

Weather Forecast
HYDERABAD: H 33°C, L 25°C
VIJAYAWADA: H 35°C, L 26°C
TIRUPATHI: H 36°C, L 26°C

SLBC tunnel collapse: Day 7, South Central Railway joins rescue ops

- SCR deploys experts with plasma cutters and Brocho cutting machines to aid rescue.
Two teams from Secunderabad are working on-site
Rescue operations continue with debris clearing and dewatering in progress.
Minister Uttam assures completion of rescue efforts within two days.
Trapped Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) to be cut into pieces for safe rescue.
Eight workers remain trapped since February 22, including engineers and labourers.



TPN Correspondent | Telangana
South Central Railway (SCR) has joined the ongoing rescue efforts at the partially collapsed SLBC tunnel in Nagarkurnool, where eight workers have been trapped for six days. SCR has deployed metal-cutting experts equipped with plasma cutters and Brocho cutting machines to assist in clearing the iron and steel debris obstructing rescue operations.

chanical Engineer S Murali, comprising a senior section engineer, 13 welders, and two technicians from Secunderabad. The second team arrived last night to support the ongoing efforts. Nagarkurnool Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Gaikwad confirmed that debris clearing and dewatering operations are progressing continuously. Telangana Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy assured that rescue operations are in full swing and expected to conclude within two days. The trapped Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) will be cut into pieces

using gas cutters to facilitate further rescue attempts by the Army, Navy, Rat Miners, and NDRF teams. The collapse occurred on February 22, trapping eight workers identified as Manoj Kumar (UP), Sri Niwas (UP), Sunny Singh (J&K), Gurpreet Singh (Punjab), and Sandeep Sahu, Jegta Xess, Santosh Sahu, and Anuj Sahu, all from Jharkhand. Among them, two are engineers, two are operators, and four are labourers employed by Jaiprakash Associates, the contracting firm for the SLBC tunnel project.

Telangana scraps 15% non-local quota in higher education

85% of seats in higher education institutions reserved for Telangana locals.



Non-local students, including those from Andhra, lose local reservation.

New norms set for eligibility in the unreserved 15% category.

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana Higher Education Department has issued Government Order 15 (GO 15), effectively scrapping the 15% non-local quota in all higher education institutions, including government and private colleges. The move ensures that 85% of seats will now be reserved for local candidates from the Osmania University (OU) area, with only 15% remaining unreserved. The order, issued by Education Department Secretary Yogita Rana, implies that students from Andhra Pradesh will no longer be eligible for local reservations in Telangana colleges. It also sets strict eligibility criteria

for the 15% unreserved category. Candidates must have either resided in Telangana for 10 years (excluding study periods outside the state) or have parents who meet the same residency requirement. Additionally, children and spouses of state or central government employees, public sector corporation staff, and employees of local bodies, universities, and government-recognized institutions within Telangana can claim seats in the unreserved category. However, with local students also competing for these seats, non-local candidates now face tougher admission prospects.

CM Revanth proposes Hyderabad-Bangalore defence corridor

- Telangana CM pitches Hyderabad as a defence hub.
National Science Exhibition inaugurated in Gachibowli.
Rajnath Singh attends the event.



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has proposed the establishment of a Hyderabad-Bangalore defence industrial corridor to boost defence research and production. Speaking at the National Science Exhibition in Gachibowli on Friday, he emphasized the importance of Hyderabad in the nation's defence and security sector.

"Today, the defence and security of the country is the responsibility of all of us attending this exhibition. Hyderabad already hosts the

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Ministers are feasting on fish curry while people suffer: KTR

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has strongly criticized Telangana ministers for their negligence and extravagance during a time of crisis. He accused them of enjoying helicopter rides and feasting on fish curry while failing to address the struggles of the people. KTR expressed his outrage through a post on X, alleging that public administration in the state has hit its lowest point.



He condemned the government for failing to provide proper meals to hostel students. He claimed that on the occasion of Maha Shivaratri,

rice was not cooked at the ST boys' hostel in Kondanagula, Nagarkurnool district. Instead, hostel staff reportedly instructed students to get food from nearby temples.

According to KTR, out of the 380 students in the hostel, only 200 were present on the festival day. The staff allegedly directed them to visit the food distribution event at Gudibanda Shiva Temple for lunch and Gangamma Temple in Veeramramajipalli for dinner. KTR slammed the state government for its mismanagement, stating that it is unable to ensure even basic necessities like food for students while ministers indulge in lavish meals.

'Only a Miracle' can save trapped workers

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Government to support innovative entrepreneurs: Sridhar Babu



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Centre gives green signal for Warangal Airport development

Union Minister Rammohan Naidu approves NOC



- Mamnoon Airport to be developed near Warangal
Centre grants permission to the Airports Authority of India
GMR Group agrees to the project after discussions

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
The much-awaited development of Mamnoon Airport near Warangal has received a significant boost, with the Centre granting approval for its construction and operations. The Union Civil Aviation Ministry has officially given permission to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the development of the airport.

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Centre Appoints Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey as New SEBI Chief

- Tuhin Kanta Pandey appointed SEBI chairman for three years.
He replaces Madhabi Puri Buch, whose term ends this month.
Pandey played a key role in Air India's privatization and LIC's listing.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Centre has appointed Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey as the new chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for a three-year term, a government order confirmed on Thursday. He succeeds Madhabi Puri Buch, whose tenure concludes this month. Pandey takes charge at a crucial time when SEBI is working to expand regulated financial investment options

for investors while also tackling market volatility and curbing malpractice in the derivatives segment. Appointed as Finance Secretary in September 2024, Pandey also managed the divestment department and was the longest-serving divestment secretary, holding the position for over five years.

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India Needs 7.8% Growth to Become High-Income Country by 2047: World Bank

- India must sustain a 7.8% growth rate to achieve high-income status by 2047.
Reforms in financial, land, and labor markets are crucial for this goal.
India's economy has grown nearly four-fold since 2000, with its global share doubling.
World Bank suggests an 'accelerated reforms' package for sustained growth.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India will need to maintain an average annual growth rate of 7.8% to transition into a high-income economy by 2047, according to a World Bank report released on Friday. The report, titled Becoming a High-Income Economy

in a Generation, highlights the necessity of reforms in the financial sector, as well as in land and labor markets, to sustain long-term economic expansion. Recognizing India's strong economic performance over the past two decades, with an average growth of 6.3% between 2000 and 2024, the World Bank

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CM Revanth proposes Hyderabad-Bangalore defence corridor

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Defence Research and Development Lab (DRDL)," Revanth Reddy said. He highlighted the presence of companies like Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), which manufactures defence equipment such as rockets and missiles, positioning Hyderabad as a key hub for defence research and development. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was also present at the event. Addressing

him, Reddy pointed out that Telangana produces around 1,10,000 engineering graduates every year, with many opting for opportunities abroad, particularly in the US. To strengthen the country's defence sector, he said the government is taking steps to integrate mechanical and electrical engineers into defence services. "We are focusing on training engineers beyond computer science to serve the nation's security needs," he added.

Centre Appoints Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey as New SEBI Chief

He oversaw the listing of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the country's largest insurer, and played a pivotal role in the government's successful sale of Air India to Tata Group. As privatization efforts slowed, Pandey shifted focus towards enhancing value creation in state-run enterprises, ensuring better financial returns and accountability. In his recent role as Finance and Revenue Secre-

tary from January 2025, he advocated for lower import duties on high-end motorcycles as part of India's broader efforts to move away from protectionist policies. Pandey holds master's degrees in economics and business administration from Panjab University and the University of Birmingham. His leadership at SEBI is expected to influence regulatory strategies in India's evolving financial markets.

Centre gives green signal for Warangal Airport development

Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu has also approved the No Objection Certificate (NOC), clearing the way for the project. **Approval despite proximity to Hyderabad Airport** Mamnoon Airport is located within 150 km of Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. Initially, the GMR Group had an agreement restricting the establishment of another airport within this range. However, after discussions between Telangana government officials and Union Minister Rammohan Naidu with GMR

Group representatives, an understanding was reached, paving the way for Mamnoon Airport's development. With the Centre's clearance, Minister Rammohan Naidu has directed the Airports Authority of India to expedite the construction work. The Telangana government, which had been actively seeking this approval, is now expected to coordinate closely with AAI to ensure rapid progress on the project. The development of Mamnoon Airport is seen as a key step in enhancing air connectivity for Warangal and surrounding regions.

India Needs 7.8% Growth to Become High-Income Country by 2047: World Bank

noted that achieving high-income status will not be possible under a "business-as-usual" scenario. India's Gross National Income (GNI) per capita would need to increase nearly eightfold over the current levels. "To meet this target, given the less conducive external environment, India would need to not only maintain ongoing initiatives but also expand and intensify reforms," the report stated. The World Bank acknowledged recent structural reforms aimed at transforming India into a global manufacturing hub, boosting infrastructure, improving human capital, and leveraging digitalization while maintaining macro-economic stability. World Bank India Country Director Auguste Tano Kouame emphasized that lessons from Chile, South Korea, and Poland show the importance of deepening global economic integration. The report outlined three potential scenarios for India's economic trajectory over the

next 22 years, emphasizing the need to invest in human capital, create better job opportunities, and increase female labor force participation from 35.6% to 50% by 2047. Since 2000, India's economy has grown nearly four times in real terms, and its GDP per capita has almost tripled. India's share in the global economy has doubled from 1.6% in 2000 to 3.4% in 2023, making it the world's fifth-largest economy. The report also highlighted India's success in reducing extreme poverty and expanding essential infrastructure. The World Bank's Country Economic Memorandum recommends four key areas for policy action to sustain long-term growth: increasing investments, promoting structural transformation, fostering job creation, and enhancing human capital. It further states that only an "accelerated reforms" strategy will enable India to achieve its ambitious economic goals by 2047.

'Only a Miracle' can save trapped workers

- Minister Jupally Krishna Rao says survival chances are slim.
- Rescue operations continue for the seventh day.
- Criticism against BRS for leaving the SLBC project incomplete.

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

As rescue operations continue for the eighth day to save the eight trapped workers in the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel collapse, Telangana Minister Jupally Krishna Rao has stated that "only a miracle" could save them. Speaking at a press conference in Gandhi Bhavan on Friday, he expressed his grim assessment of the situation. "I personally visited the site, and in my view, there is absolutely no chance of survival. This is my expectation and opinion, though technical experts may have a different assessment," he said.



The Minister, who represents Kollapur constituency in Nagarkurnool district, under which the SLBC tunnel collapsed on

February 22, noted that rescue operations would continue for another two days. He acknowledged that the company executing the tunnel work had acted swiftly in sensing danger and alerting workers, preventing a larger disaster that could have claimed around 40 lives. Meanwhile, Jupally Krishna Rao criticized the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), accusing it of using the SLBC incident for political mileage. He questioned why the BRS government had left the SLBC project incomplete despite ruling for ten years. "Why did the BRS government keep the SLBC project pending for 10 years? Why did they dig only 200 meters in the tunnel and abandon the work midway?" he asked. The Minister asserted that the BRS had no moral right to question the Congress government over the SLBC mishap.

Uttam criticizes KCR family over social justice remarks

- Minister alleges KCR's family did not participate in the family survey.
- Congress credited for ensuring freedom and equality for all communities.
- Claims BJP rule has intensified oppression in the country.



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Telangana Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy has criticized the KCR family for speaking about social justice despite not participating in the recent family survey. Speaking at a media conference at Gandhi Bhavan, he asserted that the Congress party has always been at the forefront of ensuring freedom and equality for all sections of society. He accused the BJP government of fostering oppression in various forms across the country and emphasized the need for a "Jai Bhim, Jai Babu, Jai Samvidhan" movement to uphold constitutional values. He reiterated the Congress government's commitment

to conducting a caste census and implementing Scheduled Caste (SC) classification in the state. Highlighting the government's achievements, Uttam Kumar Reddy stated that Telangana recorded the highest paddy harvest in the country this year. He admitted that while the government has undertaken numerous welfare and development initiatives over the past year, it has lagged in effectively promoting them. He called for a stronger push to inform the public about the Congress-led administration's welfare programs.

BJP To Announce New Party Chief Before March 15

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is expected to announce its new national president before March 15, sources said, as the party fast-tracks its internal election process.



The move comes as JP Nadda's extended tenure nears its end, with his induction into the Union government making way for a new leadership. For the election of a new BJP chief, organizational elections must be completed in at least 50% of states. So far, only 12 out of 36 states have completed the process, with at least six more needed. The BJP is prioritizing states like Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and Gujarat, which are set for assembly polls next year. However, Bihar, where elections are due later this year, will see no leadership change at the state level. Party in-charges have been asked to submit prospective

names for the top post. While speculation is rife, sources indicate that BJP's final choice will be someone acceptable to both the party and its ideological parent, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Factors like caste representation, regional balance, and electoral strategy—especially in Uttar Pradesh—will play a crucial role in the decision. Nadda, who took over as BJP's working president in 2019 and was officially elected as party chief in 2020, had his tenure extended until June 2024 to oversee the Lok Sabha elections. With his transition to the Union Cabinet, the party is now working to finalize a consensus on his successor.

Govt to support innovative entrepreneurs: Sridhar Babu

- Mini industrial parks to be set up in every constituency.
- Special 10% allocation for SC and ST women entrepreneurs.
- Government focusing on welfare, development, and economic stability.



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Telangana Minister Sridhar Babu has assured full government support for entrepreneurs bringing innovative ideas, emphasizing the need for skilled human resources in industries. Speaking as the chief guest at the Telangana Association of SC and ST Enterprises conference organized by FICCI, he announced that a mini

industrial park dedicated to women will be established in every assembly constituency across the state. The minister highlighted the government's commitment to social progress, stating that true development is possible only when SCs and STs grow. He re-

affirmed the Congress government's promise to Dalits in Chevella, ensuring that all commitments made to them will be fulfilled. While maintaining fiscal discipline, the government is also prioritizing welfare and development initiatives, he added. Sridhar Babu noted that upon assuming power, the government immediately addressed pending dues to industrialists. He also introduced a new policy for MSMEs aimed at generating more employment opportunities. Assuring support for SC and ST entrepreneurs struggling with loan approvals, he announced the formation of a special team to facilitate better access to benefits for Dalit industrialists.

Bus carrying ballot boxes crashes; 20 injured

- Collision occurred on Jagtial-Karimnagar road near Namalikhonda.
- Injured staff shifted to hospital for treatment.



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

A bus carrying ballot boxes and election staff met with an accident on the Jagtial-Karimnagar road on Friday, February 28, injuring 20 people. The incident occurred while the staff was returning from Bhainsa after handing over ballot boxes in Karimnagar. According to reports, an RTC bus belonging to Nirmal Depot collided from

behind with another RTC bus from Bhainsa Depot near the railway track in Namalikhonda suburb of Kodimiyala mandal, Jagtial district. The impact left several staff members injured, prompting immediate medical attention. Authorities rushed the injured to a nearby hospital for treatment. Further details on their condition are awaited.

GHMC cracks down on property tax defaulters, seizing properties

- GHMC aims to collect ₹2,000 crore in property tax by March 31.
- Officials have already seized properties worth ₹200 crore.
- Strict action taken against commercial activities under residential permits.

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has intensified its efforts to recover pending property taxes, targeting defaulters with strict enforcement measures. Officials have set a collection target of ₹2,000 crore for the current financial year and are conducting special drives to achieve it. So far, over ₹1,500 crore has been collect-

ed, with distress warrant notices issued to those with arrears exceeding ₹6 lakh. GHMC officials are particularly focusing on properties that have obtained residential permits but are being used for commercial activities to evade taxes. Such violators are being subjected to heavy fines. Additionally, several government buildings are also among those with pending property tax dues. In a decisive move, GHMC has already seized properties worth ₹200 crore from defaulters. Officials are keeping a close watch on those awaiting a one-time settlement scheme to clear their dues, ensuring that tax collection efforts remain aggressive and effective.



Centre Greenlights Mamunuru Airport: A Decade-Long Dream Fulfilled for Warangal

Mamunuru Airport Gets Centre's Approval

TPN , Correspondent

Warangal , Mar 01 : The long-awaited dream of the people of Warangal has come true with the Centre granting approval for the construction of Mamunuru Airport. Telangana's Forest, Environment, and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha hailed this as the realization of a decade-long wish for the residents of Warangal district. She credited Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and local elected representatives for making this possible, expressing that the decision was a major milestone for the region.

Minister Konda Surekha mentioned that the government has worked tirelessly to ensure the establishment of the airport and pointed out that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's administration took swift steps in this direction. She also called for continued cooperation from the local public and representatives in securing



the land required for the airport. The minister noted that she, along with MPs, MLAs, and local officials, had made several site visits for land acquisition purposes. Once completed, the airport is expected to trigger significant development

across Warangal district, further boosting the region's growth prospects. This is seen as a crucial infrastructure project that will enhance connectivity and bring long-term benefits to the region.

Kul Ganan Survey Ends Today

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Urges Participation

Last Chance to Participate in the Caste Census

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad, Mar 01 : Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, Ponnam Prabhakar, has urged all those who have not yet participated in the caste enumeration survey to do so immediately, as the survey deadline concludes today. He highlighted that the government provided an opportunity for participation between the 16th and 28th of February, and today marks the final day for inclusion in the survey. The minister emphasized that participation in the caste enumeration survey is crucial for ensuring accurate demographic data and that individuals' contributions are vital for Telangana's pop-

ulation records. He appealed to citizens to take part in the survey and provide necessary details.

For those who have not yet participated, enumerators are visiting homes to collect the information. Additionally, people can visit the MPDO offices, ward offices, or designated counters to provide their details. An online platform is also available for registration through the link: <https://seeepcsurvey.cgg.gov.in>. Minister Ponnam Prabhakar also appealed to community leaders, BC associations, and intellectuals to spread awareness and ensure maximum participation in the survey.



BRS MLC Kavitha Criticizes Congress and Demands Action on BC Issues



TPN , Correspondent

Nagarkurnool, Mar 01 : BRS MLC Kavitha, during her visit to Nagar Kurnool, strongly criticized the Congress party and its leadership for failing to address the issues of BCs and marginalized communities. She warned that anyone harassing BRS workers would not be spared, highlighting that the party would maintain the "Pink Book" and hold people accountable. Kavitha emphasized that her time would come to re-

veal everything.

At a roundtable meeting organized by Telangana Jagruti on BC issues, she condemned Minister Jupally Krishna Rao for allegedly harassing BRS workers by filing false cases and failing to act on the murder of Sridhar Reddy. She also accused Congress leaders of shielding the perpetrators. Kavitha pointed out the Congress government's negligence in handling the SLBC disaster and its failure to provide ba-

sic needs such as uria to farmers.

She demanded immediate implementation of Congress' promises to women, including monthly allowances and scooters for young girls. Kavitha also advocated for three separate bills for BC reservations in education, employment, and politics, rather than combining them into one bill. Further, she expressed concern over discrepancies in the population figures of BCs between the 2014 survey by CM KCR and the recent one by Congress, demanding an explanation. Kavitha also stressed the need for constitutional protection for BCs, calling for a national caste-based census to ensure their progress and rights.

Kavitha's statements reflect a strong push for accountability, transparency, and proper implementation of policies for the welfare of marginalized communities in Telangana.

Former Minister V. Srinivas Goud Criticizes Government over SLBC Incident

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 01 : Former Minister V. Srinivas Goud, along with former MP Lingayya Yadav, ex-MLA Anjayya Yadav, Dr. Metuku Anand, Peddi Sudarshan Reddy, and BRS leader Kurva Vijay Kumar, held a press conference at Telangana Bhavan. In his address, Srinivas Goud expressed strong concerns over the SLBC incident, stating that they were not politicizing the issue, but were forced to speak out after the event. He criticized the government's handling of the situation, stating that it was due to government negligence that the SLBC tragedy occurred.



Goud pointed out that workers were pressured to continue working despite warnings of rising water levels in the tunnel. He also accused the government of providing only token relief efforts, with ministers reportedly sitting in guesthouses while the situation worsened. He reminded that during BRS's tenure,

₹3,900 crores had been spent on SLBC, which was ₹600 crores more than the previous Congress government had allocated.

He specifically targeted Minister Jupally Krishna Rao for making false claims about the SLBC tunnel, asserting that they would prove his statements wrong and demanded

his resignation if they were incorrect. Goud further criticized the government's failure to address issues like the Sagar water supply and the neglect of farmers whose crops were withering.

Goud also questioned the government's indifference toward the safety of workers and emphasized that if any harm occurred to workers, the responsibility lay with the government. He warned that no amount of cases filed against leaders like Harish Rao would intimidate them, stressing that the government should be held accountable for its actions.

Centre Approves Mamunuru Airport Construction: Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy's Statement

Centre Grants Approval for Mamunuru Airport

TPN , Correspondent

Warangal , Mar 01 : Minister for Roads, Buildings, and Cinematography, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, announced that the Centre has granted approval for the construction of the Mamunuru Airport in Warangal district. He confirmed that the Ministry of Civil Aviation, through a letter from Secretary Amit Kumar Ja and the Chairman of the Airport Authority of India, communicated the green signal for the project. The minister attributed the success to the persistent efforts of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, who held multiple discussions with the Centre to secure the necessary permissions. Venkat Reddy emphasized the significant role of GMR Group in resolving the long-standing No Objection Certificate (NOC) issue, which had been an obstacle for the last decade. He



revealed that with the cooperation of the Hyderabad International Airport Limited (HIAL), the NOC was granted by revising the 150-kilometer distance restriction, allowing Mamunuru Airport development to proceed.

Furthermore, the Telangana government had already allocated INR 205 crores for land acquisition, ensuring the timely completion of the airport. Minister Komatireddy expressed gratitude towards the Chief Minister and praised the prompt approval, signaling a major boost for Warangal's development and connectivity.

Nagarkurnool MP Mallu Ravi Comments on Revanth Reddy's Statements

TPN , Correspondent

Nagarkurnool, Mar 01 : Nagarkurnool MP Mallu Ravi recently commented on the remarks made by Revanth Reddy at a Madhya Pradesh meeting. Revanth Reddy highlighted two important points during his speech. Firstly, he mentioned that those who strive to fulfill the ideals of Gandhi and Ambedkar should stand with Rahul Gandhi. Secondly, he stated that individuals who follow the ideology of Godse should align themselves with leaders like Modi and Amit Shah. Revanth Reddy's statement has sparked widespread discussions among the 140 crore people of the country. Mallu Ravi emphasized that the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi are upheld by Congress leaders, while the ideology of Godse is reflected in the actions of the BJP. This differentiation, according to Ravi, showcases the stark contrast in the political philosophies of the two parties.

Furthermore, Mallu Ravi urged people to spread awareness in every village of the country about these differences. He also echoed the call for Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge to organize relay programs across the nation to raise consciousness about these issues. Meenakshi Natarajan was the first to initiate such a relay program, and Ravi appealed to everyone to ensure its success, encouraging widespread participation for the success of these awareness efforts.



KTR's Tweet on Incident at ST Boys Hostel in Nagarkurnool District

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 01 : BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) recently tweeted his strong reaction to an incident at the ST Boys Hostel in Konadanagula, Balmoor Mandal, Nagarkurnool district. The hostel staff reportedly instructed the students to go to nearby temples for their meals instead of preparing food at the hostel. The incident occurred during the Maha Shivaratri festival, where out of 380 students, only 200 were present. The staff told the students to go to the Gudibanda Shivalayam for lunch and to the Veerama Ramajipalli Gangamma temple for dinner.

KTR condemned the incident, calling it a disgrace to public governance. He expressed his outrage over the fact that, while ministers indulged in luxurious activities such as helicopter rides and lavish feasts, students were deprived of even basic meals. He questioned the government's priorities, stating, "On a festival day, instead of providing food to the students, they were asked to walk several kilometers to receive free meals from temples." KTR's tweet further read, "How is it acceptable to deprive students of food on a festive day, forcing them to walk long distances for meals? Is this what public administration has come to? This is an utter failure of leadership, and it's a sad state of affairs for the students of Telangana. Wake up, Telangana, wake up!" He strongly criticized the situation, highlighting the lack of care and basic facilities for students in the state.



Governor of Haryana Shri Bandaru Dattatraya Greets Governor of Goa Shri P.S. Sreedharan Pillai

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 01 : Shri Bandaru Dattatraya, the Hon'ble Governor of Haryana, extended a warm greeting to Shri P.S. Sreedharan Pillai, the Hon'ble Governor of Goa, on the occasion of his visit to Hyderabad. The meeting took place on 28th February 2025, where the two dignitaries exchanged pleasantries and discussed matters of mutual interest. Kailas Nagesh, the Private Secretary to the Governor of Haryana, was also present during the interaction. This cordial exchange highlighted the strengthening of ties between the two states and was marked by a spirit of cooperation and goodwill. The meeting showcased the commitment to furthering collaboration on various fronts for the betterment of both regions.



Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu's Speech at Bankers' Quarterly Review Meeting

1. Govt Prioritizes Self-Employment and Welfare Schemes
2. Rs 6,000 Crore Self-Employment Initiative to Boost State's GDP
3. State's Focus on Rural Development and Women's Empowerment

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 01 : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu emphasized the Telangana State government's commitment to prioritizing self-employment schemes through SC, ST, BC, and Minority Corporations. Speaking at a review meeting with bankers, he criticized the previous government's neglect of welfare corporations over the last decade. The government, he said, is ready to provide subsidies and margin money and urged bankers to support unemployed youth in gaining livelihoods. On March 2, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will launch self-employment schemes worth Rs 6,000 crores at Wanaparthy, with the government organizing a festive distribution of financial aid and assets. These schemes aim to enhance the state's GDP. Bhatti Vikramarka also highlighted the importance of creating a conducive environment for investment, noting the state's success in attracting Rs 1.8 lakh crore



investments, particularly at the Davos summit. The Deputy CM praised the government's support for farmers, including loan waivers, subsidies, and bonuses, which have benefited both farmers and bankers. He also stressed the need for rural development, with a focus on women's empowerment through initiatives like the Indira Mahila Shakti

scheme for solar power generation. He urged bankers to extend support to the MSME sector, Musi River rejuvenation, and the construction of the Regional Ring Road, which will promote large-scale investments. The government, he said, is focused on inclusive development for all regions and social groups in Telangana.

"Justice for the Last Person is Our Party's Principle": Meenakshi Natarajan

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 01 : Telangana AICC In-Charge Meenakshi Natarajan emphasized that "justice for the last person" is the core principle of their party. She was speaking at a wide-ranging meeting held at Gandhi Bhavan, chaired by TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud. During her address, she highlighted the importance of transparency and accountability in governance. She reaffirmed that the party came to power in Telangana following Rahul Gandhi's vision and that they must return to power



well-informed about the party's efforts to improve their lives. She also shared her happiness over the success of caste enumeration in Telangana, calling it a significant achievement. Meenakshi announced that a calendar for party activities would be created, ensuring the participation of workers in government programs. She stressed that workers who have dedicated ten years of hard work should be given priority and that the responsibility of taking government schemes to the people lies with the party's grassroots workers.

again with a clear focus on welfare schemes and development initiatives. Meenakshi emphasized the need for the Congress party to extensively communicate these plans to the public, ensuring that the people are

Telangana CS Reviews Arrangements for Vice President's Visit



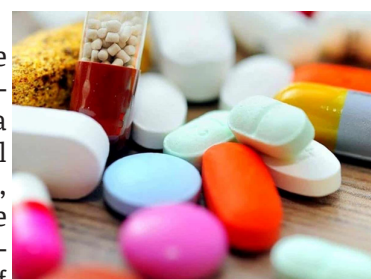
TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 01 : Telangana Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari on Friday held a meeting with senior officials to review the arrangements for the visit of Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankar, scheduled for March 2. The Vice President will visit the Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT Hyderabad) to interact with faculty, staff, and students. Santhi Kumari emphasized the need for seamless coordination between all departments to ensure smooth arrangements, avoiding any communication gaps. The Vice President will also attend a private event in Hyderabad before returning to New Delhi the same day. The Telangana Police have been instructed to ensure robust security and law enforcement arrangements, while the Roads and Buildings Department will coordinate with the police for smooth transit. The Health and Energy departments have been tasked with ensuring the availability of qualified doctors and uninterrupted power supply at all venues the Vice President will visit.

DCA Raids Illegal Medical Shop in Shaikpet, Seizes Medicines Worth Rs. 80,000

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 01 : The Drugs Control Administration (DCA) Telangana officials raided an illegal medical shop in Shaikpet, Hyderabad, based on credible information about the unlawful stocking and sale of medicines. The shop, operated by Bairi Radhakishan, was found to be running without a proper drug license. During the raid, DCA officers discovered a significant quantity of unauthorized medicines, including antibiotics, analgesics, and antiulcer drugs, stocked for sale. A total of thirty varieties of medicines were seized, valued at approximately Rs. 80,000. The operation was led by Ch. Swapna, Drugs Inspector, Jubilee Hills, who carried out the successful raid. The DCA has warned of strict actions against individuals involved in the illegal sale and distribution of drugs.



Telangana Chief Secretary Orders Closure of Xerox Centres During Intermediate Exams

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 01 : Telangana Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari has instructed the state police to shut down all Xerox centers during the upcoming Intermediate Public Examinations. The exams, scheduled from March 5 to 25, will be held across the state. During a video conference with district collectors, Santhi Kumari emphasized the importance of ensuring smooth and fair conduct of the exams. The state is expecting 9,96,971 students to appear for the exams at 1532 centers across Telangana. She also directed police to implement Section 144 around the examination centers to secure question paper storage points in police stations and manage traffic

at key locations.

Additionally, district collectors were asked to coordinate with the Postal Department for the safe and timely dispatch of answer booklets. Special provisions will also be made for differently-abled students, with scribes available for visually impaired candidates. Electricity and medical facilities will be prioritized, with the power department ensuring uninterrupted supply and the DMHOs providing medical aid. Surveillance through CCTV cameras at all centers has been arranged, integrated with the Command Control Centre at the Board of Intermediate Education office. Strict action will be taken against any malpractices during the exams.



Fire Breaks Out at Plastic Godown in Bandlaguda, Quick Response Averts Major Damage

TPN , Correspondent

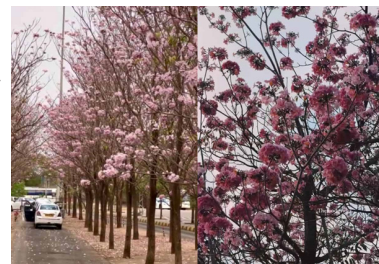
Hyderabad , Mar 01 : A fire broke out at a plastic godown in the Lake View Hills Colony, Ghousenagar, Bandlaguda, on Friday afternoon around 2 pm. The godown, located in a residential area, was storing plastic materials when the blaze erupted. Panicked locals immediately alerted the Bandlaguda police, and a police patrol car was dispatched to the scene. The police quickly informed the fire department, and a fire tender from the Chandrayangutta fire station arrived promptly. Firefighters worked efficiently and managed to control the fire within half an hour, preventing further damage. Authorities are investigating the cause of the fire, and no casualties have been reported.



Summer 2025: Hyderabad Turns Pink with Its Own Cherry Blossoms

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 01 : As summer arrives, the city is being transformed into a picturesque wonderland, with roads, parks, and lakes adorned with vibrant pink flowers. This pink spectacle, reminiscent of Japan's famous cherry blossom season, is attracting photographers and nature enthusiasts alike. However, these pink blooms are not traditional cherry blossoms but are from the Pink Trumpet



tree (Tabebuia rosea), native to Central and South America. Planted in Hyderabad by the Hyderabad Urban Development Authority about 20 years ago, these trees have thrived in the city's warm climate, blooming every year be-

tween February and April. For those eager to enjoy the sight, the best spots in the city include Saroor-nagar Lake, People's Plaza at Necklace Road, Public Gardens, and KBR Park. Streets near City Centre Mall, Banjara Hills, Gachibowli Road, and Jubilee Hills are also lined with these stunning trees. The Pink Trumpet trees bloom for only a few weeks, making now the perfect time to enjoy this fleeting beauty.

GHMC Plans Smart Parking in Khairatabad with Potential Expansion

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 01 : The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is gearing up to introduce advanced smart parking solutions in the Khairatabad zone under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, following the Build Own Operate Share Transfer (BOOST) framework. A tender process for this pilot project is underway, with plans for expansion into other city zones such as Secunderabad, Charminar, LB Nagar, Serilingampally, and Kukatpally if the initiative proves successful. The Khairatabad parking zone will be equipped with cutting-edge features such as occupancy sensors,

high-resolution surveillance cameras, digital display boards, vending kiosks, EV charging points, and WiFi connectivity. A dedicated mobile app will further enhance operational efficiency, and the entire system will be integrated with a centralized Command and Control Centre for real-time monitoring. The smart parking infrastructure will include weather-resistant sensors for tracking parking space availability for both two-wheelers and four-wheelers, AI-enabled cameras for vehicle tracking and security, and real-time updates for users, aiming to streamline the parking experience and improve security across the city.

"Party Programs Should Be Expansively Carried Out in Every Village" - Meenakshi Natarajan



TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 01 : During a meeting at Gandhi Bhavan, AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan emphasized the importance of party workers and the need to focus on

the welfare of the poor, now that the Congress party is in power. She stated, "Now that we are in power, we must work for the poor. When we see smiles on the faces of the poor, then we know our work is done." She acknowledged that Congress workers have fought tirelessly through various struggles to bring the party to power in Telangana. "Rahul Gandhi initiated the Bharat Jodo Yatra to protect the Constitution and created a platform for us to continue fighting for our cause," she said. Meenakshi Natarajan stressed that the Congress party must fight against BJP and BRS in the state, and emphasized that Congress is always ready for any struggle.

She also highlighted the various welfare schemes implemented by the Congress government under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. She expressed that the hard work of Congress workers over the past ten years must be recognized, and they should be given their due share. "We must explain our actions to the people," she added. She also mentioned the historic caste enumeration carried out in Telangana, calling it a significant achievement. Finally, she urged for large-scale programs under "Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Constitution" in every village, with PCC preparing a detailed calendar for the same.

BRRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha Press Meet in Nagar Kurnool

TPN , Correspondent
Nagarkurnool , Mar 01 : In a recent press conference, BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha expressed her concerns regarding the tragic deaths of eight people in the SLBC tunnel in Nagar Kurnool. She criticized the Congress leaders, stating that while eight lives were lost, Congress leaders were busy attending a party meeting. "Not a single minister is present at the site now, indicating that Congress leaders didn't care about the lives lost," she added. Kavitha further emphasized that under the leadership of Chief Minister KCR, the SLBC tunnel was built without any accidents during its 11.5 km construction. She attributed the recent incident to government negligence, mentioning that workers had raised concerns about falling rocks and soil but were ignored. She also highlighted the achievements



of KCR's government, including the successful completion of the Kalwakurthi Lift Irrigation Scheme, which provided irriga-

tion to lakhs of acres. Under KCR's leadership, projects like Palamuru-Rangareddy and Dindi had been completed over 60%. The current government, according to Kavitha, has failed to implement projects and take up necessary actions. She further raised questions regarding the non-availability of urea for farmers and stated that during KCR's tenure, urea was always available. Kavitha demanded that the current government fulfill its promises, including providing Rs. 2500 to women and scooters to young girls. She also criticized the Congress for failing to provide quality food in hostels and addressing educational issues like SC, ST, and BC fee reimbursements. Lastly, Kavitha demanded that the government release the Ambedkar Overseas Scholarship and urged for a caste-wise population survey in villages.

Fire at Residential Building in Rangareddy Claims 3 Lives, Including a Minor

TPN , Correspondent
Rangareddy , Mar 01 : A tragic fire broke out on Friday evening, February 28, in a residential building located in Pasha Colony, Puppalguda, Ranga Reddy district, resulting in the deaths of three individuals, including a seven-year-old child.



The victims have been identified as Sijira, 7, Sahana, 40, and Jamila, 70. According to officials from the Langer House fire department, the fire started in the parking cellar of the residential building due to a short circuit. The blaze spread quickly, engulfing several CNG vehicles and motorcycles before reaching the first floor via the stairs. Firefighters rescued three residents, including the minor, who were shifted to Golconda

Government Hospital in critical condition. Sadly, despite efforts to save them, the victims succumbed to their injuries while receiving treatment. Earlier in the day, another fire broke out in a godown at Lake View Hills colony, Ghousenagar, Bandlaguda. Fortunately, no casualties were reported in that incident. The cause of the fire in the godown, which housed plastic materials, is under investigation.

Sewing Machines, Financial Aid: Telangana Govt's Push for Minorities

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 01 : Telangana Minority Finance Corporation Chairman Abdullah Kotwal announced that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will inaugurate a sewing machine distribution scheme for minority women on March 2 in Wanaparthy. The state government has allocated Rs. 25 crore for self-employment programs aimed at empowering minorities.



As part of the initiative, 5,000 individuals will receive Rs. 50,000 each. The government will distribute a total of 40,000 sewing machines under this scheme. In the first phase, 11,000 machines will be given to beneficiaries in districts where the election code of conduct is not in effect. The remaining 29,000 machines will be distributed after the election restrictions are lifted. Kotwal highlighted that an ad-

ditional Rs. 5 crore has been set aside to support employment opportunities for nomadic and other minority groups, with a special plan to be drafted in March. The Minority Finance Corporation is also providing free training for minority youth in various courses to enhance their employability. The selection of beneficiaries for these programs will be done transparently online, ensuring that there is no involvement of middlemen in the process. Kotwal emphasized the Congress government's commitment to the welfare and development of minorities.

Peak Power Demand in Telangana Expected to Cross 17,500 MW This Summer



TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 01 : Telangana is expected to see a significant rise in power demand this summer, with peak electricity demand projected to cross 17,500 MW. Telangana's Principal Secretary (Energy), Sandeep Kumar Sultania, reviewed the Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Ltd's (TGNPDCL) action plan on February 28 to manage the increasing power load during the ongoing Rabi and summer seasons. During a teleconference meeting, TGNPDCL CMD K Varun Reddy informed that extensive infrastructure improvements had been made to address overloads, including the completion of 33 new substations, 83 33KV feeders, 341 11KV feeders, and 98 33KV interlinking lines for alternative power supply. Sultania commended the efforts of the power sector in ensuring reliable and uninterrupted power supply, particularly after reaching a peak demand of 16,601 MW on February 26. With Ramzan coinciding with the summer season, electricity demand is expected to rise further. To handle the expected demand, TGNPDCL engineers are prepared, with work on 99 of 105 overloaded power transformers already completed, and all remaining tasks set to be finished by March 10. Additionally, augmentation work on 10 of 16 transformers is nearly complete. Sultania also instructed the deployment of Emergency Response Team vehicles to ensure quick resolution of any transformer issues to protect farmers' crops during the summer months. He urged consumers to use the 1912 system for prompt grievance redressal.

Devotees Attend Karunagiri Shrine Feast in Khammam



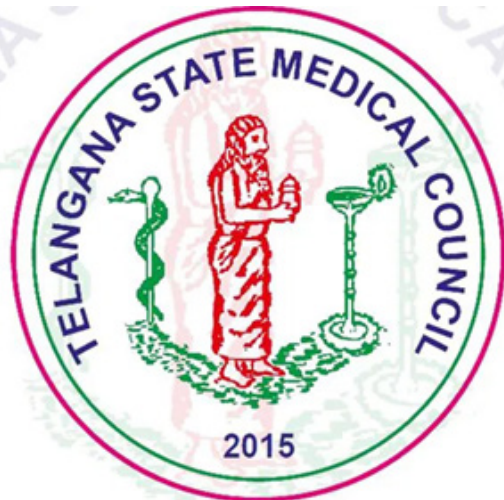
TPN , Correspondent
Khammam , Mar 01 : The four-day annual feast of Karunagiri Shrine in Khammam city saw large numbers of devotees in attendance. The festivities began on a grand scale on Thursday, with Khammam diocese Bishop Dr. Sagili Prakash hoisting the flag to mark the start of the celebration. Bishop Prakash emphasized the significance of the Karunagiri Mahotsavam, highlighting its special importance in the two Telugu states. He spoke of the teachings of Jesus Christ, emphasizing love, kindness, compassion, and peace as guiding principles for prosperity in the world.

On Friday, international evangelist Father Benny from Eluru Divine Word Retreat Centre delivered a spiritual discourse, urging devotees to maintain faith in God despite hardships and dangers. He stressed that without faith, human efforts are futile. Karunagiri Shrine Director Mathew Varaprasad Raju mentioned that the festival is being held with spiritual grandeur and will conclude on March 2. Religious leaders, nuns, and devotees from various areas participated, while the Khammam North Parish Church choir rendered devotional songs during the celebrations.

Seven People Killed in Separate Incidents in Telangana's Kothagudem District

TPN , Correspondent
Kothagudem , Mar 01 : Seven people lost their lives in separate incidents across Kothagudem district on Friday, February 28. The first tragedy occurred in Bhadrachalam, where two students, P Hariprasad (21) and R Pavan (22), drowned in the Godavari river while taking a holy bath. The bodies were retrieved after locals raised the alarm. In Cherla, two laborers from Chhattisgarh were crushed by a tractor carrying a sand load. One died instantly, while the other succumbed to injuries during treatment. In Manugur, M Prasad, a native of Madhya Pradesh, was beaten to death with a boulder by unidentified assailants. He was working as a helper at a private company. On the Yellandu-Bethampudi road, Earla Bharath (19) from Tekulapalli mandal died in a road accident after losing control of his bike. In Burgampad mandal, a biker was killed when an autorickshaw collided with his bike. Authorities have launched investigations into each of the incidents, and efforts are being made to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Telangana Medical Council Takes Action Against 15 Quacks in Hyderabad and Gajwel



TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 01 : The Telangana State Medical Council (TSMC) has registered police cases against 15 unqualified individuals practicing medicine in Hyderabad and Gajwel. These individuals, who were operating without an MBBS degree, were treating patients as medical professionals. In a significant move, the TSMC has filed cases against 400 quacks this year, with a focus on Rural Medical Practitioners (RMPs) and Private Medical Practitioners (PMPs). Inspections were carried out at several clinics, particularly in Miyapur, Jeedimetla, and Gajwel, where the quacks

were found to be operating without proper qualifications. Cases were registered at local police stations. Dr. G. Srinivas, Vice-Chairman of TSMC, condemned the actions of quacks who exploit the vulnerability of poor patients, emphasizing the council's commitment to eradicating quackery in the state. The individuals targeted in the recent cases include practitioners in Hafeezpet, Marthanda Nagar, Chinthala, and Gajwel, among others. The Telangana Medical Council has vowed to continue its fight against the illegal practice of quackery.

Not Muslims Or Christians - Another Syrian Ethnic Group Caught In Crossfire



A Druze factions in Syria's southern Suwayda province formed the Suwayda Military Council, a coalition created to protect the Druze community from external threats and government oppression. This announcement came amidst uncertainty following the downfall of

former Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and the rise of interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa, who is linked to the Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS).

The Druze, a unique ethnic minority following a faith blending Islam, Hinduism, and Greek

philosophy, have long been wary of external threats. They have faced significant challenges in the past, including massacres at the hands of ISIS and the turmoil after Assad's regime fell. Despite this, they have maintained a cautious independence, particularly in the Suwayda region,

which was under partial control of the Assad regime since 2015.

The newly-formed Suwayda Military Council, led by Tareq Al Shoufi, aims to promote secularism, democracy, and decentralization as the foundation for a just and stable future. The council intends to safeguard civilians, manage public property, and work in cooperation with other security factions to ensure the region's stability. At the same time, they have expressed willingness to work with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) due to their shared opposition to terrorism and dictatorship.

However, the council's formation has not been without controversy. Syria's Druze spiritual leader, Sheikh Hikmat al-Hajri, rejected the council, accusing it of separatism and claiming it does not represent the Druze community as a whole. Despite these internal divisions, the Suwayda Military Council has garnered local support, with several factions in the region pledging allegiance.

The council's flag, reminiscent of the Kurdish SDF flag, carries a distinct Druze symbol, a five-pointed star, signaling both the community's resistance and its pursuit of independence from government oppression. Their leader, Tareq Al Shoufi, is a former Syrian Arab Army officer who has stood by the Druze community during protests against Assad.

While the formation of the Suwayda Military Council has provided a sense of protection for the Druze, many civilians have expressed uncertainty about the future. "It's a good step for pressuring the government and providing protection. But in the past, armed groups in Suwayda were disorganized, and no large force was ever formed," said Ahmed Al Shareef, a Druze from Suwayda.

Despite this, the growing presence of the Suwayda Military Council symbolizes a new chapter for the Druze in Syria, one focused on self-preservation and independence amidst an unstable political landscape.

The UK's Persistent Tolerance for Authoritarian Leaders: A Troubling Legacy



The UK has a long-standing history of cozying up to authoritarian regimes, a trend that continues despite its self-image as a bastion of democratic values. For more than a century, foreign strongmen have found allies, apologists, or a lack of criticism within British politics, even as the UK proudly stands as a supposed enemy of fascism. This paradox raises an important question: why does Westminster, the heart of British democracy, remain so welcoming to far-right governments? One reason lies in the pragmatic nature of foreign policy. As Britain navigates an increasingly multipolar world, it often cannot afford to alienate powerful nations. This is especially evident in the relationship between the UK and the Trump administration, where diplomacy often appears to overlook the authoritarian tendencies of

foreign leaders for the sake of strategic cooperation. However, darker impulses also play a role in the UK's tolerance for autocratic rule. For some British politicians, the regimes of strongmen offer a fascinating alternative to the compromises and slow progress of liberal democracy. In moments of disillusionment with democratic processes, autocrats can seem like leaders who "get things done." For instance, Kemi Badenoch, a prominent Tory figure, recently praised the fast-paced, result-driven nature of Trump's leadership, echoing a sentiment shared by other right-wing figures in the UK who admire the transgressive populism that Trump embodies. This admiration for foreign autocrats isn't new. In the 1920s and 1930s, many in Britain—including figures like Winston Churchill—warmly embraced Mussolini's fascist regime, seeing it

as a bulwark against communism. Similarly, during the Cold War, right-wing British leaders supported the brutal military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet in Chile, viewing it as an ally in the fight against communism. Today, the fear of Islam and immigration fuels the right's admiration for leaders like Trump, whose aggressive stances on these issues resonate with their own increasingly illiberal policies.

British politicians and media figures have often sought to justify their support for autocrats by focusing on their supposed effectiveness in governance. In the case of Mussolini and Trump, their personal appeal and decisive rhetoric offered a tantalizing contrast to the perceived failures of liberal democracy. This admiration, however, has consequences. By softening the image of authoritarian leaders, British politicians and journalists inadvertently make them more palatable to the public, rather than influencing them to moderate their behavior.

When these authoritarian figures eventually lose power, as they often do, the UK's support may be remembered as a grave moral and strategic error, much like the post-World War II reckoning with fascist regimes. But for now, Westminster seems content to move forward, its admiration for strongmen providing a troubling glimpse into the underlying forces shaping British politics.

If you have money, borders are just a formality—Trump shows only rich can have American Dream

For many Indians, the United States, Canada, Australia, and Northern Europe have long been the ultimate destinations—a place to study, work, and, if fortunate enough, call home. The pursuit of a better life abroad has been relentless, with countless individuals attempting to migrate through both legal and illegal routes. This deep desire reflects a fundamental aspiration for better financial opportunities and the chance to be part of a system that often seems out of reach in India.

However, the reality of immigration is changing. The doors to these countries, once wide open, are now showing signs of closing. Increasing protectionism and rising resistance to immigration have led to more restrictive policies in these once immigrant-friendly nations. What was once seen as an opportunity for millions is now becoming a battle for access—and the rules are becoming harder to navigate. During Donald Trump's first term, immigration became a hot-button issue, especially for Indian migrants. The media buzzed with stories of illegal immigrants risking everything to pursue the American Dream. Many questioned why someone would undertake such perilous jour-



neys, especially if they had financial stability back home. The truth is, for many, the dream is not just about financial prosperity but about belonging to a system and culture that represents privilege, status, and a certain way of life. While the number of Indians pursuing legal routes remains high—over 331,000 Indian students were enrolled in US institutions as of 2024, a 23% increase from the previous year—there's growing anxiety among them. The once relatively predictable path from student visas to permanent residency is now filled with uncertainty. Students worry not just about getting in but what will happen once they arrive. Will opportunities for work and settlement continue, or are these doors closing too? Trump's immigration policies, which built

on the flawed "lump of labour fallacy," were aimed at limiting competition for jobs by reducing immigration. His administration blocked visa holders during the pandemic, made it more difficult for foreign-born professionals to work, and imposed additional restrictions on immigration. Despite campaign promises in 2024 to make it easier for international students to stay in the US, many Indian students remain skeptical, as history shows that promises often don't translate into policy changes. Even Canada, once seen as a more immigrant-friendly alternative, is tightening its borders. In 2024, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a reduction in the intake cap for international student study permits for 2025. The termination of the

Student Direct Stream (SDS) initiative, which once simplified visa processing for Indian students, and stricter post-graduation work visa rules have made the path to staying in Canada more difficult. While the tightening of immigration policies is often associated with specific leaders, the underlying issue is larger: immigration systems around the world have always been more accessible to the wealthy. Whether it's the United States' "gold card" visa for the ultra-rich or Canada's once lenient policies for students, the pattern is clear: money often trumps the barriers of immigration. For those without financial means, however, the hurdles are growing, making the dream of a better life abroad increasingly elusive.

PM Modi Announces Free Trade Agreement with EU by Year-End



sion is undertaking such a comprehensive engagement with any country. He also noted that this was among the first international visits of the new European Commission regime, marking an important milestone in diplomatic relations.

"Over the past two decades, India and the European Union have built a strategic partnership that is both natural and organic, founded on trust and shared democratic values," PM Modi said. He added that the talks between the two sides have been sincere and productive, addressing various key issues. One of the outcomes of the discussions was the mutual commitment to conclude the Free Trade Agreement by the end of 2025.

The Prime Minister mentioned that teams from both India and the European Union have been tasked with working towards the completion of the agreement, emphasizing its importance in promoting mutual benefits and strengthening bilateral trade relations.

The FTA is expected to enhance economic cooperation between India and the EU, benefiting both parties in terms of trade, investment, and economic growth. The agreement will be a significant step towards deepening India's ties with the European Union, reflecting the growing strategic partnership and shared interests between the two regions.

With the announcement, PM Modi highlighted the potential of this trade deal to unlock new avenues of growth and prosperity for both India and the European Union.

- PM Modi confirms India-EU FTA by year-end
- Historic EU Commission visit deepens ties
- FTA aims to boost trade, investment, and growth

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the ongoing visit of the European Commission President and the College of Commissioners to India will lead to the conclusion of a long-awaited Free Trade Agreement

(FTA) between India and the European Union by the end of this year.

Speaking on the historic visit, the Prime Minister emphasized that this was not only the first-ever visit by the European Commission to India, but also the first time the Commis-

Mumbai Police Investigate Threat to CM Fadnavis, Enhance Security Measures



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Mumbai Traffic Police recently received a threatening WhatsApp message targeting Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' office. According to NDTV, the message, which was sent by an individual identified as Malik Shahbaz Humayun Raja Dev, came from a Pakistani number. The authorities have launched an investigation to determine whether the sender is an Indian national or a foreigner.

In response to the threat, security around Chief Minister Fadnavis has been bolstered, with heightened measures around his office and other critical government buildings. The police are carefully assessing the credibility of the threat as part of their ongoing probe.

This threat to Fadnavis follows closely on the heels of a similar situation involving Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who received a death threat via email on February 20. The threat was directed to sever-

al locations, including Goregaon and JJ Marg police stations, as well as Mantralaya. Authorities swiftly responded to the threat, and the Mumbai Crime Branch, along with the Buldhana police, arrested two individuals in connection with the email threat. The arrested suspects, identified as Mangesh Wayal (35) and Abhay Shingane (22), residents of Deulgaon Mahi in Buldhana district, were taken to Mumbai, where an FIR was filed against them under various sections of the Indian Penal Code.

This isn't the first time Shinde has faced such threats. Earlier, in 2024, a college student had issued death threats to both Shinde and his MP son, Shrikant Shinde, through social media. This led to the arrest of a 19-year-old student who had sent the threatening messages on February 11, 2024.

As investigations continue into the latest threats, authorities remain vigilant, ensuring the safety and security of the state's leaders and the public.

Don't determine parliamentary seats based on population and penalise south: CM Stalin



TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has strongly opposed the Centre's proposal to base the determination of parliamentary constituencies solely on population, warning that such an approach would unfairly penalise southern states like Tamil Nadu. Stalin, also the president of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), made it clear in a video message that his party and the state would never accept such a move.

He emphasized that Tamil Nadu, having taken responsible steps to control population growth, should not be disadvantaged in the forthcoming parliamentary constituency delimitation exercise. "Our demand is clear—don't determine parliamentary constituencies based on population alone," Stalin asserted. He further warned that if this perceived injustice were implemented, it would face strong resistance from the people of Tamil Nadu and his party.

Stalin's message was delivered on the eve of his 72nd birthday, during which he reminded party workers of two crucial issues facing the state: the protection of the Tamil language and the fight

against the parliamentary delimitation plan. "We must take a pledge that we will never compromise on Tamil Nadu's welfare and future for anyone or anything. We must stand together and fight for our state's rights," he urged party cadres, calling for collective action to safeguard Tamil Nadu's interests.

While he refrains from grand birthday celebrations, Stalin's party often marks the occasion by distributing welfare assistance and engaging in public meetings to highlight the achievements of the DMK government. This year, Stalin used his birthday as an opportunity to highlight the critical challenges at hand, specifically emphasizing the impact of delimitation on the state's self-respect, social justice, and welfare schemes.

He also noted that solidarity was emerging from states like Karnataka, Punjab, and Telangana in opposition to the proposed changes, and insisted that the Centre should refrain from imposing such decisions on the states. Stalin cautioned that despite assurances, actions by the Centre hinted at increasing representation for other states at the expense of Tamil Nadu's interests.

ISRO to resume SpaDeX experiments from March 15: V Narayanan

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to resume experiments on its SpaDeX mission in mid-March, with plans to separate and re-dock two satellites, SDX01 and SDX02, in space. These experiments aim to advance ISRO's capabilities in satellite docking technologies for future space projects. The SpaDeX mission, launched on December 30, 2024, successfully placed the two satellites into orbit, marking a significant milestone in India's space exploration.

On January 16, 2025, ISRO succeeded in docking the two satellites for the first time, a key achievement for the mission. Currently, the unified satellite is in an elliptical orbit, providing a 10-15 day window every two months to conduct various experiments. ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan shared this update during the National Science Day celebrations, stating that the next opportunity for experiments will open from March 15.

The upcoming experiments will focus on separating the satellites and re-docking them, an essential step in refining the docking technology. Narayanan

confirmed that the team has already begun simulation tests in preparation for the actual operations, which are slated to begin in mid-March. ISRO plans to further test electrical power transfer between the satellites before proceeding to undocking and separation.

The SpaDeX mission holds immense promise for ISRO's future projects, including Chandrayaan-4 and the development of the Bharat Antariksha Station. Both of these endeavors will rely heavily on advanced docking technologies, making the successful execution of SpaDeX's experiments crucial. Narayanan emphasized that the mission would also help in managing the significant propellant onboard the satellites, with additional experiments planned for the third window available in two months.

This project marks a crucial step in ISRO's continued efforts to enhance its space exploration capabilities and establish India as a leader in space technology. The successful outcomes of these experiments are expected to pave the way for more ambitious missions in the coming years.



Kangana Ranaut Appears in Court Over Defamation Case Filed by Javed Akhtar



TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Bollywood actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut appeared before a special court on Friday in connection with a defamation case filed against her by veteran lyricist-screenwriter Javed Akhtar. Ranaut appeared in the special magistrate court designated to handle cases involving MPs and MLAs.

The defamation case was filed by Akhtar in 2020, accusing Ranaut of making defamatory comments about him during a television interview, which allegedly tarnished his reputation. In her interview, Ranaut had mentioned a "coterie" in Bollywood, and Akhtar's name was reportedly dragged into the conversation. The interview followed the tragic death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, which had sparked widespread controversy in the industry.

Initially, the case was heard in a magistrate court in Andheri, Mumbai. However, after Ranaut was elected as a Member of Parliament from Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, in 2024, the matter was transferred to the special court that deals with cases involving MPs and MLAs.

In the previous hearing, Akhtar had requested the court to issue a non-bailable warrant against Ranaut. The court granted a final opportunity for the actor to appear, and as per the directive, she appeared before the court on Friday.

The case has attracted significant attention, given the high-profile nature of both the individuals involved. Details regarding the court's next steps and any potential developments are awaited.

The ongoing legal proceedings highlight the tensions in the Bollywood industry, with both Ranaut and Akhtar frequently in the news for their public statements and interactions within the industry.

Trump Boasts “BRICS Is Dead”, New De-Dollarisation Call Comes As A Jolt



Trump claimed BRICS “broke up” due to his tariff warnings.

Brazil’s President reaffirmed BRICS+ commitment to ending dollar dominance.

BRICS+ nations continue discussions on de-dollarisation despite US pressure.

TPN Correspondent | Vijayapura
Farmers in Karnataka’s Krishna basin have strongly opposed the government’s decision to release 1.24 TMC of water to Telangana, warning of a potential shortage during peak summer months. The move has sparked outrage, with farmer organizations planning a major protest outside

the District Collector’s office on February 28. The state government released 1 TMC of water from the Almatti and Narayanpur reservoirs following Telangana’s request for 5 TMC to meet drinking water needs. However, officials confirmed that Karnataka could only spare a fraction of the requested amount. “We released the water as per government orders. Telangana sought 5 TMC, but given the current storage levels, only 1 TMC was released,” said Almatti Dam Chief Engineer D Basavaraj. Farmer unions, including the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS), have condemned the decision, accusing the government of disregarding local needs. “Water is crucial for Karnataka’s farmers, especially in the summer months. Yet, Water Resources Minister DK

Shivakumar has shown undue interest in releasing it elsewhere,” said BKS secretary Raghavendra Kamanatagi. Amid the growing discontent, Akhanda Karnataka Raita Sangha has announced a large-scale protest on February 28. Despite the backlash, the government has defended its stance, citing past instances of Maharashtra releasing water to Karnataka for drinking purposes. “Providing water for drinking needs is not a mistake. It’s a matter of maintaining good relations with neighboring states,” said APMC Minister Shivanand Patil. According to official data, the Almatti reservoir currently holds 50.463 TMC of water, with a live storage of 32.843 TMC. As of Thursday, the total discharge stood at 10,475 cusecs.

India, EU set year-end deadline for free trade pact

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India and the European Union have set a year-end deadline to finalise a long-awaited free trade agreement, aiming to strengthen economic ties between the two regions. The announcement was made in a joint statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen during their meeting in New Delhi. PM Modi emphasised that the India-EU partnership goes beyond trade, stating, “We have prepared a blueprint for collaboration in trade, technology, investment, innovation, green growth, security, skill, and mobility.” He also confirmed that officials have been directed to conclude negotiations before the end of the year, with a formal roadmap set to be launched at the next India-EU summit.

Challenges in trade deal negotiations

Despite rapid trade growth—rising 90% since 2014, with total bilateral trade exceeding \$137 billion in 2023-24—previous attempts to finalise a trade pact stalled due to differences on tariffs and visa regulations. The EU has sought lower tariffs on automobiles, liquor, and other goods, while India is pushing for easier market access for its pharmaceutical and textile sectors.

New Delhi has also opposed Europe’s 20-35% carbon tax on industrial goods like cement, steel, and aluminum. Meanwhile, the EU remains hesitant to relax visa restrictions for Indian professionals.

Push for India-Europe connectivity

In a parallel development, India and the EU reaffirmed their commitment to the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEEC), a strategic infrastructure project aimed at enhancing trade routes through sea, rail, and road networks. PM Modi described the initiative as an “engine for global commerce and sustainable growth.” EU chief von der Leyen highlighted the corridor’s potential to strengthen economic integration and improve security, particularly in the Indo-Pacific and Africa. She also stressed the importance of joint naval exercises in securing global trade routes. With both sides prioritising economic and strategic collaboration, the coming months will be crucial in determining whether they can overcome existing barriers and finalise a historic free trade agreement.



Kash Patel Seeks UFC’s Help To Train FBI Agents: Report

TPN Correspondent | Washington D.C.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Kash Patel is reportedly considering a proposal to train FBI agents in self-defense techniques with the help of the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), according to The Independent. During a teleconference with the heads of the FBI’s 55 field offices, Patel suggested establishing a formal relationship with the popular mixed martial arts organization to enhance the physical preparedness of agents. While the FBI has not officially commented on the proposal, some agents described the idea as “surreal” and “wacky.” Patel’s incoming deputy, Dan Bongino, a well-known UFC fan, is believed to have inspired the move. The agency chief, who plays hockey himself, also expressed interest in joining the FBI’s hockey team. The move comes as Patel, who was recently sworn into office following a narrow 51-49 Senate confirmation vote, has



introduced sweeping changes within the bureau. He ordered the transfer of approximately 150 FBI employees from Washington D.C. to field offices, part of a broader restructuring plan. On Thursday, Patel took to X (formerly Twitter) to declare that the FBI was “entering a new era,” vowing integrity, accountability, and transparency. “There will be no

cover-ups, no missing documents, and no stone left unturned,” he stated, emphasizing that any attempts to undermine the agency’s mission would be “swiftly pursued.” Patel’s appointment and policy changes come amid growing scrutiny over the FBI’s internal operations and its handling of politically sensitive cases.

Failed To “Imagine Scenario” Like Oct 7 - Israel Army Probe On Hamas Attack

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

An internal probe by the Israeli army has acknowledged a “complete failure” in preventing Hamas’s October 7, 2023, attack, which led to the deaths of hundreds of Israelis. The report, released on Thursday, highlights intelligence lapses and overconfidence in assessing Hamas’s military capabilities. “October 7 was a complete failure; the IDF failed in fulfilling its mission to protect Israeli civilians,” a senior military official stated, briefing reporters anonymously. The probe, based on 77 investigations into various locations and military bases, revealed that the attack caught Israel completely off guard, both in scale and brutality. According to the report, Hamas’s attack unfolded in three waves. The first involved over 1,000 Nukhba (elite force) militants infiltrating under heavy fire. The second wave saw 2,000 additional fighters crossing into Israeli territory, followed by a third wave involving hundreds more militants and thousands of civilians. In total, approximately 5,000 attackers breached Is-



raeli defenses. The army admitted that it had not anticipated an operation of this scale, with a senior official stating, “We did not even imagine such a scenario.” The Gaza Division was overrun in the early hours of the assault, allowing militants to take control of

key areas and carry out massacres. The findings of the probe are now being presented to those directly affected by the attack. The report underscores the urgent need for military reforms to prevent such breaches in the future.

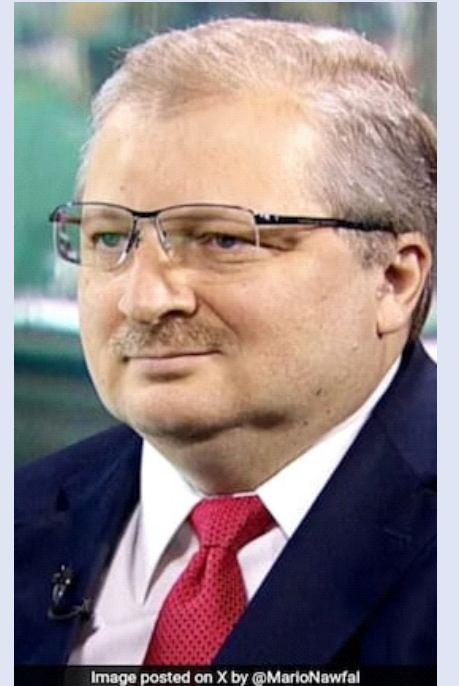
Russia fills US ambassador post after a year-long gap.

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Russia has appointed Alexander Darchiev as its new ambassador to the United States, filling a position left vacant since last year. The appointment comes as both nations engage in fresh diplomatic talks amid strained relations over the ongoing Ukraine conflict. The Russian foreign ministry confirmed on Friday that the US had officially approved Darchiev’s appointment. “His departure for his place of service in Washington is expected in the near future,” the ministry stated.

Darchiev, a veteran diplomat with experience in Russian-US relations, previously served as director of the Russian foreign ministry’s North American department. His predecessor, Anatoly Antonov, was recalled by President Vladimir Putin last October without an immediate replacement.

The announcement follows recent talks in Istanbul, where Russian and US officials discussed diplomatic issues, including the reciprocal expulsion of embassy staff during US President Joe



Biden’s administration. This development also coincides with US President Donald Trump’s renewed efforts to re-engage with Moscow, including high-level discussions with Putin, marking the first significant dialogue since Russia’s military operation in Ukraine began in 2022.

Nifty Ends In Losses For 5 Consecutive Months, Breaks 28-Year Record



Domestic stock markets suffered a sharp decline on Friday as investor sentiment took a major hit following Donald Trump's announcement of fresh tariffs on Mexico, Canada, and China, set to take effect from March 4. The fears of disruptions in global trade sent shockwaves through markets, leading to a broad-based sell-off across sectors. The Nifty 50 closed down by 420 points at 22,124, while the Sensex plunged 1,414 points to settle at 73,198. The losses extended Nifty's negative streak to five consecutive months, marking its worst stretch in 28 years. The brutal sell-off wiped out ₹10 lakh crore in investor wealth in a single day. Markets opened with a significant gap-down

and remained under selling pressure throughout the session. The BSE Sensex, which closed at 74,612 in the previous session, opened at 74,201 and hit an intraday low of 73,141 before closing deep in the red. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,433, saw a day's low of 22,104 before closing at 22,124. **Sector-Wide Sell-Off** Metal, auto, FMCG, realty, and healthcare stocks bore the brunt of the sell-off. The Nifty Midcap and Smallcap indices declined by 2.5%, reflecting broad-based weakness. Market breadth on NSE tilted sharply in favor of sellers, with 2,416 stocks declining against only 489 advancers.

Among sectoral indices, auto, FMCG, IT, media, metal, pharma, realty, healthcare, oil & gas, and PSU banks all faced significant losses. Out of the Nifty50 stocks, only five closed in the green. Shriram Finance, HDFC Bank, Coal India, Trent, and Hindalco were the top gainers. On the losing side, IndusInd Bank, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, Airtel, and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the worst performers. Alkem Laboratories received a GST notice of ₹62.08 crore for FY21 and FY22, adding to regulatory concerns in the pharmaceutical sector. Meanwhile, the rupee weakened by 0.3%, closing at 87.51 against the dollar after a forex swap, reflecting pressure on the currency. Bharti Airtel suffered a sharp decline of 4.59%, ending the session at ₹1,574.

Among brokerage ratings, Jefferies issued a buy call for Crompton Graves with a target price of ₹480 and also recommended Jubilant Foodworks with a target of ₹1,000. Tata Steel witnessed heightened trading activity, with 18 lakh shares changing hands. India VIX, a key measure of market volatility, surged 5% to 14.11, signaling increased uncertainty. HSBC maintained a hold rating on HDFC AMC, setting a target price of ₹4,350. In corporate developments, Solar Industries secured an export order worth ₹2,150 crore, boosting its growth outlook. Bitcoin fell below \$80,000 as risk-off sentiment dominated global markets. TVS Motors expanded its international presence by launching new three-wheelers in Mexico. Fopler India reported a 13% increase in Q4 consolidated profit, with revenue rising 14%. The company also declared a dividend of ₹28 per share, while ITC saw 24 lakh shares change hands during the session. With global uncertainties weighing on investor sentiment, markets remain under pressure, and volatility is expected to persist in the near term.

India's Forex Reserves Surge by USD 4.758 Billion to Reach USD 640.479 Billion



India's foreign exchange reserves saw a notable increase of USD 4.758 billion, reaching USD 640.479 billion for the week ended February 21, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data released on Friday. This comes after a decline in the previous week, where reserves had dropped by USD 2.54 billion to USD 635.721 billion.

The recent uptick in reserves marks a positive shift after several weeks of decline. The decline had primarily been due to factors like revaluation of foreign currency assets and the RBI's market interventions aimed at reducing volatility in the Indian rupee. India's forex reserves had previously peaked at an all-time high of USD 704.885 billion in September 2024.

The latest increase in reserves was largely driven by a rise in foreign currency assets, which rose by USD 4.251 billion, bringing the total to USD 543.843 billion. These foreign currency assets are a major component of the country's total reserves, and their value can fluctuate based on the appreciation or depreciation of non-US currencies such as the euro, pound, and yen that are part of India's forex reserves.

In addition to foreign currency assets, India's gold reserves also saw a boost. The gold reserves increased by USD 426 million, bringing their total value to USD 74.576 billion for the week. This increase in gold holdings reflects India's strategy to diversify its foreign exchange reserves and provide additional stability to its financial standing.

The Reserve Bank also reported a rise in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), which increased by USD 73 million to a total of USD 17.971 billion. SDRs are an international reserve asset created by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to supplement its member countries' official reserves.

India's reserve position with the IMF also saw a minor increase of USD 7 million, reaching USD 4.09 billion during the same period. This increase signifies India's ongoing contributions and its standing in the global financial system.

India's growing foreign exchange reserves are viewed as a crucial buffer for the economy, enabling the country to manage external shocks, sustain its import needs, and maintain financial stability. The current level of reserves also provides the central bank with the flexibility to manage currency volatility, especially in times of global economic uncertainty.

Sebi Mandates 30-Day Fund Deployment Timeline for Mutual Fund NFOs

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has introduced new guidelines for mutual fund houses to deploy funds raised from New Fund Offers (NFOs) within 30 business days from the allotment of units. This decision, announced on Thursday, comes in response to concerns about the potential mis-selling practices by asset management companies (AMCs).



The new directive requires mutual fund houses to specify achievable timelines for fund deployment in the Scheme Information Document (SID) of a new offering. The SID must outline how the funds will be allocated as per the scheme's asset allocation and ensure that the funds raised during the NFO are in line with the deployment schedule. By doing so, Sebi aims to promote transparency and responsible fund management while discouraging any mis-selling of NFOs.

This move comes after rising concerns over the practice of collecting large amounts of money in NFOs without a clear and timely plan for investing the raised capital. Sebi's new rules will help AMCs align their fund-raising strategies with realistic deployment schedules, reducing the risk of mis-selling to investors who might be promised quick returns without proper execution.

With the deadline set at 30 business days, Sebi hopes to ensure that the funds raised through NFOs are invested promptly, which will in turn support the effective management of investor capital. This rule is expected to improve investor confidence, as it guarantees that mutual funds will operate within clear and practical timeframes.

The introduction of these guidelines is also a part of Sebi's broader efforts to enhance the governance of the mutual fund industry, en-

sure better accountability, and safeguard the interests of investors. AMCs now have to provide detailed timelines in the SID, which will be subject to scrutiny, ensuring that funds are deployed efficiently and in accordance with the stated objectives of the scheme.

By tightening these regulations, Sebi aims to create a more disciplined and transparent environment for mutual fund investments in India.

Adani Green Energy Surpasses 12,000 MW Operational Milestone in Renewable Energy

Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), India's largest renewable energy company, achieved a significant milestone on Friday by surpassing a 12,000 megawatt (MW) operational portfolio with the commissioning of an additional 275 MW solar capacity at the world's largest renewable energy plant in Khavda, Gujarat. This makes AGEL the first renewable energy company in India to reach such a milestone.

The total operational portfolio of AGEL now stands at 12,258.1 MW, which includes 8,347.5 MW from solar, 1,651 MW from wind, and 2,259.6 MW from wind-solar hybrid capacity. This remarkable achievement highlights AGEL's dedication to renewable energy and sustainable growth. The installed capacity will power over 6.2 million homes and help avoid approximately 22.64 million tonnes of

CO2 emissions annually, which is equivalent to the carbon sequestration achieved by 1,078 million trees.

This achievement marks AGEL's contribution as the largest greenfield expansion in India's renewable energy sector, representing about 10% of the country's installed utility-scale solar and wind capacity. It also accounts for over 13% of India's utility-scale solar installations. AGEL's operations and expansions are integral to India's renewable energy vision, including its goal to reach 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.

A key component of AGEL's success is the development of the world's largest renewable energy plant at Khavda, Gujarat. Once fully operational, the 30,000 MW plant, spanning 538 square kilometers, will become the

world's largest power plant across all energy sources. The current operational capacity at Khavda stands at 2,824.1 MW.

The continued rapid progress at Khavda reflects AGEL's commitment to scaling up India's renewable energy capacity. AGEL is leveraging the project execution strengths of Adani Infra, the manufacturing capabilities of Adani New Industries Limited, and the operational expertise of Adani Infrastructure Management Services Ltd. to maintain growth momentum.

With AGEL recording the fastest greenfield renewable energy capacity addition in India, the company remains focused on sustaining its growth and contributing to India's clean energy future.





OpenAI Introduces GPT-4.5 AI Model in Research Preview, Its 'Best Model for Chat Yet'

GPT-4.5

OpenAI has released a research preview of its new GPT-4.5 artificial intelligence (AI) model, marking an advancement over the previous GPT-4 model. This latest iteration is designed to improve performance in natural language conversations, reasoning, and coding tasks. OpenAI has touted GPT-4.5 as the company's "largest and best model for chat yet," highlighting its scaling of both pre-training and post-training techniques.

The GPT-4.5 model was developed using cutting-edge techniques such as unsupervised learning alongside traditional supervised fine-tuning (SFT) and reinforcement learning from human feedback (RLHF). These innovations contribute to the model's enhanced conversational and problem-solving abilities. Currently available as a research preview, GPT-4.5 is being rolled out exclusively to ChatGPT Pro subscribers, with plans to extend access to Plus and Team users by next week. Enterprise and Educational users will likely gain access shortly thereafter. OpenAI is using this phase

to better understand the model's strengths and weaknesses.

While GPT-4.5 supports several new features, including search, file and image uploads, and Canvas, it does not support multimodal functionalities like Voice Mode, real-time video, or screen sharing in ChatGPT at this stage. For developers, the model is being introduced in several paid tiers, including the Chat Completions API, Assistants API, and Batch API.

Internal benchmarking reveals that GPT-4.5 performs better than the o3-mini model in areas such as multilingual tasks (MMMLU) and coding-related benchmarks. However, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman emphasized that GPT-4.5 is not intended to be a reasoning model designed to outperform its predecessors across all metrics. Instead, Altman noted that the model represents a "different kind of intelligence" and focuses on enhancing specific aspects of AI capabilities rather than achieving dominance in all areas.

How to Decode Food Labels : Expert Tips from Nutritionist Amita Gadre

Navigating the grocery store can be overwhelming, especially with the countless products claiming to be "sugar-free," "low-fat," or "multi-grain." While these claims might look appealing, they can sometimes be misleading. Nutritionist Amita Gadre offers expert advice on how to decode food labels and make healthier choices when shopping.

Here are four key tips to help you spot healthy vs. unhealthy foods using food labels:

Don't Fall for Nutrition Claims
Many products boast claims like "sugar-free," "low-fat," or "multi-grain," but Amita advises not to fall for these marketing tactics. While these labels may sound healthy, they often hide unhealthy ingredients. To get a clear picture of what you're consuming, always check the nutritional panel. Hidden sugars, artificial sweeteners, or unnecessary calories might be lurking, even in seemingly "healthier" options.

Check the Ingredients List

When shopping for food, always glance through the ingredients list. The first few ingredients are the most abundant in the product, so be wary if refined flour, added sugars, or hydrogenated oils appear at the



top. These ingredients are often linked to negative health outcomes. Instead, look for products that list whole grains, natural ingredients, and healthy fats at the beginning.

Watch the Serving Size

Serving size is a crucial factor that many overlook. The serving size listed on the package helps you understand the number of calories you'll consume in one portion. Amita suggests being cautious with small serving sizes, as they can often mislead you into thinking you're eating fewer calories than you actually are. Always be mindful of how much you're actually consuming to avoid unintentionally overeating.

Monitor Added Sugars, Sodium, and Fats

Be vigilant about the added sugars, sodium, and fats in a product. According to Amita, added sugar should not exceed 10g per serving, and sodium content should be under 120mg. When it comes to fats, avoid trans fats altogether and limit saturated fats. These ingredients can contribute to various health issues when consumed in excess.

By following these simple tips, you can make more informed choices and stay on track with your health goals while navigating the aisles of your local grocery store.

Does Early End to Winter Mean a Hotter Summer?



As winter comes to an early end in North India, February 2025 has become one of the warmest in Delhi in the last 15 years. This has led to widespread speculation that an early conclusion to winter could result in a scorching summer. However, a detailed analysis by *The Times of India* (TOI) of 54 years of temperature data suggests that a warm February does not necessarily lead to a hotter-than-usual April or summer. TOI examined the average maximum temperatures in north India from 1971 onward, specifically focusing on the 10 warmest Februaries recorded during this period. Interestingly, in half of these years, the following April was warmer or significantly warmer than usual. However, in the other half, April temperatures were either close to normal or even below average in one instance.

This analysis focuses on February and April because February marks the end of

winter, while April signifies the beginning of summer in the region. March is typically a transitional month. Despite the early warmth in February, there is no clear, consistent pattern linking it to the subsequent heat of April.

Experts explain that the temperatures in February and April are influenced by multiple factors. Large-scale climate phenomena such as El Niño or La Niña events, along with regional weather conditions like the frequency, intensity, and duration of western disturbances, play a significant role in shaping the weather in both months. Thus, while a warm February may seem to hint at a hot summer, it is not a reliable predictor on its own.

In conclusion, the connection between a warm February and a scorching April is not straightforward, and other weather patterns and global climatic conditions must also be considered to predict the severity of the upcoming summer.

Russian man dumps Porsche in trash after wife refuses, leaving internet stunned



In a dramatic turn of events, a Russian man made headlines for discarding a luxury Porsche Macan, worth over a crore, in a dumpster after his wife rejected it as a Valentine's Day gift. The grand gesture, meant to repair their troubled marriage, ended in a shocking display of heartbreak and extravagance, sparking online debates about wasteful gestures and the role of material gifts in relationships. The incident unfolded when the man, hoping to salvage his mar-

riage, purchased the expensive SUV as a symbol of reconciliation. However, his wife dismissed the gift as a mere materialistic offering, expressing that it was not a true gesture of love. Frustrated and hurt by her response, the man took a drastic step—he discarded the luxury car in a dumpster, still adorned with a large red bow. The Porsche remained there for 12 days, attracting the attention of passersby and the media.

Onlookers were left astounded

by the sight of the pristine vehicle, once a symbol of wealth and affection, treated like refuse. The event quickly went viral, sparking widespread online discussions. Some people criticized the man's actions as an impulsive overreaction, pointing out the wastefulness of discarding such an expensive gift. Others speculated about deeper issues in the marriage, suggesting that the Porsche was more of a desperate attempt to fix underlying problems rather than an authentic expression of love.

This bizarre act has reignited debates about the role of material gifts in relationships. While some believe that lavish presents are a poor substitute for genuine emotional connection, others argue that such extravagant gestures, when properly received, can be meaningful.

The fate of the Porsche Macan remains unclear, but the story has certainly left a lasting impression, highlighting the complexities of love, materialism, and the lengths to which people will go to express or reject affection.

The Mystery of Inunaki Village: Where Myth and Reality Collide



Inunaki Village, a place steeped in mystery and chilling legends, has long captured the fascination of thrill-seekers and horror enthusiasts. Located in Japan, this village has earned a notorious reputation, with some claiming that the government itself warns anyone who dares to enter that they may never return. As strange as it may sound, large signboards placed outside the village reportedly state that once you step inside, Japan's jurisdiction ends, and you are no longer within the country's borders.

These eerie claims have sparked interest around the world, with stories circulating about the terrifying events that allegedly occur within the village. According to some accounts, no one who has ventured into Inunaki Village has ever returned to tell the tale. For years, the place has been a source of horror stories, urban legends, and speculation, attracting adventurers and curious onlookers eager to uncover the truth behind the rumors.

What makes Inunaki Village so captivating

is its dark history, with whispers of gruesome events that have fueled its frightening reputation. One of the most disturbing rumors suggests that inside the village, humans are not only killed but tortured to death for the amusement of others. Some even claim that Satanic rituals take place within the village, where victims are subjected to unimaginable suffering. Those who have dared to venture into the village report hearing unsettling screams and eerie noises echoing from within, adding to its sinister allure.

Despite these chilling tales, some still find themselves drawn to the village, compelled by the lure of the unknown. Whether it's the supernatural pull, the village's tragic past, or the sheer thrill of exploring an allegedly cursed place, Inunaki Village continues to intrigue and terrify. While no one can say for certain what happens within the boundaries of this mysterious village, the blend of myth and reality ensures that its dark legend will persist for years to come.

PCB Announces PSL 10 Schedule, Clashes with IPL 2025 Dates



The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced the schedule for the 10th edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), set to begin on April 11, 2025, with a match between defending champions Islamabad United and two-time champions Lahore Qalandars at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. The tournament will run until May 18, with Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium hosting 13 matches, including two Eliminator and the final. The PSL's timing clashes with the Indian Premier League (IPL), scheduled between March 22 and May 25. The PSL will feature 34 matches across Karachi, Lahore, Multan, and Rawalpindi, with three double-headers and high-profile international cricketers. PSL CEO Salman Naseer emphasized the tournament's global recognition and hinted at the expansion of the league by adding two more teams next year.

Shubman Gill To Captain India Against New Zealand?



Shubman Gill could step in as India's captain for the final Group A match against New Zealand in the Champions Trophy, as Rohit Sharma's fitness remains a concern. According to reports, Rohit, still struggling with a hamstring issue sustained in the previous match against Pakistan, might be rested for the game since India's progression to the semi-finals is already secured.

This move would give Gill, the vice-captain, a chance to lead, offering a glimpse into his potential future as captain. Rohit, who missed a training session on Wednesday, fueling concerns about his hamstring, could also lead to changes in India's batting lineup. KL Rahul may open with Gill, with Rishabh Pant potentially replacing Rahul as the finisher.

Real Madrid Legends vs Barcelona Legends: Historic Clash Set for April 6 in India



On April 6, football fans in India will witness one of the greatest rivalries in world football come to life as Real Madrid Legends face Barcelona Legends at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. This marks the first-ever clash of these iconic teams in India, offering fans a unique opportunity to see football royalty

in action. Confirmed participants include Luís Figo, Fernando Morientes, and Rivaldo, with more superstars to be announced soon. The match is not just a football event, but a celebration of the sport's history, highlighting the legendary players and teams that have captivated fans for generations.

John Zaidi, CEO of The Sports Front, highlighted the significance of the event for Indian football fans, who will get to witness this historic encounter on their home turf. Fans can register for early ticket access through the District app by Zomato, with the official ticket sales starting soon.

Phoebe Litchfield Praises Gujarat Giants' Bowlers After Dominant Win Over RCB



Gujarat Giants secured a commanding six-wicket victory over Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the Women's Premier League (WPL) on Friday, with their bowlers setting up the win. Chasing 126, Gujarat reached the target in just 16.3 overs, marking their second victory of the tournament. Phoebe Litchfield credited the Gujarat bowling attack for their strong performance, highlighting key breakthroughs

in the powerplay by Kashvee Gautam and Deandra Dottin. "Our bowlers have been outstanding, they won us the game today for sure," Litchfield said. RCB struggled early, losing three wickets in the first 25 runs, with Gujarat's bowlers – including Dottin and Tanuja Kanwar – taking control. In response, Gujarat's captain Ashleigh Gardner anchored the chase with a brilliant 58 off 31 balls, supported by Litchfield's 30* to seal the win.

Griekspoor Saves 4 Match Points to Defeat Medvedev and Reach Dubai Semifinals



Tallon Griekspoor pulled off an incredible comeback, saving four match points to defeat top-seeded Daniil Medvedev 2-6, 7-6 (7), 7-5 and reach the semifinals at the Dubai Championships. The Dutchman, ranked No. 47, admitted he was fortunate to still be in the tournament after his hard-fought second-set win. "I probably should have been on the plane to Indian Wells already," he said. Griekspoor's victory over Medvedev is his best-ranked win to date, following his earlier triumphs over Roman Safiullin and defending champion Ugo Humbert. He will now face fourth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas in the semifinals, after Tsitsipas defeated Matteo Berrettini 7-6 (5), 1-6, 6-4.

Griekspoor Saves 4 Match Points to Defeat Medvedev and Reach Dubai Semifinals

The Skyesports Souvenir 2025 National Esports Championship (NEC) made its debut at Bengaluru GAFX 2025 from February 27 to March 1. Backed by the Karnataka government and organized in partnership with ABAI, the tournament is a significant step towards establishing Karnataka as a competitive gaming hub. Headlined by Counter-Strike 2, a popular esports title, the championship features top teams such as Flashback Gaming, Big W, Victores Sumus, and

Gods Reign. The event, held at The Lalit Ashok in Bengaluru, offers a prize pool of INR 5 lakhs and serves as a Valve Ranked Event, giving players a shot at global Counter-Strike 2 leaderboards. Karnataka's support for esports, part of its long-standing leadership in the AVGC sector, was highlighted by Shri Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT & BT, emphasizing the state's focus on esports as a skill-based discipline.





Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra Announce Pregnancy: "The Greatest Gift Of Our Lives"

Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra, who celebrated their second wedding anniversary on February 7, 2025, have announced they are expecting their first child. The couple shared the exciting news with a heartwarming post on Instagram, captioning, "The greatest gift of our lives. Coming soon." Kiara marked their anniversary with a playful video, recreating a memorable wedding moment, while Sidharth shared two unseen wedding photos, expressing his love. The couple married on February 7, 2023, in a private ceremony in Jaisalmer. On the work front, Kiara is set to star in Toxic, War 2, and Don 3, while Sidharth's upcoming project includes VVAN: Force of the Forest, releasing in November 2025. Fans are excited for both their personal and professional milestones!

"Sankranti Ki Vastunnam" Premieres Simultaneously on ZEE5 and ZEE Telugu on March 1

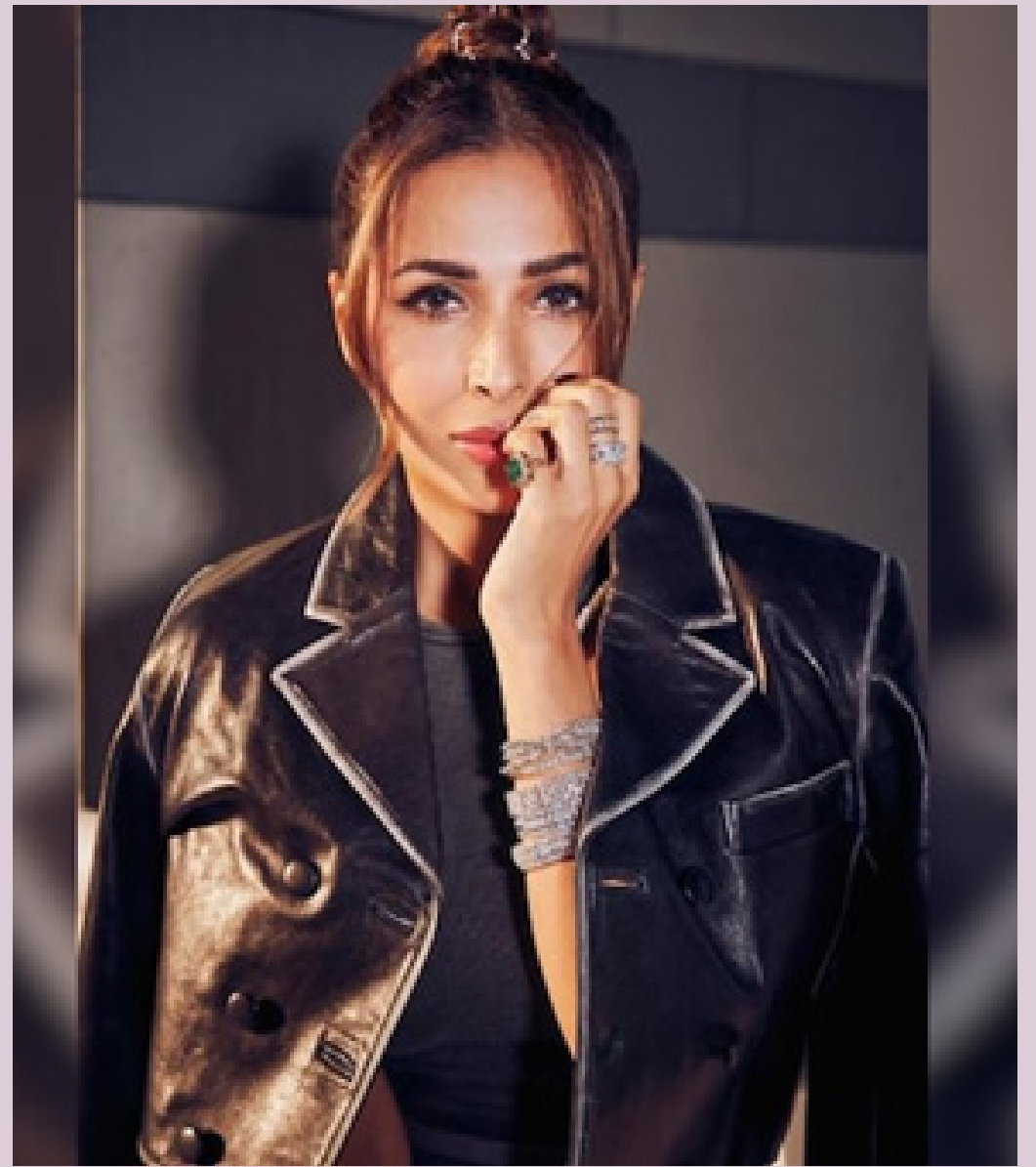


The much-anticipated comedy entertainer Sankranti Ki Vastunnam, directed by Anil Ravipudi and starring Venkatesh, is set to premiere on both ZEE5 and ZEE Telugu on March 1, 2025, at 6 PM. After its massive success in theatres, the film will be available in Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam dubbed versions. Venkatesh, who plays the lead role of Raju, expressed his joy in portraying a character that brings laughter to the audience. Director Anil Ravipudi praised the film's stellar cast, including Aishwarya Rajesh and Meenakshi Chaudhari, highlighting its appeal. With an exciting dual release, Sankranti Ki Vastunnam promises to entertain audiences on TV and OTT platforms.

Malaika Arora Shares Cryptic Post on Love After Breakup with Arjun Kapoor

Malaika Arora's recent Instagram post has sparked interest, as the actress shared a cryptic quote about love being the "real luxury" in life. The quote emphasized the importance of time, health, meaningful conversations, and the people you love. Malaika's reflective post comes after her breakup with Arjun Kapoor last year. Arjun, during a recent interview, spoke about his views on relationships, highlighting

comfort, silence, and mutual understanding as key elements. Despite their split, the two were seen together recently on India's Best Dancer vs Super Dancer, where Arjun made a witty remark about Malaika's performance. Malaika and Arjun began dating in 2018, frequently making headlines for their public outings. Though neither has openly discussed their breakup, Arjun confirmed his single status at a Diwali party last year.



Shree Vishnu's 'Mrityunjay' Title Teaser Released on His Birthday



Actor Shree Vishnu, known for his unique style and versatile performances, has unveiled the title teaser of his 18th film, Mrityunjay, on his birthday. Directed by Sha Kiran, this investigative thriller is produced by Sandeep Guna and Vinay Chilakapati

under the Light Box Media and Picture Perfect Entertainment banners. Reba John stars opposite Vishnu in the lead role. The teaser hints at Vishnu's role as both an investigator and a prisoner, with the dialogue "Game over Jay" and "Until I say, the game isn't finished"

hinting at an intriguing character arc. The film's post-production is ongoing, with cinematography by Vidhyasagar and music by Kalabhairava. The release date will be announced soon, adding to the excitement surrounding this highly anticipated project.

Akshay Kumar on Reuniting with Madhoo After 20 Years in Kannappa: "She Hasn't Changed At All"



Akshay Kumar is excited to reunite with actress Madhoo after 20 years in the upcoming Telugu film Kannappa, which marks his debut in the Telugu film industry. During the trailer launch, Akshay reminisced about their past collaborations in films like Elaan and Zaalim and praised Madhoo for her timeless beauty. He humorously remarked, "It seems she goes into the fridge to sleep at night," adding that she hasn't changed at all. In Kannappa, Akshay plays the role of Shiva, while Vishnu Manchu stars in the titular role. Directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh, the film also features Mohan Babu, R. Sarathkumar, and others in supporting roles, with special appearances by Mohanlal, Prabhas, and Kajal Aggarwal.

Madhu Chopra Reveals Priyanka Chopra's Difficulties on Dostana Set: "If You Want Priyanka To Die On..."



Madhu Chopra recently shared an insightful story about Priyanka Chopra's challenges while filming Dostana in an interview with Lehren Retro. Priyanka, who was starring alongside John Abraham and Abhishek Bachchan, fell ill with a high fever during the shoot. When Madhu called director Tarun Manshukhani to request time off for Priyanka, he sarcastically replied, "How convenient." Madhu, upset by his response, fiercely defended her daughter, saying, "If you want her to die on your set, I'll send her. But if something happens, you'll be responsible." Madhu revealed that Tarun later teased her, recalling her strong remark each time they met. This candid conversation highlighted the difficulties Priyanka faced while working on Dostana despite her commitment.

Oscars 2025 to Celebrate James Bond Legacy with Tribute to Its Iconic Music

The 97th Academy Awards will pay tribute to the legendary music of the James Bond franchise, recognizing its timeless influence on cinema. The special segment will honor long-time producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G. Wilson, who were awarded Honorary Oscars at the 15th Governors Awards. This tribute will celebrate the unforgettable theme songs that have become synonymous with the 007 franchise, showcasing the grandeur and cultural impact of Bond films. While details are still limited, it remains unclear whether the tribute will focus on Oscar-nominated and winning songs or feature all 26 Bond theme songs. The tribute promises to bring together the world of cinema and music in a spectacular celebration.

