



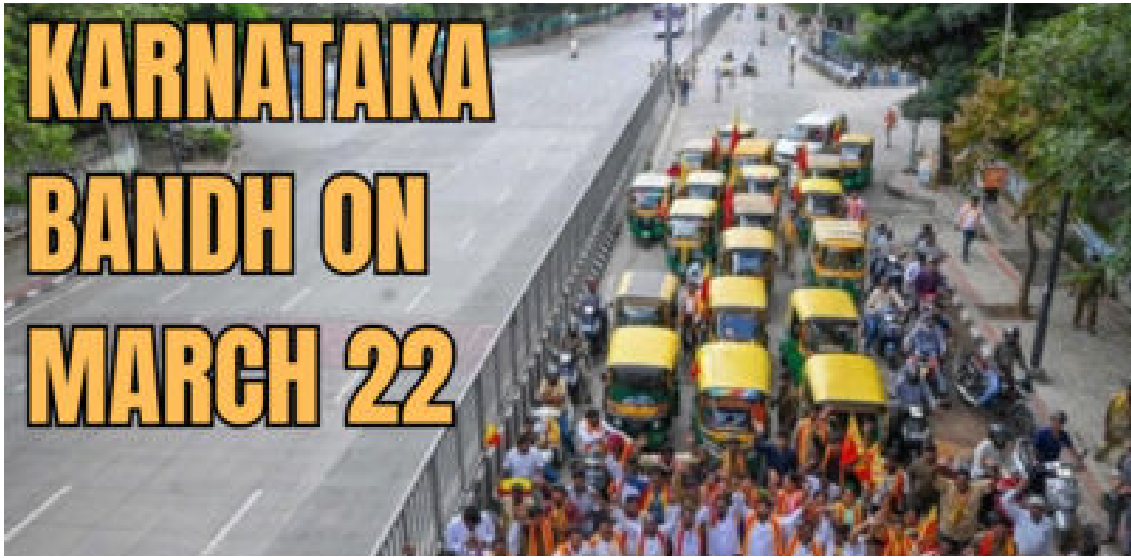
IPL 2025 Opener:
KKR vs RCB at Eden
Gardens

The much-anticipated IPL 2025 season kicks off today with defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) facing Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the opening match at Eden Gardens, Kolkata. The match is set to begin at 7:30 PM IST.

KKR, led by Ajinkya Rahane, will look to start

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Karnataka Statewide Bandh
Over Language Dispute



Bandh
from 6 AM
to 6 PM

KSRTC
conductor
attacked
over
language
dispute

Heightened
security
across
Karnataka

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

A statewide bandh is being observed across Karnataka today (saturday), from 6 AM to 6 PM, following a call from Kannada groups over linguistic and regional concerns. The bandh has led to disruptions in Bengaluru and several districts, affecting normal life.

The situation escalated after a KSRTC bus conductor was allegedly attacked by a group of individuals for not speaking in Marathi. This incident has triggered fresh tensions between Kannada and Maratha communities, adding to the existing disputes. Several Kannada activist groups have strongly condemned the attack

and called for decisive action. Public transport services have been partially affected as many buses remain off the roads. Educational institutions, businesses, and offices in several areas have either remained closed or are operating with caution. Protesters have taken to the streets in multiple cities, including Bengaluru, demanding stronger enforcement of Kannada identity in the state. The Karnataka police have tightened security in sensitive areas to prevent violence and maintain law and order. Additional forces have been deployed in regions with a history of linguistic clashes.

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CM says
government
responsible
for protecting
honeytrap victims

Opposition lashes
out at Congress
over 'dirty politics'

Rajanna's
allegations trigger
Assembly uproar



Government Must Protect
Honeytrap Victims, Says
CM Siddaramaiah

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has responded to the honeytrap controversy that has rocked Karnataka's political landscape, emphasizing that it is the government's duty to protect those who have fallen victim. The issue, which has created a major uproar, was also raised in the Legislative Assembly, with some ministers even complaining to the Congress high command about alleged attempts to honeytrap them.

Home Minister G Parameshwara had earlier addressed the claims made by Minister and SC leader K N Rajanna, who alleged an attempt to honeytrap him. Parameshwara assured that if Rajanna files a formal complaint, a high-level investigation would be conducted. However, opposition BJP MLAs reject-

ed this response and repeatedly raised the issue in the House, leading to heated exchanges. Siddaramaiah criticized the BJP for wasting Assembly time, stating that the government would ensure justice while protecting innocent victims. "According to the law, the guilty must be punished. But just because an ox has been killed, it cannot be said that it is tied to a barn," he remarked. He further pointed out that Rajanna did not name anyone, which made immediate action difficult. Amid the uproar, Siddaramaiah urged the BJP to end their protest and focus on issues affecting the people of Karnataka, stating, "It is our duty to discuss the aspirations, sorrows, and grievances of crores of people in the state and find solutions for them."

SC Collegium Proposes
Transfer of Delhi HC Judge
Yashwant Varma

After reports of huge pile of cash at residence

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Justice Yashwant Varma of the Delhi High Court has been transferred back to his parent court, the Allahabad High Court, following a recommendation by the Supreme Court Collegium. This decision comes after a large amount of cash was discovered at his residence following a fire incident, raising concerns about unaccounted money.



The incident occurred when a fire broke out at Justice Varma's official residence in Delhi, while he was away from the city. The fire department responded promptly and extinguished the flames.

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BJP R. Ashok Alleges Honeytrap
Attempt for CM's Chair

- Demands CBI or High Court judge probe into the issue
- CM Siddaramaiah dismisses claims, urges focus on public issues

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The honeytrap controversy in Karnataka politics has intensified with Opposition Leader R. Ashok making a sensational claim that an attempt was made to honeytrap individuals



to influence the Chief Minister's position. His remarks follow Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna's statement in the Assembly that he was targeted in a honeytrap attempt, which has sparked a political storm.

Speaking to the media, Ashok alleged that Rajanna himself had honeytrapped 48 people, a claim that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has yet to

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Dy CM DKS Pushes for Upper
Krishna Project, Announces
Cauvery Conservation Drive

- Seeks BJP's support for Upper Krishna as a national project
- Cauvery protection team to monitor pollution, encroachments
- Week-long water conservation campaign announced



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru
Karnataka State Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar urged BJP members

in the Legislative Council to back the Upper Krishna project and press the Union government to designate it as a national project. He emphasized that the irrigation

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Basavaraj Bommai Seeks Central Nod
for Karnataka's Irrigation Projects



- Demands a national tribunal for interstate water disputes
- Pushes for Mekedatu, Mahadayi, and Upper Krishna project approvals
- Urges Centre to permit Almatti reservoir height increase

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

Haveri MP and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai urged the Union government to approve pending irrigation projects in Karnataka, emphasizing the necessity of a single national tribunal

under the leadership of a sitting Supreme Court judge to resolve interstate water disputes. Participating in a discussion on the demands of the Ministry of Jal Shakti in

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Karnataka Assembly Approves
100% Salary Hike for CM, Legislators

- CM's salary doubled from ₹75,000 to ₹1.5 lakh
- Ministers to receive 108% hike, MLAs and MLCs' salaries doubled
- Move faces BJP opposition amid protests in Assembly

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Friday passed bills approving a 100% salary hike for the Chief Minister, ministers, MLAs, and MLCs, citing a considerable increase in the cost of living as justification. The decision is expected to cost the state exchequer ₹62 crore annually.

As per the new amendment: CM Siddaramaiah's salary will



increase from ₹75,000 to ₹1.5 lakh per month. Ministers will see a 108% hike, raising their salaries from ₹60,000 to ₹1.25 lakh. MLAs and MLCs' salaries will double from ₹40,000 to ₹80,000,

while their pensions will rise from ₹50,000 to ₹75,000. The Assembly Speaker and Legislative Council chairperson will now earn ₹1.25 lakh

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DKS Calls for Speedy Probe into Honey-Trap Case

- Urges swift investigation into honey-trap case
- Asks people to avoid protests and maintain peace
- Dismisses allegations linking his team to the incident

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has insisted on a speedy investigation into the honey-trap case that has stirred controversy in the state. Speaking to reporters at Bhagamandala, he questioned the basis of the allegations and remarked, “Do people randomly come to honeytrap you? If you don’t respond, does someone force you to talk?” Addressing concerns over reports that 48 MLAs had fallen



victim to the honey-trap, Shivakumar dismissed suggestions that government ministers lacked security. “Who said there is no protection?” he countered. Drawing an analogy to a hit-and-run case, he emphasized the need for immediate police action. “I had advised that a complaint be filed with the police on Friday itself. There should be no delay in taking action, and I too insist on a speedy

investigation,” he said. When questioned about BJP MLA Muniratna’s claim that Shivakumar’s team was behind the honey-trap incident, he responded sarcastically, pointing to police records. “Isn’t everything recorded in the police complaint about what happened in Vidhana Soudha? Didn’t BJP leaders themselves discuss what happened to R Ashoka and B S Yediyurappa? They have shared their pain,” he remarked. Shivakumar urged the public to remain calm and avoid protests or bandhs, emphasizing that maintaining peace was crucial in the wake of these developments.

Karnataka Govt Spent ₹201 Crore to Tackle Naxalism: Minister Parameshwara

- ₹201 crore spent since 2008 to curb Naxal activities
- Anti-Naxal Force to be disbanded as Karnataka declared Naxal-free
- New high-tech prison to be opened in Mangaluru

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka government has spent over ₹201 crore since 2008 to tackle Naxal activities in the state, Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara informed the Legislative Council. Responding to a query from BJP MLC C. T. Ravi, he detailed that ₹150 crore had been spent on salaries since 2018, while ₹51.31 crore was allocated for non-salary expenses from 2008 to March 4, 2025. Dr. Parameshwara stated that the government has declared Karnataka a Naxal-free state, and the Anti-Naxal Force (ANF), which was established in 2005, will soon be disbanded. However, he assured that authorities would continue monitoring forest regions in Udupi, Shivamogga, and Chikkamagaluru for potential Naxal activities through the intelligence wing of the ANF. The minister also revealed that 22 Naxalites



have surrendered with arms under the Naxal Surrender Policy. Meanwhile, C.T. Ravi urged the government to prevent the rise of sleeper cells and tighten surveillance on so-called urban Naxals. In response to MLC Ivan D’Souza’s concerns regarding poor conditions at Mangaluru prison, Dr. Parameshwara confirmed that a new prison is being constructed on 63 acres in Bantwal taluk. Once completed, the overcrowded and crime-ridden old facility in Mangaluru city will be shut down, and inmates will be shifted to the new location. Additionally, high-tech jammers will be installed to prevent unauthorized mobile use inside the prison without disrupting signals for nearby residents. Strict measures will be enforced to curb illegal activities inside the facility.

Karnataka Assembly Approves Dr H Narasimhaiah Authority and Notaries Bills

- Bill passed to develop Dr H Narasimhaiah memorial sites
- Notaries Bill introduces reservations in appointments
- Additional bills cleared in the Legislative Council

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly approved the Dr H Narasimhaiah Science, Educational, Cultural and Tourism Development Authority Bill, 2025, paving the way for the establishment of an authority dedicated to the development of memorial sites in Hosur, Vidurashwatha, and Gauribidanur taluk, Chikkaballapur. Law and Parliamenta-



ry Affairs Minister H K Patil introduced the bill, emphasizing its role in transforming these locations into science, educational, cultural, and tourism centers. Additionally, the Assembly passed the Notaries (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2025, which introduces reservations in the appointment of notaries under the Notaries Act, 1952. The bill ensures that candidates from Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), women, and physically challenged persons receive priority. If suitable candidates from these categories are unavailable, appointments will be made from the General Category.

Meanwhile, the Legislative Council approved several other key bills, including:

- Karnataka Public Service Commission (Conduct of Business and Additional Functions) (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- Universities of Agricultural Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2025

These legislative moves mark significant policy changes, particularly in science, legal services, governance, and education, reinforcing the state’s commitment to inclusivity and development.

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Karnataka Statewide Bandh Over Language Dispute

Government officials have urged people to stay calm, emphasizing that discussions should resolve the issue rather than protests and disruptions.

Authorities are monitoring the situation closely, and further developments are expected based on how the bandh unfolds throughout the day.

SC Collegium Proposes Transfer of Delhi HC Judge Yashwant Varma

However, after the fire was brought under control, firefighters discovered a significant amount of cash in various rooms of the bungalow, sparking an official inquiry.

Justice Varma’s resignation and proposed the formation of an in-house inquiry committee if Varma refuses to resign. The committee would serve as the initial step toward the removal of a judge from office by Parliament.

Following the report of the fire and the subsequent discovery of unaccounted cash, the Supreme Court Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna, recommended Justice Varma’s transfer to the Allahabad High Court. Justice Varma had been serving on the Delhi High Court bench since his appointment in October 2021.

The procedure for addressing corruption charges against judges, established in 1999, involves the Chief Justice seeking a response from the judge involved. If the response is unsatisfactory, an in-house inquiry committee can be formed, headed by a Supreme Court judge and the Chief Justices of two High Courts.

While the transfer order has been issued, some members of the Collegium expressed concerns that the incident should lead to more than just a transfer. According to reports from The Times of India, these members suggested that the Chief Justice should request

The controversy surrounding Justice Varma underscores the importance of judicial accountability and transparency within the Indian legal system.

Dy CM DKS Pushes for Upper Krishna Project, Announces Cauvery Conservation Drive

department requires ₹87,818 crore, as per estimates from Basavaraj Bommai’s tenure, though costs have likely increased. Replying to MLC PH Poojar, he stated that the budget for major and minor irrigation is ₹22,000 crore, yet the state remains committed to completing the project. He detailed land acquisition progress, noting that 75,563 acres have been submerged, 2,543 acres are in progress, and 43,452 acres remain to be acquired. For rehabilitation, 6,467 acres are required, with 50% already secured. He added that 1,33,867 acres are needed for the canal network, with 51,000 acres already acquired and 22,962

acres in various acquisition stages. Shivakumar urged the BJP-led Centre to approve national status, ensuring crucial funding. Special Team to Monitor Cauvery Pollution Shivakumar also announced the formation of a dedicated team to prevent pollution and encroachment along the Cauvery River. Speaking after collecting sacred water from the Bhagandeshwara Temple in Bhagamandala, he emphasized the importance of protecting Karnataka’s key water resource. As part of World Water Day, the government will conduct a week-long water conservation campaign to pro-

mote responsible water use. The Cauvery Aarati will be held in Bengaluru to raise awareness about sustainable water management. Citizens will also be encouraged to take an online pledge to conserve water and share it on social media. Shivakumar assured that funds have been allocated for these initiatives and urged both politicians and the public to actively participate. Additionally, he confirmed his attendance at a meeting called by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Saturday, where discussions will focus on opposing the delimitation of parliamentary constituencies.

BJP R. Ashok Alleges Honeytrap Attempt for CM’s Chair

address directly. Calling it a serious matter that affects the dignity of MLAs and the state, Ashok demanded a CBI investigation or a probe by a sitting High Court judge to uncover the truth behind the scandal. He also highlighted that Rajanna had raised concerns in the Assembly about the lack of protection for Dalit ministers in the Congress-led government. Citing media reports that judges and political leaders have also been implicated in honeytrap cases, Ashok insisted that no one should stoop so low for political power. Dismissing the allegations, Sidda-

ramaiah reiterated that the government would protect victims but insisted that the issue was being unnecessarily politicized. “The guilty must be punished according to the law. However, Rajanna has not named anyone, making immediate action difficult,” he said. He also criticized the BJP for wasting legislative time instead of addressing public concerns. The honeytrap scandal has now turned into a major political weapon for the opposition, with BJP intensifying its attacks on the Congress government while demanding an independent probe.

Karnataka Assembly Approves 100% Salary Hike for CM, Legislators

per month, up from ₹75,000. The Karnataka Ministers Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill and the Karnataka Legislature Salaries, Pensions, and Allowances (Amendment) Bill were passed without debate, despite strong protests from the opposition BJP, whose members had stormed the well of the House. The state government defended the move, stating that salaries and allowances for parliamentary functionaries had not been revised for a long time, and the hike was necessary given rising living costs. The BJP has criticized the decision, arguing that it comes at a time when public welfare projects need more funding, calling it an inappropriate priority by the ruling Congress government.

IPL 2025 Opener: KKR vs RCB at Eden Gardens

their title defense on a strong note, while RCB, captained by Rajat Patidar, aims for a winning start. Fans can expect an exciting clash as two powerhouse teams battle it out in front of a packed Eden Gardens crowd. The tournament promises thrilling cricket over the next two months.

Basavaraj Bommai Seeks Central Nod for Karnataka’s Irrigation Projects

Parliament, Bommai asserted that the Meke-datu balancing reservoir project is Karnataka’s rightful claim, yet has remained pending for six years without resolution. He urged the Centre to direct the Central Water Resources Commission and Central Water Commission to take necessary steps for its approval. Regarding the Mahadayi project, Bommai noted that although the tribunal has delivered its verdict, the project still lacks environmental

clearance, creating difficulties for Karnataka. He called upon the Centre to intervene and expedite the process. He also pressed for permission to increase the height of the Almatti reservoir, stressing that the Interstate Water Disputes Act must be properly explained to the Supreme Court to facilitate the smooth implementation of the Upper Krishna project. Further, Bommai raised concerns over Karna-

taka’s water rights being overlooked in the interlinking of major rivers, including Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna, and Cauvery. He urged the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) to ensure that Karnataka receives its rightful share of water resources. He emphasized that Karnataka has long been facing injustice in water allocation and called upon the Union government to take proactive measures in protecting the state’s interests.

Karnataka Speaker Suspends 18 BJP MLAs for ‘Indiscipline’

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

Karnataka Assembly Speaker U T Khader on Friday suspended 18 BJP MLAs, including former Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C N Ashwath Narayan, for six months due to indiscipline.

Earlier in the day, the Assembly was thrown into chaos as BJP MLAs protested against the state government’s decision to grant 4% reservation to Muslims in government contracts. The opposition stormed the well of the House, shouted slogans, and disrupted proceedings, forcing Speaker Khader to take disciplinary action. Marshals had to intervene and restore order.

The suspension move has further deepened political tensions, with BJP leaders accusing the ruling Congress of



suppressing opposition voices. Opposition leader R. Ashoka slammed the government, calling the reservation policy unconstitutional and vowing to continue protests both inside

and outside the Assembly.

However, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah defended the decision to suspend the MLAs, stating that repeated disruptions had left the Speaker with

no choice but to act. He also justified the 4% reservation policy, asserting that it was aimed at ensuring equitable opportunities.

Despite the uproar, the Assembly successfully passed bills approving a 100% salary hike for the Chief Minister, ministers, and legislators. The CM’s monthly salary was raised from ₹75,000 to ₹1.5 lakh, while MLAs and MLCs will now receive ₹80,000 per month instead of ₹40,000. The government cited a considerable increase in the cost of living to justify the hike.

With the suspension of 18 BJP MLAs, the political atmosphere in the Karnataka Assembly remains highly charged, as the opposition continues its aggressive stance against the Congress government.



BJP Slams Karnataka’s Govt 4% Muslim Quota, Calls It ‘Contract Jihad’

- **BJP accuses Congress of appeasement politics**
- **Sambit Patra compares Rahul Gandhi to Aurangzeb**
- **BJP vows legal action against the Muslim quota in contracts**

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The BJP has strongly criticized the Congress government in Karnataka over its decision to introduce a 4% reservation for Muslims in government contracts. BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra termed it “contract jihad,” alleging that the move infringes upon the rights of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Addressing the media on Friday, Patra claimed that Rahul Gandhi was behind the Congress-led government’s decision, accusing him of using Muslim reservation as a political tool.

“Rahul Gandhi is politically unfit for sound decision-making, which is why he is resorting to appeasement politics,” Patra said, drawing a comparison between the Congress leader and Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.

The BJP spokesperson further stated that the Congress government in Karnataka has consistently prioritized policies favoring Muslims, citing initiatives such as financial aid for Muslim weddings, a proposed salary for imams, and a ₹1,000 crore allocation for the development of Muslim colonies. Patra accused the Congress of following an agenda of “land jihad” through Waqf properties and “economic jihad” by offering a significant package for Waqf development.

Condemning the reservation move, Patra warned that such policies create divisions in the country and alleged that similar appeasement politics led to India’s partition in 1947. He urged OBCs, SCs, and STs to oppose the decision. The BJP has vowed to challenge the Karnataka government’s decision legally, with state leaders preparing to take the matter to court.

Dy CM D K Shivakumar Invites Two BJP MLCs to Join Congress



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka Legislative Council witnessed a light-hearted moment when Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Home Minister G Parameshwara extended open invitations to two BJP MLCs to join the Congress.

During the question hour, Shivakumar noticed BJP MLC P

H Poojar engaging with ruling party members and remarked, “I wanted to give him a ticket during the Assembly elections. He is always welcome.” His statement drew attention, hinting at potential political shifts.

Home Minister Parameshwara, responding to a question by BJP MLC A H Vishwanath, made an interesting observa-

- **Shivakumar extends an open offer to BJP’s P H Poojar**
- **HM Parameshwara’s remarks on A H Vishwanath spark political banter**
- **Light-hearted exchange in Karnataka Legislative Council**

tion. “Vishwanath was with us, and even now, he is with us. He has just changed his seat. Even when BJP people walk out of the Council, he will be seen sitting inside the House. This shows where he is,” he quipped, suggesting Vishwanath’s continued ideological alignment with Congress despite his BJP membership.

These remarks sparked laughter among the members, highlighting the occasional camaraderie that exists across

party lines within the legislative setting.

However, the political implications of such statements cannot be ignored, as they come at a time when parties are strategizing for future elections.

With Karnataka’s political landscape constantly evolving, such exchanges between leaders indicate the fluid nature of party affiliations and the possibility of further realignments in the coming days.

Basavaraj Bommai Demands CM’s Resignation Over Honeytrap Case

BJP demands CBI probe, stages protest in Assembly

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The honeytrap case has sparked a major political controversy in Karnataka, with the BJP demanding a CBI investigation. Former Chief Minister and BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai, speaking to the media in New Delhi, stated that the case has damaged the dignity of Karnataka at the national level. He accused the Congress government of moral and financial bankruptcy, alleging that multiple scams have surfaced under its rule.

Bommai criticized the Chief



Minister, claiming that the case unfolded right under his nose, and demanded his resignation on moral grounds. He called the state cabinet a “criminal cabinet”, questioning

its ethical standing in governance.

The BJP staged a sit-in protest in the Assembly, insisting on a CBI probe into the scandal. The party accused the Congress of moral degradation due to its alleged hunger for power. Bommai further stated that ten major scams have surfaced under the Congress government and that Karnataka is facing not just a financial crisis but also a “honey crisis.”

Responding to questions regarding Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna’s claim that 48 people’s CDs exist in connection with the case, Bommai demanded that Rajanna submit all evidence for investigation. He suggested that a sitting or retired High Court judge should oversee the inquiry to ensure transparency. With the case gaining national attention, Bommai stated that central leaders are closely monitoring the developments. He warned that further political action could follow once the investigation progresses.

BJP B.Y. Vijayendra Slams Congress Govt on Electricity Tariff Hike

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) has approved a 36 paise per unit hike in electricity tariff, effective from April 1. This comes after recent increases in bus and metro fares, sparking strong opposition from the public and political leaders. The sudden hike has trig-

gered widespread anger, with the opposition BJP slamming the Congress government for imposing additional financial burdens on citizens.

BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra accused the Congress government of looting the people to cover up its financial mismanagement. He alleged that since assuming power, the Congress government has

been struggling to pay salaries across departments and is now using the tariff hike to fund pension and gratuity for KPTCL and Eskom employees. Calling the decision a form of extortion, he criticized the ruling party for resorting to price hikes instead of addressing the state’s economic challenges responsibly. Vijayendra warned that another tariff revision is likely by the end of the month, terming it “covert corruption.” He also condemned BESCOM’s decision to

mandate smart meters, which he claimed could lead to a 400-800% increase in prices. Describing it as an outright looting of the public, he alleged that the Congress government is exploiting citizens under the guise of infrastructure improvements. The Energy Minister’s statement defending the hike has further fueled public outrage. Vijayendra accused the government of arrogance, stating that it has completely ignored the concerns of common people.



TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly witnessed chaos and disruption on Friday as BJP MLAs, led by Opposition Leader R Ashoka, staged a protest against the Congress government’s decision to grant 4% reservation to Muslims in public contracts.

The situation escalated when BJP members climbed onto the Speaker’s podium, threw papers, and shouted slogans, targeting the ruling party. As Speaker U T Khader attempted to maintain order, marshals were called in to physically remove the protesting legislators who had surrounded the Speaker’s chair.

Reacting to the disorder, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and senior ministers expressed

their anger and directed marshals to restore normalcy. Despite the protests and chaos, the Assembly proceeded with legislative business, passing the state budget and approving bills for increasing the salaries, pensions, and allowances of MLAs, ministers, and the Chief Minister.

Earlier, the BJP had also staged a protest from the well of the House, raising concerns over an alleged honey trap case involving a state minister. The opposition members demanded a judicial probe, intensifying their demonstration even as CM Siddaramaiah delivered his reply to the budget discussion.

The BJP has vowed to continue its agitation both inside and outside the Assembly, opposing the government’s policies on reservations and governance.

Man Loses Rs 76 Lakh in Online Stock Market Scam in Mangaluru

TPN | Correspondent Man-
galuru:

In a shocking case of online fraud, a man was duped of Rs 76.32 lakh after falling prey to a stock market investment scam that promised high returns. The incident has once again highlighted the growing menace of cyber fraud in the country.

According to the police, the complainant was first contacted on December 12 via Telegram by an individual identified as Sagarika Agarwal. The victim was lured into an investment scheme after receiving an on-line link on WhatsApp, where he was instructed to create a login ID and password to access a stock trading platform.

Initially, on December 20, 2024, the victim invested 1,200 dirhams (approximately Rs

27,600) into the bank account provided by the fraudsters. To gain the victim's trust, the scammers credited a small dividend into his account, making it appear as though the investment was legitimate. Encouraged by the early returns and the promise of substantial profits, the victim continued investing in multiple installments between December 20 and March 11, ultimately transferring a total of Rs 76,32,145.

During this period, the victim's account—created on the fraudulent platform—displayed profits reaching Rs 1.36 crore. However, when he attempted to withdraw his funds, the scammers informed him that the money could not be released without an additional payment for taxes. Sensing something was amiss, the

victim refused to make further payments and soon realized he had been cheated.

Upon discovering the fraud, the victim promptly filed a complaint with the Cyber, Economic, and Narcotics (CEN) police station in Mangaluru. The police have registered a case and initiated an investigation to trace the perpetrators behind the scam.

Cyber fraud cases have been on the rise, with scammers using sophisticated tactics to dupe victims under the guise of high-yield investments. Authorities have urged people to exercise caution and verify investment opportunities before transferring funds online. The public is also advised to report suspicious activities to the cybercrime helpline to prevent further incidents.



Six Booked for Assaulting Bus Driver During Holi Celebrations

TPN | Correspondent Ben-
galuru

The Byadarahalli police have registered a case against six individuals for allegedly assaulting a school bus driver during Holi celebrations in western Bengaluru.

The victim, identified as Suresh (33), a resident of Chik-kagollarahatti, was driving a school bus in the Byadarahalli area when the incident occurred on March 14.

According to police reports, the six suspects, all employees of a water bottle company, were playing Holi on Ragimilla Road, creating a public nuisance by throwing colors on passersby. As Suresh approached the area, he honked to signal the group



to clear the road. However, the suspects allegedly refused to move.

Tensions escalated when

one of the individuals threw a stone at the bus. When Suresh stopped and confronted them about their behavior, the group

allegedly assaulted and verbally abused him.

Following the incident, Suresh approached the Byadarahalli police and filed a complaint. The authorities have now registered a case and issued notices to the six accused. Further investigations are currently underway.

The case highlights concerns regarding public safety and responsible celebrations during Holi, a festival that often sees incidents of misbehavior under the guise of festivity.

Police officials have urged the public to celebrate responsibly and warned that strict action will be taken against anyone disrupting public order.



Grand Book Event Planned for Ugadi Celebrations

TPN | Correspondent Ben-
galuru

Bengaluru: In a significant effort to promote Kannada literature, Veeraloka Books is organizing a large-scale book launch event on Sunday, March 24, in celebration of Ugadi. Titled 'Sahitya Yugadi', the event aims to bring together nearly 1,000 literature enthusiasts for the launch of 10 Kannada books spanning various genres.

Veerakaputra Srinivas, the proprietor of Veeraloka Books, highlighted the uniqueness of the event. "On average, Bengaluru witnesses about 10 book launches every week, but attendance is often limited to 100-150 people, mostly from the same literary circles. With this initiative, we aim to attract a new wave of readers, especially young students, to Kannada literature," he stated.

To expand outreach, Srinivas personally reached out

to 70 colleges across Bengaluru, encouraging them to send students with a passion for literature. As a result, 30 institutions, including BMS College, Vijaya College, Aurobindo College, and National College, have confirmed their participation, with each sending 10-15 literature enthusiasts.

The event will be graced by renowned personalities from the Kannada literary and film world.

Filmmaker Girish Kasaravalli, writer Baraguru Ramachandrappa, and novelist Sahana Vijayakumar will be the chief guests, adding prestige to the celebration.

'Sahitya Yugadi' is expected to be a landmark event in Bengaluru's literary scene, fostering a stronger connection between young readers and Kannada literature, while also celebrating the cultural significance of Ugadi.

Legislative Council Passes BBMP Bill, Declares Roads as Public Property

TPN | Correspondent Ben-
galuru

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Amendment Bill, which grants the city corporation the authority to declare any road as a public street, was passed in the Legislative Council on Thursday. This move ensures that all roads, including those inside gated communities, remain accessible to the public. Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who also serves as the Bengaluru Development Minister, emphasized that the amendment

aims to prevent private ownership of roads, thereby ensuring unrestricted public access.

Shivakumar pointed out that in some private layouts, even after residential plots have been sold, the original landowners still hold rights over roads in revenue documents. In some cases, landowners have even attempted to sell roads, leading to legal disputes. He stated that the government must renew these records and officially designate

such roads as public property. Additionally, some landowners have filed appeals, arguing that they only transferred plots, not roads, and are leveraging this technicality to claim compensation through the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program. To address these concerns, the government has introduced this amendment to ensure that all roads remain under public ownership. Shivakumar also confirmed that the policy would soon be extended to town municipalities and

panchayats, reinforcing the government's stance that roads are public property and cannot be claimed by private individuals.

Regarding gated communities, Shivakumar clarified that while the amendment will be enforced for all future developments, discussions will be held before deciding on existing ones. The Legislative Assembly had already passed the bill earlier, and with the Legislative Council's approval, the amendment will soon become law.

Bengaluru Pubs May Get 1 AM Deadline

TPN | Correspondent Ben-
galuru

- CL-4: Private clubs
- CL-6(A): Star hotels
- CL-7 & CL-7D: Hotels and boarding houses, including those owned by Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) individuals
- CL-9: Refreshment room bars

Bengaluru: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has hinted at allowing pubs in the city to remain open until 1 AM, addressing concerns raised during a discussion in the Legislative Council on Thursday.

The issue surfaced when BJP MLC H S Gopinath questioned the current operational hours of pubs and accused

authorities of adopting "double standards." He pointed out that despite an existing government order permitting establishments to function until 1 AM, pubs with microbreweries are still required to close by 11:30 PM.

Responding to the query, Excise Minister R B Thimmapur revealed that 11 cases had been registered against pubs in the past three years for violating operational hours. At this point, Shivakumar intervened and assured that the issue would be resolved soon.

Government's Stance on Bengaluru's Nightlife

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had issued an order in August

2024, following Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's budget announcement, extending nightlife hours in the city until 1 AM.

However, microbreweries and standalone pubs are not explicitly covered under these categories, leading to confusion and complaints from business owners.

Shivakumar assured pub owners and industry stakeholders that the government would soon address the discrepancies and prevent undue harassment of businesses due to conflicting rules. The decision is expected to significantly impact Bengaluru's nightlife and hospitality sector, offering a boost to the city's late-night economy.



India's Renewable Energy Sector to Witness 18% Hiring Growth in FY25

TPN Correspondent | Karnataka

India's renewable energy sector is set to experience an 18% surge in hiring during FY25, driven by the country's push to achieve its ambitious goal of 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030. According to a TeamLease Services report, the rapid expansion of renewable energy projects is significantly transforming workforce dynamics, skill demands, and employment trends.

The sector saw a 23.7% year-on-year growth in job creation in FY24, a sharp rise compared to 8.5% in FY23 and 10.4% in FY22. Although the growth rate

is expected to moderate to 18.9% in FY25, the renewable energy industry remains a major employment generator, supporting India's transition to clean energy.

A large portion of the workforce in this industry consists of young professionals, with 26.9% of employees falling within the 26-30 age group and 27.9% in the 31-35 segment. Meanwhile, experienced professionals continue to play a significant role, with 16% aged 35-40 years and 18.2% aged 40+.

Subburathinam P, Chief Operating Officer at TeamLease Services, highlighted that India's renewable energy indus-



try is at a critical turning point, fueled by strong government policies and increasing corporate investments.

The sector is witnessing a growing demand for specialized and technology-driven roles, particularly in solar,

wind, and hybrid energy systems, as companies integrate digital innovations to enhance efficiency.

Regionally, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are emerging as renewable energy hubs, hosting a majority of the country's solar power plants. Government initiatives like PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, National Green Hydrogen Mission, PM KUSUM, and the Solar PV Module PLI Scheme have played a crucial role in accelerating sectoral growth.

Despite this positive outlook, the sector faces challenges like high attrition and skill shortages. Experts stress the

- PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana
- National Green Hydrogen Mission
- PM KUSUM Scheme
- Solar PV Module PLI Scheme

need for structured workforce planning, vocational training, and digital skill development to sustain talent and position India as a global leader in clean energy employment.

Black Magic, Fake Ghost, and a Love Triangle



TPN Correspondent | Meerut

The shocking murder of Saurabh Rajput in Meerut has taken a sinister turn with revelations of black magic, a fake ghost on Snapchat, and the alleged involvement of his wife Muskan Rastogi's family. Saurabh, who had returned from London to celebrate his daughter's birthday, was brutally murdered by Muskan and her lover Sahil Shukla, with his body dismembered and hidden in a cement-filled drum.

Saurabh, who reportedly worked at a bakery in London, arrived in India on February 24. On March 4, Muskan laced his food with sedatives, and with Sahil's help, stabbed him to death. The duo then dismembered his body into 15 pieces and sealed them in a drum with cement.

The crime had been planned since November 2023. Muskan had purchased knives under the pretense of cutting chicken and managed to obtain banned sedatives. The initial plan to kill Saurabh on February 25

The Chilling Murder of Saurabh Rajput

failed when the sedatives only made him sleep deeply. However, on March 4, they executed their gruesome plan.

A Murder Rooted in Obsession

Muskan and Sahil had rekindled their old romance in 2019 through a school WhatsApp group. While Saurabh was in London, their relationship deepened, fueled by drug use. Saurabh, who had considered divorcing Muskan, was seen as an obstacle to their future together.

"Prima facie, it appears that Muskan and Sahil considered the husband a hindrance and plotted to murder him," a police officer stated.

Reports suggest Sahil, who was highly superstitious, kept Saurabh's severed head and hands in his room, allegedly for occult rituals. However, the police have yet to find concrete

evidence of black magic.

Muskan manipulated Sahil further by posing as his deceased mother on Snapchat, sending messages urging him to be with her. One of the messages read: "Muskan is a good girl. You will be happy with her."

Family's Alleged Involvement

Saurabh's family has accused Muskan's parents of knowing about the murder much earlier than March 18, when the police were officially informed. His mother, Renu Devi, claimed that Muskan's family tried to mislead the police to avoid legal consequences.

With both Muskan and Sahil now in judicial custody, the police continue to investigate whether Muskan's parents played a role in covering up the crime.



SC Orders In-House Probe Against Justice Yashwant Varma

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has initiated an in-house probe against Delhi High Court Justice Yashwant Varma after a significant amount of unaccounted cash was discovered at his residence during a fire incident on Holi. The apex court has also sought a report from Delhi High Court Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya.

A fire at Justice Varma's residence on March 14 led to the discovery of a large pile of cash by firefighters. Following this, the Supreme Court Collegium initially decided to repatriate him to the Allahabad High Court, his parent High Court. However, during a full-court meeting on March 21, Supreme Court judges agreed that punitive transfer alone was insufficient and that further action was necessary.

The Allahabad High Court Bar Association has reportedly opposed the repatriation, writing to the Chief Justice of India to express its disapproval.

Who is Justice Yashwant Varma?

Born on January 6, 1969, in Allahabad (now Prayagraj), Justice Yashwant Varma pursued a B.Com (Honours) at Hansraj College, Delhi University, and later obtained his LLB from Rewa University, Madhya Pradesh. He enrolled as an advocate in 1992 and was elevated as an Additional Judge at the Allahabad High Court in 2014, becoming a Permanent Judge in 2016. He was transferred to the Delhi High Court in 2021.

The controversy surrounding Justice Varma's case marks a serious development in judicial accountability, with the Supreme Court now closely monitoring the investigation.

295 more Indians in ICE Custody set for Deportation Govt seeks assurances on humane treatment



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Indian government has revealed that 295 more Indian nationals currently in the custody of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are likely to be deported soon. This announcement comes amid growing concerns over the treatment of deportees, particularly after visuals surfaced of Indian immigrants arriving in India in shackles.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, in a statement to the Rajya Sabha, confirmed that since January 2025, a total of 388 Indian nationals have been deported from the United States following verification of their nationality. However, the government has not received any official data from the Trump administration on the total number of illegal Indian

immigrants residing in the US. Jaishankar emphasized that the government has "strongly registered its concerns" with US authorities over the use of shackles on deportees, particularly women. The issue gained attention after the February 5 deportation flight, where several Indian women were reportedly restrained, triggering outrage in Parliament.

Key concerns and diplomatic response

The US ICE follows standard operating procedures (SOPs) on deportation that allow the use of restraints, a practice in place since 2012. The US has clarified that while women and minors are generally not shackled, the final decision rests with the officer in charge of the deportation flight.

The Indian government has taken a firm stance on the is-

sue, seeking assurances from US authorities that deportees will be treated with dignity. "The US side has recently shared details of 295 individuals in ICE custody with final orders of removal. Concerned agencies in India are verifying their nationality before proceeding with repatriation," the statement said.

The visuals of over 100 Indian immigrants deported in a military aircraft with handcuffs and leg restraints in February sparked a heated debate in Parliament during the Budget Session. The second leg of the session, which began on March 10, will conclude on April 4.

ASHA Workers' Hunger Strike Continues, Veena George Defends Delhi Trip

TPN Correspondent | Kerala

The hunger strike by ASHA workers in Kerala entered its second day as Health Minister Veena George faced criticism from the Opposition over her failed attempt to meet Union Health Minister JP Nadda during her Delhi visit.

Minister Veena George defended her visit, stating, "I never disclosed my intentions about the Delhi trip to anyone. I mentioned that I would meet the Union Minister within a week. In Delhi, I told the media that if I couldn't secure an appointment that day, I would arrange a meeting on

another suitable day."

Responding to allegations that she visited Delhi to meet Cuban government representatives, she said, "There was nothing wrong with trying to meet the Union Minister during my trip, especially when ASHA workers are on strike." Opposition UDF MLAs accused her of misleading the ASHA workers by making false assurances before their hunger strike.

Meanwhile, the striking ASHA workers distanced themselves from the controversy. Kerala ASHA Health Workers Association General Secretary MA Bindu stat-



ed, "The minister knows best about arranging meetings with the Union Minister. Let there be discussions. Our focus is on finding a solution to

our demands."

The workers continue to press for their demands, urging the state government to act on their basic requests.

RSS @100 :Unstoppable journey

The RSS's decision not to alter its ideology for electoral advantages has enhanced its credibility and fostered trustworthiness.

The Congress party's initial goals for the freedom struggle and the communist's anti-capitalist movement have shifted to focus on electoral objectives, resulting in the total transformation into political organizations. In contrast, the RSS has retained its non-political position while guiding its political affiliate, the BJP. Similar mentor guiding organisations the communists and Congress parties are lacking.



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh identity. **RSS remained as foundational organisation and basic ideology not compromised for electoral gains**

For sixty years, the Congress and Communist parties have been the principal political entities in India, frequently altering their manifestos and ideologies to secure electoral advantages. They have often taken the Hindu community for granted, testing their patience. In contrast, since its establishment in 1925, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has remained steadfast in its core ideology, without seeking power or making compromises for political gain. Although the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) serves as its political arm, the RSS retains its identity as the foundational organization. While the Congress and Communist parties have lost their distinct identities, lacking a guiding force like the RSS for the BJP, the RSS has continued its work with unwavering commitment for 100 years.

Millions of patriotic Indians desire a deep national identity with our culture and heritage

The current circumstances have evolved into a critical juncture, prompting genuine patriotic citizens to express deep concerns regarding the threats associated with global religious intolerance and instability. There is a pronounced yearning among the populace to preserve India's culture, which is rooted in peace and harmony. In this context, the nation is looking to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to assume a vital role in steering and unifying society. The expectation is that the RSS will help safeguard cultural heritage and identity, ensuring that the values held dear are protected against these challenges. The dreams and ambitions of millions of patriotic Indians embody a deep and meaningful connection to their national identity. This sense of belonging is not merely a superficial sentiment; it is rooted in a rich history, shared values, and a collective vision for the future. As these individuals strive for progress and unity, their aspirations serve as a testament to their commitment to the nation, highlighting the importance of cultural heritage and the desire to contribute positively to the country's development. This profound sense of national identity fosters a spirit of solidarity among citizens, encouraging them to work together towards common goals and a brighter future for all.

Bharatiya culture is the life-breath of Hindustan. It is, therefore, clear that if Hindustan is to be protected, we must first nourish our own Bharatiya culture. If our culture perishes in Hindustan itself, and if the true Bharat society ceases to exist, it will hardly be appropriate to refer to the mere geographical entity that remains as Hindustan. Mere geographical landmasses do not make a nation. The entire society should be vigilant and organized so that no one dares to cast an evil eye on any of our sacred traditions. Strength, it should be remembered, comes only through organization. Every patriotic Indian, therefore, must do their best to consolidate society. The Sangh is carrying out this supreme task. The present fate of the country cannot be changed unless lakhs of young men dedicate their entire lifetime to this cause. Molding the minds of youth toward this goal is the supreme aim of the Sangh—a true torchbearer and pathfinder for the glory of our nation.



Why Is Trump Invoking JFK? Hint: Russia

“Let's get out of the Defense mess before it's too late... Be brave, Jack.”

Less than two years before his assassination in November 1963, U.S. President John F. Kennedy (JFK) received this letter from filmmaker Rod Serling, best known as the creator of The Twilight Zone. The poignancy of this postscript in a March 26, 1962, letter needs to be examined afresh today, especially after the latest release of another tranche of the JFK Files. Keeping his promise, President Donald Trump recently declassified over 2,000 documents related to JFK's assassination. JFK, who lived by the media and also died on screen, continues to dominate the public imagination six decades after his death. As experts analyze more than 64,000 pages of these declassified files, conspiracy theories surrounding JFK's assassination have resurfaced.

Who'll Tell the Conspiracy Theorists?

Did the CIA have JFK assassinated to continue its Vietnam experiment? Did Lee Harvey Oswald conspire with the Soviet Union? Was the Chicago mob involved? Or did Vice President Lyndon Johnson orchestrate it? No definitive answers exist, fueling the enduring allure of conspiracy theories. However, some question the purpose of these declassified documents, which inadvertently exposed sensitive details of hundreds of political, military, and congressional personnel.

The CIA's Role in the Cold War

The documents shed light on the CIA's vast influence during the Cold War. They reveal details about U.S. intelligence operations, including CIA bases in New Delhi and Kolkata, sabotage efforts against Cuba, and covert strategies to undermine foreign governments. Instead of painting the CIA as the villain behind JFK's assassination, the files reinforce its image as a formidable player in global politics. Interestingly, JFK aide Arthur Schlesinger Jr. once described the CIA as possessing “many of the characteristics of a state within a state.” Even today, the agency remains one of the most powerful arms of the U.S. government.

Why Is Trump Bringing Back JFK?

At a time when Trump's second term is facing domestic and international criticism, reviving JFK's legacy serves multiple purposes. The former president, who was often skeptical of intelligence agencies, has long positioned himself as an outsider challenging Washington's deep state. By declassifying the JFK files, Trump reinforces his narrative of exposing government secrets while invoking the legacy of a leader associated with peace efforts. JFK, who campaigned for nuclear disarmament, signed the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty just a month before his assassination. Today, as the Trump administration navigates strained relations with Russia, leveraging JFK's image as a peacemaker helps frame Trump's diplomatic approach in a historical context. This isn't the first time Trump has leaned on JFK's memory. In his 2016 campaign, he promoted conspiracy theories linking his rival Ted Cruz's father to JFK's assassination. Now, as Trump seeks to shape his second-term foreign policy, invoking JFK may be a calculated effort to justify his approach to Russia.

A Battle of Perception

Ultimately, Trump's decision to declassify the JFK files is not just about historical transparency—it's about political optics. Like JFK, Trump understands the power of media and public perception. Whether this move will serve his broader agenda remains to be seen.

India's Immigration Overhaul: A Much-Needed Reform for a Changing World

Migration has shaped civilizations, economies, and national identities for centuries. In today's interconnected world, however, it has also become a pressing political and security challenge. Nations across the globe are grappling with balancing border control, economic opportunities, and humanitarian obligations. Against this backdrop, India's Immigration & Foreigners Bill, 2025 is a timely and necessary reform that modernizes outdated laws and aligns the country's immigration policy with contemporary global realities. India's historical experience with migration has been unique. From the mass displacement during Partition to the influx of refugees from Bangladesh in 1971, and the continued movement of persecuted minorities from neighboring countries, India has had to balance security with humanitarian concerns. However, the country has also emerged as a global hub for skilled migration, with millions of Indians contributing to economies worldwide. The need for a robust and forward-looking immigration policy is more critical than ever. The Immigration & Foreigners Bill, 2025 replaces colonial-era laws that no longer serve India's security and economic interests. By consolidating and updating immigration regulations, the bill enhances border security, streamlines entry and exit procedures, and ensures stricter compliance with visa norms. It introduces firm penalties for illegal migration while ensuring smoother processes for legal travelers, skilled professionals, and tourists. One of the bill's most significant aspects is its focus on technology-driven immigration management. Initiatives such as e-Visas, biometric-based entry systems, and real-time visa tracking through digital platforms reduce bureaucratic inefficiencies and enhance security. These reforms position India as a country that values both national security and economic openness, ensuring that global mobility benefits its growth and international standing.

Rahul Gandhi Slams Merit System as ‘Upper Caste Narrative’, BJP Calls Him ‘Entitled Dynast’



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has sparked controversy by calling the system of merit an “unfair and upper caste narrative,” drawing sharp criticism from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He made these remarks while advocating for a caste census, arguing that it would expose the “truth of inequality and discrimination.” In a video interaction with former UGC chairman Sukhdeo Thorat, Rahul Gandhi criticized India’s education and bureaucratic entry systems. “There is a completely flawed concept of merit where I confuse my social position with

my capability. For anybody to say that our education system or our bureaucratic entry systems are fair to Dalits, OBCs, and tribals – that’s just a complete fallacy,” he said. He further argued that the prevailing notion of merit is deeply biased. “The entire narrative is an upper caste narrative. This notion of merit is, actually, itself an unfair idea,” he asserted. Rahul Gandhi also reiterated his commitment to social justice, stating, “Babasaheb’s dream is still incomplete. His fight is not just for the past, it is a fight for today as well – we will fight it with all our might.” BJP Reacts Strongly

BJP leader Amit Malviya criticized Gandhi’s comments, accusing him of undermining hardworking individuals. “Does Rahul Gandhi even know what he speaks? The dolt just ran down millions of people who come from poor and socially marginalized backgrounds and rise up in life on the dint of merit and sheer hard work. But how can one expect an entitled dynast to even understand what it means to compete and excel?” Malviya remarked. Rahul Gandhi’s remarks have reignited the debate over caste-based reservations and the merit system, with political parties taking strong positions on the issue.

Nitish Kumar’s ‘World Will End’ Remark Triggers Tejashwi Yadav’s ‘Anti-Tech’ Jibe

TPN Correspondent | Patna

Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav has hit out at Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for his remark that mobile phone usage could lead to the world’s destruction in 10 years, calling it “conservative and anti-technology.” A controversy erupted in the Bihar Assembly after CM Nitish Kumar objected to the use of mobile phones inside the House. Criticizing JD(U) MLA Kumar Krishna Mohan alias Suday Yadav for referring to his mobile while asking a question, Nitish Kumar de-

manded strict action. “It is already banned in the House. I request you (Speaker) that whoever comes with a mobile phone should be thrown out of the House,” he said, adding, “If this continues, the world will end in the next 10 years.” Tejashwi Slams Nitish’s Remark Tejashwi Yadav mocked the Chief Minister’s statement, saying, “Bihar has a computer-illiterate Chief Minister who is against technology, youth, students, and women.” He further criticized Kumar’s

stance, stating, “It is unfortunate and condemnable that Bihar has such a conservative Chief Minister.” Yadav also pointed out the contradiction in Nitish Kumar’s argument, stating, “From an environmental perspective, the Bihar Assembly is going paperless, and members are encouraged to ask questions online.” The remarks have sparked a fresh political debate, with the opposition questioning whether Nitish Kumar is out of touch with modern governance.



Nagpur violence: Fahim Khan, 5 others charged with sedition

TPN Correspondent | Nagpur

Nagpur police have booked key accused Fahim Khan and five others on charges of sedition and spreading misinformation on social media following the recent violence in the city. Officials confirmed on Thursday that curfew had been lifted or relaxed in certain areas three days after the unrest. Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi, a cleric from the Barelvi sect, has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah demanding a ban on the film Chhava, alleging that it incited communal tensions and was directly responsible for the violence in Nagpur. Amid growing demands from right-wing groups for the removal of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb’s tomb in Maharashtra’s Sambhajinagar district, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has placed tin sheets on two sides of the historic structure. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee condemned the violence, emphasizing India’s unity in diversity. “Our country is known for its unity in diversity. After the demolition of Babri Masjid, I hit the streets to protect communal har-

mony,” she stated in Kolkata. According to officials, the violence in Nagpur was triggered by rumors that a ‘chadar’ with holy inscriptions was burnt during protests led by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) seeking the removal of Aurangzeb’s tomb. Investigations suggest that initial misinformation spread via social media fueled the unrest, with subsequent videos further glorifying the violence. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber Crime) Lohit Matani said that six individuals, including Khan, the city chief of the Minority Democratic Party, have been booked for sedition. The cyber crime department has sought information from Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and YouTube regarding 230 accounts and requested their immediate blocking. Maharashtra Cyber officials have also identified over 140 objectionable posts and videos allegedly inciting communal tensions. Authorities have urged the public to be cautious while sharing online content and to refrain from spreading unverified or inflammatory information.



“Not Just About MPs...”: MK Stalin’s Message Before Big Delimitation Meet

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has reiterated his strong opposition to the proposed delimitation exercise, warning that it is not just about parliamentary representation but a direct assault on federalism. In a video statement, he called for “fair delimitation” and urged leaders from multiple states to form a ‘Joint Action Committee’ to protest the move. Stalin’s concerns stem from fears that a delimitation exercise based on the 2026 population will reduce Tamil Nadu’s representation in Parliament. He argued that states that have controlled population growth should not be penalized, while others, particularly in the north, could gain more Lok Sabha seats, shifting political influence in their favor. “Our fight is not just about the number of MPs but about all states’ rights. This strikes at the foundation of federalism in India. Our voices in Parliament will be silenced, and our rights compromised,” Stalin stated. Tamil Nadu has long opposed a population-based delimitation, arguing it would disproportionately benefit Hindi-speaking states, which are considered BJP strongholds. The DMK-led government is demanding that the current seat proportions be retained to ensure fair representation. Saturday’s meeting follows a resolution passed by nearly 60 Tamil parties on March 5,

urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to retain the 1971 population as the basis for delimitation for another 30 years. Stalin has also written to the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Punjab, and Bengal, urging collective action. While the central government, including Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has assured that no state will be disadvantaged, Tamil Nadu remains skeptical. Stalin has insisted that while assurances have been given that southern states won’t lose seats, there has been no commitment that northern states won’t gain disproportionately. With the Congress backing this stance, and leaders like Telangana CM Revanth Reddy and Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah terming delimitation a move to weaken southern states, the upcoming meeting is expected to shape a larger opposition strategy against the proposed changes.



Annapurna Devi Seeks SC Action on Allahabad HC’s ‘Not Rape’ Verdict



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Minister Annapurna Devi has strongly opposed the Allahabad High Court’s ruling in an “attempt to rape” case, stating that such views have “no place in a civilized society.” She urged the Supreme Court to intervene and review the judgment. The Allahabad High Court, in its order on March 20, modified the charges against two accused, ruling that their act did not constitute an attempt to rape but “aggravated sexual assault.” Reacting to the verdict, Annapurna Devi said, “I am completely against this decision, and the Supreme Court should take serious note of it. Such a ruling has no place in a civilized society.”

She also warned of the broader implications, stating, “Somewhere, this will have a negative impact on society, and we will discuss this matter further.” Strong Criticism from Women Leaders Former DCW chief and AAP MP Swati Maliwal also condemned the judgment, calling it “very unfortunate.” “I am very shocked at the comments made in the judgment. It is a very shameful scenario,” she told NDTV. Demanding Supreme Court intervention, Maliwal added, “How can the act committed by those men not be considered an attempt to rape? I don’t understand the logic behind this judgment. The Supreme Court needs to step in.”

Gabbard's India visit reinforces US-India ties: US official

Discussions Focus on Defense, Counterterrorism, and Intelligence Cooperation

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, recently visited India, marking a significant step in the growing strategic relationship between Washington and New Delhi. The discussions during her visit primarily focused on intelligence-sharing, defense cooperation, counterterrorism efforts, and addressing transnational threats, according to a report by the news agency PTI, citing a senior US official.

A spokesperson from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) emphasized that Gabbard's visit underscores the longstanding partnership between the United States and India. The strategic relationship between the two nations has been increasingly solidified, particularly under the leadership and camaraderie between US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The visit is part of ongoing efforts to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in crucial areas such as security, defense, and intelligence operations. The discussions were aimed at strengthening the collaboration to combat global and regional security challenges, including counterterrorism and the growing threat of transnational crimes.

Gabbard's visit to India represents the contin-



ued deepening of US-India ties, which have evolved from a primarily economic partnership into a comprehensive strategic alliance in recent years. Both nations are working together to address shared concerns about security, trade, and regional stability, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

The US-India partnership has been marked by growing defense cooperation, joint mili-

tary exercises, and increased collaboration on counterterrorism measures. With both countries facing common threats, such as terrorism and cyber-attacks, the strengthening of intelligence-sharing mechanisms plays a key role in ensuring mutual security. This visit further cements the US and India's commitment to strengthening their strategic alliance and working together to tackle global security challenges.



Modi-Yunus Meeting Unlikely at BIMSTEC Summit Amid Strained Ties

TPN Correspondent | Bangladesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh interim government chief Muhammad Yunus are set to attend the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit next month, but a formal meeting between the two leaders seems improbable, according to reports.

The sixth BIMSTEC summit is scheduled for April 3-4 in Bangkok, Thailand. While both Modi and Yunus are expected to be present, a recent Hindustan Times report, citing three unnamed sources familiar with the matter, suggested that the current state of India-Bangladesh relations would make a formal bilateral meeting difficult. The report mentioned that while an informal exchange of pleasantries might occur due to the leaders' shared presence, nothing more substantial is anticipated.

Bangladesh's de facto foreign minister, Touhid Hossain, confirmed on March 20 that Dhaka had formally requested a meeting between the two leaders on the summit's sidelines. However, sources indicated that such a meeting is unlikely due to the ongoing tensions between the two countries. "A formal meeting looks difficult, especially with the frequent criticism of India by some members of Bangladesh's interim government," one source remarked.

The bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh are at a low point, with India expressing concerns about the interim government's handling of attacks on religious minorities, particularly Hindus, in Bangladesh. Additionally, issues such as the release of violent extremists and deteriorating law and order in Bangladesh have further strained relations. Bangladesh, on the other hand, has raised concerns over the presence of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in India and has requested her extradition.

Furthermore, the growing engagement of the Bangladesh military with Pakistan's armed forces, including interactions with the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), has also fueled tensions. In February, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met with Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs Advisor Hossain on the sidelines of the Indian Ocean Conference in Oman, highlighting ongoing diplomatic efforts amid these challenges.

If US messes with Iran it will get hard slap: Ayatollah Khamenei

Asserts Iran Doesn't Need Proxies as Houthis Act on Their Own Motivation

TPN Correspondent | Iran

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei declared on Friday that Tehran does not require proxies in the region, clarifying that the Houthis in Yemen, who are aligned with Iran, operate based on their own motivations. Khamenei responded to US accusations, particularly remarks by President Donald Trump, who earlier stated that Iran would be held responsible for any attacks carried out by the Houthis. This comes as the US expands its military operations in the Middle East, marking the largest deployment since Trump's return to office.

Over the years, Iran has cultivated ties with various groups in the Middle East that consider themselves part of the "Axis of Resistance" against US influence and Israel. This alliance includes groups like Hamas, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Shi'ite militias in Iraq. Despite these alliances, Khamenei strongly rejected the notion of these groups being Iranian "proxies."

In his statement, Khamenei questioned the term "proxy," saying, "Americans make a big mistake by calling regional resistance centres Iranian proxies. What does proxy mean?" He emphasized that groups like the Houthis in Yemen act on their own motivations, and Iran does not need such proxies to assert influence in the region. The Supreme Leader also addressed the escalating tensions, asserting that while Iran has never initiated conflict, it would respond strongly to any acts of aggression. He warned that any malicious actions against Iran would result in "severe slaps" in return.

Trump Signs Order to Begin Shutting Down the Department of Education



TPN Correspondent | Washington

On Thursday, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order aimed at eliminating the Department of Education, a long-standing goal of conservative factions in the country. The order marks one of the most drastic steps in Trump's overhaul of the federal government, seeking to transfer education control back to the states.

During a special ceremony at the White House, Trump signed the order while surrounded by schoolchildren. He declared, "We're going to shut it down and shut it down as quickly as possible. It's doing us no good. We're going to return education back to the states where it belongs."

While the Education Department was created in 1979, it cannot be dissolved without congressional approval. However, Trump's order aims to defund and reduce the department's staff, which could lead to its gradual dismantling. The directive tasks Education Secretary Linda McMahon with taking all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the department and return authority over education to individual states.

The move is part of Trump's campaign promise to reduce federal government control, a

theme he has consistently championed. The president has argued that the U.S. education system lags behind those of Europe and China, and that eliminating the department will save money and improve educational standards.

The order has been met with heavy criticism from Democrats and educators. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer condemned the action as a "tyrannical power grab." Republican leaders, including Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and Texas Governor Greg Abbott, attended the ceremony and supported the move.

Although the order seeks to dismantle the department, a smaller office may remain to handle essential functions, such as student loans and grants for low-income students. Trump's education secretary, McMahon, who has already started reducing the department's staff, emphasized the need to remove Washington's bureaucratic interference and return educational funding to the states.

The decision follows a broader trend of Trump's efforts to reduce the size and influence of federal agencies, including efforts to dismantle the U.S. Agency for International Development earlier this week, which was halted by a federal judge.



North Korea claims to test anti-aircraft missiles in response to US-South Korea military drills

TPN Correspondent | SEOUL

North Korea announced on Friday that it successfully test-launched new anti-aircraft missiles, marking its sixth weapons test of the year. The launch occurred just hours after the U.S. and South Korean military concluded their joint Freedom Shield exercises, which North Korea considers a provocative rehearsal for an invasion.

According to North Korea's state news agency, Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the missile tests on Thursday and described the newly tested missiles as a significant addition to the country's defense arsenal. This missile launch came in the wake of heightened tensions following the U.S.-South Korea military drills, which were the first major exercises held since the inauguration of President Donald Trump in January.

The U.S. and South Korea insist that their combined military exercises are purely defensive, aimed at strengthening the allies' readiness and deterrence capabilities. However, North Korea has consistently condemned the drills, viewing them as an imminent security threat. The recent North Korean missile tests were launched on the same day the two countries concluded the Freedom Shield exercise. Earlier in March, North Korea fired several ballistic missiles into the sea as the drills began, signaling its displeasure. On Friday, North Korea's Defense Ministry issued a strong statement, accusing the U.S. and South Korea of simulating operations to destroy underground tunnels in the North, targeting its nuclear weapons. The North warned of grave consequences if the two countries continued with such "provocative" actions.

Stock Markets Rally to Record Highs; Best Weekly Performance in Four Years

Domestic stock markets set new records. They posted their best weekly close in four years. This was due to positive signals from global markets and increased positive sentiment among investors. The strengthening rupee also contributed to this. Investors bought after the falling trendline resistance broke in the benchmark indices. They invested in media, PSE, oil, energy and healthcare shares. Overall, the Sensex gained 557 points and the Nifty 159 points. The Nifty settled at 23,350. If there is consolidation at this level and the resistance breaks, the index is sure to rise further.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,348 in the previous session, opened at 76,155 on Friday. It touched an intraday low of 76,095. It reached an intraday high of 77,041. It ended at 76,905 with a gain of 557 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,168, touched a low of 23,132 and a high of 23,402. It rose by 159 points in total and closed at 23,350. The Nifty Bank rose by 530 points and settled at 50,593.

In the Nifty50, 38 companies gained and 12 lost. Media, PSE, oil, CPSE, energy, PSU bank, healthcare, pharma, private bank, infra, commodities, finance, bank, realty and auto stocks were the winners. Metal and consumer stocks were the losers. SBI Life, ONGC, NTPC, BPCL, Bajaj Finance were the top gainers. Trent, Infi, Wipro, Hindalco and Tata Steel were the biggest losers.

Market breadth turned in favor of buyers on NSE today. Out of 2988 stocks trad-



ed, 2120 gained. 804 lost. 33 shares hit 52-week highs and 49 shares hit 52-week lows. 192 shares crossed the upper circuit and 53 shares crossed the lower circuit.

Markets set their best weekly record in four years. Nifty rose 4% this week. Midcap index rose 8% after April 2020. Smallcap index rose 9% for the first time since June 2020. The market capitalization of BSE listed companies increased by Rs 22 lakh crore this week. The rupee strengthened by 39 paise to settle at 85.97 against the dollar. Yes Research has main-

tained its neutral rating on Tata Steel, raising its target price to Rs 168 from Rs 145. Godrej Agrovet will take a 47.38% stake in Creamline Dairy Products. Sunita Tools has signed a deal to supply artillery shells worth Rs 200-300 crore to the Ministry of Defense. Tata Capital has finalized ten investment bankers for its Rs 15,000 crore mega IPO. Hindalco Industries has prepared investment plans of Rs 45,000 crore. Shares of BEL and Bharat Dynamics rose after the Defense Acquisition Council approved proposals worth Rs 54,000 crore.



India's Steel Imports Could Drop 50% in FY26 With Proposed Safeguard Duty

India's steel imports could potentially decrease by 50% in FY26, while domestic manufacturers' profitability is expected to improve, following the government's proposal to impose a safeguard duty on steel imports, experts suggest. The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), the investigation arm of the Ministry of Commerce, has recommended a 12% provisional safeguard duty for 200 days on specific steel products to shield domestic steelmakers from the surge in imports.

The final decision on whether to impose the safeguard duty will be taken by the Ministry of Finance. However, experts view this development as credit positive for the domestic steel industry. Girish Kadam, Senior Vice President and Group Head – Corporate Sector Ratings at ICRA Ltd., believes that the duty could lead to a significant 50% reduction in India's steel imports by FY26.

With steel imports expected to drop considerably, the domestic market is anticipated to experience growth, with demand forecasted to increase at a healthy rate of 7-8% in FY26. As a result, ICRA projects that the industry's capacity utilization will improve, rising to a more comfortable level of 83% in FY26, up from the four-year low of 78% seen in the current fiscal year.

Dhruv Goel, CEO of BigMint, a market research firm, also echoed similar sentiments, pointing out that the safeguard duty would provide domestic manufacturers with an opportunity to capture a larger share of the domestic market. The anticipated reduction in imports is expected to improve the profitability of Indian steel producers, as it would give them a competitive edge over foreign suppliers.

The proposed safeguard duty aims to protect Indian steelmakers from being undercut by cheaper imports, which have been growing in recent years. If implemented, this move could help stabilize the domestic steel industry, reduce dependence on foreign steel, and boost the government's "Make in India" initiative.

India's Crude Oil Import Dependency Hits 88.2% Amid Rising Demand

India's reliance on imported crude oil has increased to over 88% during the first 11 months of the current financial year (FY25), driven by growing demand for fuel and other petroleum products, alongside stagnant domestic crude output. This upward trend suggests that the import dependency for the entire fiscal year could surpass the record high seen in the previous year.

According to the latest data from the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, India's oil import dependency stood at 88.2% from April to February, marking a slight increase from 87.7% during the same period in FY24. For the full FY24, India's import dependence reached 87.8%.

The rising demand for petroleum products, especially in sectors like transportation and industrial activities, coupled with stagnant domestic oil production, has led to a heightened need for imported crude. Industry experts suggest that the import dependency for FY25 could exceed the current level by a small margin, just as it did in the previous fiscal year.

This growing import dependency highlights the challenges India faces in reducing its reliance on foreign oil, despite efforts to boost domestic production and diversify energy sources. As the world's third-largest oil importer, India continues to rely heavily on oil imports to meet its fuel needs, making it vulnerable to global price fluctuations and supply disruptions.

To address these challenges, the government has been exploring various strategies, including increasing domestic oil exploration, enhancing energy efficiency, and investing in renewable energy sources to reduce the country's dependence on imported crude in the long term. However, in the short term, the rising import dependency remains a significant concern for policymakers, particularly as global oil prices remain volatile.

Exponent Energy to Launch 1.5MW Rapid Charging Technology, Competing with BYD's Innovations

Bengaluru-based Exponent Energy announced on Wednesday that it will launch its new 1.5 megawatt (MW) rapid charging technology later this year, following China-based BYD's introduction of a 1MW charging system capable of charging electric vehicles (EVs) in just five minutes. Exponent Energy currently manufactures 1MW chargers for electric buses, enabling a full charge in about 15 minutes.

Arun Vinayak, CEO and Co-founder of Exponent Energy, expressed confidence in India's ability to develop and own the full spectrum of electric vehicle (EV) technology. "We've historically been followers in internal combustion engines (ICE), but with EVs, we must not repeat that pattern," he said. Highlighting that Exponent Energy already has a 1MW charging system in place, Vinayak emphasized that the company uses standard off-the-shelf cells, making its technology ten times more accessible than BYD's 1MW charger, which leverages advanced cell material science. Vinayak also expressed optimism about forming partnerships with Indian cell manufacturers soon to further enhance capabilities.



Founded in 2020 by former Ather executives Arun Vinayak and Sanjay Balyal, Exponent Energy focuses on developing integrated EV charging solutions, including battery packs, charging stations, and connectors. Their system offers a 15-minute rapid charge and a 3,000-cycle life warranty for EVs. Currently, the company is targeting three-wheeler cargo and passenger vehicles as well as inter-city buses for the coming year.

On the other hand, BYD, backed by Warren Buffett, has introduced a Super e-Plat-

form capable of charging at 1,000 kilowatts, enabling EVs to travel up to 400 km on a five-minute charge. This announcement significantly impacted the global EV landscape, with BYD's shares rising by 4.1% on March 18. Meanwhile, Tesla, which typically takes 15 to 20 minutes to charge its vehicles up to 80%, saw its share price dip by 5.5%, reflecting growing competition in the EV sector. Tesla, which plans to enter the Indian market, faces stiff competition from BYD, which has been in India since 2007 and currently holds a 3% market share.

SEBI Proposes Rule Changes to Benefit Startup Founders Holding ESOPs After IPO

Ensures Founders Retain Stock Options, Enhances Investor Protection

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a change in regulations that would allow startup founders to retain their Employee Stock Option Plans (ESOPs) even after their company goes public. This move is aimed at providing relief to founders, particularly in new-age technology firms, who often receive ESOPs as part of their compensation instead of cash salaries during the early stages of their companies.

ESOPs are designed to align the interests of employees, including founders, with other shareholders. However, as startups raise investments, founders' ownership is often diluted, which complicates matters when the company eventually files for an initial public offering (IPO).



Under current SEBI regulations, founders are considered promoters when they file for an IPO. The existing rules prohibit issuing ESOPs to promoters, which creates a challenge for founders who were granted stock options before their companies went public. SEBI highlighted that employees who later become promoters due to their shareholding may be re-

quired to forgo their ESOP benefits, which could be considered unfair.

To address this issue, SEBI has proposed a clarification stating that founders who become promoters will still be able to exercise their vested and unvested ESOPs after the IPO. This clarification will be included in the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP).

However, the rule preventing the issuance of new ESOPs to promoters will remain in place.

This proposed change is expected to benefit startup founders who have received equity-based compensation, ensuring that they do not lose their ESOP benefits once their company goes public.

Additionally, SEBI has partnered with DigiLocker to enhance investor protection by allowing them to track their securities holdings securely. Through this collaboration, investors can store and access details of their demat accounts, mutual fund holdings, and other financial assets in one centralized, secure platform, helping to reduce unclaimed financial assets and improve accessibility.



Eid-ul-Fitr 2025: Awaiting the Crescent Moon for Celebration

Eid-ul-Fitr, one of the most significant festivals for Muslims worldwide, marks the end of Ramadan and the beginning of Shawwal, the tenth month of the Islamic calendar. The festival is determined by the sighting of the crescent moon, which means that celebrations often vary by a day across different regions. In India, Eid-ul-Fitr 2025 is expected to fall on either March 30 (Sunday) or March 31 (Monday), depending on the moon sighting. According to the central government's holiday calendar, Eid has been designated as a gazetted holiday on March 31 (Monday). However, since the Islamic calendar follows lunar cycles, the final con-

firmation will depend on the sighting of the crescent moon on the evening of March 29. Eid-ul-Fitr is a time of joy, gratitude, and charity. Muslims across the world end their month-long fasting (roza) with special prayers, feasting, and giving to the underprivileged. A key aspect of the festival is 'Zakat,' a form of charity where Muslims donate food, clothes, and money to those in need before offering their Eid prayers. The festival is also associated with delicious traditional foods. The most famous among them is Seviyan, a sweet dish made with vermicelli and milk, which has given Eid-ul-Fitr the popular name "Meethi Eid" or "Sweet Eid." Families and friends

gather to exchange greetings, gifts, and sweets, strengthening bonds of love and community. In Saudi Arabia and the UAE, Ramadan began on March 1, which means that Eid-ul-Fitr is also expected to fall on March 30 or 31. In the UAE, if Ramadan lasts 30 days, the public sector will get an extended holiday until April 2. The official moon sighting committees in these countries will confirm the festival date based on lunar visibility. As India and the world eagerly await the sighting of the crescent moon, Eid-ul-Fitr 2025 will once again bring joy, spiritual reflection, and a reaffirmation of faith through charity and community celebrations.

Online Video Criticizing Indian Flyers' Behavior Gains Widespread Support



A recent video by Instagram user Inderjit S Pannu has sparked an online debate, drawing widespread agreement for its criticism of the behavior of Indian flight passengers. In the video, Pannu calls out the irrational and entitled attitude of many Indian travelers, referring to them as "jaahil log" (ignorant people) and "padhe likhe jaanwar" (educated animals). He highlights common issues

faced by airline crew, such as passengers disregarding boarding announcements and rushing into queues irrespective of their assigned seat numbers. He also points out how many passengers insist on using the restroom during turbulence, ignoring safety instructions from the pilot. The video has resonated with many, garnering strong support from social media us-

ers, including airline staff who expressed gratitude for the recognition of their challenges. Comments under the video overwhelmingly agreed with Pannu's observations, with some stating that such behavior is common not just on domestic flights but also on international routes. One user humorously remarked, "Wo 'safar' karte hain, isliye aviation staff 'suffer' karte hain" (They travel, so aviation staff suffer). Another pointed out that while flight crew members are commendable, their management often fails to address such issues effectively. A former cabin crew in charge, with 12 years of experience, thanked Pannu for voicing concerns that flight attendants have long endured. The viral discussion sheds light on the need for better passenger etiquette and a greater appreciation for airline staff who work tirelessly to ensure a smooth travel experience.



Man Performs Self-Surgery Using YouTube, Recovers at Home

In a shocking incident from Uttar Pradesh's Vrindavan, a 32-year-old man attempted to cure his persistent stomach pain by performing surgery on himself after watching YouTube tutorials. Raja Babu, a resident of Sunrakh village, used surgical blades, stitch cords, and needles purchased from the market to cut and stitch his own abdomen on Tuesday. However, his condition worsened the next day, prompting his nephew, Rahul, to rush him to the Vrindavan Joint District Hospital for medical attention. Emergency medical officer Dr. Shashi Ranjan provided initial treatment and referred him to SN Medical College in Agra for further care. Surprisingly, instead of seeking advanced medical treatment, Raja Babu decided to return home. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ajay Verma confirmed that Raja

Babu had been given first aid at the hospital but had not followed the referral advice. Fortunately, his condition has since improved. According to Rahul, the self-performed surgery only affected the upper layer of the abdomen, leaving the internal organs unharmed. The wound was dressed at the hospital, and Raja Babu is now reportedly recovering well at home. This incident highlights the risks of self-medication and medical procedures attempted without professional supervision. While access to online resources can be beneficial for learning, attempting complex medical procedures without expertise can be life-threatening. Medical professionals strongly advise against such dangerous practices, emphasizing the importance of seeking proper healthcare for any serious medical condition.

Russian Man Retires at 23 After Just Two Years of Work, Sparks Debate

A 23-year-old Russian man has shocked the internet by securing full retirement benefits after working for only two years, thanks to a loophole in the country's pension system. His story has gone viral, igniting discussions about pension policies, financial strategies, and potential reforms. According to Oddity Central, the man took advantage of a special provision in Russia's pension system designed for military personnel and certain government employees. By meeting specific requirements, he became eligible for lifelong pension payments at an age when most individuals are just beginning their careers. His early retirement has sparked mixed reactions. Some have praised his ingenuity in navigating the system to his advantage, while others argue that such loopholes create an unfair burden on taxpayers. Many online users have also questioned whether similar cases could arise in the future if the policy remains unchanged. The International Record Registration Agency (INTERRECORD) officially verified his retirement and included it in the Register of Records of Russia, commonly known as the Book of Records of Russia. This recognition further amplified the story's reach, drawing

attention from financial experts and policymakers. As the debate continues, experts suggest that cases like this might prompt authorities to reassess pension regulations. Governments often design pension systems to support retirees after decades of service, and instances of early retirement due to loopholes could lead to stricter eligibility criteria in the future. While the young retiree enjoys a financial milestone many only dream of, his case raises broader questions about policy effectiveness, fairness, and the sustainability of pension systems worldwide.



Mumbai CEO Rejects Candidate Over Husband's Involvement, Sparks Debate

A senior-level job candidate in Mumbai was recently rejected after requesting that her husband meet the company's leadership before she joined. The incident, shared on X by Vinod Chendhil, founder and CEO of the healthy noodle brand Naturally Yours, has sparked an intense debate about professional independence and gender dynamics in the workplace. Chendhil called the request a "huge red flag" and stated that it led to her "instant" rejection. He explained that the candidate wanted her husband to interview the senior management team to assess the company's suitability for her. To him, this signaled a concerning

level of dependency and lack of professional autonomy. Social media reactions were divided. Many supported Chendhil's decision, arguing that workplace decisions should remain personal and professional, without external interference. "There's no way it would have worked. Good call," commented one user. Another added, "Even a junior-level hire shouldn't make such a request." However, others defended the woman, suggesting that her request might have been influenced by personal cir-

cumstances. "Maybe the husband has mandated it—she could be in a toxic situation and has no choice," one user speculated. Another commented, "Women face additional challenges in career decisions. She deserved better opportunities." The debate raises larger questions about workplace autonomy, gender

roles, and the boundaries between personal and professional decision-making. While some view the candidate's request as a lack of independence, others argue that such considerations are valid, especially for women navigating complex personal and societal expectations.



IPL 2025: All You Need to Know About Teams, Schedule, Prize Money



The Indian Premier League (IPL) is set to return for its 18th season, with defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) kicking off the tournament at Eden Gardens on March 22. The two-month-long T20 spectacle will conclude with the final on May 25 at the same venue.

Tournament Format & Schedule

IPL 2025 will follow a league-style format, where all 10 teams will play each other twice. The top four teams at the end of the league stage will qualify for the playoffs.

The playoff structure includes:

- Qualifier 1 (May 20, Hyderabad) – Top two teams compete, with the winner advancing to the final.
- Eliminator (May 21, Hyderabad) – The third and fourth-placed teams face off, with the winner progressing.
- Qualifier 2 (May 23, Kolkata) – The loser of Qualifier 1 plays the winner of the Eliminator for a spot in the final.

- Final (May 25, Kolkata) – The two remaining teams battle for the title.
- Matches will be played at two different times:
- Day matches: 3:30 PM IST
 - Night matches: 7:30 PM IST

Team Captains for IPL 2025

Several teams have changed leadership for this season. Here's a look at the captains:

- Chennai Super Kings: Ruturaj Gaikwad
 - Delhi Capitals: Axar Patel
 - Gujarat Titans: Shubman Gill
 - Kolkata Knight Riders: Ajinkya Rahane
 - Lucknow Super Giants: Rishabh Pant
 - Mumbai Indians: Hardik Pandya
 - Punjab Kings: Shreyas Iyer
 - Rajasthan Royals: Sanju Samson
 - Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Rajat Patidar
 - Sunrisers Hyderabad: Pat Cummins
- Biggest Signings of IPL 2025

The IPL 2025 auction saw some record-breaking bids:

- Rishabh Pant (Lucknow Super Giants): Most expensive player at \$3.2 million.
- Shreyas Iyer (Punjab Kings): Purchased for \$3.17 million.

Prize Money for IPL 2025

The financial stakes are high, with lucrative rewards for the top-performing teams:

- Champion: \$2.32 million
- Runners-up: \$1.5 million
- Third place: \$810,800
- Fourth place: \$752,894

As excitement builds for IPL 2025, cricket fans worldwide eagerly await another thrilling season of high-octane matches, big-money signings, and intense competition among the world's best cricketers.

Yuva All-Stars: Jaipur, Sonipat, Kurukshetra & Pune Shine on Day 14



The Yuva All-Stars Championship 2025 witnessed an action-packed Day 14 in Haridwar, with Yuva Paltan, Jaipur Pink Cubs, Kurukshetra Warriors, and Sonipat Spartans emerging victorious in their respective matches.

Sonipat Spartans defeated Vasco Vipers 43-34, with Harish Kumar shining with 15 points. Kurukshetra Warriors edged out Yuva Mumbai 44-39 in a closely contested battle, with Umesh Panwar and Ajay Sangwan leading the charge. Jaipur Pink Cubs overcame Palani Tuskers by four points, securing their top spot in Pool A. Yuva Paltan dominated Junior Steelers with a 14-point victory, thanks to Ajay Gulia's 10-point performance.

Upcoming matches on March 19 include Chandigarh Chargers vs. Yuva Yoddhas (10:15 AM) and Junior Steelers vs. Jaipur Pink Cubs (5:30 PM). Fans can expect more thrilling encounters as the tournament progresses.

Diksha Dagar Starts Strong with 4-Under 67 at NSW Open



India's Diksha Dagar made a solid start at the Women's NSW Open, shooting a 4-under 67 to tie for fourth place. The two-time Ladies European Tour winner carded eight birdies but dropped four bogeys, including three towards the end of her round. Spain's Nuria Iturriz and Australia's Kirsten

Rudgeley led with 6-under 65s. Among other Indians, Pranavi Urs shot an even-par 71 to sit at T-37, while Avani Prashanth posted a 1-over 72 (T-54). Iturriz and Rudgeley dominated the leaderboard with consistent birdies despite challenging winds. Sweden's Anna Magnusson

trailed by one shot at 5-under. Diksha, runner-up at the season-opener in Morocco, remains in contention in this 72-hole stroke-play event featuring 132 players. Seven players, including Diksha, are tied for fourth at 4-under, setting up an exciting tournament ahead.

Elite Women's National Boxing Championships Kick Off in Greater Noida



The 8th Elite Women's National Boxing Championships began in Greater Noida, featuring 188 boxers from

24 state federations. The tournament, held from March 21-27 at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex,

promises top-tier competition as India's best female boxers battle for glory. Olympians Jaismine

(57kg) and Pooja Rani (80kg), alongside World Champion Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) and Simranjit Kaur (65kg), headline the star-studded lineup. Rising talents like Pema Bhutia and Preeti will challenge the veterans. With 44 bouts scheduled for the opening day, the event serves as a crucial platform for selection in international tournaments. The presence of World Champion Nikhat Zareen and IOA President PT Usha adds to the excitement. The championships will showcase intense action as young and seasoned boxers compete for national supremacy.

Ujjawal Choudhary Sets National Record at Indian Open Throws Competition



Haryana's Ujjawal Choudhary set a new national record in the U20 discus throw event at the 4th Indian Open Throws Competition in Navi Mumbai, winning gold with a 59.34m throw, surpassing the previous record of 58.11m. Vaibhav (53.48m) and Ritik (52.88m) secured silver and bronze, respectively. In men's javelin qualification, Karnataka's Sha-

shank Patil topped with 72.48m, followed by Nitesh Yadav (72.34m) and Sunny Sheoran (71.43m). Reliance Foundation's Usmanali Khan won U18 discus gold with 55.11m, while Haryana's Seema clinched senior women's discus gold with 56.39m. Nikita Kumari (46.78m) won U20 women's discus, and Maharashtra's Aryan Satpute claimed U18 shot put gold (18.06m).

Samantha Wins Best Actress Award for OTT Performance

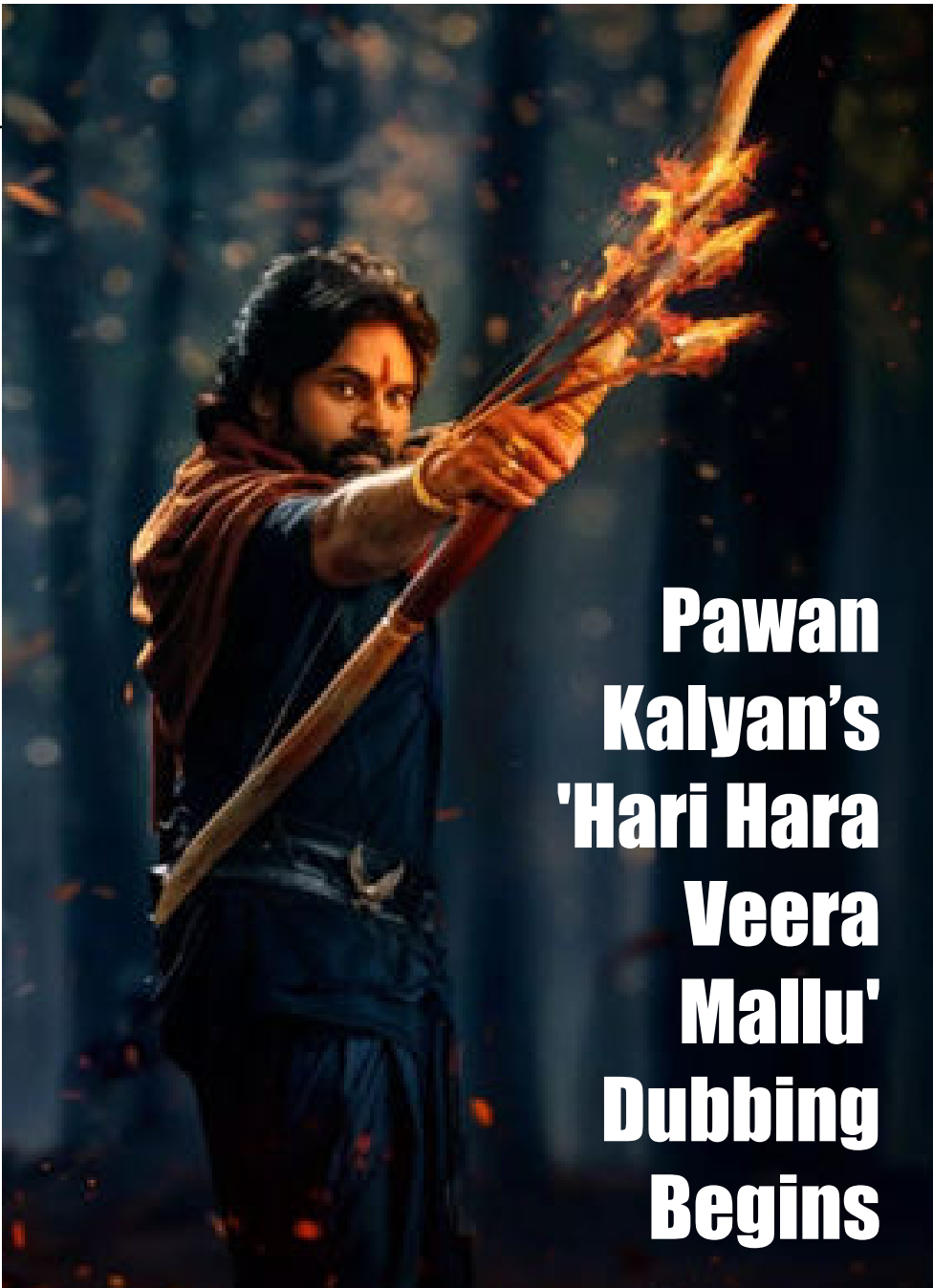


Actress Samantha, known for her work in multiple languages, has won the Best Actress award for her performance in the OTT series Honey-Bunny. Despite not featuring in recent Telugu films, she continues to captivate audiences through web series. A leading media house honored Samantha for her outstanding performance in Honey-Bunny. Expressing her gratitude, she dedicated the award to those who believed in her. She credited directors Raj & DK and co-star Varun Dhawan for their support in completing Citadel: Honey-Bunny, especially during her battle with myositis. Samantha, who underwent extensive treatment for the autoimmune condition, is now fully recovered and back in action. Her unwavering dedication and stellar performance have once again proven her mettle as a versatile actress.



Mahesh Babu Learns Gen-Z Lingo from Daughter Sitara in Viral Ad

Superstar Mahesh Babu and his daughter Sitara Ghattamaneni continue to set father-daughter goals. In a new viral advertisement for a clothing brand, Sitara gives her father a crash course in Gen-Z slang. From words like “drip” and “vibe” to “fam-jam,” the adorable exchange has won fans’ hearts. Despite his busy schedule, Mahesh Babu always makes time for his kids, Gautam and Sitara. In an interview, Sitara revealed how she often bunked school because of her dad, as he would persuade Namrata Shirodkar to let her stay home. She also expressed admiration for her father’s superstar image but sees him as just “dad” at home. Sitara, who debuted on-screen with Penny from Sarkaru Vaari Paata, hinted at a future in cinema. Meanwhile, Mahesh Babu is gearing up for SS Rajamouli’s SSMB29, co-starring Priyanka Chopra. Fans eagerly await further updates!



Pawan Kalyan's 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' Dubbing Begins

Power Star Pawan Kalyan’s much-awaited period action film Hari Hara Veera Mallu, directed by Krish and Jyothi Krishna, is set for a grand worldwide release on May 9. Touted as The Sword of Spirit, the film is produced under the Mega Surya Production banner with A.M. Rathnam’s presentation. The makers have officially announced that dubbing work has begun. They teased fans by stating that the wait to witness Pawan’s unparalleled heroism on screen is almost over. The film stars Nidhi Agerwal as the female lead, while Oscar-winning composer M.M. Keeravani is providing the music. Fans eagerly await this epic project, which promises to showcase Pawan Kalyan in a powerful new avatar.

Kiara Advani Becomes One of India's Highest-Paid Actresses

Kiara Advani has taken a massive leap in her career, becoming one of the highest-paid actresses in India. The Game Changer star has reportedly hiked her fee to ₹15 crore for her upcoming film Toxic, surpassing top Bollywood actresses like Alia Bhatt and Shraddha Kapoor. Previously, she earned around ₹5–7 crore per film. Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups, directed by Geetu Mohandas, features Yash in the lead and boasts a massive budget. The film will be released in multiple languages, including Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and English. Kiara will be seen alongside stars like Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, and Tara Sutaria. Meanwhile, Kiara and her husband, Sidharth Malhotra, recently announced they are expecting their first child, making Toxic possibly her last film before a break. With blockbuster hits, record pay, and personal milestones, Kiara is truly at the top of her game!



SCREEN

Jacqueline Fernandez Hopes ‘Kick 2’ Happens Soon

Jacqueline Fernandez is eager to be part of Kick 2, the sequel to the 2014 blockbuster starring Salman Khan. While Salman and director Sajid Nadiadwala announced the sequel last year, Jacqueline said, “I really do hope it happens soon. Kick changed my life, and fans have shown so much love for the franchise.” Apart from Kick 2, Jacqueline has an exciting 2025 ahead, with multiple big releases. She will return for Housefull 5, reuniting with Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, and an ensemble cast. The film, directed by Tarun Mansukhani, promises another dose of comedy and entertainment. She is also part of Welcome To The Jungle, the latest installment in the Welcome franchise, directed by Ahmed Khan. Calling it a “crazy comedy,” she shared her excitement about working with a star-studded cast. Additionally, Jacqueline’s debut web series is set to premiere in April.



Alia Bhatt Praises Netflix's Adolescence: "Perfection"

Bollywood star Alia Bhatt is the latest to heap praise on Netflix’s miniseries Adolescence, directed by Philip Barantini. Sharing the show’s poster on Instagram, Alia called it “truly perfection,” lauding its writing, cinematography, and raw performances. She admired the cast’s ability to bring every scene alive, making the energy palpable. Alia also applauded the crew’s dedication, saying, “The magic of storytelling... every department giving their heart and soul to every second on screen.” Jigra co-star Vedang Raina echoed her sentiments, calling Adolescence “one of the most brilliantly acted and moving pieces of film/TV.” The series follows the Miller family, whose world shatters when 13-year-old Jamie is accused of murder. Shot in continuous takes, it explores family, truth, and justice. Meanwhile, Alia is currently filming Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s Love & War with Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal.