

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

t°

H 33° C

L 25° C

VIJAYAWADA

t°

H 35° C

L 26° C

TIRUPATHI

t°

H 36° C

L 26° C

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Transparency, Freeze on Seats

Parties' Key Resolution on Delimitation

DMK-led JAC passes a unanimous 7-point resolution on delimitation.

The resolution demands stakeholder consultation in the process.

JAC calls for an extension of the freeze on Parliamentary constituencies for another 25 years.

Key political leaders from various states attended the meeting in Chennai.

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy and BRS Leader KTR also attended the meeting.

The next JAC meeting on delimitation will be held in Hyderabad.

TPN Correspondent | Chennai
The DMK-led Joint Action Committee (JAC) convened in Chennai for its first meeting on Friday to discuss the Union government's proposed delimitation exercise. The committee, comprising representatives from multiple political parties, expressed concerns over the lack of transparency in the process and the absence of sufficient consultations with key stakeholders. Following deliberations, the JAC passed a unanimous 7-point resolution demanding an inclusive and transparent approach. It emphasized that any changes in the delimitation of Parliamentary constituencies should involve discussions with all state governments, political parties, and relevant stakeholders to ensure fairness and democratic representation. Key Resolutions Passed by the JAC

The 7-point resolution stressed that any delimitation exercise must be carried out transparently, allowing political parties from all states, state governments, and other stakeholders to deliberate and contribute to the process. It also highlighted the legislative intent behind the 42nd, 84th, and 87th Constitutional amendments, which sought to protect states that had effectively implemented population control measures. The JAC demanded that the freeze on Parliamentary constituencies based on the 1971 Census should be extended by another 25 years, considering that national population stabilization has not yet been achieved. It further asserted that states that successfully implemented population control programs should not be penalized by losing parliamentary representation and

urged the Union Government to enact the necessary constitutional amendments to uphold this principle. To counter any attempts by the Union Government to undertake delimitation against these principles, the resolution called for the formation of a Core Committee comprising Members of Parliament from the participating states. This committee will coordinate parliamentary strategies and submit a joint representation to the Prime Minister during the ongoing session. Additionally, the resolution encouraged political parties to push for state legislative assembly resolutions against delimitation changes and communicate their stance to the Union Government. The JAC also resolved to launch a coordinated public awareness campaign to inform citizens about

past delimitation exercises and the potential consequences of the proposed changes. Key Leaders in Attendance The meeting was attended by several prominent leaders, including Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, BRS leader KTR, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Odisha Congress President Bhakta Charan Das, and Biju Janata Dal leader Sanjay Kumar Das Burma. Former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik participated virtually, while the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) did not attend the meeting. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, who convened the meeting, announced that the next JAC meeting on delimitation would be held in Hyderabad.

Tamil Nadu delimitation meet done with eye on 2026 polls: Sitharaman

Criticizes DMK for Emotional Issues Ahead of Elections

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently accused the DMK of raising emotional issues, such as alleged Hindi imposition and Parliament delimitation, to divert attention from its own lack of achievements ahead of Tamil Nadu's 2026 Assembly elections. Sitharaman criticized the state government for focusing on these matters instead of addressing real concerns in the state.

She strongly condemned the law and order situation in Tamil Nadu, describing it as "lawlessness." In particular, she targeted the ruling party over the Anna University sexual assault case, questioning the whereabouts of the accused and whether they were affiliated with the DMK. She also referred to the 2024 Kallakurichi hooch tragedy, demanding answers regarding the incident's aftermath.

Sitharaman further questioned the DMK's governance, asking what distinct achievements the party could claim for Tamil Nadu under its rule. She accused the state government of using emotional issues to mask its failures, corruption, and scandals, drawing parallels with the scams that emerged during the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government, of which the DMK was a part.

On the topic of delimitation, Sitharaman remarked that the DMK was using this issue to prepare for the upcoming 2026 elections. She stressed

that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made it clear in 2024 that no state would face injustice in the delimitation process. Sitharaman alleged that the DMK's focus on delimitation was an attempt to take the state back to the political debates of the 1960s and 1980s, rather than addressing current concerns.

Sitharaman also responded to the controversy over the alleged Hindi imposition, dismissing it as "false propaganda" that she had heard since her school days. She pointed out that population alone was not the determining factor for the creation of Lok Sabha seats, citing the examples of Ladakh and Lakshadweep, which have fewer representatives despite smaller populations.

Finally, she raised the question of whether Tamil Nadu CM M. K. Stalin raised the Mullaiperiyar Dam issue or the Cauvery river dispute with Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and Karnataka Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, who had attended the DMK's delimitation meeting.

SC Judges Visit Manipur Relief Camps

Justice BR Gavai Assures 'Peace Will Prevail'

NALSA launches legal camps to aid displaced individuals.
Relief camps to speed up legal help and welfare access.
Legal aid clinics opened in Imphal East, West, and more.
Justice Gavai stresses the Constitution's role in maintaining India's unity.

TPN Correspondent | Manipur
A team of Supreme Court judges, led by Justice BR Gavai, visited relief camps in Manipur's Churachandpur and Bishnupur districts on Saturday, assuring the displaced people that peace would soon return to the state. The judges distributed essential supplies and inaugurated legal services and medical camps to support those affected by the ongoing ethnic conflict. Justice Gavai, who is also the execu-

tive chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), virtually launched new legal aid clinics in Imphal East, Imphal West, and Ukhrul districts. He was accompanied by Justices Vikram Nath, MM Sundresh, and KV Vishwanathan. Manipur High Court Chief Justice D Krishnakumar and Justice Golmei Gaiphulshilu also participated in the visit. Justice N Kotiswar Singh, a member of the Meitei community, refrained from visiting Churachandpur after the local bar association objected to his presence, citing concerns that his visit might be misinterpreted and provoke tensions. Churachandpur is a Kuki-dominated district.

Addressing the relief camp residents, Justice Gavai emphasized unity and the strength of the Indian Constitution. "Our country is a true example of unity in diversity. Wherever people are in difficulty, the entire nation comes together to support them," he said. He urged the displaced individuals to trust in the Constitution and assured them that the combined efforts of the executive, legislature, and judiciary would restore peace in the region. The visit comes nearly two years after the violent clashes that erupted on May 3, 2023, between the Meitei and Kuki communities, resulting in

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Yamuna Cleaning, Waterlogging Key Focus in Delhi Budget: CM Rekha Gupta

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
The "Viksit Delhi Budget" for 2025-26, to be presented by the BJP-led Delhi government, will prioritize women's economic empowerment, better education and healthcare, infrastructure development, pollution control, and waterlogging solutions, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced on Saturday. The Delhi Assembly's budget session is scheduled from March 24 to 28, with the budget set to be tabled

on March 25. Ms. Gupta stated that the government sought inputs from various sections of society, including professionals, to shape the budget. A total of 3,303 sugges-

tions were received via email and 6,982 through WhatsApp. Speaking at a press conference, the chief minister mentioned that the session will commence with a "Kheer" ceremony on March 24. She emphasized that the budget would focus on fulfilling the basic needs of the public, along with employment generation. She added that the BJP government in Delhi aims to align the budget with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'Viksit Delhi'.

Kerala Governor Rajendra Criticizes SFI Banner Against Savarkar at Calicut University

- Governor Arlekar Calls for De-Politicization of Educational Institutions
- He urged the Vice-Chancellor to prevent political interference
- suggest university security failed to remove anti-Arif Mohammed Khan posters

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, who also serves as the Chancellor of State universities, expressed criticism over a controversial banner displayed by the Students Federation of India (SFI) at the University of Calicut, located in Tenhipalam, Malappuram district. The banner, which was put up several months ago during protests against former Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, reads, “We need a Chancellor and not Savarkar.”



The Governor, who attended a Senate meeting at the university on March 22, 2025 — a historic first for the institution — was reportedly taken aback by the banner. In response, he raised questions about the criticism of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, an Indian independence activist and freedom fighter, asking, “Was Savarkar an enemy of this country?” He emphasized that Savarkar had dedicated his life to the service of others, never prioritizing his own

family or affairs.

“I was just reading a banner there now. The Chancellor is here with you. You do whatever you want to do with the Chancellor. But what bad things have Savarkar done?” Governor Arlekar said, referring to the provocative banner. He went on to assert that Savarkar’s life was one of sacrifice and service to the nation.

Arlekar further emphasized the need for the university to remain free of political influence, urging Vice-Chancellor P. Raveendran to ensure the educational system and institutions remain unaffected by political agendas. His remarks reflect his concerns about the increasing politicization of academic spaces in the state.

Earlier reports indicated that Vice-Chancellor Raveendran had ordered the removal of the controversial banners and posters, but SFI activists reportedly resisted these efforts, leading to tensions between university authorities and the student group.

The Governor’s remarks highlight the ongoing debate over political activism in educational institutions and its potential impact on academic independence.

AIIMS can take the lead to bring gender parity in healthcare: President Murmu

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu, during her address at the 49th convocation ceremony of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi on Friday, expressed concerns about the early stages at which some female patients seek treatment for heart ailments and other health conditions. Speaking at Bharat Mandapam, she highlighted that many women tend to visit healthcare facilities when their medical issues have already progressed to a more severe stage, which could impact the effectiveness of treatment.

“It is of course a larger social issue,” President Murmu remarked, acknowledging that this concern is part of a broader societal problem. However, she also emphasized the role of AIIMS in addressing this gap, urging the institution to take a leadership role in promoting gender parity in healthcare protocols. She suggested that AIIMS, as one of the premier medical institutions in the country, could launch a nationwide campaign to raise awareness and encourage women to seek medical help at an earlier stage of illness, thereby preventing the progression of diseases.

Her remarks reflect a growing recognition of the unique challenges women face in accessing healthcare, particularly in areas where heart diseases and other health issues are often diagnosed later than in men.



The president’s call for gender-sensitive healthcare protocols aims to ensure that women receive timely medical attention and are not sidelined in terms of medical research and treatment approaches.

The 49th convocation ceremony of AIIMS Delhi was held at Bharat Mandapam, where the president also felicitated awardees for their academic achievements. Her speech underscored the importance of evolving healthcare systems that cater to the needs of both men and women equally and encouraged medical professionals to consider gender-based health disparities when treating patients.

President Murmu’s address comes at a critical time, as the country continues to work toward improving healthcare accessibility and quality for all its citizens, with particular attention to addressing gender imbalances in healthcare outcomes.

Supriya Sule calls out Air India for repeated delays: ‘Continuous trend’

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Supriya Sule raised concerns on Saturday about the persistent delays in Air India flights, urging Union Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu to take strict action against the airline. Sule, who is an NCP-SP Member of Parliament, highlighted the continuous inconvenience caused to passengers by these delays and called for stronger regulations to ensure accountability and better service standards.



Sule wrote on X.

Her call for action follows growing frustration among passengers who regularly face delays on Air India flights. While the airline has made improvements in recent years, delays remain a common issue, and Sule’s comments reflect the public’s dissatisfaction with the current state of air travel in India.

“This is unacceptable. I was traveling on Air India flight AI0508, which was delayed by 1 hour and 19 minutes — part of a continuous trend of delays affecting passengers. I urge Honourable Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu to enforce stricter regulations to hold airlines like Air India accountable for repeated delays and ensure better service standards for passengers,” Supriya

Sule emphasized that passengers deserve better service and accountability, and the government must ensure that airlines are held responsible for such disruptions. The repeated delays not only inconvenience passengers but also raise concerns about the overall efficiency of the airline industry, making her call for stronger regulations timely and relevant.

Ajit Pawar Vows Strong Action Against Communal Violence

Pledges Support to Muslim Community

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has pledged firm action against anyone attempting to intimidate the Muslim community or sow communal discord in the state. Speaking at an Iftar gathering in Mumbai, Pawar emphasized the importance of unity and social harmony, particularly following the recent communal violence in the state. His remarks come at a time when Maharashtra is grappling with the aftermath of the Nagpur clashes, which were triggered by a rumor about religious books being burned during a right-wing protest.



is with you.” His strong statement was meant to reinforce the government’s resolve to take action against those inciting violence or spreading communal hatred.

Pawar’s comments follow violent clashes in Nagpur, where rumors about the burning of religious texts sparked unrest. The violence involved

stone-pelting at the police and widespread protests, leading to a curfew in several areas. The situation has now been brought under control, with the curfew lifted and additional arrests made. As of Friday, 105 individuals have been arrested in connection with the violence, including 10 juveniles.

Pawar’s message also stressed the need for maintaining communal harmony, particularly in light of upcoming festivals like Gudi Padwa and Eid. His call for unity serves as a reminder of the state’s commitment to ensuring peace during sensitive times.

With tensions still simmering, Pawar’s statement aims to calm nerves and ensure that the government will take swift and decisive action against any efforts to disturb the communal fabric of Maharashtra. His pledge serves as a reassurance to the people of the state that peace and harmony will be prioritized.

EV insurance demand surges 16x in just 3 years, Delhi-NCR leads with 18.3% market share

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The demand for Electric Vehicle (EV) insurance in India has experienced a remarkable surge, growing 16-fold in just three years, as per internal data from Policybazaar. This significant rise in EV adoption has been accompanied by a growing recognition of the need for specialized insurance coverage to protect these vehicles.



According to a report by the private sector insurer, the share of insurance policies for electric cars has increased substantially, from a modest 0.50% in FY23 to 14% by March 2025. The growth rate indicates a major shift toward electric mobility in the country. Specifically, the EV insurance share for electric cars now stands at 8.2%, marking a steep rise in the number of electric vehicle owners seeking tailored insurance solutions.

cer (CBO) of General Insurance at Policybazaar, highlighted that this trend signals India’s ongoing shift towards sustainable mobility. “The accelerating adoption of EV insurance reflects not only the growing adoption of electric vehicles but also an increasing awareness of the necessity for specialized protection,” Chhabra commented.

Amit Chhabra, the Chief Business Offi-

Policybazaar’s internal sales data also

reveals a significant rise in the number of insured two-wheeler EVs, which now account for 7-8% of all two-wheeler insurance policies under five years. The demand for two-wheeler EV insurance has more than doubled over the past year, with the number of policies increasing from 10,000 in the previous year to 20,000 in 2025.

The rise in EV insurance uptake highlights the growing importance of safeguarding electric vehicles, which often require different coverage compared to conventional vehicles due to their unique components, such as batteries and electric powertrains. As the Indian market continues to shift towards electric mobility, it is expected that the demand for EV insurance will continue to grow, paving the way for more insurers to develop customized policies for these environmentally friendly vehicles.

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SC Judges Visit Manipur Relief Camps

hundreds of deaths and the displacement of over 50,000 people. The conflict stems from disputes over land rights, political representation, and the Meitei demand for Scheduled Tribe status, which the Kuki community opposes. NALSA stated that its legal services camps aim to connect displaced individuals with government welfare programs, ensuring access to healthcare, pensions, employment schemes,

and identity document recovery. “By bridging the gap between legal rights and accessibility, NALSA aims to provide displaced individuals with the resources they need to rebuild their lives with dignity,” the organization said. The Supreme Court judges’ visit underscores the continued need for legal and humanitarian aid for the affected communities, with efforts focused on expediting relief work and legal assistance.

Court reserves order on cognisance of Sandeep Dikshit's defamation plea

Against Atishi, Sanjay Singh



- Dikshit accuses the AAP leaders of making false statements that damaged his reputation.
- Delhi Court to Deliver Ruling on Defamation Complaint Against AAP Leaders

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A Delhi court is expected to announce its decision on April 3 regarding whether to take cognizance of a criminal complaint filed by Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit against former Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and AAP MP Sanjay Singh for defamation.

The Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, Paras Dalal, reserved the order on Saturday after hearing pre-summoning submissions from the counsel representing both parties involved in the case.

In the defamation complaint, Dikshit has accused Atishi and Singh of deliberately harming his reputation. The complaint stems from a press conference where the two AAP leaders al-

legedly made remarks that damaged Dikshit's goodwill. According to the complaint, Atishi and Singh accused Dikshit of accepting crores of rupees from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and alleged that Congress had colluded with the BJP to defeat the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the Delhi Assembly elections held last month.

Dikshit claims that these statements were false and had been made with the intention to malign his image. The complaint asks the court to take appropriate legal action against the AAP leaders for defamation.

The court's decision on whether to proceed with the complaint will be delivered on April 3

Trinamool Congress Skips Delimitation Meeting Called by M.K. Stalin

Skip delimitation meet in Chennai, to focus on voter IDs



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) has announced that it will not send any representatives to the March 22 meeting of States over the delimitation issue, which has been called by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Chennai. A source within the ruling party of West Bengal confirmed this decision on Friday.

The source explained that the Trinamool Congress considers the issue of duplicate voter ID numbers to be more pressing at the moment. The party believes that this matter could significantly impact the upcoming Assembly elections in several states, including Bihar, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.

The source emphasized that while the delimitation discussions are important, the duplicate voter ID issue takes priority, especially with the

elections in Bihar scheduled for later this year, and those in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal due in 2026.

The meeting, which is being led by Stalin and his party, the DMK, aims to address the concerns surrounding delimitation, a process that involves redrawing electoral boundaries. The DMK has reached out to seven states, including Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, West Bengal, and Punjab, for participation in the meeting.

Despite the invitation, the Trinamool Congress has opted not to attend, focusing instead on the duplicate voter ID issue, which could potentially affect voter registration and the electoral process in the aforementioned states. The decision reflects the party's priority in addressing immediate concerns over long-term electoral reforms like delimitation.

Amit Shah Targets Rahul Gandhi Over Kashmir Remarks

Highlights Zero-Tolerance Policy on Terrorism

TPN Correspondent| Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in a sharp retort to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, criticized the opposition leader's comments during his 2023 Bharat Jodo Yatra in Kashmir. Speaking in the Rajya Sabha on March 21, 2025, Shah questioned Gandhi's ability to understand the development in Jammu and Kashmir, remarking, "If someone is sitting with kaala chashma [black glasses] on, how is it possible to show them the development?"

Referring to Gandhi's statement made during his Kashmir visit, where he claimed to have seen terrorists from afar, Shah mocked, "One leader went on a foot march, played Holi with snow with his karyakartas and then claimed he saw terrorists from afar." He further added, "If someone has terrorists in their mind, they will see them even in their dreams and in Kashmir."

Shah also reiterated the Modi government's firm stance on counter-terrorism, emphasizing its 'zero-tolerance' approach. "Whenever we see a terrorist, we shoot right between the eyes. Our government can neither tolerate terrorism nor terrorists," he asserted.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shah highlighted the sig-



nificant reduction in terrorism-related deaths in Jammu and Kashmir. He noted that the Modi government had introduced a policy of firm action against terrorism. He recalled incidents like the Uri and Pulwama attacks, where the government responded swiftly with surgical and air-strikes within days of the attacks.

Additionally, Shah outlined the government's efforts to strengthen internal security across the country, including tackling Maoism. He expressed confidence that Naxalism would be eradicated by March 21, 2026. "I say it with responsibility: Nax-

alism will be eliminated by the end of our term," he declared, emphasizing the comprehensive steps taken to eliminate the Maoist threat.

Shah's speech also touched on the measures implemented to combat drug abuse, address the challenges in the Northeast, and provide accurate intelligence to security forces handling the Maoist insurgency. He concluded with a message for those who view Naxalism as a mere political issue, stating that it is a serious security challenge that would be dealt with effectively by his government.

Delhi Assembly Speaker nominates 14 MLAs to MCD

Of the 14 MLAs, 11 are from the BJP and three from AAP



TPN Correspondent| Delhi

In a strategic move to strengthen its hold on municipal governance, Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta has nominated 14 MLAs to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). This decision boosts the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s bid to secure the mayoral position in the upcoming elections scheduled for next month.

Out of the 14 nominated MLAs, 11 are from the BJP, and three are from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). These nominated members will participate in the voting process for the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, which will take place in April. Gupta stated that the nominated MLAs would help the MCD with budget formulation, civic administration, and urban governance.

The BJP MLAs nominated to the MCD include Anil Sharma, Chandan Choudhary, Jitender Mahajan, Karnail Singh, Manoj Kumar Shokeen, Neelam Pahalwan, Parduyynn Singh Rajput, Raj Kumar Bhatia, Ravi Kant, Sanjay Goyal, and Tarvinder Marwah. The three AAP MLAs nominated are Pravesh Ratn, Surendra Kumar, and Ram Singh Netaji.

The AAP won the last mayoral election held in November 2024 by a narrow margin of three votes. However, with the BJP's decisive victory in the February 2025 Delhi Assembly elections, the party is now focused on securing a "triple-engine government" by winning the mayoral post in the MCD. A senior BJP functionary noted that the nomination of 11 party MLAs significantly boosts the chances of winning the Mayor's post. Additionally, the BJP has reportedly received interest from several AAP councillors expressing a desire to join their ranks.

The BJP's victory in the Delhi Assembly polls, where it secured 48 out of 70 seats, has given the party an upper hand in the MCD. The AAP managed only 22 seats, signaling a shift in political power. With the recent defections of three AAP councillors to the BJP, the party now controls the largest number of seats in the MCD, further consolidating its position as it prepares for the upcoming mayoral election.

Nagpur violence: Devendra Fadnavis gives 'bulldozer' action warning

Vows to recover damage cost from rioters

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday declared that the government would recover the cost of public property damaged during the recent violence in Nagpur from the rioters responsible. Following a review meeting with police officials regarding the incidents, Fadnavis stated that if the rioters failed to compensate for the damage, their property would be seized, and "bulldozer" action would be taken if necessary.

"Whatever damage has happened will be recovered from the rioters. If they do not pay the money, their property will be sold for the recovery. Wherever required, bulldozers will also be used," Fadnavis said, as quoted by ANI. This stern warning came after the clashes that broke out on March 17, allegedly sparked by rumors that a "chadar" with holy inscriptions had been burned during protests led by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), demanding the removal of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's tomb in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

The violence in central Nagpur resulted in several injuries, including three deputy commissioners of police (DCPs), and caused significant damage to vehicles and homes. Tragically, a 40-year-old man succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment at the hospital. In the wake of the unrest, Fadnavis confirmed that 104 individuals had been arrested so far based on CCTV footage, with more arrests expected.

Fadnavis also warned that police action would be taken against anyone involved in the riots, as well as those aiding the rioters. The authorities are also cracking down on those spreading rumors on social media, with 68 social media posts already identified and deleted. "Those who spread rumors on social media will also be made co-accused," Fadnavis said.

The Maharashtra government has emphasized its commitment to restoring peace and ensuring that the rioters are held accountable for their actions, sending a strong message that violence and property damage will not go unpunished.



Ahead of Ayushman Bharat Launch, Delhi Doctors Discuss Payment Delays and with CM

DMA and other healthcare professionals are urging a time-bound payment system



TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

Doctors in Delhi have raised significant concerns about the potential challenges in implementing the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PM-JAY), the central government's flagship healthcare initiative. As the Delhi government prepares to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre on April 10, several doctors are voicing their apprehensions about issues that could hamper the smooth roll-out of the scheme in the national capital.

One of the primary concerns flagged by healthcare profes-

sionals is the long delays in payments to healthcare providers. According to a group of doctors from the Delhi Medical Association (DMA), healthcare organizations (HCOs) have experienced substantial delays in receiving their payments under the AB-PMJAY scheme. The doctors emphasized the need for a time-bound payment system to ensure that healthcare providers are compensated promptly for their services. These delays not only affect the financial stability of healthcare facilities but also create operational challenges for medical practitioners.

Another key issue raised is the low tariffs for medical procedures under the scheme.

Many doctors have expressed concerns that the reimbursement rates for treatments and medical services covered under AB-PMJAY are insufficient to cover the costs of providing quality care. The lower tariffs may deter healthcare providers from participating in the scheme or cause them to limit the services they offer, ultimately impacting the overall quality of healthcare available to beneficiaries.

The concerns come at a time when the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat scheme is a major focus for the ruling party, with the initiative having been a key promise in the BJP's manifesto during the Assembly elections. The meeting between doctors and Delhi's Chief Minister and Health Minister, Dr. Pankaj Singh, on Friday provided a platform for discussing these issues in detail.

As the MoU signing date approaches, the resolution of these challenges is crucial to ensuring the successful implementation of AB-PMJAY in Delhi, where access to quality healthcare remains a priority for many residents.

After three-month delay, high drama marks Bar Council polls in Delhi

Chaos and Controversy Mark Bar Council Elections



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

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The Bar Council of Delhi's elections, held on Friday, were marred by several issues, including delays, altercations, and violations of election guidelines. Originally scheduled nearly three months earlier, the elections for the executive committees of various Bar Associations in Delhi's district courts were postponed twice due to "mismanagement." The elections were finally conducted following a directive from the Delhi High Court last month, which mandated that the elections be held on March

However, the process was far from smooth. Disruptions were reported across several locations, including a notable altercation outside the Delhi High Court. Tensions escalated as lawyers engaged in heated arguments, and one individual was reportedly injured during the fray. Despite the Bar Council of Delhi's strict notice instructing that physical posters be removed ahead of the elections, the streets were still lined with large, intrusive posters, flaunting candidates' names and images, causing

further disruptions.

The chaotic scenes underscored the disarray surrounding the elections, which were meant to give lawyers the opportunity to elect their representatives in the executive committees. These elections, crucial for the functioning of various Bar Associations, were a significant event for the legal community in Delhi. However, the lack of proper organization and the failure to adhere to guidelines raised serious concerns about the conduct of the elections and the state of the Bar Council itself.

The election-related turmoil, including the physical altercations and the defiance of the Bar Council's orders, cast a shadow over the democratic process, which was intended to reflect the will of the legal community. As the elections unfolded on Friday, the incidents served as a stark reminder of the need for better management and adherence to rules to ensure smooth and fair elections in the future.

Delhi High Court Grants Rapido Four Months to Make App "Disabled-Friendly"



TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has given the ride-sharing app Rapido four months to make its mobile application "disabled-friendly," expressing concern over its failure to address the accessibility needs of persons with disabilities (PwDs). The court termed the current state of the app as an "alarming state of affairs" after reviewing an accessibility audit report that identified over 200 issues with the app's usability for PwDs.

The petition, filed by corporate lawyer and disability rights activist Amar Jain, highlighted Rapido's operational flaws, which have made the app largely unusable for individuals with disabilities. The plea pointed out that the app did not meet basic accessibility standards required for PwDs, thus preventing them from using the service effectively.

Justice Sachin Datta, who was overseeing the case, reviewed the audit report that tested features such as color contrast, talkback screen readers, zoom and resizing options,

and identified 207 accessibility issues in Rapido's Android app. Of these, 81 issues were classified as "high impact," indicating serious barriers to usage for disabled users. The court noted that these findings reveal significant shortcomings in the app's design, making it far from suitable for PwDs.

"It is evident that the application of respondent no 1 (Rapido) is far from being disabled-friendly," the court said in its March 19 order, which was released on Friday. Additionally, the petition highlighted the app's lack of options for PwDs to communicate specific needs, such as requesting extra wait time or assistance with locating the pickup point when booking a ride.

The court's directive gives Rapido a four-month deadline to address these issues and ensure that its platform is accessible to all users, including those with disabilities. This ruling underscores the growing importance of inclusivity in digital services, as the court emphasized the need for greater accessibility in public-facing technologies.

Delhi Police Dismantle Illegal Bangladeshi Immigration Network, Arrest 8

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi Police have successfully dismantled a network facilitating illegal Bangladeshi immigration, arresting eight individuals, deporting six Bangladeshi nationals, and placing four others under investigation, according to officials. The operation, which uncovered a large-scale identity fraud scheme, led to the arrest of both foreign nationals and Indian citizens implicated in the operation.

The investigation revealed that the network was involved in the creation and distribution of forged documents, including Aadhaar cards, PAN cards, voter IDs, and even Indian passports, to help illegal Bangladeshi immigrants settle in India. The mastermind behind the racket, identified as Mohd Moinuddin, ran a computer shop in Delhi, where he specialized in fabricating false birth certificates and other official documents.

Authorities say that Moinuddin, along with his associates, played a pivotal role in enabling illegal immigrants to obtain forged documentation that allowed them to seamlessly integrate into Indian society. A significant part of the operation relied on corrupt Aadhaar agents who helped the illegal immigrants gain official recognition in the country.



The police seized a variety of fraudulent documents during the crackdown, including 23 voter IDs, 19 PAN cards, 17 Aadhaar cards, 11 fake birth certificates, and six blank voter ID cards. Additionally, a computer system used for document forgery was recovered, which further helped in establishing the scope of the illegal operation.

Authorities have also booked eight Indian nationals who were involved in facilitating illicit money transfers, providing shelter, and aiding in the forgery of documents. This operation highlights the ongoing efforts by Delhi Police to combat illegal immigration networks and prevent fraudulent activities that undermine national security.

The investigation is ongoing, and authorities are looking into the involvement of other individuals linked to the racket.

Delhi Launches Portal to Strengthen Enforcement of Anti-Sex Determination Laws



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a bid to combat the illegal practice of sex determination of foetuses, Delhi Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh launched a new web portal on Friday aimed at strengthening enforcement against violations of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act

of 1994. The initiative is part of the Delhi government's ongoing efforts to eliminate sex determination and ensure strict adherence to the law.

Minister Singh emphasized the deep-rooted nature of sex determination in society and called on Delhi to set an example for the rest of the country in addressing this issue. "Delhi, being the capital of India, must lead by example in eliminating sex determination," he said during the launch.

The newly launched portal includes an online complaint registration system that allows the public to report violations related to sex determination. The portal aims to ensure that registered medical clinics comply with legal requirements and prevent the misuse of ultrasound technology, which is often exploited for illegal sex determination purposes.

Under the PC&PNDT Act, medical practitioners—including geneticists, gynaecologists, sonologists, radiologists, and those running genetic counselling centres or clinics—can face severe penalties

for engaging in or facilitating sex determination practices. The portal will help authorities take prompt action against violators.

In the year 2024-2025, the Delhi government conducted 627 inspections, resulting in 70 show-cause notices, 13 suspensions, 53 registration cancellations, and the sealing of 22 ultrasound machines. These efforts are part of Delhi's broader strategy to improve the city's sex ratio and combat gender-based discrimination.

The portal was unveiled during a one-day workshop attended by health department officials, doctors, NGOs, and other key stakeholders. The portal also provides a list of medical centres in Delhi currently registered under the PC&PNDT Act, with 1,752 centres, including diagnostic centres, speciality clinics, ultrasound centres, IVF clinics, and hospitals, now listed.

This initiative marks a significant step in reinforcing the city's commitment to ending gender-based discrimination and ensuring equitable treatment for all genders.

Punjab Farmers' Bodies Reject Government's Invitation for Talks Amid Crackdown

Government’s invitation for dialogue, citing a crackdown on protesters



TPN Correspondent | Chandigarh

Amid escalating tensions and a crackdown on protesting farmers by Punjab Police, the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) and Bharti Kisan Union (Ugrahan) (BKU Ugrahan) on Friday, March 21, 2025, declined to participate in a meeting called by the Punjab government. The meeting was intended to discuss the ongoing protests and the farmers' planned march to the Assembly on March 26.

Farmers' bodies strongly criticized the actions of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led government, accusing them of suppressing dissent through police force. They called for the creation of a more conducive environment for meaningful talks and demanded the immediate release of detained protesters. SKM, in particular, announced that it would

postpone its planned march to the Assembly in response to the situation.

The Punjab government had invited SKM and BKU (Ugrahan) for a dialogue with Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khuddian. The invitation was issued ahead of SKM's planned march to the state capital. However, the farmer leaders rejected the offer, stating that the current climate, marked by the police action, was not conducive for productive discussions.

BKU (Ugrahan) President, Joginder Singh Ugrahan, expressed that while the body supports dialogue, the prevailing circumstances raised questions about whether it was appropriate to hold the meeting at all. The SKM leaders echoed similar sentiments, highlighting that talks would not be possible under these

conditions.

The meeting, which took place with some farmer leaders in attendance, including Darshan Pal, Harmit Singh Kadian, Raminder Singh Patiala, Ruldu Singh Mansa, and Jangveer Singh Chauhan, did not yield any concrete outcomes as the farmers' bodies remained steadfast in their position.

Earlier in the day, Congress legislators staged a walkout during Governor Gulab Chand Kataria's address, protesting the alleged assault of an Army Colonel and the detention of farmers. Leader of the Opposition, Partap Singh Bajwa, raised these concerns in the House, while other Congress MLAs resorted to slogan-chanting in the Well of the House, drawing attention to the ongoing farmer unrest.

Rain threatens IPL 2025 opener as IMD issues orange alert for Kolkata, other Bengal districts



TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

The opening match of the 2025 Indian Premier League (IPL) between Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) is at risk due to adverse weather conditions. The highly anticipated game, scheduled for March 22 at Kolkata's Eden Gardens, is facing potential rain disruptions.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an "orange alert" for parts of West Bengal, forecasting "light to moderate rainfall with thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds" across the region, including Kolkata, on the day of the match. The weather department predicts that the city will experience a thunderstorm, with temperatures ranging between 22°C and 29°C.

On the eve of the match, rain caused disruptions to the practice sessions for both teams. KKR and RCB had to cut their practice short as steady drizzle started around 6 pm, forcing the ground

staff to take action to protect the pitch. Both teams, who had begun practice at 5 pm, were forced to wrap up early due to the weather.

The IPL opener is set to start at 7:30 pm, with the toss scheduled for 7:00 pm. However, the uncertainty surrounding the weather could delay or even cancel the match. In addition to the game, the opening ceremony will feature performances from Shreya Ghoshal, Karan Aujla, and Disha Patani, adding to the excitement.

The reigning champions, KKR, will take the field under the captaincy of Ajinkya Rahane, while RCB will be led by Rajat Patidar. Both teams boast star-studded lineups. KKR's squad includes players like Andre Russell, Sunil Narine, and Quinton de Kock, while RCB features Virat Kohli, Josh Hazlewood, and Liam Livingstone.

With the weather forecast uncertain, fans will be eagerly awaiting updates, hoping for clear skies and an uninterrupted start to IPL 2025.

Massive fire breaks at MIDC in Navi Mumbai, dousing operation on

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Efforts are underway to control a massive fire that erupted late Friday night at the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) area in Shiravane, Navi Mumbai. Fire officers reported that the blaze broke out around 11 PM and quickly spread, prompting a large-scale response from the local fire brigade.

According to Fire Officer SL Patil, twelve fire engines were deployed to the site in an effort to bring the fire under control. Fortunately, no injuries have been reported so far, and authorities are working to determine the cause of the fire. "We are trying to bring the fire under control as soon as possible. The reason behind the fire is yet to be known," Patil stated.

The fire-fighting teams have been working tirelessly to douse the flames, with the operation still ongoing. As of now, further details about the in-

cident, including the extent of the damage, are awaited.

This fire in Navi Mumbai follows a series of other significant fire incidents in the state. On Thursday, a fire also broke out at an industry near Mahakali Caves in Mumbai's Andheri area. In another fire-related incident, multiple furniture shops were engulfed in flames at Azad Chowk in Maharashtra's Chhatr. These incidents highlight the ongoing fire hazards faced by the region, prompting increased concerns about safety measures in industrial and commercial areas.

The authorities continue to monitor the situation in Navi Mumbai, and more information will be provided once the fire is fully under control. The cause of these frequent fire outbreaks remains a matter of concern for both local residents and officials, calling for enhanced fire safety regulations and inspections across industrial zones.



We shall overcome someday: Supreme Court judges' peace message in Manipur

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

A delegation of Supreme Court judges, led by Justice BR Gavai, visited displaced people in Manipur on Saturday, offering reassurance that peace would soon return to the state, which has been marred by ethnic violence.

Addressing internally displaced individuals in Churachandpur district, Justice Gavai expressed solidarity with the victims and said, "Peace will soon return to Manipur. We know that all of you are going through a difficult phase, but with the assistance of everyone, this phase will pass in a short period. Have faith in the constitution. Our constitution will ensure that peace will return fully one day. One day, we will overcome it."

During their visit, the judges toured relief camps, virtually inaugurating several initiatives, including legal services camps, legal aid clinics, and temporary medical facilities from the Mini Secretariat in Churachandpur. They are scheduled to visit another relief camp at Moirang College in Bishnupur district later.

Justice N Kotiswar Singh, a member of the delegation and a Meitei community member, did not visit

Churachandpur, which has a Kuki-majority population, following objections from a local lawyers' body. Instead, Justice Singh is expected to visit Bishnupur district. The All Manipur Bar Association (AMBA) has called on the Churachandpur Bar Association to withdraw its directive preventing a Meitei Supreme Court judge from visiting the Kuki-Zo-dominated area.

Congress MP Jairam Ramesh also commented on the Supreme Court judges' visit, calling it a positive step but raised questions about the central government's handling of the situation. "Supreme Court judges are in Manipur, which is a good thing. Sixty thousand people have been displaced, and hundreds have been killed. There is an atmosphere of fear in society. Why has the Prime Minister not visited Manipur? He doesn't answer this. Why was President's Rule imposed so late? There is no answer," Ramesh remarked.

The ongoing ethnic violence, which erupted in May 2023, has claimed over 250 lives and left thousands homeless, as clashes between the Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and the Kuki-Zo groups from the hills continue to escalate.



Fresh ragging allegations emerge at Kolkata's Jadavpur University

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

New Ragging Allegations Surface at Jadavpur University Amid Ongoing Struggles for Justice

Fresh allegations of ragging have emerged at Kolkata's Jadavpur University, 19 months after a tragic incident in which a student lost his life due to ragging inside the university's hostel. This marks the third reported case of ragging at the prestigious institution.

The latest incident reportedly took place on March 18, when a second-year postgraduate student visited the university's main hostel to meet a friend. According to the student, he was subjected to verbal abuse and harassment for several hours. The perpetrators allegedly threatened to rape his mother and forced him to write an apology letter for "spreading fake news about the ragging culture" at the university.

The victim, a Film Studies department student, shared his frustrations with The Hindu, stating that he had been vocal about the issue of ragging since the tragic death of a student on August 9, 2023, following a ragging incident. The victim believes that he has been targeted by a group of 10-12 known offenders who perpetuate the "ragging culture" inside the hostel. However, he emphasized that he does not believe the entire



university promotes this behavior. "Seniors, juniors, professors, and classmates have shown support. This issue is about specific individuals and should not tarnish the reputation of the entire institution," he added.

In response to the complaint, Jadavpur University's interim Vice Chancellor, Bhaskar Gupta, confirmed that an official complaint had been received and an inquiry committee had been formed. "We will thoroughly investigate the matter," he assured.

The new allegations bring back painful memories of the August 9, 2023, incident when a 17-year-old first-year student was ragged, sexually abused, and later found dead in the hostel. The victim's father, Ramprasad Kundu, expressed his ongoing frustration. He questioned why the university was allowing known abusers to remain scot-free and interact with students. He added that if this culture continued, parents would stop sending their wards to the university even if it was known as one of the best in the State.

Govt vs farmers

Escalating Tensions Between Govt and Farmers Threaten Punjab's Stability



Punjab is witnessing increasing tension following the eviction of protesting farmers from Shambhu and Khanauri, a development that has exacerbated the divide between the state government and the farming community. The government's justification for its actions centers on the disruption caused to industries and businesses due to the prolonged closure of vital highways. However, farmer leaders see the move as an oppressive effort to curtail their democratic right to protest.

This clash between the two sides signals a worrying escalation in an already tense situation.

It is unfortunate that both parties have failed to find common ground. In a moment of heightened tensions, they should have come together to exert pressure on the central government to meet the farmers' demands, particularly the provision of a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops. Instead, the two

sides are locked in a bitter confrontation, with the farming unions losing public support, which has, in turn, empowered the state government to take a firmer stance. Meanwhile, the central government observes passively from the sidelines. The situation can no longer afford to spiral further. It is imperative for all stakeholders to engage in sincere dialogue with a commitment to resolving the crisis promptly. A flexible and cooperative approach will be essential for all sides to find a mutually beneficial resolution. The central government must learn from its mishandling of the 2020-21 farmer protests at Delhi's borders, which led to the eventual repeal of three controversial farm laws but failed to address the MSP issue. At the same time, the state government must explain its change in stance after initially positioning itself as a mediator for farmers' rights. While Punjab's economy does need a trade boost, agriculture, which remains its backbone, cannot be sidelined. Both sides must work toward reconciliation to prevent the ongoing unrest from dragging the state further into turmoil.

Rising Communal Tensions in India: A Reflection of Political Failure

Communal Violence Isn't a Law and Order Problem The BJP Knows This But Pretends Otherwise

In early 2014, during a debate in the Rajya Sabha, Union Minister Kapil Sibal emphasized the importance of addressing communal violence as a national issue rather than just a "law and order" problem. He referenced the 2002 Gujarat riots, arguing that state-sponsored violence was not simply a local matter but a broader political and social concern. Fast forward to today, and these concerns have only grown more relevant, with communal tensions escalating across India, especially under BJP rule.

The recent violence in Nagpur, stoked by Hindutva groups like VHP and Bajrang Dal demanding the demolition of Aurangzeb's tomb, has drawn sharp criticism for Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. Instead of quelling the unrest, Fadnavis endorsed the demands, further inflaming communal sentiments. His controversial statement calling for the removal of Aurangzeb's grave reflects a long-standing BJP strategy of demonizing historical figures for political gain, despite the nuanced historical perspectives offered by scholars.

Fadnavis' actions mirror the divisive rhetoric increasingly seen from BJP leaders. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and several other BJP politi-

cians have made polarizing statements, fueling tensions rather than promoting unity. These politicians have not only ignored their duties to maintain social harmony but have actively contributed to deepening divisions. The BJP's tendency to stoke communal fires has led to a rise in anti-Muslim violence, with incidents spiking after India's victory in the ICC Champions Trophy and on Holi.

Moreover, police forces in BJP-ruled states have often displayed partisan behavior, with many instances of Muslims being targeted and arrested under

dubious circumstances. The rise in hate speech, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh, has made it clear that BJP-ruled states account for the majority of communal incidents.

The events in Nagpur, the growing hate speech, and the biased law enforcement paint a grim picture. The question posed by Sibal in 2014 remains critical today: How long will the powers that be ignore the political context of communal violence and continue to treat it as a mere "law and order" issue?



Cash in Delhi HC judge's home

An independent judiciary must also be an accountable judiciary'

A recent incident involving a fire at the residence of Delhi High Court's Justice Yashwant Varma has once again brought the issue of judicial accountability into the spotlight. The fire, while initially thought to be a simple accident, led to the discovery of a large sum of unexplained cash. Given the nature of the discovery at the home of a sitting judge, one would expect an immediate and thorough investigation. However, instead of any substantial inquiry, the Supreme Court Collegium swiftly transferred Justice Varma back to the Allahabad High Court. This move, made without public explanation or transparency, raises

es concerns about how serious the response was to such a significant issue.

This episode prompts a broader, long-standing debate about the balance between judicial independence and accountability in India. While the Indian judiciary is designed to be independent from political influence, the mechanisms that are supposed to ensure judicial accountability are either seldom used or too complex to be effective. These accountability structures are meant to prevent misconduct and ensure the integrity of the judicial process. However, when these mechanisms fail to func-

tion as intended, the result is a system where the powerful are protected by institutional inertia.

The ease with which Justice Varma was transferred rather than held accountable speaks to a larger issue within India's judicial system. The approach seems to reinforce the old adage, "When confronted with a problem too uncomfortable to confront, simply move it elsewhere," making the issue less visible rather than addressing it head-on.

This raises an important question: Where should the line between judicial independence

and accountability be drawn? While the judiciary must remain free from political interference, it must also be held to the highest standards of accountability. Until this balance is struck, incidents like this will continue to undermine public trust in the fairness and transparency of India's judicial system.



The Future of India's Sports Media Market: Unlocking Potential with Innovation

Cricket fans in India care in for a treat, with the Champions Trophy win and the Indian Premier League (IPL) just around the corner. Across the nation, cafes, kirana stores, barber shops, and restaurants will transform into mini stadiums as fans turn into pundits, while brands and advertisers scramble to engage customers. Behind this excitement are broadcasters and digital streaming platforms, who pay billions for media rights from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to deliver the action to viewers.

The Indian TV market has shown remarkable resilience, even as streaming services grow in popularity. In 2024, an estimated 546 million people watched the IPL on TV, with another 550-600 million tuning in via streaming services. The overlap between TV and digital viewers is about 70%, showing that TV remains a key player in India's sports media landscape. In contrast to countries like the US, where viewers have migrated to streaming services to save on costs, pay TV remains affordable in India, with many households paying just Rs 200-400 per month.

Despite this exceptional growth, India's media market fac-

es significant bottlenecks. Regulatory restrictions on pricing have hindered broadcasters from monetizing the full value of exclusive access and high-quality content. For example, TV channel prices remain the same regardless of whether a household is watching the IPL or its highlights, preventing broadcasters from charging more for premium content or exclusive experiences.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is likely to reconsider its regulatory stance on pricing bundling and other controls. Allowing differential pricing would enable broadcasters to introduce pay-per-view options for live events and offer customized feeds for commercial establishments. This would empower both broadcasters and consumers, providing greater flexibility and value.

As the Indian media market continues to evolve, it's clear that the future of sports broadcasting lies in innovation and flexibility. By removing outdated regulatory barriers, India's TV and sports ecosystem can unlock its full potential, creating a more dynamic and engaging experience for both fans and broadcasters.



BJP Leader Shoots Wife and Children in Uttar Pradesh, Two Killed

In a shocking incident in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur district, a local BJP leader, Yogesh Rohilla, allegedly shot his wife and three children in the Gangoh police station area. The brutal attack resulted in the death of his son and 11-year-old daughter, while his wife and another child remain in critical condition. The incident has left the local community in shock and raised concerns about domestic violence and unchecked aggression. According to police reports, Rohilla, who holds the position of BJP executive member, was arrested at the scene shortly after the crime. The police also recovered the pistol used in the attack. Senior police officials, including Saharanpur SSP Rohit Sajwan, immediately rushed to the location after receiving reports of the incident. Preliminary investigations suggest that Rohilla acted out of suspicion regarding his wife's character, which allegedly fueled his violent outburst. SSP Sajwan confirmed that the leader had been under significant mental stress in the days leading up to the incident. However, he

had not shared his concerns with neighbors or anyone else in his social circle. The police are now trying to determine whether his suspicions had any basis or if they were the result of paranoia and undue stress. The crime took place in Sangatheda village, leaving residents horrified and fearful. Police officials, along with forensic teams, have launched a thorough investigation to piece together the



sequence of events. Authorities are also questioning the accused to gather more details and understand his motive more clearly. Eyewitness accounts and preliminary findings suggest that after committing the crime, Rohilla himself called the police to report the incident. This led law enforcement officers to the scene, where they found the two children dead and the other victims critically injured. His wife and the surviving child were immediately rushed to Saharanpur District Hospital, where they are currently undergoing treatment. This tragic case has once again brought attention to the rising instances of domestic violence and crimes driven by suspicion and mental distress. The deaths of the two children have sparked widespread outrage, with many demanding stricter laws to prevent such incidents. Authorities have assured a thorough investigation, and the accused will face legal consequences based on the findings. Meanwhile, the community remains in shock, mourning the innocent lives lost in an act of extreme violence.

Jairam Ramesh Questions PM Modi's Absence as SC Judges Visit Manipur



Congress MP Jairam Ramesh welcomed the visit of a Supreme Court delegation to Manipur but questioned when Prime Minister Narendra Modi would visit the conflict-ridden state. Speaking to ANI, Ramesh stated, "We welcome the six Supreme Court judges who have visited Manipur. In the past 22 months, hundreds have died, and around 60,000 people remain displaced in relief camps. Even today, fear and uncertainty persist among communities. While President's Rule was imposed on February 13, the real question is why it took 18 months to act after the Supreme Court declared on August 1, 2023, that the constitutional system in Manipur had collapsed. It is good that Supreme Court judges have visited, but when will the Prime Minister go?" A delegation of six Supreme Court judges, including Justices BR Gavai, Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, MM Sundresh, KV Viswanathan, and N Kotishwar, visited a relief camp in Churachandpur, Manipur, on Saturday to assess the ongoing crisis. Ramesh also criticized Union Home Minister Amit Shah, accusing him of ignoring Manipur during discussions on the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in Parliament. "Yesterday, the Home Minister spoke for four hours in the Rajya Sabha about his ministry's work, yet he barely mentioned Manipur. In February 2022, the NDA won the state elections with a massive majority, but within 15 months, Manipur was in flames. Why hasn't the Prime Minister visited?" Ramesh questioned. The Congress leader further criticized the delay in imposing President's Rule and noted that Amit Shah visited Mizoram but not Manipur. "There is no explanation for why it took so long to impose President's Rule. The Home Minister went to Mizoram but avoided Manipur. Even statements made by the Mizoram Chief Minister after visiting America raise serious concerns," he added. Ramesh urged PM Modi to visit Manipur before or after his upcoming trip to Bangkok for the BIMSTEC Summit from April 2-4. "We hope that on his way to Bangkok or while returning, the Prime Minister takes time to visit Manipur. His visit is crucial for providing a healing touch," he said. Manipur has been in turmoil since May 3, 2024, when violence erupted following protests by the All Tribals Students Union (ATSU) against the demand for Scheduled Tribe status for the Meitei community.

Meerut Murder Victim's Mother Demands Justice, Custody of Granddaughter

The mother of Saurabh Rajput, a Meerut man allegedly murdered by his wife Muskan Rustogi and her lover Sahil Shukla, has made an emotional plea for justice. She has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to intervene and ensure the strictest punishment for those responsible. Expressing her grief and anger, she has also demanded custody of her granddaughter, fearing for the child's safety. Saurabh's mother voiced her deep anguish over the tragic incident and questioned the well-being of her granddaughter, who remains with Muskan. "She is our granddaughter; we have the right to see her. If the mother could harm her own husband, what if she did something to the child too? We haven't seen her since the incident, and we want to keep her with us," she stated. Her concern stems from the brutal nature of the crime, which has left the family shattered and desperate for justice. The case has sent shockwaves across the region, with many calling for swift legal action against the accused. Reports suggest that Muskan and Sahil conspired to kill Saurabh, allegedly due to an extramarital affair. The murder,

which was reportedly premeditated, has raised serious concerns about the safety and well-being of their child. The victim's family insists that given Muskan's alleged involvement in such a heinous act, she should not be entrusted with the responsibility of raising the child. They believe that political intervention is necessary to ensure that the case is not mishandled or delayed. The demand for the granddaughter's custody has added another layer of complexity to the case. Legal experts suggest that family courts will have to evaluate the child's best interests before making a decision. The victim's family has expressed their willingness to provide a safe and loving environment for the child, arguing that she should not be raised by someone accused of such a serious crime. As the case unfolds, public outrage continues to grow, with many demanding strict legal action and justice for Saurabh. The next steps in the investigation will be crucial in determining the fate of the accused and the future of the couple's child. For now, Saurabh's grieving family remains steadfast in their pursuit of justice, hoping that their pleas will be heard by the highest authorities in the country.



CBI Files Closure Report in Sushant Singh Rajput Death Case



- Accusations made by Sushant's father, Krishna Kishore Singh,
- Against his then-girlfriend, actor Rhea Chakraborty.
- Counter-complaints filed by Rhea Chakraborty against Sushant's family.

More than four years after assuming charge of the investigation, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a closure report in the Sushant Singh Rajput death case, sources confirmed on Saturday. Sushant Singh Rajput, a 34-year-old Bollywood actor, was found hanging at his residence in Mumbai's Bandra on June 14, 2020. His sudden demise left his fans in shock and fueled widespread speculation, leading to a high-profile probe involving multiple investigative agencies, including the CBI, Enforcement Directorate (ED), and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). The case initially gained national attention when Sushant's father lodged an FIR in Bihar, accusing Rhea Chakraborty and her family of financial fraud, abetment to suicide, and mental harassment. In response, Rhea Chakraborty filed a counter-complaint against the actor's family, alleging that they had pressured him into taking certain medications that might have affected his mental health. Given the complexity and high-profile nature of the case, the CBI took over

the investigation in August 2020, following demands from the public and political circles. Over the past four years, the agency conducted a thorough inquiry, analyzing evidence, questioning multiple individuals, and collaborating with forensic experts. Sources stated that despite extensive investigations, the CBI found no evidence suggesting foul play or any external force leading to Sushant's death by suicide. Consequently, Rhea Chakraborty and her family have been given a clean chit, clearing them of all charges. A forensic team from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), which examined Sushant's autopsy and related reports, also ruled out homicide, reaffirming that it was a case of suicide. With the closure report now filed, the four-year-long legal battle comes to an end, putting to rest numerous conspiracy theories surrounding the actor's tragic demise. However, Sushant Singh Rajput's death remains a deeply emotional topic for his fans, who continue to seek answers beyond official reports.

CJI Orders Inquiry Into Justice Yashwant Varma's 'Cash at Home' Case

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna has set up a three-member committee to investigate allegations against Justice Yashwant Varma, a sitting judge of the Delhi High Court. The decision comes after reports emerged that a large sum of cash was allegedly found at his official residence following a fire incident. The inquiry committee consists of Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice of the Punjab & Haryana High Court;

Justice GS Sandhawalia, Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court; and Justice Anu Sivaraman, a judge of the Karnataka High Court. The panel has been tasked with conducting an in-house inquiry into the matter, following the Supreme Court's established procedure for handling allegations against sitting judges. The controversy began when a fire broke out at Justice Varma's official residence. During the subsequent

response efforts, reports surfaced



that a substantial amount of cash—estimated to be around ₹15 crore—was discovered at the premises. However, this figure has not been officially verified. The incident raised serious questions, prompting the Chief Justice to take immediate action and initiate a formal probe. Under the Supreme Court's in-house inquiry mechanism, allegations against judges are handled internally to maintain judicial independence

while ensuring accountability. The three-member panel will conduct a thorough examination of the allegations against Justice Varma, review any relevant evidence, and determine whether further action is warranted. As the inquiry progresses, all eyes will be on the findings of the committee and the steps taken by the Supreme Court to ensure that justice is served without bias or external influence.

UNICEF Urges Taliban to Lift Ban on Girls' Education in Afghanistan

Global leaders have criticized the Taliban's gender-based educational restrictions

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) called on Afghanistan's Taliban rulers to immediately end their longstanding ban on girls' education, which has kept millions of girls from attending school since the Taliban regained power in 2021.

UNICEF's plea comes as the

new school year begins in Afghanistan, with girls beyond the sixth grade still banned from attending school.

The ban has left an additional 400,000 girls without access to education, bringing the total number of affected girls to 2.2 million. This makes Afghanistan the only country in the world to impose such a ban on female secondary and

higher education. The Taliban justifies the ban by citing their interpretation of Sharia law, but UNICEF has emphasized the long-term consequences for the country's future. "For more than three years, the rights of girls in Afghanistan have been violated," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell. "All girls must be allowed to return to



school now. If these capable, bright young girls continue to be denied an education, the repercussions will last for generations."

The agency warned that if the ban continues until 2030, more than four million girls will have been deprived of their right to education beyond primary school. The consequences, UNICEF added,

would be devastating, particularly for Afghanistan's health-care system. The decline in the number of female doctors and midwives will result in critical shortages of medical professionals, potentially leading to 1,600 additional maternal deaths and over 3,500 infant deaths.

UNICEF's statement highlights the urgency of reversing

the ban, not only to protect the rights of girls but also to ensure the health and future of Afghan women and children. The Taliban's stance on this issue has drawn global condemnation, including from Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai, who called out the gender apartheid in Afghanistan during a recent international conference.

Lebanon Warns Of "New War" After Israel's Retaliation

TPN Correspondent | Lebanon

Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam has issued a stark warning about the looming threat of a new conflict, following Israel's vow to retaliate against recent rocket attacks launched from Lebanese territory. The escalation along the southern border has raised fears of a return to violence that could plunge Lebanon into another devastating war.

In a statement, Prime Minister Salam cautioned that renewed military operations on the southern border could drag Lebanon into a new war, exacerbating the country's already precarious situation. He expressed concerns over the risks associated with the attacks, highlighting that they could bring significant hardship to the Lebanese people.

Israel's response to the rocket fire was swift, with Israeli Army Chief Eyal Zamir vowing a severe retaliation. Zamir emphasized Lebanon's responsibility to uphold the ceasefire agreement, underlining that the country must prevent further escalations. The Lebanese prime minister, however, as-



serted that Lebanon would not be drawn into another conflict without taking action to defend its sovereignty, stressing that the nation must have control over matters of war and peace.

The latest flare-up threatens to unravel the fragile ceasefire that had ended a year-long conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. The recent surge in rocket attacks, which marked a dramatic departure from months of calm, has fueled fears of further instability. Former Israeli Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman sharply criticized Prime Minister Netanyahu for failing to restore security, point-

ing to the simultaneous rocket launches from Gaza, Yemen, and Lebanon as evidence of the dangers Israel faces.

In response to the rocket fire, Israel has launched a series of artillery strikes and air raids, escalating tensions in the region. The situation has quickly deteriorated, with the Middle East once again teetering on the edge of broader conflict. The fear now is that Lebanon could be drawn into the violence as both countries exchange threats and military actions, potentially leading to further destabilization in the region.

Trump pulls security clearances for Biden, Harris and Hillary Clinton

TPN Correspondent | Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump took an unprecedented step by revoking the security clearances of several prominent political figures, including former President Joe Biden, former Vice President Kamala Harris, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and others. This move is seen as part of Trump's ongoing efforts to target his political adversaries.

In a memorandum issued late Friday, Trump declared that it was no longer in the national interest for these individuals to have access to classified information. The list also included former Secretary of State Antony Blinken and other high-profile Democrats. Trump, who defeated Clinton in the 2016 election and Harris in the 2024 race, has been at odds with these figures for years, and this latest action is viewed as another sign of the deepening political divide in

Washington.

While the revocation of security clearances may not have immediate consequences, it serves as a potent symbol of the increasingly bitter partisan environment. Trump's decision came just hours after he arrived at his golf property in Bedminster, New Jersey, for the weekend. This move follows a pattern of actions that many see as attempts to undermine his political rivals and settle scores.

Among the other individuals whose clearances were revoked were Republican former Representative Liz Cheney, a vocal critic of Trump, and several figures tied to the Biden administration, including Jake Sullivan, Biden's former national security adviser, and Fiona Hill, a former Russia expert who served on Trump's National Security Council during his first term. Mark Zaid, a national security lawyer known for representing whistleblowers,



and former Republican lawmaker Adam Kinzinger, also had their clearances revoked.

Notably, Trump had previously had his own security clearance revoked by President Biden in 2021, as is customary for former presidents, in order to ensure access to intelligence and advice on national security matters.

This latest development highlights the ongoing political conflict between Trump and his opponents, as both parties continue to navigate the polarized landscape in Washington.

Japan, China, and South Korea Seek Common Ground in Trilateral Meeting Amid Rising Tensions

TPN Correspondent | Tokyo

Foreign Ministers from Japan, China, and South Korea gathered on Saturday, March 22, 2025, to discuss shared concerns including low birth rates, natural disasters, and cultural exchanges, at a time when tensions are rising in the region. The meeting also set the stage for a trilateral summit later this year, where further cooperation will be explored.

This trilateral meeting marks a significant achievement for Japan, which has long-standing historical and territorial disputes with both China and South Korea. Last year, a similar meeting was held in South Korea. During Saturday's discussions, Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya emphasized the importance of collaboration among the three nations in addressing common challenges amidst global tensions and divisions. He stated that their collective efforts would serve as a model for global cooperation.

In addition to focusing on regional issues, the foreign ministers discussed concerns regarding North Korea's missile and nuclear programs, Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine, and



other critical global matters. On Friday, the ministers had met with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, who reiterated that cooperation between the three nations would not only serve their national interests but also contribute to regional and global peace.

Later on Saturday, Japan and China held their first high-level economic dialogue since April 2019. Foreign Ministers Iwaya and Wang Yi also engaged in separate bilateral talks with South Korea's Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul.

The meeting comes amid rising concerns over China's

growing influence in the region, and U.S. allies Japan and South Korea have been rapidly improving their ties in response. In December, Tokyo and Beijing agreed to enhance their relationship despite ongoing disputes, including territorial claims over a group of uninhabited islands and China's broader territorial conflicts in the South China Sea.

As regional dynamics continue to shift, this trilateral cooperation between Japan, China, and South Korea could be pivotal in addressing mutual concerns and maintaining stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Pakistan: Baloch rights leader Mahrang Baloch arrested while protesting in Quetta

TPN Correspondent | Bangladesh

On early Saturday morning, Mahrang Baloch, a prominent Baloch human rights leader, was arrested by Pakistan's Quetta Police while participating in a sit-in protest against the ongoing atrocities committed against the Baloch community. The arrest took place during a demonstration organized by the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) in Quetta.

The BYC, an advocacy group focused on Baloch rights, shared details of Baloch's arrest on social media platform X, revealing that, along with Mahrang Baloch, several of her associates were taken into custody. In a disturbing turn, the bodies of slain youth, which had been part of the protest, were also seized by authorities. "Quetta Police and Administration have arrested BYC central leader Dr. Mahrang Baloch along with her other associates

and have also taken the bodies of the martyred youth into their custody," the BYC stated.

The protest, which took place in the Sariat area of Quetta, was held in response to the abduction-like arrests of several Baloch leaders, including Begibar Baloch, Dr. Hamal Dr. Ilyas, and Saeed Baloch. These individuals were allegedly detained without proper legal process. The demonstration, initially peaceful, escalated as authorities cracked down on women and children involved in the sit-in. The Baloch Yakjehti Committee condemned the actions of the Quetta Police and local administration, emphasizing the peaceful nature of the protest. They further highlighted the disproportionate targeting of the Baloch community, par-



ticularly women and children, amid a growing number of arrests of political activists and human rights defenders in the region.

This arrest marks a continued crackdown on Baloch activists and raises serious concerns about the ongoing human rights violations faced by the Baloch people. The situation has garnered international attention, with calls for the protection of Baloch human rights and an end to the state's oppressive actions.

RBI Board Reviews Economic Landscape and Approves Budget for FY26

The central board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) held its 614th meeting on Friday, March 21, 2025, to review the evolving global and domestic economic conditions. The meeting, chaired by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, assessed the impact of geopolitical tensions, financial market developments, and other global challenges on India's economy.

During the meeting, the board discussed the current economic environment, considering both global and domestic factors, and their potential effects on India's financial stability. The board also took stock of the RBI's activities during the ongoing 2024-25 financial year and approved the budget for the fiscal year 2025-26.

In its statement, the RBI highlighted the importance of closely monitoring these developments and how they could influence the country's financial and monetary policy. The board's focus was on ensuring that the RBI remains responsive to global uncertainties while safeguarding India's economic interests.

RBI's Deputy Governors, M Rajes-



hwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar, and Swaminathan J, alongside other members of the board, including Satish K Marathe, Revathy Iyer, Sachin Chaturvedi, and Ravindra H Dholakia, were present at the meeting. The discussions covered the current financial year's challenges and the central bank's ongoing policy actions.

Notably, the RBI had previously reduced the policy rate by 25 basis points to 6.25% in its last bi-monthly policy meeting,

marking the first rate cut in five years. This decision was seen as a response to prevailing economic conditions, with the RBI taking a cautious approach to stimulate growth while managing inflationary pressures.

The approval of the 2025-26 budget comes at a crucial time, as the central bank continues to focus on addressing the dynamic and unpredictable nature of both domestic and global economic landscapes.

India's Forex Reserves Rise to \$654.27 Billion in March 2025

India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves reached \$654.27 billion for the week ending March 14, 2025, marking an increase of \$305 million, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. This increase follows a substantial surge in the previous week, when the reserves had risen by \$15.26 billion to reach \$653.97 billion for the week ending March 7, 2025.

The RBI's Weekly Statistical Supplement detailed various components of the country's forex reserves. Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs), which are a major component of the reserves, decreased by \$96 million to \$557.19 billion. FCAs represent assets held in foreign currencies, including the euro, pound, and yen, and their value is affected by the appreciation or depreciation of these currencies against the US dollar.

Gold reserves, on the other hand, saw a significant increase of \$66 million, rising to \$74.391 billion. This reflects the continued strength in the global gold market. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), another key component of the reserves, increased by \$51 million to \$18.26 billion. Furthermore, India's reserve position with the International



Monetary Fund (IMF) rose by \$283 million, reaching \$4.4 billion.

India's forex reserves are closely monitored as an important indicator of the country's economic health, especially in terms of foreign trade and currency stability. The rise in reserves indicates a positive trend in India's ability to manage external economic shocks and maintain financial stability.

The RBI releases weekly data on India's forex reserves every Friday, offering insight into the nation's financial standing and its capacity to withstand external pressures, especially in a rapidly changing global economy.

Gold Prices Hold Steady Amid Global Economic Uncertainty; Silver Weakens in India

Gold prices in India maintained their steady trend on Saturday, March 22, 2025, following new record highs, amidst ongoing global economic uncertainty driven by tariff wars. In Mumbai, the price of 22-carat gold for 10 grams stood at Rs 82,690, while 24-carat gold was priced at Rs 90,210 for the same weight. Despite the global economic volatility, gold's price continues to reflect its status as a safe-haven asset.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures were trading at Rs 87,785 per 10 grams, indicating that the yellow metal remains a strong investment option, especially during times of market instability. The demand for 24-carat gold, known for its unmatched purity, continues to rise as buyers seek premium-quality metal. Meanwhile, 22-carat gold, which is prized for its durability and affordability, also remains popular, particularly among jewelry buyers and investors looking for a balance of elegance and practicality.

On the other hand, silver showed signs of weakness in the morning. Silver futures were trading at Rs 97,860 per kilogram on the MCX, signaling a less favorable market condition for the precious metal, which is often viewed as an alternative to gold. De-



spite this, silver has long been regarded as an affordable precious metal for both investors and collectors, and its price fluctuations are closely monitored by market participants.

The price of gold has been climbing steadily, as global economic uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, and the fluctuating value of currencies fuel demand for the yellow met-

al. Gold remains a go-to investment option in uncertain times, with its allure growing stronger among those looking to hedge against inflation and market instability.

As global events continue to unfold, investors and buyers in India will be keeping a close eye on the prices of both gold and silver, as they continue to navigate the unpredictable economic landscape.

Mahindra to Increase Vehicle Prices by 3% from April 1, 2025

In response to rising input costs and higher commodity prices, Mahindra & Mahindra, a leading Mumbai-based automotive manufacturer, has announced a price hike of up to 3% on its SUVs and commercial vehicles, effective from April 1, 2025. The company stated that the exact increase would vary depending on the specific model, including both SUVs and commercial vehicles. This decision follows similar moves by other major automakers, such as Maruti Suzuki India, Hyundai Motor, Tata Motors, Kia India, BMW, and Honda Cars India, which have also declared price hikes for their vehicles starting next month. The automotive industry is grappling with increased costs for raw materials, labor, and logistics, which have contributed to the need for these price adjustments.



Mahindra's decision to raise prices is aimed at maintaining profitability while managing the growing costs of production. While the company did not specify the exact amount by which each vehicle would increase, it assured customers that the price

adjustments would be in line with industry standards. The move is expected to impact the pricing of both Mahindra's popular SUVs and its range of commercial vehicles, though the company did not provide detailed breakdowns of the price

hikes for each model. Despite the increase, Mahindra remains focused on continuing its commitment to providing high-quality vehicles to its customers.

On the stock market front, Mahindra & Mahindra's shares closed at Rs 2,799.30 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on Friday, marking a decline of 1.08% for the day. This decline comes amid concerns from investors about the impact of rising costs on profit margins across the automotive sector. The price hike by Mahindra & Mahindra is just one of the many responses to an industry-wide challenge, with automakers adjusting their strategies to cope with escalating input costs. As the sector navigates these financial pressures, consumers can expect to see similar adjustments from other companies in the coming months.

India Achieves Landmark Milestone of 1 Billion Tonnes in Coal Production

In a significant step towards energy security and self-reliance, India has crossed the historic milestone of 1 billion tonnes of coal production in the current fiscal year, the government announced on Friday. This achievement marks a major milestone for the nation's energy sector and underscores its commitment to ensuring a sustainable energy supply for economic growth.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the achievement, calling it a "proud moment" for the country. He emphasized that surpassing the 1 billion tonne mark is not only a testament to India's focus on energy security but also a reflection of the country's growing economic strength. "This achievement highlights India's commitment to energy security, economic growth, and self-reliance," the Prime Minister said, expressing his pride in the progress.

Coal remains the cornerstone of India's energy infrastructure, used predominantly for electricity generation and fueling numerous industries across the nation. As the world's fifth-largest economy, India continues to rely heavily on coal to meet its vast energy demands.

The milestone was reached on March 20, 2025, 11 days ahead of the previous year's total of 997.83 million tonnes of coal production. This early achievement reflects the sector's accelerated growth, highlighting the government's focus on enhancing coal production and meeting domestic demand. The Coal Ministry confirmed the record-breaking production figures, marking a significant accomplishment for the industry.

Taking to social media, PM Modi celebrated the feat, calling it a "proud moment for India" and praising the dedication and hard work of all those involved in the coal sector. The milestone not only demonstrates India's capacity to meet its energy needs but also reinforces the importance of coal in powering the country's industrial and economic activities.





Ubisoft's highly anticipated open-world action-RPG Assassin's Creed Shadows has surpassed one million players across all platforms on launch day, the company confirmed on Friday. The game, which debuted on PC, PS5, and Xbox Series S/X on March 20, has received strong initial traction, though Ubisoft has not yet disclosed official sales figures. The milestone was announced in a post on X (formerly Twitter), where Ubisoft expressed gratitude to the players. "It's not even 4PM here in Canada, and Assassin's Creed Shadows has already passed 1 million players! Thank YOU from the bottom of our hearts for joining this adventure in Feudal Japan. We are beyond excited to start this journey with you," the post read.

A Crucial Launch for Ubisoft The game's launch comes at a critical time for Ubisoft, which has faced financial challenges over the past year. After two major releases—Avatar: Frontiers of Pandora and Star Wars Outlaws—failed to meet sales expectations, Assassin's Creed Shadows was delayed from its original November 2024 release to March 2025 to allow for further refinement. The success of this latest entry is seen as essential for the company, especially after its stock price dropped over 40% last year. Assassin's Creed Shadows is also available via Ubisoft+, further boosting its reach. While launch-day player numbers are impressive, its long-term success will depend on sustained sales and engagement.

Steam Performance The game is currently topping Steam's Top Sellers chart, indicating strong revenue performance. On SteamDB, Assassin's Creed Shadows recorded a peak of 46,531 concurrent players within 24 hours of launch. While this number reflects promising engagement, it falls significantly short of Capcom's Monster Hunter Wilds, which hit one million concurrent players on its launch day. Ubisoft is expected to provide a clearer picture of the game's financial performance in the coming weeks. Given the franchise's history of strong sales and fan loyalty, Assassin's Creed Shadows could be a much-needed win for the company.

Journalist, Cab Driver Clash Over 95 Paise; Internet Backs Driver

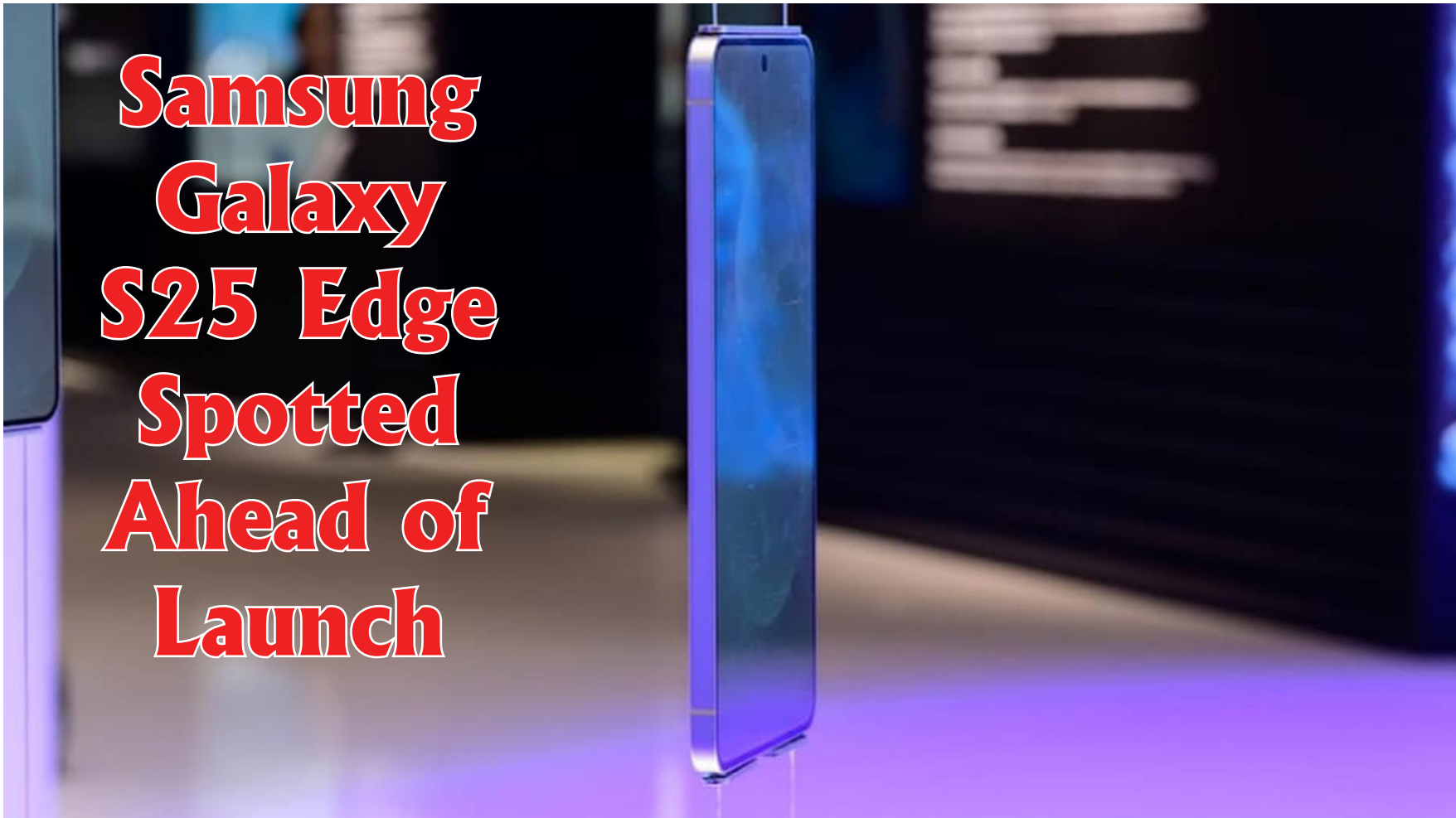


A heated altercation between a woman journalist and a cab driver over a mere 95 paise has taken the internet by storm, with social media users overwhelmingly siding with the driver. The argument, which was recorded and shared online, has sparked a debate over entitlement, fair pay, and gender dynamics. The incident, which took place on the outskirts of Noida, was brought to light by activist Deepika Narayan Bhardwaj, who shared a video recorded by the driver. In response, journalist Shivangi Shukla posted a lengthy thread with her version of events, along with several



videos. In the viral video, the driver is heard asking Ms. Shukla, "Will you not pay the bill because you're a journalist?" To which she responds in English, "You're talking rudely." The driver, however, remains calm and addresses her as 'didi'. Ms. Shukla later alleged that the dispute began when the driver refused to drop her at the exact location mentioned in the Uber app. When she proceeded to pay ₹129 via UPI, the driver insisted on the full fare of ₹129.95, which led to an argument. "He got very aggressive about the 95 paise... He started screaming, and only when I

started recording did he calm down. Suddenly, he started driving, and I thought he was trying to kidnap me," she claimed in her Twitter thread. Internet calls out 'entitlement' In his recorded video, the driver stated that he had simply asked for the full fare and was met with hostility. "I apologized twice. Be happy that you cheated me out of ₹130," he is heard saying. Social media users, after reviewing both perspectives, sided with the driver, accusing the journalist of exaggerating the situation. "If he insists on 95 paise, why not pay it online? Your ego was hurt, so you started recording," commented a user. Another wrote, "The driver was only asking for his full payment, yet she played the woman card." Criticism mounted against Ms. Shukla, with users accusing her of trying to manipulate the situation. "Shocked by this journalist's audacity—justifying a non-issue and painting a false picture," tweeted another user.



Samsung Galaxy S25 Edge Spotted Ahead of Launch

Samsung is gearing up to expand its flagship lineup with the Galaxy S25 Edge and the Galaxy Tab S10 FE, both of which have now surfaced on Geekbench, hinting at their imminent launch. The smartphone is expected to join the Galaxy S25 series, while the tablet will likely be the next addition to Samsung's Fan Edition (FE) lineup. The Samsung Galaxy S25 Edge, carrying the model number SM-S937N, was spotted on Geekbench with performance scores that closely match the standard Galaxy S25 model. The device, powered by the Snapdragon 8 Elite for Galaxy chipset, achieved 2,969 points in the single-core test and 9,486 points in the multi-core test. The benchmarking details also confirm 12GB of RAM, ensuring high-end performance.

Meanwhile, the Galaxy Tab S10 FE appeared on Geekbench under the model number SM-X526B. The tablet, powered by Samsung's Exynos 1580 chipset, recorded a Geekbench 5 score of 1,015 (single-core) and 3,540 (multi-core). While these scores may not seem groundbreaking, the processor is the same one found in the recently launched Galaxy A56, suggesting solid mid-range performance. Both the Galaxy S25 Edge and Galaxy Tab S10 FE are expected to launch in select markets, including India, in the coming weeks. Samsung is yet to make an official announcement, but recent reports suggest that the Galaxy S25 Edge could debut as early as next month. More details on pricing and specifications are anticipated soon.

Antarctic Ice Melt Weakens Key Ocean Current

Scientists have warned that rapid Antarctic ice melt is weakening the powerful Antarctic Circumpolar Current (ACC), which plays a crucial role in global ocean circulation. A recent study projects that the ACC could slow down by 20% by 2050, leading to significant impacts on sea levels, temperatures, and marine ecosystems worldwide. According to research published in Environmental Research Letters, a team led by Bishakhdatta Gayen from the University of Melbourne used advanced climate simulations to analyze how the influx of

cold meltwater from Antarctica is altering ocean dynamics. The study found that this fresh meltwater disrupts ocean density and weakens convection between surface and deep waters, slowing the ACC. The consequences of this slowdown are alarming. A weaker ACC could allow warm ocean waters to reach deeper into Antarctic waters, accelerating ice melt and contributing to rising global sea levels. Scientists also warn that the current's weakening may enable invasive marine species to reach Antarctica, threatening its

fragile ecosystem. Speaking to Live Science, Gayen compared the process to a "merry-go-round," explaining that as the current slows, marine organisms could migrate toward Antarctica at an increased rate. Scientists emphasize the need for long-term monitoring to fully understand the ACC's changing behavior and its global implications. With ocean circulation patterns already shifting due to climate change, the weakening of Earth's strongest current adds to concerns about long-term disruptions in global climate systems.



RCB Triumphs Over KKR in IPL 2025 Opener

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) secured a commanding seven-wicket victory over defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the opening match of IPL 2025 at Eden Gardens on Saturday. After winning the toss, KKR elected to bat and posted a total of 174/8 in their allotted 20 overs. Captain Ajinkya Rahane led the charge with a brisk 56 off 31 balls, while Sunil Narine contributed a quickfire 44. However, RCB's bowlers, notably Krunal Pandya (3/29) and Josh Hazlewood (2/22), applied pressure in the latter stages to restrict the hosts. In response, RCB's openers set a blistering pace. Phil Salt reached his half-century in just 25 balls, eventually scoring 56 off 31 deliveries. Virat Kohli anchored the innings with an unbeaten 73, achieving his 56th IPL fifty and surpassing the 1,000-run mark against KKR. Captain Rajat Patidar added a quick 34, and Liam Livingstone sealed the win with a six and a four, as RCB chased down the target in just 16.2 overs.



Thomas Tuchel Era Begins With England Win

Thomas Tuchel's England reign began with a 2-0 victory over Albania in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers on Friday, while Robert Lewandowski's late strike secured Poland a narrow win against Lithuania. Goals from debutant Mylles Lewis-Skelly and captain Harry Kane ensured a winning start for England at Wembley. However, Tuchel, who took over from Gareth Southgate in January, admitted the performance left room for improvement. Arsenal teenager Lewis-Skelly, at just 18 years and 176 days old, became England's youngest debut goalscorer, sliding the ball through goalkeeper Thomas Strakosha's

legs after a brilliant Jude Bellingham assist in the 20th minute. Despite the win, Tuchel remained critical of the team's display. "We can do better, we have to do better. The second half was too slow, with not enough runs off the ball," said the 51-year-old German. Harry Kane sealed the victory with a stunning control-and-finish from a Declan Rice cross in the 77th minute. Lewandowski's 81st-minute strike secured Poland a 1-0 win over Lithuania in Group G. Finland edged Malta 1-0, with Oliver Antman scoring before Malta went down to 10 men.

"Selfie or Autograph?" Rohit Sharma's Question Stumps MS Dhoni, Kapil Dev



A viral video featuring three of India's most legendary cricket captains—Kapil Dev, MS Dhoni, and Rohit Sharma—has taken social media

by storm ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. The clip, from a TV advertisement, shows Dhoni and Kapil sitting on a panel to scout

talent but facing disappointment—until Rohit walks in and impresses them both. In a behind-the-scenes moment, Rohit cheekily asks the two cricketing greats, "You need a selfie or an autograph?" before quickly apologizing for his light-hearted banter. The video has since gone viral, entertaining fans across platforms. CSK vs MI: The IPL's 'El Clasico' With both Dhoni and Rohit gearing up for their 18th IPL season, the two stalwarts will go head-to-head on Sunday as Chennai Super Kings (CSK) take on Mumbai Indians (MI) at Chepauk in what promises to be a blockbuster clash.

Former India cricketer Harbhajan Singh compared CSK vs MI to an "India vs Pakistan" rivalry in IPL, emphasizing the intense fan loyalty and the pressure that comes with this high-voltage fixture. Dhoni, retained by CSK for ₹4 crore, will play another IPL season, chasing his sixth title under new skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad. With retirement rumors constantly looming, whether this will be his last season remains uncertain. Rohit, meanwhile, is set for a new challenge at MI, playing under Hardik Pandya's captaincy while chasing a record-extending seventh IPL trophy.

Medvedev Stunned in Miami Open Exit Djokovic and Swiatek Advance

Defending champion Daniil Medvedev suffered a shocking second-round exit at the Miami Open, falling 6-2, 6-3 to Spain's Jaume Munar on Friday. Medvedev, frustrated throughout the match, struggled with 32 unforced errors and failed to convert two break points in the final game. While the Russian acknowledged a back issue, he credited Munar for the victory. Meanwhile, world number one Novak Djokovic bounced back from his early Indian Wells exit with a dominant 6-0, 7-6 (7/1) win over Rinky Hijikata. The victory marked Djokovic's 410th career Masters 1000 match win, tying Rafael Na-

Karen Khachanov ended Nick Kyrgios' short-lived comeback with a 7-6 (7/3), 6-0 win. Kyrgios, returning from wrist surgery, had secured his first tour-level win since October 2022 in the previous round but was no match for the 2023 Miami semi-finalist. In the women's draw, world number two Iga Swiatek advanced to the third round with a 6-2, 7-5 win over Caroline Garcia. Despite a second-set scare, Swiatek fought back from 3-1 down and saved a set point before closing out the match. British star Emma Raducanu battled past eighth-seeded Emma Navarro in a marathon match, winning 7-6 (8/6), 2-6, 7-6 (7/4) after



dal's record.

Veronika Kudermetova.

Faking Injury To Watch F1? Usman Khawaja Slams 'Shocking' Allegations



Australia's Test opener Usman Khawaja has strongly denied allegations that he faked a hamstring injury to attend the 2025 Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne. The controversy erupted after Queensland Head of Cricket Joe Dawes questioned Khawaja's absence from a Sheffield Shield match, claiming medical staff had found no signs of an injury. Khawaja, visibly frustrated, dismissed Dawes' claims as "categorically untrue." Speaking to reporters, he said, "Joe Dawes made some inflammatory

statements, which were really disappointing. The medical staff knew about my injury, and it's shocking to hear otherwise." Dawes had earlier criticized Khawaja's decision, suggesting that he had deliberately skipped the match. "It's disappointing he didn't play when he had the opportunity. We have players here who want to play," Dawes remarked. Khawaja expressed frustration that the issue was made public. "I wanted to keep this in-house, but that's no longer possible," he said.

Vaughan Backs BCCI's IPL Ban on Harry Brook

Former England captain Michael Vaughan has supported the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) over its decision to ban Harry Brook from the Indian Premier League (IPL) for two seasons. The England batter faced the ban after pulling out of IPL 2025 at the last minute, despite being bought by Delhi Capitals for ₹6.25 crore in last year's auction. Brook had earlier withdrawn from IPL 2024 following the death

of his grandmother. However, this time, he cited a need to focus on his England career, a move that triggered the automatic two-year ban under BCCI rules. The rule states that a foreign player who opts out after being picked at the auction—unless injured—faces a two-season suspension. Vaughan backed BCCI's stance, stating that Brook's decision disrupted the franchise. "I think they are right. The rules were clear.

You put yourself into the auction, get picked, and then pull out without an injury. He just didn't want to go. That affects the team," Vaughan said on the Club Prairie Fire podcast. While speculating that Brook could be England's future white-ball captain, Vaughan acknowledged that his decision to prioritize national duties would be welcomed by England fans. However, he emphasized that the IPL

had to enforce strict rules to prevent franchises from being left in a difficult position. Earlier this month, Brook apologized to Delhi Capitals and their supporters, saying, "I have made the very difficult decision to pull out of the upcoming IPL. It is a really important time for England cricket, and I want to fully commit to preparing for the upcoming series."





The much-awaited supernatural thriller *Odela 2*, starring Tamannaah Bhatia in the lead, is set for a worldwide theatrical release on April 17, 2025. Directed by Ashok Teja, the film marks the second installment in the *Odela* franchise, following *Odela Railway Station*. Announcing the release date, Sampath Nandi Teamworks shared on social media, “When darkness reigns and hope fades, ‘Shiva Shakti’ awakens. #Odela2 Grand release worldwide on

April 17th. Get ready for a divine thriller on the big screens.” The teaser, which was recently unveiled, showcases a gripping conflict between divine and dark forces. With a haunting tagline—“When the devil returns to haunt, the divine too returns”—the film promises a spine-chilling cinematic experience. One striking dialogue in the teaser, spoken by the dark force, states, “Water, fire, air, earth, and sky... all five elements are slaves to my might.” The visuals hint at an in-

tense battle where divine power rises to combat evil. Produced by D Madhu, *Odela 2* features music by Ajaneesh Loknath and cinematography by Soundar Rajan, with Rajeev Nair handling art direction. Tamannaah plays the role of a Saadhvi for the first time in her career, adding to the intrigue. The cast also includes Hebbah Patel, Dayanand Reddy, Murali Sharma, Sharath Lohitashwa, Srikanth Iyengar, and several others.

Skippping the spotlight! Blake Lively & Ryan Reynolds to miss Met Gala 2025

Hollywood power couple Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds will reportedly skip the 2025 Met Gala, marking their third consecutive absence from fashion’s biggest night. While speculation swirls around Lively’s ongoing legal dispute with Justin Baldoni, sources close to the couple confirm that their decision to miss Anna Wintour’s event was made well before the controversy surfaced.

Blake Lively, who attended the Met Gala ten times, last graced the event in 2022 as a co-chair alongside Reynolds, Regina King, and Lin-Manuel Miranda. That year, she stunned in a custom Atelier Versace gown that dramatically transformed on the steps of the Met Museum, leaving an indelible mark on the event’s history. In 2024, the couple skipped the Met Gala, prioritizing family

time with their children. They were recently seen together at SNL’s 50th anniversary celebration, signaling their focus on personal commitments. This year’s Met Gala, themed “Superfine: Tailoring Black Style,” will celebrate menswear and its evolving influence on fashion. The dress code is expected to allow for creative interpretations, giving attendees ample room to showcase unique styles.



TEST OTT Release.. R. Madhavan and Nayanthara’s Drama to Stream on Netflix



TEST, the gripping drama featuring R. Madhavan, Nayanthara, and Siddharth, is set to premiere on Netflix on April 4. Directed by S. Sashikanth, the film explores human emotions and decision-making beyond the realm of cricket. The movie, produced by YNOT Studios, marks Sashikanth’s directorial debut after years as a

producer. TEST follows the journey of a national-level cricketer, a scientist, and a teacher, whose lives intertwine as they face critical choices that shape their futures. The narrative focuses on personal and ethical dilemmas rather than just the sport. TEST will be available for streaming exclusively on Netflix, reaching audi-

ences across India and worldwide. Tamil cinema fans and drama enthusiasts can watch the film with a subscription. The film’s ensemble cast includes R. Madhavan, Nayanthara, Siddharth, and Meera Jasmine in key roles. Netflix’s collaboration with YNOT Studios aims to bring this compelling drama to a global audience.

THE LAST OF US Season 2 to Stream on JioHotstar from April 14



The highly anticipated second season of *The Last of Us* is set to premiere in 2025, with streaming on JioHotstar starting April 14. Adapted from Naughty Dog’s acclaimed video game series, the show has captivated audiences with its gripping storytelling and powerful performances. Production is underway

in Canada, with Season 2 delving deeper into themes of revenge, survival, and moral dilemmas. The storyline picks up five years after the events of the first season, following Ellie and Joel as they navigate an evolving world filled with new factions, intense conflicts, and infected threats. Showrunners Craig Maz-

za and Neil Druckmann promise a darker, emotionally charged narrative with expanded character arcs. Pedro Pascal and Bella Ramsey return as Joel and Ellie, alongside Gabriel Luna as Tommy and Rutina Wesley as Maria. New additions include Kaitlyn Dever as Abby, Isabela Merced as Dina, and Young Mazino as Jesse. The first season received widespread acclaim, boasting an IMDb rating of 8.8/10 and securing 24 Primetime Emmy nominations, winning eight. The series debut attracted over 4.7 million viewers, making it one of HBO’s most successful launches in recent years.

Was It All Just an Act? Chahal-Dhanashree Slammed After Divorce

Indian cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal and dancer Dhanashree Verma have officially parted ways after a Mumbai family court granted them a divorce on March 20. The couple, who married in 2020, had reportedly been living separately since June 2022, as revealed in court proceedings. However, the biggest shock for fans is the revelation that, despite their separation, the former couple appeared together on *Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 11* in 2023, showcasing romance that

many now believe was scripted for publicity. Fans Call Out ‘Faked’ Chemistry Dhanashree entered the dance reality show as a wild card contestant, making it to the finals. In one of the episodes, Chahal made a special appearance, and the couple was seen engaging in romantic gestures, fun games, and warm hugs. At the time, their on-screen chemistry was praised, but now, after their divorce news broke, social media users are accusing them of



misleading the public. With their joint petition confirming they had been separated for 18 months, many feel their *Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 11* appearance was a deliberate move to maintain a positive image before their legal split. ₹4.75 Crore Alimony Settlement

As per reports, Chahal has paid an alimony of ₹4.75 crore to Dhanashree Verma as part of their divorce settlement. While neither has addressed the public backlash, debates are raging online—with some defending their privacy, while others feel betrayed by their perceived act on national television.