




THIS IS PEAK IPL
Delhi Capitals chase down 210 with just 1 wicket left, after being 7/3 and 65/5.

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Cabinet Expansion!.. Congress Leaders in Delhi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has rushed to Delhi amid growing anticipation over the long-pending expansion of his cabinet. The Congress government, which has been in power for over a year, still has six vacant ministerial posts. According to sources, the Chief

Minister's sudden visit to the national capital is linked to the finalization of these positions.

The Congress central leadership has reportedly sought detailed feedback from the Telangana PCC and senior party functionaries regarding the cabinet expansion.

After several rounds of discussions, the party appears to have decided on filling the

vacant posts. If all goes as planned, six new ministers could soon be inducted into the Telangana cabinet.

As per the Indian Constitution, the number of ministers in a state cabinet cannot exceed 15% of the total members in the Assembly. Telangana's cabinet can have a maximum of 18 ministers, including the Chief Minister. Currently, only

12 ministers are in office, leaving room for six more appointments.

When Revanth Reddy took oath as CM on December 7, 2023, 11 ministers were sworn in alongside him, but no additions have been made since then.

Possible New Ministers in Revanth's Cabinet
The race for the six ministerial



berths has intensified, with several senior Congress leaders vying for a spot.

According to political sources, the following leaders are in contention for the new cabinet positions:

- G. Vivek
- Vijaya Shanti
- Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy
- Sudarshan Reddy
- Vakiti Srihari

- Premchandrarao
- Ali Khan

The final decision is expected to be taken during Revanth Reddy's ongoing discussions in Delhi.

If confirmed, the cabinet expansion will give the Congress government a fresh push, ensuring broader representation and strengthening its position in Telangana politics.



Key Turning Point in Betting Apps Case

- Miyapur Police Register Case Against 19 App Owners
- Plan to Include Celebrities as Witnesses
- New legal sections target app administrators

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

In a significant development in the betting apps case, Miyapur police have registered a case against 19 app owners

and intensified their investigation. The police are planning to bring app administrators under stringent legal sections and include celebrities who promoted these >> PAGE 2

CM Revanth Reddy Reviews SLBC Tunnel Rescue Operations

- 9.5 km of SLBC project pending, manual excavation required in some areas.
- Directs officials to prioritize worker body recovery
- IAS officer Shivshankar Loteti appointed as special officer

TPN Correspondent | Nagarkurnool

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials in Hyderabad to intensify rescue efforts to recover workers trapped in the SLBC tunnel accident near Domalapenta in Amrabad mandal, Nagarkurnool district.

During a review meeting at the Assembly Committee Hall on Monday, the Chief Minister appointed IAS officer Shivshankar Loteti as a special officer to oversee the rescue operations.

Ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Jupally Krishna Rao, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari, and senior officials were present at the meeting.

Special Chief Secretary of the Disaster Management Department Arvind Kumar and Colonel Parikshit Mehra briefed the Chief Minister on the ongoing operations, highlighting that 25 agencies, including central and state departments and private firms, are involved, with a total of 700 personnel working



on the site.

Officials explained that debris removal is progressing, including welding and clearing collapsed rocks, TBM parts, and accumulated silt. Poor air quality and lighting conditions, with the accident site located 14 kilometers from the inlet side, have posed significant challenges.

A 30-meter stretch has been identified as the most critical zone, requiring a scientifically guided approach based on GSI and NGRI studies. CM Revanth

Reddy instructed officials to expedite efforts to locate the remaining trapped workers and secure all necessary permissions from the central government for emergency interventions.

The SLBC tunnel accident occurred on February 22, trapping eight workers. While the body of Gurpreet Singh was recovered on March 9, the fate of the others remains unknown. The Chief Minister emphasized that rescue efforts must continue under >> PAGE 2

Encourage Investments in Telangana

- Minister Sridhar Babu Urges U.S. Indiana Representatives

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Minister for IT and Industries, Sridhar Babu, has urged representatives of the U.S. state of Indiana to promote investments from their industrialists in Telangana, citing the state's business-friendly environment. A delegation led by Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales met the minister at the Assembly Committee Hall on Monday.

During the meeting, Minister Sridhar Babu detailed the initiatives taken by the Telangana government to boost industrial development and highlighted the incentives available for investors. He emphasized that under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership, Telangana is working strategically towards achieving a trillion-dollar economy,



with the industrial sector playing a crucial role.

The minister also pointed to agreements made at this year's Davos Summit, where industrialists committed to investing ₹1.78 lakh crore in Telangana. He noted that Telangana is gaining global recognition for advancements in technology and is committed to sup-

porting innovative enterprises. He also mentioned that top IT companies like Google and Microsoft have established a strong presence in Hyderabad.

To strengthen industry-academia collaboration, the state has launched the Young India Skills University, offering industry-aligned courses. Apart from IT, Telangana has posi-

tioned itself as a key player in biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and life sciences, with companies like Eli Lilly setting up Global Capability Centers in Hyderabad.

Minister Sridhar Babu also expressed Telangana's readiness to collaborate with Indiana in sectors such as medical devices, pharmaceuticals, life sciences, agriculture, and manufacturing. Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales extended an invitation to Minister Sridhar Babu to visit Indiana to further enhance bilateral ties.

The meeting was attended by Sidonia Nicole (wife of Diego Morales), Sojos Capital CEO Fabio Perez Pereira, Indiana-India Business Council President Raju Chintala, TGIC MD Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, and TGIC CEO Madhusudan, among others.

Kavitha Calls Revanth Reddy 'Flight Mode CM'

TPN Correspondent | Banswada

BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, calling him a "flight mode CM" who constantly visits Delhi but delivers nothing for Telangana. Speaking at an Iftar feast in Banswada, she questioned whether the state was being governed from Hyderabad or Delhi, alleging that Revanth Reddy seeks approval from Delhi for every decision.

Kavitha criticized the Congress government for its stance on minority welfare, accusing it of stopping key initiatives introduced by the previous BRS regime. She highlighted that under former CM KCR, there were no communal clashes in Telangana for ten years, whereas in the last 15 months, incidents of communal violence have be-



come frequent. She alleged that the government failed to act on the Jainur clashes, where Hindu and Muslim houses were burned, and no compensation was provided to the victims.

She also accused the Congress government of failing to release funds allocated for minority welfare. "Not even 25% of the budget has been spent, and the Ramzan >> PAGE 2



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CM Revanth Reddy Reviews SLBC Tunnel Rescue Operations

expert committee guidance. The meeting was attended by Telangana and Andhra Sub Area General Officer Commanding Ajay Mishra, Irrigation Advisor Aditya Nath Das, and representatives from NDRF, SDRF, NGRI, GSI, Singareni, Hydra, Fire Services, and the contractor company, along with the Nagarkurnool District Collector and SP.

Key Turning Point in Betting Apps Case

apps as witnesses in the case. A memo has been filed in court, outlining the charges against the accused. Authorities are also preparing to record statements from those who were involved in advertising and promoting the betting applications. There is a possibility that these individuals will be listed as witnesses in the charge sheet to strengthen the case.

The investigation is focusing on tracing the financial transactions linked to these apps, with police targeting not only the administrators but also those who played key roles in their operations. The crackdown comes as law enforcement agencies across the state intensify efforts to curb online betting activities.

Officials have stated that further action will be taken based on the evidence collected, and more individuals may come under scrutiny as the probe progresses.

Kavitha Calls Revanth Reddy 'Flight Mode CM'

Tofa given to Muslims has been stopped," she alleged. Kavitha claimed that BRS had introduced several self-employment programs for Muslim youth and women, but the Congress government has neglected them.

She reiterated BRS's strong opposition to the Waqf Board Amendment Bill proposed by the Centre, stating that the party would continue to fight against decisions that harm minority rights.

Kavitha also criticized the Congress government for failing to fulfill its promise of increasing Shaadi Mubarak benefits. "KCR's government gave ₹1 lakh under Shaadi Mubarak. Congress promised ₹1.6 lakh plus a tola of gold, but in 15 months, has a single family received it?" she questioned. She alleged that despite taking loans of ₹1.5 lakh crore, the government has not delivered on this promise.

Kavitha also demanded that the government immediately release fee reimbursement arrears, pointing out that the academic year is about to begin, yet students have not received financial assistance. "Fifteen months into the Congress government, not a single rupee has been released for fee reimbursement or scholarships," she said. She recalled that KCR's government had cleared ₹1,800 crore in arrears left by the Kiran Kumar Reddy government to ensure students did not suffer.

BRS leaders, including former MLA Baji Reddy Govardhan, Banswada Municipal Vice Chairman Zubair, and others, participated in the event.

Lawyer Brutally Murdered on Hyderabad

Electrician Dastagiri stabs lawyer Israel to death in broad daylight



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A lawyer was brutally murdered in broad daylight on a highway in Hyderabad, sparking shock and outrage. The victim, identified as Israel, was attacked by an electrician named Dastagiri, who stabbed him multiple times in full public view. Despite being rushed to the hospital, the lawyer succumbed to his injuries during treatment.

According to reports, Dastagiri had been working as an electrician at Israel's house. When a woman complained of harassment by Dastagiri, the lawyer assisted her in filing a police complaint. Enraged by this, Dastagiri planned the



murder for four days before carrying out the attack.

Police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the gruesome incident. The shocking nature of the crime has raised concerns over public safety and the increasing violence against legal professionals.

Phone Tapping Case

Prabhakar Rao's Bail Plea Adjourned for Two Weeks

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana High Court on Monday, March 24, adjourned the anticipatory bail plea of former Special Investigation Bureau (SIB) chief Prabhakar Rao for two weeks, following the state government's request for more time to file a counter-petition.

Rao, who was named the prime accused in the phone tapping case in 2024, has been staying in the USA for over a year and was declared an absconder by the Special Investigation Team (SIT). His legal team argued that he is cooperating with the investigation and claimed that there is a lack

of evidence against him.

In his bail plea, Rao alleged that the phone tapping case was filed with a political motive, and the accusations in the FIR and chargesheet were fabricated to implicate him for political interests. He further denied absconding, stating that he traveled to the USA on March 11, 2024, for medical reasons, nearly 50 days before he was named an accused on April 29.

Rao also contended that the SIT constructed a false narrative of phone tapping and destruction of recordings to satisfy the political setup. His legal counsel had previously submitted a memo to the court on



May 2, explaining the circumstances of his travel before the case was registered.

With the High Court grant-

ing more time for the government's counter-petition, the next hearing is expected in two weeks.

Fine Rice Distribution for White Card Holders from March 30

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Congress government in Telangana will begin the distribution of fine rice (sanna biyyam) to white ration card holders from March 30, replacing the previously supplied coarse rice (doddu biyyam) due to low consumption and misuse.

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy announced that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will formally launch the scheme in Huzurnagar. The initiative will benefit nearly 84% of the state's population, providing six kilograms of fine rice per person each month.

The decision to replace coarse rice follows reports of misuse, including its resale and diversion for non-food purposes, such as beer production and poultry farming.

Uttam Kumar Reddy called



the shift to fine rice a "dignified, reformative step" aimed at ensuring food security and protecting public resources. He added that the initiative aligns with Sonia Gandhi's vision of a hunger-free India.

₹3,591 Crore for Minority Welfare in Budget

During an iftar program in Kodad and Huzurnagar,

the minister reaffirmed the Congress government's commitment to secularism and minority welfare, extending Ramzan greetings to the Muslim community. He highlighted that the 2025-26 state budget has allocated ₹3,591 crore for minority welfare, the highest in Telangana's history.

A significant portion—₹840

crore—has been earmarked for the Rajiv Yuva Vikasam scheme, which aims to create self-employment opportunities for minority youth through skill development and financial assistance.

Uttam Criticizes BRS Over Krishna Water Dispute

On irrigation issues, Reddy accused the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government of allowing Andhra Pradesh to overdraw Krishna River water, affecting Telangana's farmers. He assured that the Congress government will prioritize pending irrigation projects and repair all lift irrigation systems under Nagarjuna Sagar.

A high-level review meeting on the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) project is scheduled for Monday, where Reddy clarified that the temporary pause in SLBC works would not hinder future progress.

Telangana to Introduce AI in Primary School Curriculum

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana government is set to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the primary school curriculum starting next academic year, integrating AI with subjects like mathematics to enhance early digital literacy. The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) is finalizing the curriculum, which aims to familiarize students with technology and digital learning from an early age.

A senior education official stated that Classes I and II students will be taught basic computer skills, while Classes IV and V will be introduced to AI fundamentals.

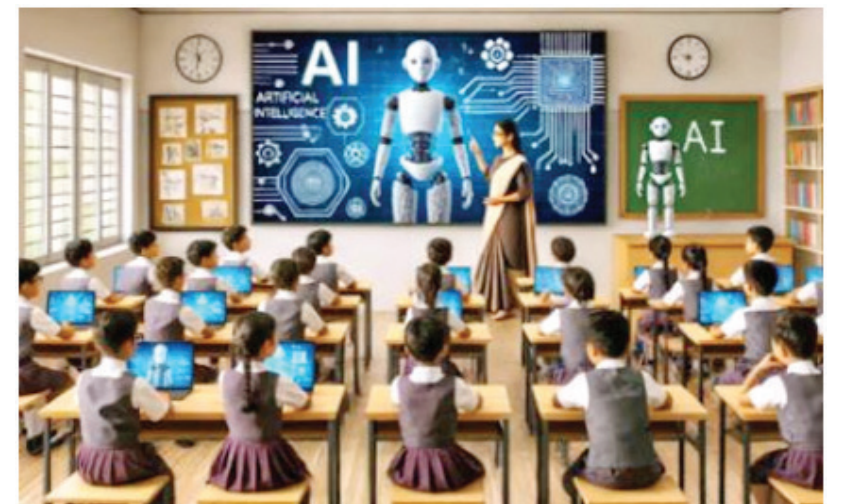
Pilot Program in 20 Districts To assess the feasibility of this initiative, AI and dig-

ital learning programs will be introduced in five primary schools across 20 districts, including Karimnagar, Vikarabad, Kamareddy, Jogulamba Gadwal, Adilabad, Rajanna Sircilla, Jangaon, Mancheri, Jagtial, Warangal, Hanamkonda, Siddipet, Nirmal, Sangareddy, Mulugu, Medak, Mahabubnagar, Narayanpet, Wanaparthi, and Bhadradi Kothagudem.

During a meeting led by Education Secretary Dr. Yogita Rana and School Education Director EV Narasimha Reddy, district collectors agreed to implement the initiative.

Teacher Training and Implementation

To ensure smooth execution, selected teachers and cluster resource persons from 100 primary schools will un-



dergo training at MCR HRD Hyderabad on April 3 and 4. These trained educators will then conduct AI learning sessions for Classes I to V on April 21 and 22 in their respective schools.

The government is also working to improve Foundational Literacy and Numeracy

(FLN) by integrating AI-enabled tools. The FLN-AI (AXL) program, being piloted in 513 primary schools, offers a personalized, web-based learning experience that helps students strengthen their basic literacy and numeracy skills at their own pace.

HC Grants Interim Relief to IPS Officer in Cadre Transfer Case

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana High Court has granted interim relief to IPS officer Abhishek Mohanty, ruling that he should not be relieved from his duties in Telangana until the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) concludes its inquiry into his transfer case.

The ruling comes in response to a directive from the Union Home Ministry that mandated Mohanty's transfer to the Andhra Pradesh cadre, which he challenged before



CAT. The High Court's decision allows him to continue serving in Telangana while his petition is under review. The court also urged CAT to expedite proceed-

ings for a swift resolution.

A division bench comprising Justice Abhinand Kumar Shavili and Justice E Tirumala Devi expressed concern over repeated transfers, comparing it to "playing musical chairs" within the bureaucratic system.

Mohanty's legal counsel argued that his domicile status in Telangana was not properly considered during his cadre allocation. The counsel also noted that both CAT

and the High Court had previously ruled in his favor, directing that he be retained in Telangana due to his established ties and contributions.

The case is rooted in the cadre allocation complexities following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Mohanty was originally allotted to Andhra Pradesh but was transferred to Telangana in 2022 after a government order recognized his domicile claims. However, the Union Home Ministry's recent order aimed to revert him back to Andhra Pradesh, leading to his legal challenge.

Schedule Released for Hyderabad Local Body MLC Election

Polling on April 23; Congress likely to back MIM

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
The Election Commission of India has announced the schedule for the Hyderabad local body MLC election. The nomination process will begin on March 28, and polling is scheduled for April 23. The election is being held as the current MLC, M.S. Prabhakar Rao, is set to complete his term on May 1. As per the schedule, nominations will be accepted until April 4, with scrutiny on April 7. The last date for withdrawal of nominations is April 9. Polling will take place from 8 AM to 4 PM on April 23, followed by vote count-



ing on April 25. Recently, the Congress party secured three out of five MLA quota MLC seats, while CPI and BRS won one each. Reports suggest that Congress had reached an understanding with AIMIM during that election, agreeing to support an AIMIM candidate in the upcoming Hyderabad local body MLC election in return for unanimous election of its own candidates earlier. If Congress refrains from fielding a candidate, AIMIM may secure the seat unopposed. However, the stance of BRS and BJP remains a key factor in the contest.

Harish Rao Slams Congress Over Asha Workers' Arrests

**TPN Correspondent |
Telangana**

Former minister and BRS leader Harish Rao has condemned the arrests of Asha workers across Telangana, accusing the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government of disrespecting them instead of fulfilling its promises. He demanded the immediate release of all detained Asha workers and criticized the government's heavy-handed approach towards their peaceful protests.



Harish Rao questioned whether asking for a salary hike, as promised in the Congress' Abhayastam manifesto, was a crime. He denounced the deployment of large numbers of police personnel to forcibly detain and transport the protesters to police stations. "Is this the respect women get under Indiramma's rule?" he asked. He highlighted the BRS government's contributions to Asha workers during KCR's tenure, stating that their remuneration was increased three times—from ₹1,500 before Telangana's formation to ₹9,750. He also pointed out that the BRS gov-

ernment provided free mobile phones and covered their bills to help them perform their duties efficiently. Harish Rao alleged that the Congress government was betraying its promises and that people from all sections of society had realized its deception within just 15 months of coming to power. He accused the ruling party of using coercion and undemocratic tactics to silence protests. Asserting that the BRS would stand by Asha workers until their demands were met, he called for the immediate implementation of the salary hike as per the Congress manifesto.

People of Gajwel Complain About KCR's Absence in Assembly

CM Says Hundreds Met Him Over Constituency Issues

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has stated that many people from Gajwel constituency have complained to him that public issues related to their area are not being discussed in the assembly due to the absence of former Chief Minister and local MLA K. Chandrasekhar Rao. Sharing this through a post on 'X', CM Revanth Reddy said that hundreds of people from Gajwel, led by Narsa Reddy, had undertaken a padayatra and met him to express their concerns. He recalled the 'Dalit-Tribal Dandora' program once organized in Gajwel and stated that the people's concerns reflect the negligence of their MLA in addressing their problems. The Chief Minister lauded Narsa Reddy's dedication to public welfare and reit-



erated his commitment to standing by the people of Gajwel. He assured that the government would continue its efforts for the welfare and development of the constituency, ensuring that public grievances are heard and addressed.

Owaisi Alleges Wealthy Benefiting from Telangana's Scholarship

Demands BC, minorities sub-plan similar to AP



**TPN Correspondent |
Hyderabad**

AIMIM floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi has alleged that wealthy individuals are misusing government scholarship schemes in Telangana, depriving the truly needy of their rightful benefits. Speaking in the Assembly during discussions on welfare grants, Owaisi called for immediate rectification of these lapses. He pointed out that individuals living in large houses and owning multiple vehicles were availing themselves of overseas and domestic scholarships meant for SCs, STs, BCs, EBCs, and minorities. "Rights must be given to the rightful people. I stand here to protect the rights of the poorest of the poor," he asserted. Owaisi suggested that overseas scholarships worth ₹20 lakh should be granted only to those who commit to returning to India after completing their

education. He also proposed a repayment model where beneficiaries would pay back the scholarship amount over time. Legislative Affairs Minister D. Sridhar Babu acknowledged Owaisi's concerns, admitting that improper beneficiary identification was an issue and urging all parties to collaborate on solutions. He emphasized the need for targeted aid in housing schemes, pensions, and other welfare initiatives. Owaisi further pressed the government to implement a BC sub-plan and minorities' sub-plan, similar to Andhra Pradesh, reminding the Congress-led government of its election manifesto promises. He criticized delays in fund utilization across welfare departments, stating that allocated funds for SC, ST, BC, and minorities' welfare remained either unspent or unreleased. Raising concerns over staff shortages, he noted that the minorities' welfare department had only 238 personnel statewide. He also accused the state government of withholding ₹160 crore released by the Centre for constructing minorities' welfare residential institutions. "If just ₹60 crore is released, 30 minority gurukuls can be completed," he pointed out.

Jagadish Reddy says the assembly cannot run with force

**BRS MLA Questions Suspension
Alleges Violation of Assembly Procedures**



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
BRS MLA and former minister Jagadish Reddy on Monday strongly criticized the

Congress government, warning that it is not possible to run the assembly by force. Speaking to the media in the as-

sembly premises, he alleged that the assembly sessions were being conducted without following proper procedures, constitutional values, or rules. Jagadish Reddy questioned the reason behind his suspension, stating that the Speaker had not issued any bulletin regarding it. "They claim to have suspended me, but they haven't provided any official bulletin. How can they prevent me from attending the sessions without a valid reason? If they issue a bulletin, I will take legal action, which is why they are avoiding it," he alleged. He also launched an attack on Congress leaders from Nalgonda district, accusing them of extravagance. He criticized the use of helicopters for short journeys, specifically mentioning that senior Congress leader Jana Reddy had used a helicopter to attend a 'davat' in Jan Pahad on Sunday, despite it being a short-distance trip that could have been covered by car.

Criminal Case Against Bandi Sanjay

BRS leaders file complaint over remarks on KCR

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A group of BRS leaders have lodged a complaint at the Banjara Hills police station, seeking a criminal case against Union Minister Bandi Sanjay for allegedly making inappropriate comments against former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao. The complaint demands legal action against Bandi Sanjay for his remarks. Among those who filed the complaint are MLC Dr. Dasoju Sravan, BRSV president Gellu Srinivas Yadav, and senior party leaders Manne Govardhan Reddy, K. Kishore Goud, Kuruva Vijay Kumar, Abhilash Rangineni, and Venkatesh.



BRS leaders have strongly condemned Bandi Sanjay's statements and urged authorities to take swift action. The development has intensified political tensions between BRS and BJP in Telangana.

BRS MLAs Wear Black Badges in Telangana Assembly Demand ₹2 Lakh Loan Waiver



TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) MLAs staged a protest in the Telangana Assembly

on Monday, demanding the immediate implementation of the ₹2 lakh farm loan waiver, as promised by the Congress

government. Led by Siddipet MLA T Harish Rao, the protesting MLAs, including Narsapur MLA Sunitha Laxma Reddy, Maheshwaram MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy, Dubbak MLA Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, and LB Nagar MLA D Sudheer Reddy, entered the Assembly wearing black badges, holding placards, and raising slogans against the government. The BRS legislators accused the Congress government of betraying farmers by failing to fulfill its promise of waiving loans up to ₹2 lakh. They called the loan waiver a "hoax" and "Congress' drama," asserting that farmers were still struggling under financial burden due to non-implementation of the scheme. They demanded that the state government deliver on its commitment and provide immediate relief to farmers by executing the full loan waiver.



TGCSB Issues Warning to Firms on Cyber Fraud, Impersonation Scams

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) has issued a public advisory warning corporate offices and IT firms across the state about a surge in cyber frauds targeting finance and accounts teams through impersonation scams.

TGCSB director Shikha Goel highlighted that cyber-criminals are impersonating senior executives, such as CMDs and CEOs, using platforms like WhatsApp, email, and SMS to trick employees into transferring large sums of money under the pretext of urgent financial requests.

In a recent case, an accounts officer of a company received a WhatsApp message from an unknown number, displaying the CMD's profile picture. The message instructed the officer to save a new contact, after which an urgent fund transfer request was made. Believing the message to be genuine, the officer transferred a significant amount, only to later realise it was a scam.

Similar fraud attempts include phishing emails sent from fake or look-alike addresses, falsely claiming changes in company bank details and requesting transaction rerouting. These scams mimic the communication style of leadership, creating a sense of urgency to manipulate employees. WhatsApp usernames are also being altered to display familiar names, increasing credibility.

TGCSB's Advisory to Companies:

Do not act on financial instructions received only through digital platforms without voice confirmation. Verify all high-value transactions directly with reporting authorities via official phone calls.

Sensitise teams in Accounts, Finance, HR, and Admin about this modus operandi.

Encourage employees to report suspicious communications to 1930 or via www.cybercrime.gov.in.

Implement robust internal controls, including multi-level transaction approvals and verification



protocols to prevent cyber fraud.

The TGCSB has urged corporate entities to strengthen cybersecurity awareness and stay alert to new fraud tactics, ensuring financial safety in an era of rising digital crime.

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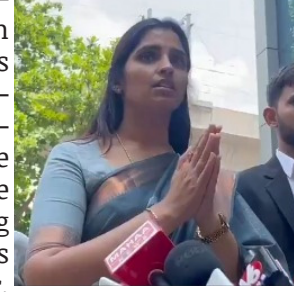
Implement robust internal controls, including multi-level transaction approvals and verification protocols to prevent cyber fraud.

Shyamala admits promoting betting apps was a mistake

Anchor questioned for over three hours by Panjagutta police

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The investigation of popular anchor Shyamala in the betting app case has concluded. She was interrogated by the Panjagutta police for over three hours, during which she admitted that engaging in betting app promotions was a mistake. However,



by a social activist. When she failed to respond to the notices issued for questioning, she approached the Telangana High Court seeking anticipatory bail. The High Court, after reviewing a quash petition, granted her bail and directed the police not to arrest her. Instead, she was asked to appear for interrogation, which she complied with on Monday.

she stated that it was not appropriate to comment further at this stage and assured full cooperation with the investigation.

The police had earlier registered an FIR against Shyamala following a complaint

Shyamala has been under scrutiny for promoting a betting app named Andhra 365. The case is part of a broader crackdown on illegal betting apps, with authorities investigating celebrities and influencers involved in their promotions.

Woman Jumps from MMTS Train to Escape Attacker

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A young woman sustained injuries after jumping from a moving MMTS train near Kompally to escape an assailant.

Telangana GRP SP Chandana Deepti visited the victim at Gandhi Hospital, where she is undergoing treatment. The officer confirmed that while her condition is stable, she remains in shock.

According to the victim's statement, she boarded the Tellapur to Medchal MMTS train at Secunderabad. Two other women traveling with her in the women's coach

alighted at Alwal station. When the train neared Kompally, an unidentified youth attempted to force himself on her, prompting her to jump from the train in an act of self-defense. However, she could not recall when the attacker entered the coach.

The Telangana Government Railway Police (GRP) has formed four special teams to track down the suspect. Two teams are focusing on analyzing CCTV footage and gathering technical evidence to aid in the investigation.

India's First Lacrosse Academy Inaugurated in Hyderabad



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

SATS Chairman Shiv Sena Reddy inaugurated India's first Lacrosse academy, Garuda Lacrosse Academy, on RCI Road in Badangpet, Hyderabad. The academy aims to promote Lacrosse, an Olympic sport, and train players for the 2028 Olympic Games. Speaking at the event, Shiv Sena Reddy emphasized the state government's commitment to sports development, stating that new sports would be promoted to encourage players. He expressed happiness that the Lacrosse Academy has been established in Hyderabad, providing an opportunity for Telangana players.

Honoring Telangana's Lacrosse Champion

Telangana athlete Anudeep Reddy, who captained the Indian national lacrosse team in the World Lacrosse Championship in Japan, was honored at the event.

Telangana Lacrosse Association Technical Director Ponna Shabarish highlighted the academy's mission, stating that it is focused on preparing players for the 2028 Olympics. He described Lacrosse as a dynamic sport that combines elements of basketball, soccer, and hockey, requiring agility, teamwork, and strategic thinking.

The event was attended by several key members of the Telangana Lacrosse Academy, including President Bhanu Chander, General Secretary CVN Shekhar, Vice President Dr. Geetha Venkat, Treasurer Loke Vikas, Joint Secretary Gurram Manjulla, and Organizing Secretary Aruna Pottabathini. Executive Members Krishna Santhoshi and Archana were also present, along with other dignitaries.

The establishment of Garuda Lacrosse Academy marks a historic milestone in India's sports landscape, providing a dedicated training platform for aspiring Lacrosse players in Telangana.

HYDRONEXT 2025: The Modern Living Redefines World Water Day

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

HYDRONEXT 2025, a transformative World Water Day celebration by The Modern Living (TML), the latest venture of Ion Exchange (India) Ltd, redefined the significance of water with a strong focus on innovation, wellness, and sustainability. The event, held at The Park, Somajiguda, brought together industry leaders, scientists, and experts to discuss the role of water in building a sustainable future.

The event was led by Mr. Ravikant Nim, Business Head of TML, who delivered a keynote address on "Ion Exchange India Ltd is a 60-year-old company into total water management. Hydrogen Water for Wellness - The Next Revolution." He emphasized TML's mission for a water-positive future, stating,



"Water is transformation. HYDRONEXT 2025 is about wellness and longevity."

Ms. Jutikaa Mahanta, Marketing Head of TML, welcomed the speakers and, along with Mr. Bimal Kumar Panda and Mr. Sanjay GN, demonstrated the innovative Hydrogen Water Generator developed by TML.

Key Highlights from HYDRONEXT 2025

• Dr. S. Sridhar (IICT) discussed the role of membranes in sustainability.

• Dr. B. Dinesh Kumar (ICMR-NIN, FSSAI) emphasized the need for water interventions in health and nutrition.

• Dr. Manoj Kuriakose highlighted water's healing energy.

• Mr. Srinivasulu A, a Certified Hydrogen Advisor, explored the benefits of hydrogen water.

• Dr. Bharat Patodiya (Oncologist) shared insights on the potential use of hydrogen in cancer treatment.

• Sudhakar Rao stressed the importance of water awareness

and conservation.

• Hawaiian slide guitarist Jaywant Naidu connected music with wellness through a special performance.

• The event also featured 'Water for the Voiceless,' a campaign promoting water bowls for animals.

About The Modern Living (TML)

The Modern Living is the wellness innovation vertical of Ion Exchange India Ltd, offering advanced hydration and lifestyle solutions such as Hydrogen Water Generators for conscious homes across India. HYDRONEXT 2025 served as a significant platform to discuss and drive awareness about water's crucial role in health, sustainability, and innovation, furthering TML's commitment to a healthier, water-positive future.

Asha Workers Union Protests in Koti Demands Fixed Salary and Job Security

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana Asha Workers Union (CITU) staged a protest at the Health Commissioner's office in Kothi on Monday, demanding a fixed monthly salary of ₹18,000 and several welfare measures. The workers emphasized that the state government should announce these benefits in the ongoing Assembly Budget session to ensure better

job security and financial stability for Asha workers.

The protesting Asha workers also demanded a ₹50 lakh insurance cover, ₹50,000 for land expenses, along with promotions, ESI, PF, job security, retirement benefits, and pension schemes. Holding placards and raising slogans, the protesters stressed that Asha workers play a crucial role in the

healthcare system and deserve better wages and social security benefits.

As tensions escalated, the police intervened and forcibly arrested several protesters after they sat on the road, blocking traffic. The union leaders condemned the police action and vowed to continue their agitation until their demands were met.

PIL Filed in HC to Declare Kancha Gachibowli Forest as Ecologically Sensitive

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Telangana High Court, urging authorities to designate the 400-acre forest in Kancha Gachibowli as an ecologically sensitive zone. Filed by environmentalist Uday Krishna, founder of the VATA Foundation, the petition highlights the environmental significance of the forest and its role in Hyderabad's rapidly urbanizing landscape.

The PIL references the 1996 Supreme Court ruling in the TN Godavarman Thirumulpad v Union of India case,

which stated that a forest should be identified based on its ecological function and characteristics, rather than relying solely on government records or legal notifications. The petition argues that Kancha Gachibowli fits this definition and deserves legal protection under the Forest Conservation Act of 1980.

The forest is home to a rich biodiversity, including 237 bird species, spotted deer, wild boars, star tortoises, and snakes such as the Indian rock python and boas. It also contains two lakes—Buffalo Lake and Peacock Lake—and

thousands of trees and shrubs, providing a crucial green lung for the city. The area is further distinguished by its unique rock formations, including one locally known as the "mushroom rock." The petition calls for the recognition of the forest as a national park, restrictions on further development, and additional protective measures to ensure its long-term conservation. With growing concerns over urban expansion, environmentalists argue that preserving such natural habitats is essential for maintaining Hyderabad's ecological balance.



Civil Supplies Reforms Set National Example

Principal Secretary D.S. Chauhan Highlights Telangana's Progress at IIM Conference

Telangana cracks down on illegal rice transport, seizes ₹409 crore worth of rice
First state in India to achieve 100% route optimization, saving ₹12-15 crore
Fortified rice to be introduced in public distribution from April 2025



TPN Correspondent | Telangana
The reforms undertaken in the Telangana Civil Supplies Department over the past 15 months have set an example for the country, said Civil Supplies Principal Secretary D.S. Chauhan. Speaking at the International Leadership Programme at IIM Raipur, he stated that the department has been cleaned up, ensuring timely distribution of quality goods to the poor and hassle-free procurement for farmers. Payments for procured grain are now completed within 48 hours. Chauhan highlighted the crackdown on rice smuggling, stating that ₹409 crore worth of illegal ration rice has been seized in the last 15 months. Telangana has become the first state to achieve 100% route optimization in the civil supplies sector, saving ₹12-15 crore



for the state government. The state is implementing modern, low-cost ration distribution centers (Jan Poshan Kendra) and introducing e-pass technology for efficient service delivery. Telangana is also the first in India to use weather forecasting technology for paddy procurement, benefiting farmers significantly. Chauhan emphasized that the government has taken strict action against millers defaulting on CMR (Custom Milled Rice) collection and illegal rice transporters. As a result, PDS rice seizures have increased ninefold. He also noted that Telangana's rice exports have strengthened with a recent agreement to export quality rice to the Philippines.

Currently, 1.81 lakh metric tonnes of rice are distributed monthly to 89.52 lakh families through 17,000 ration shops. Over the past year, strict measures have improved rice quality, ensuring millers supply only top-grade rice. Starting next month, all ration cardholders will receive rice as per the state government's directives. Furthering its commitment to food quality, Telangana will introduce fortified rice in the public distribution system from April 2025. Chauhan's policy changes, including strict quality control and technology-driven reforms, have transformed the civil supplies sector, setting a benchmark for other states.

No Change in Indiramma House Names

10,956 VRO posts sanctioned, eligibility set at intermediate qualification.

Minister denies any issues with MLA Anirudh Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Telangana
Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy provided key updates on the SLBC project, LRS regularization, and VRO recruitment, assuring that efforts are in full swing to address pending issues. Speaking about the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) project, the minister stated that while the total length is 41.6 km, nearly 9.5 km of work is still pending. He explained that wherever the work remains incomplete, it will have to be done manually. "There is nearly half a kilometer left, and if done manually, nearly one kilometer of excavation will be required," he noted. The minister assured that rescue operations are ongoing under special officer supervision and that all necessary steps will be taken to recover the bodies of those trapped in the accident.



would fall under LRS. However, certain sub-registrars were found acting arbitrarily in granting approvals. "We introduced LRS reforms to address such issues and ensure a fair, streamlined process," he emphasized.

Regarding recruitments, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy announced that 10,956 VRO (Village Revenue Officer) posts have been sanctioned, with eligibility extended to intermediate-qualified candidates. On the issue of Layout Regularization Scheme (LRS), the minister said that the expected response has been received, but there are no plans to extend the deadline at this stage. He assured that not a single case will be overlooked once LRS payments are made, and municipal administration authorities will issue certificates for LRS regularization. Highlighting past irregularities, he mentioned that earlier, if only 10% of a layout was registered, the rest

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy clarified that there will be no change in the names of Indiramma houses and reaffirmed the government's commitment to providing ₹5 lakh per house under the scheme. He stated that the central government would contribute ₹72,000 in rural areas and ₹1.5 lakh in urban areas.

Dismissing speculation about political differences, he said, "I have no problem with MLA Anirudh Reddy, and I don't even know who Abhimanyu Reddy is." He added that he receives around 100 representations daily for various issues and assured that genuine cases would be addressed without any political bias. The minister emphasized that those who are eligible will receive benefits automatically, regardless of their party affiliation.

Minister Vows to Review Demand to Integrate Maheshwaram into Future City

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Telangana IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu has assured that he will bring the Joint Action Committee's (JAC) proposal to merge Maheshwaram Mandal into the ambitious Future City project to the attention of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. The assurance came after JAC leaders submitted a memorandum on Sunday, urging the inclusion of Maheshwaram and Kandukur Mandals in the Future City initiative.



Planned in Mucherla, about 50 km south of Hyderabad, Future City is envisioned as India's first Net Zero Carbon city and a global hub for industries like artificial intelligence, medical tourism, sports, software, and pharmaceuticals. Minister Sridhar Babu highlighted that the integration of Maheshwaram into Future City could offer significant long-term benefits but also acknowledged the challenges

involved in transforming rural areas into urban hubs. He stressed the importance of balanced development to ensure sustainable growth across Telangana. The Future City project is a key part of the state government's strategy to drive economic expansion and contribute to Telangana's goal of becoming a \$1 trillion economy in the next decade.

Kavitha Slams Govt Over MMTS Train Incident

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has expressed shock and concern over the attempted rape of a young woman on an MMTS train, questioning the state government's failure in ensuring women's safety.

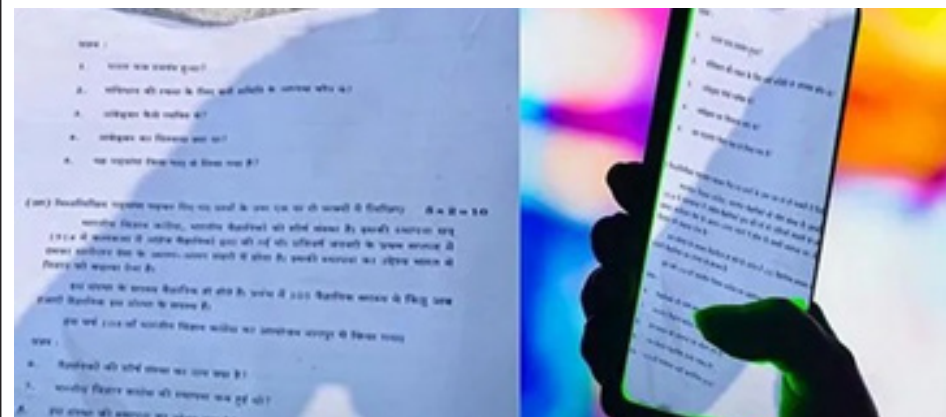
Kavitha spoke to Railway SP Chandana Deepti over the phone and inquired about the victim's health condition. The young woman had jumped from the train near Kompally to escape the attacker and is currently undergoing treatment at Gandhi Hospital.

Expressing deep concern, Kavitha criticized the government, stating that such incidents have been occurring frequently, yet authorities have failed to provide adequate security for women. She blamed the government's negligence for creating an unsafe environment, despite repeated warnings about women's safety in the state.

She demanded that the government take immediate steps to ensure better security measures for women and prevent such incidents from recurring.



10th Exam Paper Leak in Nalgonda: Six Arrested



TPN Correspondent | Nalgonda

A 10th class exam paper leak in Nakirekal, Nalgonda, has triggered a statewide uproar. Police confirmed the arrest of six individuals involved in the case, with a total of 11 people booked following a complaint by the Mandal Education Officer (MEO). The incident took place at the Social Welfare Gurukul School Examination Center in Nakirekal. According to the police, the accused entered the examination center and photographed a student's question paper soon after the Telugu exam com-

menced. They then attempted to collect answers, make copies, and distribute them to students. Nakirekal CI A. Rajasekhar stated that those arrested include private teacher Guduguntla Shankar, Xerox shop manager Brahmadevara Ravishankar, and others identified as Chitla Akash, Bandi Srinu, Chitla Shiva, and a minor. The police seized five mobile phones, a Xerox machine, and a computer as evidence. All accused have been remanded, and further investigation is underway.

Two More IIITs Planned in Telangana

Govt plans two new IIITs under RGUKT Basara

60-acre site inspected in Elkatthurthi, Hanumakonda

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana government has finalized plans to establish two new International Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) in the state, in association with Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT) Basara. One of the new campuses will be set up in Elkatthurthi, Hanumakonda district, where officials have already inspected a 60-acre site. The Congress government

had earlier promised to establish four new IIITs as part of its election manifesto. Initially, locations in Mahabubnagar, Khammam, or Nalgonda were considered, but the latest discussions indicate a shift toward Hanumakonda. A total of 100 acres is expected to be acquired for the project.

Officials, including RGUKT in-charge VC Acharya Govardhan and former JNTUH registrar Acharya Manzoor Hussain, have surveyed the

proposed site. While the estimated budget for these institutions is Rs. 500 crore, the recent state budget allocated only Rs. 35 crore for RGUKT development. As a result, the new campuses may not be operational by the 2025-26 academic year.

The government also aims to introduce multidisciplinary courses such as B.Tech in Biotechnology, Biomedical, Bioinformatics, and Pharma Technology, integrating engineering with biosciences.

Assembly passes resolution adopting Central Organ Donation Act

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Telangana Assembly has passed a resolution adopting the Transplantation of Human Organs Act (THOA), 1994, along with its subsequent amendments and rules. Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha moved the resolution during the special session of the Assembly on Monday, March 24. This Act regulates the removal, storage, and transplantation of human organs and tissues for therapeutic purposes while preventing commercial dealings. It covers organ transplants such as the heart, kidney, liver, bone marrow, skin tissues, blood valves, and heart valves.

man Organs and Tissues Act) enables organ transplants from brain-dead donors and allows the transplantation of human organs to each other in cases of genetic disorders. The Act also imposes stringent penalties for illegal organ transplants, with jail terms ranging from 3 to 10 years and fines between ₹5,000 and ₹1 crore. Under the revised regulations, in addition to neurosurgeons and neurophysicians, physicians, surgeons, intensivists, and anesthesiologists can now declare brain death. A government advisory committee will oversee organ donation and transplantation efforts.

THOTA (Transplantation of Hu-

The central organ donation sys-

tem will integrate with the Je- evandan scheme through the State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO), Regional Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (ROTTO), and National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO). SOTTO will manage cadaver organ harvesting, transplantation, and allocation processes securely. The Act also facilitates the transplantation of organs donated in other states for patients in Telangana. Hospitals will appoint transplantation coordinators, and organ donation and storage centres will be established across the state. The move is expected to enhance medical tourism and strengthen Telangana's healthcare sector.

Nehru's Obsession with RSS

Opted for selective secularism over fostering a sense of citizenship.

The stance of the Indian National Congress on Hinduism has been a subject of considerable debate and contention over the years. At the forefront of this discourse is Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, whose limited understanding of Hinduism significantly influenced the party's approach to the religion. Nehru's tendency to conflate Hinduism with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu nationalist organization, led to a broad and often unfounded disdain for Hinduism within the Congress framework. This conflation not only misrepresented the diverse and pluralistic nature of Hinduism but also painted it in a negative light, leaving lasting repercussions for the community. Nehru's policies, driven by a desire to project an image of secularism and liberalism to secure minority votes and gain international recognition, often came at the expense of Hindu interests. In his quest to be seen as a champion of minority rights, he inadvertently marginalized the Hindu community, making them scapegoats for various socio-political issues. This approach fostered an environment where Hindu identity was often viewed with suspicion, leading to a growing sense of alienation among Hindus. Moreover, Nehru's disconnection from Hindu practices further exemplified this ideological rift. His lack of participation in Hindu rituals and absence from temples were not merely personal choices; they symbolized a broader disconnect between the Congress

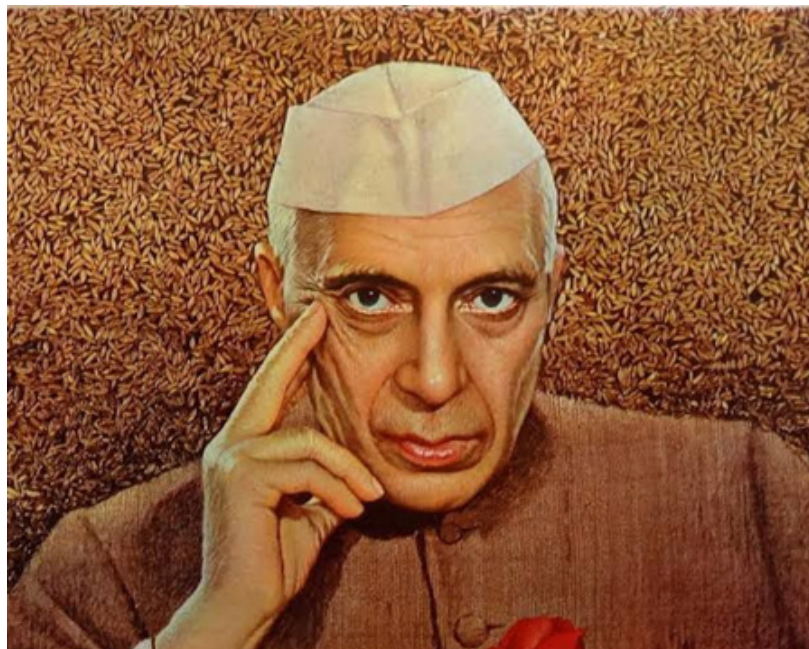
Failed in promoting the idea that all citizens should first identify with the nation-state.

Nehruvian secularism focused on managing religious diversity through shared sense of citizenship.

For instance, the continuation of separate personal laws for different religious communities, instead of implementing a Uniform Civil Code, is often cited as an example of this selective secularism.

In contrast, an approach centered on citizenship would have emphasized the responsibilities and rights of individuals irrespective of their religious affiliations, fostering a stronger national consciousness.

leadership and the cultural and religious sentiments of a signif-



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh

icant portion of the Indian populace. This detachment contributed to the perception that the Congress party was against the values and beliefs of ordinary Hindus. In his pursuit of minority votes, Nehru strategically positioned himself and the Congress party as oppositional to Hinduism,

perceiving it as a means to consolidate power and maintain a secular image. This political maneuvering laid the groundwork for an anti-Hindu sentiment within the party, which can be traced back to Nehru's era. Over the years, this sentiment has evolved into a significant ideological force within Congress, influencing its policies and rhetoric against Hinduism. As a result, the relationship between the Congress party and Hinduism has become increasingly fraught, shaped by a complex interplay of political strategy, historical grievances, and cultural identity. The legacy of Nehru's approach continues to resonate, shaping the party's stance on Hinduism and its engagement with the Hindu community in contemporary India. This ongoing tension reflects

broader societal dynamics and highlights the challenges of navigating religious identity in a diverse and pluralistic nation. Jawaharlal Nehru and the Indian National Congress shaped the political landscape of post-independence India. Their emphasis on terms like secularism and the promotion of a liberal society reflected a vision of a nation that embraced diversity and pluralism—primarily for their own electoral strategy. However, this strategy often overshadowed the fundamental principle of equality among all individuals as citizens. While secularism is undoubtedly important in a country as diverse as India, its prioritization sometimes came at the expense of a more robust discourse on citizenship and the responsibilities that accompany it. In contrast, many developed nations have historically placed a strong emphasis on citizenship and the rule of law as foundational elements of their democratic frameworks. These nations have built their political identities around the idea that citizenship entails not only rights but also responsibilities, and that the rule of law is essential for ensuring justice and equality for all individuals. This focus on citizenship has fostered a sense of belonging and accountability among citizens, reinforcing the idea that everyone, regardless of background, is entitled to equal treatment under the law. India, however, presents a unique case. The Congress Party, under Nehru's leadership,

initially prioritized secular propaganda as a means to unify a diverse population and mitigate communal tensions. While this approach was intended to retain power, it often led to the neglect of more foundational aspects of citizenship and responsibilities. The emphasis on secularism, while crucial for maintaining harmony in a multi-religious society, did not sufficiently address the need for a comprehensive understanding of what it means to be a citizen in a democratic state. This divergence in focus has had lasting implications for Indian society. The lack of a strong emphasis on citizenship and responsibilities in the early years of independence may have contributed to ongoing challenges related to social justice, inequality, and the protection of individual rights. In many ways, the initial prioritization of secularism over citizenship has created a complex landscape where issues of identity, belonging, and legal recognition remain contentious. As India continues to evolve as a democracy, the need for a balanced approach that integrates the principles of secularism with a robust understanding of citizenship and the rule of law becomes increasingly important. By fostering a culture that values both diversity and equality, India can work towards realizing the vision of a truly inclusive society—where all individuals are recognized as equal citizens, entitled to the full spectrum of rights, protections and responsibilities under the law.

Battle for the ₹10 Beverage Market

How FMCG Giants Are Reshaping India's Thirst Economy

THE POINT DECK

As summer temperatures rise, so does the competition among India's top beverage brands, all vying for dominance in the ₹10 price segment. With middle-class consumers seeking affordable and refreshing options, established players like Pepsi and Coca-Cola now find themselves facing an onslaught of competition from Ambani's Campa Cola, Amul's TRU, Parle Agro's Smoothh, and a range of new entrants.

Why the ₹10 Price Point Matters

In a price-sensitive market like India, the ₹10 segment holds a unique appeal. It offers affordability without compromising brand loyalty, making it an ideal entry point for companies looking to capture a wider consumer base. Historically, this price bracket has driven mass adoption across various FMCG categories, and beverages are no exception. Companies are increasingly leveraging it to push everything from carbonated drinks to dairy-based refreshments and energy boosters.

Reliance's Campa Cola Shakes Up the Market

Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL) has aggressively expanded its footprint in the beverage industry with the revival of Campa Cola. The brand, once a household name in the 1970s and 80s, made a strong comeback last year, launching products at competitive pricing to disrupt the stronghold of Coca-Cola and Pepsi. Campa Cola has already claimed over 10% of the sparkling beverage market in select states, with expectations to cross ₹1,000 crore in revenue in FY25. In addition to Campa Cola, Reliance Consumer has been strategically expanding its beverage portfolio. In January 2025, the company launched RasKik Gluco Energy at ₹10, followed by Spinner, a sports drink co-created with legendary cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan. These new offerings



directly challenge traditional hydration and energy-boosting beverages, making Reliance a formidable force in the market.

Amul's Foray into Beverages

The Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), better known for its dairy dominance, has also jumped into the battle with its Amul TRU dairy-based fruit drinks. Priced at ₹10 for a 150 ml pack, TRU is Amul's attempt to capture a share of the growing flavored milk and fruit beverage segment. The brand has already seen success with its butter-milk, which, despite having higher-priced variants, finds maximum sales in the ₹10 pouch category.

Parle Agro's Smoothh Carves Its Own Niche

Parle Agro, the company behind the ever-popular Frooti, entered the dairy beverage space with Smoothh in 2021. The brand, backed by actor Varun Dhawan's endorsement, has quickly scaled up, reaching ₹685 crore in sales by 2023. Smoothh benefits from Parle Agro's massive distribution network of over two million outlets, ensuring easy accessibility across the country.

Who Will Quench India's Thirst?

According to ICRIER, India's beverages market—spanning carbonated soft drinks, bottled water, fruit-based drinks, and juices—was valued at ₹67,100 crore in 2019. This number is projected to skyrocket to ₹1.47 trillion by 2030, signaling a massive growth opportunity for companies willing to innovate and compete in the affordable beverage segment. The ₹10 beverage market is no longer just about soft drinks; it has transformed into a battleground of innovation, affordability, and brand loyalty. With an increasing shift toward value-for-money products, consumer preferences are shaping a market where both global giants and home-grown brands must fight to stay relevant. While Reliance's aggressive pricing strategy and distribution muscle make it a serious contender, brands like Amul, Parle Agro, and PepsiCo are not backing down. As the competition intensifies, one thing is certain: India's thirst for affordable, refreshing drinks is only getting stronger, and brands that can blend quality with affordability will emerge victorious.

Rippling founder shares 'Heartbreaking' Legal Disputes with Wife

Prasanna Sankar, co-founder of the \$10-billion tech company Rippling, is embroiled in a highly publicized legal dispute with his wife, leading to a dramatic turn of events. Facing serious allegations including assault and rape, which he strongly denies, Prasanna claims he is fleeing Tamil Nadu to escape what he describes as police harassment and retaliation over a settlement dispute. The conflict arose from Prasanna's divorce proceedings with his wife, Dhivya. He alleges that after refusing to pay more than the agreed ₹9 crore settlement, she retaliated with fabricated accusations. The dispute intensified when Dhivya allegedly took their son to the United States without consent, leading Prasanna to file an international child abduction case. A US court reportedly ruled in his favor, ordering the child's return to India. Prasanna insists he has full custody rights under a Memorandum of Understanding and claims that his son was handed over to him voluntarily. However, he says his legal troubles escalated due to police pressure, forcing him into hiding. Prasanna has detailed his ordeal in a series of posts on Twitter (now X), alleging police intimidation and unlawful detentions. He accused Chennai police of picking up his friend Gokul from Bengaluru without a warrant and holding him in custody to force him into removing his social media posts. "If I do not remove my Twitter posts, he'd be in trouble," Prasanna wrote,

highlighting what he sees as an abuse of power. He also claimed to be moving between cities with his 9-year-old son, evading authorities while seeking legal relief. Despite the severe allegations, Prasanna remains defiant. "I built an empire from nothing. I can handle this even if a state is on the other side. I'm a survivor, not a victim," he declared. He plans to file a court petition on March 24, seeking protection from police harassment.



Social Media Reactions

Prasanna's revelations have sparked widespread debate online. Many users sympathized with his situation, expressing frustration over alleged misuse of legal provisions. "Read it once. Then twice. And somewhere between the words, I felt something break. A man. A husband. A father," wrote one user. Another remarked, "This breaks my heart! The sad state of justice in our country hits harder when things like these happen closer to the neighborhood and to someone who has a lot." As the legal battle unfolds, the case has ignited discussions about **custody rights, police actions, and the fairness of legal proceedings in domestic disputes.**

Plea In Top Court Challenges 1991 Ruling On Immunity To Judges

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the 1991 judgment in the K Veeraswami case, which grants immunity to judges from criminal proceedings without prior approval from the Chief Justice of India (CJI). The plea also seeks a directive to the Delhi Police to register an FIR over the alleged discovery of semi-burnt cash at the residence of Delhi High Court judge Yashwant Varma.

The alleged cash discovery followed a fire at Justice Varma's official residence in Lutyens' Delhi at 11:35 pm on March 14, prompting the fire department to respond and extinguish the blaze.

In response to the controversy, CJI Sanjiv Khanna withdrew judicial work from Justice Varma and formed a three-member in-house committee to conduct an inquiry. The Delhi High Court Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya was also directed not to assign judicial duties to Justice Varma until further notice.

The petition, filed by advocate Mathews J Nedumpara and three others on March 23, argues that the immunity granted to judges violates the constitutional principle of equality before the law and undermines judicial accountability.

The plea challenges the 1991 Supreme Court ruling, which stated that "no criminal case shall be registered against a High



Court or Supreme Court judge without prior permission from the CJI." The petitioners contend that this decision was made "per incuriam" (in ignorance of law) and "sub silentio" (without explicit legal consideration).

The plea demands the recognition of a cognizable offence in the alleged cash recovery case, urging the Delhi Police to register an FIR. It also seeks a declaration that the in-house inquiry committee lacks jurisdiction to investigate the incident and calls for the prohibition of external interference in law enforcement duties related

to the case. Additionally, it advocates for the implementation of the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010, which aimed to curb judicial corruption but lapsed.

The plea asserts that "equality before law is a fundamental principle of the Constitution" and that the judiciary should not be treated as a special class immune from penal laws. It also questions why, despite the alleged cash recovery, no FIR has been filed against Justice Varma so far.

The Supreme Court is expected to take up the matter for consideration soon.



Sanitation Worker Finds Burnt Rs 500 Notes

Outside Justice Yashwant Varma's House

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In a new twist to the 'cash at judge's home' controversy, a sanitation worker discovered burnt ₹500 currency notes while sweeping outside Justice Yashwant Varma's residence at 30, Tughlak Road in central Delhi on Sunday.

The incident caused a minor stir in the high-security area, which is close to the Tughlak Road police station. The sanitation worker, employed by the NDMC, clicked photos of the burnt notes and informed his seniors, who then alerted the police.

This discovery seemingly supports the police's claim that currency notes were burnt in a fire that broke out on Holi night (March 14) in an outhouse of Justice Varma's official residence. However, Justice Varma has strongly denied any presence of cash on his premises, calling the entire episode a conspiracy to malign him. The controversy has led to Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna ordering a probe and directing the Delhi High Court Chief Justice not to assign any judicial work to Justice Varma until the investigation is completed.

On Friday, Chief Justice Khanna constituted a three-member committee to probe the allegations against Justice Varma.

The committee has not been given a fixed deadline, and further action will be decided based on its findings once the report is submitted.

MPs' Salaries Hiked To Rs 1.24 Lakh Per Month; Allowances, Pensions Also Raised



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Union government has increased the salaries, allowances, and pensions of Members of Parliament (MPs), with the revised pay structure coming into effect from April 1, 2023. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs issued a gazette notification announcing the revision, marking

the first major salary hike since 2018.

According to the notification, the monthly salary of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs has been increased from ₹1 lakh to ₹1.24 lakh. The daily allowance provided to MPs during parliamentary sessions has also been revised, rising from ₹2,000 to ₹2,500. Additionally, the pension for former MPs has been raised from ₹25,000 to ₹31,000

per month. The additional pension for every year of service beyond five years has been increased from ₹2,000 to ₹2,500 per year.

The allowances covering constituency and office expenses are also set to rise. As per the 2018 revision, MPs received ₹70,000 per month as a constituency allowance and ₹60,000 per month as an office allowance. These figures will now see an upward revision, though exact details are yet to be disclosed.

Apart from salaries and pensions, MPs continue to enjoy several benefits, including 34 free domestic flights annually for themselves and their families, first-class train travel, and a mileage allowance for road travel. They are also entitled to 50,000 free electricity units and 4,000 kilolitres of water annually.

MPs receive rent-free housing in New Delhi for the duration of their tenure, with hostel rooms, apartments, or bungalows allocated based on seniority. Those opting out of official accommodation are eligible for a monthly housing allowance.

The latest revision comes amid the ongoing budget session of Parliament and is aimed at adjusting MPs' compensation in line with inflation and rising living costs.

"Elitists Hired As Paid Agents To Divert Attention"

- Shiv Sena MP On Kunal Kamra Row



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Shiv Sena MP Milind Deora on Monday slammed comedian Kunal Kamra, accusing him of being a "paid agent" used to divert public attention from critical issues like the Disha Salian case. His remarks come after Kamra mocked Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in his show, leading to an angry backlash from Shiv Sena workers.

Deora alleged that political elites have hired classist elitists like Kamra to serve their interests. "I can say this clearly—those who are entitled monarchists in Indian politics have, in a way, hired classist elitist people to do their work, to protect them, and to distract from the Disha Salian case," he said, referring to the death of celebrity manager Disha Salian, which has been a subject of controversy. He also pointed out that Salian's father had filed a petition, suggesting that Kamra's act was a diversion tactic.

While acknowledging the role of comedy in democracy, Deora emphasized the difference between humor and elitism. He criticized Kamra for mocking a leader from a humble background, stating, "We take pride in the fact that the Deputy Chief Minister of India's second-largest state was once an auto-rickshaw driver. We take pride that the Prime Minister of the world's largest democracy was once a tea seller. But the language Kamra used exposes him as a paid agent."

Deora also took aim at Congress for defending Kamra's right to free speech, questioning their selective outrage. "What did the Chief Minister of Telangana say recently? He said journalists should be stripped and beaten publicly. Did Congress react to that? When Aditya Thackeray's father was CM, what did he do for Kangana Ranaut's safety when she was just a Bollywood actress, not an MP? They demolished Kangana's office. Such people have no right to speak about democracy and the Constitution."

Earlier, Shiv Sena workers stormed Mumbai's Habitat Studio, where Kamra was performing, and vandalized the venue. The police later summoned them for questioning.

During his show, Kamra had taken a dig at Shinde, using a modified version of a song from 'Dil To Pagal Hai', saying, "Meri nazar se tum dekho toh, gaddar nazar wo aaye. Haaye." The remark, referring to Shinde's 2022 rebellion that led to the split of Shiv Sena, drew laughter from the audience and was later shared by Kamra on social media platform X.

Hindi Was Compulsory 3rd Language During Congress Rule

TPN Correspondent | Tiruchirappalli

Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai on Sunday alleged that Hindi was a mandatory third language during the Congress-led UPA regime and credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for introducing flexibility in the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Speaking at a public meeting, he accused the ruling DMK of failing to make Tamil the compulsory medium of instruction despite governing the state for years.

Referring to NEP 2020, Annamalai stated, "For the first time, Modi changed the third language policy from mandatory Hindi to allowing students to choose any Indian language. Now, students can study Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, or even Hindi." Annamalai Targets DMK Over Education Policy

He further pointed out that countries like China, Germany, and Japan have made significant progress by providing education in their native languages. He claimed that while the DMK has been in power for decades, it never made Tamil



the compulsory medium of instruction. "It was Modi who ensured Tamil as the mandatory language of instruction from classes 1 to 5," he added.

Highlighting the BJP's ongoing campaign in support of NEP 2020, Annamalai revealed that 26 lakh signatures had been collected within 18 days. He also took a dig at the DMK's previous signature

campaigns, including their opposition to NEET, questioning their effectiveness.

He further accused DMK leaders, including ministers, of making derogatory remarks about North Indians and dismissed Chief Minister Stalin's claim that his party would secure over 200 seats in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. "Stalin is living in an illusion," he remarked.

Protests Erupt Across Turkey Over Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu's Arrest

Opposition calls arrest a bid to block 2028 presidential run.

- Dilek Kaya Imamoglu warns authorities of consequences.
- Imamoglu faces accusations of corruption and links to terrorism.
- Protests reflect frustration with Turkey's democracy, economy, and public services.

TPN Correspondent | Istanbul

Protests Escalate Following Mayor's Arrest

Turkey is witnessing one of the most significant outbursts of public unrest in over a decade, triggered by the controversial arrest of Istanbul's mayor, Ekrem Imamoglu. The protests, which began on Wednesday following his detention, have spread rapidly across the country, despite government-imposed bans on public gatherings. Imamoglu, a key figure in Turkey's opposition movement, was arrested during a pre-dawn raid by hundreds of police officers, leading to widespread condemnation from his supporters and opposition parties.



In a passionate speech to the crowds gathered outside Istanbul's City Hall, Imamoglu's wife, Dilek Kaya Imamoglu, declared, "He will defeat you! You will lose!" She described the injustice faced by her husband as symbolic of the struggles many ordinary citizens face under the current government. Her words resonated deeply with the protesters, with many expressing that Imamoglu's plight echoed their own frustrations with the state of democracy and governance in Turkey.



Allegations and Charges Against Imamoglu

Imamoglu is facing serious charges including corruption, bribery, and links to terrorism due to his political dealings with a pro-Kurdish party. The Turkish authorities claim that he was involved in creating a criminal organization, rigging tenders, and accepting bribes. Despite the severe nature of these accusations, the court has refrained from formalizing charges related to terrorism, focusing instead on the financial crimes. His arrest and the subsequent legal battles have intensified political tensions, with his supporters accusing the government of using the judicial



system to undermine political opposition. As protests continue to grow, it is clear that Imamoglu's arrest has become a focal point for broader societal concerns about the erosion of democratic rights, political freedoms, and the stability of Turkey's economic and social systems under Erdogan's rule. The ongoing unrest and Imamoglu's rising popularity signal a challenging period ahead for the Turkish government as public dissatisfaction with the regime intensifies.

Pakistan: Islamabad High Court restores biweekly meetings for Imran Khan in Adiala Jail

Allowed to meet family, lawyers, and friends biweekly, but visitors are prohibited



TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

In a significant ruling on Monday, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) restored biweekly meetings for former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who has been incarcerated in Adiala Jail since August 2023. However, the court imposed strict conditions, particularly prohibiting visitors from making political statements following their meetings with Khan.

According to the court's order, Imran Khan will be allowed to meet his family and legal team on Tuesdays, while friends can visit him on Thursdays. Only those individuals authorized by his coordinator, lawyer Salman Akram Raja, will be permitted to meet the PTI leader.

During the hearing, IHC's Acting Chief Justice Sarfaraz Dogar raised concerns over the use of jail meetings for political purposes. He specifically mentioned that visitors should "meet and leave" without engaging in any political discourse. Additionally, the court emphasized that speaking to the media after these meetings would be unnecessary and should be avoided. Visitors were instructed to sign an undertaking agreeing not to make any public statements related to the meetings.

The decision came after the jail authorities defended the consolidation of Khan's meetings into a single day due to security concerns. They had previously cited the risks involved in allowing sep-

arate meetings on different days. However, the court rejected this argument, reaffirming a prior ruling that allowed biweekly meetings.

Imran Khan's legal team, led by his lawyer Zaheer Abbas, argued that their client's scheduled meetings were being arbitrarily denied. For instance, they claimed that a scheduled meeting on March 20 was not allowed despite repeated requests.

Justice Dogar also directed Imran Khan's legal team to approach the trial court separately if they sought permission for his children to visit him. This decision comes as Khan continues to face multiple legal challenges, with his conviction in corruption cases transforming his status from under-trial to convicted prisoner, which has affected his privileges in prison.

The court's ruling marks a minor relief for the PTI leader and his supporters. However, the prohibition on political statements during meetings indicates that the judiciary intends to prevent jail visits from being used as a platform for political messaging. Any violations of this new rule, particularly regarding media engagements, could result in further legal actions, according to reports from The Express Tribune.

This ruling has been interpreted as a balancing act, allowing Khan's supporters to meet with him but curbing the political messaging that has surrounded his imprisonment.



South Korean Court Dismisses PM Han Duck-soo's Impeachment Over Martial Law

Minister Choi Sang-mok assumed acting president role during the court's review.

TPN Correspondent | Seoul

South Korea's Constitutional Court ruled on Monday to strike down the impeachment of Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, reinstating him to his position as acting president. This decision followed Han's brief tenure as acting president after the suspension of President Yoon Suk Yeol last year due to his declaration of martial law. Han had been impeached by lawmakers in December, just weeks after stepping into the leadership role in the wake of Yoon's suspension.

The impeachment motion against Han was dismissed with a 7-1 vote by the court's eight justices, with two justices voting to reject the motion entirely. The impeachment, which led to Han's suspension, was primarily based on allegations of his role in the martial law incident, as well as his refusal to appoint three more justices to the Constitutional Court, a demand from the opposition-led parliament.

Han's brief time as acting president began after President Yoon's suspension on December 3, 2024, following his controversial declaration of martial law. The martial law, which lasted only six hours after a strong parliamentary vote to reject it, caused widespread political upheaval. It raised alarms both domestically and internationally, as allies like the United States expressed concern over Yoon's ability to lead in the wake of the crisis. During the turmoil, Han was seen as a stabilizing figure with his extensive political experience, having served in various leadership roles for over three decades under five different presidents.

Despite his long career and reputation for bridging partisan divides, Han became embroiled in the political conflict when he was accused of not doing enough to oppose the martial law decision. This led the opposition-dominated parliament to impeach him in late December. During the impeachment hearings, Han denied any involvement in the martial law declaration and called for the impeachment to be dismissed.

In the meantime, Finance Minister Choi Sang-mok temporarily took over as acting president while the Constitutional Court deliberated on the cases of both President Yoon and Prime Minister Han. Han's reinstatement marks the latest twist in the political crisis that has gripped South Korea since the martial law declaration and the subsequent suspensions of its top leaders.

US Gold Card Scheme A Hit?

Trump's 'Gold Card' Scheme Sees Promising Start with 1,000 Sold in a Single Day

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

Donald Trump's newly launched 'Gold Card' or 'Golden Visa' program, which offers permanent residency and optional citizenship in the United States for a hefty price of \$5 million per card, is reportedly off to a strong start. According to US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, the program has already gained significant traction, with 1,000 Gold Cards sold in a single day.

Speaking on the 'All-In Podcast,' Lutnick shared that the program would officially roll out in about two weeks, adding that tech mogul Elon Musk is currently working on the software needed for the initiative. Lutnick's revelation about the rapid



sales of Gold Cards paints a picture of high demand for this exclusive opportunity to secure permanent residency in the US. The Gold Card grants individuals permanent residency in the United States without the obligation to pay global taxes, a key feature of the program. Lutnick explained that while the cardholders will not be forced to become US citizens, they will have the right to live in the country indefinitely. This arrangement is appealing to foreign nationals, particularly those from countries with high global tax rates, as the Gold Card holders will only be taxed on income earned within the US.

Lutnick elaborated on the potential benefits for wealthy individuals, citing an example where someone might purchase multiple Gold Cards for their family, ensuring access to the US in times of crisis or instability. "It's a safety net," Lutnick said, emphasizing the freedom and security the card offers. Research by the Trump Administration reportedly shows that around 37 million people worldwide could afford to buy the Gold Card. With the potential for large-scale sales, President Trump has expressed confidence in selling up to a million cards. The funds raised from this program will be used to address the US fiscal deficit and national debt. The Gold Card scheme has no annual cap on issuance, meaning it could generate substantial revenue. If the trend continues, with \$5 billion in sales just 24 hours into the program, it looks set to be a highly profitable venture for both investors and the US government.

Bullish Surge in Indian Stock Markets with Six Consecutive Sessions of Gains



Domestic stock markets closed with huge gains on Monday. They surged for the sixth consecutive session. They jumped with doubled enthusiasm. Investors were overjoyed at the bullish moves. The reasons for this were positive signals from global markets, reinvestment by foreign institutional investors who had been selling for years, strengthening of the rupee against the dollar, and a surge in banking and finance stocks. With this, Nifty rose by 307 points and Sensex by 1078 points. Nifty reaching the crucial 200 DEMA is a positive development. If the momentum continues like this, the markets are sure to turn around.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,905 in the previous session, opened at 77,456 on Monday. It touched an intraday low of 77,179. It reached an intraday high of 78,107. It finally closed at 77,984 with a gain of 1078 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,515, reached a low of 23,433 and a high of 23,708. It rose by 307 points in total and closed at 23,658. The Nifty Bank rose by 1111 points and settled at 51,704.

In the Nifty50, 42 companies gained and 8 lost. PSU banks, private banks, banking, finance, PSE, realty, oil, infra, energy, IT, auto, pharma, and metal stocks were the top gainers. Kotak Bank, NTPC, SBI, Tech Mahindra, and Power Grid were the top gainers. Titan, IndusInd, Trent, M&M, Airtel lost the most.

Market breadth on NSE today completely shifted in favor of buyers. Out

of 3027 stocks traded, 1865 gained. 1082 lost. 53 stocks touched 52-week highs. 62 stocks touched 52-week lows. 202 stocks crossed the upper circuit and 74 stocks crossed the lower circuit.



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Rupee strengthened by 34 paise to settle at 85.63 against dollar. Government appoints Rahul Bhawe as MD and CEO of IFCI. Motilal Oswal, Ramdev Agarwal and Motilal Oswal Foundation will sell 8 lakh shares of Motilal Oswal Financial Services for donation. 10 lakh shares of Bharat Electronics changed hands.

IREDA shares rose 10%. RBI imposed a penalty of Rs 36 lakh on IDBI Bank. Nifty Defense Index rose 8%. Shares of the respective companies surged. Manappuram Finance shares rose 22% in 8 sessions. LT approved raising Rs 12,000 crore through commercial borrowing. Geojit maintains buy rating on Suzlon Energy with a target price of Rs 71. Diamond Power gets an order worth Rs 215 crore.

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Rupee strengthened by 34 paise to settle at 85.63 against dollar. Government appoints Rahul Bhawe as MD and CEO of IFCI. Motilal Oswal, Ramdev Agarwal and Motilal Oswal Foundation will sell 8 lakh shares of Motilal Oswal Financial Services for donation. 10 lakh shares of Bharat Electronics changed hands. IREDA shares rose 10%. RBI imposed a penalty of Rs 36 lakh on IDBI Bank. Nifty Defense Index rose 8%. Shares of the respective companies surged. Manappuram Finance shares rose 22% in 8 sessions. LT approved raising Rs 12,000 crore through commercial borrowing. Geojit maintains buy rating on Suzlon Energy with a target price of Rs 71. Diamond Power gets an order worth Rs 215 crore.

1. State Bank of India (SBI)

SBI is India's largest public sector bank with a dominant position in the banking industry. Over the past five years,



SBI has delivered CAGR (Compounded Annual Growth Rate) of 21% in stock price. As of recent reports, SBI's loan book has expanded significantly due to strong credit demand.

With the Indian economy growing, SBI is likely to benefit from rising loan demand, especially in retail, MSME, and corporate segments. SBI's focus on digital banking (e.g., YONO app) is improving operational efficiency and attracting younger customers. The bank has significantly reduced Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), making it financially stable for long-term investors. SBI has been rewarding investors with dividends, making it an attractive stock for passive income.

2. Bajaj Finserv



Bajaj Finserv is a financial powerhouse, with businesses in lending, insurance, and wealth management. Over the last 10 years, it has delivered a CAGR of 30% in stock price. Bajaj Finserv operates in NBFC (Bajaj Finance), insurance (Bajaj Allianz), and mutual funds, reducing business risks. India's rising middle class and digital finance adoption will benefit Bajaj Finserv's loan business. With increasing insurance penetration in India, Bajaj Finserv's insurance arm has huge long-term potential. The company has strong Return on Equity (ROE) of ~20% and Return on Assets (ROA) of ~5%.

3. SBI Life Insurance



SBI Life is one of India's largest private life insurance players. The stock has grown 15-18% CAGR over the past five years. India's insurance penetration is still low (~3%), giving SBI Life massive room for growth. Being a part of SBI, the company benefits from a strong distribution network with 22,000+ SBI branches selling policies. SBI Life enjoys high persistency ratios (customer retention), ensuring stable long-term

revenues. The company has high solvency margins, meaning it can handle future claims efficiently. SBI Life is expected to deliver 15-20% annual growth, with a target price of ₹2,200-₹2,500 over the next 5 years.

4. Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL)

Reliance is India's largest conglomerate, with businesses in oil & gas,



retail, telecom (Jio), and digital services. Over the last 5 years, it has delivered a CAGR of ~18%. With India's data consumption growing, Jio is set to dominate the 5G market. Reliance Retail is expanding aggressively and may overtake competitors like D-Mart in the long run. Reliance is investing in green energy (hydrogen, solar, battery storage), securing future revenue streams. Reliance has aggressively reduced debt, making its balance sheet stronger.

5. Power Finance Corporation (PFC)

PFC is India's leading lender to power and infrastructure projects. Over the last five years, the stock has delivered a CAGR of ~20%. With urbanization and industrialization, India's electricity demand is growing. PFC benefits from government policies favoring power sector reforms. The stock is an excellent option for long-term investors seeking passive income. PFC is funding solar and wind energy projects, securing long-term growth.



POWER FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED

Unified Pension Scheme Notified for Govt Employees

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has officially notified the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for central and state government employees, marking a significant shift in the pension structure. This new scheme will come into effect from April 1, 2025, ensuring a structured and assured pension for eligible employees.

The UPS aims to provide a guaranteed pension of 50% of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months before retirement. This approach ensures stability in post-retirement earnings for government employees. The scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 24, 2024, as an improvement over the existing National Pension Scheme (NPS), which is primarily linked to market returns.

Eligibility Criteria

The scheme is applicable to central government employees who are currently under NPS as of April 1, 2025, allowing them the option to switch to UPS. Additionally, newly recruited employees on or after April 1, 2025, will be automatically enrolled under this scheme. Around 23 lakh central government employees are eligible to choose between NPS and UPS, depending on their preference for

pension security.

Employees can access the enrollment and claim forms online from April 1, 2025, through the official website of Protean CRA at <https://npscra.nsdl.co.in>. For those preferring an offline process, physical form submissions will also be accepted, as per the notification.

Key Features of UPS

The Unified Pension Scheme ensures an assured pension of 50% of the average of the last 12 months' basic pay before superannuation. To qualify for the full pension benefits, an employee must complete a minimum of 25 years of service. Unlike the old pension system, UPS requires employees to contribute 10% of their basic salary and dearness allowance (DA), while the government will contribute 18.5% toward their pension fund. The final pension payout under this scheme will be partially influenced by market-linked investments, mainly in government securities.



India Set to Become World's Consumption Capital: Report

India is poised to emerge as the world's consumption capital, outpacing major global economies, according to a new report by Angel One and Iconic Asset. The report highlights that consumption already accounts for 56 percent of the country's GDP and is growing at the fastest rate globally.

Over the next decade, India's consumption is expected to double by 2034, driven by factors such as the rising number of nuclear families and a workforce expansion that will further boost economic activity. Household growth in India is outpacing population growth, leading to increased spending, while the country is also set to lead global workforce expansion. The report underscores India's strong savings potential, noting that total savings between 1997 and 2023 amounted to \$12 trillion. This figure is projected to surge tenfold to \$103 trillion by 2047, unlocking new opportunities for higher spending and economic growth. Additionally, recent tax cuts announced in the Union

Budget are expected to contribute to rising consumption. The report estimates that these reductions will free up ₹1 lakh crore, leading to an additional ₹3.3 lakh crore in spending and potentially boosting India's GDP by 1 percent.



India's Flash PMI slips to 58.6 on slower service activity

India's HSBC Flash Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) dropped slightly to 58.6 in March 2025, down from 58.8 in February 2025, reflecting a slowdown in the service sector's activity. The Flash PMI is a key early indicator of economic health, capturing data from 80% to 90% of survey responses. A PMI value above 50 indicates growth in private sector activity, and India's

PMI has remained above this level for over three years.

The service sector growth slowed, with the Flash PMI for services at 57.7 in March, compared to 59 in February. The slowdown in services could be attributed to higher prices relative to manufacturers and weaker growth in new business from abroad. In contrast,

the manufacturing sector saw an improvement, with the manufacturing Flash PMI rising to 57.6 in March 2025 from 56.3 in February. This marked the highest manufacturing output since July 2024, though manufacturers faced margin pressure as input prices rose, while factory gate prices increased at the weakest rate in a year.

Tata Sierra Testing In Full Swing; Thar-Rival Launching By Year-End

Tata Motors is gearing up to reintroduce the iconic Sierra SUV, with its latest version undergoing rigorous testing. First unveiled at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, the 2025 Tata Sierra is expected to hit Indian roads by the end of this year, followed by its EV variant later. Recent spy shots suggest the test mule is in its final production-spec form, indicating that the much-anticipated SUV will soon be ready for launch.

Design Updates

The 2025 Tata Sierra features a high-mounted bonnet, vertically split headlamps, a gloss-black grille with silver skid plates, and wide air dams with an ADAS sensor. Notably, it will sport flush door handles, a body-colored B-pillar, a blacked-out C-pillar, and roof rails. Unlike the original '90s model, which had a three-door layout, the new Sierra comes with a practical five-door setup.

Features & Technology

While Tata Motors has yet to reveal the full feature list, the 2025 Sierra is expected to include a 10.25-inch digital instrument cluster, a 12.3-inch touchscreen infotainment system, a panoramic sunroof, a wireless charger, a powered tailgate, and multi-color ambient lighting. Other premium additions may include a high-end audio system, dual-zone climate control, and powered, ventilated front seats. For safety, the Sierra is expected to be



equipped with Level-2 ADAS features, including adaptive cruise control, lane-keep assist, automatic emergency braking, blind-spot monitoring, ABS with EBD, a 360-degree camera, electronic stability control, and a tire pressure monitoring system.

Engine & Powertrain

The Sierra ICE variant is likely to come with two engine options:

- A 1.5-litre T-GDi turbo-petrol engine delivering 165 HP and 280 Nm of torque.
- A 2.0-litre Kryotec diesel engine producing 170 HP and 350 Nm of torque.

Both engines will be available with

manual and automatic transmission options.

Launch, Price & Competition

Set to rival the Mahindra Thar and Maruti Suzuki Jimny, the Sierra will take a more premium and urban-focused approach. It will not use a body-on-frame chassis like its competitors but instead aim to be a refined alternative—akin to how the Land Rover Defender stands apart from the Jeep Wrangler and Mercedes-Benz G-Class. Expected to be priced from ₹13 lakh onwards, the Tata Sierra will launch by the end of 2025, offering a fresh take on India's growing lifestyle SUV segment.

Sick of bloating from caffeine? Here's how you can reduce it



Caffeine is a popular stimulant, but for some people, it can cause bloating and digestive discomfort. This occurs because caffeine increases stomach acid production, which may irritate the gut lining and lead to bloating. Additionally, many caffeinated drinks contain acids and compounds that promote gas production in the stomach.

If you experience bloating after consuming caffeine, simple dietary and lifestyle adjustments can help. Here are nine effective tips to reduce bloating caused by caffeine:

Caffeine is a diuretic, meaning it increases urination and may lead to dehydration. Dehydration can cause water retention and bloating, so it's essential to drink plenty of water throughout the day, especially when consuming caffeinated beverages.

Limit Dairy-Based Caffeinated Drinks

If you experience bloating after drinking coffee or tea, lactose intolerance could be the culprit. Dairy-based creamers and milk may be hard to digest for some people. Try switching to plant-based milk options like almond, oat, or lactose-free alternatives. Sugar-free energy drinks and flavored coffee often contain artificial sweeteners like sorbitol, aspartame, and sucralose, which are known to cause bloating and digestive issues. Opt for natural sweeteners like honey, stevia, or cinnamon instead.

Choose Low-Acid Coffee or Cold Brew

Coffee is naturally acidic, which can irritate the stomach and contribute to bloating. If you're sensitive to acidity, consider low-acid

coffee varieties or cold brew coffee, which has lower acidity and is gentler on digestion.

Carbonated sodas and energy drinks contain caffeine along with gas-producing carbonation, which can trap air in your digestive system and cause bloating. If this affects you, switch to non-carbonated options like black coffee, matcha, or herbal teas.

Avoid Drinking Caffeine on an Empty Stomach

Having caffeine on an empty stomach can increase acid buildup, leading to bloating and discomfort. To prevent this, consume a fiber-rich meal or snack—such as oatmeal, bananas, or whole grains—before drinking coffee or tea.

Limit Excessive Caffeine Intake

Too much caffeine can overstimulate the digestive system, causing acid reflux, inflammation, and bloating. If you're prone to bloating, try reducing your caffeine intake and see if your symptoms improve.

If caffeine bloating persists, consider herbal teas like ginger, peppermint, or fennel tea, which have natural anti-bloating properties. These teas can soothe digestion, reduce inflammation, and prevent gas buildup.

Cinnamon and ginger have digestive benefits that can counteract caffeine's bloating effects. Adding a pinch of cinnamon powder or fresh ginger to your coffee can neutralize acidity, improve digestion, and reduce bloating.

By making these simple adjustments, you can continue enjoying caffeine without the discomfort of bloating. Experiment with these strategies to find what works best for you!

"Vast Underground City" Discovered Under Egyptian Pyramids, Claim Scientists



the Great Sphinx and the pyramids. The study claims to have found five small, room-like structures inside one of the pyramids, challenging previous archaeological assumptions about burial sites. Experts Dismiss Findings as "Fake News"

Leading Egyptologists have strongly denied these claims, calling them unverified and misleading. Zahi Hawass, Egypt's former Minister of Antiquities, dismissed the research, stating that the methods used were "neither scientifically approved nor validated." He emphasized that decades of studies using advanced techniques like gravimetry and muon tomography have found no evidence of such massive subterranean structures. Radar specialist Professor Lawrence Conroyers also labeled the findings "a huge exaggeration," arguing that no existing radar technology could produce images from thousands of feet underground. However, he did acknowledge that smaller ancient structures or ceremonial chambers might have been built under pyramids, similar to Mesoamerican traditions. Despite the bold claims, the findings have yet to undergo peer review or independent verification. Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities has not commented on whether further investigations will be conducted.

A controversial new study has claimed the discovery of a "vast underground city" beneath Egypt's iconic pyramids. Using advanced radar technology, researchers led by Filippo Biondi of the University of Strathclyde and Corrado Malanga of the University of Pisa

believe they have uncovered hidden structures beneath the Giza Plateau. The scientists, working on what they call the "Khafre Project," assert that their radar scans detected eight vertical cylinder-shaped artefacts stretching over 2,100 feet beneath the pyramids.

Additionally, they claim to have identified various unidentified structures at a depth of 4,000 feet. The team suggests that their findings may be linked to the legendary "Halls of Amenti," a mythical chamber thought to contain ancient records beneath

the pyramids. The study claims to have found five small, room-like structures inside one of the pyramids, challenging previous archaeological assumptions about burial sites. Experts Dismiss Findings as "Fake News"

Unique Temple in Kolkata Serves Noodles and Momos as Prasad: A Cultural Fusion

Kolkata blends faith and food with its distinctive offering of Chinese cuisine as prasad.

India's cultural and religious diversity is one of its most unique features, and a temple in Kolkata beautifully embodies this fusion. While most temples across the country offer laddus or sweets as prasad, the Chinese Kali Temple in Kolkata stands out by serving noodles, momos, and other Chinese dishes as prasad. This temple is not just known for its religious significance and stunning architecture but also for its cultural blend that attracts people from various walks of life.

The Story Behind the Chinese Kali Temple

The Chinese Kali Temple has an interesting and fascinating backstory that brings together both the Bengali and Chinese communities. According to local legend, many years ago, a young

boy fell gravely ill, and doctors could do nothing to save him. In desperation, his parents took him to a place where two black stones were revered as Maa Kali by the locals. After days of prayers, the boy miraculously recovered. In gratitude for this divine intervention, the boy's parents began worshipping Maa Kali at this sacred site. Over time, this sacred space became a temple, and both the Bengali and Chinese communities contributed to building the Chinese Kali Temple here.

The Uniqueness of Noodles and Momos as Prasad

Noodles, a staple of Chinese cuisine, became a part of the temple's prasad offerings as a result of a significant historical event. During the Chinese



Civil War, many Chinese refugees migrated to Kolkata, bringing their culinary traditions with them. As part of their customs, they would offer special dishes to deities, and eventually, they began offering noodles to Maa Kali at this temple. Over time, noodles became a permanent offering, alongside momos and other Chinese delicacies, which are now considered divine

blessings by devotees. This fusion of Chinese cuisine with Indian temple rituals showcases the merging of two distinct cultures.

A Must-Visit Destination in Kolkata

Located on Matheswartala Road in Kolkata's Tangra region, the Chinese Kali Temple is a must-visit for anyone seeking to explore the rich cultural fusion that Kolkata has to offer. Visitors can experience a profound spiritual journey while enjoying a unique offering of Chinese food as prasad. The temple, which remains open seven days a week, serves as a reminder of how diverse traditions can come together to form a harmonious whole.

To visit the temple, take the metro to

Rabindra Sadan Station and board a bus heading towards Science City or Topsia. The blend of spirituality and Chinese cuisine makes this temple a truly unique destination in Kolkata.

Highlights:

Cultural Fusion: Chinese and Bengali communities built the Chinese Kali Temple together.

Unique Prasad: Noodles and momos are served as prasad in a fusion of Indian and Chinese traditions.

Historical Context: Chinese refugees brought their culinary customs during the Chinese Civil War.

Spiritual Experience: Devotees experience both cultural and spiritual enrichment at the temple.

Location: Situated on Matheswartala Road in Kolkata's Tangra area, the

Who is Vignesh Puthur Mumbai Indians spinner from Kerala

Mumbai Indians' new left-arm wrist spinner, Vignesh Puthur, had a dream IPL debut in the 2025 season as he claimed the crucial wickets of Rituraj Gaikwad, Shivam Dube, and Deepak Hooda against Chennai Super Kings. Despite MI's loss, his performance stood out as one of the biggest positives for the team. Brought in as the Impact Player, Puthur replaced Rohit Sharma and made an instant impact by dismissing CSK skipper Gaikwad in his very first over. He followed it up by removing big-hitter Shivam Dube, and later, he also got rid of Deepak Hooda, finishing with figures of 3/32.



Who is Vignesh Puthur?
The 24-year-old spinner from Malappuram, Kerala, was signed by Mumbai Indians for ₹30 lakh in the IPL auction. Though he has never played at the senior level for Kerala, he has represented the state at the U-14 and U-19 levels. Currently, he plays for Alleppey Ripples in the Kerala Cricket League and has also featured in the Tamil Nadu Premier League.
Hailing from a humble background, Puthur is the son of an autorickshaw driver and a homemaker. Initially a medium pacer, he switched to leg-spin on the advice of local cricketer Mohammed Sherif, which proved to be a turning point in his career. His performances in the Kerala College Premier T20 league for St. Thomas College put him on the radar of IPL scouts.
Earlier this year, Mumbai Indians sent him to South Africa as a net bowler for MI Cape Town in the SA20 league, which helped him gain experience.

Portugal beat Denmark in Thrilling Quarter-Final



Portugal secured a thrilling 5-2 victory after extra time against Denmark in the second leg of the UEFA Nations League quarter-finals, winning 5-3 on aggregate to book a semi-final clash with hosts Germany in June.
Despite an early setback when Cristiano Ronaldo's penalty was saved by Kasper Schmeichel, Portugal mounted a strong comeback, with Francisco Trincao's late double and Goncalo Ramos' goal sealing the dramatic win.
Portugal's Fightback
Denmark, carrying a 1-0 first-leg advantage, held their ground early as Schmeichel denied Ronaldo from the spot in the 6th minute. However, Portugal equalized on aggregate in the 38th minute when Joachim Andersen's attempted clearance ended up in his own net.
Denmark responded in the 56th minute through Rasmus Kristensen's header, regaining their aggregate lead. But

Portugal refused to back down. Ronaldo made amends for his penalty miss by scoring a crucial rebound goal in the 72nd minute. Just four minutes later, Christian Eriksen tapped in an open goal, putting Denmark back in front overall.
With the game slipping away, Trincao struck in stoppage time to force extra time. The Sporting Lisbon winger then put Portugal ahead shortly after the restart, threading his second goal through a crowded penalty box. He was also involved in the final goal, as Goncalo Ramos finished off the contest.
Denmark fought bravely, but Portugal's relentless attack proved decisive. Having won the inaugural Nations League in 2019, Roberto Martinez's side now aims to become the first team to win the tournament twice.
Portugal will face Germany in the semi-finals as they continue their quest for European glory.

Spain edge Netherlands on penalties, set up Nations League semi-final

Defending Nations League champions Spain edged past the Netherlands in a thrilling 5-4 penalty shoot-out victory after their quarter-final second leg ended 3-3 in Valencia on Sunday. With this win, Spain set up a semi-final clash against France on June 5 in Stuttgart.
Spain took an early lead after Mikel Oyarzabal converted a penalty following a foul in the box. The Netherlands equalized in the 54th minute when Memphis Depay won and scored a spot-kick.
Oyarzabal struck again in the 67th minute, capitalizing on a strong Nico Williams run. However, the Netherlands found another response as Ian Maatsen's powerful strike leveled the game with 11 minutes left.
The match went into extra time, where Lamine Yamal curled in a brilliant strike to give Spain the lead. But there was another twist as Unai Simon brought down Xavi Simons, who then stepped up to convert the penalty and force a shoot-out.
Penalty Shoot-out Thriller
Spain held their nerve in the shoot-out despite Yamal missing his spot-kick. Unai Simon made a crucial save against Donyell Malen, and Pedri sealed the win

with the final penalty.
Spain now faces France, the 2021 Nations League winners, in the semi-finals. France reached the last four after a 5-4 shoot-out win over Croatia in a game where Michael Olise and Ous-

mane Dembele scored in regulation time.
With their title defense still alive, Spain will now prepare for a high-stakes clash against Kylian Mbappe's France in Stuttgart.



Tamim Iqbal suffered a Heart Attack while Playing Underwent angioplasty after being rushed to the hospital.

Former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal suffered a heart attack during a Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League match on Monday, prompting an urgent medical response. The 36-year-old was leading Mohammedan Sport-

ing Club against Shinepukur Cricket Club when he experienced chest pain during the first innings. Tamim fielded for just one over before being rushed to the hospital in critical condition.
Medical Emergency and Treat-

ment
Initially, arrangements were made to transport him by helicopter from BKSP ground in Savar, but due to logistical issues, he was instead taken to Fazilatunnesa Hospital.
A medical bulletin issued by

the hospital confirmed that Tamim underwent an angiogram and angioplasty to clear a blockage. "He returned to us in a critical condition. It was a heart attack, and the procedure went smoothly. He is currently under observation," the bulletin stated. Doctors credited the swift coordination between medical staff at the stadium and hospital for his timely treatment.

Following the incident, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) cancelled a scheduled board meeting, and BCB President Faruque Ahmed rushed to the hospital along with senior officials to monitor his condition.
Tamim Iqbal, who retired from international cricket for the second time in January 2024, had earlier reversed his decision in July 2023 after intervention from then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The former Bangladesh captain played 70 Tests and 243 ODIs, amassing 5,134 and 8,357 runs, respectively, along with 1,758 runs in 78 T20Is.



THIS IS PEAK IPL Delhi Capitals chase down 210 with just 1 wicket left, after being 7/3 and 65/5.



In a nail-biting encounter, Delhi Capitals (DC) secured a thrilling one-wicket victory over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) with three balls to spare in Match 4 of IPL 2025. Chasing a challenging target of 210, DC stumbled early as LSG's bowlers struck crucial blows. However, a resilient partnership between Vipraj Nigam and Ashutosh Sharma reignited their hopes. As the match neared its cli-

max, DC required five runs off four balls with just one wicket in hand. A composed finish saw them cross the line, sealing an unforgettable win. LSG's Shardul Thakur's fiery opening spell and Nicholas Pooran's explosive knock earlier in the game went in vain. DC's triumph marks a strong start to their campaign, showcasing their depth and resilience under pressure.



Pooja Hegde Speaks Out on Paid Trolling in Film Industry

Actress Pooja Hegde has opened up about the growing issue of paid trolling in the film industry, revealing that she has been a target of orchestrated social media attacks. In a recent interview, she shed light on how such negativity is not limited to male stars but also affects female actors, despite their significant contributions to a film's success. While it's commonly believed that the industry revolves around male leads, Pooja emphasized that heroines also play a crucial role in drawing audiences to theatres. However, with limited opportunities for female actors and a highly competitive landscape, jealousy and rivalry often fuel targeted criticism. She pointed out that PR agencies actively run negative campaigns, spreading memes, trolls, and online hate against actresses. While many heroines are aware of this unhealthy trend, most choose to remain silent. Pooja's revelation highlights how this practice, once prevalent in Bollywood, is now making its way into South Indian cinema as well.



Preity Mukundhan Calls Acting with Prabhas Her Career's Biggest High



Tamil Nadu-born actress Preity Mukundhan, who has been making her mark in Tamil cinema, is set to appear in Kannappa alongside Manchu Vishnu. Initially, she auditioned for the lead role, but the part went to Nupur Sanon. However, when Nupur exited the project, the role came back to Preity, giving her a major opportunity in Telugu cinema. Reflecting on her experience,

Preity shared her excitement about working with Prabhas, calling it the most unforgettable moment of her career. "I never thought I would even get to meet him in my life, but now I've acted with him. This is my career's biggest high," she said. For her role in Kannappa, she underwent extensive training in horse riding and sword fighting. Known for her glam-

orous photoshoots on Instagram, Preity confidently embraces bold and stylish looks. She was previously seen as the lead in Om Bheem Bush, opposite Sree Vishnu. However, the film's underwhelming performance at the box office delayed her next big project. Now, with Kannappa, she is looking forward to making a strong impact in the industry.

Weekend Box Office: Five Films Set for Release

The Tollywood box office has seen a lukewarm March, with only Court exceeding expectations. As the month comes to a close, five films are gearing up for release, promising a variety of cinematic experiences for audiences.

Among them, Robinwood and Mad Square stand out as the only straight Telugu films, while Lucifer 2: Empuraan, Veera Dheera Shoorra, and Sikandar add to the mix with their star power and diverse appeal.

Nithin's Robinwood is already making waves, thanks to its catchy track Adi Dha Surprise and the much-talked-about cameo by Australian cricketer David Warner. With Sreeleela as the female lead, this comedy entertainer could mark a strong comeback for Nithin, who has been struggling at the box office.

Mad Square, arriving on March 28, has its eyes on younger audiences, particularly collegegoers, who contributed to the success of its predecessor. A premiere on



the 27th is under consideration, while ticket bookings are already underway.

The highly anticipated Mohanlal starrer Lucifer 2: Empuraan, helmed by Prithviraj Sukumaran, is set for release on March 27. Given the immense success of Lucifer—which was later remade in Telugu as Godfather—fans have high expectations for this sequel.

Meanwhile, Vikram's Veera Dheera Shoorra has flown under the radar compared to the other releases. How-

ever, with S.J. Suryah in a crucial role, the film could surprise audiences with its performances.

Adding Bollywood flair to the lineup, Salman Khan's Sikandar, co-starring Rashmika Mandanna, will also hit screens at the end of the month. While its reach in smaller centers remains uncertain, a Salman-starrer never fails to generate buzz. With such a diverse slate of releases, the Ramzan weekend promises an exciting showdown at the box office.

Ajay Devgn Unveils First Look of Raid 2



Ajay Devgn is set to return as IRS officer Amay Patnaik in Raid 2, with the first-

look poster unveiled on Monday. The sequel, directed by Raj Kumar Gupta, is slated

for release on May 1, 2025. The intense poster shows Ajay standing

amid towering stacks of files, exuding a determined expression. Sharing the look on social media, he wrote, "Naya shehar. Nayi file. Aur Amay Patnaik ki ek nayi raid. #Raid2 knocking at your doors in cinemas near you on 1st May, 2025."

Produced by Bhushan Kumar, Kumar Mangat Pathak, Abhishek Pathak, and Krishan Kumar, Raid 2 is presented by Gulshan Kumar and T-Series in association with Panorama Studios. The film features Riteish Deshmukh, Vaani Kapoor, and Rajat Kapoor alongside Ajay Devgn.

The original Raid (2018) was inspired by a real-life Income Tax raid from the 1980s and starred Saurabh Shukla and Ileana D'Cruz. Ajay Devgn, who was last seen in Singham Again, continues his streak of action-packed roles.

Mohanlal Confirms Film With Mammooty

Mohanlal and Mammooty, the legendary duo of Malayalam cinema, are set to reunite on screen for a big-budget film tentatively titled MMMN, directed by Mahesh Narayanan. In a recent interaction with NDTV, Mohanlal opened up about his deep friendship with Mammooty, revealing that they stay in touch frequently and meet almost every week. He also shared that during his recent visit to Sabarimala Temple, he performed special poojas



for his family and Mammooty. Speaking about their upcoming film, Mohanlal stated, "We are working on a film. It is yet to be completed. We had to shoot it in Visakhapatnam, and Mammooty had to shoot in the UK. It

is a big film. We will finish it by May or June, so you can watch it in September or October." MMMN features a stellar cast including Nayanthara, Fahadh Faasil, Kunchacko Boban, Rajiv Menon, Renji Panicker, Revathi, and others. The film will be shot across multiple locations, including Delhi, Kochi, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Azerbaijan, Thailand, Abu Dhabi, Sri Lanka, and London, with a planned 150-day shoot schedule.

Varun Tej's VT15, An Indo-Korean Horror Comedy,

Varun Tej's upcoming film, temporarily titled VT15, began shooting on Monday with a traditional pooja ceremony in Hyderabad. Directed by Merlapaka Gandhi, the project blends Indian and Korean filmmaking in the horror-comedy genre. Produced by UV Creations and First Frame Entertainment, the film is being made on an expansive scale. The announcement, made on

Varun Tej's birthday, gained further traction after the release of an intriguing poster in January. Noted composer S Thaman will score the film's music, while Manoj H Reddy is handling cinematography. According to sources, Ritika Nayak is set to join the cast, though the film's editor has yet to be announced. Sharing photos from the pooja ceremony, UV Creations



wrote, "The journey begins. The super entertaining journey of #VT15 begins with an auspicious pooja ceremony. Get ready for a blockbuster ride full of laughs, chills, and thrills."