



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 33 °C L 25 °C	H 35 °C L 26 °C	H 36 °C L 26 °C

Telangana Cabinet Expansion

- Ministers to Take Oath on April 3
- Congress high command approves cabinet expansion
- Oath-taking ceremony likely on April 3
- Four to five new ministers expected to be inducted



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Congress high command has given its nod for the much-awaited cabinet expansion in Telangana, with the oath-taking ceremony scheduled for April 3. Reports suggest that two leaders from the BC community, one Reddy, and one SC representative will be accommodated in the new cabinet reshuffle.

Possible Ministerial Picks

As per sources, the Congress leadership has gathered inputs from the state core committee, CM Revanth Reddy, and PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud before finalizing the names. Among the strong contenders for a ministerial berth are:

Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy, Sudarshan Reddy, or Mal Reddy from the Reddy community.

Aadi Srinivas and Srihari Mudiraj from the BC category. Chennur MLA Vivek Venkataswamy is being considered for the SC quota.

If a minority leader is accommodated, MLC Ameer Ali Khan could get a spot. Out of the six vacant ministerial positions, reports indicate that four to five may be filled in this expansion.

Strategic Move Ahead of Local Elections

CM Revanth Reddy, Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, and PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud recently visited Delhi, where the AICC leadership discussed the cabinet expansion. With local body elections around the corner, the Congress high command is keen on ensuring ministerial representation across all regions to strengthen the party's prospects. The assembly budget sessions will conclude on March 27, and sources suggest that the cabinet expansion may take place on Ugadi or just before the festival.



Fire Accidents, Traffic Jams: Hydra, GHMC Take Key Decision

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Awareness (Hydra) department and the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) have jointly decided to set up two special committees to address fire accidents and traffic congestion in the city. This decision comes in the wake of increasing fire incidents and the need for improved flood prevention measures during the rainy season.

In a high-level >> PAGE 2

Govt Key Decision on Tankbund Neera Cafe



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Telangana government has taken a key decision regarding the Neera Cafe at Tankbund People's Plaza, officially handing over its management to the State Kallugeeta Industrial Corporation. A Government Order (GO) has been issued to transfer the cafe from the Tourism Department after consultations with the Excise and Tourism departments.

Following this decision, MLC and TPCC Chief Mahesh

Kumar Goud, along with TPCC Kallugeeta Section President Nagaraju Goud, expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Ponnam Prabhakar for the move.

The Neera Cafe, which was set up during the previous KCR government at a cost of ₹12 crore, features state-of-the-art facilities and a unique design. The seating arrangement, designed with tree stumps and palm trees, allows visitors to enjoy Neera, a traditional drink, in a natural >> PAGE 2

SLBC Tunnel Collapse

Second Worker's Body Identified Hours After Recovery

TPN Correspondent | Nagarkurnool

The body of the second worker trapped in the SLBC tunnel collapse was identified hours after being recovered on Tuesday, March 25. The worker, identified as Manoj Kumar from Uttar Pradesh, was found following excavation efforts in the last 50 meters of the 14-km-long tunnel.

Rescue workers had detected a foul odor near the loco track, prompting a focused search in that area, which was believed to be outside the D1 and D2 zones where the missing workers were suspected to be buried. The body was found about 50 meters from the conveyor belt using a mini excavator.

Search operations are ongoing as rescue teams continue their efforts to locate six other missing workers, who are be-



lieved to still be trapped under the rubble.

On March 9, the body of a worker, Gurpreet Singh from Punjab, was recovered and handed over to his family.

About the SLBC Tunnel Col-

lapse

The collapse of the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Nagarkurnool occurred on February 22, trapping eight workers, including two engineers. The workers trapped under the

collapsed roof have been identified as Manoj Kumar (UP), Sri Niwas (UP), Sunny Singh (J&K), Gurpreet Singh (Punjab), and Sandeep Sahu, Jegta Xess, Santosh Sahu, and Anuj Sahu, all from Jharkhand.

Earlier, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and State Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy had inspected the rescue operations. The chief minister expressed hope that the damaged conveyor belt would be repaired soon, with officials estimating two to three days to assess the full situation and determine the location of the trapped workers.

CM Revanth Reddy called the incident unfortunate and urged opposition parties to unite in providing support to the affected families, stating that empathy and cooperation were necessary in this difficult time.

VC Sajjanar Responds to Betting App Issue, Appeals to Victims

- Sajjanar urges victims of betting apps to avoid suicide.
- Emphasizes that survival is the key to overcoming problems.
- Encourages individuals to think of solutions rather than ending their lives.
- Appeals to victims to consider the pain their families would endure.
- Stresses the importance of sharing problems and seeking help during tough times.



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

TGSRCT MD VC Sajjanar responded to the ongoing betting app issue by making a heartfelt appeal to victims of online betting. He strongly stated that suicide is never the solution to any problem. Sajjanar urged the victims to adopt the mantra, "No suicide... Survival is

the key," emphasizing the importance of overcoming challenges rather than giving in to despair.

In his message, he advised those struggling with the aftermath of betting app losses to think about the immense pain their parents and family members would endure if they made such drastic decisions.

"When faced with a problem, do not think of dying, but instead focus on finding a way out," he said.

He reminded the victims that life is precious and that no setback or failure should make anyone feel that all is lost. "We have only one life, and everything we achieve happens in this lifetime. >> PAGE 2

Raja Singh's Sensational Allegations Against His Own Party Leaders

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

BJP MLA Raja Singh has once again made sensational allegations against his own party leaders, claiming that some of them are conspiring against him and even tried to impose the PD Act on him. The Goshamahal MLA revealed that he had received information about attempts to send him to jail.

Despite the ongoing Telangana Assembly budget session, Raja Singh has been absent, sparking speculation within the party. His comments have now triggered a major discussion in BJP circles, especially as the party high command deliberates on the selection of the new Telangana BJP president.

Raja Singh also commented on the BJP's state leadership, stating that the next party president should be a committed leader who works only for

the party and not someone who secretly meets BRS and Congress leaders. He emphasized that if the right leader is chosen, BJP has a strong chance of forming the government in Telangana in the future.

Raja Singh Warns KTR

Raja Singh also issued a strong warning to BRS working president KTR, criticizing his statement that the BRS would take action against retired police officers once it returns to power. He reminded KTR that during the BRS rule, even current CM Revanth Reddy was jailed, yet after coming to power, he did not take any action against those officers.

He defended the police



force, saying that they only act as per the law, regardless of the government in power. He also alleged that many BJP workers were jailed under false cases and that when he was arrested under the PD Act, his own BJP colleagues did not stand by him. He concluded by making shocking allegations that some leaders within the BJP are still trying to backstab him.



CPI MLA Slams IT Sector Exploitation, Calls for Govt's Action

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

CPI Legislative Party Leader Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao voiced strong concerns over the deteriorating work conditions in the IT sector during the Telangana Assembly session on Monday. He criticized companies for overworking employees and urged the state government to take immediate action to safeguard workers' rights.

Rao highlighted how software jobs, once considered prestigious, now leave employees exhausted, with many appearing aged by the time they reach their 50s. He questioned whether existing labor laws were being enforced and demanded clarity on work hours, retirement age, and benefits. If necessary laws are lacking, he insisted they should be introduced, ensuring strict regulations on IT firms.

Industrial Development and Municipal Revenues

The CPI MLA also stressed



the need for district-specific industrial zones, citing Telangana's rich mineral reserves. He pointed out the granite and coal resources in Khammam and proposed upgrading a mining college into an Earth Sciences University to boost industrial and educational development.

Additionally, he raised concerns about the government's delay in disbursing municipal revenues, which has resulted in unpaid staff for months. He called for dedicated IAS officers in each district to oversee education and healthcare, ensuring full implementation of welfare schemes.

Telangana to Hike Property Registration Fees After Bhu Bharati Launch

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Telangana's property registration charges are set to increase with the rollout of the 'Bhu Bharati' portal, which will replace the existing Dharaani system. Revenue Minister P Srinivasa Reddy confirmed that there would be no extension for the Land Regularisation Scheme (LRS) deadline.

The revenue, stamps, and registration departments are reviewing stamp duty and registration fees to align with current market rates. The revised charges will take effect once Bhu Bharati is fully operational

after thorough testing and resolution of technical issues.

To streamline property management, the state government plans to appoint a surveyor and deputy surveyor for each mandal and engage 6,000 licensed surveyors.

Regarding LRS, the minister stated that applicants paying fees before March 31 would receive a 25% discount, while those applying later would have to pay the full amount. He also noted that the previous government had rejected 13 lakh LRS applications, but affected applicants can now appeal for reconsideration.

KTR Questions Congress Policies

- KCR Govt's Achievements Ignored
- Why Lock Ambedkar Statue?
- ORR Lease: Double Standards?
- Formula E vs. Miss World Debate

Hyderabad: BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) strongly criticized the Congress government in the Telangana Legislative Assembly, questioning its policies and priorities. He highlighted the achievements of the previous KCR-led BRS government, including providing jobs to 550 individuals in the cultural sector, securing UNESCO heritage recognition for Ramappa Temple, and the grand reconstruction of Yadadri Temple.

KTR dismissed claims that nothing was done under KCR's

tenure, citing key projects like Ranganayaka Sagar, Konda Pochamma Sagar, and the tourism development in Somashila, Jupally constituency. He also pointed out the successful completion of Warangal's Kaloji Kalakshetra.

Raising concerns, KTR questioned why the Congress government had locked the 125-foot Ambedkar statue and why the Martyrs' Memorial remained inaccessible to the public. He criticized the government's decision to lease the Outer Ring Road (ORR) under the TOT mod-



el for 33 years, asking how a 99-year lease in the tourism policy could be justified.

KTR also targeted the government's decision to cancel the Formula E race, which he claimed generated Rs 700 crore in revenue. He questioned how the Miss World pageant would bring comparable income and

job opportunities.

Addressing the agrarian crisis, he stated that 480 farmers had committed suicide due to a lack of irrigation water, while people continued to suffer from drinking water shortages. He urged the government to prioritize public welfare over event-based expenditures.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Named in AICC Drafting Committee

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has been appointed as a member of the AICC Drafting Committee, as announced by AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge and General Secretary KC Venugopal on March 24. The committee has been formed to prepare for the upcoming AICC meetings in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on April 8 and 9.

The Drafting Committee plays a pivotal role in shaping the party's future strategies, policies, and political decisions. Bhatti Vikramarka's inclusion is seen as a recognition of his political experience, leadership, and contributions to the Congress party.



The Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting will take place on April 8, followed by the AICC delegates' meeting on April 9. According to KC Venugopal, these meetings

will align with the resolutions made at the "Nava Satyagraha" meeting in Belagavi, Karnataka, in December 2023. The Drafting Committee will play a significant role in finalizing

the party's manifesto, organizational changes, and election strategies.

Bhatti Vikramarka's Influence in Congress

Bhatti Vikramarka has been a key leader in Congress for years, and his leadership was instrumental in the party's victory in the Telangana Assembly elections in 2023. His People's March energized the party cadre and helped Congress reclaim power in the state. Additionally, Bhatti Vikramarka played a crucial role in the success of the INDIA alliance in the Jharkhand Assembly elections of 2024. His elevation to the AICC Drafting Committee is expected to further strengthen his role in shaping the party's national strategies.

Minister Sridhar Babu Clarifies on 400 Acres in Kancha Gachibowli

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

IT and Industries Minister Sridhar Babu has issued a clarification regarding the 400 acres of land in Survey No. 25, Kancha Gachibowli, Serilingampally Mandal, Rangareddy District, in response to recent misleading reports. He stated that the land rightfully belongs to the government and is being allotted for development through TGIIC (Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation).

Background and Legal Proceedings

In 2003, the Andhra Pradesh government allotted this land to IMG Academies Bharat Pvt. Ltd. for sports infrastructure development. However, IMG failed to initiate the project, and the Congress government

in 2006 cancelled the allotment due to rule violations.

Following this, IMG Academies filed a petition in the High Court, which ruled on March 7, 2024, in favor of the government's decision. Later, IMG approached the Supreme Court through a Special Leave Petition (SLP), which was dismissed on May 3, 2024, confirming the land as government-owned.

Land Allotment to TGIIC
Minister Sridhar Babu affirmed that the Deputy Collector and Tehsildar of Serilingampally verified the revenue records, confirming that the 400 acres is government land with no links to the Forest Department.

As per the new land allotment policy, the government issued an order on June 26, 2024, allocating the land to



TGIIC. Official handover to TGIIC was completed on July 1, 2024.

TGIIC has assured that there has been no encroachment on the University of Hyderabad land and clarified that no water bodies like Buffalo Lake or Peacock Lakes exist in the 400-acre area. Additionally, the stone structures and mushroom-shaped rock formations

within the land will be preserved as a green zone, and an environmental protection plan will be implemented to ensure sustainable development.

TGIIC is now preparing to invite tenders for integrated development on the land, aiming to create world-class infrastructure with a sustainable approach.

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Fire Accidents, Traffic Jams: Hydra, GHMC Take Key Decision

meeting at GHMC headquarters, Hydra Commissioner Ranganath and GHMC Commissioner Ilambarthi held discussions with officials and staff to review the current situation and formulate a strategy. It was decided that:

A fire safety committee will be formed in collaboration with the Fire Department, Hydra, and GHMC to enhance fire prevention and safety measures across the city.

A traffic and flood management committee will be set up with officials from Traffic Police, Hydra, and GHMC to tackle traffic congestion and mitigate urban flooding during heavy rains.

The authorities emphasized the need for a coordinated approach to ensure quick response times and better disaster management. With these committees in place, the administration aims to strengthen preventive measures and improve city infrastructure to handle emergencies more efficiently.

Govt Key Decision on Tankbund Neera Cafe

setting. The cafe also offers Telangana cuisine, making it a popular destination for locals and tourists.

Neera is known for its health benefits, with medical experts highlighting it as a nutritious alternative to other beverages. The cafe stands as a symbol of the Geetakarmika community's cultural heritage, and the latest decision is expected to further promote their livelihood.

VC Sajjanar Responds to Betting App Issue, Appeals to Victims

Don't let one fall define your entire journey," Sajjanar added. Sajjanar further noted that, like dark times and difficulties, moments of joy and success also come and go. He encouraged victims to share their suffering with others and seek solutions through support and understanding.

In his closing remarks, Sajjanar posed a thought-provoking question: "No matter how difficult it is, will the situation last forever? Can problems be solved by dying?" He urged the victims to reflect on the lasting impact of their decisions and the possibility of brighter days ahead.

Harish Rao Counters Sridhar Babu's Claims on Teacher Recruitment



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Former Minister Harish Rao addressed the Telangana Assembly during the discussion on the Education Department, responding to Minister Sridhar Babu's remarks. He stated that he was speaking to correct the records of the House after Sridhar Babu mentioned his

name.

"You are far from the truth when you say that not a single teacher recruitment took place during the BRS regime," Harish Rao said, countering the claims made by Sridhar Babu. He asserted that 26,000 teachers were recruited during the BRS government's tenure—8,000 through the Public Service Commission and 18,000 in Gurukuls.

He also questioned the Congress government's stance on school closures. "When our

Sabitha Indra Reddy asked about the number of reopened schools, the Minister said 79 closed schools were reopened. But why are you not talking about the 1,913 schools that have been shut down since the Congress government came to power?" he challenged.

Harish Rao's remarks highlighted the ongoing political tussle over education policies, with both the ruling Congress and opposition BRS trading accusations over school closures and teacher recruitment.



There Is Dissatisfaction... Jeevan Reddy's Sensational Comments!

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Senior Congress leader T. Jeevan Reddy has made sensational remarks, expressing his disappointment over not being appointed as an MLC. Speaking to the media on Tuesday, he stated that despite being in politics for 40 years, he was unhappy about not securing an MLC seat. He mentioned that he had hoped for renewal, but it did not happen. However, he made it clear that he has no intention of stepping away from public life.

"If I say I am not unhappy, it would be like lying to a fool," Jeevan Reddy remarked. He reaffirmed his commitment to staying connected with the people, stating that he has been with them for decades and will continue to do so. His comments have sparked widespread discussion, especially in the backdrop of the Congress high command approving cabinet expansion in Telangana.

New Ministers to Take Oath on April 3

Meanwhile, the Congress high command has given the green



signal for the cabinet expansion in Telangana. The swearing-in of new ministers is expected to take place on April 3. Reports indicate that the expansion will include two BC leaders, one Reddy, and one SC leader. The AICC has taken inputs from the state core committee, including opinions from CM Revanth Reddy and PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud. Among the frontrunners for ministerial posts are Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy, Sudarshan Reddy, and Mal Reddy from the

Reddy community. Adi Srinivas and Srihari Mudiraj are expected to represent BCs, while Chennur MLA Vivek Venkataswamy is likely to be chosen from the SC category. Currently, six ministerial positions remain vacant, with reports suggesting that four or five of them will be filled. Additionally, there is speculation that if minorities are given representation, MLC Aamir Ali Khan could be considered for a ministerial berth.

Seethakka Slams Sabitha Over Education Department Issues

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Education Minister Seethakka strongly criticized former minister Sabitha Indra Reddy's remarks on the state of the education department. Speaking in the Assembly, she accused the previous BRS government of neglecting the sector and implementing schemes only for political gains.

She alleged that the breakfast scheme was introduced merely for electoral benefits, stating, "They started the breakfast scheme just three days before the election schedule to gain political mileage. It was launched in only a handful of schools as a mere show, without even allocating proper funds." She further revealed that after the Congress government took charge, they cleared ₹3.5 crore in pending bills left unpaid by the previous administration. Taking a dig at the BRS gov-



ernment's claims of improving the education sector, Seethakka pointed out that even former CM KCR's grandson was shocked by the poor state of schools. "He visited the Gouli Doddi school and admitted that he had never seen such conditions before," she said. She criticized the BRS for boasting about increasing the number of schools while

failing to provide even basic infrastructure facilities. Seethakka's remarks underscored the Congress government's commitment to addressing the shortcomings left behind by the previous administration, ensuring that educational institutions receive proper funding and infrastructure development.

MLAs' Disqualification Petition adjourned to April 2

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Supreme Court has adjourned the hearing on the BRS MLAs' disqualification petition to April 2, adding a new twist to the ongoing political tussle in Telangana. The hearing, which was expected to bring clarity on the fate of the ten rebel MLAs who switched from BRS to Congress, saw intense arguments from both sides. Lawyers representing the BRS party presented their arguments for nearly two hours in court today. However, the lawyers representing the Telangana Assembly Speaker and Assembly Secretary are scheduled to present their counterarguments on April 2. Following this, the court is likely to deliver its verdict, which could have significant political implications.

Earlier, there was widespread speculation that the Supreme Court would announce its decision today. This uncertainty has created high tension among the ten MLAs, who are now holding discussions with their legal teams to assess possible outcomes. The case has drawn keen interest from political observers, as the verdict could impact the Congress government's stability in Telangana.



Komatireddy Confident of Ministerial Post Says He Prefers Home Portfolio



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Munugodu MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy has expressed confidence in securing a ministerial berth in the upcoming Telangana cabinet expansion. While he stated that he has not received any call from Delhi so far, he emphasized that the high command should select ministers based on their capability. He also made it clear that he has a preference for the Home Minister portfolio, asserting that he is ready to take on any responsibility and serve the people efficiently. The speculation surrounding cabinet expansion has intensified with CM Revanth Reddy, Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, and PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud visiting Delhi for discussions with the Congress high

command. Reports indicate that Rajagopal Reddy and Bodhan MLA Sudarshan Reddy are likely to be inducted into the cabinet.

At the same time, there are rumors that ministers Konda Surekha and Jupally Krishna Rao might be dropped. Sources suggest that Prem Sagar Rao from the Velama community could replace Jupally Krishna Rao, while there is also speculation that actor-turned-politician Vijayashanti is being considered for a ministerial position. Additionally, Chennur MLA Vivek Venkataswamy is reportedly confirmed for a cabinet berth.

A final decision on the new ministerial lineup is expected in the next couple of days, with the swearing-in ceremony scheduled for April 3.

Government Sanctions ₹50 Lakh for Ghatkesar Flyover Mallareddy thanks Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Revanth Reddy government has sanctioned ₹50 lakh for the long-pending Ghatkesar flyover in the Medchal constituency, represented by BRS MLA Mallareddy. Mallareddy met Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka today and formally submitted a request for funds to expedite the project. Responding positively, the minister immediately approved the allocation, bringing relief to local residents who have been waiting for over 14 years for the flyover's completion.

Expressing gratitude, Mallareddy thanked Bhatti Vikramarka for the swift approval and hoped that the project would now progress without further delays.

In a casual media interaction at the Assembly lobby, Mallareddy expressed his concern over the current state of legislative debates.



He remarked that in the past, leaders like Vajpayee, Chandrababu Naidu, and YS Rajasekhara Reddy commanded public attention whenever they spoke in Parliament or Assembly. Similarly, after the formation of Telangana, KCR's speeches used to attract public interest. However, he lamented that the current Assembly atmosphere has de-

teriorated, with instances of unruly behavior, including stripping off clothes and brandishing knives.

Lighthearted Exchange with Vivek Venkataswamy

During his time in the Assembly lobby, Mallareddy had a friendly exchange with Chennur MLA Vivek Venkataswamy. Addressing him as "Namaste Minister Garu," Mallareddy hinted at Venkataswamy's growing influence in the state. Responding with a smile, Vivek replied, "Thank you, Mallanna."

Mallareddy further commented that the state is being run by the Komatireddy Venkata Reddy family and the Vivek Venkataswamy family. Vivek countered with a laugh, saying, "During the BRS regime, KCR and Mallareddy ran the state by the same rules."

Vemula Prashanth Reddy Questions Govt's Budget Allocations in Assembly

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

BRS MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy raised several concerns in the Telangana Assembly regarding budget allocations and the implementation of funds across multiple departments, including Tourism, Endowments, Sports, Forest, and Excise.

During the discussion on the Tourism Department Bill, he pointed out that while ₹620 crore was allocated in the 2024-25 budget, the amount has been increased to ₹800 crore in 2025-26. However, he questioned how much of the previous budget was actually spent. "Telangana has immense potential for tourism development, yet the allocated funds are not being effectively utilized," he stated. He urged the government to focus on areas beyond Mahbubnagar and Mulugu, particularly in Balkonda, Nizamabad district, where he proposed developing a boat trip from SRSF to Basara. Regarding the Endowments Department, Prashanth Reddy noted that ₹237 crore was



allocated in 2024-25 and ₹241 crore in 2025-26. He stressed the need for immediate release of funds for temple development, similar to how

the BRS government under KCR allocated funds for Yadadri and other temples across the state. He also criticized the current government for neglecting the Brahmin Parishad, which was formed under KCR with a ₹100 crore allocation. Additionally, he demanded the release of pending foreign scholarship funds for 300 Brahmin students, while another 340 new students await funding.

Discussing the Sports Department, he acknowledged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has shown interest in sports and allocated ₹536 crore in the budget. However, he emphasized the need for concrete policies to support rural athletes and called for serious steps to make Telangana a future host for the Olympics.

On the Forest Department, he criticized the continuous reduction of funds, pointing out that while ₹1,471 crore was allocated in 2023 under the BRS government, it was cut to ₹1,064 crore in 2024 and further reduced to ₹1,023 crore in 2025. He warned that deforestation is increas-

ing, reversing the gains made under KCR's Haritha Haram program, which saw 273 crore saplings planted over ten years. He urged the government to take strict action against deforestation and tap into central funds to increase allocations for forest conservation.

Prashanth Reddy strongly opposed the Congress government's stance on the Excise Department, condemning the decision to increase the revenue target from ₹38,000 crore last year to ₹50,000 crore this year. He accused the government of contradicting its manifesto promise of removing belt shops, instead working to expand liquor sales by introducing new brands, bars, and policies. "Will you destroy people's lives just to increase government income?" he asked, demanding an immediate halt to the expansion of belt shops as promised.

His statements highlighted key financial and policy concerns, urging the Congress government to rethink its approach across crucial sectors.



Speaker Calls for Removal of All Conocarpus Trees



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

On Tuesday, March 25, Telangana Speaker Gaddam Prasad called for the removal of all conocarpus trees planted across the state. Speaking in the state Assembly, Prasad emphasized that the species, which was widely planted under the Haritha Haram program over the last decade, should be uprooted due to its harmful environmental impact.

Prasad pointed out that while the conocarpus tree grows easily and requires minimal water, it poses a significant ecological risk, as it absorbs oxygen and releases carbon dioxide. The speaker highlighted that these trees have been planted extensively across the state, including on national highways, and called for their removal as soon as possible. Conocarpus trees, which have been a common sight in Telangana, were also banned in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area after research in 2022 revealed their negative environmental effects. In addition, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan had announced a ban on the species last year, and the state has reportedly destroyed thousands of these trees.

The former sarpanch of Nagaram village in Manthani, Boodida Mallesh, had also removed the trees after learning about their adverse impact on the environment, further highlighting the growing concern regarding this species in Telangana.

MMTS Assault Case

Accused Identified as Mahesh from Medchal

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Hyderabad police have intensified their probe into the shocking MMTS train assault case, where a young woman was forced to jump off a moving train to escape an attempted rape. The accused has been identified as Mahesh from Medchal, and the victim has confirmed his involvement.

The brutal incident occurred when the 23-year-old victim, a private company employee from Anantapur district, was traveling alone in the women's coach of an MMTS train from Secunderabad to Medchal on Sunday night. After two other female passengers disembarked at Alwal station, the accused allegedly attempted to assault her. In a desperate bid to escape, the young woman leaped from the train near Kompally, sustaining severe injuries.

The police, acting swiftly, formed multiple teams and traced the accused based on CCTV footage. Upon presenting his photo to the victim, she positively identified Mahesh as her attacker. Special teams have now been deployed to apprehend him.

Meanwhile, the victim was initially admitted to Gandhi Hospital and later shifted to Yashoda Hospital with the intervention of MP Bandi Sanjay. Reports indicate that she is currently unable to speak due to her injuries.

The incident has sparked outrage, with calls for swift justice. Authorities continue their search for Mahesh as further investigation unfolds.



High Court Advocates Association Elections

- Surender Reddy's Aggressiveness in the Presidential Race
- All eyes on Surender Reddy in the Telangana HC Advocates Association elections
- Promises to address long-standing issues faced by lawyers
- Gaining strong support from legal circles and senior advocates

TPN Correspondent | Suraj Reddy

Advocate Surender Reddy, who is contesting for the post of President in the Telangana High Court Advocates Association elections, is making a strong impact with his aggressive campaign. His name is widely discussed in legal circles ahead of the elections scheduled for March 28, 2025.

Hailing from the backward Adilabad district, Surender Reddy has carved out a distinguished career in the legal profession. With the guidance and support of his mentors, Senior Counsel V. Ravi Kiran Rao and AP High Court Additional Advocate General E. Sambasiva Pratap, he entered the legal field with unwavering dedication. Over the past 27 years, he has established himself as a leading advocate in the High Courts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, handling over 7,000 cases with integrity and commitment.

Surender Reddy has a deep understanding of the challenges faced by young lawyers, including parking issues, case filings, delays in case postings, and the late receipt of order copies. He is campaigning on a practical

and solution-oriented approach, promising to address these long-standing issues permanently. His pledge to implement necessary changes immediately upon election has been gaining attention.

With the increasing number of advocates from SC, ST, BC, minority, and women communities entering the Telangana High Court, there is a growing demand for better facilities. Surender Reddy has assured that medical facilities will be set up within the court premises to ensure the well-being of lawyers, a move that has sparked widespread discussion.

A seasoned leader, Surender Reddy has previously held several key positions, including Executive Committee Member (2006-07), Treasurer (2008-09), Secretary (2011-12) of the United Andhra Pradesh High Court Bar Association, and Vice President (2017-18) of the Telangana High Court Bar Association. His contributions to renovating the High Court library and ensuring financial transparency during his tenure are well recognized.

In his election campaign, Surender Reddy



has reiterated his commitment to the welfare of lawyers, ensuring a strong relationship between the bench and the bar. His promises and ideas are resonating among the legal fraternity, strengthening his position in the race. With immense experience and widespread support, he is emerging as a strong contender for the President of the Telangana High Court Advocates Association for the year 2025-26.

Another Youth Falls Victim to Betting Apps

**Youth loses ₹2 lakh meant for sister's wedding in betting app
Commits suicide by jumping under a train in Medchal district**

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A tragic incident unfolded in Hyderabad as a youth named Somesh from Goudavelli, Medchal district, took his own life after losing ₹2 lakh in a betting app. The amount, which was carefully saved for his sister's wedding, was allegedly lost in an online betting scam. Unable to bear the shock, he jumped under a train, ending his life.

The rising menace of betting apps has become a major concern in the state, with many youngsters falling prey to fraudulent online gambling platforms. Over 20 suicides related to betting losses have been reported across Telangana in recent times.

Crackdown on Betting App Promoters and Celebrities

Meanwhile, Telangana police have been actively cracking down on betting app promoters. In the past few days, multiple cases have been filed against influencers and film celebrities who allegedly promoted these apps. Cases have been registered against 11 influencers at the Panjagutta police station.

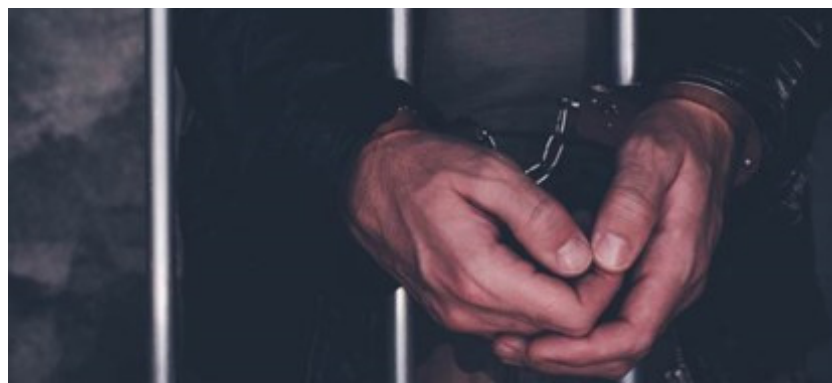
Miyapur police have booked 25 film actors, including Rana Daggubati, Vijay Deverakonda, Prakash Raj, and Manchu Lakshmi.

In a major twist, the Miyapur police have also named betting app operators as accused in the case, widening the scope of the



investigation. Authorities are urging people to stay away from online betting and report fraudulent activities before they claim more lives.

Hit-and-Run in Hyderabad Drunk Driver Hits Young Woman, Arrested Near Fateh Nagar



TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A hit-and-run incident in Hyderabad's Balnagar area has created a stir after a Fortuner car, driven by an intoxicated man, hit a young woman near the IDPL intersection and sped away without stopping. The incident occurred on the night of March 24, leaving the victim seriously injured.

The traffic police acted quickly and intercepted the vehicle near Fateh Nagar signal, arresting the accused. He was later identified as Gogam Anil (35), a resident of Balkampet. Investigations revealed that Anil was returning from a dinner at a farmhouse in Moinabad when the accident took place.

Police checks confirmed that Anil was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident. The Balnagar police have registered a case and are conducting a further investigation. Meanwhile, the injured woman has been admitted to the hospital for treatment, and her condition is being monitored.

Constable Attacked in Broad Daylight in Hyderabad

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A police constable was brutally attacked in Hyderabad's Banjara Hills in broad daylight. A bike racer, identified as Khaja, hit Constable Srikanth on the head with a beer bottle, leaving him seriously injured. The incident, which took place near Omega Hospital, has sparked concern over rising hooliganism in the city. According to reports, the accused, who was riding at high speed from Tolichowki, crashed into a car near Omega Hospital. This led to a heated argument between him and the car driver.

Constable Srikanth, who was on duty at the Banjara Hills police station, noticed the altercation and intervened to de-escalate the situation. However, in a fit of rage, Khaja attacked the constable with a beer bottle, causing severe head injuries. A video of the shocking incident has gone viral on social media, showing Srikanth bleeding profusely. He was immediately rushed to the hospital for treatment. Following the attack, Srikanth filed a complaint at the Banjara Hills police station, and an investigation is underway.



HYDRAA Chief Inspects Nanakram Kunta Warns Builder Over Encroachment

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) commissioner AV Ranganath conducted a spot inspection at Nanakram Kunta (Kotha Kunta) in Khajaguda on Tuesday following complaints of illegal construction within the Full Tank Level (FTL) of the water body.

The inspection was prompted by a complaint from MLA Anirudh Reddy regarding alleged encroachments. Upon visiting the site, Commissioner Ranganath found ongoing construction activities and accused Vamsi Ram Builders of filling the



pond with soil. Strict Warning to Builders The commissioner issued a firm directive to the builders, ordering them to remove the dumped soil within three to four days or face stringent legal action. He also

instructed officials to conduct a joint survey to determine the exact boundaries of the water body and identify any additional encroachments.

Builders Assure Compliance

Following the warning, representatives of Vamsi Ram Builders assured officials that they would clear the dumped soil within the next two to three days.

This inspection highlights growing concerns over illegal encroachments on Hyderabad's lakes, as authorities intensify their crackdown on violations affecting the city's water bodies.

GHMC Trains Engineers on Street Light Management App for Efficient Maintenance

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has launched a specialized training program on its streetlight management app to enhance maintenance and ensure timely repairs of streetlights across the city.

GHMC Commissioner K Ilambarthi, addressing the session at the municipal headquarters, highlighted the app's role in streamlining monitoring and repair operations, ultimately improving urban services and public safety.

Training for Engineers and Electricians The training session, held on March 25, was attended by electrical engineers, division electricians from all GHMC divisions, and representatives from TG Online Agency. The app enables real-time track-

ing of essential streetlight infrastructure, including electricity meters, centralized control and monitoring system (CCMS) panels, poles, and lights.

Ensuring Faster Response to Faults Commissioner Ilambarthi emphasized the importance of prompt streetlight repairs to ensure well-lit public spaces and urged engineers and electricians to actively utilize the app for efficient monitoring.

TG Online Agency representatives conducted a hands-on demonstration, covering functions such as streetlight audits, data entry, and fault resolution. The initiative aims to equip GHMC staff with the necessary skills to improve the city's streetlight management system.

Big Update in Madhavi Murder Case

- Madhavi's DNA found on tissue paper at the crime scene
- Accused Gurumurthy planned and executed the brutal murder
- Investigation intensifies as police uncover shocking details

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

A major breakthrough has emerged in the Madhavi murder case, which sent shockwaves across Telugu states in January. The latest forensic report has confirmed that Madhavi's DNA was found on a tissue paper recovered from the crime scene. When the sample was tested, it matched the DNA of her children, providing crucial evidence in the ongoing investigation.

A Gruesome Crime Unfolds
The incident took place in Mirpet, where Gurumurthy, a retired jawan, murdered his wife Madhavi on suspicion. He later attempted to cover up the crime in a chilling manner. After lodging a missing complaint for Madhavi, he

was eventually caught, and his confession shocked the police. According to the Rachakonda Commissioner of Police, Sudheer Babu, the case is one of the most horrific he has ever witnessed. Gurumurthy meticulously planned the murder by sending his children to a relative's house before executing his plan on January 16. During an argument, he smashed Madhavi's head against the wall, killing her instantly. What followed was a gruesome attempt to dispose of her body. He first removed her clothes, dragged her to the bathroom, and then beheaded her using a large knife from the kitchen. He proceeded to dismember her body, cut it into pieces, and boil them in a cooker. He later roasted the remains on a stove,



ground the bones into powder, and dumped them in Jillelaguda lake. Meticulous Cover-Up Attempt
Gurumurthy spent nearly eight hours meticulously executing his plan, ensuring no physical evidence remained. He cleaned the house with detergent and phenol before bringing his children back home. However, the forensic findings, including DNA evidence from the tissue paper, have now strengthened the case against him. With this crucial development, the police have intensified their investigation, ensuring that the brutal crime does not go unpunished.

RS Praveen Kumar Slams Congress Over Local Body Elections Delay

TPN Correspondent | Asifabad
BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar has criticized the Telangana government, stating that there is still no clarity on when the local body elections will be conducted. During his visit to Komurambheem Bhatpalli village in Kagaz Nagar mandal of Sirpur constituency, he interacted with villagers and later shared his concerns on social media platform X. He stated that villagers expressed serious concerns about the state of governance under the Congress rule, describing the situation as dire. He alleged that in the past 15 months of Congress governance, villages have become stagnant, with no functioning sarpanches and unpaid sanitation workers. He

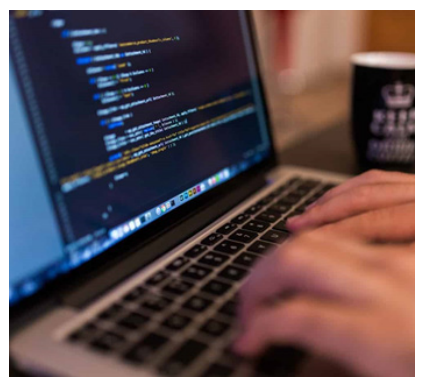
further pointed out that even diesel for gram panchayat tractors has become a challenge due to lack of funds. Highlighting the poor sanitation conditions, RS Praveen Kumar said that stagnant water in drainage canals has led to an unbearable stench in villages. He accused the Congress government of failing to release funds from both the state and central governments. Questioning the state administration, he remarked, "Does the same foul smell exist near the Chief Minister's house? Has garbage piled up there too?" Lashing out at the ruling party, RS Praveen Kumar stated that the Congress rule in Telangana is now 'stinking', both figuratively and literally.

10,189 IT Firms Opened in Telangana in Last 6 Years: Centre

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Union Minister of State (MoS) for Corporate Affairs, Harsh Malhotra, revealed in the Lok Sabha on Monday that Telangana has seen the establishment of 10,189 IT companies in the last six years. However, during the same period, 3,368 companies shut down in the state.

Malhotra stated that these IT firms have collectively contributed Rs 14,865 crores in turnover over the past five years, underlining the growing prominence of Telangana in India's IT landscape. Hyderabad, the state capital, has been at the forefront of this IT growth, hosting major global tech giants such as Google, Microsoft, Amazon, and Apple. The city also boasts significant IT infrastructure in areas like HITEC City, the Financial District, and the Kokapet Special



Economic Zone (SEZ). Furthermore, the state has successfully expanded its IT presence into Tier-2 cities like Warangal, Khammam, and Karimnagar, contributing to the overall growth of the sector beyond the capital. As of FY 2023, Telangana's IT sector accounts for 31 percent of India's software exports and employs over 9 lakh individuals in the IT/ITES sector, cementing the state's role as a major contributor to the country's software industry.

Tribal Museum as a Platform for Tribal Cultural Heritage

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The establishment of a Tribal Museum in Bhadrachalam has created significant opportunities to showcase the rich cultural heritage of tribals to the world, said State Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy. On Tuesday, Minister Ponguleti and Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Dhanasari Anasuya Seethakka released the Bhadrachalam Tribal Museum brochure at the Legislative Assembly premises.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponguleti emphasized that the museum will serve as a platform to highlight tribal traditions, dialects, lifestyle, handicrafts, folk music, and customs. He announced



that the Honorable Chief Minister Shri Revanth Reddy will inaugurate the museum during the Sri Rama Navami celebrations in Bhadrachalam.

Bhadrachalam, known for its historic Ram Temple, attracts devotees from across the country. With the addition of the Tribal Museum, the region is expected to see fur-

ther tourism development, creating employment opportunities for local tribals. Highlighting the importance of preserving tribal heritage, Minister Ponguleti stated, "The tribal way of life and traditions are gradually fading. This museum is essential to pass on our heritage to future generations." He further stressed that the museum will provide a platform for tribal artists to showcase their talent globally and create a wider market for their handicrafts.

The Bhadrachalam Tribal Museum is expected to play a crucial role in the economic and cultural upliftment of tribal communities, offering them better opportunities while preserving their unique traditions.

Newborn Sold for ₹55,000 in Kamareddy Rescued by Police

TPN Correspondent | Kamareddy

A shocking case of child trafficking came to light in Kamareddy after a fight at a local marketplace led police to uncover the illegal sale of a newborn. The police rescued the baby and handed him over to the Child Development Project Officer on Tuesday.

According to reports, Pullapu Rajamani and her husband, Narasimlu, from Kyasampalli village, allegedly sold their eight-day-old baby boy for ₹55,000 on March 19. The child was purchased by a childless couple from Sirikonda mandal, with the transaction facilitated by middlemen Pitla Venkati and Ramulu.

The case surfaced when a dispute broke out over the division of money from the sale. A Blue Colts team investigating the altercation uncovered the illegal transaction and swiftly acted on credible information. The police traced the baby to the couple's residence in Sirikonda, rescued him, and placed him under the care of child welfare authorities. Cases have been registered against the biological parents, the buyers, and the middlemen under Section 317 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Further investigation is underway.



Fatal Accident in Bhadradri Kothagudem Trolley Falls Into Stream, 25 Agricultural Laborers Affected

TPN Correspondent | Khammam

A tragic accident occurred at Peddavagu in Jurlurupadu mandal of Bhadradri Kothagudem district, when a Tata AC vehicle carrying 25 agricultural laborers lost control and fell into a stream. The accident was caused by a tire burst, leading the vehicle to plunge from a bridge into the water below.

In the accident, 10 people sustained serious injuries, while two are in critical condition. Emergency response teams rushed to the spot, and the injured were immediately transported to Kothagudem Government Hospital via 108 ambulances for treatment. Authorities are investigating the incident further.

In a separate incident, tragedy struck at a private hospital in Nehru Nagar, Khammam. Sarojamma, a resident of Vanamvari Kistapuram

in Mudigonda mandal, was admitted to the hospital on the 20th of this month due to chest pain. Following a medical examination, doctors identified a heart condition and performed a stent procedure to treat her.

However, a horrific accident occurred while shifting her to the general ward after surgery. The hospital's lift failed, causing her to fall inside the shaft, leading to fatal injuries. Sarojamma, who had just undergone the procedure, tragically died on the spot.

Authorities have launched an investigation into the lift failure to determine if there was any negligence on the part of the hospital administration. The incidents have sparked concerns over road safety and hospital infrastructure issues in the region.



Govt Allocates ₹1,023 Crore for Forest Department Konda Surekha highlights key initiatives

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Telangana Forest Minister Konda Surekha emphasized the state government's commitment to forest conservation and environmental protection, announcing a budget allocation of ₹1,023 crore for the Forest Department in the 2025-26 budget. She stated that the government, under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's leadership, is dedicated to increasing the state's forest cover from 23% to 33%.

Criticizing the previous BRS government, she alleged that it misused funds under the pretext of afforestation. In contrast, the current government aims to ensure every rupee is spent effectively for genuine green initiatives.

Major Afforestation and Greenery Expansion Initiatives

The minister highlighted the progress made in afforestation efforts, stating that 16.75 crore saplings (84%) have



already been planted against the target of 20.02 crore by 2024-25. Unlike previous administrations that focused on publicity, the government is prioritizing field-level sapling plantations and their long-term protection. To enhance urban greenery, the government is implementing the Nagar Vana Yojana in collaboration with the Central Government, with a budget of ₹18.09 crore.

Additionally, Telangana is developing two eco-friendly tourist destinations—Kanakagiri in Khammam district and a site in Vikarabad district—under the Telangana Forest Development Corporation.

The government is also expanding green spaces through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives, including the development of Narsapur Urban Forest Park in Medak district and the Nehru Zoological Park in Hyderabad.

Tiger Conservation and Wildlife Protection

For the first time, the Telangana government has successfully evacuated two villages—Maisampet and Rampur Gude in Kadem mandal of Nirmal district—from the Kawwal Tiger Reserve zone. The process of evacuating four more villages from the Amrabad Tiger Reserve is also underway. The Forest Department has proposed

designating 1,442.26 sq km of forest land as a conservation reserve, linking Kawwal Tiger Reserve with Tadoba Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra.

In a significant move, the government has increased compensation for families of individuals killed in wild animal attacks from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh.

Action Against Encroachments

Since coming to power, the Revanth Reddy-led government has reclaimed 17,643.30 acres of encroached forest land. Minister Surekha reiterated the government's strong stance against illegal occupation of forest areas, ensuring their restoration and preservation.

The latest measures reflect the government's proactive approach toward environmental conservation, afforestation, and wildlife protection, positioning Telangana as a leader in sustainable green development.

Trump's New Social Media Policy

- Indian Green Card Holders may have to disclose social media handles
- Policy extends existing visa scrutiny to permanent residency seekers

THE POINT DESK

Green card holders in the United States may soon be required to submit their social media account details to the government under a new policy proposed by President Donald Trump's administration. While visa applicants applying from outside the country already need to provide their social media handles, this policy seeks to extend the requirement to those living in the US legally and applying for permanent residency or asylum.

The move has sparked concerns, particularly among Indian immigrants, many of whom are vocal about political issues in both India and the US. Critics argue that this increased scrutiny could discourage open expression on social media due to fear of government action. The policy could potentially be used to deny immigration benefits to individuals based on their online activity.

Purpose of the Policy

A notice issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on March 5 outlined the administration's rationale for the proposal. According to the notice, USCIS has identified a need to collect social media handles and platform names from applicants as part of national security and identity verification measures. The agency claims that monitoring social media activity is crucial for vetting individuals and ensuring public safety.

"The vetting of social media accounts is necessary for enhanced identity verification, vetting, and national security screening," the document states. The government is currently



seeking public feedback on the policy before finalizing its implementation.

Impact on Green Card Holders

Currently, social media screening applies only to visa applicants outside the US. However, this proposed change will bring green card applicants and asylum seekers under the same level of scrutiny. Individuals already residing in the US on valid visas but seeking permanent residency will need to disclose their social media activities, allowing authorities to monitor their online presence. This could have significant implications, particularly for Indian immigrants who use social media to engage in discussions about US and Indian politics. Experts fear that this increased surveillance might push people to self-censor their views due to concerns about how their online activity could be interpreted by immigration officials.

Part of Trump's Broader Immigration Crackdown

Since returning to the White House,

Trump has taken a hardline stance on immigration. On his first day back in office, he signed an executive order directing federal agencies to take aggressive action against illegal immigration, describing it as an "invasion" threatening national security. His administration has ramped up enforcement efforts, with federal law enforcement agencies conducting widespread raids and arrests.

Trump has frequently claimed that undocumented immigrants are responsible for crime and economic instability, although these assertions are not fully supported by government data. His administration's immigration policies have drawn sharp criticism for being overly harsh and targeting legal residents as well. The proposed social media scrutiny policy is seen as an extension of this broader crackdown. While the government argues it is a necessary security measure, critics warn that it could be used to suppress free speech and silence dissent among immigrants hoping to settle permanently in the US.



Is the Government Considering Bringing Back NJAC?

TPN | G Avinash

Hyderabad, March 26: The controversy surrounding Delhi High Court Judge Justice Yashwant Varma and the discovery of burnt cash at his residence has brought the issue of judicial appointments and accountability back into focus. While the immediate fallout centers around the credibility of Justice Varma and his involvement, the bigger picture is about the integrity and transparency of India's judicial system. This raises an important question: is it time for the government to revive the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) and replace the existing collegium system?

The Background of NJAC vs Collegium

In 2015, the Supreme Court struck down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, which sought to replace the collegium system of judicial appointments with a body consisting of both judiciary and executive representatives. The Court argued that NJAC violated the Constitution's basic structure and undermined judicial independence. This ruling entrenched the collegium system, in which a group of senior judges, without any direct electoral mandate, decides the appointment of judges to the highest courts in the country.

The NJAC, introduced through the 99th Constitutional Amendment, was designed to ensure a balanced, transparent, and democratic approach to judicial appointments. The idea was to bring accountability and prevent allegations of nepotism or favoritism within the judiciary. However, the Supreme Court's verdict left the power of judicial appointments entirely within the hands of the judiciary, effectively sidelining the executive's role in the process.

Is the Collegium System Truly Democratic?

The collegium system, while championed for its focus on judicial independence, also raises critical concerns about accountability. The primary issue lies in the fact that the people, through their elected representatives, do not have a say in selecting the judges who will interpret laws, make decisions on public policies, and influence governance. The judiciary's actions have a profound impact on the lives of ordinary citizens, yet those sitting in judgment are not directly accountable to the public.

The collegium system, without any checks from the legislative or executive branches, creates a scenario where a group of unelected judges appoints their peers. This setup not only perpetuates an insular and self-reinforcing system, but it also makes it difficult to address concerns about transparency and fairness. As we've seen in the case of Justice Varma, the discovery of cash raises questions about the accountability of judges in the absence of external scrutiny or oversight.

The Case for Bringing Back NJAC

The case for bringing back the NJAC is compelling, particularly in light of recent events. If we look at the Justice Varma controversy, the judicial system has once again shown the limitations of an unaccountable body of unelected officials. The centre's decision to convene an all-party meeting on this issue reflects growing concerns about transparency and judicial oversight, but the root issue remains: the judiciary operates in a vacuum, with limited external accountability. A reformed NJAC could serve as a safeguard against the kind of problems that have plagued the collegium system. A body that includes both judiciary and executive members, with clear procedures for selection and monitoring, would ensure more public transparency and offer a mechanism to address grievances. Elected representatives, accountable to the people, could play a role in judicial appointments, creating a more democratic system in which the judiciary remains independent but not entirely isolated.

A System of Balance and Accountability

In a democracy, elected representatives should have a role in law-making, policy decisions, and, to some extent, judicial appointments. A system that prioritizes judicial independence must still strike a balance with accountability. The judicial branch must not be an isolated fortress immune to oversight and scrutiny. The NJAC, with proper checks and balances, offers a solution to this dilemma, ensuring the judiciary can function without fear or favor but within the boundaries of the democratic system.

India's legal system must evolve with the times, and reviving a form of NJAC could be the way forward. It would empower the people through their representatives, ensuring that the judiciary remains independent yet accountable. The current status quo—where a group of unelected judges governs judicial appointments—no longer seems sustainable in a democratic framework that values transparency and fairness.

The recent events surrounding Justice Varma and the public outcry over the discovery of cash raise critical questions about judicial accountability. The government's engagement with political parties on the issue indicates a growing concern for a system that can balance judicial independence with transparency and public trust. If the judiciary is to retain its credibility, it must operate within a framework that includes checks and balances, and that framework may very well involve reviving the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC). It is time to reconsider the collegium system and bring accountability into the heart of the judiciary.

From June, UPI and ATM to Enable Provident Fund Withdrawals

THE POINT DESK

In a major reform aimed at enhancing financial flexibility for India's workforce, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) will soon enable Provident Fund (PF) withdrawals through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and ATMs. This significant initiative, approved by the Labour and Employment Ministry, is expected to be rolled out by the end of May or June this year, providing seamless and instant access to PF savings.

Sumita Dawra, Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, announced the development, stating that the integration of UPI with the EPFO system would allow members to instantly withdraw up to ₹1 lakh. Additionally, the introduction of ATM-based withdrawals will offer another convenient mode of accessing funds, reducing the dependency on traditional claim processes. With this upgrade, PF account holders will be able to check their balance directly via UPI, transfer funds to their preferred bank accounts, and execute instant withdrawals. This initiative is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "ease of living," aiming to simplify social security procedures for employees and employers across the country.

Expanded Withdrawal Options for Members

The EPFO has expanded the scope of withdrawals beyond retirement benefits. Members can now withdraw funds for various purposes such as housing, education, and marriage, in addition to the existing provisions for medical emergencies. These changes provide much-needed financial flexibility, allowing workers to access their hard-earned savings when re-



quired without lengthy bureaucratic hurdles.

"The EPFO has significantly strengthened its digital infrastructure, integrating over 120 databases to streamline the withdrawal process. As a result, the claim processing time has been reduced to just three days, with 95% of claims now being processed automatically," Dawra said. She further added that the government is actively working to further simplify the withdrawal process, ensuring that members receive their funds with minimal delay. The integration of digital payment platforms like UPI will eliminate unnecessary paperwork and speed up transactions, making EPFO services more accessible to millions of contributors.

Improved Pension Withdrawal System

Apart from PF withdrawals, pensioners have also benefited from recent reforms introduced by the EPFO. Since December, nearly 78 lakh pensioners have gained increased flexibility in accessing their funds. Previously, pension withdrawals were restricted to select bank branches, causing inconvenience to many retirees. However, with the latest reforms, pensioners can now withdraw their funds from any bank branch across the country, removing geographical

restrictions.

These measures are part of the government's broader agenda to modernize social security mechanisms and improve the financial convenience of employees and pensioners alike. The reforms also reflect the government's commitment to leveraging digital technology to enhance service delivery in the financial sector.

Massive Scale and Growing Membership

The scale of EPFO's operations highlights the importance of these reforms. With over 7.5 crore active members, the organization continues to expand, adding 10-12 lakh new members every month. Operating through 147 regional offices across India, the EPFO is a vital institution ensuring financial security for millions of employees.

Implementing UPI and ATM-based withdrawals will further strengthen the EPFO's role in providing accessible and efficient financial services to India's workforce. The move also aligns with India's push toward digital financial inclusion, reinforcing the country's status as a global leader in digital payments.

A Landmark in Digital Financial Transformation

The introduction of UPI and ATM-based PF withdrawals marks a historic moment in India's financial landscape. With instant withdrawals, reduced processing time, and increased accessibility, the initiative will significantly improve the ease of managing PF accounts. For employees across industries, this reform will provide a seamless and efficient way to access their savings without the delays associated with traditional banking channels.

New Income Tax Bill to Be Discussed in Monsoon Session: Nirmala Sitharaman



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced on Tuesday that the new Income Tax Bill will be taken up for discussion in the monsoon session of Parliament. The bill, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on February 13, is currently under review by the Select Committee. While addressing discussions on the Finance Bill 2025 in the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman confirmed that the Select Committee has been directed to submit its report by the first day of the upcoming session. "...We will take it (new income tax bill) up in the monsoon session," she stated. The monsoon session of Parliament typically begins in July and continues through August. The new Income Tax Bill aims to bring about a simplified tax structure by reducing complexities and eliminating ambiguities in the existing law. The Income Tax Department previously

highlighted that the revised legislation seeks to provide tax certainty while minimizing litigation and the scope for fresh interpretations. One of the major highlights of the proposed bill is its concise structure compared to the existing Income Tax Act of 1961. The new bill contains 2.6 lakh words, significantly less than the 5.12 lakh words in the current Act. Additionally, it has 536 sections, down from the 819 effective sections in the current law. The number of chapters has also been streamlined from 47 to 23. The revised legislation introduces 57 tables, an increase from the 18 found in the existing Act, but has removed 1,200 provisos and 900 explanatory notes, thereby simplifying legal provisions. These changes aim to create a more comprehensible and user-friendly tax regime for taxpayers and tax professionals alike. The move to re-

vamp the Income Tax Act is seen as a significant step in modernizing India's tax framework, ensuring greater efficiency and transparency in tax administration. The government hopes that the new law will reduce tax disputes and enhance compliance by making the provisions clearer and more structured. The Select Committee's review and recommendations will be crucial in shaping the final version of the bill before its discussion in Parliament. With its reduced complexity and restructured format, the proposed Income Tax Bill 2025 is expected to be a landmark reform in India's taxation system. Stakeholders, including businesses and tax professionals, are keenly watching the developments surrounding the bill, as its implementation could have a significant impact on the country's economic and taxation landscape.



Separatism in Kashmir Ends as Two Hurriyat Groups Sever Ties

- Hurriyat factions sever separatist ties.
- Amit Shah calls it historic.
- Govt policies credited for shift.
- Article 370 abrogation played role.
- Kashmir moving toward unity, peace.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday announced a significant political shift in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that two factions of the separatist Hurriyat Conference have officially severed ties with separatism. He asserted that this move is a testament to the success of the Modi government's policies aimed at fostering national unity and eliminating separatist tendencies in the region. Hurriyat Conference, an amalgamation of various separatist groups in Jammu and Kashmir, has played a pivotal role in advocating for the region's separation from India for decades. However, recent developments indicate a departure from this ideology, marking what Shah described as a "historic victory" for Bharat's unity. Taking to social media platform 'X', Shah welcomed the decision and urged other separatist groups to follow suit, emphasizing that abandoning separatism is the only path toward peace, development, and progress. "Two organizations associated with the Hurriyat have announced the severing of all ties with separatism. I welcome this step towards strengthening Bharat's unity and urge all such groups to come forward and shed separatism once and for all," Shah posted. The Home Minister further highlighted that the government's strategic policies, including the abrogation of Article 370, development initiatives, and stringent security measures, have played a crucial role in dismantling separatist sentiments in the valley. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for fostering a sense of belonging and integration among the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Shah reiterated that the government remains committed to transforming the region into a peaceful, developed, and unified part of India. He stated that the latest move by the Hurriyat factions is proof that separatist ideology is losing its ground and that more groups are realizing the benefits of aligning with the national mainstream. The announcement comes in the wake of a series of measures undertaken by the central government to curb separatist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. Over the past few years, authorities have cracked down on terror financing, taken legal action against separatist leaders, and promoted economic development to ensure stability in the region. With this latest development, political analysts believe that the separatist movement in Kashmir has suffered a significant blow. The disintegration of Hurriyat factions from their separatist stance signals a new chapter in the region's history, aligning with the Modi government's broader vision of a peaceful and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir within a unified Bharat.

"India, China Discuss LAC, Strengthen Ties"

India and China held a high-level meeting in Beijing today, marking the 33rd session of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs. The discussions primarily focused on reviewing the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and exploring ways to improve diplomatic and military coordination. Both sides emphasized the importance of maintaining stability and ensuring the early resumption of cross-border cooperation, including trans-border river management and the Kailash-Manasarovar Yatra. The Indian delegation was led by Gourangalal Das, Joint Secretary (East Asia) in the Ministry of External Affairs, while the Chinese delegation was headed by Hong Liang, Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Affairs Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting was described as "positive and constructive," with both nations reaffirming their commitment to strengthening diplomatic channels and enhancing mechanisms for border management. A key outcome was the agreement to make "substantial preparations" for the next meeting of the Special Representatives (SRs) on the boundary question, which is scheduled to take place in Delhi later this year. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that the discussions covered various proposals and measures aimed at implementing the decisions made during the 23rd meeting of the Special Representatives on the India-China boundary issue, which was held in Beijing in December 2024. Both nations acknowledged the need to advance effective border management while preventing escalations along the LAC. Additionally, they agreed to strengthen existing diplomatic and military mechanisms to ensure quick resolution of any disputes. Following the meeting, Gourangalal Das paid a courtesy visit to China's Assistant Foreign Minister, Hong Lei, signaling continued diplomatic engagement between the two nations. The discussions are part of broader efforts to return to a pre-2020 status quo along the LAC and improve bilateral ties. This initiative gained momentum after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in October 2024 on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia. He stressed the need to rebuild trust and maintain a constructive relationship. Modi also acknowledged the ancient civilizational ties between India and China, emphasizing that the two nations had historically coexisted peacefully for millennia. He advocated for a spirit of healthy competition rather than conflict. China responded positively to Modi's remarks, with the Chinese Foreign Ministry stating that cooperation between the two nations, referred to as a "dragon-elephant dance," was the best path forward. The spokesperson reiterated that in over 2,000 years of interaction, India and China had maintained friendly exchanges and contributed to human progress. The latest diplomatic engagements indicate a continued effort to resolve border tensions and strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Top Maoist with ₹25 Lakh Bounty Killed in Chhattisgarh Encounter"

- Maoist leader killed in encounter.
- ₹25 lakh bounty on head.
- Security forces intensify operations.
- 116 Maoists killed this year.
- Government vows Maoist-free India.

A Maoist carrying a reward of ₹25 lakh on his head was among three insurgents killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Tuesday, police said. The gunfight took place at around 8 am in a dense forest area along the border of Dantewada and Bijapur districts. Security personnel were conducting an anti-Maoist operation based on intelligence reports about Maoist presence in the forests surrounding Girsapara, Nelgoda, Bodga, and Ikeli villages under the Geedam police station limits, according to Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai. The operation involved personnel from the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and Bastar Fighters, both special units of the Chhattisgarh state police, known for their expertise in counter-insurgency operations. As the security forces reached the targeted location, a fierce exchange of fire broke out between the two sides. After the gunfight subsided, the security personnel recovered the bodies of three male Maoists from the site, along with an Insas rifle, a .303 rifle, explosive materials, and other items used in their daily activities. Among the three slain Mao-



ists, one was identified as Sudhir, also known as Sudhakar or Murlu, a resident of Warangal in Telangana. He was an active member of the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee, the most powerful faction of Maoists operating in the region. Authorities had placed a bounty of ₹25 lakh on his head due to his involvement in multiple attacks on security forces and civilians. The identities of the other two deceased Maoists are yet to be confirmed, officials said, adding that search operations are still ongoing in the area to trace any remaining insurgents or hidden weapon caches. Chhattisgarh, particularly the Bastar division, has been a stronghold of Maoist insurgents for decades. However, security forces have intensified their operations in recent years, leading to a significant number of encounters and Maoist casualties. Just a few days prior, on March 20, security forces carried out two major operations in Bijapur and Kanker districts, killing 30 Maoists.. Union Home Minister Amit

Shah recently reaffirmed the government's aggressive stance against Maoist insurgency, stating that the Narendra Modi-led administration is implementing a "zero-tolerance policy" against Maoists who refuse to surrender despite multiple opportunities and rehabilitation offers. He asserted that the government is committed to eradicating Maoism from the country and aims to make India completely Maoist-free by March 31, 2026. The growing success of anti-Maoist operations in Chhattisgarh reflects a shift in the balance of power in favor of security forces. The use of specialized units like the DRG and Bastar Fighters, combined with improved intelligence and coordination, has significantly weakened Maoist influence in the region. However, sporadic attacks by Maoists indicate that the insurgency is not completely dismantled. Authorities remain vigilant, continuing operations to eliminate the remaining Maoist factions and restore lasting peace in the region.



India may interfere in General Election on April 28: Canada

TPN Correspondent | Ottawa

Canada's national security agency has raised concerns over possible foreign interference in the upcoming general election, scheduled for April 28, 2025. According to the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), both China and India, alongside Russia and Pakistan, are likely to attempt to influence the election.

The warning comes amid growing tensions between Ottawa and both Beijing and New Delhi. Vanessa Lloyd, deputy director of operations at CSIS, highlighted that hostile state actors are increasingly utilizing advanced tools like artificial intelligence to meddle in democratic processes. "The People's Republic of China is highly likely to use AI-enabled tools to attempt interference in Canada's election," Lloyd stated at a press conference.

Canada's relations with both India and China have been strained in recent years. Beijing retaliated against Canada's tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles and steel by imposing tariffs on over \$2.6 billion worth of Canadian agricultural and food products. Additionally, Canada condemned China's execution of four Canadian citizens on drug smuggling charges.

Relations with India have also deteriorated, with Canada expelling six Indian diplomats last year, including the head of mission, after allegations of involvement in a plot against Sikh separatists in Canada.

Despite previous concerns over election interference during the 2019 and 2021 federal elections, an official investigation concluded that the results were not affected by foreign influence. However, the CSIS emphasized that while it may be challenging to directly link foreign interference activities to electoral outcomes, such actions could undermine public confidence in Canada's democratic systems.

Lloyd also cautioned that Russia and Pakistan have the potential to engage in interference activities, further complicating Canada's efforts to safeguard its elections.

The CSIS comments serve as a reminder of the growing risks posed by foreign interference in democratic processes and the increasing use of advanced technology by hostile actors.

Starlink Poised for Major Expansion in India, Boosting Ambitions for Global Growth

For Musk's Starlink, India Approval Could Unlock Emerging Markets

TPN Correspondent | Bengaluru

As Starlink nears regulatory approval for satellite broadband services in India, analysts believe this move could significantly boost the company's global expansion, especially in emerging markets. A successful entry into India could potentially add \$25 billion in revenue, reshaping the country's satellite broadband industry and attracting interest from other developing markets.

However, despite the promising outlook, Starlink faces legal hurdles and stiff competition from players like Eutelsat and China's SpaceSail, which is expanding into Brazil, Malaysia, and Kazakhstan. Additionally, SpaceX contends that U.S. regulations place it at a disadvantage compared to foreign rivals.

Starlink, owned by Elon Musk's SpaceX, has been waiting for licenses to operate commercially in India since 2022. The company has been embroiled in a regulatory standoff over spectrum allocation, with debates on whether India should auction satellite broadband spectrum, benefiting telecom giants like Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio



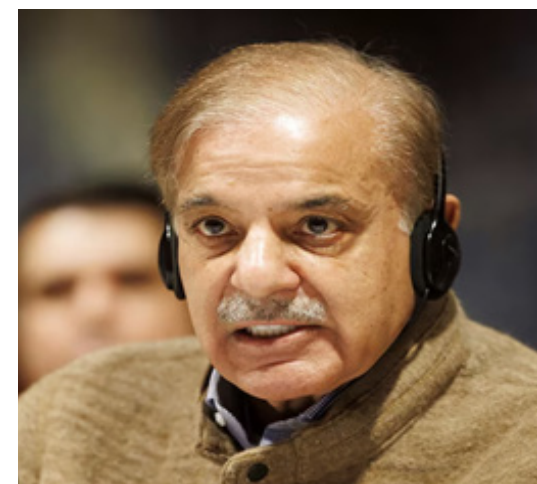
and Sunil Mittal's Bharti Airtel, or allocate it administratively to newer players like Starlink. In October, India opted for administrative allocation, giving Starlink a potential edge.

This month, both Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel signed separate agreements with SpaceX, signaling that regulatory challenges may soon be resolved. Analysts suggest this development indicates that Starlink is closer to entering the Indian market.

The entry into India is a strategic move for Starlink, which operates in over 120 markets globally. Goldman Sachs forecasts a significant drop in

prices for low Earth orbit (LEO) broadband services, projecting a reduction from \$148 per month in 2023 to just \$16 by 2035. With India being one of the largest potential markets, analysts expect Starlink to add 3 million global subscribers in 2025, with India being the leading contributor.

Starlink's pricing strategy will be crucial for success, with some experts predicting competitive plans starting at \$15 per month. As the satellite internet market in India grows, Starlink's entry will offer employment opportunities and fuel competition within the sector, enhancing India's global space industry competitiveness.



Canada Cites "India's Growing Global Influence" In Allegation Against Pak

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Canada has raised concerns over potential foreign interference in its upcoming April 28 general election, warning that Pakistan, India, China, and Russia could be involved in attempts to sway the democratic process. Vanessa Lloyd, Deputy Director of Operations at the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), highlighted that Pakistan may conduct interference activities to counter India's growing global influence. She explained that Pakistan's actions could align with its strategic aims to maintain political and economic stability while curbing India's rise on the world stage.

Lloyd also addressed the possibility of Indian interference, stating that the Indian government has both the intent and capability to influence Canadian communities and the election process. This builds on similar allegations made last year, which India firmly rejected.

In a 2024 report, CSIS detailed "clandestine" foreign interference by both India and Pakistan during Canada's 2021 and 2019 general elections. The agency accused India of targeting electoral districts with large Indian-origin populations, particularly those sympathetic to the Khalistani movement, and alleged the use of illicit financial support to sway candidates. Similarly, it claimed that Pakistan tried to influence federal politics in 2019 to further its interests.

Tensions between India and Canada have escalated in recent months, particularly following allegations from former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau about India's involvement in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, which India denied as "absurd."

In addition to Pakistan and India, Canada's security agency also warned that China and Russia might attempt to interfere in the election. Lloyd stated that China could use AI-enabled tools and social media to target Chinese-Canadian communities with favorable narratives. Russia, according to the report, may amplify Kremlin talking points via social media and news websites, attempting to manipulate information to influence Canadian voters.

The Canadian government is committed to safeguarding its electoral process and ensuring that foreign interference does not disrupt its democracy.

Mamata Banerjee's "Warm-Up" Jog in Saree and Slippers at London's Hyde Park

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Mamata Banerjee's "Warm-Up" Jog in Saree and Slippers at London's Hyde Park

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was recently spotted jogging in London's Hyde Park, dressed in her signature white saree with a green border and white slippers, showcasing her usual simplicity. The "warm-up" was part of her visit to the UK, where she was seen strolling around from Buckingham Palace to Hyde Park, soaking in the city's charm. In addition to her saree and slippers, Ms. Banerjee wore a black cardigan and shawl to stay warm amidst London's chilly weather.

Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Kunal Ghosh shared pictures and videos from the occasion, including a post on X (formerly Twitter), where he quoted the Chief Minister saying, "Today it is not a walk, but a warm-up." Ms. Banerjee was also seen engaging in some "back-walking"



and clapping as part of her fitness routine. This moment resonated with her health-conscious approach, having previously jogged in a saree and slippers during her official visit to Spain in 2023. Her message, "Stay fit, stay healthy," continues to inspire others to adopt a fitness-friendly lifestyle.

Mamata Banerjee arrived in London on Sunday for an official visit, which aims to strengthen Bengal's historical and cultural ties with Britain. Reflecting on the shared history of both regions, she remarked, "As we landed in London yesterday, we

stepped into a city that, much like Kolkata, carries the weight of its past while embracing the dynamism of the present." She highlighted the enduring relationship between Bengal and Britain, rooted in history, culture, and commerce.

The Chief Minister's visit underscores her desire to deepen Bengal's engagement with Britain, reinforcing the longstanding bond between the two regions. Her "warm-up" in Hyde Park, however, offered a lighter moment during her diplomatic trip, blending fitness with international diplomacy.

Malaria Confirmed as Cause of Fatal Outbreak in Northwest DR Congo

TPN Correspondent | Kinshasa

Late on Monday, the National Public Health Institute (INSP) of the Democratic Republic of Congo confirmed that an outbreak in the northwest of the country, which claimed the lives of more than 50 people, was caused by malaria. The illness, which primarily affected Equateur province, resulted in 943 reported cases and 52 deaths at the beginning of the year.

The symptoms, which included fever, fatigue, vomiting, and weight loss, initially led health officials to suspect food poisoning or malaria as the potential cause. However, following laboratory tests on samples from affected individuals, malaria was de-

finitively identified as the culprit.

Christian Ngandu, coordinator of the INSP, confirmed the results of the tests over the phone, reassuring the public that the outbreak was now understood. Despite the confirmation, the health institute continues to await the results of additional tests on water, drinks, and food samples sent abroad to further investigate whether there was any potential contamination involved.

This recent outbreak follows a similar occurrence in December, where an unknown illness initially puzzled health authorities before being traced back to malaria. These outbreaks have prompted increased vigi-

lance and ongoing monitoring in the region.

Health officials have stressed the importance of public awareness regarding the symptoms and prevention of malaria, which is a major health concern in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa. With the confirmation of malaria as the cause, authorities are focusing on controlling the spread of the disease and providing support to affected communities.

As the investigation continues, the INSP has urged the public to seek medical help promptly if they experience symptoms, especially in malaria-prone areas, to prevent further fatalities.



Markets Take a Breather After Six-Day Surge; Profit Booking and Global Factors Limit Gains



The six-day streak of gains came to an end. The bull run slowed down today. Domestic stock markets ended flat on Tuesday. The indices, which had aggressively reached intraday highs within an hour of opening, then suddenly collapsed. They reached their lowest from their daily highs. The reasons for this are Trump's announcement of a 25% tax on countries buying oil from Venezuela, negative signals from global markets, and investors taking profit booking. Overall, the Nifty settled at 23,668 and the Sensex at 78,017. There is a strong resistance at the crucial 23,600 level for the Nifty. It is important for the index to consolidate at this level for a few sessions.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 77,984 in the previous session, opened at 78,296 on Tuesday. It touched an intraday low of 77,745. It reached an intraday high of 78,741. It ended at 78,017, up 32 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,751, touched a low of 23,601 and a high of 23,869. It closed at 23,668, up 10 points. The Nifty Bank lost 97 points and settled at 51,607.

In the Nifty50, 19 companies gained and 30 lost. Consumer, PSU bank, media, realty, metal, energy, oil, PSE, pharma, auto, commodities stocks rose. Ultratech Sem, Trent, Bajaj Finserv, Grasim, Infi were the top gainers. IndusInd Bank, Dr. Reddy's, Adani Enterprises, CoalIndia, Adani Ports were the biggest losers.

Market breadth turned in favor of sellers on the NSE today. Of the 2998 stocks traded, 674 gained. A total of 2258 lost. 30 stocks hit 52-week highs and 96 stocks hit 52-week lows. 105 stocks crossed the upper circuit and 157 stocks crossed the lower circuit.

Rupee weakened by 13 paise to settle at

85.76 against the dollar. Wari Energies to set up additional module manufacturing unit at Gujarat plant. Punjab and Sindh Bank shares rose 6% after QIP price was announced at 40.38. UBS has given a buy rating to Dalmia Bharat with a target price of Rs 2100. Jefferies has maintained a buy rating, reducing the Infi target from Rs 2150 to Rs 1835. S&P has reduced India's GDP forecast for FY26 to 6.5%. Motilal Oswal has given a buy rating to Suzlon Energy with a target price of Rs 70. CLSA expects Bandhan Bank shares to rise by up to 50%. Bansal Wire Industries signs a MoU with the Steel Ministry. IR-DAI finds some irregularities in StarHealth Insurance settlement practices. 10 lakh shares changed hands in Delhivari. Neela Infra wins an order worth Rs 63 crore. Bazel Projects wins an EPC order worth Rs 100-200 crore.

UltraTech Cement Ltd.



UltraTech Cement is India's largest cement manufacturer, with a dominant market presence. The company has consistently expanded its production capacity and is investing in green energy initiatives. Strong demand from the housing and infrastructure sectors, coupled with cost-efficiency measures, supports its long-term growth. Despite raw material cost fluctuations, UltraTech remains a resilient player due to its pricing power and extensive distribution network.

Grasim Industries Ltd.

A flagship of the Aditya Birla Group, Grasim Industries operates in diversified sectors, including cement (via UltraTech),



chemicals, and textiles. The company is venturing into the paints business, which could drive future revenue growth. Strong balance sheets, expansion plans, and steady performance in core businesses make Grasim an attractive long-term investment.

Coforge Ltd.

Coforge, a mid-cap IT services company, has grown significantly with a strong presence in digital transformation, cloud



computing, and automation. With a focus on key sectors such as banking, insurance, and travel, the company is well-positioned to capitalize on IT spending trends. Strategic acquisitions and high client retention add to its long-term potential.

Polycab India Ltd.

Polycab is India's leading manufacturer of



wires, cables, and electrical goods. With the push towards electrification, infrastructure development, and increasing consumer demand for premium electrical products, Polycab has strong growth prospects. Its expansion into FMEG (Fast Moving Electrical Goods) and rising exports further strengthen its outlook.

JB Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

JB Chemicals is a growing player in the Indian pharmaceutical space with a strong portfolio in cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, and dermatology segments. The company's expansion into the US and emerging markets, coupled with increasing domestic demand, supports its long-term prospects. Cost efficiencies and new product launches add to its growth momentum.



New Income Tax Bill To Be Introduced In Monsoon Session: Nirmala Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced on Tuesday that the new Income Tax Bill will be taken up for discussion during the upcoming monsoon session of Parliament. While responding to the debate on the Finance Bill 2025 in the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman clarified that the bill, which was introduced in the House on February 13, is currently under review by the Select Committee. The committee is expected to submit its report by the first day of the next parliamentary session.

"The new income tax bill will be taken up in the monsoon session," said Sitharaman. The monsoon session is typically held from July to August, marking the period when the government expects to finalize discussions on the bill.

The proposed Income Tax Bill aims to simplify the country's taxation system. The new bill, which is significantly shorter than the current 1961 Income Tax Act, seeks to reduce the complexity of tax laws and improve tax certainty. The bill has been designed to minimize the scope for litigation and reinterpretation, a key objective for streamlining the tax process.

The new bill is approximately half the size of the existing law, with a word count of 2.6 lakh compared to 5.12 lakh in the current Act. The number of sections in the bill has also been reduced, from 819 to 536. Additionally, the number of chapters has been halved from 47 to 23, while the number of tables has increased to 57 from the 18 present in the existing Act. The new bill has also removed over 1,200 provisos and 900 explanations, further simplifying the language and structure of tax regulations.

This overhaul of the Income Tax Act is seen as a significant step towards creating a more transparent and efficient taxation system in India, ensuring easier compliance and reducing unnecessary litigation.



India slaps Samsung with tax demand of ₹5,156 crore for telecom imports

India has directed Samsung and its executives to pay \$601 million in back taxes and penalties for allegedly evading tariffs on the import of key telecom equipment. This marks one of the largest tax demands in recent years, according to a government order.

The \$601 million demand represents a significant portion of Samsung's net profit in India for the previous year, which was reported at \$955 million. As one of the largest players in India's consumer electronics and smartphone market, the company's operations are under close scrutiny from local tax authorities.

Samsung has the option to challenge the tax demand through a tax tribunal or in the courts. The case is related to allegations that the company avoided paying the necessary import tariffs on certain telecoms equipment. This tax dispute could have significant financial implications for the company, considering the substantial penalty involved.

As the dispute unfolds, Samsung will likely consider its legal options while continuing to operate in one of the world's largest markets for consumer electronics. The outcome of this case could set a precedent for other multinational corporations operating in India and could influence future tax regulations and enforcement practices.



S&P Cuts India's GDP Growth Forecast to 6.5% for FY 2025-26



S&P Global Ratings has revised India's GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year 2025-26, reducing it to 6.5%, down from an earlier projection of 6.7%. The global credit rating agency cited external

factors, including rising US tariffs and a broader pushback against globalization, as key reasons for the downward revision in its Economic Outlook for the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.

Despite these external headwinds, S&P expects strong domestic demand to drive growth in most emerging-market economies, including India. The revised forecast reflects the agency's belief that the Indian economy will maintain momentum, aided by factors such as the expectation of a normal monsoon season and softening commodity prices, particularly crude oil.

S&P highlighted several domestic factors that could support India's economic growth. These include cooling food inflation, tax benefits introduced in the national budget for FY 2025-26, and lower borrowing costs, which are anticipated to boost discretionary consumption. The ongoing economic recovery in

India is also expected to benefit from government policies designed to stimulate growth, despite the global uncertainties.

The agency also noted that central banks across the APAC region, including the Reserve Bank of India, are likely to continue cutting benchmark interest rates throughout the year, providing further support to the domestic economy.

Although the forecasted 6.5% growth is consistent with the previous fiscal year's outcome, it reflects a more cautious outlook given the global challenges. The revised growth projection underscores the balancing act facing India's economy—navigating external pressures while maintaining robust internal demand.

Boat Storm Infinity Smartwatch Launched in India With Bluetooth Calling and 15-Day Battery Life

Boat has introduced its latest smartwatch, the Boat Storm Infinity, in India, promising an extensive battery life of up to 15 days under heavy usage and up to 20 days with regular use. Launched on Tuesday, the smartwatch comes with a range of advanced features, including Bluetooth calling, an inbuilt speaker and microphone, and multiple health monitoring options. The Boat Storm Infinity is priced at ₹1,299 and is now available for purchase through Amazon, Flipkart, and the Boat Lifestyle website. It is offered in multiple band color options, including Active Black, Brown, Cherry Blossom, Deep Blue, Jade Gold, Silver Mist, Sports Black, and Sports Green. The smartwatch features a 1.83-inch rectangular display with a resolution of 240x284 pixels and a brightness level of 500 nits. It also supports a Flick-to-Wake gesture and is designed with a functional, rotating crown on the right side of the watch body. The watch has an IP68 rating, making it resistant to dust and water. One of its key highlights is Bluetooth calling support, allowing users to make and receive calls directly from the smartwatch. It also features an SOS mode to alert emergency contacts



and a Find My Device function to locate misplaced smartphones. The Boat Storm Infinity offers more than 100 preset sports modes, along with health tracking features such as heart rate monitoring, SpO2 tracking, sleep and stress monitoring, and menstrual cycle tracking. It also includes a sedentary alert and guided breathing exercises. Additional features include an alarm, stopwatch, weather updates, flashlight, games, calendar, cal-

culator, as well as music and camera controls. With a 550mAh battery, the smartwatch is claimed to provide up to 15 days of battery life with intensive use and up to 20 days with moderate usage. It supports ASAP Charge technology, which can fully charge the device in just 60 minutes. Weighing 45 grams, the Boat Storm Infinity aims to offer a blend of style, utility, and performance at an affordable price.

BYD Unveils Megawatt EV Charging System

Chinese EV giant BYD has introduced a megawatt fast-charging system, claiming it can charge electric vehicles as quickly as refueling traditional cars. With plans to establish a vast charging network across China, BYD is entering a competitive space dominated by existing fast-charging providers. Fast-charging technology has become crucial in addressing EV users' concerns about battery range and charging time, particularly for long-distance travel. Chinese automakers have been leveraging such innovations to boost EV adoption, with Tesla and other brands also offering ultra-fast charging solutions. BYD's "Super E-Platform" boasts a peak charging capacity of 1,000 kilowatts (kW), enabling vehicles to gain a 400 km (249 miles) range with-



in just five minutes. This is made possible through advanced 10C charging multiplier batteries, high-power motors, and fast chargers supporting 1,000 kW of power. In comparison, Tesla's 400-volt system caps at 250 kW for most vehicles, with exceptions like the Cybertruck and Semi, which support higher voltages. Other Chinese brands,

including Zeekr, Li Auto, and Xpeng, have also introduced fast-charging technologies that provide over 400 km of range within 10 minutes. Despite its dominance in EV sales, BYD has relied on third-party charging networks until now. With its new system requiring specialized chargers, the company plans to build over 4,000

charging stations across China. BYD founder Wang Chuanfu has also invited external investors to participate in the expansion. However, BYD faces stiff competition. Nio leads China's charging infrastructure with nearly 2,700 fast-charging stations, followed by Tesla, which has built over 2,000 sta-

tions. Li Auto, Xpeng, and Zeekr are rapidly expanding their networks, while Huawei has also entered the space with ultra-fast liquid-cooled charging piles supporting up to 600 kW. As BYD accelerates its charging infrastructure, the battle for the fastest and most accessible EV charging network in China is heating up.

Cocoa's Role in Muscle Strength The Science Behind Its Health Benefits



Cocoa is often associated with indulgent treats like chocolate cake and hot cocoa, but emerging research suggests that it offers more than just a delightful taste. According to nutritionist Michael Greger, natural, non-alkalised cocoa contains flavonoids that significantly improve blood circulation and reduce inflammation, both of which play a crucial role in muscle recovery and strength. Highlighting the benefits of cocoa for muscle health, Greger noted that older adults who consumed a tablespoon of unprocessed cocoa daily for 12 weeks saw a notable improvement in their muscle mass index. This has sparked interest in the potential of cocoa to enhance physical performance, particularly in endurance and muscle recovery. One of the key components in cocoa, a flavonoid called epicatechin, has been linked to improved blood circulation. Better circulation ensures efficient oxygen and nutrient delivery to muscles, aiding in growth and reducing fatigue. Additionally, flavonoids in cocoa contribute to enhanced mitochondrial function in mus-

cle cells, which supports muscle mass and grip strength. Beyond muscle health, cocoa is also known to benefit skin hydration. Experts suggest that less than a tablespoon of cocoa can increase circulation within the skin by 70% within two hours. Regular consumption for six months can lead to visible improvements in skin elasticity, density, and hydration, further underscoring its potential health benefits. Incorporating cocoa into a daily diet can be simple and enjoyable. From blending cocoa powder into smoothies and shakes to consuming dark chocolate with at least 70% cocoa content, there are multiple ways to harness its nutritional benefits. Hot chocolate made with minimal sugar and spices or even a healthy cocoa-based cake can serve as delicious yet beneficial options. While cocoa has shown promising results in muscle health and overall well-being, experts emphasize the importance of moderation. A balanced diet that includes all essential macronutrients and micronutrients remains crucial for maintaining long-term health.

Indiana Jones and the Great Circle Set for PS5 Release on April 17

Bethesda has officially announced that Indiana Jones and the Great Circle will launch on PlayStation 5 on April 17, with pre-orders now live. The announcement was made through an elaborate promotional video featuring voice actors Troy Baker, who plays Indiana Jones in the game, and Nolan North, the iconic voice behind Nathan Drake in the Uncharted series. The game will be available in multiple editions, including a Standard Edition, a Premium Edition, and a Collector's Edition. The Premium Edition will offer players early access starting April 15, along with exclusive content such as The Order of Giants sto-

ry DLC, a Temple of Doom outfit, a digital artbook, and a Last Crusade pack as a pre-order bonus. For collectors, the Indiana Jones and the Great Circle Collector's Edition will come with an 11-inch Great Circle globe featuring a plane magnet, an adventure journal, an Allmaker relic replica, and a Jumbo SteelBook display case. The collector's bundle will also include the Premium Edition disc and all its associated benefits. The release date trailer, which was teased by Bethesda on Sunday, featured North welcoming Baker to the "club," referencing their shared history of voicing legendary adventurers in gam-

ing. The Uncharted series, inspired by Indiana Jones films, has now come full circle with The Great Circle drawing influence from PlayStation's signature action-adventure franchise. Set between the events of Raiders of the Lost Ark and Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, Indiana Jones and the Great Circle follows a first-person perspective, allowing players to wield the whip and take on dangerous factions in pursuit of a mysterious global power. The game originally launched on PC and Xbox Series S/X on December 9, 2024, and will now make its way to PS5 starting April 15 for Premium Edition owners.



Punjab Kings Secure 11-Run Win in a High-Scoring Thriller



Punjab Kings clinched a thrilling 11-run victory against Gujarat Titans in a high-scoring encounter, where 244 runs were piled up in an entertaining display of power hitting. While GT started cautiously, their approach seemed well-calculated, keeping wickets in hand for a late assault. However, a series of tactical errors in the death overs cost them dearly. After a steady start, Sai Sudharsan and Jos Buttler built

a strong platform, almost taking the game away from PBKS before Arshdeep Singh broke their stand by dismissing Sai. Sherfane Rutherford then took charge, accelerating the scoring rate with quick runs. But his struggles against a consistent off-side ploy proved decisive. PBKS bowlers stuck to their plan—bowling wide outside off, out of Rutherford's hitting zone—and the left-hander failed to adapt.

Despite GT needing just a few big hits to tilt the game in their favor, Rutherford repeatedly chose to slice or loft through the off-side, even though the on-side field was wide open. The absence of a deep square leg, backward square leg, and fine leg offered ample opportunities to exploit the leg-side, yet he hesitated until the very end. Looking back, that phase proved to be the turning point, as GT let a

winnable game slip away. On the bowling front, PBKS executed their strategies flawlessly. After three 17-run overs post the 10th over, Vyshak Vijaykumar stepped up and set the tone for a disciplined bowling effort. Marco Jansen followed suit, and the duo, despite not taking many wickets, applied immense pressure. Their precision with wide yorkers, even under dewy conditions, made all the difference.

Pant-Goenka Chat After LSG's Loss to DC Sparks Meme Fest



Delhi Capitals pulled off a thrilling one-wicket victory over Lucknow Super Giants in their IPL 2025 clash on Monday, thanks to an explosive 66-run knock from Ashutosh Sharma. However, the post-match focus shifted to an intense conversation between LSG captain Rishabh Pant, head coach Justin Langer, and team owner Sanjiv Goenka. The interaction quickly became a talking point on social media, with fans drawing parallels to Goenka's viral chat with KL Rahul after a heavy defeat in IPL 2024. Memes flooded the internet, with some jokingly speculating about Goenka's disappointment over LSG's failure to defend 210 runs. Ashutosh, making his

debut for Delhi, turned the game around after DC struggled at 65-5. His power-hitting, combined with a crucial 39-run cameo from Vipraj Nigam, guided DC to victory with three balls to spare. Lucknow had a chance in the final over with six runs needed, but a stumping opportunity against Mohit Sharma went begging as Pant failed to collect the ball cleanly. Ashutosh capitalized on the miss, smashing a six off Shahbaz Ahmed to seal the win. After the loss, LSG players looked dejected, while DC captain Axar Patel cheekily remarked, "Be prepared for it now. It's going to be like this only under my captaincy—things will be up and down a little."

BCCI Central Contracts Shreyas Iyer Set for Return Debate Over Senior Players' A+ Retention

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is yet to finalize its central contracts for men, amid discussions on key changes in the A+ category following the retirement of stalwarts Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Ravindra Jadeja from T20 Internationals. The delay has sparked speculation about possible reshuffling, with differing opinions among stakeholders on the retention of senior players in the top category.

The A+ grade, offering a ₹7 crore retainer-ship, is traditionally reserved for players active across all formats. With Kohli, Rohit, and Jadeja now playing only Tests and ODIs, Jasprit Bumrah remains the lone all-format certainty. While some in the BCCI favor retaining the trio in A+, others argue for a revision based on current format participation.

In the A category (₹5 crore retainership), Ravichandran Ashwin's retirement means his exclusion is certain. Axar Patel, a key all-rounder and vice-captain for the England T20I series, is a strong contender for promotion from Grade B.

Shreyas Iyer, who missed out last season, is set to return after featuring in 11 ODIs this



year. Young talents like Yashasvi Jaiswal, Akash Deep, and Sarfaraz Khan are likely to be inducted, with their performances meeting the selection criteria. Nitish Kumar Reddy, having played the full Border-Gavaskar series and multiple T20Is, is also expected to be included.

Meanwhile, players like Shardul Thakur and Rituraj Gaikwad may miss out, as they

do not currently meet the required match count. However, the selection committee, in consultation with the head coach and secretary, retains the discretion to make exceptions.

The final contract list, expected soon, will reflect BCCI's strategic decisions regarding player retention, promotions, and future squad planning.

Chelsea Eye Permanent Jadon Sancho Deal Despite Cancel Clause

Chelsea are reportedly set to proceed with Jadon Sancho's permanent signing from Manchester United, despite having a £5 million (\$6.4 million) clause that could allow them to cancel the deal. The winger joined Chelsea on loan last August in a deal that included an obligation to buy him for £25 million.

Sancho, 24, made a promising start at Stamford Bridge but has struggled for consistency, scoring just twice in all competitions and failing to find the net since December. His lack of impact has led to speculation that Chelsea could invoke the clause to back out of the deal.

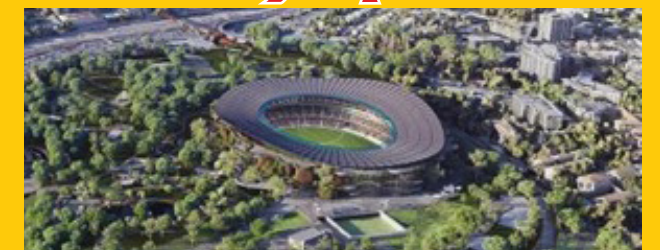
However, reports indicate the club remains committed to signing

him, believing he can recapture the form he showed during his Borussia Dortmund spell, where he played a key role in their Champions League final run. Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca has publicly praised Sancho's progress, stating he has been impressed by his performances despite his struggles.

Sancho's move to Chelsea followed a fallout with Manchester United boss Erik ten Hag, which saw him frozen out of the squad before being loaned to Dortmund in January 2024. Meanwhile, Chelsea were linked with United winger Alejandro Garnacho in January and could still look to reinforce their attacking options in the summer, even if Sancho stays.



Australia Unveils Plans for New Stadium for 2032 Olympics



Australia has announced plans for a new 63,000-seat stadium and an indoor aquatic centre as part of preparations for the 2032 Olympic Games in Brisbane. Queensland Premier David Crisafulli revealed the updated infrastructure strategy, emphasizing long-term benefits over short-term spending.

"Finally, Queensland has a plan. The time has come to just get on with it. And get on with it we will," Crisafulli stated, confirming that the new stadium would be a permanent world-class venue for future sporting events. The aquatic centre, with temporary seating increasing capacity to 25,000, will host swimming, diving, water polo, and other aquatic sports. The main athletes' village will be constructed at

the Brisbane Showgrounds, with additional accommodation hubs on the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast.

This new plan replaces an earlier proposal by the previous Labor government, which aimed to renovate the historic Gabba cricket ground and build a 17,000-seat indoor stadium. Crisafulli scrapped those ideas, arguing that billions would have been wasted on temporary venues that lacked lasting value.

In addition to the new stadium and aquatic centre, authorities have earmarked funds for upgrading smaller venues, including the Queensland Tennis Centre and the Gold Coast Hockey Centre. While specific costs have not been disclosed, Australia has set aside approximately \$4 billion for Olympic infrastructure.



Robinhood Will Show A New Side of Me: Sreeleela



With just three days left for the release of Robinhood, starring Nithiin and Sreeleela, the film's promotional campaign is in full swing. Directed by Venky Kudumula, the action-comedy has already built strong anticipation among fans.

Speaking about her character Neera Vasudev, Sreeleela shared, "Neera is a girl who has returned to India from abroad and believes everything revolves around her. It's a cute, bubbly character, and I'm sure audiences will love her energy and innocence."

This marks Sreeleela's second film with Nithiin, and she is excited about their on-screen chemistry. "Nithiin is down-to-earth and leads a calm, peaceful life. We've worked

hard to make sure the film connects with audiences. I believe our chemistry will make a lasting impact, and Robinhood will establish us as a hit pair."

She also recalled the fun she had while filming with Vennela Kishore and Rajendra Prasad. "We couldn't stop laughing during scenes with Vennela Kishore. His comedy timing is impeccable, and those moments will be a treat for the audience. Rajendra Prasad sir is a legend—his humor adds so much to the film."

With high expectations and a blend of action, comedy, and romance, Robinhood is set to hit the big screens soon, promising an entertaining ride for moviegoers.

Fans Demand One More Movie with Ram Charan; Samantha Responds!



Samantha Ruth Prabhu's career soared to new heights with Rangasthalam, where her chemistry with Ram Charan captivated audiences. Even years after its release, fans still reminisce about the duo's on-screen magic, sparking ongoing speculation about their possible reunion.

During a recent event in Sydney, enthusiastic fans demanded that Samantha work with Ram Charan

again. Flashing a bright smile, she responded, "I will make that call." Her words immediately fueled excitement, adding weight to the rumors about her involvement in RC17, Ram Charan's upcoming film with Sukumar.

Currently, Ram Charan is filming RC16 alongside Janhvi Kapoor, directed by Buchi Babu Sana. Following that, RC17 will mark Charan's reunion with Suku-

mar, and industry buzz suggests the director is keen on bringing Samantha back as the leading lady.

After Kushi, Samantha has been focusing on her production venture Ma Inti Bangaram but has not signed any new Telugu projects as an actress. With fan demand at an all-time high, it remains to be seen whether this much-anticipated reunion will become a reality.

Aamir Khan vs Salman Khan – Who Is the Real Sikandar?

Ahead of the highly anticipated release of Sikandar, the makers surprised fans with a unique promotional stunt featuring Bollywood superstars Salman Khan and Aamir Khan. Salman Khan shared a teaser of the video, where Aamir Khan playfully asks director A R Murugadoss to decide who is the bigger "Sikandar" between the two Khans. Murugadoss' expression in response left fans intrigued. Sharing the teaser, Salman Khan wrote, "Amar Prem ka Andaz with AR Murugadoss! #SikandarMeetsGhajini." The video instantly went viral, drawing excited reactions from fans. One user commented, "Salman and Aamir. Baap of Bollywood and Mr. Perfectionist," while another called it an "unexpected collaboration." A third fan declared, "Real Sikandar Apna Bhai." Meanwhile, during the trailer launch event on Sunday, Salman Khan addressed criticism



regarding the 31-year age gap between him and his co-star Rashmika Mandanna. Responding in his signature style, he said, "If the heroine doesn't have any problem, or her father doesn't have any problem, then why do you have a problem?" His remark left the audience in splits. Not stopping there, Salman humorously added, "And when Rashmika gets married, has a

daughter, and she becomes a big star, we will still work together. We will get the mother's permission for sure."

Apart from Salman Khan and Rashmika Mandanna, Sikandar also stars Kajal Aggarwal, Sathyaraj, and Sharman Joshi in pivotal roles. The film, directed by A R Murugadoss, is slated for a grand theatrical release on March 30.

Anchor Anjali Unveils the Teaser of "Lopaliki Ra Chepta"

Some films begin their journey quietly, without much hype, but manage to capture attention through unique promotional strategies after completion. "Lopaliki Ra Chepta" is one such film that is now generating buzz with its intriguing concept and fresh publicity approach.

Produced under the banner of Mass Bunk Movies, the film features Konda Venkata Rajendra, Manisha Jashnani, Susmitha Anala, and Sanchirai in lead roles. Directed by Konda Venkata Rajendra and Lakshmi Ganesh, "Lopaliki Ra Chepta" is a horror-comedy entertainer. The film's teaser was unveiled today by renowned anchor Anjali, marking a significant moment as it is the first time a female anchor has launched a movie teaser.

Speaking at the event, Anchor Anjali expressed her excitement, stating, "I am happy to unveil the traditional teaser of Lopaliki Ra Chepta. This is a film couples should watch together. I can assure you that the movie is perfect for both youth and family



audiences." Director Konda Venkata Rajendra conveyed his gratitude, saying, "We are delighted that senior journalist Anjali, with her kind heart, has unveiled our teaser. Our film Lopaliki Ra Chepta is crafted to entertain all sections of the audience. We will soon announce a grand pre-release event after finalizing the date and are aiming for an April release."

The film also stars Ajay Karthik, Praveen Katari, Ramesh Kaiguri, and Vani Aida in key roles. The technical team includes music by Davzand, cinematography by Revanth Levaka and Aravind Ganesh, editing by Vamsi, and PRO services handled by B. Veerababu. The film is produced by Lakshmi Ganesh Chedella and Konda Venkata Rajendra, with the story, screenplay, and direction by Konda Venkata Rajendra.

Barun Sobti Not Replacing Ankit Gupta in Terre Ho Jaayein Hum

Rumors have been rife about Ankit Gupta's exit from Terre Ho Jaayein Hum, the upcoming romantic drama produced by Ravi Dubey and Sargun Mehta. Speculation intensified after reports of Ankit's alleged breakup with Priyanka Chahar Choudhary, who was cast alongside him in the show.

Addressing his exit, Ankit earlier told Bollywood Bubble, "I walked out of the project with Ravi-Sargun. I don't think I'd be able to contribute to that proj-

ect right now. Perhaps I need some time to recover and recharge myself."

Soon after, reports surfaced that Barun Sobti was being considered as Ankit's replacement. However, sources close to the actor have now dismissed these claims.

"These rumours are completely baseless. Barun was never approached for the role, nor will he be a part of it. He is currently occupied with his next big project with a well-known

filmmaker," the source confirmed.

Barun Sobti, who has made a mark with projects like Asur, Raat Jawan Hai, and Kohrra, is also gearing up for Kohrra Season 2, set to release later this year.

While fans of Priyanka and Ankit are disappointed that the duo will not be reuniting on-screen, the search for a new lead actor continues. However, all reports linking Barun Sobti to the show have been denied.

