

City	High (H)	Low (L)
HYDERABAD	33° C	25° C
VIJAYAWADA	35° C	26° C
TIRUPATHI	36° C	26° C

BJP Keeps Key Delhi Poll Promise, Approves Rs 5,100 Crore for Women's Financial Scheme



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Delhi government on Saturday approved a Rs 5,100 crore allocation for the Mahila Samridhi Yojana, a financial assistance scheme aimed at providing Rs 2,500 per month to eligible women in the city. The announcement was made by BJP President JP Nadda on International Women's Day, in the presence of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and other senior party leaders.

During the event, Ms. Gupta revealed that a committee, headed by her, has been formed to oversee the scheme's implementation. Senior BJP ministers Ashish Sood, Parvesh Verma, and Kapil Mishra will also be part of the committee, and a dedicated web portal for registrations will be launched soon.

This scheme was part of BJP's election manifesto, where they promised Rs 2,500 per month to women, surpassing AAP's offer of Rs 2,100. Despite the announcement, the

Women to receive ₹2,500 monthly aid

CM Rekha Gupta forms committee for implementation

Online portal to be launched for registrations

BJP fulfills key election promise

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) criticized the delay in fulfilling the BJP's pre-election promise. AAP leader Atishi, during a press conference, accused the BJP of backtracking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise to provide Rs 2,500 starting on March 8, saying that women were left with no scheme, no registration portal, and just a four-member committee.

Atishi also referred to a promise made by Modi during the campaign on January 31, where he guaranteed the scheme's approval in the first cabinet meeting. She pointed out that when the first cabinet meeting took place on February 20, the scheme was not approved, leaving many women feeling "cheated."

In response, BJP MP Manoj Tiwari explained that the beneficiary list for the scheme would be prepared soon and that the entire process would be completed within one and a half months.

The Mahila Samridhi Yojana aims to promote economic stability and uplift women, particularly those from economically weaker sections, with the BJP highlighting it as a key step in their women's empowerment initiative. The BJP secured a decisive victory in the February 5 elections, winning 48 out of 70 seats in the Delhi Assembly.

AAP leader Atishib Slams BJP Over Delay in Women's Financial Assistance Scheme in Delhi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Delhi for failing to fulfill its promise of providing monthly financial assistance to women, which was initially announced for March 8. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta had earlier stated that women would begin receiving Rs 2,500 under the Mahila Samridhi Yojana from International Women's Day. However, the BJP government failed to provide a clear timeline for the distribution of funds.

Attacking the BJP for its lack of progress, AAP leader Atishi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, called the promise a "jumla" (empty slogan). She said, "PM Modi had promised that Rs 2,500 would be deposited into the accounts of women on March 8. But today, the women of Delhi were left disappointed. They didn't even get a registration portal, just a four-member committee." Atishi emphasized that while the government had promised financial assistance, they had failed to offer concrete steps toward delivering the scheme.

AAP spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar also echoed these concerns, pointing out that while the promise was made for March 8, no specific date was given for when

the money would be disbursed. She added that voters were not informed of any terms and conditions tied to the scheme before the elections.

In response to the criticism, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta defended the government's decision, stating that the Delhi cabinet had approved the Rs 5,100 crore allocation for the scheme's implementation. She confirmed that a dedicated web portal would be launched for registrations and that a committee led by her, with senior ministers Ashish Sood, Parvesh Verma, and Kapil Mishra, would oversee the initiative.

Gupta assured that the scheme would support poor women in Delhi, but the lack of clarity regarding its rollout has led to widespread skepticism among the public.



Rs 5,000 Crore Betting Syndicate Linked to Dubai and Underworld

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A massive betting ring, reportedly worth up to Rs 5,000 crore, has been set up for the final match of the Champions Trophy in Dubai this Sunday, according to sources tracking international betting operations. India is the favorite team among international bookies, many of whom are said to be connected to the underworld, with large betting syndicates gathering in Dubai for every major cricket match. Notably, Dawood Ibrahim's infamous gang, 'D Company,' is allegedly involved in placing significant wagers on these high-stakes games.



The Delhi Police Crime Branch has arrested at least five major bookies linked to this operation during the Champions Trophy. These bookies were placed under arrest after being caught betting on the semi-finals of the tournament. Their interrogations led investigators to Dubai, unveiling a vast global betting network.

Two of the arrested bookies, Parveen Kochhar and Sanjay Kumar, were caught live placing bets during the India-Australia semi-final. Police seized multiple laptops, mobile phones, and other equipment used for placing the bets. Kochhar reportedly used a master ID from the betting website lucky.com to create betting accounts and then sold them to bettors, charging a 3% commission per transaction. Additionally, for offline betting, they used phone calls

and notepad entries to record bets, with Kochhar renting a house in Delhi for Rs 35,000 a month to run the operation.

Among the key figures in the syndicate are Chhotu Bansal, a west Delhi resident who developed a betting app in Canada and now resides in Dubai, and Vinay, also based in Dubai, who provided direct feedback from cricket grounds. Other known associates from Delhi include Bobby, Golu, Nitin Jain, and Jitu.

The police have also arrested Manish Sahani, Yogesh Kukeja, and Suraj, who were caught with Rs 22 lakh in cash. Sahani, the main operator, managed transactions and placed bets directly, bypassing intermediaries. The investigation has led to revelations about several betting apps and connections to key figures in Dubai.

Rahul Gandhi Calls for Expulsion of Disloyal Congress Leaders, Cites BJP Allegiance

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah presented Karnataka's 16th state budget in the Legislative Assembly on Friday, emphasizing a balance between economic growth and social welfare, particularly for women and children. The budget's central theme revolves around the Congress government's guarantee-led model, which aims to boost private sector investment while prioritizing resources for the underprivileged.

A significant ₹1,56,117 crore has been allocated to women and children-focused programs, accounting for 38% of the total budget outlay. The budget also provides ₹51,034 crore for five welfare guarantees, ensuring equitable wealth distribution.

Notably, the budget did not announce any new taxes, except for a slight increase in the professional tax for salary and wage earners from ₹200 to ₹300 per month to align with a maximum yearly limit of ₹2,500. Karnataka's budget size has crossed ₹4 lakh crore for the first time, reaching ₹4,09,549 crore.

While the budget revealed a revenue deficit of ₹19,262 crore and a borrowing estimate of ₹1,16,000 crore (28% of the total budget size), it also highlights key developments, such as a 4% growth in the agriculture sector after a 4.9% decline the previous year. The industrial sector grew by 5.8%, while the services sector showed an 8.9% growth, contributing to the state's GSDP growth of 7.4%, outpacing the national average of 6.4%.

To improve the welfare of the low-salaried class,



the budget proposed increased honorariums for various workers, including guest lecturers, ASHA and anganwadi workers, and cooks in government schools. It also proposed initiatives to support women's SHGs, including the creation of Akka Co-operative Societies and Akka Cafes in local offices.

Karnataka's contribution to the national GDP stood at 8.4% in 2024-25, with exports growing by 11.17%. The budget also included allocations for minority, OBC, and tribal welfare, and a ₹1,000 crore Local Economy Accelerator Programme to stimulate entrepreneurship in smaller towns.

With a focus on fiscal discipline, the budget has kept borrowing and fiscal deficit within permissible limits, aiming for a revenue surplus in the coming year.

PM Modi interacts with beneficiaries at 'Lakhpati Didi Sammelan' in Gujarat

- ₹450 crore aid for 2.5 lakh women
- Women-led SHGs recognized for success
- All-women security at the event
- Empowering women through financial support

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated International Women's Day by interacting with beneficiaries of the 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme in Navsari district, Gujarat. The event, held at Vansi Borsi village, was marked by the Prime Minister's engagement with women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and the disbursement of ₹450 crore in financial assistance to more than 2.5 lakh women across over 25,000 SHGs.



and Navsari MP C.R. Paatil were also present at the occasion.

The 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme, launched by the Union government in 2023, honors women who are members of SHGs and earn an annual income of at least ₹1 lakh from agriculture, animal husbandry, and small industries. These women are recognized as 'Lakhpati Didis,' a title that acknowledges their economic empowerment and contributions to their communities.

During the event, Prime Minister Modi engaged in a 'prerna samvaad' (inspirational dialogue) with a group of 'Lakhpati Didis,' where they shared their personal experiences and stories of success. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel

As a special gesture for International Women's Day, the event saw a security cover comprising only women police personnel, emphasizing the significance of empowering women in all sectors, including law enforcement.

The Prime Minister expressed his appreciation for the positive impact the 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme has had on the lives of women in Gujarat and across India. By providing financial support and recognizing women's contributions, the scheme aims to promote gender equality and empower women to become financially independent and socially respected.

Removal of Jathedars seems an act of vengeance: Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann

TPN Correspondent | Chandigarh

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday condemned the removal of two prominent Jathedars (heads) of the Akal Takht and Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib, calling it an act of 'badlakhori' (vengeance). The Akal Takht in Amritsar and Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib are two of the highest temporal authorities in Sikhism.



Mann's remarks came a day after the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), responsible for managing gurdwaras, removed Giani Raghbir Singh from his position as the Jathedar of Akal Takht and Giani Sultan Singh from his role as Jathedar of Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib. In their place, the SGPC appointed Giani Kuldeep Singh Gadgaj, a Sikh scholar, as the new Jathedar of Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib, and he will also serve as the acting Jathedar of the Akal Takht until a permanent appointment is made.

Commenting on the decision, Mann described the move as part of a political agenda, emphasizing that religion should guide politics, but in this case, politics seemed to be dictating religious matters. He further called for general elections for the SGPC, stressing that the community should have a voice in the management of religious institutions.

Mann also addressed the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leadership, specifically targeting Sukhbir Singh Badal, who had previously undergone

a 'tankhah' (religious punishment) for the mistakes committed during the SAD's rule in Punjab from 2007 to 2017. The CM said, "You accepted your mistakes and underwent religious punishment. Now, to remove the Jathedars seems like an act of badlakhori."

The SGPC justified its decision, stating that Giani Raghbir Singh's leadership was deemed inadequate in guiding the Sikh community, citing his inconsistent approach that weakened the unity of the Panth (Sikh community). This decision has sparked criticism from various political figures, including Giani Harpreet Singh, who condemned the move, calling it a "black day" for the Sikh community.

The controversy highlights ongoing tensions within Punjab's political and religious spheres, with significant implications for the Sikh community's unity.

S. Jaishankar opens new Consulate General of India in Belfast



TPN Correspondent | Delhi
External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar inaugurated the Consulate General of India in Belfast, Northern Ireland, marking a significant step in catering to the growing Indian diaspora in the region. The new consulate aims to strengthen bilateral ties between India and the United Kingdom while recognizing the contributions of the Indian community.

During the inauguration, Jaishankar addressed a gathering of community leaders and dignitaries, highlighting that the establishment of the consulate symbolizes a deepening of India-UK relations. He also emphasized the importance of the Indian diaspora and its contributions to both nations.

Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland, is home to an estimated 10,000 people of Indian heritage, according to the latest census. Jaishankar noted that the region's strategic position allowed it to bridge both UK and European Union policies, particularly as India negotiates free trade agreements with both entities. He expressed optimism that these agreements would be concluded soon.

Reflecting on Northern Ireland's rich economic history, Jaishankar pointed to its

shipbuilding legacy and the increasing presence of Indian IT companies in the region. He expressed confidence that the new consulate would foster economic growth while also serving the needs of the Indian community.

In his speech, Jaishankar reiterated the Indian government's commitment to supporting the diaspora, noting that the Prime Minister often emphasizes the importance of the Indian community. He assured the attendees that the consulate would make services more accessible and continue to offer support in various ways.

Following the opening ceremony, Jaishankar engaged in political discussions with Northern Ireland's devolved administration, including meetings with Deputy First Minister Emma Little-Pengelly and Junior Minister Aisling Reilly. They discussed expanding India's engagement with Northern Ireland in fields such as skills development, cybersecurity, technology, creative industries, and manufacturing.

Jaishankar is set to open a second Consulate General of India in Manchester on Saturday, completing his week-long visit to the UK and Ireland.

1,000 Nepalese students returned to campus amid NHRC probe: KIIT

TPN Correspondent | Bhubaneswar

In the aftermath of the unrest on February 16, KIIT University in Bhubaneswar has reported that 1,000 out of the 1,100 Nepalese students who had left the campus have returned. The university made this statement on Friday, amidst ongoing investigations by the Odisha Police and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) into the alleged suicide of a B Tech girl student.

The unrest, which led to the exodus of Nepalese students, sparked concerns about safety and security on campus. However, the university's claim that the majority of the students have now returned indicates a return to normalcy. KIIT University has assured that it is actively working to provide a secure academic environment for



its students.

Meanwhile, Odisha's Higher Education Minister, Suryabanshi Suraj, informed the state Assembly that the government had formed a professor committee to assess the situation and ensure the restoration of a proper academic atmosphere on the KIIT campus. The committee will focus on

addressing the concerns raised by students and implementing measures to prevent further incidents.

The tragic incident involving the death of the B Tech student has brought increased scrutiny to the campus, with both the state authorities and national agencies looking into the circumstances surrounding her death. The NHRC and Odisha Police are investigating whether it was indeed a suicide or if other factors were involved.

As the investigation continues, the return of a significant number of Nepalese students is seen as a positive sign for the university, suggesting that the situation is gradually stabilizing. KIIT University has assured students and parents that it is committed to providing a safe and conducive learning environment for everyone on campus.

Can't Accept, It's Unsafe": Christian Michel To Delhi Court On Bail In AgustaWestland Case

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Christian Michel James, an alleged middleman in the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper scam, has expressed a desire to "finish his sentence" and leave India, citing significant security concerns. Speaking before Special Judge Sanjeev Aggarwal on Friday, Michel explained that he would rather serve his sentence and leave the country than walk out on bail, due to what he perceives as ongoing security risks.

Michel's statement comes after the Delhi High Court granted him bail on March 4 in the Enforcement Directorate (ED) case, and the Supreme Court granted him bail in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) case on February 18, subject to trial court conditions. Despite this reprieve, Michel argued that his security was at risk in Delhi, which he described as "just a large



er prison," and expressed that he did not feel safe stepping out of Tihar Jail. He explained that every time he leaves prison, something untoward happens to him. He also questioned how he could produce local sureties after spending six years in jail.

During the hearing, Judge Aggarwal asked Michel why he couldn't accept bail, given that both courts had granted him relief. Michel responded that he preferred to complete his sentence rather than risk his

safety. He even offered to discuss an incident he had faced while being admitted to AIIMS in private with the judge, citing his problem with the police.

After a brief private conversation, the judge set the terms for Michel's bail, including conditions such as regular attendance at the investigating officers' office, providing personal details to authorities, not leaving the country without court permission, and refraining from interacting with the media about the case. The court also instructed Michel to submit a personal bond and surety of Rs 10 lakh and surrender his passport.

Michel was extradited from Dubai in December 2018 and has been under investigation by the CBI and ED for his alleged role in the AgustaWestland scam, which caused an estimated loss of ₹398.21 million (approximately Rs 2,666 crore) to the exchequer.

Centre gave Rs 32 lakh crore under MUDRA

Those with zero seats can't count zeros in it: PM Modi



- ₹32 lakh crore in loans disbursed under MUDRA Yojana
- Congress' electoral losses mocked as a 'hat-trick of zeros'
- Income tax exemption up to ₹12 lakh proposed in Budget 2025-26
- Surat Food Security Saturation Campaign launched to ensure food access

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a swipe at the Congress party while discussing the success of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana, a flagship initiative aimed at providing affordable credit to micro and small enterprises. Speaking at the launch of the Surat Food Security Saturation Campaign in Gujarat, Modi highlighted the impressive Rs 32 lakh crore in loans disbursed under the scheme.

In his address, Modi remarked that those who had failed to secure a single seat in the February 5 assembly elections in Delhi, where the BJP emerged victorious, might struggle to count the "zeros" in the massive Rs 32 lakh crore loan amount. This comment was a pointed reference to the Congress party's dismal performance in the Delhi elections, where they failed to open their account, marking a hat-trick of zeros in Delhi's assembly polls.

The MUDRA scheme, which was launched in 2015, targets micro-en-

terprises and aims to provide financial support to small business owners, helping them access affordable credit. Modi's comments underscored the government's commitment to empowering the poor and marginalized citizens through this initiative.

Additionally, the Prime Minister touched upon the Union Budget for 2025-26, noting the proposal to maintain income tax exemptions up to Rs 12 lakh, which he said would benefit salaried individuals, small business owners, and workers. This, according to Modi, was a significant step to support the nation's working class.

The Surat Food Security Saturation Campaign, launched by Modi, is aimed at ensuring that food security is achieved in Surat, with the Prime Minister urging other districts to follow suit. He expressed confidence that the campaign would serve as an inspiration for other regions, marking another step in the government's efforts to address food security challenges across the country.

We Should Not Ask People To Give Us Power Till...: Rahul Gandhi In Gujarat

TPN Correspondent | Gujarat

Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader, addressed party workers in Ahmedabad on Saturday during the Samvaad program. He emphasized that before seeking votes from the people of Gujarat, the Congress party must first fulfill its responsibilities.

During his speech, Rahul Gandhi acknowledged the party's long tenure in Gujarat politics, stating, "It has been almost 30 years since we have been in power here. But the question is not about elections. The people of Gujarat will not make us win the elections until we fulfill our responsibilities." He assured the workers that once the party meets its obligations, the people of Gujarat will support Congress. "I guarantee you that the day we do this, the people of Gujarat will give their support to the Congress party," he said.

Gandhi also reflected on Gujarat's pivotal role in India's freedom movement, particularly highlighting the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi. He noted, "When the Congress party had to face the British, we were looking for leadership everywhere. The leader came from South Africa—Mahatma Gandhi—and Gujarat gave the Congress its original



leadership." He further emphasized that without Gujarat, there would have been no Gandhi, and without Gandhi, Congress would not have been able to secure India's freedom.

Addressing the challenges within the state, Gandhi admitted that Gujarat was struggling to move forward, criticizing both the party and himself for not being able to guide the state effectively. "Gujarat wants to move forward, but we have not shown them the way," he said. He acknowledged the struggles faced by small traders, businesses, and farmers in Gujarat and stressed the

importance of providing a fresh vision for the state.

Regarding the Congress's electoral prospects, Gandhi mentioned that the opposition holds 40 percent of the vote in Gujarat and that a 5 percent increase in votes could result in a victory. He assured workers that, with a more united and focused party, Congress could replicate its success in Telangana. Gandhi concluded by urging Congress workers to reconnect with the people of Gujarat, pledging his full commitment to the state's development.

Why this surrender: Congress to PM Modi on Trump's India cutting trade tariff claim

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Congress party on Saturday demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi take Parliament into confidence regarding U.S. President Donald Trump's claim that India has agreed to reduce tariffs. The party also criticized the government's silence on the issue, describing Trump's statement as an affront to India's dignity.

In a White House press briefing, President Trump reiterated his assertion that India charges high tariffs, making it difficult for the U.S. to sell products there. He claimed that India had agreed to cut tariffs "way down."

Reacting to Trump's remarks, senior Congress leader Pawan Khera raised several questions during a press conference. Khera questioned what India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal was doing in the U.S. when Trump made

the announcement. "Has the government held consultations before such a decision, or are we simply relying on Trump's words?" Khera asked.

Khera further criticized the lack of an official statement from the Indian government and demanded answers from PM Modi. He suggested that the Prime Minister's silence suggested a lack of assertiveness when dealing with Trump. "Has the Prime Minister spoken to President Trump firmly, as Mexico or Canada would have done in a similar situation?" Khera asked, point-



ing to the lack of direct communication between the two leaders.

He accused the Modi government of undermining India's interests, especially those of farmers and small businesses, to benefit a select group of crony capitalists. Khera also took a jibe at PM Modi, saying, "His name is Narendra, and his work is surrender." He added that India's global position had been weakened by the government's silence on such issues.

Khera further reflected on India's past defiance against global pressure, referencing events like the 1971 Indo-Pak war and India's nuclear tests in 1974. He asked why Modi allowed Trump to continue insulting India during their recent meeting. Khera concluded by saying that the dignity of Indian citizens was compromised, citing the deportation of Indians from the U.S. in shackles as evidence of the insult.

West Bengal Government Launches Survey to Assess Economic Status of OBC Communities



TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

The West Bengal government has launched a survey to assess the economic conditions of the state's Other Backward Class (OBC) communities in response to a legal challenge over the revocation of OBC status for 77 Muslim communities. The survey, which began on Saturday, comes amid an ongoing legal battle concerning the 2024 order from the Calcutta High Court.

The controversy started when the Calcutta High Court, in May 2024, revoked the OBC status of 77 Muslim communities, claiming the classification process was flawed and illegal. The de-

cision, made by a division bench consisting of Justices Tapabrata Chakraborty and Rajasekhar Mantha, has sparked significant political uproar, especially as it occurred just before the Lok Sabha elections. The court ruled that the classification of these communities as OBCs, which had been in place since 2010, was unjustified and politically motivated.

The high court's order stated that the inclusion of these Muslim communities as OBCs was politically driven, with the intent of creating a vote bank, rather than based on socio-economic needs. The court's ruling emphasized that the classification process

was an "affront" to the Muslim community, suggesting that the process had been manipulated for electoral purposes.

In light of this legal ruling, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government in West Bengal has filed a petition with the Supreme Court to challenge the high court's decision. The TMC argues that the decision is unjust and that the affected communities should retain their OBC status. The matter is currently being heard by the Supreme Court.

As part of its efforts to address the concerns of OBC communities, the West Bengal government has launched this survey to better understand their economic conditions. Officials have stated that this survey will help guide future policy decisions aimed at improving the socio-economic status of these communities.

The state's move to conduct this survey comes as tensions rise over the legal dispute and the political ramifications of the high court's decision.

Jamia Dropping Thiruvananthapuram As Exam Centre 'Short-Sighted': Tharoor

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has strongly criticized the decision by Jamia Millia Islamia University to remove Thiruvananthapuram from its list of examination centres, calling it an "extremely short-sighted" move that would create significant problems for students. Tharoor, who represents Thiruvananthapuram in the Lok Sabha, expressed his concerns over the university's decision to eliminate its only exam centre in southern India without providing any explanation.

Speaking to reporters on Friday, Tharoor questioned the rationale behind the university's action, pointing out that 550 students from Thiruvananthapuram had taken their exams at Jamia Millia Islamia's centre last year. He asked, "Where will this year's students go? Unless they don't want students from the south, this is an extremely short-sighted de-



cision." Tharoor emphasized that no explanation had been offered to either the students or the public about the removal of the centre.

The senior Congress leader also expressed his intention to write to the vice chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia to formally protest the decision. He further urged for a reconsideration of the move, stressing the importance of maintaining a sense of unity across the country. "We have to think of ourselves as one country and not just remain in our own little region," he said. Tharoor noted that many students from south-

ern India aspire to study at Jamia Millia Islamia, and denying them an accessible exam centre could potentially limit their opportunities.

The decision has sparked concern among students in the southern region, who now face the uncertainty of having to travel long distances or look for alternative examination centres. Tharoor's remarks highlight the need for universities to consider the geographical challenges faced by students across India, ensuring that all aspiring candidates have equal access to examination facilities.

JP Nadda Launches Mahila Samridhi Yojana on International Women's Day



- Delhi government allocates ₹5,100 crore for first-year implementation
- CM Rekha Gupta reaffirms BJP's commitment to women's empowerment
- Nadda acknowledges women's role in BJP's Delhi victory

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

On International Women's Day, Union Minister and BJP National President JP Nadda launched the Mahila Samridhi Yojana, a direct cash transfer scheme aimed at empowering women in Delhi. Under this initiative, women in the national capital will receive Rs 2,500 per month, providing financial support to enhance their well-being.

Speaking at the event in Delhi on Saturday, Nadda expressed his happiness at the launch, congratulating Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and others involved in the scheme.

He said, "Today, I am happy, and I congratulate CM Rekha Gupta and others for allocating Rs 5,100 crore to implement the scheme in Delhi."

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva added that the Delhi government had sanctioned Rs 5,100 crore for the first year of the scheme. He also confirmed that the registration process for the beneficiaries will begin soon, paving the way for the implementation of this much-awaited initiative.

The Mahila Samridhi Yojana was a key promise made by the BJP during the recently concluded Del-

hi Assembly elections. CM Rekha Gupta assured the people that the government would honor its commitments, particularly in areas of women's empowerment and security. She highlighted that under Narendra Modi's leadership, the BJP had introduced significant initiatives, including 33 percent reservation for women in government jobs, and the construction of pink toilets in Delhi for women's safety and convenience.

Nadda also acknowledged the crucial role that women played in the BJP's success in Delhi, saying, "On this day, I salute women empowerment and thank the women for making a huge contribution in forming the BJP government in Delhi. This victory has been possible only with the blessings and support of women."

The launch of the Mahila Samridhi Yojana marks a significant step toward the BJP government's ongoing efforts to prioritize women's welfare and security in Delhi.

Delhi Railways prepares new plan to prevent stampedes



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In response to the tragic stampede that claimed 18 lives at the New Delhi Railway Station on February 15, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw chaired a high-level meeting to implement significant safety and operational reforms. These changes aim to prevent future accidents and streamline station management.

A key decision from the meeting was the appointment of senior officers as Station Directors at major railway stations. These officers will be granted enhanced authority and financial powers, allowing them to make critical on-the-spot decisions to improve station operations and passenger safety. The new Station Directors will oversee the coordination of all relevant departments, ensuring quicker and more efficient responses to emerging situations. This initiative is intended to provide leadership and accountability at stations, empowering officers to address challenges without bureaucratic delays.

The meeting also decided to equip railway personnel with

walkie-talkies, ensuring better communication among staff members across platforms. This move is expected to improve coordination and enable real-time responses during emergencies, reducing the likelihood of confusion and delays.

Additionally, the decision was made to introduce new, more practical uniform designs for railway personnel. The new uniforms are expected to enhance both comfort and functionality, improving the efficiency of staff members who work long hours in challenging environments.

The Ministry of Railways emphasized the importance of these measures in strengthening station management, ensuring passenger safety, and preventing any recurrence of the tragic events. Minister Vaishnaw stressed that the changes will not only improve operational efficiency but will also create a safer environment for both passengers and railway staff.

These initiatives represent a proactive approach to addressing concerns about overcrowding and safety at India's major railway stations. With these changes, the Indian Railways aims to restore public confidence in the system and make railway travel safer for millions of commuters across the country.

Delhi-Meerut Namoo Bharat Corridor to Develop Commercial and Residential Hubs

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) is moving forward with plans to develop commercial, residential, and service hubs along the Delhi-Meerut Namoo Bharat corridor. As part of this initiative, NCRTC intends to establish a project management unit (PMU) to oversee strategic planning and execution of the development. The project aims to leverage land parcels along the corridor to generate non-fare revenue and drive urban growth.

The NCRTC, responsible for the implementation of the semi-high-speed corridor, has invited bids for consultants to assist in market research, transaction advisory, project management support, strategic planning, and knowledge transfer. These consultants will play a pivotal role in ensuring that the development plans align with the region's



economic and infrastructural needs.

The project spans several key sites, including a 2.4-hectare plot in Ghaziabad and 31-hectare plots in Duhai Depot, Bhaisali, and Modipuram. Smaller land parcels, totaling about 16 hectares, are located in areas such as Sarai Kale Khan, New Ashok Nagar, Anand Vihar, Guldhar, Muradnagar, Modinagar South and North, Meerut South, Shatabdi Nagar, and Modipuram. These sites will be developed to support mixed-use spaces that will enhance connectivity and contribute to economic growth

along the corridor.

One of the major aspects of this development is the integration of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) zones, which will enhance accessibility, prevent unplanned urban sprawl, and create a well-connected, vibrant community. The TOD concept focuses on building high-density, mixed-use areas around transit hubs, facilitating seamless transportation and sustainable growth.

The PMU will be tasked with optimizing land utilization through real estate market studies, demand assessments, and financial modeling. Additionally, the PMU will prepare business plans and bid documents to facilitate smooth project execution. This development project is expected to stimulate significant economic activity in the region while enhancing the overall urban landscape.

Delhi Reinstates Anti-Pollution Measures as Air Quality Deteriorates



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Delhi reintroduced anti-pollution measures on Friday, just four days after the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR (CAQM) had lifted restrictions. The decision came in response to a significant decline in the city's air quality, prompting the immediate reinstatement of Stage 1 measures under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

gating the full scale of the operation,

On Monday, the CAQM had removed Stage 1 restrictions, which had been in effect since October 15. These restrictions had included measures such as banning the use of coal or firewood for heating, restrictions on construction activities, and limits on the operation of diesel generator sets. However, as air quality rapidly worsened in the following days, authorities decided to re-implement the 27-point action plan under Stage 1 of GRAP.

The worsening air quality has raised concerns about the health of Delhi residents, especially vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing respiratory conditions. The city's air quality index (AQI) on Friday showed a sharp decline, reaching hazardous levels in some areas, primarily due to stubble burning in neighboring

states, vehicular emissions, and industrial pollution.

The reinstatement of Stage 1 measures will include a ban on certain polluting activities and an increase in efforts to control dust and other particulate matter in the air. The CAQM has also recommended that the public limit outdoor activities and advised schools to take preventive measures for the health and safety of students.

While the recent lifting of restrictions had provided temporary relief, the air quality has shown that the pollution problem remains a persistent issue for Delhi. Authorities are now closely monitoring the situation and may escalate measures further if the air quality continues to deteriorate.

Delhi Police Busts Heroin Factory in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Delhi Police successfully uncovered a heroin manufacturing factory in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, this week after valuable information was provided by an arrested drug supplier. The factory, where the illegal drugs were being processed, has been traced, although the owner is currently absconding, according to police sources.

The breakthrough in the investigation traces back to April of the pre-

vious year, when the Delhi Police arrested Rajendra, also known as Yusuf, 43, for possessing over half a kilogram of heroin. Yusuf, an alleged drug peddler, was taken into custody following a well-coordinated operation. During subsequent interrogations, Yusuf provided critical details that led the police to identify his associates, Bhure and Nawab, who were allegedly involved in the heroin trade. These revelations ultimately guided the police to the location of the heroin production unit.

According to the Delhi Police, the factory was operating in Bareilly, where the narcotics were being processed before being distributed across the region. Authorities are still investi-



The discovery of this heroin factory marks a significant achievement in the fight against illegal drug trade in the region. Delhi Police officials have commended the collaborative efforts that led to this major bust and

stressed the importance of continuous vigilance in curbing the spread of illicit drug manufacturing and distribution.

Authorities are also examining whether this operation is linked to larger, more organized drug trafficking syndicates operating across states. The police have reiterated their commitment to intensifying efforts against narcotic crimes and preventing the illegal trade from proliferating further.

All-Women Crew Operates Vande Bharat Express On Women's Day



- Indian Railways highlights women's empowerment through this historic initiative
- PM Modi recognizes 'Nari Shakti' and allows women to take over his social media accounts

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

In a groundbreaking move to celebrate International Women's Day, the Central Railways operated a Vande Bharat Express with an all-women crew for the first time. The Vande Bharat Express (Train No. 22223) running from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) to Shirdi, is fully staffed by women, including the loco pilot, assistant loco pilot, train manager, ticket collectors (TCs), and train hostesses.

Swapnil Nila, the Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of Central Railways, shared that this initiative highlights the ongoing efforts of Indian Railways to empower women in the workforce. She added that similar efforts are being made for goods trains and will continue to be implemented

across other Vande Bharat trains as well.

Speaking to ANI, Nila expressed pride in the initiative, stating, "Indian Railways has always worked towards making things easier for women. On the occasion of International Women's Day, we are proud to run the CSMT-Shirdi Vande Bharat with an all-women crew, including the loco pilot, assistant loco pilot, train manager, TCs, and on-board catering staff."

This milestone has also been celebrated on social media, with Central Railways sharing the moment as a "proud and historic" achievement. A post on X (formerly Twitter) read, "HISTORIC MOMENT! For the first time ever, a Vande Bharat Express is being fully operated by an all-women crew, departing from CSMT on this

#InternationalWomensDay! A proud moment celebrating the strength, dedication, and leadership of women in Indian Railways!"

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also recognized the importance of women's contributions on International Women's Day, paying tribute to 'Nari Shakti' (women power). In a post on X, he announced that his social media accounts would be taken over by women from various fields, showcasing their achievements. He highlighted that empowering women has always been a priority for the government, evident in their various schemes and programs.

This event marks a significant step forward in recognizing and celebrating the leadership and strength of women across all sectors.

AF Jaguar Fighter Jet Crashes in Haryana; Pilot Ejects Safely



TPN Correspondent | Haryana

A Jaguar fighter jet of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed in Ambala, Haryana, on Friday (March 7, 2025), after experiencing a system malfunction during a routine sortie. According to an official statement by the IAF, the pilot successfully maneuvered the aircraft away from any populated areas on the ground before ejecting safely.

The IAF, in its social media post, assured that the pilot was unharmed and had been safely rescued. "The pilot manoeuvred the aircraft away from any habitation on the ground, before ejecting safely," the statement read. The IAF has also ordered an inquiry to investigate the cause of the accident and determine the factors that led to the crash.

The crash occurred on Friday morning in the Panchkula district of Haryana, which is near Ambala. The IAF has not yet disclosed further details regarding the incident, but the inquiry is expected to shed light on the technical malfunction that led to the crash.

This incident follows a string of air accidents involving military aircraft in India, raising concerns over the maintenance and safety protocols for aging aircraft in the IAF fleet. Authorities have yet to provide an official update on the investigation's progress or timeline.

Gujarat: Massive fire breaks out, destroys over 15 scrap warehouses

TPN Correspondent | Gujarat

A major fire broke out early this morning in the Vapi area of Gujarat's Valsad district, engulfing over 15 scrap warehouses. The intense blaze triggered a swift response, with ten fire tenders rushed to the site to combat the flames. Officials have confirmed that the fire is still being controlled as the dousing operation continues.

The incident in Vapi is the latest in a series of fire-related events in Gujarat. Just the previous day, a fire broke out at the Kamdhenu Gau Seva Trust in Gandhidham, although there were no reports of casualties from that incident.

The fire in Vapi reportedly began in the early hours, quickly spreading through the warehouse area, which housed large quantities of scrap materials. The swift spread of flames posed significant challenges for the firefighters who worked tirelessly to prevent further destruction. Authorities have not yet provided a full assessment of the damage or the cause of the fire, but they are investigating the incident.

This fire follows another recent incident on March 4, when a fire broke out in an old building near Godhra railway station. The fire, which started around 1 a.m., caused extensive damage to several shops and nearby homes. Fire officers, including Mukesh Bhai Chawara, reported that the fire was particularly fierce, affecting four shops on the front side of the building and up to six homes on the rear side. The fire was eventually brought under control after 5-6 hours of intense firefighting efforts, with five to six fire tenders deployed on the site.

The cause of the Godhra fire is still under investigation, with authorities speculating that flammable materials such as oil might have contributed to the rapid spread of flames.

The repeated fire incidents in Gujarat highlight the ongoing risk posed by industrial and residential areas, with authorities stressing the need for better safety measures to prevent such devastating blazes in the future.



Kuki Protesters Clash With Security Forces On Day 1 Of 'Free Movement' In Manipur

TPN Correspondent | Manipur

Civilian buses resumed travel across districts in Manipur today, escorted by security forces, amid ongoing protests by the Kuki tribes demanding a separate administration carved out from the state. The protests have been intensifying, particularly in the Kuki-dominated areas, where demonstrators have been blocking roads, clashing with security forces, and demanding a resolution to their grievances.

In Kangpokpi district, located 45 km from Imphal, visuals showed mine-resistant vehicles leading buses through roadblocks. The situation escalated when several Kuki women attempted to block the highways, resulting in injuries after security forces used lathi charges to disperse the protesters.

The protests come in the wake of a decision by the Centre to lift roadblock restrictions, declaring that no road blockades should take place in the state from today onwards, following the resignation of Chief



Minister N Biren Singh and the imposition of President's rule in Manipur.

Clashes have been reported from several Kuki-dominated regions, with protesters engaging in acts of defiance, including throwing stones at vehicles, digging up roads, burning tyres, and erecting barricades. Some demonstrators were also seen hurling insults and demanding that security forces leave the area.

The ongoing conflict between the Meitei community, which is dominant in the valley, and the Kuki tribes, who primarily reside in the hill areas, has been ongoing since May 2023. The tensions have been cen-

tered around issues such as land rights, political representation, and ethnic identity. Over 250 people have lost their lives, and nearly 50,000 individuals have been displaced due to the violence.

The Kuki leaders, along with several militant groups that have signed a suspension of operations agreement, are firm in their demand for a separate administration before allowing free movement across the state. Meanwhile, Meitei organizations have questioned why the displaced individuals, many of whom are living in relief camps, are being prevented from returning to their homes, as discussions continue.

15 Days On, No Signs Of 8 Trapped In Telangana Tunnel, Rescue Ops Continue

TPN Correspondent | Telangana

Rescue operations continued at a rapid pace on Saturday inside the partially collapsed Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) project tunnel in Telangana, where eight individuals have been trapped since February 22. The operations were given a significant boost with the deployment of trained cadaver dogs, who helped locate two potential spots where the trapped victims might be.

The collapse of the tunnel, which occurred more than two weeks ago, left eight people - including engineers and laborers - stranded inside. Despite the difficult conditions, including rising water levels, slush, and seepage, rescue teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the Indian Army, the Navy, and other specialized agencies have been working tirelessly to extract the victims.

On Friday, a team of Belgian Malinois breed cadaver dogs from Kerala joined the



search effort. These highly trained canines are capable of detecting human scent even from a depth of 15 feet, which has proved vital in pinpointing possible locations of the trapped individuals. Once the dogs identified the spots, rescue personnel moved in, carefully removing silt and debris to access the areas.

Telangana's State Irrigation Minister, N Uttam Kumar Reddy, who has been closely monitoring the rescue operation, is expected to visit the tunnel site on Saturday. He will meet with officials and review the ongoing efforts to ensure the safety and prompt extraction of the

trapped workers.

The difficult and hazardous conditions inside the tunnel have slowed progress, but rescue teams remain determined to overcome the challenges. The ongoing collaboration between local authorities and specialized teams from across India demonstrates the dedication to ensuring the safe return of the trapped workers.

As the operation progresses, hopes remain high that the combined efforts of the rescue teams and the use of advanced techniques like the cadaver dogs will bring a successful outcome to this high-stakes rescue mission.



1953 Revisited

Andhra's Unhealed Wounds-Stalin Must Answer

The Madras State was divided in 1953 when the Telugu-speaking regions were separated to form the new Andhra State, primarily due to the demands of the Andhra people who felt they were being neglected and treated unfairly within the larger Madras state, leading to accusations of "ill treatment" towards the Andhras by the Tamil dominated government of Madras; this division was a result of the strong linguistic state movement in India at the time.

Mr. Stalin is advocating for a united front among seven states where the majority of the population adheres to Sanatana Dharma. However, he, along with his son and political allies, is firmly opposed to Sanatana Dharma. It is essential for him to clarify his party's position on this matter.

1953 Madras state division Andhra's Unhealed Wounds—Stalin Must Answer and Apologise before asking for southern states unity .



ment gained momentum with the sacrifices of leaders like Potti Sriramulu, who undertook a fast unto death, ultimately leading to the creation of Andhra state in 1953. However, the manner in which the Telugu people were forced to leave Madras city added insult to injury. They were given a strict deadline to vacate, leaving many families and businesses in turmoil. This bitter memory has persisted through generations, serving as a reminder of the discrimination and disregard they faced. In light of this historical context, it is imperative for Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister, Mr. M.K. Stalin, to acknowledge this painful past and extend a formal apology to the people of Andhra Pradesh before advocating for unity among the southern states. Unity cannot be built on the foundation of

unresolved historical injustices; it requires mutual respect and understanding. An official apology would not only serve as an act of reconciliation but also help foster genuine cooperation between the two states. Without addressing these grievances, any call for unity remains superficial and lacks the emotional and moral foundation necessary for true solidarity. Furthermore, it is essential for Andhra Pradesh to remain vigilant and not fall under the influence of Tamil interests that may seek to overshadow its own cultural and political identity. Over the years, there have been instances where Andhra's interests have been sidelined in broader regional discussions, whether in matters of resource allocation, political representation, or economic collaborations. The

rich heritage and aspirations of the Telugu people must be preserved and prioritized in any discussions of regional cooperation. True unity among the southern states can only be achieved through a balanced partnership where each state's identity and interests are safeguarded. Mr. Stalin's recent actions and rhetoric raise concerns about his commitment to national integration. His apparent alignment with foreign entities and his stance on regional issues suggest a potential divergence from the broader goals of unity and cooperation that are vital for the progress of all southern states. While regional alliances can be beneficial, they should not come at the cost of national integrity or the marginalization of any state's interests. It is crucial for leaders to prioritize

the well-being of their own communities while fostering a spirit of collaboration that respects the unique identities of each state. Hence, the Telugu-speaking population of Andhra Pradesh deserves recognition and respect for their historical experiences. An apology from Mr. Stalin would be a significant step towards reconciliation, and it is essential for Andhra Pradesh to assert its identity and interests in the face of external influences. The scars of the past cannot be ignored, but they can be addressed through sincere gestures of acknowledgment and respect. True unity among southern states will only be possible when there is a genuine commitment to addressing past grievances and fostering a relationship based on equality, understanding, and mutual respect.

YS Family Feud A Battle Beyond Business

Avinash | TPN
Hyderabad, Mar 09: Family disputes over wealth and inheritance are not uncommon, but when such conflicts involve powerful political figures, they become matters of public debate. The ongoing legal battle between former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and his sister, YS Sharmila, over Saraswati Power shares is not just a family disagreement—it is a spectacle that reflects the deepening cracks within the YS family and the political ambitions that might be fueling the conflict. A Family Torn Apart by Wealth and Power At the heart of the issue is the alleged illegal transfer of shares, with Jagan accusing his sister of fraudulently seizing control of company assets. What makes this case even more sensational

is the claim that their mother, YS Vijayamma, is being used as a tool in this dispute. The involvement of a mother in a legal fight between her own children makes this conflict even more tragic. Jagan, who has always presented himself as a strong leader with full control over his political and financial empire, is now openly admitting that even within his own family, he is facing betrayal and opposition. On the other hand, Sharmila, who has long struggled to find her own political identity separate from her brother's influence, is now fighting back, showing that she is no longer willing to remain in his shadow. Political Rivalry or Business Dispute? While Jagan insists that the case is purely about financial transactions and not a family



dispute, the larger political context cannot be ignored. Sharmila's growing political ambitions and her strained relationship with Jagan have been evident for years. She has openly criticized her brother's leadership style, and her political moves—first in Telangana and now in Andhra Pradesh—suggest that she is carving her own path, independent of the YSR Congress Party.

Jagan's petition highlights the extent to which their relationship has soured. He has gone from once expressing affection for his sister and planning to transfer assets to her in the future to now calling her actions fraudulent and illegal. The dramatic shift raises questions—was the sibling bond always fragile, or did political and financial differences break it beyond repair? The Emotional Toll on Vijayamma Amidst this fierce battle, the role of YS Vijayamma is deeply unfortunate. As the widow of YS Rajasekhara Reddy, she was once the unifying force of the family, standing by both Jagan and Sharmila. But today, she

finds herself in a difficult position, caught between her son and daughter. Jagan's claim that Vijayamma is being used as a front by Sharmila to justify the alleged illegal share transfers is disturbing. If true, it points to a manipulation of family relationships for financial gain. If false, it suggests that Jagan himself is willing to bring his mother into a bitter legal fight to protect his assets. Either way, Vijayamma's position in this dispute is painful to witness. The Public Perception and the Legal Battle Ahead The case, now before the National Company Law Tribunal, is set for its next hearing on April 3. However, regardless of the legal outcome, the damage to the YS family's public image is already done. The YS family has always relied on the legacy

of YSR to maintain its political credibility. But now, with Jagan and Sharmila openly fighting over wealth, the idealized image of YSR's united family is quickly crumbling. For the people of Andhra Pradesh, this feud raises important questions—if a leader cannot keep his own family united, how can he be expected to manage a state? If political ambitions and financial greed can tear apart the most influential political dynasty in Andhra Pradesh, what does it say about the future of leadership in the state? As this legal battle unfolds, one thing is clear: this is not just about Saraswati Power shares. It is about power, political positioning, and the irreversible breakdown of a once-unbreakable family bond.



Kambala Srinivasa Rao's Service Continues Uninterrupted After Political Entry

TPN | SK Ghani
East Godavari, Mar 9: Kambala Srinivasa Rao, known for his unwavering service to the people and dedication to Hindu Dharma, has officially stepped into politics. Despite his political debut, his commitment to social service remains strong. A massive public meeting was held in Gokavaram, where BJP

leaders, including state BJP president and Rajahmundry MP Daggubati Purandeswari, welcomed him into the party by draping him with the BJP scarf. Over ten thousand people, including a significant number of Dalits, joined the party under his leadership, believing in his ideology and service-oriented approach. A Life Dedicated to Service

Hailing from Gokavaram in East Godavari district, Kambala Srinivasa Rao has always been at the forefront of humanitarian efforts. Unlike many political entrants, he is neither an industrialist nor from a political family. His journey has been one of pure service, focusing on the protection of Hindu Dharma and the welfare of society.

As the founder of the Vishwa Hindu Dharma Parirakshan Rama Sena, he has led various spiritual and welfare programs. He has actively contributed to temple development, renovating neglected temples and ensuring their maintenance. His contributions extend beyond religion, as he provides financial and material assistance to those in

need, regardless of caste or community. Unstoppable Service Programs Srinivasa Rao has launched numerous service programs that have positively impacted thousands of people. He regularly organizes fruit and roti distribution drives for patients in government hospitals and provides 25 kg of rice every month to widows and elderly individuals in need. His commitment to spiritual activities is evident through his prasad distribution at Kanakadurga Ammavari Temple in Vijayawada every Friday.

Happy Women's Day, We bow to our Nari Shakti: PM Modi

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On International Women's Day, March 8, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended heartfelt wishes to women across the nation, praising their contributions and empowerment. To mark this significant day, PM Modi took a unique step by allowing women to take over his social media accounts, an initiative aimed at highlighting their achievements and inspiring others.

"Today, as promised, my social media properties will be taken over by women who are making a mark in diverse fields!" PM Modi announced on X. He further expressed his gratitude to the nation's "Nari Shakti," saying, "We bow to our Nari Shakti on Women's Day! Our Government has always worked to empower women, reflected in our schemes and programs."

The initiative, which was first announced on March 3, 2025, encouraged women from



all walks of life to share their inspiring journeys of empowerment, perseverance, and success on PM Modi's social media platforms. The aim is to shine a light on women who have overcome challenges and made

remarkable strides in their respective fields.

The first story shared on PM Modi's X handle was from Indian chess player Vaishali Rameshbabu, who expressed her excitement about being

part of the initiative. "Vanakkam! I am @chessvaishali and I am thrilled to be taking over our PM Thiru @narendramodi Ji's social media properties on #WomensDay," she wrote. As a proud representative of India

Move highlights women's achievements on Women's Day

Chess player Vaishali Rameshbabu shares first story

PM praises 'Nari Shakti' and government's empowerment efforts

Initiative aims to inspire women across all fields

in international chess tournaments, Vaishali encouraged women, particularly young girls, to follow their dreams and break barriers, regardless of the challenges they may face.

She also praised the growing support for women athletes in India, noting that the country is making significant progress in providing women with the

necessary training, exposure, and encouragement to succeed in sports.

This gesture from PM Modi underscores the importance of celebrating and empowering women across India, and it serves as a reminder of the country's commitment to creating opportunities for women in all spheres of life.

Maiya Samman scheme starts reaching beneficiaries' accounts: Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren

TPN Correspondent | Ranchi

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren announced that Rs 7,500 would be credited to the accounts of women beneficiaries under the Maiyan Samman Yojana. The move is part of the state government's continued efforts to empower women and provide them with financial support.

The Maiyan Samman Yojana, a flagship initiative by the Jharkhand government, offers Rs 2,500 per month to over 50 lakh women across the state. This direct financial assistance is designed to alleviate financial burdens, particularly for women from economically disadvantaged sections, by providing them with consistent support.

In his statement, CM



Hemant Soren emphasized the significance of International Women's Day in highlighting women's contributions to society and reiterated the state government's commitment to ensuring their welfare. He also mentioned that the additional Rs 7,500 credited on this special

day is a token of appreciation for the efforts and resilience shown by women in the state.

The Maiyan Samman Yojana is aimed at providing financial security to women, encouraging them to contribute more actively to both household and community welfare.

By extending this support, the Jharkhand government aims to ensure that women are financially independent and empowered, thus fostering gender equality in the state.

The initiative also aligns with broader national goals of promoting women's economic participation and social inclusion. As the state celebrates Women's Day, the financial aid serves as a timely reminder of the importance of women's empowerment and the steps needed to bridge gender gaps in various sectors.

The move has been welcomed by the beneficiaries and local communities, who view it as a positive step toward addressing the needs and concerns of women, particularly in rural and underprivileged areas.

DMK govt has failed to ensure safety of women in T.N: alleges TVK chief Vijay

TPN Correspondent | CHENNAI

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president Vijay on Saturday (March 8, 2025) strongly criticized the DMK-led government in Tamil Nadu for its alleged failure to ensure the safety of women in the state. On the occasion of International Women's Day, Vijay expressed his concern over the growing insecurity faced by women in Tamil Nadu and vowed to challenge the ruling party in the upcoming 2026 Assembly elections.

In a video message, Vijay extended his greetings to women on International Women's Day and emphasized the importance of safety for women to

lead a happy and secure life. He stated, "Women can realize happiness only if they feel safe. When there is no safety for women, it is unlikely they will be happy. I can understand the feelings of women in Tamil Nadu." He further criticized the DMK government for what he described as a betrayal, noting that the people of Tamil Nadu had initially elected the government with high hopes, but now realized they had been "cheated."

Vijay called for change and urged the public to unite in removing the DMK government from power in the 2026 Assembly elections. He said, "Change is the only constant."

India most likely undercounting heat-related deaths: former WHO Chief Soumya

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India is likely undercounting the number of heat-related deaths, a problem that hampers the country's ability to effectively respond to the impact of extreme heat waves, according to Soumya Swaminathan, former WHO chief scientist and Health Ministry advisor. Swaminathan emphasized the urgent need for improved tracking, preparedness, and policy interventions as India braces for another extreme summer.

In an interview on the sidelines of TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit, Swaminathan explained that while official data suggests only a fraction of heatstroke cases result in fatalities, the real numbers are likely much higher. "For every death, there are probably 20 people suffering from heat-related illnesses like high blood pressure, exacerbated cardiac diseases, or heat exhaustion," she said. These illnesses can have significant long-term impacts, including economic losses and productivity reduction.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) recorded



536 heatwave days last year, the highest in 14 years, and forecasts above-normal temperatures for the upcoming summer season. Last year, the country documented 41,789 suspected heatstroke cases and 143 heat-related deaths, but public health experts believe this underrepresents the true toll.

Swaminathan highlighted that heat impacts go beyond fatalities. Prolonged exposure to extreme temperatures leads to mental health issues, such as increased suicides, psychiatric illnesses, and domestic violence. She stressed the need for a coordinated response involving various sectors, including labor, housing, and urban planning, to address the chal-

lenges posed by heat.

Swaminathan also advocated for vulnerability mapping using technology to identify areas most affected by heat. She suggested low-cost solutions like shaded waiting areas at traffic signals, which many cities have already begun implementing.

As the country faces another sweltering summer, Swaminathan urged local governments, hospitals, and employers to take proactive measures to minimize heat-related health impacts. She called for better awareness, training, and preparation to ensure people can remain productive and safe during extreme heat.

Omar Abdullah unveils J&K Budget: 200 units free power, other benefits

TPN Correspondent | Jammu

On Friday, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah presented the Union Territory's first budget following its reorganization in 2019. The budget for 2025-2026 is a zero-deficit budget with a total outlay of ₹1.12 lakh crore. Aimed at addressing the needs of vulnerable sections of society, the budget includes several welfare initiatives designed to uplift the most disadvantaged.

One of the key proposals in the budget is the provision of 200 units of free electricity per month to all Antyodaya families, ensuring that the most marginalized groups in society can access basic utilities without financial strain.

Additionally, beneficiaries of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) will receive 10 kg of free ration each month, further bolstering food security for those in need.

The CM also announced free travel for women on all government-owned public transport, a move aimed at enhancing mobility and em-



powering women, particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. This initiative is expected to have a significant impact on the daily lives of women, especially in rural and underserved areas.

Furthermore, the budget outlines an enhanced pension scheme that will benefit over 10 lakh individuals belonging to the most vulnerable sections of society. This measure will help provide financial stability to senior citizens, widows, and differently-abled individuals.

Omar Abdullah highlighted that this budget, the first to be presented by a democrat-

ically elected government in Jammu and Kashmir post-reorganization, reflects the administration's commitment to the welfare of its citizens. The proposed budget emphasizes inclusivity and equitable development, with a strong focus on social security and basic services for those in need.

The government's fiscal responsibility and efforts to balance the budget with welfare provisions aim to ensure the continued growth and stability of the Union Territory, while addressing the needs of its most vulnerable populations.

A Europe In Emotional Shock Grapples with a New Era

TPN Correspondent | Paris

For decades, the Soviet Union's primary goal was to "decouple" the United States from Europe, hoping to break the Western alliance that kept Soviet forces from advancing into Europe. Now, under President Donald Trump, the U.S. has seemingly achieved what the Soviets could not, aligning itself with Russian President Vladimir Putin and leaving Europe grappling with a sense of abandonment and alarm.

Europe, shocked and bewildered by this shift, finds itself in a precarious position. For generations, the United States was a foundational ally in defending democracy and liberty against tyranny. Trump's embrace of Putin has left the continent uncertain and fearful of what comes next. European leaders are now questioning their security and the future of the Western alliance that once symbolized unity against oppression.

Valérie Hayer, president of the centrist Renew Europe group in the European Parliament, expressed concern over this transformation, saying, "Trump mouths the propaganda of Putin. We have entered a new epoch." This marked change is deeply unsettling for a continent that has long depended on the U.S. as a cornerstone of peace and stability.

The emotional impact on Europe is profound, as the historical ties between Europe

Trump's stance shifts U.S.-Europe ties
Europe fears U.S. abandonment
Leaders alarmed by Trump's Putin alignment
Historical U.S.-Europe unity now uncertain
Europe faces geopolitical isolation

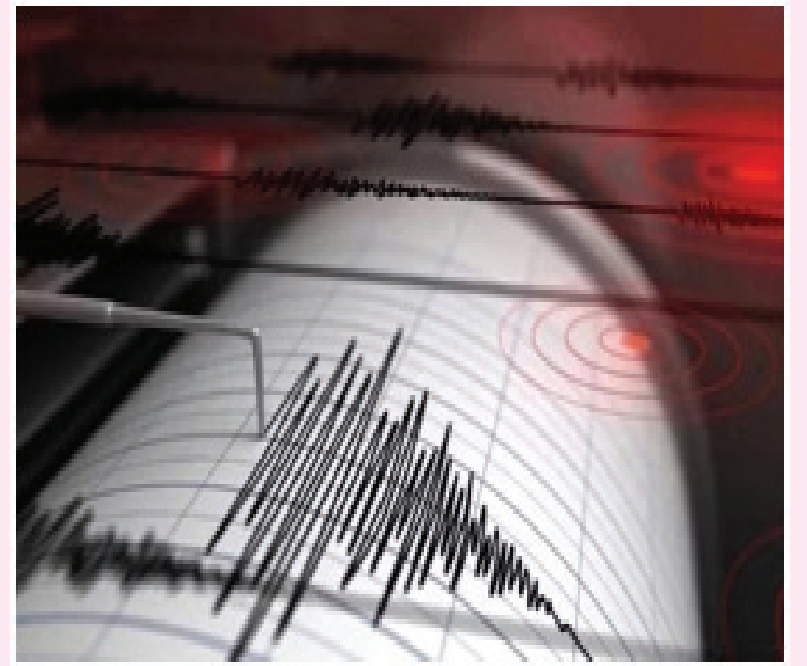


and America have shaped the continent's journey from the devastation of World War II to a prosperous and united entity. Iconic moments such as John F. Kennedy's 1963 "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech and Ronald Reagan's challenge in 1987 to "tear down this wall" at the

Brandenburg Gate, highlighted the shared ideals between Europe and the U.S. in promoting freedom and democracy.

However, the meaning of "the West" now appears uncertain. With the U.S. aligning more closely with Russia and China asserting its own influ-

ence, Europe finds itself increasingly isolated, unsure of its role in this reshaped geopolitical landscape. The future of Europe's relationship with both the U.S. and Russia remains uncertain, as the continent navigates a new, unfamiliar epoch in global politics.



Twin earthquakes hit Nepal, no casualties reported

TPN Correspondent | Kathmandu

Nepal experienced two mild earthquakes on Saturday morning, with tremors reported in Baglung and Myagdi districts, according to the National Earthquake Monitoring Centre. Thankfully, no immediate damage or casualties have been reported from either of the tremors.

The first earthquake, measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale, struck Baglung district at 6:20 AM. The epicenter of the tremor was located in the Khukhani area, situated approximately 300 kilometers west of Kathmandu.

Earlier, at 3:14 AM, a second earthquake with a magnitude of 4.0 was recorded in Myagdi

district, around 40 kilometers from Baglung. The epicenter of this tremor was in the Muri area of Myagdi.

Authorities and local residents in both districts have reported no significant damage or injuries at this time. However, the situation is still being monitored, and further updates may follow. Nepal, which lies in a seismically active zone, frequently experiences mild to moderate earthquakes, but large-scale earthquakes like the devastating 2015 quake remain a concern for the region. The National Earthquake Monitoring Centre has urged residents in affected areas to stay alert and follow safety protocols in case of aftershocks.

Major Terror Attack Foiled in Pakistan with Arrest of 10 TTP Militants

TPN Correspondent | Lahore

A significant terror attack was thwarted by Pakistan's Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) with the arrest of 10 terrorists from the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), including two of its most dangerous members. The arrests were made during a series of operations conducted across Punjab province, according to a CTD spokesperson on Saturday.

The two TTP terrorists identified as Riaz and Rashid were captured in Khushab and Rawalpindi. Along with the two terrorists, authorities seized explosives, including 2.69 kilograms of explosives, 19 detonators, 35 feet of safety fuse wire, and an IED bomb. Banned literature was also recovered from their possession.

The CTD Punjab carried out 73 intelligence-based operations across various districts of the province over the past few days. These operations led to the arrest of 10 militants who were reportedly planning to



target important buildings in Lahore. The spokesperson confirmed that cases have been registered against the arrested individuals, and further investigations are underway.

This operation comes amid an intensification of efforts by law enforcement agencies to combat the TTP, especially after the group launched several attacks on security forces. Just days before, the CTD announced the arrest of 20 terrorists in early March, including a Sikh militant, during 162 intelligence-based operations. Among those arrested were

three other highly dangerous TTP members: Manmohan Singh, Naqeebullah, and Riyaz, who were captured in Rawalpindi, Lahore, and Rahim Yar Khan.

The arrests of these militants have been hailed as a major success in the ongoing fight against terrorism in the region, with authorities focusing on dismantling the TTP's network in Pakistan. The investigation continues, as Pakistan's security agencies remain on high alert to prevent further terrorist activities.

South Korea's Impeached President Yoon Released From Detention

TPN Correspondent | Seoul

Impeached South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol was released from detention on Saturday after a court annulled his arrest on procedural grounds. However, he remains under investigation for declaring martial law in December 2023, a move that led to charges of insurrection.

Yoon, who was detained in January following a raid on his residence, smiled and bowed deeply to a crowd of supporters as he walked out of the detention center. "I bow my head in gratitude to the people of this nation," Yoon said in a statement released by his lawyers.

A day earlier, a court had canceled his arrest warrant on technical and legal grounds. Prosecutors expressed dissatisfaction with the ruling, calling it "unjust." They chose not to appeal the decision, which focused solely on the procedural aspects of his detention, rather than the criminal charges he faces.

Yoon, who was impeached



in December 2023 over his declaration of martial law, faces a separate ruling from South Korea's Constitutional Court, which will decide whether to uphold his impeachment and officially remove him from office. The court's decision is expected soon, and should Yoon be removed, a new presidential election must be held within 60 days.

Yoon's legal team celebrated his release, claiming it marked a "restoration of the rule of law." The former prosecutor, who briefly suspended civilian rule and sent soldiers into par-

liament in a bid to assert control, has been charged with insurrection for his actions. The opposition, however, sharply criticized the court's decision, with Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung vowing to continue fighting "until the insurrection is over."

Despite his release, Yoon's legal battles continue. Even if the Constitutional Court upholds his impeachment, the criminal case against him will proceed, further intensifying the political turmoil in South Korea.

Kamala Harris Mulls Run for California Governor in 2026 Election

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Former US Vice President Kamala Harris is reportedly considering a run for California governor in the upcoming 2026 election. According to sources, Harris, 60, is expected to make a final decision on her candidacy by the end of this summer.

Harris, who attended a pre-Oscars party last weekend, expressed her determination to "stay in this fight" during

the event, where she met with influential figures within the Democratic Party. Her comments have fueled speculation about her potential political future in California.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, who spoke to Politico about the prospect of Harris running, indicated that her candidacy would be a powerful force in the race. He made it clear that he would not ask other Democrats to step aside if Harris decides to run but em-

phasized his support for her, stating, "They can run. I think they'll lose, and I will support her."

Kamala Harris's political career in California has been marked by significant achievements. She served as the state's attorney general from 2011 to 2017, after winning three state elections. In 2016, she transitioned to the role of U.S. Senator for California.

If Harris decides to run, she would seek to succeed current

Governor Gavin Newsom in the 2026 election. Other prominent Democrats have already announced their candidacy for the position, including Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis, former California Senate leader Toni Atkins, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and California schools director Tony Thurmond. The election is set for November 3, 2026, with the primary race scheduled for June of the same year.

Harris, who previously



served as Vice President under President Joe Biden, lost her bid in the 2024 presidential elec-

tion to former President Donald Trump.

Nifty valuations align with historical averages; HSBC MF bullish on India's growth outlook

Following the recent market correction, Nifty's valuations have returned to levels consistent with its 5-year and 10-year averages, according to a new report from HSBC Mutual Fund. Despite facing short-term challenges, the report maintains a positive outlook for Indian equities, supported by strong medium-term growth potential.

The report notes that Nifty valuations are now aligned with historical averages, which provides a more favorable environment for long-term investors. "Nifty valuations are now in-line with its 5/10-year average. We remain constructive on Indian equities, supported by the more robust medium-term growth outlook," the report stated.

While acknowledging a temporary slowdown in India's economic momentum, the report highlights that the long-term outlook remains promising. A key factor contributing to this optimism is the anticipated rise in India's investment cycle. The government's continued focus on infrastructure and manufacturing investments is expected to drive significant economic growth over the medium term.



Furthermore, the report forecasts an increase in private sector investments, which will likely provide an additional boost to economic activity. These factors collectively contribute to HSBC's positive outlook on Indian equities, despite short-term market fluctuations.

In conclusion, while the market has recently experienced a correction, the underlying fundamentals of the Indian economy remain strong. With a favorable valuation backdrop and robust growth prospects driven by infrastructure development and increasing private sector investments, Indian equities are poised to perform well over the medium to long term.

Women's employment in India up, yet 89 mn urban women remain out of work

India's urban employment landscape has undergone notable changes in recent years, with women's employment rising by 10 percent, reaching 28 percent among working-age women in 2023-24, according to a new report. However, despite this growth, over 89 million urban women remained outside the labor market in the same year, a number greater than the combined populations of Germany, France, and the UK, and three times that of Australia.



The report, titled India's Gender Employment Paradox and released just before International Women's Day by the Great Lakes Institute of Management in Chennai, examines the visible progress in women's workforce participation alongside persistent systemic barriers. The analysis reveals that while some women have made strides in the labor market, many continue to face significant challenges.

The key obstacles hindering women's employment in urban areas include spousal violence, the need to relocate after marriage, and limited access to convenient transportation. The report highlights that in 2023-24, India failed to leverage the skills of over 19 million graduate-educated urban women due to personal constraints or social norms related to childcare, commuting, and demanding job requirements.

The report also sheds light on the gender disparity in employment, noting that 97 percent of urban men in the 30-49 age group were employed, indicating a strong "male breadwinner" norm. It further points out that highly educated women are less likely to face spousal violence, but those who are employed are paradoxically more likely to justify domestic violence compared to non-working women, suggesting internalized patriarchal norms.

Prof. Vidya Mahambare, an economics professor at the institute, noted that while wage disparity still exists, it is crucial to consider multiple factors like performance, experience, and age before drawing broad conclusions. She highlighted the issue of reverse discrimination, where women's employment can lead to the rejection of equally qualified men, a trend that may create challenges in the coming years as more women join the workforce but may leave due to marriage or children.

India's industrial production growth likely at 3.7% in Jan, surge from 3.2% in Dec 24

India's industrial production, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), is expected to increase by 3.7 percent year-on-year in January 2025, up from 3.2 percent in December 2024, according to a report by Union Bank of India. The rise in industrial activity is seen as the primary factor behind this improvement.

However, despite the monthly increase, the report notes that IIP growth in January 2025 is still likely to be lower than the 4.2 percent recorded in the same month last year, indicating a year-on-year decline. The report points out that although industrial production has shown some recovery, it remains below last year's

performance.

The report attributes the expected growth to the broad-based optimism observed across various industrial sectors in January. High-frequency indicators such as E-way bill generation, which tracks the movement of goods across states, rose by 23.1 percent compared to January 2024, signaling increased economic activity. Toll collections also saw significant growth in both volume and value, further supporting the positive



momentum in industrial activities.

While India's merchandise exports contracted by 2.4 percent on a year-on-year basis in January, the 10.3 percent growth in merchandise imports suggests strong domestic demand. The automobile sector showed signs of recovery as well, with wholesale vehicle sales growing by 2.5 percent year-on-year. The two-wheeler segment particularly saw a rebound, and tractor sales continued to post double-digit growth

for the second consecutive month. Additionally, vehicle registrations also increased in January.

Petroleum consumption, another crucial indicator of industrial activity, rose by 3.1 percent in January 2025 compared to the previous year, reflecting higher fuel demand linked to transportation and manufacturing.

In conclusion, while India's industrial production is expected to grow in January 2025 compared to December, the year-on-year growth remains lower than January 2024. Nevertheless, key economic indicators suggest strengthening industrial activity and provide optimism for future months.

Good News For Zomato Investors: Blinkit Hikes Commission On Orders, Zepto Follows Suit Ahead Of IPO

Quick commerce companies Zepto and Blinkit are taking steps to improve their profitability by raising commissions on orders. According to a report by The Economic Times, Blinkit (owned by Zomato) has shifted to a variable commission model for brands and sellers, while Zepto is gradually increasing commissions on users and brands to lift its earnings.



The move comes as both companies aim to enhance investor sentiment amid challenges in the e-commerce sector. Zepto, which is preparing for an IPO later this year, has seen its valuations rise, currently standing at \$5 billion. Blinkit, on the other hand, is trying to boost investor confidence after experiencing a decline in its market capitalization over the past few months. Zomato's share price has also fallen from Rs 302 in December 2024 to Rs 223 by March 7, 2025.

In response to rising cash burns and market conditions, Zepto has increased its take rate to 22-23%, with expectations of further growth as it nears \$4 billion in annualized gross sales. Blinkit will introduce a new commission structure starting March 13, with rates now varying based on the selling price of items, even within the same category.

Despite these commission hikes, both companies remain aggressive in their pursuit of market share. "Zepto has secured the No. 2 rank, but Blinkit still holds the top spot and continues to be aggressive," the report stated.

However, their strategies have attracted attention. The All India Consumer Products Distributors Federation (AICPDF) has filed an antitrust case against major fast-delivery players like Zomato, Swiggy, and Zepto for alleged deep discounting practices. The investigation into such practices is ongoing, following scrutiny of e-commerce giants like Amazon and Flipkart in the past.

As the competition intensifies, both Zepto and Blinkit are adjusting their financial strategies to stay competitive while managing cash burn in a challenging market environment.

Nestle India Receives Warning from SEBI Over Insider Trading Breach

Nestle India announced on Friday that it had received a warning from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for a breach of insider trading regulations involving a designated person within the company.

The Indian subsidiary of the Swiss food giant revealed that its compliance officer had received an administrative warning letter from SEBI on Thursday. However, the company did not disclose specific details about the findings of the letter or the identity of the individual involved.

Nestle India, known for its popular Maggi noodles, emphasized that the incident had no material impact on its financials, operations, or other business activities. The company reassured investors and stakeholders that the breach did not disrupt its day-to-day functions or cause any harm to its financial standing.

Insider trading violations have significant legal and regulatory implications in India, and SEBI has been increasingly vigilant in enforcing compliance with market conduct regulations.



Insider trading involves the buying or selling of securities based on confidential, non-public information, which can distort the fairness and transparency of financial markets.

Nestle India's prompt acknowledgment of the warning and assurance that operations were unaffected reflects the company's commitment to regulatory compliance. Despite the warning, Nestle India continues to operate as usual, with no visible disruption in its business activities.

Bigger Bodies, Bigger Cancer Risk? New Study Challenges Decades-Old Assumption

For decades, scientists believed that large animals were no more likely to develop cancer than smaller ones, a theory grounded in Peto's Paradox, a concept from 1977. However, recent research has upended this long-standing idea. A team of researchers from the University of Reading, University College London, and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine conducted an extensive study involving 263 species from mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. The study, published on February 24 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), revealed a surprising finding: larger animals tend to have higher rates of cancer.



The research showed that, despite their larger size, some species—like elephants—have developed exceptional natural defenses against cancer. This challenges the earlier assumption that size had no impact on cancer risk. According to Professor Chris Venditti of the University of Reading, larger animals like elephants are more susceptible to cancer because they have more cells, which increases the chances of mutations. However, these animals, such as elephants, have evolved sophisticated mechanisms to keep their cancer risk in check.

The study analyzed the largest dataset of its kind, including veterinary autopsy records from 31 amphibians, 79 birds, 90 mammals,

and 63 reptiles. The findings consistently showed that larger species had higher cancer rates, yet species like elephants—who evolved to grow to large sizes—have developed stronger biological defenses.

Dr. Joanna Baker, co-author of the study, emphasized that as species grew larger, they also developed remarkable mechanisms to suppress tumors. This raises hope that by studying these species, scientists may be able to discover new methods to prevent or treat cancer in humans.

The research also uncovered unexpected exceptions, such as the common budgie, which had cancer rates 40 times higher than expected, and the naked mole rat, which seems almost immune to cancer. By understanding how certain animals manage to evade cancer, scientists are opening exciting possibilities for new treatments.

iPhone 17 Pro: Features and Design Changes



Maggi noodles, a go-to comfort food for many in India, have long been a versatile snack, perfect for satisfying hunger quickly. Over the years, it has become the subject of some unusual culinary experiments, with foodies pushing the boundaries of what you can do with instant noodles. From Maggi milkshakes to coffee-infused Maggi, these wild concoctions have always stirred curiosity, but the latest trend has truly taken things to another level—Maggi chai.

Yes, you read that right—Maggi chai is the new food experiment taking social media by storm. The unusual pairing has caught the attention of food enthusiasts and the internet alike. Recently, food delivery platform Swiggy shared a post on X (formerly Twitter), featuring two images: one of a plate of Maggi with a cup of chai, and another of Maggi noodles dipped directly into the tea. The sight was nothing short of bizarre, leaving many to question if this combination was a culinary genius or just a bizarre mistake.

Swiggy's post sparked a flurry of reactions, with the company asking, "Maggi with chai or Maggi in chai?" The internet had a field day, with many foodies sharing their shock and disbelief at the new trend. Some found the idea intriguing and even entertaining, while others pointed out the potential waste of food and questioned whether these experiments were taking the love for Maggi a bit too far.

As more food enthusiasts experiment with new ways to enjoy Maggi, the combination of noodles and tea has divided opinions. Some users argue that the pairing is nothing more than a marketing gimmick, while others wonder if it could become the next big trend in the world of unconventional food pairings. Regardless of the outcome, Maggi chai is definitely causing a stir and leaving people talking about this unexpected mashup of flavors.

Could Cockroach Milk Be the Future of Nutrition? Scientists Say It's More Nutritious Than Cow's Milk

The term "superfood" is typically associated with nutrient-rich foods like dark leafy greens, berries, and nuts, which are known to offer a variety of health benefits. However, a surprising contender has recently emerged in the world of superfoods: cockroach milk.



Though the idea may sound unappealing, scientists have discovered that the milk produced by the *Diploptera punctata* species of cockroach could be three times more nutritious than cow's milk. This revelation has sparked interest among nutritionists and researchers, who are intrigued by the potential health benefits of this unconventional substance. The milk, which is actually a nutrient-rich fluid produced by female cockroaches to feed their young, is found to be packed with proteins, fats, and sugars, making it one of the most nutrient-dense substances on Earth.

The discovery was first highlighted in a 2016 study published in the *Journal of Crystallography*, which analyzed the milk-like substance. Researchers found that it contains a balanced combination of macronutrients, which are essential for energy and growth, along with other compounds that make it an attractive option for sustainable food sources.

While cockroach milk is not yet available for human consumption, its potential has sparked growing interest in the food science community. The idea of using insects for food, particularly as a source of protein, has gained traction in recent years as people look for alternative, more sustainable sources of nutrition. Insects, being rich in essential nutrients and requiring fewer resources to produce, could play a significant role in addressing global food security challenges.

Although the research on cockroach milk is still in its early stages, this discovery paves the way for future innovations in alternative nutrition. As scientists continue to study its benefits and develop methods for harvesting it, cockroach milk could soon find a place in the future of food science, offering a sustainable and highly nutritious option for the world's growing population.

Can Soil from Banks Unlock Hidden Wealth? Chinese Vendors Claim It's the Key to Prosperity



A strange new trend in China has captured the public's attention, with vendors selling soil supposedly collected from outside major banks, claiming it can bring wealth and good fortune to those who purchase it. According to a report from the South China Morning Post, this "bank soil" can be priced as high as 888 yuan (approximately Rs 10,200) for a chunk, while smaller portions start at 24 yuan (around Rs 275). Sellers claim that the soil is collected from green spaces around financial institutions, potted plants in bank lobbies, and even dust from money counting machines.

The vendors offer various types of soil, which they assert are gathered from five of China's largest banks: Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Agricultural Bank of China, China Construction Bank, and Bank of Communications. One seller explained that the soil is manually collected at night, with different merchants emphasizing unique selling points—some claim to only gather it at midday, while others boast a higher success rate in bringing financial prosperity.

To further build trust, some vendors share videos of soil being dug up from bank entrances to ensure authenticity. The soil is presented on golden plates, with paper slips attached containing the contact details of previous buyers. Many customers, including business owners, are purchasing the soil with hopes of boosting their fortunes, and some even claim that their friends are also buying into the trend.

Despite the growing popularity of this unusual product, the trend has raised legal concerns. Fu Jian, a lawyer from Zejin Law Firm, pointed out that selling soil with unfounded claims about its financial benefits could result in fraud charges. Furthermore, digging up soil from public spaces, including green zones around banks, is illegal in China, as it can lead to the degradation of urban environments. According to Fu, customers have the right to demand refunds from these sellers if the promises are not backed by proof.

Interestingly, the soil is also being sold online, expanding its reach to a wider audience across the country.

Ghosts And Spirits, Scary Sounds': This Science College Is Hyderabad's Most Haunted Spot

Every city has its share of eerie locations, places shrouded in mystery and believed to be haunted. In Hyderabad, one such spot is the infamous Khairatabad Science College, a place that locals believe should be avoided, especially after dark. Once a vibrant institution where science was taught, the college is now regarded as one of the city's scariest and most unsettling places.



Local resident Umer shared with Local18 that many eerie tales surround the reputation of Khairatabad Science College. One of the most well-known stories claims that a part of the building collapsed while it was still operational, leading to the institution's eventual closure. Since then, the college has remained abandoned, with no one daring to step foot inside.

As night falls, locals claim that strange and eerie sounds can be heard emanating from the college, making it seem as though someone—or something—still resides within its walls.

Another chilling rumor about the college is linked to a disturbing practice that allegedly occurred when it was still functioning. It's said that unauthorized experiments were conducted on dead bodies in the college's science lab, a practice that was both illegal and unethical.

When the government discovered this, the lab was shut down, and the entire college was sealed. The unsettling belief is that the improperly disposed of bodies may have resulted in restless spirits that still haunt the area to this day.

Further adding to the spine-chilling atmosphere is the tragic tale of a security guard assigned to watch over the closed college. After the building was shut down, the guard was stationed at the site to ensure it remained undisturbed. However, one night, after hearing strange noises, he went inside to investigate but never returned. His lifeless body was discovered the following morning. This incident solidified the college's reputation as a place that should be avoided, and since then, Khairatabad Science College has become one of Hyderabad's most haunted locations.



India Aims to Overcome New Zealand's Resilience in Champions Trophy Final

India faces a tough challenge in the Champions Trophy final against New Zealand, who have a 3-1 edge in ICC knockout matches. While India has the advantage of familiarity with conditions, New Zealand's extended stay in Dubai makes them a formidable opponent. India's spin quartet—

Varun Chakravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, and Axar Patel—will play a crucial role in countering New Zealand's batting, with Kane Williamson and Rachin Ravindra as their biggest threats.

The spotlight also shines on Virat

Kohli and Rohit Sharma, key figures in India's previous T20 World Cup win. India aims for a complete team effort, relying on support from players like Shubman Gill, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, and Hardik Pandya to seal the title. The match begins at 2:30 pm IST.

Gukesh Emphasizes Classical Chess, Reflects on Personal Journey

Reigning World Chess Champion, D. Gukesh, shared his thoughts on the evolving chess landscape during the 'India Today Conclave 2025.' While open to all formats, Gukesh asserted that classical chess, with its deep history, will always hold the greatest significance. He acknowledged the rise of freestyle chess but emphasized it wouldn't overtake traditional chess. Reflecting on his journey, Gukesh recalled the financial struggles his family faced in his early career, relying on friends to fund his tournaments. However, his recent success has alleviated these concerns, providing a comfortable life for his family. He credited India's growing



chess prominence to the legacy of Viswanathan Anand and the support from the government and sponsors. Gukesh's success marks a new era for Indian chess.

Cadillac Receives Approval to Join F1 as 11th Team Starting 2026

Formula 1 and the FIA have granted final approval for Cadillac to join the sport as the 11th team, starting from the 2026 season. The US team, backed by TWG Motorsports and General Motors (GM), received the green light after securing a deal with F1 earlier this year. Cadillac's engines will initially be supplied by Ferrari, but GM plans to develop its own engine in the future.

This announcement comes after F1 previously rejected a bid from Andretti, which was linked to Cadillac, but GM's increased commitment to the venture helped sway F1 and the FIA. Stefano Domenicali, President and CEO of Formula 1, welcomed the team, highlighting their involvement as a significant step for



the sport. The new team will be a joint venture between GM and Dan Towriss, owner of Andretti Global, with Mario Andretti, the 1978 F1 World Champion, taking an advisory role.

IPL 2025: Ticket Sales for Punjab Kings' First Home Match Begin on March 9

The Punjab Kings have announced that tickets for their first home match of IPL 2025 against Rajasthan Royals will go live on March 9 at 1:00 pm. The match is scheduled for April 5 at the New PCA stadium in New Chandigarh. Fans can purchase tickets via the District app, Punjab Kings app, and websites.

Punjab Kings will host seven home games, with four at the New PCA stadium and three at the HPCA stadium, Dharamsala. The New PCA stadium, with a seating capacity of 31,500, features 50 corporate boxes, three hospitality lounges, and 20 general stands. Ticket prices start at Rs 1,250 and can go up to Rs 6,500 for hospitality lounges.

Punjab Kings' IPL 2025 campaign begins with away matches on March 25 and April 1.



Mainz Defeat Borussia Mönchengladbach 3-1 to Move to Third in Bundesliga

Mainz surged into third place in the Bundesliga with a 3-1 victory over Borussia Mönchengladbach on Friday. The win lifted Bo Henriksen's team to 44 points, two ahead of Eintracht Frankfurt, who are in fourth. Paul Nebel and Dominik Kohr scored before and after halftime to give Mainz a commanding lead. Despite Stefan Lain-

er pulling one back for Mönchengladbach, Nadiem Amiri quickly restored Mainz's two-goal advantage, securing their fourth win in the last five matches.

Kohr expressed satisfaction with the team's performance, saying, "We have 44 points, what a feeling. The way we play football, we be-

long up there."

With nine games remaining, Mainz is aiming to qualify for European football for the first time since the 2016-17 Europa League group stage. The defeat left Mönchengladbach in eighth place with 37 points, just behind Leipzig in the final European spot.



Shubman Gill Dismisses Retirement Talks Ahead of Champions Trophy Final



Speculation has been swirling about the ODI future of India's veterans, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, after the Champions Trophy, but vice-captain Shubman Gill has dismissed any retirement talk in the dressing room. Speaking ahead of the final against New Zealand, Gill emphasized that the topic of retirement has not been discussed. "There is no talk about retirement in the dressing room, now," Gill

said during the pre-match press conference. Gill, who has been in stellar form in ODIs, praised India's batting depth, calling it the best lineup he has ever been a part of, which gives the top order more freedom. On the pressure of the final, he expressed confidence in the team's ability to perform under pressure, aiming to secure the trophy after missing out on the 2023 ODI World Cup.



Madhuri Dixit Discusses Pay Disparity and Gender Inequality in Bollywood

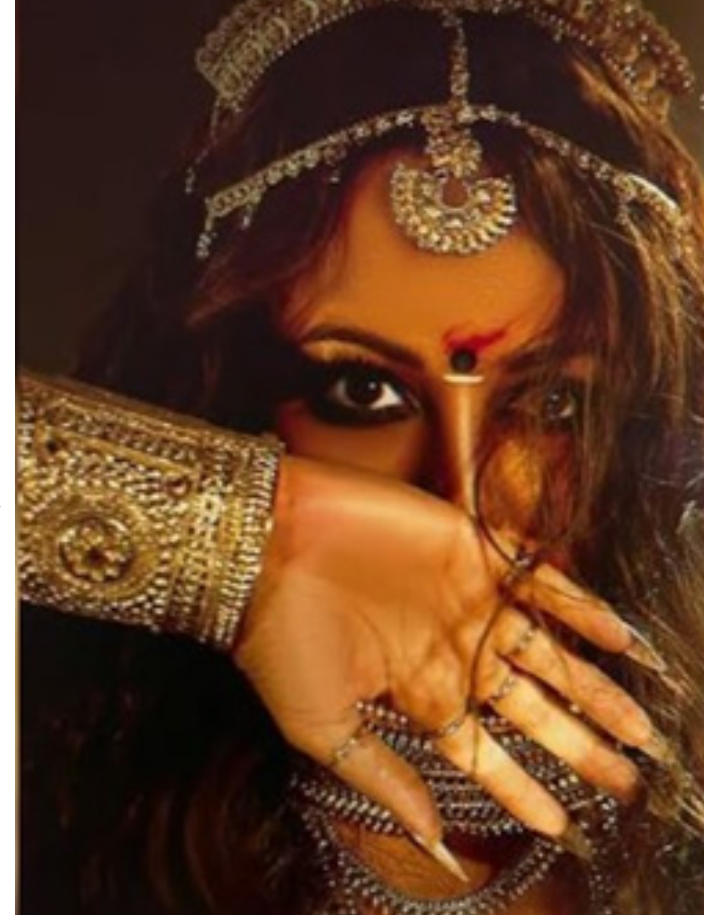
Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit highlighted the ongoing pay disparity in the film industry, stating that women continue to prove their worth in every project. During the session titled The Journey of Women in Cinema at the 2025 IIFA Weekend, Dixit shared that women actors must constantly demonstrate their ability to draw audiences, unlike their male counterparts. She stressed the need for progress toward parity in Bollywood, though admitting the road is long. Oscar-winning producer Guneet Monga echoed these views, pointing out the significant challenges women face in the industry. Both emphasized the importance of providing more opportunities and breaking through gender biases to achieve real change. Dixit also discussed her strong roles in films like *Mrityudand* and the growing presence of women in all departments of filmmaking.

Sonakshi Sinha's First-Look from Telugu Debut Film Jatadhara Unveiled

Sonakshi Sinha is set to make her Telugu debut with the supernatural fantasy thriller *Jatadhara*, directed by Venkat Kalyan. On the occasion of International Women's Day, the makers revealed her intense first-look poster on Instagram. In the captivating image, Sonakshi exudes goddess-like energy, adorned in heavy golden jewelry, with her face partially covered, revealing only her kajal-smudged eyes. Her fiery gaze adds a powerful depth to her character. The tagline reads, "Welcome aboard Sonakshi Sinha," while the caption states, "This Women's Day, a beacon of strength and power rises in *Jatadhara*."

The film, also starring Sudheer Babu, is produced by Zee Studios under the banner of Umesh KR Bansal, Prerna Arora, Aruna Agarwal, and Shivin Narang. The shoot is set to begin soon after a grand muhurat ceremony in Hyderabad.

Sonakshi was last seen in the Zee5 horror-comedy *Kakuda* and the Netflix period drama *Heeramandi*.



Katrina Kaif, Sister Isabelle Turn Perfect Bridesmaids For BFF Karishma Kohli



Katrina Kaif shared beautiful moments from her best friend Karishma Kohli's wedding, looking as stunning as ever. In a heartfelt post, she expressed her admiration for Karishma, reminiscing about their 16-year-long friendship. Katrina wrote, "From the first day we met, your joy and madness grabbed my attention, and there's been no looking back since then. You've been by my side through thick and thin." The actress praised Karishma's kind and courageous soul, saying, "You truly are a gem of a person, always shining bright no matter what is

happening in your life." She also expressed her happiness for Karishma and her new husband Mikhail, saying, "In him, you have the most amazing life partner ever." The wedding, an intimate celebration, was attended by close friends and family. A viral video from Karishma's sangeet ceremony showed Katrina dancing to the iconic AR Rahman track "Sasural Genda Phool." Katrina and her sister Isabelle were the perfect bridesmaids, adding grace and charm to both the sangeet and wedding celebrations.

Women's Day 2025: 5 Iconic Female-Centric Films To Watch

This Women's Day, celebrate the strength and resilience of women through these must-see, iconic female-centric films. Grab some popcorn and enjoy these cinematic gems:

1. Mother India - Prime Video

A classic in Indian cinema, this film tells the story of a mother's sacrifices to raise her sons amidst poverty. Nargis' unforgettable performance in this epic drama makes it a must-watch.

2. Arth - YouTube

This 1982 Hindi film follows Pooja (Shabana Azmi), who faces heartbreak and betrayal when her husband leaves her. As she navigates through personal challenges, she embarks on a journey of self-reliance and empowerment. A classic for the ages.

3. Kahaani - Prime Video

Starring Vidya Balan, this thriller delves into feminism and motherhood in a male-dominated society. The film won multiple National Awards and is a gripping portrayal of a woman's quest for justice.

4. Queen - Netflix

Kangana Ranaut delivers a career-defining performance as Rani Mehra, a woman who embarks on a solo journey of self-discovery after her wedding falls apart. This film is both empowering and entertaining.

5. Pink - JioHotstar

A hard-hitting film on consent and women's rights, *Pink* features Taapsee Pannu in a standout role. Amitabh Bachchan's powerful portrayal as a lawyer reinforces the film's vital message: "No means no." These films offer compelling portrayals of women's strength, independence, and resilience - perfect for celebrating Women's Day 2025.



Shah Rukh Khan as Rajasthani Cop, Fans Go Gaga

Shah Rukh Khan's latest ad, where he plays a Rajasthani police officer, has taken the internet by storm. In the video for an engine oil brand, SRK dons the role of a stylish cop, chasing robbers on a bike. His swag is undeniable with his shirt unbuttoned, aviators on, and a fun Rajasthani accent, which has captivated fans across social media.

The ad has gone viral, with fans praising his performance and comparing it to his iconic roles in films like *Shakti* and *Jawan*. Many have even suggested he should be cast in *Dhoom 4*, as they believe he excels in action sequences. His effortless charm and screen presence continue to shine, even in a short advertisement. SRK's ability to make a simple com-



mercial feel like a blockbuster reaffirms why he remains the undisputed King of Bollywood. Looking ahead, SRK is set to star in *King*, an action film alongside his daughter Suhana Khan, and *Pathaan 2*. Fans are eagerly waiting for his appearance at the IIFA awards in Jaipur.

Kajol Decides to Meet Her Younger Self This Women's Day

Kajol celebrated Women's Day 2025 in a truly heartfelt way by deciding to meet her younger self. The actress shared an adorable video compilation of herself on Instagram, narrating a beautiful conversation with her younger self. She wrote, "Met my younger self for coffee today...She ordered a latte, I ordered an americano...She had a book in her hand and one in her bag... I had a Kindle..." Kajol reflected on how she has grown over the years, emphasizing how

her younger self's loud and strong personality has evolved into a gentler version. The post highlighted her journey of self-realization and how, over time, she learned to appreciate herself.

A few days earlier, Kajol had also shared a loving birthday post for her sister Tanishaa Mukerji, wishing her the best for the future. On the work front, Kajol is set to star in *Kayoze Irani's* *Sarzameen* and *Maharagni-Queen of Queens*, both highly anticipated projects.

