



A DEADLINE FOR AVINASH REDDY?



YS Vivekananda Reddy murder case has been ongoing for years

CBI investigation progressing at a slow pace

Sunitha approaches Telangana High Court again

Petition filed to direct the CBI to complete the probe within six months

High Court accepts Sunitha's petition for investigation

Kadapa MP Avinash is a key accused in the case

Political discussions suggest Avinash is being cornered

TPN V. KRISHNA KUMAR | Andhra Pradesh

The YS Vivekananda Reddy murder case, which has seen several twists and turns, is yet to reach a conclusion. Despite changes in government, the investigation remains incomplete. Many suspicions have been raised due to the mysterious deaths of witnesses connected to the case, leading to speculation that the probe might stall. In response, Vivekananda Reddy's daughter, Sunitha, has once again approached the court.

The CBI investigation into YS Vivekananda Reddy's brutal murder has been dragging on for six years. It is widely believed that political influences and pressures have hindered progress. Even after facing criticism from the Supreme Court, the CBI's pace has remained sluggish. Determined to ensure that her father's killers are brought to justice, Sunitha Reddy has now petitioned the Telangana High Court.

In her plea, Sunitha has requested the High Court to direct the CBI to complete its investigation within six months. She has also sought orders for the CBI court to conduct daily hear-

ings in the case. Despite the CBI court handling the case for four years, no significant progress has been made. Taking this into account, the Telangana High Court has accepted her petition, raising hopes for a speedier investigation.

Meanwhile, there is growing speculation in political circles that this development spells trouble for Kadapa MP Avinash, a key accused in the case. The petition itself is seen as an indication that the net is tightening around him. The CBI has already questioned Avinash multiple times, and his statements have been recorded. If the High Court's orders accelerate the investigation, political discussions suggest that Avinash could face serious legal challenges.

Adding to the complexity of the case, five witnesses have died under suspicious circumstances over the past five years. Most recently, Ranganna, who worked as a watchman at Vivekananda Reddy's residence, passed away. Initially, his death was considered natural, but after his wife raised

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1.55 lakh farm ponds to be completed by May

₹50 lakh allocated for Konidela village development

Employment Guarantee Scheme ensures ₹9,597 crore for laborers



Govt Strengthens Rural Development, Says Dy CM Pawan Kalyan

TPN Correspondent | Kurnool

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Shri Pawan Kalyan reaffirmed the coalition government's commitment to rural development and employment generation. Speaking at a public meeting in Pudicherla village, Orvakal Mandal, Kurnool district, after performing Bhoomi Puja for a farm pond, he emphasized that development must reach all sections of society.

The Deputy CM highlighted that 1.55 lakh farm ponds are being constructed across the state under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), with a target completion by May. He noted that proper water storage could transform Rayalaseema into "Ratanalaseema," ensuring one TMC of stored water for farmers during the monsoon.

Pawan Kalyan criticized the previous government for

weakening the Panchayati Raj system and misusing the Employment Guarantee Scheme. He assured that the coalition government has strengthened governance structures and provided ₹9,597 crore under MGNREGS, benefiting 97.44 lakh laborers. He also announced that employment guarantee arrears would be cleared within two days.

Highlighting infrastructure development, he stated that while only 4,000 km of CC roads were built in five years under the previous government, the NDA government has constructed over 4,000 km in just eight months with an investment of ₹1,600 crore. Additionally, road connectivity, electricity, and drinking water facilities have been extended to tribal villages.

As part of his commitment to village development, Pawan Kalyan allocated ₹50 lakh from his personal trust for Konidela village and assured further support through government schemes. He also announced plans to tour districts, spending two to three days in each to resolve local issues.

During the event, he actively participated in farm pond construction, digging soil alongside laborers. The event was attended by Kurnool MP Dr. Bhairreddy Sabari, Panyam MLA Smt. Gowru Charitha Reddy, and senior officials.

Pawan Kalyan concluded by emphasizing that the coalition government remains focused on strengthening rural governance, ensuring employment, and fostering economic stability across Andhra Pradesh.



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.

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ABSENT FOR MEETING, A LETTER AS A COVER DRIVE

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Though he neither attended nor was invited to the Joint Action Committee (JAC) meeting on delimitation held in Chennai on Saturday, former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed his opinion on the issue, urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure that no state loses its parliamentary representation.

In a letter dated March 21, Jagan highlighted concerns over potential political imbalances due to the proposed delimitation. "The delimitation exercise should be conducted in such a manner that no state would have to endure any reduction in its representation in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya



Sabha, in terms of its share in total number of seats in the house," he wrote.

He pointed out that the share of southern states in the national population has declined over the past four decades due to strict population control measures. "The share has reduced even further over the last 15 years," he noted, urging the Centre to ensure fairness in the process.

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suspicions, it was reclassified as a suspicious death. Similarly, witnesses Srinivasulu Reddy, Gangadhar Reddy, Abhishek Reddy, and Narayana have all died under different circumstances. These unexplained deaths have only deepened suspicions surrounding the case.

Kadapa District SP Ashok Kumar has responded to concerns about these deaths, announcing that a thorough investigation is underway to determine if they were linked to the accused. He stated that officials are examining whether the deaths were due to health issues or if foul play was involved.

In her petition, Sunitha has also named the CBI as a respondent, making it clear that she is determined to hold the investigating agency accountable. Previously, she had approached the High Court seeking a CBI probe, and now she is pressing the same agency to complete its investigation. The High Court has allowed Sunitha's lawyer to issue notices to the six accused, including the CBI. If the court rules in her favor, the CBI will have no option but to complete the probe swiftly and submit a report. Failure to do so could lead to contempt of court charges against the agency.

Given these developments, Kadapa MP Avinash may soon face additional legal troubles in this case. The focus now shifts to the High Court's decision, which could determine the next phase of the investigation.

Transparency, Freeze on Seats

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.

Historic Milestone in Grain

Procurement Achieved - Minister Manohar

Record grain purchase worth ₹8,003 crore

746% increase in procurement in Guntur district

Thin rice in mid-day meals from next academic year

TPN Correspondent |
Andhra Pradesh

The coalition government has reached a historic milestone in Kharif grain procurement, setting a record with purchases worth ₹8,003 crore. Food and Civil Supplies Minister Shri Nadendla Manohar, in a press conference at his camp office in Tenali, stated that grain procurement had been conducted transparently, ensuring fair prices for farmers. He noted that ₹22,000 crore worth of grain had been purchased across the state by the morning of the 22nd, surpassing all previous records.

The minister highlighted that procurement was carried out without weight discrepancies, moisture issues, or delays in payment. A total of 34.78 lakh metric tonnes of grain was purchased, and farmers received their payments within 24 hours. He criticized the previous YSRCP regime for creating hardships for farmers, citing issues such as middlemen exploitation, delayed payments, and mandatory sales to specific millers.



In Guntur district alone, grain procurement increased by 746% compared to the previous government. Similar improvements were seen in Bapatla and Palnadu districts. Nellore, which saw no procurement under YSRCP, recorded 50,000 metric tonnes under the coalition government. The minister also revealed corruption cases in Nellore, where officials misused funds meant for farmers.

With the inspiration of Kharif procurement, the government is now preparing for the Rabi season. Additionally, Education Minister Shri Nara Lokesh has initiated the inclusion of thin rice in the mid-day meal scheme from the next academic year, ensuring better nutrition for students.

CM Naidu Reviews Finance Department, Focuses on Pending Central Funds

Review conducted ahead of financial year-end

Discussion on pending funds from the Centre

Steps to ensure timely release of central scheme funds

TPN Correspondent |
Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu conducted a review of the state finance department, focusing on the status of finances as the financial year nears its end. He held discussions with officials regarding centrally sponsored schemes and pending funds from the Centre, emphasizing the need for proactive measures to secure them without delay.

During the meeting, officials informed the Chief Minister that funds from five central departments are still due. He instructed them to take necessary steps to ensure timely disbursement by coordinating with central authorities. He also directed them to compile comprehensive reports on central schemes and ensure all required documentation is submitted to facilitate fund release.

Chandrababu Naidu em-



phasized that these funds are critical for ongoing state development programs, and every effort must be made to secure them before the financial year closes.

The review meeting, held at the Chief Minister's res-

idence, was attended by Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav, Finance Secretary Ronald Ross, Chief Secretary Vijayanand, Finance Department Principal Secretary Piyush Kumar, and senior CMO officials.

Govt Reserves Bitragunta Railway Land; Approves Dedicated Line to Kakinada SEZ

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Government has clarified its stance on the utilization of railway land at Bitragunta and the development of a dedicated railway line to Kakinada Special Economic Zone (KSEZ). In response to a query in Rajya Sabha by MP Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha, Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw confirmed that 265.44 acres of vacant railway land is available at Bitragunta Railway Station in SPS Nellore district. The land has been reserved for future development, with Indian Railways prioritizing its use for operational infrastructure such as multi-tracking, freight terminals, and workshops. Any surplus land not required in the near future is entrusted to the Rail



Land Development Authority (RLDA) for commercial purposes.

Addressing concerns regarding the potential for an ancillary production unit for the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), an aluminum freight wagon manufacturing unit, or a solar park at Bitragunta, the Minister stated that the existing and planned coach, loco, and wagon

manufacturing facilities are adequate. At present, a 30 KWP capacity solar rooftop plant is operational at Bitragunta Railway Station as part of sustainability efforts.

Meanwhile, in response to an inquiry by MP Sana Sathish Babu, the Minister confirmed that a 15 km dedicated railway line from Annaram Station to Kakinada Gateway Port has been approved under the Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal (GCT) Policy 2022. The proposal, submitted by M/s Kakinada Gateway Port Limited, received final approval from Indian Railways in September 2024. However, there was no mention of extending the line to Kakinada Port Railway Station (COA) for enhanced connectivity.

Strengthening Communication and Technology for Disaster Management

Satellite phones for officials in coastal areas

AI and WhatsApp-based disaster management systems proposed

GIS platform to be operational before the monsoon

TPN Correspondent |
Andhra Pradesh

Special Chief Secretary of the Revenue Department (Disaster Management) R.P. Sisodia emphasized the need for advanced communication tools to enhance disaster response. He stated that officials from the Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO) level to the District Collector in coastal regions should be equipped with satellite phones to ensure seamless communication during emergencies.

During a high-level review meeting at the Disaster Management Office on Saturday, officials assessed disaster preparedness measures, procurement of essential supplies, and strat-

egies for the upcoming monsoon and heat wave season. The availability of manpower, equipment, and the operational status of cyclone warning centers were reviewed to ensure timely alerts. Sisodia also stressed the importance of installing air quality monitoring systems near hazardous industries to detect gas and chemical leaks in real-time. Highlighting the role of modern technology, he suggested integrating drones into disaster management. If direct procurement is not feasible, he recommended empaneling drone pilots and leveraging the Survey Department's drone expertise. He also stressed the importance of night vision



drones for better surveillance.

To modernize disaster management, Sisodia proposed developing an AI-driven system and a WhatsApp-based integrated platform for faster response. He directed officials to make the GIS platform functional before the monsoon and enhance the disaster management

app with more user-friendly features. A review of the World Bank-funded Andhra Pradesh Disaster Recovery Project (APDRP) was also ordered for better planning and resource allocation. Managing Director of the Disaster Management Authority, Ronanki Kurmanath, participated in the discussions.

I Was Ragged Even as a Pawan Kalyan Fan: MP Byreddy Sabari

MP Byreddy Sabari shares an interesting college experience

TPN Correspondent | Kurnool

Nandyala MP Byreddy Sabari shared an interesting anecdote about her college days while addressing a gathering in Pudicherla, Ummadi Kurnool district. She recalled an incident from her first year of MBBS, where she faced ragging despite being a fan of Pawan Kalyan.

"When I joined MBBS, my seniors asked me who my favorite hero was. When I said Pawan Kalyan, around 100 people surrounded me and said, 'We are all Pawan Kalyan fans... what about you?' After that, I didn't mention Pawan Kalyan's name for a year," she said in a humorous tone.

Sabari lauded the dedication of Jana Sainiks, crediting them for the alliance's landslide victory.

She emphasized their relentless hard work and unwavering commitment, which played a crucial role in the electoral success.

Later, Pawan Kalyan, while addressing the gathering, hailed the Jana Sainiks as legends. He praised them for their resilience during challenging times and credited their strength for the coalition's massive win—securing 164 out of 175 assembly seats and 21 parliamentary constituencies.

"This is not an ordinary victory; the entire nation is now looking towards Andhra Pradesh. This success was possible only because of dedicated individuals like you, the youth, and the women. This victory belongs to the people of Andhra Pradesh," Pawan Kalyan asserted.



KCR Spoke on AP Alliances, Babu Won Over Alliance With JSP Only

- BRS will contest alone and return to power, says KCR
- Criticizes Congress for deceiving Telangana people
- Claims AP alliance was the only reason for Chandrababu's victory

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

BRS party leader and former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) made sensational remarks during a media interaction at Erravelli Farm House on Saturday. Expressing confidence in his party's resurgence, KCR stated that BRS will contest independently in the upcoming elections and secure power once again. He criticized political defections, likening them to flies

being drawn to jaggery, and alleged that certain individuals were eyeing Telangana's rich resources for their own gain. He asserted that during BRS rule, people enjoyed ten years of stability and peace but are now facing renewed challenges due to the Congress government's broken promises. KCR further declared that BRS remains the only party truly committed to fighting for Telangana's welfare. In a sharp attack on Andhra Pradesh politics, he re-

marked that Chandrababu Naidu's victory was solely due to the alliance, implying that Naidu would not have won otherwise. His comments have sparked political debate, with his remarks on AP politics drawing strong reactions.



NDA Leaders Move No-Confidence Motion Against Visakhapatnam Mayor

- NDA leaders submit petition to District Collector
- Six YSRCP corporators recently joined TDP
- No-confidence motion set to be introduced after legal restriction expiry

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

NDA leaders in Visakhapatnam are preparing to introduce a no-confidence motion against the Mayor of the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC). On Saturday, key NDA leaders, including Pila Srinivasa Rao, Velagapudi, Ganababu, and Gandhi Babi, met with District Collector A. Mallikarjuna and submitted a formal petition to initiate the process.

It is known that six YSRCP corporators recently joined the TDP, strengthening the NDA's numbers in the municipal corporation. Previously, the law prohibited a no-confidence motion against the Mayor for four years from

the date of election. Even after the NDA government took office, the legal restrictions prevented any motion from being introduced. However, with the four-year term expiring on March 18, the NDA leaders have renewed their efforts to bring about a change in leadership. The leaders have argued that the current Mayor failed to deliver on promises, leading to discontent among corporators and the public. They claim that the new political equation, following the corporators' shift, makes it necessary to reconsider the leadership for better governance of Visakhapatnam. Speaking to the media after submitting the petition, Pila Srinivasa Rao stated that

they are confident of garnering the required support within the corporation to pass the motion. The District Collector has assured that the petition will be forwarded to the concerned authorities for further proceedings. With the NDA making swift moves to consolidate its control over GVMC, political developments in Visakhapatnam are expected to intensify in the coming days.



Mandakrishna Madiga Fires on Jagan Over SC Classification

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Madiga Reservation Porata Samithi (MRPS) founder Manda Krishna Madiga has strongly criticized former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for failing to take a clear stance on Scheduled Caste (SC) classification. He accused Jagan of breaking his word and betraying the Madiga community, which has long fought for a fair share in reservations.

Addressing the media, Mandakrishna questioned whether Jagan Reddy had conveyed his views to Adimulapu Suresh, a senior SC leader in YSRCP. He alleged that the dominance of the Mala community in YSRCP had led to the neglect of the Madigas, despite repeated appeals for justice. Citing the recent Supreme Court verdict, Mandakrishna pointed out that the classification of SCs is legally valid. He demanded that Jagan Reddy publicly state his stance instead of dodging the issue. He emphasized that CM Chandrababu Naidu has always been honest and sincere in addressing SC classification concerns and working towards a fair solution.



Ambati Rambabu Alleges Political Conspiracy Behind Posani's Arrest

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

YSRCP leader and former minister Ambati Rambabu has strongly criticized the arrest and legal proceedings against Posani Krishna Murali, who was released on bail from Guntur jail after 24 days in custody. Speaking to the media after meeting Posani, Ambati accused Nara Lokesh of orchestrating a political vendetta, alleging that Posani's release was delayed due to a phone call from the 'Red Book' author.

He claimed that 18 cases were filed against Posani and that he was unjustly moved across the state under PT warrants. "At this age, making him run from one court to another—what worse punishment can there be?" Ambati questioned. Dismissing the cases as politically motivated, he said, "Posani is a comedian who spoke sarcastically. Does that warrant police action? Why weren't cases filed when Daggubati Venkateswara Rao made sarcastic remarks against Chandrababu?" He also alleged that the police had abducted a person from Vinukonda constituency, indicating selective action against political opponents. Asserting that the YSRCP legal team is strong, he warned that any unjust cases would be fought in court. "We have double the number of lawyers compared to the police. Wherever injustice happens, we will intervene. If the police continue to act unfairly, they will face legal consequences," he stated.

Janasena Denies Attending Delimitation Meeting, Calls Reports Speculative

- Janasena clarifies it did not attend Chennai meeting
- Party releases official letter denying participation
- States it has a policy on delimitation and will present it on the right platform

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Janasena Party has strongly denied reports suggesting that its representatives attended the delimitation meeting organized in Chennai under the leadership of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin. The party has clarified that no member of Janasena participated in the meeting and termed such claims as mere speculation.

To put an end to the rumors, Janasena released an official letter on its social media platforms, stating that while the party had received an invitation, it had already conveyed its inability to attend due to

its political alignments. The party reiterated that it holds a clear stance on the delimitation issue and will express its views on a suitable platform at the appropriate time. The delimitation debate has gained momentum, particularly in southern states, with the Tamil Nadu government strongly opposing the redistribution of constituencies based on the 2026 Census. CM Stalin is reportedly working on mobilizing support from various regional parties to resist the delimitation proposal put forth by the Modi government. As part of this effort, an all-party meeting was held in Chennai, attended by Telangana CM Revanth Reddy.

Janasena's statement reaffirms its independent stance, making it clear that any policy decision on delimitation will be taken in a manner that aligns with the party's principles and alliances.



Bhumana Karunakar Reddy Refutes Allegations on Srivani Trust

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

Former TTD Chairman Bhumana Karunakar Reddy has strongly refuted allegations regarding the misuse of Srivani Trust funds during the YSRCP government. Addressing a media conference, he stated that the Srivani Trust was originally established when TDP was in power, but it was most effectively managed under YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's rule. Bhumana Karunakar Reddy criticized the false propaganda spread by the opposition, accusing them of misleading people about Srivani Trust funds. He emphasized that a Vigilance and Enforcement investigation was conducted, and the findings clearly proved that there was no mismanagement or misuse of funds. He accused the opposition of deliberately spreading misinformation to tarnish the YSRCP government's image.

The former TTD Chairman also pointed out that current TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu, who initially spoke about abolishing Srivani Trust, later increased the quota and sold more tickets instead of acting on his statements. He questioned the inconsistency in Naidu's stance and demanded clarity from the current administration on its plans for Srivani Trust. Highlighting the YSRCP government's achievements, Bhumana Karunakar Reddy stated that 3,600 temples were built across the state using Srivani Trust funds during Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure. He stressed that these funds were utilized with complete transparency and contributed to the preservation and promotion of Hindu religious institutions.



Will Resolve Kolleru Issue, Says Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar



TPN Correspondent | Eluru

Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar has reaffirmed his commitment to resolving the long-standing Kolleru issue. Speaking to the media after attending the Disha meeting at the Godavari Conference Hall in the local Collectorate on Saturday, he emphasized that the matter is currently under consideration in the Supreme Court. While acknowledging the complexity of the issue, he assured that he would strive for a complete resolution. He also announced plans for a Mega Job Fair on April 10, aimed at providing employment opportunities to at least 1,000 job seekers in the district. He urged unemployed youth to make use of this initiative. Highlighting infrastructure development, MP Mahesh Kumar noted that several road projects have already been undertaken in the district. He assured that additional work would be taken up soon to repair and develop roads that are in poor condition. The meeting was attended by Zilla Parishad Chairperson Ghanta Padmasree, Chintalapudi MLA Songa Roshan Kumar, District Collector K. Vetrisevi, and Joint Collector P. Dhatri Reddy, among other officials.

Posani Krishna Murali Released from Guntur Jail

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

Andhra Pradesh, and he remained a remand prisoner in Guntur jail. Seeking relief, Posani filed a bail petition citing health issues, leading to court proceedings. Arguments took place two days ago, and the final verdict was reserved for March 21. On Friday, the CBI court granted him bail, imposing conditions that he must not leave the country and must provide two sure-

ties of ₹1 lakh each. Although he was expected to be released in the morning, administrative delays postponed his release to the evening. With his release, discussions have intensified in political and film circles regarding his controversial remarks and legal battles. It remains to be seen how he will address these issues in the coming days.

Alternative Roads Planned for Smooth Connectivity to Autonagar: MP Kesineni Chinni

Inspection of multiple roads for better lorry access to Autonagar
Focus on alternative routes amid upcoming flyover and metro works
CRDA officials and leaders ensure hassle-free traffic solutions

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
In light of the impending flyover construction from Mahanadu Road to Nidamanur and the Metro corridor's initial phase from Gannavaram, Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivanath (Chinni) has emphasized the need for alternative routes to ease traffic congestion and ensure smooth entry of lorries into Autonagar.



On Saturday, MP Kesineni Shivanath, along with MLA Gadde Rammohan Rao and CRDA Commissioner Kannababu, conducted an inspection of key roads under CRDA limits. The team reviewed Ballemvari Veedhi, Mahanadu Road, Shakti Kalyana Mandapam Road, and Ghantasala Road, assessing their potential as alternate routes. Additionally, the Ramavarappadu to Kesariipalli route via SLV Grand was evaluated as an alternate link to Gannavaram.

Speaking to the media, MP Shivanath stated, "With the flyover and metro works set to begin, traffic in Vijayawada will increase significantly. To prevent disruptions,

we are ensuring the development of alternative roads for easy access to Autonagar." He emphasized that the CRDA's role extends beyond Amaravati, and they are committed to the holistic development of roads across Vijayawada. He further added that if Ballemvari Veedhi Road and Mahanadu Road are connected to Nidamanur and Kanuru, vehicles from Machilipatnam, Eluru, and Kolkata will have a seamless route to Autonagar. Efforts are being made to expedite the development of Mahanadu Road to facilitate easy transportation.

MP Kesineni Shivanath highlighted the government's vision for

large-scale infrastructure projects to accommodate Vijayawada's rapid growth, ensuring proper planning and execution.

CRDA Commissioner Kannababu assured that the expansion of roads and development of alternative routes would be carried out without causing inconvenience to the city's residents and Autonagar workers. The program saw the participation of CRDA Additional Commissioner Sunitha, CE Dhananjaya, former AILA President Sunkara Durga Prasad, Corporator Mummaneni Prasad, and TDP senior leaders Gullapalli Narayana Rao and Dhanekula Elabandala Rao, among others.

Siddhartha College Hosts Workshop on Teacher's Role in Digital Era

Book on Social and Emotional Integration Launched by Experts

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

On the eve of the golden jubilee celebrations (1975-2025) of Siddhartha Academy of General and Technical Education (SAGTE), Y.V. Rao Siddhartha College of Education conducted a one-day workshop on Saturday. The workshop focused on "The Role of Teachers in Social and Emotional Integration in the Digital Era." On this occasion, a book with the same title was also launched by Professor L. K. Mohan Rao, A.O, SAGTE.



The event saw participation from esteemed academicians, psychologists, and students. Key dignitaries included Principal Dr. S. Seshasree, Prof. T. D. Vimala from the Department of Psychology, ANU, senior psychologist Sri B. Krishna Bharath (National Working President, APA India), Dr. Ch. Divakar Babu (Principal, Siddhartha Law College), Dr. B. Ramesh (Psychologist), and Dr. M. S. Kariyappa (RIE, Mysore). Faculty and students from the College of Education also actively participated in the program.

A book launched during the event featured articles by students Kodali Mounica, Luhitha P. Rajasekhar, K. Satya Sumitha, B. Meghna, K. R. Sindhusha, Muskan Fathima, Premkumar Sekhar, and B. Sowmya, as well as faculty member M. Rangalakshmi. The book was edited by Dr. S. Seshasree, Principal of the college.

Speaking on the occasion, Professor L. K. Mohan Rao highlighted the continued relevance

of libraries and books in the digital era, emphasizing their role in providing authentic knowledge. Prof. T. D. Vimala stressed the importance of competency-based learning and skill development as key factors for success. Dr. Krishna Bharath pointed out that emotional intelligence is more crucial than intelligence quotient in personal and professional growth. Dr. B. Ramesh urged individuals to focus on both physical and mental health, given its critical importance in our fast-paced world.

The workshop concluded with interactive sessions led by resource persons, fostering critical thinking and creativity among students. Participants expressed their enthusiasm for similar programs in the future, recognizing their role in enhancing professional and personal development.

NTR Dist Gears Up for Vikasith Bharat and Swarnandhra @ 2047

Officials play a key role in achieving developmental goals

Review meeting held on central schemes and infrastructure projects

Focus on implementing welfare programs efficiently

TPN Correspondent | NTR Dist

A review meeting was conducted at Sri Pingali Venkaiah Samavesh Mandir, Collectorate, under the chairmanship of Lanka Dinakar, Chairman of the Twenty Principles Programme Implementation Committee. The meeting focused on the progress of centrally sponsored schemes, infrastructure projects, and development strategies. Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath, District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi sha, and other officials participated.

Discussions centered on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for Vikasith Bharat - 2047 and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's Swarnandhra @ 2047 goals. The Jal Jeevan Mission, AMRUT 2.0, Grameen Sadak Yojana, Lakhpati Didi, PM Suryagarh, Kusum, PM Awas Yojana, and TIDCO Housing were reviewed. Lanka Dinakar emphasized the importance of utilizing long-term water resources like Pulichintala and Prakasam Barrage to ensure safe drinking water in all mandals.

Regarding Vijayawada's underground drainage, he pointed out that while ₹460 crores were allocated in 2016, funds were diverted between 2019-24, delaying progress. He directed officials to prepare a revised DPR and expedite the project.

He also highlighted the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar scheme, ensuring subsidies of ₹30,000 to ₹78,000 reach beneficiaries. Plans to promote natural farming, increase rural employment, and support artisans under PM Vishwakarma Yojana were also discussed.

Lanka Dinakar stressed the need to develop Bhavani Island, Kondapalli Fort, and Gandhi Hill to boost tourism. He also proposed a spiritual circuit linking major temples in the district.

MP Kesineni Sivanath emphasized collective efforts to keep NTR District at the forefront of development, while Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi sha assured that Team NTR is working in alignment with the Swarnandhra @ 2047 vision.



ETERNOX 2K25 Alumni Meet

RGUKT Nuzvid Hosts Grand Reunion for 2008 Batch

TPN Correspondent | Nuzvid

The ETERNOX 2K25 alumni meet, organized by the Alumni Cell of Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT), Nuzvid, for the 2008 batch, commenced in a grand and vibrant manner. The two-day event brought together former students, faculty, and distinguished guests, fostering innovation, networking, and cherished reunions.

The event, which started at 10 AM, became a hub for alumni-led innovations, experiments, and idea-sharing. Directors from Nuzvid, Srikakulam, and Ongole campuses were present. Professor Balaji, Director of RGUKT Srikakulam, expressed his delight in attending, while Dr. Bhaskar Patel, Director of RGUKT Ongole, emphasized the role of networking, stating, "It is not possible to work at full potential without networking." He encouraged alumni to guide and mentor their juniors.

Acharya Amarendra Sandri, Director of RGUKT Nuzvid, highlighted that "Alumni are the strength of RGUKT", stressing the importance of maintaining

long-term connections. He assured that RGUKT management would extend support to students and establish new campuses in Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

Engaging Sessions & Cultural Extravaganza

Event coordinator Shivalal expressed joy at seeing alumni reconnect, while Administrator Dr. B. Lakshman Rao shared nostalgic moments with the attendees. Alumni revisited classrooms, met their former faculty, and reflected on their college days.

Post-lunch, a Domain Corridor session facilitated discussions on campus development, with alumni offering suggestions for improvements. An interaction session with faculty allowed former students to share their professional journeys.

The evening saw cultural programs stealing the spotlight. The Department of Art, Music, and Culture presented the "Srinivasa Kalyanam" dance performance, alongside folk orchestra, violin recitals, and classical singing, captivating the audience. The day concluded with a campfire



session, where alumni engaged in games and reminisced about their time at RGUKT.

A Memorable Gathering

The ETERNOX 2K25 alumni meet strengthened bonds among former students and served as an inspiration for current students. Approximately 300 alumni, along with their families, faculty, and students, participated in the event.

Key attendees included Dean of Academics Dr. Chiranjeevi, Finance Officer Dr. Sreenath, DSW Boys Dr. Seethapathi, DSW Girls Dr. Durga Bhavani, department heads, associate deans, faculty, and staff. The RGUKT Nuzvid alumni team was lauded for successfully organizing this grand reunion.

'ISIS Drug' Racket Exposed in Avanigadda

55,961 Tramadol tablets, 2,794 injections sold in two years

Terrorist-linked drug sold without permission

Eagle, Vigilance, and Drug Control teams uncover illegal sales

TPN Correspondent | Avanigadda

A major drug racket involving Tramadol, a psychotropic substance widely misused by terrorist organizations like ISIS and Boko Haram, has been busted in Avanigadda, Krishna district. Bhargava Medical Stores was found to be illegally selling Tramadol tablets and injections without any authorization.

As per directives from DGP Harish Kumar Gupta, teams from Eagle, Vigilance, and Drug Control departments, led by Eagle IG A.K. Ravi Krishna, conducted inspections across the state. Their raids in Avanigadda exposed the unauthorized sale of Tramadol, which is commonly referred to

as the "ISIS drug" due to its use in militant operations to boost endurance and suppress fatigue. Officials found that 55,961 Tramadol tablets and 2,794 injections were sold from this single store between 2022 and 2024, violating NDPS Act regulations. The drug has been classified as a narcotic under the Act since April 2018, with strict controls on production and distribution. However, the medical store was selling it in large quantities without a license, reportedly addicting hundreds of locals.

Authorities have registered a case against store owner Konakalla Rammohan under the NDPS Act at Avanigadda police station. Eagle IG Ravi Krishna



stated that further investigation is underway to uncover the full extent of the drug network. Additionally, other restricted drugs were also found at the store.

Meanwhile, as part of Operation Garuda, 100 inspection teams

raided pharmacies across the state, uncovering expired medicine sales in Visakhapatnam and 120 violations of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Strict action has been taken, with medicines seized from five shops.

CM Naidu Visits Minister NMD Farooq, Offers Condolences



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu visited the residence of AP Minority Welfare Minister NMD Farooq in Hyderabad on Saturday to express his condolences. The visit comes in the wake of the passing of Farooq's wife, Shehnaaz, who succumbed to an illness recently. CM Chandrababu Naidu met

Minister Farooq and his family members, offering his sympathies during this difficult time. He spent time consoling the bereaved family and assured them of his support. Several TDP MLAs and senior party leaders accompanied the Chief Minister during the visit, standing in solidarity with Minister Farooq and his family.

No Discrimination in Grain Procurement - MLA Prashanthi Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Nellore
MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy emphasized that the Telugu Desam government is committed to standing by farmers and ensuring fair grain procurement. She conducted a surprise inspection at the Primary Cooperative Society's grain procurement center in Vidyaluru mandal, where she interacted with farmers to understand their concerns. During the visit, she inquired whether farmers were receiving the minimum remunerative price of ₹19,720 per metric ton as announced by the government. She responded to complaints that procurement officials were favoring large-scale farmers while neglecting small and marginal farmers. She directed officials to ensure that all farmers receive equal treatment in the procurement process. When farmers raised concerns about a shortage of lorries for transporting paddy to mills, MLA Prashanthi Reddy immediately contacted the Joint Collector to address the issue. She assured farmers that an



agreement has been reached with 32 millers for paddy procurement, and additional arrangements would be made with millers in Prakasam and Bapatla districts if needed. She further stated that she had discussed the matter with Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar to safeguard farmers' interests. She urged farmers to report any issues with procurement authorities to her directly. Penna Delta Chairman Jetty Rajagopal Reddy, along with TDP leaders Chemukula Krishna Chaitanya, Bezawada Vamsi Krishna Reddy, Pasham Srihari Reddy, Adapala Sridhar Reddy, Mathur Srinivasulu Reddy, Purandhar Reddy, and others participated in the program.

Hospital Development Committee Meeting Held in Ramachandrapuram

TPN Correspondent | Ramachandrapuram

A Hospital Development Committee meeting was held at Vella and Draksharama Primary Health Centers (PHCs) in Ramachandrapuram Mandal, chaired by Smt. Ambati Bhavani, MPP and Committee Chairperson.

Smt. Ambati Bhavani emphasized the need for proper implementation of national health programs at the village level and urged for encouraging normal deliveries in hospitals. She also directed health officials to ensure ORS packets and



drinking water are available in all village health clinics, considering the rising day-time temperatures. The meeting at Vella PHC was attended by Village Sarpanches Veeraboyana Suribabu (Vella) and Pilli Achala Rajeswaribala-

subramaniam (Tadipalli), along with Dr. VV Lakshmi Prasanna, Dr. Alekhya, MPDO Office AO Subramaniam, and Supervisors K. Srinivas, G Kamal Seshu, and D Rajeshwari.

In the Draksharama PHC meeting, Kothapalli Aruna, village sarpanch, expressed gratitude to Mendu Charitable Foundation for constructing special rooms worth ₹14 lakh. Other attendees included Sarpanch Tekumudi Sujatha, Dr. N Prashanthi, Dr. T Sandeep Naidu, MPDO Office AO Subramaniam, U. Veeraveni (CHO), and Supervisors N. Gangadhar Rao and G. Varalakshmi.

Ambedkar Statue Desecrated in East Godavari Dist, Sparks Outrage

TPN Correspondent | East Godavari Dist
A grave insult has been inflicted on the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, in Dubacherla Gandhi Colony, Nallajarla Mandal, Gopalapuram Constituency, East Godavari District. Unidentified miscreants desecrated the statue by placing a garland of sandals on it, triggering outrage among locals and Ambedkar supporters. Upon noticing the desecration, residents of the colony gathered in large numbers, condemning the act and demanding strict

action against those responsible. Several Dalit organizations and community leaders also joined the protests, expressing their anger over the disrespect shown to Ambedkar's legacy. The local police were immediately informed, and officials arrived at the scene to assess the situation. Authorities assured the people that a thorough investigation would be conducted to identify and punish the culprits. Security has been tightened in the area to prevent any further tensions.

Political and social leaders across the state have strongly condemned the act, calling it an attack on the values of equality and justice that Ambedkar stood for. Many have urged the government to take stringent action against those who attempt to disrupt communal harmony. The incident has sparked widespread discussions about the need for greater respect towards national icons and stricter enforcement of laws protecting their memorials.

Markapuram MLA Kandula Narayana Reddy Attends Praja Darbar Despite Illness

Receives public petitions while undergoing medical treatment

TPN Correspondent | Markapuram
Markapuram MLA Kandula Narayana Reddy displayed remarkable commitment to his constituency by attending the Praja Darbar program on Saturday, despite being unwell. His office had announced the event three days ago, and despite his health condition, he chose to go ahead with the program rather than causing inconvenience to the public. In a rare display of dedication, the MLA was seen participating in the event while taking saline. He interacted with the attendees, patiently listening to their grievances and accepting petitions with the same enthusiasm as always. He made it

clear that postponing the event was not an option, as it would create difficulties for the people who had been waiting to express their concerns. The Praja Darbar witnessed a significant turnout, with people from different parts of the constituency arriving to submit their requests. Seeing the MLA's determination to continue with the program despite his health condition, many praised his strong sense of duty. Locals appreciated his commitment, noting that his actions reflect true leadership and a deep concern for public welfare. Supporters and residents of Markapuram lauded Kandula Narayana Reddy's work



ethic, stating that his unwavering dedication is an inspiration for many. Party leaders and activists also commended his efforts, highlighting that such commitment strengthens the bond between elected representatives and the people.

MLA M. Govinda Rao Performs Bhoomi Puja for Crop Sanjeevini Water Ponds



TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam
Pathapatnam MLA Mangodi Govinda Rao performed the bhoomi puja for the construction of Crop Sanjeevini water ponds in Kaguwada village, emphasizing their role in enhancing agricultural productivity and farmer income. He stated that these ponds will store water as per scientific guidelines, leading to increased groundwater levels and better crop yields. The state government has introduced a new model for water ponds, ensuring that farmers earn annually by utilizing pond water for irrigation and

cultivating vegetables and fruit plants around the ponds. Under the Panchayat Raj Rural Development Plan, each pond will be built at a cost of over ₹50,000 through the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). The initiative aims to provide sustainable water sources for farmers and additional revenue streams through integrated farming practices. MLA Rao explained that by constructing two rows of ditches around the pond—one for vegetables and another for fruit trees—farmers can earn an additional ₹2,000 per year. The project is designed to ensure proper water inflow and outflow, preventing stagnation and maximizing efficiency. DWAMA PD B. Sudhakar Rao, mandal officers, local leaders, and village farmers participated in the event.

Vizianagaram SP Warns Against Online Betting Amid IPL Season

TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram

District Superintendent of Police (SP) Vakul Jindal, IPS, has cautioned the youth against falling prey to online and offline betting apps, particularly with the IPL cricket season underway. He emphasized that such activities can lead to financial ruin and legal consequences. SP Jindal highlighted that betting often begins with small amounts, but as addiction takes hold, individuals tend to wager larger sums, leading to severe financial debt. He warned that betting addiction not only causes mental stress, depression, and suicidal tendencies but also results in strained family relationships due to monetary disputes. The SP reminded the public that betting is illegal, and those caught engaging in such activities will face legal ac-



tion, heavy fines, and possible jail time. He urged people to focus on hard work for financial security rather than seeking quick and risky money through betting. SP Jindal also called on the public to report any instances of online or offline betting by dialing 112/100 or 912109483, ensuring strict action against offenders.

MLC Duvvada Srinivas Conferred with Honorary Doctorate

TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam
YSR Congress Party (YCP) MLC Duvvada Srinivas has been honored with an honorary doctorate by Day Spring International University in recognition of his dedication to his profession and distinguished service to society. The prestigious award was conferred by Mark Burn, an advisor to former U.S. President Donald Trump, in a special ceremony attended by prominent dignitaries.

The event was graced by Indo-Israel Friendship Association (IIFA) National Chairman Dr. Adam Raj Dekkupati, Reverend Solomon Gattu, Bishop Pothan from Manipur, and former MP Harsha Kumar. Several other prominent personalities, including Municipal Chairman Saraswathi, Madhuri, and senior Congress leaders Ashok Goud, Rajaiah Goud, Palle Venkat Goud, and Shankar Goud, were also present at the event.

Expressing his gratitude, MLC Duvvada



Srinivas stated that the honor serves as an inspiration for him to continue his public service and welfare initiatives with greater dedication. He emphasized his commitment to social development, vowing to work tirelessly for the welfare of the people. Duvvada Srinivas has been an active political leader known for his efforts in various public welfare programs. His leadership has contributed to multiple development

projects and community initiatives that have positively impacted numerous lives. The recognition by Day Spring International University highlights his dedication and contributions to public service. The ceremony concluded with congratulatory messages from attendees and well-wishers, acknowledging MLC Duvvada Srinivas' relentless service in politics and social work.

JCI National Vice President Praises Tuni JCI's Services

Pays tribute to JCI founders at Golla Apparao Center



TPN Correspondent | Tuni

JCI National Vice President JFS Prajith visited Tuni and appreciated the commendable services of JCI Club Tuni. During his visit, he, along with club members, met the family of Chodisetty Hema Shankar, who passed away unexpectedly. He conveyed his condolences to Hema Shankar's father, City Cable MD Chodisetty

Trimurthy Swamy, and highlighted the significant role Hema Shankar played in strengthening the JCI Club in Tuni.

Later, Prajith and the JCI team paid floral tributes to JCI founders Henry Giberson and Abdul Kalam at the Golla Apparao Center. He emphasized the importance of JCI's initiatives and encouraged continued service-oriented activities in the region. Zone Chairman Santosh Rajiv, President Sampath, Secretary Sagar, Treasurer Praneeth Mogalapalli Gupta, and Zone Officers Karthik, Santosh Krishna, Vijay, Vinay, Karthik, and others participated in the program.

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, rais-

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.

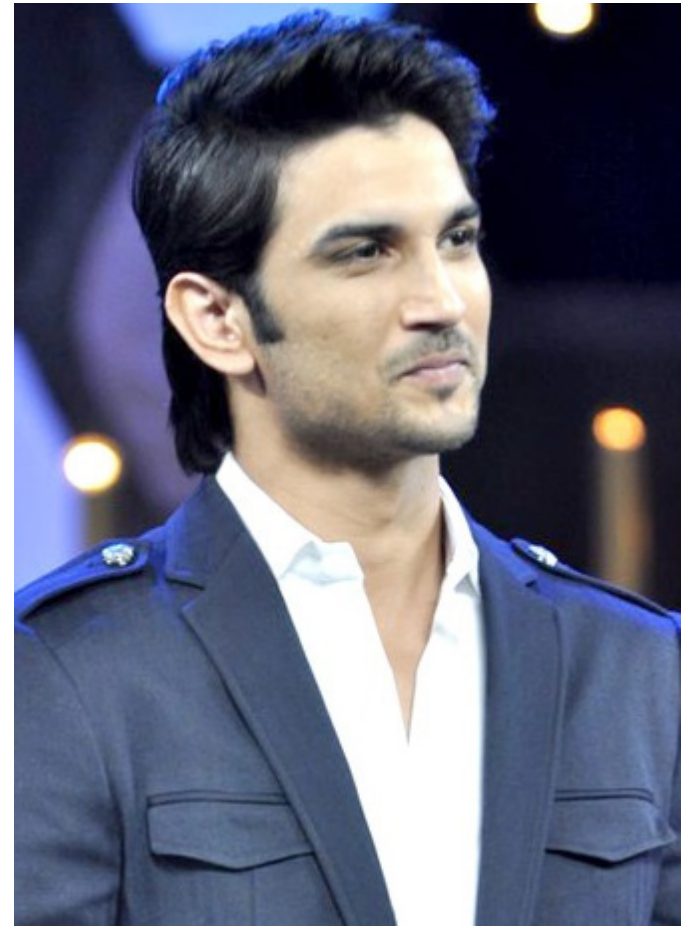
Meerut Murder Victim's Mother Demands Justice, Custody of Granddaughter

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 Sandhwalia, 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 an 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 Bebigar 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.

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.



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.



Assassin's Creed Shadows Crosses 1 million Players on Launch Day

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 Bishakhadatta 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



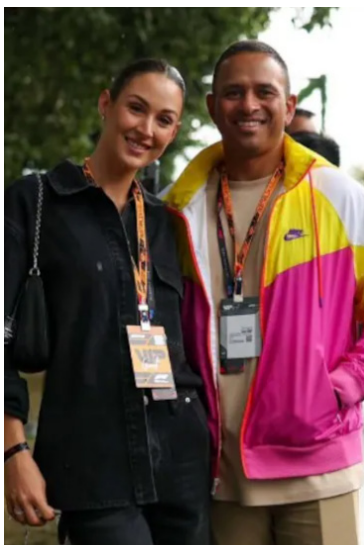
A viral video featuring three of India's most legendary cricket captains—Kapil Dev, MS Dhoni, and Rohit Sharma—has taken social media

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.

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.

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 nearly three hours on court.



dal's record.

Veronika Kudermetova.

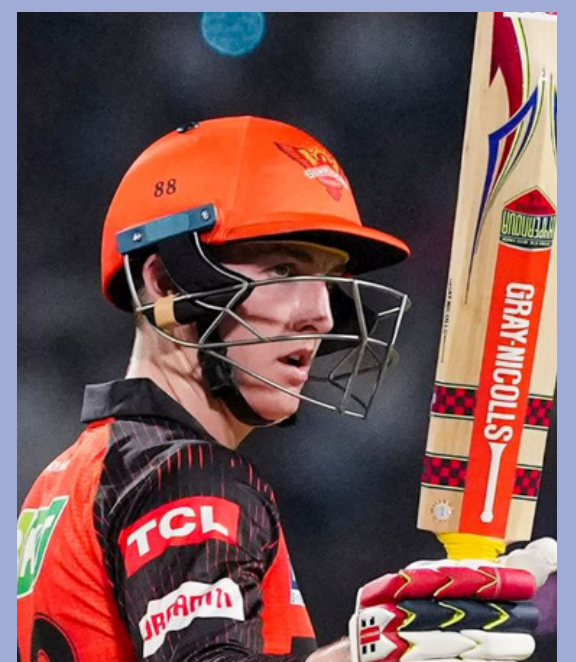
Vaughan Backs BCCI's IPL Ban on Harry Brook

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.

Skipping 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

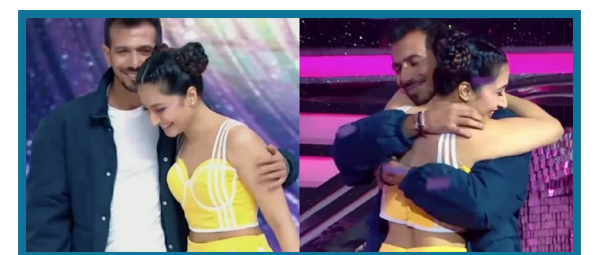
in Canada, with Season 2 delving deeper into themes of revenge, survival, and moral dilemmas. The storyline picks up five years after the events of the first season, following Ellie and Joel as they navigate an evolving world filled with new factions, intense conflicts, and infected threats. Showrunners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

in 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.