

POINT

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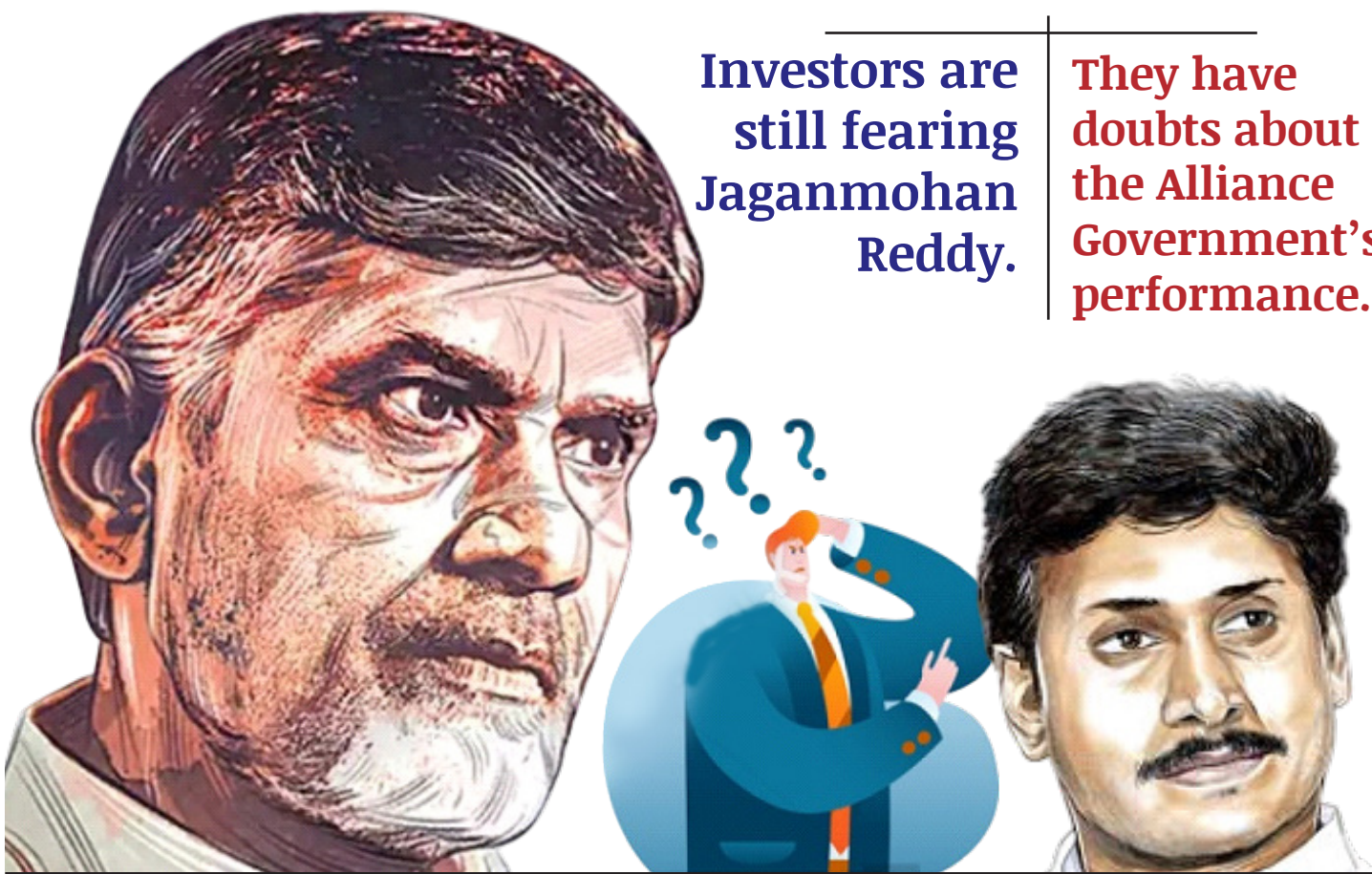
Weather Forecast

| HYDERABAD | VIJAYAWADA | TIRUPATHI |
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| H 27° C L 14° C | H 30° C L 19° C | H 26° C L 21° C |

IS JAGAN STILL A NIGHTMARE TO THE INVESTORS?

Investors are still fearing Jaganmohan Reddy.

They have doubts about the Alliance Government's performance.



TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, Jan 29

It's a really surprising outcome. No agreements, no proposals—this is not the history of Mr. Naidu and not his style either. Even with proposals, he used to portray a rosy picture every time. But this time, contrary to his original style, no hype was given to the Davos tour. What's haunting the Government of Andhra Pradesh? And what's going on in the minds of the investors?

Earlier, Mr. Lokesh Nara, Minister, stated that investors are fearing Jagan's comeback. But why are these questions coming up, and why are such types of scary feelings being expressed by the investors? The NDA has a full majority, and Jagan's YSRC has only 11 MLAs. How can they expect Jagan's comeback when the government was formed only seven months ago and there are four years and three months left in its term?

As per the sources, in Davos, the same discussions emerged. Companies have questioned whether there is a chance of Jagan's comeback. That is why they are hesitating to announce their new proposals. Though they desire to invest in Andhra Pradesh, previous experiences have become barricades to their thoughts.

Mr. Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy, when he came to power in 2019, demanded a review of PPAs (Power Purchase Agreements) signed during Mr. Naidu's regime, alleging that corruption had taken place. On this issue, multinational companies objected openly and complained to the Union Government of India. As the policy was decided by the Union Government, they acted accordingly. The Union Government openly warned Mr. Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy on this matter, though it cooperated with him in many other political and policy matters, like the change of capital and others. What happened behind closed doors, we don't know, but it was ultimately settled with the intervention of the Union Government. This episode has made MNCs rethink investments in democratic India, where governments change periodically.

Not only the PPAs, but Mr. Jaganmohan Reddy & Co. also

- So far, only Indian investors like TCS, Adani, and others have come forward.
- Foreign investors remain hesitant.
- That is why this time, Mr. Naidu's Davos tour resulted in nothing.

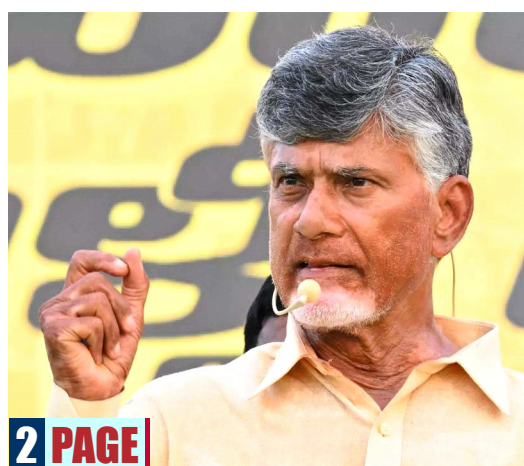
allegedly blackmailed KIA's management. According to allegations, KIA considered opening a new unit in Chennai, which was initially planned for Andhra Pradesh, as per Reuters' reports. Later, things were settled after the alleged payment of a special tax to Jagan's syndicate. Additionally, under Mr. Jagan's rule, all business activities were allegedly taken over by his followers.

Okay, if Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy comes back to power, there could be a problem, according to investors' fears. But why are they thinking like this just seven months into the government's term? The answer lies in the approach of the government administration. Allegedly, the MLAs under Mr. Lokesh are operating in a problematic way. Investors expect that if this approach continues, it could create a negative atmosphere among the public, potentially strengthening Mr. Jagan's chances of returning to power. This sentiment was echoed by a TDP ex-MP, who is a tycoon in real estate. In a meeting with top leaders of Andhra Pradesh, he expressed the same fear. When asked to invest in AP, he outright refused, asking if TDP leaders could guarantee that Jagan wouldn't come back again. In such a situation, how can foreign investors be expected to come forward?

Mr. NAIDU'S CREDIBILITY COMES TO FOREFRONT AGAIN

TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, Jan 29

"We have no money; we have to earn; until then, we have to wait for the implementation of welfare schemes like Talliki Vandanam, Annadata Sukhibhava," these are the words spelled out by the Chief Minister Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu. Trolls have already begun on those words. Did Mr. Naidu not know the financial situation of the state when he delivered the electoral promises? A leader like Mr. Naidu, who is a visionary, would obviously have knowledge of the financial situation.



2 PAGE

ISRO Set to Make History with 100th Mission Launch Today



- ISRO's 100th mission is set for lift-off today at 6:23 am.
- The mission will launch the NVS-02 navigation satellite as part of the NavIC series.
- First mission under ISRO Chairman V Narayanan's leadership.
- The satellite will enhance navigation and IoT services across India.

P 2

Investment Boost for Andhra Pradesh Tourism Sector - Minister Kandula Durgesh

TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, Jan 29



Minister Kandula Durgesh recently announced a significant boost for the tourism sector in Andhra Pradesh, with the signing of MoUs for eight tourism projects worth Rs. 1,217 crore. These projects will result in the establishment of 825 new rooms in Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Amaravati, and Alluri Seetharamaraju districts, creating over 2,500 jobs in the tourism industry. Minister Durgesh highlighted the ongoing Visakhapatnam Regional Tourism Conference, aimed at attracting investments to develop the tourism infrastructure in Uttarandhra. A major development, he revealed, is the creation of a cruise hub in Visakhapatnam, which is expected to transform the city into a real hub for entertainment and tourism.

The Minister also announced that the tourism sector in the state has been granted industry status, making it a prime time for investments. Tourism Secretary Ajay Jain praised Minister Durgesh for his active role in driving tourism development in the state, while APTDC Chairman Nookasani Balaji recognized the Minister's valuable support for the Tourism Department and Corporation. Additionally, the Araku Chilli Festival brochure was released, showcasing the state's growing cultural tourism.

CM Naidu Urges TDP MPs to Focus on AP in Union Budget

- TDP MPs directed to prioritize state's needs in the upcoming Union Budget.
- Key projects like Vizag Steel, Amaravati, and infrastructure development to receive attention.
- CM stresses the importance of addressing Bifurcation Act issues and seeking more funds.

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 29

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has called upon TDP MPs to ensure that Andhra Pradesh receives its due share in the Union Budget, urging them to prioritize the state's development needs. The call came during a Telugu Desam Parliamentary Party meeting held at his Undavalli residence on Tuesday, ahead of the Union Budget presentation scheduled for February 1.

Speaking at the meeting, Naidu highlighted key projects that the state has been promised by the central government, including Rs. 11,440 crore for the Vizag Steel Plant, Rs. 14,000 crore for the bulk drugs project in Nakkapalli, and Rs. 15,000 crore for Amaravati's construction. He instructed the MPs to work on securing additional funding and to ensure that pending issues under the Bifurcation Act are addressed promptly. Emphasizing the state's vast coastline,



Naidu stressed that proper utilization could generate jobs and wealth for the state. He also pushed for the completion of several critical infrastructure projects, including the Nadikudi-Srikalahasti railway line and the Polavaram project. Furthermore, he urged MPs to engage with local MLAs and constitu-

ency leaders to ensure that the needs of the people are represented effectively in the Union Budget.

Minister Nara Lokesh joined the meeting, with MPs discussing strategies to boost the state's development by leveraging national schemes.

AP DGP Announces Plan to Set Up Cyber Crime Police Stations in Every District

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Jan 29

Andhra Pradesh's Director General of Police (DGP) Dwarka Tirumala Rao has announced plans to set up a dedicated cyber crime police station in each district across the state. Speaking to the media in Srikakulam, the DGP revealed that cyber crimes are on the rise in the state, and setting up these police stations will help tackle the growing issue. He emphasized the importance of raising public awareness to prevent people from falling victim to cybercriminals.

Eagle Organization and CCTV Initiative

DGP Tirumala Rao also spoke about the rising concern of sexual assaults on children and the elderly, labeling it a shame for society. He highlighted the efforts being taken to combat these crimes, including the formation of a special "Eagle" organization to curb marijuana-related activities in North Andhra. Additionally, he outlined plans to install one lakh CCTV cameras across the state by March 1 to monitor black spots and reduce crime, with the help of public and donor cooperation. These initiatives demonstrate the state's commitment to improving safety and security for its citizens.



Minister Kolu Parthasarathy Announces Job Opportunities for Youth

TPN Correspondent
Bapatla, Jan 29

Minister Kolu Parthasarathy, during his visit to Bapatla district on Tuesday, made a strong statement about the state's economic situation and future job opportunities. He accused former Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy of damaging the state's economy and burdening it with debt. Parthasarathy expressed his frustration, stating that Jagan's policies had undermined the progress of key projects, particularly the Polavaram project.

Addressing the media, Minister Parthasarathy emphasized that the Polavaram project, which had been weakened under Jagan's rule, would be completed by 2027, and that the government was committed to seeing it through. In a significant announcement, he revealed plans for the establishment of skill development centers across the state aimed at providing better opportunities for the unemployed.

Minister Parthasarathy also praised the efforts of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, noting that the coalition government had already brought in investments worth four lakh crores. Furthermore, he reassured the public that the government is focused on providing jobs for 20 lakh people, aligning with the state's larger vision for economic growth and employment opportunities.

Mr. NAIDU'S CREDIBILITY COMES TO FOREFRONT AGAIN

Continued from page 1

Then why did he make such promises, competing with Mr. YS Jaganmohan Reddy? That was an electoral, political compulsion for Mr. Naidu at that time, it seems. Ex-Chief Minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy repeatedly stated, "Don't believe Babu." There was earlier talk about Mr. Naidu that he does not stand by his promises and will distort them in any manner. Now, the statement given by Mr. Naidu is once again giving trolls the chance to say, "Mr. Naidu will stand on the word of giving up his own words."

The statement of Mr. Naidu may convince middle-class and above-middle-class circles, including business circles. As he is giving priority to development, intellectuals and businesspeople will definitely support him on that aspect. But poor people, who make up the larger sections, will be disappointed about not getting Talliki Vandanam, and moreover, the farmers will surely be angry about not receiving Annadata Sukhibhava. Already, we are witnessing growing anger among farmers in Telangana over the delay of Rytu Bharosa. People see welfare measures as support for

their daily lives, and they do not believe that these schemes will change their lives. But they expect them for sure. Promising welfare schemes and not delivering them will damage Mr. Naidu's credibility for sure, as per political circles. There is also ongoing discussion among youth about the non-execution of the Mega DSC.

YSRC has already started its criticism of Mr. Naidu's statement. PCC Chief YS Sharmila has also severely criticized the skipping of electoral promises by Mr. Naidu. However, TDP supporters argue that Mr. Chandrababu Naidu has only asked for time and will implement them later. Meanwhile, Janaseena leaders and its Chief Mr. Pawan Kalyan have remained silent on this matter. It seems yet another opportunity has been given to Mr. Pawan Kalyan. He has been coming out with verbal attacks on the failures of the Government, even though he is part of it. This strategy is giving him mileage, although some circles have criticized this approach. However, there will definitely be unrest among the people due to Mr. Naidu's decision to delay welfare schemes. Mr. Pawan Kalyan is likely to come forward and openly voice his support for those affected.

Review Meeting Focuses on Welfare Programs and Development

TPN Correspondent
Guntur, Jan 29

At a district review meeting held at the SR Sankaran Hall in the Collectorate on Tuesday, Guntur District In-charge Minister Kandula Durgesh, along with key officials, addressed several issues related to welfare and development. The meeting was attended by Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh, Civil Supplies Minister Nadendra Manohar, Legislative Council Chief Whip Panchumarthi Anuradha, District Collector S Nagalakshmi, and several other prominent leaders.

Civil Supplies Minister Nadendra Manohar highlighted the need for a constituency-wise drive to sanction loans for those holding CCRC cards, emphasizing that strict

actions would be taken against illegal ration rice trafficking. He noted that there are 1.48 crore white ration cards and 1.55 crore gas connections across the state. With 8 lakh excess gas connections identified, he assured that this issue would be resolved by next week with the help of village and ward secretariats. He also mentioned that over 87 lakh gas cylinders have been distributed state-wide, with 3.83 lakh being given out in Guntur district alone.

Minister Kandula Durgesh called for enhanced coordination between public representatives and officials to ensure the effective implementation of government schemes. He stressed the importance of making the district a model of all-around development in various sectors, prioritizing both welfare and infrastructure growth.

Nara Lokesh Reviews School and Intermediate Education, Announces 'No Bag Day' Initiative

TPN Correspondent
Undavalli, Jan 29

Education Minister Nara Lokesh has announced that the "No Bag Day" initiative will soon be implemented every Saturday across schools and intermediate education. This move is aimed at providing students with an opportunity for activities beyond traditional classroom learning, helping foster a balanced approach to education.

During the review meeting, Lokesh instructed officials to consider all opinions gathered from teachers and various associations regarding the withdrawal of GO 117, brought in by the previous YSRC government. He emphasized the importance of finding a solution that is acceptable to all stakeholders, aiming to ensure that no student is left behind in the education system.

He also announced the introduction of the "No Bag Day" every Saturday, allowing stu-

dents to participate in co-curricular activities. To improve the learning abilities of students, Lokesh instructed officials to prepare a single app for teachers, streamlining the process and improving efficiency.

The meeting also discussed reforms in the Intermediate Education Department and the upcoming Teacher Transfer Act. Lokesh further directed the preparation of the AP Model of Education Blueprint, which will be open for public feedback to ensure its effectiveness.

AP Govt Regularizes Suspension of Retired IPS Officer AB Venkateshwara Rao

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Jan 29

The Andhra Pradesh government has taken a significant step by regularizing the suspension period of retired IPS officer AB Venkateshwara Rao (ABV). ABV, who faced severe difficulties during the tenure of the YSRC government, has now found relief under the coalition government.

The government issued an official order on Tuesday, regularizing ABV's suspension periods, which occurred during the YSRC regime. ABV was first suspended from February 2, 2020, to February 7, 2022, and again from June 28, 2022, to May 30, 2024. The new orders specify that his suspension periods are now recognized as part of his official service, and the full salary and allowances that would have been owed to him during these periods will be paid.

Furthermore, the AP government also announced the withdrawal of the charges that had been filed against ABV under the previous administration. The former YSRC government had accused him of irregularities in the purchase of surveillance equipment from Israel, claiming that his son's company was involved in phone tapping. However, with the coalition government now in power, these charges have been dismissed, and further action against ABV has been stopped, marking a significant turning point for the retired officer.

ISRO Set to Make History with 100th Mission Launch Today

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Today marks a historic moment for India's space agency, ISRO, as it prepares to launch its 100th mission from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The mission is scheduled for lift-off at 6:23 am, and it will carry the navigation satellite NVS-02 onboard a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).

This mission holds special significance as it is the first under the leadership of ISRO's new Chairman, V Narayanan, who took office on January 13, 2025. The satellite NVS-02, part of the second generation of the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC), will help provide precise positioning, velocity, and timing services for users in India and regions up to 1,500 km beyond.

The GSLV-F15 rocket, featuring an indigenous Cryogenic upper stage, will carry the 2,250 kg satellite, which is set to play a key role in applications like maritime navigation, precision agriculture, fleet management, and Internet-of-Things (IoT) services.

This launch follows the success of the GSLV-F12 mission in May 2023, which placed the first satellite of the NavIC series, NVS-01, into orbit. With today's mission, ISRO continues to showcase its growing capabilities in space exploration.

Minister Kandula Durgesh Criticizes Jagan's Failures

Discusses Key Plans for Guntur Development



- Coalition government focused on addressing issues from Jagan's rule.
- Timely implementation of government schemes in focus.
- Government support for farmers and collaboration between key parties.

TPN Correspondent Guntur, Jan 29
Minister Kandula Durgesh, in his comments on the development of Guntur district, highlighted the coalition government's commitment to addressing the failures of Jagan's rule. Speaking after a review meeting, he stated that steps will be taken to resolve issues in the city and implement government schemes efficiently. Durgesh mentioned that difficulties in the management of government programs in Guntur district had been identified. The review meeting focused on issues related to water resources, agriculture,

and urban development, with officials being directed to act promptly on the necessary actions. The Minister emphasized that the presence of central and state ministers in the capital district would contribute positively to the district's development. He also assured that the government is working diligently to support farmers, including efforts to secure loan facilities for tenant farmers through discussions with bankers. Additionally, he mentioned that specific issues regarding Guntur city's development would soon be resolved.

TDP Denies Allegations Against Kamepalli Tulasibabu

TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Jan 29
The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has responded to recent allegations against Kamepalli Tulasibabu, who is currently under investigation in the custodial torture case involving AP Deputy Speaker Raghu Ramakrishnam Raju. TDP AP President Palla Srinivas Rao addressed rumors that Tulasibabu was conducting parallel activities as a follower of Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu. In a statement, Palla Srinivas Rao made it clear that Tulasibabu has no connection to TDP and does not hold any positions within the party. The clarification came in response to accusations that Tulasibabu was involved in



activities alongside the MLA in Gudivada. Tulasibabu, arrested by the Ongole SP in connection with the torture case, is currently in Guntur district jail. He faces additional charges related to attempted murder and obstruction of police duty. A petition for bail has been filed on his behalf, and the Guntur District Sessions Court has ordered him to remain in police custody for further questioning.

Kakani Govardhan Reddy Slams Chandrababu for Failing to Fulfill Promises

TPN Correspondent Nellore, Jan 29
YSRCP President Kakani Govardhan Reddy has fiercely criticized Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for his inability to fulfill the promises made during his election campaign. Speaking at a media conference in Nellore, Reddy accused Naidu of making empty promises and shamelessly admitting that he could not implement them. He added that Naidu's political career has been built on deception and lies, and his government lacks the will to deliver on its commitments. Reddy highlighted the contrast between Naidu's leadership and that of YSRCP President Y S Jagan. He praised Jagan for

fulfilling every promise made to the people despite inheriting a treasury with only Rs. 100 crore when he took office. In contrast, Naidu had left a much healthier Rs. 5,000 crore in the treasury when he stepped down. Reddy also took a jab at Naidu's approach to wealth creation, accusing him of selling off public assets like harbors, ports, and medical colleges to his followers, instead of creating wealth for the people. He criticized Naidu for betraying farmers, women, students, and every other section of society, asserting that Naidu lacks the integrity to fulfill any promises made during his tenure.

YSRCP MP Ayodhya Ramireddy Clarifies on Party Change Rumors



- MP discusses political pressures and the challenges faced by leaders.
- Affirms his commitment to YSRCP despite external pressures.

TPN Correspondent Guntur, Jan 29
In response to ongoing speculation about his potential party switch, YSRCP MP Ayodhya Ramireddy addressed the rumors and clarified his position. Speaking to the media, he firmly denied reports suggesting that he plans to leave YSRCP and join another party. He stated that

there was no truth to the claims and assured his supporters that he would continue his political journey with YSRCP. The MP acknowledged the natural pressures that come with being in politics, emphasizing the need to withstand challenges. He also referred to the departure of his colleague Vijayasai Reddy, calling him

a good person and explaining that politics inevitably comes with ups and downs. Ramireddy noted that the formation of the coalition government in the state had increased pressures on YSRCP leaders, particularly MLCs. He expressed his resolve to remain committed to his party despite the pressures surrounding him.

Minister Atchannaidu Slams YCP Leaders Over Alleged Mismanagement and Unfulfilled Promises

TPN Correspondent Srikakulam, Jan 29
Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu launched a scathing attack on YSRCP leaders, accusing them of hypocrisy and failure to act on key issues concerning Andhra Pradesh. Speaking to the media after inspecting arrangements for the Arasavalli Sri Surya Narayana Swamy Rathasaptami celebrations, Atchannaidu questioned the YCP leaders who had failed to secure space for the Visakhapatnam Railway Zone but were now criticizing CM Chandrababu Naidu for his recent Davos trip. Atchannaidu clarified that the state had already attracted Rs. 16 lakh crore in investments before Chandrababu's visit to Davos. He emphasized that CM Chan-

drababu has become a "brand" for the state, akin to how Chennai represents Tamil Nadu and Bangalore represents Karnataka. He further attacked the YCP for not having done anything substantial regarding the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, and questioned why they had never approached the central government for its development. Atchannaidu also highlighted that the central government had allocated funds to the steel plant, which was previously on the privatization list, and planned to use the steel for building projects in Amaravati. Minister Atchannaidu concluded by criticizing the YCP leadership, saying the party would eventually face political con-

sequences for their failure to deliver on promises. He reminded the public that when the TDP took charge, the state was burdened with a debt of Rs. 14 lakh crore, a fact acknowledged by Niti Aayog. He condemned the YCP's attempts to shift focus to the Super Six schemes rather than addressing their failures.



Gorantla Butchiah Chowdhury Criticizes Vijayasai Reddy,

TPN Correspondent Rajahmundry, Jan 29
Rajahmundry Rural MLA and TDP Polit Bureau member Gorantla Butchiah Chowdhury raised concerns over the potential inclusion of YSRCP leader Vijayasai Reddy in the political alliance. In a press conference, Gorantla stated that he did not believe Vijayasai Reddy should be part of any alliance, especially after his alleged involvement in corruption and irregularities. He emphasized that individuals involved in corrupt activities should be punished, and it is unjust to include them in a party after they have been stripped of power due to these actions. Gorantla accused Vijayasai Reddy of looting Visakhapatnam and Kakinada port,

claiming that his son-in-law was responsible for the theft of vast sums of money from the region. He demanded that the looted funds be returned to the victims. In addition, Gorantla questioned the logic behind including leaders with such a tarnished record, stating that the 164 seats won by the alliance were a result of public support, and leaders involved in corruption would only undermine that trust. He warned that YSRCP would soon lose its relevance, with its leaders ultimately having to adjust. Concluding his remarks, Gorantla stated that the high command should carefully consider the inclusion of only those leaders who are free from corruption and irregularities.

Jakkampudi Raja Criticizes CM Chandrababu for Unfulfilled Promises



TPN Correspondent Rajahmundry, Jan 29
YCP State Youth President and former MLA Jakkampudi Raja sharply criticized Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, accusing him of not fulfilling promises made during the elections. Raja claimed that Chandrababu consistently fails to implement the welfare schemes he promises, and now he is stating that he cannot deliver on the commitments made before the elections. Raja emphasized that under the leadership of YCP leader Jagan Sankalp, more than 30 lakh poor people have been provided with house pattas, and new colonies have been developed in villages. The YCP government has also pur-

chased 25,000 acres of land, combining it with government land to provide houses to the poor. The party claims to have spent over 1 lakh 2 thousand crores on housing for the disadvantaged. Raja also expressed frustration with Chandrababu's inability to implement the "Super Six" schemes promised before the elections, warning that this would lead to protests. He criticized the delay in fee reimbursement payments and claimed that Chandrababu's promises regarding security guarantees and land registrations had burdened the people. He confirmed that YCP will protest on February 5 regarding the non-implementation of the fee reimbursement scheme.

YS Sharmila Criticizes Govt's "Super Six - Super Flop"

TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, Jan 29
Y S Sharmila has criticized the coalition government's "Super Six" promises, describing them as a "Super Flop." She condemned Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's recent comments about the implementation of schemes, where he claimed that their success depends on financial resources. Sharmila stated that this is merely an excuse for the government's failure to deliver on their electoral promises. Speaking passionately, Sharmila accused Chandrababu Naidu of betraying the people of Andhra Pradesh, particularly 50 lakh breadwinners, 80 lakh students, 1.5 crore women, and 50 lakh unemployed individuals who were promised better

opportunities. She questioned why the government made promises without taking into account the state's financial constraints, which, according to her, were exacerbated by the YSRCP's mismanagement during its tenure. Sharmila demanded that the government stop using the state's debt as a justification and immediately focus on fulfilling the promised schemes. She also called for a high-level investigation into the financial irregularities of the previous government, as highlighted by the NITI Aayog report. Additionally, she urged the government to withdraw support from the BJP if the center does not allocate the necessary funds for the state's schemes.



Police Commissioner Inaugurates Road Safety Rally Organized by Lorry Owners Association

- Awareness programs emphasize road safety, helmet usage, and prevention of accidents.
- High Court orders stricter penalties from March 1 for traffic violations.



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada, Jan 29

On Tuesday, Police Commissioner Sri S. V. Rajasekhara Babu inaugurated a road safety rally organized by The Krishna District Lorry Owners Association in Vijayawada, as part of the National Road Safety Month celebrations. The rally, aimed at raising awareness about road safety, was flagged off from the Lorry Owners Association Hall and proceeded to the PWD Ground on Bandar Road, with around 200 participants, including lorry owners, drivers, and NCC students.

During the event, Commissioner Rajasekhara Babu highlighted that from March 1, stricter fines and potential imprisonment will be im-

posed for traffic violations such as not wearing helmets, over-speeding, and using mobile phones while driving. He emphasized the importance of helmet usage, noting that a significant number of road accidents involve two-wheeler riders who neglect to wear helmets. The Commissioner also discussed the ongoing efforts to create awareness about road safety, using various forms of media, including flex banners and rallies.

The event was attended by Traffic DCP Sri Krishnamurthy Naidu, ADCP Sri A. V. L. Prasannakumar, officials from the Transport Department, and members of the Krishna District Lorry Owners Association.

Better Allocations for AP in the Central Budget This Time, Says MP Kesineni Chinni

- MP Kesineni Sivanath discusses improved allocations for AP in the upcoming central budget.
- CM Chandrababu Naidu's strategy for fund acquisition and coordination with the center.
- Focus on drinking water facilities under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati, Jan 29

MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) participated in the Telugu Desam Parliamentary Party (TDPP) meeting held on Tuesday under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at his residence in Undavalli. The meeting focused on strategies for Parliament and the coordination of acquiring funds for Andhra Pradesh.

Speaking to the media, MP Kesineni highlighted the successful collaboration between the state and the central government, emphasizing that since



the double-engine government came to power, several prestigious industries and substantial funds have been allocated to the state. He pointed out the stark contrast between the achievements of the current government and

the previous YSRCP-led administration, which, according to him, had not secured significant benefits from the central government in the last five years.

Kesineni also mentioned that CM Naidu had met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to present the state's budgetary proposals. With the support of the double-engine government, better allocations for AP are expected, particularly in relation to the Jal Jeevan Mission, which aims to provide drinking water to every household in the state.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Promotes Solar Power for Homes

- Solar power awareness rally organized by Vijayawada Municipal Corporation.
- Rally aimed at educating people on Surya Ghar Muthu Bijli Yojana benefits.
- Local leaders and officials participated in the event.

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada, Jan 29

In a bid to promote the benefits of solar power and energy conservation, a rally was organized in Vijayawada on Tuesday morning under the guidance of NTR District Collector Dr. G Lakshmi sha and Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanaachandra. The rally aimed to raise awareness about the Central Government's Surya Ghar Muthu Bijli Yojana, which aims to bring solar power to every household. The rally began at Bhawanipuram Shivalayam Center and continued to Swathi Theater in Circle 1, with another route from BRTS Road to the Govern-



ment Press in Circle 2. Through this initiative, residents were educated about the benefits of solar energy, potential savings on electricity bills, and the subsidies available through the scheme.

Beneficiaries of the scheme shared their positive experiences, further encouraging others to adopt solar power

for their homes.

The event saw the participation of Sub-Collector and RDO K Chaitanya, Corporators Sharvani Murthy, Gudivada Narendra Raghava, Zonal Commissioner Ramya Keerthana, Assistant Medical Health Officer Dr. Rama Koteswara Rao, and Secretariat staff.

DTC A. Mohan and DCP Krishnamurthy Naidu Launched the Bike Rally for Road Safety Awareness.

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada, Jan 29

In an effort to raise awareness about road safety and the importance of helmet use, DTC A. Mohan and DCP Krishnamurthy Naidu launched a bike rally in Vijayawada on Tuesday as part of the National Road Safety Month. The rally, organized by the district transport and police departments, aimed to educate the public about the need for helmets while riding bikes to reduce accidents.

The rally started from the DTC office on Bandar Road, passing through the police control room, reaching Benz Circle, and returning to the DTC office. Addressing the rally, DTC A. Mohan emphasized the rise in road accidents and stressed that helmets are crucial in preventing fatalities in case of accidents. He noted that reckless driving and the absence of helmets were significant contributors to the increasing number of accidents.

DCP Krishnamurthy Naidu added that both car and two-wheeler drivers must follow traffic rules, wear seat belts, and helmets to ensure their safety. He warned that strict fines would be imposed on those violating helmet laws and encouraged voluntary organizations to participate in awareness programs. The rally saw the participation of ADCP (Traffic) A.V.L. Prasannakumar, in-charge RTOs R. Praveen and K. Venkateswara Rao, and motor vehicle inspection officers, among others.



Sonti Nagaraj Criticizes 'Super Six' Schemes, Slams Chandrababu for Deceptive Practices



TPN Correspondent | Pedana, Jan 29

In a press conference held in Krishna District's Pedana constituency, Congress Party Constituency In-charge Sonti Nagaraj strongly criticized the 'Super Six' schemes introduced by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Nagaraj accused Naidu of deceiving the public with these schemes, claiming they are designed to further plunge the state into debt, similar to the situation created by YS Jaganmohan Reddy's policies.

Nagaraj expressed his frustration with Chandrababu's recent statement that he could not fulfill his promises due to financial constraints, calling it "very strange." He emphasized that the schemes introduced by the coalition government under Chandrababu's leadership were just another attempt to mislead the people.

Nagaraj exuded confidence that both TDP and YSRCP would lose their influence in the state, and the Congress Party would soon return to power, regaining its former prominence in Andhra Pradesh. The event saw participation from various Congress leaders, activists, and supporters, all showing their solidarity with the party's leadership.

Arya Vaishya Sangha Celebrates Vasavi Kanyaka Parameshwari at State Level

- Special thanks to CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, IT Minister Nara Lokesh, and for their support.

TPN Correspondent | Eluru Dist, Jan 29

In Chatrai Mandal, Arya Vaishya Sangha President Nadilli Venkata Kishore expressed his delight over the coalition government's decision to celebrate Sri Vasavi Kanyaka Parameshwari Atma Arpana Diwas as a state-level event. He emphasized that this decision is a significant moment for the Arya Vaishya community, and thanked Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, IT Minister Nara Lokesh, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and other coalition members for their support.

The Arya Vaishya Sangha, under the leadership of Venkata Kishore,



plans to organize grand celebrations for the occasion, honoring the community's cultural and spiritual legacy. The decision to elevate this celebration to the state level is seen as a strong recognition of the Arya Vaishya community's contributions. The Sangha president expressed his gratitude to the leaders involved in making this possible.

SI Ramakrishna Receives Best Talent Award for Theft Case Investigations

TPN Correspondent | Eluru Dist, Jan 29

In a ceremony held in Eluru District, SI Ramakrishna was presented with the Best Talent Award by Collector Ventry Selvi for his exceptional work in investigating theft cases in Nuzvid and Chatrai zones. His diligent efforts in catching culprits have earned him recognition from the community and law enforcement.

Along with the award, SI Ramakrish-

na was also honored with a shawl by MMPS leaders from Canubanda village. The leaders of MMPS praised his dedication and expressed their wish to have more officers like him, emphasizing his sincerity and commitment to serving the public. They congratulated SI Ramakrishna for his excellent service to the community. The event was attended by various local leaders, including those from Chatrai and surrounding areas.

Justice for OBCs with Modi: BC Leaders Demand Political Reservation and Other Key Reforms



- Key leaders advocate for the BC Bill and political reservation for BCs in legislative assemblies.
- Demands for constitutional amendments and reservation in education, jobs, and promotions for BCs.
- A nationwide campaign for OBC justice and the establishment of a dedicated ministry for OBCs.

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada, Jan 29

The Andhra Pradesh BC Association hosted a meeting at Hotel Vijayawada's Sri Rama Function Hall on Tuesday, with over 85 leaders of caste associations from across the state in attendance. The gathering was aimed at securing justice for OBCs, with BJP Rajya Sabha Member R. Krishnaiah attending as the chief guest.

Krishnaiah emphasized the need for the BC Bill to be passed in Parliament, stressing that the time is ripe for BCs to receive their due rights. He highlighted the efforts of CM Nara Chandrababu

Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, who are actively working towards getting the bill introduced. He also called for a dedicated ministry for OBCs at the center and reservation for BCs in promotions and public sector jobs.

TDP and Jana Sena leaders also voiced their support, with NTR District Jana Sena President Samineni Udaya Bhanu promising to back the BC Bill in Parliament. Dr. N. Maresh, the state president of Andhra Pradesh BC Association, concluded by reiterating that only under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership will BCs receive justice.

Minister Sandhya Rani Presents Silk Garments to Shambara Polamamba



TPN | A NARASIMHULU Vizianagaram, Jan 29
State Women and Child Welfare and Tribal Welfare Minister Smt. Gummidi Sandhya Rani presented silk garments to Shambara Polamamba on behalf of the state government on Tuesday. The gesture was part of a traditional offering to the goddess. Minister Sandhya Rani, accompanied by her family, visited the temple for a darshan of the goddess. Upon arrival, she was

warmly welcomed by Devasthanam Executive Officer Narayana Rao and the priests with a traditional Poornakumbham ceremony. The Minister then presented the silk garments to the goddess, performed special pujas, and offered blessings in accordance with the temple's rituals.

In her remarks, Minister Sandhya Rani expressed her gratitude to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for providing her

the opportunity to present the silk garments to Shambara Polamamba, highlighting the significance of the gesture in promoting the state's rich cultural traditions.

This event further strengthened the connection between the state government and the local community, emphasizing the government's dedication to preserving cultural and spiritual heritage.

Koil Alwar Thirumanjanam and Rath Saptami Celebrations at Sri Padmavati Temple

TPN | C. Sekhar Tiruchanur, Jan 29
The grand celebration of Koil Alwar Thirumanjanam took place at Sri Padmavati Ammavari Temple on Tuesday, February 4, marking the auspicious Rath Saptami Parvaday. The goddess was awakened early, and the Thirumanjanam ritual was performed from 6 am to 9 am. During this ritual, the temple premises, walls, ceiling, and pujasamagri were purified with water, followed by the sprinkling of holy water mixed with ingredients such as kasturi turmeric, camphor, and sandalwood powder. Koil Alwar Thirumanjanam is a significant annual event held four times a year, before Ratha Saptami, Pavitrotsavam, Vasanthotsavam, and Brahmotsavam. In a special event, Sri Venkata Rama Prasad Sharma and his wife from Hyderabad presented 8 Paradas, which were received by Temple Deputy EO Sri Govindarajan and Priest Sri Babu Swamy for decoration in the sanctum sanctorum.



On the occasion of Rath Saptami, the goddess was paraded on various Vahanams, including Suryaprabha, swan, horse, and garuda, from 7 am to 2 pm. The Snaanathirumanjanam ritual took place in the afternoon, followed by the goddess riding the Chandraprabha and Gaja Vahanams.

Due to the Rath Saptami festivities, some regular temple services and darshan events were canceled.

Kakinada SP Flags Off Helmet Rally to Promote Road Safety

TPN | K.S. Shekar Kakinada, Jan 29
As part of the ongoing Road Safety Month celebrations, Kakinada District's new Superintendent of Police (SP), Shri G. Bindu Madhav, IPS, flagged off a helmet rally at the District Police Office on Tuesday. The rally aimed to raise awareness about the importance of wearing helmets for two-wheeler riders. Speaking at the event, SP G. Bindu Madhav emphasized the life-saving benefits of wearing helmets, urging riders to prioritize safety while on the road. He mentioned that a helmet is crucial for preventing head injuries and can significantly reduce the risk of fatal accidents. The rally, which began at the District Police Office, traveled through several key locations, including Bhanugudi Junction, Main Road, Masjid Center, Balaji Cheruvu Center, ZP Junction, Nukalamma Thalli Gudi, and back to Bhanugudi Junction. SP G. Bindu Madhav and District Transport Commissioner Shri Sridhar traveled together in the rally, both wearing helmets to set an example. Kakinada SDPO Shri Manish Devaraj Patil, IPS, also participated in the rally, highlighting the importance of collective efforts in ensuring road safety. The event was organized by Traffic 1 Inspector Shri Ramesh, Traffic 2 Inspector Shri Rama Rao, and Motor Vehicle Inspector Shri Harinath. Around 400 participants, including police personnel, NHA staff, Mahila Rakshak, doctors, lorry drivers, cleaners, and two-wheeler riders, joined the rally, making it a significant event for road safety awareness in the district.



AEO Reviews Arrangements for Radhasapthami Celebrations



TPN | C. Sekhar Tirumala, Jan 29
In preparation for the Radhasapthami celebrations, Additional Executive Officer (EO) Sri Ch Venkaiah Chowdary held a review meeting at Annamaiah Bhavan on Tuesday. The meeting focused on ensuring smooth arrangements, with special attention to security and crowd management. Alongside Joint EO Sri Veerabrahmam and Chief Vigilance and Security Officer (CVSO) Sri Manikantha, the Additional EO reviewed the coordination between TTD departments, vigilance, security, and police. Key aspects discussed included risk preparedness, crowd control, traffic and parking management, and the formation of an emergency response team. Sri Venkaiah Chowdary emphasized the importance of a comprehensive Bundobust plan, monitoring ghat road vehicular movement, and evacuation strategies in case of emergencies. He also reviewed arrangements for Annaprasadam (free meals), sanitation, Srivari Sevaks, medical teams, and LED screens for devotees' convenience. The meeting included virtual participation from District Collector Sri Venkateswar and SP Sri Harshavardhan Raju, with in-person attendance from CE Sri Sanyanarayana, Tirumala Additional SP Sri Ramakrishna, and other officials. This thorough planning reflects the commitment to ensuring the safety and success of Radhasapthami celebrations at the temple, which will see thousands of devotees.

Three Arrested in Chain Snatching and Motorcycle Theft Cases in Bhimavaram

TPN Correspondent | Bhimavaram, Jan 29
Three individuals have been arrested in connection with a chain snatching and motorcycle theft case under the jurisdiction of Kalla police station in West Godavari district. The arrests were confirmed by District SP Adnan Naeem Asmi during a press conference held at Bhimavaram One Town Police Station on Tuesday. The accused, identified as Jonnala Venkatesh (33), Akurati Joshna Devi (28), and Gorralla Krishna (34), were found in possession of 166.5 grams of gold, five motorcycles, and cash worth Rs. 2.58 lakh. SP Asmi revealed that Venkatesh had been targeting single women, attacking them and



snatching their gold chains. Gorralla Krishna, employed at Attica Gold Company, had been buying the stolen gold from the accused. The successful operation was carried out under the leadership of Akividu Circle Inspector (CI) Jagadeeshwar Rao. SP Adnan Naeem Asmi commended the efforts of the police team for their swift and effective action in solving the case and apprehending the culprits. The recovered items have been seized, and further investigations are underway.

Kothapet Panchayat Tractors Left Unused for Years, Local Community Calls for Action

TPN | S.V.R. Sunil Kumar Kothapet, Jan 29
Two tractors belonging to the Kothapet Panchayat have been left unused for several years, parked at the government hospital premises and exposed to the elements. The tractors, which are meant to serve the community, are lying idle—one near the Kothapet Government Hospital Quarters Gate and the other near the garbage bin close to the ambulance. The tractors have been neglected, with no repairs or efforts made to put them back into service. Local residents and community members are expressing concern over the lack of action from Panchayat and Mandal officials regarding the condition of these government assets. Despite being a prominent Panchayat in the region that receives substantial funds, Kothapet Panchayat has failed to utilize its resources effectively, leaving these vehicles in a state of disrepair. The local people are frustrated by the situation and are calling on the authorities to take responsibility for the maintenance and proper use of public assets. They believe that if the funds allocated to the Panchayat were used more effectively, significant improvements in community development could be achieved. This issue highlights the need for better management and accountability of resources at the Panchayat level, especially in areas where government assets can greatly impact the efficiency and well-being of the local population.

Mega Blood Donation Camp Organized at Aditya Vidya Campus

TPN | V Ananthkumar Jaggampeta, Jan 29
A mega blood donation camp was successfully held at Aditya Vidya Campus in Surampalem on the occasion of Aditya Founder's Day. The camp was inaugurated by Aditya Vidya Sansthan Chairman and Aditya University Chancellor, Dr. Nallamilli Sessa Reddy, along with General Secretary Smt. Lakshmi Rajyam Medam, Pro. Chancellor Dr. Nallamilli Satish Reddy, and Deputy Pro. Chancellor Dr. M Srinivas Reddy. In a press conference following the event, Dr. Sessa Reddy emphasized the importance of community service and explained that the camp is organized annually on the birthday of Mrs. Nallamilli Lakshmirajyam, the Founder Member and General Secretary of Aditya Vidya Sansthan. This year, 1350 students and staff participated in the camp, making a significant contribution to the blood banks of the region. Dr. Reddy shared that Aditya organizes mega blood donation camps twice a year, in January and August, to instill social responsibility among students. Blood donation is also promoted through dedicated groups that assist in emergencies. Representatives from prominent blood banks in Kakinada, Rajahmundry, and Peddapuram, including the Akshaya Voluntary Blood Bank and the Rotary Blood Bank, were involved in collecting the donations. The camp's success highlights Aditya's commitment to social welfare and its effort to make blood donation a habit among students and staff.

MLA Divya Inaugurates Six-Bed Block at PHC In Tuni

TPN | NV Surya Tuni, Jan 29
MLA Yanamala Divya inaugurated a newly constructed six-bed block at the Primary Health Center (PHC) in Thetagunta village, Tuni Mandal, Kakinada district, marking a significant step towards improving healthcare services in the region. During her speech, MLA Divya emphasized that the coalition government is committed to the development of the medical sector alongside welfare and infrastructure initiatives. She reiterated that her government's main goal is to provide better healthcare services to the people, ensuring that everyone has access to quality medical facilities.



The inauguration event was attended by several prominent leaders, including Yanamala Rajesh, Surla Loveraju, Chintamneedi Abbayi, Motukuri Venkatesh,

MPP Dr. Boppana Ramu, and local leaders such as Gajji Appalaraju, Gajji Ramababu, Peruri Krishna, Kona Kannarao, among others. The new six-bed block is expected to enhance the PHC's capacity to provide medical care, especially for villagers who previously had to travel to distant hospitals for treatment. MLA Divya's efforts reflect the coalition government's ongoing focus on improving healthcare access and infrastructure in rural areas. This initiative is part of the government's broader efforts to strengthen public health services and ensure that quality medical care is available to all citizens, particularly in underserved areas like Thetagunta village.

Eidiga Castes in Kuppam Express Gratitude for CM Naidu

TPN | C. Sekhar Kuppam, Jan 29
The Eidiga castes in Kuppam expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu for his support and recognition of their community's welfare. The community marked the occasion by anointing a portrait of CM Naidu with oil in a show of respect. Eidiga Caste Association President Sudhakar and Leader Narayana Goud highlighted that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is the only party that has consistently recognized the Eidiga castes, especially as sugarcane workers. They praised CM Naidu for his commitment to their welfare. The government's allocation of 10 liquor shops across Chittoor district to the Eidiga community was also acknowledged. To honor CM Naidu, a Palabhishekam (milk offering) was performed for his portrait. The event was attended by key community leaders, further strengthening the unity and recognition of the Eidiga castes in Kuppam.

Implement UCC in Andhra, become first in South

We strongly urge the Andhra Pradesh Government to take immediate action in implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Act. By doing so, Andhra Pradesh has the opportunity to become the first southern state to adopt this significant legislation, thereby setting a powerful precedent for other states in the region to follow. The implementation of the UCC is not merely a legal obligation; it is a crucial step towards ensuring equality and justice for all citizens, regardless of their faith or background.

In this context, it is imperative that national interests are prioritized above local political considerations. The governance of our state should not be swayed by the potential electoral advantages or disadvantages that may arise from such a decision. Instead, the focus must remain on the broader implications for society as a whole, fostering unity and equality among all citizens.

Furthermore, we call upon our partners within the local National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to act decisively and with-



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh

out delay on this matter. It is essential that we present a united front in sup-

port of the UCC, demonstrating our commitment to the principles of justice and equality.

Granting privileges or special considerations based on faith and religion fundamentally contradicts the core principles of secularism and democracy that our nation upholds. The UCC aims to eliminate such disparities, ensuring that all individuals are treated equally under the law, irrespective of their religious beliefs. By implementing the UCC, Andhra Pradesh can lead the way in promoting a more inclusive and equitable society, reinforcing the values that are essential to our democratic framework.

In conclusion, we implore the Andhra Pradesh Government to take this bold step forward, embracing the Uniform Civil Code as a means to strengthen our commitment to equality, justice, and secularism. Let us work together to create a future where all citizens are treated with dignity and respect, free from the divisions that have historically plagued our society.



Forecasting Key Elements of Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget 2025

The Union Budget is one of the most anticipated events in India's fiscal calendar. It not only outlines the government's financial health but also provides insight into its future policy direction. The upcoming Budget 2025-2026, set to be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1, is expected to focus on key developmental programmes, policy reforms, and economic strategies to navigate the current challenges and promote growth.

The 2024-2025 Budget proposed a total expenditure of Rs 48.21 trillion, with expected revenues (both tax and non-tax) and non-debt capital receipts, including disinvestment proceeds, pegged at Rs 32.07 trillion. This left a fiscal deficit of Rs 16.13 trillion. Looking ahead to the 2025-2026 Budget, the government is expected to maintain a similar trajectory in terms of fiscal policy while introducing measures to improve revenue generation and fiscal management.

The gross tax receipts (GTRs) until November 2024 stood at Rs 22.61 trillion, reflecting a growth of 10.72%, aligning with the projections for the year. Specifically, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) growth of 9.1% and a slight contraction of 0.53% in corporate tax receipts indicate a mixed performance, impacted by macroeconomic factors and corporate sector dynamics. Given the ongoing trends, the government is likely to target Rs 28.41 trillion for net Centre's Tax Receipts (CTRs) for 2025-2026.

While the precise numbers will be revealed in the Budget, analysts predict that the government will continue to scale up ongoing flagship programs and announce new development initiatives aimed at spurring economic growth and addressing socio-economic challenges. Given the global uncertainties and domestic economic pressures, the Budget will also likely include measures to boost investment, job creation, and social welfare.

In terms of fiscal policy, the government is expected to take a cautious approach to ensure that revenue targets are met while managing inflationary pressures. The Budget may also prioritize key sectors such as infrastructure, healthcare, and education, along with digital economy initiatives and green energy projects, which have become increasingly important in the post-pandemic recovery phase.

The Budget 2025-2026, while maintaining continuity in fiscal policy, is likely to signal the government's commitment to long-term economic stability and sustainable growth, ensuring that India's recovery from the pandemic remains robust and inclusive.

The Rarest of Rare Doctrine and the Fate of Victims in India's Legal System



Justice Leila Seth, the first woman Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, once poignantly remarked, "She is first raped, then she has to tell the story to the policeman. Then she has to tell the story to the judge, then she is cross-examined on it. She is raped over and over again." These words resonate deeply in the tragic case of a young junior doctor from RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, whose life was cruelly taken while performing her duties in a place that should have guaranteed her safety. Her murderer has been sentenced to life imprisonment, a sentence that some argue fails to match the severity of his crime. The Sessions Court in Sealdah deemed this case not to be one of the "rarest of rare," despite the brutal nature of the crime. Is the cost of a young life, taken so mer-

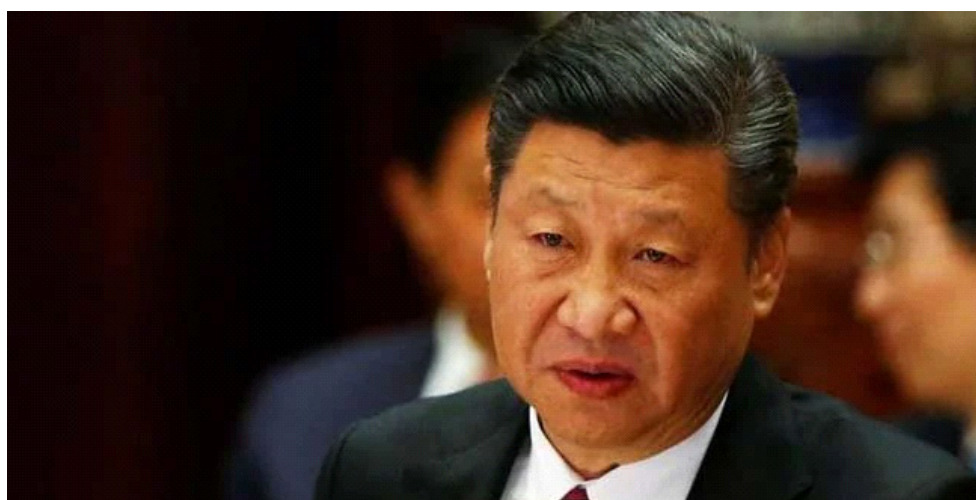
chantly, only worth a meager Rs 50,000 compensation to the victim's family?

India's legal system follows an adversarial model, which involves opposing parties presenting their case to a neutral judge or jury. This system differs from the inquisitorial model used in countries like France and Germany, where judges play an active role in investigating cases. In India, the burden of proof lies with the prosecution, and the accused has the right to silence. In sentencing, Indian courts follow key principles such as proportionality, deterrence, rehabilitation, and retribution, with the death penalty reserved for only the most extreme cases. The introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (2023), which replaced the Indi-

an Penal Code (IPC), highlights a shift in legal frameworks, providing guidelines for serious offenses like murder and treason. However, capital punishment in India is only imposed in the rarest of rare cases, a doctrine established by the Supreme Court in 1980. The concept of "rarest of rare" was solidified in the Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab (1980) case, where the Supreme Court set forth criteria to determine when death penalty is appropriate. Factors such as the brutality of the crime, the offender's history, and the possibility of rehabilitation influence sentencing. Cases like Machhi Singh v. State of Punjab (1983), where the brutal slaughter of 17 family members was deemed beyond the scope of life imprisonment, led to the confirmation of the death penalty.

India-China Relations: Who's Shaping the Narrative?

India's Foreign Secretary, Vikram Misri, recently visited China for a two-day trip aimed at discussing the future of bilateral relations, which have been tense following a nearly four-year military standoff. Both countries have made moves toward normalizing ties, but the underlying issues are far from resolved.



The relationship between India and China soured significantly in 2020 when Beijing unilaterally attempted to alter the status quo along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), leading to casualties on both sides. India responded firmly, emphasizing that peace and stability along the border would define the broader relationship. As a result, a series of measures were enacted, including banning nearly 300 Chinese

mobile apps, halting direct flights, imposing strict visa restrictions, and reviewing educational cooperation. The focus shifted to safeguarding national security over economic or technologi-

cal engagements. However, since the disengagement in 2024, the focus has been on rebuilding the economic and people-to-people ties

that had been frozen for years. The Special Representatives (SRs) mechanism has been revived, aimed at resolving the border issue. Notably, pilgrimages to Kailash Mansarovar in Tibet will resume, and discussions on hydrological data sharing and transnational river cooperation are advancing. Plans to restart direct air services are also in the works, signaling a move toward economic and cultural revitalization.

Despite these positive developments, several concerns remain. The weaponry amassed along the border during the standoff has not been withdrawn, raising questions about China's long-term intentions. Indian military officials have cautioned that while the situation in Eastern Ladakh is stable, both sides remain in a "degree of standoff." Addi-

tionally, the creation of no-patrol zones and the ongoing presence of military forces indicate that full disengagement may not be complete.

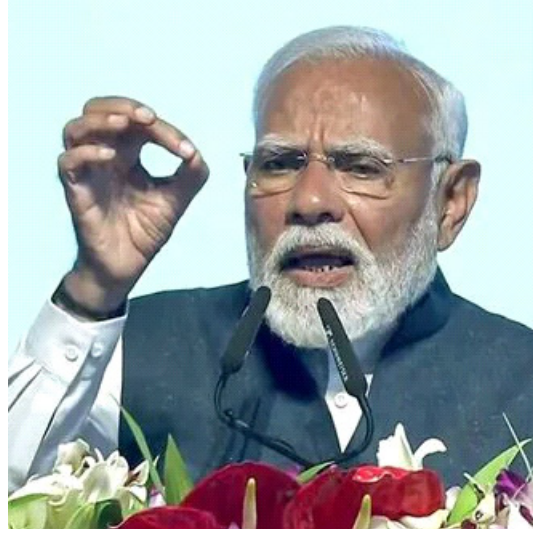
Beyond the military concerns, China's actions in other domains continue to be troubling. Beijing has proposed carving out new counties in Xinjiang that include parts of Ladakh, and its ambitious hydropower projects on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet continue to raise alarms in India. Diplomatic protests have been lodged, but the strategic competition continues to simmer beneath the surface. China's narrative, shaped by its strategic class, seems to suggest that India's engagement with China is driven by vulnerability, with concerns about Chinese corporations hurting the Indian economy.

PM Modi Pushes for 'Concert Economy' After Coldplay's Successful India Tour

Growing Concert Sector Prompts Focus on Infrastructure Development

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

After the success of Coldplay's concerts in Mumbai and Ahmedabad, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday highlighted India's immense possibilities in the emerging concert economy. The British rock band's sold-out performances in India have proven that the country has significant potential to become a global hub for live music events. Modi urged both states and private sector players to focus on developing the infrastructure and skills necessary to support this growing sector.



In his remarks, Modi stressed the importance of developing world-class concert venues and infrastructure to meet the increasing demand for live entertainment. As India becomes an increasingly popular destination for international artists, there is a growing need for specialized venues, skilled event organizers, and improved services for concert-goers.

The concert economy is a rapidly growing financial ecosystem surrounding live music events. Globally, this sector is projected to reach \$31 billion by 2026, driven by the shift from physical album sales to live performances. In India, the concert economy is expected to grow robustly, with the market potentially valued at ₹6,000-8,000 crore. This includes revenue generated through local spending on accommodations, food, and transportation during live events, which boosts local economies significantly.

- PM Modi sees immense potential in India's concert economy, especially after Coldplay's successful shows in Mumbai and Ahmedabad.
- India's "conference tourism" is also growing, with venues like Bharat Mandapam and Yashobhoomi in Delhi becoming major centers.
- The concert economy in India is estimated to reach ₹6,000-8,000 crore, contributing significantly to local economies.



UPI Dominates India's Digital Payments Landscape, Reaching 83% Share in 2024

Explosive Growth in UPI Transactions Drives India's Digital Payment Revolution

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has achieved remarkable growth in India, now accounting for an astounding 83% of the country's digital payment volume in 2024, up from just 34% in 2019. This surge represents an impressive cumulative annual growth rate (CAGR) of 74% over the past five years, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest payment system report. UPI's dominance has significantly outpaced other digital payment methods, such as RTGS, NEFT, IMPS, credit cards, and debit cards, whose combined share in digital payments has plummeted from 66% to 17% over the same period.

- UPI's share of India's digital payments has surged from 34% in 2019 to 83% in 2024, with a CAGR of 74% over five years.
- The volume of UPI transactions has skyrocketed, increasing from 375 crore in 2018 to 17,221 crore in 2024, while the value of transactions reached ₹246.83 lakh crore.
- UPI Lite, introduced in 2023, has boosted low-value transaction volumes, contributing to the continued expansion of digital payments in India.

UPI's explosive growth is attributed to its ease of use, reliability, and secure, real-time transaction capabilities, which have made it the preferred method for digital payments in India. As a result, UPI has played a pivotal role in driving the expansion of digital payment adoption across the country, with the volume of transactions increasing from 375 crore in 2018 to an impressive 17,221 crore in 2024. The total value of UPI transactions also saw a dramatic rise, reaching ₹246.83 lakh crore in 2024, up from ₹5.86 lakh crore in 2018. This equates to a CAGR of 89.3% in terms of transaction volume and 86.5% in transaction value.

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella Calls Himself "Product" Of India-US Bond

Microsoft CEO Reflects His Journey, Highlights Contributions of Indian-Americans

TPN Correspondent | Seattle/New York

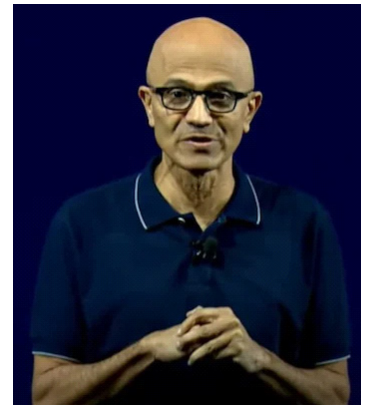
Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella celebrated the enduring bond between India and the United States, calling himself a "product of the bond" between the two nations during a special Republic Day reception in Seattle. The event, hosted by the Consulate General of India, marked India's 76th Republic Day and highlighted the immense contributions of the Indian-American community.

Nadella's Tribute to India-US Bond: The Microsoft CEO emphasized the importance of the relationship between the two countries.

State and Congressional Recognition: Several US lawmakers and government officials expressed gratitude for India's global contributions.

Cultural Exhibits and Performances: The reception showcased India's diverse culture through unique exhibits and performances.

Held at the Bell Harbour Conference Centre, the reception saw over 500 attendees from the Indian-American community, including notable figures such as Washington State Governor Bob Ferguson and Nadella himself. The event also marked a first as several members of the US Congress joined the celebrations, reinforcing the strong relationship between the two nations.



During his address, Nadella praised the leadership of both countries for their shared focus on leveraging technology to improve education, healthcare, public service, and small business productivity. He also acknowledged the Indian-American community's global influence, emphasizing their contributions not only to India but to the world.

In addition to Nadella's remarks, Governor Ferguson expressed his eagerness to further strengthen ties with the Consulate General of India in Seattle. He noted the immense impact the Indian community continues to make on the world stage. The Washington State Senate also recognized the occasion by passing a resolution celebrating India's Republic Day and its strong friendship with the US.

US State Department Evaluates Next Steps in Tahawwur Rana Extradition

US Support for Justice in Mumbai Attacks Case Amid Legal Developments

TPN Correspondent | Washington

The US State Department has confirmed it is evaluating the next steps regarding the potential extradition of Pakistani-origin businessman Tahawwur Rana to India. Rana is wanted for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which led to the deaths of 164 people.



port for India's pursuit of justice in the aftermath of the 26/11 attacks. "We have long supported India's efforts to ensure the perpetrators of the Mumbai terrorist attacks face justice," the spokesperson stated. The department's statement also noted that, following the US Supreme Court's recent denial of Rana's appeal, the US is now reviewing the next steps in the case.

Rana, who was convicted for his role in the 26/11 attacks, has been fighting extradition to India. He was involved in the attacks alongside David Headley, who had already pleaded guilty and cooperated against Rana. The case took a significant turn on January 21 when the US Supreme Court denied Rana's petition for a writ of certiorari, effectively removing a legal barrier that had been in place since the earlier ruling of a lower court favoring Rana's extradition.

This decision opens the possibility for Rana's extradition to India, where he faces charges linked to his involvement in planning the deadly attacks. The attacks, which targeted several sites in Mumbai including the Taj Hotel, resulted in the loss of 174 lives, including 20 security personnel and 26 foreign nationals, with more than 300 people injured.

Parliament to take final decision on UCC, Waqf issues: Omar Abdullah

J&K CM Reacts to UCC Implementation in Uttarakhand and Waqf Bill Amendments

TPN Correspondent | Jammu

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah stated on Tuesday that it is ultimately Parliament, not individual Union Territories or states, that will make the final decision regarding the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) and the Waqf (Amendment) Bill. His comments followed Uttarakhand's decision to implement the UCC, with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fulfilling a key promise made during the 2022 assembly elections.



Omar Abdullah emphasized that the decision on UCC and the Waqf Bill lies with Parliament, not individual states or UTs. Uttarakhand became the first state to implement the UCC, fulfilling a major BJP election commitment.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee examining the Waqf Bill has accepted all amendments proposed by BJP-NDA members, rejecting opposition suggestions.

Abdullah reacted to Uttarakhand's move by stating, "Let them do what they want to do till a law is enacted for the country. Finally, it is Parliament which will decide on

this and not the individual UTs or States." His remarks underline the ongoing debate over the UCC, which aims to implement a uniform set of laws governing personal matters such as marriage, inheritance, and adoption across India.

Regarding the Waqf Bill, Abdullah noted that the Joint Parliamentary Committee is still deliberating and no final decision has

been made by the government. The committee, in recent discussions, adopted the amendments proposed by the BJP-led NDA members, but rejected changes suggested by opposition members. Abdullah also referred to a recent meeting between Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and the committee, where Farooq expressed his viewpoint on the matter.

Trump Confirms Modi's Likely Visit to White House in February

Strengthening US-India Relations Through Leadership Diplomacy

US President Donald Trump has announced that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit the White House for a meeting in February. This statement was made on Monday while President Trump was addressing reporters aboard Air Force One during his return to Joint Base Andrews from Florida.

"I had a long talk with him this morning. He is going to be coming to the White House, over next month, probably February. We have a very good relationship with India," Trump revealed, emphasizing the strong camaraderie between the two leaders.

When questioned about the details of his phone call with PM Modi earlier that morning, Trump stated, "Everything came up," highlighting the depth and breadth of their discussions.

Trump and Modi share a positive rapport, with previous collaborative efforts cementing their leadership dynamics. Modi's visit marks another chapter in deepening US-India ties through open



dialogue and diplomacy.

This prospective meeting comes as a follow-up to Trump's last foreign trip as President, which was to India.

President Trump and Prime Minister Modi have often been seen working closely, addressing large-scale public gatherings and fostering bilateral

initiatives. The potential February visit aims to continue the momentum of cooperation on economic, strategic, and regional security issues. As the international community watches these developments, the meeting is poised to further solidify the robust partnership between the two nations.

Serbian Prime Minister Resigns Amid Protests Over Train Station Collapse

TPN Correspondent | Belgrade

Serbian Prime Minister Milos Vucevic announced his resignation on Tuesday, following months of mass protests triggered by the fatal collapse of a train station roof in Novi Sad last November. Vucevic, addressing a press conference in Belgrade, called his decision irrevocable. "I had a long meeting with the president of Serbia this morning. We talked about this. We talked about everything, and he accepted my arguments," Vucevic said, emphasizing that his resignation was intended to ease tensions in society and prevent further complications. Vucevic's resignation comes after ongoing protests over the deadly train station disaster that killed 15 people. The collapse of the train station roof, following extensive renovations, became the flashpoint for widespread dissatisfaction with the government's handling of construction projects and concerns about corruption in the country's infrastructure sector. These protests reflected long-standing grievances about the lack of oversight on major projects and the



slow pace of accountability.

The tragic event in Novi Sad, which occurred during renovations at the station, ignited a wave of public outrage over the safety of public infrastructure and the alleged mismanagement of funds. Despite serving less than a year in office as prime minister, Vucevic's decision to resign is seen as an effort to defuse mounting pressure from both the public and political opposition. The resignation comes after growing discontent over corruption and lack of oversight on con-

struction projects in the country. Before becoming prime minister, Vucevic had served as the mayor of Novi Sad from 2012 to 2022, overseeing the very renovations at the train station where the disaster occurred. His resignation marks a significant moment in Serbia's political landscape, where calls for government accountability have been steadily growing.

The protests, which have been a regular occurrence since the collapse, highlight the broader issue of corruption and transparency in government projects. Citizens have demanded greater oversight and accountability for public safety, particularly in the wake of the tragic incident. Vucevic had been in office for less than a year, but his tenure was overshadowed by the disaster and the subsequent public backlash. Despite his resignation, the political and public pressures are unlikely to subside quickly, with many calling for deeper reforms and a commitment to addressing systemic issues in the country's infrastructure and governance.

DeepSeek AI sends Shockwaves through US Tech Firms

TPN Correspondent | China

On Monday, Chinese startup DeepSeek announced that it would temporarily limit registrations for its AI assistant due to a cyberattack. The disruption comes after the company's AI model became unexpectedly popular, climbing to the top of the Apple App Store's free applications list in the United States. The company also faced significant outages, marking its longest downtime in around 90 days, coinciding with its newfound popularity.



DeepSeek, which launched its free AI assistant on January 10, has garnered attention for offering a model that uses less data and costs significantly less than its competitors. Powered by the DeepSeek-V3, which its creators claim outperforms many open-source models and rivals advanced closed-source models, the AI assistant has quickly become a favorite among US users. According to Sensor Tower, app data research firm, the model's rapid rise reflects a significant shift in the AI landscape, challenging long-standing views on the dominance of US companies and the effectiveness of US export controls targeting China's tech industry.

The popularity of DeepSeek's AI assistant highlights a major breakthrough for the Hangzhou-based startup, founded in 2023. The company's success has led to discussions in the US tech industry about the effectiveness of export controls on Chinese AI models. DeepSeek's AI application has reportedly been trained using Nvidia's H800 chips, which cost the company under \$6 million, a relatively low expense compared to its US counterparts. While some have disputed these claims, the success of DeepSeek's model has prompted US tech executives to question whether export controls on AI-related chips are truly effective.

DeepSeek's rise also coincides with in-

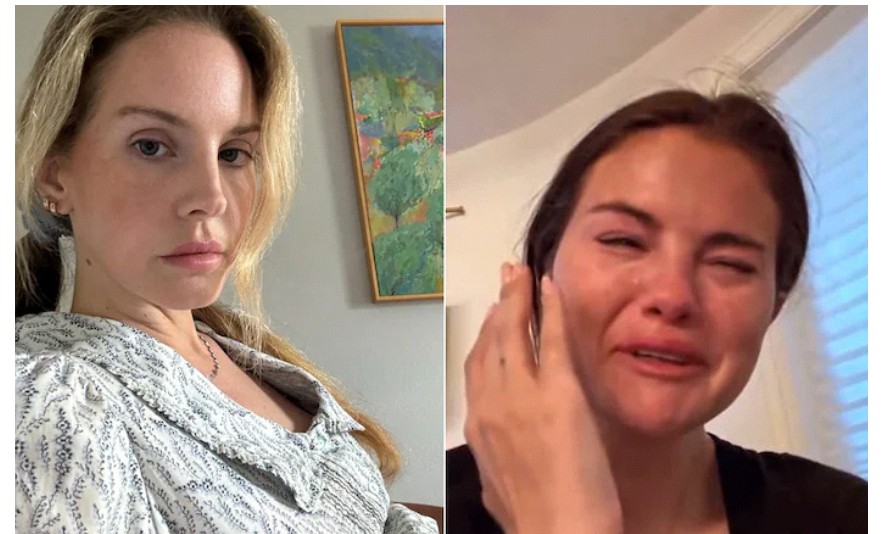
creased scrutiny of US technology firms' reliance on advanced chips to power AI models. Despite the US government's expanded chip bans, DeepSeek's breakthrough has shown that Chinese companies can still develop competitive AI models with comparatively lower costs, undermining the US's control over AI capabilities.

Little is known about DeepSeek beyond its impressive technological achievements, but the company's ability to rival US AI models has left a significant mark on Silicon Valley, prompting US executives to reconsider their stance on China's technological advancements.

DeepSeek, a Chinese startup, temporarily limited registrations after its AI assistant surged in popularity and faced a cyberattack. The company's DeepSeek-V3 AI model has outperformed many open-source models, challenging US dominance in the AI field. The startup's ability to develop a competitive AI model using less powerful chips and at a lower cost has sparked debates about the effectiveness of US export controls on Chinese AI technologies.

Lana Del Rey Criticizes Selena Gomez Over Immigration Video

Controversy Follows Selena's Emotional Plea Amid Trump's Deportation Plans



TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

Selena Gomez's emotional video expressing her heartbreak over the deportation of illegal immigrants by US President Donald Trump sparked a divided reaction across the internet. In the video, which was later deleted from her Instagram Stories, Gomez tearfully apologized, saying, "I just wanted to say that I'm so sorry. All my people are getting attacked... the children. I don't understand. I'm so sorry, I wish I could do something but I can't. I don't know what to do. I'll try everything, I promise." Along with her heartfelt message, Selena also posted the Mexican flag alongside the words, "I'm sorry." While many fans showed support for Selena's display of empathy, others, including singer Lana Del Rey, publicly criticized her. Lana, who is a known supporter of Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan, commented on the video, suggesting that Selena should "pack your bags and go back to Mexico. Take your abuela (grandmother) with you." This remark quickly gained traction online, adding fuel to the fire of debate over the issue.

The backlash Selena faced prompted her to post another Story, where she expressed frustration, saying, "Apparently it's not ok to show empathy for people," though this message was also deleted shortly afterward.

Selena has long been an advocate for immigration rights, using her platform to raise awareness about the challenges faced by undocumented individuals. In 2019, she produced a Netflix documentary titled *Living Undocumented*, which highlights the stories of eight undocumented families living in the United States under Trump's administration. The documentary showcases her ongoing commitment to shedding light on the struggles of immigrants.

Selena's personal connection to the issue is rooted in her own family history. In an interview with *TIME* magazine in October 2019, she shared how her aunt crossed the US-Mexico border in the 1970s, followed by her grandparents, a journey that has shaped her understanding of immigration issues.

- Selena Gomez's emotional plea about deportations divided the internet, with many supporting her, while others criticized her for her reaction.
- Lana Del Rey's harsh comment advising Selena to "go back to Mexico" sparked further controversy.
- Selena has been vocal about immigration issues, producing the 2019 Netflix documentary *Living Undocumented*, which highlights the struggles of undocumented families.



Trump Encourages Bidding War for TikTok as Microsoft Considers Acquisition

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US President Donald Trump revealed that Microsoft is in talks to acquire TikTok, urging for a bidding war over the popular social media app. This comes after a series of national security concerns raised about the app's Chinese owner, ByteDance. Despite these developments, Microsoft declined to comment, and both TikTok and ByteDance have not responded outside of regular business hours.

TikTok, with around 170 million users in the US, faced a brief outage before a law requiring ByteDance to sell the app or face a national ban took effect on January 19. President Trump signed an executive order on January 20, delaying the enforcement of this law for 75 days. He stated that he was in talks with multiple parties regarding the app's acquisition and anticipated making a decision within 30 days.

Trump previously indicated that he would be open to allowing billionaire Elon Musk to purchase TikTok. However, Musk has not commented on the offer, leaving speculation to linger. In the latest developments, AI startup Perplexity AI has reportedly proposed a merger with TikTok, with the US government potentially holding up to half of the newly formed company. This proposal adds another layer to the ongoing negotiations.

India's Electronics Manufacturing Shifts Focus to Component Production with EMS 2.0



ing incentive programs. The goal is to make India a more competitive destination for electronics manufacturing by promoting local production and reducing dependence on costly imports, which are often subject to tariffs and other barriers.

While India has made considerable progress in electronics assembly, particularly in mobile and consumer electronics, it still relies heavily on imports for component manufacturing and design. EMS 2.0 will address this gap by shifting the focus toward manufacturing components locally, thus enhancing India's capabilities in this critical area.

To support this shift, the government had previously launched the Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECs), which offers a 25% upfront capital expenditure incentive to encourage investment in component manufacturing. However, both the PLI for Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing and the SPECs scheme are approaching their deadlines, making the introduction of a new subsidy scheme vital for the future of component production.

EMS 2.0 is seen as a crucial step in India's ambition to become a global hub for electronics manufacturing, moving beyond assembly to a more robust and self-sustaining industry. This new phase will further enhance India's manufacturing capabilities, positioning the country as a key player in the global electronics market.

India is taking a significant step forward in its electronics manufacturing sector by advancing to the second phase of its electronics manufacturing journey, referred to as Electronics Manufacturing Services (EMS) 2.0. This phase will emphasize the actual manufacturing of electronic components, unlike EMS 1.0, which primarily focused on assembling these components.

According to a report by Phillip Capital, the Indian government is working on introducing a new Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for electronic components. This new scheme aims to increase value addition in the sector to 35-40%, a significant jump from the current 18-20% under the ongoing electronics manufactur-

Industrialists Optimistic About India's Growth Ahead of Union Budget 2025-26

Ahead of the Union Budget 2025-26, a survey conducted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has revealed that 64% of industrialists are optimistic about India's economic growth. The survey, conducted between late December 2024 and mid-January 2025, indicates that nearly 60% of the participants expect the GDP growth rate for 2025-26 to fall between 6.5% and 6.9%. While this represents a moderation from the robust 8% growth in 2023-24, it aligns with global economic challenges and persistent external headwinds.

Key takeaways from the survey include an expectation for the government to maintain its commitment to fiscal consolidation. Around 47% of participants believe the government will meet its fiscal deficit target of 4.9% for FY 2024-25, with 24% expecting even better results.

The survey also highlighted the importance of continuing public capital expenditure (capex) to sustain economic growth. 68% of respondents called for a significant focus on increasing capex, with many suggesting a 15% rise in allocation for FY 2025-26. This would help maintain the growth momentum and boost key infrastructure projects.



In addition to capex, over half of the respondents emphasized the need for further reforms to improve the ease of doing business in India, particularly in areas like land acquisition, labor laws, and power supply.

There was also a strong call for reforming the direct tax structure to increase disposable income and drive consumption. Industry members are advocating for simplification of the tax regime, incentivizing green technologies, and supporting MSMEs through measures such as

streamlined credit access and adoption of new technologies.

The focus for the upcoming budget remains on infrastructure, manufacturing, and agriculture, with an emphasis on increasing India's global competitiveness through improved logistics and continued support for exports. The Union Budget 2025-26 presents a crucial opportunity to further enhance India's economic resilience and solidify its position as a leading investment destination globally.

UPI's Growth in India: A Digital Payment Revolution



The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has emerged as the dominant force in India's digital payment landscape, experiencing an extraordinary surge in adoption. According to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest payment system report, UPI's share of digital payments has skyrocketed from 34% in 2019 to an impressive 83% in 2024. This represents a remarkable CAGR (Cumulative Average Growth Rate) of 74% over the past five years, underscoring the rapid acceptance and success of UPI as a payment solution.

During the same period, other traditional payment methods such as RTGS, NEFT, IMPS, credit cards, and debit cards saw a notable decline, with their combined share dropping from 66% to just 17%. The report attri-

butes UPI's meteoric rise to its ease of use and effectiveness in facilitating secure, real-time transactions.

In terms of transaction volume, UPI has seen exponential growth, with the number of transactions increasing from 375 crore in 2018 to 17,221 crore in 2024. Similarly, the total value of UPI transactions has soared from Rs 5.86 lakh crore in 2018 to Rs 246.83 lakh crore in 2024. These figures reflect a CAGR of 89.3% in volume and 86.5% in value, marking UPI as the key enabler of India's digital payments revolution.

One notable trend observed in the report is the shift in transaction types. While UPI's person-to-person (P2P) transactions still hold a higher value than person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions, P2M volumes overtook P2P in 2023. UPI Lite, a low-value transaction method introduced by Paytm and PhonePe, has also gained significant traction, recording 2.04 million daily transactions by December 2024.

India's explosive digital payment growth, spearheaded by UPI, has positioned the country as a global leader in digital financial solutions. The public-good approach of UPI holds valuable lessons for other nations, particularly in how to democratize digital payments and extend financial inclusion to previously underserved segments.

Markets Rebound Strongly as Banking and Auto Stocks Lead the Rally; Nifty Holds Above 23,000



Two days of consecutive losses have come to an end. Domestic stock markets gained heavily on Tuesday. Investors bought despite negative signals from global markets. Even though US and global tech stocks collapsed due to the impact of Chinese AI DeepSeek, our indices rebounded. The reason for this is that banking, finance, auto and realty stocks remained strong. After reaching daily highs, investors started taking profits, but the gains eventually declined slightly. Experts suggest that they should remain vigilant until the Donald Trump effect, the budget session and the US Fed meeting are over. The Nifty closed above the key support level of 23,000 is a positive.

The BSE Sensex opened at 75,659 on Tuesday. It touched an intraday low of 75,622. It reached an intraday high of 76,512. It finally closed at 75,901 with a gain of 535 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,960, reached a low of 22,852 and a high of 23,137. It gained a total of 128 points and closed at 22,957. The Nifty Bank rose 802 points and settled at 48,866.

In the Nifty50, 28 companies gained while 22 lost. Bajaj Finance, Axis Bank, Shriram Finance, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC Bank were the top gainers. Sun Pharma, Britannia, Hindalco, Grasim, Bharat Electronics lost the most. Today, realty, financial services, bank, auto, and service sector indices were in a state of turmoil. Capital Market, Pharma, IT and Media indices rose.

Despite the increase in benchmark indices, market breadth on NSE was more in favor of sellers. Out of a total of 2937 stocks traded, only 940 gained. 1920 lost. Shares of 6 companies reached 52-week highs. 538 shares reached 52-week lows.

UTI AMC's third-quarter results were disappointing. Net profit fell 18.9% to Rs 150 crore from Rs 185 crore. Suzlon Energy's net profit rose 90.6% to Rs 387 crore from Rs 203 crore. Colgate Palmolive's net profit fell 2.3% to Rs 330 crore from Rs 322 crore. The rupee weakened by 20 paise to settle at 86.53 against the dollar. Bharat Electricals bagged an order worth Rs 531 crore. JSW Infra's net profit rose 31.7% to Rs 329 crore from Rs 250 crore. Swiggy shares, which had fallen 15% in the last six sessions, reached the IPO price of Rs 390. Bajaj Housing's net interest income rose 25%. GE Shipping's profit rose 10.4% to Rs 538 crore from Rs 594 crore. CG Power Industries' net profit fell 68% to Rs 241 crore. Hindustan Zinc's net profit rose 30% to Rs 2650 crore.

1. Bajaj Finance

Bajaj Finance is one of India's leading diversified NBFCs, offering lending and asset management services. It specializes in consumer loans, SME loans, commercial lending, and rural financ-



ing. Bajaj Finance's consistent earnings growth, strong balance sheet, and high ROE (~24%) make it an excellent long-term investment. However, valuation is high, so consider staggered investments.

2. HDFC Bank



India's largest private-sector bank, known for its extensive retail and corporate banking portfolio. It benefits from a robust distribution network and a strong focus on digitalization. A blue-chip stock offering steady compounding returns. Its healthy capital adequacy ratio (~19%) and strong brand make it a safe long-term investment.

3. TVS Motor Company



TVS Motors is one of India's largest two-wheeler manufacturers, with a growing presence in international markets. It has a robust product lineup spanning motorcycles, scooters, and electric vehicles (EVs). Positive outlook due to EV growth and export demand. A good option for investors seeking growth in the automobile sector.

4. Tata Steel



Tata Steel is one of the largest steel producers in India, with operations spanning Europe, India, and Southeast Asia. It benefits from a diversified product mix and strong domestic demand. While cyclical, Tata Steel is a solid long-term bet due to its low-cost production and diversified operations. Investors should watch commodity price trends before investing.



5. Bharti Airtel

Bharti Airtel is a leading telecom operator in India, with a growing presence in Africa. It provides mobile, broadband, and enterprise services. A promising stock with long-term growth potential driven by rising data consumption, premium ARPU, and expanding 5G services. Suitable for investors with moderate risk tolerance.



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Tiger Urine for Sale in China: Controversy Surrounds Alleged Medicinal Claims

The sale of tiger urine at a popular wildlife zoo in China is sparking significant debate. Ya'an Bifengxia Wildlife Zoo, located in the Sichuan province, has been offering bottles of Siberian tiger urine, claiming it has therapeutic properties. According to a report by the *South China Morning Post*, each 250-gram bottle is sold for 50 yuan (approximately Rs 596). Despite no scientific evidence backing these claims, the zoo asserts that the tiger urine can help alleviate conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, muscle pain, and sprains.



The zoo provides a guide with instructions on how to use the urine. The purported remedy involves mixing the urine with white wine and ginger, applying it to the affected area for relief. The zoo even suggests that the urine may be ingested, although it advises caution for individuals with allergies. However, questions remain about the safety and hygiene of this practice. A staff member at the zoo revealed that the urine is collected in a basin, but it remains unclear whether the substance is properly disinfected before being sold to customers.

While the sales of tiger urine are reportedly limited to an average of two bottles per day, the zoo's actions are raising concerns among animal rights advocates and the broader public. The zoo's previous use of tiger urine as a prize in a reality show back in 2014 has also drawn criticism for trivializing animal exploitation. Despite these controversies, the practice continues to attract attention from visitors eager to try what is marketed as a traditional remedy.

The sale of animal-derived products like tiger urine highlights ongoing debates around traditional medicine and animal conservation. Many experts argue that such practices may contribute to the illegal wildlife trade and harm endangered species like the Siberian tiger, which is already facing significant threats to its survival.

Food Products From Andaman And Nicobar Islands Get GI Recognition

In a landmark move to preserve India's cultural heritage and boost local economies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during the 118th episode of *Mann Ki Baat*, announced the grant of Geographical Indication (GI) tags to seven distinct food products from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Among the highlighted products, Nicobari Tavi-i-Ngaich Virgin Coconut Oil, Nicobar Coconut, and Andaman Karen Musley Rice were particularly praised for their unique benefits and cultural significance.



Nicobari Tavi-i-Ngaich Virgin Coconut Oil

This high-quality virgin coconut oil is made using traditional methods passed down by the Nicobarese people. It is celebrated for its numerous health benefits, including pain relief, skincare, and its high antioxidant properties. Additionally, its rich Medium-Chain Triglyceride (MCT) content supports fat burning, weight loss, and provides a quick energy boost. Unrefined, unbleached, and free of preservatives, this oil has now gained a GI tag, which confirms its authenticity and excellence, enhancing its chances for international recognition.

Andaman Karen Musley Rice

Grown by the Karen community in the Andaman Islands, Musley Rice is an organic, monocarpic variety cultivated using sustainable and traditional farming methods. This rice variety is ecologically and culturally significant, promoting food security while conserving biodiversity. The GI tag will help

boost the identity of Musley Rice, benefiting local farmers and improving their financial well-being while continuing to support eco-friendly agricultural practices.

Nicobar Coconut

Native to the Nicobar Islands, this coconut variety is renowned for its health benefits, including skincare, cardiovascular health, and rich fibre content. The coconuts are harvested by the Nicobarese people who hand-shred them and cold-press them to extract high-quality oil. The GI certification will help enhance the product's market recognition, especially since it forms the foundation for the highly popular Virgin Coconut Oil industry.

These products, now officially recognized by the Government of India with GI tags, will not only preserve the unique cultural identity of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands but also promote sustainable economic growth in the region.

82% of Children Aged 14-16 Know How to Use Smartphones: ASER Report



The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) has revealed some significant insights into the use of smartphones and education trends among children in rural India. According to the 2024 ASER findings, over 82% of children aged 14 to 16 are familiar with using smartphones, but only 57% of them actively use the devices for educational purposes.

The report highlights a major improvement in the educational landscape since the pandemic, including a notable recovery from learning losses experienced during the COVID-19 crisis. Learning levels in primary classes are reportedly higher than before, and the percentage of children enrolled in Class 1 who are under-age has dropped to its lowest level ever at 16.7%.

Another key takeaway from the ASER 2023 findings is that the proportion of children aged 6 to 14 enrolled in government schools has nearly returned to the levels seen in 2018, signaling a steady recovery. However, the report also notes that the surge in government school enrollments seen during the pandemic has started to reverse in recent years.

Additionally, the ASER 2023 data points to a high rate of school enrollment among older children, with over 86.8% of youngsters aged 14 to 18 enrolled in educational institutions. More than half of these students have chosen the humanities stream, a trend that signals a shift in educational preferences.

What is ASER?

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is a citizen-led household survey that provides insights into the schooling and learning status of children in rural India. First conducted in 2005, the survey has been a vital tool in tracking education trends, with a focus on enrollment, learning outcomes, and access to educational resources. It includes data on preschool and school enrollment for children aged 3 to 16, as well as assessments of foundational reading and arithmetic skills for children aged 5 to 16.

These findings help shape policies and initiatives aimed at improving education quality in rural areas of India.

NASA Study Reveals How Black Holes "Create Their Meals" Through Outbursts

A new study from NASA has uncovered a fascinating process through which black holes in galaxy clusters "create their meals" by cooling down surrounding gas. The research, led by Valeria Olivares from the University of Santiago de Chile, analyzed data from NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory and the Very Large Telescope (VLT). It focuses on seven galaxy clusters, including the well-known Perseus and Centaurus clusters, where supermassive black holes reside at their centers.

These black holes, with masses ranging from millions to billions of times that of the Sun, play a crucial role in regulating the environment of their host galaxies. The study reveals that black holes cause internal outbursts that cool down the surrounding gas, leading to the formation of warm filaments. These filaments aid in the black holes' growth by drawing gas



toward their centers, where it serves as their "meal."

The study also highlights how turbulence in the surrounding gas boosts the triggering of these outbursts, setting off a cycle of repeated gas cooling and feeding. As the gas cools, it feeds the black holes, triggering another outburst and continuing the cycle. This process, as identified in the study, is fundamental to understanding the connection between the brightness of hot and warm gas filaments found at the

centers of galaxy clusters.

Astronomers have now identified, for the first time, a direct relationship between the brightness of hot and warm gas filaments, especially in areas with bright hot gas, which also show similar brightness in the warm gas. Interestingly, these filaments bear resemblance to the trailing structures seen in jellyfish galaxies, which shed gas while moving through space, creating similar patterns. This surprising link

suggests that a common cosmic process may govern both phenomena.

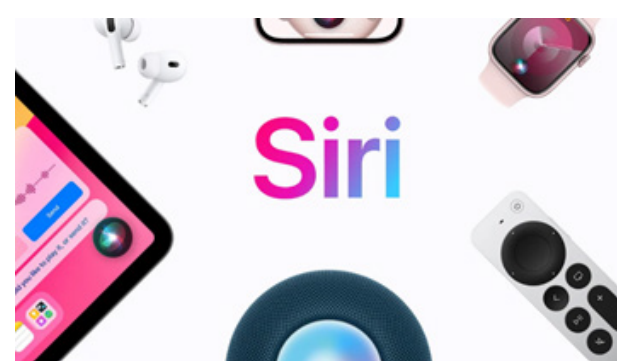
The research, published in *Nature Astronomy* on January 27, brings together a global team of experts in optical and X-ray observations, and was conducted using the MUSE (Multi Unit Spectroscopic Explorer) instrument on the VLT. This breakthrough could have profound implications for how we understand the behavior of supermassive black holes and their influence on galaxy formation.

iOS 18.4 Update to Bring Major Siri Upgrades and New Features

Apple's iOS 18.4 update is set to arrive by April, and it promises to bring significant upgrades, particularly to Siri, as well as new emojis and language support for Apple's suite of AI-powered tools. This new release follows the iOS 18.3 update and is expected to be one of the more substantial updates for iPhone users in recent months.

According to Bloomberg's Mark Gurman in his *Power On* newsletter, iOS 18.4 will feature a major overhaul of Siri, Apple's digital assistant. This update will enable Siri to tap into a user's personal data to provide more personalized and accurate responses. The digital assistant will reportedly be able to analyze data such as emails, messages, photos, calendar events, and files, tailoring its answers based on the individual's activities and information stored on their device.

Another noteworthy feature of the iOS



18.4 update is the introduction of upgraded App Intents software, which will allow users to have more precise control over their devices through voice commands. This enhancement aims to improve the overall user experience, making Siri even more powerful and responsive to individual needs.

In addition to these advancements in Apple's AI features, the iOS 18.4 update will also bring a range of new emojis. The up-

date is expected to include a new fingerprint emoji, a face with bags under the eyes, a harp, a root vegetable, a leafless tree, and various splatter emojis, adding more fun and expression to conversations.

Furthermore, iOS 18.4 will offer expanded language support for Apple Intelligence tools, making them accessible to more users around the world. New languages, including Chinese, English (India), English (Singapore), French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese, will be supported in the update, allowing more people to take advantage of these advanced AI features.

With these exciting updates, iOS 18.4 is shaping up to be an important release for Apple users, offering improved functionality and new ways to interact with their devices.

Virat Kohli Declines Delhi Captaincy, Returns to Ranji Trophy Action After 12 Years

Virat Kohli, one of India's greatest Test captains, is set to make his first domestic cricket appearance since 2012 in Delhi's final Ranji Trophy group match against Railways, starting Wednesday at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Despite being offered the captaincy for the match, Kohli declined the role, allowing Ayush Badoni to continue leading the side.

Kohli last captained Delhi in the 2013 Challenger Trophy but has chosen to focus on contributing as a player in this game. His decision mirrors that of Rishabh Pant, who also declined captaincy duties earlier in the tournament. Pant, however, will miss this match to rest ahead of the upcoming white-ball season and the Champions Trophy.

The 36-year-old Kohli joined Delhi's training session on Tuesday after preparing under former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar in Ali-baug. Arriving at the stadium early, Kohli par-



ticipated in team drills, including a football warm-up session, before hitting the nets under the guidance of head coach Sarandeep Singh. This return comes amidst criticism of Kohli's recent form following a challenging series against New Zealand and Australia. However, his relaxed demeanor and determination during practice indicate his focus on regaining form in the red-ball format.

England Wins 3rd T20 Against India, Chasing Struggles for Team India

In the third T20 match of the five-match series, England defeated Team India by 26 runs at Rajkot. After losing the toss, England batted first and posted a total of 171/9 in their allotted 20 overs. India, in response, could only manage 145/9 in 20 overs, falling short of the target.

Hardik Pandya was the top scorer for India with 40 runs, followed by opener Abhishek Sharma with 24 and Tilak Varma with 18. Other notable contributions included Axar Patel (15) and captain Suryakumar Yadav (14). However, the rest of the batting line-up faltered, with Sanju Samson (3), Washington Sundar (6), and Dhruv Jurel (2) failing to deliver. England's bowlers were impressive, with Jamie



Overton taking 3 wickets, Jofra Archer and Brydon Carse picking up 2 wickets each, and Mark Wood and Adil Rashid claiming one wicket apiece.

This victory reduces India's series lead to 2-1. The fourth T20 match is scheduled for January 31 in Pune.

Padma Shri Para-Archer Harvinder Singh: "I Want to Take My Father and Wife to Rashtrapati Bhavan"

World No. 1 para-archer Harvinder Singh, renowned for consistently hitting the bullseye, has achieved another milestone—being conferred with the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest



civilian award. This recognition holds historical significance as Singh becomes the first Indian para-archer to receive this prestigious honor. Recalling the moment he received the news, Singh shared, "I got a call from the ministry on January 25, informing me about the award. At first, I didn't tell anyone, as I wanted to be sure. By evening, congratulatory messages started pouring in, confirming it was true." Singh expressed his desire to take

both his wife, Manpreet Kaur, and father, Sardar Paramjeet Singh, to the Rashtrapati Bhavan for the award ceremony. "My wife said she wanted to accompany me, and when I told my father, he was overjoyed. I hope I can take them both—it makes them happy to see my achievements," he said with pride. Harvinder Singh's remarkable journey is a testament to his resilience and determination, inspiring many in the field of sports and beyond.

Shubhankar Sharma Calls International Series India a "Homecoming"

Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma expressed excitement ahead of the US\$2 million International Series India, set to take place from January 30 to February 2 at the DLF Golf and Country Club in Gurugram. Sharma, a two-time Asian Tour winner, described the tournament as a "homecoming," highlighting the camaraderie and competitive spirit among Indian and international players. The tournament boasts a stellar lineup, including LIV Golf stars Bryson DeChambeau and Joaquin Niemann. However, Sharma remains wary of the challenge posed by fellow Indian golfers like Anirban Lahiri, Gaganjeet Bhullar, and veterans Jeev Milkha Singh, S.S.P. Chawrasia, and Shiv Kapur. Rising stars Yuvraj Sandhu and Karandeep Khochhar add depth to the field, making it a fiercely contested event.



Reflecting on his journey, Sharma praised the Asian Tour for shaping

his career, noting, "The Asian Tour has always been my home." He emphasized the growth of Indian golf and the increasing competition, attributing much of the progress to The International Series. Sharma concluded by expressing gratitude for the opportunity to compete on home soil, calling it "a great atmosphere" and a chance to connect with familiar faces.

Neymar and Al-Hilal Mutually Agree to Terminate Contract

Brazilian football star Neymar has parted ways with Al-Hilal after an injury-marred 18-month tenure. The Saudi Arabian club announced on Monday that they had mutually agreed to terminate his contract. "The club expresses its thanks and appreciation to Neymar for his contributions and wishes him success in his career," Al-Hilal said in a statement.

Neymar joined Al-Hilal in August 2023, reportedly earning \$104 million annually. However, injuries limited him to just seven appearances. Shortly

after arriving, he suffered a cruciate ligament rupture during a World Cup qualifier in October 2023, sidelining him for a year. Subsequent brief appearances in late 2024 were cut short by a hamstring injury.

Neymar, 32, remains focused on playing in the 2026 World Cup, describing it as his "last shot." Reports suggest Santos, his first club, may bring him back to Brazil, marking a potential end to his illustrious career, which includes a world-record transfer to PSG and 79 goals for Brazil in 127 matches.



Uzbek GM Yakubboev Clarifies Handshake Snub with India's Vaishali



Uzbekistan Grandmaster (GM) Nodirbek Yakubboev sparked controversy after refusing to shake hands with Indian chess player Vaishali Rameshbabu during the fourth round of the Challengers' section. The incident, captured on video, showed Vaishali extending her hand for a handshake, which Yakubboev declined, sitting down instead. The snub left Vaishali visibly uncomfortable and triggered criticism on social media. In response, Yakubboev issued a public apology and explained his actions on social media platform 'X'. "I do not touch women for religious reasons," he clarified, expressing respect for Vaishali and her brother, Indian chess prodigy R Praggnanandhaa. Yakubboev acknowledged his previous handshake with Indian GM Divya Deshmukh in 2023, calling it a mistake and reaffirming his commitment to his beliefs.

To avoid similar situations, Yakubboev informed Romania's Irina Bulmaga about his stance before their eighth-round match, agreeing to a "Namaste" gesture as a compromise. Yakubboev lost to Vaishali in their match but defeated Bulmaga later, securing four points from eight rounds. Vaishali is currently in sixth place with 4.5 points.

Trisha Gongadi's Record Century Powers India to Victory



TPN Correspondent

Hyderabad, Jan 29 : Telangana cricketer Gongadi Trisha made history in the ICC Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup by scoring an unbeaten century in just 53 balls against Scotland in a Super Six match on Tuesday. Trisha became the first woman cricketer to score a century in the Women's Under-19 World Cup.

In the match held in Malaysia, Scotland won the toss and elected to field. India's openers, Trisha and Kamalini, set the tone with an explosive start. By the end of the powerplay, India had reached 67-0, and the opening pair added a record-breaking 147 runs for the first wicket. Trisha finished with 110* off 59 balls, hitting 13 fours and 4 sixes. Kamalini also contributed with a solid 51 off 42 balls.

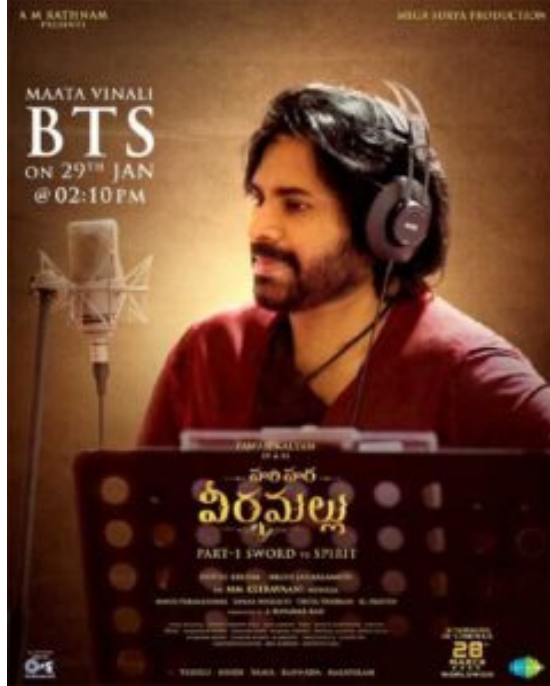
India posted an impressive total of 208/1 in 20 overs. Trisha didn't just shine with the bat; she also excelled with the ball, taking 3 wickets for just 6 runs. India's bowlers dominated as well, with Ayushi Shukla claiming 4 wickets for 8 runs and Vaishnavi Sharma taking 3 wickets for 5 runs. Scotland was bowled out for just 58 runs, giving India a comprehensive victory.



HHVM Team Announces Exciting Treat for Pawan Kalyan Fans

The Hari Hara Veera Mallu (HHVM) team is all set to treat Pawan Kalyan fans with an exciting new release! The much-anticipated first single of the movie, "Mata Vinali," sung by none other than Pawan Kalyan himself, has already made waves among fans who can't seem to get enough of it. Adding to the excitement, the team has now announced that they will be releasing a special behind-the-scenes video of the song's recording on January 29, 2025, at 02:10 PM.

The announcement came alongside a charming picture of Pawan Kalyan, captured in the midst of singing the track, which has only fueled fan excitement. This reveal is sure to give fans a unique glimpse into the making of the song and further amplify anticipation for the film.



The movie, a pan-Indian action-adventure, stars Nidhhi Agerwal as the heroine, with Bollywood actor Bobby Deol playing a significant role. The film also boasts a stellar ensemble cast featuring Nasser, Sunil, Raghubabu, Subbaraju, and Nora Fatehi, all set to play pivotal characters.

Hari Hara Veera Mallu is produced by Mega Surya Production and is directed by the talented Krish Jagarlamudi and Jyoti Krisna. The film features music by MM

Keeravaani, known for his powerful compositions, which have already set the bar high for the movie's musical score.

Set to release on March 28, 2025, Hari Hara Veera Mallu is generating massive buzz, and with Pawan Kalyan's involvement in both acting and singing, fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release. This behind-the-scenes video promises to be an exclusive treat, making the wait for the movie even more exciting for PSPK fans.

Madras High Court Dismisses Netflix's Plea in Dhanush vs Nayanthara Copyright Dispute

In a significant legal development, the Madras High Court has dismissed Netflix India's plea to reject a copyright lawsuit filed by actor Dhanush against Nayanthara. The lawsuit stems from Nayanthara's use of a three-second film clip from Dhanush's production in her documentary, *Nayanthara: Beyond The Fairy Tale*, without his permission.

Dhanush, through his company Wunderber Films Private Limited, approached the court in November 2024. His suit claims that Nayanthara, her husband Vignesh Shivan, and their production house, Rowdy Pictures Private Limited, used visuals from the film *Naanum Rowdy Dhaan* in the Netflix original documentary. Dhanush's legal action came after he threatened to take legal steps if the footage was not removed within 24 hours. His legal team issued a statement demanding the removal of the infringing content and warned of seeking Rs 10 crore in damages if their request was ignored.

Nayanthara, in response, took to Instagram, expressing her disappointment over Dhanush's demand, calling it an "all-time low." She criticized the actor for seeking such a hefty sum over a few seconds of footage, a move that has sparked controversy.



As part of his petition, Dhanush also sought permission from the court to sue Los Gatos Production Services India LLP, a Mumbai-based company that handles Netflix's content investments in India. This petition is aimed at addressing the broader scope of content rights and ensuring that Dhanush's intellectual property is protected.

The court's dismissal of Netflix's plea has given Dhanush a legal victory, affirming the importance of intellectual property rights in the entertainment industry. This ongoing legal battle highlights the complexities surrounding the use of copyrighted content and the expectations of compensation for unauthorized usage.



Paayal Rajput Stuns in Pink Perfection with Her Latest Style Statement

Paayal Rajput is turning heads once again with her fashion-forward look, and this time, it's all about pink perfection! The actress was recently spotted in a jaw-dropping outfit that perfectly blended glam and playfulness. She wore a dazzling pink sequin crop top paired with a thigh-high slit skirt that hugged her curves in all the right ways. The ensemble was a visual treat, and Paayal looked every bit the fashion icon as she confidently strutted her stuff.

To complete the look, Paayal opted for silver accessories, including bold earrings and a matching necklace, which added a touch of sophistication to her outfit. She tied her hair into a sleek high bun, adding an extra layer of elegance to the chic ensemble. Her radiant smile and bold pink lipstick were the perfect finishing touches, ensuring all eyes were on her as she stepped out.

Paayal's style game is undeniably on point, and she continues to captivate fans with her fashion choices. Whether it's her playful yet glamorous outfits or her confident demeanor, she knows how to turn a simple look into a statement. The actress definitely knows how to paint the town pink, proving once again why she's a style star to watch.

On the professional front, Paayal is currently filming for the highly anticipated Telugu movie *Kirathaka*. Fans are eagerly awaiting her next big-screen appearance, as she continues to make waves both on and off-screen. With her impeccable sense of style and undeniable talent, Paayal Rajput is surely one to watch in the coming years.

Mahesh Babu, Jr NTR, and Hrithik Roshan in 'War 2': What's the Real Scoop?



Excitement is building up around the upcoming film *War 2*, directed by Ayan Mukerji, especially with rumors swirling about a star-studded lineup. The movie, a part of the YRF Spy Universe, features Bollywood icons Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR, along with Kiara Advani playing the female lead. Set in the spy genre, *War 2* has already caught the attention of movie lovers, but some interesting rumors about Tollywood superstar Mahesh Babu have taken it up a notch.

Speculation has been running wild that Mahesh Babu will appear in *War 2*, creating a buzz among fans and media. However, insiders suggest that Mahesh Babu will not be acting in the film but rather lending his voice to the Telugu version. This marks a significant collaboration, as Mahesh Babu will provide his voice for the Telugu adaptation of the movie, while Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor is reportedly voicing the Hindi version. An official announcement confirming these details

is expected soon.

If these reports hold true, *War 2* will mark the second collaboration between Jr NTR and Mahesh Babu. The two stars previously worked together when Mahesh Babu provided a voice-over for Jr NTR's *Baadshah*, further adding to the excitement of this new project.

Meanwhile, the glimpses of *War 2* released by the makers have already gone viral, sparking curiosity about the film's plot and action sequences. Fans are eagerly awaiting the grand release, which is slated for August 14, 2025. As the sixth installment in the YRF Spy Universe, following successful films like *Ek Tha Tiger*, *Tiger Zinda Hai*, *War*, *Pathaan*, and *Tiger 3*, expectations are sky-high for *War 2* to deliver yet another blockbuster.

The buzz surrounding the film is only growing, with fans eagerly anticipating the twists, turns, and star power that *War 2* promises.