



Weather Forecast

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

MLC Elections Intense Counting Continues in AP & Telangana Amid Tight Competition



TPN Correspondent | AP/TG

The counting of votes for the MLC elections in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is progressing amid a tense and competitive atmosphere. Vote counting began at 8 am and is still underway for a total of six MLC seats across the two states. While some preliminary winners have been confirmed, official announcements are pending in several segments.

In Uttarandhra Teachers' MLC constituency, PRTU candidate Gade Srinivasulu Naidu secured a clear victory, defeating his closest competitors after the completion of priority vote counting. Similarly, in Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal Teachers' MLC constituency, PRTU

PRTU candidates secure key Teachers' MLC seats

Counting ongoing for six MLC seats in Both States

Tense atmosphere at counting centers

Official announcements awaited for some seats

candidate Sripal Reddy emerged victorious. In this contest, no candidate managed to secure the required majority in the first round, leading to the elimination process. Sripal Reddy ultimately defeated sitting MLC Narsi Reddy through second-priority votes, marking a significant win for PRTU-backed candidates.

In Karimnagar Teachers' MLC constituency, Malka Komuriah emerged victorious, winning directly in the first round with first-priority votes. Election officials are expected to issue an official announcement shortly.

Meanwhile, in Andhra Pradesh, the counting process for the Graduates'

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Telangana Demands 70% Share of Krishna River Water



CM Revanth Requests Fair Water Share for Telangana from Krishna River

CM Revanth Urges Central Minister for Equitable Water Distribution

Revanth Reddy Appeals for Telangana's Water Rights from Krishna and Godavari Rivers

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : In a recent meeting with Union Minister for Jal Shakti, C.R. Patil, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy urged the allocation of a fair share of water from the Krishna River to Telangana. CM Reddy emphasized that approximately 70% of the Krishna river basin lies in Telangana, with only 30% in Andhra Pradesh. Hence, he requested that 70% of the Krishna River's water should be allocated to Telangana, asserting that it is a justified

demand based on the state's geographical position.

Further, the Chief Minister pointed out that decisions regarding Andhra Pradesh's projects should be made only after the rightful share of water for Telangana from the Godavari River is clarified. This issue is critical in maintaining the state's water security and supporting ongoing developmental needs.

The Chief Minister met with Minister C.R. Patil in Delhi, accompanied by Telangana's Minister for Irrigation, Uttam Kumar Reddy. During the meeting, they discussed strategies to safeguard the water interests of Telangana concerning both the Krishna and Godavari rivers. After the meeting, CM Revanth Reddy and Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy addressed the media, providing details of the discussions held and reiterating the importance of a fair and equitable distribution of water resources for Telangana's future growth. The meeting marks a crucial step in Telangana's ongoing efforts to secure its rightful share of river waters.

Harish Rao Vows to Resign if CM Revanth Proves SLBC Claims

Harish Rao Challenges CM Revanth on SLBC Tunnel Issue

Harish Rao Criticizes CM Revanth for Failing to Resolve SLBC Accident

Harish Rao Fires Back at CM Revanth, Calls Out Baseless Remarks



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : Siddipet MLA and former Minister Harish Rao has strongly reacted to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's comments regarding the SLBC tunnel project. Speaking to the media, Harish Rao questioned the CM's claims about the

lack of progress in the SLBC tunnel works, attributing the blame for the accident to the delay in completion. He challenged the CM to prove his allegations, stating that if Revanth Reddy could substantiate his claims, Harish Rao would resign from his MLA position. However, if the CM fails to prove his statement, Harish Rao asked whether Revanth Reddy would resign from his Chief Minister's post.

Harish Rao accused the CM of lacking sincerity on the SLBC issue, criticizing his inability to locate the missing individuals even after 10 days of the accident. He stated that the government's failures would be exposed in the upcoming

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Maheshwar Reddy Accuses Ministers of Corruption, CM Leadership Tensions

- Maheshwar Reddy Predicts CM Change in Telangana by December
- Maheshwar Reddy Talks CM Transition, Criticizes Internal Congress Politics
- Maheshwar Reddy Reveals Meenakshi Natarajan's Role in CM Change Plans

may continue as the CM for now, Meenakshi Natarajan will gradually work towards replacing him by December. He also stated that the next Chief Minister will likely come from the current Cabinet, with indications pointing towards Bhatti Vikramarka, Uttam

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : Maheshwar Reddy, a senior Congress leader, has shared his thoughts on the changing dynamics within the Telangana Congress, particularly regarding the Chief Minister's position. He hinted that a change in leadership is inevitable and will occur between June and December. He also pointed out that Rahul Gandhi has tasked Meenakshi Natarajan with preparing for this transition, despite Revanth Reddy continuing as the CM with her blessings. Reddy mentioned that while Revanth Reddy



Kumar Reddy, or Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy as potential contenders. Reddy revealed that Revanth Reddy himself is aware of the growing aspirations within his Cabinet.

Maheshwar Reddy accused several ministers of acting with selfish interests, saying no one respects the Chief Minister anymore. He criticized the actions of Uttam Kumar Reddy, stating that he had blocked

Revanth Reddy from meeting Rahul Gandhi for over eight days. Reddy further claimed that Uttam Kumar Reddy had a significant influence in delaying appointments,

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Mahesh Kumar Goud Criticizes K. L. Kishan Reddy for Hindering Telangana's Growth

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud launched a scathing attack on Union Minister and Telangana BJP President K. L. Kishan Reddy, accusing him of colluding with Chief Minister KCR and obstructing the development of Telangana. Goud questioned Kishan Reddy's commitment to the state's progress, stating that while there might be personal affection for KCR, there should be no hindrance in the pursuit of development. He criticized Kishan Reddy for not having discussions with the Prime Minister about Telangana's financial needs



over the past ten years. Goud also criticized the BJP leadership for giving ministerial positions to Kishan Reddy and BJP leader Bandi Sanjay, alleging that the central

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Formula E Race Scam: Telangana ACB to Re-Interrogate KTR

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has decided to re-interrogate Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President KT Rama Rao (KTR) and two other key figures involved in the Formula E race scam held in Hyderabad in 2023. According to reliable sources, the ACB is expected to issue notices to the accused within a week.

Along with KTR, senior IAS officer and former Principal Secretary for Municipal Administration Arvind Kumar, and retired HMDA Chief Engineer BLN Reddy will also be summoned again for questioning. This move comes after a setback for KTR in the Formula E case, when the Su-



preme Court dismissed his quash petition on February 15, following the withdrawal of his counsel's petition on January 15.

The investigation began after an FIR was registered over the alleged illegal release of funds for the Hyderabad Formula E event. During the initial phase of questioning, Arvind Kumar

was interrogated on January 8, KTR on January 9, and BLN Reddy on January 10. The case centers around allegations of releasing Rs 58 crore without cabinet approval.

On January 18, the ACB also questioned the managing director of the Greenko Group, the company responsible for organizing the Formula E race in Hyderabad. Sources suggest that Arvind Kumar admitted to releasing funds to the private company based on KTR's instructions.

The ACB's decision to re-summon KTR and other top officials is expected to reignite public interest in the case. However, KTR has dismissed the investigation, labeling it as a political vendetta.



Singareni Signs Historic Power Agreement with Rajasthan to Set Up 3100 MW Power Plants

- Singareni Partners with Rajasthan for 3100 MW Power Plants
- Historic Power Deal: Singareni Expands to Rajasthan with New Projects
- Singareni Signs Major Agreement for Thermal and Solar Power in Rajasthan



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has entered into a historic agreement with Rajasthan Electric Power Generation Corporation Limited (REPGCL) to jointly establish 3100 MW of power plants. This landmark agreement includes the construction of 1600 MW thermal plants and 1500 MW solar power plants, marking a significant step in the company's expansion outside Telangana. The agreement was signed in Jaipur,

with Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, and Rajasthan Energy Minister Heeralal Nagar in attendance. The joint venture will see SCCL hold a 74% stake, while REPGCL will contribute 26%, primarily in the form of land and infrastructure for the projects. This strategic partnership aims to

address the growing electricity demands of both Telangana and Rajasthan. The new plants will provide cleaner, renewable energy, with a significant portion coming from solar power, ensuring a sustainable energy future for both states. The project is expected to boost India's energy sector and support the country's transition to renewable energy sources.

SCCL, which has primarily focused on coal production and power generation within Telangana, is now extending its footprint to other states. This expansion includes ongoing projects in Odisha and plans to set up additional solar and thermal power plants.

The deal is a pivotal moment for SCCL's growth, establishing it as a major national player in the power sector.

KTR Blames Congress for GST Decline in Telangana, Calls it a "Dangerous Virus"

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : Telangana's BRS Working President, K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), has sharply criticized Congress over the state's poor GST collections, attributing the decline to mismanagement and poor governance. In a tweet posted on his X handle, KTR described Congress as a "dangerous virus" that has harmed the state's economy. He pointed out that his earlier warnings about the consequences of Congress's actions have now come true, with GST collections showing a significant drop.

According to KTR, Telangana, once a leading state in terms of GST growth, has seen a sharp fall in revenue, with growth reducing to just 1% from 10% last year. He accused the Chief Minister of making disastrous economic decisions that have worsened the state's financial condition. KTR further slammed the ruling party for corruption, pointing out that while gov-



ernment officials are involved in massive kickbacks, the state's revenue has collapsed.

KTR concluded by questioning whether this financial crisis would be the "dark history" that would define the Chief Minister's legacy, referring to the government's failure in maintaining the economic growth of Telangana over the past few years.

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MLC Elections Intense Counting Continues in AP & Telangana Amid Tight Competition

MLC elections in the two Godavari districts is still ongoing. Election authorities are currently segregating invalid votes. So far, 2,18,997 votes have been counted in this region.

In the Guntur-Krishna Graduates' MLC constituency, TDP-backed candidate Alapati Rajendra Prasad has established a strong lead. After three rounds of counting, Alapati Rajendra Prasad is ahead by 30,065 votes, placing him in a commanding

position.

The tenure of several MLCs is set to end soon, making these elections particularly crucial for both ruling and opposition parties in shaping their legislative strategies.

As counting continues in both states, official confirmation of results is expected later today, bringing clarity to the final outcome and influencing the political landscape in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Harish Rao Vows to Resign if CM Revanth Proves SLBC Claims

Assembly session. Harish Rao also criticized the CM for attempting to divert attention from his administration's failures, suggesting that it was a deliberate attempt to deflect scrutiny. Harish Rao further clarified that it was true he had

traveled to Abu Dhabi for the wedding of a close friend's daughter, responding to speculation. He slammed CM Revanth Reddy for making baseless remarks, emphasizing that speaking recklessly without evidence would not go unchallenged.

Maheshwar Reddy Accuses Ministers of Corruption, CM Leadership Tensions

particularly Revanth's appointment, and had a master plan involving Meenakshi Natarajan for the state's future leadership.

The conversation also touched on allegations of corruption within the state government. Reddy pointed out issues involving ministers like Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, who is reportedly involved in corrupt practices,

including collecting bribes for land deals. He added that many Congress MLAs are dissatisfied with Ponguleti's actions and his commission-taking practices.

Reddy's comments reflect the ongoing internal tensions within Telangana Congress, highlighting key figures and struggles that could shape the future of the state's leadership.

Mahesh Kumar Goud Criticizes K. L. Kishan Reddy for Hindering Telangana's Growth

government has done little for the state. He strongly asserted that if the central government cooperated, Telangana could become number one in development. Goud further denounced Kishan Reddy's opposition to the Musi River Clean-Up project and questioned his stance on

skill universities and other crucial projects. He also raised concerns about Kishan Reddy's loyalty to the state, asking whether he was truly a son of Telangana, after Kishan Reddy allegedly praised Rammohan Naidu, a leader associated with KCR's community.

PIL Filed in HC Over SLBC Tunnel Incident, AG Presents Arguments

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Telangana High Court regarding the SLBC Tunnel incident, where eight workers were trapped. The incident has become a focal point for political accusations, with the ruling BRS government blaming the delay in the project for the tragedy, while opposition Congress accuses the government of negligence.

The PIL, filed by the National Union for Migrant Workers, demands the safe rescue of the trapped workers and highlights the lack of progress in rescue operations even



after several days. The petitioners raised concerns about the delay in providing effective assistance to the trapped workers.

During today's hearing, Advocate General Sudhakar Reddy, representing the Telangana government, responded by stating that the government acted swiftly after the incident and intensified rescue operations immediately. He assured the court that all necessary measures were being taken to ensure the safety of the workers. The court is expected to take further action based on the ongoing proceedings.

This case has drawn significant attention due to its potential political ramifications, with both the ruling and opposition parties using the incident to target each other over accountability and governance.

Jagadishwar Reddy Alleges Revanth Reddy is Modi's Agent

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : Former Minister Jagadishwar Reddy has made explosive allegations against Telangana Congress leader Revanth Reddy, stating that he is a "complete Modi man." Speaking at Telangana Bhavan, Reddy accused Revanth of starting



a new trend after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that the Congress leader now speaks in favor of Modi, calling him his "agent." Reddy further claimed that after meeting Modi, Revanth intensified his attacks on leaders like Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay, stating that the political dynamics had shifted within the state. He compared the situation to a "Modi A-Team" versus "Modi B-Team" scenario, accusing Revanth Reddy of entering into a secret deal with Modi.

Reddy also ridiculed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, questioning whether he would understand the implications of Revanth's actions. He accused Revanth of seeking to protect his position and wealth, with Modi's support, while openly criticizing BJP leaders. Reddy's statements highlighted growing political tensions, especially with Revanth's open admiration for Modi despite being a Congress leader. He also criticized Revanth for belittling senior leader Harish Rao, calling his remarks against him childish and uncalled for.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Brings Good News for Telangana



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has brought good news for Telangana. In response to a letter from State Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar, Gadkari released a letter addressing the state's proposal for the Institute of Driving and Traffic Research (IDTR). The Minister clarified that only one IDTR is eligible for a population of 2.5 crore, and mentioned that an IDTR is already operational in Karimnagar.

In his response, Gadkari also confirmed that Telangana has qualified for three Regional Driving Training Centres (RDTCS) and one

Driving Training Centre (DTS). He welcomed the state's proposals for the establishment of these centres, and assured that the state government could submit their proposals for their setup.

Moreover, the Union Minister announced that the Centre would provide a 30% grant for automatic stations, with Rs. 1.5 crore allocated for the districts. He further emphasized that districts with higher priority would be considered first for the grants. This announcement comes as a boost to the state's infrastructure development and will aid in improving road safety training across Telangana.

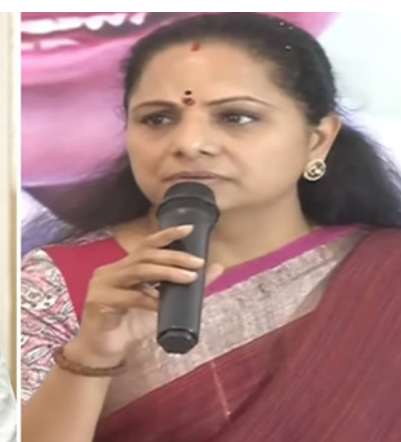
Kavitha's Bold Move Against CM Revanth Reddy

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : In a surprising and strategic move, BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has launched a postcard campaign to hold Congress accountable for the promises made to women. Under the aegis of Telangana Jagruti, Kavitha has gathered 10,000 postcards from women activists and sent them to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. The postcards demand the fulfillment of Congress's promises made to women during their election campaign.



Kavitha declared that if a formal announcement regarding the implementation of these promises is not made by



March 8, the day marking International Women's Day, the women behind this campaign will take the fight to 10,000

villages across Telangana. Kavitha also hinted at escalating the campaign by preparing lakhs of postcards to be sent to Congress President Sonia Gandhi.

She expressed her displeasure over Revanth Reddy's lack of empathy for women's issues, criticizing the Congress-led government for its indifference towards the welfare of women. This bold move by Kavitha has sent shockwaves through political circles, especially with her direct challenge to Revanth Reddy's leadership in addressing crucial issues concerning women.



Minister Tummala Criticizes Center's Discriminatory Approach Towards Southern States

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : Minister Tummala Nageshwar Rao recently inspected the lift irrigation works at the Sitarama Project in Bhadradi Kothagudem district, where he released Godavari water from Pump House 2 to downstream areas. While praising the project's progress, he voiced his concerns over the Center's approach to water distribution. He criticized the Union Government for its indifferent attitude towards the southern states, especially in terms of Krishna water distribution, claiming that the Center was providing only minimal assistance. Tummala further alleged that the Center was neglecting southern states by reducing funds as a reward for population control efforts. He emphasized the importance of the Rajeev Canal for supplying irrigation water to the Sagar Ayacut area and mentioned that the Sitarama project, with its lift pumps, would ensure the transportation of Godavari water to stabilize the irrigation needs. The project aims to bring water to around 130,000 acres of land, preventing water shortages. Tummala concluded by expressing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's strong commitment to completing the Sitarama project to provide consistent irrigation water, ensuring agricultural growth in the region.

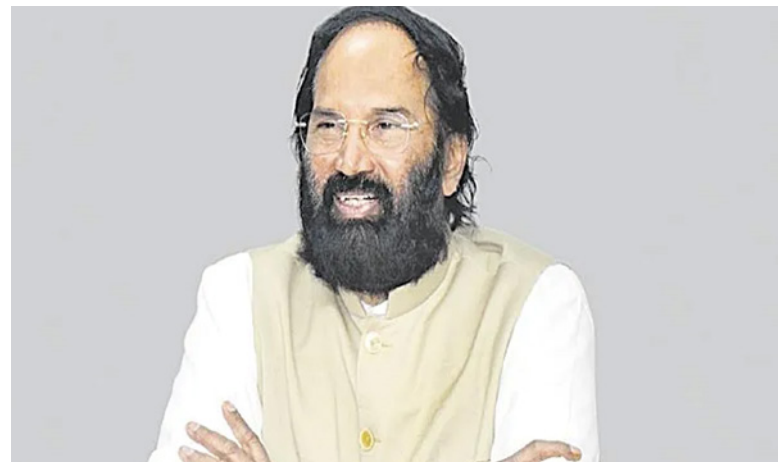


Telangana Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy Alleges Injustice in Krishna Water Allocation

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy has expressed concerns over the alleged injustice faced by Telangana in the utilization of Krishna river water. After meeting with Union Water Resources Minister C. R. Patil, Reddy spoke to the media, revealing that discussions were held on the funds and project approvals due to the state, particularly focusing on Krishna water allocations. Reddy pointed out that Andhra Pradesh is using more Krishna water than its allocated share, and he urged the central government to take immediate action to ensure proper distribution.

The minister emphasized that Telangana has strong objections to the construction of the Bankacherla project by Andhra Pradesh and asked the central government to intervene. Regarding the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, Reddy also demanded a prompt report from the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) on the structural issues at the Medigadda barrage. Furthermore, he requested the completion of water allocations for the Palamuru-Rangareddy project. Reddy mentioned that he appealed to the central government to provide funds for various ongoing projects in the state, and Patil responded positively to these requests.



Revanth Reddy's Actions Lead to Destruction, Says Srinivas Goud



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : Former Minister Srinivas Goud sharply criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, stating that whatever he does, it only leads to destruction. Goud remarked that when Revanth Reddy visited his hometown of Wanaparthi, people expected significant announcements, but he merely continued his routine of criticizing KCR, failing to bring any constructive change. He expressed disappointment, saying that despite being given an opportunity to serve as Chief Minister at a young age, Revanth Reddy has not made the most of it.

Goud further pointed out the contradictions in the actions of the ruling party. He questioned how the government failed to take any action following the SLBC incident, especially when Harish Rao had already gone to Dubai before the incident occurred. He also highlighted the irony of ministers attending wedding events in Dubai instead of focusing on their responsibilities. Goud criticized Revanth Reddy for not being able to manage the situation, stating that his decisions only lead to chaos and disaster. He sarcastically compared the current scenario to a proverb about a dog wagging its tail before it falls.

Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy's Controversial Remarks on Harish Rao's Dubai Visit

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : Bhuvanagiri MP Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy has made sensational remarks regarding the suspicious death of Telugu film producer Kedar Shelgam Shetty, who was found dead under mysterious circumstances in his Dubai apartment. Speaking to the media at Gandhi Bhavan on Monday, Kiran Kumar Reddy questioned why Harish Rao, who frequently shares everything on social media, did not post about his Dubai visit. He pointed out that Harish Rao's son's wedding was scheduled for the 6th, but Harish left for Dubai on the 22nd, asking why he chose to leave on that particular date.

Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy further criticized Harish Rao, stating that he should have shown more responsibility and not just posted reels while attending events. He insinuated that Harish's visit to Dubai coincided with Kedar's death, and raised doubts about the timing of the trip. The MP also accused Harish Rao of being involved in political games and demanded that a thorough investigation into Kedar's death be conducted by central investigation agencies. He challenged Union Minister Kishan Reddy to initiate the probe.

Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy further criticized Harish Rao, stating that he should have shown more responsibility and not just posted reels while attending events. He insinuated that Harish's visit to Dubai coincided with Kedar's death, and raised doubts about the timing of the trip. The MP also accused Harish Rao of being involved in political games and demanded that a thorough investigation into Kedar's death be conducted by central investigation agencies. He challenged Union Minister Kishan Reddy to initiate the probe.



Harish Rao Questions CM Revanth Reddy's Election Campaign During SLBC Accident

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : Former Minister and MLA Harish Rao has sharply criticized CM Revanth Reddy for prioritizing election campaigning over addressing the SLBC accident. In response to Revanth Reddy's comments, Harish Rao stated, "I went to Abu Dhabi for a family function on February 21, and the accident occurred on February 22. After the incident, instead of going to the site, Revanth Reddy chose to continue with his election campaign."

Harish Rao clarified that he had gone to Abu Dhabi for his relative's wedding, not for a cricket match, unlike others. He pointed out that after the accident, it was Telangana Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy who initially refused to go, citing the lack of a helicopter, while Harish made his way to the site after fulfilling his responsibilities in assisting the rescue operations.

He further criticized Revanth for engaging in petty politics

and trying to mislead the public, accusing the government of incompetence. Harish Rao questioned how Revanth could justify leaving workers stranded for days without aid while focusing on his political campaign, calling the government's response to the tragedy irresponsible.



BJP MP Dharmapuri Arvind Counterattacks CM Revanth Reddy's Remarks

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : In response to CM Revanth Reddy's recent comments, BJP MP Dharmapuri Arvind launched a scathing counterattack. Arvind demanded that Revanth Reddy clarify which projects Union Minister Kishan Reddy had obstructed, stating that Revanth should provide details of such projects and their status. He challenged Revanth to send his officers, and he, along with Kishan Reddy, would personally investigate the claims.

Arvind further questioned whether the Telangana government had provided land and funds for these projects, implying that the state government was responsible for any delays or issues. He asserted that Modi's government had never obstructed development in Telangana and was always committed to the state's welfare.

Addressing Revanth Reddy's criticism of Kishan Reddy, Arvind pointed out that despite his junior status, Modi's governance treats all states equally, without favoritism. He demanded that the DPR (Detailed Project Report) for the Musi river cleaning project be released and emphasized that such political rhetoric would not change the facts.

Arvind also mocked Congress leaders, claiming that when they appear, women in Telangana are ready with slippers to protest. In conclusion, he emphasized that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, Telangana would never face any injustice, and any political games would not change the trajectory of development.



Mahender Reddy Slams KTR Over Water Projects and Corruption Allegations



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : Sirisilla in-charge KK Mahender Reddy has fiercely criticized BRS leader KTR, accusing him of failing to complete key irrigation projects in the region. Reddy questioned why KTR did not finish works related to the 9th, 10th, and 11th packages and canals, which were supposed to bring water to 120,000 acres of land. He praised former Minister Harish Rao for completing crucial projects like the Ranganayaka Sagar canals, which benefited farmers, and urged KTR to feel ashamed in comparison.

Reddy further criticized KTR's decade-long tenure as a minister, accusing him of widespread corruption and exploitation in Sirisilla, with his associates involved in illegal activities. He highlighted the discrepancies in water supply, claiming that farmers' crops were damaged due to KTR's inefficiency, despite promises of irrigation projects. Reddy also pointed out that under Congress, the region had received water through well-established canals, emphasizing the role of Congress in completing key projects.

Additionally, Reddy raised concerns about KTR allegedly diverting funds meant for Telangana to other states, and claimed that KTR has been using state resources for personal gain. He concluded by accusing KTR of exploiting marginalized communities during his tenure as a minister and urged him to compensate the victims of the government's failures.

KTR Slams CM Revanth Over SLBC Tunnel Incident, Calls It 'Shameful'

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : BRS Working President KTR strongly reacted to CM Revanth Reddy's comments blaming the BRS for the SLBC tunnel incident that claimed the lives of eight innocent workers. In a Twitter post, KTR criticized the CM for accusing the BRS, stating it was shameful to blame them for a project successfully completed by the party. He pointed out that CM Revanth's government had failed even in basic tasks, unable to dig a small tunnel, while the BRS had completed a challenging 12-kilometer tunnel despite difficult conditions.

KTR reminded that, under the previous Congress government (2005-2014), only 22.89 kilometers of the tunnel were dug, while the BRS government had completed 12 kilometers in the last 13 months without any accidents. The BRS government had also spent more—Rs. 3900 crore—compared to Congress's Rs. 3300 crore for the SLBC project. He further condemned CM Revanth for trying to shift the blame to the previous administration, describing it as an attempt to deflect responsibility for his own government's failures. KTR concluded that these "damage diversion" tactics would not succeed in Telangana.





GHMC Receives 107 Petitions, Commissioner Urges Faster Resolution of Complaints



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : On Monday, March 2, the Greater Hyderabad Municipality Corporation (GHMC) commissioner, Ilambarthi, along with deputy mayor Mothe Sri-latha Shobhan Reddy, received 107 petitions during the public hearing program held at the GHMC head office. During the session, the GHMC commissioner emphasized the importance of addressing complaints promptly, instructing department officers to ensure that residents do not face repeated issues. He urged officials to resolve the complaints from the Prajavani program without delay and to periodically review them for quick resolution.

Deputy Mayor Mothe Sri-latha Shobhan Reddy also stressed that complaints should be addressed efficiently and that there should be no holdup in providing solutions.

Out of the 107 petitions received, 62 were related to town planning, 11 to the tax department, seven each to the engineering and sanitation departments, and others to the finance, UCD, land acquisition, UBD, administration, health, electrical, and advertisement departments. Seven complaints were received via phone-in. Of the total, 86 petitions were received from the six GHMC zones, with Kukatpally zone leading at 32 petitions, followed by Serilingampally with 19, Secunderabad with 12, and others.

Hyderabad Metro Encourages Skywalks for Better Connectivity

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 :

On Monday, March 3, Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) emphasized the importance of constructing skywalks to improve connectivity between metro stations and nearby commercial and residential complexes.

In a recent comprehensive mobility planning meeting, HMRL Managing Director NVS Reddy and Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMMDA) Commissioner Sarfaraz Ahmed discussed plans to expand the skywalk network across the city.

Several successful skywalks have already been completed, such as those connecting Punjagutta, Hitech City, and Erramanzil metro stations to nearby malls. Skywalks at JBS, Parade Ground, and Raheja's modern Mindspace skywalk at Rayadurg Metro Station have significantly eased pedestrian movement. The circular rotary skywalk at Uppal metro station, developed by HMMDA, has also improved pedestrian access at the busy junction.

Encouraged by these successes, HMRL plans to construct more skywalks linking metro stations to nearby developments. One such project is the skywalk from Dr. Ambedkar Balanagar Metro Station to the under-construction Phoenix/Landmark Mall. Additionally, the Vasavi Group is constructing a skywalk linking LB Nagar Metro Station to its residential complex, Vasavi Anandanilayam, which covers 25 acres with 12 towers. Discussions are underway for similar projects at metro stations like Nagole, Stadium, Durgam Cheruvu, and Kukatpally. L&T Metro Managing Director KVB Reddy also invited private developers to collaborate on these initiatives. Furthermore, NVS Reddy reminded the public that all 57 metro stations provide unpaid pedestrian crossings for safer road movement and accident prevention.



GHMC Mayor Hands Over Posting Orders to 174 Newly Appointed Junior Assistants



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : On Monday, March 3, Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi presented posting orders to 174 newly appointed junior assistants in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC). These appointments were made through the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) as part of the Group 4 recruitment process.

The newly appointed junior assistants have been assigned to various GHMC offices, including the head office, zonal offices, and circle offices. During the ceremony, Mayor Vijayal-

akshmi congratulated the appointees and urged them to work with dedication and commitment. She stressed that securing a government job is just the beginning, and every employee should strive to enhance the corporation's reputation by maintaining discipline and delivering quality work.

The Mayor also highlighted the significance of effective health and sanitation management in Hyderabad and called on the new recruits to give special attention to public health services, ensuring they contribute to the city's well-being.

HYDRAA Sets Deadline for Removal of Unauthorized Advertisement Hoardings

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : On Monday, March 3, the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) issued a final deadline for the removal of unauthorized advertisement hoardings across the city. HYDRAA Commissioner AV Ranganath announced that individuals and agencies responsible for these hoardings have until Sunday to remove them voluntarily.

Ranganath clarified that any unauthorized hoardings remaining after the deadline will be removed by HYDRAA itself. The agency had previously demolished illegal advertising hoardings on February 13 in a crackdown on unauthorized advertisements by several agencies, including

Prakash Arts Pvt Ltd, Lead Space, UNI ADS, and others.

On February 7, HYDRAA enforcement teams conducted a special drive along the Hyderabad-Bengaluru National Highway, removing both expired and unauthorized hoardings. Ranganath confirmed that the hoardings removed had either expired permits or no government approval.

In addition to the advertisement crackdown, HYDRAA had also carried out demolition drives against illegal land encroachments in various parts of Hyderabad, including Dammaiguda, Kapra, and Medchal-Malkajgiri, following public complaints about unauthorized construction and obstructions to public movement.



TGSRTC Introduces 6 Electric AC Buses for IT Corridor in Hyderabad

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : On Monday, March 3, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) launched six green metro luxury electric AC buses aimed at enhancing the commute for IT corridor passengers in Hyderabad. These buses will operate on two major routes to serve commuters working in the tech hub. The newly launched buses will run on the following routes: Bus number 216W will connect Lingampally and Mehdiapatnam via Nallagandla, Wipro Circle, Nanakramguda, Khajaguda, Tolichowki, and Mehdiapatnam. Meanwhile, Bus number 216G will run between Lingampally and Lakshmi Gar via Nallagandla, Q City, Wipro Circle, and Lakshmi Gar.

This initiative is part of TGSRTC's efforts to alleviate traffic congestion in the city's IT corridor. Over the past six months, TGSRTC introduced multiple bus routes to ease the commute for software employees and other professionals in the area, based on extensive surveys at metro stations, bus stations, and workplaces to understand travel patterns and requirements. In addition to these routes, TGSRTC has also introduced the "Metro Express Ladies Special" bus service for the IT corridor, specifically for women commuters. The pilot service, running from JNTU to Wave Rock, aims to provide a comfortable and secure commute during office hours. The bus service, which starts at 9 am, covers key locations like Forum/Nexus Mall, Hitech City, Mindspace, Raidurg, Bio-Diversity Park, Gachibowli 'X' road, and more, catering to the needs of an estimated five lakh employees working in Hyderabad's IT sector.



Mehda Patkar in Hyderabad: Police on High Alert



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : Prominent social activist and Narmada Bachao Andolan leader, Mehda Patkar, made a sudden appearance in Hyderabad, sparking a stir. She visited a residence in the Chaderghat area of the city, prompting swift action from the local police, who immediately reached the location upon receiving the information.

There is significant speculation in political circles that Mehda Patkar was in the city to inspect the Musi River beautification project. During the encounter, the police reportedly took her into custody and escorted her out of the area.

According to reports, Mehda Patkar clarified to the police that she had only come to meet her friends and was not there for any specific activist-related agenda. However, sources suggest that the police dismissed her explanation and advised her to leave the city. The situation has raised considerable political discussions in Hyderabad regarding her unexpected visit.



Hyderabad Airport Sees 22% Cargo Growth in 2024, Pharmaceutical Exports Dominate

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) has reported an impressive 22% year-on-year cargo growth in 2024, handling a total of 1,80,914 metric tonnes (MT) of cargo. The surge was driven by a significant 36% increase in international cargo, which reached 1,08,520 MT, and a 5% rise in domestic cargo, which totaled 72,395 MT. A major highlight is the dominance of pharmaceutical cargo, which accounts for 72% of the airport's total exports. The United States and Europe remain the leading destinations for Hyderabad's cargo, contributing 51% of total exports.

Further bolstering its position as a global cargo hub, RGIA enhanced its international connectivity with the launch of freighter services by Ethiopian Airlines to Addis Ababa and Lufthansa Cargo's direct operations using Boeing 777F freighters from Hyderabad. For the second consecutive year, the airport was recognized as the best performing airport for cargo import release times in the National Time Release Study (NTRS) 2024, conducted by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). It was also ranked second for export release times.

To meet the growing demand, the airport is expanding its cargo infrastructure.

Cargo Terminal 1 is being upgraded with new facilities, including an international courier/express terminal and an export perishables terminal. Cargo Terminal 2 is under construction, with phase 1 scheduled to open this year, expected to further increase handling capacity. Additionally, 20,000 square feet of new warehousing space is being developed in the RGIA Cargo Village. Pradeep Panicker, CEO of GMR Hyderabad International Airport, expressed his satisfaction with the remarkable cargo growth and reaffirmed the airport's commitment to expanding infrastructure and optimizing cargo operations to meet diverse needs.

Builders Association Representatives Meet Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy to Discuss Pending Bills

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : On Monday, representatives of the Builders Association met with Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy to address the issue of pending bills for small contractors. The association members highlighted that nearly ₹100 crore worth of bills for work done by small contractors were still unpaid, causing significant hardships for them.

The builders requested the minister to expedite the release of these pending bills, assuring that it would enable them to continue their work without delays and complete ongoing projects faster. They also raised concerns about pending bills related to roads constructed in Left Wing Affected Areas, CRIF areas, and non-planned zones, urging the minister to ensure these are settled as well.

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, after discussing the issue with the representatives, assured them that he would bring the matter to the attention of the Chief Minister and work



towards clearing the pending bills by the end of March. He emphasized that while addressing the pending payments, contractors must ensure that the ongoing work is carried out without any delays. The minister also reminded them of the critical role roads play in the lives of the public, stressing that good roads are essential to avoid public inconvenience.

The Builders Association committee expressed their gratitude for the swift response and assurance from the minister. Among those present at the meeting were former State Chairman of the Builders Association D.V.N. Reddy, former Chairman Devender Reddy, Vice Chairman Ravinder Reddy, Treasurer Santosh Reddy, Sampath Rao, Krishnaraju, and other members.

Bhavani Sri IAS Assumes Charge as Secretary of National Turmeric Board



TPN , Correspondent

Nizamabad , Mar 04 : Shri Bhavani Sri, recently appointed as the Secretary of the National Turmeric Board, took charge today at the board's office in Nizamabad. On the occasion, she met the National Chairman of the Turmeric Board, Palle Ganga Reddy, and presented him with a bouquet as a courtesy gesture.

Soon after assuming her responsibilities, Bhavani Sri, along with Chairman

Palle Ganga Reddy, visited a turmeric-based industry established under the Atmanirbhar Bharat scheme at Manoharabad in Jakranpally mandal. This initiative, with an investment of ₹3 crore, involves over 600 farmers from various villages in the mandal, and Bhavani Sri lauded the effort. She expressed that such industries benefit turmeric farmers and provide ample employment opportunities for local youth.

Following this, the newly appointed secretary visited the Turmeric Research Centre at Kammar Palli mandal, where scientist Mahender Reddy explained the services provided to farmers. The visit was attended by Spices Board Deputy Director Sundarshan, Tirupati Reddy, and other officials. Bhavani Sri's visit highlighted her commitment to supporting turmeric farmers and fostering industrial development in the region.

8K Chickens Die in Bird Flu Outbreak in Telangana's Medak and Sangareddy

TPN , Correspondent

Sangareddy , Mar 04 : A fresh outbreak of bird flu (Avian Influenza) has been reported in Telangana's Medak and Sangareddy districts, with approximately 8,000 chickens found dead. Of these, 7,000 chickens died in Sangareddy over the past three days, while 1,000 chickens succumbed to the disease in Medak.

This follows a bird flu outbreak earlier in February, when 900 chickens died at a poultry farm in Taddanipalli, Medak district, on February 23. In another incident, around 1,000 chickens died in the Jalalpur area of Medak, owned by Satish Goud, with veterinary officials scheduled to visit the farm on

Monday to investigate further.

The first case of bird flu in Telangana was reported on February 23 in Nelapatla village, Choutuppal mandal, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district. The outbreak has raised concerns in the neighboring states of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, which have also reported similar cases. This has prompted the Telangana government to step up surveillance and containment measures.

Veterinary and animal husbandry officials have already visited the affected areas and implemented sanitization measures to contain the outbreak. Additionally, samples from five nearby poultry farms within a one-kilometer



radius have been sent for testing, and all poultry farms within a 10-km radius will be closely monitored for any further spread of the virus. Authorities are urging vigilance and caution to prevent the situation from escalating.

Minister Konda Surekha Advocates Overcoming Hearing Impairments Through Technology on World Hearing Day



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 04 : On the occasion of World Hearing Day, Telangana State Forest, Environment, and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha emphasized the importance of overcoming hearing impairments through technological advancements. Speaking at an event held at the M.A.T. ENT Hospital in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, she acknowledged that hearing is a significant gift from God, but some individuals in society face hearing impairments due to specific issues.

The Minister expressed her concern over this, highlighting the global impact of hearing loss, with over 5% of the world's population (approximately 430 million people) suffering from hearing impairments. She referenced data from the World Health Organization (WHO), which predicts that by 2050, more than 700 million people, or one in every ten individuals, will be affected by hearing loss. Minister Surekha unveiled a poster and observed cultural programs performed by children who had successfully undergone surgery. She also honored the medical staff for their dedication. She noted the impor-

ance of dispelling misconceptions surrounding ear diseases and emphasized the need for timely medical intervention to prevent hearing loss. With proper care, it's possible to prevent up to 60% of childhood hearing impairments, she said.

She applauded M.A.T. ENT Hospital for successfully completing over 700 cochlear implant surgeries, calling it a significant achievement. Minister Surekha reiterated the government's commitment to supporting humanitarian efforts in providing quality healthcare services.

She also urged for collaboration between the government, private sector, and NGOs to raise awareness and work together to control hearing impairments.

Minister Surekha acknowledged former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's vision for providing accessible healthcare to the public and assured that she would raise the issue of making such services available under the Aarogyasri scheme in future cabinet discussions.

The event was attended by M.A.T. ENT Group Chairperson Sunitha Kumar, Hospital MD Meghnath, ENT doctors, and other staff.

Farmers Protest in Siddipet Over Water Scarcity for Crops

TPN , Correspondent

Siddipet , Mar 04 : Farmers from Ankampet and Sitarampalli villages in Siddipet district held a sit-in protest on Monday, demanding the release of water from the right canal of Ranganayaka Sagar to irrigate their crops. The farmers claimed that their standing crops were drying up due to insufficient water supply, and they accused irrigation officials of neglecting their concerns.

The protest took place on the main road connecting Ankampet and Sitarampalli villages. The farmers urged irrigation authorities to immediately release water into the irrigation tanks of the villages, to save their crops from further damage.

The protest comes in the wake of increasing concerns regarding the summer months, and despite instructions from the Telangana Chief Minister, who recently directed officials to release water for crops from various projects in the state. The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of managing water resources judiciously to meet the irrigation, drinking water, and electricity needs, as demand for all these will rise significantly in the coming months.

Farmers expressed frustration that their needs were being overlooked by local irrigation officials and called for urgent action to prevent further crop loss.



14 Naxals Surrender to Telangana Police in Bhadradi Kothagudem

TPN , Correspondent

Kothagudem , Mar 04 : Fourteen members of the banned CPI (Maoist) party surrendered to the Telangana police in Bhadradi Kothagudem district on Monday. The surrender occurred after the Naxals learned about the welfare initiatives provided under "Operation Cheyutha," which focuses on the welfare of tribals, especially those wishing to leave the Maoist movement. The surrendered Maoists approached the police and presented themselves before Superintendent of Police B Rohit Raju. The decision to surrender was influenced by a meeting held earlier in January, known as the Atmeeya Sammelanam, where the police discussed

the benefits available to surrendered Maoists with their families.

This latest surrender marks the continuation of a trend, with 44 Maoists having laid down arms over the past two months alone. The police have been actively encouraging Maoists to surrender by offering welfare support through programs aimed at rehabilitation and reintegration into society. The SP also encouraged remaining Maoist members to contact the police through their families for a peaceful surrender. Earlier, in February, a Maoist leader, Vanjem Kesha, involved in the killing of two police officers, had surrendered in Warangal district.

In a similar development, 19 other Maoists, including some from the Kanker, Bijapur, Dantewada, and Sukma districts in Chhattisgarh, also surrendered in Bhadradi Kothagudem. Among these surrenders, one Maoist was a Divisional Committee Member (DVCN), who had a bounty of Rs 8 lakh, while two others were Area Committee Members (ACMs) with rewards of Rs 4 lakh each.

These surrenders are seen as part of the ongoing efforts by police and CRPF forces under "Operation Cheyutha" to reduce Maoist influence in the region and provide a peaceful path for those wishing to leave the armed struggle.



Gangadhar Rao Proves Sri Vari System Can Revolutionize Rice Farming



Rice is a staple food in South India, and its cultivation plays a crucial role in the region's agricultural economy. However, the traditional method of cultivating rice in wetland conditions has become increasingly expensive due to rising labor costs and high water consumption. On average, a farmer requires 3,500 liters of water to produce just one kilogram of rice. Additionally, traditional rice farming demands 25 to 30 kilograms of seeds per acre, and yields generally range between 30 and 40 quintals per acre.

In this context, an innovative method known as the Sri Vari system, or the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), has emerged as a sustainable and high-yield approach. This method minimizes water usage while maximizing output, making it a viable solution for modern farmers. Recognizing the potential of this system, a young farmer from Dendulur village in Eluru district, Ramachellu Gangadhar Rao, has successfully adopted and implemented it on 30 acres of farmland.



Sri Vari System: A New Era in Rice Cultivation

The Sri Vari system is an alternative method of rice farming that focuses on optimal spacing, minimal water usage, and organic farming practices. Unlike conventional methods, which require continuous water storage in each furrow, this system ensures that the soil remains moist but not flooded.

Some key principles of the Sri Vari system include:

- Minimal seed usage: Instead of 25 to 30 kg of seeds per acre, only 2 to 3 kg of seeds are needed.
- Transplanting younger seedlings: Rice seedlings that are 8 to 14 days old are transplanted, ensuring faster and healthier growth.
- Proper plant spacing: A gap of 25 cm is maintained between each plant, which enhances root development and increases nutrient absorption.
- Use of mechanical weeders: A cone weeder or rotary weeder is employed from 10 days after planting, reducing weed growth and aerating the soil.
- Water management: The field is kept moist but without excess water accumulation, significantly reducing water consumption.



The Benefits of Sri Vari System

Higher Yields: The method results in improved tillering, leading to higher grain production per plant. Farmers have reported an increase in yield, surpassing 50 to 60 quintals per acre, compared to traditional methods that yield around 30 to 40 quintals.

- Water Conservation: By avoiding continuous water submergence, water consumption is reduced by up to 50%.
- Cost-Effective: With reduced seed requirements and minimal labor dependency for irrigation, the overall cultivation cost decreases.
- Better Soil Health: The use of organic practices and natural soil aeration methods helps maintain soil fertility.
- Climate Resilience: The system enhances plant resilience against drought conditions, making it a sustainable choice in regions facing erratic rainfall.
- Gangadhar Rao's success with the Sri Vari system has set an example for other farmers in the region. As more cultivators explore this innovative approach, the potential for sustainable and profitable rice farming in Andhra Pradesh continues to grow.



Success Story of Gangadhar Rao

Gangadhar Rao, a progressive farmer from Eluru, has been implementing the Sri Vari system on his 30-acre land, which consists of fertile carbon-rich soil. He selected BPT-2595, a long-duration rice variety that takes 160 days to mature. By adopting the 1 x 1 full-sediment method under the Sri Vari system, he has achieved remarkable results. In his fields, only 2 to 3 kg of seeds are used per acre, and seedlings are carefully planted following the specified spacing pattern. The method not only enhances crop productivity but also ensures better soil fertility through natural processes.



Trump-Zelensky Showdown: No, Putin Is Not The Winner Here

The public confrontation between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and U.S. President Donald Trump in the Oval Office has sparked significant ripple effects that will be felt in the short to medium term. While many have already analyzed the incident itself, it's now essential to consider its broader implications.

For Ukraine, the fallout is severe. Zelensky's bold stand against Trump may have bolstered his nationalist image domestically, but it has come at a high cost. Despite visiting the U.S. with the goal of securing security guarantees, the spat has likely jeopardized Ukraine's relationship with its most important ally. The U.S., which has been crucial in providing military and financial support, may now be less inclined to continue its aid. The Ukrainian military, already struggling against a much larger Russian force, finds itself in a more vulnerable position with its security prospects diminished.

For the U.S., the public clash has tarnished its global reputation. Washington's inability to secure vital resources from Ukraine, such as rare earth elements, and its failure to maintain a consistent foreign policy strategy, particularly regarding Russia, undermine the U.S.'s position as a global leader. Trump's handling of the situation—mixing personal grievances with national interests—has cast the U.S. as an unpredictable and unreliable ally. Moreover, his defense of Vladimir Putin, despite past investigations into Russian interference in U.S. politics, only deepens doubts about his impartiality and leadership.

Putin, often seen as the beneficiary of such disputes, may not emerge as the clear winner. While the U.S.-Ukraine rift weakens Kyiv, it also complicates Moscow's own ambitions. A prolonged conflict and continued Western sanctions are not in Russia's interest, and a potential European military bloc opposing Russian aggression could prove formidable.

The Legacy of Jihadism: From Sayyid Ahmad's Jihad to Modern Extremism



In 1852, the renowned poet and astrologer Momin Khan Momin met an untimely demise, falling from his terrace in Delhi. Despite his dreams of joining the jihadist movements rising in India's North-West, Momin's fate was quietly sealed in a cemetery, far from the martyrdom he had envisioned. His poetry, once filled with eroticism and adoration of Venus, now turned toward a fervent desire for martyrdom, revealing the complex relationship between personal faith, identity, and the broader forces of jihadism that would soon shape the region.

Last week, a suicide bombing at the Darul Uloom Haqqania seminary in Akora Khattak, Pakistan, epitomized the current state of jihadist extremism that has roots in the very religious foundations Momin yearned to be part of. The seminary, which has historically been a hub for jihadist thought, saw its leader, Hamid Ul Haq Haqqani, targeted by extremists within its own fold. Haqqani had attempted to mediate between Pakistan's government and the Taliban factions, trying to isolate the anti-Pakistan jihadists of the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) and Islamic State. While no group has taken responsibility, factions sympathetic to the Islamic State have expressed their approval, underlining the deep ideological schism within jihadist groups that once drew strength from institutions like Darul Uloom Haqqania.

India's Global Image: The Link Between Domestic Policy and Foreign Relations

A fundamental lesson in foreign policy is that it often reflects a country's domestic values. The ideals a nation practices within its borders—such as justice, equality, and law—are generally mirrored in its foreign policy decisions and actions. When a country promotes human rights and democratic values abroad, it must demonstrate the same commitment at home. This domestic-foreign policy dichotomy can have significant consequences for a nation's global standing.



The United States in the 1990s is an example of how domestic values can influence global leadership. The U.S. promoted a liberal world order that mirrored its democratic, multicultural

ethos. Its inclusive society, commitment to rule of law, and focus on scientific and technological innovation propelled its leadership role in the international system. American uni-

versities became global benchmarks for education, attracting international students who saw the U.S. as a land of opportunity. The country's soft power, driven by its inclusive culture and

strong governance, made it an attractive destination for talent and investment.

However, under Trump's administration, the U.S. has begun to reverse this trajectory, with implications for its role in the liberal world order. A shift away from inclusivity and openness undermines the U.S.'s global appeal, damaging its soft power and its ability to lead the world. Soft power is not just about culture; it's about creating a society where justice, equality, and scientific inquiry are central to governance. Without this, soft power strategies become less effective, and in some cases, may backfire.

India faces a similar challenge, particularly in its quest for soft power. While India envisions a liberal and inclusive global order, its domestic system has yet to fully shed its hierarchical and exclusionary practices. This contradiction poses a significant obstacle to India's rise as a global leader, particularly in the developing world. Recent events, such as the mishandling of a student's suicide in a private university, turned into an international crisis, highlighting the disconnect between India's global aspirations and its domestic challenges. If the issue had been addressed with justice and empathy, it could have been resolved without turning into a diplomatic embarrassment.

We take pride in India's contributions towards preserving, protecting wildlife: PM Modi

- PM Modi reaffirms India's biodiversity commitment
- UN-proclaimed day highlights endangered species and habitat loss
- India active in tiger, elephant conservation and anti-trafficking
- Global cooperation key to preserving biodiversity for future



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On World Wildlife Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated India's commitment to protecting and preserving the planet's extraordinary biodiversity. Reflecting on the significance of the day, Modi took to social media to highlight the importance of safeguarding the world's wildlife and ecosystems.

"Today, on #WorldWildlifeDay, let's reiterate our commitment to protect and preserve the incredible biodiversity of our planet," Modi said, reinforcing the need for global cooperation in conservation efforts.

World Wildlife Day, observed every year on

March 3, was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly during its 68th session on December 20, 2013. The day serves as a global platform to celebrate and raise awareness about the diverse wildlife and ecosystems across the globe. It also aims to highlight the critical role wildlife plays in maintaining the health of the planet and the well-being of humanity.

The theme of World Wildlife Day changes annually, focusing on various aspects of wildlife protection. This day serves as a reminder of the need to protect endangered species and the habitats they depend on, as well as the growing challenges posed by human activities like deforestation, pollution, and climate change.

Prime Minister Modi's message underscores India's active role in global conservation efforts, with initiatives focused on preserving the nation's rich biodiversity, including its tiger and elephant populations. India has also been a key player in international environmental discussions, advocating for more effective actions to combat wildlife trafficking and habitat destruction.

As the world celebrates World Wildlife Day, leaders, conservationists, and individuals alike are reminded of the shared responsibility to ensure the survival of wildlife for future generations. With collective effort, the protection and preservation of global biodiversity remain an attainable goal.



Jaishankar to embark on 6-day visit to UK, Ireland to boost trade and bilateral ties

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is set to embark on a six-day official visit to the United Kingdom and Ireland from March 4 to 9. The trip holds significant importance as India and the UK have recently initiated discussions on a free trade agreement (FTA), and Jaishankar's visit is expected to play a crucial role in shaping the future of bilateral relations between the two nations.

India and the UK have long shared a comprehensive strategic partnership that has strengthened in recent years across multiple domains. These include defense and security cooperation, trade and economic ties, healthcare, education, and people-to-people connections. The UK is one of India's most important economic partners, and the ongoing talks on an FTA are expected to boost trade and investment between the two countries. Jaishankar's visit to the UK is anticipated to set the tone for continued collaboration, ensuring that both nations can build on this momentum for mutual benefit.

During his visit to the UK, Jaishankar will meet with his UK counterpart, Foreign Secretary David Lammy. He is also expected to hold discussions with other senior government officials, exchange views on important regional and global issues, and strengthen the ongoing cooperation in various sectors. Additionally, Jaishankar will engage with members of the Indian diaspora, which plays a vital role in fostering ties between India and the UK.

Jaishankar will then travel to Ireland on March 6-7 to further solidify the growing friendly bilateral relations between India and Ireland. The two countries share common democratic values and deep cultural ties, which have served as the foundation for their robust relationship. Economic cooperation between the two nations is also expanding, and Jaishankar will meet with his Irish counterpart, Simon Harris, and other dignitaries to explore opportunities for further collaboration. He will also engage with the Indian community in Ireland to promote people-to-people ties and enhance mutual understanding.

Jaishankar's visit is a key step in strengthening India's diplomatic outreach and reinforcing partnerships with two important European nations.

Have Babies Now: MK Stalin's Message For Newlyweds Is A Delimitation Jab



TPN Correspondent | Chennai

In a sharp sarcastic response to the Centre's proposed delimitation plans, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin humorously urged newlywed couples to start planning families immediately to ensure the state's representation during the upcoming exercise. At a wedding function in Nagapattinam, where he was attending a DMK district secretary's wedding, Stalin quipped that while he had previously advised newlyweds to take their time before starting a family, the government's delimitation plans had forced a change of approach. "We focused on family planning and succeeded, but now, with policies like delimitation being proposed by the Union Government, we cannot say that anymore. I now urge newlyweds to have children immediately and give them good Tamil names," Stalin said.

The DMK, under Stalin's leadership, has been outspoken in its opposition to the Centre's delimitation exercise, which is expected to occur after 2026. Delimitation involves redrawing the boundaries of parliamentary and assembly constituencies to reflect demographic changes over time. Stalin argued that southern states, including Tamil Nadu, could be at a disadvantage since these states had successfully implemented family planning policies. He claimed that this population control would lead to fewer seats for the south in Parliament, despite their contribution to India's economic growth and welfare. In response, BJP spokesperson CR Keshavan dismissed Stalin's remarks as "desperate and dishonest diversionary drama." Keshavan pointed out that the DMK was silent on Rahul Gandhi's call for "Jitni Abadi, Utna Haq" (rights proportional to population), which he said directly contradicted the DMK's stance on population-based delimitation.

Paytm Faces ED Show Cause Notice Over Alleged FEMA Violations

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Shares of One 97 Communications (OCL), the parent company of Paytm, dropped 4.4% to an intraday low of Rs 685 on the BSE on Monday following a show cause notice from the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The notice, linked to alleged violations of foreign exchange rules under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), involves transactions worth Rs 611 crore, impacting Paytm and two of its subsidiaries.

According to Paytm's regulatory filing with the BSE on Saturday, the ED identified non-compliance of Rs 245 crore in OCL, Rs 345 crore in Little Internet, and Rs 20.9 crore in Nearby India. The notice, dated February 27, was received by the company on Friday evening. While Paytm did not provide further details about the nature of the violations, the company stated that it has been cooperating with authorities and will respond appropriately.

The development comes at a time when Paytm is already under regulatory scrutiny. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had recently imposed restrictions on Paytm

Payments Bank, barring it from accepting fresh deposits after March 15 due to compliance concerns. This has led to increased volatility in Paytm's stock, which has declined significantly since the RBI's directive.

Market analysts believe that the ED's show cause notice adds to investor concerns over Paytm's regulatory challenges. The company has been facing pressure to strengthen compliance and address governance issues. The ongoing scrutiny could impact its operations and business confidence, particularly as it seeks to assure stakeholders about its financial health.

In response to the ED notice, Paytm reiterated its commitment to full compliance with regulatory requirements. The company assured investors and customers that its core businesses remain unaffected and that it continues to work with regulators to resolve any outstanding concerns.

With this latest development, market observers will closely monitor Paytm's next steps, particularly how it addresses compliance issues and reassures investors amid growing regulatory pressure.



ED HAS ISSUED SHOW CAUSE NOTICE (SCN) TO M/S ONE97 COMMUNICATION LTD (PARENT COMPANY OF PAYTM), AND ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR AND OTHERS FOR THE CONTRAVENTIONS OF PROVISIONS OF FEMA, 1999.



Bhutan PM Tshering Tobgay on India-Bhutan Relations and High-Value Tourism

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In an exclusive interview with Divya A, Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay discussed the unique and trusting relationship between Bhutan and India, emphasizing the importance of high-value tourism while also expressing caution about over-tourism in the country. Tobgay highlighted that despite Bhutan's small size, its relationship with a powerful neighbor like India is rooted in genuine goodwill, with no hidden interests.

Tobgay spoke about the concept of high-value tourism, a key aspect of Bhutan's strategy to maintain its cultural and environmental integrity while welcoming visitors, particularly from India. While the country does value tourism and seeks to increase footfall, it does not want to overwhelm its infrastructure or lose its essence by opening the floodgates to mass tourism.



During the virtual interaction from Thimphu, ahead of the release of his book *Enlightened Leadership* (Penguin), which reflects on Bhutan's transition from a monarchy to a democracy, Tobgay also discussed the trust and cooperation between India and Bhutan. He addressed

concerns regarding potential trust deficits in the relationship, emphasizing that the two nations share a deep bond built on mutual respect and understanding.

Tobgay's relationship with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also a topic of discussion. He acknowledged the personal rapport between the two leaders, which has helped strengthen bilateral ties, especially in areas like trade, security, and regional cooperation. Tobgay reiterated Bhutan's commitment to preserving its sovereignty while benefiting from India's support, reinforcing the long-standing friendship between the two nations.

As Bhutan navigates the challenges of modernization and global engagement, the Prime Minister remains focused on maintaining the balance between progress and preservation, ensuring that Bhutan's unique identity remains intact for future generations.

Bangladesh has no option but to have good ties with India: Muhammad Yunus

- Yunus reaffirmed the close relationship between the two nations.
- He acknowledged some conflicts due to misinformation but emphasized efforts to resolve misunderstandings.
- Bangladesh seeks a meeting between Yunus and PM Modi during the April 3-4 event in Thailand.



TPN Correspondent | Bangladesh

Bangladesh's interim government chief, Muhammad Yunus, reaffirmed the importance of maintaining strong relations with India, stating that both countries are deeply interconnected and reliant on each other. His remarks came ahead of the upcoming BIMSTEC Summit in Thailand on April 3-4, where Bangladesh is keen to arrange a meeting between Yunus and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In an interview with BBC Bangla, Yunus acknowledged that "propaganda" has led to "some

conflicts" between the two nations but emphasized that efforts are being made to overcome any misunderstandings. He did not specify the source of this alleged propaganda but stressed that both countries remain in constant communication, with regular high-level visits strengthening diplomatic ties.

Describing India-Bangladesh relations as "very good," Yunus dismissed concerns of any deterioration, asserting that the two neighbors have no option but to maintain close cooperation. "There has been no deterioration, our relations will always be good. They are good now and they will

be good in the future," he said.

Yunus further highlighted the historical, political, and economic ties that bind the two nations, making isolation impossible. Over the years, India and Bangladesh have engaged in trade, security cooperation, and cultural exchanges, further cementing their partnership.

The upcoming BIMSTEC Summit is expected to serve as a platform to discuss key regional issues, with Bangladesh looking to reinforce its strategic ties with India amid evolving geopolitical dynamics.



Trudeau to bring up Trump's threat to annex Canada in meeting with King Charles

TPN Correspondent | Seoul

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is set to meet with King Charles III on Monday to discuss the ongoing threat posed by US President Donald Trump to make Canada the 51st state. The meeting comes after growing criticism in Canada of the monarch's silence regarding these provocative remarks from Trump.

In a statement made in London on Sunday, Trudeau emphasized the importance of addressing issues crucial to Canadians, particularly focusing on "standing up for our sovereignty and our independence as a nation." Canada, as a member of the British Commonwealth, recognizes King Charles as its head of state. However, the monarch's recent silence on Trump's threats has sparked renewed debate on Canada's relationship with the monarchy.

While Canada's anti-royal sentiment remains relatively small, the issue has gained traction following the lack of comment from King Charles regarding Trump's controversial remarks. The US President's suggestion that Canada could be annexed has raised concerns, particularly among those who feel the monarch should take a firmer stance on defending Canadian sovereignty. Former Alberta Premier Jason Kenney weighed in on the matter, stating that for those in Canada who are disappointed by King Charles' silence, it's important to remember that the monarch acts on the advice of the Canadian government. Kenney urged the Canadian government to ask King Charles to make a statement underscoring the nation's independence.

King Charles has recently met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and despite the controversy, he has invited Trump for a state visit to Scotland. Constitutional lawyer Lyle Skinner also weighed in, expressing hope that Trudeau's upcoming audience with the king would lead to a public statement reaffirming Canada's sovereignty.

As Trudeau prepares for his meeting with the king, the issue of Canadian independence and the monarchy's role in defending it is expected to be a key point of discussion.

Permit Cancellations, Financial Burden: Canada's New Visa Rules Impact Indian Students



TPN Correspondent | Canada

Canada has recently implemented stricter immigration and visa policies aimed at reducing illegal migration, significantly impacting Indian students pursuing higher education. Since the new Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations took effect on January 31, several students have reported sudden permit cancellations, intensified scrutiny of visa applications, and stricter enforcement of departure requirements. Nikhil Jain, founder of Foreign-Admits, mentioned that many students, despite having strong academic records, have lost their permits. Jain projected that Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) could revoke permits for up to 7,000 students this year, potentially affecting the 427,000 Indian students currently in Canada.

If a student's permit is revoked, they may be required to leave Canada unless they can successfully appeal the decision. However, the legal fees for such appeals start at C\$1,500, with no guarantees of success. "We are advising our clients to meticulously document everything, including every hour worked and every address change, which must be reported within seven days," said Jain. "Canada's shift from a welcoming stance to a more suspicious approach means students must adapt quickly." This tightening of immigration policies has also led to a significant reduction in study permits issued to Indian students, with a 40% drop since the fourth quarter of 2023. Additionally, the new C\$20,635 Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) requirement for Fall 2025 applicants has become a financial hurdle for many middle-class Indian families.

Replacing Me Will Not Be Simple": Ukraine President Zelensky

TPN Correspondent | Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has responded to suggestions from US Republicans that he may need to step down, offering a candid defense of his leadership. In an interview with British media, Zelensky acknowledged that replacing him as president would not be straightforward, reiterating his willingness to step down in exchange for NATO membership for Ukraine.



This statement comes after a dramatic shift in US politics, with former President Donald Trump turning against Zelensky during a contentious Oval Office meeting about the ongoing war with Russia. During this meeting, Trump and several Republican figures questioned Zelensky's leadership, suggesting that his personal and political motivations might be hindering efforts to end the conflict. National Security Advisor Mike Waltz emphasized the need for a leader who could negotiate with Russia and end the war, suggesting that if Zelensky's goals diverged from this objective, it could become problematic.

In his response, Zelensky remarked, "If they replace me, given what is going on, given the support, simply replacing me will not be simple." He added that holding elections

and preventing him from running would not be sufficient, hinting that any potential replacement would need to engage in negotiations with him. Zelensky also repeated his stance on NATO membership, saying, "I am exchanging for NATO. Then I fulfilled my mission."

The tensions with the US escalated following the Oval Office meeting, where Zelensky left without securing a preliminary agreement on Ukrainian mineral rights. While European leaders continue to support Ukraine,

the US Republican Party has raised concerns over Zelensky's leadership, with Speaker of the House Mike Johnson stating that Zelensky either needs to "come to his senses" or be replaced.

Despite the controversy, Zelensky remains steadfast in his calls for NATO membership, an issue that has been a major point of contention since Russia's invasion of Ukraine three years ago. The alliance has been hesitant to offer Ukraine membership, fearing further escalation with Russia.

UK Investigates TikTok, Reddit, and Imgur Over Children's Data Privacy Concerns

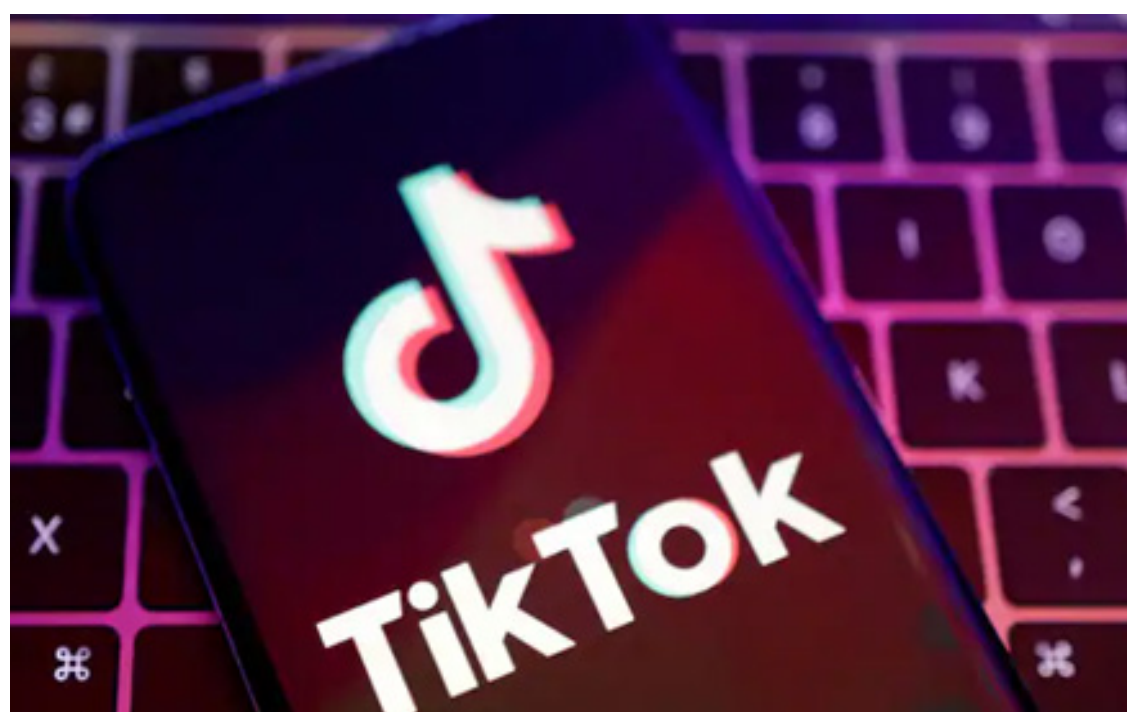
TPN Correspondent | UK

Britain's privacy watchdog, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), has launched an investigation into how popular social media platforms, including TikTok, Reddit, and Imgur, handle children's personal data. The inquiry focuses on how these platforms safeguard the privacy of young users, particularly those aged 13-17, and the role of algorithms in suggesting content based on personal information.

The ICO's investigation targets TikTok's practices around using personal data to recommend content to young users, as concerns grow over the platform's influence on minors. The watchdog is examining whether TikTok's algorithm unduly amplifies content, leading to potential exposure to harmful material. The ICO is also scrutinizing how Reddit and Imgur assess and handle the ages of their users, ensuring that they comply with privacy laws protecting children.

In a statement, the ICO emphasized that if sufficient evidence is found that any of the companies have breached data protection laws, it will take the necessary steps to address the issue. This could involve presenting findings to the companies and seeking their responses before concluding the investigation.

The UK's approach to safeguarding children's



online privacy has been evolving, with stricter rules being implemented in recent years. Legislation now mandates social media platforms to prevent children from accessing inappropriate or harmful content. This includes measures such as enforcing age limits and implementing age-verification processes. The UK government has also proposed measures requiring platforms to adjust their algorithms to filter or reduce the visibility of harmful content, offering greater protection

to younger users.

While TikTok, Reddit, and Imgur have not yet responded to requests for comment, this investigation highlights the growing concern over how social media platforms use personal data, especially when it comes to vulnerable groups like children. With the ICO's probe, the UK is further tightening its oversight of digital platforms, aiming to ensure they prioritize user safety, particularly for minors.

Stock Markets Close Flat After Intraday Recovery Amid Global Uncertainty

Domestic stock markets ended nearly flat on Monday after recovering from early losses driven by global uncertainty and weak signals from Asian and international markets. The morning session saw a sharp decline in benchmark indices as investors reacted to negative cues. However, buying interest emerged later in the day, fueled by optimism over economic recovery, increased consumption, and strong agricultural production in the third quarter. Sectors like metal, realty, healthcare, and pharma provided key support. Despite the recovery, the Nifty ended the session with a marginal loss of 5 points, while the Sensex closed 112 points lower.



The BSE Sensex, which had closed at 73,198 in the previous session, opened higher at 73,427. However, it dropped to an intraday low of 72,784 before rebounding to a high of 73,593. Eventually, the index settled at 73,085, down 112 points. The NSE Nifty opened at 22,194, touched a low of 22,004 and a high of 22,261, before closing at 22,119, down 5 points. Meanwhile, the Nifty Bank index lost 230 points, ending at 48,114. Analysts noted that Nifty faces resistance at 22,300 and has support at 22,000.



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Within the Nifty50, 33 stocks advanced while 17 declined. Gains were led by IT, metal, realty, healthcare, pharma, and consumer stocks. Banking, media, oil, and gas sectors remained under pressure. Among the top gainers were BEL, Grasim, Eicher Motors, JSW Steel, and BPCL. Meanwhile, Bajaj Auto, Coal India, Reliance, Bajaj Finserv, and HDFC Bank were the biggest losers.

Market breadth on the NSE strongly favored sellers, with 2071 stocks declining compared to 880 gainers out of the

3026 traded. Additionally, 12 stocks hit 52-week highs, while 963 touched 52-week lows. Shares of 357 companies hit their lower circuit limits.

On the currency front, the rupee strengthened by 15 paise, closing at 87.36 against the US dollar. In stock-specific movements, Morgan Stanley assigned an overweight rating to International Gemological with a target price of ₹617. Jefferies maintained a buy rating on Polycab India but lowered its target price from ₹7700 to ₹6485.

Welspun Living's stock surged 8.87% to ₹116. Indian Overseas Bank hit a 52-week low for the second consecutive day after receiving a ₹699 crore demand notice. Jio Finance saw 10 lakh shares change hands. The mutual fund corpus of women investors has doubled over the past five years.

In corporate updates, Piramal Enterprises received a GST notice worth ₹1502 crore. Dalmia Bharat announced a ₹3520 crore investment in Maharashtra and Karnataka. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank completed the sale of its stressed loan portfolio. United Drilling secured an ₹80 crore order from Oil India, while NCC won a ₹218 crore project from a state government.

India on Track to Meet Fiscal Deficit Target of 4.8% for FY25

The central government is expected to achieve its fiscal deficit target of 4.8% of GDP for the financial year 2024-25 (FY25), according to a recent report by Bank of Baroda. The report attributes this to a combination of higher-than-expected nominal GDP growth, stable revenue receipts, and controlled expenditure.



The report highlights three key factors supporting the government's fiscal consolidation efforts. First, the nominal GDP growth rate for FY25 is projected to be 9.9%, slightly higher than the 9.7% estimated in the Union Budget. A higher GDP growth rate typically enhances revenue collections, thereby assisting in managing the fiscal deficit target.

Second, government expenditure patterns have played a crucial role. Due to the general elections, spending remained subdued in the first half of the fiscal year. However, in the latter half (H2), the government increased its spending, ensuring that overall expenditure remained within budgetary limits. This controlled spending approach has helped in maintaining fiscal discipline while supporting economic activities.

Third, steady revenue receipts have strengthened the government's fiscal position. Direct tax collections, including corporate and personal income

tax, have shown resilience, while indirect taxes such as Goods and Services Tax (GST) have continued to generate robust revenue. Additionally, non-tax revenues from dividends, disinvestments, and asset monetization have provided supplementary financial support.

The Bank of Baroda report suggests that with these factors in place, the government is well-positioned to achieve its fiscal deficit target without requiring major policy adjustments. It also notes that maintaining fiscal prudence is essential to ensure economic stability while continuing to invest in infrastructure, social welfare, and other priority sectors.

Overall, the government's focus on balancing growth and fiscal responsibility appears to be yielding positive results. By managing expenditures efficiently and leveraging strong revenue collections, the central government is expected to remain on course to meet its fiscal deficit target, reinforcing confidence in India's economic resilience.

India's Manufacturing Growth Slows in February, PMI Drops to 56.3

India's private sector manufacturing activity, as measured by the HSBC Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), slowed to 56.3 in February 2025, reflecting the slowest sales growth in over a year. This marks a decline from January's reading of 57.7, according to HSBC's latest report. Despite the slowdown, the PMI remained in expansion territory for the 44th consecutive month, as a reading above 50 indicates growth.



The manufacturing sector experienced a dip in momentum, with both sales and output falling to a 14-month low. Factory activity levels had previously reached a 12-month low in December but showed a temporary rebound to a six-month high in January. However, February saw a renewed deceleration, primarily due to subdued domestic demand.

HSBC's India Chief Economist, Pranjul Bhandari, noted that strong global demand continued to support the manufacturing sector, encouraging firms to increase purchasing activity and expand their workforce. "Business expectations remained very strong, with nearly one-third of survey participants anticipating higher output volumes in the year ahead. Although growth slowed to the weakest level since December 2023, overall momentum remained broadly positive," she stated.

Despite the slowdown, manufacturers ob-

served an increase in new orders, particularly from international markets. Export demand remained robust in February, contributing to job creation as firms responded to higher overseas orders. The steady expansion in hiring reflects an overall positive business outlook despite temporary challenges.

However, manufacturers faced rising input costs, with prices increasing for raw materials such as bamboo, rubber, and leather. Additionally, expenses related to marketing and telecom services also rose, putting pressure on production costs. Companies responded by passing on a portion of these costs to consumers through higher pricing. Labour costs also increased, further adding to the financial burden on manufacturers.

Meanwhile, India's overall industrial output growth declined to a four-month low of 3.2% in February. While the manufacturing sector remains on a growth trajectory, cost pressures and fluctuating domestic demand continue to shape the industry's outlook in 2025.

Paytm Shares Drop Over 4% After ED Notice on Alleged FEMA Violations

Shares of One97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm, plunged over 4% on Monday (March 3, 2025) after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) issued a notice regarding alleged violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). The notice pertains to investment transactions involving Paytm and its subsidiaries, Little Internet and Nearbuy.



On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), Paytm's stock dropped 4.39% to ₹683.55 per share, while on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), it fell 4.37% to ₹685 per share. The broader market also saw declines, with the BSE Sensex slipping 271.22 points to 72,926.88, and the NSE Nifty falling 93.60 points to 22,031.10.

In a regulatory filing on February 1, 2025, Paytm disclosed that it had received the ED notice concerning alleged FEMA contraventions from 2015 to 2019. The violations reportedly involve Paytm's acquisition of Little Internet Private Limited (LIPL) and Nearbuy India Private Limited (NIPL), formerly Groupon India.

One97 Communications clarified that some of the alleged breaches occurred before LIPL and NIPL became its subsidiaries. The notice does not specify financial penalties but references transactions totaling over ₹611 crore. According to Paytm, the alleged violations include ₹245 crore linked to One97 Communications, ₹345 crore related to LIPL, and ₹21 crore concerning NIPL.

Paytm emphasized that the issue does not impact its services, assuring users that all operations remain fully functional and secure. The company is seeking legal advice to address the matter and explore appropriate remedies.

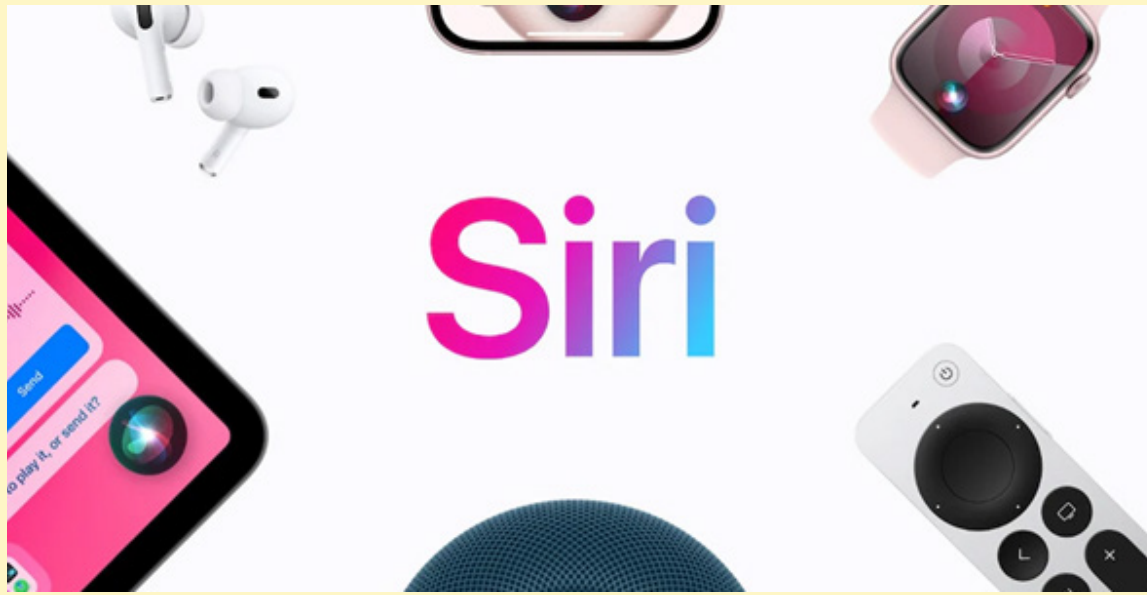
The fintech giant acquired Little Internet and Nearbuy in 2017. Groupon India, which later became Nearbuy, was initially launched in 2011 by Ankur Warikoo. Warikoo and the core management team took over the business in 2015, making it an independent entity before its eventual acquisition by Paytm.

As the regulatory investigation unfolds, Paytm remains focused on resolving the matter in compliance with legal requirements. Despite the stock decline, the company reiterated its commitment to ensuring uninterrupted service for its consumers and merchants.

Apple's AI-Powered Siri May Be Delayed Until iOS 20 in 2027

Apple is reportedly facing challenges in upgrading its Siri assistant to the level showcased at its Worldwide Developer Conference (WWDC) 2024. According to a report from Bloomberg's Mark Gurman, the tech giant is working to roll out the first set of artificial intelligence (AI) features for Siri by May 2025. However, this version is expected to fall short of the expectations set by the demo, with the full implementation potentially taking until 2027 with the release of iOS 20.

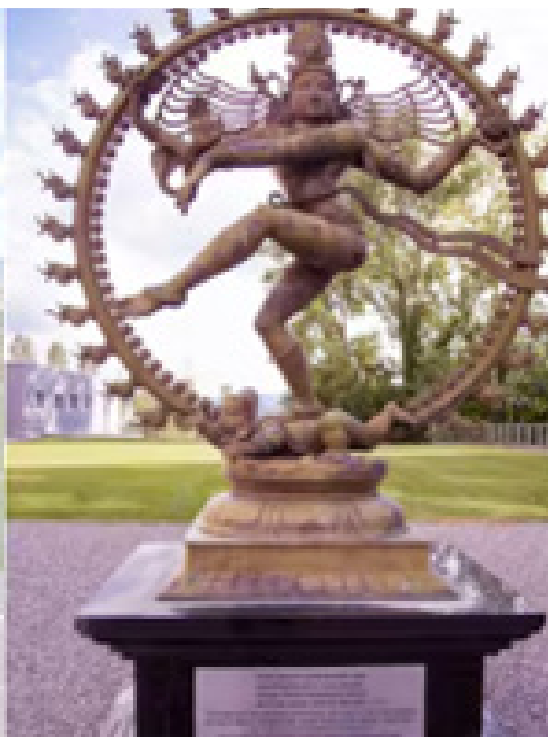
The new AI-powered version of Siri is expected to integrate user data and apps for more complex tasks. Currently, Apple's AI features have seen low real-world usage, with many users finding them non-essential. The new Siri will combine the legacy Siri system with a new AI-driven brain, but this combination may result in a less-than-smooth experience, according to Gurman. Apple is planning to merge these systems in the future, potentially with a new architecture for Siri that could debut with iOS 19.4 in 2026, though that release is also reportedly delayed. Internally, the new Siri is referred to as "LLM Siri" and will bring more conversational ca-



pabilities to the virtual assistant. However, Apple's original plan to release the fully upgraded Siri in 2026 as part of iOS 19 is now pushed to 2027 with the release of iOS 20. To expedite development, Apple recently moved Kim Vorrath, a seasoned software executive, to the AI and machine learning division. Vorrath previously oversaw soft-

ware development for the Vision Pro. The struggles with Siri and the delays in its rollout could even put the future of John Giannandrea, Apple's Senior Vice President of Machine Learning and AI Strategy, at risk. Giannandrea, who previously served as SVP of Engineering at Google, is reportedly under scrutiny as the delays continue.

The Fascinating Connection Between Lord Shiva and CERN's Nataraj Statue



began in the 1960s. It was unveiled on June 18, 2004, by Dr. Robert Aymar, the Director-General of CERN, and other prominent figures, including Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. At the time, Dr. Manmohan Singh served as India's Prime Minister.

In Hindu mythology, Nataraj represents Lord Shiva as the cosmic dancer whose dance, known as Tandava, symbolizes the perpetual cycle of creation, preservation, and destruction. This ancient concept mirrors the work done at CERN, where scientists study the "cosmic dance" of subatomic particles, examining the fundamental forces and building blocks of the universe.

The Nataraj statue at CERN is more than an artistic creation; it bridges mythology with science. The metaphor of Shiva's cosmic dance is akin to the rhythms observed in physics, where forces of creation and destruction constantly play out. Fritjof Capra, a physicist, highlighted this connection in his 1970s book *The Tao of Physics*, drawing parallels between the cosmic dance and the discoveries made at CERN. The statue's presence at CERN serves as a powerful reminder that ancient wisdom and modern science can complement each other, fostering a deeper understanding of the universe's mysteries. It exemplifies how mythology and physics intersect in the pursuit of knowledge.

As Maha Shivratri approaches, a unique link between Hindu mythology and modern science is highlighted by the Nataraj statue at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Switzerland. The 2-meter-tall bronze statue, gifted by the Government of India in 2004, symbolizes the deep connection

between the ancient Hindu deity Lord Shiva and the cutting-edge research conducted at CERN, including the discovery of the Higgs boson and the invention of the World Wide Web. The statue, crafted by Tamil Nadu artist Rajan, was a gift from India to celebrate the ongoing collaboration between India and CERN, which

Baker Sets Guinness World Record for Icing 66 Cupcakes in Three Minutes

Michelle Evans-Fecchi, renowned for her appearance on *The Great British Bake Off*, has set a new Guinness World Record by icing an astonishing 66 cupcakes in just three minutes. This impressive feat showcases her exceptional speed and precision in the art of baking.

The record-breaking moment was shared on the official Guinness World Records Instagram, where viewers were treated to a video of Evans-Fecchi effortlessly decorating cupcakes with flawless buttercream swirls. The cupcakes were neatly arranged in front of her, and with each rapid motion, she expertly iced one after another, hitting the remarkable total of 66 in under three minutes. The caption accompanying the post noted, "Most cupcakes iced/frosted in three minutes (individual) 66 by Michelle Evans-Fecchi for @S4C."

The achievement has stunned many in the baking community, as icing cupcakes is often a delicate and time-consuming task that requires attention to detail. Yet Evans-Fecchi's extraordinary speed not only broke the record but also demonstrated the level of skill and efficiency that can be attained with years of practice.

The video has gone viral, with countless viewers expressing their awe and admiration for her talent. The internet is abuzz



with reactions, with many questioning how she managed to achieve such a high number in such a short time. While some fans celebrated her impressive record, others expressed amazement at her flawless technique, which ensured that each cupcake was perfectly decorated despite the rapid pace.

Evans-Fecchi's record has added another feather to her cap, further solidifying her status as one of the baking world's most talented and innovative figures. Her achievement also highlights the combination of speed and artistry required to excel in the highly competitive world of baking.

Scientists Develop Device to Taste Food in Virtual Reality



Imagine experiencing the flavor of a delicious cake without even taking a bite. A team of scientists at The Ohio State University has made this possible with a revolutionary device that brings taste into virtual reality (VR). The 'e-Taste' interface enables users to perceive flavors remotely through sensors and wireless chemical dispensers, marking a breakthrough in VR experiences.

The 'e-Taste' system uses advanced sensors and wireless dispensers to simulate gustation (the sense of taste). The device works by distinguishing molecules like glucose and glutamate, which represent the five basic tastes: sweet, sour, salty, bitter, and umami. Researchers confirmed that it could digitally replicate a range of taste intensities during field tests, offering a unique and safe way to experience taste remotely. The taste sensations are triggered when the system collects data through electrical signals and transmits it wirelessly to a remote device for flavor replication.

Jinghua Li, co-author of the study and assistant professor of materials science and engineering at Ohio State, emphasized that taste and smell have been largely underexplored in VR and augmented reality (AR) environments. "We've developed this next-generation system to fill that gap," she said, highlighting the potential for future advancements in immersive experiences.

The device, inspired by Li's previous work in biosensors, features an actuator with two key components: an interface for the mouth and a small electromagnetic pump. The pump connects to a liquid channel containing chemicals that vibrate when an electric charge passes through. This vibration pushes the solution through a gel layer into the user's mouth, where the intensity and flavor of the taste can be adjusted based on digital instructions. The system can also release multiple tastes simultaneously to create complex flavor sensations.

This breakthrough opens new possibilities for gaming, healthcare, and accessibility, providing a more immersive and interactive experience for users. The study detailing the development of this technology was published in the journal *Science Advances*.

Viral Roti-Making Hack Divides the Internet



A woman's viral video showing a hack to make multiple rotis in one go has left the internet divided. The video, which has amassed 2.1 million views, demonstrates a quick and efficient way to flatten several rotis at once, sparking a mix of admiration and skepticism online.

In the video shared by @theonly_nitish on X, the woman begins by placing a clean plastic sheet on the kitchen counter. She then takes a dough ball, places it on the sheet, and covers it with another plastic sheet. This process is repeated with 6-7 dough balls, followed by a final sheet on top. The woman then uses a rolling board (chakla) to apply pressure over the stacked dough balls, flattening them simultaneously. The result? A set of perfectly round rotis, each flawlessly flattened without sticking together, thanks to the layers of plastic sheets. Once flattened, she simply separates the discs and

prepares the rotis as usual.

While the hack seems like a game-changer for speeding up roti preparation, it has generated mixed reactions. Many viewers were impressed by the simplicity and efficiency of the technique, applauding the woman for her ingenuity. However, others were skeptical about the practicality of the hack, questioning whether it would work consistently and if it would truly save time in a typical kitchen setting.

Despite the mixed feedback, the video has sparked a lively debate, with some praising the creative approach to an age-old kitchen task, while others argue that traditional methods are still the most reliable. The viral video serves as a reminder of how social media can bring innovative solutions to light, even if not everyone is convinced. Whether or not this hack will become a common kitchen practice remains to be seen.

Rohit Sharma Refutes Home Advantage Claims Ahead of Semifinal Clash



Rohit Sharma has dismissed claims that India's participation in the ICC Champions Trophy, with all matches played in Dubai, gives his team an unfair home advantage. Speaking ahead of India's semifinal clash against Australia, Rohit emphasized that the conditions in Dubai have presented various challenges, not advantages. Several former players, including those from Pakistan, Australia, and England, suggested that India's early arrival in Dubai allowed them to better acclimatize. However, Rohit refuted this, clarifying that Dubai is not India's home ground. "Every time, the pitch is giving you different challenges. This is not our home; we

don't play so many matches here. It is new for us too," he stated. Rohit also highlighted the need for adaptability, particularly in their last match against New Zealand, where both swing and spin played crucial roles. He expressed his preference for a balanced contest between bat and ball. Furthermore, he justified India's inclusion of five spinners in the squad, referencing observations from the ILT20 tournament that indicated slow bowlers could be effective in Dubai's conditions. He also noted that arriving early in Dubai allowed the team to adjust well, with good training sessions in the lead-up to the matches.

Praggnanandhaa Draws with Aravindh Chithambaram at Prague Masters



Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa played to a draw against fellow Indian Aravindh Chithambaram in the fifth round of the Prague Masters chess tournament, maintaining a full-point lead over the nearest challengers. Both players have accumulated 3.5 points, staying ahead of top seed Wei Yi of China, Anish Giri of the Netherlands, Quang Leim Le of Vietnam, and Vincent Keymer of Germany,

all with 2.5 points. The tournament follows a 10-player round-robin format, with four rounds remaining. The day's action saw just one decisive game, with Wei Yi defeating Sam Shankland. Anish Giri drew with Nguyen Thai Dai Van, and David Navara fought back to hold Keymer. Praggnanandhaa and Aravindh played a Berlin Defense, leading to a drawn rook and pawns endgame.

FIFA Lifts Suspension on Pakistan Football Federation After Constitutional Reforms

FIFA has lifted the suspension on the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) after the federation made the necessary constitutional changes to ensure effective governance of football in the country. The suspension, imposed on February 5, was due to the failure of PFF Congress members to amend the constitution as required by FIFA. However, after a consensus was reached on the amendments last Thursday, FIFA confirmed the suspension was lifted on Sunday. Since June 2019, Pakistan football has been under the governance of a FIFA-appointed normalisation committee, tasked with resolving internal disputes and conducting elections. Despite several changes in leadership, key issues in Pakistan football remained unresolved. An AFC senior official visited Lahore last week to facilitate the constitutional changes, which were subsequently approved



by PFF Congress members. With the suspension lifted, Pakistan will now be eligible to participate in the 2027 AFC Asian Cup qualifiers, with their first match against Syria on March 25.

WWE's Plan for John Cena's Heel Turn at Elimination Chamber Shocks the World



John Cena stunned the WWE Universe with a shocking heel turn on Cody Rhodes at the WWE Elimination Chamber on March 2, setting the stage for his upcoming WrestleMania 41 match against Rhodes. Cena secured his spot at WrestleMania by defeating CM Punk in the six-man Elimination Chamber match, and reports indicate that WWE had been planning this heel turn for weeks. In a surprising twist, after Cody Rhodes aggressively rejected The Rock's demand to become the 'Corporate Champion', Cena, who had been congratulating Cody for staying true to himself, suddenly turned on him. Cena, with a throat-cutting signal from The Fi-

nal Boss, aligned with The Rock and kicked Rhodes, leaving him incapacitated on the mat. The shocking moment was compounded by rapper Travis Scott, who slapped Rhodes while he was down. Reports suggest WWE had planned Cena's heel turn as the third act of the event, but it was rescheduled to follow the Men's Elimination Chamber match. While there were rumors about Drew McIntyre winning, Cena's heel turn surprised even WWE officials. After the event, Triple H, WWE's Chief Content Officer, revealed that very few people were aware of Cena's turn, and he played a significant role in the segment.

Emma Navarro Dominates Emiliana Arango 6-0, 6-0 to Win WTA Merida Open



Top-seeded American Emma Navarro clinched her second WTA title with a dominant 6-0, 6-0 victory over qualifier Emiliana Arango in the final of the WTA Merida Open on Sunday. Navarro, who was seeded No. 1 for the first time, com-

pleted an impressive week by securing the 500-level crown without dropping a set. This win adds to the title she won in Hobart last year. The match lasted just 55 minutes, as Navarro overpowered Arango, becoming the

first player since Iga Swiatek in 2021 to win a WTA final 6-0, 6-0. Arango, ranked 133rd in the world before the tournament, made history by reaching her first WTA quarter-final and is set to enter the top 100 in the upcoming rankings.

Major League Soccer: Lionel Messi Rests, But Inter Miami Triumph 4-1 in Texas

Lionel Messi was rested for Inter Miami's Major League Soccer match against the Houston Dynamo on Sunday, but his absence didn't affect his team's performance. Inter Miami cruised to a dominant 4-1 victory, with Telasco Segovia scoring twice. Coach Javier Mascherano decided to leave Messi in Florida to rest after a busy start to the season, leaving many ticket buyers in Houston disappointed. To make up for Messi's absence, the Dynamo offered free tickets to another game later in the season. Unfortunately for Houston, their defense was overly generous, allowing Miami to score four goals. Miami's first came early when Benjamin Cremaschi pressured Houston's defense, and Segovia capitalized on the mistake. Houston responded with some possession but were caught on

the counter-attack in the 37th minute as Tadeo Allende made it 2-0. Just before halftime, Segovia scored again to put Miami in a commanding 3-0 lead. Houston's Ezequiel Ponce had a header ruled out for offside, and Miami added another goal in the 79th minute with a brilliant strike from Luis Suarez. Houston managed to pull one back in the 85th minute with a goal from Nicolas Lodeiro, but the match ended in a comprehensive win for Miami. Despite the red card for Ian Fray in the final moments, Miami showed their potential to dominate the Eastern Conference this season. Luis Suarez spoke after the game, emphasizing the team's determination to go all the way this year after last season's painful playoff loss to Atlanta.





Sonakshi Sinha Set for Telugu Debut in Supernatural Fantasy Thriller 'Jatadhara'



and filming is set to begin on March 8, 2025, following a grand mahurat event held recently in Hyderabad.

Sonakshi's versatile filmography includes hits like *Dabangg*, *Dahaad*, and *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*, earning her widespread acclaim. *Jatadhara* marks an exciting new chapter in her career, bringing her to the Telugu film industry.

Sonakshi Sinha, known for her impressive Bollywood career, is gearing up for her Telugu cinema debut with the upcoming supernatural fantasy thriller *Jatadhara*. Directed by Venkat Kalyan,

the film is said to blend mythology with supernatural elements in an intriguing narrative. While official confirmation is awaited, sources suggest that Sonakshi will star opposite Sudheer Babu,

In addition, Sonakshi's critically acclaimed film *Lootera* is set for a re-release on March 7, 2025, allowing fans to revisit the 2013 period drama, where she starred alongside Ranveer Singh.

Nani's 'Paradise' Glimpse Unveiled with Powerful Teaser



Nani's upcoming film *Paradise* has created a buzz with the release of its intense "Ra Statement" glimpse. Known for his soft love stories, Nani has recently ventured into mass roles with films like *Shyam Singha Roy* and *Dasara*. In *Paradise*, he takes on a rugged, rustic role. Directed by Srikanth Odela, the teaser features a

powerful voice narrating a gripping story of a ravenous crow, a struggling community, and the rise of a leader. The glimpse showcases Nani in a completely different avatar, with a high dose of bloodshed, violence, and intense dialogues. The film, said to be made on a large budget, is scheduled for a pan-India release on March 26, 2026.

'Chhaava' Telugu Trailer Released: A Power-Packed Epic Awaits



The Telugu trailer for *Chhaava*, starring Vicky Kaushal and directed by Lakshman Utekar, has been released, sending chills down the spine with its intense visuals. Based on the life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's eldest son, Sambhaji Maharaj, the film is a historical epic that has already made waves in the Bollywood market. Released on February 14, *Chhaava* received rave reviews and has

been a box-office hit. The film is now being presented in Telugu by the prestigious Geetha Arts, with the release scheduled for March 7. The trailer, full of awe-inspiring visuals, blends courage and glory, promising an epic cinematic experience. With goosebump-inducing scenes, *Chhaava* is set to captivate Telugu audiences just as it did in Hindi, building anticipation for its release.

Shruti Haasan Talks About Her International Debut in 'The Eye'



Shruti Haasan is all set to make her international debut with *The Eye*, a supernatural thriller set against the stunning backdrop of Greece. Directed by Daphne Schmon and produced by Fingerprint Content, the film premiered at the 5th Wench Film Festival, a platform dedicated to horror, sci-fi, and fantasy genres.

Reflecting on her role, Shruti shared, "From the moment I read the script, I knew this film was meant for me. I've always been drawn to stories that explore love, darkness, and self-discovery—concepts that resonate

deeply with me." She added that working with an all-female creative team made the experience even more special, calling it "an alignment of the universe."

The film follows Diana (played by Haasan), who embarks on an emotional journey to scatter her late husband's ashes on a remote Greek island. What starts as a moment of closure soon entangles her in a supernatural ritual. *The Eye* also features Mark Rowley, Anna Savva, and Linda Marlowe in key roles, with Emily Carlton as the scriptwriter.

Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor Set to Film at Iconic Delhi Locations for RC 16

Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor will soon be seen sharing screen space for the first time in *RC 16*, a Telugu film directed by Buchi Babu Sana. The duo is nearing the end of their Mysore schedule, after which they will head to Delhi to shoot pivotal scenes at iconic locations like the Parliament and Jama Masjid. According to reports, the scenes featuring Ram Charan are crucial to the sports-centric drama, with the team awaiting approval from the authorities to shoot

at these heritage sites. The film, produced by Mythri Movie Makers, is expected to have an emotional narrative centered on themes of resilience and determination.

Ram Charan, who previously worked with Buchi Babu Sana in the hit film *Uppena*, was last seen in *Game Changer* alongside Kiara Advani. Janhvi Kapoor was recently seen in *Ulajh*, released in August 2024.

The film also stars Shiva Rajkumar and Divyendu, with music by AR Rahman.



Huma Qureshi Returns Stronger in Maharani Season 4 Teaser



today, hints at a significant transformation in Rani's journey as she fiercely protects Bihar amidst looming political threats. In the new season, Huma's character faces harsh accusations, including being called a murderer and an illiterate, while also being dubbed the future Prime Minister. However, her family — Bihar — takes priority over any political aspirations. In a powerful moment, she declares, "Aur Bihar hi humara pariwar hai. Aur agar koi Bihar ko nuksaan pauchega, toh satta hila denge" (And Bihar is my true family. And if anyone dares to harm my family, I will shake the very foundation of the rule).

Season 4 sees Rani Bharati standing tall, ready to confront all challenges and continue her reign as a powerful leader. Fans are eager to see the fate of supporting characters and the twists in the gripping socio-political drama.

Huma Qureshi was last seen in the Zee5 thriller *Mithya - The Dark Chapter*. Besides *Maharani Season 4*, she has *Jolly LLB 3* and *Toxic* to look forward to.

Huma Qureshi is back as Rani Bharati in the highly anticipated *Maharani Season 4*, which promises to showcase a more fierce and fearless version of her character. The teaser, released

Salman Khan and Rashmika Mandanna Set the Dance Floor on Fire in 'Zohra Jabeen' Teaser



Salman Khan and Rashmika Mandanna, sharing screen space for the first time in *Sikandar*, have set fans buzzing with the teaser of their upcoming song *Zohra Jabeen*. The upbeat track, released as part of the film's music promotion, is a high-energy dance number that promises to be a perfect Eid treat for fans.

The teaser showcases the sizzling chemistry between Salman and Rashmika, with the duo lighting up every frame. *Zohra Jabeen* is composed by Pritam, directed by A.R. Murugadoss, and choreographed by Farah Khan, elevating the energy of the track. Sung by Nakash Aziz and Dev Negi, with lyrics by Sameer and Danish Sabri, the song is already being touted as a potential chartbuster.

Rashmika, who was last seen in *Chhaava*, also starred in the blockbuster *Pushpa 2: The Rule* with Allu Arjun, while Salman Khan was recently seen in a cameo in *Baby John*.