



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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AAP Appoints New Heads for Delhi, Punjab, and Other State Units

Saurabh Bharadwaj
named Delhi AAP chief,
Manish Sisodia to lead in
party's Punjab unit

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has appointed Saurabh Bharadwaj as the new head of its Delhi unit and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia as the party chief in Punjab. The announcement came on Friday, signaling a fresh leadership push within the party as it prepares for upcoming electoral challenges.

Speaking about his new role, Saurabh Bharadwaj expressed his commitment to strengthening the party. He stated that it is easier to build and fortify a party after facing electoral defeat. Bharadwaj pointed out that despite AAP losing the recent Delhi elections,



the party still garnered 43.5% of the vote share, just two percentage points behind the BJP, which secured 45.5%. "Nearly half of Delhi voted for us, despite the BJP's extensive use of police and administrative resources against us. We will continue to work hard to strengthen the party," he added.

The party also announced new leaders for several state units. Gopal Rai, the former environment minister in Delhi, will now head AAP's Gujarat unit, with a focus on preparing for the next

assembly elections. Pankaj Gupta will lead the party's efforts in Goa, while Sandeep Pathak will take charge in Chhattisgarh. AAP leader Mehraj Malik has been appointed to head the Jammu and Kashmir unit.

Meanwhile, Manish Sisodia, who will now oversee Punjab, spoke about the party's achievements in the state. "After AAP formed the government in Punjab, there have been significant developments.

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AAP Accuses BJP of Targeting Officers and Demanding Commission on Government Projects

AAP leader Atishi during a press conference at the party office



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday, March 21, 2025, of pressuring government officers for a 10% commission on various projects and targeting them unfairly. The allegations came after Delhi Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Verma called officials "thick-skinned," raising further tensions between the two parties.

During a press conference in New Delhi, AAP leader and for-

mer chief minister Atishi questioned the sudden shift in criticism against the officers who had previously worked efficiently under the AAP government. "What has changed in just one month? These are the same officers who built the Signature Bridge and transformed Delhi's government schools. The BJP is abusing them because the AAP never asked for any commission," Atishi said. She added that officers had informed them that BJP ministers were demanding a 10% cut on all government projects, and those refusing were being threatened with suspension, despite such powers resting solely with the Lieutenant Governor (LG), not Delhi's elected ministers.

Earlier in the day, Minister Verma, during a field visit, commented that officers had "become thick-skinned in the last 10 years" and that they needed to "sweat" in the field. He also suspended an executive engineer over poor de-silting of a drain near the Akshardham temple.

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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. 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.

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

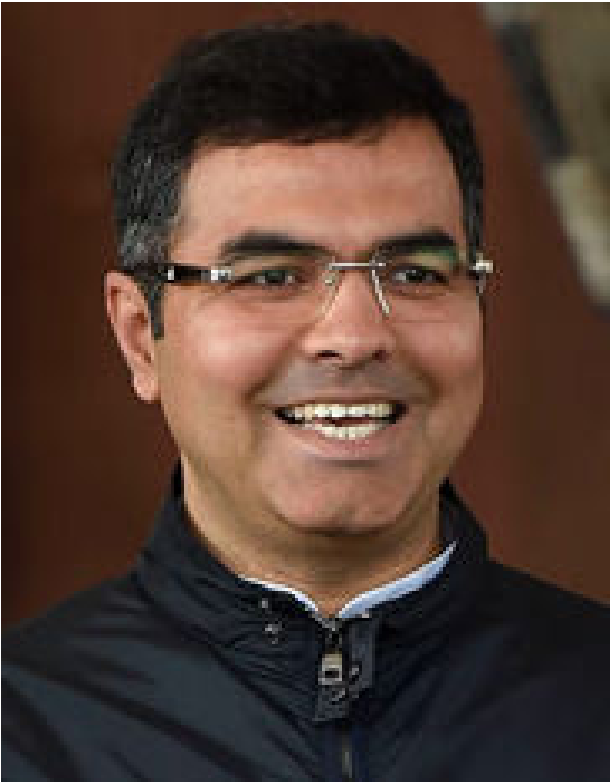
appointment in October 2021.

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 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.

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.

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



Officials Became thick-Skinned Under AAP Rule

Parvesh Verma suspends executive engineer Over Poor Drainage Work

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Verma on Friday criticized the inefficiency of government officials, accusing them of becoming "thick-skinned" during the past 10 years under the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) rule. Verma made these comments while ordering the suspension of an executive engineer for poor drainage maintenance in the Akshardham area.

Verma's remarks came after Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta raised concerns over government officials allegedly ignoring communication from lawmakers. Gupta had written to Chief Secretary Dharmendra about the lack of response from officials to phone calls, letters, and messages from members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

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US SC to Hear Tahawwur Rana's Renewed Extradition Stay Request in next month

The US Supreme Court will hear the renewed application of Tahawwur Rana, a key figure in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, seeking a stay on his extradition to India. Rana, a Canadian businessman of Pakistani descent, is currently incarcerated at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles, facing charges for his involvement in the attacks, which killed 166 people.

Rana's initial extradition approval by the US court was made earlier, but he has continued to challenge his extradition to India. On February 27, 2025, he submitted an "Emergency Application for Stay Pending



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Jaishankar Signs Quick Impact Projects with Bolivia, Extends COP30 Support to Brazil

India Strengthens Latin America Ties with Bolivia and Brazil

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Bolivia's Foreign Minister Celinda Sosa Lunda held productive talks on Thursday, marking a significant step toward strengthening the bilateral relationship between the two nations. The discussions focused on expanding cooperation across various sectors, culminating in the signing of agreements on Quick Impact Projects. These initiatives are part of a broader effort to deepen the partnership between India and Bolivia, particularly after the inauguration of India's new embassy in La Paz.

In a post on X, Jaishankar shared the outcome of the meeting, stating, "A comprehensive discussion on bilateral cooperation with FM Bolivia Celinda Sosa Lunda this afternoon. The recent opening of our new Embassy in La Paz reflects our resolve to deepen the India-Bolivia partnership. Today's signing of the agreement on Quick Impact Projects is another step forward in that direction."

The agreements signed are expected to foster closer ties between the two countries by addressing immediate development needs and reinforcing India's commitment



to supporting Bolivia's growth and development. These projects, designed to have a quick and tangible impact, aim to benefit local communities in Bolivia and strengthen India's presence in the region.

Earlier on the same day, Jaishankar also extended India's full support to Brazil for its leadership role in COP30, emphasizing India's commitment to global climate action. Jaishankar met with Andre Aranha Correa do Lago, the President of COP30 Amazonia and former Ambassador of Brazil to India, where he reiterated India's backing for Brazil's presidency of the upcoming climate conference.

In his social media post, Jaishan-



kar stated, "Glad to meet Andre Aranha Correa do Lago, President of UN Climate Change COP30 Amazonia and former Ambassador of Brazil to India. Extended India's full support to Brazil's presidency for a successful and outcome-oriented COP30." India's support for Brazil in the climate negotiations underscores the country's active participation in global environmental discussions and its commitment to addressing climate change.

The discussions with Bolivia and Brazil highlight India's growing diplomatic engagement in Latin America and its role as a key player in international climate dialogue.

Mann in the middle: Why Punjab launched a crackdown on farmers

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Punjab government's decision to demolish tents at the Shambhu and Khanauri borders and end the farmers' agitation has sparked strong opposition accusations against Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. Once seen as a mediator between protesting farmers and the Centre, Mann has recently shifted his stance, leading to allegations of backstabbing the farmers.



On Wednesday, Punjab authorities detained prominent farmer leaders Jagjit Singh Dallewal and Sarwan Singh Pandher just after their meeting with Union ministers. The farmers have been protesting since February 2022, demanding a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Prices (MSPs).

Punjab's Industry Minister Tarunpreet Singh Sondh defended the action, claiming the highway blockages were causing significant losses to trade and businesses. "These blockages have been detrimental to the economy," he stated, emphasizing the need to clear roads and prevent further losses. Six of the nine towers in the area had already been evacuated as a result of the protests.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's sudden decision to crack down on the protests has drawn sharp criticism from opposition leaders. Congress leader Pargat Singh accused AAP of siding with the BJP and allowing the farmers' movement

to be suppressed. BJP Punjab chief Sunil Jakhar also stated that the government was abandoning farmers to please industrialists.

Amid the backlash, AAP has stressed the economic impact of the protests, with traders in the region highlighting severe losses. Small traders in the Shambhu border area reported that their businesses had been severely affected by the closure of roads, with some even relocating to nearby Haryana. The textile and hosiery industries in Ludhiana welcomed the government's decision, noting that the border closures had significantly impacted transportation and business operations.

As Punjab prepares for the upcoming Ludhiana West bypoll, the economic factors and pressure from industrialists have undoubtedly played a significant role in shaping the AAP government's shift in policy. Despite the opposition's criticism, the state government argues that reopening the borders is necessary to revive Punjab's economy and ensure future investment.

Bill Gates Highlights India's Progress in Renewable Energy Amid Global Warming Crisis

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

At the Express Adda in Mumbai on Thursday, tech tycoon-turned-philanthropist Bill Gates shared his insights on global warming, highlighting the challenges countries face in balancing energy needs with emissions reductions. Speaking in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director of the Indian Express Group, Gates noted that not many nations have fully committed to tackling climate change, adding that, in recent times, the goals of providing more energy and reducing carbon emissions have

often been at odds with one another.

Gates emphasized that addressing global warming requires a delicate balance. He explained that many developing nations, including India, are expected to see an increase in carbon emissions as they continue to meet their developmental needs. Despite this, he acknowledged that India has made significant strides in the renewable energy sector, positioning itself well for a future transition to cleaner energy sources.

The philanthropist noted that



India's progress in the renewable energy industry, including investments in solar and wind power, is promising. He praised the country's efforts to embrace sustainable energy solutions, which he believes will play a crucial role in reducing emissions in the long term while supporting economic growth.

In his conversation, Gates also discussed the global energy landscape, stressing that to address climate change effectively, countries must prioritize innovation and adopt new technologies that can decouple economic growth from carbon emissions.

He further highlighted the importance of international collaboration and greater investments in clean energy technologies to ensure a sustainable future for all nations.

While acknowledging the difficulties of balancing energy demands with environmental concerns, Gates expressed optimism about the potential for change, particularly in India's renewable energy sector. He concluded by reiterating the importance of continued global efforts to combat climate change and move toward a low-carbon future.

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AAP Appoints New Heads for Delhi, Punjab, and Other State Units

The AAP government will continue to work for the welfare of the people and ensure that every dedicated worker feels proud to be part of the party," Sisodia said. He also criticized the delay in fulfilling the BJP's promises, including the ₹2,500 monthly assistance and free cylinders for Delhi residents

during Holi. "PM Modi promised these benefits, but they haven't materialized. Will the BJP fulfill even one of its promises?" Sisodia questioned.

With these appointments, AAP aims to consolidate its leadership and increase its presence across the country.

AAP Accuses BJP of Targeting Officers and Demanding Commission on Government Projects

In response, newly-appointed Delhi AAP chief Saurabh Bhargava jibe at the BJP, reminding them that the elected Delhi government had no power to suspend officers. He stated, "Don't feel bad; the elected Delhi government cannot suspend any officer. This power has been snatched away from the Delhi government by the BJP central government."

AAP's Sandeep Pathak also crit-

icized the BJP for using officers as scapegoats to cover up its own failures. He pointed out that despite promises by Prime Minister Modi, Delhiites did not receive the Rs 2,500 or free gas cylinders on Holi.

The row between the AAP and BJP escalates, with tensions over governance, officer accountability, and corruption continuing to dominate political discourse in Delhi.

US SC to Hear Tahawwur Rana's Renewed Extradition Stay Request in next month

Litigation of Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus," which was initially reviewed by Associate Justice Elena Kagan. However, Justice Kagan denied the application, prompting Rana to renew his request, now addressed to Chief Justice John Roberts.

Rana's legal team argues that his extradition would violate US law and the United Nations Convention Against Torture, citing concerns about torture and inhumane treatment in India. His application highlights his medical condition, which includes multiple life-threatening diagnoses such as Parkinson's disease, heart issues, chronic kidney disease, and cancer. His lawyers assert that his deteriorating health makes extradition to India's

detention facilities effectively a death sentence.

Rana, associated with Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley, is accused of aiding the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks by providing logistical support. Headley conducted a reconnaissance of Mumbai ahead of the attacks under the guise of working for Rana's immigration consultancy. Rana was later convicted in the US for his role in supporting a terrorist plot in Denmark and his involvement with Lashkar-e-Taiba, the group responsible for the Mumbai attacks.

As his legal battle continues, Rana's counsel seeks to prevent his extradition until

a full hearing of the case is held in the district court, circuit court, and potentially the Supreme Court. The stakes are high, with the possibility that a failure to stay the extradition could result in Rana's transfer to India, where his health conditions may significantly worsen.

The case has garnered attention not only due to the severity of the charges but also because of the broader implications it may have on US-India relations. Following discussions between US President Trump and Indian Prime Minister Modi, the US Department of State authorized Rana's extradition under the US-India Extradition Treaty, with Rana's legal team still pressing for further review.

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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.

Officials Became thick-Skinned Under AAP Rule

During his field visit on Friday, Verma emphasized the urgency of addressing such inefficiency. "There are problems everywhere, but we are determined to work hard and get the officials to do their jobs," Verma said. He further added that the previous administration had allowed the system to nearly collapse. "But now the BJP government is on the ground, with ministers conducting field visits for hours," he said, stressing that any slackness in performance would no longer be tolerated.

Expressing dissatisfaction

with the lack of progress on cleaning a drain near the Akshardham Temple in Patparganj, Verma held the executive engineer, Ramashish Singh, accountable for the poor desilting work and ordered his suspension. The Minister stated that government employees, who are paid from public funds, must fulfill their responsibilities and deliver results for the people.

In addition to addressing drainage issues, Verma spoke about efforts to tackle pollution in the Yamuna River. He revealed that discussions

had taken place with the Chief Ministers of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to address the treatment of industrial wastewater flowing into the river from drains in both states. The Delhi government is working to enhance its sewage treatment capacity to help mitigate the environmental concerns affecting the river.

Verma's firm stance on accountability and efficiency indicates a strong push for improving governance and addressing the city's infrastructure challenges.

Court Issues Notice To Rahul Gandhi Over "Fight Against Indian State" Remark



- Sambhal District Judge Court has issued a notice
- Sparked controversy over Gandhi’s criticism of BJP, RSS, and government control
- Gandhi has been directed to either respond or appear in court on April 4, 2025.

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The District Judge Court of Sambhal has issued a notice to Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, following a complaint regarding his controversial statement that "Our fight is not against BJP or RSS, but against the Indian state." Gandhi

has been directed to either respond or appear in court on April 4, 2025.

Advocate Sachin Goyal, representing the complainant, confirmed that the court had accepted the complaint and issued the notice to Gandhi. He further stated that the court instructed Gandhi to appear on April 4

or submit a response.

The statement in question was made by Rahul Gandhi on January 15, 2025, during the inauguration of the Congress party's new headquarters, 'Indira Bhawan.' In his address, Gandhi criticized the BJP and RSS, alleging that opposition parties, including Congress, were fighting not just the BJP but the entire Indian state itself. "Our ideology, like the RSS ideology, is thousands of years old, and it has been fighting the RSS ideology for thousands of years. Do not think that we are fighting a fair fight. There is no fairness in this. If you believe that we are fighting a political organisation called the BJP or RSS, you have not understood what is going on. The BJP and the RSS have captured every single institution of our country. We are now fighting the BJP, the RSS and the Indian State itself," Gandhi had said.

Simran Gupta had initially filed a complaint in the special MP/MLA court seeking to register an FIR against Gandhi, but the court had quashed it, citing jurisdictional issues. The complainant then filed a revision petition, and the District Judge Court of Sambhal has now issued the summon.

The case has brought attention to Gandhi's remarks, which have sparked controversy and debate, especially regarding his criticisms of the current government and its control over national institutions. The matter will be revisited in court on April 4, when Rahul Gandhi is expected to respond or appear before the judge.

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat Inaugurates ABPS Meet; To Discuss Manipur Situation

TPN Correspondent| Delhi

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

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

Kharge said, "It appears that two anti-farmer parties have now joined hands against

the country's food providers... First, the Punjab government called the farmers for talks and then forcibly removed them from the protest site. Both BJP and AAP are filled with the arrogance of power." His statement underscored the growing tension between the opposition and the ruling parties over their treatment of protesting farmers.

On Wednesday, Punjab Police dismantled the protest sites at the Punjab-Haryana border and detained key farmer leaders, including Jagjit Singh Dallewal and Kisan Mazdoor



Morcha leader Sarwan Singh Pandher. The farmers have been demanding a legal guarantee for the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their crops and protesting against various farm laws.

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

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

'Recovery of cash' from residence of judge : Issue raised in Rajya Sabha: Ramesh

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The issue of a large sum of cash allegedly recovered from the residence of a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court was raised in the Rajya Sabha. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar responded by stating that he would explore a structured approach to facilitate a discussion on the matter.

The issue was brought up by Congress MP Jairam Ramesh during the morning session. Ramesh referred to a "shocking case" involving significant amounts of cash discovered at the residence of the Delhi High Court judge and called for a response on judicial accountability. He also reminded the Chairman about a pending notice concerning the impeachment of a judge from the Allahabad High Court.

Ramesh emphasized that the Chairman had previously expressed concerns over the need for judicial accountability and

requested that Dhankhar direct the government to present a proposal addressing this issue.

In his response, Chairman Dhankhar acknowledged the seriousness of the matter, stating that he was troubled by the delayed public disclosure of the incident. He pointed out that had the cash been recovered from a politician, bureaucrat, or industrialist, it would have attracted immediate attention. He assured the House that steps would be taken for a transparent and accountable response, and that a structured discussion on the issue would be arranged by consulting with both the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition.

The matter also involved a senior lawyer expressing shock over the allegations before the Delhi High Court, where Justice Yashwant Varma, the judge involved, did not hold court on the day of the proceedings.



Reports indicated that the Supreme Court Collegium decided to transfer Justice Varma to his parent Allahabad High Court amid the cash allegations.

On the issue of impeachment, Dhankhar informed the House that 55 members had signed a representation concerning the matter. He mentioned that he had taken the necessary steps to verify the signatures and urged the remaining members to respond promptly to avoid any delays in the process.

Will end Naxalism in a year, says Home Minister Amit Shah

Parliament Reconvenes Amid Tensions; BJP Urges Full Support for Grants Discussion

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Parliament reconvened on Friday, March 21, 2025, after a day of disruptions and adjournments. The BJP-led NDA government is set to push through various demands for Grants for the fiscal year 2025-26 in the Lok Sabha, with a focus on ensuring that the motions are passed efficiently.

In a whip letter issued to its members, the BJP urged all its MPs in the Lok Sabha to be present throughout the day and support the government's position on the demands for grants. The letter emphasized the importance of a united front, given the ongoing disruptions in the session.

The previous day, March 20, 2025, saw no significant progress in the Lok Sabha as the Opposition members staged protests, leading to repeated

adjournments. Speaker Om Birla reprimanded the protesting MPs, who had worn T-shirts emblazoned with slogans. Birla urged them to change into more appropriate attire, highlighting the breach of parliamentary decorum. Despite these interventions, the disruptions continued, leaving no room for productive discussions.

A similar scene unfolded in the Rajya Sabha, where proceedings were briefly suspended due to a row over some DMK members wearing slogan-bearing T-shirts. The opposition's attire-related protest became a flashpoint, further



delaying the planned legislative agenda.

With the session having lost valuable time, the NDA government is keen on ensuring that the demands for grants are passed smoothly. The party's leadership is aiming to avoid further disruptions and push forward with crucial financial discussions that are necessary for the functioning of government schemes and the allocation of funds for the coming year. The focus on Friday is to clear the backlog and make up for lost time in the Parliament's Budget session.

The opposition, meanwhile, continues to voice its concerns, and the government faces pressure to address issues beyond the budget, including governance matters and contentious political issues raised by various parties.

J.P. Nadda Urges MPs to Promote Annual Health Screenings Nationwide

Government Expands Cancer Care, TB Support, and Free Health Check-ups



TPN Correspondent| Delhi

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on Friday called on all Members of Parliament (MPs) to ensure that their constituents undergo annual health check-ups to facilitate the early detection of health issues. Addressing the Lok Sabha, Nadda highlighted the government's ongoing campaign to provide free health screenings for citizens aged 30 and above, under the Ayushman Argya Mandir initiative. This initiative focuses on detecting common health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and cancer.

The Health Minister shared impressive figures from the campaign, stating that over 35 crore people have been screened since its inception. Among those, 4.2 crore individuals were identified with hypertension, 2.6 crore with diabetes, and 1.18 crore with oral cancer after screening 29.35 crore people. Emphasizing the importance of regular check-ups, Nadda urged MPs to lead by example and ensure that every citizen undergoes a thorough health examination every year to catch potential health problems early.

Nadda also provided an update on cancer care across the country. He mentioned that there are currently 372 day-care cancer centres, 19 state cancer centres, and 22 tertiary cancer centres operating nationwide. He pointed out that all the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have specialized cancer care facilities equipped with modern technology. Additionally, a super-specialty hospital in Jhajhar, Haryana, with 1,400 beds, stands as one of the world's premier cancer hospitals.

Further outlining the government's commitment to expanding cancer care, Nadda stated that a cancer day-care centre will be established in every district to administer chemotherapy. He revealed that 200 such centres will open this year, with plans for more in the coming years.

In response to another query, Union Minister of State for Health, Anupriya Patel, informed the House that the government had transferred Rs 3,635 crore directly to tuberculosis patients through direct benefit transfers, offering Rs 1,000 per patient for nutritional support.

Delhi Minister launches mobile dental clinics for free check-up

Six Mobile Units to Provide Essential Dental Care in Underserved Areas



TPN Correspondent| New Delhi

Delhi Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh launched six mobile dental clinics aimed at providing free dental treatment to the city's residents. The initiative is a collaboration between the Delhi government and the Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences,

designed to extend dental care to underserved areas of the city.

The mobile clinics are equipped with state-of-the-art dental equipment, including modern dental chairs, portable X-ray units, ultrasonic scalers, and sterilisation units, ensuring high-quality care for patients.

These clinics will travel across various parts of Delhi, particularly reaching marginalized communities and slums, where access to healthcare services is often limited.

“The mobile clinics will offer free fluoride treatments, dental sealants, and simple restorative procedures. Our goal is to make sure that dental care is accessible to everyone, regardless of their location or economic status,” said Singh, a dentist-turned-politician.

This initiative is part of the Delhi government's broader effort to improve healthcare access across the city, particularly for those who may otherwise have difficulty reaching dental clinics. The mobile clinics will serve as a vital resource in delivering essential dental treatments and spreading awareness about oral health in communities that are often neglected by traditional healthcare services.

With the introduction of these mobile dental units, Delhi is taking an important step toward improving the overall health and well-being of its residents, making dental care more inclusive and accessible for all.

Delhi to Revise Water Connection Rates to Encourage Legal Connections : Minister Parvesh



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Delhi Water Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh announced on Thursday that the city will revise its high water connection rates to promote legal water connections. He emphasized that the current rates discourage residents from opting for authorized connections, and the government aims to address this issue by lowering the costs.

“We will revise the rates to make legal connections more accessible and encourage people to opt for them,” the Minister said. He further added that a deadline will be set for residents to obtain legal connections, after which penalties will be imposed on those who fail to comply.

A source from the Minister's office revealed that the number of water meters in Delhi is significantly lower compared to the city's electricity meters. This highlights the gap in the system, where many residents continue to rely on illegal water connections, exacerbating the city's water management challenges.

As Delhi braces for the summer season, when water demand peaks, Singh stated that the

government will hold weekly review meetings to assess the Summer Action Plan. These meetings will focus on ensuring the proper functioning of water supply systems, monitoring connections, and addressing any gaps in supply.

In an effort to improve water distribution transparency, the Minister also mentioned that a tender is being floated for GPS-fitted water tankers. “Currently, there is no accurate record of where tankers are supplying water. To ensure transparency, every tanker will be fitted with GPS, and a list of water supply points will be maintained with proper documentation,” Singh said. Additionally, the number of tanker trips will be increased to 16 per day to bolster the water supply during peak summer months.

According to the 2024 Delhi Economic Survey, the city's water requirement stands at 1,290 MGD (Million Gallons per Day) for its estimated population of 2.1 crore. However, the maximum water supply last year was around 1,000 MGD, resulting in a 22% shortfall. The government's efforts to revise water connection rates and improve monitoring are steps toward addressing this critical issue.

Delhi PWD to Install Rain Sensors to Combat Waterlogging and Prevent Rain-related Deaths

TPN Correspondent| New Delhi

In a bid to tackle waterlogging and prevent rain-related fatalities, the Public Works Department (PWD) is set to install rain sensors at all subways and underpasses across the city ahead of the upcoming monsoon season. This initiative, announced on Thursday, aims to proactively manage water accumulation and minimize risks such as drowning and electrocution, which are often caused by heavy rainfall.

According to PWD officials, the rain sensors will monitor the water levels at key points and send out alerts when they reach a predefined threshold. Once the water level surpasses this limit, the sensors will automatically activate pumps designed to remove excess water, reducing the chances of flooding and ensuring that traffic flow is not disrupted during the monsoon rains.

The primary goal of this system is to prevent waterlogging in crucial areas like subways and underpasses, where water accumulation can cause significant inconvenience and pose

safety hazards. By automating the process of water removal, the PWD hopes to address one of the city's most persistent monsoon challenges.

The move is also part of a broader effort by the authorities to enhance the city's infrastructure and public safety. Previous years have seen incidents of drowning and electrocution, often occurring when water levels rise unexpectedly, overwhelming the existing drainage systems. By implementing rain sensors and automatic pumps, the PWD aims to reduce the likelihood of such tragic events and ensure that the city's infrastructure is better equipped to handle the pressures of the monsoon.

As the monsoon season approaches, these preventative measures are seen as crucial for safeguarding public well-being and preventing disruptions caused by severe weather conditions. With this new initiative, the PWD is hoping to create a safer and more resilient environment for both residents and commuters during the rainy season.



Fully Renovated Terminal 1 at IGI Airport to Open on April 15, Shifting Flights from T2



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The fully renovated Terminal 1 (T1) at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport will officially become operational on April 15, marking the beginning of renovation work at Terminal 2 (T2). The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) announced on Thursday that this will lead to the relocation of all flight operations from T2 to the newly upgraded T1.

Starting April 15, all six gates at T1 will be operational, providing enhanced capacity and services for passengers. Currently, T2 handles approximately 270-280 air traffic movements daily, serving over 46,000 passengers, primarily from Akasa Air and IndiGo airlines. These flights will now shift to T1, streamlining operations as part of the airport's continued modernization.

“This shift is a significant step in Delhi Airport's ongoing modernization efforts, ensuring that we continue

to provide world-class services. The expansion and modernization of T1 were part of the Phase 3A expansion project. The expanded, integrated Terminal 1 was dedicated to the nation in March last year,” a DIAL spokesperson stated.

While T1 was virtually inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2024, it had been operating only partially due to a tragic canopy collapse that killed one person on June 28. This incident delayed full operations, and only gates 5 and 6 were opened in August 2024. With the completion of renovations, all six gates will now be available, significantly improving passenger experience and airport efficiency.

The relocation of flights from T2 to the revamped T1 is expected to ease congestion and provide a more modern, efficient terminal for passengers, solidifying IGI Airport's status as a global hub for air travel.

Delhi Police Bust Hacker Gang After Retired DRDO Scientist Duped of ₹40 Lakh



TPN Correspondent| Delhi

The Delhi Police have successfully busted a hacker gang involved in duping people, including a retired DRDO scientist, out of ₹40 lakh. The police arrested four members of the gang and uncovered their method of operation, which involved hacking bank accounts through malware.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Surendra Choudhary explained that the accused posed as customer care representatives, contacting victims and convincing them to install a malware-laden Android Package Kit (APK) file under the guise of resolving technical issues. Once the victim installed the file, it allowed the fraudsters remote access to the victim's device. This access enabled them to steal sensitive financial details such as banking credentials, PAN card information, and CVV codes. The gang then used these details to siphon large sums of money from the victims' accounts.

The investigation was initiated when a retired DRDO

scientist reported that fraudsters had stolen ₹40 lakh from his savings and fixed deposits. DCP Choudhary detailed how the victim, who had searched for customer support online, called a fraudulent number and was sent the malware through social media. Unknowingly, the victim installed the file, giving the criminals access to his bank account. Over the course of a week, the criminals systematically transferred large amounts of money.

Following the victim's complaint, an FIR was filed, and a cyber police team was assigned to the case. The police traced the operation to Deoghar in Jharkhand and Mewat in Rajasthan. Using technical surveillance, the police tracked the criminals' use of rotating SIM cards and frequently changing devices to avoid detection. Through geo-location tracking and intelligence inputs, police conducted raids and arrested four gang members: Iqbal Ansari, Sajid Khan, Salman Khan, and Narendra Kumar.

Fighter Jets To Land On Assam Highways Soon: Himanta Biswa Sarma

Allow Fighter Jets on Highways and 24-Hour Business Operations

TPN Correspondent
| Guwahati

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced significant infrastructure and business-friendly measures on Thursday, revealing that fighter aircraft would soon be able to land on the state's national highways. Addressing the media after a Cabinet meeting in Dibrugarh, Sarma shared that the national highway between Dibrugarh and Jorhat is being upgraded to meet international standards. He further stated that the Indian Air Force fighter jets would be able to land on this highway soon, marking a major milestone in the state's development. "Assam will witness several significant developments this year," he added.

The Chief Minister also addressed criticisms from the Opposition, who have questioned the government's focus on developmental projects. Sarma emphasized that while some may criticize the government's efforts, Assam's administration is actively working on projects like un-



derwater tunnels and international standard highways that will soon transform the region.

In addition to the infrastructure advancements, the Chief Minister revealed measures to boost business activity in Assam. During the Cabinet meeting, a decision was made to allow shops in Guwahati, Dibrugarh, and Silchar to operate 24 hours a day. Previously, shops in these cities had to close on a designated weekly off-day, but this restriction has now been lifted, allowing continuous business operations. In other urban areas, businesses will be permitted

to stay open until 2 a.m., while rural areas will allow shops to remain open until 11 p.m.

Sarma also stressed workers' welfare in the new measures, asserting that no employee can be forced to work beyond nine hours a day. For shops operating round the clock, a minimum of three employees must be hired to cover three shifts, with each shift limited to eight or nine hours. These new business-friendly policies aim to generate employment opportunities and encourage economic growth, especially during festive seasons like Bihu and Puja.

Three Indian Nationals Face Death Penalty in Indonesia for Drug Trafficking

Defense Challenges Prosecution as Trial Nears Verdict



TPN Correspondent
| Singapore

Three Indian nationals, Raju Muthukumaran, 38, Selvadurai Dinakaran, 34, and Govindhasamy Vimalkandhan, 45, have been detained in Indonesia since July 2024 on charges of drug trafficking. The trio, hailing from Tamil Nadu, are accused of smuggling 106 kg of crystal meth aboard the Singapore-flagged vessel, Legend Aquarius. If convicted, they face the death penalty, as prosecutors have demanded the maximum sentence under Indonesian law.

The three men, who worked in the shipping industry in Singapore, were arrested by Indonesian authorities in the Pongkar waters of Karimun district, which lies about an hour from Singapore by ferry. The arrest followed a tip-off regarding the drug shipment.

A key development in the case occurred on March 14, when the vessel's captain, ordered to testify in person, failed to appear in court. Instead, he appeared briefly via Zoom, which prevented the defense from cross-examining him. The defense team argued that the captain's testimony is cru-

cial to proving the defendants' innocence, as he is ultimately responsible for all cargo aboard the ship under Indonesian law.

To bolster their case, the defense has presented expert testimony from Soleman B. Ponto, a retired Indonesian Navy officer and maritime law expert. Ponto testified that the captain holds full responsibility for the cargo, casting doubt on the claim that the three men could have smuggled such a large quantity of drugs without the captain's knowledge. The defense team insists that the actual perpetrators may have been released, with the three Indian nationals wrongfully detained.

The trial is ongoing, and the defense is working to highlight inconsistencies in the prosecution's case. The verdict is expected on April 15, 2025. Meanwhile, at a press conference in July 2024, Marthinus Hukom, head of the Indonesian National Narcotics Agency, alleged that the three were the primary drug owners and had commissioned the trip.

Rs 11,945 Crore Collected in Toll Tax on Jaipur-Delhi Highway

Gadkari Reveals Toll Revenue Exceeds Construction Cost

TPN Correspondent
| Bengaluru

Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has confirmed that a total of Rs 11,945 crore has been collected in toll tax from vehicles using the Jaipur-Delhi National Highway, also known as National Highway 48. This disclosure was made in response to a Parliamentary question raised by Hanuman Beniwal, the Lok Sabha MP from Nagaur, Rajasthan. Beniwal had asked whether the toll tax collected on the highway was significantly higher than the cost of its construction.

Gadkari, in his reply, provided details about the Gurgaon-Kotputli-Jaipur stretch, a key part of the highway project. The appointed date for the project

was April 3, 2009. According to the minister, Rs 9,218.30 crore has been collected as user fees on this stretch, while the total project cost incurred was Rs 6,430 crore. This indicates that the toll collection has significantly outpaced the construction cost, raising questions about the sustainability and fairness of the tolling system.

The toll revenue from the Jaipur-Delhi stretch of National Highway 48 has been substantial, far exceeding the original construction costs, leading to



discussions on how the collected tolls are being utilized and whether they align with the original purpose of financing road infrastructure. Gadkari's response sheds light on the large amounts being generated from toll fees, which are expected to cover the cost of infrastructure development and maintenance over time.

While the collected toll tax reflects the highway's heavy use, there is ongoing debate about whether these revenues should be reinvested in further infrastructure projects or if adjustments are needed in tolling rates to ensure fairness and efficiency. This issue remains a key point of discussion, especially for commuters and local residents who frequently use these highways.

Maharashtra Extends HSRP Deadline for Older Vehicles to June 30

TPN Correspondent
| Mumbai

The Maharashtra Transport Department has once again extended the deadline for installing High-Security Registration Plates (HSRP) on vehicles registered before April 1, 2019. Originally set for March 31, 2025, and later moved to April 30, the deadline has now been further extended to June 30, 2025, due to slow progress in the implementation process.

A significant number of older vehicles are still yet to comply with the regulation, prompting the department to take action by launching awareness campaigns to inform vehicle owners about the importance

of installing HSRPs. The plates are intended to improve vehicle security and prevent vehicle-related crimes, as they contain unique identifiers and are made of reflective material to enhance visibility.

An official from the Regional Transport Office (RTO) stated, "Given the large number of vehicles still awaiting HSRP installation and those on the waiting list, there is a strong possibility that the deadline may be extended again." The official added that the slow pace of implementation, coupled with the high volume of vehicles requiring the installation, has made it difficult to meet the original deadline.

The Maharashtra Transport

Department has urged vehicle owners to complete the installation process at the earliest to avoid future penalties and ensure compliance with the law. As part of their efforts, the department is coordinating with authorized agencies and encouraging vehicle owners to book appointments for HSRP installation through online platforms to streamline the process.

With the new deadline now set for June 30, 2025, vehicle owners still waiting to get their HSRPs installed are advised to act quickly to avoid any further delays or penalties as the department works to complete this crucial safety initiative.



Adani Energy Solutions Wins Rs 2,800 Crore Green Power Transmission Project in Gujarat



TPN Correspondent | Gujarat

Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL) announced on Friday that it has secured a Rs 2,800 crore power transmission project in Gujarat. The project aims to supply green electricity for the manufacturing of Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia in Mundra, Gujarat, as part of the company's ongoing efforts to support sustainable energy initiatives.

This marks AESL's sixth major order win in the current fiscal year, bringing its total order book to an impressive Rs 57,561 crore. The project, titled "Transmission System for Green Hydrogen/Ammonia Manufacturing Potential in Mundra, Gujarat," will enhance the

region's power transmission capacity and infrastructure.

As part of the project, AESL will upgrade the Navinal (Mundra) electrical substation by adding two large 765/400kV transformers. Additionally, a 75 km-long 765kV double-circuit transmission line will be constructed to link the substation to the Bhuj substation. The project will add 150 circuit kilometers (cKM) of transmission lines and 3,000 megavolt-amperes (MVA) of transformation capacity to AESL's transmission network. This will increase the company's total transmission capacity to 25,928 cKM and 87,186 MVA, further solidifying its position as the largest private transmission company in India.

AESL secured the project under the Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) mechanism, with PFC Consulting Ltd acting as the bid process coordinator. The project Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) was formally transferred to AESL on March 20, 2025.

AESL is a key player in India's energy sector, with operations spanning power transmission, distribution, smart metering, and cooling solutions. As part of the Adani Group, AESL continues to expand its footprint in the energy sector, contributing to the country's growing renewable energy and infrastructure needs.

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, 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 users, 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.



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 circumstances. "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.

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

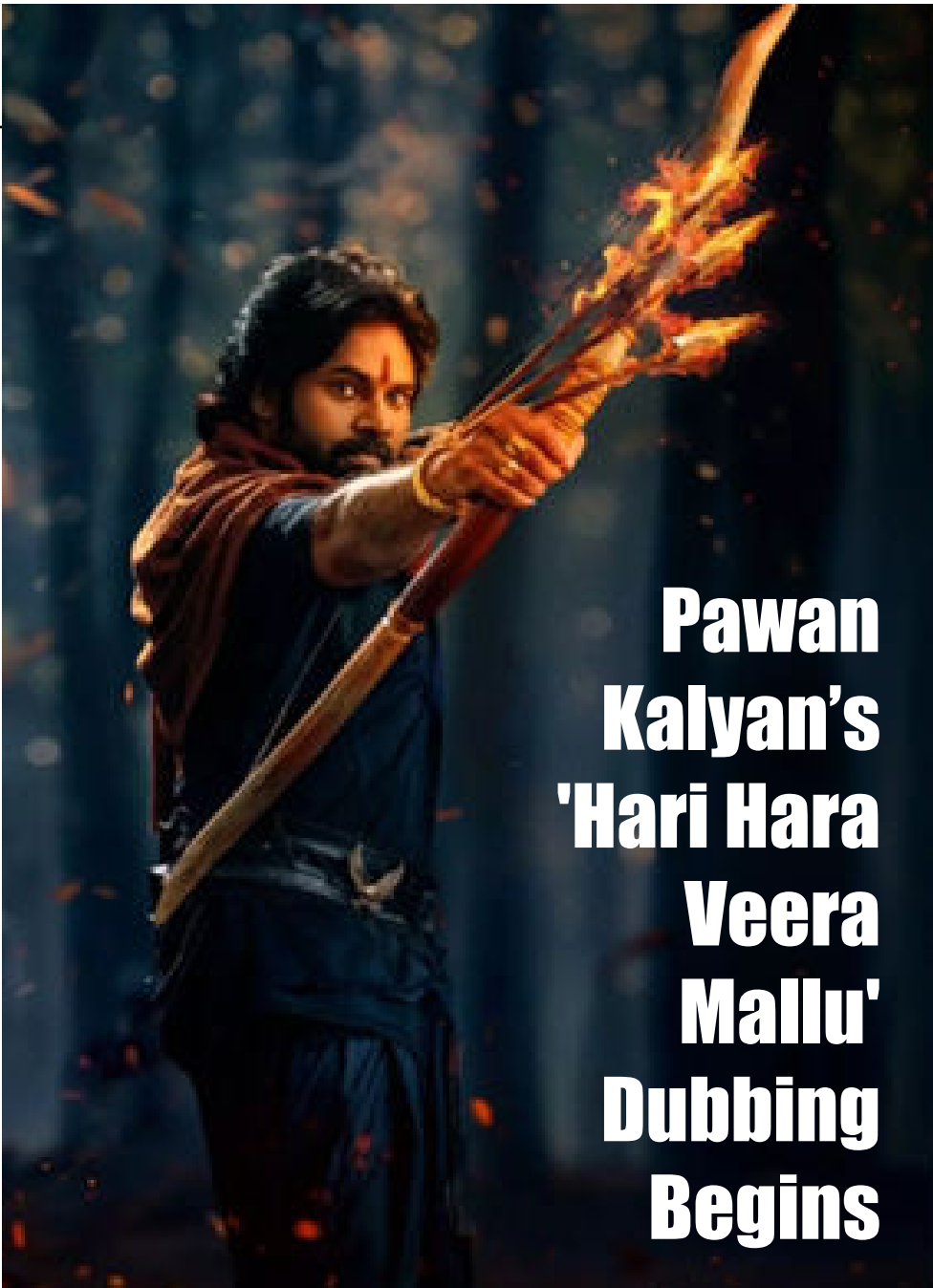


Actress Samantha, known for her work in multiple languages, has won the Best Actress award for her performance in the OTT series Honey-Bunny. Despite not featuring in recent Telugu films, she continues to captivate audiences through web series. A leading media house honored Samantha for her outstanding 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 Nidhhi 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.