhana Chari, the leader of the opposition, criticized the Congress party for failing to fulfill its promises made during the election campaign. He stated that the party's tendency to backtrack and break promises is its inherent nature. According to Chari, the Congress party has misled students and various sections of society, including promising scooters for students pursuing degrees and higher education, which has not been delivered. Chari emphasized that the Congress party had admitted its inability to fulfill its promises during the Station Ghanpur meeting, and they should now review the promises made. He compared this with the BRS government, led by KCR, which not only delivers on its promises but also addresses issues effectively. He warned that if Congress does not implement their promises soon, they risk fac-



ing public anger. MLC Kavitha, in her statement, pointed out that the Congress party, after 15 months in power, is now failing to deliver on their commitments. She criticized their lack of action on promises

such as providing scooters for girls and highlighted the financial mismanagement of the government with a debt of ₹1.5 lakh crore. She urged the government to fulfill their commitments to students and women without delay.

Journalists Revathi, Tanvi Yadav Released on Bail from Chanchalguda Jail

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Journalists Revathi and Tanvi Yadav, who were remanded in Chanchalguda Jail, have been released on bail. Speaking to the media after their release, they criticized the government's actions, claiming that false cases were filed against them for criticizing the government, leading to their unlawful detention. They expressed gratitude for the support extended to them by political parties beyond party lines and thanked their fellow journalists for their unwavering support. Chanchalguda Jail has recently been at the center of several con-

troversies. A few months ago, there was an issue regarding actor Allu Arjun's release from jail, where jail authorities showed negligence in processing the release papers. Although Allu Arjun was granted bail, the release process was delayed, causing him to spend an extra night in jail. These incidents have raised questions about the management of Chanchalguda Jail. There are growing demands for the state government and jail authorities to conduct a thorough investigation and hold those responsible accountable for their actions.



ED Investigates Promoters of Betting Apps in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has launched an investigation into individuals promoting online betting applications in Hyderabad. This action follows the registration of cases by local police concerning the promotion of betting apps through social media platforms. The ED is scrutinizing financial transactions associated with these promotions, suspecting possible money laundering and hawala dealings. Officials are examining the earnings of 11 YouTubers linked to these activities.



In a notable development, local YouTuber 'Local Boi Nani' was arrested for promoting betting apps for personal gain, misleading youth into participating in online betting. This has raised concerns about the influence of social media influencers on

young audiences. The ED's investigation is part of a broader effort to curb illegal betting activities, which have led to financial losses and, tragically, instances of suicide among youths. Authorities are warning influencers against promoting

such apps, emphasizing strict legal action against violators. This probe underscores the government's commitment to addressing the challenges posed by online betting and ensuring the safety and well-being of the public, especially the youth.

Celebrations at MLC Kavitha's Residence: A Victory for BC Reservation

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

At the residence of Telangana Jagruti President and BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha, celebrations erupted following the introduction of two separate bills by the Congress government to increase reservations for BCs in politics, education, and employment. United Phule Front Co-convenor Bolla Shankar hailed Kavitha's relentless efforts, which led to the government's response to the long-standing demand for enhanced reservations for BCs. According to Shiva Shankar, despite the BCs' relatively smaller numbers, it was the pressure from BC associations, Phule Front, and organizations like Telangana Jagruti that pushed the government to implement the necessary changes. He congratulated the government for introducing the two bills and expressed hopes that this would lead to comprehensive action

on BC reservations.

During the celebration, the leaders and activists applauded the efforts made by Kavitha and the government but emphasized that the state should continue pressing the central government until these reservations are fully implemented. Several key figures, including RV Mahendra, Gopa Sadanandam, Kottala Yadgiri, Hamali Sreenu, Vijender Sagar, Elchala Dattatreya, and others, participated in the event, showing strong support for the BC community's rights and the ongoing fight for reservation benefits.



Jagadish Reddy Defies Suspension, Vows to Fight for Farmers' Rights

1. Jagadish Reddy defies Assembly suspension.
2. Farmers' rights and water issues highlighted.
3. Reddy inspects drought-hit fields, villages.

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Former Minister and BRS MLA Jagadish Reddy, who was suspended from the Assembly during the ongoing Budget session, continues to voice his concerns for the farmers in his constituency. He is currently inspecting the drought-hit fields in the Penpahad Mandal of Suryapet district, including the villages of Dubbathanda, Megyamethanda, and Dharmapuram, where crops under the SRSP irrigation system have withered due to water shortages. Speaking to the media during his visit, Reddy expressed his defiance after his suspension from

the Assembly, stating, "Even if I am suspended from speaking in the Assembly, my voice will continue to be heard among the people. I have no concerns about the suspension. The government has failed to address the issues of farmers. The Chief Minister's threats to suppress those who speak the truth will soon be challenged. Days are near when those who harm the farmers will face consequences." Reddy's remarks reflect his frustration with the current government's inability to address the needs of the agricultural community, particularly in times of



crisis. He emphasized that while the government has failed to provide essential irrigation, he would not back down from fighting for farmers' rights and demanding that the SRSP project be used to ensure proper water supply.

The suspension did not stop him from reaching out to his supporters and advocating for the farmers' cause, positioning him as a voice of dissent against what he describes as an "insensitive government."



Right-Wing Group Attacks Minority Government Official in Bhainsa

TPN Correspondent | Nirmal

In a disturbing incident on March 17, Abdul Wakeel, a government official in Telangana's Nirmal district, was attacked by cow vigilantes while carrying official documents wrapped in saffron cloth. The attack took place in Bhainsa town, where Wakeel, an employee of the Mandal Revenue Office (MRO) in Tanoor, was ambushed by members of the Hindu Vahini, a right-wing group.

According to Bhainsa Inspector Mallesh, Wakeel was assaulted by seven individuals, and four of them—Raju, Prakash, Sai, and Polishetty—have been arrested. They were charged with attempted murder, criminal conspiracy, and promoting disharmony between communities, among other offenses. The accused have been remanded in judicial custody, and three other suspects are still at large.

Bhainsa has long been a hotspot for communal tension. Previous incidents include violent clashes in 2021, where disputes between two communities escalated into stone-pelting, arson, and property destruction. Similar violent confrontations took place in 2020 and 2018, further straining community relations and challenging law enforcement. The attack on Abdul Wakeel has raised concerns about the rising influence of right-wing groups in the region and the increasing incidents of communal violence in Bhainsa, underlining the need for stronger measures to restore peace and ensure the safety of minorities.

Telangana Government Accelerates Devadula Project



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
The Telangana government is fully committed to completing phases 1, 2, and 3 of the Devadula project,

stated State Minister for Irrigation and Water Resources, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy. Speaking at the inauguration of the new pump house

motors in the Devannapeta area of Hanumakonda district, Minister Reddy emphasized that the government is working to expedite the pump house switch-on process to ensure timely water supply to farmers.

The new pump house, part of Phase 3 of the Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme, was inaugurated by Minister Reddy along with Revenue Minister P. Srinivas Reddy. They inspected the pump motors and reviewed the progress of all three phases of the project. Minister Reddy explained that the state government has focused on speeding up the switch-on process, initially planned for Wednesday, to ensure water reaches critical areas like Station Ghanpur, Palakurthi, Janagaon, and parts of Wardhan-

napet constituency. Addressing the media, Reddy shared that the government is in discussions with the central government for necessary funds and has resolved previous documentation issues. He also pointed out that the project had been delayed in previous administrations. Minister Srinivas Reddy stressed that the Devadula project, initiated by the late Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy in 2004, is now being prioritized to provide timely irrigation and drinking water to the region's farmers.

Local officials, including the Mayor of Warangal, Gundu Sudharani, and other leaders, attended the event and expressed gratitude for the government's swift actions to aid farmers.

Mahesh Babu Saves 4,500 Children's Lives with Heart Surgeries

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Tollywood superstar Mahesh Babu has always been known for his philanthropic efforts, often staying out of the limelight when it comes to charity work. However, his remarkable contributions to saving children's lives have recently come to the forefront. Mahesh Babu has been instrumental in saving the lives of over 4,500 children by sponsoring free heart surgeries.

According to the management of Andhra Hospitals, Mahesh Babu's charitable initiative has helped provide life-saving surgeries for more than 4,500 children, enabling them to lead healthy lives. His efforts are not just limited to financial support; Mahesh Babu has also been actively involved in ensuring that these children receive the best medical care, contributing immensely to their well-being.

The news of Mahesh Babu's generosity has gone viral on social media, with fans and the general public praising him for his immense kindness. His contributions to society go beyond his career as an actor, as he continues to use his fame and fortune to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.

In addition to his philanthropic work in healthcare, Mahesh Babu has been actively involved in various other charitable causes, focusing on education, child welfare, and supporting underprivileged communities. His golden heart has made him a beloved figure, not only in the film industry but also in the hearts of millions of people across the country.



Real Estate Sector in Greater Hyderabad Faces Stagnation Due to Government Policies



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The real estate sector in Greater Hyderabad has experienced a significant downturn, with a sharp decline in construction permits, as revealed by GHMC (Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation) records. Over the past 15 months, the sector has been facing stagnation, attributed largely to the flaws in government policies, according to realtors and builders.

In previous years, during the BRS government's tenure, the real estate sector thrived, generating record revenues for the GHMC's Town Planning department. For instance, the revenue in FY 2021-22 was Rs. 1,144.08 crores, followed by Rs. 1,454.76 crores in 2022-23, and Rs. 1,107.65 crores in FY 2023-24. However, this year, the revenue has dropped significantly, reaching only Rs. 900 crores so far. Initially, the department had projected Rs. 1,595.56 crores in revenue for this fiscal year, but later revised the forecast to Rs. 1,050 crores due to the underperformance of large constructions and the reluctance of realtors.

In 2023, the number of construction permits issued drastically fell to 14,043, compared to 39,869 permits in 2022. The situation seems to be continuing in 2024. Authorities expect a slight recovery next year, with an estimated revenue of Rs. 1,201.15 crores, but the decline in the construction sector remains a concerning issue.

Bill Collectors Protest Over Excessive Tax Collection Targets in Khammam

TPN Correspondent | Khammam

Bill collectors in Khammam have raised their voices against the mounting pressure to meet excessive tax collection targets set by authorities. According to the protesters, bill collectors in the Khammam Municipal Corporation area are being forced to collect a target of one lakh rupees daily. The



collectors have expressed frustration, stating that if they fail to meet these targets, they are issued show-cause notices and their salaries are being deducted as a penalty. The bill collectors have voiced their concerns over the unreasonable

demands, stating that they are being asked to collect more taxes than they can handle. They argue that these actions are unfair, especially towards lower-level employees who are being intimidated and pressured into meeting such high targets.

In response to the protests, the Assistant Commissioner assured the bill collectors that their

demands would be taken into consideration. He promised to address the issues in a meeting with the Municipal Commissioner and resolve the matter. The bill collectors are hopeful that the situation will improve and their grievances will be addressed in a timely manner, bringing an end to the undue pressure they are facing.





RSS @ 100: An Unstoppable Journey – Part I

Over the span of a century, many political parties and organizations have emerged and faded away, yet the RSS has continually grown, a phenomenon made possible by genuine public acceptance and aspiration.

As the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) approaches its centenary celebrations, my wishes to feature this unique National organization's formation, ideals, and goals in a three-part series. The RSS's contribution to the nation is immeasurable—an indisputable fact. This series aims to address apprehensions among some sections regarding its entrenched controversies.

A century ago, a small stream in a lesser-known area of Nagpur, Maharashtra, grew into a powerful river the RSS reaching every corner of our nation. The rise in Sangh shakhas, now surpassing 57,000, showcases the organization's expanding influence. Like the Vamana Avatar of Lord Mahavishnu, which teaches that power is not always about size but about restoring balance and righteousness, the RSS has grown to become a transformative force for the nation and the world. The Congress and Mahatma Gandhi's support for the Khilafat Movement (1919-1924) marked a significant turning point in Indian history. During this period, they failed to gauge the sentiments of Hindus, many of whom felt marginalized. This oversight contributed to the rise of nationalist movements, including the RSS.

The nation's freedom movement was transformed into a political party by congress party but it lacked a strong organizational framework. It began developing ideologies to win elections and hold onto power.

The Congress, under Nehru's leadership, feared that the RSS, with its clear ideology and strong organizational structure, could become a formidable political force. As a result, the organization faced repeated bans and its leaders endured public



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh

humiliation. Though falsely implicated in Mahatma Gandhi's assassination, the RSS was banned three times post-independence. However, with unwavering public support, it continued to grow steadily. RSS swayamsevak have consistently risen to the occasion during national crises, whether natural disasters or human-induced challenges. Their humanitarian assistance to refugees returning from Pakistan earned them widespread

The root cause of its growth is the spirit, sacrifice and selflessness of millions of patriotic Indians.

recognition. Many Congress leaders acknowledged the good work of the RSS. In October 1948, the Congress Working Committee initially allowed RSS members to join Congress. However, Nehru opposed this move and later ensured that RSS members were denied membership unless they renounced their affiliation. Nehru's hostility towards the RSS persisted throughout Congress's six-decade rule at the central and state levels. RSS members were often labeled extremists and anti-social elements, facing false accusations and persecution. Yet, truth endures—attempts to suppress it only make it emerge stronger. The RSS's core ideology has resonated with millions of patriotic Indians. Disillusionment with Congress and regional parties grew as they disregarded Hindu sentiments, distorted history, and attempted to erase Indian heritage. As public discontent grew, the RSS emerged as a guardian of national identity, much like Lord Krishna revealing his divine

form at a critical juncture in the Kurukshetra battle.

Today, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh has approximately 5 to 6 million active members in India, demonstrating a robust grassroots presence. With this strength, the Sangh Parivar has become an influential force shaping Indian politics and society. Through its extensive network of affiliated groups, the RSS plays a crucial role in fostering societal transformation, guided by its unwavering ideology:

“Param Vaibhavam Tumhe Tat Swarashtram” – A commitment to elevating the motherland to greater heights.

For the welfare of society and the country, a great number of people have sacrificed pleasures, quit their jobs and families, stayed single, and worked as humble RSS workers without expecting recognition or renown. Millions of patriotic Indians were moved by this commitment and selflessness.

As the world's largest non-governmental organization, the RSS boasts 200 million members in India alone. After the United Nations, the RSS is the only organization globally recognized by the UN for its human welfare programs. Spread across 39 countries, including Europe and Arab nations, the RSS first expanded beyond India in 1947 with a branch in Kenya. With 580 branches in Nepal, it has the highest presence outside India, followed by the United States, with 146 branches. Internationally, the RSS is known as Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS), dedicated to promoting Hindu culture, traditions, and history worldwide.

Today, an RSS member can proudly proclaim his affiliation anywhere in the world. India's highest offices—including the President, Prime Minister, Vice President, and Lok Sabha Speaker—are all held by individuals shaped by the RSS.

As the RSS marks its 100th year, its journey remains unstoppable, influencing the nation's destiny with an unwavering commitment to service, unity, and national pride.

(To be concluded) (The author is the President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh)

AAP's Patchy Performance in Punjab: A Mixed Report Card

As the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab completes three years in power, it finds itself under scrutiny over its performance. While the ruling party claims significant achievements, opposition parties argue that it has failed on multiple fronts. The reality lies somewhere in between.

AAP's historic win in the 2022 elections had raised expectations, as the party swept aside established political forces like the Congress, the Shiromani Akali Dal, and the BJP. However, delivering on its ambitious promises has proved challenging. One of the biggest concerns remains Punjab's ongoing drug crisis. Despite Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's aggressive crackdown, the state's vision of becoming drug-free in three months remains far from reality.

Corruption Crackdown and Political Gambles

In an effort to maintain its anti-corruption image—especially after alle-



gations in Delhi dented its credibility—AAP has intensified its campaign against graft. The Vigilance Bureau's crackdown on corrupt officials, including revenue officers, has sent a strong message. However, it has also sparked resistance from government employees.

In a bold political move, Mann has not hesitated to confront Punjab's farmers—one of the state's most influential voter groups. Unlike previous governments that avoided direct confrontation, AAP has taken a firm stand on certain farm-related issues. This deci-

sion carries significant risks ahead of the 2027 elections, particularly in the rural heartland.

Security Concerns and Political Challenges

Law and order remain a major concern, with a series of bomb and grenade attacks adding to the state's unrest. Ensuring security while maintaining political stability will be a key test for the government moving forward.

Meanwhile, AAP's national convener, Arvind Kejriwal, has increased his focus on Punjab following the party's significant electoral setback in Delhi. Both Kejriwal and Mann are aware that any misstep now could hurt their long-term prospects. With two more years left in its term, the AAP government faces mounting challenges. Its ability to deliver on governance, fight corruption, and restore public confidence will determine its fate in the next elections.

The Fight for Federalism and Telugu Language Representation

India's strength lies in its diversity, and the federal structure is the foundation of our democracy. However, in recent years, we have witnessed a steady erosion of federal principles through various policy decisions by the central government. From demonetization to the three black laws against farmers, NRC, CAA, Waqf laws, ONOP, NEP, delimitation, GST, and the controversial three-language formula—each of these decisions has challenged the very essence of federalism.

It is disappointing that Chandrababu Naidu (CBN), who once positioned himself as a champion of state rights, has chosen to align with the central government's anti-federal policies. His endorsement of the three-language formula is particularly concerning at a time when people across the country are resisting the imposition of Hindi. Andhra Pradesh was the first state formed on a linguistic basis, and we, as Telugu people, must stand firm in defending our language and cultural identity.

The Need for Telugu Representation

Language is not just a means of communication; it is deeply tied to our history, heritage, and identity. The Telugu-speaking population has a significant presence across India, particularly in Hindi-speaking states. Yet, their linguistic needs are often ignored. During the recent Kumbh Mela, Telugu pilgrims faced great difficulty due to the absence of Telugu signboards. The same issue exists in Ayodhya, where thousands of Telugu devotees visit every year, yet there is no recognition of their language. I call upon Mr. Naidu to write to Union Minister Nitin



Kolanu Konda Shivaji
Vice President, APCC

Gadkari, demanding that Telugu nameplates be installed on National Highway signboards in Hindi-speaking states. Similarly, the Congress party urges that Telugu be made a mandatory second language in these states to safeguard the interests of Telugu-speaking people. Furthermore, railway stations in Hindi-speaking regions must have Telugu name boards to ensure easier navigation for Telugu travelers.

A Call for Collective Action
The fight for federalism is also a fight for linguistic dignity. The central government must recognize that India is a multilingual nation and ensure that no language is unfairly imposed upon others. The Congress party will continue to push for policies that uphold the spirit of federalism and protect the linguistic rights of Telugu-speaking people.

It is time for all leaders, regardless of political affiliation, to prioritize the interests of their people over their political alliances. The preservation of our language and the respect for federalism should not be negotiable. We will not remain silent as our rights are diluted. The fight for Telugu representation is a fight for justice, and we will persist until our demands are met.

PM Modi's Latest Podcast: A Masterclass in Tech-Driven Outreach



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has once again demonstrated his ability to adapt and leverage emerging communication trends, this time through the podcasting medium. Over the past two months, Modi has engaged in nearly five hours of deep discussions on various topics, ranging from his personal life, political philosophy, and governance strategies to domestic and international affairs.

In his most recent appearance on American podcaster and AI researcher Lex Fridman's show, Modi participated in an extensive three-hour discussion. This followed his previous two-hour-long conversation with Nikhil Kamath, the co-founder of Zerodha. Both hosts are highly regarded figures, particularly among younger audiences, adding credibility and depth to the discussions. Fridman, who announced the episode to his 46 million social media followers, described it as “one of the most powerful conversations” of his life.

Innovative Communication Strategy

Modi's adoption of podcasts marks a shift in his outreach strategy. Unlike traditional media interviews, podcasts allow long-form, in-depth conversations that cater to a more diverse audience, including those disillusioned with mainstream media. This format has enabled Modi to address sensitive topics, such as the role of the RSS, the 2002 Gujarat riots, and India's geopolitical stance on China, Pakistan, and the Russia-Ukraine war, in an informal yet comprehensive manner.

His embrace of technology extends beyond podcasts. He has used AI-powered voice translation to make his speeches accessible in multiple languages, ensuring wider reach. Similarly, his governance initiatives, such as the JAM trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, and Mobile), reflect his focus on leveraging technology for efficiency and transparency.

Digital-First Approach

Modi's innovative outreach techniques have been evident throughout his political career. As Gujarat's Chief Minister, he pioneered the use of holograms for campaign rallies. Before the 2014 elections, he engaged party workers through an “Audio Bridge” and connected with voters via the interactive “Chai pe Charcha” sessions.

Will begin linking Voter ID card with Aadhaar: EC

- UIDAI and EC's technical experts to start consultations soon
- Govt says linking is voluntary, no deletion of names for non-linking

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday announced that the linkage of voter cards with Aadhaar would be carried out in accordance with prevailing laws and Supreme Court directions. The poll body also confirmed that technical consultations between UIDAI and its experts would commence soon for the exercise.

The EC held a high-level meeting with Union Home Secretary, Legislative Secretary from the Law Ministry, MeitY Secretary, and the UIDAI CEO to discuss the process of voter card-Aadhaar seeding. The move comes as part of efforts to streamline voter authentication while ensuring compliance with legal provisions.

The poll authority clarified that while Aadhaar establishes a person's identity, voting rights can only be granted to Indian citizens under Article 326 of the Constitution. "The linking of elector photo identity card (EPIC) with Aadhaar will be done only as per the provisions of Article 326 of the Constitution, sections 23(4), 23(5), and 23(6) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950,



and in line with the Supreme Court judgment of 2023," the EC stated.

The government has reiterated that the Aadhaar-voter ID linkage is a voluntary process and no voter's name will be deleted from the electoral rolls for not linking their Aadhaar details. The law, under the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021, al-

lows electoral registration officers to seek Aadhaar details from voters to establish identity, but only on a voluntary basis.

While there is no set deadline for the linkage, the government has assured that the process-driven exercise will be carried out in a systematic manner without any mandatory enforcement.

"You Remain Close to Our Hearts": PM Modi's Letter to Sunita Williams



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written a heartfelt letter to Indian-origin NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, who began her return journey to Earth on Sunday after being stranded on the International Space Station (ISS) for over nine months.

In his letter, dated March 1 and shared by Union Minister Jitendra Singh on X, PM Modi expressed India's pride in her achievements and acknowledged the challenges she faced during her extended stay in space. He mentioned that he had inquired about her well-being during his

meetings with former US President Donald Trump and current President Joe Biden.

"We discussed how proud we are of you and your work. Following this interaction, I could not stop myself from writing to you," the Prime Minister wrote, referring to a recent conversation with former NASA astronaut Mike Massimino in Delhi. Highlighting the admiration of 1.4 billion Indians for her perseverance, PM Modi also extended his regards to her family.

"Your mother, Bonnie Pandya, must be keenly awaiting your return. I am sure that Late Deepakbhai's blessings are with you as well," he said, recalling his 2016

meeting with her and her father, Deepak Pandya, a native of Gujarat who passed away in 2020.

PM Modi assured her that the entire nation was praying for her safe return. "Even though you are thousands of miles away, you continue to remain close to our hearts. The people of India are praying for your good health and success in your mission," he wrote. The Prime Minister also invited her to visit India upon her return, calling her "one of its most illustrious daughters."

Sunita Williams' Extended Mission in Space Sunita Williams and fellow astronaut Butch Wilmore flew to the ISS on June 5, 2023, aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft for what was initially planned as a short-duration test mission. However, due to propulsion issues, the spacecraft was deemed unfit to bring them back, leading to an uncrewed return of the vehicle.

NASA reassigned the astronauts to the Crew-9 mission, reducing the incoming crew size to accommodate them on the ISS. Their long-awaited homecoming was made possible after Crew-10 docked with the station on Sunday, allowing them to return along with NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov. The journey back to Earth marks the end of an unexpectedly prolonged stay for Williams, who has now completed her third mission in space.



Six SC Judges to Visit Manipur Relief Camps, Meet Displaced People

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Six Supreme Court judges will visit relief camps in Manipur on March 22 to assess the condition of internally displaced people and strengthen legal and humanitarian support in the violence-hit state, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) announced.

The visiting judges include Justice BR Gavai, who also serves as NALSA's Executive Chairman, along with Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, MM Sundresh, KV Viswanathan, and N Kotiswar Singh. Their visit comes nearly two years after the sectarian violence of May 3, 2023, which resulted in hundreds of deaths and the displacement of over 50,000 people. Many of them continue to live in relief camps, highlighting the ongoing need for legal and humanitarian aid.

During the visit, Justice Gavai will virtually inaugurate legal services and medical camps in all districts of Manipur and open legal aid clinics in Imphal East, Imphal West, and Ukhrul. The judges will also distribute relief materials to displaced individuals.

NALSA stated that these legal service camps aim to connect the displaced population with government welfare programs, ensuring access to crucial benefits such as healthcare, pensions, employment schemes, and the reconstruction of lost identity documents. Additionally, each participating state department will outline at least five key schemes tailored to support those affected by the crisis.

A team of 25 specialized doctors from Chennai will also set up medical camps in all relief centers, providing sustained healthcare support for six days. They will offer treatment and essential medicines to displaced families.

NALSA has played a crucial role in assisting communities affected by the Manipur violence, having set up 273 special legal aid clinics in relief camps. These clinics have helped people regain access to government benefits, retrieve lost documents, and receive medical assistance.

The upcoming visit by the Supreme Court judges underscores NALSA's commitment to justice, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable communities. By bridging the gap between legal rights and accessibility, NALSA aims to ensure that every displaced person receives the necessary support to rebuild their lives with dignity.

The visit by the Supreme Court judges coincides with the duodecennial event of the Manipur High Court on March 22.

"Uddhav Thackeray Bowed Before PM Modi": Eknath Shinde's Big Claim



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has claimed that former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had "bowed down" before Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking relief from investigating agencies. Speaking in the Legislative Council, Shinde alleged that Thackeray had traveled to Delhi, expressed willingness to form a coalition government with the BJP, but later changed his stance upon returning to Maharashtra.

Shinde further accused Thackeray's Shiv Sena UBT of forsaking the ideals of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and embracing what he called the "Aurangzebi ideology" by joining hands with Congress. He emphasized that his faction had "freed the bow and arrow," referring to the Shiv Sena symbol, which had come under dispute following the party split.

"We have never been tempted by power and position. Our priority has always been addressing the issues of the people who entrusted us with responsibility," Shinde asserted.

His remarks come amid renewed political tensions after Shiv Sena UBT MP Sanjay Raut claimed that Shinde himself had once sought to join the Congress. "I know what was happening. If Ahmed Patel were alive today, he could confirm it. You can ask Prithviraj Chavan about it," Raut had said.

The controversy follows Maharashtra Congress leader Nana Patole's recent remarks during Holi celebrations, where he suggested that Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar could switch to the opposition in exchange for a rotational chief ministerial post.

Home Ministry Says No Central Data on Maha Kumbh Stampede Deaths

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Six weeks after the deadly stampede at the Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, the Union Home Ministry informed the Lok Sabha that it has not conducted an inquiry into the incident and does not maintain data on the number of casualties. Responding to a question from Congress MPs KC Venugopal and Kirsan Namdeo, Junior Home Minister Nityanand Rai stated that handling such disasters and providing financial aid to affected families falls under the purview of the respective state governments.

"State governments are competent to deal with such situations. No such data is maintained centrally," Rai said, clarifying that 'public order' and 'police' are state subjects. He added that organizing religious congregations and crowd management are closely linked to 'public order,' making it the responsibility of the state government to investigate and respond to the tragedy.

The stampede, which occurred on January 29, resulted in at least 30 deaths and left



60 others injured, according to Vaibhav Krishna, the senior Uttar Pradesh police officer in charge of security during the event.

Venugopal and Namdeo had sought details on the exact number of casualties and the steps taken to probe the cause of the stampede. In response, Rai pointed out that the National Disaster Management Authority and the Bureau of Police Research and Development had issued detailed crowd management guidelines, which were circulated to all states. The Ministry of Home Affairs also advised all states and Union Territories to create their own Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) based on these templates.

The tragic incident has sparked a major political row, with the opposition, led by Samajwadi Party chief and former UP Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, attacking the central government. Yadav criticized the administration for its handling of the situation, citing the massive 300-km-long traffic jam that left thousands of devotees stranded.

"Is this 'Viksit Bharat'? The government cannot even manage traffic. What is the point of going to the Moon when we cannot settle issues on Earth?" Yadav questioned in Parliament.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also joined the criticism, referring to the event as 'Mrityu Kumbh' (Death Kumbh) and demanding clarity on the actual number of casualties.

The issue was reignited today when Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about the success of the Maha Kumbh, which took place between January 13 and February 26. His speech, however, made no mention of the stampede or the people who lost their lives, prompting strong reactions from the opposition.

Ukraine's Zelenskyy arrives in Finland, will meet defence industry



- Talks with Alexander Stubb to discuss defense cooperation and support for Ukraine.
- Discussions on advancing peace and strengthening the defense industry.
- Visit coincides with Trump's negotiations with Putin on a potential ceasefire.

TPN Correspondent | Helsinki

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has arrived in Helsinki for an official visit to Finland, ahead of a key meeting with Finnish President Alexander Stubb on Wednesday. The two leaders are set to discuss Finland's continued support for Ukraine in the wake of Russia's ongoing invasion and efforts to end the conflict. The discussions

will include potential measures to advance peace and strengthen cooperation, particularly in defense, with a focus on the defense industry.

The visit comes as US President Donald Trump is engaged in talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, attempting to negotiate a ceasefire and a more permanent resolution to the three-year-long war between Russia and Ukraine.

Zelenskyy's schedule in Finland will also include discussions with other key officials, such as Finland's finance, defense, and foreign ministers, as well as a meeting with Prime Minister Petteri Orpo and parliament speaker Jussi Halla-aho. The Ukrainian president's wife, Olena Zelenska, is accompanying him on the trip and will be visiting local schools alongside Suzanne Innes-Stubb,

the wife of Finland's president.

This marks Zelenskyy's second visit to Finland since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, highlighting the ongoing international diplomatic efforts aimed at bringing an end to the conflict. Finland, a NATO member, has been a staunch ally of Ukraine in the fight against Russian aggression, providing significant military and humanitarian aid.

Trump Engages in Critical Talks with Putin Over Ukraine Conflict

Trump-Putin Call On Ending Russia-Ukraine War Continues For Over 2 Hours

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Nearly three weeks after a tumultuous meeting with Ukraine's President Zelenskyy at the White House, US President Donald Trump has reached out to Russian President Vladimir Putin in a fresh attempt to broker an end to the ongoing war in Ukraine. The phone call, which began at 10 a.m. Eastern Time, has been ongoing for over two hours, with the White House reporting that "the call is going well, and still in progress."

Both leaders are discussing potential solutions to secure a ceasefire in the Eastern European conflict, which has already claimed tens of thousands of lives and has been raging for more than three years. Trump has expressed his readiness to negotiate with Putin on terms for Russian control over certain parts of Ukraine, including the division of "certain assets," as he mentioned over the weekend.

However, the prospect of dividing up Ukrainian territory has raised concerns in Europe, particularly regarding the future of Ukraine and the risk of Moscow gaining too much leverage. European leaders are anxious that Trump, who has previously voiced admiration for Putin, may concede too much to Russia without consulting Ukraine.

In the aftermath of Trump's previous



meeting with Zelenskyy, Ukraine agreed to temporarily halt military operations for 30 days and engage in dialogue with Russia. However, Putin has set stringent conditions, which Moscow insists are non-negotiable. Ukraine, in response, has demanded an "unconditional" ceasefire, with Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga stressing the importance of Russia showing genuine intentions for peace.

President Putin has doubled down on Moscow's demands, firmly stating that

Russia would not accept NATO troops in Ukraine and reaffirming that any ceasefire deal would be contingent on NATO halting arms supplies to Ukraine. Putin has also stated that Russia's forces are "steadily advancing" and has made it clear that any peace deal would need to reflect these advances.

As Trump continues his talks with Putin, the fate of the conflict and the potential for peace remains uncertain. The results of this crucial phone call are eagerly awaited by both global leaders and citizens alike.

Three Earthquakes Strike Indonesia, Causing Casualties and Damage

TPN Correspondent | Jakarta

On Tuesday, Indonesia was rocked by three significant earthquakes, including a 5.5-magnitude tremor that hit North Sumatra province in the morning. The other two quakes, with magnitudes of 5.7 and 5.2, struck Maluku and East Nusa Tenggara provinces earlier in the day, according to the country's Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics Agency.

The 5.5-magnitude earthquake in North Sumatra occurred at 5:22 a.m. local time, with its epicenter located 17 kilometers southeast of North Tapanuli Regency, at a depth of 10 kilometers. The quake resulted in one fatality and left another person injured. In addition, several houses and a road were severely damaged, making the road impassable. Sri Wahyuni Pancasilawati, head of the emergency and logistics unit at North Sumatra's Provincial Disaster Management Agency, stated that risk assessments were ongoing.



Earlier, a 5.7-magnitude earthquake struck Maluku province at 00:32 a.m. local time, initially recorded as a 6.0 magnitude before being revised downward. Just ten minutes later, another earthquake, registering a 5.2 magnitude, hit East Nusa Tenggara province. Fortunately, no tsunami alerts were issued, as the tremors were not expected to generate large waves.

Indonesia, located along the seismically active Pacific Ring of Fire, is no stranger to frequent earthquakes. The country has 127 active volcanoes and is particularly vulnerable to earthquakes and tsunamis. The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, triggered by a massive 9.1-magnitude earthquake off the west coast of Sumatra, killed over 165,000 people. Similarly, a tsunami in 2006 struck the south coast of Java, killing more than 600 people.

Due to its geological setting, Indonesia remains highly susceptible to both earthquakes and tsunamis, posing ongoing risks to the archipelago's coastal communities.

Tulsi Gabbard: Trump's 'America First' Policy Should Not Be Misunderstood as Isolation



TPN Correspondent | US

US Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, clarified on Tuesday that President Donald Trump's "America First" policy should not be interpreted as a stance of isolation. Speaking at the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi, Gabbard emphasized the importance of expanding the India-US relationship, calling it a "huge opportunity" for both nations.

Gabbard explained that while President Trump's approach focuses on prioritizing American interests, it should not be seen as America turning inward. She drew a parallel to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "India First" approach, as-

serting that both leaders are committed to their respective countries while fostering strong global partnerships. "It should not be misunderstood that 'America First' means America alone," Gabbard stated, adding that the US and India share a strong friendship and that the bilateral ties will continue to grow.

Reflecting on the recent meeting between Prime Minister Modi and President Trump in Washington DC, Gabbard described it as a "reconnection of two old friends" and underscored the growing cooperation between the two nations. She also praised the Raisina Dialogue as an essential platform for open discussions on global issues, providing opportunities for direct dialogue between nations on the most pressing matters.

Touching on broader geopolitical issues, Gabbard highlighted President Trump's unwavering commitment to peace and security. She reiterated that Trump's approach is centered on securing peace through strength, noting that Trump has also voiced strong support for ending ongoing conflicts, including the war in Ukraine.

The Raisina Dialogue, held from March 17-19, serves as India's premier conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics, organized by the Observer Research Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs. Gabbard's remarks further solidified the growing collaboration between India and the US, particularly in security and intelligence-sharing.

"Stop The Killing": Families Of Hostages To Israel PM After Strike On Gaza



TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

The families of Israeli captives held in Gaza have demanded that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu intervene immediately to stop the killing and disappearance of hostages, following Israel's most deadly airstrikes on Gaza since a ceasefire began in January. The families are seeking urgent assurances regarding the safety and return of their loved ones.

In a statement, the Hostages and Missing Families Forum called for a meeting with Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and the head of the negotiation team to discuss how Israel plans to protect the hos-

tages from military actions and work toward their release. "The families of the hostages will demand: Stop the killing and disappearance of the hostages now! First, return them -- then everything else," the statement read.

The families also announced plans to protest outside Netanyahu's office in Jerusalem later on Tuesday, as their calls for meetings with key officials have so far gone unanswered. They expressed frustration, saying that government officials had ignored their pleas for a discussion, and now it appears they were planning to escalate military action, which could endanger the lives of the captives.

Israel's recent airstrikes on Gaza have been its most intense since the ceasefire on January 19, following the brutal October 2023 Hamas attack that led to the abduction of 251 Israelis. Of those taken, 58 remain in Gaza, and the Israeli military reports that 34 of the hostages are believed to have died.

The families are urging Netanyahu's government to focus on bringing the hostages back safely, asserting that their return must be prioritized before any further military escalation. The growing tension between the ongoing conflict and the efforts to secure the captives' release has left families in anguish, calling for decisive action from Israel's leadership.

Stock markets surge as bulls take charge after consolidation

After a period of consolidation, the domestic stock markets witnessed a strong rally on Tuesday, closing with significant gains. Investor sentiment turned highly positive as expectations grew that the US Federal Reserve would maintain interest rates. Additionally, positive global cues and the availability of fundamentally strong stocks at attractive prices encouraged investors to adopt a buy-on-dips strategy. The result was an unrelenting surge in benchmark indices from the opening bell to the closing session.

The BSE Sensex, which had closed at 74,169 in the previous session, opened higher at 74,608 and maintained upward momentum throughout the day. It touched an intraday high of 75,385 before settling at 75,301 with a remarkable gain of 1,131 points. Similarly, the NSE Nifty opened at 22,662, reached a high of 22,857, and ended the session at 22,834, marking an impressive increase of 325 points. The Nifty Bank index also rallied, climbing 960 points to close at 49,314.

Investor enthusiasm was evident in the broad market participation, with 2,288 stocks advancing on the NSE compared to 646 declining, while 82 stocks remained unchanged. The bullish momentum was reflected across all sectoral indices, with media and realty stocks soaring by 3%, while the auto, public sector banks, and metals sectors registered gains of over 2%. Stocks from banking, finance, and consumption segments also played a crucial role in driving the indices higher.

Among the top gainers in the Nifty50 were ICICI Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Shriram Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra, and Tata Motors, while Bajaj



Finserv, Tech Mahindra, and Bharti Airtel emerged as the day's biggest losers. The rupee strengthened by 23 paise to close at 86.56 against the US dollar, reflecting increased investor confidence. Steel and metal stocks, particularly Hindalco, played a key role in pushing Nifty to a one-month high.

Several corporate developments influenced market movements. Paytm Money received SEBI approval for registration as a research analyst, while PB Fintech continued its upward rally for the second consecutive day. Stocks such as Uttam Sugar, Mobikwik, TT, Sindhutrade, and Hind Rectifiers hit the 20% upper circuit. CG Power's board approved an interim dividend of ₹1.30 per share, while a major block deal involving 27 lakh shares took place in Jio Financial. Tech Mahindra announced a strategic partnership with Google Cloud, and Bajaj Finserv revealed its plan to acquire Allianz's 26% stake in Bajaj Allianz Life. Meanwhile, Varun Bev-

erages surged 5% amid expectations of increased demand in the summer season, and 20 lakh shares were exchanged in Tata Steel.

The bullish rally indicates strong market momentum, with investor confidence driving key indices higher. With favorable economic cues and robust sectoral performance, markets are expected to maintain their positive trajectory in the coming sessions.

1. Torrent Power Ltd



The company secured a 1,200 MW renewable energy project from the Gujarat government. Plans to invest ₹5,500 crore in green energy expansion over the next three years. Jef-

eries has maintained a 'Buy' rating with a target price of ₹1,750, citing strong cash flows and expansion in renewables.

2. NLC India Ltd



The company signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu government to set up a solar and wind power project worth ₹7,000 crore. It achieved a 14% increase in coal production YoY, ensuring steady fuel supply for power generation. Motilal Oswal gave a 'Buy' rating with a target price of ₹280, expecting continued growth in power generation.

3. Tata Motors Ltd

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) reported 16% YoY growth in global sales, boosting Tata Motors' overall revenue. The company launched three new electric vehicle (EV) models, strengthening its presence in the EV mar-



ket. HSBC has raised its target price to ₹1,050, maintaining a 'Buy' rating due to strong demand in domestic and international markets.

4. CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd

CG Power bagged a ₹1,100 crore order from the Indian Railways for traction motors. The company is expanding its manufacturing facility to support increasing demand for power equipment. ICICI Securities upgraded its rating to 'Buy' with a target price of ₹740/800, citing strong earnings potential.



5. Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL)



IHCL announced the addition of 10 new hotels under the Taj and Vivanta brands, expanding its luxury segment. The company's revenue per available room (RevPAR) grew 12% YoY, supported by rising domestic and international tourism. Morgan Stanley has given a 'Buy' rating with a target price of ₹960, expecting further expansion in premium hospital-

PayTm money receives SEBI nod to start research analysis business

Paytm Money has received a registration certificate from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to operate as a research analyst, according to filings with the exchange. This milestone marks a significant step in Paytm Money's efforts to broaden its investment services and enhance its offerings to users.



The company highlighted that this new development aligns with its goal to expand its presence in the investment ecosystem. By obtaining this certification, Paytm Money aims to improve the user experience by providing expert-backed research and insights for both retail and institutional investors. With SEBI's approval, Paytm Money is now authorized to offer research reports and

investment analyses to its users, enhancing the value it brings to its platform.

The new research services will soon be integrated into the Paytm Money app, allowing users to access advisory and research-backed recommendations directly through the app. This expansion is set to help investors make more informed decisions by providing access to expert

insights and comprehensive market analyses.

By adding research and advisory services to its platform, Paytm Money is looking to offer a more holistic approach to investing, empowering its users with the tools and information needed to navigate the financial markets more effectively.

As part of its long-term strategy, Paytm Money aims to continue developing its platform to cater to a diverse range of investors, from individuals making their first investment to seasoned institutional investors. The SEBI certification is expected to significantly bolster the company's position in India's rapidly growing investment ecosystem.

India's trade deficit in Feb drops to \$14 bn; petroleum exports to Europe shrink by 30%

India's merchandise trade deficit narrowed sharply to a three-year low of \$14.05 billion in February, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday. This significant reduction was largely driven by a 30% decline in petroleum exports to Europe and a more than 60% drop in gold imports.

The decline in petroleum exports, which had been a major contributor to India's export growth following the Russia-Ukraine war, was particularly notable. The decrease came shortly after the imposition of sweeping US sanctions targeting Russia's oil trade in January 2025, which placed 183 Russian oil tankers under sanctions. The sanctions appear to have had a direct impact on India's petroleum export volumes to Europe, a key market. Additionally, India's petroleum imports also saw a decrease of 26%, contributing further to the reduction in the trade deficit.

Gold imports, another significant factor in India's merchandise trade, fell dramatically by over 60%, further influencing the decline in the trade deficit. Gold has been a major import for India, driven by seasonal demand and cultural factors. However, lower demand for gold, coupled with rising prices, contributed to the steep drop in imports.

The reduced trade deficit reflects a contraction in both exports and imports, but it highlights India's improved balance of trade. Despite the challenges posed by external factors such as sanctions and global price fluctuations, India's merchandise trade deficit appears to be stabilizing. With the reduction in both petroleum exports and gold imports, India is likely to focus on diversifying its export base and increasing trade with emerging markets to sustain its economic growth while managing its trade balance.

India imposes provisional anti-dumping duty on import of Chinese aluminium foil

India has imposed a provisional anti-dumping duty on aluminium foil imports from China, ranging from \$619 to \$873 per metric tonne (MT). This move, which will remain in effect for six months, aims to provide relief to domestic aluminium foil manufacturers by addressing the impact of cheaper imports from China.

The Finance Ministry issued a gazette notification on March 17, detailing the provisional duty applicable to aluminium foil imports with a thickness of up to 80 mi-

croons. However, the duty will not apply to aluminium foil below 5.5 microns used for non-capacitor applications. This action follows preliminary findings of material injury to Indian producers, who have faced increasing competition from low-priced Chinese imports. The imposition of this anti-dumping duty aligns with India's ongoing efforts to protect its domestic industries from unfair trade practices. The move is also reflective of broader global trade tensions, particularly in light of recent tariff measures imposed by other coun-

tries. In addition to India's actions, the United States has implemented reciprocal tariffs on a range of Chinese goods, including a 25% tariff on aluminium imports, further highlighting the growing trade friction between major economies. This decision by the Indian government is expected to help curb the influx of cheap Chinese aluminium foil, which has been undercutting local manufacturers and putting pressure on their profitability. Domestic producers have long complained about the import of cheaper aluminium foil from

China, which has resulted in significant market distortions. The provisional anti-dumping duty is a temporary measure while a more comprehensive investigation continues. The Indian government's response underscores its commitment to supporting local industries and ensuring fair trade practices. The six-month duration of the duty will allow Indian producers to adjust to the market changes, with the possibility of further action based on the outcomes of the ongoing investigation.





iPhone 17 Air Was Supposed to Be Port-Free, But Apple Scrapped the Idea: Mark Gurman



The iPhone 17 series has been a topic of extensive speculation, with rumors suggesting the lineup will include the iPhone 17, iPhone 17 Air (or iPhone 17 Slim), iPhone 17 Pro, and iPhone 17 Pro Max, with an expected launch in the second quarter of this year. Among these, the iPhone 17 Air was slated to be Apple's thinnest iPhone yet, potentially replacing the Plus variant in the lineup.

Bloomberg's Mark Gurman has revealed new details about the iPhone 17 Air, including an ambitious plan that Apple initially considered. According to Gurman's weekly Power On newsletter, Apple originally planned to make the iPhone 17 Air "Apple's first completely port-free iPhone." The device would have relied on wireless charging and cloud-based data syncing, eliminating the traditional charging ports altogether. This move was intended to pave the way for even slimmer models in the future, with a sleek, minimalist design that further pushed the limits of device thinness. However, Apple reportedly scrapped this plan to avoid po-

tential regulatory issues, particularly from the European Union (EU), which has recently mandated that tech companies like Apple adopt the USB Type-C charging standard. Apple's decision was likely influenced by the need to comply with the EU's regulations and maintain its broad consumer appeal.

The iPhone 17 Air's thin design would have required a thinner battery, which could have compromised battery life. To avoid this, Apple instructed engineers to redesign key components, including the display and silicon, to optimize efficiency while maintaining performance.

Expected Specifications: The iPhone 17 Air is expected to feature a 9.5mm thick profile, including the 4mm camera bump. It may offer a 6.6-inch OLED display with a 120Hz ProMotion refresh rate and Dynamic Island. The device could house a 24MP front camera, a 48MP rear camera, and be made with a titanium frame. It may also include Apple's first 5G modem and Wi-Fi chip. Rumored pricing is between \$1,299 and \$1,500.

Amazon Echo Users Will No Longer Have Option to Process Alexa Voice Recordings On-Device



alexa

Amazon has announced that starting March 28, Echo users will no longer have the option to process their voice commands and recordings locally on their devices. Instead, all Alexa voice recordings will be sent to Amazon's cloud for processing, as the company expands Alexa's capabilities with generative AI features. This change affects all Echo devices such as smart speakers and displays.

In an email to users who had previously enabled the 'Do Not Send Voice Recordings' option, Amazon explained that on-device processing is being discontinued to enable the new AI-driven features that require the processing power of Amazon's secure cloud. The company emphasized that Alexa voice requests will remain encrypted during transmission to the cloud, where they are processed under security protections.

Although voice recordings will still be deleted automatically after processing, the new policy raises privacy concerns. Many users may be uncomfortable with Amazon having access to their voice data, especially in the context of

in-home devices that can listen continuously. Amazon assures users that privacy controls will still be available through the Alexa Privacy dashboard, where they can manage how their data is handled, including the option to prevent their voice recordings from being stored at all. Amazon also announced the upcoming launch of Alexa+, a subscription-based, generative AI version of Alexa, which will include advanced features like Alexa Voice ID. This feature will allow Alexa to recognize individual users based on their voice, and share personalized content like calendar events and music. However, Amazon clarified that Voice ID may not function if users choose not to save voice recordings.

This shift in policy is part of Amazon's ongoing push to enhance Alexa's AI capabilities but raises concerns about privacy, particularly in light of past controversies surrounding the handling of user data. Notably, Amazon has faced scrutiny over allowing employees to listen to Alexa voice recordings for training purposes and other privacy violations related to its Ring doorbell cameras.

Gurugram Woman Calls Out Uber Pets For Overpricing



A Gurugram woman has raised concerns over the steep pricing of Uber's new service, Uber Pets, which allows passengers to travel with their pets. In a LinkedIn post, she highlighted the significant price difference between regular Uber rides and Uber Pets. For a short 2 km ride, the regular Uber fare was ₹100, while Uber Pets cost a staggering ₹530, over five times the price of a regular ride.

The woman questioned whether the price hike was justified, speculating that it could account for cleaning fees, premium drivers, or simply be an added charge for pet owners. She pointed out that her local auto-rickshaw charges just ₹60 for a similar ride and even

offers belly rubs for her dog, making the Uber Pets pricing seem excessive.

In her post, she expressed her surprise at the service's pricing, asking, "If the goal was accessibility, why is this service a luxury?" She further criticized the fact that many pet owners might struggle with these higher costs, especially when pets are considered family members.

While some commenters suggested booking a regular Uber and informing the driver about the pet, others speculated that Uber might be capitalizing on the growing trend of pet ownership in India. One user pointed out that Uber may be trying to monetize this shift in consumer preferences.



In the bustling city of Shenzhen, China, a new eatery is turning heads with its incredible speed of service, offering freshly cooked noodles in just 48 seconds. The Future Noodle Restaurant, a small but highly efficient establishment, has taken fast food to a whole new level. While most noodle dishes take at least two minutes to prepare, this restaurant uses a robotic system to make noodles from scratch in record time.

The process is nothing short of fascinating. A robotic arm mixes flour and water, shaping the dough into perfect noodles in just eight seconds. The noodles are then plunged into hot water, where they cook with various ingredients like marinated eggs and grilled sausages for 40 seconds. The result is a hot, fresh, and delicious bowl of noodles, served in under a minute.

The restaurant, which spans only eight square

meters, uses a self-service kiosk for ordering. Customers can choose from ten different noodle varieties, paired with sides such as marinated eggs and grilled sausages. The price of a meal ranges from 6 to 20 yuan (roughly Rs 122 to Rs 250), making it an affordable and quick dining option.

A transparent window allows customers to observe the robotic cooking process, which has garnered praise for its speed, efficiency, and, most importantly, the flavor of the final product. With its cutting-edge technology and quick turnaround time, Future Noodle Restaurant is setting a new standard for fast food, proving that great meals don't need to take long to prepare.

This innovative concept is a glimpse into the future of dining, where automation and robotics combine to deliver convenience and quality in record time.

US Vending Machine Goes Viral for Duplicating Keys in Minutes

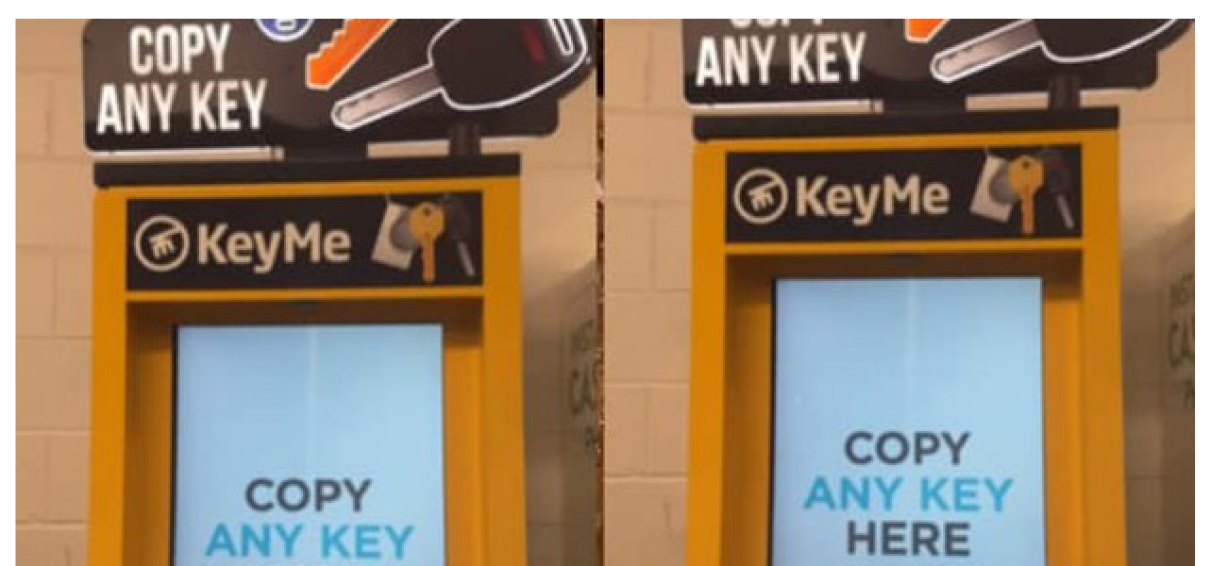
A viral video is captivating social media users, showcasing a unique vending machine in the US that can duplicate keys within minutes. Shared by Tanvir Shaikh on Instagram, the video demonstrates an alternative to the traditional and often time-consuming process of visiting a locksmith.

In the video, Tanvir walks up to a vending machine resembling an ATM and taps the screen to begin the key duplication process. The machine offers several options, including standard keys, vehicle keys, access cards, and key fobs. Tanvir selects the standard option for a basic key copy, inserts his original key into a scanning slot, and chooses his preferred key

type—brass in this case.

After selecting the number of copies—two in this case—he proceeds to the payment section. Within minutes, the machine dispenses three keys instead of two, surprising Tanvir with a free extra key. This fast, automated process has drawn attention for its convenience and efficiency compared to traditional locksmith services, where customers often face longer waiting times.

Tanvir's Instagram reel has sparked interest, highlighting how technology is transforming everyday services like key duplication, making it quicker, easier, and more accessible.





PM Modi Praises Athletes' Success at Special Olympics Winter Games

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed immense pride and joy in the achievements of Indian athletes at the Special Olympics World Winter Games held in Turin, Italy. In a post on social media, the Prime Minister praised the athletes for bringing honour to the nation by securing 33 medals, including 8 gold, 18 silver, and 7 bronze, in various sports like alpine skiing, snowboarding, floorball, snowshoeing, short track speed skating, and cross-country skiing. The Indian contingent, comprising 30 athletes and 19 support staff, returned home with an inspiring collection of medals from the historic 2025 edition of the games. PM Modi met with the athletes in Parliament, congratulating them personally for their remarkable accomplishments. Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya also retweeted PM Modi's message, acknowledging the athletes as "Param-Mitra" (Best Friends). A welcome ceremony was organized at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, attended by Raksha Khadse, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, and Mallika Nadda, President of Special Olympics Bharat. Athlete Bharti, who won two gold medals, was also present on stage to celebrate the moment. To honor their success, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced increased cash prizes for the athletes. Gold medallists will receive Rs. 20 lakhs, while silver and bronze winners will be awarded Rs. 14 lakhs and Rs. 8 lakhs, respectively.

Harvinder Singh Applauds Khelo India Para Games for Elevating Para Sports



2024 Paralympics gold medallist Harvinder Singh expressed his excitement for the upcoming Khelo India Para Games (KIPG 2025), set to begin on March 20. The 34-year-old archer praised the competition's international standards, which he believes have raised the bar for para athletes in India. Harvinder, who won gold at the inaugural KIPG 2023, highlighted how the event motivates athletes to perform at their best by selecting the top 16 performers at the national level. He also commended the tournament's high-quality organization, comparing it to international events. With over 1200 athletes expected to compete across six disciplines, KIPG 2025 will be held at three venues in New Delhi, including Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and Indira Gandhi Stadium. Harvinder emphasized that the growing support for para sports is fostering a more inclusive society in India.

8 ZONES 57 MATCHES 1 CHAMPION FROM MARCH, 20-27 2025

- 1 VAMSADHARA (Manyam, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram)
- 2 VISAKHA (ASR, Vizag, Anakapalli)
- 3 GODAVARI (Eluru, Kakinada, Konaseema, E. Godavari, W.G)
- 4 KOLLERU (NTR, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, Bapatla)
- 5 NALLAMALA (Palnadu, Guntur, Prakasam, Bapatla)
- 6 CORAMANDAL (Nellore, Tirupati, Chittoor)
- 7 PENNA (Kadapa, Annamayya, Sri Sathya Sai)
- 8 TUNGABHADRA (Kurnool, Nandyal, Anantapur)

Andhra Pradesh Super Cup Announced

The Andhra Pradesh Football Association (APFA) has announced the APFA Super Cup - War of the Zones tournament, set to take place from March 20-27, 2025. This exciting football competition will bring together top talent from across the state, with 8 zones participating in 57 matches, all vying for the coveted prize. The tournament will showcase regional teams and crown the best football team in Andhra Pradesh.

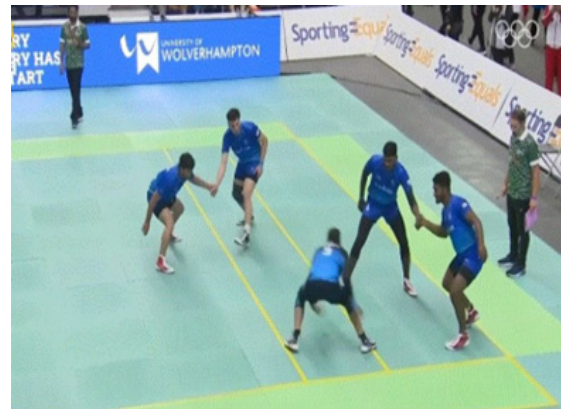
- **Kolleru** (Krishna, NTR, Eluru)
- **Nallamala** (Prakasam, Palnadu, Guntur, Bapatla)
- **Coromandel** (Tirupati, Chittoor, Nellore)
- **Penna** (Kadapa, Annamayya, Sri Sathya Sai)
- **Tungabhadra** (Kurnool, Nandyala, Anantapuram)

The competition comes with a ₹5,00,000 prize pool, further motivating teams to give their best on the field. In preparation for the Super Cup, the Kolleru team held a coaching camp at International Delhi Public School in Tadepalligudem. The camp focused on fitness, strategy, and skills development. The school principal, N Uma Srinivas, graced the closing ceremony, unveiling the team's jersey and congratulating the athletes. This tournament aims to strengthen football culture in Andhra Pradesh.



S8UL to Represent India at Esports World Cup 2025

S8UL has been selected as a Club Partner for the Esports World Cup 2025 (EWC), making history as the first Indian team to earn this honor. Chosen among 40 elite esports organizations globally, S8UL's dominance in games like BGMI, Pokemon UNITE, VALORANT, and Call of Duty: Mobile has earned global recognition. This achievement highlights S8UL's impact on Indian esports and its growing international presence, including expansion into Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Europe. Co-Founder Animesh 'Thug' Agarwal expressed pride in the selection, emphasizing the significance for Indian esports. The Esports World Cup 2025 will feature top-tier games and a massive prize pool, with S8UL aiming to showcase India's gaming talent on the global stage. The tournament will take place in Riyadh later this year.



India Defeats Italy 64-22 in Kabaddi World Cup Opener

India began their Kabaddi World Cup 2025 campaign with a commanding 64-22 victory over Italy in their Group B match. The defending champions dominated the match, securing two points and topping their group. Scotland, in the other Group B clash, defeated Wales 63-43 to take second place in the group. India's next match will be against Scotland on Tuesday. The tournament, hosted across four cities in England's West Midlands, features both men's and women's competitions. India is defending their titles in both categories. In the men's event, India is placed in Group B alongside Italy, Scotland, Wales, and Hong Kong, while the women's team competes in Group D with Wales and Poland. The top teams from each group will advance to the quarterfinals starting on March 21.

The eight zones competing in the tournament are:

- **Vamsadhara** (Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Manyam)
- **Visakha** (Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, ASR)
- **Godavari** (East Godavari, West Godavari, Konaseema)

Hockey India Promises Bigger HIL After Team Owners Express Concerns

Team owners of the Hockey India League (HIL) have raised concerns about the first edition of the league, particularly regarding the sponsorship earnings and operational costs. Despite the league's positive reception, the owners were dissatisfied with the sponsorship revenue, which fell far short of expectations. Hockey India had anticipated Rs 90 crore in sponsorships but only earned around Rs 13 crore. During a recent meeting in Bhubaneswar, owners highlighted the losses incurred, especially those who owned both men's and women's teams, citing an operational cost of over Rs 20 crore. Hockey India has responded by promising a bigger and better HIL in its next edition, with plans to distribute 60% of the Rs 13 crore sponsorship earnings among the team owners. Additionally, a new commercial head will be hired to fo-

cus on boosting revenue for the next season. The league also plans to address concerns related to broadcast quality, players' purse, and marketing strategies to improve the competition's overall appeal and financial sustainability.



PV Sindhu to Lead Indian Challenge at Swiss Open 2025



Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu will lead India's charge at the Swiss Open 2025, a BWF Super 300 tournament, set to begin on Tuesday at St Jakobshalle in Basel, Switzerland. Sindhu, ranked 16th globally and the 2022 Swiss Open champion, will face compatriot and world number 28

Malvika Bansod in an exciting first-round women's singles match. The Indian contingent features a strong lineup in both singles and doubles categories. In men's singles, world number 15 Lakshya Sen will square off against 2016 Swiss Open winner HS Prannoy. Priyanshu Rajawat and Kiran George are also competing in the men's singles. In women's doubles, world number nine Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will lead India's charge, alongside Priya Konjengbam-Shruti Mishra and Varshini Viswanath Sri-Arathi Sara Sunil. India will also have two mixed doubles pairs—Ashith Surya-Amrutha Pramuthesh and Sathish Karunakaran-Aadya Variyath—in the main draw. The tournament will see top seeds Shi Yu Qi (China) and Pornpawee Chochuwong (Thailand) in the men's and women's singles, respectively.

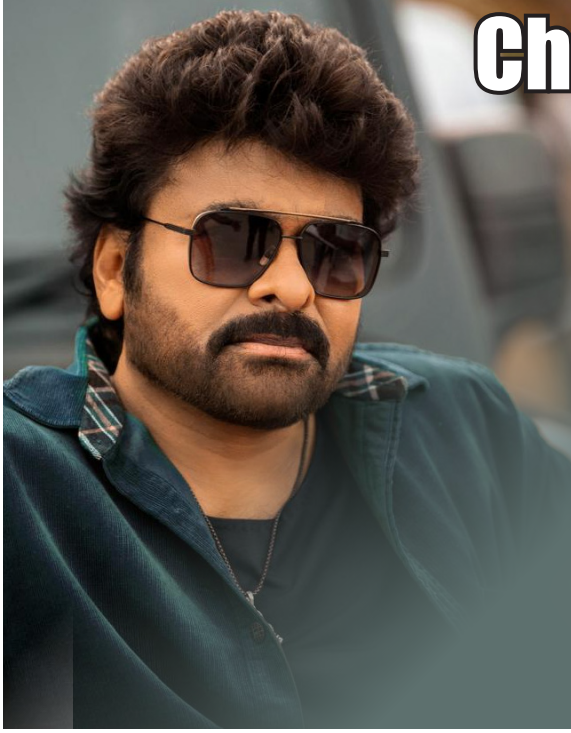
BCCI to Form Panel for Women's World Cup and Ban Tobacco, Crypto Sponsorships



The BCCI will form an organizing committee for the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup and decide on venues for the event during its Apex Council meeting in Kolkata on March 22, ahead of the IPL opener. The Women's World Cup, last hosted by India in 2013, will take place in October. The committee will also finalize the structure for the 2025-26 domestic season and decide on venues for India's series against West Indies and South Africa. Additionally, the BCCI will address a government directive to ban tobacco and crypto sponsorships, following the health ministry's order for the IPL starting March 22. This meeting will also approve changes in bank account signatories following new office-bearers' appointment.



Chiranjeevi's New Film Set in Village Backdrop



Megastar Chiranjeevi is all set to collaborate with director Anil Ravipudi for an upcoming film, which will commence production in the first week of June. The highlight of this project is its rural setting, marking Chiranjeevi's return to a village backdrop after several years. The film is slated for a Sankranti 2026 release. According to reports, actress Aditi Rao Hydari is being considered for the female lead, though an official announcement is

awaited. The film promises entertainment with a mass appeal, with music composed by Bheems Ceciroleo and Ramana Gogula. Recently, the production team sought divine blessings at Simhadri Appanna Temple before beginning the scriptwork. Chiranjeevi has previously delivered hits like Indra, Alluda Majaka, Apadbandhavudu, and Khaidi in a village backdrop, and fans are eagerly awaiting his return to a similar setting.

Tamannaah Shares Party Pics Amid Breakup Rumors



Actress Tamannaah Bhatia, who continues to enjoy immense popularity, recently shared a cryptic message on social media that caught fans' attention. She stated, "Don't wait for miracles in life, create your own," hinting at a self-empowered outlook. Tamannaah also posted pictures from a party with friends, including Manish Malhotra, Rasha Thadani, and Pragma Kapoor. These posts have sparked speculation among netizens that she might be trying to move on from her rumored breakup with actor Vijay Varma after three years of dating. Known for her bold choices, Tamannaah recently stunned audiences with her daring performance in Lust Stories 2. While she remains silent on the breakup rumors, her latest posts have fueled curiosity about her personal life. Fans continue to support her, praising her confidence and self-growth.

"All We Imagine As Light, Shahana Goswami Win Big at Asian Film Awards 2025"

Payal Kapadia's *All We Imagine As Light* and actress Shahana Goswami won top honors at the 18th Asian Film Awards held at the Xiqu Centre, Hong Kong.

The acclaimed India-French co-production won Best Film, triumphing over strong contenders like *Black Dog* (China), *Exhuma* (South Korea), *Teiki Cometh* (Japan), and *Twilight of the Warriors: Walled In* (Hong Kong).

Shahana Goswami won Best Actress for her powerful role in *Santosh*, a film about a widowed housewife inheriting her late husband's job as a police constable and becoming involved in a murder investigation. Meanwhile, *Santosh* director Sandhya Suri



was honored with Best New Director.

Kapadia's *All We Imagine As Light* made history last year as the first Indian film to win the Grand Prix Award at Cannes. The Asian Film Awards 2025 further cemented its global recognition.

Amitabh Bachchan Praises Abhishek's Performance in Sarkar

Amitabh Bachchan recently reflected on *Sarkar* (2005) and lauded Abhishek Bachchan's performance, stating that he was "nowhere in the film" as his son owned the screen.

In his blog, Big B shared that he revisited the film after years and was amazed by its quality, direction, and Abhishek's restrained yet powerful acting. He emphasized that his admiration came not as a father but as a true evaluator of cinema,



calling Abhishek's performance "simply stunning." Directed by Ram Gopal Varma, *Sarkar* is a political crime thriller inspired by *The Godfather*, starring Amitabh, Abhishek, Kay Kay Menon, and Katrina Kaif.

Amitabh also praised Abhishek's latest film *Be*

Happy, directed by Remo D'Souza, reaffirming his appreciation for his son's evolving craft.

Mrunal Thakur Stuns in Desi Look, Gears Up for Dacoit

Bollywood actress Mrunal Thakur recently showcased her classic charm with a desi twist in a lavender chikan-kari lehenga, paired with diamond jewelry. The actress shared the elegant look on Instagram, keeping her make-up minimal.

Apart from her fashion moments, Mrunal is currently busy filming *Dacoit*, a pan-India drama where she stars opposite Adivi Sesh. The film, directed

by Shaneil Deo and produced by Supriya Yarlagadda, also features Anurag Kashyap in a pivotal role. *Dacoit* tells the story of a convict seeking revenge on his ex-girlfriend.

Mrunal also has *Son of Sardaar 2* lined up alongside Ajay Devgn, continuing the 2012 hit franchise. With an exciting lineup and her impeccable style, Mrunal continues to captivate fans both on and off the screen.

