



“My Heart is Filled with Gratitude”



Tollywood Actor Megastar Chiranjeevi was honored at a special event in the UK Parliament, attended by several MPs, ministers, and diplomats. The event recognized his remarkable contributions to cinema and philanthropy. On this occasion, Bridge India Group presented him with the Lifetime Achievement Award in appreciation of his illustrious career and humanitarian efforts. Expressing his gratitude, Chiranjeevi took to social media, stating, “My heart is filled with gratitude to receive this honor in the presence of so many esteemed personalities. The kind words spoken about me brought immense joy.” He dedicated the award to his fans, film fraternity, well-wishers, and family, especially those who became his “blood brothers and sisters” through his blood donation campaigns. He emphasized that this recognition inspires him to continue his work with even greater enthusiasm.



Rahul Slams AAP and BJP for Anti-Farmer Actions, Accuses Them of Colluding Against Farmers

Two anti-farmer parties have joined hands, Berating AAP and BJP

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, joined Congress MPs from Punjab in a protest within the Parliament complex against the forcible eviction of farmers from the Sambhu and Khanauri protest sites on the Punjab border.

Congress president and LoP in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, strongly criticized both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for their actions against the farmers. Kharge accused the two parties of forming an alliance against the nation's farmers. He stated that the Punjab government had initially invited farmers for talks, only to forcibly remove them from the protest site later. He expressed his dismay on social media, calling out the actions as anti-farmer.

Kharge further condemned the detention of senior farmer leaders Jagjit Singh Dallewal and Sarwan Singh Pandher by Punjab Police, describing it as an unacceptable act. He accused the BJP and AAP of being “intoxicated” with the power they held and pointed out that the farming community of 62 crore people would never forgive these actions. He also reminded the country of past atrocities against farmers, such as the 2017 Mandsaur firing during the BJP's rule, and the tragic incidents in Lakhimpur Kheri and Rajasthan.

Congress MPs from Punjab, including Sukhjinder Randhawa, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Gurjit Aujla, and Dharamvir Gandhi, staged the protest outside the Makar Dwar in Parliament. They raised slogans against the AAP government in Punjab and the BJP-led central government, demanding justice for the farmers. Gandhi briefly joined the protest to express solidarity with the farmers and his fellow MPs.

The Congress leaders also displayed placards in support of the farmers' demand for a law ensuring Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops. They criticized Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for acting against the agitating farmers, alleging that he was working in alliance with the BJP.

26/11 Mumbai terror attack

Tahawwur Rana files another request with US top court to stay extradition to India

Tahawwur Rana Seeks Stay on Extradition to India in Appeal to US Supreme Court

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tahawwur Rana, the accused in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, has filed a renewed plea with the US Supreme Court to halt his extradition to India. This follows the rejection of his earlier review petition by US Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan on March 6. Rana's latest emergency application has been directed to Chief Justice John Roberts, requesting a stay on the extradition process while his legal challenge remains pending. The Supreme Court's website indicated that the application will be considered by the top court's judges on April 4, 2025.

Rana's legal team argues that his extradition should be delayed due to his severe health issues, which they claim would



put his life at risk if tried in India. In the appeal, Rana highlighted that he suffers from a 3.5 cm abdominal aortic aneurysm, Parkinson's disease with cognitive decline, and a mass that could indicate bladder cancer. He stated, “If a stay is not granted, there will be no review at all,

and the US courts will lose jurisdiction, leaving the petitioner in imminent danger of death.”

Rana's plea for a stay on extradition has come amid ongoing diplomatic discussions between the US and India. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit

to the United States last month, US President Donald Trump confirmed that his administration had agreed to Rana's extradition, referring to him as a “very evil man.” The extradition is part of broader efforts to bring justice for the 166 victims of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which were orchestrated by Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist David Headley, a close associate of Rana.

Tahawwur Rana, aged 63, is currently held in a Los Angeles prison. In 2011, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed a chargesheet against him and eight others, accusing them of aiding in the planning and execution of the Mumbai attacks. Rana's extradition has remained a contentious issue between the United States and India for several years.

When will women in Delhi receive Rs 2,500 monthly honorarium: Atishi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Senior AAP leader Atishi raised concerns on Thursday about the delay in the implementation of the Rs 2,500 monthly financial assistance for women in Delhi, promised by the BJP during the recent elections. Addressing a press conference, Atishi, who is also the Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, questioned the BJP's commitment to delivering the promised benefits to the nearly 48 lakh women in the capital aged above 18 years.

Atishi wondered if the BJP government would restrict the benefit to a small fraction of eligible women by imposing various conditions or would fulfill its promise to assist the entire group. She also highlighted that while the BJP government had approved Rs 5,100 crore for the scheme, no tangible steps had been taken yet.

The AAP leader pointed out that the BJP had formed a committee 12 days ago to



oversee the implementation of the Mahila Samridhi Yojna, but the committee had not made any progress. “When will the registration process begin, and when will the money be credited to the beneficiary women's accounts?” Atishi asked.

The Rs 2,500 monthly assistance scheme was a key election promise of the BJP in the run-up to the February 5 Delhi elections. The committee formed to manage the scheme is headed by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who is expected to oversee its implementation. Despite the scheme being approved and funds allocated, Atishi's concerns reflect growing doubts about the timely execution of the promise.



Health expenditure at 1.84% of GDP, moving steadily to 2.5%: JP Nadda

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda announced on Wednesday that the government's expenditure on healthcare has risen to 1.84% of GDP, up from 1.15% in 2013-14. Nadda expressed confidence that India is steadily progressing towards meeting the target set by the National Health Policy 2017, which aims to allocate 2.5% of GDP to healthcare by 2025.

During a discussion in the Rajya Sabha on the functioning of the Union Health Ministry, Nadda highlighted the government's efforts to increase healthcare funding and ensure improved access to medical services for the population. He noted that this increase in expenditure is a reflection of the government's commitment to providing better healthcare infrastructure and services across the country.

However, Haris Beeran, a Member of Parliament from the Indian Union Muslim League (IUM), raised concerns about the feasibility of achieving the 2.5% GDP target. He argued that the National Health Policy's goal of enhancing healthcare expenditure remains “a distant dream.” Beeran emphasized that while the increase in healthcare funding is a step in the right direction, the current levels of investment may still fall short of the necessary resources to address India's growing healthcare challenges, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

India's healthcare system has long been criticized for its underfunding, and while recent improvements have been noted, many experts believe that more significant investments are necessary to ensure universal health coverage, strengthen the public health system, and improve healthcare outcomes across the country.

RG Kar Case: Family Receives Death Certificate After Seven-Month Delay

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

Seven months after the tragic rape-murder of their daughter at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, her parents finally received the long-awaited death certificate from West Bengal Health Secretary NS Nigam. The certificate was handed over to them on the evening of March 19, 2025, during a visit by Nigam, who was accompanied by the medical superintendent and vice principal of RG Kar hospital.

Nigam confirmed that no discussions took place during the visit, and the purpose was solely to deliver the original death certificate. “They needed the original death certificate. Today, I came here and handed it over to them,” Nigam stated. The victim's father, who had been demanding the certificate since the tragic incident on August 9, expressed his frustration with the delays. “We have been struggling to obtain it. We sent an email in January and had to go from one department to another, but no one cooperated,” he said. Despite the repeated efforts, including the email sent earlier this year, it took months for the document to be delivered.



The family had been seeking the death certificate ever since the 31-year-old postgraduate trainee was found dead in a seminar hall at RG Kar Hospital, sparking widespread protests across the state. The death of the young woman, who was a trainee at the hospital, had drawn massive public attention and led to intense demands for justice.

Along with the original certificate, the family was also provided with a link, allowing them to download a copy of the document in the future. Although the receipt of the death certificate marked a small step forward for the grieving family, it remains a stark reminder of the bureaucratic challenges they had to face while dealing with the aftermath of such a horrific tragedy.

Navigating the Future: Bill Gates on the Role of Tech in an Unpredictable World



- Gates, a tech visionary, offers insights into how AI, economics, and policy shifts
- Growing ties between Silicon Valley and Washington could reshape global policies
- As trade wars and economic instability continue, understanding technology's role

TPN Correspondent| Delhi

In an age where technology dominates our lives and Big Tech exerts unprecedented political influence, the future seems uncertain. The growing ties between Silicon Valley and Washington, D.C., are poised to have significant consequences on the global stage, with the potential to reshape everything from international relations to economic policies. As tech companies play an in-

creasingly central role in politics, questions arise: How will this influence our future, and what risks or opportunities lie ahead?

Amid this landscape, former President Donald Trump's trade wars have already begun to destabilize global markets, adding another layer of unpredictability to an already volatile environment. The world is witnessing a new era in which the lines between technology,

politics, and economics are increasingly blurred, leaving us to question what's to come next. In the midst of this uncertainty, artificial intelligence (AI) stands as a powerful force with potential benefits, but its future trajectory remains unclear.

So, how can we navigate these unpredictable times? Who better than Bill Gates, one of the original tech visionaries, to offer insight? As someone who has seen the tech industry evolve and impacted change on a global scale, Gates provides a unique perspective on what we should truly be concerned or unconcerned about.

His views on the future of technology, AI, and the intertwined roles of politics and business will be invaluable as we move forward. While the road ahead may be filled with uncertainty, Gates' wisdom could serve as a guiding light in understanding the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. As we face an unpredictable future, it's essential to keep informed and prepared, and few individuals are better positioned to help us make sense of this complex, ever-evolving world than Gates.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge calls BJP and AAP 'anti-farmer' parties

TPN Correspondent| Delhi

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday sharply criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for allegedly betraying the country's farmers. His remarks came in the wake of the Punjab government's decision to bulldoze protest sites at the Shambhu and Khanauri borders, where farmers had been protesting for over a year.

Kharge accused both parties of working together against the country's food providers, labeling them as "two anti-farmer parties" in a post on X (formerly Twitter). He referenced past incidents like the 2017 Mandasaur agitation in Madhya Pradesh, where six farmers were killed, and the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri incident, where four farmers were run over by a convoy linked to a BJP leader's son.

Kharge said, "It appears that two anti-farmer parties have now joined hands against the country's food providers... First, the Punjab government called the farmers for talks and then forcibly removed them from the protest site.



Both BJP and AAP are filled with the arrogance of power." His statement underscored the growing tension between the opposition and the ruling parties over their treatment of protesting farmers.

On Wednesday, Punjab Police dismantled the protest sites at the Punjab-Haryana border and detained key farmer leaders, including Jagjit Singh Dallewal and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha leader Sarwan Singh Pandher. The farmers have been demanding a legal guarantee for the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their crops and protesting against various farm laws.

In defense of the action, Punjab

Minister Harpal Singh Cheema stated that the prolonged blockade of highways was disrupting industries, businesses, and employment. He emphasized the need to reopen the highways, which serve as an essential economic corridor, while also maintaining that the government had engaged the farmers in discussions.

Kharge, however, criticized both the Modi government and AAP, accusing them of failing to fulfill promises made to farmers, including the unkept assurance of a legal guarantee for MSP. He concluded, "The 62 crore farmers of the country will never forgive these anti-farmer parties."

Congress MPs Protest in Parliament Over Police Crackdown on Farmers in Punjab



TPN Correspondent| Delhi

Congress MPs from Punjab staged a protest in the Parliament complex on Thursday, condemning the police crackdown on farmers who have been protesting at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points for over a year. The MPs, including Sukhjinder Randhawa, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Gurjit Aujla, and Dharamvir Gandhi, gathered outside Makar Dwar in Parliament, raising slogans against both the AAP-led Punjab government and the BJP-led cen-

tral government.

The protesting MPs accused both parties of being "anti-farmer" and demanded the immediate release of detained farmer leaders. They also expressed strong disapproval of the actions taken by the Punjab government, particularly under Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, who they claimed was working in conjunction with the BJP. The MPs also held placards in support of the agitating farmers, who have been demanding a law guaranteeing minimum sup-

port price (MSP) for crops, among other issues.

The protest comes in the wake of a police operation in Mohali on Wednesday, where several farmer leaders were detained as they were returning from a meeting with Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Chandigarh. The Punjab Police also evicted protesting farmers from the Shambhu and Khanauri protest sites, which had been blocked for more than a year, as tensions surrounding the farmers' demands contin-

ue to escalate.

The Congress MPs' protest highlights the ongoing tension between farmers and the government, with the demands for legal guarantees on MSP and the release of detained farmer leaders remaining central to the ongoing agitation. As the situation unfolds, Congress has continued to align itself with the protesting farmers, sharply criticizing the handling of the protests by both the state and central governments.

Glorifying invaders act of treason, 'new India' won't accept it: UP CM Adityanath



TPN Correspondent| Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday condemned the glorification of invaders who attacked India's heritage and dishonoured its people, calling it an act of treason that the "new India" will never tolerate. His comments came amid the ongoing debate over demands to remove the tomb of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district.

Addressing a public gathering in Bahraich, Adityanath warned against celebrating historical figures who sought

to destroy the country's culture and values, particularly those who opposed Sanatan culture. He stated, "Glorifying invaders means strengthening the very roots of treason. New India will never accept those who insult our great ancestors and praise those who attacked our civilisation, violated our women, and struck at our faith."

The Chief Minister stressed the importance of upholding the respect for India's rich heritage and its leaders. He further added that as the world acknowledges India's cultural richness, every citizen must reject efforts to eulogize those who attempted to erase India's identity. His comments reflect

a growing sentiment in India to revisit and reassess the narratives surrounding historical figures and events.

Adityanath also referenced the recently-concluded Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, which he described as "the largest human congregation ever witnessed." He highlighted that over 66 crore devotees gathered at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mystical Saraswati, showcasing India's eternal Sanatan culture. He emphasized that no other country could host such an immense and spiritually significant event.

Furthermore, he echoed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's praise for Uttar Pradesh's role in organizing the Maha Kumbh, which Adityanath called a testament to India's enduring cultural legacy that will inspire future generations. Through these statements, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister reaffirmed his commitment to preserving India's traditions and protecting its historical narrative.

West Bengal Assembly Passes Bill: To Allow Women To Work In Bars

TPN Correspondent| Kolkata

On Wednesday, the West Bengal Assembly passed a groundbreaking bill that will allow women to work in bars, removing long-standing restrictions under the Bengal Excise Act, 1909. The West Bengal Finance Bill, 2025, was presented by Minister of State Chandrima Bhattacharya and aims to amend the existing laws to ensure gender equality in the state's liquor industry.

One of the key provisions of the bill is the removal of the prohibition on the employment of women in 'On' category liquor shops. These are establishments where liquor is not only sold but also consumed on the premises. Previously, women were restricted from working in such places, a regulation that the bill seeks to lift as part of its broader agenda of addressing gender discrimination.

In her remarks, Bhattacharya emphasized that the state government is committed to eliminating discrimination between men and women in the workforce. By revising the outdated provision, the gov-



ernment hopes to promote equal opportunities for women in the hospitality sector, aligning with its broader social and economic inclusivity goals.

The bill also includes other significant provisions aimed at improving the state's regulatory framework. It grants the state government enhanced powers to oversee the supply of raw materials like jaggery to prevent illegal brewing of liquor. This measure is seen as an essential step to combat the illicit alcohol trade, ensuring that only legally produced beverages reach consumers.

Additionally, the bill addresses the challenges faced by the state's tea industry, particu-

larly smaller tea gardens that have been struggling due to the economic impact of the pandemic. The proposed amendments to the Bengal Agricultural Income-tax Act, 1944, will provide tax relief to these tea gardens, offering much-needed financial support during difficult times.

Importantly, the bill's implementation is expected to have no financial implications for the state. With its passage, the West Bengal Assembly has taken a significant step toward modernizing the state's laws and supporting gender equality and economic recovery in key sectors.

Delhi Govt Plans Artificial Rain Trials and Large-Scale Anti-Pollution Projects



- If successful, trials will start in outer Delhi before expanding citywide.
- Focus on pollution hotspots with new initiatives
- Artificial rain as a pollution-control method, with water sample tests ensuring safety.

TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

The Delhi government is taking significant steps toward improving air quality and combating pollution across the city. One of the key initiatives under consideration is the trial of artificial rain, which could help mitigate the region's severe pollution levels. Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa revealed in an interview that the government is currently evaluating the potential benefits and risks of artificial rain through ongoing studies. Water sample tests will be conducted to ensure the chemicals used in the process do not pose any harm to human health or the environment.

Should the trials prove successful, a small-scale test will be conducted in an outer Delhi

area. If no adverse effects are detected, the plan for artificial rain will be expanded. Alongside this, the government is working on a series of large-scale anti-pollution projects targeting pollution hotspots across Delhi-NCR. The aim is to reduce pollution levels significantly and ensure a lasting impact on the capital's air quality.

Manjinder Sirsa acknowledged the previous failure of the smog tower project and stated that a new plan will be announced soon to target pollution sources more directly. The government intends to focus on eliminating or reducing these sources in a multi-area approach to make a more noticeable difference.

Delhi's air quality often worsens during the winter months, with the air quality index (AQI)

reaching hazardous levels. To address this, the BJP-led government, which took charge of Delhi recently, has pledged to tackle pollution head-on. Sirsa emphasized the government's commitment to cleaning and beautifying the city, with efforts expected to intensify in the coming months.

Additionally, the Delhi government has announced measures to address older vehicles contributing to pollution. Vehicles older than 15 years will no longer be allowed to refuel after March 31. Sirsa also mentioned that anti-smog guns will be required at high-rise buildings, hotels, commercial complexes, airports, and major construction sites to help curb pollution, with enforcement expected soon after detailed reports are compiled.

Delhi Transport Department Issues Warning to Vehicle Scrapping Facilities Over Unclaimed Vehicles



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi Transport Department has issued a stern warning to all Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs) regarding the deposit of scrap value from unclaimed vehicles. According to the department, RVSFs must ensure that the scrap value of such vehicles is deposited into the government's account within 15 days. Failure to comply with this directive will lead to strict action, including the possibility of being blacklisted from future operations.

This move is part of the Delhi government's broader efforts to combat pollution by targeting end-of-life vehicles (ELVs), which are a significant source of air pollution. The Transport Department has made it clear that RVSFs must adhere to this timeline to ensure that the process of scrapping and recycling vehicles is carried out responsibly and in accordance with government regulations.

A senior official from the department noted that the previous drive against end-

of-life vehicles was carried out in October 2024, just before Diwali, as part of the city's strategy to reduce vehicular pollution. The focus of this drive was to remove old, non-operational vehicles from the streets, as they often contribute to increased emissions, thus worsening air quality. The success of this initiative highlighted the importance of regular checks and balances to ensure that such vehicles are properly disposed of, especially given the high pollution levels during the winter months.

The Transport Department's new directive to RVSFs is aimed at tightening the monitoring process and ensuring that scrap values from unclaimed vehicles are accounted for. By enforcing this rule, the department hopes to streamline the process of vehicle scrapping while also contributing to the reduction of vehicular pollution in the city. Strict penalties will be imposed on non-compliant facilities, sending a clear message about the government's commitment to improving air quality and tackling pollution in Delhi.

Delhi Police Launches Anti-Harassment Training to Combat Women's Safety Concerns

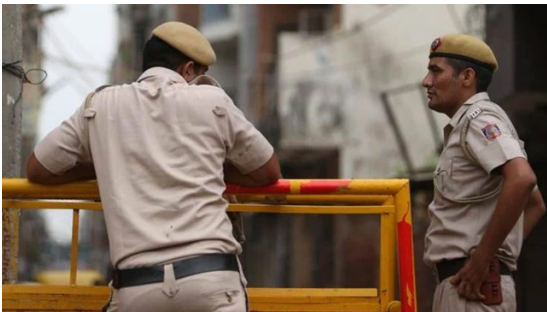
TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a bid to enhance women's safety and combat harassment in public spaces, the Delhi Police has launched a new initiative aimed at curbing sexual harassment and molestation. As part of this effort, over 300 police personnel received specialized anti-harassment training at Wazirabad's Police Training Centre on Wednesday. This training is part of a broader strategy to foster a safer environment for women in the national capital and boost public confidence, especially among vulnerable communities.

The training program comes just days after the formation of dedicated 'anti-eve-teasing' squads, which will play a pivotal role in the Delhi Police's efforts to tackle harassment. Each district has formed two such squads, with each squad led by an inspector-level officer. These squads are specifi-

cally trained to prevent, deter, and respond to incidents of harassment in real-time, in line with directives from the Delhi Police headquarters.

Delhi Police officials have emphasized that this initiative is part of a series of measures designed to combat crimes against women and make the city safer. The personnel in these squads will be equipped to handle harassment-related offenses with immediate action and a proactive approach, respond-



ing swiftly to incidents to prevent escalation and provide support to victims.

The training focuses on increasing the awareness of police personnel regarding the nuances of harassment cases, including sexual harassment and eve-teasing, and equipping them with the tools necessary to effectively address these crimes. The aim is not only to respond to such incidents but also to proactively prevent them by creating a visible and active police presence in areas prone to such offenses.

Delhi Police's efforts to enhance women's safety are part of a broader initiative to address the rising concerns of sexual harassment and molestation in the city. The formation of the anti-eve-teasing squads, along with the specialized training, is expected to make a significant impact on reducing harassment and creating a safer public environment for women in Delhi.

Delhi High Court Issues Notices Over Rising Bird Strikes at IGI Airport

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notices to several key authorities, including the Delhi Government, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Airports Authority of India (AAI), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), and Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), in response to a petition highlighting the alarming rise in bird strikes at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport.

The petition, filed by social activist Gauri Maulekhi, presented data revealing that between 2018 and 2023, IGI Airport recorded 705 bird-strike incidents, surpassing the combined total of 654 bird strikes across 29 airports in Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Maulekhi emphasized the sharp increase in incidents from 2022, with 183 bird strikes reported that year, compared to 94 in 2021 and 62 in 2020.

The petition also noted that Delhi's bird-strike numbers exceeded the combined total of Mumbai and Bengaluru airports (623) during the same period. Maulekhi attributed the surge to the presence of slaughterhouses, meat shops, dairy



farms, and environmental pollution near the airport. She argued that these operations violated both the Aircraft Rules of 1937 and the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak of 2024, which prohibit activities attracting birds within a 10-km radius of airports.

Maulekhi urged the court to direct the authorities to implement preventive measures, including the Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) programme and the Bird Avoidance Model (BAM), to mitigate the risks of bird strikes. Additionally, she alleged that over 500 illegal slaughterhouses continue to operate within a 10-km radius of IGI Airport and called for stricter inspections, penalties on violators, and enforcement of regulations to curb untreated waste disposal.

The court has scheduled the next hearing for May 14, with hopes of addressing the growing safety concerns surrounding the issue.

IndiGo Passenger Deploys Emergency Slide Before Takeoff At Delhi Airport

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On Wednesday, a rather unusual incident occurred at Delhi Airport when a passenger inadvertently deployed the emergency slide of an IndiGo aircraft, flight 6E 5161, which was scheduled to fly to Leh. The incident took place just before takeoff, causing a significant disruption.

In a statement issued by IndiGo, the airline confirmed that the deployment of the slide was accidental and occurred before the aircraft could leave the tarmac. The airline further emphasized that following their Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), the crew promptly reported the incident. The passenger responsible for the deployment was offloaded from the plane and handed over to the relevant authorities for further investigation.

IndiGo expressed regret over the inconvenience caused to other passengers, though it did not specify the details regarding how or why the emergency slide was triggered by the passenger. The aircraft involved in the incident was an A320, a popular and widely used model in commercial aviation. Information from flight tracking website flightradar24.com also confirmed the aircraft type.

Typically, an emergency slide is deployed during an emergency evacuation to allow passengers to exit the plane swiftly and safely. Its accidental deployment outside of an emergency situation could potentially cause delays, as the aircraft must be inspected and the slide must be re-armed before takeoff.

While such incidents are rare, they highlight the importance of strict adherence to safety protocols and the need for passengers to be aware of the emergency equipment on board. The incident also underscores the critical role of airline crews in swiftly managing unexpected events and ensuring the safety of all passengers on board.

IndiGo has reassured its passengers that measures have been taken to avoid such occurrences in the future, and the airline continues to prioritize the safety and comfort of its passengers.



Nagpur violence: 69 arrested amid row over Aurangzeb’s tomb, Bangladesh angle emerges



- Clashes broke out as a large crowd attacked police
- Authorities are tracking provocative social media posts that escalated tensions.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The tomb of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, located in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district, has become the focal point of a political controversy in Maharashtra, sparking violent clashes in Nagpur on March 17. According to police, 12 officers, including three Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs), were injured in the violence that ensued following protests over the removal of Aurangzeb's

tomb.

In response to the unrest, the Maharashtra police imposed a curfew in multiple areas of Nagpur under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), citing tensions surrounding the demand for the tomb's removal. The curfew, which remains in effect until further notice, applies to police station limits in areas such as Kotwali, Ganeshpeth, and Lakadganj, among others.

The violence began on Monday when members of the Bajrang Dal staged a protest near the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj statue in Nagpur's Mahal area, calling for the removal of Aurangzeb's tomb. Police said that rumors spread about the burning of a 'chadar' (a cloth with holy inscriptions) during the protest. Videos of the demonstration quickly went viral on social media, sparking outrage within the Muslim community.

The situation escalated when a mob of around 1,000 people engaged in stone-pelting, vandalism, and arson, injuring several police officers and causing damage to vehicles and properties. Police used tear gas to disperse the crowd, but violence spread to other areas, including Kotwali and Ganeshpeth.

A complaint was filed alleging the burning of a holy book, prompting gatherings of Muslim community members in various parts of the city. Bajrang Dal leaders, however, denied the allegations, stating they had only burned an effigy of Aurangzeb as part of the demonstration.

In response to the violence, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis dismissed the rumors, stating that no cloth with verses had been burned. He vowed to take strong action against those who attacked the police. Meanwhile, the Maharashtra Cyber Cell is investigating individuals who spread provocative content online related to the violence.

Punjab farmers protest: Bulldozer, cranes at Khanauri, Shambhu; ‘chakka jam’ announced

TPN Correspondent | Chandigarh

Punjab Police took swift action to remove farmers from their protest sites near the Punjab-Haryana Shambhu Border, demolishing tents and temporary structures erected by protesters. Similar actions were carried out at the Khanauri protest site, where farmers had been camping since February 13, 2024, following their march to Delhi being blocked by security forces. The farmers had gathered to press their demands, including a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops.

Footage from the scene showed bulldozers, tow trucks, and cranes being used by police to dismantle the protest setups. In one video, police officers were seen removing fans from the temporary stage erected by the farmers

at the Shambhu Border. At the Khanauri Border, another video showed police bringing in tow trucks to remove tractors, trucks, and other personal belongings of the farmers.

The crackdown also led to the detention of several prominent farmer leaders, including Sarwan Singh Pandher and Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who were apprehended in Mohali while returning from a meeting with a cen-



tral delegation. Alongside them, other leaders such as Abhimanyu Kohar, Kaka Singh Kotra, and Manjit Singh Rai were also detained.

The sudden police action has sparked outrage among the protesting farmers, who had been demanding greater protections for their livelihood, including a law guaranteeing MSP for their crops. In response to the removals, farmer unions have called for a nationwide protest, mobilizing support for their cause.

The ongoing farmers' protest, which began with demands for MSP and other agricultural reforms, has seen periodic clashes with authorities. The police's latest move has escalated tensions, as farmers vow to continue their fight for their rights.

Bengaluru Metro Explores Cargo Transportation to Boost Revenue Amid Fare Hike Backlash



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

for freight transport.

In response to a significant hike in metro fares, Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRC) is considering alternative revenue streams to offset the impact on commuters. One of the initiatives under consideration is the introduction of cargo transportation services during non-peak hours, aiming to generate additional income for the metro system.

Taking inspiration from Delhi Metro, which recently partnered with logistics company Blue Dart to facilitate urban freight movement, BMRC plans to engage with logistics and e-commerce firms to assess the feasibility of the cargo transport model. A senior BMRC official confirmed that discussions with industry partners are imminent, with Baiyappanahalli station set to be a key hub for this initiative.

The cargo transport model would integrate first-mile and last-mile connectivity with metro-based logistics solutions and Micro Parcel Hubs, aiming to reduce road congestion and pollution while improving supply chain efficiency. This strategy seeks to optimize metro infrastructure during off-peak hours, effectively utilizing spare capacity

BMRC is also pursuing other non-fare revenue avenues to mitigate the effects of the fare hike. The corporation has recently invited tenders for semi-naming and co-branding rights at select metro stations, along with advertising rights inside stations. Additionally, BMRC has introduced train-wrapping advertisements as another potential source of income.

While experts have supported the move, some have questioned the timing of the initiative. Transport expert Prof. M.N. Srihari welcomed the exploration of non-fare revenue models but criticized BMRC for not considering such options before implementing the steep fare increase. He suggested that Bengaluru Metro should learn from successful cargo transport models implemented in cities like Madrid, where metro trains are used to carry parcels in collaboration with logistics partners, reducing road congestion and emissions.

As BMRC explores these new revenue streams, the move could provide a much-needed alternative for freight movement while enhancing the metro's financial stability in the face of rising commuter costs.

Delhi Government to Implement Ayushman Bharat Scheme with MoU Signing on April 10

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi government is set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre on April 10 to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) in the national capital. Health Minister Pankaj Singh made this announcement on Tuesday, outlining the BJP-led government's commitment to providing accessible healthcare to residents of Delhi.

As part of its 100-day agenda, the Delhi government plans to enroll at least one lakh beneficiaries into the health insurance scheme within the first 30 days. Ayushman Bharat is one of the largest public health insurance schemes in India, offering an annual coverage of Rs 5 lakh per family for medical expenses, aimed at reducing the financial burden on low-income families in the event of hospitalization or critical health issues.

The implementation of AB-PMJAY in Delhi is expected to be a



game-changer for residents who previously may not have had access to comprehensive healthcare coverage. The scheme provides coverage for a range of treatments, including hospital expenses, surgeries, and medical procedures, ensuring that families are protected from catastrophic health costs.

Minister Pankaj Singh emphasized that the health insurance scheme will benefit millions of Delhiites, particularly those from economically weaker sections, by making healthcare services more affordable and reducing out-of-

pocket expenses. The government is hopeful that the swift enrollment of beneficiaries will bring immediate relief to those in need of medical assistance.

The Ayushman Bharat scheme has already been implemented in several states, and its expansion into Delhi will further strengthen the national effort to improve health access across the country. By partnering with the Centre, the Delhi government aims to provide comprehensive and equitable healthcare to all, helping build a healthier future for the residents of the national capital.

22 Maoists Killed, One Police Officer Dies in Separate Encounters in Chhattisgarh

TPN Correspondent | Chhattisgarh

In a series of intense encounters in Chhattisgarh, 22 Maoists were killed, and one police jawan lost his life during exchanges of fire in the state's Bijapur and Kanker districts. The gunfights took place as part of ongoing anti-Naxalite operations aimed at curbing Maoist activities in the region.

The first encounter occurred early in the morning around 7 am in Bijapur, near the border with Dantewada. A joint team of security forces, including the State Task Force (STF) and District Reserve Guard (DRG), were conducting an anti-Naxalite operation in the Gangaloor police station area. The operation led to a fierce gun battle with the Maoists, which resulted in the deaths of 18 Maoists. Authorities recovered numerous firearms and explosives from the scene. Tragically, during the exchange of fire, one police jawan was also killed. The operation is ongoing, with special forces continuing their ef-

forts in the area. A second encounter took place in Kanker, where four Maoists were killed in a gunfight near Koroskodo village. Security forces have been active in the area, intensifying operations against the Maoist insurgents.

These encounters are part of a broader, sustained campaign by security forces in Chhattisgarh to counter Maoist violence. Last month, a similar operation in Bijapur led to the killing of 31 Maoists. The gunfight occurred deep in the forests of the Indravati National Park, and two security personnel were also killed in that en-

counter.

A significant victory for the forces came in January when they killed senior Maoist leader Jayaram Reddy, also known as Chalapati, who had a bounty of Rs 1 crore on his head. In 2024, security forces successfully neutralized over 200 Maoists in Chhattisgarh, with the majority of those killed coming from the Bastar region. During the same period, over 800 Maoists were arrested, and nearly 802 laid down their arms. Operations continue in the state as security forces push forward with their anti-Naxalite campaign.



KARATAM RAMBABU, A SPARROW LOVER



The humble sparrow, a tiny bird that once thrived in every village and city, is now struggling to survive. Once a common sight in our backyards, sparrows are gradually disappearing due to increasing environmental challenges such as cell tower radiation, pollution, excessive pesticide use, and the indiscriminate cutting of trees. It is heart-breaking to acknowledge that our own village sparrow has now joined the list of endangered species. However, amidst this crisis, there are individuals who are striving to protect and revive the sparrow population. In our region, one such compassionate and dedicated individual is Sri Karatam Rambabu Garu. Much like environmentalist Mohammed Dilawar, who has been working tirelessly for the conservation of sparrows in India, Sri Karatam Rambabu Garu is leading a noble effort to save these little birds. His love for nature and wildlife is as deep as his love for the people he serves.

Understanding the dire need for sparrow conservation, Sri Karatam Rambabu Garu has taken significant steps to ensure their survival. In his household complexes, he ties rice husks into bundles and keeps them as food for the sparrows. Aware of the harsh summer conditions, he also arranges for water sources to quench the thirst of these little birds. His generosity extends beyond his home—whenever friends or acquaintances show interest in helping sparrows, he readily provides them with rice husks to encourage more people to take up this cause. His brother, Sri Karatam Uma, actively assists him in this mission, proving that conservation is best achieved when done together. As we observe World Sparrow Day on March 20, let us draw inspiration from Sri Rambabu Garu's unwavering commitment to environmental protection. It is a call for all of us to take action in our own small ways—placing bird feeders, setting up water bowls, planting native



Karatam Rambabu

trees, and spreading awareness about sparrow conservation. These small efforts, when combined, can make a big difference in reviving the sparrow population and ensuring a balanced ecosystem. The chirping of sparrows in the morning is a melody that signals the start of a new day. Let us make sure that this sound continues to be a part of our lives and that future generations do not miss out on the joy of having these little birds around. Sri Karatam Rambabu Garu has set an example for us all—now, it is our turn to follow his path and protect our feathered friends.

- By Chintala Nani

Revanth Reddy's Outburst: A Threat to Free Speech



Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's recent remarks in the state assembly, where he threatened to have critics "stripped and paraded," are deeply troubling. These words, reminiscent of a feudal mindset, not only violate democratic principles but also highlight the growing intolerance of political leaders toward dissent. Such statements, especially from a chief minister, set a dangerous precedent, normalizing the use of violent rhetoric against opponents.

The controversy began with the arrest of journalists Revathi Pogadadanda and Tanvi Yadav, who allegedly post-

ed an abusive video targeting Reddy and his family. While defamation is a legitimate concern, the state has legal avenues to address it. Resorting to threats and punitive actions, instead of allowing the judiciary to decide, reeks of authoritarianism. The very essence of democracy is the ability to tolerate criticism and respond within the framework of law, not through intimidation.

Reddy's comments raise a larger question: Should public figures have unchecked power to suppress dissent? His call to distinguish "government-approved journalists" from in-

dependent ones is an alarming sign of media control. Freedom of the press is a cornerstone of democracy, and journalists—whether mainstream or digital—play a vital role in holding power to account. If politicians start dictating who qualifies as a journalist, it will effectively turn the press into a state-controlled entity, undermining its credibility and independence.

The backlash from the opposition, particularly the BJP and BRS, is expected, but their own track records on press freedom aren't spotless either. Political hypocrisy aside, the larger issue remains—an increasing trend of using state machinery to suppress voices of dissent. The arrest of journalists on serious charges like criminal conspiracy and promoting hatred, rather than pursuing defamation suits, signals an intent to instill fear.

This incident is a stark reminder that political power, when unchecked, can erode civil liberties. Telangana's government must recognize that a leader's strength lies in their ability to handle criticism, not in silencing it. The Congress party, which frequently accuses the BJP of stifling dissent, must introspect. If it fails to rein in such authoritarian tendencies within its own ranks, it risks losing the moral high ground.

Revanth Reddy must clarify whether his comments were a moment of frustration or a reflection of his governance approach. Either way, such rhetoric has no place in a democracy. The law must remain the only recourse for grievances, not threats of public humiliation.

India-New Zealand Relations: A Strategic Shift in the Indo-Pacific



New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon's visit to India in March 2025 marks a pivotal moment in bilateral relations. Historically, New Zealand has maintained a cautious foreign policy, balancing economic dependence on China with regional security concerns. However, Luxon's trip signals a shift—one that prioritizes deeper engagement with India in trade, maritime security, and regional stability within the evolving Indo-Pacific order.

Economic Diversification: The Long-Awaited FTA

A key highlight of the visit was the revival of talks on a long-delayed Free Trade Agreement (FTA), initially proposed in 2009 but stalled due to geopolitical considerations. The agreement, if finalized, could significantly boost trade in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, critical minerals, and tourism, with projections suggesting a tenfold increase in trade over the next decade. New Zealand's economic ties have been heavily dependent on China, particularly in dairy and agricultural exports. However, shifting global supply chains and geopolitical uncertainties have underscored the risks of over-reliance on a single market. Strengthening trade with India presents a strategic alternative, providing New Zealand with access to a large and expanding consumer base, while also supporting India's ambitions to integrate into global supply networks.

Maritime Security and Indo-Pacific Cooperation

Beyond trade, Luxon's visit underscores growing security cooperation between India and New Zealand. A key takeaway was New Zealand's commitment to a "free, open, and rules-based" Indo-Pacific—aligning closely with India's Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) vision. Both nations recognize that security is not just about military alliances but also about tackling non-traditional threats like illegal fishing, maritime disasters, and climate change. New Zealand's participation in India-led initiatives such as the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) reinforces this commitment. IPOI, for instance, provides a platform for collaboration on maritime resource management, environmental sustainability, and capacity-building for smaller island nations. Given rising sea levels and extreme weather events affecting the Pacific, India and New Zealand can play a crucial role in developing climate adaptation strategies and strengthening regional resilience.

Strategic Realignment in the Indo-Pacific

While New Zealand remains outside formal security groupings like the Quad, its increasing cooperation with India allows for greater alignment with Quad-led initiatives on humanitarian assistance, cybersecurity, and maritime security. This reflects a broader shift toward a multipolar Indo-Pacific, where regional middle powers like India and New Zealand play an active role in shaping security dynamics beyond US-China competition.

Conclusion

Luxon's visit has injected fresh momentum into India-New Zealand ties, transforming them from a primarily trade-focused engagement into a more comprehensive strategic partnership. As both nations navigate an evolving Indo-Pacific, their strengthened collaboration holds the promise of fostering regional stability and resilience. The challenge now lies in sustaining this momentum and translating diplomatic goodwill into concrete outcomes across trade, security, and multilateral cooperation.

JD(U) After Nitish: Implosion or Survival?

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is facing the most crucial political transition of his career. As he eyes a fifth term, the question of succession looms large over the Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)]. Without a clear successor, the party risks either disintegration or a forced merger with the BJP. Nitish has always been the undisputed leader of JD(U), sidelining potential rivals within the party. His earlier attempts to groom successors, like Prashant Kishor and RCP Singh, ended in failure. His close aides—Lallan Singh, Ashok Chaudhary, and Sanjay Jha—lack the charisma to lead. This leaves a critical leadership vacuum, making succession a defining issue for the party's survival. The buzz around his son Nishant entering politics has intensified. Though Nishant has largely stayed away from public life, his recent appearances at political events suggest a possible entry. However, Nitish has long opposed dynastic politics, and endorsing Nishant would be a reversal of his stance. If he does name his son as his successor, senior party leaders could rebel, potentially defecting to the BJP or RJD. On the other hand, without a clear transition plan, JD(U) risks internal strife. A leadership tussle between senior figures could push the party into chaos, giving the BJP an opening to orchestrate a merger. History shows that political transitions are smoother when a party is in power, as seen with Akhilesh Yadav and Tejashwi Yadav. If Nishant has to take over, now is the right time. For JD(U) to survive post-Nitish, it must act decisively. Either Nishant takes charge under Nitish's guidance, or the party risks being a rudderless ship headed toward collapse. The choice is between controlled succession or political irrelevance.



Curfew Lifted, Partially Relaxed in Nagpur After Three Days of Violence

Curfew was lifted in some parts of Nagpur on Thursday, while restrictions were partially eased in others, three days after violent clashes erupted in the city. The unrest began on Monday night when mobs went on a rampage in central Nagpur following rumors that a 'chadar' with holy inscriptions had been burned during protests led by Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Ba-jrang Dal. The demonstration was held to demand the removal of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's tomb located in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district. The violent protests led to curfew being imposed in multiple police station jurisdictions, including Kotwali, Ganeshpath, Tehsil, Lakadganj, Pachpaoli, Shanti Nagar, Sakkardara, Nandanvan, Imambada, Yashodhara Nagar, and Kapil Nagar. The clashes caused widespread panic among residents, disrupting daily life and raising security concerns across the city. To restore normalcy, law enforcement deployed additional forces in sensitive areas, and strict restrictions were implemented to prevent



further escalation. Considering public convenience and an improvement in law and order, Commissioner of Police Ravinder Singal announced the lifting of curfew in Nandanvan and Kapil Nagar police station areas from 2 pm on Thursday. Additionally, authorities decided to partially relax curfew in five other areas—Lakadganj, Pach-

paoli, Shanti Nagar, Sakkardara, and Imambada—from 2 pm to 4 pm. This temporary relaxation allowed residents to step out and purchase essential items while maintaining security measures. Despite the easing of restrictions, police and security forces continue to monitor the situation closely. Authorities have urged citizens to maintain peace and

refrain from spreading misinformation that could incite further unrest. The administration is expected to take further decisions based on the evolving situation and security assessments. Meanwhile, appeals for calm and communal harmony have been made by both government officials and local leaders to prevent any further disturbances.

Air India Dismisses Lisa Ray's "No Empathy" Allegation as "Unfounded"

Air India has refuted allegations by actor and author Lisa Ray, who claimed the airline showed "no empathy" when she requested a medical waiver for her ailing 92-year-old father. Calling the claims "unfounded," the Tata Group-owned airline clarified the situation in a detailed statement. Lisa Ray had alleged on X (formerly Twitter) that Air India refused to accept a medical waiver after she had to cancel her father's travel due to his deteriorating health. She said she had submitted a doctor's letter but was still denied the waiver. "Here we go again, Air India. My father is 92, unwell, and I have



to cancel travel due to his ailing condition. Submitted doctor's letter and the waiver was denied? How is that possible? Where is the empathy from an airline that claims to care about passengers?" she posted.

Air India responded publicly, followed by an official statement explaining its stance. "While we fully empathise with the passenger, we wish to clarify that the claim that Air India did not display empathy is unfounded. The passenger herself mentioned that she was booked to fly with two others, excluding her father, whose medical documents were submitted," the airline said. The airline further stated that Lisa Ray initially contacted her travel agent instead of Air India. Once the issue was brought to Air India's attention, the airline reached out and offered a free date change or a one-

year validity for future travel. However, Lisa Ray declined these options and insisted on a full refund. Air India urged the media to "refrain from maligning the airline's reputation without corroborating facts," adding that misleading reports undermine its commitment to customer service and empathy. Lisa Ray, a cancer survivor and advocate for patient rights, has been vocal about healthcare issues. Her memoir, Close to the Bone (2019), details her battle with multiple myeloma and her advocacy for healthcare awareness.



Mamata Banerjee Accuses Rivals of Tarnishing Bengal's Image

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has alleged that political opponents are engaged in an online campaign to malign the state ahead of her official visit to the UK next week. While addressing a gathering, she stated that she does not object to criticism, acknowledging that it is a part of democracy. However, she expressed strong disapproval of any attempts to defame Bengal on international platforms. "You can insult me, but don't try to tarnish the image of Bengal abroad," she asserted. Ms. Banerjee accused certain groups of spreading misinformation through WhatsApp and email. Without naming any specific party, she claimed that these individuals had drafted false narratives about Bengal and encouraged people to send them to universities in the UK. "We do not humiliate them, but it is unfortunate that some anti-social elements (Ganashatru) are indulging in such dirty tricks," she said. The Chief Minister is set to leave for the UK next week, where she will engage in multiple official events. She is scheduled to deliver a lecture at Oxford University and participate in a programme at the Indian High Commission on March 24. Additionally, she will attend a G2G (Government-to-Government) programme on March 26 and another in Oxford on March 27. Ms. Banerjee highlighted Bengal's strong ties with the UK, recalling their participation in the Bengal Global Business Summit. In response to her remarks, the BJP criticized the Chief Minister, accusing her of shifting blame instead of addressing crucial issues. BJP MLA Shankar Ghosh stated that while Bengal was once celebrated as the cultural capital of India, it has now gained notoriety for rising crime rates. "If you check the pending cases in Calcutta High Court, the highest number of rape cases are registered there. Kolkata has now turned into the 'rapist center' of India under her rule," he alleged. The BJP maintained that its criticism of the government is valid and necessary for accountability, rejecting claims of an organized campaign to malign the state. As political tensions escalate, the Chief Minister's visit to the UK remains a topic of heated debate in West Bengal's political landscape.



UP Professor Arrested for Raping and Blackmailing Students

Uttar Pradesh police have arrested Rajnish Kumar, a 50-year-old Geography professor accused of sexually abusing his students and blackmailing them with videos of his assaults. Kumar, who served as the Chief Proctor at Seth Phool Chand Bagla PG College in Hathras, had been on the run for 72 hours before being captured. The scandal came to light earlier this week when police received a USB drive containing 59 videos of Kumar sexually assaulting students. The professor allegedly recorded these acts and used the footage to blackmail victims into further abuse. Disturbingly, police sources revealed that Kumar did not recall the number of students he had abused over the years. During interrogation, Kumar admitted that he began recording his crimes accidentally when a webcam unintentionally captured a molestation. This incident, which occurred in 2009, allegedly inspired him to continue recording and blackmailing students. Investigators also discovered that he accepted bribes from students and parents in exchange for higher grades and job placements, which he used to demand sexual favors. According to Superintendent of Police Chiranjeev Nath Sinha, Kumar installed special software on his computer to secretly record these assaults. Over 65 videos have been recovered, some of which were uploaded to pornographic websites. Kumar, who was married in 1996, was appointed as a teacher at Bagla College in 2001 and promoted to Chief Proctor last year. His reign of abuse allegedly began in 2008, leaving behind a shocking trail of exploitation and trauma. Police are now investigating whether more victims are yet to come forward.

Delhi Airport's Terminal 1



Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) has announced that Terminal 1 (T1) of the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) will be fully operational from April 15. As a result, all flights currently operating from Terminal 2 (T2) will be shifted to T1. Currently, IndiGo and Akasa Air operate from T2, handling around 270-280 air traffic movements and over 46,000 passengers daily. The temporary closure of T2 is part of a planned refurbishment project, expect-

ed to last four to six months, with completion anticipated in the September quarter. DIAL stated that the expansion and modernization of T1 were carried out under the Phase 3A expansion project. The newly upgraded terminal was dedicated to the nation in March last year. The revamped T1 now features 100 check-in counters, including 36 Self Baggage Drop (SBD) kiosks and 108 Common Usage Self-Service (CUSS) kiosks. Security checks will be stream-

lined with 20 Automated Tray Retrieval Systems (ATRS). Additionally, baggage reclaim facilities have been enhanced with 10 carousels, and baggage handling capacity has increased from 3,240 to 6,000 bags per hour. The terminal area has expanded significantly from 55,740 sq m to 2,06,950 sq m, integrating arrival and departure areas to improve passenger convenience. With these upgrades, T1 can now accommodate 40 million passengers annually,

while T3 handles 45 million. T2, which will undergo refurbishment, has an annual capacity of 15 million passengers. DIAL has informed airlines of the transition and advised them to prepare accordingly. IGIA, India's busiest airport, operates three terminals—T1, T2, and T3—with T1 and T2 currently serving domestic flights. The modernization of T1 aims to enhance passenger experience and operational efficiency at one of the country's busiest aviation hubs.

Trump, Zelenskyy agree; US-Ukraine to continue working together to bring about end to war

Discuss Path to Ceasefire and Peace Amid Ongoing Conflict

TPN Correspondent | Wahington

US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held a productive phone conversation on Thursday, agreeing to continue working together toward ending the war in Ukraine. According to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and National Security Advisor Mike Waltz, both leaders expressed optimism about achieving lasting peace under Trump's leadership.

During the call, Zelenskyy thanked Trump for his previous support, especially the delivery of Javelin missiles, and for his ongoing efforts to bring about peace. Trump updated Zelenskyy on his recent conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, focusing on the situation in Kursk. Both leaders agreed to share information closely, as battlefield dynamics continued to evolve.

A significant part of the conversation was dedicated to Ukraine's defense needs, with Zelenskyy requesting additional air defense systems, particularly the Patriot missile system, to protect civilians. Trump assured Zelenskyy that he would work to find available systems, particularly from Europe, to assist in this matter.

The two leaders also discussed a



partial ceasefire, focusing on energy infrastructure. They agreed to technical discussions in Saudi Arabia regarding the expansion of the ceasefire to include the Black Sea as part of efforts toward a full ceasefire. This agreement was seen as a crucial first step in bringing the war to an end and ensuring security for Ukraine.

Trump also discussed Ukraine's energy needs, offering US expertise in running nuclear power plants and securing American involvement in the country's electrical supply infrastructure. Zelenskyy expressed gratitude for Trump's humanitarian

efforts, particularly for pushing forward the exchange of prisoners of war.

Additionally, the two leaders spoke about the missing children from Ukraine, some of whom were reportedly abducted during the conflict. Trump expressed his willingness to work with both sides to ensure their safe return.

The call concluded with both presidents instructing their teams to quickly address technical issues related to the ceasefire and work towards achieving lasting peace.

Elon Musk's X Sues Indian Government Over Alleged Censorship and IT Act Violations

TPN Correspondent | Jakarta

Social media platform 'X' (formerly Twitter), owned by Elon Musk, has filed a lawsuit against the Government of India in the Karnataka High Court, challenging what it claims is unlawful content regulation and arbitrary censorship. The lawsuit specifically targets the government's interpretation of Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology (IT) Act, arguing that it violates Supreme Court rulings and undermines online free expression.

'X' asserts that the Indian government is using Section 79(3)(b) to create a parallel content-blocking mechanism that bypasses the structured legal process defined in Section 69A of the IT Act. According to 'X,' this approach contradicts the 2015 Supreme Court ruling in the Shreya Singhal case, which established that content can only be blocked through a judicial



process or a legally defined route, like Section 69A.

Section 79(3)(b) requires online platforms to remove illegal content if directed by a court order or government notification. If a platform fails to comply within 36 hours, it risks losing its safe harbor protection and could be held accountable under the Indian Penal Code. However, 'X' con-

tests this interpretation, arguing that the provision does not grant the government independent authority to block content, and that it is being misused to impose arbitrary censorship without following due process.

Under Section 69A, the government can block digital content deemed a threat to national security, public order, or sovereignty, but only through a regulated review process. 'X' argues that the government is bypassing these safeguards by using Section 79(3)(b) as a shortcut, allowing content removal without necessary scrutiny. Additionally, 'X' opposes the government's Sahyog portal, created by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) to streamline content takedown requests. 'X' argues that the portal acts as a censorship tool that pressures platforms to remove content without legal review, further undermining judicial oversight.

Israeli Army Bans Traffic on Gaza's Main Artery Amid Renewed Ground Operations

TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) on Thursday imposed a ban on traffic along the main north-to-south artery of Gaza, known as Salaheddin Road. This move came a day after the IDF announced the resumption of ground operations in Gaza, marking a significant escalation in the ongoing conflict.

IDF spokesman Avichay Adraee stated on X that the military had begun targeted ground operations in central and southern Gaza to expand the security zone between the northern and southern parts of the Gaza Strip. As part of the operation, movement along Salaheddin Road is prohibited for safety reasons.

Instead, travelers from northern Gaza to southern areas are being rerouted to the Al-Rashid coastal road. The Israeli army did not clarify whether this restriction also applies to movement from the south to the north, leaving some uncertainty about the full scope of the traffic ban.

The closure of Salaheddin Road fol-



lows an earlier action on Wednesday, when Israeli forces shut down Netzarim Junction, located just south of Gaza City. Tanks were reportedly deployed at the junction after the withdrawal of American special security forces, who had been stationed there since February as part of a ceasefire agreement brokered earlier this year.

The ceasefire, which expired earlier this month, has been a point of contention, with Israel rejecting negotiations for the second phase of the agreement. Instead, Israel demand-

ed the return of all hostages, further stalling progress toward a lasting ceasefire. In response to the deadlock, Israel resumed its air campaign in Gaza on Tuesday, which drew widespread international condemnation.

On Wednesday, the IDF confirmed it was also resuming ground operations in Gaza, heightening the tensions in the region once again. The ongoing conflict continues to have devastating humanitarian consequences, with both sides suffering heavy losses.



Sri Lanka to Hold Local Council Elections on May 6

TPN Correspondent | Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's Election Commission announced on Thursday that the country's local council elections will take place on May 6, 2025. The election is set to be a significant political event, with voters across the island heading to the polls to elect councillors for 340 local councils.

This marks the first electoral challenge for the current government, led by Anura Kumara Disسانayake, since it secured victories in the presidential and parliamentary elections in the last quarter of 2024. The local council elections are expected to provide a snapshot of the government's popularity at the grassroots level and its ability to maintain support among the public.

The Election Commission set the date after reviewing and accepting nominations from various political parties and independent groups. Over 17 million eligible voters will participate in the elections, making it a crucial test of political dynamics in the country.

The elections will see councillors elected to local councils throughout Sri Lanka, covering a wide range of regions and communities. These councils play a significant role in local governance, as they handle important issues such as infrastructure, education, and public health services at the municipal level.

The May 6 election will also serve as a reflection of the political climate in Sri Lanka following the economic turmoil and protests that have defined the past few years. Voters will likely use this election to voice their opinions on the current government's performance and policies.

As the date for the election approaches, political campaigns are expected to intensify, with various parties seeking to rally support and secure key local council positions. The outcome of these elections could shape the future of the current administration and influence the political landscape leading up to future national elections.

Netanyahu Accuses "Leftist Deep State" of Weaponizing Justice System, Sparks Controversy



TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stirred controversy after accusing the "leftist Deep State" of weaponizing the justice system against him. In a post shared on his official X (formerly Twitter) account, Netanyahu said, "In America and in Israel, when a strong right-wing leader wins an election, the leftist Deep State weaponizes the justice system to thwart the people's will. They won't win in either place! We stand strong together." However, the post was deleted within an hour, and Netanyahu reposted the same message from his personal account.

Netanyahu's remarks came amid ongoing investigations into alleged corruption involving his aides. Reports from The Times of Israel revealed that two suspects were detained in connection with an investigation into whether Qatar funneled money to Netanyahu's team. One suspect was released under unspecified conditions, while the other remained under interrogation.

The controversy surrounding Netanyahu has been further fueled by his controversial plans to overhaul the judicial system, which include increasing political control over the judiciary and firing top officials, including Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar. These moves have sparked significant anti-government protests in Jerusalem, with Netanyahu's critics accusing him of undermining the rule of law.

President Isaac Herzog responded by expressing his full confidence in Israel's judicial system. "Israel's strong and independent judicial system is an asset to our democracy, and the president of Israel is very proud of it," Herzog wrote on X. Opposition leader Yair Lapid, head of the Yesh Atid party, strongly criticized Netanyahu's statements, accusing him of losing touch with reality. "He's gone off the rails," Lapid's party posted, calling Netanyahu's rhetoric "dangerous conspiracies" that undermine the rule of law.

Markets Rally Strong; Nifty Surpasses 23,000, Sensex Soars 899 Points



Domestic stock markets closed flat for the fourth consecutive session. They closed with huge gains on Thursday. The benchmark indices, which started flat, gained on the back of the US Fed meeting details, Taiwan's central bank keeping interest rates unchanged, and positive signals from Asian markets. Despite the expiry of derivatives, the bullish momentum continued and investors continued the buy-on-dips method, reaching daily highs. Nifty gained 258 points and Sensex 899 points. Nifty not only broke the key resistance level of 23,000 but also closed above that level, adding to the positivity.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 75,449 in the previous session, opened at 75,917 on Thursday. It touched an intraday low of 75,684. It reached an intraday high of 76,456. It finally closed at 76,348 with a gain of 899 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,036, reached a low of 22,973 and a high of 23,216. It rose by 258 points in total and closed at 23,165. The Nifty Bank rose by 291 points and settled at 49,993.

In the Nifty50, 44 companies gained and 4 lost. Bharti Airtel,

Titan, Eicher Motors, Bajaj Auto, Britannia were the top gainers. IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, Trent, Shriram Finance lost the most. Today, auto, oil, infra, FMCG, media, metal, health-care, metal, IT, realty, PSE, and pharma stocks were the winners. PSU banks, private banks, commodities, energy and manufacturing stocks were underperforming.

Market breadth turned in favor of buyers on NSE today. Out of 2978 stocks traded, 1755 gained and 1147 lost. 35 stocks hit 52-week highs. 58 stocks hit 52-week lows. 184 stocks crossed the upper circuit and 55 stocks crossed the lower circuit.

Rupee settled at 86.36 against dollar. Pradeep Phosphates Company started production at ammonia and urea plants. CLSA has given a hold rating to Voltas with a target price of Rs. 1375. Jefferies has maintained a buy rating for Interglobe Aviation with a target price of Rs. 5700. 21 lakh shares changed hands in Tata Steel. India VIX fell 4% to

12.71. Nomura has given a neutral rating to DLF with a target price of Rs 700. Diamond Power Infra has received an order worth Rs 175 crore. It is learnt that Air India has given orders worth hundreds of crores to Boeing and Airbus. 22 lakh shares changed hands in NTPC. 10 lakh shares changed hands in ITC. Taiwan keeps interest rates unchanged at 2%. Dhana Lakshmi Bank board approves Rs 150 crore raising. Axis Capital has given a buy rating to Mahanagar Gas with a target price of Rs 1580.

1. Aditya Birla Capital (ABCAPITAL)



The company reported strong growth in its asset management business, with AUM rising 14% YoY. Its lending arm, Aditya Birla Finance, saw a steady rise in loan disbursements, indicating strong credit demand. Market sentiment remains positive due to expectations of strong Q4 earnings and increasing retail participation in financial services.

2. Jindal Saw



The company secured a ₹800 crore export order for supplying large-diameter pipes to the Middle East. Rising steel prices and strong demand from infrastructure projects boosted investor confidence. Analysts expect the stock to remain bullish in the near term, with a target

price of ₹350.

3. Tata Communications

The company secured a strategic partnership with a global cloud provider to enhance its data center services. Revenue from international business grew 9.2% YoY, driven by increased demand for enterprise solutions. Long-term outlook remains positive with expansion in 5G and AI-driven connectivity solutions.



4. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) Crude oil prices softened, leading to better refining margins for BPCL. The company announced plans to expand its fuel retail network and invest in renewable energy projects. HSBC reiterated a BUY rating with a target price of ₹320, citing strong fundamentals and government support for the sector.



5. Eicher Motors

Royal Enfield sales showed a 5% YoY growth, with strong demand for premium models. The company is set to launch an electric motorcycle by early 2025, which could be a game-changer in the segment. Jefferies maintained a BUY rating with a price target of ₹5,500, citing strong brand positioning and international expansion.



RBI appoints Indranil Bhattacharyya as executive director

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on Thursday, March 20, 2025, the appointment of Indranil Bhattacharyya as its new Executive Director (ED). Effective from March 19, Bhattacharyya will oversee the Department of Economic and Policy Research, as stated in the RBI's official announcement.

Prior to his promotion, Bhattacharyya served as an Adviser in the Monetary Policy Department of the RBI. With nearly three decades of experience, he has a well-established career spanning various key areas, including monetary policy, fiscal policy, banking, and international economic relations. Bhattacharyya has held positions in several critical RBI departments such as the Department of Economic and Policy Research and the International Department.

Notably, Bhattacharyya's career also includes a five-year tenure at the Qatar Central Bank in Doha, where he worked as an economic expert in the technical office of the Governor from 2009 to 2014. This international experience further strengthens his broad expertise in economic and financial matters.

Bhattacharyya holds a postgraduate degree in economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and his research interests focus on monetary theory and policy, financial markets, market microstructure, and fiscal policy. These areas of expertise align with his responsibilities at the RBI, particularly in the areas of policy research and economic strategy.

His appointment comes at a time when the RBI continues to play a crucial role in shaping India's monetary policy and economic direction. Bhattacharyya's wealth of experience in both domestic and international finance will be instrumental in supporting the RBI's ongoing efforts to enhance the Indian economy's stability and growth.

As he steps into his new role, Bhattacharyya is expected to bring valuable insights and leadership to the RBI, particularly in its research and policy-making initiatives.



Chip giant Infineon looks to double India headcount by 2030, focus on R&D

Infineon Technologies Plans to Double India Workforce to 5,000 by 2030



German semiconductor giant Infineon Technologies is set to double its workforce in India, aiming to employ 5,000 people by 2030. The company plans to focus primarily on expanding its research and development (R&D) operations, with no immediate intentions to commit to manufacturing in India, according to a top official.

Andreas Urschitz, Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) and management board member at Infineon, revealed that the company currently has 2,500 employees in India, all working on R&D projects. Infineon, which employs over 58,000 people globally, primarily in the APAC region, sees India as a key hub for its growth in the future.

The company is a leading player in providing semiconductors, particularly for the automobile industry, and aims to strengthen its technological capabilities by significantly increasing its Indian workforce. With the growing demand for automotive chips and other semiconductor solutions, Infineon's expansion of R&D operations in India will help it meet global market needs.

While Infineon is investing heavily in R&D in India, it has not yet announced plans for setting up manufacturing units in the country. The focus remains on bolstering its research presence, in line with India's growing role in the global semiconductor ecosystem.

Indian Stock Market Soars on Strong IT Rally and Fed's Rate Cut Projections

Indian stock markets surged on Thursday, March 20, 2025, propelled by a rally in IT stocks and positive momentum from U.S. equities, following the Federal Reserve's decision to maintain its rate cut projections for this year.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 478.13 points to reach 75,927.18 in early trading, while the NSE Nifty gained 149.1 points, climbing to 23,056.70. The rally was largely driven by strong performances from leading IT stocks, including Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, and HCL Tech, as well as other significant gainers like Bharti Airtel, Zomato, and Mahindra & Mahindra. However, some stocks, including Bajaj Finance, UltraTech Cement, Adani Ports, and Tata Steel, faced declines.

Vikas Jain, Head of Research at Reliance Securities, noted that the domestic market is likely to continue its positive trajectory due to strong global momentum, especially following the U.S. Federal Reserve's announcement of planned interest rate cuts this year.

While Asian markets displayed mixed performance—Seoul traded positively, while Shanghai and Hong Kong were lower—the U.S. markets saw a significant surge on



March 19, 2025, indicating a broader global market recovery.

The Federal Reserve's decision to hold rates steady and its projection of two interest rate cuts this year, alongside an expected growth rate of 1.7% and an inflation forecast of 2.8% for 2025, aligned with expectations. V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, highlighted two key trends in the Indian market: strong domestic consumption themes and growing interest in underperforming sectors such as defense and

shipping.

Global oil prices also saw a slight increase, with Brent crude climbing 0.54% to \$71.16 per barrel. In terms of investor activity, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) sold equities worth ₹1,096.50 crore on March 19, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought equities worth ₹2,140.76 crore.

Overall, market sentiment remains positive as the anticipation of further rate cuts from the Fed continues to boost global equities.

Bengaluru Cab Driver's 'No Romance' Warning Note Leaves Internet in Splits



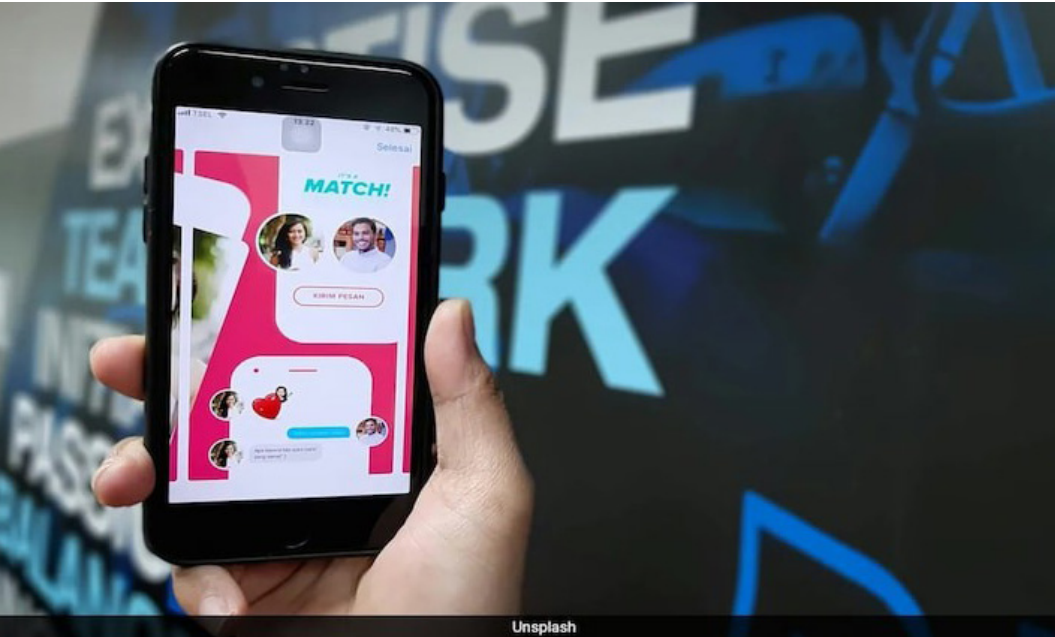
Bengaluru, often referred to as India's startup capital, is known for its unique urban culture and viral internet moments. One such instance has caught social media's attention—a Bengaluru cab driver's warning note advising passengers to “keep distance” has left the internet in splits. A Reddit user recently shared a picture of the note displayed inside a cab, which read: “Warning!! No romance. This is a cab, not your private place or OYO, so please keep distance and stay calm.” The candid and humorous message has since gone viral, sparking a flurry of reactions from netizens. Social media users found the driver's

straightforwardness amusing, with many speculating about the experiences that led him to put up such a notice. “Mr. Driver has seen stuff, and he doesn't want to witness it again,” joked one user. Another user supported the driver's stance, saying, “In a closed environment like a car, public display of affection is uncomfortable for the driver. He has every right not to be a part of it.” Many users sympathized with the driver's plight, acknowledging that some couples take things too far inside cabs. “I've heard stories of couples making out or engaging in inappropriate activities in cabs. It must be uncomfortable for the driver. People should at least wait un-

til they get home or check into a hotel,” commented one user. Another user humorously remarked, “Drivers in Bengaluru have seen things that would make you rethink any romantic plans in a cab. It's a whole different level of urban life!” The post has sparked discussions on boundaries and etiquette inside shared transport. While most users found humor in the situation, others pointed out the need for basic respect towards cab drivers. The incident has now become another addition to the long list of “Peak Bengaluru” moments, proving yet again that the city never fails to entertain the internet.

London Tops UK Cities Where Women Suspect Partners of Cheating on Tinder

A new analysis has revealed that London has the highest number of women checking Tinder to see if their partners are being unfaithful. According to a report by CheatEye.ai, 27.4% of all Tinder-related searches in London are focused on uncovering a partner's infidelity, with 62.4% of these searches being conducted by women. Beyond London, cities like Manchester and Birmingham also ranked high in suspicion-driven Tinder searches. In Manchester, 8.8% of searches were related to infidelity concerns, while Birmingham recorded 8.3%. Notably, in Birmingham, a significant 69% of these searches were carried out by women investigating their male partners. Glasgow also appeared on the list, with 4.7% of Tinder searches linked to concerns about infidelity. Similar to other cities, 62.1% of these searches were conducted by women. Why Suspicion is Rising? Infidelity expert Samantha Hayes attributes the rising trend to the widespread use of dating apps in major cities. “In



cities like London, the dating scene is more dynamic, which naturally leads to heightened suspicion and scrutiny of partners' activities,” she explained. Hayes also noted that young adults aged 18 to 24 are particularly anxious about their partners' faithfulness, given the accessibility

of dating apps. With trust issues on the rise, the report suggests that Tinder is increasingly being used not just for dating, but also for relationship surveillance, particularly by women in major UK cities.

Company Orders Employees to Always Answer Boss's Calls, Even on Silent Mode—Internet Reacts

A company's controversial new policy requiring employees to always answer calls from their managers—even when their phones are on silent or in Focus Mode—has sparked outrage and humor online. A viral Reddit post exposing the policy has led to a heated debate on work-life balance and employee rights. Enforcing 24/7 Availability The company's instructions mandated that employees add their managers to the ‘Emergency Bypass’ feature on iPhones, ensuring that calls and messages from leadership would come through even when devices were on silent. Additional directives included enabling VIP alerts on Apple Watches and adding managers to the ‘Allowed Callers’ list under Focus Mode. While the company claimed that these measures were essential for handling urgent matters efficiently, one justi-

fication in the email particularly angered employees: “Since the company pays for your phone service, calls from leadership must always come through, even in Focus Mode.” This statement implied that the employer had the right to dictate how employees used their phones, even outside of work hours. Backlash on Social Media Reddit users were quick to criticize the policy, pointing out the lack of work-life balance and potential overreach by the company. Many sarcastically suggested ways for employees to turn the policy against their bosses. One user proposed calling managers at 3:00 a.m. to ask, “Would you still hire me if I were a worm?” Another commented, “If the job requires 24/7 availability, they better pay for that time.” Others highlighted the importance of compensation for



being on call. “If the company provides the phone, fine. But it stays off after work hours.” A more empathetic user said, “I'd take an emergency call from a colleague in trouble, but anything from my boss? Ignored.” The Debate Over Work-Life Boundaries The viral post reignited discussions about boundaries in the modern workplace, particularly in an era where digital connectivity often leads to unrealistic work expectations.

With many companies promoting flexible work environments, the expectation that employees must be available at all times raises concerns about mental well-being, burnout, and fair compensation. While some argue that emergency contact is necessary for business operations, the overwhelming response online suggests that employees are pushing back against policies that erode personal time and privacy.

Bengaluru Man Buys World's Most Expensive Wolfdog for ₹50 Crore



A Bengaluru man has made headlines after purchasing one of the world's rarest and most expensive dogs—a unique wolfdog named Cadaboms Okami—for a staggering ₹50 crore (\$5.7 million). A Rare and Exotic Breed The buyer, S Satish, president of the Indian Dog Breeders Association, is known for owning expensive and rare breeds. Cadaboms Okami is a cross between a wolf and a Caucasian Shepherd, making it the first of its kind in India. The New York Post reports that the dog was originally bred in the United States before arriving in India. “I spent ₹50 crore on this pup because I love dogs and want to introduce unique breeds to India,” Mr. Satish told The Sun. At just eight months old, Okami weighs over 5 kilograms and has a special diet of 3 kg of raw meat every day. According to the American Kennel Club, the wolfdog is a guardian breed known for its intelligence and protective instincts.

A Profitable Investment Apart from his passion for rare dogs, Mr. Satish also earns a fortune from them. He reportedly charges between \$2,800 (₹2.3 lakh) for a 30-minute appearance to \$11,700 (₹9.7 lakh) for five hours at events where people pay to see his exotic pets. “People love to take selfies and pictures with my dogs. They attract more attention than movie stars,” he said. Luxury Care for Elite Pets This isn't his first high-profile purchase. Last year, he bought a rare Chow Chow for ₹27 crore (\$3.25 million). His elite pets live in a seven-acre farm where each dog has a 20ft by 20ft kennel. “There is enough space for them to walk and run, and six caretakers look after them,” Mr. Satish said, adding that air conditioning isn't required due to Bengaluru's cool climate. His latest purchase has once again captured the attention of dog lovers and luxury pet enthusiasts worldwide.

International Day of Happiness 2025: Date, Theme, and Significance



The International Day of Happiness is observed on March 20 every year, promoting the importance of happiness in personal and global well-being. Established by the United Nations General Assembly on July 12, 2012, this day recognizes happiness as a fundamental human goal. Origin and Background The initiative was led by Bhutan, a country that has prioritized Gross National Happiness over Gross Domestic Product since the 1970s. The first International Day of Happiness was celebrated in 2013, with participation from the United Nations' 193 member states. In 2015, the UN introduced 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to combat poverty, inequality, and environmental challenges, reinforcing the link between well-being and sustainable development. Significance in 2025 With ongoing global crises in

Ukraine, Gaza, Yemen, and elsewhere, prioritizing happiness has become more challenging. The day serves as a reminder that small acts of kindness and compassion can make a difference in building a better world. Modern life often leads to stress, anxiety, and material-driven pursuits, overshadowing emotional well-being. This day encourages individuals to focus on meaningful relationships and positive actions. Theme for 2025 The theme for International Day of Happiness 2025 is “Caring and Sharing”, emphasizing the role of kindness and generosity in strengthening communities and enhancing well-being. Studies show that giving and receiving kindness significantly boost happiness, reinforcing the idea that compassion is essential for a fulfilling life.

Cricket Board Announces ₹58 Crore Reward for Champions Trophy Winners



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced a ₹58 crore cash reward for Team India after their triumphant ICC Champions Trophy 2025 victory. The prize recognizes the contributions of players, coaching staff, and selectors. Under Rohit Sharma's leadership, India dominated the tournament, securing wins over Bangladesh, Pakistan, and New Zealand before defeating Australia in the semi-final. BCCI president Roger Binny stated, "Winning back-to-back ICC titles is special. This cash reward acknowledges the hard work put in by the team and support staff." He also highlighted India's success in the ICC U19 Women's World Cup 2025, emphasizing the country's strong cricketing foundation.

Indian Para Swimming Team Set for 2025 Para Swimming World Series in Barcelona

A 27-member Indian contingent, including 19 para swimmers and eight officials, will compete at the 2025 Para Swimming World Series in Barcelona from March 20 to 23. Led by Paralympian and Arjuna Awardee Sharath M Gayakwad, the team features experienced athletes like Niranjana Mukundan, Shridhar N Malagi, and Tejas Nandakumar, along with emerging talents like Vaishnavi Jagtap and visually impaired swimmer Himanshu Nandal. Coach Gayakwad expressed confidence in the team's preparations, calling it one of India's most promising contingents. Rising swimmers Afrid Attar, Ali Imam, and Chaitanya Kulkarni add depth to the squad. With rigorous training and high aspirations, India aims to make a strong mark on the global para-swimming stage, reinforcing its commitment to excellence and inclusivity in sports.



India Submits Bid to Host 2030 Commonwealth Games in Gujarat

India has officially submitted its bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Gujarat, a top sports ministry source confirmed. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) sent the 'Expression of Interest' before the March 31 deadline. Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had earlier expressed India's interest in hosting the Games, marking the country's bid to bring the prestigious event back since the 2010 Delhi edition. Additionally, India is also eyeing the 2036 Olympics as part of its long-term sports ambitions.

Chhetri Scores on Return as India Beat Maldives 3-0

Sunil Chhetri marked his international comeback in style, scoring in India's commanding 3-0 win over Maldives in a football friendly on Wednesday. The victory ended India's 12-match winless streak since November 2023. Rahul Bheke opened the scoring in the 35th minute, followed by Liston Colaco's strike in the 66th. Chhetri, re-

turning after retiring in May last year, sealed the win with a glancing header in the 77th minute, netting his 95th international goal. Despite an earlier save by the Maldives goalkeeper in the 47th minute, the 40-year-old captain made his presence felt before being substituted in the 82nd minute.



Mandaviya Inaugurates 2nd Khelo India Para Games 2025

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya declared the 2nd Khelo India Para Games 2025 open at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall, Indira Gandhi Stadium, New Delhi. Over 1,300 para-athletes will compete in six sports disciplines over eight days. A unique torch rally, joined by Paralympians Simran Sharma, Praveen Kumar, and Nitesh Kumar, marked the inauguration. Mandaviya lauded Khelo India's role in nurturing talent, emphasizing India's success at the Paris Paralympics 2024. Union Minister Virendra Kumar praised the platform for providing para-athletes with opportunities to excel. The event witnessed participation from top officials, athletes, and coaches from across India.



Swiss Open: PV Sindhu Exits Early, Srikanth Advances to Pre-Quarterfinals



PV Sindhu suffered another early exit at the Swiss Open, losing 21-17, 21-19 to Denmark's Julie Jakobsen in the first round. This marks Sindhu's third consecutive first-round defeat in 2024 after similar setbacks at the Indonesia Masters and All England Open. In men's singles, Kidambi Srikanth edged out HS Prannoy 23-21, 23-21 in a tightly contested match to reach the pre-quarter-

finals, where he faces world No. 6 Li Shifeng. Qualifier Sankar Subramanian also progressed, defeating Magnus Johannesen 21-5, 21-16. In women's singles, Anupama Upadhyaya and Isharani Baruah secured wins, while Malvika Bansod and others were eliminated. In mixed doubles, India's pair of Sathish Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath advanced, while two other pairs suffered defeats.



Rahul Bose on Chameli Pay Gap: “I Was the Starlet, She Was the Star”

Actor Rahul Bose revealed that he was paid only a fraction of what Kareena Kapoor Khan earned for the 2004 film Chameli. Speaking at Mardon Wali Baat, a national conference on gender-based violence, Bose admitted the pay gap was justified as Kareena had a stronger box-office appeal. “Men have also been starlets, and I am a shining example of that. Kareena was the star; she brings more people to theatres even today. It’s completely logical,” he said. Bose, who has also produced films, added that the industry is commercially driven, not biased. Rahul Bose is known for Mr. and Mrs. Iyer and Dil Dhadakne Do, while Kareena’s recent films Crew and Singham Again were box-office hits.



Dhanashree Verma Stars in Song on Toxic Relationships Amid Divorce Proceedings

Amid her divorce from cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal, Dhanashree Verma stars in Dekha Ji Dekha Maine, a song that delves into toxic relationships. Featuring Ishwak Singh, the music video presents a raw portrayal of love and emotional turmoil. Set in Jaipur’s outskirts, the song is composed by Jaani with Jyoti Nooran’s powerful vocals. Dhanashree called it an “emotionally charged performance”, while

Jaani highlighted its intense theme. Directed by Dhruwal Patel and Jigar Mulani, the song is now streaming on T-Series’ YouTube channel. Meanwhile, reports suggest Chahal has agreed to pay ₹4.75 crore in alimony. The Bombay High Court has expedited their mutual consent divorce, instructing the Bandra family court to finalize it by March 20, ahead of Chahal’s IPL commitments.



L2: Empuraan Trailer – Mohanlal’s Swag Takes Over

The much-awaited trailer of L2: Empuraan, the sequel to Lucifer, is finally out, and Mohanlal’s signature style dominates the high-octane visuals. Directed by Prithviraj Sukumaran, the film features Tovino Thomas, Sachin Khedekar, Manju Warrier, and Indrajith Sukumaran in key roles. The trailer showcases intense political drama, with Tovino’s Jathin Ramdas leading a party

amidst conspiracies. Manju Warrier’s character challenges blood ties, while Mohanlal’s Stephen Nedumpally emerges as the mysterious savior of Kerala. Explosive action sequences, gunfights, and combat scenes fill the gripping trailer, ending with Mohanlal declaring, “Lucifer.” Bankrolled by Antony Perumbavoor, Gokulam Gopalan, and Subaskaran, L2: Empuraan re-

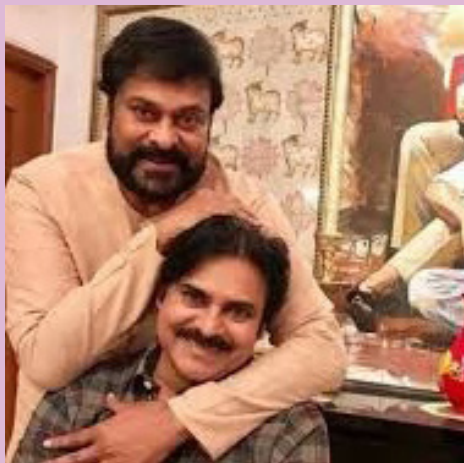
leases in multiple languages on March 27, 2025.



“Proud to Be His Brother”: Pawan Kalyan on Chiranjeevi’s Lifetime Achievement

Megastar Chiranjeevi was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by Bridge India at the UK Parliament for his contributions to cinema and society. Reacting to this, his younger brother Pawan Kalyan expressed pride, calling it a moment of immense honor. Taking to X (Twitter), Pawan wrote, “From being a middle-class excise constable’s son to becoming a Megastar, my brother has entertained audiences for over four decades. I will always be proud to be his younger brother.” He hailed Chiranjeevi as his guiding force, highlighting his social service through the Chiranjeevi Charitable Trust. Recalling Chiranjeevi’s recent Padma Vibhushan honor, he stated

that the Lifetime Achievement Award further elevated his legacy. Pawan congratulated Chiranjeevi and thanked Stockport MP Navendu Mishra for hosting the event.



Janhvi Kapoor Visits Ram Charan’s Home, Shares Special Moment With Upasana



Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor, currently in Hyderabad for RC16, took a break from her shoot to visit Ram Charan’s residence in Jubilee Hills. She spent quality time with his wife, Upasana Konidela, making the visit extra special. Upasana surprised Janhvi

with Athamma’s Kitchen, a collection of recipes curated by Ram Charan’s mother, Surekha Konidela. A picture of their heartfelt moment is now viral, and the brand’s official Instagram handle teased more surprises ahead, fueling speculation about Janhvi’s possible collabo-

ration. Meanwhile, the RC16 team will soon head to Delhi for an important shoot at Jama Masjid. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana and featuring music by AR Rahman, the film is produced by Vriddhi Cinemas with Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings.

Rakul Preet Singh Spreads Positivity on International Day of Happiness

Actress Rakul Preet Singh celebrated the International Day of Happiness by sharing an inspiring message on Instagram. Posting radiant photos, she emphasized that “Happiness is a choice, not a destination. Let’s choose it together today and every day!” The pictures, seemingly from a beach vacation, captured Rakul’s joyous moments in a serene setting. Actress Rasika Dugal also marked the occasion, sharing her thoughts on finding happiness in small things. The International Day of Happiness, observed on March 20, was established by the UN to promote global well-being. Meanwhile, Rakul recently completed the Patiala schedule for De De Pyaar De 2, where she reprises her role as Aisha alongside Ajay Devgn and R. Madhavan.





“My Heart is Filled with Gratitude”



Tollywood Actor Megastar Chiranjeevi was honored at a special event in the UK Parliament, attended by several MPs, ministers, and diplomats. The event recognized his remarkable contributions to cinema and philanthropy. On this occasion, Bridge India Group presented him with the Lifetime Achievement Award in appreciation of his illustrious career and humanitarian efforts. Expressing his gratitude, Chiranjeevi took to social media, stating, “My heart is filled with gratitude to receive this honor in the presence of so many esteemed personalities. The kind words spoken about me brought immense joy.” He dedicated the award to his fans, film fraternity, well-wishers, and family, especially those who became his “blood brothers and sisters” through his blood donation campaigns. He emphasized that this recognition inspires him to continue his work with even greater enthusiasm.



Rahul Slams AAP and BJP for Anti-Farmer Actions, Accuses Them of Colluding Against Farmers

Two anti-farmer parties have joined hands, berating AAP and BJP

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, joined Congress MPs from Punjab in a protest within the Parliament complex against the forcible eviction of farmers from the Sambhu and Khanauri protest sites on the Punjab border.

Congress president and LoP in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, strongly criticized both the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for their actions against the farmers. Kharge accused the two parties of forming an alliance against the nation's farmers. He stated that the Punjab government had initially invited farmers for talks, only to forcibly remove them from the protest site later. He expressed his dismay on social media, calling out the actions as anti-farmer.

Kharge further condemned the detention of senior farmer leaders Jagjit Singh Dallewal and Sarwan Singh Pandher by Punjab Police, describing it as an unacceptable act. He accused the BJP and AAP of being “intoxicated” with the power they held and pointed out that the farming community of 62 crore people would never forgive these actions. He also reminded the country of past atrocities against farmers, such as the 2017 Mandsaur firing during the BJP's rule, and the tragic incidents in Lakhimpur Kheri and Rajasthan.

Congress MPs from Punjab, including Sukhjinder Randhawa, Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Gurjit Aujla, and Dharamvir Gandhi, staged the protest outside the Makar Dwar in Parliament. They raised slogans against the AAP government in Punjab and the BJP-led central government, demanding justice for the farmers. Gandhi briefly joined the protest to express solidarity with the farmers and his fellow MPs.

The Congress leaders also displayed placards in support of the farmers' demand for a law ensuring Minimum Support Price (MSP) for crops. They criticized Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann for acting against the agitating farmers, alleging that he was working in alliance with the BJP.

26/11 Mumbai terror attack

Tahawwur Rana files another request with US top court to stay extradition to India

Tahawwur Rana Seeks Stay on Extradition to India in Appeal to US Supreme Court

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tahawwur Rana, the accused in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, has filed a renewed plea with the US Supreme Court to halt his extradition to India. This follows the rejection of his earlier review petition by US Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan on March 6. Rana's latest emergency application has been directed to Chief Justice John Roberts, requesting a stay on the extradition process while his legal challenge remains pending. The Supreme Court's website indicated that the application will be considered by the top court's judges on April 4, 2025.

Rana's legal team argues that his extradition should be delayed due to his severe health issues, which they claim would



put his life at risk if tried in India. In the appeal, Rana highlighted that he suffers from a 3.5 cm abdominal aortic aneurysm, Parkinson's disease with cognitive decline, and a mass that could indicate bladder cancer. He stated, “If a stay is not granted, there will be no review at all,

and the US courts will lose jurisdiction, leaving the petitioner in imminent danger of death.”

Rana's plea for a stay on extradition has come amid ongoing diplomatic discussions between the US and India. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit

to the United States last month, US President Donald Trump confirmed that his administration had agreed to Rana's extradition, referring to him as a “very evil man.” The extradition is part of broader efforts to bring justice for the 166 victims of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which were orchestrated by Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist David Headley, a close associate of Rana.

Tahawwur Rana, aged 63, is currently held in a Los Angeles prison. In 2011, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed a chargesheet against him and eight others, accusing them of aiding in the planning and execution of the Mumbai attacks. Rana's extradition has remained a contentious issue between the United States and India for several years.

When will women in Delhi receive Rs 2,500 monthly honorarium: Atishi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Senior AAP leader Atishi raised concerns on Thursday about the delay in the implementation of the Rs 2,500 monthly financial assistance for women in Delhi, promised by the BJP during the recent elections. Addressing a press conference, Atishi, who is also the Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, questioned the BJP's commitment to delivering the promised benefits to the nearly 48 lakh women in the capital aged above 18 years.

Atishi wondered if the BJP government would restrict the benefit to a small fraction of eligible women by imposing various conditions or would fulfill its promise to assist the entire group. She also highlighted that while the BJP government had approved Rs 5,100 crore for the scheme, no tangible steps had been taken yet.

The AAP leader pointed out that the BJP had formed a committee 12 days ago to



oversee the implementation of the Mahila Samridhi Yojna, but the committee had not made any progress. “When will the registration process begin, and when will the money be credited to the beneficiary women's accounts?” Atishi asked.

The Rs 2,500 monthly assistance scheme was a key election promise of the BJP in the run-up to the February 5 Delhi elections. The committee formed to manage the scheme is headed by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who is expected to oversee its implementation. Despite the scheme being approved and funds allocated, Atishi's concerns reflect growing doubts about the timely execution of the promise.



Health expenditure at 1.84% of GDP, moving steadily to 2.5%: JP Nadda

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda announced on Wednesday that the government's expenditure on healthcare has risen to 1.84% of GDP, up from 1.15% in 2013-14. Nadda expressed confidence that India is steadily progressing towards meeting the target set by the National Health Policy 2017, which aims to allocate 2.5% of GDP to healthcare by 2025.

During a discussion in the Rajya Sabha on the functioning of the Union Health Ministry, Nadda highlighted the government's efforts to increase healthcare funding and ensure improved access to medical services for the population. He noted that this increase in expenditure is a reflection of the government's commitment to providing better healthcare infrastructure and services across the country.

However, Haris Beeran, a Member of Parliament from the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), raised concerns about the feasibility of achieving the 2.5% GDP target. He argued that the National Health Policy's goal of enhancing healthcare expenditure remains “a distant dream.” Beeran emphasized that while the increase in healthcare funding is a step in the right direction, the current levels of investment may still fall short of the necessary resources to address India's growing healthcare challenges, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

India's healthcare system has long been criticized for its underfunding, and while recent improvements have been noted, many experts believe that more significant investments are necessary to ensure universal health coverage, strengthen the public health system, and improve healthcare outcomes across the country.

RG Kar Case: Family Receives Death Certificate After Seven-Month Delay

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

Seven months after the tragic rape-murder of their daughter at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, her parents finally received the long-awaited death certificate from West Bengal Health Secretary NS Nigam. The certificate was handed over to them on the evening of March 19, 2025, during a visit by Nigam, who was accompanied by the medical superintendent and vice principal of RG Kar hospital.

Nigam confirmed that no discussions took place during the visit, and the purpose was solely to deliver the original death certificate. “They needed the original death certificate. Today, I came here and handed it over to them,” Nigam stated. The victim's father, who had been demanding the certificate since the tragic incident on August 9, expressed his frustration with the delays. “We have been struggling to obtain it. We sent an email in January and had to go from one department to another, but no one cooperated,” he said. Despite the repeated efforts, including the email sent earlier this year, it took months for the document to be delivered.



The family had been seeking the death certificate ever since the 31-year-old postgraduate trainee was found dead in a seminar hall at RG Kar Hospital, sparking widespread protests across the state. The death of the young woman, who was a trainee at the hospital, had drawn massive public attention and led to intense demands for justice.

Along with the original certificate, the family was also provided with a link, allowing them to download a copy of the document in the future. Although the receipt of the death certificate marked a small step forward for the grieving family, it remains a stark reminder of the bureaucratic challenges they had to face while dealing with the aftermath of such a horrific tragedy.