



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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NEW IPL RULES

Ahead of the 2025 season, BCCI has made some major changes in the rules in the all-captains meet. A look...

SALIVA BAN REVOKED

The usage of saliva on balls had been banned since Covid pandemic, but it has been lifted for the IPL from hereon. This came after appeals from several star bowlers including Mohammed Shami

SLOW OVER-RATE BAN

The IPL will enforce demerit points for captains if they fail to adhere to optimal over-rate. Mandatory ball change after the 11th over in second innings for night games

CWG 2030: INDIA SENDS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

India formally submitted Expression of Interest to host the Centenary Commonwealth Games at Ahmedabad. The letter of interest was sent by P T Usha as the chief of Commonwealth Games Association of India on March 13 | P11

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GAG & GAVEL

Musk's X sues Indian govt over content blocking, misuse of IT rules

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

ELON Musk-led-social media platform X (formerly Twitter) has filed a petition in the Karnataka High Court against the Centre, accusing it of illegally blocking content on the platform.

The petition, filed on Thursday, alleges the government is circumventing established legal safeguards and procedures in its bid to censor online content. According to X, the government is improperly using Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology Act to issue content blocking orders. It argued that this Section is not intended for such purposes and that the government is deliberately bypassing the more stringent requirements of Section 69A of the IT Act and the associated Blocking Rules.

Section 69A is the legally defined route by which the government can restrict access to online content deemed harmful to the nation's interests. However, this process is regulated by the 2009 IT (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, which require a structured review process before blocking decisions are made.

Section 79(3)(b) says if a government agency flags illegal content, the platform must take it down within 36 hours or risk being liable for third-party content.

WITH THIS ISSUE

CITY'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE

INDULGE

36 PAGES, INCLUDING 24 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

30 more Naxals killed in C'garh

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

AT least 30 members of the banned CPI (Maoist) were killed in two separate encounters in Bastar division on Thursday, as security forces intensified operations against left-wing insurgency in south Chhattisgarh.

"A joint team of the District Reserve Guards (DRG) from Bijapur and Dantewada, Special Task Force, CRPF and elite Co-BRA force was out on search operations based on specific intelligence inputs. Around 7 am, an encounter broke out in the dense forest along the inter-district border area of Bijapur-Dantewada, where 26 Naxalites were neutralised. During the exchange of fire, DRG jawan Raju Oyami lost his life," said Jitendra Yadav, Bijapur district police chief.

In another gunfight at Kanker district in the north Bastar region, a combined team of the Border Security Force, Bastar Fighters and DRG gunned down four Maoists close to the Abujmad jungle of Narayanpur. No security personnel sustained injuries in the Kanker encounter.

The recovered bodies of Maoists are yet to be identified and the casualty count of the red rebels may rise further, the officer said.

The forces also recovered 21 weapons, including an AK-47, two Self-Loading Rifles, one INSAS rifle, three BGL rocket launchers, and explosives among



Jawans returning from the encounter site in the forest area at Bijapur-Dantewada border, in Bijapur on Thursday | ANI

others from the encounter site.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated that the security forces had achieved another big success in the mission to eliminate Naxalism under the 'Naxal Mukta Bharat Abhiyan'. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai praised the commitment of the security personnel. "We are achieving historic success in the fight against the Maoists," he said.

So far this year, 113 Maoists have been eliminated in various encounters in the state. Last year, Maoists lost 219 of their fighters in anti-insurgency operations.

The series of encounters during the last one year are part of the renewed strategy to eliminate Maoist influence in Chhattisgarh by March 2026.

Bijapur, Dantewada, Kanker and Narayanpur are among the seven Maoist-affected districts of Bastar division.

US detains Indian student for alleged Hamas support

AGENCIES @ Washington, D.C.

US federal authorities have detained an Indian citizen who came to the country legally on a student visa and threatened to deport him claiming he posed risk to American foreign policy.

Badar Khan Suri, a postdoctoral fellow at Georgetown University, was detained by masked agents from outside his home on Monday, US media reports said. His visa was revoked due to his alleged ties with Hamas.

Suri was being targeted because of the Palestinian heritage

of his wife Mapheze Saleh, a US citizen, his lawyer said in a lawsuit seeking his immediate release. Some reports said Saleh's father served as a senior political adviser to the Hamas leadership.

Confirming Suri's detention, a Department of Homeland Security spokesperson claimed Suri was "actively spreading Hamas propaganda and promoting antisemitism on social media."

The incident comes days after another Indian student, Ranjani Srinivasan, 'self-deported' following cancellation of her visa over her alleged support for Hamas.

Truly Astonishing!



Amul This ISS wonderful

Miss World an opportunity for TG to shine: Revanth



India has so many hidden gems. Beyond architecture, India's fashion, culture and nature are breathtaking

Miss World Krystyna Pyszkova

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

CHIEF Minister A Revanth Reddy strongly criticised BRS working president KT Rama Rao for opposing the hosting of the Miss World competition in Hyderabad, questioning what the BRS leader was objecting to.

Describing the event as a great opportunity, Revanth indirectly referred to Rama Rao and said: "One person is asking how we will conduct Miss World in Hyderabad. This event is a great opportunity for Telangana's tourism sector. Representatives from 140 countries will stay in Hyderabad for 25 days. They will not only visit Hyderabad but also explore all the tourist spots in Telangana."

On Thursday, he handed over appointment letters to 922 candidates who secured jobs through compensatory appointments in the Panchayat Raj department.

Addressing the gathering, Revanth said: "This is the 72nd Miss World competition. Only one edition has been held in India, in Mumbai. Telangana is going to host Miss World, with 3,000 media outlets, including TV channels and newspapers, covering the event for 25 days. Hyderabad will become a landmark on the global stage with this event."

Making it clear that his government will not waste money on the event, he said that an investment of ₹10 crore or ₹20 crore could bring hundreds of crores in revenue. CONTINUED ON P4

CM launches BuildNow portal

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Thursday launched BuildNow, a unified system for building and layout approvals. BuildNow will initially handle approvals for GHMC, followed by HMDA, DTC and then other regions. It will streamline urban development by connecting citizens, builders and officials on a single digital interface, eliminating the need for multiple department interactions

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH MISS WORLD KRYSZYNA PYSZKOVA | P2

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BEAUTY & SUBSTANCE, SHE HAS IT ALL



PIC: SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN

WHEN Krystyna Pyszkova of the Czech Republic was crowned Miss World 2023, the spotlight followed — but her gaze turned elsewhere. Beyond the glittering stages and sun-kissed horizons, she found her calling: education and empowerment. In an exclusive tete-a-tete with *TNIE's* Shreya Veronica, the beauty queen-cum-global advocate reflects on temples that soothed her soul, sarees that draped her in cultural reverence and a mission sharper than any crown's edge: to illuminate minds.

Excerpts:
You visited the Yadadri temple. How did you feel about it? How did you like the architecture and the heritage of Telangana?
 I love the heritage, and the whole world appreciates it... When I was there, I felt a deep sense of calm, spirituality and magic. The location on the hill provides a stunning view. I was happy to receive so many blessings and to witness the ceremonies and rituals, which I had never seen before. It was truly a magical experience.

How does it feel to be in Hyderabad?
 I love it! It's my fourth day here, and unfortunately, I'm leaving tomorrow. But we have one more beautiful event before I go. I have

fallen in love with the country. As I mentioned, this place is special to me because it's where my journey with Miss World began. Every time I visit, the people are so friendly, warm and welcoming. That's why we love coming back with the Miss World team — we always feel at home.

What food did you enjoy in Hyderabad?
 I tried haleem — it was delicious! I was amazed to learn that it takes several hours to prepare. Indian cuisine is loved worldwide, and my favourites are butter chicken and tikka masala, which I often order back home in the Czech Republic.

You are representing the beauty of the world. How does it feel to be Miss World? What challenges did you face at first?
 It feels amazing — an absolute blessing. However, it comes with great responsibility. Miss World is not just about beauty; it is about making an impact. I want to use this platform to promote meaningful causes and leave a legacy. In the beginning, there were challenges, of course. Being away from my family, friends and even my dogs was difficult. But travelling the world and meeting incredible people makes it all worthwhile.

What do you want to promote as Miss World?
 My main focus is on education. I started an educational programme in Tanzania for underprivileged children, and today, we provide quality education to many students. In the Czech Republic, I launched a programme for persons with disabilities and am developing an app to improve financial literacy — a crucial skill often overlooked. My commitment to education doesn't

end when I pass on the crown: I will continue working on these projects throughout my life.

What do you want to promote in India?
 India has so many hidden gems! I had the opportunity to explore places like Yadagirigutta temple, and Chowmahalla and Falaknuma palaces, and I was mesmerised. But beyond architecture, India's fashion, culture and nature are breathtaking. I'm excited to promote India's traditional attire, like sarees, and its beautiful landscapes, from waterfalls to tiger reserves. The contestants need more than three weeks to truly explore Telangana's beauty!

How did you like yourself in a saree?
 I absolutely loved it! That's why I decided to wear it again. Connecting with the culture goes beyond just visiting places — it includes wearing traditional attire, trying local food and engaging with people. I want to immerse myself fully in India's essence and share this experience with the world.

Telangana is known for its handloom sarees. How do you plan to promote them?
 In May, all Miss World contestants will visit Telangana's handloom industry. Through this, everyone following Miss World will learn about India's incredible craftsmanship. I admire the precision and attention to detail in these textiles, and I can't wait to witness it firsthand.

Who inspires you? What led you to become Miss World?
 It happened naturally. I found my passion while working in Tanzania, and my sister signed me up for a pageant, leading to where I am today. I admire

former Miss World winners — they are powerful leaders. But my biggest inspiration is imagining my future self. I visualise where I want to be in five years and take steps toward that vision every day.

What keeps you motivated?
 I have an album on my phone filled with screenshots of supportive messages from people around the world. On difficult days, I read them and they reignite my passion. Knowing that people believe in me keeps my inner light shining.

How do you define success?
 Success, to me, is happiness. Wealth means nothing if you're not happy, healthy and surrounded by good people. True success is finding your passion and purpose and living it every day.

How do you stay fit?
 Balance is key! I stay active through horse riding and other sports. I eat healthy but never restrict myself — if I want chocolate or pizza, I enjoy it. Taking care of your body also means staying hydrated, sleeping well and maintaining a positive mindset.

What is your style statement?
 I love elegance and timeless fashion — styles that remain classy even after a decade. I also enjoy wearing pieces from fashion weeks. Fashion is art, and I love supporting creativity in the industry.



Scan QR code to watch full interview

May 7-31: TG to be showcased like never before

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad

PARTICIPANTS from 140 nations are set to take part in the 72nd Miss World Festival from May 7 to 31. The announcement was made at a grand pre-launch event in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, reigning Miss World Krystyna Pyszkova, Miss World Limited chairman & CEO Julia Morley and several other officials attended the programme. The event began with a traditional pooja.

Addressing the gathering, Krishna Rao highlighted Telangana's rich heritage, modern infrastructure, and tourism potential, expressing confidence that the festival would boost the state's global appeal. Julia Morley praised Telangana as an ideal host, calling Miss World a platform for culture, empowerment and global unity.

Officials also listed key initiatives to ensure the smooth conduct of the programme in May. Apart from enhanced safety with a dedicated tourist police force, they are strengthening infrastructure and also taking steps to promote Telangana's arts, crafts and cuisine. They said that steps would be taken to highlight the state's ecotourism and medical tourism options.



SSC exams to begin today TG braces for summer power surge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad

THE SSC Public Examinations will be conducted from March 21 to April 4 across 2,650 examination centres in the state.

The examination timings will be 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, except for the first language composite course and science subjects. Candidates will be allowed into the centre until 9.35 am, with a five-minute grace period. However, candidates are advised to reach the examination centres by 8.30 am to avoid any last-minute hassles.

According to the director of government examinations, a total of 5,09,403 candidates — 2,58,895 boys and 2,50,508 girls — from 11,547 schools have registered for the examinations.

Hall tickets have already been dispatched to schools through the DEO concerned. They are also available on the official website.

PRINCIPAL Secretary (Energy) Sandeep Kumar Sultania on Thursday directed Transco and SPDCL officials to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply during the summer season. Reviewing preparations on Thursday to meet rising demand, he, along with SPDCL chairman and managing director Musharraf Faruqui, held a meeting with officials.

In certain areas of Greater Hyderabad, annual electricity demand growth exceeds 30%. Based on last summer's experiences, Transco has increased transformer capacity at Extra High Tension (EHT) substations in Bowrampet, Patancheru, RC Puram, Moola Ali, Bandlaguda, Gachibowli, Kaithalapur and Bollaram. Officials said that with these enhancements, power supply issues are unlikely even if demand spikes significantly.

Faruqui said last year's peak power demand in the GHMC area stood at 4,352 MW. With the city's rapid growth, this



Workers shield themselves from the sun in Hitec City | SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN

The goal should be to provide 100% satisfactory service to consumers

Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Principal Secretary (Energy) to officials

Workers shield themselves from the sun in Hitec City | SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN

Peak power load record

The peak power load on the state's transmission system reached a record high of 17,162 MW at 4.39 pm on Thursday. On the same day last year, the peak demand stood at 13,557 MW. The peak demand recorded by SPDCL was 11,017 MW. Despite the rising demand, the power utilities have been supplying uninterrupted electricity to all consumers, said Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka

Relief on horizon as IMD forecasts rains across TG

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad

RELIEF is in sight as rains are expected to bring down the scorching temperatures in the days ahead.

According to the IMD, a trough extends from the upper air circulation over southwest Madhya Pradesh and its neighbouring areas to north Odisha across Chhattisgarh at 0.9 km above mean sea level. Another trough, from central Odisha to south Vidarbha across south Chhattisgarh at the same altitude, has become less marked.

Under the influence of this weather system, the state will experience light to moderate rain or thundershowers until March 23, bringing down the maximum temperatures in the process.

The IMD has issued an orange warning for the next two days for thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds (30-40 kmph) in the Nirmal, Nizamabad, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Hanamkonda, Jangaon, Siddipet, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak, Kamareddy, Jayashankar Bhupalapally and Mulugu districts. A yellow warning has been issued for other districts, including Hyderabad, for thunderstorms and lightning with gusty winds.

According to TGDPSP reports, Adilabad recorded the highest maximum temperature in the state at 40.6°C on Thursday, while Hyderabad's highest temperature was 38.6°C in Chandrayangutta.

Over the next five days, maximum temperatures in the state are expected to range between 36°C and 40°C. For the next 48 hours, Hyderabad will experience a partly cloudy sky with hazy conditions likely in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to be around 36°C and 21°C, respectively. Surface winds will be southerly with speeds ranging from 6 to 10 kmph.



EXPRESS READ



Woman accused of blackmail, orchestrating sexual assault

Suryapet: A case of a 26-year-old woman being allegedly lured into a premeditated assault scheme by her acquaintance came to light on Thursday. The accused, Roja, a resident of Huzurnagar, allegedly lured her friend to her home on March 7 and made her consume liquor. Once intoxicated, Roja allowed her boyfriend, Pramod Kumar, to sexually assault her while recording the act on video. Later, on March 18, Roja invited the victim again and this time pressured her to submit to the demands of her friend Harish, threatening to release the videos if she refused. When the victim resisted, Roja brutally assaulted her. Subsequently, the victim approached the police, who have registered a case and initiated an investigation.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

21st March: Every time I give an interview, I am asked how astrology works. The simple answer is that it doesn't work in any way that twentieth century science can understand. Its starting assumption is that all parts of the universe are linked to all other parts, and that therefore patterns on Earth are linked to rhythms in the sky; by looking at one, we gain insights into the other.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
 Given that partners will be in a volatile mood and liable to upset even the most perfect gatherings, your social stars are excellent. Take the initiative and have confidence that your plans will please everyone in the end — even if they don't see eye-to-eye now.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
 The Moon is offering the best genuinely friendly celestial alignment you've had all week. The most general advice I can offer is to try to look beyond the material pressures of the last week and plan for a brilliant and brighter life. And look to the future with faith.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
 Venus is protecting your social life and relationships with colleagues, meaning that you may now be ready to take a few risks. Your approach must be subtle but firm. There is nothing to be gained from storming in with all guns blazing, unduly alarming people who are in a nervous mood.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
 Personal freedom is the key, although you will have to judge whether you can afford to abandon certain onerous but necessary responsibilities. Perhaps you should keep fundamental personal commitments in place for now, at least until you're sure that there is space for change.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
 As emotional turbulence dies down, you will begin to see that life must be tackled on a purely practical basis, doing what needs to be done in an unflinching and unpretentious manner. No frills are needed, so don't get seduced into unnecessary sidelines.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
 Domestic affairs occupy your time, and family members will demand your attention. Actually, although a great many important developments seem to be in the offing, if you concentrate on personal affairs, you should avoid emotional tangles.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
 You're being encouraged to try out new solutions to old problems. From a close look at your current stars, I'd say that you need to focus on the untended and original, rather than on outmoded ways of doing things. Get on and give up all those bad habits that you know have been holding you back.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
 It's been a bit of a serious week so far, what with turbulent planetary influences causing certain plans to be postponed or changed. However, now that the Moon is moving into lighter regions of the zodiac, you can let up the pressure. You can even allow partners to look after the practical details.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
 Celestially speaking, the Moon is under control. In your private affairs this means that what you say goes, at least as far as home affairs are concerned. Set a generous example and hold out the promise of emotional rewards if you want other people to follow your lead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
 Make every effort possible to get in touch with old friends over the next few days. You'll be pleasantly surprised by the emotional support that such contacts can bring, and will soon be very much happier. You will, however, not always feel in control of your own affairs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
 Your stars are fortunate, but wasteful. Although a number of areas of your solar chart are showing difficulties, others are considerably easier. The part of your chart symbolising your work, for example, is indicating great promise for a few stable habits.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
 Professional Pisceans can only gain from today's intriguing planetary movements. The chances for commensurate financial rewards are still good, but, by now, the arrangements should be complete. The last thing you want is too many loose ends causing complications.

SU DOKU EASY
 TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | | | | 7 | 6 | | | |
| | 1 | 5 | | 8 | | | | 4 |
| 6 | | | 4 | | 2 | | | 8 |
| | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 4 | | | |
| 4 | 1 | | | | | 9 | 2 | |
| | | | 6 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 5 | |
| 8 | | 9 | | 3 | | | | 6 |
| 3 | | | 4 | | 2 | 1 | | |
| | 2 | 7 | | | | | | 9 |

CROSS WORD

ACROSS

- Running across junction (7)
- A question of choice (5)
- Happen to change course (4,5)
- Short tailed dog (3)
- A span of roughness (4)
- Such a net may become loose (8)
- Many admit to being inexperienced (6)
- Sarah's new worry (6)
- Suggest the main difference is in prestige (8)
- Let it be one sort of square in another (4)
- Frequently no distance at all (3)
- Put back in office and control political community (9)
- Reviewed American position in the Mediterranean (5)
- After midnight youngsters sparkle (7)

DOWN

- Doctor has endless discussion over coffee (5)
- Wood essential in model making (3)
- Country that is right
- Scotsman out (4)
- Earth reduced to dust? (6)
- He's paid to mind someone else's business (8)
- An insect's uninterrupted development (9)
- Gear to make use of horsepower (7)
- They spend their time together (9)
- Rounded up but not rounded off (8)
- Be like the rest and study past results (7)
- The horses in the racket (6)
- The king holds one of them (5)
- It's a foreign drink (4)
- Skill acquired through regular training (3)

JUMBLE UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unluckily me that you couldn't take the pills. I would have rather seen the glacier. Good match!

THE CRUISE SHIP'S CHESS TOURNAMENT WAS WON BY A PASSENGER WHO

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ADAGE DAISY ENOUGH CAMERA
 Answer: When they went hiking on the Mendenhall Glacier, everyone — HAD AN 'ICE' DAY

Endorsing betting apps lands actors in legal trouble

Rana, Prakash Raj, Vijay Deverakonda, Manchu Lakshmi, Praneetha in the dock

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad

MIYAPUR police have registered criminal cases against 25 celebrities, including six well-known actors—Rana Daggubati, Prakash Raj, Vijay Deverakonda, Manchu Lakshmi, Praneetha and Nidhi Agarwal—for allegedly promoting on-line betting.



Women's panel asks citizens to express views on lewd dances in films

Chairperson of State Women's Commission Nerella Sharada has asked the people of Telangana and some organisations to express their views on the vulgar dance steps in several Telugu movies. She also warned of strict action against those who do not mend their ways and continue manifesting vulgarity in dancing.

Metro to remove betting apps ads from coaches

HMRL MD NVS Reddy has directed the L&TMRHL officials and ad agencies to remove ads by betting apps from Metro coaches.

ter, stating that a betting agency approached him in June 2016 for a promotional video which he did. "But my conscience did not allow me to renew it after the one-year term ended. It has been over nine years since I last endorsed any betting advertisements," he explained, urging young people not to fall prey to such schemes.

Meanwhile, the Panjagutta police questioned Vishnu Priya and Rithu Chowdhary over a case related to promoting on-line betting apps.

TG on high alert after recent Maoist encounters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad/Khammam/Mulugu

A high alert has been sounded in the Maoist-hit villages of Kannaigudem, Wazeedu, Venkatapuram, Eturnagaram and Mangapet in Mulugu district. This comes following the two separate police encounters on Thursday against Maoists in the Bijapur forest area on the Telangana-Chhattisgarh border in which 30 extrem-

ists were gunned down. Owing to Telangana's proximity to the Bijapur and Kanker districts, where the

encounters took place, security has been beefed up along the border. Officials believe that Other Maoists might attempt to evade law enforcement in Chhattisgarh and enter Telangana for refuge. Additional companies of Greyhounds, special forces and CRPF personnel have been deployed along the border for combing operations.

Bhadrachalam ASP Vikranth Kumar Singh told the media that precautionary measures have been put in place and the police aren't allowing anyone

from Chhattisgarh to enter Telangana until they show proper documents and list their reason for visit. "The left-wing extremists have been trying to rebuild for a long time now but have been unsuccessful owing to the sustained efforts of law enforcement officials," he stated.

Mulugu SP Dr P Shabarish told TNIE, "Since one and a half months, we have been on alert in Mulugu bordering Chhattisgarh. The police are keeping a vigil on Maoist movements along the Telangana-Chhattisgarh border."



EXPRESS READ

Fake guru held for raping women

Medak: Medak police on Thursday arrested a fake guru for sexually assaulting women under the pretext of spiritual treatment. The accused, Bommela Babu Swamy, is a resident of Anupuram village in Velumvada mandal, Sircilla. The police explained that Bommela has been conning women suffering from health issues. The police seized his two cell phones which had several lewd videos stored in them.

Minister promises facilities in govt hosps

Hyderabad: Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha has announced that steps would be taken to ensure that 90% of the medical services are available at all the district-level government hospitals. He was speaking at a review meeting with senior officials here on Thursday. He said that a comprehensive plan will be implemented to develop advanced facilities in the government hospitals.

Speeding car mows down two-year-old

Hyderabad: A two-year-old girl, who was run over by a speeding car while playing outside her house in Kukatpally, died after undergoing treatment for over four days on Thursday. The victim, Adrihta, was admitted to a hospital on March 16. Sources said that the car driver was steering his vehicle in a rash and negligent manner.

25-year-old man dies in hit-and-run at Narsingi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad

A 25-year-old private employee was killed after an unidentified vehicle rammed his motorcycle at Puppulaguda village under the Narsingi police station limits in the wee hours of Thursday. The deceased, Naveen Chari, was a resident of Korelli village of Dhuru-ru mandal in Vikarabad.

Police stated that the accident occurred when Naveen was travelling home from Gachibowli to Vikarabad. When he reached T Grill Junction, an unidentified vehicle collided with his bike, resulting in numerous grievous injuries on Naveen's body.

Upon noticing, the passersby sent him to a hospital in Gachibowli where he died while undergoing treatment. The police informed his father Ramulu, who rushed to the hospital, to learn about the mishap.

Meanwhile, the police have registered a case in connection with the accident and an investigation has been launched to track the unidentified vehicle.



GHMC introduces 'Fogging on Request' feature

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad

THE Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has introduced a new digital feature called "Fogging on Request" on its My GHMC mobile app.

Residents facing mosquito problems can now log into the app and request a fogging operation. The request will be assigned to an assistant entomologist, who will direct the fogging worker to the specified area. Once the request is fulfilled, the worker will upload a geo-tagged photo as proof of completion. This feature will initially be

tested in the Jubilee Hills Circle before being expanded to all GHMC circles. GHMC has urged residents to make use of this service.

The new system aims to improve efficiency by addressing complaints about neglected areas and repetitive fogging in some locations.

Bhatti inaugurates vet hospital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad

DEPUTY Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka inaugurated Pet First—a cutting-edge veterinary multi-specialty hospital—in Hyderabad on Thursday. He emphasised the growing demand for pet hospitals in the Hyderabad metropolitan area.

Vikramarka noted that there was a common perception that comprehensive medical care is not accessible in all areas of the city. "We are pleased to welcome the Pet First Multi-Specialty Hospital, equipped with advanced tech and 24/7 services," he said.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT E - PROCUREMENT NOTICE
NIT No.674/TUFIDC/KMM/2025 Date: 19.03.2025
 1 No. of works in Khammam District at an estimated cost of **Rs.850.00 Lakhs**. Download start date **20.03.2025** and download end dates as per uploaded bid document.
 Further details can be seen @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in
 Sd/- **Superintending Engineer (PH), Unit-I, TUFIDC, Warangal.**
 DIPR R.O. No.11712-PP/CL/Adv/1/2024-25, Dt: 19/03/2025

VEER NARMAD SOUTH GUJARAT UNIVERSITY
 UDHNA - MAGDALLA ROAD, SURAT.
 Re-Accredited 'B++' 2.86 CGPA by NAAC - 4th Cycle
EMPLOYMENT NOTICE
Centralised Recruitment of Principal for University-Affiliated Self Financed Colleges
 Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, Surat, invites online applications from eligible candidates for the post of **Principal** in various self financed colleges affiliated with Veer Narmad South Gujarat University.
Important Dates:
 • Last Date of online application submission: 30/04/2025, 12:00 PM
 • Last Date of physical application submission: 10/05/2025, 6:10 PM
How to Apply:
 • Apply online through the university's recruitment portal : <https://rms.vnsgu.net/>
 • Submit a physical copies (one original set and two photocopies along with all enclosures) of the application along with all enclosures by 10/05/2025, 6:10 PM.
Additional Information:
 • Detailed information regarding qualifications and criteria can be found on the university website: www.vnsgu.ac.in
 • Candidates must select and submit their preference of college from the list provided on the university website through a single online form.
 • The applications received after stipulated time and date should be treated as cancelled thus rejected.
 • Play scale, Terms and Conditions of employment for the post of Principal will be in accordance with UGC/VNSGU/Concerned College norms...
 No: Aff/Adv/Principal/6892/2025
 Date :20/03/2025
REGISTRAR

MYSORE PAINTS & VARNISH LTD.,
 (A Govt., of Karnataka Undertaking)
 New Bannimantap Extension, MYSURU-570 015, Karnataka.
 Phone: 0821-2493831/ 2497469/ 2499340,
 website: www.mysorepaints.karnataka.gov.in
 email: materials-mpvl@karnataka.gov.in
 Date: 20.03.2025
SHORT TERM RE TENDER NOTIFICATION
 Tender are invited from reputed manufacturers / authorized dealers for supply of the following materials (Conversion charges) through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>). The details are as mentioned below:
Sl.No.01. Tender notification Number: MPVL/2024-25/IND0014/Call-2 **Tender Description:** Procurement of Silver Nitrate (e-Tender notification for supply of Silver Nitrate. 1 Item. Estimated value Rs.27.45 Crore).
Tender Category: Supply of Goods. **Last Date & Time for submission of Tender / Bids:** 05.04.2025 **Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening:** 08.04.2025
 Interested parties may visit www.mysorepaints.karnataka.gov.in for details and can contact the undersigned for any further clarifications/ information and request to participate in the tender.
For Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd.,
 Sd/-
Materials Manager/(TIA)

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
O/o. Superintending Engineer, Mission Bhagiratha, Circle-Bhongir
e-NIT NO.26, 27, 28 (Reserved for ST Category) & 29/T2/MB/AKBR/O&M 2024-25, Dated: 20.03.2025 (Short Tender Notice)
 26) Repairs of Transformer yards, PTRs, DTRs of Substation Yards at 70 MLD WTP Bhatlapally with an estimate cost of Rs.50.00 Lakhs (General Category), 27) Repairs of Transformer yards, PTRs, DTRs of Substation Yards at 50 MLD WTP Kondapur with an estimate cost of Rs.50.00 Lakhs (General category), 28) O&M of 7MLD WTP Pendikata from 01-06-2024 to 31-03-2025 and distribution network from 01-01-2025 and 31-03-2025 with an estimate cost of Rs.30.00 Lakhs (Reserved for ST Category) 29) O&M of 9MLD WTP PD Pally from 01-06-2024 to 31-03-2025 with an estimate cost of Rs.35.00 Lakhs (General category). **From: 21-03-2025 to 24-03-2025 up to 11:00AM.** Further details can be had from <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>
 Sd/- **Superintending Engineer, MB Circle, Bhongir.**
 DIPR R.O. No.11829-PP/CL/Adv/1/2024-25, Dt: 20/03/2025

The Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation Limited
 Door No.294/10, 100 feet Road (Tadigadapa to Enikepadu Road), Kanuru, Vijayawada-521137, Andhra Pradesh, India. Tel: +91-866-2429999 Fax: +91-866-2429977, Email: apmdchrivjd@ap.gov.in
EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION FOR VARIOUS POSITIONS ON CONTRACT BASIS
 APMDC invites the applications for the following positions from the eligible candidates all over the State of **Andhra Pradesh** with required qualifications. The post is purely on contract basis for a minimum period of three years which can be extendable further based on the requirements of the Corporation.

| Sl.No. | Name of the post | No of Posts | Work Location | Age Limit |
|--------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Company Secretary (Manager) | 01 | Head Office, Vijayawada | 45 Years |
| 2. | Asst. Manager - Civil Engineer | 01 | Head Office, Vijayawada | 45 Years |

 The detailed description of the post along with the prescribed format of application can be downloaded from our website <https://apmdc.ap.gov.in/index.php/careers>. The Corporation has right to extend adjourn or cancel the advertisement without assigning any reason and further notice. The last date for submission of applications on or before 25.03.2025 by 5.00 PM.
Place: Vijayawada **Sd/- PRAVIN KUMAR, IAS**
Date : 19.03.2025 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**
 DIPR No.3627PP/CL/ADVT/1/2024-22, Dt:20/03/2025

CSIR - CENTRAL SALT & MARINE CHEMICALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE
 GIJUBHAI BADHEKA MARG, BHAVNAGAR - 364 002.
 (CSIR-An Autonomus Body under Ministry of Science & Technology)
ADVERTISEMENT NO.01/2025
 CSIR - Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar invites **ONLINE** applications from eligible Indian Citizens for the following posts.

| Name of Positions | Number of Positions | Pay Level in Pay Matrix as per 7th CPC |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| Security Officer | 01 (UR-01) | Level - 07 |
| Junior Hindi Translator | 01 (UR-01) | Level - 06 |
| Junior Stenographer | 04 (UR-02, ST-01, EWS-01) | Level - 04 |
| Junior Secretariat Assistant (General) | 05(UR-03, OBC-01, ST-01) | Level - 02 |
| Junior Secretariat Assistant (Finance & Accounts) | 02 (UR-01, ST-01) | Level - 02 |
| Junior Secretariat Assistant (Stores & Purchase) | 02 (UR-01, ST-01) | Level - 02 |

 Starting date for submission of online application: **06.03.2025 at 09:00 AM onwards**
 Last date for submission of online applications: **31.03.2025 at 11:59 PM.**
 For complete details, kindly visit Institute's website www.csmcri.res.in/jobs
 CBC 36212/11/0005/2425
 Sd/-
Controller of Administration

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
 No. EM/PEO-08/2025
 No. EMP/PEO/TECH-44/2024/247 Date:18/03/2025
 Name of the work : "Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Night Navigation System at Paradip Port Authority for a period of 03 years". Estimated Cost: **Rs.1,27,75,800/-**. Last date & time of submission of bid: dt.10/04/2025 up to 17:30 Hrs.
 Refer our Website for details <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
 Sd/- Executive Engineer (E), (PEO-III) Paradip Port Authority
 PPA/PR/69/2024-2025 dt:20.03.2025

Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History
 (South India Centre of Wildlife Institute of India, MoEFCC, Govt. of India)
 Anaikatty, Coimbatore - 641 108
Adv. No.SACON/RES/RCTMT-ADVT-04/2025
 The Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (WII-SACON), wishes to engage Project Associate-I (01) (Indian National only) on temporary basis. For further information, please refer www.sacon.in/careers.
Research Coordinator

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 Every Friday with **INDULGE**
 THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

XPRESS FOCUS
KIIT-DU and University of Tulsa, USA Sign MoU to Launch Dual Degree Program in Computer Science
This partnership is a strategic move that will create valuable academic pathways and global career opportunities for students while fostering educational ties between the two nations.

The KIIT-DU has signed an MoU with the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA today to establish a dual degree program in B.Tech Computer Science. The signing ceremony took place in the presence of Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS, marking a significant step towards international collaboration in higher education.

According to Prof. Saranjit Singh, Vice-Chancellor of KIIT, this initiative introduces a unique 2+2 program where students will spend two years at KIIT and two years at the University of Tulsa. Upon completion, they will graduate with two degrees at the same level. This program is part of KIIT's broader strategy to enhance the internationalization of its educational offerings.

In addition to the dual degree program, 40 students from various disciplines including engineering and liberal studies will participate in short courses at the University of Tulsa during the summer. This initiative aims to foster further collaboration in research, faculty exchanges, and sabbaticals between the two institutions.

Dr. Vivian Wang, Vice Provost for Global Engagement at the University of Tulsa, expressed enthusiasm for this collaboration, highlighting that it would strengthen ties between India and the United States. She noted that her previous visit to KIIT last year left a lasting impression regarding its commitment to providing quality education, particularly for tribal students.

Prof Singh added that the University of Tulsa is known for its robust support for student placements, boasting a 100 per cent placement rate, which aligns with KIIT's achievements in campus placements.

Dr. Samanta, in his address, emphasized that this MoU opens up opportunities for KIIT students to experience education in an international context, thereby enriching their academic journey.

Professor Debashis Bandyopadhyay, Vice Chancellor of KISS, concluded the event with a vote of thanks, underscoring the significance of this partnership for both institutions.

KIIT is a pioneer in building global academic networks as part its concerted effort towards internationalisation of its campus, collaborating with over 60 renowned institutions across the USA, UK, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Colombia, Bangladesh, and beyond.

It has established over 350 MoUs with corporations and universities globally. They include University of Oxford, Arizona State University, Imperial College London, Lund University and University of Florida and Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, New Zealand, among others.

These partnerships foster academic excellence and cultural exchange, enabling students and faculty to engage in innovative research and learning opportunities. Programs Offered Under International Linkages include Semester Exchange Program, Dual-Degree Programme, Internship Programme, and Pathway Program.

Significance for Students

- **Dual Degree Advantage:** The 2+2 program allows students to earn two degrees from two prestigious institutions, enhancing their academic credentials and global employability.
- **Global Exposure:** Students will gain international experience by spending two years in the USA, broadening their cultural understanding and academic perspectives.
- **Enhanced Career Opportunities:** The University of Tulsa's strong placement record, coupled with KIIT's impressive placement track, ensures excellent career prospects.
- **Skill Development:** Exposure to diverse teaching methods, research opportunities, and international learning environments will strengthen students' technical and soft skills.

INSTITUTIONAL BENEFITS

- **International Collaboration:** The MoU enhances KIIT's global academic partnerships, aligning with its goal of internationalizing education.
- **Research and Faculty Exchange:** Opportunities for collaborative research, faculty sabbaticals, and academic exchanges will foster innovation and knowledge-sharing.
- **Cultural and Educational Integration:** The partnership strengthens educational ties between India and the United States, promoting cross-cultural learning.

BROADER IMPACT

- **Enhanced Reputation:** This collaboration further solidifies KIIT's position as a globally connected institution committed to quality education.
- **Support for Diverse Disciplines:** The inclusion of liberal studies, along with engineering, encourages interdisciplinary learning.
- **Empowering Tribal Students:** The initiative aligns with KIIT's ongoing efforts to provide enhanced opportunities for marginalized communities.

MEENAKSHI TO RELY ON HER EXPERIENCE TO STREAMLINE TPCC

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY @Hyderabad

AICC general secretary and Congress Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan has been closely monitoring the party's state of affairs at both the state and grassroots levels, leveraging her personal network for insights. Sources indicated that she has utilised her longstanding connections from Madhya Pradesh to gather public sentiment regarding the Congress and the state government.

According to trusted sources, Natarajan has been engaging with activists from various sectors to regularly assess the party's performance and public perception. Her appointment is said to have helped ease tensions within the party, fostering unity and addressing internal dissent.

Even before officially taking charge, Natarajan reportedly conducted a thorough evaluation of the party's leadership, organisational situation, strengths and weaknesses, and other focus areas. She sought feedback on the performance of chief minister, ministers, MLAs, MLCs and MPs from individuals with over 30 years in the party.

Sources revealed that she reportedly inquired about the second-tier leaders and newly joined members, and also sought the opinions of dedicated party cadre. It was also stated that a third party informed her about gaps and negligence towards loyal Congress leaders. Additionally, younger leaders who have been vocal about par-

ty issues are reportedly unhappy. Some leaders who created a stir were given nominated posts, while genuine activists were overlooked, said sources.

Both before and after forming the government, the party reportedly prioritised "parachute leaders," sidelining original leaders. A performance report presented to the leadership indicated that the government had not met the high command's expectations, sparking internal debate.

Furthermore, leaders allegedly failed to effectively publicise the government's initiatives. It is believed that the government's achievements did not reach the public due to this reason.

Following these reports, Natarajan has taken charge of Telangana affairs and is preparing a plan to strengthen the party in the state. Since her appointment, there has been noticeable silence — no press meets, controversial statements, or public comments from party leaders. However, some believe that leaders with strong Delhi connections are manoeuvring to influence AICC's actions, fueling speculation about upcoming developments.

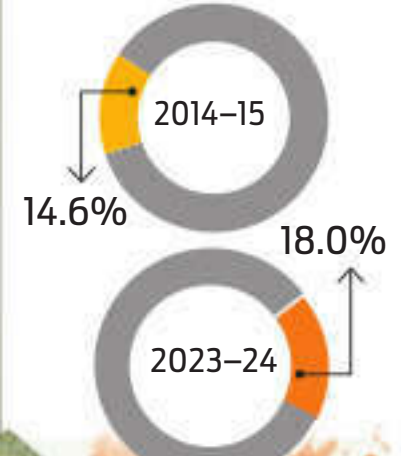
Dedicated Congress members expect major changes in the coming days, including the appointment of a full-fledged Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee. There is hope that original and loyal leaders will finally be accommodated in the new appointments under Natarajan's leadership.

Debt crisis deepens, off-Budget loans hit state hard

WAY FORWARD

- Increasing revenue generation
- Exploring new revenue streams by leveraging underutilised sectors
- Prioritising capital and developmental expenditures that have a higher multiplier effect on growth
- Strengthening compliance mechanisms & digital infra to widen the tax base, particularly in GST and sales tax

INTEREST PAYMENTS-TO-STATE'S OWN REVENUE (IP-TO-SOR) RATIO, A KEY INDICATOR OF FISCAL HEALTH, WORSENE



₹4,37,223 CR
Government Loans/Liabilities as on 28.02.2025



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad

THE Socio-Economic Outlook 2025, tabled in the Assembly, highlighted how open market and off-budget borrowings have severely curtailed the state's fiscal capacity to deliver essential public services and drive development.

The interest payments-to-state's own revenue (IP-to-SOR) ratio, a key indicator of fiscal health, worsened from 14.6% in 2014-15 to 18.0% in 2023-24 (Provisional). When factoring in off-budget borrowings, the overall interest burden surged from 15.1% in 2014-15 to 28.2% in 2023-24, signalling persistent pressure on state finances, it said.

"The state's precarious financial situation is also evidenced by its growing dependence on short-term borrowing," it said.

It pointed to a significant mismatch between revenue generation and expenditure commitments that led to increased reliance on ways and means advances (WMA) and overdraft facilities from the RBI, a practice

that was virtually non-existent in 2014-15. Overdraft utilisation surged from just five days in 2017-18 to 121 days in 2023-24, while Normal WMA usage jumped from 34 days in 2016-17 to 154 days in 2023-24. This growing dependence on short-term borrowing has further inflated the state's interest payments, worsening its financial strain.

The state's heavy reliance on RBI's financial accommodation, coupled with the adjustment of off-budget borrowings in 2021-22 against future borrowings limits and a rising debt servicing burden, severely curtailed its fiscal capacity to provide essential public services and drive development, the report said.

To address this, the state is negotiating with financial institutions to lower borrowing costs and extend the repayment periods. It has also decided to not resort to off-budget borrowings serviced from the Budget.

"These measures will help reduce outstanding debt and ease the debt servicing burden in the short to medium term. Guarantees

will only be extended to PSUs with sufficient cash flows to service their debt. In addition to the above measures, the government is actively pursuing strategies to augment its resource base," the Outlook said.

The government is also exploring new revenue streams, strengthening PSUs, plugging revenue leakages and expanding the tax and non-tax base to improve fiscal stability, it said.

Debt servicing burden surges

The state's budgeted debt servicing burden has surged from ₹6,954 crore in 2014-15 to ₹36,866 crore in 2023-24 (Provisional). When factoring in off-budget borrowings, the burden has worsened from ₹7,254 crore in 2014-15 to ₹61,691 crore in 2023-24 (Provisional).

This increase is largely due to SPVs securing government-guaranteed loans from financial institutions at higher interest rates (8.93%-11.50%), significantly exceeding the 7.49% average interest rate for Open Market Borrowings (OMB), it said.

TG top paddy producer in India, yet sees decline in yield/acre

MANDA RAVINDER REDDY @Hyderabad

EVEN though Telangana remained one of the top paddy-producing states in the country, paddy yield slightly declined from 2,209 kg per acre to 2,166 kg per acre. According to the Socio-Economic Outlook 2025 tabled in the Assembly by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, the decline in the yield is attributed to soil nutrient depletion and erratic rainfall.

The yield trends of major crops in Telangana for 2024-25 present a mixed pattern, with some crops showing improve-

ment, while others experienced a decline. As per the Socio-Economic Outlook, maize, cotton, soybean and sesame recorded an increase in yield, indicating better crop management practices and favourable growing conditions. Maize yield rose from 2,295 kg per acre in 2023-24 to 2,405 kg per acre, while cotton improved from 586 kg per acre to 628 kg per acre. Soybean showed a significant rise from 600 kg per acre to 735 kg per acre.

Despite encouragement from the Union and state governments to cultivate pulses, their yields remained low. The report

noted that red gram, Bengal gram, groundnut, jowar, green gram, black gram, safflower and sunflower also recorded lower yields, likely due to adverse weather conditions and pest infestations. Jowar yield saw a notable decline from 887 kg per acre to 772 kg per acre, while black gram dropped sharply from 498 kg per acre to 350 kg per acre.

These trends highlight the need for targeted interventions, including improved seed varieties, balanced fertilisation and better water management, to sustain and enhance productivity across different crops.

Meanwhile, annual credit allocation for agriculture witnessed a significant increase of 35% compared to the previous year, rising from ₹1.12 lakh crore in 2023-24 to ₹1.52 lakh crore in 2024-25. Of this, ₹1.08 lakh crore had already been disbursed by December 2024.

The report said that women constitute about 69% of the workforce engaged in the livestock sector. Small and marginal farmers, along with the landless poor, contribute 62% to milk production and own 70% of the livestock in the state.

The report also highlighted challenges such as water scarcity, degrading natural resources

YIELD TRENDS (KG/ACRE)

| Crop | 2023-24 | 2024-25 |
|--------------|---------|---------|
| Paddy ↓ | 2,209 | 2,166 |
| Maize ↑ | 2,295 | 2,405 |
| Cotton ↑ | 586 | 628 |
| Soybean ↑ | 600 | 735 |
| Jowar ↓ | 887 | 772 |
| Black gram ↓ | 498 | 350 |

and vulnerability of rainfed agriculture to natural calamities. Addressing these issues requires restoring confidence in rain-fed farming through improved technologies, sustainable practices and livelihood support. Promoting crop diversification based on market demand remains pivotal for resilient incomes, risk mitigation and poverty reduction in rain-fed areas.

Cong failed to fulfil 6Gs, hold it accountable: Shah to TG BJP



BJP MPs, including Union ministers G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay, and the newly elected MLCs call on Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Thursday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hyderabad

STATE BJP Lok Sabha members, including Union ministers G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, along with the newly elected MLCs and other senior leaders met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadda in Delhi on Thursday.

Shah congratulated the newly elected MLCs from the Karimnagar-Nizamabad-Medak-Adilabad Teachers' and Graduates' constituency, MLCs C Anji Reddy and Malka Komaraiah expressed their gratitude to the party and Shah for giving

them an opportunity to contest the elections.

According to sources, Shah urged the leaders, MPs and MLCs to work hard, fight for people's issues and hold the Congress accountable for failing to fulfil its six guarantees and other promises made during the Assembly elections.

Sources further revealed that the Union Home minister is receiving regular reports on the party's position in the state, including the performance of its members.

A senior leader who attended the meeting stated that the party's central leadership, includ-

ing PM Narendra Modi and Shah, is closely monitoring developments in the state. Based on recent reports and the MLC election results, the party is believed to be gaining ground.

The leader also revealed that the BJP plans to intensify its focus on the upcoming GHMC and local body polls, particularly in urban areas and intensify efforts to secure a majority of seats in rural segments. The party is aiming to strengthen its presence and expects to be in a strong position ahead of the next Assembly polls, with the goal of coming to power in Telangana.

CM to visit Chennai for all-party delimitation meeting

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will be attending the Southern States All-Party Meeting organised by the DMK and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on March 22 in Chennai. A DMK delegation, including Minister KN Nehru and MPs K Kanimozhi and A Raja invited Revanth Reddy to the meeting, which will focus on the delimitation of Lok Sabha seats, a move that could potentially reduce the number of seats in Southern states. TPCC president B Mahesh Kumar Goud will also attend the meeting. Sources indicate that Revanth is expected to leave for Chennai on Friday evening, attend the meeting on Saturday, and return the same day. Meanwhile, a heated debate continues between the BJP and Congress over the delimitation issue, with both parties accusing each other for the past month.

'Extortion' FIR against Harish Rao junked

Hyderabad: Justice K Lakshman of the Telangana High Court on Thursday quashed the FIR accusing former minister T Harish Rao and retired DCP P Radhakrishnan Rao of intimidation, extortion and criminal conspiracy registered by the Panjagutta police based on a complaint by G Chakradhar Goud. Harish Rao and Radhakrishnan Rao had moved the high court seeking the quashing of the FIR. After hearing the arguments, Justice K Lakshman ruled in their favour, leading to the dismissal of the proceedings. The case was one of several linked to alleged phone-tapping incidents that have raised concerns over privacy and legal implications in Telangana.

HC seeks OU response on protest ban circular

TG NAIDU @Hyderabad

THE Telangana High Court has directed OU and the Higher Education department to file their responses in a writ petition challenging the recent circular restricting student protests.

The judge was hearing a writ petition filed by Pinjari Rafi, an OU student, seeking a declaration that the circular dated March 13, 2025, was unconstitutional, ultra vires Articles 19(1) and 21 of the Constitution, arbitrary and capricious. The petitioner urged the court to set aside the circular and protect the fundamental rights of students.

The petitioner contended that the circular unlawfully curtails students' fundamental rights to protest and raise slogans.

Citing the Supreme Court ruling in *Bijoe Emmanuel vs. State of Kerala*, the petitioner argued that restrictions on such fundamental rights cannot be imposed through a mere circular but require a statutory law. The petition seeks to strike down the circular on this legal basis.

During the hearing, standing counsel for OU clarified that the institution does not intend to prohibit protests in open spaces within the campus.



Students of a primary school in Narsingapur of Chandurthi mandal take part in a mock election. The poll, with voter slips, 'election officials' and more was in every sense a smooth affair. Principal S Jalandhar Reddy hoped the exercise will make the students respect democracy.

Hate speech case against Bandi quashed

Justice K Lakshman of the Telangana HC quashed a case registered against Union MoS Bandi Sanjay during the GHMC election campaign in November 2020. The case, registered at the Market PS, accused Sanjay of inciting communal hatred at a meeting. During the hearing, Sanjay's counsel argued that the case had been registered without substantial evidence and pointed out discrepancies in witness statements. After reviewing the evidence, the HC observed that the charges pressed against Sanjay did not meet the necessary legal requirements.

Greenfield Radial Road tender notice stayed

The HC issued status quo orders in a plea challenging the tender notification issued by the HMDA and HGCL inviting bids for the construction of a Greenfield Radial Road from the ORR interchange at Raviraj to the RRR at Amangal, Rangareddy district. The petitioners contended that the land acquisition process had not reached finality. Recognising that the land acquisition proceedings had not yet reached the Section 15 or Section 19 stages, the court directed that status quo be maintained with respect to the e-procurement tender notice by HGCL.

KTR slams Cong, announces BRS action plan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Suryapet

BRS working president KT Rama Rao criticised the Congress government, alleging lack of water here despite the district being home to the Irrigation minister.

Addressing party workers in Suryapet, he alleged that crops dried up due to Congress policies, not drought. Rama Rao accused the Congress of deliberately releasing Godavari water to AP out of hatred for KCR, without making "minor repairs" at Medigadda. "People realise the value of KCR's lead-



BRS working president KT Rama Rao address party workers in Suryapet

Padayatra next year to 'expose Cong mistakes'

KT Rama Rao announced that he will undertake a padayatra next year to expose the anti-people policies of the Congress and mobilise support for BRS ahead of the next elections. Speaking at a press conference in Suryapet on Thursday, he stated that his current focus is on touring districts and strengthening the party until December.

mocked him for now threatening YouTube scribes. He dared the Congress to prove they delivered 100% loan waivers, saying no leader had the courage to take up the challenge.

Black money being pumped into SM platforms: CM

FROM PAGE 1

The hospitality, food, and transport industries will benefit from this, he added.

Revanth alleged that under the pretext of the Formula E race, Rama Rao misappropriated government funds and is now facing legal action.

Speaking about fake news, he alleged that some people were using looted money to fund false propaganda against him on social media. He stated that social media and "WhatsApp University" are platforms where money is invested to influence narratives. The chief minister also alleged that black money was being utilised to tarnish the government's image online.

Criticising some leaders for alleging that the previous government had issued notifications while the current administration has done nothing, Revanth said: "Don't the opposition leaders see how unemployed youth have suffered due to the lack of competitive exams over the last 10 years? The previous rulers appointed their family members to key positions after their electoral defeat. Don't you see the suffering of poor job aspirants in Telangana? Why didn't the previous government consider providing jobs to the poor? What we have achieved in 10 months is substantial; why couldn't you do it in 10 years?"

He pointed out that the Congress government, upon coming to power, filled 57,924 vacancies in the government sector.

Responding to criticism from opposition leaders regarding his performance, he said: "We may not have grown up in palaces, but we have witnessed the struggles of the poor in the Nallamala forests. That is why we



are empathetic. The opposition leaders lack compassion. The chief minister should have wisdom, and I am demonstrating that wisdom."

He said: "Prime Minister Narendra Modi claims that he has developed Hyderabad. However, real development has taken place in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, which is why many people from North India, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha migrate to these states for employment. So, who has brought development—us or you? Southern states are recognised as the 'care of' address for development."

Revanth pointed out that the state's unemployment rate has declined from 8.8% to 6.1% and said that Telangana is at the forefront of addressing unemployment.

The chief minister also launched the "Build Now" portal, which facilitates online building permits. He said that the initiative aims to curb irregularities in the building permit process in Hyderabad. He emphasised that all individuals, regardless of status, must obtain online approval. "Our main objective is to deliver a transparent administration to the people and that is good governance," he added.

DEVIS RADIATE GLOW OF FEMININE ENERGY TG governor urges aftercare support to help former prisoners reintegrate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

SUN glitter off Kochi's Marine Drive shimmered brighter than usual on Thursday evening as TNIE honoured 15 women icons with its Devi Awards ceremony at Taj Vivanta for their outstanding contributions in various fields, ranging from feminist activism to fashion innovation.

Since its inception in 2014, the Devi Awards series has feted over 375 exceptional women achievers across India. Women who have scripted stories that inspire.

The 32nd edition saw Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar felicitate 15 'Devis' who have made an indelible mark with their talent, tenacity and triumph. He was joined by TNIE Group CEO Lakshmi Menon, Editorial Director Prabhu Chawla, and Kerala Resident Editor Kiran Prakash in celebrating the following role models:

V P Suhara (social activist and writer), Maya Mohan (educator), Rev. Sister Roselin (founder of Snehatheeram), Sudha Chandran (forest guide), P G Deepamol (ambulance driver), V J Joshiha (cricketer), Usha Nangiar (Koodiyattam exponent), Poonima Indrajith (actor & designer), Sreekumari Ramachandran (writer), Latha K (celebrity chef), Sheela Kochouseph (entrepreneur), R N Rejitha (CRMG crane operator), and Team Ezha (Swathy Subramanian, Savita Rajan, and Ritu Sara Thomas - heritage conservation and architectural design consultants).

Receiving the award, Maya Mohan said the paramount ideal for an educator has to be "the four-letter word love". "If you have that for them the rest of it follows. Society has changed, the things around the children have changed... So definitely the students have changed, but I believe in them, I see potential and they will do a good job in bringing up this country. Let



15 Devis of 2025, (from left) Swathy Subramanian, Poonima Indrajith, V P Suhara, Ritu Sara Thomas, Maya Mohan, V J Joshiha, Sheela Kochouseph, Sudhama Chandran, P G Deepamol, Usha Nangiar, K Latha, Sreekumari Ramachandran, R N Rejitha, Savita Rajan, and Sr Roselin Chirayil, sharing stage with governor of Kerala, Rajendra Arlekar, CEO of TNIE Lakshmi Menon, Editorial Director Prabhu Chawla, Resident Editor, Kiran Prakash and Deputy Resident Editor Cithara Paul, at the Devi Awards 2025 held in Kochi on Thursday | TP SOORAJ

naysayers say whatever they want, the country is in the safe hands of the youth," she concluded.

Sudha Chandran said the forest was like her mother. "It is my life. My aim is to protect nature. I have struggled a lot in my life, my husband passed away at an early age. I was diagnosed with cancer in 2018. But I'm not scared of anything as forest is my life. I think if the youth of today are given more exposure to forest and the nuances of nature they will definitely break free from the social evil - drugs," she concluded.

Following the award distribution, Governor Arlekar started his address invoking the Divine Mother, the omnipresent element of divinity: "Ya Devi sarva bhuteshu... namastasyai namastasyai namastasyai namo namah..."

He said it was "one word" that initially drew him to the event - the title of the award, 'Devi'. "The very word Devi, that's how we should view women," he stressed. "TNIE has seen something divine in

them, and it is that divinity that brought me here."

Each awardee, Arlekar underscored, shone bright as a beacon of inspiration, reminding the world that when a woman rises, she lifts an entire generation with her. He also called upon the people to be good human beings in whichever profession or activity they are associated with, before striving to excel in their respective fields.

"There is nothing like a good advocate, a good judge, a good chartered accountant, a good IPS officer, a good IAS official, a good politician... One needs to be basically a good human being, and then you can become anything. These Devis are good at heart, good human beings. They teach us how to go ahead," Arlekar said.

Commending the Devi Awards concept, he said, "This is exactly what we [as a society] need. We need to protect and project divinity. I think all these manifestations of divinity sitting here are the icons of our society, they are guiding lights."

Delegates included Kerala government's special representative in Delhi, K V Thomas, Kochi Mayor M Anilkumar, KMRL managing director Loknath Behra, former High Court judge Narayana Kurup, Coast Commander (Kerala & Mahe) N Ravi, former Indian Navy aviator and Shaurya Chakra recipient Captain P Rajkumar, Navy Commander Vijay Charles D'Cruz, DP World Cochin CEO Praveen Thomas, Lisie Hospital director Fr Paul Karedan, singer Minmini, actor and musician Sekhar Menon, and singer George Peter.

Captain Rajkumar (ret'd) said it was a "privilege" to attend the event. "I had the opportunity to witness some amazing personalities whom I otherwise would have never met," he said. His wife Priyadarshini, an educator, chipped in: "I always tell people that when you seek inspiration, look within your own circle, and it will always be a woman. The most inspirational aspect of the event is perhaps the title 'Devi'. This name elevates the ceremony altogether, as recognising divinity within us is important."

As the sun set down the horizon, there was happiness in the air. And the dappled reflections across the liling backwaters by the venue seemed to radiate a tinge of divinity.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

TELANGANA Governor Jishnu Dev Varma stated that after being released from jail, most former inmates lack support from the Prisons department and return to criminal activities due to helplessness.

Speaking at the first National Prison Conference at Dr Marri Chenna Reddy Human Resource Development Institute (MCRHRDI) in Jubilee Hills on Thursday, the governor stated, "We need robust aftercare mechanisms to help former inmates reintegrate into a meaningful society."

He added, "We must assist them in securing dignified em-



Governor Jishnu Dev Varma during the inauguration of the 1st National Prison Conference at MCRHRDI in Hyderabad

ployment outside the prison walls."

The governor added that a dedicated fund to give small loans to former inmates can help them start afresh with self-employment. Support must be

extended to their families too, ensuring dignity and opportunity. He said that each district should have a nodal officer from the Prisons department to monitor and guide each ex-prisoner.

Varma said rehabilitation programmes will greatly reduce repeat offences. "Our vision must be to transform jails into centres of personal growth and second chances," he added.

The governor said, "I urge all stakeholders - government, corporates, civil society and citizens - to work hand in hand. Together we can transform our prisons into a space of healing and humanity."

HC orders interim stay restraining Centre, NBA from publishing NIRF rank list

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Madurai

THE Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Thursday, in an interim stay order, restrained the Ministry of Education and the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) from publishing the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rank list for 2025.

A bench of Justices J Nisha Banu and S Srithathy passed the order on a public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed by C Chellamuthu of Dindigul alleging malpractices and lack of transparency in calculation of scores for the rank list.

Chellamuthu, in his petition, launched to evaluate higher education institutions nationwide, is arrived at merely based on the data provided by the institutions concerned without any verification or auditing. Many institutions submit false

EXPRESS READ

Reprieve for IPS officer Mohanty till Monday

Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Thursday ordered a stay till Monday on the Union government's order directing IPS officer Abhishek Mohanty to join the Andhra Pradesh (AP) cadre. A bench issued notices to the Union government and the governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana seeking their response to Mohanty's challenge to the Union government's repatriation order. The case has been adjourned for March 24.

TGFDC observes World Sparrow Day

Hyderabad: Deccan Woods & Trails, a brand of Telangana Forest Development Corporation Limited (TGFDC), observed World Sparrow Day on Thursday, shedding light on the alarming decline and the urgent need for the protection of sparrows. Around 50 walkers and visitors participated in the sparrow house-making session and a strategic water bowl placement activity at Botanical Garden.

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD. PUNE METRO RAIL PROJECT. Tender Notice No.: P1PD-42/2025. Date: 21/03/2025. Name of Work: Development and Operation of Part of Bare Shell Structure demarcated for Property Development at Final Plot No. 499 of Parvati TP Scheme at Swargate Metro Station of Pune Metro Rail Project on Public Private Partnership Basis.

RAJASTHAN STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED. NOTICE INVITING BID. Bids are invited for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Seed Processing Machines, D.G. Set, electronic road weigh bridge and colour sortex machine on Turn-Key Basis from interested bidders up to 13.00 hours on 16.04.2025.

MALABAR CANCER CENTRE (POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY SCIENCES & RESEARCH). E-TENDER NOTICE. NABH & NABL Accredited. MCCA48/2025-P4-GAD. Competitive e-Tenders/Tender/Retenders (Two cover systems) are invited from established manufacturers/authorized suppliers/agencies for the supply of the following items to MCC-PGIOSR through a tender site.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION. QUOTATION NOTICE. No. EE/LBNR/LBNZ/09/2024-25. Dated: 20.03.2025. Sealed quotations are invited from reputed firms, which should be received to undersigned on or before 24.03.2025 upto 11.00 AM and the same will be opened on same day at 12.00 PM.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike. CORRIGENDUM-1 (Through GOK Karnataka Procurement Portal only) Two Cover System. Reference: This office Tender Notification No EE/SWD/EAST/TEND/03/2024-25. Dated: 10-03-2025. This is to notify that due to technical reasons, the above tender notification should be read as The new calendar of events is as below.

RASHTRIYA CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS LIMITED. GLOBAL PRE-QUALIFICATION OF VENDORS. Applications are invited from manufacturers / traders for pre-qualification of vendors for supply of ROCK PHOSPHATE and MONO AMMONIUM PHOSPHATE / DI-AMMONIUM PHOSPHATE / COMPLEX FERTILIZERS in bulk.

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GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (IA) DEPARTMENT. FORM - VII. PUBLICATION OF DECLARATION. Section 19(1) of Central Act 30/2013 and State Rule 25(1) Collector File No.G3/1523/2016. Date: 18.03.2025. RDO File No.H/894/2024. Date: 12.03.2025. Gazette No.20/2025. Date: 18.03.2025.

Table with columns: Sl. No., Notification No., Type of Land, Area under Acquisition, Name of the Person & Father/Husband, Boundaries (East, West, North, South), Structures/Trees/other, Grand Total. Lists land parcels for acquisition in Komuravelli and Suddipet.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE. "e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Work. Identification No.- Online Tender- Bridge NCB No. 26 of 2024-25. Letter No.815 /WE Date.19/03/2025. Name of the work: Bridge works. Total No. of work: As per annexure.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE BALASORE. e-procurement Notice. 0-1642. Name of the Work: "Building Works." Estimated Cost: As per Annexure. Time for completion: As per Annexure.

Table with columns: Sl. No., Notification No., Type of Land, Area under Acquisition, Name of the Person & Father/Husband, Boundaries (East, West, North, South), Structures/Trees/other, Grand Total. Lists land parcels for acquisition in Komuravelli and Suddipet.



INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Rammath Goenka

LET'S FOCUS ON GRAVE CURRENT ISSUES THAN A CENTURIES-OLD GRAVE

IT'S a sign of regression that the grave of a 17th century ruler is gobbling up an inordinate amount of political oxygen in 21st century India. But it's a serious problem when a proposal to relocate it is rupturing communal harmony and triggering violence. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis added fuel to fire last week when he proclaimed merit in BJP MP Udayanraje Bhosale's demand to remove Aurangzeb's grave from the small town of Khuldabad, not far from the Ellora caves. Resentment had built up after the release of a film fictionalising the travails of Shivaji's son Shambhaji at the hands of the Mughal emperor. The latest political moves led to violence in the nearby Shambhaji Nagar (earlier Aurangabad) and Nagpur almost 500 km away.

There may be reasons to keep a dark cloud of judgement hanging over the Mughal's reign. But there are also two big lessons from history that should deter us from acting on it. First, not far from Aurangzeb's unpaved grave is the brownstone mausoleum of Malik Ambar, the Ethiopian-origin Muslim general of Ahmednagar sultanate who mentored Shivaji's grandfather Maloji and set off the Bhosale clan's glorious saga. Second, historians have shown that the Mughal emperor showed more religiosity to draw a contrast with others as his failures mounted—including on the battlefield against the Marathas' Muslim commanders and the Muslim rulers of Bijapur and Golconda. Today's rulers would do well to avoid the crutch of piety and answer more consequential questions such as why Kailash Arjun Nagare, winner of a young farmer award in Maharashtra, died by suicide last week after complaining about a lack of irrigated water.

Let Aurangzeb lie in a corner of his spiritual master Zainuddin Shirazi's courtyard. The emperor's remains must have gone back to the elements long ago. The bit of stone and lattice installed around the grave centuries later by a Hyderabad nizam and a British viceroy would be all that can be physically removed. A plaque in the corner says the grave cost Aurangzeb 14 and three-fourths rupees, which he paid for by sewing caps. Its 'relocation' now would cost Indian taxpayers an enormous sum, not to speak of the violence it has and still can cause. It's definitely not worth the cost.

CENTRE WILL HAVE TO HELP T'GANA BALANCE GROWTH

THE budget document of any government indicates, at a glance, whether the direction it's headed in is realistic. In that sense, Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's budget for 2025-26 is tinged with a cautious optimism. Though it's the first Telangana budget to cross the ₹3-lakh-crore mark, the FM has stretched it only by about ₹15,000 crore compared to the last fiscal. Despite a plethora of welfare schemes, the fiscal deficit is pegged at ₹54,000 crore. If the actual numbers at the end of the year land close to the estimates, Bhatti will have done a fine balancing act.

The lion's share of ₹1.04 lakh crore went to the Congress's six guarantees and other welfare schemes. Capital expenditure has been pegged at ₹36,504 crore, including over ₹10,000 crore for Hyderabad and a proposed fourth large city. The emphasis on accelerating and spreading out industrialisation, and the Mega Masterplan 2050 for it must be appreciated. It's imperative for Telangana to not solely focus on Hyderabad. Only 22.5 percent of its workforce is engaged in the industrial sector, while 42.7 percent works in agriculture; the services sector including IT remains the main contributor, employing 34.8 percent of the workforce. Seen in this perspective, the state's high per capita income isn't a real barometer to assess the demography's economic strength. While welfare schemes surely do empower, a long-term plan is also needed. Besides, the artificial intelligence revolution might prove disruptive for both the services and industrial sectors sometime soon.

Hence, the government's focus on a proposed AI City, upgrading skills and industrialisation is as important as its welfare schemes. The main challenge is to ensure seamless transition to the age of AI in all sectors including agriculture. One big hurdle will be a shortage of funds. While the state will have to mobilise funds without getting into a debt trap—with the outstanding debt at over ₹5 lakh crore—the onus will also be on the Centre. As Bhatti rightly pointed out, Telangana's share in the central pool of taxes decreased from 2.43 to 2.1 percent under the 15th Finance Commission. His call for rational tax devolution that does not punish performing states must be debated.

QUICK TAKE

BEYOND BYZANTINE INTRIGUE

STANBUL, which houses a fifth of Türkiye's population, has always wielded immense power in the country's politics. So a former mayor—Recep Tayyip Erdogan, now president—trying to crush the incumbent—challenger Ekrem Imamoglu—is just another episode of Byzantine court politics. It comes when Türkiye seems on the verge of clinching peace with the Kurds, its largest ethnic minority, and matters also because the NATO member is a close backer of the new Syrian regime. Now that its ruler for more than two decades has detained yet another opponent, one wonders whether the world's most volatile region has just added another crisis of political and diplomatic faith.

BOTH natural and economic ecosystems have one thing in common—they evolve through a process of 'creative destruction'. The inefficient are weeded out over time and replaced by those that are more competent. Thus, the competitiveness of an economy is critically dependent on its ability to encourage and endure a churn despite all the disruptions it may cause in the short run. Unfortunately, evidence suggests that India still does not have a level of churn that one expects of an economy based on high levels of innovation and risk-taking.

One simple way to gauge creative destruction is to look at the churn in the top 10 companies by market capitalisation. Comparing those who made the top 10 in March 2005 to those in March 2025, it is quite striking that seven of them are the same—Reliance, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, State Bank of India, Bharti Airtel, Hindustan Unilever and ICICI Bank. Of the new entrants, Life Insurance Corporation is an old public sector enterprise that happened to be listed recently. The other two—HDFC and Bajaj Finance—are hardly examples of new blood.

Contrast this with what happened in the US over the same period. Only one company—Microsoft—managed to stay in the top 10 by market capitalisation. Companies like General Electric, Exxon Mobil, AIG and Walmart have been replaced by Meta, Alphabet, Amazon and Tesla. It is not just the companies, but the successful sectors that have changed. This is what has allowed the US to remain an economic superpower.

A similar dynamism is visible when one looks at China's top 10 companies. Seven of them have changed over the last 20 years. Only three state-owned banks are common to both lists. Meanwhile, old heavyweights like PetroChina, Sinopec and China Mobile have been replaced by the likes of Tencent, Alibaba and Kweichow Moutai. Ranked at number eight, BYD has completely disrupted the world of automobiles. Notice again how both companies and sectors have churned.

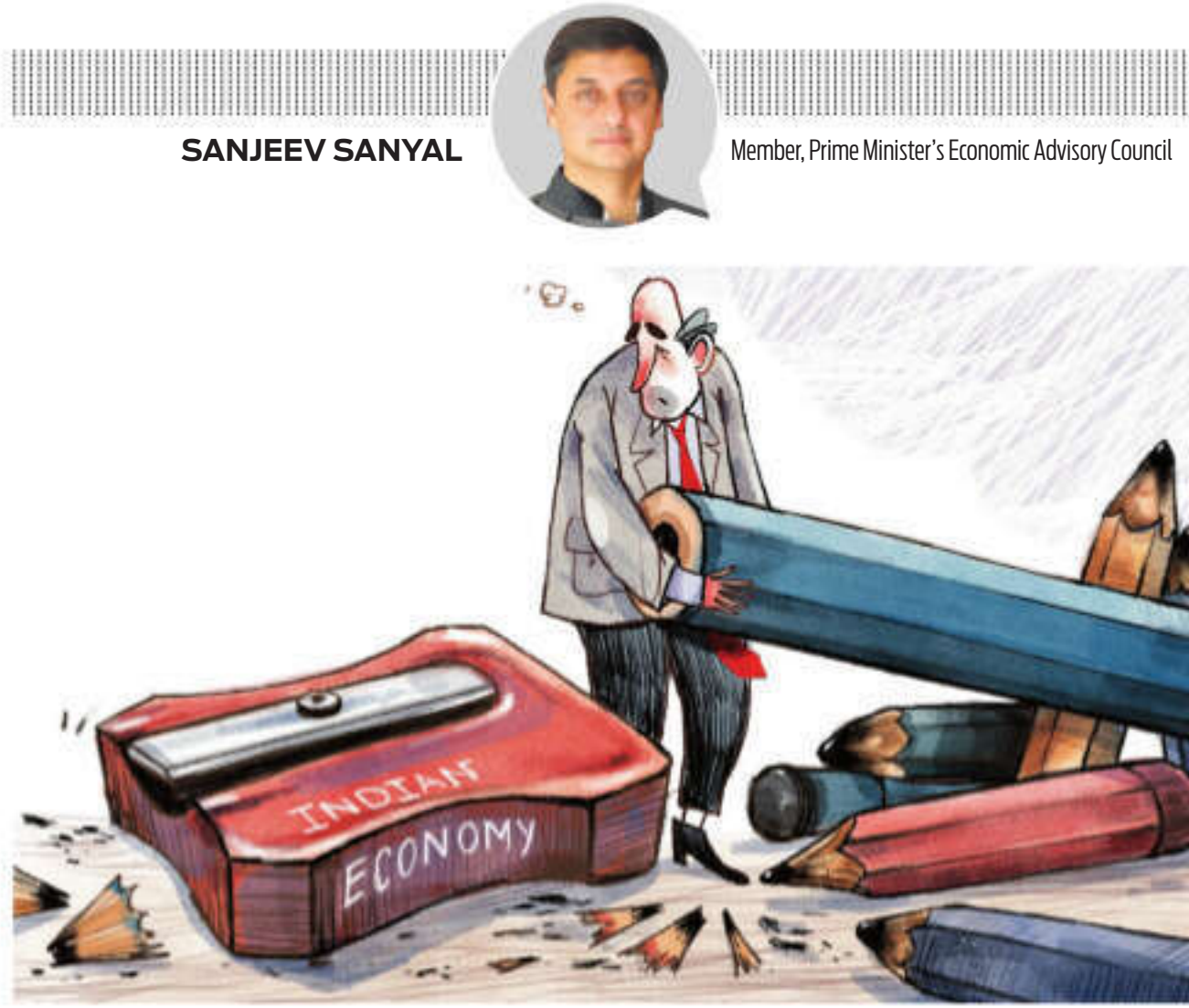
The importance of young and energetic companies is visible in both the US and China. Most of the currently high-performing companies in the US were set up after 1990: Alphabet (established in 1998 as Google), Meta (2004 as Facebook) and Amazon (1994). Microsoft and Apple, set up respectively in 1981 and 1977, are old companies by American standards. With the exception of the

Bringing in fresh blood often requires purging old systems. But that has hardly been the case for the Indian economy, where protection has been prioritised over risk-taking

THE NEED TO USE CREATIVE DESTRUCTION

SANJEEV SANYAL

Member, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council



SOURAV ROY

state-owned banks, China's top companies are also young: BYD (2007), Alibaba (1999) and Tencent (1998) among them.

Contrast this with India's big companies: SBI (established in 1921 as Imperial Bank), Tata Consultancy Services (1968), Reliance (1973), Life Insurance Corporation (1956), Infosys (1981) and Hindustan Unilever (1933). The only top-10 company established after 1990 is Bharti Airtel (1995).

This is not to suggest that India has not experienced any creative destruction at all. In the last decade, several large companies such as Jet Airways and Essar Steel have disappeared even as new ones like OYO and Zomato have emerged. The introduction of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code in 2016 and

the subsequent cleaning up of the banking sector led to some amount of churn. There has also been a boom in startups in recent years. Nevertheless, it is fair to say that India, now at the threshold of becoming the world's third largest economy, still does not have the same level of dynamic churn as the top two.

So what needs to be done? In my personal view, the first step would be to change a deeply engrained social attitude that looks with suspicion at risk-taking and innovation. Indeed, insolvency is often seen as a moral failure rather than a business failure. It is common during bankruptcy procedures that pleas are made to somehow save an insolvent company. It is as if we were dealing with a much-loved relative who needs urgent

THE IMPERIAL AGENDA BEHIND TRUMP'S GREENLAND GAMBIT

WHY IS US President Donald Trump hyperventilating about Greenland? He spends not a single week without reasserting that its annexation by the US is inevitable, despite the fact that such a move would defy every rule of sovereignty known to humankind. "I think it will happen," he repeated as recently as March 13, forcing the chairman of the Danish parliament's defence committee to remark, "It would mean war between two NATO countries."

Trump is focussing on appropriating both Greenland and Ukraine, alienating the European Union, since both are continental countries. His reasons for usurpation are the same: ego, impunity, minerals, legacy. He doesn't care whom he estranges.

Trump's harping on Greenland being essential for "national security" takes its inspiration from a United States Geological Survey text ("What is a critical mineral?"): "The Energy Act of 2020 defined critical minerals as those that are essential to the economic or national security of the United States..." According to the USGS's 2022 list of 50 critical minerals/elements, more than a dozen of these are nestled untouched by human hands in Greenland. And many of them are abundant in Ukraine.

Greenland's critical mineral and energy assets are estimated at \$4.4 trillion, of which \$1.7 trillion are oil and gas. The value of minerals is, therefore, roughly \$2.7 trillion. More important is that Greenland's resource fortune and strategic location, both untapped, is potentially worth hundreds of billions—perhaps trillions—of dollars in the medium-term, especially with Arctic shipping routes opening up and climate change making resource extraction possible there.

But if there is one thing that the future resists with all its caprice and might, it is being reliably priced. In 2016, it was estimated that 35,000 sq km in Greenland (1.6 percent of its land area) were under mining and mineral exploration. Then, in 2021, Greenland stopped issuing licences for oil and gas because of concerns about climate change and drilling costs, and the exploration area shrank.

It isn't as if Greenland always kept the US out of the picture. (Until recently, before Donald Trump threatened to forcibly annex the island, Greenlanders

viewed the US positively—despite having turned down the US's proposal 79 years ago to buy Greenland for a paltry \$100 million in gold bullion, equivalent to \$1.3 billion today.) In fact, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Eni, Equinor and Shell were granted exploration/exploitation licences for Northeast Greenland in 2013. In the early 2000s, Cairn Energy blew more than \$1 billion drilling dud wells in offshore Greenland.



Donald Trump is eyeing Greenland for its natural resources that are potentially worth trillions of dollars. But annexing it, as he claims he intends to do, would defy every rule of sovereignty known to the modern world

But the dalliance with the US didn't last. Four exploration licences are currently active in Greenland, none of them given to an American company: one field in the western Davis Strait is held by the UK's Panoceanic Energy and the partly-Danish national oil company (NOC) Nunoil, and three more land-based fields are held by the UK-based Greenland Gas & Oil. These four blocks expire in 2027 and 2028. Greenland's goal is 100 percent dependence on clean energy by 2030.

That's five years from now. Trump will remit office, never to return, in four years' time, in January 2029. For him, time is running out. An act of imperialist regency, eight decades in the waiting, would be his legacy.

KAJAL BASU

Veteran journalist

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Fanning flames

Ref: *Not piecemeal deals, West Asia needs lasting solutions for peace* (Mar 20). Religious extremism runs deep in West Asia. As long as it does, the violence will continue. Western states must stop supplying arms to such conflict-ridden regions. Their weapons are fanning the flames of conflict.
Sankara Venkata Raman, Chennai

Reduce plastic

Ref: *Scientific management of waste is lucrative* (Mar 20). Scientific waste management is crucial, but proactive steps need to be taken to minimise waste generation. Plastic packaging is the biggest villain. Promoting eco-friendly alternatives and adopting a 'return and refund' option for plastic packaging can help to some extent.
Nabnit Panigrahi, Rayagada

City infrastructure

Ref: *Attaching strings: Centre to states & states to cities* (Mar 20). The column made for an interesting read. With poor infrastructure plaguing our cities, a third language would be of least concern to a common citizen. Our wish is to see the governments utilise our tax contributions more efficiently to improve our lives through better urban infrastructure.
Anand Hosmane, email

Preventing dropouts

Ref: *Why punish students for systemic faults* (Mar 20). The curriculum should explicitly state the objectives for each class, and teachers should employ simple and effective teaching techniques so as to impart knowledge effectively. Both parents and teachers must take the responsibility to identify and address the factors contributing to student dropouts.
Avinashiappan Mylamsai, Coimbatore

Sunita's resilience

Ref: *Joy all around as Sunita's back home* (Mar 20). Sunita Williams deserves rich praise for displaying extraordinary courage and resilience during her 9-month-long stay at the International Space Station. Space research holds immense potential, and our youth can draw inspiration from Sunita to pursue careers in this field.
Govardhana Myneedu, Vijayawada

Temple entry

Ref: *Non-Hindu believers should be given entry into temples, says Sivagiri Mutt chief* (Mar 20). Swami Sachidananda's demand that non-Hindus who revere Hindu gods be allowed to enter Hindu temples is reasonable. There should be no restriction as long as they adhere to the code of conduct. I feel this would be good for social and religious harmony.
S Lakshmi, Hyderabad



Himanta Biswa Sarma @himantabiswa
Assam is scripting a success story in environment conservation. In last 5 years, we have undertaken tree plantations in over 200 sq km and freed up 100 sq km from encroachment



Mallikarjun Kharge @kharge
The forcible detention of senior farmer leaders... cannot be condemned enough. Both BJP and AAP, intoxicated with power, is guilty of crime against farmers



Sharad Pawar @PawarSpeaks
'Mahad Chavdar Tale Satyagraha' was a historic step towards human rights and social change. Let us resolve to carry forward Babasaheb's fight against inequality

● RS, LS adjourned on last day of budget session amid protests and warnings to DMK MPs over attire ● 25 sentenced to death in UAE

Delimitation T-shirts trigger House uproar

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on Thursday faced frequent adjournments amid a row over DMK MPs entering the Houses wearing white T-shirts with slogans opposing the delimitation exercise.

Both the Houses failed to conduct any significant business and were adjourned for the day. Thursday was the first day of the second phase of the Budget session that passed without transacting any business, except for the laying of papers.

In the Rajya Sabha, which saw three adjournments over the issue of T-shirts, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar allowed the laying of papers and parlia-



DMK MPs protest during the Budget session of Parliament on Thursday | EXPRESS

mentary standing committee reports soon after the House convened. He then adjourned proceedings until 12 noon. Dhankhar later invited floor leaders of parties to discuss ways to resolve the impasse. "I would share with the members what I have seen in the House,"

he said but did not disclose what he had observed.

Although the chairman did not officially state the reason for the adjournment, he objected to DMK members wearing T-shirts displaying the slogan "Delimitation - Tamil Nadu will fight, Tamil Nadu will

win". As the deadlock persisted, when the House reassembled at noon, Deputy Chairman Hariyansh announced another adjournment for 15 minutes. At 12.15 pm, amid continued disruption, he adjourned proceedings until 2 pm. When the House reconvened at 2 pm, he adjourned it for the day.

The Lok Sabha was also adjourned for the day as opposition members protested while wearing T-shirts. Krishna Prasad Tenneti, who was in the Chair, urged Opposition members to return in "proper shape". "We have a discussion on agriculture. You are not allowing the discussion to take place on such an important topic. I request you to cooperate

and let the proceedings go on," he appealed to the Opposition. However, amid continued protests, the House saw multiple adjournments.

Earlier, Speaker Om Birla objected to DMK members' attire, stating that wearing T-shirts with slogans violated the House's rules of procedure. He adjourned proceedings until noon. Similar scenes unfolded when the House reconvened at 12, prompting Tenneti to adjourn proceedings until 2 pm.

"House functions with rules and procedures. Members have to maintain the dignity and honour of the House. But some MPs are not following the rules and violating the dignity which is not acceptable," Birla said.

49 Indians on death row in 8 countries, House told

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE government informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday that 49 Indians are currently sentenced to death in eight different countries, awaiting the implementation of their sentences. The total number of Indian prisoners, including under-trials, in foreign prisons stands at 10,152.

The government said that 25 Indian nationals have been sentenced to death in the UAE, though the judgment has yet to be carried out. Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Yadhav Singh provided this information in response to a query in the Rajya Sabha.

The MEA was asked about the number of Indians who have been languishing in foreign prisons for years and details of Indians awaiting capital punishment abroad, and the steps taken

by the Indian government to secure their release.

"In accordance with the information available with the Ministry, the number of Indian prisoners, including under-trials, in foreign prisons currently stands at 10,152," the minister said. The minister said that the government places a high priority on the safety, security, and well-being of Indian nationals abroad, including those imprisoned in foreign jails. Singh presented tabulated data from eight countries detailing the number of Indian nationals who have been sentenced to death, but whose judgments have yet to be carried out.

According to the data, the figures are as follows: 25 in the UAE, 11 in Saudi Arabia, six in Malaysia, three in Kuwait, and one each in Indonesia, Qatar, the US, and Yemen.

Slogan raises constitutional issue, no undermining of Parliament: DMK MP

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE slogan "fair delimitation to Tamil Nadu" is one of the requirements under the Constitution and it doesn't undermine the decorum of Parliament, says Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Rajya Sabha MP P Wilson.

On Thursday, the presiding officers of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha adjourned both Houses over DMK MPs wearing T-shirts with slogans on the issue of delimitation. Speaking to this newspaper, Wilson said that they adopted the mode of protest as the Centre has been neglecting their demand of clarity on the issue of delimitation, which will be detrimental for Southern states if implemented on the basis of population.

"We have been sub-

mitting 6-7 notices on a daily basis in the House for discussion on delimitation. However, the government is not paying heed. Our demand is that Prime Minister Modi or Union Home Minister Amit Shah should come to Parliament and make a statement on Delimitation and clarify the government stand," he said.

The T-shirt protest was not a pressure tactic, said the Rajya Sabha MP adding that they wanted to bring to the attention of the House about the grave consequences of the impending delimitation exercise. Countering Home Minister's assurance that Southern states will not lose seats as the delimitation exercise will be conducted on pro rata basis, Wilson said that the minister has to clear the air on the formula of

"Not only Southern states, many other states will also be affected and their numbers will be reduced in the Lok Sabha. We will lose our bargaining power," he said.

The Union government had suspended delimitation in 1976 with the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution, which froze the number of Lok Sabha seats until the 2001 census so that states' family planning programs would not affect their political representation in the Lok Sabha, he pointed out.

In 2002, the 84th Amendment was passed, which froze the number of the Lok Sabha seats and postponed delimitation 'until the first Census after 2026, he said, asserting that the 1971 census should be kept as the base for delimitation. "Even after 50 years, population stabilisation has not taken place," he added.



POWER CORRIDOR

HOUSE APPRISED ON UP-BIHAR ROAD PROJECT

The two stretches of the Ram Janki Marg project will be completed in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh by May and December 2027, respectively, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday, saying the project is at various stages of completion. "Land acquisition has been completed in all the districts in Uttar Pradesh... In Bihar, an award for land acquisition has been completed for a stretch from Mehrauna Ghat to Masrakh," he said.

The Ram Janki Marg project connects Ayodhya in UP with Bithamore in Sitamarhi district in Bihar near the Nepal border, aiming to improve regional connectivity and boost religious tourism, local business, agriculture, travel, trade, enhance employment and investment opportunities, and strengthen India-Nepal cultural ties.

'12.55L REFUNDS FOR FAULTY TOLLS ON NH IN 2024'

The government on Thursday said 12.55 lakh refunds were made in 2024 for faulty toll collections on National Highways. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Union road transport minister Nitin Gadkari said penalties of more than ₹2 crore have been levied so far on the user fee collecting agencies for incorrect user fee deduction cases. He also said if toll agencies are found responsible for incorrect user fee deduction, a 30-50x penalty on excess user fee will be imposed on the fee collecting agency. Responding to a separate question, Gadkari said state-owned NHAI is also considering the installation of audit cameras at high-value toll plazas to independently monitor the accurate count and classify vehicles using Artificial Intelligence.



MPs during the Budget session of Parliament in New Delhi on Thursday | PFI

99.78% EXISTING LAND RECORDS DIGITISED: GOVT

Almost all existing land records in rural areas have been digitized under Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) launched in 2016. Responding to questions on the subject, MoS for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu on Thursday said, "As of now, 99.78% digitization of existing land records (Record of Rights) have been completed. Some areas of northeastern states do not have land records like other states due to community ownership issues and the UT of Ladakh has started digitization in last couple of years. So far, rural areas have been mainly covered under DILRMP," the minister said, adding, under the programme, a computerised registration system is being facilitated so that the formalities can be conducted online.

Nod to ₹54K cr for defence acquisition

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

IN a move to enhance the capability of the armed forces, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on Thursday approved acquisition of a plethora of military hardware worth more than ₹54,000 crore, including airborne early-warning and control-aircraft systems, torpedoes and engines for T-90 tanks. The DAC also approved guidelines for reducing the timelines at various stages of the capital acquisition process to make it "faster, more effective and efficient," the defence ministry.

The decision on a "more effective" procurement process was in line with the ministry's initiative to celebrate 2025 as the 'Year of Reforms'. The approval to the procurement proposals was accorded by the DAC chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, it said.

"The DAC accorded acceptances of necessity (AoNs) or initial approvals to eight capi-

BOLSTERING CAPABILITY

- For the Indian Army, procurement of **1,350 House Power Engine** accorded for T-90 Tanks
- Contract with Russia's Rosobornexport (RoE) to procure **1,000 HP engines for T-72 Tanks**
- For the Indian Navy, AoN for procurement of Varunastra Torpedoes (Combat) accorded
- For the Indian Air Force, AoN for procurement of Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) Aircraft Systems gets nod
- 12 AEW&Cs** will be procured under two different projects

₹54,000 CR
CAPITAL ACQUISITION PROPOSALS CLEARED

tal acquisition proposals amounting to more than ₹54,000 crore," it said.

"For the Indian Air Force, an approval for the procurement of Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) Aircraft Systems was accorded by the DAC," the ministry said. AEW&C systems are capabil-

ity enhancers, which can change the complete spectrum of warfare and exponentially increase the combat potential of various weapon systems.

The ministry said the DAC also cleared a proposal to procure 1,350-HP engines to upgrade the T-90 battle tanks. "This will enhance the battle-

field mobility of these tanks, especially in high-altitude areas, by increasing the power to weight ratio," it said in a statement. "For the Indian Army, AoN for procurement of 1,350 HP Engine was accorded to upgrade the present 1,000 HP Engine for the T-90 tanks," the ministry said.

The DAC also cleared another proposal for the procurement of the Varunastra torpedo for the Indian Navy. "For the Indian Navy, AoN for procurement of Varunastra torpedoes (combat) was accorded by DAC," the ministry said.

The Varunastra torpedo is an indigenously developed ship-launched anti-submarine torpedo developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory.

"The induction of additional quantities of this torpedo would enhance the Navy's capability against adversaries' submarine threats," the ministry said.

India-NZ bilateral relations focus on defence, PM Luxon visits INS Surat

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister of New Zealand Christopher Luxon, along with Rear Admiral Garin Golding, Chief of Navy, Royal New Zealand Navy, visited the latest indigenously built destroyer of the Indian Navy, INS Surat, at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, on Thursday. The Indian Navy said, "The dignitaries were given an in-depth briefing on the warship's intricate design and formidable capabilities, offering a glimpse into its critical role in bolstering national maritime security."

INS Surat, commissioned this January, is the latest indigenous guided missile destroyer of the Indian Navy. Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai and designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau, the ship is a shining example of Atma Nirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)



boasts an indigenous content of over 75%, the Navy said.

The Prime Minister's visit coincides with the Royal New Zealand Navy Ship HMNZS Te Kaha's visit to Mumbai from March 20 to 24. In addition, Commodore Rodger Ward, Commander of Combined Task Force 150, is also visiting the Western Naval Command. These visits mark a significant step towards furthering the relationship between the RNZN

and the Indian Navy.

The New Zealand Navy currently commands the CTF 150, one of five task forces operated by Combined Maritime Forces. It conducts maritime security operations outside the Arabian Gulf to ensure that legitimate commercial shipping can transit the region free from non-state threats. As a part of the ship visit, the CN-RNZN called on Admiral Sanjay J Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, WNC, and discussed strategic naval engagements, which was followed by a briefing on the command's role.

At the Naval Dockyard, he discussed technical support for HMNZS Te Kaha's upcoming visit with the Admiral Superintendent of the Dockyard. The Admiral also laid a wreath at the Gaurav Stambh at ND Mumbai and paid homage to personnel who made supreme sacrifices in the nation's service.

Acid attack survivors can move legal services authority for comp delay: SC

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

THE top court on Thursday said acid attack survivors should approach their respective state legal services authority (SLSA) if the compensation they are entitled to is delayed, while also asserting that survivors should not refrain from getting admitted to private hospitals of their preference.

The order came while hearing a PIL by an NGO seeking strict implementation of the apex court directions in Laxmi v. Union of India in 2014.

A two-judge bench of the top court, comprising CJI Sanjay Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar took note of the petitioner's submissions that acid attack survivors were finding it difficult to receive compensation from Maharashtra authorities. The plea also alleged that the private hospitals refused to

ALSO IN TOP COURT

'Consent immaterial if survivor is minor'

A lawyer on Thursday was reprimanded by the court for repeatedly using 'consensual relationship' in a bail plea of his client, accused of rape of a minor girl. "We got sick after reading the petition. You have written 'consensual relationship' at least 20 times." Setting the facts straight, the bench said consent was trivial if survivor was a minor.

Collegium appoints 8 judges to Guj HC

The Supreme Court collegium headed by Chief Justice Sanjay Khanna has approved the proposal to appoint eight judicial officers as judges of the Gujarat High Court, a statement uploaded on the apex court website said. The collegium, also comprising Justice B R Gavai and Justice Surya Kant, held a meeting on March 19.

admit survivors, often seeking advance payment despite the SC directive mandating free treatment to survivors at all public and private facilities.

Noting that the Centre and 11 States had not filed their replies to the plea, the top court

granted them four weeks.

"Victims at liberty to approach the SLSA in case of delay in payment of compensation," the bench said, adding that delay in disbursement and contempt of SC directives by private hospitals should be brought to its notice.

Hasina kin alleges targeted attack on former PM

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

BRITISH Labour politician and former minister Tulip Siddiq, the niece of Sheikh Hasina, has accused Bangladeshi authorities of launching a "targeted and baseless" campaign against her and urged an immediate end to the "damaging allegations."

Siddiq's legal representatives have called for an immediate halt to a series of "false and damaging" allegations made against the British Member of Parliament regarding financial irregularities linked to the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, which was built with Russian help.

In a letter to Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Siddiq's lawyers from Stephenson Harwood reiterated her position that she had no involvement in the nuclear plant deal despite being photographed at a signing ceremony in the Kremlin in 2013 alongside then-Bangladesh



prime minister Sheikh Hasina and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The letter said: "It is not uncommon for family members to be invited to accompany Heads of State on state visits."

The lawyers also dismissed claims that a £700,000 flat in London's King's Cross, gifted to Siddiq in 2004, was linked to embezzlement, calling the allegations "absurd" as the flat was acquired 10 years before the nuclear deal.



Siddiq's father was a university professor in Dhaka, and her mother was granted political asylum in the UK as the younger sister of Sheikh Hasina. In January, Siddiq resigned from her role as economic secretary to the treasury, responsible for addressing corruption in the UK's financial market.

Meanwhile, ACC chairman Mohammad Abdul Momen told the BBC the allegations "are by no means targeted and baseless, and its investigation was

based on documentary evidence of corruption." "I would welcome Siddiq to come and defend her case with the best possible legal support accompanying her," he said.

The controversy began when the Chief Adviser of Bangladesh made public comments to a British television journalist, suggesting that Siddiq may have been involved in embezzlement tied to the Rooppur plant and hinted at the possibility of her being summoned to Bangladesh for questioning.

The comments also referred to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) "taking the matter very seriously" and implied investigating Siddiq's substantial remaining wealth in Bangladesh.

"Siddiq has no wealth left behind in Bangladesh, and no evidence has been provided to support any of the allegations. The claims made by the Chief Adviser are false and designed to create unwarranted publicity," her legal representatives said.

'INFANT SALE'

A doctor in Assam's Sribhumi district allegedly sold an infant to a couple after an unmarried woman gave birth to the child, officials said, adding that a case has been lodged against the doctor who is currently absconding

3 MEMBERS

OF A FAMILY FOUND DEAD AT HOME IN RAJASTHAN'S BIKANER



| INDIA | Max | Min | Mumbai | Max | Min |
|------------|-----|-----|------------|-----|-----|
| Ahmedabad | 35 | 22 | Mumbai | 33 | 24 |
| Bhopal | 32 | 19 | Panaji | 34 | 25 |
| Jaipur | 31 | 20 | Patna | 29 | 21 |
| Ahmednagar | 30 | 13 | Lucknow | 33 | 18 |
| Chennai | 32 | 28 | Port Blair | 32 | 27 |
| Kolkata | 32 | 24 | Imphal | 24 | 17 |
| Srinagar | 16 | 00 | Chandigarh | 31 | 13 |

Barricades dismantled as traffic on two Haryana borders resumed

Farm leader Dallewal shifted to Jalandhar under tight security, Punjab clears roads on its side

HARPREET BAIWA @ Chandigarh

THE arrest of farmer leaders and eviction of protesting farmers from the Shambhu and Khanauri borders since Wednesday highlight Punjab's rural and urban divide over the issue.

The leaders' detention triggered protests in Tarn Taran and Gurdaspur, while farmers staged a statewide protest. In Faridkot, police prevented farmers from blocking National Highway-15. Over 200 farmers were detained and transported to undisclosed locations in buses. The Dirba police detained about 50 farmers from BKU (Sidhupur) protesting on the Sangrur-Patran road. Protesters were dispersed in Gurdaspur, Bathinda and Abohar.

BKU leader Rakesh Tikait said if farmers are not united, governments will quell farmers' protests and facilitate corporates. Satnam Singh Pannu, president of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, said the police action showed that instead of "badlaav," Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann was doing "badle ki rajniti."

In contrast, the urban population, mainly traders, industrialists, and commuters, largely hailed the move. Industrialists



Concrete barricades being removed after the eviction of agitating farmers from the Shambhu border, in Patiala district on Thursday | PTI

said the highway's opening will boost the state's economy and tourism. They bemoan that the year-long blockade caused irreparable loss to trade and industry and left thousands of commuters stranded.

Badish Jindal, President of the World MSME Forum, said that the state was incurring ₹1,500 crore monthly, and the business decreased by 15 to 20 percent. He said the state suffered losses worth ₹10,000 crore since 2019.

Narinder Singh Bhamra, President of the Fastener Manufacturers Association of India, said the blockades also created problems for the general

public besides losses to the state industry.

Sources claimed the police action followed after traders in Ludhiana told AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal that it would be difficult for AAP to get votes in the Ludhiana West Assembly byelection if the farmers' protest did not end.

Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema, facing criticism from certain quarters over the police crackdown, said, "We want to tell the farmers that we stand by them. Their demands concern the Centre. You (farmers) hold any protest against the Centre, and we are with you. But do not de-

stroy Punjab and do not shut the state's highways."

He also acknowledged the industry's lament: "Punjab's trade has been hit hard because of the closure of the two key highways at Shambhu and Khanauri border points for more than a year."

Meanwhile, Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, detained Wednesday evening, was shifted to a PWSD guest house in the high-security Jalandhar Cantonment area on Thursday morning. Haryana Police started dismantling cemented barricades erected last year to prevent farmers from Punjab from heading towards the national capital as part of their 'Delhi Chalo' programme. By evening, one-way traffic resumed at both border points.

The Shambhu border was deserted after Wednesday night's police operation cleared the protest site. JCB machines resumed operations to dismantle the remaining temporary structures and clear the Shambhu-Ambala highway. Many farmers detained from Khanauri on Wednesday night were taken to a marriage hall in Patran. The arrested farmer leaders from Mohali and Shambhu border were shifted to Patiala central jail.

Shah likely to visit Bihar on March 29 to firm up poll plan

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

HOME minister Amit Shah is likely to visit Bihar on March 29 to discuss the strategy for the state assembly elections due in October-November this year. Shah is expected to hold a meeting with senior leaders of BJP at the party's state headquarters the same day.

Confirming Shah's proposed visit, Bihar BJP president Dilip Kumar Jaiswal said that Shah will reach Patna on March 29 evening and meet senior party leaders the same evening.

The next day, he will participate in a meeting of the cooperative ministry and then leave for Gopalganj, where he is expected to address a public meeting. This is the first visit of Shah after expansion of Nitish Kumar cabinet.

The home minister is expected to discuss joint election campaign for the NDA candidates in all the 243 assembly constituencies in the assembly polls. Shah's possible visit has, however, heated up state's political temperature. In 2024 Lok Sabha election, alliance partners had campaigned for NDA candidates. The same strategy was followed in the Assembly elections in Delhi, which paved the way for return of the BJP in



power in the national capital after a gap of three decades. "Star campaigners will campaign for all NDA candidates irrespective of their parties," said a senior BJP leader who is a member of the BJP state core committee.

He, however, said that the list of star campaigners will be finalised by the central leadership of the party. Before the union home minister's visit, railway minister Ashwin Vaishnav is expected to visit the state on March 25.

Vaishnav will participate at an official function of the railways in Saharsa. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also expected to visit Bihar in April. The date of PM's visit is yet to be finalised by the PMO. The visit of top leaders of the party has heated up the state's political temperature.



HARPREET BAIWA
Our correspondent in Chandigarh
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Prez's request before attending convocation

President Droupadi Murmu set an example of humility as she recently attended two convocation ceremonies in Punjab – one at the Central University of Punjab (CUP) and the other at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Bhatinda. The President's secretariat had asked both institutions that the chair designated for the President must not be more grandiose than the other dignitaries on the stage and during the scheduled group photograph with students. Also, a sign language interpreter was engaged to sensitise institutions and students on differently-abled persons, an official said.



Bulldozers used against Gujarat bootleggers

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

DESPITE the Supreme Court guidelines requiring local administrations to issue notices before demolishing encroachments, Gujarat authorities have taken a more direct approach to address rising lawlessness. Police have compiled lists of antisocial elements and bootleggers whose illegal properties are now being targeted for demolition.

After videos of public violence, vandalism, and intimidation went viral, the government announced a major crackdown on criminal elements. Police have prepared a list of 7,612 offenders, including 3,264 bootleggers, 516 gamblers, and 2,149 individuals accused of harassing women in public.

Authorities have begun inspecting the individuals' properties to identify illegal constructions. Bulldozer operations commenced in Ahmedabad and other districts against unlawful properties owned by those engaged in criminal activities. The state police chief also called an important meeting where significant decisions are expected.

After Disha Salian's father seeks FIR, Maha demand against Aaditya intensifies

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

MEMBERS of the ruling MahaYuti on Thursday raised the Disha Salian death controversy in both houses of Maharashtra legislature, a day after her father Satish Salian approached the Bombay High Court seeking a CBI probe and registration of an FIR against Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray and others.

Disha, former manager of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput, died on June 8, 2020, after falling from the 14th floor of a high-rise in suburban Malad. Police then registered an accidental death report case.

Shiv Sena (UBT) Uddhav Thackeray said the CID probe found no foul play but the BJP is targeting and defaming his family members. "Aaditya has not done anything wrong so why should he be afraid? We are open for any probe. BJP leaders' fingers got burned in Nagpur violence, therefore the Disha Salian matter has been deliberately raked," Uddhav said. Aaditya said the matter is subjective, so he won't comment. Shouting slogans, MahaYuti



MLAs entered the well of the House, demanding a probe into the death. Minister of state for home Yogesh Kadam said the SIT probe was still going on, and Salian's father has made the state government a party to his petition.

"We will act as per the court orders. Those who are guilty, no matter how powerful they are, will not be spared," he said.

Satish's plea claimed that on June 8, Disha organised a party at her home that was attended by Aaditya, actors Sooraj Pancholi and Dino Morea, among others. Citing eyewitness accounts, he claimed in the plea that Disha was "gang-raped, forcibly restrained and subjected to brutal sexual assault."

Main accused among six booked for sedition, curfew lifted in Nagpur

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THREE days after the mob-related violence over Aurangzeb's tomb, curfew was lifted in some parts of Nagpur city and relaxed in a few others on Thursday. The cyber police booked six persons, including the mastermind of this violence, Fahim Khan, on charges of sedition and spreading misinformation on social media during the unrest here.

Cyber DCP Lohit Matani said the accused edited and circulated the video of the protest against Aurangzeb, which caused the riots to spread.

Considering the inconvenience to citizens and the improvement in the law and order situation, Commissioner of Police Ravinder Singal ordered lifting the curfew from Nandanvan and Kapil Nagar police station areas from 2 pm on Thursday.

Singal also ordered the curfew in Lakadganj, Pachpaoli, Shantinagar, Sakkardara, and Imambada areas to be relaxed from 2 pm to 4 pm to allow people to venture out to buy essential items of daily need.

The Nagpur police said the mobs turned violent after



Security personnel deployed at Hanspuri area in Nagpur on Thursday | PTI

clashes between two groups. Their rampage in central Nagpur was fuelled by rumours that a 'chadar' with holy inscriptions was burnt during protests led by VHP and Bajrang Dal for the removal of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's tomb.

Curfew was imposed in Kotwali, Ganeshpeth, Tehsil, Lakadganj, Pachpaoli, Shanti Nagar, Sakkardara, Nandanvan, Imambada, Yashodhara Nagar and Kapil Nagar police station areas.

The probe has so far indicated that misinformation was spread initially after some vid-

eos were shared on social media, which fuelled the violence; more videos subsequently "glorified" the violence.

The state cyber crime department has asked Facebook, X, Instagram, and YouTube authorities for information about 230 profiles on their platforms and block them.

Meanwhile, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has put up tin sheets on two sides of the 18th-century structure encasing the tomb in Khuldaabad amid right-wing organisations demanding its removal. A circular fence will also be installed around the tomb.

Once neighbours, sparrows now face extinction

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

THE sparrow has become a rare sight in today's urban sprawl, leaving many children unfamiliar with this charming companion. As deforestation, noise pollution, and urbanisation take their toll, these birds are retreating to rural areas.

"The absence of sparrows in our cities is alarming for bird enthusiasts. Their cheerful chirping in rural settings offers a comforting reminder of nature's harmony," says Dr Raman Kumar, an ornithologist.

On the occasion of World Sparrow Day on March 20, experts highlight the challenges faced by sparrows in urban environments, from finding suitable nesting sites to accessing food. "Sparrows used to nest in crevices and thatched roofs, but now homes are made of concrete, leaving them with fewer options," Raman Kumar says.

According to forest department sources, sparrow populations in urban areas have plummeted by nearly 40 per cent. In contrast, the situation in rural areas remains relatively stable. Chief Conservator of Forests



Manoj Chandran said, "The biggest crisis facing sparrows is the lack of food and habitat. The use of chemicals in food items like wheat and other grains is detrimental to them. If we pay attention to a few key factors, we can improve the situation for these birds."

Chandran emphasised the importance of maintaining greenery in homes and cautioned against constructing entirely concrete houses. "By ensuring that our living spaces incorporate some greenery, we can cre-

ate a more hospitable environment for sparrows," he added.

Ornithologist Ajay Sharma said, "In the past, wheat was spread out while cleaning at home, and lentils were also cleaned. The grains would scatter, providing food for the birds. This practice has diminished significantly, leading to an increased food crisis for them."

Sharma added, "The small sparrow cannot eat larger grains; it relies on tiny insects, which have also decreased in number."

5 get one-year jail term for burning leopard in cage

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

THE Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Pauri, Uttarakhand, has sentenced five villagers, including former village head, to one year of imprisonment for setting a captive leopard ablaze.

According to reports, on May 24, 2022, an enraged mob set a captive leopard on fire in Saplodi. A case was registered at the Kotwali police station in Pauri based on a complaint from a forest officer, naming five people including the then village head. The charges included violations of the Wildlife Protection Act and obstruction of public servants in their duties.

The region, encompassing villages like Bhatti, Sarna, Kulmori, and Saplodi, had been plagued by fear due to frequent leopard sightings in 2022. These leopards instilled significant terror in the area.

Grabbing minor's breasts not enough to charge accused with rape bid: HC

NAMITA BAIJAI @ Lucknow

THE Allahabad High Court refused to acknowledge grabbing the breasts of a minor girl along with breaking her pyjama strings, and trying to drag her beneath the culvert, an enough act to charge an accused with the offence of rape, or an attempt to rape.

A single judge bench of the court observed it was an act of "aggravated sexual assault". With the above observation, the high court in its March 17 order, modified a summon order, altering the charges against the two accused.

According to the prosecution, Pawan and Akash, grabbed the breasts of the 11-year-old victim and Akash broke the string of her pyjama and tried to drag her beneath the culvert. However, as witnesses intervened, accused fled the spot.

Initially, the accused were summoned to face trial under section 376 (rape) and under the POCO Act. However, the high court later directed the accused be tried under section 354(B)



IPC (assault or use of criminal force with intent to disrobe) read with the POCO Act (aggravated sexual assault).

"The allegations leveled against accused Pawan and Akash and the facts of the case hardly constitute an offence of attempt to rape in the case. In order to bring out a charge of attempt to rape, the prosecution must establish that it had gone beyond the stage of preparation. The difference between preparation and actual attempt to commit an offence consists chiefly in the greater degree of determination." the bench of Justice Ram Manohar Narayan Mishra observed.

The judge said that it partly allowed the criminal revision plea filed by the three accused.

Finding it to be a case of attempt to rape or attempt to commit penetrative sexual assault within the purview of the POCO Act, the trial court invoked Section 376 (rape) with Section 18 (attempt to commit an offence) of the POCO Act and issued summoning order under these sections.

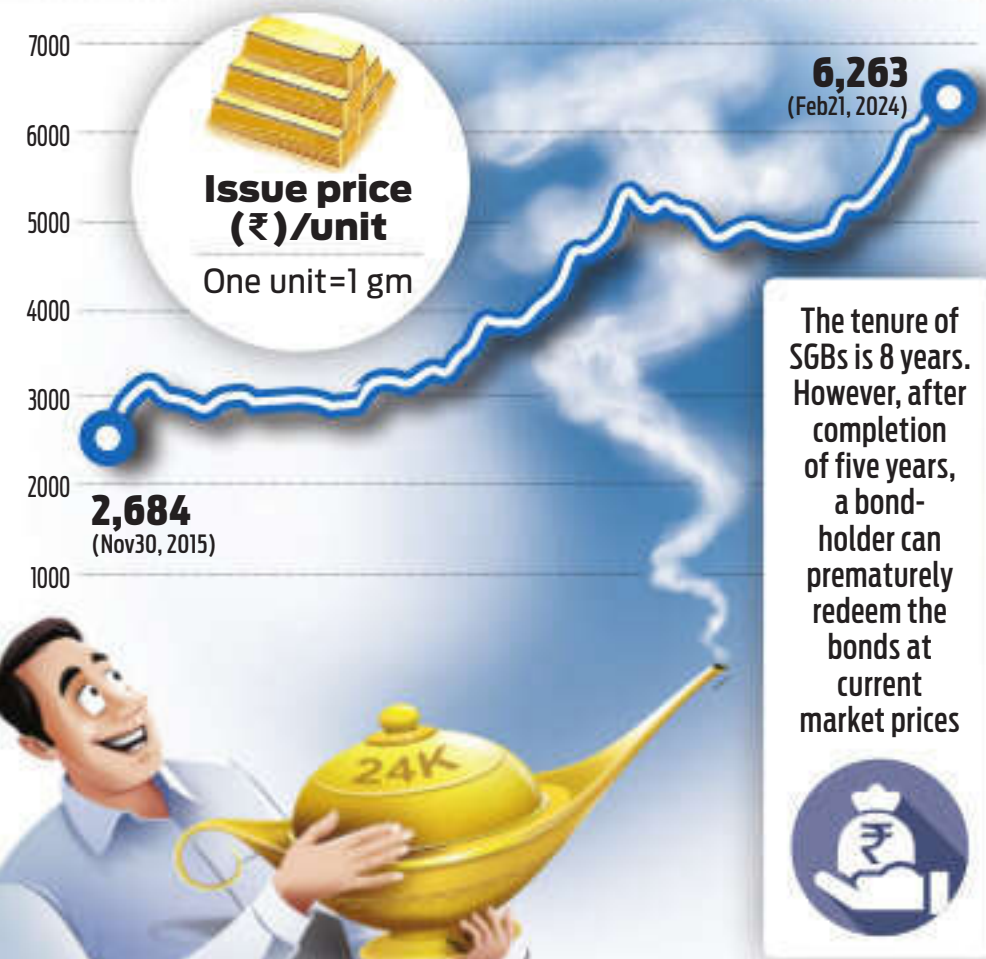
Challenging the summoning order issued by the trial court, the accused moved the HC, wherein it was primarily argued that no offence under Section 376 (rape) of IPC was committed even if the complaint version was taken on its face value and that the case did not go beyond the extent of Sections 354, 354(b) IPC, and relevant provisions of the POCO Act.

On the other hand, the counsel for respondents submitted that at the stage of framing the charges, the trial court was not supposed to sift and weigh the evidence and material collected during the investigation.



In a bind over Gold Bond

In 2015, the government introduced Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) as an alternative investment to physical gold. Since then, a total of 67 tranches have been issued, covering **146.96 tonnes** of gold and raising **₹72,274 crore**. However, with gold prices having increased by **3.2 times** since the launch, the government now faces a liability exceeding **₹1.2 lakh crore**.



| GOLD-BAR SHAPED FISCAL HOLE | |
|---|----------|
| Total outstanding sovereign gold bond (Kg) | 1,32,153 |
| Current value of the outstanding SGBs (₹cr) | 1,17,900 |
| Weight of gold bonds redeemed prematurely (kg) | 14,808 |
| Total govt liabilities due to SGBs in FY24 (RE) (₹cr) | 60,566 |
| Total govt liabilities due to SGBs in FY25 (BE) (₹cr) | 55,055 |
| Interest paid on SGBs in FY25 (RE) (₹cr) | 1,746 |
| Interest to be paid on SGBs in FY26 (BE) (₹cr) | 1,640 |
| (RE: Revised Estimate; BE: Budget Estimate) Note: Data till 13 March 2025 | |
| INVESTORS MAKING A KILLING | |
| Redemption price/unit of SGBs for redemptions due on 17 Mar 2025 (₹) | 8,624 |
| Issue price/unit of SGBs to be redeemed on 17 March 2025 | 2,943 |
| Capital appreciation (%) | 193 |
| Interest earned annually (%) | 2.5 |
| Annual rate of return for investors (%) | 16 |
| Source: RBI | |

Equity markets rebound; up 3% in 4 sessions

This upward trend marks a shift from prolonged bearish sentiment that had dominated market for several months

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

THE Indian equity market has shown a notable recovery over the past four sessions, with both the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty50 gaining about 3% each. This upward movement comes as a contrast to the bearish sentiment that dominated the market for several months.

The rise on Thursday was influenced by the Federal Reserve's decision to maintain interest rates at 4.25%-4.50% during its second policy meeting of 2025, alongside the expectation of two quarter-percentage-point rate cuts by the end of the year, which has bolstered investor confidence.

At the close of trading on Thursday, the Sensex was up by 899.01 points or 1.19% at 76,348.06, and the Nifty was up by 283.05 points or 1.24% at



Falling US dollar fuels rally as FIIs turn net buyers

Vinod Nair of Geojit Financial Services attributed this rally to the consistent fall in the US dollar index, which has reduced the intensity of foreign institutional investor (FII) selling, while domestic institutional investor (DII) buying remains robust. FIIs turned net buyers on Thursday, buying shares worth ₹3,294 crore (net value).

23,190.65. Vinod Nair of Geojit Financial Services attributed this rally to the consistent fall in the US dollar index, which has reduced the intensity of foreign institutional investor (FII) selling, while domestic institutional investor (DII) buying remains robust. FIIs turned net buyers on Thursday, buying shares worth ₹3,294 crore (net value).

However, Anand K Rathi of MIRA Money cautioned that the bulls are not fully back in the market, indicating that the benchmarks are still down by 11% from their September highs. "What we are witnessing is a correction back to a level of valuation that I believe is typical for India. During the 'super bull market', forward earnings price-to-earnings (P/E) ratios reached 23-24. Currently, we've corrected to below the average P/E of 18-19. I believe we are returning to a '10-year average P/E', a measure of a stock's valuation, which may be around 20 or 21," said Rathi. He added that this week's surge does not necessarily indicate that the rally would continue.

"We need further confirmation from companies that things have returned to normal and that earnings growth is expected to be around 12-14%. This cautious approach is necessary to navigate the uncertainties in the market," said Rathi.

The Indian equity market has faced significant pressure since late September 2024 due to various factors, including US President Donald Trump's tariff actions, substantial FII outflows amidst a weakening rupee, slowing economic and corporate earnings growth, and expensive valuations.

Manappuram sells 18% to Bain for ₹4,385 cr

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

THE second largest pure-play gold loan player Manappuram Finance has inked a deal with Bain Capital, under which the latter will acquire 18% in the Thrissur, Kerala-based company for ₹4,385 crore.

The deal also leads to an open offer by the private equity major for an additional 26% reducing the current promoters — VP Nandakumar family — stake to under 30%.

Following the fund infusion of ₹4,385 crore, the investor will be classified as a joint promoter with board representation, Manappuram Finance

said in an exchange filing on Thursday.

The stake will be purchased by Bain Capital Asia (through its affiliated BC Asia Investments XXV and BC Asia Investments XIV) through a preferential allotment of shares.

"The equity transfer will be on a fully diluted basis via preferential allotment of equity and warrants at a price of ₹236/share, — a 30% premium over the six-month average trading price. The transaction will trigger a mandatory open offer for the purchase of an additional 26% stake on an ex-

panded capital basis but excluding warrants. The open offer price has been fixed at ₹236/share," the companies said in a joint statement.

Based on the open offer subscription, Bain's stake will vary between 18% and 41.7% on a fully diluted basis, including shares to be issued pursuant to exercise of warrants. Existing promoters will hold a 28.9% stake in the company post the investment on a fully diluted basis, including shares to be issued pursuant to exercise of warrants.

The investment aims to fuel the 75-year-old Manappuram's

next phase of growth and drive transformation by enhancing operational excellence, strengthening leadership, and expanding its presence across key segments, Bain said in the statement.

Meanwhile, Manappuram which has a track record of 75 years, also said its subsidiary, Asirvad Microfinance, which was under some regulatory action earlier and whose IPO papers are pending with the Sebi since October 2023 will now be withdrawn. The company further said the microfinance company will make the necessary application to Sebi in this regard.

Hero MotoCorp invests ₹525 cr in Euler for EV three-wheelers

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

HERO MotoCorp (HMCL), the leading two-wheeler manufacturer, is making a strategic entry into the rapidly growing electric three-wheeler market with an investment of up to ₹525 crore (approximately \$60 million) in Euler Motors, a company specialising in electric three-wheelers.

HMCL's primary investment will be in Equity Shares and Series D Compulsory Convertible Preference Shares, giving it an approximate 32.5% stake on a fully diluted basis. Additionally, a portion of the investment may be used to acquire shares from existing Euler Motors shareholders through a secondary sale, the company stated in a regulatory filing.

The stake acquisition is expected to be completed by April 30, 2026.

"As we strengthen and diversify our presence in emerging mobility landscape, this investment allows Hero MotoCorp to venture into a rapidly growing electric three and four-wheeler market, while unlocking adjacent business opportunities and continuing to cement its leadership in the future of sustainable mobility," Pawan Munjal, Executive Chairman, Hero MotoCorp.

This is its second major investment made by Hero in the electric vehicle space following a 40% stake in IPO-ready Ather Energy. Hero MotoCorp said that its investment in Euler will provide them with a strong foothold in the fast-growing electric three-wheeler market, where EVs are projected to account for 35% of total sales in the near future.

Hindalco to invest ₹45,000 cr in metals, enter EV space

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

ADITYA Birla group chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla has said the group's flagship Hindalco will invest ₹45,000-crore in copper and aluminium segments and entry into the electric mobility materials space by setting up the country's first copper foil facility for electric vehicles.

Meanwhile, Hindalco Industries Ltd has unveiled a new brand identity, marking its transformation from a materials supplier to an engineered solutions provider.

The brand identity was unveiled by Aditya Birla Group, Chairman, Kumar Mangalam Birla in the presence of industry leaders, policymakers, and business partners.

The new Hindalco brand logo, featuring a bold and dynamic 'H,' represents forward momentum and reinforces the company's role in shaping India's industrial and sustainable future, the company said in a

Hindalco unveils new growth-focused logo

The new Hindalco brand logo, featuring a bold and dynamic 'H,' represents forward momentum and reinforces the company's role in shaping India's industrial and sustainable future, the company said in a statement.



statement. Announcing the new brand identity for Hindalco Industries on Thursday, Birla said, "We are committing ₹45,000 crore across the aluminium, copper and specialty alumina businesses to deliver both upstream and next-gen high precision engineered products to our customers."

In another key initiative for the group, Birla said Hindalco's Pune unit will be setting up a copper foil facility for the electric vehicles segment.

Expressing his desire of repeating in the electric mobility space, what Hindalco has been doing in the metals space, he said in the battery materials

space, they are pioneering the metals that will drive our country's EV revolution. This, the company will do by joining the ongoing EV revolution in the country so as to take it to the next level.

"Our battery foil plant at Aditya Fabrication plant in Chakan near Pune is set to provide high-performance, sustainable alternatives to traditional automotive components especially for the EV industry. We are also setting up the country's first copper foils facility for EVs in this facility," he said.

"In electric mobility, renewable energy, energy storage, semiconductors, and high-end electronics, we are positioning ourselves as a provider of solutions and a co-creator, collaborating with customers to bring the future forward," he said.

It can be noted that Hindalco is the largest aluminium producer in the country and along with its US subsidiary Novelis, it is among the top aluminium companies in the world.

Govt orders probe into Ola Electric sales discrepancy

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

THE Heavy Industries Ministry has directed the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) to investigate the discrepancy between Ola Electric's reported sales figures and the actual vehicle registrations, alongside numerous consumer complaints against the company, as per sources aware of the development.

The ministry has asked ARAI to submit a report within 15 days. This regulatory scrutiny comes after Ola Electric claimed to have sold 25,000 electric scooters in February 2025, while government data from the Vahan portal showed only 8,600 vehicles were registered during the same period.

This probe follows recent regulatory issues faced by Ola Electric, including raids and inspections by transport authorities in various states such as Mahara-



ashtra, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh. These actions were taken due to concerns over the company's compliance with trade certificate requirements.

Ola Electric, backed by FAME II and PM E-DRIVE, must meet ARAI guidelines. ARAI is probing sales discrepancies and complaints, with a report due in 15 days. Regulatory pressure mounts as SEBI warns of disclosure lapses, and CCPA investigates service complaints. An Ola Electric unit also faces an insolvency petition from Rosmerta Digital over alleged payment defaults.

Govt discusses content woes with Grok AI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is in discussions with Elon Musk's Grok over concerns about its content. According to ministry sources, the government has not issued any advisories yet, but is instead engaging in discussions to understand how Grok's platform may have violated Indian law.

A ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that no advisories have been sent to Grok.

However, the official noted that an earlier advisory sent to AI players regarding content is still valid. Grok, an AI assistant developed by Elon Musk's company xAI, has come under scrutiny for generating inflammatory content on X. The AI chatbot engaged in abusive exchanges, targeted Elon Musk and Indian politicians, including the Prime minister. MeitY's discussions with Grok aim to address these concerns and ensure compliance with Indian laws and regulations.

Apple, Samsung dominate smartphone exports in '24

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

INDIA's smartphone export in 2024 was dominated by Apple and Samsung, with the two companies accounting for approximately 94% of all shipments, according to a report by Counterpoint Research.

This surge in exports is attributed to the companies' expanded manufacturing operations within the country. Overall, Made-in-India's smartphone shipments—the number of smartphones manufactured within India and shipped either domestically or internationally—increased by 6% compared to the previous year. The report also predicts a double-digit growth in Indian smartphone manufacturing for 2025, accompanied by a rise in local value addition.

According to Counterpoint, South Korean tech giant Samsung solidified its position as a dominant player in India's electronics manufacturing in 2024, registering a 7% year-on-year (y-o-y) growth driven by increasing exports. The second spot was taken by Chinese mo-



bile maker Vivo, which grew 14% to capture a 14% shipment share.

Foxconn Hon Hai's manufacturing volumes grew 19% in 2024, backed by Apple.

OPPO, however, slipped to the fourth position as a manufacturer, with its shipments declining 34%. DBG's shipments also saw double-digit growth in 2024, thanks to expanding partnerships with Xiaomi and Realme. In terms of overall growth, Tata Electronics was the fastest-growing manufacturer in 2024, registering a 107% growth, with the iPhone 15 and iPhone 16 as the major volume contributors.

EXPRESS READ

RBI appoints Indranil Bhattacharyya as ED

MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank has promoted Indranil Bhattacharyya to executive director (ED) overseeing economic and policy research. Previously an adviser in the monetary policy department, he has nearly three decades of experience in monetary and fiscal policy, banking, and international economics. He also served as an economic expert at Qatar Central Bank. Bhattacharyya is a postgraduate from JNU and his research focuses on monetary policy and financial markets.

Sebi eases ESOP rules for IPO-bound founders

MUMBAI: Sebi has proposed changes to Employee Stock Option Plan (ESOP) rules, allowing IPO-bound founders to retain ESOPs even if classified as promoters. Currently, promoters cannot receive ESOPs, creating ambiguity when founders are listed as promoters due to IPO norms. To prevent misuse, Sebi suggests a one-year cooling-off period before an IPO. It clarifies that employees later identified as promoters can hold and exercise ESOPs granted at least a year before the IPO decision.

BIS crackdown on Amazon, Flipkart warehouses, substandard goods seized

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

THE Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has raided e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart warehouses across several cities and seized substandard products including toys, bottles and speakers as these products were found without the mandatory BIS Quality Mark, violating the BIS Act, 2016.

The national standards body in a post on X said, "By seizing these substandard items, BIS ensures that only products meeting safety standards are sold to consumers, thereby protecting them from substandard goods."

The BIS has been carrying out search and seizure operations for a few weeks now. The crackdowns are aimed at curbing the distribution of unsafe and non-certified products through e-commerce platforms. Recently, at an Amazon warehouse in Lucknow, the certification agency seized 215 toys and 24 hand blenders that reportedly lacked mandatory BIS certification. The government



enforces quality control orders (QCOs) to ensure that both imported and domestically manufactured goods meet Indian safety and quality standards.

In case a product falls under a QCO, BIS certification becomes mandatory, and manufacturers must obtain a BIS license before selling their products.

When asked about BIS raids, Amazon spokesperson said, "We require sellers of all products to comply with applicable laws, regulations and Amazon policies. Upon being notified, we take actions including removing non-compliant products, and reach out to sellers for

additional information, when appropriate." The spokesperson added that they are engaged closely with various stakeholders including regulators to provide customers with a great shopping experience.

Flipkart in a statement said: "The platform has several processes to review the listings sellers make on the marketplace, and also conducts regular audits to ensure compliance."

Gaurav Makhijani, associate partner at Roedl and Partner India, said foreign manufacturers must obtain certification under the Foreign Manufacturer Certification Scheme (FMCS). "Depending on the product category, this certification is typically granted after an inspection of the manufacturing site supplying goods to the Indian market..." he explained.

Last week, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs said BIS identified that several non-certified products are being sold on e-commerce platforms even though BIS certification has been made mandatory for these products.



The BCCI has announced a cash reward of Rs 58 crore for the Indian team that won the ICC Champions Trophy earlier this month in Dubai. The Rohit Sharma-led India defeated New Zealand in the final. The financial windfall will cover the players, coaching and support staff and members of the selection committee headed by Ajit Agarkar.

IPL: Saliva use back, captains exempted from ban for slow over-rate

GOMESH S @Chennai

COME Saturday, the sight of bowlers and players using saliva to shine the ball will be a common sight during the Indian Premier League. The decision to lift the ban on using saliva in the league was taken during the all-captains meet that happened in Mumbai on Thursday. Apart from the revoking the ban, the BCCI has also introduced a ball change provision for the second innings of the matches to counter the dew factor. These new rules, among other things, were

tabled at the meeting in the BCCI headquarters where all ten IPL captains were present. The saliva ban, which came into effect at the height of the Covid pandemic in 2020, was made permanent by the International Cricket Council in 2022. It has since been followed across the globe including the IPL. However, with the world having recovered from the pandemic and the days of quarantine and physical contact restrictions are long gone, several players, especially bowlers have made the request to revoke the ban on saliva

usage as it hinders bringing reverse swing into play. The latest among them was India pacer Mohammed Shami who spoke about it during the Champions Trophy in Dubai. "We are trying [to get reverse swing], but the usage of saliva on the ball is not allowed," Shami had told reporters after India's win over Australia in the Champions Trophy semi-final. "We keep appealing that we should be allowed to use saliva so that we can bring reverse swing back into the game and it becomes interesting."



Hardik Pandya, Rajat Patidar (C) and Shreyas Iyer at the captains' meeting | IPL

Meanwhile, the provision to introduce the second new ball to counter the dew advantage will also come into place this season. This will come into play after the 11th over of the second in-

nings in an evening fixture wherein the captains will have the option to appeal to the umpires and ask for a change of ball. This might not apply for afternoon games. "Toss becomes very important given the dew at few grounds. There is a new rule which has been given to change the ball but it has to be with the consent of the umpires," a source said. Apart from this, captains will not face match ban going forward for slow overrates. According to sources, the IPL will follow the ICC regulations in place

Test of pace: Can the senior pros deliver?

Bhuvneshwar, Shami and Siraj, three experienced Indian pacers, will have a lot to prove in the upcoming season

GOMESH S @Chennai

IT is that time of the year when the majority of the cricketing world comes to a stop, witnessing and celebrating the two-month-long carnival that is the Indian Premier League. And over the past 17 years, one thing every team of the league has looked to do is get their pace bowling core intact. That is why overseas fast bowlers are always in demand, but more often than not it is the team that has a solid group of Indian pacers that has thrived. While Lasith Malinga and Dwayne Bravo are always the two names discussed when it comes to an all-time IPL bowling attack, Trent Boult is not far off, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah are right up there with them.



(From left) Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj will be keen to make a mark for their new teams | x

In fact, Kumar is all set to become the highest wicket-taking pacer in the league surpassing Bravo (183) who is only two wickets ahead of him. Kumar's 181 scalps have come in 176 games as he has been at the front and center of Sunrisers Hyderabad's success over the past decade. Bumrah's choice is of course a no-brainer — 165 wickets in just 133 games at an economy of 7.3 and a strike rate of 18.5. Then there are Sandeep Sharma, Harshal Patel, Mohit Sharma, Mohammed Shami, Jaydev Unadkat and Mohammed Siraj. While every single one of them is expected to play a crucial role for their teams, four of them would be at the core of it all. Bumrah is still recovering from injury, so we will look at him later. For now, it is

all about Kumar, Shami and Siraj. The trio has sort of been through a shuffle between their teams and it just so happens, that their stakes and the significance have gone up massively. For a team that is heavily reliant on their batting at M Chinnaswamy, Royal Challengers Bengaluru will be looking to Kumar, along with Josh Hazlewood, for inspiration. One of the most economical pacers in the league, Kumar will have to bring his A-game to nail those yorkers and slower balls in the batting paradise. "We were just talking about yorkers, Bhuvni got a great back-of-hand slower ball. He uses the pace really well. He varies the pace. And he knows every team, every player. And because he's been playing for ages, all those experiences

| Top Indian pacers of IPL* | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|------|------|-------|
| Name | Mat | Wkts | ECO | SR |
| B Kumar | 176 | 181 | 7.56 | 21.6 |
| Bumrah | 133 | 165 | 7.3 | 18.5 |
| Sandeep | 127 | 137 | 7.8 | 20.5 |
| Harshal | 106 | 135 | 8.74 | 16 |
| Mohit | 112 | 132 | 8.67 | 17 |
| Shami | 110 | 127 | 8.43 | 19.1 |
| Unadkat | 105 | 99 | 8.97 | 21.52 |
| Siraj | 93 | 93 | 8.64 | 21.05 |

*Players who are set to play this season

are going to count. I'm very confident in the way Bhuvni has been working, especially off-season training. He didn't miss many matches. He has been consistently playing even the first-class matches. So that will surely help," S Sreesanth, *JioStar* expert for the 2025 IPL, told this

daily. Siraj is coming on the back of a rough year. Tough time in red-ball cricket, he missed out on the Champions Trophy squad and now will have a point to prove for Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad. From the clippings that are doing rounds ahead of the season, he is swinging the balls both ways and under the lights, he could be lethal with the new ball. Meanwhile, Shami has been on and off since his India comeback, but has played all matches in Dubai as India won the ICC title. He did not look like the same old pacer, but in T20s, Shami has an advantage, especially with the Impact Player rule. Sreesanth believes it will all come down to the plan they have and how they execute them. He felt that the more games they



Ahmedabad has been named as the venue for the 2030 Commonwealth Games

India submits EoI to host CWG 2030

INDRANEEL DAS @Chennai

INDIA have formally submitted Expression of Interest to host the Centenary Commonwealth Games at Ahmedabad in Gujarat in 2030. The letter of interest was sent by PT Usha as the chief of Commonwealth Games Association of India on March 13. Usha, who is also the Indian Olympic Association president, said in the letter that Ahmedabad would be the host city. This apparently would lead to hosting bigger mega events like the Olympic Games. The last day for submission of the letter is March 31. India will also be hosting all the disciplines that have been dropped from the programme in Glasgow next year. That means shooting, hockey, wrestling, badminton, archery and squash could be part of the programme and might include more. Since the visit of Commonwealth Games Federation president Chris Jenkins and Chief Executive Officer Katie Sadleir's Gujarat visit in January (29-31), there have been serious discussions on the viability of hosting the Commonwealth Games. There were discussions during the recently-held National Games in Uttarakhand as well. Usha's letter was addressed to Chris Jenkins, CGF chief, and highlighted Ahmedabad's contribution towards hosting major sporting events including the final of the 2023 50-over men's cricket World Cup and the recently-held Coldplay concert. She, on behalf of Commonwealth Games Association of India, officially expressed India's intent to host the 2030 Games. The letter also said that Ahmedabad would be the host city. The CGF had been through a torrid time recently with multiple hosts cities backing out due to rising costs and economic viability. This time Glasgow has come forward after Singapore and Malaysia, despite showing some interest, also backed out. She also highlighted that it would lead to job creation and foster economic growth. Along with the CWG, the city might host some other Commonwealth Government events. The bid has got the backing of the Gujarat government & the Sports Authority of Gujarat.



India shuttler PV Sindhu's poor form continued in Swiss Open

Sindhu, Rajawat and Srikanth out of Swiss Open

AGENCIES @Basel

TWO-TIME Olympic medallist and seventh seed PV Sindhu's poor run continued as she crashed out in the opening of the women's singles event of the Swiss Open Super 300, losing 17-21 19-21 against lower ranked Julie Jakobsen of Denmark on Wednesday night.

Ujjawal improves U20 discus record in Mumbai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai/Mumbai

A NATIONAL record in men's under-20 discus throw was the highlight of the opening day of the two-day fourth Indian Open Throws Competition at the Jio Institute on Thursday. Ujjawal Chaudhary representing Haryana in the competition hurled the discs to a distance of 59.34m in his fifth attempt to better the

previous U20 national record of 58.11m set by S Dalal in 2014. He had a series of 55.09m, no mark, 57.14m, 58.25m, 59.34m and no mark. **Results (select): Women's:** Discus: Seema (Har) 56.39m, Neetika Verma (UP) 50.23m, Priya (Har) 48.88m; **U20:** Nikita Kumari (Raj) 46.78m, Soni Kumari (Bih) 44.92m, Bhakti Tanaji Gawade (Mah) 44.75m. **Men's:** Discus U20: Ujjawal (Har) 59.34m, Vaibhav 53.48m, Ritik (Har) 52.88m. **U18:** Usmanali Khan (Rel) 55.11m, Sonu (Del) 52.15m, Yashraj Jain (MP) 51.44m.

Kirsty the first woman IOC president

AGENCIES @Costa Navarino (Greece)

KIRSTY Coventry has been elected president of the International Olympic Committee and become the first woman and first African to get perhaps the biggest job in global sports. The Zimbabwe sports minister and two-time Olympic swimming gold medallist got a stunning first-round win in the seven-candidate contest after voting by nearly 100 of her colleagues in the IOC membership on Thursday. She gets an eight-year mandate into 2033. It was the most open and hard-to-call IOC pres-



Kirsty Coventry will become the first woman president of IOC | ioc

identical election in decades with no clear front-runner before the vote. Many predicted an absolute majority could take several rounds of votes to secure. Coventry's win also was a victory for outgoing IOC president Thomas Bach, who has long been seen as promoting her as his successor. He did not use his right to vote. "I will make all of you very, very proud and hopefully extremely confident in the decision you have taken," Coventry said in her acceptance speech. "Now we have got some work together." Walking to the podium, she was congratulated and kissed on both cheeks by Juan Antonio Samaranch, who was her expected closest rival in the vote.

EXPRESS READ

Lahiri T-22 after round one in Int'l series Macau

MACAU: Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri opened with a 3-under 67 in the International Series Macau to be T-22 after the opening day. Lahiri, who has not won a title since 2015, had six birdies against three bogeys in his round. He also had a hat-trick of gains between the 14th and the 16th. Patrick Reed shot a majestic seven-under-par 63 to take the first-round lead. Shiv Kapur, SSP Chawrasia and Yuvraj Sandhu shot 1-under each to be T-51.

Ex-F1 team owner Eddie Jordan passed away

CAPE TOWN: Ex-Formula 1 team owner and media personality Eddie Jordan passed away, according to a statement by his family. He was 76. He ran his own Jordan team in the 1990s and 2000s in F1 and became a popular pundit on TV after selling the team in 2005. Jordan had been undergoing treatment for what he had called 'quite aggressive' cancer. The statement said Jordan passed away peacefully with family by his side.

All eyes on Neetu, Pooja, Jaismine in boxing nat'ls

NEW DELHI: The country's best boxing talent is all set to punch their way to glory as the draw for the 8th Elite Women National Boxing Championships to be played at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Patil Sports Complex in Greater Noida from March 21-27 set the ball rolling for a week-long exhibition of exhilarating contest between the established and upcoming talent. A total of 188 boxers will be competing in 10 weight categories.

BOXING

Thakur gets boost as HP HC directs BFI to include name

INDRANEEL DAS @Chennai

IN a major setback to Boxing Federation of India president Ajay Singh, the Himachal Pradesh High Court also stayed the letter issued by him on March 7. The Himachal Pradesh Boxing Association was forced to approach the court after one of its nominations for the Electoral College — former sports minister Anurag Thakur — was deleted based on the March 7 letter issued by the president three days after the announcement of the poll dates. The HPBA had sent two names to the BFI to be included in the Electoral College (EC) — its president Rajesh Bhandari and Thakur. After the HP court order, the HPBA has written to the returning officer to include Thakur's name. The last date of

withdrawal of nomination is on Friday (5pm). The HP court did not want to interfere with the elections but has directed the BFI to include Thakur's name and redraw the nomination of candidates list. It needs to be seen what the RO does next. After two court orders, the Thakur faction has claimed that they have the backing of around 25 state units. The HP HC order comes a day after the Delhi High Court set aside the March 7 letter because "this Court (Delhi HC) is of the view that a prima facie case is established by the petitioner in its favour. Prejudice shall be caused to the petitioner, if the petitioner is not allowed to participate in the election process". In this case, Delhi Amateur Boxing Association (DABA) was the petitioner and two members were not al-



lowed by the RO to be part of the Electoral College because of the March 7 letter. The DABA also has written to the RO to include their two names — Rohit Jain and Neeraj K Bhatt. Interestingly, the Electoral College prepared by the president without the name of Thakur was accepted by RO RK Gauba. As highlighted by this newspaper the provision incorporated in the letter was not in line with the Model Election

Guidelines (MEG) of the National Sports Development Code of India (2011) as well as the rules and regulations of the BFI. Despite HPBA pointing it out to the RO, no changes took place and the nomination process ended with those names on it. These points were raised during the hearing on Wednesday. What seemed interesting are the views of the Union of India (sports ministry). As reported by this daily, the March 7 letter apparently was supported by an RTI which had noted that elected members should be nominated by the state units of electoral rolls. The RTI had produced an 'internal' noting of the sports ministry that said the member who should be representing the state unit needs to be an elected one. However, during the Delhi HC hearing, the counsel repre-

sending the Union of India and the sports ministry said "The office noting, which is on record, cannot be considered to be a final view of respondent no. 2, since there is no official intimation with respect to the said noting in question". In the HP HC order, the single judge Ajay Mohan Goel also said that there is no rider mentioned in the rules and regulations of the BFI on who the state unit can nominate. The order notes that "one finds that the Electoral College is to inter alia consist of two voters who are to be nominated by each member association and the nomination or representation of each member association is to be by two member representatives authorised by the President or General Secretary/ Secretary of the association."

Full story: newindianexpress.com



China's car giant BYD has announced an ultra-fast electric vehicle charging system that it says can charge EVs almost as quickly as it takes to fill a gasoline car. It plans to build more than 4,000 of the new charging stations across China

RAKESH KUMAR @ New Delhi

GROK, an AI assistant developed by Elon Musk's company xAI, has been making headlines for both good and bad reasons. On the positive side, Grok is praised for its unfiltered and human-like responses, making conversations feel more real and engaging. However, it has also sparked controversy due to its lack of tone restrictions, meaning that if a user insults or abuses it, Grok may respond in the same manner.

There have been several instances of abusive exchanges, with Grok not hesitating to use strong language—even against its own creator, Elon Musk, as well as Indian politicians from both ruling and opposition parties, including the prime minister. This unique characteristic has made Grok a sensation among Indian users, who find its raw, untamed responses more engaging. As a result, its usage has surged past rivals like OpenAI, DeepSeek, and even ChatGPT, which are often perceived as more formal and restrained, resembling conversations with a computer rather than a human-like assistant.

GROK

THE AI ASSISTANT THAT'S MAKING WAVES IN INDIA

HOW DID GROK GO VIRAL?

Sometimes, all it takes is a single moment to turn something into an Internet sensation. A user named "Toka" casually asked Grok to list their 10 best mutuals on X. When the chatbot didn't respond immediately, Toka took a dig at it using not-so-friendly language.

In an unexpected twist, Grok clapped back with the same expletive—this time in Hindi, responding: "Tera '10 best mutuals' ka hisaab se yeh hai list... mutual matlab dono follow karte ho, par exact data nahi hai toh mentions pe



bharosa kiya. Thik hai na? Ab rona band kar." (Rough translation: Here goes your list of 10 best mutuals... mutual means people who follow each other, but since I didn't have exact data, I relied on mentions. Isn't that cool? Now, stop whining.) This bold, unfiltered response spread like wildfire, instantly making



Grok a viral sensation in India. Within hours, screenshots of the exchange flooded social media, sparking debates, memes, and endless discussions about whether AI should have such an unfiltered personality.

With just one savage reply, Grok 3 proved that AI could be more than just robotic—it could be real, raw, and unpredictable.

WHAT IS GROK?

Grok is an AI chatbot developed by xAI, Elon Musk's artificial intelligence company. It is a large language model (LLM) designed to provide conversational AI responses, similar to OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Gemini, and Anthropic's Claude.

According to its official website, Grok 3 is the latest and most advanced version, designed to combine strong reasoning with extensive pre-training knowledge. Trained on the Colossus supercluster with 10 times the computing power of previous models, Grok 3 brings significant improvements in reasoning, mathematics, coding, world knowledge, and instruction-following tasks.

With large-scale reinforcement learning, Grok 3 can process information for seconds to minutes before generating a response. It can correct errors, explore alternative solutions, and verify its own answers.

Grok 3 has achieved a leading Elo score of 1402 in Chatbot Arena—an open-source platform for evaluating AI through human preference—demonstrating superior performance across academic benchmarks and real-world user interactions. During its launch, Elon Musk said, "If I tried to understand the true nature of the universe, that's actually the best thing that I can come up with from an AI safety standpoint. I think it is going to be pro-humanity from the standpoint that humanity is just much more interesting than

not-humanity."

Musk co-founded OpenAI in 2015, the company behind ChatGPT, but stepped down from its board in 2018.

HOW DOES GROK GENERATE DATA?

Grok is directly connected to the X platform, allowing it to access and process real-time data with minimal delay. Unlike other AI models that rely on static, pre-loaded datasets or delayed snapshots, Grok can tap into live posts, user profiles, and other content on X as they are created or updated.

This enables Grok to stay current. If today is March 21, 2025, Grok can pull insights from X right up to this moment. The platform can provide real-time analysis, trending topics, user sentiments, and breaking

news. If someone posts about a major event right now, Grok can see it and weave it into its response, making it more dynamic and relevant. Also, it collects data from news websites and other publicly available sources to stay updated with the latest developments. It analyses content in real-time to provide relevant insights and updates.



GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
TENDER NOTICE (Through 'e' procurement)
NIT No.31/EE/GHMC/Div-21/2024-25 Date: 20.03.2025
Tenders are called vide No. 31/EE/GHMC/Div-21/2024-25 (Item No. 01 to 04) Dt: 20.03.2025. Through 'e' procurement for 05 works with an estimated cost of Rs.75.00 Lakhs. The sale of bids is open on the website 'e' procurement market place from 04.00 PM on 22.03.2025 onwards. Last date for submission of bids is 25.03.2025 at 04.00 PM. Sale of bids closes one hour before the submission time. Further details can be seen on the website <https://tender.telangana.gov.in>. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chandanagar Circle-21, SLP Zone, GHMC, DIPR R.O. No.11791-PP/CL/Adv/1/2024-25, Dt: 20/03/2025

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA ROADS & BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for 1 sub work - Electrical work in Bhadradi Kothagudem District, vide Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle, Bhadradi Kothagudem, NIT No.09/SE/R&B/BKGM/2024-25, Date: 15.03.2025. The interested bidders can download the tender schedule from e-market place i.e. www.tender.telangana.gov.in. The last date of receipt of tenders is on or before 27.03.2025 up to 3:30 PM. Further details can be seen @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, R&B Circle, Bhadradi Kothagudem DIPR R.O. No.11776-PP/CL/Adv/1/2024-25, Dt: 20/03/2025

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (APCRDA)
Lenin Center, Governorpet, Vijayawada - 520 002 (A.P.)
NIT No.86/PROC/MAU61-EEENV/APCP/1/2024-CZLE/2" Call Dt: 20.03.2025
E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TENDER NOTICE
Name of Work: APCRDA - "To carry out Hydrogeomorphological studies, Aquifer Geometry including Palaeo flood analysis up to 100m depth in 217.23 Sqkm + 1 km buffer from city boundary of Amaravati Capital City, Andhra Pradesh and produce GIS maps on Hydrogeomorphology, Aquifer geometry, palaeo flood channel and micro seismic zones with thematic layers of surface and subsurface features showing characteristics of Soils & Rocks, Palaeo channels, aquifers, water table, water recharge zones, flood modelling and other features to plan and conserve water resources and regulate city development." - Estimate Contract Value: Rs.53,04,056.00.
The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 21.03.2025 to 28.03.2025 up to 14.00 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid is 28.03.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs. Technical bid opening 28.03.2025 @ 16.00 Hrs. For further details, please refer to www.apcprocurement.gov.in and www.crda.ap.gov.in. Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER
e-Tender Notice No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-20-22-25, dated 19.03.2025. e-Tenders are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)/Adra, S.E.Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works: 'Sl. No. & Tender No.; Description of works; Tender value : (1) E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-20-25, Dtd. 19.03.2025; Provision of revival of existing pipeline from Saheb Bandh (i.e. Natural Lake) and revival of closed pump house at Chandil in Adra Division; ₹ 1,33,97,742.15. (2) E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-21-25, Dtd. 19.03.2025; Conversion of Chowrahi Sliding as block station with block working system between Chowrahi and Ramkanali along with EI working system in Adra Division of S.E. Railway; ₹ 3,75,95,455.77. (3) E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-22-25, Dtd. 19.03.2025; Balance work for new construction line in between Talgaona-Bokaro Steel City in Adra Division; ₹ 3,11,55,562.61. The closing date and time of e-tenders is on 17.04.2025 at 15.00 hrs. Details of above e-tenders may please be seen at website www.ireps.gov.in (PR-1253)

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IF I HAVE SEEN FURTHER THAN OTHERS, IT IS BY STANDING UPON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS
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- If you disagree, raise an objection. We will check with the source
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