



Weather Forecast

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

Trump-Zelensky clash in Oval Office sparks global uproar

Trump to Zelensky: "Be thankful, or we stop support."

Vance warns: "Ukraine is prolonging a war it can't win."

Democrats slam Trump, call meeting 'a betrayal of allies.'

Republicans defend Trump's 'America First' stance.

European leaders assure Ukraine of continued support.



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A tense Oval Office meeting between US President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky took an unexpected turn on Friday, turning into a heated confrontation that sent shockwaves across global political circles.

Originally meant to focus on mineral-sharing agreements and continued US military support for Ukraine, the meeting saw Trump and Vance berating Zelensky for what they claimed was a lack of "thankfulness" and pressuring him to negotiate a peace deal with Russia. Zelensky, visibly uneasy, defended Ukraine's position, arguing that Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly violated ceasefire agreements and illegally occupied Ukrainian territory, including Crimea.

The dramatic encounter has sparked outrage across Washington. Democrats strongly condemned Trump's approach, accusing him of aligning with Russian interests. A Massachusetts Democratic leader remarked that Zelensky "flew to Washington but walked into the Kremlin." Senator Chris Van Hollen called the incident a "betrayal of allies," claiming that Trump's actions were an "embarrassment for

America." Republicans, however, defended Trump's stance, arguing that Ukraine must recognize the limits of US support. House Speaker Mike Johnson praised the meeting as a necessary shift in American foreign policy, while Secretary of State Marco Rubio lauded Trump for "standing up for America in a way no president has before."

How the clash unfolded

Tensions were already high before the meeting, given Trump's skepticism about continued US aid to Ukraine. The discussion initially revolved around mineral trade agreements, but Vice President Vance steered it toward Ukraine's war with Russia. He urged Zelensky to consider negotiations, arguing that the war was unwinnable. Zelensky pushed back, highlighting Russia's past treaty violations, but Vance accused him of being "disrespectful" and failing to appreciate American military assistance. Trump escalated the exchange, raising his voice and warning Zelensky that US support would end if he refused to negotiate a peace deal.

Following the meeting, Zelensky,

in an interview with Fox News, expressed hope for repairing US-Ukraine relations. However, he indirectly criticized Vance, remarking, "With all due respect to the vice president, he has his own interviews."

Global reactions

The Oval Office confrontation prompted strong reactions from European allies.

- Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk assured Ukraine, saying, "You are not alone."
- British Prime Minister Keir Starmer reaffirmed "unwavering support" for Ukraine.
- Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni called for an urgent summit with US and European allies to address the Ukraine conflict.

Meanwhile, Russia reveled in the discord, with former President Dmitry Medvedev mocking Zelensky as an "insolent pig" who had been "properly slapped down in the Oval Office." Ukraine's military leadership vowed to continue fighting, while Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba praised Zelensky's "bravery" in standing firm against Trump and Vance.

CM orders crackdown on illegal sand mineral mining

CM directs strict action to curb irregularities and boost revenue.

TGMDC to supply sand for government and private construction projects.

Sand stock points to be set up around Hyderabad for easy access.



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has ordered a stringent crackdown on illegal mining and sand supply, stating that strict action is necessary to eliminate irregularities and increase government revenue.

During a high-level review of the Mines Department at the Integrated Command Control Center (ICCC), officials briefed the CM on measures taken in the past month to curb illegal sand transportation and the resulting revenue gains. In response, Revanth Reddy issued key directives to streamline sand mining, transportation, and affordable supply to consumers.

He emphasized that sand required for government projects, including those under Irrigation, Roads & Buildings (R&B), and Panchayati Raj departments, should be sourced exclusively from the Telangana Mineral Development Corporation (TGMDC). The CM asserted that ensuring sand availability at the right price would reduce illegal

supply networks. With Hyderabad and its surrounding areas being the major consumers of sand, the Chief Minister directed the immediate establishment of sand stock points at three locations around the city to facilitate easy access for small-scale buyers.

He also reviewed fines imposed on various mineral quarries under the Mines Department and instructed officials to take a policy decision to resolve pending issues. Additionally, he ordered the immediate auction of long-pending minor mineral blocks by calling for tenders.

Chief Minister's Advisor Vem Narender Reddy, TGMDC Chairman Eravatri Anil, and senior officials participated in the meeting.

SLBC Tunnel Collapse

Trapped workers located; survival chances grim

- Four trapped workers' location identified
- Survival chances at just 1%, says Minister.
- NGRI scientists use radar to detect anomalies inside the tunnel.



TPN Correspondent | Nagarkurnool

The rescue operation at the collapsed SLBC tunnel in Nagarkurnool witnessed a breakthrough on Saturday as scientists identified the whereabouts of four trapped workers.

However, Telangana State Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao stated that the chances of their survival remain at "one per cent."

Speaking at the site, the minister said there had been significant progress in the past two days. "Using radar, we have located four of the trapped persons. We are hopeful they can be retrieved by

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High Stakes in Telangana MLC Elections

TPN | PARDHU

Hyderabad, Mar 02: The political landscape in Telangana is heating up as the election process for the Member of Legislative Council (MLC) seats under the MLA quota has officially begun. With five seats set to fall vacant by March 29, the election scheduled for March 20 has triggered intense lobbying within the ruling Congress party. Several senior leaders and aspirants are making strong efforts to secure a seat in the legislative council.

The five MLC seats that will be vacated are currently held by Mahmood Ali, Egge Mallesham, Satyavati Rathod, Sheri Subhash Reddy, and Mirza Riazul Hassan. Given its numerical strength in the Assembly, the Congress party is in a strong position to win four of the five seats, while the opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) is expected to claim the remaining one.

Fierce Competition Among Congress Aspirants

The MLC elections have turned into a battleground within the



Intense Lobbying Begins for MLC Seats

Senior Leaders Eye Key Council Positions

CPI Demands a Seat Under Alliance Deal

CM's Backing for Vem Narender Reddy?

BRS Likely to Secure One Seat

Uncertainty Over MIM's Next Move

Congress Faces Tough Candidate Selection

Aspirants Leverage Loyalty and Influence

Congress, with several senior leaders vying for a seat. Former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav is seeking an opportunity under the BC quota, leveraging his background to bolster his claim. Likewise, senior leader Madhuyashki Goud, who faced defeat in the last assembly elections, is keen on securing an MLC post. Several other Congress leaders, including Sarita

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Can Revanth Reddy take responsibility for SLBC tunnel accident?

- KTR slams Congress ministers for making arbitrary statements on the accident.
- Why no official statement has been issued by CM.
- Govt's lacks respect for the trapped workers and their families.



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) has strongly criticized the Congress government over the SLBC tunnel accident, questioning why Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has not taken responsibility or issued an official statement. He alleged that ministers and Congress MLAs were making contradictory statements, adding to the confusion.

KTR pointed out that each minister was giving a different version of the situa-

tion. "One MLA claims the bodies have been found, another questions why Prime Minister Modi hasn't expressed condolences, while a minister says none of the trapped workers are alive.

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High Stakes in Telangana MLC Elections

Tirupathaiah Yadav, former ZP chairperson of Gadwal, Addanki Dayakar, and Sampath Kumar, are also in contention. Addanki Dayakar, who was denied a ticket in the last elections and has not received any nominated post so far, is hoping to secure a position this time.

Additionally, several influential Congress leaders, such as Jagga Reddy, former minister Shabbir Ali, and cricketer-turned-politician Mohammed Azharuddin, are actively lobbying for an MLC seat. Other names in the race include Feroz Khan, Qureshi, Jatti Kusuma Kumar, Harkara Venu Gopal Rao, Sama Rammohan Reddy, Pidamrathi Ravi, and Singapore Indira.

CM's Support for Vem Narender Reddy?

Among the contenders, Vem Narender Reddy, who currently serves as the Chief Minister's government advisor, is believed to have strong backing from CM A. Revanth Reddy. Speculation is rife that Narender Reddy is among the frontrunners for an MLC seat. Meanwhile, Egge Malleshham, who recently joined the Congress from BRS, is also attempting to secure another term.

CPI Demands One Seat Under Alliance Agreement

The Communist Party of India (CPI), which is in alliance with Congress, is demand-

ing one MLC seat as part of the coalition agreement. CPI leaders have reminded Congress of the understanding reached during the previous elections and insist that their party should be accommodated in the council.

Uncertainty Over MIM's Stand

Among the five MLC seats, one is traditionally considered to be allocated to the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (MIM). However, there is still no clarity on whether MIM will contest for the seat this time or adopt a different strategy. The political equation regarding this seat remains uncertain, adding another layer of intrigue to the elections.

Congress Leadership's Final Decision Awaited

With multiple aspirants in the fray, the final selection process is expected to be based on factors such as seniority, political influence, social equations, and the ability to strengthen the party's prospects. The Congress leadership faces a tough decision in balancing these factors while ensuring fairness in candidate selection.

As the competition intensifies, all eyes are on the Congress high command's final decision. The outcome of this MLC election will not only shape the legislative council's composition but also reflect internal party dynamics and leadership preferences within Telangana Congress.

SLBC Tunnel Collapse

Sunday evening," he said. When asked about their condition, Krishna Rao reiterated his earlier statement that survival chances were extremely slim. "From day one, I have maintained that the chances are very remote. But we are still holding on to the one per cent hope," he added.

Breakthrough in rescue efforts

Scientists from the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) used Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) to detect anomalies within the tunnel, which led to the discovery of the four individuals' location. Rescue teams are now manually deslitting the area, and the process is expected to be completed by Sunday evening.

However, the remaining four trapped workers are suspected to be beneath the massive 450-ft Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM). The minister noted that cutting through the TBM to reach them would take additional time.

Currently, around 11 agencies, including the Army, NDRF, and specialized "rat miners," are involved in the complex rescue operation. Addressing criticism from opposition parties regarding the delay, Krishna Rao emphasized the complexity of the operation. "This is not an ordinary rescue. Experts are handling the situation, but the conditions inside—such as slush and debris—make it extremely difficult," he explained.

Can Revanth Reddy take responsibility for SLBC tunnel accident?

Is this how a government should function?" he asked. Expressing concern for the workers' families, KTR stated that they have been anxiously waiting for updates, yet the government has failed to communicate responsibly. "Not a single person in the government is acting with accountability. There hasn't

even been an official media briefing on this tragic accident," he said. He further questioned the Congress government's approach, asking if this was the level of respect they had for the workers. "Why hasn't the CM taken charge and issued a clear statement?" KTR demanded.

CM Revant Reddy Launches Young India Police School as a Role Model for the Nation

- CM Revant Reddy Launches Police School as National Role Model
- Young India Police School to Prioritize Martyrs' Children: CM
- CM Revant Reddy Unveils Free Education Initiative at Police School

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : In a significant move, Chief Minister K. Revant Reddy has directed officials to prioritize the children of police martyrs for admission to the newly inaugurated Young India Police School. Located near the Greyhounds campus in the lush greenery of Hyderabad, this school will begin its admission process for the upcoming academic year. The Chief Minister emphasized that the school should be developed as a role model for the nation, similar to the concept of Sainik Schools.



Speaking at the launch of the school's website, CM Reddy stressed the importance of providing quality education to every student, irrespective of their economic background. He highlighted that the Young India Schools will bridge the gap in education, especially for rural students, by offering corporate-level education. The

school buildings will be spread over 20-25 acres with international standards, and the government has decided to provide free education up to the 12th grade. This initiative aims to ensure that quality education reaches all, enabling students to compete on a global scale.

Union Minister Kishan Reddy Counters CM Revanth Reddy's Remarks

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : Union Minister Kishan Reddy has expressed strong discontent over the remarks made by Telangana Chief Minister K. Revanth Reddy, criticizing his behavior as lacking patience and understanding. Speaking to the media at the BJP office in Nampally on Saturday, Kishan Reddy accused the Congress government in Telangana of failing to implement the six guarantees promised during the election. He also claimed that the state government was attacking the BJP to cover up its failures.

Kishan Reddy emphasized that he had been in constant communication with the Centre regarding Telangana's development and had already secured substantial funding for the state. He strongly refuted allegations that he engaged in "politics of intimidation"



and stated that he had never resorted to such tactics. Responding to CM Revanth Reddy's criticism, Kishan Reddy pointed out that from the very first day of his swearing-in as CM, people have not taken Revanth's words seriously. Highlighting the collaborative efforts with the Centre, he mentioned that works worth Rs. 10 lakh crore had been undertaken in Telangana. He criticized the opposition's attempts to hinder development, emphasizing the need for responsible leadership.

CM Orders Immediate Ex-Gratia for Gulf Workers' Families

- CM Revant Reddy Orders Ex-Gratia for Families of Gulf Workers
- Telangana Govt to Release Rs. 5 Lakh for Deceased Gulf Workers' Families
- CM Revant Reddy Supports Gulf Workers' Families with Immediate Relief

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : In a significant move, Telangana Chief Minister K. Revant Reddy has ordered the immediate release of ex-gratia payments to the families of Gulf workers who lost their lives while working abroad. The state government has taken special steps to support the welfare of workers from Telangana employed in Gulf countries. Many families of deceased workers have been facing hardships, and to alleviate their pain, CM Reddy directed that financial assistance of Rs. 5 lakh each be provided to 113 affected families. The issue was brought to the Chief Minister's attention



during a review meeting at the Police Command Control Center, where the Department of Mineral Development presented the matter. Upon hearing the request from the Chairman of the Mineral Development Corporation, Anil Eeravathri, CM Reddy immediately responded by issuing instructions for the immediate release of the funds. This initiative reflects the government's ongoing commitment to ensuring the welfare of its workers abroad and providing necessary support to their grieving families in times of distress.

KTR Slams Revanth Reddy, Accuses Him of Deceiving People

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : Telangana Minister K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) has made a strong criticism of Chief Minister K. Revant Reddy, accusing him of "carrying bags" and using deceitful tactics to become the CM. Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan, KTR alleged that Revant Reddy has been involved in various scams and misused his position. He claimed that Revant's promises, including those related to the Palamuru-Rangareddy project, did not result in any commission for him, and his assurances like the job calendar were nothing more than empty promises to mislead unemployed youth.

KTR further criticized Revant Reddy's government for failing to deliver on key promises like pension schemes and loan waivers



for farmers. He pointed out that despite the claims of "Telangana is Rising," under Revant's leadership, the state was experiencing a rise in debt, suicides, and crime rates. KTR stated that people from all sections of society, including women, students, unemployed youth, and farmers, were facing hardships under Revant's governance. With upcoming by-elections in the state, KTR warned that the government's failure to address these issues would likely influence voter sentiment in the elections.

Harish Rao Requests Water for Crops, Urges Minister Uttam to Act



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : In a crucial move to save crops in the Siddipet constituency, former Minister T. Harish Rao has requested Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy to lift 1 TMC of water from the Mid Maneru reservoir and release it into the Ranganayaka Sagar reservoir. This request was made over the phone in order to provide sufficient water for crops that are at risk of drying due to the ongoing heat. Harish Rao emphasized that the crops must be watered until the completion of the Yasangi season. Harish Rao informed Minister Uttam that, each year, the Ranganayaka Sagar has significant-

ly increased crop yields, and this year, around 50,000 acres of crops are under threat. He pointed out that, while 2.4 TMC of water was recently pumped into the reservoir, only 1.5 TMC remains, which is insufficient to meet the irrigation needs of the crops. To fully irrigate the crops, at least 1 more TMC of water is required. He appealed to the Irrigation officials to immediately pump water from Mid Maneru to Ranganayaka Sagar to save the crops, as the lack of water is pushing farmers into deep distress. Harish Rao urged that action be taken swiftly to avoid a crisis and support the farmers in need.

Etela Rajender Slams Fake Campaigns Against Jan Aushadhi Centers

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : BJP MP from Malkajgiri, Etela Rajender, has urged the public to make the most of Jan Aushadhi centers to reduce the financial burden of high medical costs. Speaking at a walk held in Neredmet Cross Road on the occasion of "Jan Aushadhi Diwas-2025," he criticized certain pharmaceutical companies and private businesses for spreading false propaganda against Jan Aushadhi centers. He called out misleading claims that the medicines available at these centers are of poor quality, stating that such reports are baseless.

Etela Rajender clarified that the government itself purchases medicines and supplies them through Jan Aushadhi centers at much lower prices. He emphasized that the initiative aims to provide affordable



and quality healthcare to the public, particularly those from lower-income backgrounds. Additionally, he acknowledged Prime Minister Modi's efforts to introduce

schemes for the welfare of the poor, highlighting that the government's commitment to supporting the underprivileged is evident through such initiatives.

BJP MLA Payal Shankar Urges Politics-Free Approach on SLBC Tunnel Accident

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : BJP MLA Payal Shankar has strongly opposed politicizing the SLBC tunnel accident, urging that the focus should remain on rescue efforts rather than political debates. Speaking to the media, Payal Shankar emphasized that the state government should act responsibly in managing the aftermath of the accident. She pointed out that the government's oversight on pre-accident work was evident, as the necessary precautions seemed lacking.

Payal Shankar mentioned that central forces are currently involved in the rescue operations, highlighting the cooperative support from the Centre to assist the state in this crisis. While BJP leaders, including Opposition leader Eleti Maheshwar Reddy, were scheduled to visit the accident site in Domalpentla to monitor ongoing rescue operations, Payal Shankar stressed that political agendas should be set aside during such tragic times. She called for unity and focused efforts to handle the crisis rather than using the incident for political gain.



TPCC Suspends Teenmaar Mallanna for Party Line Violation



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) reacted strongly to Teenmaar Mallanna's recent comments, stating that anyone who crosses the party line will not be tolerated. TPCC leader Mahesh Kumar reminded that Mallanna had been warned multiple times before and that his remarks regarding the BC caste census were inappropriate. He emphasized that the All India Congress Committee (AICC) had taken the issue seriously and that Mallanna's statements were a violation of party discipline. As a result of his actions, the Congress party has suspended Teenmaar Mallanna, an MLC and journalist, from its ranks. The suspension comes after Mallanna's controversial stance against the party, particularly in light of recent developments when Meenakshi Natarajan was appointed as the new Telangana State Congress In-Charge. This disciplinary action against Mallanna has been taken amid his defiant position against the party's policies and is seen as a clear warning that no one, regardless of their status, is above the party's guidelines and principles.

KTR's Shocking Remarks on Revanth Reddy's Leadership

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) made sensational comments about Telangana Chief Minister K. Revanth Reddy, saying, "If you talk about your bad deeds in my ear, blood will come out of my ears." Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan, KTR expressed frustration over Revanth Reddy's claims of development and leadership. He pointed out that Revanth Reddy had done nothing substantial with the loans he had accumulated. KTR also criticized Revanth for misleading people across various sections of society, stating that under his leadership, promises like loan waivers for farmers were not fulfilled.

KTR urged party members to work hard for the victory of BRS in upcoming elections, from Panchayat to Parliament. He specifically targeted Revanth Reddy for failing to deliver the promised farmer benefits, such as the "Rythu Bandhu" scheme, which was introduced during KCR's tenure but remained absent under Congress rule. KTR warned those who switched parties that they would face consequences in the upcoming by-elections and emphasized that Revanth Reddy's leadership had failed to bring tangible change to the state.



Minister Ponnam Slams BJP, Denies Their Right to Comment on Caste Census

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : In a strong statement, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar criticized the BJP, saying the party has no moral right to speak on the caste census in the state. Addressing the media, he mentioned that the state government had allowed a re-survey for B.C. intellectuals and leaders of other communities, responding to their requests. However, he noted that the response to the survey was low and expressed disappointment that some individuals failed to take advantage of the opportunity, despite the government providing another chance for those who had not participated.

Ponnam also emphasized that the BJP had previously filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court opposing the B.C. census, making it clear that the party is not in a position to comment on the issue. Criticizing the BJP further, he mentioned that while Chief Minister KCR, along with KTR and Harish Rao, had pointed out flaws in the government's comprehensive survey, they had not provided any data or details in the survey themselves. Ponnam Prabhakar concluded by questioning the consistency and methodology of the BJP's stance on the caste census.



Congress MLA Matta Ragamayi's Controversial Remarks on IAS Officers



TPN , Correspondent

Sathupalli , Mar 02 : Sathupalli Congress MLA Matta Ragamayi has sparked controversy with his remarks on IAS officers. He criticized IAS officials, saying that while they work hard to become IAS officers, once they achieve the status, they tend to relax and stop working efficiently. Ragamayi further stated that Congress leader Revanth Reddy had advised them not to aspire to become IAS officers, and questioned why IAS officers, once in power,

fail to deliver effectively.

In addition, he mentioned that despite facing criticism from various quarters, Congress MLAs, including himself, do not respond in kind. Ragamayi's comments have quickly gone viral, stirring debates over his views on bureaucracy and the performance of IAS officers. His remarks have sparked a mix of reactions, particularly in political circles, drawing attention to the challenges and expectations of civil servants in governance.

Congress Gunda Attack on BRS Workers in Kollapur Condemned by Harish Rao

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : Former Minister Harish Rao has condemned the recent attack on BRS workers in Narayanayak Thanda, Kollapur constituency, calling it a brutal act by Congress goons. He accused the Congress party of fostering violence and crime in Telangana since coming to power, highlighting the increasing attacks on BRS leaders and workers. He criticized Revanth Reddy for inciting violence under the guise of change, claiming that the Congress is now implementing an "Emergency-style" rule in the state.

Rao pointed out that within a day of an attack on BRS activists in Satapur, Congress goons un-

leashed violence in Narayanayak Thanda. He stressed that such acts of violence are unacceptable in a democracy, where every party has the right to campaign and fight for people's issues. He noted that Congress is resorting to attacks to cover up its failures and prevent the public from learning about its shortcomings.

Rao assured that BRS workers will not be intimidated by such tactics. He demanded that the police take strict action against the perpetrators and perform their duty in maintaining law and order. He reaffirmed that BRS will continue to fight for the people despite these challenges.

Congress Government's Vendetta Against Harish Rao: Dasoju Sravan

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : Dasoju Sravan, a key leader of the Telangana Congress, strongly condemned the filing of a fresh illegal case against Minister Harish Rao by the state government. Sravan criticized the move as an example of political vendetta, pointing out that the issue was already under investigation in the High Court. He termed the re-registration of the same case at Bachupally Police Station (FIR 177/2025) as a direct assault on the judicial system and an attempt to undermine legal protections granted to Harish Rao. Sravan accused the Revanth Reddy-led Congress government of turning the police into

political pawns, using them to suppress opposition voices. He emphasized that such acts were not just illegal but a clear violation of democratic principles. He warned that the BRS party would not tolerate these unlawful acts and would take them to the High Court for strict action.

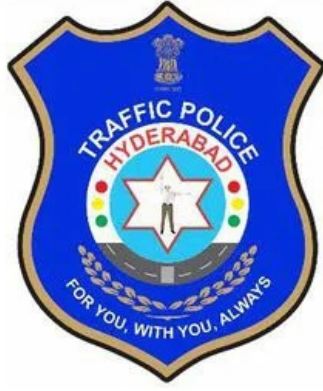
Criticizing the government's actions, Sravan stated that if the Congress believed that harassing Harish Rao through baseless cases was governance, they were sorely mistaken. He assured that BRS workers and the people of Telangana would not stand idle and would fight against this injustice.



Hyderabad Traffic Police Launch Special Drive Against Rule Violations

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : Starting March 3, Hyderabad Traffic Police will initiate a special drive targeting violations such as wrong-side driving, irregular number plates, use of sirens, and multi-toned horns. The campaign aims to curb the rising number of accidents and ensure safer roads for all.



Police officials have highlighted that wrong-side driving, in particular, is a major concern, contributing to severe traffic congestion and increasing risks to road users. "It not only disrupts traffic but also endangers lives," said D Joel Davis, Joint Commissioner (Traffic), Hyderabad.

found violating these rules will face penalties as per the law. The public is also encouraged to report violations through the Hyderabad Traffic Police Facebook page, X (Twitter), or the Traffic Help Line (9010203626).

Citizens are urged to follow traffic rules, refrain from using tinted glass or black films, and avoid the use of sirens and musical horns. Those

Traffic violations, especially wrong-side driving, have led to significant casualties, with 8 deaths and 150 injuries in 2023 alone.

BRS Leaders Demand Immediate Action for Workers' Welfare



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : In a press conference held at Telangana Bhavan, BRS leaders, including State President Rambabu Yadav, criticized the state government's handling of workers' welfare. The leaders condemned the tragic deaths of eight workers at the

SLBC tunnel, blaming the government for not taking necessary safety measures. Yadav emphasized that safety protocols for workers, such as ensuring access to oxygen, were neglected. "We demand Rs. 1 crore compensation for the families of the deceased workers. The government is failing to

prioritize worker welfare, with many workers committing suicide due to insufficient wages," Yadav said. He also pointed out that promises made in the Congress manifesto, such as Rs. 12,000 for auto workers, have not been fulfilled.

Narayana, Chairman of the Minimum Wage Advisory Council, criticized CM Revanth Reddy for his insensitive approach towards workers and demanded the appointment of a full-time minister for the labor department. Marayya, the BRS General Secretary, added that workers' safety was compromised under the current leadership, urging immediate corrective measures.

The leaders called for prompt action to ensure worker safety and welfare.

Government Land Encroachment Attempt in Jawahar Nagar: 15 Crore Property Targeted

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : Encroachers have targeted valuable government land in Jawahar Nagar, leading to controversy and widespread discussion. Despite the government's surveillance, encroachers have bypassed security measures and made attempts to seize government properties. In a recent incident, the boundary walls erected by the government to protect approximately 5 acres of land near Lakshmi Narasimha Colony were demolished overnight.

This land, valued at around ₹15 crore, has attracted the attention of encroachers who took advantage of the Maha Shivaratri holidays to carry out the illegal act. The identity of the encroachers is still unknown, but their actions have become a hot topic in the region.

The Kapra Tahsildar, Sucharita, has condemned the encroachment attempt and stated that strict action will be taken under the PD Act. She also mentioned that the government is actively securing its lands, with fencing and boundary walls being set up in key locations. The police have been informed, and cases have been filed at the Jawahar Nagar police station. The authorities have warned that anyone attempting to encroach on government land will face severe consequences.

Job Mela in Medchal: A Golden Opportunity for Unemployed Youth

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : A golden opportunity awaits the unemployed youth of Medchal-Malkajgiri district. A Job Mela will be organized at the Medchal ITI College tomorrow (Sunday) with the aim of providing employment.

The Job Mela will be held from 11 AM to 2 PM, as announced by Employment Officer M. Radhika. Candidates who have completed their 10th, In-

termediate, ITI, Diploma, or Degree can attend the Job Mela. However, only unemployed youth between the ages of 18 and 30 are eligible to participate.

For further details, interested candidates are advised to contact the provided numbers: 73868 09422 and 98664 65024.

This event promises to be a significant opportunity for job seekers in the district.



Sex Racket Exposed in Hyderabad: Foreign Women Rescued, Ringleader Arrested

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : A major sex racket involving foreign women has been busted in Hyderabad's Golnaka area. The police, led by Inspector D. Ashok, acted on a tip-off and raided a residence near Jinda Tilasmaath in Golnaka late on Friday night. The raid resulted in the arrest of the ringleader, Timothy Barchi (30), and his accomplice, Lingala Ballareddy, along with the rescue of five women, including four from Uganda and one from Kenya, who were being forced into prostitution.

Timothy Barchi, a 30-year-old Liberian national, was confirmed by the police to have come to Hyderabad for his degree studies. However, during his stay, he had been running an illicit sex trade operation. The police rescued the women and shifted them to a rescue home for their safety.

A case has been registered, and further investigations are ongoing. The police have vowed to take strict action against those involved in human trafficking and exploitation. The authorities are intensifying their efforts to dismantle such illegal activities across the city.



BRS Leader Sheshukumari Slams Congress Government for Drainage Issues in Muslim Localities During Ramadan

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : As Ramadan fasting begins, BRS leader and former Ameerpet Corporator N. Sheshukumari expressed her frustration over the unresolved drainage issues in the BK Guda Masjid locality. She criticized the Congress government for its negligence in addressing the sanitation problems, particularly when the holy month of Ramadan is about to start. Despite Ramadan fasting prayers set to begin on Sunday, the drainage problem near the BK Guda Masjid remains unresolved, highlighting the Congress government's indifference, according to Sheshukumari. Recently, the local representatives submitted a petition to former minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav, requesting immediate action on the matter.

On Saturday, following Talasani's instructions, Sheshukumari, along with BRS leaders, visited the area to assess the situation. They were informed by



local president Naseeruddin Khadri about the issues of sewage, streetlights, and water supply shortages, as well as scattered garbage in the area. Sheshukumari assured the residents that she would take the concerns to Talasani for resolution.

Sheshukumari recalled that during the previous BRS government, Talasani ensured there were no difficulties for Muslim worshippers by taking proactive measures regarding cleanliness and infrastructure, particularly around mosques.

Hyderabad: SCR to Run Special Trains for Holi Rush

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : To accommodate the extra passenger traffic during the Holi festival, the South Central Railway (SCR) will operate special trains between Kacheguda and Madar. These services are aimed at easing the rush and ensuring smooth travel for passengers.



The special trains will run as follows:

- Kacheguda – Madar (07701) on March 11 and 16
- Madar – Kacheguda (07702) on March 13 and 18

These trains will make stops at several stations enroute, including Malkajgiri, Medchal, Kamareddy, Nizamabad, Basar, Dharmabad, Nanded, Purna, Basmat, Washim, Akola, Barhanpur, Rani Kamalpati, Sehore, Ujjain, Mandasor, Bhilwara, Nasirabad, and Ajmer in both directions.

SCR officials have urged rail users to take note of the train schedules and plan their travel accordingly to avoid inconvenience during the festive season.

Hit-and-Run Accident in Narsingi: One Dead, One Injured

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : A hit-and-run accident occurred in the Narsingi police station limits, resulting in the death of one person and severe injuries to another. The incident took place on the Vattinagulapally ORR service road, where an unidentified vehicle hit a two-wheeler. In the tragic accident, the two-wheeler rider, identified as Pilli Ganesh, succumbed to his injuries at the scene. The other individual sustained severe injuries and was immediately rushed to a local hospital for treatment. The body of the deceased has been shifted to the government hospital for a post-mortem examination. Police have registered a case based on CCTV footage and are investigating the matter.



MPs and MLAs from Warangal Congratulate CM Revanth on Airport Approval

TPN , Correspondent

Warangal, Mar 02 : On Saturday morning, MPs and MLAs from the united Warangal district met with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to extend their congratulations. The leaders congratulated the CM for the approval of an airport for the district, presenting him with a bouquet of flowers as a token of appreciation.

Among those who met the Chief Minister were Warangal MP Kaviya, Mahabubabad MP Balram Nayak, CM Advisor V. Narendra Reddy, and several MLAs including Kadiyam Srihari, Nayini Rajender Reddy, Revuri Prakash Reddy, Naga Raju, and DCC President Bharat Simha Reddy, among others.

It is noteworthy that, as per CM Revanth's request, the Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Ram Mohan Naidu, issued orders on Friday to approve operations at the Mamnoon Airport. However, opposition parties have raised concerns, claiming that Congress is trying to take credit for this achievement.



Attack on BRS Leaders in Kollapur: Heads Cracked Open by Congress Leaders



TPN , Correspondent

Kollapur , Mar 02 : In Kollapur constituency, allegations have surfaced regarding the increasing aggressive behavior of Congress leaders. Following a violent incident in Satapur on Friday, another attack occurred on BRS leaders in Narayanayak Thanda, allegedly by Congress leaders.

Reports suggest that some of the BRS leaders sustained severe head injuries, with photos circulating on social media showing bloodstains and wounds, creating a sense of fear. The shocking images have sparked widespread concern. Local BRS leaders have expressed their deep concern, stating that Kollapur, which once thrived under peaceful governance during BRS rule, is now frequently in the news for violence, attacks, and lawlessness under Congress rule. The situation has raised serious alarms among local leaders about the growing unrest in the region.

SLBC Tunnel Roof Collapse: Bodies of Four Trapped Workers Located



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : After nearly a week of intensive rescue operations, the bodies of four out of eight workers trapped in the collapsed roof of the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel in Nagarkurnool district have been located. State tourism minister Jupally Krishna Rao confirmed that the bodies were found inside the slush at Domalapenta, with recovery expected by Sunday evening.

The bodies were located using ground-penetrating radar, and the recovery work is being done manually. Rao stated that the remaining four bodies are believed to be near the frontage of the tunnel boring machine, where slush is 24 feet deep, requiring an additional day for recovery.

The rescue operation, hindered by water and slush, involves experts from 11 agencies, including the army, NDRF, and fire services. The 450-foot-long boring machine is being cut into pieces for recovery. Eight workers—two engineers and six laborers—have been trapped since February 22, and efforts are ongoing to recover them safely. The workers were employed by Jaiprakash Associates, the contracting firm for the SLBC tunnel project.

Telangana ACB Nabs ZHPS Headmaster for Accepting Rs 20,000 Bribe

TPN , Correspondent

Kothagudem , Mar 02 : The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested Tati Ravinder, the headmaster of Zilla Parishad High School (ZHPS) in Coolie Lane, for accepting a bribe of Rs 20,000. Ravinder was caught red-handed by ACB officials while demanding the bribe for transferring an honorarium of Rs 30,000, sanctioned by the Union government under the Rani Lakshmi Bai Athma Raksha Prashikshan scheme, a self-defence program for women.

The headmaster tested positive in a chemical test conducted by the ACB, confirming his involvement in handling the bribe money. The details of the complainant have not been disclosed for security reasons, and further investigations are ongoing.

This arrest follows a similar action on February 24, when the ACB nabbed Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) bill collector C Madhu and his associate V Ramesh for accepting a Rs 45,000 bribe to prevent a property tax hike. The ACB continues to encourage citizens to report corruption through the toll-free number 1064.



DCA Raids 28 Blood Banks in Telangana, Acts Against 4 for Violations



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : The Drug Control Administration (DCA) conducted inspections at 28 blood banks across Telangana in February, taking action against four blood centres for various violations. The inspections focused on ensuring proper screening of blood for transmissible diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and syphilis, as well as verifying the storage conditions and processing charges at these facilities.

The DCA teams, under the leadership of DG V B Kamalasan Reddy, carried out risk-based, unannounced inspections at nine blood centres. They checked compliance with guidelines set by the Government of India in June 2022 for testing blood and blood components, as well as ensuring that storage conditions, including temperature control, were maintained.

Out of the 28 blood centres inspected, violations were found at 14, and action was taken against four centres. The inspections also sought to ensure that blood banks were not overcharging for blood products such as Fresh Frozen Plasma (FFP), platelet concentrate, and packed red cells.

15 Quacks Caught by TGMC in Telangana During Raids

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 02 : In a major crackdown on unqualified medical practitioners, the Telangana Medical Council (TGMC) conducted raids across multiple areas including Miyapur, Jeedimetla, Dundigal, Gajwel, and Gouraram, on Friday. As a result, 15 fake doctors were arrested, and cases were filed under Sections 34 and 54 of the National Medical Commission (NMC) Act and Telangana Medical Practitioners (TGMP) Act.

These quacks, or rural medical practitioners (RMPs), were found administering dangerous antibiotics, steroids, and painkillers in unlicensed medical centers, posing serious health risks to unsuspecting patients. TGMC Vice Chairman Dr. G Srinivas assured strict action would be taken against anyone practicing medicine without proper qualifications.

Since September last year, over 400 FIRs have been registered against quacks in Telangana and Hyderabad, in coordination with the Telangana Drug Control Administration (DCA). Additionally, 40 doctors suspected of colluding with quacks have received notices.

The TGMC has also reduced registration and renewal fees for all doctors by 50%, with exemptions for doctors over 65 years, and introduced online good standing certificates to save doctors time.



Telangana Government to Distribute Free Sewing Machines in Wanaparthy on March 2



TPN , Correspondent

Wanaparthy , Mar 02 : The Telangana government will distribute 40,000 free sewing machines across the state in two phases under the Indiramma Mahila Shakti scheme. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will hand over the machines to beneficiaries in Wanaparthy on March 2.

In the first phase, 10,490 sewing machines will be distributed across nine districts, with the second phase seeing 31,740 machines given to eligible women. The Telangana Minorities Finance Corporation (TGMFC), headed by Chairman Obedulla Kothwal, had called for applications last December from eligible women from minority communities, including Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Parsis, who have received sewing training.

Kothwal criticized the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government for neglecting minority communities, claiming they distributed cars and loans to a few beneficiaries just before the 2023 Assembly elections to garner votes.

Additionally, Majlis Bachao Tehreek (MBT) leader Amjed Ullah Khan alleged that middlemen at Mandal Revenue Offices were extorting money from applicants for income certificates, even though these certificates are available free of charge.

Communist Confusion Mock Hindu Idols, Worship decaying Lenin body



Hindu Worship



Communist worship

The preservation of Lenin's decaying body in Red Square serves as a powerful symbol for many Communists, representing not just a historical figure but the ideals and aspirations of the Communist movement. For them, maintaining Lenin's body is an act of faith, respect, and commitment to the revolutionary principles he espoused. It signifies dedication to socialism and the ongoing struggle for a classless society. More than a relic, Lenin's embalmed body is a political statement, reinforcing the permanence of his ideology and serving as a source of inspiration for future generations.

However, this veneration presents an ideological paradox. Many Communists, particularly those adhering to Marxist principles, often criticize religious practices—such as Hindu idol worship—as superstitious and regressive. They argue that the worship of deities diverts attention from material struggles, fostering a “false consciousness” that prevents the working class from recognizing and challenging their economic oppression. According to this perspective, religious symbols reinforce existing power structures rather than dismantling them, making Hindu deity veneration a barrier to social progress.

Yet, the juxtaposition of Lenin's embalmed body and Hindu idols raises an important question: Why is one form of veneration seen as legitimate while the other is dismissed as irrational? Both involve the preservation of a physical representation—whether a revolutionary leader or a deity—imbued with profound ideological and emotional significance. This contradiction suggests an underlying cognitive dissonance within communist thought, wherein devotion to Lenin mirrors the very religious practices many Communists seek to dismantle.

Historically, Communism has positioned itself in opposition to organized religion, viewing it as an opiate that dulls the masses' revolutionary potential. Karl Marx's famous dictum that “religion is the opium of the people” underscores this belief. Commu-



Dr Buragadda Srinadh

nist regimes, from the Soviet Union to China, have often sought to suppress religious practices, replacing them with state-sanctioned ideology. Yet, paradoxically, these same regimes have built elaborate cults of personality around their leaders, elevating figures like Lenin, Stalin, and Mao to almost divine status.

In Lenin's case, his body has been preserved for a century, displayed in a glass sarcophagus under constant surveillance and maintenance. This effort, requiring state resources and scientific expertise, is reminiscent of religious relic preservation. The Mausoleum itself functions like a shrine, drawing visitors who view Lenin with a sense of reverence akin to pilgrims visiting a sacred site.

Similarly, in North Korea, the embalmed bodies of Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il are enshrined in the Kumsan Palace of the Sun. In China, Mao Zedong's body lies in state in Tiananmen Square, despite his earlier opposition to such practices. These leaders, once vehemently opposed to religious rituals, have ironically become the subjects of quasi-religious adoration themselves. The selective rejection of religious symbols while embracing revolutionary iconography reveals a deeper truth: human beings, regardless of ideology, seek symbols to ral-

ly around. Whether it is a deity in a temple or a revolutionary leader in a mausoleum, these figures provide a tangible focal point for faith, identity, and collective aspirations.

This raises the question: If Lenin's body can be preserved as an enduring symbol of socialism, why should Hindu idols be dismissed outright as irrational? If a Hindu devotee finds meaning in an image of Krishna or Shiva, is that fundamentally different from a communist drawing inspiration from Lenin's preserved remains? Both function as conduits for ideological and spiritual fulfillment.

The contradiction highlights the broader challenge faced by rigid ideological frameworks—they often struggle to account for the emotional and symbolic dimensions of human belief. Cognitive dissonance arises when people hold conflicting values, and in this case, communists must reconcile their reverence for Lenin with their critique of religious devotion. This tension invites a deeper reflection on the role of symbols in shaping political movements, cultural traditions, and personal identities.

Ultimately, the preservation of Lenin's body and the critique of Hindu idol worship underscore the complexities of belief systems and the ways cultural practices are interpreted through ideological lenses. They reveal that, despite opposing religion, communist movements have adopted their own sacred symbols—transforming political leaders into objects of reverence.

This paradox invites a broader discussion on the universality of symbolism in human societies. Whether through religious imagery, revolutionary relics, or nationalistic monuments, people across cultures seek tangible representations of their values and aspirations. Rather than dismissing one form of veneration while embracing another, it may be worth acknowledging that all societies, regardless of ideology, create symbols to inspire, unify, and sustain their beliefs.

Cultural Transformation: The Key to India's Path to 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047

The goal of a “Viksit Bharat” (Developed India) by 2047 is ambitious, but its realization hinges on fulfilling critical prerequisites. One of the most vital of these is cultural transformation.

No nation has reached developed status without undergoing a cultural shift that aligns people toward a common purpose, vision, and identity. A unified culture promotes shared values, behaviors, and practices, which are essential for social cohesion. This collective spirit fosters change, creativity, and understanding across different societal groups. It also explains why countries like China have made remarkable technological strides—such as developing DeepSeekAI—while others, like India, have yet to follow suit.

Cultural transformation creates an environment conducive to innovation, which is a key driver of long-term growth and productivity. Without innovation, economic progress



becomes unsustainable. Nations with robust manufacturing sectors, such as China, Singapore, Germany, and the Netherlands, benefit from consistent trade surpluses, which result from their strong cultural emphasis on manufacturing and innovation.

The process of cultural transformation involves aligning vision, mission, and core values to build a national consensus around crucial issues. As

Peter Drucker aptly stated, “Culture eats strategy for breakfast,” underscoring the importance of culture in achieving strategic objectives.

So, what exactly constitutes cultural transformation? It's about embedding desired behaviors into processes, procedures, and systems. Education, discipline, and organization are fundamental to nation-building and cultural change. Education helps foster open-mindedness, critical thinking, and the understanding of due processes. Due process ensures that people accept unfavorable outcomes when the process is fair and transparent.

Discipline, which is voluntary and not enforced, is the cornerstone of a law-abiding society. It promotes productivity, enhances decision-making, clarifies goals, and builds trust among people, ultimately improving professional relationships and accountability.

Pakistan Faces Dual Crises: Cricket's Collapse and Rising Terrorism Threats



Pakistan's recent exit from the 2025 Champions Trophy without securing a single victory has left the nation reeling. A critical editorial in *The Daily Times* titled ‘Abandoned!’ describes the exit as “disgraceful,” emphasizing the disappointment felt by fans. The editorial notes that Pakistan's cricket team failed to live up to expectations, plagued by mismanagement and underperformance. It states, “Watching the matches felt less like cheering for a national team and more like witnessing a tragic farce unfold on the global stage.” It also questions the lack of planning and strategy in both batting and countering aggressive bowling attacks, issues that have haunted the team for years.

In *Dawn's* editorial, the deep connection between cricket and politics in Pakistan is underlined. Cricket has long been a source of national pride, but it has also been heavily politicized, with a structure that is, according to the editorial, “in shambles.” The editorial criticizes the influence of former cricketers and the patronage politics that have undermined the sport, calling for an inquest into how these dynamics have stunted Pakistan's cricketing progress. The editorial concludes that this inquest must be swift to ensure that the sport's future can be restored to its former glory.

Meanwhile, Pakistan is also grappling with a growing security crisis. A recent suicide bombing at Darul Uloom Haqqania in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has raised alarms over the rise of a faction of the Islamic State (IS) in the region. *Dawn* reports that the bombing marks a departure from the usual pattern of attacks targeting security personnel and government officials, pointing to a potentially escalating threat from IS in the area. The editorial calls this a “fresh security challenge” and highlights the ongoing instability in parts of Balochistan and KP, where militant activity remains rampant. It suggests that this attack could prompt Pakistan and Afghanistan to work together to combat the growing IS threat.

In *The Nation's* editorial, the assassination of Maulana Hamidul Haq Haqqani, a key figure in peace negotiations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, is mourned as a serious setback. Haqqani, who was killed in the suicide bombing, had played a pivotal role in fostering dialogue between the two nations. The editorial raises questions about the motives behind the attack—whether it was an attempt to derail peace talks or the result of a factional dispute. It also speculates that the assassination could be part of a larger conspiracy aimed at undermining diplomatic efforts.



The New Era of Governance: IAS officers must not fear demands of digital age

Imagine a world where policies are debated, shaped, and implemented in real time—where governance evolves as quickly as a trending hashtag. This isn't a future vision; it's already happening.

Public institutions, once the steady backbone of governance, now find themselves in an era of rapid change. With the rise of social media, instant communication, and shifting public expectations, governments are transforming the way they interact with citizens. Decisions that used to take time and careful planning now unfold in an environment where public sentiment can change overnight.

For civil servants and policymakers, this new landscape offers both opportunities and challenges. While increased public engagement fosters transparency and participation, it also shortens the time frame in which institutions must act. The challenge today is not just implementing policies efficiently but balancing speed with substance and adaptability with structure.

Historically, governance followed a deliberate and structured path. Political leaders set broad directions, and public institutions ensured continuity, expertise, and regulatory safeguards. Decision-making

was driven by data, expert advice, and long-term vision. Then came the digital revolution, reshaping the process. Social media now plays a pivotal role in shaping public discourse and policy agendas. A 2024 Pew Research study revealed that 54% of Americans rely on social media for news, a shift that has made governance more transparent and participatory than ever before.

However, greater access to information has heightened expectations, placing pressure on public institutions to respond quickly. No longer insulated from the pulse of public opinion, institutions must navigate an environment where policy debates happen in real time. The question is: How can institutions maintain stability while adapting to this fast-paced world?

The key is not resisting change but strategically adapting. Governments worldwide are using digital platforms to improve services and engage citizens. India's Digital India initiative, for instance, has enhanced public service delivery through online platforms, while Singapore's Smart Nation program leverages data to improve governance. These examples show how technology can make institutions more effective and accessible.

India now emerging as factory of world: PM Modi

- India rises as manufacturing hub
- Vocal for Local" boosts exports
- PM Modi: India is a world force

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the success of his "vocal for local" initiative on Saturday, noting that Indian products are gaining international recognition and making their mark globally. Speaking at the NXT conclave during the launch of the 'NewsX World' channel, Modi proudly asserted that India is no longer seen merely as a back office for the world, but is emerging as a global manufacturing powerhouse.

The prime minister highlighted the transformation India is undergoing, with a shift from being a provider of cheap labor to becoming a significant player on the world stage. "For decades, the

world viewed India as its back office, but now, India is moving beyond that role and becoming the factory of the world," Modi stated. He underscored that this transformation is a result of the government's focus on encouraging local industries and the "vocal for local" movement, which has been instrumental in boosting domestic manufacturing and innovation.

India's growing global presence is being driven by a surge in the export of Indian-made products, which are now competing on the world market. Modi emphasized that Indian industries are not only creating jobs but are also contributing to the country's economic growth and reinforcing India's standing as a key player



in the global economy. "India is no longer just a workforce; it is a world force," he added.

The prime minister's remarks were a strong endorsement of the ongoing efforts to strengthen India's manufacturing sector, improve infrastructure, and promote indigenous brands internationally. He also lauded the role

of technology and innovation in helping Indian companies expand their reach globally. The shift from being merely a service provider to a manufacturing hub marks a significant milestone in India's economic journey and highlights the impact of government initiatives in fostering self-reliance and global competitiveness.



If anyone has the capacity to make PoJK part of India, it is Modi: Union minister

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Minister Jitendra Singh described Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) as a "miscarriage of history, justice, and Indian foreign policy" and expressed confidence that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the leader who can make it a part of India. Speaking at an event organized by the Jammu and Kashmir People's Forum and Mirpur Balidan Samiti, Singh emphasized Modi's leadership, stating, "If anyone has the capacity to do it, it is Modi... Modi hai to Mumkin hai" (It is possible, if there is Modi).

Singh, who is both a lawmaker from Jammu and Kashmir and a minister in the Prime Minister's Office, was addressing the 25th anniversary of a resolution passed by the Indian Parliament on February 22, 1994. The resolution reaffirmed Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of India and emphasized that any attempts to separate it from India would be resisted by all means necessary. The resolution also called for the vacating of territories occupied by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir through aggression.

In his remarks, Singh blamed India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, for allowing Pakistan to occupy a portion of Jammu and Kashmir, attributing the creation of PoJK to the "blunder" of the 1947 Partition. He asserted that PoJK is not just a result of partition but rather a fallout of it, further criticizing Nehru's handling of the situation during the early years of India's independence.

Singh's comments highlighted the ongoing political discourse over the status of PoJK, with the Indian government maintaining that the region belongs to India. As tensions continue to simmer over Jammu and Kashmir, Singh's remarks reiterate India's stance on the territorial dispute, reflecting the broader sentiment of reclaiming the region from Pakistan's control.

Omar Abdullah Ensures Smooth Arrangements for Ramadan in Jammu and Kashmir



TPN Correspondent | Srinagar

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a high-level meeting on Saturday to review the arrangements for the holy month of Ramadan, which begins on Sunday. During the meeting, he directed the Power Department to ensure there are no electricity outages during Sehri and Iftar times, ensuring a smooth and comfortable experience for the people observing the fast.

Abdullah emphasized that during Ramadan, the public expects the government to provide essential services without inconvenience. He stressed the importance of delivering services effectively, particularly in the power sector. "People want, and we must strive, to ensure that there are no power outages during Sehri and Iftar time," he said. Any required shutdowns, he instructed, should be planned and implemented during the day, allowing for maintenance work at more convenient times.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the importance of addressing any issues with the electrical system and faulty distribution transformers (DTS) immediately to prevent disruptions during Ramadan. On the water supply front, Abdullah noted that the recent spell of snow and rain had improved the situation, but still emphasized the need to maintain a steady supply of clean drinking water to households.

In addition to the power and water supply concerns, Abdullah directed officials to ensure cleanliness around mosques and shrines, optimize traffic management, and bolster security arrangements. Both the inspectors general of police for Jammu and Kashmir have already addressed security measures, ensuring that public safety is a top priority.

Occurrence of crimes against women in Kerala is concerning: CM Vijayan

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday highlighted that while crimes against women in the state have decreased due to government interventions, the ongoing occurrence of such incidents in a progressive society like Kerala remains a matter of serious concern.

In his address at the International Women's Day celebrations organized by the Kerala Women's Commission (KWC), the Chief Minister acknowledged the state's significant strides in empowering women but stressed that more work needs to be done to ensure women can live free from fear of violence. "While the numbers have come down, the fact that crimes against women still take place is a serious issue," Vijayan said, urging every-



one to join forces in eliminating such crimes from society.

The CM pointed out that despite Kerala's rich history of promoting women's rights, many women still feel hesitant to step out into public spaces. "As a result, they are unable to fully utilize the various opportu-

nities available to them today. This situation needs to change," he emphasized.

Vijayan also praised the Kerala Women's Commission for the significant role it has played in advancing women's empowerment over the past three decades. He

expressed hope that the Commission's continued efforts would contribute further to improving the status of women in the state. "The KWC has brought about notable changes in society with respect to women's rights, and I believe this progress will continue," he said.

The Chief Minister highlighted Kerala's pioneering role as the first state in India to implement gender budgeting, a move that earned international recognition from the United Nations. He also mentioned the government's aim to allocate 25 percent of the state's project funds toward women empowerment initiatives, reinforcing the state's commitment to gender equality. Through these initiatives, the state hopes to foster an environment where women can feel safe, confident, and fully empowered to participate in all aspects of society.

Bullet Train Project: First Make In India Steel Bridge To Be Launched In Gujarat

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The first span of a 200-meter-long steel bridge, part of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train corridor, is set to be launched this month in Nadiad, Gujarat. This bridge, an essential component of the ambitious bullet train project, is located along National Highway-48, which connects major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai. The bridge is slated to be completed by August 2025.

Weighing approximately 1,500 metric tonnes, the bridge is 14.3 meters wide and 14.6 meters high. Fabricated at the Salasar workshop near Hapur in Uttar Pradesh, the steel bridge parts have been coated with a pioneering C-5 system, which provides an advanced protective coating. The steel components have been joined using Tor Shear Type High Strength Bolts (TTHSB), designed to ensure the bridge has a lifespan of 100 years.

Typically, steel bridges have spans of 40 to 45 meters, making them ideal for facilitating highway, expressway, and railway crossings. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project will feature a total of



28 steel bridges, with 11 being constructed in Maharashtra and 17 in Gujarat, as part of the infrastructure development for the high-speed train network.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently inspected the Ahmedabad Railway Station Redevelopment Project and provided updates on the bullet train project's progress. Vaishnaw shared

that 360 kilometers of the total 508-kilometer route of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train have been completed, with the Maharashtra section showing significant progress. Notably, nearly 2 kilometers of the undersea tunnel in Maharashtra are already finished.

The Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project, developed in collaboration with Japan, aims to rev-

olutionize regional connectivity. The high-speed rail network will link major business hubs such as Mumbai, Surat, Vadodara, and Ahmedabad, stimulating economic growth and employment opportunities in Gujarat and Maharashtra. With a total sanctioned cost of Rs 1,08,000 crore, the project is expected to significantly enhance transportation infrastructure in India.



Texas Schoolgirl Who Killed Self Had Flagged Sexual Abuse By Family

TPN Correspondent | Texas

The Gainesville Independent School District has confirmed that 11-year-old Jocelynn Rojo Carranza, who allegedly died by suicide last month, was sexually abused by a family member, contradicting claims by her mother, Marbella Carranza. The revelation came after students reported the abuse to school officials, prompting an investigation that also uncovered reports of bullying related to the girl's immigration status.

Jocelynn, a student at a local school, was found unresponsive at her home on February 4 and passed away on February 8, devastating her family and community. Initially, Ms. Carranza attributed her daughter's death to relentless bullying by classmates over the family's immigration status, claiming the harassment drove Jocelynn to take her own life. She alleged that students on a school bus threatened to report the family to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), targeting Hispanic children, including Jocelynn, who overheard the comments. The bus driver confirmed the incident, though he noted Jocelynn was not directly part of the conversation but was nearby.

However, the school district's investigation revealed a more complex and troubling picture. Multiple students reported that Jocelynn had confided in them about being inappropriately touched by a family member, requesting they keep it secret to avoid getting them in trouble. Superintendent DesMontes Stewart stated, "Multiple students reported that [Jocelynn] told them she had been inappropriately touched by a family member and wished to keep this a secret to avoid getting them in trouble." The district also learned that Jocelynn had previously expressed suicidal intentions to a cousin, raising concerns about missed opportunities for intervention.

Ms. Carranza has vehemently denied the allegations of sexual abuse, stating, "Nothing about that is true." She emphasized that she had repeatedly discussed the topic of sexual abuse with her daughter, instructing her that no one should touch her body. Ms. Carranza, who has retained a lawyer, is awaiting a response from the district and has accused the school of negligence for failing to inform her about her daughter's therapy or the severity of her struggles.

India to remain fastest-growing economy with 6.5% GDP growth in FY26: IMF

- IMF projects India's GDP growth at 6.5% in 2025-26.
- Strong private investment and macroeconomic stability to drive growth.

TPN Correspondent | New York

India will maintain its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy, with a projected GDP growth of 6.5% in 2025-26, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The multilateral financial agency attributed this growth to robust private investment and continued macroeconomic stability.

The IMF's latest assessment, released after its Article IV consultations with India, emphasized that the country's strong economic performance presents an opportunity to implement critical structural reforms aimed at achieving its goal of becoming an advanced economy by 2047.

"Real GDP is expected to grow at 6.5% in both 2024-25 and 2025-26, supported by sustained macroeconomic and financial stability, along with strong pri-



ivate consumption," the IMF report stated. It also noted that headline inflation is expected to stabilize as food price shocks subside.

The agency highlighted the importance of structural reforms to sustain long-term economic growth, create high-quality jobs, and attract greater private

investment. Key recommendations include labor market reforms, improvements in human capital, and measures to enhance women's participation in the workforce.

Boosting foreign direct investment (FDI) and private sector involvement will require a stable policy environment, en-

hanced ease of doing business, governance reforms, and deeper trade integration through tariff and non-tariff reductions, the IMF added.

Despite a slight moderation in recent quarters, India's economic growth remains strong. GDP grew 6% year-on-year in the first half of 2024-25, while inflation remained within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) tolerance band of 2-6%, though food price fluctuations caused some volatility. The financial sector remains resilient, with non-performing loans at multi-year lows. Fiscal consolidation efforts continue, and the current account deficit remains under control, supported by strong growth in service exports. With the IMF reaffirming India's robust economic outlook, the focus now shifts to policy measures that can sustain this momentum and drive long-term development.

Russia reacts to Trump-Zelensky clash at White House

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Russia has responded with satisfaction to the fiery exchange between US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the White House. The tense meeting, which saw Trump sharply criticize Zelensky over the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, ended with the Ukrainian leader abruptly cutting his visit short.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova praised Trump for his "restraint" in handling Zelensky. "How Trump and Vance held back from hitting that scumbag is a miracle of restraint," she wrote on Telegram, accusing the Ukrainian president of "biting the hand that feeds him."

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy head of Russia's Security Council and former Russian president, was even harsher in his remarks.



He called Zelensky an "insolent pig" who received "a proper slap down in the Oval Office." Medvedev claimed Trump had finally confronted Zelensky with the truth, warning that Kyiv was "playing with the third world war."

Kirill Dmitriev, head of the Rus-

sian Direct Investment Fund, described the confrontation as "historic" and a sign of shifting US policy. Meanwhile, Yevgeny Primakov, head of Russia's Agency for International Humanitarian Cooperation, accused Zelensky of planning "provocations" to gain sympathy.

Russian state media celebrated the incident, with RT posting on X (formerly Twitter): "Zelensky sits with hands between legs as US President and VP hammer him."

While several European leaders expressed support for Zelensky, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, a long-time ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, sided with Trump. "Strong men make peace, weak men make war," Orban wrote on X, praising Trump for his efforts to broker a ceasefire.

Before the meeting, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov reiterated Russia's willingness to engage in dialogue with the US but emphasized the need for mutual respect. "We want to build dialogue not only with the U.S. but with all countries from a position of mutual respect and mutual benefit," Peskov told Russian media.

US stocks, Bitcoin struggle in Trump's first weeks in office

- Nasdaq down over 1% as inflation concerns rise.
- Bitcoin plunges 16% after peaking at \$1,06,000.
- Walmart's warning fuels fears of economic slowdown.

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US stock markets and Bitcoin have struggled since President Donald Trump took office on January 20, 2025, defying initial optimism about his business and crypto-friendly policies. All major US stock indexes are in the red, with the Nasdaq dropping over 1% so far this year.

A key factor behind the market slump is rising inflation concerns. The Conference Board's consumer confidence index saw its sharpest monthly decline since August 2021, raising fears of economic uncertainty. Additionally, a recent consumer confidence survey pushed the Fear & Greed Index into the "extreme fear" zone for the first time since December 2024.

Bitcoin, which soared to \$1,06,000 during Trump's inauguration, has fallen nearly 16% over the past month, now trading around \$88,000. Investors, wary of market volatility, are shifting towards safer assets like government bonds.



Adding to the concerns, retail giant Walmart issued a warning about slower sales growth in 2025, fueling fears of a broader economic downturn.

In contrast, global markets are showing resilience. Europe's STOXX 600 Index has gained nearly 10% in 2025, while Chinese stocks have outperformed their US counterparts. Analysts from Goldman Sachs noted that China's tech sector, particularly

after the launch of DeepSeek's LLM, is seeing significant growth. European tech stocks are also performing well, boosted by ongoing geopolitical developments.

Technology stocks, which have driven market growth in recent years, are now showing weakness. Companies like Nvidia, Palantir, and Tesla have suffered heavy losses, with Tesla's market value dropping below \$1 trillion after an 8.4% decline.

China To Send Pak Astronaut As 1st Foreign Guest To Its Space Station

TPN Correspondent | Beijing/Islamabad

China has announced plans to send an astronaut from Pakistan to its space station Tiangong, making Pakistan the first foreign country to have its astronaut aboard the Chinese orbital facility.

The agreement was signed between the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) and Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) on Friday. The deal, signed in Islamabad in the presence of Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, includes collaboration in selecting and training Pakistani astronauts before they are sent to Tiangong, which orbits 400 km above the Earth, state-run China Daily reported.

China has already been assisting Pakistan's space program by launching satellites for its close ally over the past few years. Now, this step marks a new level of space cooperation between the two nations.

Tiangong, China's independently built space station, was developed after Beijing was reportedly excluded from the International Space Station (ISS) due to concerns over military involvement in its space program. The Chinese station is seen as a rival to the Russian-built Mir space station and a potential com-

petitor to Western space initiatives. China's expanding space program has raised international concerns, particularly regarding the station's robotic arms, which have the capability to grab objects, including satellites, in orbit. This feature has led to speculation about the station's potential military



applications. In addition to sending a Pakistani astronaut to space, China has set ambitious goals for its space exploration program. Deputy Director of CMSA Lin Xiqiang recently announced that China plans to land astronauts on the moon before 2030, aligning with global space ambitions. Meanwhile, the US has scheduled its lunar return for 2025.

With this latest development, China has further strengthened its space diplomacy, positioning itself as a key player in global space exploration while deepening its strategic partnership with Pakistan.

India's GST collection rises 9.1% to ₹1.84 lakh crore in February 2025

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections have surged by 9.1% in February 2025, totaling approximately ₹1.84 lakh crore, according to official data released on Saturday. This growth marks a significant uptick, driven by a notable increase in both domestic and import-related revenues.

The GST revenue breakdown reveals a 10.2% increase in domestic revenues, reaching ₹1.42 lakh crore. Additionally, revenues from imports saw a 5.4% rise, amounting to ₹41,702 crore during February. This demonstrates the continued strength of the domestic economy, while import-related activity remains resilient.

Further details show that the Central GST (CGST) generated ₹35,204 crore, while the State GST (SGST) accounted for ₹43,704 crore. The Integrated GST (IGST) contributed ₹90,870 crore, and the compensation cess collected stood at ₹13,868 crore. The total refunds issued for the month amounted to ₹20,889 crore, reflecting a 17.3% increase compared to the previous year.

Net GST collections, after refunds, also saw a healthy growth of 8.1%, reaching approximately ₹1.63 lakh crore. This marks an increase from the ₹1.50 lakh crore recorded in February 2024. Gross GST revenues in February 2024 were ₹1.68 lakh crore, with net



collections at ₹1.50 lakh crore. Vivek Jalan, Partner at Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP, commented on the figures, stating that the GST collections are aligning closely with targets. This positive trend contributes to the projected fiscal deficit for FY24-25, estimated at 4.8%, which is below the budgeted 4.9%.

Jalan also noted a key observation in the data: the growth rate for GST on imports is 7.2%, compared to a 10.1% rise in domestic GST collections. This suggests that India is becoming more self-reliant, as domestic

consumption and production are outpacing imports. Furthermore, the 15.8% increase in refunds, including those related to exports, signals that India is making strides in global manufacturing, positioning itself as a key player in international trade.

Amidst global geopolitical uncertainties, India's performance in managing its GST collections reflects the strength of its economic fundamentals, providing a positive outlook for the country's fiscal health and economic resilience.

LPG Cylinder Price Hike in March Commercial Gas Rates Increased by ₹6

In March 2025, oil marketing companies (OMCs) have raised the price of commercial Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders by ₹6 across various cities in India. Following this price hike, the cost of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder has increased from ₹1,797 to ₹1,803.

The price increase comes after a slight reduction of ₹7 in February 2025, offering some relief to businesses such as hotels and restaurants. However, this new hike is expected to negate those benefits. It is important to note that the price hike follows a significant increase of ₹352 in March 2023 for commercial LPG cylinders. Domestic LPG cylinder prices, on the other hand, have remained stable for several months.

Commercial LPG cylinders are primarily used for business purposes, including in hotels, restaurants, and other commercial establishments. The recent hike in prices for commercial cylinders is seen as a setback for these businesses, which were expecting continued relief following the previous month's price reduction.

While the price increase in March is marginal, it may still have an impact on businesses that rely on LPG for cooking and heating. The hike is unlikely to cause widespread disruption, as it is relatively small and comes on the heels of a reduction. However, local variations in prices, such as local taxes and transport costs, could lead to differences in the LPG prices across various cities. Business owners are advised to check with local gas operators to confirm the exact price in their area.

Despite the increase in commercial LPG cylinder rates, the cost of domestic LPG cylinders has remained unchanged since August 2024, providing some stability for households.



India's Fiscal Deficit Reaches 74.5% of Revised Target by January



India's central government fiscal deficit surged to 74.5% of the revised annual target by January, a significant increase from 63.6% at the same time last year. The rise in the fiscal gap is attributed to higher capital expenditure and a double tranche of devolution payments made to states in January, according to official data released on Friday.

Despite this increase, analysts remain optimistic that the fiscal deficit will stay within the government's target of 4.8% of GDP for the financial year 2024-25 (FY25). The government's fiscal policy is aimed at balancing the need for increased spending, particularly in infrastructure and welfare programs, with maintaining macroeconomic stability.

The fiscal deficit is the difference between the government's total expenditure and its total revenue, and a higher deficit often reflects a need for borrowing. The recent spike in capital expenditure has been part of the government's effort to boost economic growth, particularly through infrastructure investments. Additionally, the advanced devolution of funds to states in January, while supporting state-level development, also contributed to the widening fiscal gap.

In response to these challenges, the government is expected to continue managing its finances carefully over the remainder of the fiscal year. Analysts predict that while the deficit may temporarily overshoot the target in the short term, it will be brought back on track through disciplined revenue collection, strategic fiscal policies, and a potential reduction in spending during the latter part of the year.

As India strives to achieve its fiscal deficit target, it will also need to navigate a complex economic landscape, balancing growth with fiscal responsibility. The government's ability to manage these competing priorities will be critical in ensuring continued economic stability in the coming years.

India's Digital Economy Set to Reach One-Fifth of GDP by 2029

India's digital economy is expanding at twice the rate of the overall economy and is projected to contribute one-fifth of the nation's GDP by 2029, according to a report by Dutch investment firm Prosus and the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER).

The "State of India's Digital Economy (SIDE) 2025" report highlights India's growing prominence in the digital world, ranking as the third most digitized nation globally, after the United States and China. The report outlines how India's digital transformation is reshaping the economy and bolstering its global standing, while also pointing to the challenges that lie ahead, such as AI readiness, cybersecurity concerns, and expanding digital adoption across all sectors.



"India's digital transformation is rapidly redefining its economy and global position. The SIDE 2025 report offers valuable insights into how India can harness its digital strengths while addressing key challenges," said Sehraj Singh, Managing Director at Prosus.

The country's ability to capitalize on technology is largely attributed to its large, youthful population that is enthusiastic about adopting new technologies. In addition, India has seen a significant rise in mobile internet penetration and the successful implementation of key digital public infrastructures, such as Aadhaar (the biometric identification system), the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), and Digilocker, a digital locker system for storing documents securely. These initiatives have played a pivotal role in driving digital engagement and economic transformation.

As India continues to evolve digitally, the growth of its digital economy is expected to not only enhance its global competitiveness but also create new opportunities for innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation. However, addressing the remaining challenges will be essential to sustaining this growth and ensuring that the benefits of digitalization reach all segments of society.

Mahindra & Mahindra Reports 15% Growth in February Auto Sales

Mahindra & Mahindra reported strong growth in its overall auto sales for February, with total sales reaching 83,702 vehicles, marking a 15% increase compared to the previous year. This growth includes both domestic sales and exports.

In the 'Utility Vehicles' segment, Mahindra saw a significant rise in its SUV sales, selling 50,420 units domestically, which represents a 19% growth. Overall, including exports, the company sold 52,386 utility vehicles. The domestic sales for Commercial Vehicles were also robust, with 23,826 units sold.

Veejay Nakra, President of the Automotive Division at Mahindra & Mahindra, attributed this strong performance to the continued positive momentum for the company's SUV portfolio. "In February, we clocked SUV sales of 50,420, a growth of 19 percent and 83,702 total vehicles, a growth of 15 percent. This reflects the ongoing success of our offerings in the market," Nakra stated.

Meanwhile, Mahindra's Farm Equipment Sector (FES) also reported positive sales growth. In February, the company sold 23,880 tractors in the domestic market, a 19% increase compared to February 2024, when 20,121 units were sold. Total tractor sales, including exports, stood at 25,527 units, compared to 21,672 units last year. Exports accounted for 1,647 units in February.

Hemant Sikka, President of Mahindra's Farm Equipment Sector,

attributed the growth to favorable weather conditions for the Rabi crop and continued government support for the agricultural sector. He added, "The increase in Agri credit limits, ongoing government efforts to boost farmer incomes, and a strong Rabi harvest will further contribute to rising tractor demand." Exports also saw a healthy growth of 6% year-on-year.

Mahindra & Mahindra remains one of the largest multinational federations, with a workforce of 260,000 employees operating in over 100 countries. The company's strong performance in both the automotive and farm equipment sectors is reflective of its successful strategy and market demand.



Shin-chan Makes His Debut in India with New Movie; Fans Eager for the Release



Shin-chan, the beloved mischievous cartoon character, is making his first appearance in India with a brand-new movie titled *Eiga Crayon Shin-chan Cho Karei! Shakunetsu no Kasukabe Dancers* ("Crayon Shin-chan the Movie: Super Magnificent! Scorching Kasukabe Dancers"). The movie's newly released trailer has already sparked excitement among fans, as it promises a fun-filled adventure through iconic Indian landmarks.

In the trailer, Shin-chan and his friends are shown traveling to India for the first time. The gang is seen in awe as they explore vibrant cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Jaipur, with famous landmarks making an appearance. The excitement builds as Shin-chan and his friends enthusiastically dance, embracing the lively atmosphere of India. This dance-themed movie marks an exciting new chapter for the *Crayon Shin-chan* franchise and brings a fresh, energetic vibe to the much-loved series. The film's trailer has raised fans' anticipation, with many eager to see how their favor-

ite characters will interact with India's rich culture and landmarks. Shin-chan's energetic antics and dance moves are sure to add to the thrill of the movie, set in the heart of India. The movie, releasing in the summer of 2025, marks the return of screenwriter Kimiko Ueno and director Masakazu Hashimoto. Fans can expect even more details in the coming months as the movie's release date draws closer.

The *Crayon Shin-chan* series, created by Yoshito Usui, has been a fan favorite since its debut as a comic in 1990, thanks to its unique humor and relatable characters. Even after Usui's passing in 2009, his team continued the legacy under the banner Yoshito Usui & UY Studio, ensuring the beloved series continued to thrive.

After more than 30 years of airing and expanding into movies, TV specials, and more, *Crayon Shin-chan* continues to captivate audiences worldwide, and this new movie is sure to add to its growing popularity. Fans are eagerly waiting for Shin-chan's Indian adventure!

"Just Amazing" - Viral Video Shows Intricate Designs Made With Melted Sugar In China

A viral video showcasing a unique "edible" art form in China has captivated audiences on Instagram. The video features the traditional Chinese art of "sugar painting," where molten sugar is used to create intricate, edible masterpieces. In the clip, an artist skillfully crafts two stunning designs in front of a mesmerized audience.



For the first piece, the artist dips a ladle into a pot of molten sugar and begins to pour it onto a metallic surface. With deft movements, they shape the sugar into the outline of a butterfly, adding fine details like whorls and stripes. Once the sugar hardens, the butterfly design is carefully lifted off the surface and presented to an onlooker.

The second creation features a cartoon girl, based on a photo the artist has been given. Using molten sugar, the artist meticulously forms the girl's face, hair, and upper body, even including delicate features like her eyes, nose, and mouth. A thin stick is placed at the center of the design, allowing the

artist to later lift the piece. The video is captioned, "Sugar painting is a traditional Chinese folk art where artists use molten sugar to create intricate, edible designs like butterflies and dragons. In Nantong, this craft is recognized as an intangible cultural heritage, with artisans creating these sweet works to delight both the eyes and taste buds." The video has struck a chord with viewers, with many impressed by the artist's remarkable talent and attention to

detail. Comments on Instagram include, "So talented," "Beautiful and impressive," and "Mind-blowing art!! The detailing is phenomenal." Sugar painting dates back to the Ming Dynasty, where it was originally used for religious rituals. Today, it remains a cherished form of folk art, celebrated for its intricate craftsmanship and cultural significance. The art has even earned recognition as an intangible cultural heritage, highlighting its enduring legacy.

Unusual Ocean Events: Are They Signs of a Changing Environment?



Something strange is unfolding in the oceans, with unusual sightings and behaviors among marine life raising alarms. Deep-sea creatures are surfacing more frequently, and marine animals are exhibiting unpredictable actions. From the rare appearance of the so-called "doomsday fish" to baffling whale strandings, these events have left experts pondering whether they are signs of a changing environment or a warning of something even larger to come.

One of the most discussed mysteries is the sudden appearance of the oarfish, a long, serpent-like creature that has become the subject of various disaster myths.

Recently, one of these elusive fish washed ashore in Lanzarote, sparking renewed fears that their appearance could be linked to natural disasters, such as earthquakes or tsunamis. In Japanese folklore, oarfish are considered "Messengers of the Sea God" and are believed to surface before major seismic events, adding to their mystical reputation. While such sightings have long been tied to legends, scientists are investigating whether the oarfish's unusual behavior could indicate changes in the ocean's ecosystem or broader environmental shifts. Some experts speculate that the rise in sightings could be linked to disruptions in the ocean's

conditions, such as rising temperatures or increased seismic activity, which might drive these deep-sea creatures closer to the surface. In addition to the oarfish, unexplained whale strandings are adding to the growing sense of unease. Although strandings have been observed for centuries, the frequency of these events seems to be increasing, with no clear explanation as to why. Some researchers suggest that the disruptions in marine environments, such as noise pollution from ships or changes in water temperature, might be disorienting these animals, leading them to strand themselves. With these events unfolding in real time, many are left wondering if they are isolated incidents or signs of a broader environmental shift. As scientists continue to monitor these phenomena, the possibility of a significant ecological or geological change remains an open question.

Woman Rides Helmetless With Parrot, Video Goes Viral in Bengaluru

Bengaluru, a city famous for its tech scene, has become a hot spot for quirky and sometimes risky traffic videos, and a new incident is adding to the city's colorful reputation. A video recently went viral showing a woman riding a two-wheeler without a helmet while carrying a vibrant parrot on her shoulder. Captured by an onlooker and shared on X (formerly Twitter) by Rahul Jadhav, the clip quickly caught the attention of social media users, with many calling it a perfect example of Bengaluru's unpredictable daily life.

The video, titled "Never a dull moment in Bangalore," showcases yet another bizarre moment on the city's busy streets. In the footage, the woman calmly rides the motorcycle, completely helmetless, while a colorful parrot perches on her shoulder. The combination of reckless driving and the unusual companion has sparked a range of reactions online. This incident is just one in a series of unusual traffic behaviors observed in Bengaluru. The city has gained attention for incidents like a woman working on a laptop while driving through heavy traffic or a rider seen without a helmet, with a passenger sitting



in an unsafe, forward-facing position. Such occurrences are becoming more frequent, highlighting the city's unique, and often dangerous, traffic culture. Social media users have had mixed reactions to the viral video, with one commenting, "This is clearly a peak moment." The city, known for its chaotic traffic and frequent violations, is often the subject of viral content that underscores the ongoing challenges around public safety and responsible

driving practices. Despite repeated warnings and traffic regulations, these kinds of reckless behaviors continue to be a concern. Whether it's ignoring basic safety gear like helmets or engaging in distractions while riding, the need for improved traffic discipline in Bengaluru is more pressing than ever. The viral video has once again brought the spotlight on the city's traffic issues, prompting calls for greater awareness and enforcement of safety norms.

Consumers Sue Apple Over False "Carbon Neutral" Claim on Watches

Apple is facing a lawsuit from consumers who allege that the company's claim of three versions of its Apple Watches being "carbon neutral" is false and misleading. The lawsuit, filed on Wednesday in the federal court in San Jose, California, accuses Apple of making deceptive environmental claims regarding the Apple Watch Series 9, SE, and Ultra 2 models. Seven customers, who purchased these watches labeled with a "green" carbon-neutral tag, argue that they would not have bought the products or would have paid less if they had known the truth about the environmental impact. The plaintiffs claim that the watches, advertised as "car-

bon neutral," may not meet the criteria, misleading them about the actual environmental benefits of their purchases. Apple introduced the carbon-neutral Apple Watches in September 2023, proudly stating that the watches would achieve carbon neutrality through a combination of reduced emissions and the purchase of carbon offsets. The company promoted these models as environmentally friendly, aligning with its broader efforts to address climate change and reduce its carbon footprint across various product lines. However, the plaintiffs contend that the claims made by Apple were not ac-

curate, challenging the validity of the company's environmental assertions. According to the lawsuit, Apple failed to adequately disclose the full scope of emissions associated with manufacturing and the potential limitations of its carbon offset strategy. This legal action highlights growing concerns about corporate environmental claims, particularly in the tech industry, where companies like Apple often face scrutiny over their sustainability efforts. The outcome of this lawsuit could set a precedent for how companies market their environmental initiatives and the level of transparency required when claiming carbon neutrality.



Karun Nair's Unbeaten 132 Puts Vidarbha in Command in Ranji Trophy Final

Karun Nair's brilliant, unbeaten 132 powered Vidarbha to a commanding position in the Ranji Trophy final against Kerala. Nair's 280-ball knock, including 10 fours and 2 sixes, extended Vidarbha's lead to 286 runs at the end of Day Four. The highlight of Nair's innings came when he was dropped on 31 by Kerala's Akshay Chandran off a regulation catch at first slip. Nair made the most of the reprieve, scoring his fourth century of the season and signaling his nine centuries this season across two competitions with a special gesture.



Vidarbha, who began Day Four with a 37-run lead, were in early trouble at 7/2, but Nair and Danish Malewar (73) steadied the ship with a 182-run stand. Vidarbha now have the title within reach with one day remaining.

10-Year-Old Atiqah Mir Becomes First Indian to Join F1 Academy Driver Program

10-year-old karting prodigy Atiqah Mir has made history by becoming the first Indian and Asian racer to be signed by Formula 1 Academy for its prestigious driver program. The female-only racing series, owned by Formula 1, chose Atiqah for its Discover Your Drive (DYD) program after closely monitoring her impressive karting performances. Atiqah, hailing from Jammu and Kashmir, is one of only three drivers worldwide in the mini category (ages 8-11) to be selected for the program. She will compete in the Champions of the Future Academy Program Championship, with races scheduled in Europe and the Middle East, starting this weekend.



F1 Academy will provide her with financial and technical support, covering her fitness, driving, and mental preparation, marking a major milestone in her burgeoning racing career. Atiqah expressed her excitement, saying, "Being chosen by Formula 1 Academy is a huge honor. I will work hard to repay the faith in me and represent India with pride."



Champions Trophy: South Africa Dominates England to Qualify for Semi-finals

South Africa stormed into the Champions Trophy semi-finals with a dominant seven-wicket victory over England in the final Group B match. After dismissing England for a paltry 179, South Africa comfortably chased down the target in just 29.1 overs, securing the win with 20.5 overs to spare. England, already eliminated from the semifinal race, struggled from the outset, with Marco Jansen (3/39), Wiaan Mulder (3/25), and Ke-

shav Maharaj (2/35) putting in an outstanding bowling performance. The Proteas dismissed England for the lowest total of this edition in 38.2 overs. In the chase, Heinrich Klaasen (64) and Rassie van der Dussen (72*), who shared a 127-run partnership, steered South Africa to victory. This win sent the Proteas to the semi-finals, where they will face Australia after topping the group.

Armand Duplantis Breaks His Own Pole Vault World Record with 6.27m Leap



Swedish Olympic champion Armand Duplantis once again rewrote history by breaking his own world pole vault record at the All Star Pole Vault event in Clermont-Ferrand, France. After securing victory with a 6.07m jump, Duplantis raised the bar to 6.27m and cleared it on his first at-

tempt. "It's always special, like a feeling of euphoria," said Duplantis after the jump. This marks the 11th time he has improved his world record, having first set it in 2020 with a leap of 6.16m. Duplantis, 25, also celebrated the moment with his song "Bop," which was

playing during the jump. The record-breaking feat came just months after his Olympic gold in Paris and a previous record of 6.26m in August 2024. Duplantis will continue his journey with future competitions in Sweden and China.

Prague Masters: R Praggnanandhaa Wins First Round, Aravindh Chithambaram Takes Sole Lead



Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa secured his first win in the Prague Masters with a dominant victory over Nguyen Thai Dai Van of the Czech Republic. The Indian chess prodigy comfortably navigated the complexities of the Nimzo-Indian defense, capitalizing on a decisive advantage early in the game to win a rook for a minor piece. After two draws in earlier rounds, Praggnanandhaa's commanding win placed him in a strong position, sharing second place with Germany's Vincent Keymer. Meanwhile, Aravindh Chithambaram emerged as the sole leader after defeating top seed Wei Yi of China. Aravindh's deep understanding of the Ragozin opening and brilliant calculation led to a 44-move win, taking him to 2.5 points from 3 rounds. Aravindh's performance also saw him break into the world's top 20 in live ratings for the first time.

Uttar Pradesh CM Wishes UP Warriorz Ahead of WPL Home Leg

Ahead of their home leg at the Women's Premier League (WPL), UP Warriorz captain Deepti Sharma and Capri Sports' Director Jinisha Sharma met Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow. They invited him to attend the team's games at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium. Owner Jinisha Sharma expressed gratitude for the CM's support, stating, "His good wishes inspire our team to give our best. We hope to make him and Uttar Pradesh proud." Captain Deepti Sharma also shared her honor in meeting the CM and appreciated his support. The UP Warriorz, led by Deepti Sharma, are gearing up for their home leg, starting with a match against Gujarat Giants on March 3. They will also face Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bengaluru on March 6 and 8, respectively.



Punjab Warriors Storm into InBL Pro U25 Final with Dominant Win Over Hyderabad Falcons

Punjab Warriors secured a dominant 98-72 victory over Hyderabad Falcons at the Indra Gandhi Indoor Stadium on Friday, advancing to the InBL Pro U25 final. The Warriors put on a blistering performance, especially in the third quarter, where they extended their lead to 23 points. Stokley Chaffee led the charge with a double-double, registering 15 points and 14 rebounds, while Thomas Garrett and Gurbaz Sandhu contributed 16 points each, including key

three-pointers. Punjab set the tone early, leading by 12 points in the first quarter, and continued to build on that advantage throughout the game. Despite a brief surge from Hyderabad's Harsh Dagar and Jack Purchase, the Warriors' offensive depth and strong defense kept the Falcons at bay. The Warriors now await their final opponent, having outclassed the Falcons in every aspect of the game.



Ready to Begin Second Innings in Cinema



Rambha, a celebrated actress of the 90s, is all set to make her comeback in the film industry. Known for her charm and acting skills, she ruled Tollywood alongside top heroes, and also made her mark in Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and even Bollywood. After her marriage, she took a break from the industry, but she has remained a favorite among fans. Now, Rambha believes the time is right for her to return to acting. She expressed that cinema has always been her first love and that she is eager to take on challenging roles. Rambha aims to connect with audiences through meaningful, performance-driven characters and feels that this is the perfect time to make her second innings in the film industry. Fans eagerly await her return!

Shreya Ghoshal Alerts Fans After Her X Account Gets Hacked



Shreya Ghoshal has informed her fans that her X (formerly Twitter) account has been hacked since February 13, 2025. The singer took to Instagram to alert her followers, stating that despite her efforts, she has not been able to regain control of the account. She urged fans not to click on any links or believe any messages from the compromised account, calling them spam and phishing attempts. Sharing a photo, Shreya wrote, "I have tried everything to reach out to the X team, but have received only automated responses. I can't even log in to delete my account. I will update you personally if the account is recovered." In other news, Shreya recently supported Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Anti-Obesity campaign, encouraging a healthier lifestyle and nutritious food for a fitter India.

'Kannappa' Teaser Released: Manchu Vishnu's Powerful Avatar as a Warrior



The teaser for Manchu Vishnu's upcoming film *Kannappa* has been released, giving a glimpse of the actor's intense performance. The movie, set to release on April 25, is based on the story of 'Tinnadu,' a great devotee of Lord Shiva, who is ready to sacrifice his two eyes for the deity. In the teaser, we see the character of Kannappa in a warrior-like avatar, filled with valor and devotion. The teaser showcases scenes

of tribal communities, internal conflicts, and Kannappa's transformation from a staunch atheist to a devoted follower of Lord Shiva, which astonishes Goddess Parvati. The film features an ensemble cast, including Akshay Kumar, Mohan Babu, Prabhas, Kajal, and others. The film portrays Kannappa as a heroic figure, moving from physical strength to spiritual devotion. Fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release.

Oscars 2025: Box Office Performance of Best Picture Nominees

The box office performance of the 2025 Oscar nominees for Best Picture has shown a mixed bag of commercial success, with some films performing exceptionally well while others struggle. *Dune: Part Two* has emerged as a major hit, grossing \$283 million domestically and \$715 million worldwide, thanks to its star-studded cast and visually captivating storyline. Similarly, *Wicked*, starring Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo, has earned \$466 million domestically and \$710 million globally, showcasing its broad appeal. However, not all nominees have fared equally well. *The Brutalist*, despite securing 10 Oscar nominations, has earned only \$6 million do-

mestically, while *Emilia Perez* garnered 13 nominations but made a modest \$15.4 million domestically and \$30.7 million worldwide. Films like *I'm Still Here* and *Nickel Boys* have had disappointing box office returns, grossing just \$162,000 and \$1.1 million domestically, respectively. Despite these underwhelming earnings, both films secured nominations, highlighting the Academy's focus on quality over commercial performance. While some films, like *A Complete Unknown* and *Conclave*, have found moderate success, the overall trend shows that box office performance doesn't always correlate with Oscar recognition, as the Academy prioritizes cinematic artistry.



What's Streaming

Dabba Cartel – Netflix



This gripping series follows five middle-class women whose small-time dabba business spirals out of control when they get entangled with a drug syndicate. The action-packed drama explores their secret lives and the lengths they'll go to for survival. The cast includes Jyothika, Lillete Dubey, Shabana Azmi, and Gajraj Rao.

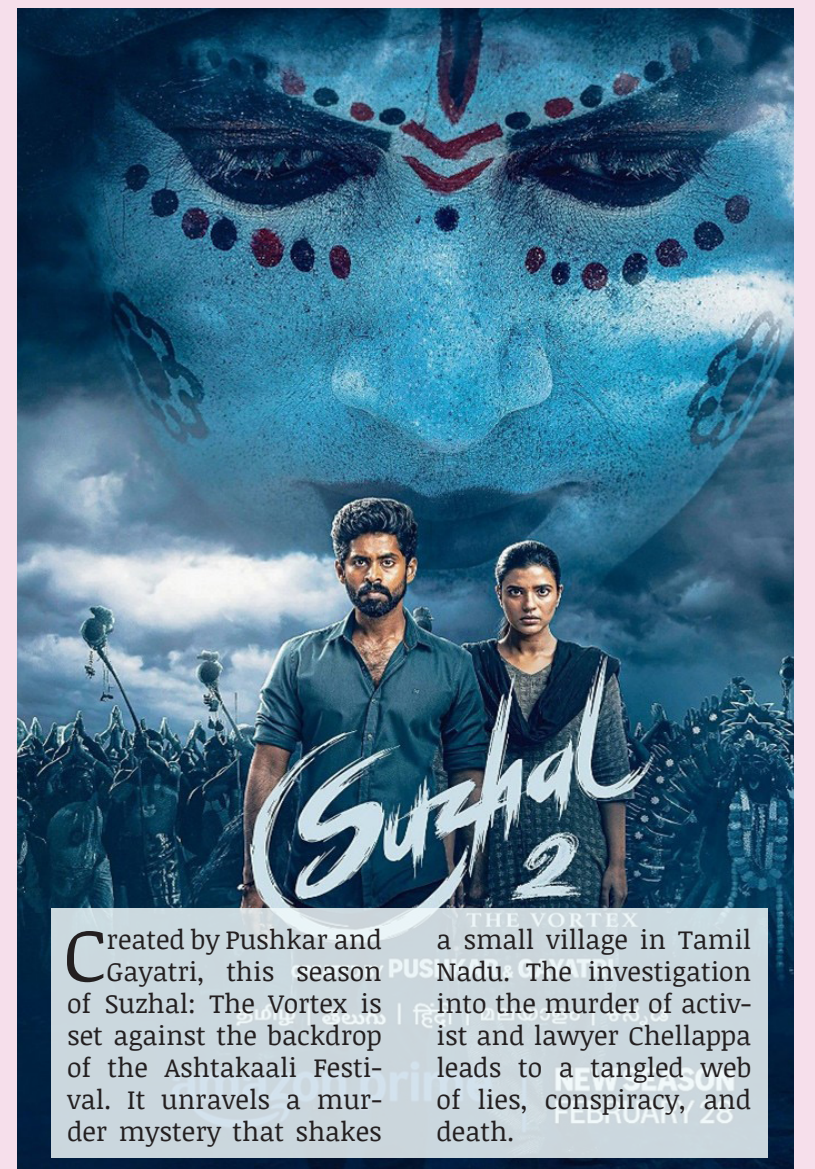
House of David – Prime Video



This American historical drama, directed by Jon Erwin, tells the Biblical story of how David (Michael Iskander), a shepherd boy and musician in King Saul's court (Ali Suliman), defeats Goliath (Martyn Ford) and becomes the king of Israel, anointed by the prophet Samuel (Stephen Lang).



Suzhal: The Vortex Season 2 – Prime Video



Created by Pushkar and Gayatri, this season of *Suzhal: The Vortex* is set against the backdrop of the Ashtakaali Festival. It unravels a murder mystery that shakes a small village in Tamil Nadu. The investigation into the murder of activist and lawyer Chellappa leads to a tangled web of lies, conspiracy, and death.

Running Point – Netflix

Isla Gordon is appointed president of the Los Angeles Waves, a prestigious basketball franchise, after a scandal forces her brother to resign. In the unpredictable, male-dominated world of sports, Isla must prove she's the right choice for the job while navigating family dynamics.