

Weather Forecast: HYDERABAD (H 33°C, L 25°C), VIJAYAWADA (H 35°C, L 26°C), TIRUPATHI (H 36°C, L 26°C)



EPFO 3.0: Withdraw PF Directly from ATMs Soon

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Telangana Assembly Budget sessions to begin on March 12

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India Ready for Champions Trophy Final Against New Zealand

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KCR Meets BRS Leaders at Erravalli Farmhouse to Discuss Political Strategy



TPN, Correspondent Hyderabad, Mar 08 :

Former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) held a crucial meeting with BRS leaders on Friday at his agricultural farm in Erravalli, Siddipet district.

Jagadeeshwar Reddy, and Puvvada Ajay, focused on recent political developments, the selection of MLC candidates, and strategies for the upcoming Assembly sessions.

KCR provided direction to the MLAs on the approach they should adopt in the legislative assembly. The discussions also included plans for the upcoming BRS Foundation Day on April 27, with KCR planning a large public gathering to mark

KCR meets BRS leaders to discuss strategy.

Plans public meetings for BRS Foundation Day and Silver Jubilee.

KCR to attend Telangana Budget sessions from March 9.

BRS to address SLBC, Kaleshwaram, and debt issues in Assembly.

the occasion. Furthermore, a BRS representatives' meeting will be held on April 10 in Hyderabad, and a grand public meeting is being planned in either Hyderabad or Warangal under the banner "Silver Jubilee" to commemorate the party's 25th anniversary.

KCR's participation in the Assembly sessions has been a topic of discussion recently. After attending only the day when the budget was present-

ed last year, KCR did not participate actively in the Assembly. His limited presence has been criticized by opposition parties, particularly the Congress, which accused him of merely showing up for a day and avoiding full participation. Despite these criticisms, BRS leaders have stated that KCR will attend the Telangana Budget sessions starting March 9. The party has also indicated that KCR plans >> PAGE 2



DCM Bhatti Vikramarka to Meet MPs on Pending Issues

Meeting chaired by DCM Bhatti Vikramarka on Saturday.

CM Revanth Reddy to attend as chief guest.

Aim to unite MPs for state concerns with the Centre.

TPN, Correspondent Hyderabad, Mar 08 : The Telangana government has decided to hold a crucial meeting with Members of Parliament (MPs) from all parties to ad-

dress pending issues related to the state. The meeting, chaired by Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, is scheduled for Saturday >> PAGE 2



Tamil Nadu CM Stalin Writes Letters to 7 State Leaders Against Delimitation

Tamil Nadu CM Stalin opposes delimitation.

Forms Joint Action Committee (JAC), meeting on March 22.

Invites 7 state CMs to join.

Urges political leaders to support.

TPN, Correspondent Hyderabad, Mar 08 :

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK leader M. K. Stalin has taken a strong stand against the proposed delimitation exercise by the Centre, which he believes will harm the rights of southern states. Stalin argues that the proposed delimitation could result in a reduction of the number of MP seats in southern states, especially those like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka, which have managed population control better than other regions. This, according to Stalin, would disproportionately affect the representation of these states in Parliament.

To voice their opposition, Stalin has announced the formation of a Joint Action Committee (JAC) to fight against the delimitation. The first meeting of the JAC will be held in Chennai on March 22. Stalin has sent letters to the Chief Ministers and leaders of seven states, urging them to join the committee. Among the leaders invited are Telangana CM RevanthReddy And Former CM K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, Andhra Pradesh CM Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah, and Puducherry >> PAGE 2

Telangana Model is the Future

Hyderabad's Growth is Centuries-Old

Telangana Model Beats Gujarat Model

Revanth Questions BJP's Policies

South India Targeted Through Delimitation

Hindi Can't Be Forced on Others

Respect for All Religions, Says CM

TPN, Correspondent Hyderabad, Mar 08 :

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy made bold remarks at the India Today Conclave 2025, asserting that Hyderabad's development was not solely due to former CM Chandrababu Naidu. He emphasized that Telangana's growth has been a continuous process spanning 450 years, beginning with the Quli Qutub Shah dynasty.

Revanth Reddy dismissed the Gujarat Model as "outdated" and positioned the Telangana Model as a progressive

"twenty-twenty" model focusing on development, welfare, and good governance. He challenged comparisons between Hyderabad and Ahmedabad, asserting that Hyderabad's infrastructure is globally competitive, aiming to rival cities like New York, Seoul, and Tokyo. He also announced plans to develop a 3,000-acre future city, promising it would be one of the world's best in five years.

Respect for PM Modi but Policy Differences

Addressing his stance on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Revanth Reddy clarified that while he respects Modi as the



country's leader, he holds policy differences. He questioned why Hyderabad was not granted similar investment exemptions as Gujarat's GIFT City and urged for equitable treatment.

Delimitation: A Political Tool Against Southern States

Revanth Reddy criticized the BJP's stance on delimitation, calling it a tool to reduce the political importance of South India. He argued that seats should not be allocated solely based on population, questioning why an all-party meeting

was not being convened for discussions.

Language and Religious Freedom

The Telangana CM strongly opposed the imposition of Hindi, stating that it is merely a widely spoken language, not a national language. He insisted that linguistic policies should be inclusive, criticizing the removal of Telugu from civil services exams.

Defending the Telangana government's decision to allow Muslim >> PAGE 2



BJP MLA Maheshwer Reddy Criticizes Govt for Bias in Fund Allocation

TPN, Correspondent Hyderabad, Mar 08 :

BJP MLA Alleti Maheshwer Reddy, representing Nirmal, has once again targeted the Congress government, accusing them of favoring only the constituencies of their ministers when it comes to fund allocation.

Speaking at a media briefing in Hyderabad's Nampally BJP office, Reddy stated that the current Congress government is operating in a similar manner to the previous BRS government. He criticized the BRS administration for providing funds to just three constituen-

cies, alleging that the Congress government is following the same pattern.

Reddy further alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is only allocating funds to the constituencies of their own ministers, leaving the rest of the >> PAGE 2



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KCR Meets BRS Leaders at Erravalli Farmhouse to Discuss Political Strategy

to address issues like SLBC, Kaleshwaram, and the state's debt in the Assembly.

KCR's leadership continues to dominate party activities, which are now largely being conducted from his agricultural farm, with the party preparing for its 25th-anniversary celebrations and Silver Jubilee.

DCM Bhatti Vikramarka to Meet MPs on Pending Issues

at 11 AM at Pragathi Bhavan. The primary goal of the meeting is to discuss unresolved issues concerning Telangana that are pending with the central government.

The state government aims to encourage MPs to raise these issues in Parliament and advocate for the state's interests at the Centre. The session will focus on various unresolved matters, and it is expected to strengthen efforts to resolve them through collective representation.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will attend the meeting as the chief guest. Bhatti Vikramarka has personally contacted MPs from the state, including Union Ministers Kishan Reddy and Bhandi Sanjay, inviting them to attend the session. The meeting will bring together MPs from different political parties to ensure a united front in pushing for the state's rights and demands.

This initiative by the Telangana government aims to provide a platform for coordinated action on pressing state issues, ensuring that all MPs work together to address long-standing concerns with the central government.

Telangana Model is the Future

employees to leave early during Ramzan, he said it was part of the state's commitment to respecting all religions. He challenged the BJP's criticism, stating that governance should acknowledge cultural and religious diversity.

Internal Democracy in Congress vs. BJP

Revanth Reddy pointed out that the Congress party allows more internal democracy compared to the BJP. He remarked that while Congress leaders openly protest against internal decisions, senior BJP figures like LK Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi have been sidelined without questioning.

Telangana's Growth and Future Vision

Highlighting Telangana's achievements, Revanth Reddy stated that his government had waived ₹21,000 crore in farm loans within three months. He reiterated his vision to make Telangana a global economic hub, ensuring continuous and sustainable development.

His fiery statements at the conclave have sparked political discussions, with strong reactions expected from opposition leaders.

Tamil Nadu CM Stalin Writes Letters to 7 State Leaders Against Delimitation

CM N. Rangasamy. Furthermore, the leaders of several political parties including YSRCP, BRS, MIM, CPI, CPM, and Congress from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, and Punjab have also received letters from Stalin. The Tamil Nadu CM urged them to send their representatives to the JAC's first meeting and lend their support to the cause.

Stalin's move reflects his concern over the potential impact of delimitation on the southern states and is aimed at forming a united front to protect their interests in Parliament.

BJP MLA Maheshwer Reddy Criticizes Govt for Bias in Fund Allocation

constituencies neglected. He questioned why other constituencies are being ignored, despite Congress claiming to prioritize development for all. He also criticized the Congress for neglecting important projects, particularly in North Telangana, and accused the party of lacking sincerity towards irrigation and water projects. Reddy specifically pointed out the Chanakha-Korata Barrage project, questioning why the government has failed to address its progress.

This statement reflects ongoing political tensions in Telangana, with BJP leaders continuing to challenge the ruling Congress and BRS for their governance and fund distribution strategies.

KTR Slams Congress Govt Over Decline in Registration Revenue, Issues Strong Criticism

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 08 : BRS Working President and former minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has launched a scathing attack on the Congress government over the significant decline in registration department revenues. Reports suggest that while the government set a target of ₹18,229 crores for the financial year, it could only generate ₹10,313 crores, leading to widespread concern.

KTR took to social media platform 'X' (formerly Twitter) to criticize the Congress leadership, accusing them of making false promises before the elections regarding the scrapping of the Land Regularization Scheme (LRS). He claimed that after coming to power, the Congress government was now reintroducing LRS, which he called embarrassing. He further condemned the government's actions, accusing them of caus-



ing fear and distress among the poor under the HYDRA project and attacking the rampant chaos caused by "RR tax" in Hyderabad. KTR also criticized the Musi River beautification initiative for demolishing poor

people's homes, contributing to the decline in registration numbers. With the state's treasury facing a deficit and a ₹1.5 lakh crore debt burden, KTR claimed that the Congress-led government's promises had

evaporated, leading to a crisis for both citizens and realtors. He concluded his tweet by stating that under Congress, ordinary people have become mere sacrifices, urging Telangana to wake up and take action.

Kishan Reddy Highlights Coal Revenue for Railways, Announces IIT-H Collaboration

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 08 : Union Minister Kishan Reddy made key statements about India's growing coal production during a meeting at IIT Hyderabad, where the Ministry of Coal and IIT-H signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for research and development in the mining sector.

Minister Reddy emphasized that advanced technologies will be incorporated into coal mining processes, with a ₹98 crore allocation to IIT Hyderabad for the same.

He pointed out that coal



production in India continues to rise, with the country now

ranking second globally in coal output. Reddy also highlighted

the critical role of coal in generating revenue, stating that 50% of the Railway Department's income comes from coal transportation.

Addressing gender inclusivity, Reddy mentioned that the government is taking steps to prioritize women in the mining sector.

He outlined plans to create equal opportunities for women in traditionally male-dominated industries, recognizing their valuable contributions and working towards a more supportive environment for female professionals in mining.

Minister Ponnam Announces 2.5% DA Hike for Telangana RTC Employees

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 08 : Telangana RTC employees have received a welcome announcement from the state government. Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar revealed that the government will grant a 2.5% Dearness Allowance (DA) hike for RTC workers. This decision will place an additional burden of ₹3.6 crores on the state exchequer every month.

Minister Ponnam also highlighted that this announcement aligns with the government's commitment to women's empowerment,

coinciding with International Women's Day celebrations. The Telangana government is set to launch the "Indira Women's Power Bus" initiative, aiming to empower women in the state. The first phase will see the deployment of 150 buses from Mandal Women's Associations on a rental basis, while in the second phase, 450 more buses will be provided by these associations under a similar agreement with the RTC.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will formally launch the Women's Power Buses on Saturday, marking the occasion with great enthusiasm. This



initiative emphasizes the government's focus on women's

financial independence and mobility.

TGPSC Announces Group Exam Results Schedule from March 10



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 08 : Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) has announced the schedule for the release of results for several key exams. Starting from March 10, the results for the Group 1 exams will be released, followed by Group 2 General Rankings on March

11, and Group 3 General Rankings on March 14. Additionally, the results for Hostel Welfare and Extension Officer exams will be declared on March 17 and 19, respectively.

The TGPSC has completed the evaluation of the Group 1 Mains exam papers for 563 posts, with a total of 21,093 candidates.

Merit lists will be prepared based on the candidates' marks, and a 1:2 ratio will be used for the selection process. Following a recent Cabinet meeting, the government has given approval for additional job notifications, signaling that pending notifications will be cleared soon and new ones will be issued.

Telangana Govt Transfers 21 IPS Officers in Major Reshuffle

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 08 : In a significant reshuffle, the Telangana government has transferred 21 IPS officers across various positions. The decision was made based on their performance, and the official orders were issued by Chief Sec-

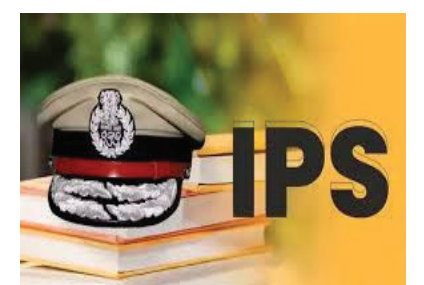
retary Shanti Kumari on Friday afternoon.

Among the key transfers, Amber Kishore Jha has been appointed as the Commissioner of Police for Ramagundam, while Sunpreet Singh takes over as the Commissioner of Police for Warangal. Sindhu Shar-

ma has been appointed as the SP of Intelligence, and Rajesh Chandra has been transferred as the SP of Kamareddy. Sai Chaitanya has been posted as the Commissioner of Police for Nizamabad, while Gaus Alam will head the Karimnagar Police Department.

Other notable transfers include Akhil Mahajan as SP of Adilabad, Rupesh as SP of Narcotic Bureau, and Akshansh Yadav as DCP of Bhongir. Pankaj Parithosh has been appointed as the SP of Sangareddy, and Geeta Mahesh Baba Saheb is now the SP of Sirisilla.

Additionally, several officers have been transferred to various CID and police zones, including M. Srinivasaulu as CID IG and P. Ravinder as CID SP. These changes are expected to bring a new wave of leadership in the Telangana Police Department.



Telangana Assembly Budget sessions to begin on March 12

- Key decisions made in the Cabinet meeting led by CM Revanth Reddy
- Implementation of Bhubharati from Ugadi
- Establishment of a new board for the Future City project
- Appointment of 10,950 Village Level Officer posts approved
- Special committee for river water issues

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 08 : Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy chaired a crucial Cabinet meeting on March 6, where important decisions were made regarding the upcoming Telangana Assembly Budget sessions. The sessions are scheduled to begin on March 12 and will continue until March 27. The Cabinet meeting also decided on several administrative reforms and new initiatives for the state.

One of the key announcements made during the meeting was the implementation of the Bhubharati scheme from Ugadi, aiming to streamline land records and promote transparency in land transactions. A new board has also been constituted to focus on the development of a "Future City," marking a significant step toward future urban planning and growth.

Additionally, the Telangana government approved the creation of 10,950 Village Level Officer (VLO) posts to strengthen local governance and improve administration at the grassroots level. The Cabinet also decid-



ed to establish 217 new posts for revenue divisions and mandals, further decentralizing power and improving service delivery. A special committee will be set up to address river water issues, ensuring proper management and utilization of water resources across the state. These decisions highlight the Telangana government's focus on enhancing infrastructure, governance, and resource management for long-term growth and development.

Harish Rao Accuses Congress Government of Corruption and Scams



TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 08 : BRS leader Harish Rao has once again criticized the Congress government, calling it a "government of scams and commissions." In a recent tweet, he accused Congress ministers of taking bribes to please their leaders in Delhi, citing recent allegations made by contractors.

Harish Rao pointed out that contractors protested outside the Finance Minister's chamber at the Secretariat, alleging that they were forced to pay a 20% commission, a serious accusation that had never been heard before. He emphasized that these corruption allegations tarnish the reputation of the Telangana government. Harish urged Rahul Gandhi to respond to the allegations, as contractors themselves were making severe claims of corruption. He also called for central investigative agencies to take immediate action.

Harish further criticized the delay in paying bills owed to small contractors, former sarpanches, and employees. He pointed out that despite the successful "Mana Ooru Mana Badi" program under KCR's leadership, pending bills for work in government schools remained unpaid. Harish demanded a white paper on all payments made by the Finance Department during the 15-month Congress rule, ensuring transparency and justice for the victims of corruption.

Congress Leadership Upset Over MLC Election Defeat

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 08 : The Congress leadership in Telangana is fuming over the party's poor performance in the recent MLC elections. Despite securing power in the state after ten years, Congress suffered a significant setback in the elections, with its candidate Narendra Reddy losing. Meanwhile, BJP won two seats, and the PRU, supported by Congress, emerged victorious.



The Congress high command has expressed dissatisfaction with the party's internal functioning and has instructed the TPCC (Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee) to submit a detailed report on the election defeat. Meenakshi Natarajan, the AICC in-charge for Telangana, also held a review meeting and emphasized the need for a report on the MLC results.

Congress leaders pointed to delays in selecting candidates and the last-minute change of candidates as key reasons for the defeat. They noted that Prasanna Harikrishna, who had been actively engaging with voters for months, was initially expected to be the candidate. However, the last-minute decision to replace him with Narendra Reddy was seen as a significant factor in the party's loss. The defeat has left Congress grappling with questions about its internal dynamics and strategy.

Congress Workers File Complaint Against Patancheru MLA



TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 08 : Patancheru MLA Mahipal Reddy has come under fire from Congress workers once again. They are raising serious concerns about his recent actions and comments, questioning why someone who previously criticized the Congress party is now part of it. The party workers have accused Mahipal Reddy of morphing videos and disrespecting Congress leaders, which has sparked outrage within the party.

Adding to the controversy, Congress workers have lodged a formal complaint with Meenakshi Natarajan, AICC in-charge for Tel-

angana, against Mahipal Reddy. The Patancheru MLA has made sensational statements, calling Congress a "loud party" while still being a part of it, which has left many party leaders frustrated. Recently, when victims from the Pera Nagar dump yard issue approached Mahipal Reddy, he made yet another controversial statement, further escalating tensions. His comments have drawn criticism from within Congress, particularly given his history of ridiculing the party before joining it. The ongoing drama has led to an internal rift, with party members questioning his allegiance and credibility.

Minister Sithekka Inaugurates Women Empowerment Workshop, Highlights Gender Equality Goals

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 08 : On March 7, 2025, Minister Sithekka attended a Women Empowerment Action Plan Workshop at the National Institute for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (NIMSME) in Yusufguda, Hyderabad. The event, held on International Women's Day, was also attended by SERP CEO Divya Devarajan, students, staff, and community resource persons.



Minister Sithekka kicked off the workshop by watering plants, symbolizing growth and progress. In her address, she extended warm wishes for International Women's Day, emphasizing the importance of equal opportunities and pay for women across all fields. She expressed that the true spirit of Women's Day would be realized when women receive the appropriate rewards for their hard work.

She also reflected on the ongoing gender inequalities faced by women, including those in politics and business, despite their rise to significant positions such as MLAs, ministers, and IAS officers. Noting that women had once only found employment in agri-

culture and industry, she highlighted their growing success in various sectors but stressed that societal bias remains a challenge.

Minister Sithekka affirmed that the government is committed to promoting gender equality, introducing policies to support women's financial independence, and encouraging women's involvement in industries. She proudly mentioned the government's efforts in providing interest-free loans to women, surpassing their initial targets.

She also honored several women industrial leaders who have excelled at national and international levels.

Controversial Comments by Gudem Mahipal Reddy: "Congress is a Lousy Party!"



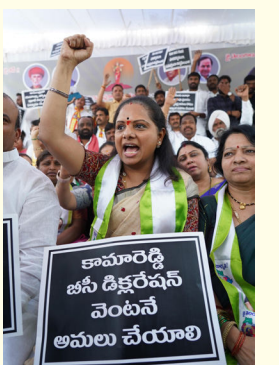
TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 08 : Patancheru MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy has sparked controversy with his recent comments. Speaking openly about his views on the Congress party, he stated, "Congress is a lousy party!" while making remarks that are now going viral on social media. Mahipal Reddy, who is currently a Congress legislator, expressed his discontent with the party and emphasized that he was loyal to the BRS (Bharat Rashtra Samithi).

The incident took place during a meeting with residents affected by the Para Nagar Dump Yard issue. When a person in the crowd pointed out that he was still part of the Congress party, Mahipal Reddy clarified, "I am not in Congress; I am a firm supporter of BRS."

This statement has drawn attention, especially since Mahipal Reddy is an elected representative of the Congress party. The comments came as residents expressed their grievances about unresolved issues, highlighting the growing dissatisfaction within the Congress ranks. His strong comments about Congress have now gone viral, sparking debates across political circles and raising questions about internal conflicts within the Congress party.

Kavitha's Persistent Demand for BC Reservation Leads to Cabinet Decision

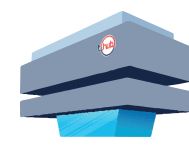
TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad , Mar 08 : Telangana Jagruthi President and BRS MLC Kavitha has secured another significant victory in her ongoing battle for the rights of backward classes (BCs). Following Kavitha's sustained efforts and demand, the state cabinet has agreed to introduce separate bills for BC reservations in education, employment, and politics.



Kavitha has been at the forefront of the fight for BC rights, passionately advocating for reservation bills to be introduced in these three areas. She has consistently argued that BCs should be granted reservations in a manner that aligns with their population statistics. Her efforts include numerous round-table meetings and protests organized under the banner of Telangana Jagruthi, a movement she has led tirelessly for over a year.

On February 4, 2025, during a protest at Indira Park, Kavitha reiterated her call for separate bills to ensure proper reservations for BCs in the fields of education, employment, and politics. Her demand gained traction, with the state government agreeing to formulate these separate bills, marking a significant step forward in addressing the concerns of BC communities.

Kavitha's commitment to BC rights is further demonstrated by her active participation in meetings with various BC community leaders and the submission of reports to the dedicated commission for BC reservations in local bodies. Through her relentless advocacy, she continues to push for policies that will ensure equitable opportunities for BCs in Telangana.



EPFO 3.0: Withdraw PF Directly from ATMs Soon



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 08 : The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is set to roll out a new system called 'EPFO 3.0', offering a revolutionary update for its subscribers. Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announced that, under this system, EPFO members will soon be able to withdraw their Provident Fund (PF) directly from ATMs. This move aims to bring banking-like convenience to PF transactions. The EPFO 3.0 will allow subscribers to manage their accounts using their Universal Account Number (UAN), eliminating the need for visits to government offices or employer approvals for PF withdrawals. In a bid to streamline the process, the new system is designed to make fund withdrawals, claim settlements, and pension transfers quicker and more efficient. This development promises a hassle-free experience, with withdrawals becoming as simple as cash transactions at an ATM.

Currently, accessing PF funds involves lengthy paperwork and processing times. With EPFO 3.0, these processes will be significantly reduced, improving user experience and eliminating common complaints. The system will also allow users to track their transactions and check their balances via a new EPFO app expected to launch by May or June 2025.

The government's push for EPFO 3.0 reflects its commitment to giving employees more control over their finances, ensuring they can access their hard-earned money whenever needed.

TGSPDCL Strengthens Power Infrastructure in Hyderabad Ahead of Summer



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 08 : The Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana (TGSPDCL) has taken significant steps to enhance its power infrastructure in Hyderabad ahead of the upcoming summer. On March 7, 2025, the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of TGSPDCL, Musharraf Faruqi, inaugurated new power transformers at key substations in the Cyber City Circle, a crucial IT hub. The new transformers, with capacities of 12.5 MVA and 8 MVA, were installed at the Puppalaguda, L&T, and Hafeezpet 33/11 kV substations. In preparation for the expected increase in electricity demand, especially during the peak summer months, the company has added 25 power transformers, 128 new 11 kV feeders, four 33 kV feeders, and 232 distribution transformers across the region. The CMD highlighted that areas like Gachibowli, Kondapur, and Ibrahim Bagh have seen a 35% annual increase in electricity demand, leading to overloading issues in the past. This year, he reassured the public that preventive measures have been put in place to ensure a stable power supply during the hot months.

Experts predict that Hyderabad will experience an intense summer, similar to the heatwave of 2017. Weather enthusiast T Balaji forecasts severe heatwaves from February to mid-April, especially if the La Niña phenomenon shifts to a neutral ENSO phase. While occasional summer rains may offer some relief, extreme temperatures are expected to persist until a strong monsoon season arrives.

TGPSC Warns Against Fake Job Claims, Takes Legal Action

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 08 : The Telangana Government Public Service Commission (TGPSC) has issued a strong warning against the spread of fake job claims and misinformation, particularly through social media, regarding its recruitment process. In a press release dated March 6, the Commission urged job aspirants to stay vigilant and avoid falling prey to middlemen or individuals promising fake government jobs or inside information.

TGPSC emphasized its commitment to a transparent and fair recruitment process, ensuring that all prescribed rules are followed when selecting candi-

dates for government positions. The Commission has already lodged a police complaint and is preparing to file a criminal defamation suit against those spreading false claims.

Despite a previous warning issued in December 2024, which cautioned aspirants about fraudulent job offers, no formal complaints have been reported to date. TGPSC reiterated its stance against misinformation, which it believes aims to tarnish the Commission's reputation and mislead job seekers.

The Commission has also reiterated its zero-tolerance policy for such scams, stressing that



stringent legal action will be taken against those responsible for spreading fake news. Aspirants are encouraged to report any suspicious activity or fraudulent job offers to the police and share details with the Commission via its official vigilance channels. By reinforcing these actions, TGPSC remains committed to ensuring a fair, merit-based recruitment process for government jobs.

Ambulance Driver Caught Drunk Driving in Panjagutta



TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 08 : In a special drive against ambulance misuse, the Hyderabad Traffic Police detained an ambu-

lance driver for drunk driving on March 7, 2025, under the Panjagutta limits. The driver, identified as Hafeez, was found to have a blood alcohol

concentration (BAC) of 120 mg, significantly higher than the legal limit. The police promptly seized the ambulance and registered a case against him.

Drunk driving is a serious offence under Section 185 of the Motor Vehicles Act, punishable by a fine of up to Rs. 10,000 and/or imprisonment for up to six months. Repeat offenders may face a suspension of their driving license for at least three months or permanent revocation. The traffic police emphasized the dangers of drunk driving, highlighting its potential to impair judgment, reduce caution, and lead to accidents, often with fatal consequences.

This incident follows a previous case where an ambulance was caught misusing sirens. The driver, Lakshminarayana, was found transporting a pet dog instead of a patient, in violation of emergency protocol. A study by the Hyderabad Traffic Police had earlier revealed that 51% of ambulance drivers in the city misuse sirens, often for non-emergency purposes, causing significant disruption to traffic flow.

The police are taking strict measures to curb these offenses and ensure that ambulance services are used appropriately for genuine emergencies.

GHMC Announces 90% Property Tax Interest Waiver Under One-Time Scheme

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 08 : The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has introduced a one-time scheme offering a 90% waiver on accumulated property tax arrear interest. This initiative, announced by the Telangana Government on March 7, 2025, provides significant relief to property owners within the GHMC jurisdiction who have outstanding tax dues.

Under the "One-Time Scheme" (OTS), property owners will need to pay the principal amount of their property tax dues for the financial years up to 2024-25, along with 10% of the accumulated interest on arrears. In return, they will receive a 90% waiver on the total interest owed. This move is aimed at helping taxpayers clear their outstanding dues while easing the burden of high interest payments.

For those who have already paid their dues, including interest and penalties, the scheme offers a benefit in the form of an adjustment. These taxpayers can use 90%



of the interest and penalties already paid towards their future property tax payments.

The scheme applies to both residential and commercial properties within GHMC limits. GHMC Commissioner Ilambarthi also mentioned the ongoing Property Tax Solution (PTS) program, running every Satur-

day from February 22 to March 29, to help resolve tax-related grievances, including revision petitions, assessments, and on-line payments.

Further details about the scheme and the process will be released by the GHMC soon, offering property owners an opportunity to settle their dues more affordably.

Raids at Popular Tolichowki, Ameerpet Restaurants Reveal Multiple Violations

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 08 : A task force team from the Telangana Food Safety Department recently conducted surprise raids at well-known restaurants in Tolichowki and Ameerpet, uncovering several health and safety violations.

At Tolichowki's 4 Seasons Multicuisine Restaurant, the team discovered refrigerators being maintained in unhygienic conditions, with drains on the kitchen floor lacking proper traps to contain contaminants. A significant cockroach infestation was also observed throughout the kitchen, and rat fe-

ces were found in the storage area, indicating a rodent problem.

In Ameerpet, at Taaza Kitchen, the team found unsanitary practices, including the storage of semi-prepared food, raw materials, and non-food items together. Additionally, food items in the refrigerator were uncovered and lacked proper labeling, further violating food safety norms. The raids highlight ongoing concerns about hygiene and food safety at some of the city's popular dining spots, prompting authorities to take strict action to ensure public health standards are met.

Key Accused in Hyderabad Child Trafficking Racket Arrested in Ahmedabad

TPN , Correspondent

Hyderabad , Mar 08 : In a significant breakthrough, Vandana, a key figure in a child trafficking racket, was arrested on March 7, 2025, in Ahmedabad. Vandana had been on the run for some time and is accused of supplying children to Kola Krishnaveni, who was already in custody. The trafficking operation involved abducting children from hospitals, taking them from street rag-pickers, or persuading impoverished families to sell their children for sums ranging from Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 3.5 lakh. Once in her possession, Vandana would transfer the children to Krishnaveni, who would then pass them on to another accomplice, Savitri. These children were eventually placed with childless couples who made advance payments for their adoption.

The Hyderabad police are hopeful that more details about the trafficking network will emerge as they secure the custody of both Vandana and Krishnaveni.

Earlier, on February 25, the Special Operations Team (SOT) of Malkajgiri and the Hyderabad police arrested 11 individuals involved in the racket, which spanned multiple states. The racket had trafficked several infants, selling them for Rs 2-5 lakh, with the transactions taking place across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The accused, including those who had bought the infants, have been charged under several sections of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita and the Juvenile Justice Act. Further investigation is underway.

Gaddi Annaram Market to Boost Revenue, Says Chairman Chiluka Madhusudhan Reddy

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Mar 08 : In a key development, the Chairman of the Gaddi Annaram Agricultural Market Committee, Chiluka Madhusudhan Reddy, assured that the market will see enhanced revenues in the coming year. During a meeting held at the Batsingaram Fruit Market office on Friday, the budget proposals for the year 2025-26 were discussed and approved by the market's governing body. The proposals were subsequently forwarded to higher authorities for approval.

Madhusudhan Reddy empha-

sized that the goal of the committee is to keep the Gaddi Annaram market profitable while ensuring the welfare of farmers. He assured that the market would be better managed to address any challenges, particularly during the upcoming mango season. "We are ensuring all facilities are in place for smooth operations, and have already conducted review meetings with all departmental officials to ensure coordination between farmers and traders," he said.

Regarding the Kohir Market project, he mentioned that they are awaiting government approvals.



The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the project has already been completed, and once permissions are granted, a foundation stone ceremony will be planned with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Agriculture Minister

Tummala Nageshwar Rao.

The meeting was attended by various key figures, including Vice-Chairman CH. Baskara Chari, Senior Secretary L. Srinivas, and other committee members.

Chevella MP Kondal Vishweshwar Reddy Visits PM Jan Aushadhi Centre



TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Mar 08 : On the occasion of Jan Aushadhi Diwas, Chevella Parliament Member Kondal Vishweshwar Reddy,

along with BJP State President Bokka Narasimhareddy, BJP Parliamentary Whip, and Maheshwaram Constituency In-charge Ande Sri Ramulu Yadav, visited

the Jan Aushadhi Centre in Lenin Nagar, Meerpet Municipal Corporation. The visit was held under the directives of Union Health Minister and BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda.

During the visit, MP Kondal Vishweshwar Reddy praised the Prime Minister's Jan Aushadhi scheme, describing it as a blessing for the health of the poor. He emphasized that the scheme provides affordable medicines, significantly benefiting those in need. Ande Sri Ramulu added that through the Jan Aushadhi centres, Prime Minister Modi is

ensuring that essential medications are available at lower costs, strengthening the healthcare system for the underprivileged.

The event also saw participation from several prominent leaders, including State Executive Member Kolan Shankar Reddy, Corporation President Bikshapathi Chari, District Representative Maddy Rajasekhar Reddy, and former Corporators Pendyal Narasimha, Kisar Govardhan Reddy, and others. The event highlighted the ongoing efforts to improve access to affordable healthcare for all.

Minister Sridhar Babu Launches 'FTCCI 2.0' for MSME Development

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Mar 08 : On Friday, Telangana's Minister for IT and Industries, Sridhar Babu, inaugurated the "MSME Spark 2.0" seminar at Taj Deccan, Banjara Hills, under the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI). The event was attended by Telangana Industrial Department Director Dr. Malsur, SBI Local Office CGM Rajesh Kumar, and FTCCI President Suresh Kumar Singhal.

During his address, Minister Sridhar Babu emphasized the importance of MSME development, a sector that provides massive employment. He criticized the previous BRS government for not focusing on MSMEs, and highlighted that the current government, upon coming into power, has given priority to this sector's growth. He also mentioned that special policies and operational guidelines are being developed to support MSME entrepreneurs.

The Minister discussed plans to establish MSME clusters in Telangana and promote the state's brand on a global scale. He assured that the government will

assist MSMEs in overcoming challenges, particularly in international marketing of their products. Sridhar Babu also urged banks to be more liberal in sanctioning loans to MSMEs and promised that the state government would take proactive steps in this regard.

He emphasized the need for MSME operators to think innovatively and adopt new technologies to reduce production costs, while directing savings towards marketing and sales. The government, he assured, will provide support through initiatives such as AI adoption to enhance the competitiveness of MSMEs. The Minister also addressed concerns about delayed subsidies and promised to clear pending dues to industrialists, stating that payments amounting to ₹400-500 crores would be disbursed by the end of the month. He responded to negative propaganda about industries leaving the state by highlighting the success of Telangana's investment agreements, including the ₹1.78 lakh crore deal at the Davos Summit under CM Revanth Reddy's leadership.

MP Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy Conducts Surprise Inspection at Bibi Nagar AIIMS

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Mar 08 : In a surprise visit to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bibi Nagar, Bhongir Parliament Member Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy assessed the functioning of the medical facility. The MP inquired about the daily inflow of in-patients and out-patients, the treatments provided, and whether necessary surgeries were being performed. He engaged with patients in the queue to gather feedback on the quality of service, doctor punctuality, available equipment, and overall facilities. Reddy also questioned the recruitment process for staff, specifically inquired about the criteria for hiring and the role of local candidates. He expressed concerns about possible irregularities in staff appointments and emphasized the need for transparency in the process. Further, he raised concerns about the completion of civil works at the facility. He was informed that some construction deadlines had already passed, and he instructed the authorities to expedite the work. The MP emphasized the importance of making the new buildings and amenities available to patients as soon as possible. The visit was attended by AIIMS Director Dr. Vikas Bhatia, Medical Superintendent Dr. Abhishek Arora, and Deputy Director Dr. Vipin Varghese.



Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Congratulates 50 Students Selected for INSPIRE State-Level Exhibition



TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Mar 08 : Minister for BC Welfare and Road Transport, Ponnam Prabhakar, along with MJP Society Secretary Badugu Saidulu, congratulated 50 BC Gurukula students selected for the INSPIRE state-level exhibition. These students, aged between 10 to 15 years from classes 6 to 10, were chosen through district-level competitions. Minister Prabhakar praised the creativity and talent of these students, noting that their involvement in such competitions highlights their innovative thinking. He encouraged teachers and principals to identify such talents and encourage students to participate in competitions like INSPIRE. He further mentioned that students selected for the state-level exhibition would receive ₹10,000 in their bank accounts, which they can use to develop projects for the exhibition based on their ideas. The Minister emphasized that such exhibitions are a great platform for students to become involved in science and technology from the school level. He encouraged students and teachers to make the most of this opportunity and create projects that are both creative and beneficial to society. He also advised that projects should take into account social welfare and environmental protection, ensuring that they align with future needs. Prabhakar concluded by stating that when students innovate from an early age, they have the potential to grow into great scientists in the future. He assured that all necessary facilities are being provided to these students and urged them to enhance their creativity and knowledge for a bright future.

BRS Struggle Leads to Introduction of Three Separate Bills in Legislative Assembly: MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra



TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Mar 08 : Rajya Sabha member Vaddiraju Ravichandra hailed the Telangana government's decision to introduce three separate bills in the Legislative Assembly for providing reservations to BCs (Backward Classes) in education, employment, and politics as a result of the relentless struggle by the BRS (Bharat Rashtra Samithi). He emphasized that the BRS's consistent demand for justice for BCs and their rightful share in state governance has forced the government to act.

Ravichandra criticized the caste survey conducted by the government, stating that it was unscientific, with a flawed report. He pointed out that the BRS, through its own calculations, had proven the inaccuracies, leading the government to agree to a re-survey. The MP further stated that the BRS's insistence on the fair representation of BCs in the state cabinet and the implementation of the Kammareddy Declaration pressured the government to act accordingly.

He also expressed that merely introducing bills in the assembly without ensuring their proper implementation would be insufficient. Ravichandra assured that if the Congress party raised the issue of the bills' implementation in Parliament with sincerity, the BRS would extend its support.

Additionally, Ravichandra urged the Congress party to push for the establishment of a separate Ministry for OBCs at the Centre. He also demanded that the Congress advocate for the allocation of the six vacant cabinet positions in the state to BCs, along with key portfolios, as a measure of justice.

MLA G. Madhusudan Reddy Criticizes BJP Leaders K. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay

TPN , Correspondent
Hyderabad, Mar 08 Devanagari MLA G. Madhusudan Reddy made strong comments on BJP leaders K. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay, stating that they are "dreaming of coming to power" in Telangana. Referring to the results of the MLC elections, the MLA claimed that BJP leaders were in denial and struggling to accept the reality.

He predicted that Congress would remain in power in Telangana for at least another ten

years, highlighting that BJP would not win even two or three seats in the upcoming local body elections. Reddy accused Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay of blocking crucial state funds and obstructing financial resources meant for Telangana, calling them "traitors" for hindering the state's development.

Reddy also dismissed the significance of the MLC elections, stating that Congress had already proven its electoral strength in the past, citing the election of Jeevan Reddy as

an MLC. He mocked BJP's poor performance in recent elections, pointing out that BJP had lost deposits in many constituencies in both the 2018 and 2023 elections.

The MLA further criticized BJP for its alliance with BRS and for using false propaganda against Congress. He also accused BJP MPs of never raising Telangana's funding issues in Parliament and dismissed BJP leader T. Mallanna's comments as baseless for publicity.



Ooha sees change beyond the system, TRANSFORMS ADIVASI LIVES



The Point Desk

In a world where success is often measured by power and prestige, just 27 years old, Visakhapatnam's youth Dr. Ooha Mahanathi chose a different path, one defined by service and social justice. Once aspiring to join the civil services, she realised that true transformation happens not behind a desk but at the grassroots level. As the Director of the Rural Development Welfare Society (RDWS), she has dedicated her life to uplifting Adivasi women and children in north coastal Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha.

Founded in 1991 by her grandfather, a philanthropist and former Sarpanch of Garudabilli village in Vizianagaram district, Mahanathi Ganapathi Rao, RDWS embodies his vision of rural development. Inspired by his legacy, Dr. Ooha expanded it into a force for justice. Initially drawn to policymaking, she realized true change required direct engagement. "I chose to work on the ground, understand their

struggles, and fight for their rights of Adivasi girls and women," she said.

Under her leadership, RDWS with 276 volunteers has prevented over 261 child marriages, reintegrated 6,489 child laborers into education so far, and conducted large-scale health awareness programs on HIV/AIDS, menstrual hygiene, and maternal health. She has led anti-human trafficking initiatives, rescuing vulnerable individuals from exploitation, and provided shelter and relief to families displaced by natural disasters and abandoned elderly individuals in need of care.

Dr. Ooha advocates for education, land rights, healthcare, and economic opportunities for Adivasi communities across Alluri Sitarama Raju, Vizianagaram, Parvathipuram Manyam, Anakapalli, and Visakhapatnam's urban slums. Through skill development, she empowers tribal women with financial independence via vocational training and entrepreneurship. She also creates safe spaces for

girls to learn, grow, and lead while ensuring healthcare reaches remote villages.

Her efforts earned her the International Wonder Book of Records Award, presented by Odisha Governor Kambhampati Hari Babu. She also received Honorary Doctorates in Social Work from Global International Foundation and Manam Foundation International. Her advocacy spans national and international platforms, addressing gender equality, tribal rights, and rural development.

The journey, however, has not been easy. "Working in remote forest regions was never easy. The lack of proper roads, communication barriers, and deep-seated social challenges made every step a test of resilience," Dr. Ooha reflected. "Winning the trust of Adivasi communities was the hardest part, as they had been let down by outsiders for generations. I had to prove my sincerity through actions, not words."

Isolation, poor healthcare, child marriages, trafficking, and bureaucratic delays hindered welfare access, requiring persistence to educate girls and secure aid. Despite these struggles, Dr. Ooha never backed down. She walked through dense forests, crossed rivers, and stayed in villages for days to understand their problems firsthand.

She credits her strength to her family, father Suresh Mahanathi, mother Sudha, and brother Vardhan. Her father, Suresh Mahanathi, said, "I hoped she'd become an IAS officer to serve the poor, but I respect her choice of a path closer to those in need."

Though her path differs from her father's vision, Dr. Ooha remains committed to uplifting disadvantaged communities. "My goal is the same, to empower them for a better future," she said. She noted that women now use menstrual pads comfortably. "Seeing this change makes my hard work worthwhile," she added.





Omar Abdullah Presents Jammu and Kashmir's First Budget Post-Article 370 Abrogation

TPN Correspondent | Patna

On March 7, 2025, Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, presented the Union Territory's first budget since the abrogation of Article 370, marking a significant step in the region's governance post-reorganization. Abdullah described the budget as a catalyst for a new era of peace and prosperity, highlighting the gradual return of normalcy after more than three decades of unrest.

In his budget speech, Abdullah expressed gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for their support in various sectors, acknowledging their role in the region's development.

The last budget session for the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir took place in 2018, under the PDP-BJP coalition government. After the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir was reorganized into a Union Territory, with Ladakh being carved out as a separate UT.

Key highlights of the 2025-26 budget include a focus on youth and women empowerment, addressing regional disparities, and working towards the restoration of statehood. One of the major announcements was an allocation of ₹815 crore for the agriculture sector, aimed at generating 2.88 lakh jobs. Abdullah emphasized the promotion of a two-crop pattern in agriculture, alongside a strong push to expand the horticulture industry. Additionally, he proposed boosting the wool processing and leather tanning industries, which are expected to bolster the local economy.

PM Modi lays foundation stone of various development projects in Silvassa

- Inaugurates ₹2,587 crore projects in Silvassa
- 450-bed NAMO Hospital launched to boost tribal healthcare
- Infrastructure, job creation, and welfare schemes prioritized

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation for several development projects worth ₹2,587 crore in Silvassa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, on Friday, March 7, 2025. These projects aim to significantly enhance the infrastructure, healthcare, and public welfare in the Union Territory.

During his visit, Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the first phase of the NAMO Hospital, a 450-bed facility built at a cost of over ₹460 crore. This hospital will serve as a major healthcare hub, providing advanced medical care, particularly to the tribal communities in the region. Modi's focus on improving healthcare facilities across the country aligns with his broader goal to strengthen medical services in underserved areas.

In addition to the healthcare projects, PM Modi laid the foundation for various infrastructure initiatives, including village roads, educational institutions, health and wellness centers, and water supply and sewage systems. These projects are aimed at improving connectivity, promoting industrial growth, boosting tourism, and creating job opportunities in the region. At the event, the administra-



tor of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Praful K Patel, felicitated PM Modi to mark the inauguration and foundation-laying of these key projects. The projects also include the construction of Panchayat and administrative buildings, Anganwadi centers, and other essential infrastructure to promote regional development.

The Prime Minister also distributed appointment letters under the Rozgar Mela and extended benefits to various beneficiaries under government schemes, including PM Awas Yoja-

na-Urban, Gir Adarsh Aajeevika Yojana, and Sylvan Didi scheme. The Gir Adarsh Aajeevika Yojana is aimed at empowering women from marginalized communities by supporting small dairy farms, contributing to their economic upliftment.

Following his visit to Silvassa, PM Modi is scheduled to travel to Surat at 5 p.m. to launch the Surat Food Security Saturation Campaign. On March 8, 2025, he will travel to Navsari for interactions and the launch of various other development schemes.



India Can Show Way To World By Virtue Of Its Cultural Heritage": RSS Chief

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday emphasized that India's rich cultural heritage positions the country to guide the world in various aspects of life. He made these remarks in Supaul district of north Bihar after inaugurating a new building for the Saraswati Vidya Mandir school.

"Our civilization is ancient, and Bharat symbolizes values and a cultural heritage that can show the way (margdarshan) to the entire world," Bhagwat stated, underlining India's potential to be a beacon of knowledge and wisdom on the global stage. He also pointed out that Vidya Bharati, the RSS's educational wing, is committed to imparting both "knowledge and values" (gyan aur sanskar), urging parents to consider enrolling their children in schools run by the organization.

In his speech, Bhagwat recalled his personal connection with Bihar, mentioning his six years as a 'kshetriya pracharak' in the state. "Whenever I visit Bihar, I wish I could see more places, but time constraints often limit my ability," he said.

The RSS chief also lauded the people of Bihar, praising their hard work and dedication. He cited the example of Dashrath Manjhi, the famed "mountain man" from Gaya, who carved a path through a mountain over many years, showcasing the resilience and perseverance of the people of Bihar.

The event was attended by senior BJP leader and Bihar minister Neeraj Singh Bablu, among others. Bhagwat's visit to Bihar highlighted the importance of education, values, and dedication, reaffirming the RSS's ongoing mission to contribute to the cultural and educational development of the nation.

Railways Introduce Enhanced Crowd Control Measures at 60 Stations Across India

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Ministry of Railways has announced a new set of crowd control measures at 60 stations across the country, drawing on lessons learned from past experiences during events like the Maha Kumbh and festive seasons. The initiative, which was approved during a high-level meeting chaired by Union Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, aims to better manage overcrowding and ensure smoother passenger flow at key stations.

One of the key features of the plan is the creation of permanent waiting areas outside stations, where passengers will be allowed onto platforms only when their train arrives. This is expected to prevent crowding in station premises. Pilot projects are already underway at New Delhi, Anand Vihar, Varanasi, Ayodhya, and Patna



stations, serving as test cases for this new system. Additionally, the railways will implement strict access control measures, permitting only passengers with confirmed reserved tickets to enter platforms. Unauthorized entry points will be sealed to ensure that only legitimate passengers are allowed

to access the train boarding areas. As part of improving crowd management, the ministry will also install new foot overbridges (FOBs) at stations. These FOBs will be 12 meters (40 feet) and 6 meters (20 feet) wide and will be equipped with ramps to improve movement.

MK Stalin Raises Stakes Over Delimitation, Calls 7 State Leaders To Chennai

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has called on seven state counterparts, including Bengal's Mamata Banerjee and Odisha's Mohan Chandra Majhi, to join a joint action committee to oppose the Centre's proposed delimitation exercise. Stalin has invited Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan, Karnataka's Siddaramaiah, Telangana's Revanth Reddy, Andhra Pradesh's Chandrababu Naidu, and Puducherry's N Rangaswamy to a meeting in Chennai on March 22 to form a collective strategy.

In his letter, Stalin criticized the Centre's proposal, calling it an attack on federalism. He emphasized that the delimitation exercise would unfairly penalize states, like Tamil Nadu, that have successfully controlled population growth. The exercise, according to Stalin, would reduce the voice of states that have implemented effective population control measures while benefiting regions with rapidly growing populations, such as BJP-



ruled northern states.

The issue of delimitation is particularly sensitive in Tamil Nadu as the state has been a strong proponent of limiting population growth. Stalin warned that the new exercise, based on current census data, could lead to a reduction in Tamil Nadu's represen-

tation in the Lok Sabha, despite the state's long-standing efforts to manage population control. He cited the 2002 amendment, which froze changes to the number of Lok Sabha seats until at least 2026, and called for this freeze to continue.

Stalin also dismissed Union Home

Minister Amit Shah's assurances that southern states would not lose seats, pointing out that the minister did not address the possibility of northern states gaining more seats. The Chief Minister stressed that Tamil Nadu should not be penalized for its success in controlling population growth. The meeting planned for March 22 aims

to unite political leaders across the country to challenge the delimitation process, which Stalin argues could undermine the federal structure and negatively impact Tamil Nadu's interests. The controversy surrounding the exercise is expected to intensify as the state heads toward elections next year.

India, China Ties Made Positive Strides After PM Modi-Xi Meet

- China hails progress in India-China relations post-Ladakh resolution
- Wang Yi credits Modi-Xi talks for improved bilateral ties
- Calls for cooperation over competition between 'dragon and elephant'

TPN Correspondent | Beijing

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday highlighted the positive progress in India-China relations, noting a series of encouraging developments since the breakthrough agreement last year that ended a four-year-long military standoff in eastern Ladakh.

Wang shared these remarks during his annual press conference, addressing questions about the trajectory of bilateral relations following the resolution of the prolonged standoff. He credited the successful meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in Kazan, Russia, for providing strategic guidance to improve ties.

"China-India relations have made positive strides over the past year," said Wang, emphasizing that both countries had strengthened exchanges and cooperation at all levels, achieving significant outcomes. The breakthrough in Ladakh followed a pact that facilitated the withdrawal of troops from the last remaining friction points, Depsang and Demchok, marking the conclu-



sion of years of military tension.

Following the agreement, talks between Prime Minister Modi and President Xi in October 2023 led to the revival of various dialogue mechanisms. This was followed by key meetings between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Wang in December, and a subsequent meeting in January between Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Chinese officials in Beijing. Wang reiterated that while border issues

were important, they should not define or hinder the overall relationship between the two nations. "As two ancient civilizations, we have enough wisdom to maintain peace and tranquility along the border while seeking a fair and reasonable solution," Wang stated.

He further emphasized that both countries, as large neighbors, should be partners in each other's success, advocating for cooperation instead of competition. "A co-

operative partnership between the dragon and the elephant is the only right choice," he said, adding that both countries should work together to oppose hegemonism and power politics, particularly in the context of global affairs.

Looking ahead, Wang expressed China's readiness to work with India to further strengthen diplomatic ties, especially as 2025 marks the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations.

Saudi Arabia to Host US-Ukraine Talks in Jeddah Next Week



TPN Correspondent | Saudi

Saudi Arabia has expressed its readiness to host a meeting between US and Ukrainian officials in Jeddah next week, reaffirming the kingdom's commitment to facilitating peace efforts in the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict. The announcement came on Friday from the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, highlighting the kingdom's continued efforts to achieve a lasting resolution to the crisis.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed his visit to Saudi Arabia on Thursday, where he will meet with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Monday. Following this, talks between US officials and Ukrainian representatives are scheduled for later in the week. The meeting will take place in the Red Sea city of Jeddah, a key diplomatic hub for the region.

A brief statement from Saudi Arabia's Foreign Ministry underscored the kingdom's commitment to helping resolve the Ukrainian crisis. "The foreign ministry confirms the kingdom's continued efforts to achieve lasting peace to end the Ukrainian crisis," the statement read.

Earlier, Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, announced that he was in discussions with Ukraine for a potential deal framework to end the war with Russia. He indicated that a meeting with Ukrainian officials would be held next week in Saudi Arabia. This comes after a meeting hosted by Riyadh in February between US and Russian officials to explore possible peace talks, though Ukraine was not involved, raising concerns in Kyiv and among its European allies.

Zelenskyy had previously met with Trump at the White House on February 28, but the encounter took a tense turn, with both leaders clashing over their peacemaking approaches. The fallout from this meeting resulted in Trump suspending military aid and intelligence-sharing with Ukraine.

Meanwhile, on Friday, Russian forces carried out a missile strike on Ukrainian energy and gas infrastructure, marking the first major attack on vital infrastructure since Trump's policy changes. This attack further escalates tensions, underscoring the urgency of continued diplomatic efforts to end the war.

Trump Criticizes India's High Tariffs, Announces Reciprocal Tariffs Starting April 2

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US President Donald Trump has once again criticized India for its high tariffs, reiterating that reciprocal tariffs on countries imposing levies on American goods will begin on April 2. In an Oval Office address on Thursday, Trump highlighted India as a "very high tariff nation" and emphasized that countries like China and Canada also impose hefty tariffs on US products. Trump expressed his frustration with Canada's trade practices, particularly the 250% tariff on American milk products and lumber. He noted that despite such tariffs, the US doesn't rely on Canadian lumber, claiming that the country has more lumber resources than Canada. Trump's remarks came as he signed executive orders in the Oval Office, ahead of the upcoming



tariffs.

Trump clarified that the current tariffs are temporary and relatively small but warned that the new reciprocal tariffs, which will take effect on April 2, will be "a big game changer" for the US. He stressed that under

his administration, the US would no longer allow countries to charge high tariffs while the US charges little to nothing in return. "Whatever they charge us, we're going to charge them," he said, signaling a shift in the US's trade approach.

This is the second time in as many days that Trump has criticized India's tariff policies. During his address to the joint session of Congress, Trump singled out India, calling the high tariffs imposed on US goods "very unfair." He also mentioned that countries like the European Union, China, Brazil, Mexico, and Canada charge the US significantly higher tariffs than what the US imposes on them. Trump has previously labeled India a "tariff king" and a "big abuser." He also noted that India's high auto tariffs are over 100%, making it difficult for American products to enter the Indian market. Last month, during a joint press conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Trump acknowledged India's strength on tariffs but hinted at potential trade negotiations to address these issues.

Court orders South Korean President Yoon released from jail for his criminal trial over martial law

TPN Correspondent | SEOUL, South Korea

On March 7, 2025, a South Korean court ordered the release of impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol from jail, more than a month after his arrest and indictment for his controversial declaration of martial law. The Seoul Central District Court ruled that Yoon should stand trial while not being physically detained, a significant development in his legal battle.

Yoon's impeachment trial hearings concluded in late February, and the court is expected to rule soon on whether to formally remove him from office or reinstate him. The court accepted Yoon's request for release, noting that the legal period of his arrest had expired before his indictment in late January. The court also stated that the investigative agency that detained Yoon before his formal arrest did not have legal grounds to investigate the criminal rebellion charges against him. Yoon's defense team welcomed the ruling and called for



his immediate release. However, South Korean law allows prosecutors to hold a suspect temporarily while they pursue an appeal. Investigators accuse Yoon of inciting rebellion with his martial law decree, which involved deploying troops to the National Assembly. If convicted, Yoon faces severe penalties, including the death penalty or life imprisonment.

The decree, which lasted only six hours, was overturned after enough lawmakers managed to convene and vote against it. The incident has sparked memories of past military rule, which many

South Koreans associate with oppression. Yoon defended his actions, arguing that the decree was intended to highlight the threat posed by the opposition Democratic Party, which had undermined his policies and impeached key officials.

If the Constitutional Court upholds Yoon's impeachment, he will be officially removed from office, and a national election will be held within two months to select his successor. The ongoing legal proceedings and massive public rallies, both for and against Yoon, are intensifying South Korea's already deep political divisions.

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy to Visit Saudi Arabia for Talks on Ending War with Russia

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is set to visit Saudi Arabia next Monday, March 10, 2025, ahead of planned talks between senior Ukrainian and U.S. officials aimed at seeking a resolution to the ongoing war with Russia.

During his visit, President Zelenskyy will meet with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The discussions are expected to focus on peace efforts amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Following the meeting, Zelenskyy's team will remain in Saudi Arabia to collaborate with American officials on further diplomatic steps.

Zelenskyy emphasized Ukraine's strong desire for peace, stating that the visit would be crucial in advancing discussions that could lead to the end of the war. The diplomatic efforts are part of Ukraine's broader strategy to gain international support and seek peaceful solutions to the ongoing conflict, which has been devastating for the country and the region.

The talks in Saudi Arabia are expected to involve high-level discussions on various aspects of the war, with the aim of de-escalating tensions and exploring potential pathways for a peaceful resolution. The



meeting will also highlight the growing international involvement in the conflict, with Ukraine looking to strengthen its alliances and garner support from key global players like the United States and Saudi Arabia.

The visit comes at a critical time as both Ukraine and the U.S. continue to explore diplomatic options to end the war, which has seen widespread devastation in Ukraine since it began. The discussions are likely to have significant implications for the future of the conflict and the broader geopolitical landscape.

Zelenskyy's visit to Saudi Arabia underscores Ukraine's commitment to pursuing peace while strengthening its relationships with influential international partners in the pursuit of a peaceful resolution to the war with Russia.

Rupee falls 6 paise to settle at 87.12 against U.S. dollar



The Indian rupee ended its three-day rally on Thursday, March 6, 2025, with a loss of 6 paise, settling at 87.12 (provisional) against the U.S. dollar. The decline was attributed to uncertainty surrounding trade tariffs and persistent foreign fund outflows, which caused cautious investor sentiment. Forex traders noted that market participants were waiting for key data, including the U.S. weekly unemployment claims and the European Central Bank's monetary policy decision.

Despite the loss, the local currency was supported by a positive equity market, a weaker U.S. dollar in international markets, and easing crude oil prices. Initially, the rupee gained momentum following news that the U.S. had delayed implementing higher tariffs on Canada and Mexico. Additionally, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decision to infuse ₹1.9 trillion liquidity into the banking system further bolstered the currency.

During the day, the rupee opened at 86.96 and touched a high of 86.88 against the dollar. However, it became volatile and dropped to a low of 87.16 before settling at 87.12. On Wednesday, March 5, 2025, the rupee had registered its third consecutive gain, closing 13 paise higher at 87.06.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, explained that the rupee's early gains were eroded due to selling pressure by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs). He also noted that the U.S. dollar had fallen to a four-month low, following the U.S. decision to delay higher tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico. Choudhary added that the rupee is expected to trade within the range of 86.80 to 87.25, with positive domestic markets and U.S. dollar weakness providing support, but FII outflows could cap significant gains.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower by 0.15% at 104.12, while Brent crude rose slightly by 0.39% to \$69.57 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded ₹2,895.04 crore in equities on March 5, 2025, continuing a trend of net outflows. Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy and its measures to ensure liquidity in the system remain crucial for stabilizing the rupee.

"Markets End Flat: Range-Bound Rally, Sector Strength, and Rupee Recovery Amid Mixed Global Cues"

Domestic stock markets ended flat today. They moved in a range-bound pattern throughout Friday. The markets initially fell due to mixed signals from global markets and investors acting cautiously. Then, they reached highs as sentiment strengthened. Finally, they settled at yesterday's levels due to profit booking. Maintaining consecutive gains for two days is a good sign. Media, Oil and Gas, and Metals indices stood firm. Overall, Nifty settled at 22,552 (7), Sensex settled at 74,332 (-7).

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 74,340 in the previous session, opened at 74,347 on Friday. It touched an intraday low of 74,038. It reached an intraday high of 74,586. It ended at 74,332, down 7 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,508, touched a low of 22,464 and a high of 22,633. It rose 7 points to close at 22,552. The Nifty Bank lost 130 points to settle at 48,497.

In the Nifty50, 20 companies gained and 30 lost. Media, oil and gas, metals, commodities, infra,



auto, energy stocks rose. Realty, consumer durables, IT, PSE, consumption, bank, pharma stocks lost. Reliance, Nestle, Bajaj Auto, BEL, Hindalco were the top gainers. IndusInd Bank, NTPC, Shriram Finance, Infosys, HCL Tech rose the most.



Market breadth on NSE today is in favor of buyers. Out of 2988 stocks traded, 1818 gained. 1093 lost. 17 stocks reached 52-week highs. 37 shares reached 52-week lows. A total of 229 shares touched the upper circuit.

Rupee strengthened by 23 paise to settle at 86.88 against the dollar. Citi has announced that Phoenix Mill is its top pick in real estate. Citi has given a buy rating to Inter-globe Aviation with a target price of Rs. 5200. Nuama has maintained a buy rating for Zee Entertainment with a target price of Rs. 185. Goldman Sachs maintains buy rating on Adani Port with a target price of Rs 1400. Shares tumbled for the third consecutive day after Macquarie gave an outperform rating to Reliance with a target price of Rs 1500. Quality Power acquired 51% stake in Mehru for Rs 120 crore. Laurus Labs board approved an investment of Rs 83.3 crore in KRKA Pharma. JPMorgan gave an overweight rating to BEL with a target price of Rs 343. Data Patterns share price jumped 12.24% today, the highest in 18 weeks. Inox Wind received an order of 153 million watts from Tamil Nadu. Kalpataru Projects won orders worth Rs 2306 crore. Udaï chief Neelakanta Mishra said that a ministry like Bharat Dose is needed. Biocon signs strategic partnership with Civica.

India's Inflation to Ease to 4.1% in February 2025, But Food Prices May Remain High

India's consumer price inflation (CPI) is forecasted to decrease to 4.1% in February 2025, according to a report by Bank of Baroda (BoB). However, the report cautioned that certain factors, including rising global edible oil prices, inflationary tariff policies, and an anticipated hotter summer, could keep food prices elevated.

The BoB report predicts a CPI of 4.1% but also warned of potential upward pressure on food inflation. It noted that global edible oil prices remain volatile and could contribute to increased food prices.

The BoB Essential Commodity Index (ECI), which tracks key household goods, showed a slowdown in February 2025, with the index moderating to 2.4% year-on-year. This decline was largely driven by falling prices of vegetables like tomatoes and potatoes. Additionally, inflation in pulses remained under control, thanks to better supply conditions, while a recent reduction in milk prices further contributed to easing inflation.

Despite these positive trends, several risks remain. Global asset price volatility, particularly in gold and base metals, has yet to significantly impact inflation. Energy prices have remained relatively low, but tariffs on metals could increase prices in the coming months. In February, rising demand pushed up prices for metals like copper and zinc.

A major concern highlighted in the report is the persistent rise in edible oil prices, which could



further drive food inflation. Moreover, extreme heat conditions, which have already been recorded in states like Maharashtra, Odisha, and Bihar—major producers of onions, tomatoes, and potatoes—could lead to supply disruptions for key crops.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has noted above-normal temperatures in various states, raising concerns about the impact

on wheat crops. However, government measures aimed at improving logistics and stabilizing prices for perishable goods are expected to provide some relief.

While inflation is projected to moderate, uncertainties related to global commodity prices and weather conditions could still influence price trends in the coming months.

India's Crude Oil Imports from Russia Decline Amid U.S. Sanctions



India's crude oil imports from Russia have dropped to their lowest level in over two years, reflecting the impact of recent U.S. sanctions targeting Russia's oil trade. The sanctions, announced by the Biden administration in January before its departure, have begun to hinder the flow of Russian crude to India. As a result, Indian refiners are being forced to diversify their sources of crude oil, turning to smaller suppliers from regions such as Africa and Latin America to make up for the lost Russian volumes, according to vessel tracking data.

The U.S. sanctions specifically targeted 183 tankers involved in the transport of Russian oil, a significant portion of what is known as the "shadow fleet," which had helped Russia continue its oil exports. Additionally, two Russian oil giants and several insurance companies linked to the Russian oil trade were also sanctioned. These moves have made it increasingly difficult for Indian refiners to

secure the necessary Russian crude cargoes, pushing them to find alternative suppliers.

Apart from Russia, India's key West Asian suppliers—Saudi Arabia and the UAE—also saw a sequential decline in their crude oil exports to India. However, Iraq, which remains India's second-largest crude supplier, did not follow this trend, maintaining a steady supply. This shift in sourcing is part of a broader strategy by Indian refiners to reduce reliance on Russian oil amidst the ongoing sanctions.

In response to the reduced Russian crude volumes, Indian refiners are exploring new avenues and seeking out supplies from less traditional sources, including nations in Africa and Latin America. The move highlights India's growing need to secure its energy supply amidst shifting global dynamics and the effects of international sanctions on Russia's oil industry.

Bengaluru Restaurant's "No Real Estate, Political Discussions" Rule Goes Viral

A Bengaluru restaurant's unusual rule banning discussions on real estate and politics has gone viral on social media, sparking mixed reactions among users. The rule, displayed on a board inside the eatery, urges diners to refrain from engaging in lengthy conversations about real estate or politics while they dine. "This facility is only for dine-in purposes, not for real estate/political discussions. Please understand and cooperate," the board reads.

The image was shared on X (formerly Twitter) by user Farrago Metiquirke, and it quickly caught the attention of social media users, amassing over 40,000 views and numerous likes. Many users in the comments pointed out that this rule is not unique to this particular restaurant, with several Bengaluru eateries reportedly displaying similar signs discouraging such discussions.

Some users expressed that these discussions, particularly around real estate and politics, can lead to diners lingering for hours, occupying tables without ordering enough food. "Very common sight in Bangalore restaurants," one user wrote, while another added, "Real estate is thriving, but giving restaurants only one-by-two business!!"

Others shared their personal experiences, with one user humorously noting that political discussions tend to drag on for hours, preventing others from finding a place to sit. "Typical BLR restaurant. No real estate discussion as people use it freely as an office..."



They bring parties, lawyers, and lots of papers and sit for hours sipping a Rs. 20 tea," another commented.

Despite the widespread support for the rule, some users disagreed, questioning why a restaurant should monitor what people discuss. One user asked, "Why does he have to police what people are talking? They are paying for the food they eat, no?" In response, the original poster explained that such discussions can become heated and lead to prolonged table occupancy, which can negatively impact business.

While the rule has sparked debate, it highlights a growing concern for restaurant owners in Bengaluru about balancing customer satisfaction with operational efficiency.

iPhone 17 Pro: Features and Design Changes

As the iPhone 17 series gears up for its official release later this year, the rumor mill is already buzzing with details about what Apple's upcoming flagship phones will bring to the table. While Apple has yet to confirm specifics, leaks and speculations have given us a glimpse into what we can expect from the iPhone 17 Pro.

One of the most significant changes expected is the iPhone 17 Pro's design. Apple has largely stuck to a similar design language since the iPhone 11 launch in 2020, but that could be set to change. According to well-known Apple tipster Jon Prosser, the iPhone 17 Pro will feature a larger camera island that spans the entire width of the device. This change marks a noticeable departure from previous models and could give the device a unique and distinctive look.

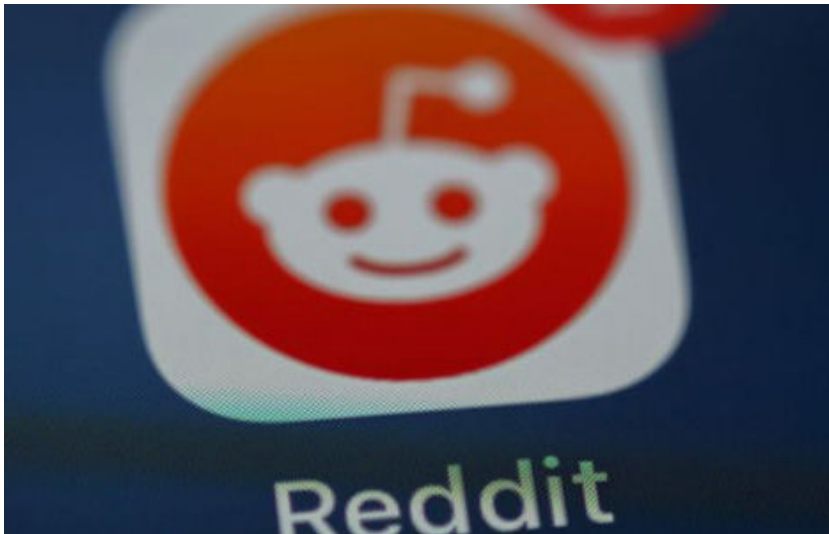
The new camera island will also feature rounded corners, which should provide a sleek and modern appearance. As for the camera setup itself, the iPhone 17 Pro will likely include three cameras on the left side of the island. On the right side, users can expect to find an LED flash, a LiDAR scanner, and a microphone. These upgrades are expected to further enhance the phone's photography and videography capabilities, which have been a hallmark of the iPhone lineup in recent years.



In terms of performance, the iPhone 17 Pro is expected to be powered by the A19 Pro chipset. While no official details have been confirmed, the A19 Pro is rumored to offer significant improvements in processing power and efficiency, making it a strong contender for handling the most demanding applications and tasks.

While we'll have to wait a few more months for the official launch, the iPhone 17 Pro is shaping up to be one of the most exciting upgrades in Apple's recent history. With potential design changes, an upgraded camera system, and enhanced performance, it looks like the iPhone 17 Pro will offer a more refined and capable experience for users.

Reddit Launches New Tools to Enhance Engagement and Content Performance



On Thursday, Reddit introduced a set of new tools designed to help users better adhere to community rules and gain a deeper understanding of content performance. This move is part of Reddit's ongoing efforts to improve user engagement and create a more informed user experience on the platform.

The announcement comes on the heels of a recent slowdown in Reddit's quarterly user growth, which was largely attributed to changes in Google's search algorithm. These changes had a significant impact on the traffic coming from the search engine. However, according to Reddit CEO Steve Huffman, the platform has since seen a recovery in traffic from Google, suggesting that the impact of the algorithm shift may have been temporary.

The new tools aim to address two main concerns: content moderation and content performance. For community rules, Reddit users will now have improved visibility into why certain content may be flagged or removed, allowing them to better understand and follow the platform's guidelines. This feature is particularly helpful for

new users or those unfamiliar with specific subreddit rules.

Additionally, the new tools will offer enhanced analytics for users, giving them insights into how their posts are performing across the platform. This feature will enable content creators to track engagement metrics such as upvotes, comments, and shares, helping them refine their content strategy to increase visibility and interaction with their posts.

These updates reflect Reddit's commitment to fostering a healthy and engaged community while also providing users with the tools they need to succeed. By focusing on both content moderation and performance metrics, Reddit hopes to encourage more active participation and ensure that content is in line with community standards.

Overall, this initiative highlights Reddit's dedication to improving user experience and engagement, especially in light of the recent challenges related to traffic fluctuations. As the platform continues to evolve, these tools may prove vital in sustaining long-term growth and user retention.

Would You Pay Rs 77 Lakh For A Cheeto? Someone Just Did!

In the world of collectible items, some enthusiasts go after rare Pokémon cards or vintage toys, but one lucky bidder has just secured a truly unique treasure—a Flamin' Hot Cheeto shaped like Charizard. The snack, dubbed "Cheetozard," attracted an astonishing \$88,000 (around 77 lakhs) at an auction, setting off a bidding frenzy that left many amazed.

This rare Cheeto was sold at the February 2025 Pop Culture Elite Auction hosted by Goldin, an online marketplace for rare collectibles. The auction began on February 10 with a modest starting bid of \$250. As the days progressed, the bidding war intensified, and by Sunday, March 2, the price had reached \$72,000. With the addition of Goldin's buyer's premium, the final price soared to \$87,840.



Measuring only three inches in length, the Cheetozard snack stood out for its bizarre dragon-shaped appearance, strikingly similar to the popular Pokémon Charizard. To further enhance its collect-

ability, the snack came with a custom Pokémon card.

The journey of this quirky item began between 2018 and 2022 when it was discovered and preserved by 1st & Goal Collectibles, a shop based in Holly Springs, Georgia. The shop specializes in curating rare and unusual items, and Cheetozard quickly gained popularity online, capturing the imagination of pop culture enthusiasts. Its online fame turned it into a unique piece of history, eventually becoming the subject of the auction that led to its hefty price tag.

While some may question the allure of a Cheeto commanding such a large sum, the Cheetozard's sale is proof that in the world of collectibles, anything—even a snack—can turn into a valuable and coveted item.

Karnataka bodybuilder flaunts muscles in bridal photoshoot, internet impressed

Karnataka-based bodybuilder and fitness trainer Chitra Purushotham has taken the internet by storm with a stunning bridal photoshoot video. While many initially assumed it was an announcement of her wedding, it was later revealed that the viral moment was simply a creative photoshoot.

In the video that has since gone viral, Purushotham elegantly combined fitness and tradition in a striking yellow and blue Kanjivaram saree. In a bold move, she chose to skip the blouse, allowing her toned physique to take center stage. She completed her bridal look with gold jewelry, including a kamar bandh, maang tikka, earrings, and bangles. Her makeup featured bold winged eyeliner and a deep red lip-



stick, while her hair was neatly plaited and adorned with fragrant jasmine flowers.

Purushotham shared the clip on Instagram, captioning it, "Mindset is everything," a phrase that resonates deeply with her audience. The video quickly gained traction, amassing over 7.5 million

views. Social media users flooded the comments, showering her with admiration for her unique fusion of strength and elegance.

One user praised her by saying, "Strength and beauty in perfect harmony—absolutely stunning!" Another commented, "A bride like no other! This is empowerment at

its finest." A third user remarked, "You've redefined elegance. Who says muscles and grace can't go together?"

While many were impressed by her distinctive take on a bridal look, some were initially surprised, with one person saying, "I genuinely thought this was a wedding announcement! You rocked it." Others applauded her confidence, with one user adding, "This is proof that a woman can be both powerful and graceful at the same time."

Purushotham's photoshoot has become a viral sensation, with people across the internet admiring her confidence, strength, and beauty—showcasing that a woman can embrace both power and grace effortlessly.



India Ready for Champions Trophy Final Against New Zealand

India, led by Rohit Sharma, is on fire heading into the 2025 Champions Trophy final against New Zealand, after an unbeaten run in the tournament despite losing four consecutive tosses. The team has excelled in all departments, with the bat, Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli in exceptional form, while the bowlers, led by Mohammed Shami and Varun Chakra-

varthy, have been impressive.

However, New Zealand, with their history of defeating India in past ICC knockouts, poses a strong challenge, especially with key players like Mitchell Santner, Kane Williamson, and Rachin Ravindra in form. India's chance to win their first Champions Trophy since 2013 will also be a sig-

nificant achievement for coach Gautam Gambhir, and a win will bolster their preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup.

Yet, the threat of New Zealand's spinners, including Santner and Bracewell, alongside a potential fit Matt Henry, could prove to be pivotal in India's quest for the trophy.

Gill, Smith, Phillips Nominated for ICC Player of the Month

The ICC has shortlisted Australian batter Steve Smith, Indian opener Shubman Gill, and New Zealand all-rounder Glenn Phillips for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for February 2025.



Smith's stellar performances during the Test series against Sri Lanka, including two centuries, earned him Player of the Series honors. Gill made a significant impact with 406 runs in five ODIs, including three crucial knocks against England, which helped him claim the number one spot in the

ICC ODI rankings. Phillips, known for his brilliance in the field, contributed 236 runs at a strike rate of 124.21 in the tri-series in Pakistan and the ICC Champions Trophy. The nominations highlight their exceptional contributions across various international formats.

Sakshi Malik's Empowering Message: "No Fear, Just Give Your Best"

Ahead of International Women's Day, Olympic bronze medalist Sakshi Malik shared an inspiring message on the resilience and strength of women. Reflecting on her own journey, from wrestling with limited facilities to becoming India's first female Olympic medalist in 2016, she stressed that women's achievements should be celebrated every day, not just on March 8.



Sakshi, now a mother and railway employee, emphasized that determination, focus, and discipline are key for women to break barriers. She also highlighted the progress in Haryana, where attitudes towards girls have changed, thanks to her success. Concluding, she urged women to embrace their struggles, giving their best in every field, and revealed her plans to stay connected to sports by teaching wrestling to children.

Record-Breaking Indian Contingent at WTT Star Contender Chennai 2025

The WTT Star Contender Chennai 2025 is set to feature a record-breaking 13 Indian players, marking the country's strongest-ever presence in the tournament. Scheduled to begin on March 25, the event will see India represented by top players like Sharath Kamal, Manika Batra, Sathiyan Gnanasekaran, and Sreeja Akula, among others. This marks a historic achievement for Indian

table tennis, with players earning direct entry into both men's and women's singles main draws. International stars like Japan's Tomokazu Harimoto and Hina Hayata will headline the tournament, which offers a prize pool of USD 275,000 and 600 ranking points for the champions. The competition promises an electrifying clash of talent as the Olympic year approaches.



Paralympic Champions Lead India's Charge at World Para Athletics Grand Prix New Delhi



India's top Paralympic champions, including Praveen Kumar, Navdeep Singh, and Dharambir, will headline the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in New Delhi from March 11 to 13 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. The three-day event will feature over 90 competitions, with participation from over 250 athletes representing 20 countries. Praveen Kumar (Paris Paralympics gold medalist in High Jump, T64), Navdeep Singh

(Javelin, F41), and Dharambir (Club Throw, F51) will lead India's campaign. The event marks a significant milestone for para-athletics in India, as it hosts one of the largest gatherings of para-athletes, including 145 Indian and 105 international competitors. Praveen expressed excitement about competing at home, looking forward to a stellar performance for Indian fans.

"Indian Shooters are Brilliant, We Must Keep Focus": Manu Bhaker on Life After Olympic Glory

Manu Bhaker, reflecting on life after her historic double-bronze achievement at the Paris Olympics, shared her insights on the journey ahead. Speaking at the Trailblazers 3.0 Conclave in Kolkata, Manu emphasized the importance of maintaining focus, stating, "Indian shooters are brilliant. We are right there at the top, naturally good and



sharp mentally." Despite a longing for a third medal, Manu remains realistic, acknowledging the difficulty of finishing fourth. From her early setbacks at the Tokyo 2021 Olympics to making history in Paris, Manu's journey embodies resilience and the relentless pursuit of excellence. Her message is clear: stay focused and keep striving for greatness.

Harmanpreet Kaur Fined for Dissent in WPL 2025 Match

Mumbai Indians captain Harmanpreet Kaur has been fined 10% of her match fee for breaching the WPL Code of Conduct after showing dissent at an umpire's decision during the match against UP Warriorz. The incident occurred in the final over when MI was penalized for a slow over rate, enforcing fielding restrictions. Harmanpreet confronted umpire Ajitesh Argal, visibly displeased with the

call. This led to a heated exchange between her and England's Sophie Ecclestone. The situation was quickly de-escalated by the umpires. Harmanpreet admitted to the Level 1 offense under Article 2.8, which relates to showing dissent. Despite the incident, MI secured a six-wicket victory, with Amelia Kerr's five-wicket haul and Hayley Mathews' fiery 68 leading the charge.





Special Poster Released on Janhvi Kapoor's Birthday for RC16

On March 6, marking Janhvi Kapoor's birthday, the team of RC16 released a special behind-the-scenes poster featuring the actress alongside global star Ram Charan. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the film has already generated excitement with its star-studded cast, including Shiva Rajkumar, Jagapathi Babu, and Divyendu from Mirzapur. The poster, clicked during the first

schedule in Mysore, is not an official look but a casual shot from the set. Janhvi is set to continue filming the movie in Hyderabad, where key scenes will be shot over the next 12 days. Music by AR Rahman and visuals by cinematographer Ratnavelu are adding to the anticipation. RC16 is produced by Venkata Satish Kilari under the banner of Vrudhi Cinemas.

Movie Review: Baapu - A Tale of Family, Struggles, and Greed

Release Date: March 7, 2025

Platform: Jio Hotstar
Rating: 2.5/5

Baapu explores the dynamics of a rural family entangled in financial struggles and greed. Directed by Daya, the film is set in a village, where Mallanna (Brahmaji) and his wife Saroj (Aamani)



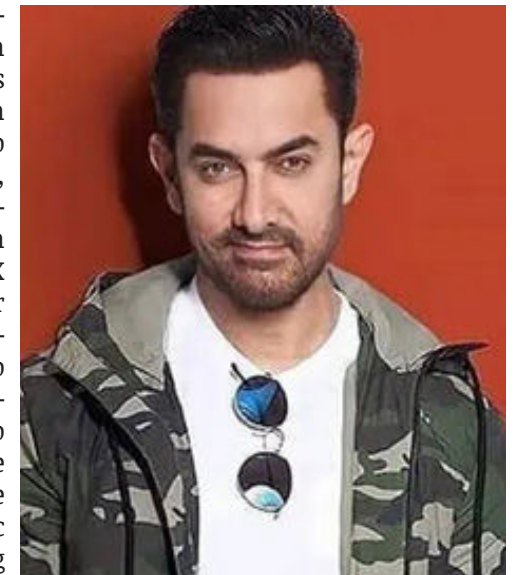
face dire circumstances. Mallanna contemplates a desperate act after accumulating debt, with his wife's suggestion leading them down a dark path. Meanwhile, the discovery of an ancient gold statue creates complications.

The film touches on themes of sacrifice, desperation, and the lengths one would go to for financial relief. Although the golden statue plot loses steam halfway, the family drama and the father's moral dilemma are compelling. Strong performances by Brahmaji and Aamani elevate the narrative. The film's portrayal of rural life and human emotions is commendable. However, the pacing and structure could have been better. Baapu is a thoughtful commentary on modern society's greed, though it may not resonate with everyone.

Verdict: A film about love, loss, and the darkness of greed, Baapu succeeds in some areas but falters in others. It's a reflective watch but lacks the depth to leave a lasting impact.

Aamir Khan to Be Honored with Special Film Festival on His 60th Birthday

Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan will celebrate his 60th birthday on March 14, and to mark this milestone, a special film festival will be held in his honor. PVR INOX is presenting "Aamir Khan: Cinema Ka Jadugar," a tribute to the actor's remarkable contributions to Indian cinema. The festival will feature some of his iconic films, showcasing his impactful journey in the industry.



marked.

Ajay Bijli, MD of PVR INOX, praised Aamir for his courage in choosing bold scripts and shaping the modern film industry. "Aamir's films convey powerful messages, and his success at the box office has set new benchmarks," he re-

Khan will also host a star-studded birthday party, with close friends Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika Padukone, and other A-list celebrities. This marks Aamir's first large-scale celebration of his career.

L2: Empuraan Gets U/A Certificate Ahead of March 27 Release



The much-awaited political thriller L2: Empuraan, starring Prithviraj Sukumaran and directed by Prithviraj Sukumaran, has received a U/A certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The sequel to the hit film Lucifer, Empuraan delves deeper into the complex world of crime and power, expanding on the characters

and locations introduced in the first film. With Prithviraj reprising his role as Zayed Masood, the film is set to hit theatres on March 27. Produced by Antony Perumbavoor and Subaskaran, the film also features a screenplay by Murali Gopy, music by Deepak Dev, and cinematography by Sujith Vaassudev.

Rajinikanth's 'Jailer 2' Set to Begin Production Next Week

The highly anticipated sequel to the blockbuster Jailer, featuring Rajinikanth, is all set to kick off production next week. Directed by Nelson, Jailer 2 has created immense buzz, with rumors suggesting that the shooting will begin in Chennai, followed by locations in Goa and Theni.

There are also speculations about the involvement of Kannada superstar Dr. Shiva Rajkumar and Malayalam icon Mohanlal,

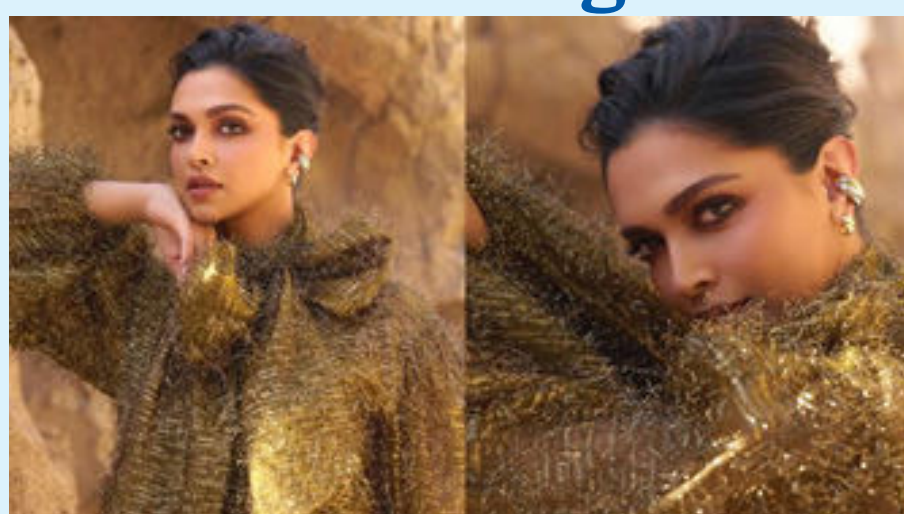
though no official confirmation has been made. The film's expectations have soared following the massive success of Jailer, which grossed around Rs 650 crores.

The excitement reached new heights when Sun Pictures released an intriguing teaser, blending humor with explosive action, and featuring a glimpse of Rajinikanth's iconic entrance. Fans are eagerly awaiting the next chapter of this thrilling saga.



Ranveer Singh Praises Deepika Padukone's Stunning Golden Look

Bollywood's power couple, Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone, have always shared adorable moments on social media, delighting their fans. Deepika recently posted a series of glamorous pictures, donning an oversized golden shimmering dress with black boots and subtle golden accessories. Her minimal makeup completed the striking look.



Ranveer couldn't hold back his admiration and com-

mented, "Phew!" Fans quickly joined the conversa-

tion, praising Deepika with titles like 'Empress,' 'Queen,'

and 'Golden Energy.' Some even said, "Face card never declines, Mother," and "She came, she saw, she conquered."

The couple, who welcomed their daughter Dua in September 2024, are back to their work schedules. Deepika recently made an appearance at Sabyasachi's 25th Anniversary gala and starred in Kalki 2898 AD, while Ranveer is currently working on Aditya Dhar's Dhurandhar.