

Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD

H 33 °C

L 25 °C

VIJAYAWADA

H 35 °C

L 26 °C

TIRUPATHI

H 36 °C

L 26 °C

BRS MLAs’ Defection Case

Supreme Court Issues Notices to Telangana Govt

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The Supreme Court has issued notices to the Telangana Assembly Secretary and the Election Commission in response to a petition seeking the disqualification of BRS MLAs who defected to the Congress. The court has directed the concerned authorities to submit their responses by March 22, with the next hearing scheduled for March 25.

A bench comprising Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih heard the petition on Tuesday. During the proceedings, Justice Ga-

- ▶ Court issues notices to Assembly Secretary, Election Commission
- ▶ Response to be submitted by March 22
- ▶ Next hearing scheduled for March 25
- ▶ Justice Gavai questions delay in the disqualification process
- ▶ Petition seeks action against BRS MLAs who joined Congress

vai made key observations regarding the time taken for democratic processes. He questioned whether a reasonable timeframe for such decisions meant waiting until the end of the current Assembly term. The petition was filed seeking

immediate action against BRS MLAs who switched parties after the elections. The petitioners argued that allowing defected MLAs to continue in office undermines the integrity of the electoral process and the anti-defection law.

The case has drawn political attention in Telangana, as the ruling Congress government faces scrutiny over the defection of opposition MLAs. The Supreme Court’s direction to the Assembly

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Large Number of Votes Declared Invalid in Graduates’ MLC Election

Over 21,000 votes found invalid due to marking errors

Counting of first-preference votes to begin after sorting process

BJP and Congress locked in a direct fight in key constituency

BJP-backed candidate wins Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar teachers’ seat

Congress, BRS accused of having a secret pact by BJP leaders

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

A significant number of votes have been declared invalid in the Telangana Legislative Council election from the Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar Graduates’ constituency, as the counting process continued for the second consecutive day on Tuesday.

According to election officials, more than 21,000 votes were deemed invalid due to errors in marking preferences on the ballot papers. Many voters wrote their preferences in words instead of numbers, leading to their votes being rejected. The counting staff has

so far sorted 2.10 lakh votes, out of which 1.89 lakh were found valid. The sorting of the remaining 40,000 votes is underway.

The polling for this crucial constituency was held on February 27, with a voter turnout of 70.4 percent. A total of 2,50,106 voters cast their ballots to determine the fate of 56 candidates contesting in the elections.

The high number of invalid votes has raised concerns among candidates, with some attributing it to a lack of awareness among voters about the preferential voting system. Officials stated

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Priority in Posts only for 10-Year Congress Loyalists: Meenakshi



TPN Correspondent | Telangana

The factionalism within the Congress party in Telangana has reached a boiling point, creating a major challenge for Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Differences between senior and junior leaders, as well as tensions between long-time Congress members and newcomers, have intensified ever



since the party came to power. These internal conflicts are now posing a serious threat to the stability of the state government and keeping Revanth Reddy on high alert.

Adding to the turmoil, the Congress high command recently made a significant decision by removing Deepa Dasmunshi, who was seen as a close associate of Revanth Reddy, from her

Congress in-charge hints at priority for long-time party members in cabinet expansion.

Revanth Reddy’s faction faces hurdles in expansion

Leadership change buzz grows within Congress

position as the Telangana Congress in-charge. In her place, Meenakshi Natarajan has been appointed to oversee party affairs in the state. This change is being interpreted as a strategic move to curb Revanth Reddy’s growing influence within the party and restore balance between factions.

Meenakshi Natarajan wasted no time in making her presence felt. Within two days of her appointment, she initiated steps to address the infighting that has plagued the Telangana Congress. On Wednesday,

she made a crucial statement that further fueled speculation about Revanth Reddy’s position. She indirectly emphasized that priority in the upcoming cabinet expansion would be given to those who have been with the party for the last ten years. This remark has sent ripples across the political circles, as it is seen as a direct challenge to Revanth Reddy, who himself has not completed ten years in the Congress.

In light of

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KTR Opposes Centre’s Plan to Sell Adilabad’s CCI Assets

Accuses BJP of deceiving Telangana people with revival promises

Calls Centre’s decision “evil” and vows to fight against it

Says selling CCI as scrap endangers workers’ livelihoods

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) has strongly opposed the Centre’s move to sell the assets of Cement Corporation of India (CCI) in Adilabad, Telangana.

Calling the decision “evil,” KTR stated that BRS would fight on all platforms until the Union government reverses it. In a post on X, he accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Centre of deceiving the people of Telangana by promising to revive CCI during the last Lok Sabha elections but now selling its equipment worth crores as scrap.

KTR slammed the Union government for disregarding multiple appeals from BRS leaders to revive the plant, despite the rising demand for cement in



the construction sector. He alleged that the BJP had become synonymous with selling national assets rather than safeguarding them. Highlighting the factory’s potential with 772 acres of land, 170 acres of township, and 48 million tonnes of limestone reserves, he said the Centre’s actions threaten the livelihoods of employees and workers dependent on CCI.

In 2022, when BRS was in power, KTR, as IT Minister, had appealed to the Union government to revive the Adilabad CCI unit instead of

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SLBC Tunnel Collapse Damaged Conveyor Belt Made Operational

- ▶ Conveyor belt repaired, speeding up debris removal
- ▶ Eight trapped workers remain missing
- ▶ SCR team cuts damaged tunnel boring machine platform
- ▶ NDRE, Army, and Navy continue joint rescue efforts

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

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BRS MLAs’ Defection Case Supreme Court Issues Notices to Telangana Govt

Secretary and the Election Commission has now put pressure on the state government to act on the matter. The outcome of the case could have significant political ramifications, particularly in the balance of power within the Telangana Legislative Assembly.

Priority in Posts only for 10-Year Congress Loyalists: Meenakshi

these developments, the Chief Minister has made multiple trips to Delhi, reportedly lobbying to secure cabinet positions for his loyalists. However, with the new state in-charge making it clear that senior Congress members will be given precedence, it appears that the high command is taking steps to checkmate Revanth Reddy’s influence within the party. Further fueling the controversy, BJP MLA Maheshwar Reddy recently made a sensational statement, claiming that Meenakshi Natarajan was appointed with the specific agenda of replacing the Chief Minister. His remarks have added weight to the speculation that the Congress leadership is planning a major political shake-up in Telangana.

Senior Congress leader and Nalgonda MP Uttam Kumar Reddy also made a noteworthy comment, suggesting that the appointment of a new in-charge is part of a well-crafted master plan. He went on to predict that a change in the Chief Minister’s post is inevitable and is likely to happen between June and August.

The growing dissent within the Congress has created uncertainty in the party’s leadership in Telangana. Many grassroots workers and leaders are deeply concerned that these internal conflicts could weaken the party’s hold on power. The differences between the Revanth faction and senior Congress loyalists have only widened in recent weeks, and with the high command now intervening, the situation appears to be heading towards a major political showdown.

As the internal battle intensifies, all eyes are now on the Congress leadership in Delhi to see how they will handle the crisis. Will Revanth Reddy manage to retain his grip on power, or will the party opt for a leadership change to quell the ongoing strife? The coming months will be crucial in shaping the future of the Congress party in Telangana.

Large Number of Votes Declared Invalid in Graduates’ MLC Election

that the counting of first-preference votes will begin after the sorting process is completed. If a candidate secures more than 50 percent of the first-preference votes, they will be declared the winner. Otherwise, second-preference votes will be counted to determine the winner. The contest in the Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar Graduates’ constituency is seen as a direct battle between the ruling Congress party and the opposition BJP. Congress has fielded V. Narendra Reddy, who is pitted against BJP’s C. Anji Reddy. This seat is currently held by senior Congress leader and former minister T. Jeevan Reddy.

Meanwhile, results have been announced for the teachers’ constituencies, where the BJP-backed candidate Malka Komaraiah won the Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar teachers’ seat with a margin of over 5,700 first-preference votes. Komaraiah secured 12,959 votes, while his nearest rival Vanga Mahender Reddy of the PRTU (TS) polled 7,182 votes. Of the total 25,041 votes polled, 897 votes were declared invalid.

In the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda teachers’ constituency, PRTU (TS) candidate P. Sripal Reddy won after the second-preference vote count, securing 13,969 votes. Sitting MLC Narsi Reddy of UTF finished second in the race. Out of 25,797 registered voters, 24,135 cast their ballots.

The BJP, which contested in all three constituencies, celebrated its victory in the Medak-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Karimnagar teachers’ seat. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that teachers had placed their trust in the BJP. He accused the Congress and BRS of having a secret understanding to defeat the BJP but claimed that their efforts had failed.

Bandi Sanjay, who is also a Member of Parliament from Karimnagar, asserted that the BJP’s victory in the teachers’ constituency was a sign of growing support for the party in Telangana. He expressed confidence that the BJP would come to power in the state in the near future.

KTR Opposes Centre’s Plan to Sell Adilabad’s CCI Assets

auctioning its assets. He urged Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to reconsider the decision, offering full support from the then BRS government, including fiscal incentives, to generate employment for thousands of youth in Adilabad.

SLBC Tunnel Collapse Damaged Conveyor Belt Made Operational

actions threaten the livelihoods of employees and workers dependent on CCI.

In 2022, when BRS was in power, KTR, as IT Minister, had appealed to the Union government to revive the Adilabad CCI unit instead of auctioning its assets. He urged Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to reconsider the decision, offering full support from the then BRS government, including fiscal incentives, to generate employment for thousands of youth in Adilabad.

CM Revanth Reddy Meets Union Ministers in Delhi, Requests Pending Funds Release

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 05 : CM Revanth Reddy’s busy schedule in Delhi continued on Tuesday morning, as he met Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Prahlad Joshi. Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy accompanied the CM during the meeting, which lasted for about half an hour. During this discussion, CM Revanth emphasized the need for the immediate release of pending funds from the central government. The key issues discussed included the issuance of new ration cards, procurement of paddy, and the timely release of funds required for the smooth distribution and delivery of essential supplies.

In the evening, CM Revanth Reddy was scheduled to meet Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar. The discussions are expected to focus on pending projects and development initiatives, including funding

- ▶ CM Seeks Release of Pending Funds for Telangana
- ▶ Discussions on Key Projects with Union Ministers
- ▶ Revanth Pushes for Metro, River Cleaning, and Road Funding



for the Musi River cleaning project, Metro Rail Phase-2, and the Regional Ring Road. Revanth is likely to request fi-

nancial allocations for these important projects. Following these high-level meetings, the CM is expected to meet with se-

nior leaders in Delhi to continue his discussions on further development and funding support for Telangana’s ongoing initiatives.

“Former Minister Harish Rao Criticizes CM Revanth Reddy for Telangana’s Decline”



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 05 : Former Minister Harish Rao slammed the current Telangana govern-

ment for allegedly ruining the state’s once-pristine reputation. In a media statement on Tuesday, Rao expressed serious

concerns over the actions taken by the ruling party in the past 14 months. He criticized the government for undermining the state’s image by creating unnecessary fear around projects like the Musi River beautification and Hyderabad’s urban development, which he claimed harmed the city’s brand.

Rao accused the government of taking regressive steps, leading Telangana from a period of significant progress to a state of decline. He mentioned that due to poor policies and decisions, the state’s revenue had dropped, forcing the government to resort to selling pub-

lic lands to raise funds. Rao sarcastically pointed out that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s government had to publicize achievements made in the last decade to justify the selling of lands.

While criticizing the government for its contradictory statements, Rao demanded an apology from the BRS for misleading the public and the Assembly about selling government lands, further questioning the government’s intentions. He called on the ruling party to stop spreading false narratives and accept the truth about the state’s developmental achievements.

Plans for Prestigious Festivals, Eco-Tourism, and Tribal Welfare Unveiled”

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 05 : Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu and Minister Konda Surekha have emphasized the need to organize Sammakka Saralamma festival and Godavari Pushkaras on a prestigious scale. During a meeting at the Secretariat with officials from the Endowment and Forest departments, they discussed long-term plans to ensure these events continue to thrive in the future. The ministers highlighted the potential for attracting tourists to the state’s tiger reserves and forest areas, urging officials to



start planning for eco-tourism initiatives. Urban parks in Hyderabad were also identified as key to providing relaxation for IT sector employees, which could generate revenue. Bhatti Vikramarka further suggested the Archaeology department focus on renovating ancient temples, which promote

spirituality and can boost the state’s financial situation. The ministers also addressed issues faced by tribal farmers, who, despite receiving pattas for Podu lands, face challenges due to lack of coordination with the Forest department. A meeting will soon be convened with multiple departments to resolve these issues.

Additionally, the ministers advocated for large-scale CAMPA works, use of the Employment Guarantee scheme, and organizing the Vanamahotsav programme with active student participation to improve environmental sustainability.

Medha Patkar Discusses Moosi River Revival and Farmer Welfare in Telangana

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 05 : Renowned social and environmental activist Medha Patkar is in Hyderabad for a two-day visit. She toured the Moosi River catchment area and met with individuals who lost their homes due to the river’s revival project. Patkar’s visit has garnered significant attention. On her visit, she met with the Telangana Agricultural and Farmers Welfare Commission Chairman Kodandareddy and members KVNReddy, Bhavani Reddy, and Gadugu Gangadhar at the BRK Bhavan. Discussions centered around the losses farmers face, including the loss

of agricultural land, due to the Moosi River rejuvenation project. The Commission informed Patkar about various welfare measures implemented by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, including Rs. 2 lakh loan waiver, Rs. 500 bonus, and schemes like Rythu Bharosa and Athemiya Bharosa for farmers. The government is also committed to providing double-bedroom houses to families displaced by the Moosi



project, as well as offering financial assistance and alternative land to affected farmers. Medha Patkar suggested that the government take extra care in resettling the poor and ensure transparency in the rehabilitation process.



Bandi Sanjay Comments on Teachers’ MLC Victory

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 05 : BJP candidate Malko Konraya, who achieved a significant victory in the Teachers’ MLC elections, celebrated the win at the Karimnagar Parliament office with a grand victory celebration. During this event, BJP leader Bandi Sanjay expressed his gratitude and commented on the success. He dedicated the victory to Prime Minister Modi and BJP workers, thanking them for their support.

Sanjay pointed out that the victory was a result of BJP’s consistent fight for teachers’ rights, specifically mentioning the battle for the 317 GO, which led to the party’s involvement in protests and imprisonment. He emphasized that this victory reflects the party’s relentless efforts for the betterment of teachers and their issues. He criticized Congress and BRS, accusing them of attempting to defeat BJP but noted that the two parties would eventually merge in the future. He urged the government to recognize teachers’ problems and reiterated the need to work with the same enthusiasm in the upcoming local elections.

BJP MLC Malka Komurayya Highlights Education Sector Issues

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Mar 05 : BJP MLC Malka Komurayya, who secured victory in the Teacher MLC elections from Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Adilabad, and Medak, expressed his gratitude to the central and state party leadership.

He also thanked the teachers who supported him, despite facing negative propaganda during the election campaign. Komurayya refuted claims that he was a corporate candidate and emphasized his dedication to the education sector.

He criticized the 317 GO, calling it “cruel” and vowed to continue the fight against it. Komurayya highlighted various issues in the education sector, stating that each sub-sector faces unique challenges. He



expressed concern over the difficulties faced by teachers and how these challenges affect the quality of education provided to students. Komurayya assured that he would always stand by the

teachers and work towards resolving their issues. He pledged to support educators and promised to be a strong advocate for their rights, ensuring better working conditions in the future.

MP Lakshman Comments on BJP Leadership and Census Issues

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Mar 05 : BJP MP Lakshman stated that the party is yet to decide on the new national president, with elections already completed in 11 states, and eligibility confirmed in 16 more states. He mentioned that the election for the Telangana BJP president could be concluded within a week. He also highlighted that two BJP national presidents have already come from South India.

Lakshman criticized the TRS and Congress over certain issues, including the failure to properly conduct surveys and the controversy surrounding the inclusion of Muslims in the BC category. He also pointed out the flaws in the caste census. Commenting on the Chief Minister’s lack of understanding of



important issues, Lakshman discussed post-census constituency reorganization and women’s reservation. He stated that Prime Minister Modi assured that there would be no reduction in parliamentary seats in South India, de-

spite a population decline in the Telugu states since 2011. He further mentioned that although Andhra Pradesh’s Reorganization Act suggested increasing assembly seats in Telangana, it may not happen.



ELATI Maheshwar Reddy Claims Meenakshi’s Arrival Aims to Replace CM Revanth Reddy

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Mar 05 : BJP-LP leader Elati Maheshwar Reddy made sensational comments on the political developments in Telangana. He stated that the arrival of Meenakshi Natarajan in the state is part of a larger plan to replace CM Revanth Reddy. Maheshwar Reddy alleged that Congress had a strategy to replace Revanth Reddy, and Meenakshi was assigned the task by the Rahul Gandhi team.

He claimed that the leadership change was part of a master plan by Uttam Kumar Reddy. According to Maheshwar Reddy, the Congress high command has already prepared the ground to make a change in leadership, with June-August as the probable timeline for the transition. He also suggested that the shift in leadership was part of Congress’ mission to strengthen its position in Telangana, with Meenakshi tasked with executing the plan. These comments have sparked a political debate and drawn attention to the ongoing leadership changes within Congress in the state.

Former Minister Niranjan Reddy Criticizes Congress for Not Implementing Warangal Declaration

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Mar 05 : Former Minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy accused the Congress party of failing to implement the Warangal Declaration made for farmers. He praised the KCR government’s initiatives like Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bima, which he claimed have become a model for the country, with ₹6,122 crore paid in premiums to farmers. Reddy criticized the Congress government for not providing similar support to farmers, highlighting the absence of electricity, Rythu Bandhu, and Rythu Bima during their rule.

He questioned the utilization of ₹10,000 crore raised from government land for Rythu Bhar-



osa, asking what the government had achieved with those funds. Reddy pointed out the plight of crops drying out in the state and accused the Chief Secretary of misleading the public. He urged the Ministers of Irrigation, Electricity, and Agriculture to visit farmers and

address their issues. Reddy further questioned whether the collapse of the SLBC tunnel was the fault of KCR and expressed concern that the government lacked empathy towards farmers, urging them to punish the government when the time comes.

Congress MP Seeks Inquiry into Kedar’s Death, Questions Dubai Police

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Mar 05 : Congress MP Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy has taken a sensational step by writing a letter to Union Minister Kishan Reddy regarding the mysterious death of Kedar. In the letter, Kiran Kumar Reddy expressed his distrust in the Dubai police and demanded a thorough investigation into Kedar’s death. He emphasized that they do not have faith in the Dubai police’s handling of the case and urged Kishan Reddy to take necessary action. Despite these concerns, Dubai police have concluded that Kedar’s death was due to natural



causes. The authorities have handed over Kedar’s body to his wife, Rekha Veena, with the permission of the Indian government. The family conducted

the last rites in Dubai. However, the letter from the Congress MP reflects ongoing suspicions regarding the circumstances surrounding Kedar’s death.

MP Laxman Criticizes Revanth Reddy’s Governance, Accuses Him of Failing Farmers

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Mar 05 : BJP MP Laxman has launched a sharp attack on Telangana Government and its leadership under Revanth Reddy. He accused Revanth Reddy of leading the state into a state of confusion and decline with ineffective governance. Laxman pointed out that leaders from the previous BRS government had benefitted under the Regional Ring Road (RRR) project, which he claimed harmed farmers in the northern region. He further criticized the Congress party, stating that despite promises made by Priyanka Gandhi, justice had not been served to these farmers, and no changes had been made in the alignment of the project. Laxman questioned why the alignment of the northern



part of the RRR project was not altered, despite requests, while changes were made to the southern part. He suggested that the government might be attempting to convert the area into a real estate business. Furthermore, Laxman emphasized that the project’s DPR was flawed and criticized Revanth Reddy for continuing the mistakes made by KCR’s government.

Minaakshi Natarajan Highlights the Sacrifices of the Gandhi Family

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Mar 05 : In a special meeting with Minister Damodara Rajanarsimha, Congress In-charge Minaakshi Natarajan sought clarification on the developments near Patan. She emphasized the importance of protecting party leaders, stating that all members would be treated fairly and new members would be included in the process. She advised discussing party internal matters in meetings, rather than in public or

on social media, to maintain discipline within the party. Minaakshi also expressed her commitment to focusing on Siddipet’s affairs and addressing any issues there. Reflecting on the sacrifices made by the Gandhi family, she remarked, “How much are we compared to the sacrifices of the Gandhi family?” She stressed the need to remember their sacrifices and work diligently for them, acknowledging their crucial role in the party and the country.



Telangana Government Issues Key Directives on Yassangi Crop and Water Management

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Mar 05 : The Telangana government has issued important directives regarding the Yassangi crops, emphasizing effective water management during the season. Chief Secretary Shanti Kumari conducted a review meeting to discuss various issues, including the progress of residential schools, single-use plastic ban efforts, and the Yassangi season crop cultivation. During the review, she instructed district collectors to be vigilant in managing water resources ef-



fectively for Yassangi crops. The Chief Secretary highlighted that, despite the increase in net cultivated area compared to last year, water availability for irrigation is relatively favorable. She advised officials to take necessary precautions to

ensure smooth handling of the season. Shanti Kumari also stressed the need for coordinated efforts in electricity and water supply over the next ten days. She assured that the current situation regarding power supply is stable and called for the establishment of Mandal-level teams to address local issues. District collectors were directed to oversee effective field-level management. Additionally, farmers were urged to be made aware of the current water reserves and power availability.

BJP MLA Payal Shankar Questions Congress Government Over SLBC Tunnel Works

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Mar 05 : BJP MLA Payal Shankar has raised serious questions about the commencement of the SLBC tunnel works by the Congress government without consulting GSI officials and experts. She pointed out that the previous BRS government had suspended the works in 2019-20 due to the presence of water in the tunnel. However, the Congress government began the work without heeding the advice of GSI and experts, she alleged.



Payal Shankar criticized the government for increasing the estimated cost of the project after four years and entering into agreements with contrac-

tors. She also highlighted that two rivers were flowing into the tunnel, causing water accumulation. Despite this, the Congress government resumed work without proper consultation, leading to potential risks. She held the Congress government accountable for this situation, stating that the project is now at risk due to these decisions. The BJP MLA’s remarks underscore concerns about the lack of expert guidance in handling such crucial infrastructure projects.

Uttam Kumar Reddy Requests Release of Pending Dues from Centre



TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Mar 05 : Telangana CM Revanth Reddy and Minister for Civil Supplies Uttam Kumar Reddy met with Union Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, Prakash Joshi, once again to discuss pending financial matters. Uttam requested the release of dues for the 2014-15 financial year related to procured

paddy, amounting to ₹1,468.94 crores. Additionally, he asked for the release of ₹343.27 crores related to the supply of rice under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. Uttam pointed out that Telangana had pending dues of around ₹2,000 crores from the central government over the past 10 years, for which relevant documents had now been

submitted. He urged the minister to release these funds immediately. Uttam also discussed subsidies for solar energy projects under the “Pradhan Kusum” scheme, asking for financial support for women’s organizations and solar pumps in tribal areas. The central minister responded positively, assuring that these requests would be granted.

Wood Shot Badminton Academy Inaugurated to Foster Future Champions



TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 05 : The Wood Shot Badminton Academy, a cutting-edge facility designed to cultivate the next generation of badminton champions, was officially inaugurated today in Hyderabad. This new academy aims to provide world-class coaching, modern infrastructure, and a nurturing environment for budding athletes. The grand opening ceremony was attended by prominent dignitaries including T. Prakash Goud, MLA of Rajendranagar, Mondra Sangeetha, Attapur Corporation, Sulige Venkatesh, Attapur Division President, and other notable figures. The event saw the presence of the academy’s founders Sirisha Pamula, Sarandeep, BC Manjula, Satyavani, Swathi, Kiran Patel, Madhuri, and Mohammad Nayeem, all of whom emphasized the importance of structured coaching for nurturing future champions. Sirisha Pamula, the visionary behind the academy, expressed her excitement, stating, “Our mission is to provide young athletes with professional training, world-class facilities, and the opportunity to succeed at national and international levels. We are dedicated to fostering talent and promoting



badminton.” The academy features Olympic-standard courts, a high-performance fitness center, physiotherapy facilities, and modern training equipment. It also offers mentoring from former professional players and national champions. Wood Shot Badminton Academy opens its doors to players of all skill levels and aims to become a hub for developing the sport in the region, helping young athletes reach their full potential.

Christian Bhavan Construction Stalled: Madai Rajiv Sagar Criticizes Congress Government

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 05 : Former Telangana Foods Chairman Madai Rajiv Sagar has criticized the Congress government for halting the construction of the Christian Self-Respect Bhavan. He pointed out that the Congress Party views Christians only as vote banks and claimed that the construction work had come to a standstill under their administration. Sagar visited the Christian Bhavan construction site in Uppal Bhagayat and, along with Christian leaders, expressed his concerns about the stalled project. During the tenure of the BRS government, a 2-acre plot of land was allocated in Uppal Bhagayat, and ₹10 crore was sanctioned for the construction of



the Christian Self-Respect Bhavan. However, after Congress came to power, the work has not progressed. Sagar attributed the delay to Congress’s reluctance to promote anything beneficial for BRS, suggesting that the project was being intentionally halted. He urged the government to release the necessary funds and complete the construction without further delay. Sagar also criticized Congress for not providing adequate representation for minorities in its cabinet and failing to fulfill their promises. He demanded that the minority welfare budget be increased to ₹4,000 crores as promised, and that the Christian population’s numbers be properly reflected in the caste census.

Man Booked for Using Ambulance as ‘Pet Taxi’ with Sirens in Panjagutta

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 05 : A man was booked after Hyderabad traffic police caught him using an ambulance to transport a pet dog with sirens blaring in Panjagutta. The accused, Lakshminarayana, was stopped by police during a special drive against ambulance misuse on Tuesday afternoon. Upon inspection, the police found a caged dog inside the ambulance, instead of a patient. The driver explained that he was transport-



ing the dog from Himayathnagar to Ivy Hospital in Madinaguda for a neutering procedure. He could not justify the use of sirens for

this non-emergency, and the police seized the vehicle. This incident highlights a wider problem with ambulance misuse. According to a study by the Hyderabad Traffic Police, 51% of ambulance drivers use sirens for non-emergency purposes. The study, conducted between July 23 and July 27, involved 310 ambulances and found that sirens are often used to navigate through traffic rather than responding to genuine emergencies.

LaLa Land 6.0: A Retro-Themed Flea Market Brings Fashion, Food, and Fun to Hyderabad

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 05 : LaLa Land Flea, the city’s premier experiential flea market, returned for its sixth season on March 2, 2025, at the HITEX Exhibition Center, Hyderabad. With a vibrant retro theme, the event offered a unique blend of fashion, food, music, and art, attracting over 10,000 visitors for a fun-filled day of entertainment and shopping. The event featured over 100 brands and more than 40 food joints, offering a wide array of products and cuisines. Attendees enjoyed live performances from artists like The Deccan Project, Band Aarohi, and Band Fossegrim, adding to the festive atmosphere. The event also had engaging activities such as games, a kids’ zone, and workshops, making it a family-friendly destination. With its unique theme and lively cultural scene, LaLa Land 6.0 highlighted Hyderabad’s thriving retro culture and provided a platform for local businesses to showcase their offerings. The successful event marked a new milestone for the city’s event scene, curated by Sheena Kaur and



organized by Nihita Raju, Varun Chakkilam, and Vineeth Reddy.

Minister Sreedhar Babu Supports “Sparsh Hospice” with Electric Vehicles for End-of-Life Care

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 05 : Minister for IT and Industries, Sreedhar Babu, inaugurated electric vehicles for “Sparsh Hospice” in Khajaguda on Tuesday, aimed at providing home-based medical services for terminally ill patients. The vehicles were donated by the Rotary Club of Banjara Hills, with the help of generous donors. During the ceremony, Minister Sreedhar Babu emphasized the importance of showing love and compassion for those in their final stages of life, acknowledging the immense mental and emotional challenges they face. “It’s our responsibility to ensure that these individuals feel cared for and supported,” he said. The Minister also praised “Sparsh Hospice” for overcoming significant challenges to provide palliative care services, stating that the government would extend all necessary support to the facility. Additionally, he ordered authorities to provide free water supply to the hospice. Minister Babu further stressed the need for increased awareness of palliative care and the establishment of more such centers, particularly in



rural areas. The event was attended by Narayankhed MLA Dr. Sanjeev Reddy and Shanta Biotech founder V. Prasad Reddy among others.

ED Files Prosecution Complaint in MMTC Ltd Fraud Case Involving Rs 504.34 Crore

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 05 : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a prosecution complaint before the Special Court (PMLA), Hyderabad, against MBS Jewellers, Musaddilal Gems & Jewels, and others for defrauding MMTC Ltd. of Rs 504.34 crore in a gold purchase scam. The court accepted the complaint on March 1. The case stems from an investigation initiated by the CBI’s Anti-Corruption Bureau, Hyderabad, against Suresh Gupta and his companies for allegedly obtaining gold bullion from MMTC on a buyer’s credit ba-

sis without fulfilling the necessary margin money requirements. This caused a loss of Rs 549.06 crore to MMTC. Suresh Gupta, the mastermind of the fraud, used his companies to mislead MMTC officers, continuing to receive gold despite outstanding payments. He diverted the proceeds from the gold sales to various entities within his business group. ED had previously conducted searches at Gupta’s residences and business premises, seizing jewellery and cash worth Rs 149.10 crore and Rs 1.96 crore, respectively, and attaching assets worth Rs 363.50 crore.

Hyderabad Police Arrest Serial Offender Linked to 21 Cases

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 05 : A 32-year-old serial offender, identified as Jabri, was arrested by the Hyderabad police on Tuesday for his involvement in 21 criminal cases, including forgery, land grabbing, attempted murder, and cheating. The accused, a resident of Ismail Nagar, Bandlaguda, had been evading court trials, resulting in multiple non-bailable warrants against him. Jabri’s criminal activities date back to 2015, with offenses reported across various police stations, including Bandlaguda, Chandrayangutta, Kamatipura, and Pahadisharief. He has been implicated in a range of crimes including criminal intimidation and land-related disputes in both the Hyderabad and Rachakonda commissionerates. Following credible information, the Hyderabad police’s south-east zone task force arrested him. Further investigations are currently underway as authorities look into his involvement in other criminal activities.

Foundation Stone Laid for Rs 59L Development Works in Begumpet

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 05 : The foundation stone for development works worth Rs 59.40 lakh in Begumpet circle was laid by Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, BJP MP from Malkajgiri Etela Rajender, and other officials on Tuesday. The development projects include the construction of CC roads at three locations in Monda Market Division for Rs 32.50 lakh, laying a VDCC road in East Maredpally for Rs 25.50 lakh, curb installation at the GHMC nursery, and repairs to the compound wall of GHMC Park-2 for Rs 1.40 lakh. Speaking at the event, May-



or Vijayalakshmi highlighted the state government’s strong commitment to Hyderabad’s growth, sharing that Rs 700 crore had been released to GHMC in the past four months. She also mentioned that Rs 25 crore would be allocated to each zone under GHMC for further development works, showcasing the government’s ongoing focus on enhancing city infrastructure.

HYDRAA Demolishes Illegal Structures in Nizampet’s Indiramma Colony

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 05 : The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) conducted a demolition drive in Nizampet’s Indiramma Colony (Balaji Hills), Ward 12, on Tuesday, clearing several illegal roadside structures. This action was prompted by numerous complaints from residents about worsening traffic congestion due to encroachments. Illegal constructions, such as apartment ramps extending onto roads, fencing around plants, and iron-framed stairs leading to upper floors, were demolished. These encroachments had caused severe traffic bottlenecks in nearby colonies including Venkatarayanagar, Balaji Colony, KNR Colony, and KTR Colony. The obstruction was especially problematic for vehicles traveling between Nizampet and Miyapur Metro Station, as well as



for school buses and emergency vehicles during peak hours. HYDRAA had issued a two-month notice to clear the encroachments but received no response. As a result, demolitions were carried out with the presence of Nizampet municipal authorities. Over a kilometer of road was cleared, providing much-needed relief to local commuters. Residents praised HYDRAA’s swift action in tackling the issue of encroachments.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Focuses on Public Issues in Husnabad Constituency

TPN , Correspondent
Husnabad , Mar 05 : Husnabad Constituency MLA and Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has been dedicating special attention to public issues and the development of his region. After being elected, he has been addressing both personal and village-level problems, taking immediate steps to resolve them. Minister Ponnam has set up a camp office in Husnabad to meet with locals and receive petitions throughout the day. One of his major focuses has been on providing employment opportunities to the youth, particularly in education, health-care, and irrigation. To address unemployment, he is organizing a Mega Job Mela at the MLA camp office, having previously helped 5,000 jobless youths secure employment. The Minister also emphasized the importance of taking preemptive measures to avoid water scarcity in villages as the summer approaches. Further, he assured the people that major infrastructure



works, including roads and irrigation projects, are underway in the constituency. He is also working towards establishing industrial corridors to generate employment. In line with the state government's welfare

schemes, he urged officials to ensure that every eligible person receives benefits such as free electricity and gas, loan waivers, and housing. He also assured that all pending Indiramma housing and ration

cards would be issued soon. Ponnam Prabhakar emphasized the need for better coordination among party leaders at the village level for the upcoming local elections.



New Ration Cards to be Issued on Ugadi

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 05 : Telangana government has announced that the distribution of new ration cards will begin from Ugadi. The new cards will be in ATM card size, featuring a QR code and light blue color. They will have the photos of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy. Initially, the cards will be issued to those who have already applied, and the distribution will continue in phases.

The government received around 13 lakh applications for new cards and 24 lakh for changes to family details. After reviewing these applications, it was decided to redesign the cards with QR codes or chips, inspired by the systems in Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Kerala. Though the distribution was initially planned for March 1, it was delayed due to technical reasons. Now, the new ration cards will be distributed on Ugadi.

Tension in Warangal as Farmers Block Survey Officials Over Land Compensation

TPN , Correspondent
Warangal, Mar 05 : Tensions flared in the united Warangal district when farmers in Mamnoon protested against the ongoing survey work for the proposed airport project. The central government had recently given the green signal for the establishment of an airport in the area, which has led to farmers losing their lands. The farmers, whose land is being acquired for the project, demanded that they be given alternative land rather than monetary compensation. They argued that their livelihood is tied to the land, and monetary compensation would not suffice.



As the survey officials continued their work, the farmers blocked them, insisting that the government provide them with land instead of money as compensation. The situation quickly escalated into a tense standoff, prompting the police

to intervene. Authorities are working to resolve the issue while ensuring that the survey continues without further disruptions. The farmers' protest highlights ongoing concerns over land acquisition and compensation in the region.

District Collector Commends Improvements at Kondmallapally Girls' School

TPN , Correspondent
Kondamallapally, Mar 05 : The District Collector, ILA Tripathi, commended the significant improvements at the Telangana Social Welfare Girls' Residential School and College in Kondmallapally, during an unexpected inspection on Tuesday. She noted that the conditions were vastly better compared to her previous visits. During the inspection, the Collector reviewed the cleanliness and maintenance of key facilities, including the hostel kitchen, store rooms, vegetable and rice storage areas, cleaning spaces, classrooms, and campus surroundings. She appreciated the efforts taken to ensure hygiene, highlighting the proper installation of storage stands for rice, new stoves,

and vegetable stands. Addressing the principal and staff, the Collector urged them to maintain cleanliness in the kitchen, dining areas, and all storage spaces at all times. She also visited the 8th-grade section, where she interacted with students, engaging them with questions on English, Mathematics, and knowledge-based topics. She congratulated the students for their correct responses and distributed chocolates as a reward. The Collector emphasized the need for quality education,



awareness in all subjects, and ensuring cleanliness around the school campus, removing any weeds or wild plants. She also instructed the staff to take necessary precautions to keep students healthy. The Principal, M. Shaurilu, Kondmallapally MPDO Balraju Reddy, and other officials accompanied the Collector during the inspection.

Govt Allocates RTC Buses for Women's Associations: Revanth's Key Orders

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 05 : In a significant move, the Telangana government has issued key orders for the allocation of RTC buses to women's associations. As per the directive, the state government has issued a GO to provide rented RTC buses to 150 mandal federations in the first phase. Subsequently, 450 more buses will be allotted to other federations. The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) will pay a rent of ₹77,220 per bus every month. Additionally, the government will offer bank guarantees for the purchase of buses by these women's as-



sociations. Congress leaders have highlighted this initiative as the first of its kind in India, where RTC buses will be operated by women's groups, aiming to empower and enhance the participation of women in pub-

lic transport. The new initiative is expected to bring a positive impact on women's livelihoods and contribute to their social and economic empowerment.

CM Revanth's Message for Students Ahead of Intermediate Exams

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 05 : With the Intermediate annual exams set to begin tomorrow, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy sent a motivational message to students. In his message, CM Reddy encouraged students to write their exams with confidence and peace, without succumbing to any pressure. He emphasized that this is a crucial step toward a brighter future and urged them to stay focused on their goals. The Chief Minister assured that necessary arrangements have

been made at all exam centers to ensure a smooth examination process. He wished all students success, calling on them to take this opportunity to step forward toward a successful future. The Telangana government has confirmed that the exams will be held from March 5 to



March 25, with timings from 9 AM to 12 PM. A total of 9,96,971 students across the state are expected to appear for the exams.

Three Arrested for Smuggling PDS Rice in Telangana's Mancherial

TPN , Correspondent
Mancherial , Mar 05 : Police arrested three individuals late on Monday night in Boyapalli village, Thandur mandal, for smuggling rice grains meant for the Public Distribution System (PDS). The suspects, identified as Durgam Srikanth, Bulli Chandu, and Kanugulu Tirupathi from Thangelapalli village, were caught while transporting the grains in an auto-rickshaw. A tip-off led to the seizure of 30 quintals of rice and the auto-rickshaw. Another accomplice, Govindula Srinivas, re-



mains absconding. The three arrested individuals were handed over to Thandur police for further investigation. Authorities are continuing to search for Srinivas, who is still at large.

Protest by Land Displaced Farmers at Mamunur Airport Site

TPN , Correspondent
Warangal , Mar 05 : Farmers from Nakkalapalli, Gunturupalli, Nallakunta, and Gadipelli villages in Warangal district staged a protest on Tuesday against the land acquisition for the Mamunuru airport. The farmers obstructed officials, including RDO Satyapal Reddy, Tahsildar Nageshwar Rao, and revenue staff, demanding that the survey be halted. The farmers insisted that the authorities provide an alternative road route for their village and fair compensation based on market rates before allowing further land acquisition. They clarified that only after fulfilling these demands would they permit the



survey to continue. Around 200 farmers raised slogans like "Jai Jawaan, Jai Kishan" as part of their protest. The police, upon receiving information, deployed heavy security to prevent any untoward incidents. Despite the police advising the farmers to discontinue the protest as it had not been authorized, the farmers continued their demonstration, seeking justice for their displaced lands.

Man Jailed for Seven Years for Growing Ganja in Telangana's Asifabad

TPN , Correspondent
Asifabad , Mar 05 : A court in Asifabad sentenced Mathavan Bagavandas, a resident of Madhura Thanda in Sirpur (U) mandal, to seven years in prison and imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 for growing ganja on his cotton farm. The District Sessions Court, presided by Judge MV Ramesh, found him guilty of cultivating the illicit crop as an inter-crop in his farm. The case dates back to October 24, 2021, when Sirpur (U)



Sub-Inspector Gangaram, acting on a tip-off, raided Bagavandas' farm and discovered the ganja cultivation. The court examined eyewitness testimony and evidence presented by the defense before delivering the verdict.

Modi Govt’s Plan for the ‘World’s Largest Museum’ Raises Many Red Flags

The Narendra Modi government’s ambitious plan to create the “largest museum in the world,” the Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum (YYBNM), in partnership with France has sparked significant debate. While details remain scarce due to a cloud of secrecy, early proposals and public statements suggest that the museum may serve as a platform to align India’s history with the BJP’s ideological agenda, which emphasizes Hinduism as eternal, portrays Muslim rulers as villains, and promotes ‘Bharat’ as the origin of modern concepts like democracy.

The YYBNM will be housed in the North and South Block buildings, part of the Central Vista Project, and will be a massive 1,55,000 square meters in size. This move has generated excitement due to the museum’s scale and its collaboration with France. However, concerns have emerged about the lack of transparency surrounding the museum’s design and curatorial direction. The Ministry of Culture has refrained from answering detailed queries, and there is little clarity about the budget, design plans, or how artifacts will be transported and stored.

In May 2023, Modi unveiled a virtual walk-



through of the YYBNM at the International Museum Expo, which showcased 950 rooms organized into thematic sections like “Bharatiya gyan parampara” (Indian knowledge traditions) and “swatantrata andolan” (freedom struggle). However, it left unclear how artifacts would be displayed or what objects would be used to support these narratives.

Internal documents accessed by The Wire have revealed plans for 12 wings, spanning from the “pre-historic age” to Indian independence. The proposed document shows

a clear emphasis on presenting history through the lens of ‘Bharat’ and suggests a reframing of India’s past to align with the ruling party’s Hindutva narrative. This has raised alarm among critics, who worry that the museum might reduce India’s rich, pluralistic history to a single ideological viewpoint. The YYBNM’s development continues to face scrutiny, particularly concerning the lack of public consultation and transparency in the curatorial process, prompting fears of a politically motivated distortion of history.



Is China Driving Trump Towards Putin?

In a surprising turn of events, US President Donald Trump’s foreign policy has been increasingly shaped by his focus on China, shifting away from traditional alliances and concerns about Russia. Trump’s decision to abandon Ukraine and ease tensions with Russia has raised questions about his strategy, especially after his confrontation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the White House. Despite European leaders pushing for stronger support for Ukraine, Trump remains angered with Zelensky, pausing military aid and refusing to commit to further support.

Trump’s primary goal appears to be isolating China, which he considers the United States’ main strategic threat. His administration’s actions, including tariffs on Chinese goods and efforts to secure critical minerals from countries like Ukraine, reveal a clear pattern. China controls over 60% of vital minerals, such as lithium and cobalt, essential for modern technology and military applications. Trump is particularly concerned about China’s dominance in these sectors and has been working to secure alternative sources of supply, including deals with Ukraine, which possesses large reserves of critical minerals.

Trump’s stance on Russia also appears to be driven by his desire to wean Moscow away from China, reminiscent of the US strategy to split the Soviet Union and China in the 1970s. He aims to rebuild US-Russia relations, with discussions about potentially readmitting Russia to the G-7 once a peace deal with Ukraine is reached. However, European leaders remain cautious, viewing Russia as a persistent security threat.

As for China, Trump’s policies are framed by national security concerns, including the exploitation of US technology and the destabilizing impact of Beijing’s global economic practices. His administration has also ramped up actions to combat the import of fentanyl from China, further complicating the relationship.

For India, Trump’s shifting foreign policy could be a double-edged sword. While the potential thaw in US-Russia relations could ease New Delhi’s concerns over Moscow’s growing ties with Beijing, India must navigate its own complex relationship with China.

Insiders, outsiders, and land,Uttarakhand closes off while J&K opens up



Uttarakhand has joined the growing list of states in India that have imposed restrictions on the purchase of agricultural land by outsiders. Following in the footsteps of states like Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Sikkim, the Uttarakhand government has introduced the Uttarakhand (Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950) (Amendment) Act, aiming to protect the state’s resources, cultural heritage, and identity. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami heralded the move as a historic step to safeguard the region’s “original identity.”

However, the new legislation has sparked tensions between the hill districts and the plains, particularly in areas like Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar, which have been excluded from the new law’s scope. Critics argue that the law has deepened the divide between highlanders and plainspeople, with many in the plains opposing the provisions.

Uttarakhand’s land ownership laws have evolved over time, reflecting the state’s unique geography and history. Before it became a separate state in 2000, Uttarakhand was part of Uttar Pradesh, where landholdings were largely governed by the Zamindari system. Under British rule, the region saw a mixture of systems, with peasants in hill districts holding proprietary rights to land. After independence, the UP Zamindari Abolition Act, 1950, impacted these areas, leading to reforms in land ownership. Following the creation of Uttarakhand, there were demands for a law similar to Himachal Pradesh’s, which restricts non-residents from purchasing land.

The Challenges and Future of Manipur Under President’s Rule



With President’s Rule now in place in Manipur, it is crucial to assess the underlying forces that have shaped the state’s political landscape and what this new development means for its future. The imposition of central rule, combined with the resignation of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, has sparked both hope and skepticism regarding the resolution of the ongoing ethnic conflict that has plagued the state since May 2023.

What next after President’s Rule?

While the removal of N. Biren Singh is seen by many as a necessary step toward peace talks, the Kuki-Zomi groups are skeptical that a new Chief Minister, regardless of their background, can bridge the deep divides. A non-Maitei Chief Minister is unlikely, and even then, such a leader may not be seen as a neutral party. The Kuki-Zomi communities have long felt marginalized by the Maitei-dominated government, and this tension traces back to historical grievances over territorial and cultural rights.

The Kuki-Zomi groups have welcomed President’s Rule, viewing it as a potential opportunity to address the root causes of the ethnic violence that has simmered for decades. The Zomi Council, in a February 2025 statement, highlighted the need for a careful evaluation of the discriminatory and communal administration that contributed to the current crisis. However, protests have erupted in the Maitei-dominated valley districts, where demands for the rollback of



President’s Rule underscore the ongoing divisions within the state.

The historical context is key to understanding the current unrest. In 2015, under N. Biren Singh’s leadership, the government introduced controversial bills that bypassed

tribal consultations, fueling protests and violence. The fallout from these bills continues to impact the political landscape, with the Kuki-Zomi groups seeing the bills as a direct attack on their rights and autonomy.

For the central government, the path forward involves addressing conflicting narratives and reconciling deeply entrenched divisions. While talks and ceasefire agreements between the government and Kuki-Zomi groups provide a framework for dialogue, the government’s challenge is to create a more inclusive solution. The possibility of granting greater autonomy to tribal areas under constitutional provisions is one option, but this will require careful consideration and input from all stakeholders.

Ultimately, the government’s success in Manipur will depend on its ability to engage in meaningful dialogue and offer a politically viable solution that promotes peace and national integration.

Very big step': India, Belgium aim to seal defence cooperation pact this year

India and Belgium aim to finalize a defence agreement
Proposed a task force to accelerate the agreement process.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India and Belgium are working towards finalizing a defence agreement by the end of this year to enhance co-operation between their armed forces and strengthen defence industrial collaboration. This announcement was made by Belgian Defence Minister Theo Francken on Tuesday during a media briefing in New Delhi.

Francken, alongside Belgian Foreign Minister Maxime Prévot, was part of a delegation led by Princess Astrid, which met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During the briefing, Francken described the agreement as a "very big step" towards establishing structural cooperation between the two countries' armed forces and creating a framework for collaboration between their defence industries. Prime Minister Modi proposed the formation of a task force to expedite the process,

urging both sides to finalize the agreement as soon as possible. "Your prime minister asked us to form the task force here in New Delhi and in Brussels to conclude the agreement before the end of the year," Francken shared. In addition, Belgium plans to appoint a defence attaché at its embassy in New Delhi, which will serve as a point of contact for India's military and defence industries.

Francken emphasized the importance of mutual growth in defence capabilities between the two nations. He noted that both countries could learn from each other in terms of military technology, and he reiterated the need for "peace through strength" in today's geopolitical landscape.

Foreign Minister Prévot highlighted the evolving global situation, mentioning the shifting policies of the U.S. administration. He stressed the need to



strengthen ties between Belgium and India, calling India a powerful democracy and emphasizing the importance of reinforcing their bilateral relations.

The proposed defence agreement is expected to boost cooperation between India and Belgium in various sectors, including defence technology, military

training, and defence industry collaboration, aligning with both nations' shared interests in regional and global security.



Accused seen dragging suitcase with Congress worker's body inside

- CCTV footage shows accused hauling suitcase on deserted road
- Victim Himani Narwal was allegedly strangled by a friend over a dispute
- Accused arrested; police investigating monetary angle in the murder

TPN Correspondent | Haryana

Days after Congress worker Himani Narwal was found murdered and stuffed inside a suitcase, chilling CCTV footage has surfaced showing the accused dragging the luggage on a deserted road. The footage, recorded at 10:16 pm on February 28, shows a masked man hauling a hard-shell black suitcase. The body of Narwal, who was in her late 20s, was found near the Rohtak bus stand on Saturday. The accused, Sachin, believed to be a friend of the victim, was arrested earlier today. Police say he allegedly strangled Narwal with a mobile phone charger after a heated argument. Additional DGP K K Rao stated that there was a monetary issue between them, but the

exact details are yet to be confirmed. "After strangling her, Sachin took her jewellery and laptop, rode her scooter to Jhajjar to hide these items, and later returned to her home," said Mr Rao. He then stuffed her body into a suitcase, took an auto-rickshaw, and dumped the bag near the Sampla bus stand to mislead investigators. Narwal was cremated on Monday evening after her family initially refused to perform the last rites until the accused was arrested. Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda spoke to Rohtak's Superintendent of Police regarding the investigation. Congress MLA BB Batra described Narwal as an active party worker and demanded strict punishment for those responsible for her murder.

"Heard Inner Self": Minister Quits As Aide Is Arrested For Sarpanch Murder

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

Maharashtra Minister Dhananjay Munde has resigned from his post after his close aide, Walmik Karad, was arrested in connection with the horrific murder of a sarpanch in Beed district. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis accepted the resignation and forwarded it to Governor CP Radhakrishnan. Munde, who held the portfolios of food and civil supplies, stepped down citing both political and personal reasons, stating that he had "heard his inner self" while making the decision. He also mentioned health concerns, saying his doctors had advised him to undergo treatment soon. His resignation follows the shock-



ing murder of Santosh Deshmukh, the sarpanch of Massajog village, who was abducted, brutally tortured, and killed on December 9. The Maharashtra Crime Investigation Department (CID) has filed a 1,200-page

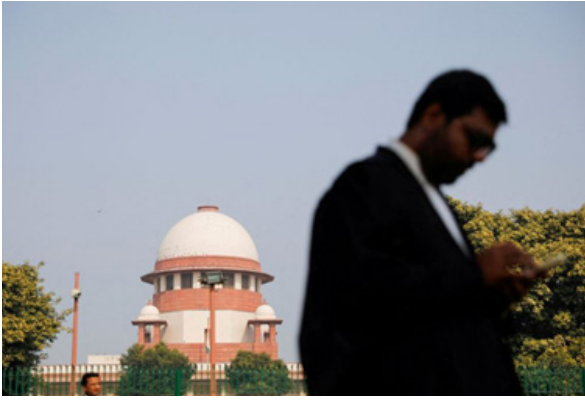
chargesheet, invoking the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against eight accused, including Karad. Seven of them have been arrested, while one remains at large.

The investigation revealed that Deshmukh was killed after attempting to stop an extortion bid against an energy company. He was beaten with iron rods, wooden sticks, and sharp weapons for over two hours, with his attackers recording videos of the brutality. With the political fallout intensifying, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and Devendra Fadnavis held discussions before Munde's resignation was finalized. The case continues to shake Maharashtra's political landscape.

Calling someone 'Miyan-Tiyan' or 'Pakistani' not an offence SC closes case, says remarks may be in poor taste but not illegal

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that calling someone 'Miyan-Tiyan' or 'Pakistani' may be inappropriate but does not constitute an offence under the Indian Penal Code (IPC). A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Satish Chandra Sharma made the observation while quashing a case against a man accused of using the terms against a government servant in Jharkhand. The complaint was filed by an Urdu translator and acting clerk, who alleged that the accused had insulted



him based on his religion while he was furnishing information related to a Right To Information (RTI) application. The FIR against the accused

included charges under IPC Sections 298 (hurting religious sentiments), 504 (insult intended to provoke breach of peace), and 353 (assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from duty). However, the Supreme Court overturned a previous Jharkhand High Court order, stating that while the remarks were in poor taste, they did not amount to hurting religious sentiments. The bench observed that there was no act on the accused's part that could have incited violence or a breach of peace. With this ruling, the case against the accused has been dismissed.

"Bihar budget inflated, written with ink dipped in lies": Tejashwi Yadav

TPN Correspondent | Patna

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Monday strongly criticized the Bihar Budget 2025-26, calling it "inflated" and drafted with "ink dipped in lies." He claimed that the BJP-led NDA government was misleading people with exaggerated figures and that the ruling alliance would be voted out in the upcoming elections. Shortly after Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary presented the budget, Yadav told reporters outside the Vidhan Sabha that the ₹3.71 lakh-crore budget was unrealistic. "Despite no revenue generation, the budget size keeps increasing. They could have made it ₹5 lakh crore as well, given the way they fabricate numbers," he said.

He further termed the budget a "lost opportunity" for the NDA, stating that it failed to introduce pro-people measures. "We had urged the government to announce a ₹2,500 monthly stipend for women and 200 units of free electricity. They missed the chance, but the RJD will ensure these benefits when we form the next government," he asserted. Yadav also took a swipe at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for appreciating Choudhary inside the House. "This is his style. Whenever he is with younger leaders, he says in a self-effacing manner—'the future belongs to you.' But people have seen through his politics," Yadav remarked, recalling how Kumar had once called him his political successor before suddenly switching sides to the BJP.



Jaishankar to visit UK, Ireland for talks on Ties, Trade

Jaishankar to visit UK, Ireland for talks on Ties, Trade

- **Jaishankar to meet UK Foreign Secretary in London**
- **Discussions likely on India-UK trade deal**
- **Visit to Ireland includes meetings with Foreign Minister and Indian community**

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will embark on a six-day visit to the United Kingdom and Ireland starting Tuesday to enhance bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors.

Jaishankar's visit to London will include talks with his British counterpart David Lammy on a range of bilateral, regional, and global issues. Their meeting comes amid geopolitical developments, including the recent exchanges between US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as well as British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's

summit with European leaders to push for a Ukraine peace deal. Observers will be keen to see whether the ongoing conflict in Ukraine features in their discussions. Another key focus of Jaishankar's visit will be the long-pending India-UK free trade agreement. Negotiations on the deal were recently revived during British Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds' visit to New Delhi. Strengthening defence, security, trade, and economic partnerships will also be on the agenda, as India and the UK continue to expand their strategic ties. During his stay in the UK, Jaishankar is also expected to meet other dignitaries and interact with the Indian community.



Following his engagements in London, Jaishankar will travel to Ireland from March 6-7, where he will meet Irish Foreign Minister Simon Harris, key officials, and members of the Indian diaspora. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the visit aims to give renewed momentum to India's ties with both nations.

Turning War Into Graft Meat Grinder": Elon Musk Calls Zelensky "Evil"



TPN Correspondent | Washington

Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk has launched a sharp attack on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, calling him "evil" and accusing him of deliberately extending the war with Russia for personal and political gain. Musk's remarks came in response to a Truth Social post by former US President Donald Trump, who criticized Zelensky's handling of the conflict.

"Zelensky wants a forever war, a never-ending graft meat grinder. This is evil," Musk posted on X, echoing Trump's frustration. The statement coincided with Trump's decision to suspend military aid to Ukraine, further pressuring Kyiv to consider peace negotiations. Trump also warned that he would not tolerate Zelensky's stance much longer, stating that the Ukrainian leader should be more grateful for US support.

Reports suggest Trump is pushing Zelensky to enter peace talks, but diplomatic progress remains uncertain. Tensions between the two leaders have intensified, especially after a contentious White House meeting attended by US Vice President JD Vance. Zelensky's recent statement that an end to the war remains "very, very far away" further fueled the rift. Trump labeled the remark "the worst statement that could have been made," warning that US patience was wearing thin.

Musk, a long-time critic of Zelensky, reiterated his belief that the Ukrainian leader is rejecting opportunities for peace. "Two years ago, I said Ukraine should seek peace or suffer severe loss of life for no gains. The latter was Zelensky's choice. Now, he wants to do that again. This is cruel and inhumane," Musk wrote on X.

Musk has previously accused Zelensky of exploiting the war, alleging without evidence that he operates a "massive graft machine feeding off the dead bodies of Ukrainian soldiers." He suggested that Zelensky's reluctance to end the conflict stems from his desire to maintain international attention and financial support. A week earlier, Musk reignited criticism of Zelensky by mocking his 2022 Vogue photoshoot with First Lady Olena Zelenska. The photos, taken in war-ravaged Ukraine, were meant to highlight the country's resilience. "He did this while kids are dying in trenches on the war front," Musk commented on X, reacting to the resurfaced images.

Russia lauds 'best contribution' by US as Trump freezes Ukraine aid amid war



TPN Correspondent | Moscow

Russia has welcomed the United States' decision to pause military aid to Ukraine, calling it a significant step toward ending the ongoing war. The Kremlin on Tuesday described the suspension as the "best contribution to peace," following escalating tensions between US and Ukrainian leaders.

The move, which went into immediate effect on Monday, impacts military supplies worth hundreds of millions of dollars that were in the process of being sent to Ukraine, according to The New York Times.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov

stated, "If the United States stops (military supplies), this would probably be the best contribution to peace. It is a solution that could really push the Kyiv regime towards a peace process." He further noted that the US has been Ukraine's primary military supplier since Russia launched its offensive in February 2023. "We will see how the situation on the ground evolves," Peskov added.

The pause in aid comes amid a public dispute between former US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, highlighting growing uncertainty over continued Western support for Ukraine in its conflict with Russia.

FBI's "Most Wanted" Drug Lord, "Narco of Narcos," Handed Over to US by Mexico

TPN Correspondent | Washington, D.C.

In a significant move, Mexico has extradited some of its most notorious drug lords to the United States, including Rafael Caro Quintero, the infamous "Narco of Narcos." Caro Quintero, 72, was on the US Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) list of 10 most-wanted fugitives until his capture in 2022. He is accused of ordering the kidnap, torture, and murder of US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) special agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena in the 1980s.

A total of 29 cartel figures were handed over to US authorities as Mexico seeks to prevent sweeping tariffs that former US President Donald Trump has linked to illegal migration and drug trafficking. The US Department of Justice stated that if convicted, Caro Quintero and several others could face the death penalty. Prosecutors are also considering terrorism charges against them.

The extradition of such a high number of suspects at once was described as "historic" by former DEA official Mike Vigil. "In the past, Mexico would extradite only a few suspects at a time," he noted, adding that the move was likely aimed at easing ongoing trade negotiations with the US.

Major Cartel Leaders Among Those Extradited

The list of extradited criminals includes some of the most dangerous



figures in Mexico's drug underworld. Among them are Omar and Miguel Angel Trevino Morales, former leaders of the ultra-violent Zetas cartel, Vicente Carrillo, ex-boss of the Juarez cartel, and a brother of Nemesio Oseguera, head of the powerful Jalisco New Generation Cartel.

The DEA welcomed Caro Quintero's extradition with special enthusiasm, as his role in Camarena's killing had remained an unresolved wound for the agency. DEA acting administrator Derek S. Maltz called it an "extremely personal" moment for the organization.

US and Mexico Strengthen Anti-Drug Efforts

The extradition announcement came during a high-level visit by Mexican officials to Washington, where they met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and other top American officials. According to the

Mexican government, both countries agreed to take coordinated actions to combat drug trafficking, particularly fentanyl smuggling, and illegal firearms trade.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has pledged to collaborate with the US on these issues while rejecting any "invasion" of her country's sovereignty. She has also expressed optimism that the two nations can avoid the tariffs imposed by Trump.

Trump's Tough Stance on Cartels Since returning to office in January, Trump has designated eight Latin American drug trafficking organizations as terrorist groups, including six Mexican cartels. He has signed an executive order labeling the cartels a national security threat, raising speculation about potential US military action against them.

Amid increasing US pressure, Mexico has recently carried out large-

Markets Tread Water Amid Tariff Turbulence; Late Buying in Banks and Metals Offers Partial Relief”

Domestic stock markets suffered a slight loss. They moved within the range on Monday. Benchmark indices started the morning gap-down on negative signals from international markets. Trump's tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China coming into effect from today and those countries imposing retaliatory tariffs led to negative sentiment. After some time, the indices recovered as buying increased in bank, finance, media and metal shares. However, they could not cross the daily highs. Market breadth improved slightly compared to yesterday. In total, Nifty lost 36 points and Sensex lost 96 points.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 73,085 in the previous session, opened at 72,817 on Tuesday. It touched an intraday low of 72,633. It reached an intraday high of 73,033. It ended at 72,989, down 96 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 21,974, touched a low of 21,964 and a high of 22,105. It closed at 22,082, down 36 points. The Nifty Bank rose 130 points to settle at 48,245.

In the Nifty50, 22 companies gained while 28 lost. SBI, BPCL, BEL, Shriram Finance, Adani Enterprises were the top gainers. Bajaj Auto, Hero Moto, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Tech, Eicher Motors were the biggest losers. Bank, finance, media, metal, PSU bank, consumption, oil and gas shares rose. Auto, FMCG, IT, and pharma indices lost.

Market breadth in NSE turned in favour of buyers today. Out of 2954 shares traded, 1658 gained and 1214 lost. Shares of 13 companies reached 52-week highs. 487 shares reached 52-week lows. Shares of 95 companies touched upper circuit.

Rupee settled at 87.30 against dollar. NLC India shares rose 11 per cent to Rs 226 today. 15 lakh shares changed hands in NMDC. Kotak AMC Nilesch Shah said that valuations are reaching normal levels and the shares can be accumulated with a long-term perspective. ICICI Securi-



ties has given a buy rating to Adani Power with a target price of Rs 600. Nomura said it may buy shares of Ultratech, Ambuja and Ramco Cement companies. Morgan Stanley has given an overweight rating to Canfin Homes with a target price of Rs 885. Shares of Domes Industries rose 8.11 percent to Rs 2553. 11 lakh shares changed hands in Emami. SBI shares rose the most in 14 weeks today. The Trump administration has ordered the US to stop cyber operations against Russia.

1. Indigo (InterGlobe Aviation Ltd.)

Indigo is India's largest low-cost carrier, known for its operational efficiency, on-time performance, and extensive domestic network. It focuses primarily on short-haul flights and has maintained a



strong market share in the Indian aviation sector. Long-term prospects are positive if domestic travel demand continues to recover and cost management remains efficient.

2. Bluestar Ltd.



BLUE STAR

Bluestar is a leading manufacturer in the HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) segment in India, offering air conditioners and commercial refrigeration solutions. It caters to both residential and commercial markets with a well-established brand and distribution network. Positive, as continued urban development and consumer demand for efficient and sustainable HVAC solutions drive growth.

3. Voltas Ltd.

VOLTAS

Voltas, a Tata Group company, is a market leader in air-conditioning and cooling solutions in India. It serves both residential and commercial customers and is expanding its portfolio into engineering solutions. Long-term outlook remains positive, supported by sustained demand and brand strength in the cooling solutions market.

4. Power India Ltd.

Power India Ltd. is a public sector enterprise engaged in power generation and renewable energy initiatives. It benefits from government support and regulated revenue streams through long-term power purchase agreements. Stable, with long-term growth potential given the government's focus on expanding and modernizing power infrastructure.



5. State Bank of India (SBI)

SBI is India's largest public sector bank, boasting an extensive branch network, diversified loan portfolio, and significant presence in both domestic and international markets. It plays a pivotal role in financial inclusion and supports a wide range of banking services. Positive over the long term, given its dominant market position, continuous digital transformation, and strong backing from the government.



Bombay HC stays FIR against ex-SEBI chief Madhabi Buch



- **HC grants relief in alleged market fraud case**
- **Special court's decision deemed "mechanical" and lacking specific attribution.**
- **SEBI calls complainant a habitual litigant.**

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted relief to former SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and five others by staying a special court's order directing the registration of an FIR in an alleged market fraud case. The court observed that the lower court's order was passed mechanically without detailing the specific roles of the accused.

Justice Shivkumar Dige, presiding over the case, stayed the March 1 special court order for four weeks and granted time for the complainant, journalist Sapan Shrivastava, to file his affidavit in response to the petitions seeking quashing of the order. The petitions were filed by Ms. Buch, SEBI directors Ashwani Bhatia, Ananth Narayan, and Kamlesh Chandra Varshney, along with Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) Managing Director and CEO Sundararaman Ramamurthy and former BSE chairman Pramod Agarwal.

The case stems from allegations of fraud related to a company's listing on the BSE in 1994. A special court had directed the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to file an FIR, citing "prima facie evidence of regulatory lapses and collusion requiring a fair and impartial probe." The court noted that the allegations warranted an investigation due to the perceived inaction by SEBI and law enforcement agencies. On Monday, the High Court had already restrained the ACB from taking action until the hearing was concluded. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the SEBI directors, argued that the special court's order was "manifestly erroneous, patently illegal, and beyond jurisdiction." In response, SEBI reaffirmed its commitment to regulatory compliance and announced its intention to challenge the order. The market regulator dismissed the allegations as frivolous, pointing out that the complainant had a history of filing baseless litigation, some of which had previously been dismissed with penalties. Meanwhile, the BSE also rejected the allegations, calling them "frivolous and vexatious." The High Court will take up the matter again after four weeks.

Suzuki Motorcycle India's domestic sales dip, exports rise by 19%

Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt. Ltd. (SMIPL) reported a mixed performance in February 2025, with domestic sales witnessing a 7.4% decline compared to February 2024, while exports surged by 19%. The company recorded total sales of 90,206 units last month, comprising 73,455 units sold in the domestic market and 16,751 units shipped overseas. In contrast, Suzuki sold 97,435 units in February 2024, with 83,304 units domestically and 14,131 units in exports.

Commenting on the sales, Devashish Handa, Executive Vice President – Sales, Marketing, and After Sales at SMIPL,



said, "February sales reflect a mix of market dynamics with exports showing growth. Although the domestic sales witnessed a temporary slowdown, our focus remains on offering products that

align with customers' expectations while continuously improving the overall ownership experience." Despite the slowdown in domestic demand, Suzuki remains optimistic about future growth, driven by its recent launches at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025. The company introduced its first electric scooter, the e-Access, alongside the ICE variant of the Access 125. Suzuki also launched the Gixxer SF 250 Flex Fuel, India's first E85-compatible bike. These new models are expected to boost Suzuki's sales momentum in the coming months.

Tencent Raises Stake in FromSoftware Parent Kadokawa to 7.97%

Chinese tech giant Tencent Holdings has increased its stake in Kadokawa Corporation, the parent company of renowned game developer FromSoftware. According to reports, Tencent acquired an additional 1.11 percent of Kadokawa shares on Monday, raising its ownership from 6.86 percent to 7.97 percent. This move follows Tencent's initial investment in 2021, when it acquired a stake in the Japanese firm for JPY 30 billion (approximately Rs. 1,757 crore). The share purchase was carried out through SixJoy Hong Kong Limited, a Tencent subsidiary, which submitted a large shareholding report to the Kanto Finance Bureau. According to a report from Nikkei, the acquisition is part of an ongoing capital and business alliance between the two companies.

Sony's Growing Influence in Kadokawa

Tencent's increased investment comes amid Sony's efforts to expand its stake



in Kadokawa. In December 2024, Sony raised its ownership from two percent to nearly 10 percent, making it the largest shareholder in the FromSoftware parent company. Sony invested JPY 50 billion (\$320 million or roughly Rs. 2,722 crore) to acquire new Kadokawa shares, aiming to strengthen its collaboration with the publishing giant and maximize the global impact of their intellectual properties (IP). South Korean firm Kakao Investment currently holds an 8.44 percent stake, making it the second-largest shareholder

er in Kadokawa.

Kadokawa's Influence in the Gaming Industry

Kadokawa is a major player in the entertainment industry, serving as the parent company of FromSoftware, the acclaimed studio behind games such as the Dark Souls series, Bloodborne, Sekiro: Shadows Die Twice, and Elden Ring. The company has been in the spotlight recently due to its strategic partnerships and acquisition talks with major industry players like Sony and Tencent. Tencent's increased stake in Kadokawa signals its growing interest in the gaming sector, reinforcing its position in the Japanese gaming market while competing with Sony for influence over the publisher's future. With both tech giants expanding their stakes, Kadokawa's role in shaping the gaming industry is expected to become even more significant in the coming years.

Scroll Smarter: Why Reddit is the Thinking Person's Social Media



By Yansi Gopisetty

Tired of political debates that go nowhere and movie discussions that end at ‘mass or class’? Maybe it’s time you discovered Reddit – where the internet actually thinks. Reddit is the internet’s best-kept secret and a goldmine for curious readers who love a good debate. If you’ve never heard of it, don’t worry- you’re not alone. Reddit quietly operates as a massive global forum where people discuss everything, from serious political issues to bizarre conspiracy theories. Think of it as a WhatsApp group, but without the “Good morning” messages. Instead of endless reels and one-sided debates - Reddit offers real conversations where people actually think before they comment, well, most of the time. The platform is made up of topic-specific communities called subreddits, where users post news, opinions, thoughts, questions, gossip, and memes while others respond with insightful or sometimes sarcastic comments.

Now, why should you, a reader interested in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana politics, care about Reddit? Because this is where real, unfiltered discussions happen - without paid promotions, screaming debates, or viral propaganda that often plague mainstream platforms. If politics feels too heavy, Reddit also happens to be a paradise for cinephiles. Unlike YouTube comments that just say “goosebumps”, Reddit’s film communities break down every frame, dialogue, and hidden meaning in a movie. IN SEPARATE BOXXX How to navigate Reddit: Lurk for a while, read posts, and observe how discussions flow. Upvote smart discussions, ignore the noise. To get started, check out these subreddits: r/india for national issues, r/andhra_pradesh and r/hyderabad for local updates, r/IndiaCricket for cricket fans, r/tollywood for all things Telugu cinema. It’s not just for politics and movies.

Reddit has communities for everything under the sun - cricket debates, stock market trends, startup advice, space exploration, memes, or even niche topics like conspiracy theories and historical mysteries, there’s a subreddit for you. But since anyone can post, be wise in choosing communities, fact-check before believing anything, and remember: upvotes don’t always mean truth. Fact-check before believing. If you’re tired of news that feels like a rerun and movie debates that never go beyond box office numbers, Reddit is your upgrade. It’s where facts get more love than clickbait, where politics is discussed without panelists yelling, and where a simple movie thread can turn into a full-blown thesis, and one click can take you from serious policy talk to a heated debate on the best Maggi flavor. So jump in, explore, and stay curious—you might just find the most interesting conversations happening in the unlikeliest corners of the internet.

YouTube Working on Netflix-Like Redesign to Compete With Amazon Prime Video



YouTube is reportedly developing a redesigned version of its smart TV app that could resemble Netflix and Disney+, aiming to make it easier for users to discover paid content from third-party streaming services. This move is seen as an effort to compete with Amazon Prime Video, which already integrates external services like Apple TV+ and Paramount+ within its interface. According to a report from The Information (via The Verge),

the Alphabet-owned platform plans to spotlight paid content from third-party providers directly on the YouTube home page, offering users a more seamless content discovery experience. YouTube already allows US customers to subscribe to services like Max, Paramount+, and Crunchyroll through its “Primetime Channels” feature in the Movies and TV tab. However, the redesign could expand this integration significantly. Amazon’s Prime Video currently highlights content from external platforms throughout its app and allows users to purchase subscriptions within the interface. YouTube appears to be following a similar strategy to boost engagement and make its app a more comprehensive entertainment hub. Kurt Wilms, Senior Director of Product Management at YouTube, confirmed that the company is working on a unified viewing experience. “The vision is that when you come to our app and you’re looking for a show, it’ll just blend away whether that show is from a Primetime Channel or that show is from a creator,” he told The Information. The move comes amid growing competition among streaming services, with platforms like Netflix, Disney+, and Amazon Prime Video constantly refining their user experience. By enhancing its smart TV app to integrate third-party services more prominently, YouTube aims to position itself as a key player in the premium streaming market.

Microsoft unveils new AI assistant ‘Dragon Copilot’ How safe are AI tools in healthcare?



Microsoft has launched a groundbreaking voice-activated AI assistant, named Dragon Copilot, aimed at streamlining the administrative tasks of healthcare professionals. The new tool is designed to help doctors and healthcare workers efficiently transcribe clinical notes, draft essential paperwork, and swiftly search for information from medical sources. Integrated into the Microsoft Cloud for Healthcare platform, Dragon Copilot represents a significant step toward improving productivity and reducing the time spent on routine adminis-

trative work. Dragon Copilot utilizes advanced natural language voice dictation and ambient listening technology developed by Nuance, an AI voice company acquired by Microsoft in 2021 for \$16 billion. This acquisition enabled Microsoft to leverage Nuance’s expertise in AI-driven voice recognition and transcription tools, which are already widely used in the healthcare industry. By using Dragon Copilot, healthcare professionals can dictate patient notes and other clinical documentation hands-free, improving both the speed and accuracy of their work. The tool can transcribe real-time conversations and adapt to medical terminology, ensuring that the resulting records are precise and compliant with industry standards. Additionally, Dragon Copilot can instantly search through vast databases of medical knowledge to provide relevant information or

suggestions, assisting doctors in making quicker and more informed decisions. The integration of Dragon Copilot into Microsoft Cloud for Healthcare offers significant advantages in terms of data security, scalability, and interoperability, ensuring that healthcare providers can access and manage their AI-powered tools securely. As part of the larger shift towards digitization in healthcare, this AI assistant is poised to reduce administrative burdens, allowing doctors and other healthcare professionals to focus more on patient care rather than paperwork. Dragon Copilot is a game-changer for the healthcare industry, enhancing efficiency, improving the accuracy of medical documentation, and allowing healthcare professionals to deliver better patient outcomes. By harnessing cutting-edge AI technology, Microsoft continues to push the boundaries of innovation in healthcare.

Apple Set to Launch MacBook Air M4 with AI Features This Week



Apple is ready to unveil its highly anticipated MacBook Air M4 this week, confirming the launch via social media on Monday. The new laptop will succeed the MacBook Air M3, which debuted only a year ago in March 2024. The MacBook Air M4 is expected to come in two sizes—13-inch and 15-inch models—and will be powered by the new M4 chipset. In a teaser shared on X (formerly Twitter), Apple CEO Tim Cook posted a video with the tagline, “There’s something in the AIR,” hinting at the arrival of the new MacBook Air. While the design of the new laptop is expected to remain largely unchanged from its predecessor, the major update will be the introduction of the M4 processor, which is expected to boost performance and efficiency. The MacBook Air M4 is rumored to offer two display sizes—13-inch and 15-inch—codenamed J713 and J715, respectively. The laptop will likely feature the same Liquid Retina display as the current model, though

there are speculations that Apple could introduce a new nano-texture coating, which it currently offers on the MacBook Pro (M4, 2024), to the MacBook Air M4. Additionally, the upcoming model may see an upgrade in connectivity, with Thunderbolt 4 ports replacing the Thunderbolt 3 ports found in the current MacBook Air. Another significant upgrade for the MacBook Air M4 could be the introduction of Apple Intelligence—Apple’s suite of AI-powered features. This would likely require a minimum of 8GB of RAM, aligning with Apple’s specifications for running its AI suite. This upgrade hints at a more powerful, AI-enhanced experience for users. The news of the M4 chip was first reported by Bloomberg’s Mark Gurman in October 2024, and the launch of the MacBook Air M4 is expected to be followed by the release of an M4-powered Mac Studio, which may debut between March and June 2025.

Giving Up Your Phone For Just 3 Days Can Change Brain, Study Shows



A recent study has revealed that giving up your smartphone for just three days can lead to significant changes in brain activity. The research, conducted by scientists from Heidelberg University and the University of Cologne in Germany, involved 25 young adults aged 18 to 30. Participants were asked to limit their phone use to essential communication and work tasks for a period of 72 hours. Before and after the three-day “phone diet,” participants underwent MRI scans and psychological tests. The aim of the study was to observe how restricting smartphone use would affect brain patterns, particularly focusing on addiction-related neurotransmitter systems. The results showed notable changes in brain activation associated with these systems, indicating that even short-term phone restrictions can influence neural responses. The researchers used a longitudinal approach to examine the effects of smartphone restriction, as detailed in their published paper. They found associations between changes in brain activation over time

and the neurotransmitter systems related to addiction. Participants were shown various images during the scans, including pictures of smartphones (both on and off) and neutral images like boats and flowers, to examine their brain responses. The study suggests that smartphone use has a profound effect on brain activity, even in the short term. These findings provide valuable insight into how digital devices shape our neural patterns. However, the researchers caution that their data does not fully distinguish between craving smartphone use and craving social interaction, two processes that are often closely intertwined in today’s digital age. While the study reveals robust findings, the researchers highlight the need for future research to further explore these aspects, particularly to clarify how smartphone use affects both our craving for devices and the social connections we seek through them. This study adds to the growing body of evidence that points to the powerful influence of smartphones on our brains.



India Defeat Australia by 4 Wickets to Enter Champions Trophy 2025 Final

India booked their spot in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 final after defeating Australia by 4 wickets in a thrilling semi-final at Dubai International Stadium. Chasing a target of 265, India reached 267/6 in 48.1 overs, with Virat Kohli leading the way with a composed 84-run innings. Shreyas Iyer (45), KL Rahul (42 not out), and Hardik Pandya (28) played key supporting roles in the successful chase. Earlier, India's bowlers restricted Australia to 264, with Mohammed Shami claiming 3 wickets for 48 runs. Varun Chakravarthi and Ravindra Jadeja each picked up two wickets. Steve Smith top-scored for Australia with 73 runs off 96 balls. India's clinical bowling effort and solid chase secured a spot in the final, where they will face the winner of the South Africa vs New Zealand match.

Odisha FC Eye Crucial Win Against Jamshedpur FC to Keep Playoff Hopes Alive



Odisha FC will face Jamshedpur FC at the JRD Tata Sports Complex in Jamshedpur on Wednesday in a crucial Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 match. Jamshedpur FC, already qualified for the playoffs, sit fourth in the table with 38 points from 22 matches, while Odisha FC are seventh with 30 points from 23 games. A win will take Odisha FC to 33 points, keeping them in contention for the final playoff spot. If Mumbai City FC, currently in sixth place, loses both of their remaining games, Odisha FC could still advance based on goal difference, with their current advantage of +6 over Mumbai's 0. Odisha FC have struggled recently, failing to score in their last two matches, but are the fourth-highest scoring team this season with 41 goals. Jamshedpur FC, on the other hand, will aim for a strong performance at home, with their goalkeeper Albino Gomes making the most saves in the league.

Indian Dragflickers Sharpen Skills with Taeke Taekema Ahead of FIH Pro League 2024-25



The Indian Women's Hockey Team enhanced their penalty corner conversion skills in a specialized dragflicking camp held from February 10-16, 2025, in Bhubaneswar. Led by legendary Dutch dragflicker Taeke Taekema, renowned for his precision in penalty corners, the camp aimed to refine the team's technical abilities ahead of their home leg in the FIH Pro League 2024-25. Taekema, a former player with 170 goals in 94 appearances for the Netherlands, worked with senior players like Deepika, Manisha Chauhan, and Sonam, focusing on body positioning, footwork, and shot release. Deepika, who scored two of her three goals through penalty corners during the Pro League, praised the camp's impact on her technique and mental resilience. Coach Harendra Singh expressed excitement about Taekema's contribution, emphasizing the need for continuous development in dragflicking for success in future competitions, including the 2028 LA Olympics.

India Paddle Festival 2025: National Champion Sekar Patchai to Lead India's Charge



The second edition of the India Paddle Festival is set to take place from March 7 to 9, 2025, at the scenic Sasi-hithlu Beach in Mangalore, Karnataka. This prestigious event, sanctioned by the Association of PaddleSurf Professionals (APP) World Tour, will showcase elite stand-up paddling (SUP) races, featuring a star-studded lineup. The festival will see world number two Christian Andersen, former World Champion Daniel Hasulyo, and defending Women's Champion Esperanza Barreras among the top competitors. Leading India's charge is Sekar Patchai, the 25-time national champion and current titleholder. Patchai, alongside rising star Manikandan, will represent India against a strong international field, including athletes from Spain, South Africa, and Korea. The three-day event will feature sprint, technical, and distance races in multiple categories, with over 40 paddlers competing for supremacy. The festival will also feature cultural performances, making it a celebration of water sports and vibrant festivities.

World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025 to Be Held in Delhi from March 11-13



The Paralympic Committee of India has announced the launch of the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025, which will take place at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, from March 11-13. The event will feature over 90 competitions, with participation from elite para-athletes across 20 countries, including Germany, Japan, Australia, Saudi Arabia, and Brazil. The event's logo reflects India's rich cultural heritage and sporting excellence, incorporating elements like traditional musical instruments and para-athletic sports such as wheelchair racing, javelin throw, and running. The logo also celebrates India's connection to holistic well-being and fitness through motifs of yoga and athletic movements. Devendra Jhajharia, President of the Paralympic Committee of India, emphasized that the Grand Prix is not just a competition but a celebration of resilience, inclusivity, and excellence. This event will provide Indian para-athletes with the opportunity to compete against top global talent, boosting the nation's growing reputation in para-sports.

India to Host 2nd Asian Yogasana Championship in March 2025



India will host the 2nd Asian Yogasana Championship from March 29 to 31, 2025, at the Indira Gandhi Arena in New Delhi, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Sports Authority of India (SAI), and Yogasana Bharat. This event aims to promote Yogasana as a competitive sport globally while showcasing its rich cultural heritage. The championship will bring together top athletes from across Asia to compete in various Yogasana categories, emphasizing balance, strength, and flexibility. The event is supported by leading organizations, including the Olympic Council of Asia, World Yogasana, and Asian Yogasana, with the long-term goal of including Yogasana in the Olympics. Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya emphasized that the championship will highlight the transformative power of Yogasana, not only as a sport but as a practice that fosters physical and mental well-being. The event marks a major step in making Yogasana a mainstream global sport.



Samantha Reflects on Her Career Milestones and Cringe-Worthy Performances



Samantha Ruth Prabhu, celebrating 15 years in the industry, reflects on her journey in an interview with ETimes. The actress, who made her Telugu debut with Ye Maaya Chesave in 2010, admits there were moments in her early career that now make her cringe. “The performances that make me cringe are the ones where I was struggling to fit in,” she shared, recalling how she once tried to mimic her peers. Despite those initial challenges, Samantha is proud of her growth. “I feel more mature and sure of myself now,” she said. Looking ahead, she’s excited for the future and finds immense joy in her work, which no longer feels like a job.

Alia Bhatt Hosts Heartwarming Meet and Greet with Fans in Mumbai



Alia Bhatt took a break from her busy schedule to connect with her fans in Mumbai at a special meet and greet event. The actress joined her admirers for lunch at a local restaurant, where she curated a menu filled with her favorite dishes, includ-

ing french fries, mac & cheese, pizza, pasta, and more. Each fan was gifted a personalized goodies bag containing items like a hair straightener brush, perfume, makeup products, a customized Spotify playlist, a Rs 5K travel gift card, and chocolates. Attendees

shared heartfelt moments on social media, showing Alia interacting, posing for photos, and signing autographs. On the work front, Alia will star in Love & War alongside Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal, and has Alpha coming up with YRF.

Telugu Cinema Celebration: Iconic Films at Red Lorry Film Festival in Hyderabad



The Red Lorry Film Festival: Parallel Verse is set to debut in Hyderabad from March 21st to 23rd, 2025, at Prasads Multiplex, celebrating South Indian cinema with over 70 exceptional titles. The festival shines a special spotlight on Telugu cinema,

featuring beloved classics and contemporary masterpieces. Key highlights include iconic films such as Mayabazar (1957), Missamma (1955), Pushpaka Vimana (1987), and Aditya 369 (1991), all showcasing legendary directors and actors. Pushpaka Vi-

mana and Aditya 369 will pay tribute to director Singeetham Srinivasa Rao’s visionary storytelling, while Manmadhudu (2002) and Kshana Kshanam (1991) continue to captivate audiences with their humor and suspense. Happy Days (2007) and Chandamama (2007) will offer a nostalgic look at youth and love, while Nene Raju Nene Mantri (2017) explores political drama. The festival also features masterclasses and panel discussions with filmmakers, offering valuable insights into the evolution of Indian cinema. This celebration of Telugu and global cinema is organized by BookAChange, under the BookMyShow Foundation. With festival passes starting at Rs. 750/-, cinephiles can purchase them exclusively on BookMyShow and immerse themselves in this cinematic journey. Don’t miss out on this spectacular event!

Vicky Kaushal’s Chhaava Crosses Rs 450 Crore, Becomes 11th-Highest-Grossing Indian Film



Vicky Kaushal’s Chhaava continues to shine at the box office, crossing a major milestone with Rs 467 crore in domestic earnings. Directed by Laxman Utekar, the historical drama has now become the 11th highest-grossing Indian film, surpassing the earnings of Baahubali - The Beginning (2015) and outgrossing films like Salaar: Part 1 - Ceasefire and 2.0. On day 18, it earned

Rs 8.25 crore. The film, based on the Marathi novel Chhaava by Shivaaji Sawant, depicts the life of Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, played by Kaushal. Chhaava has received an emotional response from audiences, including a touching moment shared by Kaushal on Instagram, showcasing a fan moved by the film’s story.

Nagarjuna Reportedly Quits Bigg Boss Telugu 9: Vijay Deverakonda to Host?



Bigg Boss Telugu, one of the most popular reality shows in India, is set to return for its 9th season, but with significant changes. After hosting Seasons 3 to 8, Nagarjuna is reportedly stepping down, creating a buzz about who will take his place. To reignite the excitement, the show is considering Tollywood star Vijay Deverakonda as the new host. Sources suggest that Deverakonda has been offered a substantial amount and is contemplating the role, but no official confirmation has been made yet.

In addition to the change in hosting, Bigg Boss Telugu Season 9 will feature a star-studded lineup of contestants. Unlike previous seasons, which included common people, only well-known celebrities will participate this time, including actors, comedians, singers, and choreographers. This shift aims to boost the show’s appeal and engage viewers. Fans eagerly await the official announcement, hopeful that these changes will bring back the excitement.