

POINT

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Weather Forecast

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

IS AP SAFE FOR NRI INVESTMENTS?

NRI's are suffering in AP

They are not daring to invest here

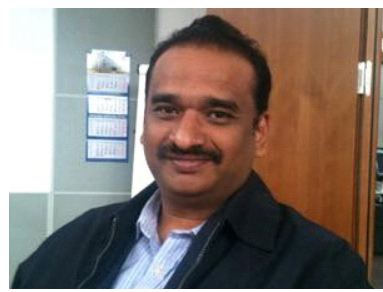
In one instance, an NRI has been cheated

He has invested 8 Crores in Helapuri College, Eluru

But, after the change in Government, terms changed

Now, they want to withdraw, but no repayment is assured

MLA Chintamaneni and his Shadow Millu Babu started threatening NRI



TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, FEB 10

Is AP not safe for NRI investments due to political intervention, irrespective of the parties? The issues coming to the forefront and the problems faced by NRIs who have invested in different sectors are raising this question. We have seen earlier about the NRI Hospital, where a power broker made those NRIs, who had founded it, silent spectators while the hospital changed hands. Let's look at an instance where an NRI not only lost his money but also his confidence in the politicians, whom he had trusted to solve his problem. According to the details provided by the NRI, the story goes as follows: In Eluru, Helapuri Institute of Technology and Science has been operating for the last 15 years. The chairman of the college is Mr. Ramesh, and the secretary is Mr. Atluri Srinivasa Rao. Three years ago, they were considering selling the institution and approached an NRI for the sale. The NRI discussed and agreed to invest Rs. 18 crores as per the agreement. They paid Rs. 8 crores, and for the balance, they agreed on a timeline as per the mutual understanding. However, elections were held, and the government changed. The management of the college had strong connections

with the TDP, and that is when they changed their stance after the elections. They not only changed their tone but also their demands. They started asking for interest on the period during which the NRI had taken time to pay the balance amount. Additionally, they increased the sale price and raised the share price. After these typical discussions, the NRI team asked the management to show the accounts for the period, but received no satisfactory response. Meanwhile, allegations against the secretary, Mr. Atluri Srinivasa Rao, became a major issue, and the NRI sought clarification on this but to no avail. Seeing the change in the college management's approach and attitude, the NRI team approached the local MLA, Chintamaneni Prabhakar, with a reference from an MP of the ruling party. Mr. Chintamaneni listened to the entire story and instructed the Sub Inspector of Pedavegi to take the complaint and not register it, as he himself would handle the issue. Following the MLA's directions, they went to the police station and met Sub Inspector Mr. Rajendra Kumar, who took a detailed complaint. However, the situation took a turn from here. The NRI received a call from Millu Babu Maganti, who is associated with MLA Chintamaneni.

Mr. Millu suggested that they withdraw the complaint and agreed to a settlement. The NRI team rejected the proposal and did not respond afterward. Yet, Mr. Millu continued calling and began threatening them directly. The NRI informed MLA Chintamaneni about these threats, but the MLA directed them to meet Mr. Millu only. The NRI concluded that the MLA had colluded with the management of the college and began pressuring them. Subsequently, the management issued termination letters to the NRI team from the directorship of the institution in an illegal manner. This is the reality of NRI investments in the state. If the government cannot protect them and their investments, how can they expect NRIs to invest in the state? The so-called protector turned villain in this episode. If management with connections to the ruling party is allowed to act with impunity, what's the difference between the YSRC and TDP alliances ruling the state? The NRI team is now confused about whom to approach for justice. They are hoping the government will step in and resolve the issue, and that is their last hope. If the situation continues as it is, NRIs will rethink investing in the state, where political intervention seems inevitable at every stage.



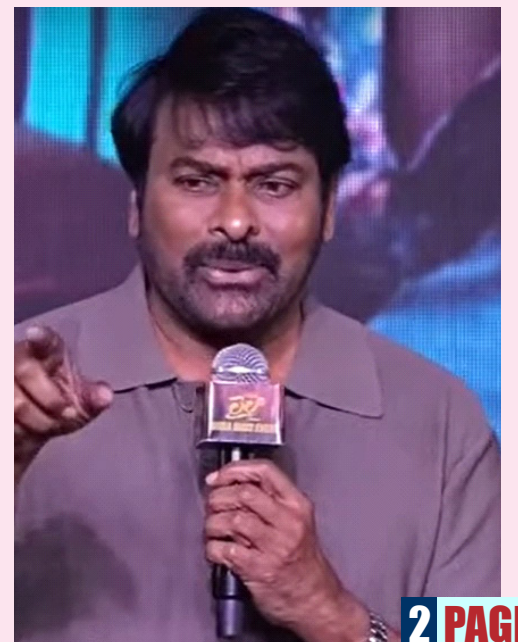
Babu Vs Kejriwal Arrest: A Case Study!

- Chandrababu Naidu's arrest backfires on YSRC, leading to TDP's 93% electoral success.
- Kejriwal's pre-election arrest fails to generate sympathy, resulting in a shocking defeat.
- Public rejection of fabricated cases boosts Chandrababu, while corruption charges damage Kejriwal.

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"Praja Rajyam Transformed Into Jana Sena"

Chiranjeevi's comments spark excitement among fans

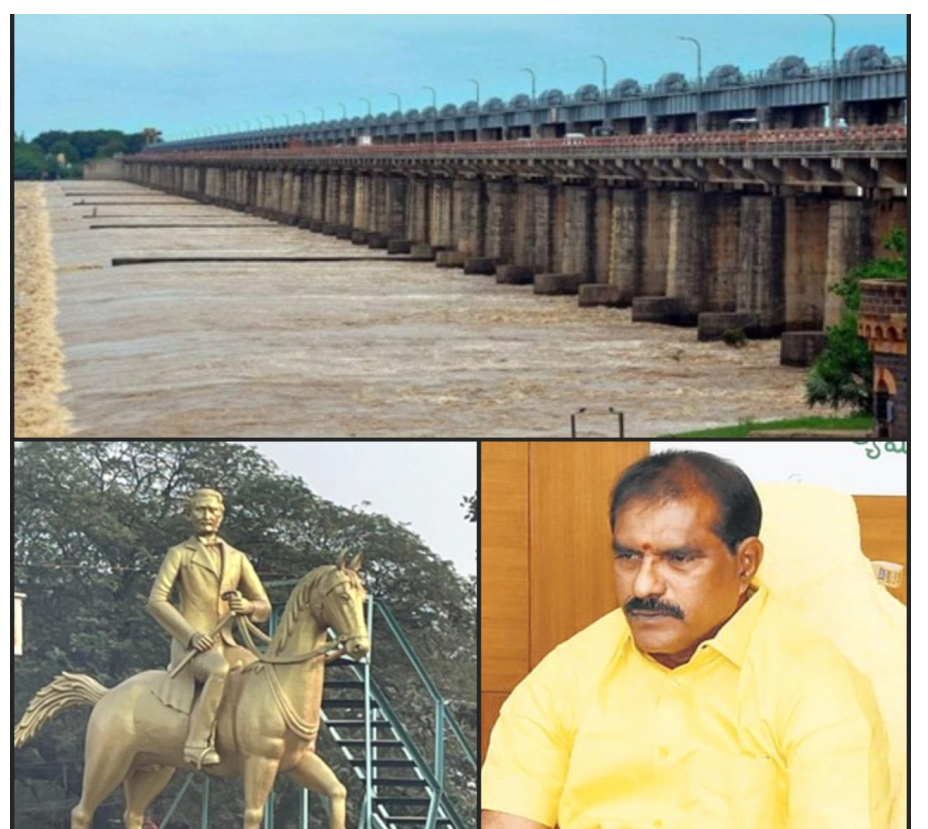


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JanaSena Suspends Kiran Royal Amid Serious Allegations

Party takes action after accusations of financial fraud and harassment surface

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Dhavaleswaram Barrage Needs Minister Nimmala's Attention

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Babu Vs Kejriwal Arrest: A Case Study!

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Feb 10

A common belief in Indian politics suggests that a chief ministerial candidate who is jailed often returns stronger in the next election. This has been proven in the past with leaders like Jagan Mohan Reddy and Revanth Reddy. However, recent political developments involving Chandrababu Naidu and Arvind Kejriwal provide a striking contrast, making for a fascinating case study.

Chandrababu Naidu was arrested six months before the Andhra Pradesh elections in the alleged Skill Development Scam, a move widely seen as a political vendetta by the YSRCP government. The arrest was intended to weaken the morale of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and its support base. However, the strategy backfired spectacularly. The public of Andhra Pradesh overwhelmingly rejected Jagan Mohan Reddy's tactics, propelling the NDA alliance, led by Chandrababu, to a stunning 93% strike rate victory in the 2024 elections. The very move meant to weaken him turned into a rallying point for voters, ensuring his return as Chief Minister and leaving Jagan without even the status of the Leader of the Opposition.

In contrast, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was also arrested six months before elections in connection with the Delhi Liquor Scam. Like Chandrababu, Kejriwal's party, AAP, attempted to frame his arrest as a political conspiracy, hoping for a sympathy wave to carry them to victory. However, the results painted a completely different picture. Not only did AAP fail to secure a decisive mandate, but Kejriwal himself suffered a humiliating loss in the New Delhi assembly constituency.

The comparison between these two cases highlights the crucial role of public perception. While Chandrababu Naidu's arrest was widely seen as politically motivated and unjust, Kejriwal's case was linked to corruption, which significantly damaged his credibility. Voters in Andhra Pradesh turned their frustration into a historic electoral mandate in Naidu's favor, whereas in Delhi, the corruption allegations against AAP eroded public trust, leading to Kejriwal's personal defeat.

Ultimately, these events prove that not every arrest translates into political resurgence. The people's perception of whether a leader is a victim of political targeting or genuinely involved in wrongdoing can make all the difference.

International Energy Festival Urges Stronger Energy Efficiency Measures

- BEE sets AP's energy-saving target at 6.68 Mtoe by 2030.
- India's goal: 150 Mtoe savings and 45% emission intensity reduction by 2030.
- Three major energy efficiency programs launched in AP with CM Naidu's presence.

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Feb 10

The International Energy Festival of Kerala (IEFK-2025), held from February 7-9, emphasized the urgent need for enhanced energy efficiency measures across India. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, has urged State Designated Agencies (SDAs) to actively contribute to the national energy conservation movement, which plays a crucial role in economic growth and climate change mitigation. BEE has outlined a target of 150 million tonnes of oil equivalent (Mtoe) in energy savings by 2030, with Andhra Pradesh receiving a specific goal of 6.68 Mtoe. Experts at the event highlighted the importance of public-private collaboration in achieving these ambitious goals.

Urgency of Climate Action

The energy sector contributes nearly 75% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Without significant intervention, global temperatures could surpass the critical 1.5°C limit set by the Paris Agreement. The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified air pollution as a major health risk, linked to respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, while poor waste management exacerbates water contamination.

To strengthen India's commitment to climate action, BEE has introduced two key guidelines:

- **Detailed Procedure for Compliance Mechanism**
- **Accreditation Procedure and Eligibility Criteria for Carbon Verification Agencies**

These initiatives aim to bolster India's Carbon Market Framework (ICM), aligning with the nation's target to reduce emission intensity by 45% by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2070.

India's Carbon Market: Key Features

- **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS):** Allows industries to trade carbon credits, encouraging



emission reductions.

- **Compliance Mechanism: Industries exceeding reduction targets earn credits, while those falling short must purchase them.**
- **Offset Mechanism: Renewable energy and low-carbon projects can voluntarily participate, expanding credit availability.**
- **Regulatory Oversight: The ICM portal, developed with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), ensures transparency in carbon trading.**

Andhra Pradesh's Commitment to Energy Efficiency The Government of Andhra Pradesh, under Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, recently launched three major energy efficiency programs in collaboration with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL):

- **URJAVEER Program: Promoting energy-efficient appliances.**
- **National Efficiency Cooking Program: Supplying induction stoves to Anganwadi Centers.**
- **Energy-Efficient Appliances for PMAY Households: Encouraging voluntary adoption of efficient appliances in government housing schemes.**

These initiatives are expected to significantly accelerate energy savings and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reinforcing Andhra Pradesh's leadership in energy conservation. The IEFK-2025 commended Kerala's efforts in positioning itself as a carbon-free state and emphasized the need for sustained climate action nationwide.

Praja Rajyam Transformed Into Jana Sena, Says Megastar

TPN Correspondent
Hyderabad, Feb 10

Megastar Chiranjeevi, who attended the pre-release event of Vishwak Sen's upcoming film Laila as the chief guest, made key remarks about Praja Rajyam and Jana Sena. While introducing Karate Raju, a former associate from Praja Rajyam, Chiranjeevi unexpectedly raised the slogan "Jai Jana Sena," drawing loud applause from the audience.

Chiranjeevi went on to state that Praja Rajyam has now transformed into Jana Sena, expressing his happiness over the evolution of the party. His statement quickly gained traction on social media, with both Mega fans and Jana Sena supporters celebrating his remarks.

Chiranjeevi had founded the Praja Rajyam Party on August 26, 2008, with the vision that "in Praja Rajyam, people are the rulers, and I am their heir." Pawan Kalyan led its youth wing, Yuvarajyam. In the 2009 Andhra Pradesh Assembly elections, the party won 18 out of 294 seats with an 18% vote share. However, Chiranjeevi later merged Praja Rajyam with the Congress in August 2011 and went on to serve as a Union Minister.

During the state's bifurcation, Pawan Kalyan launched the Jana Sena Party, opting to support the TDP-BJP alliance in 2014 instead of contesting. In 2019, Jana Sena won one assembly seat. However, in the recent Andhra Pradesh elections, the party secured a massive victory, winning all 21 assembly seats it contested, along with two MP seats. As part of the ruling coalition with TDP and BJP, Pawan Kalyan has now taken charge as the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

All-Party Round Table on Irrigation & Backward Region Development

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 10

A round table meeting on irrigation projects and regional development was held under the aegis of the Backward Regions Development Forum in Vijayawada. The meeting saw the participation of several political leaders, farmers' associations, social activists, and student representatives, with notable figures such as former Union Minister Chintamohan, ex-MP Vadde Shobhanadeswara Rao, CPI State Secretary Ramakrishna, and CPM leaders in attendance. In a hard-hitting speech, former Union Minister Chintamohan squarely blamed past Chief Ministers from Rayalaseema for the region's stagnation. Listing out past CMs, he pointed out that despite their prolonged tenure, the region continues to suffer from underdevelopment and lack of irrigation projects. "Our Chief Ministers have forgotten us. Chandrababu Naidu ruled for 15 years, YSR and Jagan for 11 years combined, and others for nearly two decades. Yet, Rayalaseema remains backward," he said. Chintamohan also revisited the long-standing debate on Andhra Pradesh's capital, questioning the constant shifts from Kurnool to Hyderabad, then to Amaravati, later to Visakhapatnam, and now back to Amaravati.

Govt Allocated ₹320 Cr for Emergency Irrigation Works

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 10

Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu conducted an inspection of the Godavari watershed works in Yalamanchili, Palakollu constituency of West Godavari district. Speaking on the occasion, he criticized the previous YSRCP government for its negligence, stating that under Jagan Mohan Reddy's five-year rule, the irrigation department was completely ignored, leading to weakened and dangerous infrastructure. To address these issues, the Chandrababu Naidu-led

government sanctioned ₹320 crore for emergency irrigation works across the state. The minister set a deadline for completion by March, emphasizing the urgency of the repairs.

Recalling the flood crisis in Godavari, he said that due to lack of maintenance funds under Jagan's government, locals and youth had to work through the night to prevent dam breaches. The new administration is now prioritizing strengthening of dams, filling of drains, and repairing crucial structures such as gates, shutters, locks, and ropes—all of which were previously neglected.

Minister Narayana Announces Completion of 2.3 Lakh Houses Soon

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Feb 10

Minister Narayana has assured that 2.3 lakh houses will soon be completed and handed over to beneficiaries across the state. Speaking at a foundation stone-laying ceremony in TIDCO Colony, he em-

phasized that the government will also construct temples in 63 colonies as part of its commitment to holistic community development. Criticizing the previous YSRCP government, Minister Narayana stated that despite the construction of TIDCO houses during the TDP regime, they were not allocated to

the intended beneficiaries. He further alleged that the YSRCP government emptied the state treasury and diverted funds from the 15th Finance Commission, which were allocated by the central government. Highlighting financial mismanagement under Jagan Mohan Red-

dy's rule, he pointed out that in 2019, ₹5,350 crore allocated under the Asian Development Bank (ADB) funds was not supplemented with a required matching grant. He assured that the current administration would re-engage with the Centre to secure these funds and ensure their proper utilization.

JanaSena Suspends Kiran Royal Amid Serious Allegations

TPN Correspondent
Tirupati, Feb 10

JanaSena has taken strict disciplinary action against Tirupati in-charge Kiran Royal, suspending him from all party activities until further notice. This move comes after serious allegations of sexual and financial exploitation surfaced against him, leading to widespread controversy.

The issue gained traction after YSR Congress leaders and social media activists circulated videos and audio clips in which a woman named Lakshmi from Bairagapattu, Tirupati, accused Kiran Royal of fraud, threats, and abuse. According to reports, Lakshmi had loaned Kiran Royal nearly ₹20 lakh, and over



time, the amount increased to over ₹1 crore due to additional financial dealings. She alleged that when she asked for repayment, Kiran threatened her



and her children, forcing her to sign bonds and checks worth ₹30 lakh under duress. Unable to bear the harassment, Lakshmi attempted suicide and record-

ed a heartbreaking video, detailing the threats she faced. In the video, she stated that she wanted her money to go to her children even after her death. She is currently undergoing treatment at CMC Vellore, and her condition is being closely monitored.

Following the widespread circulation of these allegations, JanaSena leadership acted swiftly, suspending Kiran Royal from all party-related activities. In an official statement, the party announced that an internal investigation committee has been formed to examine the matter, and Kiran Royal will remain suspended until the inquiry is completed.

Reacting to the allegations, Kiran Royal has strongly denied any wrongdoing,

claiming that this is a politically motivated attack aimed at tarnishing his reputation. He has met with JanaSena's legal team and assured them that he will fight the accusations legally.

The controversy has further escalated as YSR Congress leaders actively push the narrative, highlighting Kiran Royal's past political jabs at Jagan Mohan Reddy. Many believe that his recent criticism of Jagan's governance and the "2.0" campaign may have triggered this political retaliation.

With the allegations and videos going viral on social media, this case has turned into a major political storm in Tirupati. The investigation's outcome will determine the future course of action for both Kiran Royal and JanaSena.

MP Purandeswari Asserts BJP's Commitment to Development

TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam, Feb 10

BJP State President Daggubati Purandeswari emphasized that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is not just a political entity, but a family that stands united for the nation's development. Addressing party workers in Visakhapatnam, she stated that BJP's growing influence is evident as people from all districts in Andhra Pradesh are coming forward to join the party.

Purandeswari dedicated the recent Delhi municipal victory to BJP workers, attributing the success to their relentless efforts. She asserted that the people of Delhi have chosen the BJP, believing in the power of a double-engine government for development. She also thanked the people of Delhi for their resounding support and expressed confidence that BJP will receive similar blessings wherever elections are held across the country.

Taking a sharp dig at the previous YSRCP government, Purandeswari accused it of misgovernance, factional politics, and corruption, particularly highlighting the liquor scam in Andhra Pradesh, comparing it to the one in Delhi that led to AAP's downfall. She declared that the unexpected victory of the NDA alliance in the state is proof of people's rejection of the past regime.

Purandeswari reaffirmed the BJP's unwavering commitment to Amaravati as



the state capital, dismissing any notion of shifting capital cities. She criticized the previous administration for neglecting the Polavaram project, stating that not even an inch of work progressed in the last five years. She assured that the Central Government is actively supporting Polavaram's completion.

On the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, she stated that the Union Government has taken responsibility to ensure its profitability. Addressing recent concerns over the renaming of the Waltair Division, she made it clear that BJP will not allow the name change to Visakhapatnam Division, preserving historical significance.

Regarding railway development, she assured that the BJP will take up the KK Line and Araku Railway Station issues with the Union Railway Minister, asserting that there is no question of giving up Araku Railway Station, and efforts will be made to keep it under the Visakhapatnam Division.

Purandeswari concluded by emphasizing the Central Government's full support for Andhra Pradesh, particularly in infrastructure development, road construction, and railway connectivity, ensuring that the state moves forward under the double-engine government's leadership.

Minister Kandula Durgesh Urges Support for Alliance MLC Candidate

TPN Correspondent
Eluru, Feb 10

State Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh has urged graduates from both Godavari districts to ensure the victory of alliance MLC candidate Perabathula Rajasekhara with an overwhelming majority. During his visit to Eluru on Sunday, the minister was given a grand welcome at the Jana Sena party office, where he addressed a press conference.

Minister Durgesh emphasized that a win for the alliance candidate would pave the way for employment generation and better policies for the unemployed youth. He criticized the previous YSRCP government, alleging that it had pushed the state into financial ruin over the past five years. In contrast, he highlighted the coalition government's swift reforms, including the payment of farmers' dues within 48 hours, development in the

tourism sector, and efficient utilization of Panchayat Raj funds.

He further noted that the coalition government has improved infrastructure in forest areas, ensuring better roads and electricity access. Minister Durgesh called upon graduates to support the alliance-backed candidate, stating that Perabathula Rajasekhara's victory would strengthen the government's reform agenda.

The event was attended by Eluru MLA Badeti Radhakrishnaiah (Chanti), Vijayawada RTC Zone Chairman Reddy Appalanaidu, Jana Sena State Secretary and Denduluru Coordinator Ghantasala Venkataalakshmi, Jana Sena senior leader Nara Seshu, District Election Convener BV Raghavaya Chowdhury, former Deputy Mayor Siripalli Prasad, Co-option member SMR Pedababu, and City President Nagireddy Kashi Naresh.



BJP MLA Vishnu Kumar Raju Criticizes YS Jagan



TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam, Feb 10

BJP MLA Vishnu Kumar Raju has lashed out at former Chief Minister and YSRCP

chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, sarcastically remarking that Jagan is living in an imaginary 2.0 world. Addressing the media at the BJP office in Visakhapatnam,

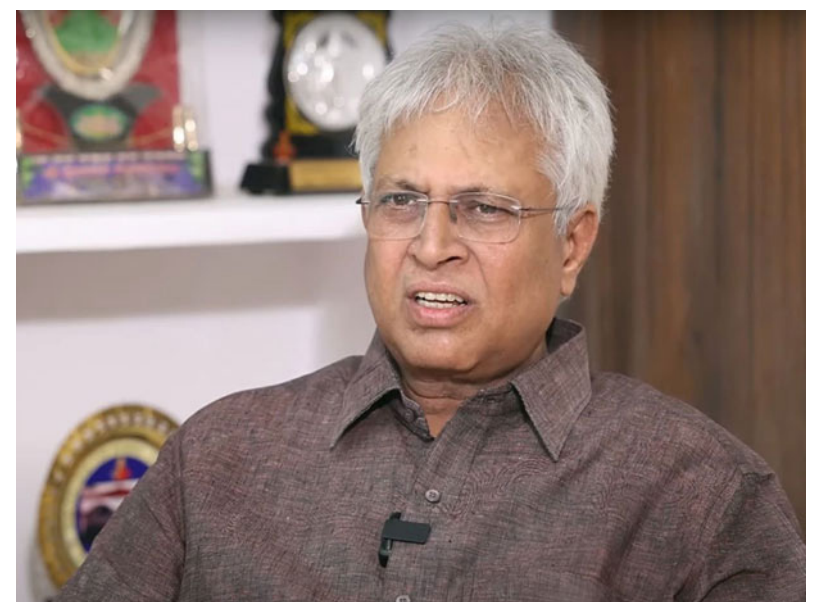
Raju claimed that Jagan's mental state is not stable and that his recent statements resemble movie dialogues rather than real-life politics.

Raju asserted that as long as Jagan remains the leader of YSRCP, the NDA alliance faces no threat in Andhra Pradesh. Drawing a parallel with national politics, he said, "As long as Rahul Gandhi leads the Congress at the national level and Jagan leads YSRCP here, BJP and NDA have nothing to worry about." He exuded confidence that BJP will secure victories from Delhi to the grassroots level in the upcoming elections.

Taking a firm stance on political decorum, Raju stated that leaders who use vulgar language should never be allowed into alliance parties. He also offered his personal opinion that the High Court bench should be set up in Rishikonda Palace, adding a sharp jibe at the controversial use of government properties under the previous administration.

Vishnu Kumar Raju concluded by stating that the NDA government will continue its string of successes, while the YSRCP will struggle to cover up its failures.

Undavalli Arun Kumar Into YSRCP, Does It Really Matter?



TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Feb 10

In the past few days, social media has been buzzing with reports that former Rajamahendravaram MP Undavalli Arun Kumar is set to join the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). However, political observers and ruling party leaders see this as a non-issue, arguing that Undavalli has always functioned as an unofficial YSRCP spokesperson despite projecting himself as a neutral intellectual.

During 2014-19, Undavalli frequently targeted TDP chief N. Chandrababu Naidu. Over the last five years, he remained silent on the excesses of the Jagan Mohan Reddy government, while also taking indirect jobs at Eenuad Group Chairman Ramoji Rao, who was vocal against YSRCP policies. Now, with the political tide turning and YSRCP in opposition, his formal entry into the party seems inconsequential.

Critics argue that Undavalli's so-called neutrality has always leaned toward YSRCP. His lack of response to Jagan filing cases against his own mother and sister raises questions

about his commitment to justice and integrity. Though he calls himself a true follower of YS Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR), his silence on the treatment of YSR's wife and daughter by Jagan's leadership has not gone unnoticed.

At over 70 years old, Undavalli holds little electoral value, as he is neither in a position to contest elections nor capable of mobilizing significant voter support. At best, he might hold a few press conferences, but his rhetoric would remain the same, regardless of his party affiliation.

Sources within the TDP and its allies suggest they are unconcerned about this development. Given Undavalli's history of opposing the ruling coalition, his potential alignment with YSRCP will only strengthen their counter-narrative. If he starts criticizing the government after officially joining YSRCP, it will only reinforce allegations of bias and weaken his credibility further. For now, TDP circles appear least bothered, viewing this news as irrelevant to the state's current political landscape.

MLA Prathipati Pullarao Slams Former Minister Rajini Over Corruption Allegations

TPN Correspondent
Chilakaluripet, Feb 10

Chilakaluripet MLA Prathipati Pullarao launched a scathing attack on former YSRCP minister Mekathoti Sucharitha (Rajini), accusing her of corrupt activities and abandoning her constituency. Responding to Rajini's recent statements, Pullarao alleged that she had created anarchy in Chilakaluripet before fleeing to Guntur. "Rajini looted Chilakaluripet along with her followers and left for Guntur, thinking people would forget her misdeeds. Now, after months of hiding, she has returned in a confused state," Pullarao stated.

The MLA accused Rajini of betraying the very people who voted for her, alleging that she and her supporters were involved in numerous scams. "She completely destroyed the welfare of the people here. We will expose all her misdeeds and recover everything she has taken," he added.

Challenges and Warnings
Pullarao further questioned Rajini's whereabouts over the past seven months, stating



that if she truly cared for the constituency, she should have stayed in Purushottapatnam instead of vanishing from public life. He challenged her to face the people instead of hiding behind political support from Jaganmohan Reddy and Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy.

"The previous YSRCP government supported her corruption and allowed her to rule with an iron fist. But I want to make one thing clear - in the coming days, I will ensure that justice is served, and she is held accountable for her actions," Pullarao declared.

As the political climate in Chilakaluripet heats up, Pullarao's statements indicate an intensified battle between the ruling NDA and the opposition YSRCP in the run-up to the upcoming elections.

Alliance Leaders Rally Support for MLC Candidate Perabathula Rajasekhara



TPN Correspondent
Ravulapalem, Feb 10

In a show of unity, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Jana Sena, and BJP alliance leaders and activists from both Godavari districts gathered in Devarapalli village, Ravulapalem mandal, to mobilize support for MLC candidate Perabathula Rajasekhara in the upcoming Graduates' Constituency elections.

Speaking at the MLC election campaign, Kothapet MLA Bandaru Satyananda Rao called upon graduates to actively participate in the electoral process and ensure Per-

abathula Rajasekhara's victory. "Graduates must go door to door and ensure that their valuable votes go to Perabathula Rajasekhara as their first priority," he urged.

Satyananda Rao emphasized that Rajasekhara would be a strong voice for graduates in the Legislative Council, fighting for their rights, employment opportunities, and educational reforms.

The meeting witnessed the active participation of alliance leaders, activists, and graduates, who pledged to intensify their campaign efforts in the coming days.

MLA Yarlagadda Venkatarao Faces Allegations of Favoritism Amid Internal Party Conflicts

Caste-Based Abuse Allegations and MLA's Intervention

Who is Gandikota Sittaiah?

Allegations Against Sittaiah

Political Influence and Financial Growth

Why is MLA Yarlagadda Venkatarao Supporting Sittaiah?

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 10

MLA Yarlagadda Venkatarao, once known for his strong reputation as an educated and soft-spoken leader, is now facing criticism due to growing internal conflicts within his party. While he gained significant support in the constituency, reports indicate his relations with neighboring MLAs have deteriorated.

A major dispute recently emerged between Venkatarao and Minister Parthasarathy regarding illegal mining, leading to physical alterca-

tions among party activists. Additionally, TDP members have raised concerns about Venkatarao's differences with senior leaders such as Gadde Rammohan, Bode Prasad, and Vasantha Krishna Prasad. Despite his stance against illegal mining in his constituency, it is alleged that Venkatarao has been lenient in one particular case—that of Ambapuram Panchayat President Gandikota Sittaiah.

A case was registered against Gandikota Sittaiah after a complaint by Pulla Zakariaiah

at Kothapet police station, alleging that Sittaiah and others insulted him with caste-based remarks over a land dispute stayed by the court.

As per the SC/ST Atrocities Act, police must register a case within 24 hours of receiving such complaints, which was done. However, MLA Yarlagadda Venkatarao allegedly intervened, calling Kothapet Inspector Kondala Rao and speaking rudely, leading to the officer taking leave in protest. This is not the first time the MLA has allegedly interfered in similar matters. Previously,



when a Dalit woman filed a caste-based complaint at New Peta Police Station, higher officials, under Venkatarao's influence, reportedly mediated and settled the issue. Gandikota Sittaiah, originally from Guntur district, moved to Ambapuram in 1998. He began his political journey under TDP leader Goddali Rama Rao, who served as Panchayat President for two terms.



Converted agricultural lands into real estate plots without proper approvals.

• **Unauthorized Settlements:** Nearly 80% of lands in Ambapuram are under dispute, allegedly orchestrated by past and present panchayat leaders for financial gains.

• **Misuse of Temple Lands:** Constructed a large shed on Devadaya Department land, renting it out for profit.

is driven by illegal mining and land settlement interests. The growing allegations threaten the MLA's credibility, with many questioning whether his reputation as a clean and responsible leader is fading. With elections approaching, party members are closely observing whether Venkatarao can recover from these controversies or if they will impact his political future.

VMC Malaria Department Caught in Corruption Allegations

- Biologist Surya Kumar Nayak accused of mismanagement and illegal earnings.
- Allegations of Bribery and Fraud
- Malpractices in Work Procedures.
- Complaints and Lack of Action



TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 10

The Malaria Department of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) is facing serious allegations of corruption, with officials accused of widespread malpractice and financial irregularities. The department, which oversees health, sanitation, and Ayurveda services, is under scrutiny for mismanagement and misuse of resources. The department is led by Biologist Surya Kumar Nayak, who is also serving as the District Rural Assistant Malaria Officer. There are six Malaria Inspectors under his command, but reports indicate that the department's key functions are not being carried out properly. The Malaria Department follows four primary work procedures, but none are reportedly executed correctly:

- 1. PDP (Primary Disease Prevention):** Workers are supposed to inspect water tanks and storage areas house-to-house. However, instead of covering all houses, they only visit a few, take photos, and submit them as false reports.
- 2. ALO (Anti-Larval Operations):** Chemicals meant for spraying in drains and vacant lands are allegedly sold in the black market instead of being used for mosquito control.
- 3. Fogging Operations:** The department receives 700-800 liters of diesel oil daily for fogging, but only 100 liters are reportedly used. The remaining diesel is allegedly siphoned off and sold outside.
- 4. Pyratnom Spraying:** This includes hand pumping and drone spraying. However, delays and irregularities in distribution mean the chemicals and oil do not reach the divisions on time. The division's chemical and oil stock is stored at Krishna Lanka Rani Gari's garden but is not distributed properly to the field workers. Inspectors are also denied access to these essential resources. Reports suggest that none of the Malaria Department workers are attending their duties properly. Instead of conducting fieldwork, they submit manipulated photos to higher authorities. Moreover, the Section Inspectors (SIs) in the divisions are allegedly supplying liquor to the Biologist twice a week as

part of an unofficial arrangement. It is alleged that each SI is required to pay the Biologist Rs. 5,000 per month, particularly after surprise inspections. During the Budameru floods, it was claimed that only 50 workers were deployed, but reports were manipulated to show 150 workers, raising questions about fraudulent wage claims. According to sources, Biologist Surya Kumar Nayak is making an illegal income of Rs. 3-4 lakh per month from various corrupt practices. A citizen named Ranga Nayak has lodged a formal complaint against Surya Kumar Nayak in the Lokayukta, detailing the corruption within the Malaria Department. A similar complaint was also submitted to the Commissioner, urging action against those involved. Despite these complaints, there has been no response from the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), leading to speculation among Vijayawada residents about potential collusion between officials. Many are questioning why no investigation has been initiated despite clear evidence of corruption. The public is now demanding a thorough audit of the Malaria Department's operations and strict action against those responsible for the alleged misappropriation of public funds.



MP Kesineni Shivnath Launches 'Viksit Panchayat' Initiative for Rural Development

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 10

In a significant move toward rural development and self-employment, Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivnath (Chinni) has launched the 'Viksit Panchayat' initiative to transform 294 villages in his parliamentary constituency into model panchayats.

Under this program, 100 youth have been selected for self-employment training in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR). In the first phase, 33 youth from different mandals have been sent to Hyderabad NIRDPR for a week-long training program from February 10 to 16. The selected youth belong to:

- A.Kondur Mandal (Tiruvuru Constituency) – 9 youth
 - G.Kondur Mandal (Mylavaram Constituency) – 8 youth
 - Jaggayyapet Rural Mandal (Jaggayyapet Constituency) – 8 youth
 - Veerulapadu Mandal (Nandigama Constituency) – 8 youth
- A special bus was flagged off on Sunday from NTR Bhavan, Vijayawada, by AP Building and Other Construction Workers Advisory Committee Chairman Gotumukkala Raghurama Raju, Arya Vaishya Development Corporation Chairman Dundi Rakesh, and former Vijayawada Mayor Koneru Sridhar.

MP Kesineni Shivnath has personally funded Rs. 15 lakh for this



training program at NIRDPR. Additionally, each trainee will receive a monthly stipend of Rs. 10,000 through the Kesineni Foundation. Speaking on the occasion, former Mayor Koneru Sridhar and other dignitaries praised MP Shivnath's vision to develop rural areas through self-employment training, women empowerment, digital panchayat governance, environmental protection, and clean village initiatives.

- Trained youth will work toward village development after returning.
- Development needs will be identified and reported to MP Shivnath for further action.
- Self-help groups are being mobilized, and 64 SHG leaders have already been sent to NIRDPR to gain awareness of 70 self-employment opportunities.
- Plans to establish self-employment clusters across all mandals in collaboration with central government schemes and NIRDPR. Corporator Chennupati Usharani, TNTUC State Vice President Paruchuri Prasad, NIRDPR Program Coordinator G.V. Narasimha Rao, and other local leaders attended the event.

Hair Found in Kanakadurga Temple Prasadam – Devotees Express Outrage

- Devotee finds hair in Kanakadurga Ammavari Prasadam, shares photos on social media.
- Endowments Minister Anam Jayakumar reacts swiftly, issues apology.
- Temple authorities promise stricter hygiene measures to prevent future incidents.

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 10

A controversy erupted at the Sri Kanaka Durga Temple in Vijayawada after a devotee allegedly found hair in the prasadam. The incident, which was captured in photos and posted on social media, quickly gained traction, leading to widespread criticism.

Before the issue escalated further, Endowments Minister Anam Jayakumar promptly responded, apologizing to the devotee and assuring that corrective mea-



asures would be taken. He emphasized that food hygiene protocols would be strengthened to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

Temple authorities have reportedly initiated an internal inquiry and are expected to enhance quality control in prasadam preparation. Officials urged devotees to report any concerns directly to temple management rather than relying solely on social media. The viral photos have triggered discussions about food safety at religious institutions, with devotees demanding stricter monitoring in the preparation of sacred offerings.

AP Medical and Health Department Ministerial Service Association Holds Executive Committee Meeting

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 10

The Executive Committee meeting of the Andhra Pradesh Medical and Health Department Ministerial Service Association was held on Sunday, where key issues concerning ministerial staff were discussed.

In the meeting, it was unanimously resolved that Government Order (G.O.) 143 should be repealed. The committee also emphasized the need to adjust the staff working in abolished medical colleges without causing any inconvenience. Additionally, the members resolved that ministerial staff positions should be filled only by eligible personnel from their cadre.

The association also decided to form ad hoc committees to conduct district elections and complete the state-level elections by the end



of May. The meeting was attended by State President Shri Ramesh, State Secretary Shri Sharif, along with various state and district-level leaders.

Dhavaleswaram Barrage Needs Minister Nimmala's Attention



- A Historic Irrigation Marvel in Decline
- Will Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu Take Action?
- Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage, a World Heritage Site, faces neglect and administrative apathy.
- Key irrigation offices of the Eastern, Central, and Western deltas have been relocated.
- Allegations of corruption in the headworks department under the Circle Office.

TPN Correspondent
Rajahmundry, Feb 10

Once the epicenter of irrigation management in Andhra Pradesh, Dhavaleswaram Cotton Barrage is now reduced to merely a statue of Sir Arthur Cotton, with most administrative offices being relocated to different areas. The Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage, recognized as a World Heritage Site by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) in Australia, continues to serve as the lifeline for the Godavari districts. However, despite its international significance, the barrage and its operations have been neglected due to political interference and lack of attention from previous governments. Previously, the Eastern Delta, Central Delta, and Western Delta offices were established at Dhavaleswaram to ensure constant monitoring of irrigation water supply, safety, and maintenance of the barrage. However, these offices have now been moved to Ramachandrapuram, Amalapuram, and Nidadavolu, causing major disruptions in water management. With only the Circle Office and the Cotton Statue remaining, the headworks department is now under scrutiny for alleged corruption, raising concerns about mismanagement and inefficiency in water regulation. Built in 1852 with a length of 3.5 km and a height of 15 feet, the Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage was designed to regulate the

flow of the Godavari River and improve irrigation facilities. Between 1970 and 1982, the barrage was reconstructed, raising its height to 10.6 meters and increasing its gross water storage capacity to 2.93 TMC feet. The 175 gates, spanning 3,599 meters, ensured a steady supply of 100 TMC feet of water annually to 65 mandals across the Godavari region, irrigating over 10 lakh acres of farmland. To efficiently manage the water flow, flood control, and irrigation supply, the Eastern Delta, Central Delta, and Western Delta offices were originally positioned near the Dhavaleswaram Circle Office. These offices played a crucial role in supervising irrigation projects, monitoring flood conditions, and ensuring timely release of water to agricultural lands. However, with their relocation to distant areas, senior officials now travel over 60 km to oversee operations, significantly affecting efficiency and coordination. Despite being a key source of irrigation and drinking water, the Dhavaleswaram Barrage has been overlooked by previous irrigation ministers, including Ponnala Lakshmaiah, Devineni Uma Maheswara Rao, Anil Kumar Yadav, and Ambati Rambabu. Repeated government inaction has allowed the relocation of major irrigation offices, reducing Dhavaleswaram's importance as an administrative hub.

Tragic Accident in Palnadu: Four Women Died, Several Injured

TPN Correspondent
Palnadu, Feb 10

A tragic accident occurred at Bollavaram in Muppalla mandal when a tractor carrying chilli labourers lost control and overturned into the Madala canal. The accident resulted in the deaths of four women, while several others sustained severe injuries. The deceased have been identified as Madhira Gangamma (40), Madhira Samrajyam (43), Tenepalli Padma (45), and Chakera Madhavi (30), all from Chagantivaripalem village. At the time of the accident, the tractor was carrying around 30 female labourers who were traveling for chilli harvesting work.



Local police and residents immediately initiated rescue operations, shifting the injured

to Sattenapalli Government Hospital for treatment. The bodies of the deceased were sent to the Sattenapalli Government Area Hospital for post-mortem examination. Authorities are investigating the cause of the accident while medical staff continue to provide care to the injured labourers.

Govt. Advisor MA Sharif Honored, Vows to Revive Minority Welfare Schemes

TPN | C. Sekhar
Sri Kalahasti, Feb 10

On the instructions of Sri Kalahasti MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy, Government Minority Advisor MA Sharif was honored by State Minority Executive Secretary Shakir Ali on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, Sharif stated that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Nara Lokesh are committed to reinstating all Muslim minority welfare schemes that were discontinued under the previous government. He criticized the Jagan Mohan Reddy administration for failing to implement the Dulhan

Scheme and neglecting Urdu schools. Sharif assured that Urdu schools will be revamped and efforts will be made to increase student enrollment. He added that CM Chandrababu Naidu is determined to restore the Dulhan Scheme, Ramzan Tofa, Shaadi Mahal developments, and Imam salary allowances. Shakir Ali recalled the contributions of late Minister Bojjala Gopalakrishna Reddy towards Muslim welfare and praised MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy for ensuring Eidgah and Shaadi Mahal repairs before Ramzan. Expressing gratitude, MA Sharif reaf-



firmed the government's commitment to the welfare of Muslim minorities.

HPCL Employee Contributes ₹10 Lakh to TTD's Sri SV Sarva Shreyas Trust

TPN | C. Sekhar
Tirumala, Feb 10

Sri PS Ravikumar, an employee of HPCL, Visakhapatnam, donated ₹10,00,116 to the SV Sarva Shreyas Trust of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Sunday. The donor personally handed over the Demand Draft (DD) to Additional EO Sri Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary at his office

in Tirumala. TTD Board Member Sri G. Bhanuprakash Reddy was also present during the event. TTD officials expressed their gratitude for the generous contribution, emphasizing that such donations help strengthen the trust's initiatives in providing welfare and social services.



Andhra Lawyers Association Demands Quashing of Case Against Advocate



TPN Correspondent |
Mummidivaram, Feb 10

The Andhra Lawyers Association has strongly condemned the illegal case filed against Advocate Banda Subrahmanyeshwara Rao and SI Jwala Sagar, demanding its immediate withdrawal. In a statement issued in Mummidivaram, Association President M.V. Rajaram and General Secretary Meda Srinivas criticized the alleged misuse of police authority in a civil

dispute. They stated that Advocate Subrahmanyeshwara Rao has been legally representing Borra Satya Someswara Rao and Borra Venkata Krishna Rao in an Eanapuram land dispute case since 2021. The association argued that implicating the advocate as Accused No. 3 (A3) in the case was an act of harassment and obstruction of legal duties. They further demanded that the district SP initiate a special inquiry, take departmental action against SI Jwala Sagar, and remove the lawyer's name from the case. The association warned that failure to address such incidents could lead to a breakdown in coordination between police and advocates. They also announced plans to meet the DGP to present their concerns and ensure justice for the wrongfully accused advocate.

Devotee's Unique Gift to Bhramaramba Devi in Srisailam

TPN | N. Kasirao
Chirala, Feb 10

In a remarkable display of devotion, Chunduri Saraswati from Chirala, Bapatla district, has prepared a special silk saree inscribed with the Sahasranamas of Goddess Bhramaramba Devi. She meticulously wrote 108 divine names on the saree with a pencil and later embroidered them using colored threads. This intricate work took her one year to complete.

Saraswati, an active member of the Sri Bhramarambika Seva Samiti, has been participating in various religious programs in Srisailam. Inspired by the Samiti's activities, she decided to create an

innovative devotional offering for the Goddess using her artistic skills. Along with the saree, she has also crafted a special silk cloth inscribed with the names of deities, as per the request of the committee members. These offerings will be presented to Goddess Bhramaramba and Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy in Srisailam on Magha Purnima, February 12. The act of devotion by Saraswati is being appreciated by devotees, and members of the Bhramarambika Seva Samiti will accompany her during the offering ceremony.

Grand Wedding Ceremony of Sri Bhimeshwara Swamy at Draksharamam



Minister Vasamsetty Subhash participates in divine event

TPN | K. Govinda Raju
Ramachandrapuram

The Kalyanotsavam of Sri Manikyaamba Sametha Sri Bhimeshwara Swamy, Chandika Sametha Suryanarayana Swamy, and Lakshmi Sametha Narayana Swamy was conducted with grandeur at the Sri Bhimeshwara Swamy Temple in Draksharamam on Saturday night. The ceremony took place at 11:05 PM during Arudra Nakshatra Yukta Tula Lagna, under the guidance of Agama scholars and temple priests. The festivities began in the morning with Rudrabhishekam and Panchamrutha Seva, followed by the Nagarotsavam of the Lord. The divine wedding was performed in a specially decorated mandapam, adorned with

electric lights and floral decorations, drawing a large number of devotees. State Labor Minister Vasamsetty Subhash attended the event along with his father Vasamsetty Satyam and family, taking blessings from the deities. As per tradition, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) presented silk clothes for the divine wedding, which were handed over to Durga Bhavan by Assistant Commissioner & EO Allu Venkata. The temple premises resonated with spiritual chants, creating a divine atmosphere as thousands of devotees witnessed the sacred event. Special arrangements were made for the devotees' convenience, ensuring a seamless celebration of the celestial wedding.

MP Kalisetty Appalanaidu Assures Justice for Pedamanapuram Railway Displaced Families

TPN | A. Narasimulu
Vizianagaram, Feb 10

Vizianagaram MP Kalisetty Appalanaidu met with 32 displaced families in Pedamanapuram village, Dattirajeru mandal, who lost their homes due to the construction of the 3rd railway line. During his visit, he listened to their grievances and assured them of justice. The affected families were promised house plots and compensation in 2020, but the compensation was never provided. Now, as officials prepare to resume work on the railway project, they are offering compensation based on outdated 2020 rates. The displaced families, however, are demanding compensation



at current market rates and staged a dharna in protest. Responding to their concerns, MP Appalanaidu held discussions with district authorities and assured the victims that he would bring the matter to the attention of CM Chandrababu Naidu for a swift resolution. He emphasized that the rights of the displaced families must be protected and that he would work to ensure they receive fair compensation and housing support as per current valuations.

Scholarships Distributed to Talented Kapu Students in Razole



TPN Correspondent
Razole, Feb 10

Scholarships were distributed to financially backward but academically talented Kapu students at the Shivakoti Mangena Gangaiah Telaga Kalyana Mandapam in Razole mandal on Sunday. The initiative, aimed at providing financial encouragement, was led by Krishnadevaraya Aid for Poor Underprivileged Chairman and Tulasi Seeds Head,

Tulasi Rama Chandra Prabhu. The event was jointly organized by the Razole Taluka Telaga Employees Welfare Association and the Razole Telaga Welfare Association, under the leadership of President Pindina Naga Vara Prasad. A total of ₹12 lakh was distributed among 244 students, bringing the total financial assistance provided by the organization to date to ₹1.2 crore. Speaking on the occasion, Tulasi Rama Chandra Prabhu stated that the organization remains committed to supporting students from underprivileged backgrounds and announced plans to expand service programs in the future.



Factors Behind AAP's Defeat in the 2025 Delhi Assembly Elections

The 2025 Delhi Assembly elections have delivered a resounding defeat to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), with party leader Arvind Kejriwal conceding defeat to BJP candidate Parvesh Sharma in the New Delhi constituency by a margin of 3,182 votes. AAP, which rose to prominence on the back of the 2011 Anna Hazare-led anti-corruption movement, has seen its political fortunes change significantly. Despite being seen as a champion of transparency and governance reforms in its early years, the party's internal issues, governance failures, and corruption allegations played a key role in the electoral outcome.

1. Anti-Incumbency and Governance Failures

AAP's decade-long rule in Delhi faced the inevitable challenge of anti-incumbency. Despite some welfare-oriented policies, the party struggled to address the key concerns of the people, particularly the middle class, which had been a loyal voter base. The promises made in the 15-point "Kejriwal Ki Guarantee," including freebies and waivers, were not enough to convince voters. The lack of concrete plans to address critical issues like air and water pollution, sanitation, waste management, and inflation eroded public confidence. Additionally, the party's constant finger-pointing at the Centre and refusal to take responsibility for governance failures were perceived

as excuses, further alienating the electorate.

2. Corruption Allegations and Damage to Kejriwal's Image

Kejriwal's carefully crafted image as a corruption-free, "common man" leader suffered a severe blow with the emergence of corruption allegations, including his involvement in the Delhi liquor policy scam and the "Sheesh Mahal" controversy. These scandals raised questions about his integrity and tarnished the party's image as an alternative to traditional politics. The public's disillusionment with Kejriwal's leadership was palpable, especially when it came to allegations of extravagance in the renovation of the Chief Minister's residence. This marked the collapse of the narrative that had made AAP a popular choice for voters seeking transparency and governance reform.

3. Internal Discord and the Congress Factor

The failure of AAP and the Congress to form an electoral alliance in Delhi played a role in the party's loss. The internal tensions within the opposition bloc, including the Congress's strategic decision to undermine AAP following its setbacks in Punjab and Goa, left the party isolated. This internal discord was exacerbated by Congress's focus on weak-

ening AAP rather than uniting against the BJP. This disunity, combined with the BJP's campaign strategies, made it difficult for AAP to maintain a strong opposition front.

BJP's Strategy and the Shift in Delhi's Political Landscape

While AAP struggled to address these issues, the BJP capitalized on its aggressive campaigning strategy. The party effectively consolidated its voter base across various demographic and caste lines, while also winning over disillusioned AAP supporters. The BJP's extensive digital campaign, spearheaded by platforms like the NaMo app, and its ground-level outreach through key leaders, contributed significantly to the party's victory.

Ultimately, the defeat of AAP in Delhi is a reminder that no government, regardless of its welfare initiatives, can afford to ignore the pressing concerns of its citizens. Short-term political gains, such as freebies, cannot substitute for effective governance. As demonstrated by AAP's loss, failure to address real issues and connect with the electorate can lead to severe long-term consequences, as reflected in the Congress party's failure to secure even a single seat for the third consecutive election. Sreelakshmi Harilal is an Associate at the Centre for Public Policy Research, specializing in research and public policy.

Delhi Elections: How BJP's Strategy of No CM Face Worked in Its Favor



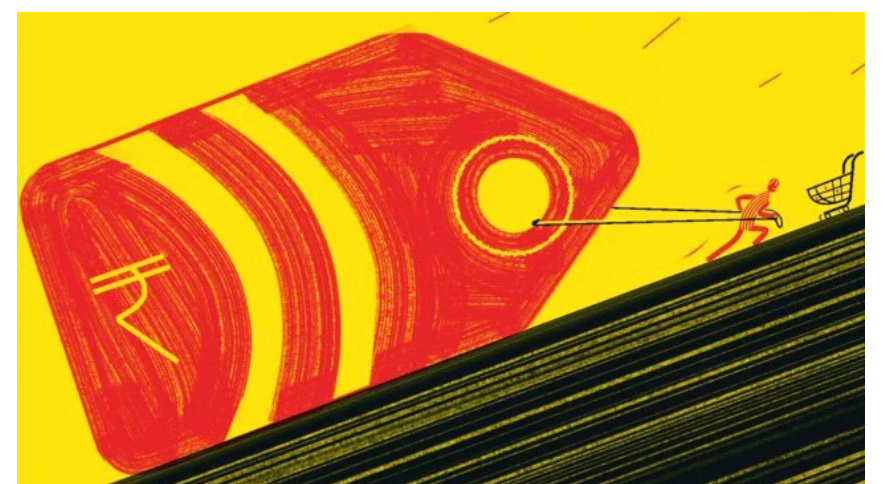
In the Delhi Assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) achieved a remarkable victory, marking the third consecutive win for the party in 2023, following triumphs in Haryana and Maharashtra. These states were initially seen as tough battlegrounds for the BJP, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi's influence has only grown since the general elections. His leadership continues to shape the party's dominance, even in states once considered challenging.

The BJP's victory in Delhi is especially significant, not only because it marks a return to power after 27 years but also due to the scale of the mandate. From a mere eight seats in the previous Delhi assembly, the BJP surged to 48 out of 70 seats, turning a tough contest into a sweeping victory. In contrast, Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which had secured 62 seats in the previous election, plummeted to just 22. This outcome reflects the power of the BJP's campaign strategy, which resonated deeply with voters.

One of the most striking aspects of the BJP's victory was its ability to defeat Kejriwal in his own constituency, New Delhi. The BJP's Parvesh Verma triumphed over Kejriwal by over 4,000 votes. Kejriwal, who rose to prominence in 2013 by defeating Sheila Dikshit, had positioned himself as an alternative to PM Modi and campaigned across multiple states. However, this overextension, coupled with scandals like the alleged liquor scam, ultimately weakened his position. Kejriwal's defeat in New Delhi demonstrated that his political stature had taken a significant hit.

Additionally, Kejriwal's closest allies, including his former deputy Manish Sisodia, suffered defeats in constituencies once considered "safe" for AAP. The entire leadership of AAP, with the exception of Atishi, faced a crushing loss. Modi's ability to deliver on promises, including better governance and infrastructure, helped dismantle the belief that Kejriwal's promises of free services would guarantee loyalty from low-income voters.

One of the key factors in BJP's success was its strategy of not presenting a Chief Ministerial face for Delhi. While the absence of a strong local leader initially seemed like a disadvantage, the BJP effectively used Modi's national appeal to counter Kejriwal.



RBI Begins Rate-Cutting Cycle Amid Economic Uncertainty

In its February 2025 policy review, the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) embarked on a rate-cutting cycle, driven by the evolving growth and inflation trends. The committee's decision to reduce rates comes at a time when global uncertainties loom large, reflected most notably in the depreciation of the Indian rupee against the US dollar. Despite the challenging global economic environment, the MPC saw a window of opportunity to initiate a rate cut, as domestic inflationary pressures have eased and economic growth shows signs of stabilization.

Looking back to the MPC's December 2024 meeting, the economic landscape was markedly different. At that time, India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation had breached the 6% mark, surpassing the upper limit of the Reserve Bank's medium-term inflation target range of 2-6%. This high inflation rate made it clear that a rate cut was off the table in December, despite the country's GDP growth decelerating to a disappointing 5.4% in the second quarter of fiscal year 2024-25. With inflationary concerns still fresh, the outlook for the economy appeared precarious.

However, by February 2025, the economic situation had shifted. CPI inflation had receded significantly, and the outlook for inflation in 2025-26 appeared more moderate. High-frequency economic indicators also pointed to a potential recovery in domestic growth, especially following the economic downturn in the second quarter. This shift in inflation and growth expectations provided the MPC with the justification to start a rate-cutting cycle, signaling a move towards more accommodative monetary policy.

Despite this, analysts predict that the rate cut cycle will likely be gradual and shallow. With ongoing global uncertainties, including geopolitical tensions and external economic pressures, the RBI faces a balancing act in fostering growth while maintaining price stability. The depreciation of the rupee against the dollar further complicates the situation, potentially raising import costs and keeping inflationary pressures alive.

Is Air Pollution Making India Age Faster?

The blanket of smog that envelops numerous cities worldwide, including India's capital, Delhi, is not just a health hazard that chokes our lungs but also a significant contributor to premature aging. Studies have shown that air pollution can accelerate biological aging, shortening our lifespans. India, with its vast population, faces this grim reality daily, as several major cities, including Delhi, Kolkata, and Mumbai, consistently rank among the most polluted cities globally, according to real-time data from IQAir.

Air pollution has long been a critical issue, particularly in urban areas, where concentrations of particulate matter (PM) and toxic gases such as sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and carbon monoxide are dangerously high. Fossil fuel emissions, primarily from the energy and transportation sectors, are the primary culprits behind this problem. The health risks posed by air pollution are profound. A 2021 study estimated



Divyanshi Kaul and Abhiroop Chowdhury

that 10.2 million premature deaths occur globally each year due to particulate matter from fossil fuel emissions, with nearly 5 million attributed to outdoor air pollution alone. These numbers are expected to rise, with a projected 4.3 million urban deaths by 2050.

India, the world's most populous nation, bears a significant portion of this burden. The country ranks third globally in air pollution levels, and with 65% of its population under the age of 35, the long-term impacts on the younger population are particularly concerning.

The concentration of pollutants, specifically particulate matter like PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀, is linked to various diseases such as heart disease, stroke, hypertension, and neurodegenerative disorders. Exposure to these pollutants doesn't just affect immediate health but also accelerates the biological aging process.

A key biological factor in aging is telomere length. Telomeres are protective caps at the end of chromosomes, which shorten each time a cell divides. Over time, this shortening contributes to the aging process. Recent studies have shown a direct connection between air pollution exposure and shorter telomere length, effectively speeding up the biological aging of cells. As toxic substances like reactive oxygen species (ROS) generated by pollutants damage our cells, inflammation and stress follow, accelerating telomere degradation.



CM Stalin slams Centre over US' treatment of Indian deportees, Mahakumbh deaths
TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin has sharply criticized the BJP-led central government for its handling of two major issues—the mistreatment of Indians deported from the US and the stampede deaths during the Mahakumbh festival in Uttar Pradesh.

Addressing a public meeting, Stalin condemned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government for "betraying" Tamil Nadu. He accused the Centre of failing to release the state's rightful share of funds and neglecting the state during natural disasters. Stalin warned that if the central government did not amend its approach, it would lose the people's respect every day.

On the Mahakumbh stampede, Stalin expressed his concern over the deaths of at least 48 people, blaming the Uttar Pradesh BJP government for inadequate safety measures. While the BJP government reported 30 deaths, Stalin and others contested this figure. "The media reports suggest the death toll is 48, and some leaders believe the actual number could be higher," he said. Stalin also referenced claims by Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, who alleged that bodies were removed with earth movers, further emphasizing the lack of accountability in the incident. Stalin questioned the government's duty to ensure the safety of the devotees and criticized the refusal to discuss the issue in Parliament.

The CM also condemned the handcuffing and shackling of Indians deported by the US, calling it "cruel." He expressed deep emotional distress over the mistreatment of the 104 deportees, questioning External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's response, which appeared to justify the US's actions.

PM Modi Shares Teaser Of 8th Edition Of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha'

- PM Modi's eighth edition of PPC to take place on February 10, featuring expanded discussions.
- Guests include Deepika Padukone, Mary Kom, Avani Lekhara, and spiritual leader Sadhguru.
- 36 students from across India to participate, alongside 5 crore past attendees.



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The much-awaited eighth edition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' (PPC) will take place on Monday, February 10th, at 11 a.m., with a fresh, expanded format. This year, the event will feature an exciting line-up of distinguished experts and special guests, aimed at offering valuable advice to students on how to manage exam-related stress.

Ahead of the event, PM Modi shared a teaser video on social media, encouraging students and parents to tune in. In the video, he can be seen engaging in light-hearted discus-

sions with students, explaining how a top-class batsman focuses solely on the ball to perform at his best—an analogy for concentration during exams. The video also shows students demonstrating their talents, including a flower clapping technique and reciting a couplet, building excitement for the session.

"Let's help our #ExamWarriors overcome exam stress," PM Modi shared in his post, inviting everyone to join the event on February 10th.

This year's PPC will bring together prominent personalities from various fields. Among the notable

guests are spiritual leader Sadhguru, Bollywood stars Deepika Padukone, Vikrant Massey, and Bhumi Pednekar, as well as sports icons like Mary Kom, Avani Lekhara, and Suhhas Yathiraj. Renowned figures such as nutritionist Rujuta Diwekar, entrepreneur Radhika Gupta, and digital influencer Technical Guruji will also share insights on overcoming challenges in life and academics.

For the first time, 36 students from all states and Union Territories, including those from government schools, Kendriya Vidyalayas, Sainik Schools, CBSE, and Navodaya Vidyalayas, will participate in the program.

Prayagraj Sangam Station Temporarily Closed Amid Rising Crowds for Maha Kumbh

TPN Correspondent | Mahakumbh

In response to the growing influx of pilgrims during the ongoing Maha Kumbh, the railway authorities have temporarily closed the Prayagraj Sangam station for the general public. However, train operations will continue as usual, with no disruptions in travel services. To manage the crowd efficiently, additional Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel have been deployed across all stations in Prayagraj.

To further streamline the flow of devotees, a one-way travel system has been implemented at the station, and it will remain in place until further notice. Under this system, pilgrims will only be allowed entry into Prayagraj Junction from the city side at Platform No. 1, while exiting will be directed through the Civil Lines side, specifically at Platforms No. 6 and 10. The decision to



implement these measures aims to ensure the safety and smooth movement of passengers during this busy period, as confirmed by Amit Singh, the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Railway Division. In addition, pilgrims will need color-coded tickets to access the designated shelters at the station, with each shelter assigned based on passengers' desti-

nation stations. These shelters are equipped with essential services such as temporary ticket counters, toilets, and resting areas. To accommodate reserved ticket holders, access will be provided through Gate No. 5. Passengers are encouraged to arrive well in advance of their train's departure to avoid delays and ensure a hassle-free journey.



Manipur CM's resignation 'belated', people now await visit by 'frequent-flier PM': Congress
TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Congress party on Sunday termed the resignation of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh as "belated," claiming that the people of the state were now awaiting a visit from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whom they referred to as a "frequent-flier." The remarks came shortly after Singh submitted his resignation to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at the Raj Bhavan in Imphal.

Jairam Ramesh, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary in charge of communications, stated that the Congress was prepared to move a no-confidence motion against Singh and his council of ministers in the upcoming session of the Manipur Assembly on Monday. Ramesh emphasized that the Congress had been demanding Singh's resignation since the violent unrest in the state began in May 2023, calling the resignation long overdue.

In a post on X, Ramesh remarked, "Sensing the climate, the Manipur chief minister has just resigned. This was a demand that the Congress has been making since early May 2023, when Manipur erupted." He further criticized Prime Minister Modi's lack of engagement with the crisis in Manipur, stating, "The chief minister's resignation was belated. The people of Manipur now await a visit by our frequent-flier prime minister who is off to France and the US now — and who has found neither the time nor the inclination to go to Manipur these past 20 months."

Ramesh's comments underscore the Congress party's ongoing dissatisfaction with the government's handling of the Manipur crisis. With the resignation of the chief minister, the political focus in the state shifts to the next steps, with the Congress pushing for greater accountability and the Prime Minister's attention to the ongoing issues in Manipur.

Russia's Su-57, US' F-35 Fighter Jets To Take Part In Aero India

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

For the first time in history, the Aero India 2025 airshow will feature two of the world's most advanced fifth-generation fighter aircraft, the Russian Su-57 and the American F-35 Lightning II, marking a significant milestone in global defense collaboration and technological advancement, the Defence Ministry announced on Sunday.



Scheduled from February 10-14, 2025, at Air Force Station Yelahanka in Bengaluru, Aero India 2025 is set to be Asia's largest airshow to date. The event will span over 42,000 square meters, with over 900 exhibitors, including 150 international companies, confirming their participation.

The Su-57, Russia's premier stealth multi-role fighter, is designed for air superiority and strike missions. Equipped with cutting-edge avionics, supercruise capability, and stealth technology, the Su-57 will make its debut at Aero India 2025. Attendees can expect thrilling aerial maneuvers and tactical demonstrations showcasing its agility, stealth, and firepower.

The F-35 Lightning II, developed by Lockheed Martin, is hailed as the most widely deployed

fifth-generation fighter. Known for its advanced stealth, unparalleled situational awareness, and networked combat capabilities, the F-35 represents the flagship of the U.S. Air Force. Its inclusion in the airshow offers a unique opportunity for visitors to see firsthand the capabilities of one of the most advanced aircraft in the world.

Aero India 2025's theme, "The Runway to a Billion Opportunities," will provide a rare opportunity to compare Eastern and Western fifth-generation fighter technologies side by side, giving defense analysts, military personnel, and aviation enthusiasts valuable insights.

The participation of both the Su-57 and F-35 at Aero India underscores India's growing importance as a key hub for international defense and aerospace collaboration, solidifying its role in the global defense landscape.

Silent rally in Kolkata on RG Kar victim's birthday, demanding justice

TPN Correspondent | Kolkata

On Sunday, February 9, doctors and residents of Kolkata took part in a silent rally to mark the first birthday of the RG Kar hospital medic who tragically lost her life last year. The rally, which aimed to demand justice for the victim, began at College Square near the Calcutta University campus and made its way toward RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in north Kolkata. However, it was halted at the hospital gate by security personnel.



A strong presence of Kolkata Police and CISF jawans was deployed around the hospital, with officers speaking to the rally participants. The marchers had hoped to reach a specific point inside the hospital premises, where a plaque in memory of the victim had been set up by her colleagues. The hospital has been under the protection of the CISF following the rape and murder of the post-graduate trainee, an incident that sparked widespread outrage and protests across the country.

The day also marked six months since the tragic crime occurred on August 9, 2024. The victim's parents took part in another rally in North 24 Parganas district to commemorate their daughter's birthday. They expressed dissatisfaction with the CBI's investigation into the case and reiterated their demand for the arrest of anyone else involved in the crime

and the initiation of further legal proceedings.

In a recent court ruling, Sanjay Roy, the sole accused in the case, was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. Despite this, the victim's family and supporters continue to call for justice, believing that there may be others who were involved.

The participants of the rally covered their mouths with black cloth and held placards demanding justice. The march, organized by 'Abhaya Manch,' was kept silent to respect the upcoming Class 10 West Bengal school board examinations. The rally served as a reminder of the ongoing quest for justice and the enduring impact of the tragedy on the community.

Lebanon Forms New Government Amid US Pressure and Reconstruction Hopes

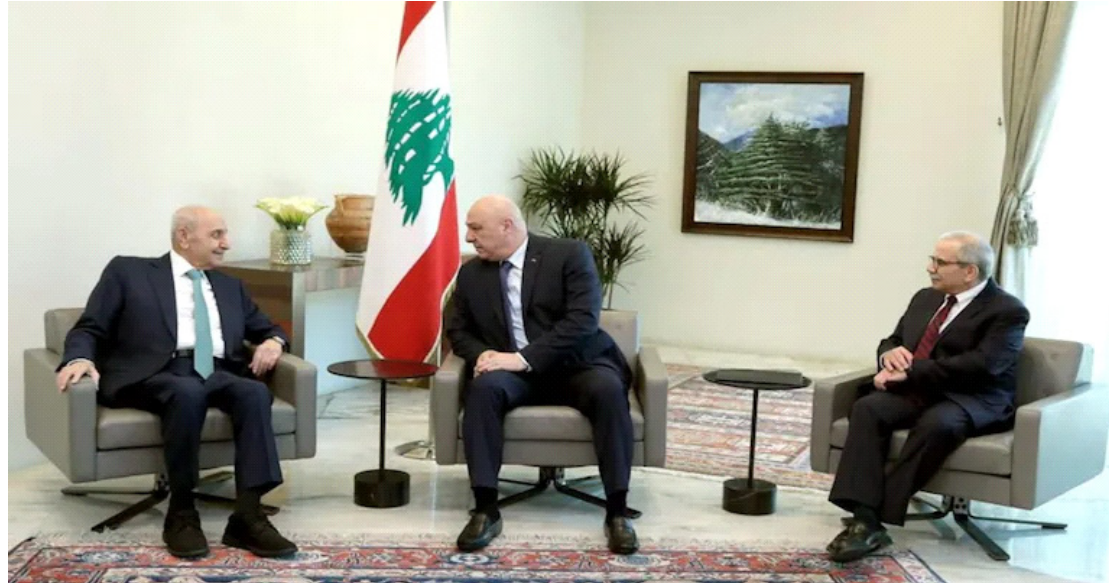
- New Lebanese cabinet formed after weeks of negotiations, limiting Hezbollah's sway.
- US welcomes government, stressing the need for financial reforms and stability.
- Priority set on implementing UN resolution and securing international reconstruction aid.

TPN Correspondent | Beirut

Lebanon's newly appointed Prime Minister, Nawaf Salam, unveiled a 24-member cabinet on Saturday, marking a pivotal moment for the country amid the aftermath of a devastating war between Israel and Hezbollah. The formation of the government follows more than three weeks of political negotiations, with the country's political factions, which traditionally allocate government posts along sectarian lines, navigating the delicate balance of power.

The cabinet's primary goals are to implement financial reforms, initiate the reconstruction of war-torn areas, and execute a crucial United Nations resolution related to stability along Lebanon's border with Israel. These objectives are seen as critical for restoring Lebanon's international credibility and securing much-needed financial assistance.

The process, however, was influenced by intense external pressure, particularly from the United States, which has been vocal in its opposition to Hezbollah's influence within Lebanon's political sphere. US Deputy Middle East envoy, Morgan Ortagus, labeled Hezbollah's involvement in the cabinet as a "red line" and thanked Israel for its successful military strikes against the group, sparking protests within Lebanon. Despite this, Hezbollah's ally Amal, led by Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, secured four ministerial positions in the new cabi-



net, ensuring Hezbollah and its allies do not have veto power in key decisions.

The new cabinet's formation is seen as an essential step toward implementing reforms that could unlock financial support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Gulf countries, vital for Lebanon's economic recovery. Lebanon has been grappling with a severe financial collapse, a catastrophic explosion at the Beirut port, and the aftermath of a prolonged war with Israel, all of which have devastated the country.

The United Nations has welcomed the cabinet formation, emphasizing the importance of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which calls for disarming

armed groups in Lebanon, a clear reference to Hezbollah. Prime Minister Salam emphasized that the government would prioritize this resolution, along with ensuring the withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon and the deployment of the Lebanese army in the region by February 18. The newly formed government now faces the task of drafting a policy statement outlining its approach and priorities, after which it will need to secure a vote of confidence in Lebanon's parliament. The appointment of Prime Minister Salam, following the election of President Joseph Aoun, signals a significant shift in Lebanon's political landscape, especially in light of Hezbollah's weakened position due to recent military losses.

Not Chomping At The Bit: Elon Musk On His Plans To Acquire TikTok



TPN Correspondent | Washington

Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk has stated that he has no interest in acquiring TikTok, the popular short-video platform currently embroiled in national security concerns in the United States. Musk's comments were shared online over the weekend after being made during a January conference hosted by The WELT Group, part of the German media company Axel Springer SE. The Tesla CEO joined the summit via video.

"I have not put in a bid for TikTok," Musk clarified, shortly after US President Donald Trump expressed openness to Musk purchasing the app, owned by the Chinese company ByteDance. Musk further explained that he does not use TikTok personally and is not familiar with its format. "I'm not chomping at the bit to acquire TikTok; I do not acquire companies in general. It's quite rare," Musk added, pointing out that his acquisition of social media platform Twitter, now known as X, was an unusual move for him. "I usually build companies from scratch," he emphasized.

The US government has raised national security concerns over TikTok, claiming that China could compel ByteDance to share data from American users. Despite these claims, TikTok has consistently denied that it has or would ever share such data with the Chinese government. In response to these concerns, former President Trump signed an executive order that set a deadline for ByteDance to sell TikTok's US assets by January 19 or face a potential ban. Apple and Google have refrained from reinstating TikTok on their app stores due to a US law in effect since the controversy began.



Monsters: Netanyahu Vows To 'Eliminate' Hamas Amid Ceasefire Deal

TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pledged to destroy Hamas and secure the release of all Israeli captives held by the Palestinian militant group, following a fifth hostage exchange on Saturday. The exchange, which took place under a ceasefire agreement in Gaza, saw the release of three hostages who appeared visibly emaciated and were forced to speak on stage after being handed over by Hamas.

In a video statement, Netanyahu condemned Hamas as "monsters" and emphasized Israel's unwavering commitment to dismantling the group. "We will eliminate Hamas, and we will return our hostages," Netanyahu stated, reinforcing his government's resolve in the ongoing conflict. The handover of the three hostages marked a momentary pause in the conflict, but Netanyahu's rhetoric indicated that Israel's operations to neutralize Hamas would continue.

The recent hostage exchange was part of a broader ceasefire agreement aimed at de-escalating violence in Gaza. While the exchange provided some relief to the families of the hostages, the images of the captives — visibly weakened after their ordeal — underscored the brutal conditions they had endured. Their forced appearance on stage further highlighted the psychological and physical toll taken by their months in captivity.

Israel has long viewed Hamas as a significant threat, and Netanyahu's government has been adamant about its commitment to eradicating the group, which it holds responsible for the deaths of countless Israelis in previous conflicts. The Israeli military has launched multiple operations aimed at weakening Hamas's military capabilities, though the group has continued to launch attacks against Israel, fueling the ongoing cycle of violence.

Earthquake Of Magnitude 7.6 Shakes Caribbean, Tsunami Advisory Issued

TPN Correspondent | Washington

A powerful earthquake with a magnitude of 7.6 struck the Caribbean Sea on Saturday evening (local time), according to the US Geological Survey (USGS). The quake, which originated north of Honduras, occurred about 130 miles (209 kilometers) from the coast of the Cayman Islands. It was recorded at a shallow depth of 10 kilometers (6.21 miles), intensifying concerns over potential tsunamis in the region.

Following the earthquake, the US Tsunami Warning System issued alerts for the Caribbean Sea, particularly affecting the coastal areas of Honduras. The warning highlighted the risk of hazardous tsunami waves within 620 miles of the epicenter, extending along the coasts of the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Cuba, Mexico, Honduras, the Bahamas, Belize, Haiti, Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua, and Guatemala.

Despite initial concerns, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) later clarified that tsunami waves were not expected to reach the US Atlantic or Gulf Coast. However, small sea-level changes were still anticipated. In particular, a tsunami wave of between

1 and 3 meters was forecast for parts of Cuba's coastline. Smaller waves between 0.3 to 1 meter were expected along the coasts of Honduras and the Cayman Islands.

The US government monitor later canceled most of its initial tsunami warnings but maintained alerts for three countries, including Cuba, Honduras, and the Cayman Islands. In light of the warnings, several Caribbean nations took precautionary measures, urging residents in coastal areas to evacuate. Honduras, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and the Cayman Islands issued evacuation orders for their citizens near the coastlines. The Cayman Islands government advised its residents in coastal areas to move inland to safer locations.

The earthquake and its aftershocks sent shockwaves throughout the region, and the earthquake's sudden impact served as a reminder of the seismic activity in the Caribbean. Local governments and authorities in the affected areas remain on high alert as they monitor potential aftershocks and the possibility of further tsunami waves. Despite the cancellation of some tsunami alerts, residents are still urged to stay vigilant and follow evacuation instructions to ensure safety.



Pakistan Army should return to its constitutional limits: Imran Khan

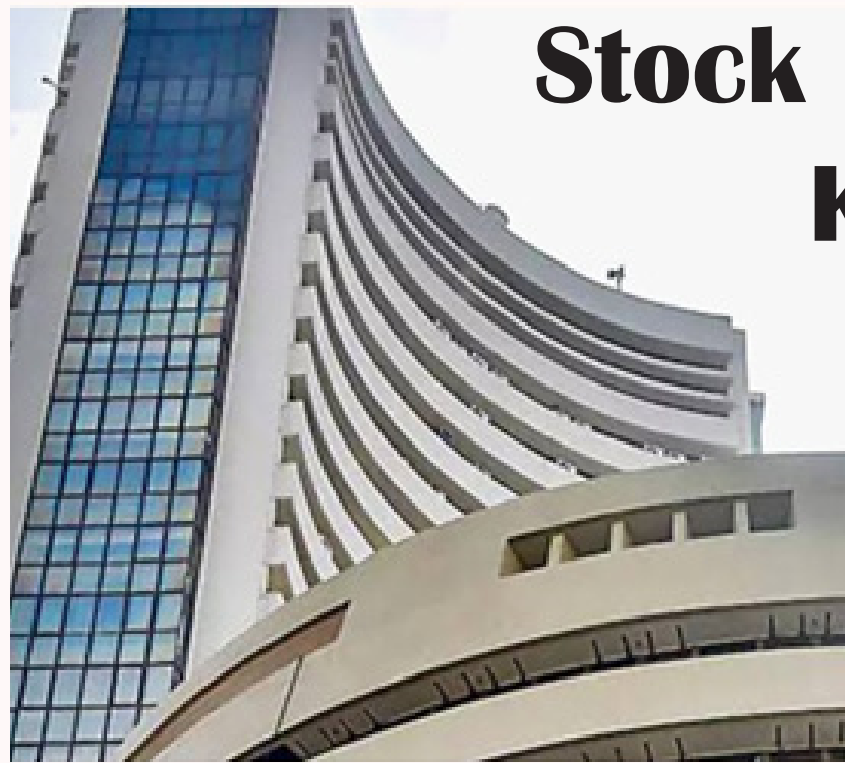
TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has penned an open letter to Army Chief Gen. Asim Munir, sharply criticizing the military's unlawful actions and its continued interference in politics. In his letter, Khan urged the military to "return to its constitutional limits," addressing his concerns over the growing involvement of the armed forces in national governance.

The letter, posted on X (formerly Twitter), follows Khan's previous correspondence from February 3, where he called for the military to reassess its approach toward national security and governance. In the new letter, Khan highlighted his mistreatment in prison, specifically detailing his 20-day confinement in a death-row cell, where he had no access to sunlight or electricity. He alleged that the treatment was part of a larger effort to break his resolve, describing it as inhumane and unlawful.

Khan's latest letter also expressed disappointment over the military's response to his earlier communication. He criticized the military's dismissive and irresponsible reaction, which he said reflected a lack of concern for the reputation of Pakistan's armed forces. He warned that the widening rift between the military and the public could have dangerous consequences for the country's future.

This ongoing criticism of the military comes amid a broader political crisis in Pakistan, with Khan's party, Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), facing increasing pressure from both the military and the government.



Stock Market Shows Signs of Recovery; Key Stocks to Watch This Week



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The domestic stock market is poised for a potential rebound this week as international uncertainties subside, boosting investor confidence. Market sentiment is turning positive with stabilization in global conditions, and fundamentally strong stocks are now available at attractive valuations. Benchmark indices are showing signs of a turnaround, with finance, banking, auto, and consumption sectors performing well, while media, realty, and metal stocks are witnessing improvements. However, energy, pharma, and healthcare sectors are weakening.

Key Stocks to Watch

Tata Steel

Tata Steel shares, which have declined 30% from their lifetime highs, are currently in the accumulation zone. Following the latest quarterly results, the stock has gained momentum and is showing strong relative performance. Investors are advised to take positions around ₹135 with a tar-



get price of ₹165, while maintaining a stop loss at ₹130.

Hindalco

Hindalco shares have corrected 30% from their November highs and have twice found support at the crucial ₹560 level. With increased investor interest in the metal sector ahead of upcoming results, the stock closed at ₹607 last Friday. Investors are recommended to enter around



₹600 with target prices of ₹674 and ₹710, keeping a stop loss at ₹570.

SPIC Limited

SPIC Limited, which had been in a downtrend for months, has now entered the accumulation zone. The stock recently found support at ₹70 and broke through its immediate



resistance level of ₹80, showing increased momentum compared to Nifty. With a last closing price of ₹82, investors should consider taking positions around ₹80, targeting ₹96 and ₹100, while setting a stop loss at ₹77.

Chambal Fertilizers

Chambal Fertilizers shares have been consolidating sideways since June last year. The stock showed resilience last week despite declines in benchmark indices, reaching the crucial ₹555 resistance zone. Investors are



advised to enter at ₹520-540 with a target price of ₹655 and a stop loss at ₹490.

Caffeine Technologies



Shares of Caffeine Technologies, which saw a 36% correction from their lifetime high, are now trading at attractive levels. The stock has gained 16% in the last four sessions and displayed strong momentum following its latest quarterly results. It closed at ₹1,224 last Friday, with investors recommended to take positions around ₹1,200 and target ₹1,550, setting a stop loss at ₹1,155. With improving sentiment and positive sectoral trends, investors will closely watch these stocks as the market gears up for a potential recovery.

India's Trade Set to Grow 6.4% Annually, Reaching \$1.8 Trillion by 2033

India's total trade is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.4% through 2033, reaching USD 1.8 trillion annually, according to a report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG). This growth is primarily driven by India's rising appeal as a manufacturing hub, with companies increasingly looking to diversify supply chains away from China.

India's government has introduced significant incentives for manufacturing, combined with a vast low-cost workforce and rapidly improving infrastructure. These factors are positioning India as a key destination for foreign investment and trade collaborations.

Geographically, India's trade expansion will be diverse. Notably, trade with the United States is projected to more than double over the next decade, reaching USD 116 billion by 2033. This growth reflects deepening political and economic ties between the two largest democracies, particularly in the defense and technology sectors.

India's trade with the European Union, ASEAN, and Africa is also expected to increase by approximately 80%. Trade with Japan and Mercosur countries is projected to nearly double, while trade with Australia and South Korea will more than triple. Additionally, India's trade with



Russia is set to surge, driven by increased imports of discounted Russian hydrocarbons.

Europe's trade with India, Turkey, and Africa is anticipated to accelerate, further cementing India's role in global supply chains. Key sectors contributing to this trade expansion will include information technology, pharmaceuticals, and manufacturing.

As India grows more cautious about Chinese investments in sensitive

sectors, due to ongoing border disputes and economic tensions, the country is increasingly seeking trade partnerships with other regions. While India's trade growth with Western economies remains strong, China's trade with the US and EU is expected to slow. In response, China is focusing on strengthening economic ties with India, Russia, ASEAN, Africa, and Mercosur nations. However, China's trade surpluses may face resistance from India and its other trade partners.

Stock Market Outlook Delhi Polls, Inflation Data, and Corporate Earnings in Focus

The stock market's outlook for the upcoming week will be shaped by several key events, including the outcome of the Delhi Assembly elections, inflation data, and quarterly corporate earnings.

The Delhi Assembly election results, in which the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) secured a strong victory with 48 out of 70 seats, are expected to have a positive impact on investor sentiment. Analysts believe that this political outcome could contribute to market stability and potentially boost investor confidence.

Macroeconomic data will also be a major focus for investors. Inflation and industrial production data, scheduled to be released on February 12, will provide key insights into the country's economic health. January inflation is expected to decline to 4.69% from 5.22% in the previous month, which could influence the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) next policy decision. Additionally, industrial production growth is projected to slow to 4.1%, down from 5.2% in the previous month.

Corporate earnings will play a crucial role in shaping market sentiment. Key companies such as Eicher Motors, Apollo Hospitals, Vodafone Idea, Hindustan Aeronautics, and Muthoot Finance are set to report their quarterly results. The financial performance of these companies will help determine the overall outlook for the stock market in the coming week.



Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) continued their selling spree last week, withdrawing Rs 8,852 crore from the market. However, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) provided some stability by investing Rs 6,449 crore. This has helped maintain a positive trend in the markets, despite the volatility.

The Nifty index managed to close positive for the second consecutive week, sustaining above the 23,450-23,500 zone, indicating potential for a bottom reversal. Market experts are maintaining a positive outlook, recommending a "Buy on Dips" strategy amid short-term volatility.

On the global front, the release of US inflation data on February 12 will be closely monitored. Any deviation from the expected figures could influence the Federal Reserve's future interest rate decisions. Other key data releases, including UK GDP and China's inflation numbers, will also affect global market trends.

FM Sitharaman: Govt's Fiscal Policies Align with RBI's Decisions for Economic Growth

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated on Saturday that the government's fiscal and monetary policies are working in harmony, which would further boost India's growing economy. This, she highlighted, is backed by the robust Budget and the recent decisions made by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Speaking at a post-Budget meeting in New Delhi with RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, FM Sitharaman emphasized the good coordination between the central bank and the government, noting that both institutions respect each other's space and responsibilities. She was accompanied by Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary and Malhotra at the meeting.

The Finance Minister pointed out that industries are beginning to show signs of recovery in terms of consumption and capacity utilization. She saw this as a positive trend and suggested that the RBI's recent decision to cut the repo rate by 25 basis points would provide the necessary momentum for further growth.

"The industry is witnessing early signs of recovery, and this trend will strengthen with the combined efforts of fiscal policies and the RBI's actions," FM Sitharaman said. She acknowledged that the monetary easing from the RBI would help support consumption, improve liquidity, and encourage business investments.

While the government continues to support growth through its fiscal measures, the RBI's monetary policy decisions are also aimed at maintaining economic stability and fostering expansion. The synchronized efforts of both entities are expected to strengthen India's position as it recovers from global challenges and continues on a path of sustainable growth.

The post-Budget meeting was crucial to aligning policies and strategies that will fuel the next phase of India's economic growth, and both the Finance Minister and RBI Governor expressed confidence in the country's future prospects.





Beef biryani for lunch at University? Viral notice reads 'Enjoy the new addition', triggers row



A notice announcing the substitution of chicken biryani with beef biryani for Sunday lunch at Aligarh Muslim University's (AMU) Sir Shah Sulaiman Hall has ignited significant controversy. The notice, reportedly issued by two authorized individuals, stated:

"Sunday's lunch menu has been changed, and beef biryani will be served instead of chicken biryani as per demand. We hope you enjoy the new addition to our menu."

The announcement quickly went viral on social media, leading to widespread uproar among students and the public. In response to the backlash, the AMU administration clarified that the notice was a "typing error" and assured that those responsible had been issued show-cause notices. An AMU official stated,

"The matter was brought to our attention. We found that the notice was regarding the food menu. However,

it contained a clear typing error. The notice was immediately withdrawn as it had no official signatures, raising doubts about its authenticity."

The incident has sparked heated discussions online, with some individuals criticizing the administration's handling of the situation and accusing it of encouraging radical elements. BJP leader Nishit Sharma remarked,

"The administration's role in this is shameful. A notice was circulated at the Sir Shah Sulaiman Hall stating that beef biryani would be served instead of chicken biryani. Such actions indicate that the administration is encouraging radical elements and covering up student misconduct."

The controversy highlights the sensitivity surrounding food choices and cultural practices within educational institutions. AMU's prompt clarification aims to address the concerns raised and maintain harmony within the university community

Swiggy Instamart Users Report Receiving 4 to 5 Lakh 'Free Cash' Due to Glitch



India subreddit has sparked a wave of excitement and curiosity, as a Reddit user, @Technical-Relation-9, claimed that random Swiggy Instamart users had received between ₹4,000 to ₹5 lakh in free cash due to a glitch. The user titled their post, "Someone is definitely losing their job at Swiggy," revealing that many users unexpectedly got the huge sums of

money on the app. According to the post, these users were able to use the money to place orders, which were successfully delivered. However, some of them later received calls from Swiggy informing them of a system error and requesting that they return the items. The original poster (OP) shared screenshots of successful orders,

which fueled the discussions further.

The post quickly garnered attention, with Reddit users expressing disbelief and curiosity. One user asked if the money was truly received randomly, and OP confirmed that it was. Another user suggested the glitch could be related to a promotion that went wrong, explaining that instead of the usual ₹50-₹100 discounts, some users received thousands. Once Swiggy realized the issue, they fixed the offer's probability, leading to more typical discounts for others.

While many joined in the conversation, some users were skeptical, asking whether this was just a marketing gimmick. OP responded by insisting that the screenshots shared were genuine, showcasing actual orders from users who received the large sums. One Redditor even claimed that their friend had received ₹4,000, while they only got ₹50 in their account.

Livemint has reached out to Swiggy for confirmation of these claims, and the story will be updated with their response. For now, the mystery continues, leaving Swiggy Instamart users intrigued by what may have been a costly glitch.

Mumbai Woman Receives Life Lesson from Coconut Seller

In the hustle of daily life, it's easy to overlook the simple joys and moments that truly matter. A recent encounter in Mumbai serves as a poignant reminder to pause and appreciate life's small pleasures.

Gargi, a resident of Mumbai, was on her way to an Uber ride when she stopped to purchase a coconut from a local vendor. In her haste, she requested the vendor to expedite the process. Instead of merely complying, the vendor offered a piece of advice that resonated deeply with her: "Why do you earn so much money? Work will always continue, but you should take time to eat and drink."

Gargi shared this interaction on social media, highlighting the vendor's wisdom. Her post quickly gained traction, with many users reflecting on the importance of balancing work with self-care. One user remarked, "The Uber driver would have surely waited for 2-3 minutes... so there wasn't any hurry actually." Another added, "Bhaiya ko kon btaye itne paise kafi nahi hai aur log toh itne se



bahot jayda kamate hai wo de pate hai time" (Who will tell him that this amount of money is not enough. Those who earn more than these can only afford the luxury of time). cite turn search.

This exchange underscores the value of mindfulness and the significance of taking time to enjoy life's simple pleasures, even amidst our busy schedules.

Kerala Kid's Adorable Plea for Biryani Over Upma Wins Hearts Online



A heartwarming video from Kerala featuring a little boy, Shanku, has captured the hearts of people across the internet. In the video, Shanku expresses his deep desire for biryani, instead of the usual upma served at his anganwadi (government-run childcare center). His earnest and adorable plea, in which he mispronounces biryani as "birnani" and also asks for "poricha kozhi" (fried chicken), has gone viral, with social media users absolutely loving the sweet request.

The video shows Shanku, wearing a tiny helmet and in the middle of playing with his bike, making his food wish known. Despite the fun and excitement of his playtime, his love for biryani was undeniable. He insists, "I need 'birnani' and 'poricha kozhi' in the Anganwadi instead of upma,"

a statement that caught the attention of his mother. Amused by his sincere request, she decided to share the moment on social media, and it instantly went viral.

Social media users couldn't help but be charmed by Shanku's innocent and straightforward request. His genuine disappointment over not getting biryani, paired with his cute mispronunciation of the dish, quickly garnered attention. The video resonated with many people, as biryani is often considered the ultimate comfort food for food lovers across the world, especially in India.

Not only did the video win the hearts of netizens, but it also attracted the attention of the Kerala state government. Shanku's lovable plea has turned into a conversation starter, with many pointing out how children's straightforward desires can sometimes be more relatable and adorable than one might think. The video has sparked joy and smiles, making people reminisce about their own childhood food cravings.

Shanku's viral moment has proven that sometimes, a simple, genuine wish for something as beloved as biryani can capture the imagination of people far and wide.

Chocolate Day Is Here And The Internet Is Having A Field Day



Chocolate Day, the third day of Valentine's Week, is a delightful occasion to indulge in everyone's favorite treat. Whether it's a rich truffle, a creamy bar, or a beautifully wrapped box, chocolate serves as the perfect token of affection. It's a go-to gift for loved ones, a mood booster, and often, a comforting companion during long days. From partners to parents, siblings, and best friends, this day is all about spreading happiness through this delectable delight.

While many are savoring their chocolates, others are celebrating in a uniquely 2025 fashion—by sharing humorous memes and jokes on social media. These lighthearted posts add a fun twist to the festivities, offering a blend of sweetness and laughter.

For instance, a popular meme features a playful comparison between the joy of receiving chocolates and the reality of indulging in them alone. Another humorous post showcases a witty take on the classic "I love you more than chocolate" sentiment, suggesting that, in

reality, no one loves you more than chocolate. These memes resonate with many, especially those who find solace in chocolate during the season of love.

Additionally, some memes humorously depict the contrast between couples sharing chocolates and singles enjoying their own stash, highlighting the universal appeal of chocolate. Others playfully exaggerate the lengths one might go to acquire chocolates, adding a comedic touch to the celebration.

These memes not only entertain but also foster a sense of community among chocolate enthusiasts, reminding everyone that, regardless of relationship status, chocolate is a source of joy and comfort.

In essence, Chocolate Day 2025 is a sweet reminder of the simple pleasures in life. Whether you're sharing chocolates with a loved one or enjoying them solo, the day encourages us to embrace the joy that this delightful treat brings. And with the added humor from these memes, the celebration be-



“Felt Like Pakistan Was Away Team”: Ex-PCB Chairman’s Worrying Statement Ahead of Champions Trophy



Former PCB chairman Ramiz Raja expressed serious concerns over Pakistan’s performance after their 78-run loss to New Zealand in the ODI tri-series opener in Lahore. Pakistan’s bowlers, particularly pacers Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah, struggled to contain the Kiwis, with Shaheen conceding 88 runs despite taking three wickets, and Naseem going wicketless, leaking 70 runs.

Ramiz criticized the team’s performance, saying, “It felt like New Zealand was the home team. Players looked fitter, adapted better to the conditions, and played with clear roles.” He pointed out that Pakistan’s bowlers lacked variation and precision, unable to handle the batting-friendly conditions expected at the Champions Trophy. New Zealand set a daunting target of 331, with a

sensational 106* from Glenn Phillips, who scored his last 77 runs in just 32 balls. Despite a promising start where Pakistan reduced New Zealand to 39/2, Phillips’ explosive innings turned the match in favor of the Kiwis, sealing a comfortable win. Ramiz’s remarks highlight the growing doubts about Pakistan’s ability to perform in high-pressure conditions ahead of the Champions Trophy.

India vs England 2nd ODI Highlights: Rohit Sharma Century Helps India Ease Past England by 4 Wickets, Seal Series

India defeated England by 4 wickets in the second ODI on Sunday to seal the three-match series. England, opting to bat first, posted 304 all-out, with Ravindra Jadeja being the standout bowler, claiming 3 wickets for 35 runs. Despite the solid total, England’s hopes were dashed by a sensational century from Rohit Sharma. Rohit returned to form in style, scoring 119 runs off 90 balls, featuring 12 fours and 7 sixes. This century marked his 32nd in ODIs, surpassing Rahul Dravid in the list of India’s most prolific international century makers. Rohit now holds third place, behind Virat Kohli (81) and Sachin Tendulkar (100). Additionally, during his knock, Rohit surpassed Chris Gayle in the list of batters with the most sixes in ODIs. With a total of 332 sixes, he now sits at second place, just behind Shahid Afridi (351). Rohit’s explosive performance guided India to a comfortable victory, wrapping up the series with a 2-0 lead.



India Shuttler PV Sindhu Pulls Out of Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships 2025 Due to Hamstring Injury



Indian badminton star PV Sindhu has withdrawn from the 2025 Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships (BAMTC) due to a hamstring injury. The tournament, set to take place in Qingdao from February 11-16, will proceed without the 29-year-old shuttler, who was a key part of the Indian squad that won bronze in the previous edition.

In a statement on social media, Sindhu explained that she felt a twinge in her hamstring during training in Guwahati on February 4. Despite trying to push through with heavy taping, an MRI revealed that her recovery would take longer than anticipated.

Sindhu has been battling injuries since claiming her first women’s singles gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. A left foot stress fracture during the event sidelined her for the remainder of the year, missing the World Championships and World Tour Finals.

India, placed in a tough Group D alongside South Korea and Macau, will begin their campaign on February 12 against Macau, followed by a challenging match against South Korea on February 13. Sindhu expressed her support for the team, stating that she would be “cheering from the sidelines.”

Haryana in Control vs Mumbai, Tamil Nadu Struggling in Ranji Trophy Quarter-Finals



Haryana captain Ankit Kumar’s brilliant century put his team in a strong position against defending champions Mumbai on the second day of their Ranji Trophy quarter-final. Ankit’s 136 runs guided Haryana to 263/5, closing in on Mumbai’s first-innings total of 315. Despite Tanush Kotian’s valiant 97 for Mumbai, Haryana’s dominant performance with the bat left them just 53 runs behind,

with Ankit leading from the front and punishing the bowlers.

In contrast, Tamil Nadu’s batting woes continued against Vidarbha. Aditya Thakare’s four-wicket haul reduced Tamil Nadu to 159/6, still trailing Vidarbha by 194 runs after the latter posted 353 in their first innings. Young C Andre Sidharth’s 65 was the only highlight for Tamil Nadu, while veterans like Narayan Jagadeesan

and Vijay Shankar failed to make a substantial impact. Tamil Nadu will rely on Pradosh Ranjan Paul and captain R Sai Kishore to turn things around on Day 3.

Mumbai’s hopes of restricting Haryana lie with their seamers, while Vidarbha’s strong batting performance has them in a commanding position against Tamil Nadu.

Three Indian Davis Cup Stars Granted Delhi Open 2025 Main Draw Wildcards

Three Indian Davis Cup players, Sasi-kumar Mukund, Ramkumar Ramanathan, and Kiran Singh, have been granted wildcard entries into the men’s singles main draw of the Delhi Open 2025. The wildcards were announced by the organizers of the ATP Challenger event on Saturday. Additionally, young talents Chirag Duhan, Aryan Shah, Aditya Govila, and Sidharth Rawat have received wildcards for the qualifying event.

The Delhi Open, an ATP Challenger 75 event, will return for its fifth edition at the DLTA Complex from February 10-16. Former World No. 31 Lloyd Harris from South Africa, seeded fourth, and 2019 junior Wimbledon champion Shintaro Mochizuki, seeded sixth, are among the top contenders. Czech player Vit Kopri-va, the top seed, aims to add to his five ATP Challenger titles, while the second and third seeds, Billy Harris from the UK and Australia’s Tristan Schoolkate,

bring in their recent successes to the event.

Rohit Rajpal, DLTA President and India’s non-playing Davis Cup captain, emphasized that the tournament is a significant platform for players to test themselves and climb the ATP rankings. The event offers valuable ranking points and continues to play a crucial role in shaping the careers of both experienced and emerging players.





Chiranjeevi Praises Vishwaksen's Response, Talks About Unity Among Heroes in the Film Industry

At the pre-release event of *Laila*, featuring Vishwaksen in the lead role, Megastar Chiranjeevi shared his thoughts on the energy such events bring. He recalled a recent interaction with Vishwaksen, who gave a witty reply when asked about his relationships with other heroes. Vishwaksen humorously stated, "We have a compound at home, but there's no compound in the film industry," showing that despite industry rivalries, heroes can remain friendly. Chiranjeevi also reflected on the history of fan rivalry



and how, in the past, fans of different heroes often fought over their idols. He shared an incident from his childhood when two of his cousins, who were fans

of different heroes, fought fiercely. This, according to Chiranjeevi, shaped his belief in fostering camaraderie among actors. He emphasized that heroes should

support each other and attend each other's functions, irrespective of the competition.

He also mentioned his personal relationships with industry stalwarts like Nagarjuna and Balakrishna, stating that they often meet and maintain a friendly rapport. Chiranjeevi added that success in the industry should be celebrated collectively as it benefits the entire film fraternity, with many families relying on its prosperity. He urged the industry to maintain harmonious relationships and mutual respect.

Naga Chaitanya's *Thandel* Continues Rampage at the Box Office

Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi's *Thandel* is proving to be an unstoppable force at the box office, with audiences flocking to theaters in large numbers. The film, directed by Chandoo Mondeti, has struck a chord with viewers, resulting in phenomenal growth in ticket sales and collections.

On Day 2, the film witnessed a remarkable surge, selling over 260.15K tickets, a significant jump from its already impressive opening day. The total worldwide gross now stands at ₹41.20 Cr in just two days, reinforcing its status as a massive blockbuster in the making. With Sunday bookings soaring, trade

experts predict that Day 3 collections will be even bigger. If the momentum continues, *Thandel* is set to become the highest-grossing film of Naga Chaitanya's career by a considerable margin.

Internationally, the film is also making waves, particularly in the United States, where it has already crossed the \$550K mark. At this pace, *Thandel* is poised to enter the prestigious million-dollar club in North America very soon. With positive word of mouth and strong occupancy rates, *Thandel* is all set to dominate the box office in the coming days, further cementing Naga Chaitanya and Sai Pallavi's

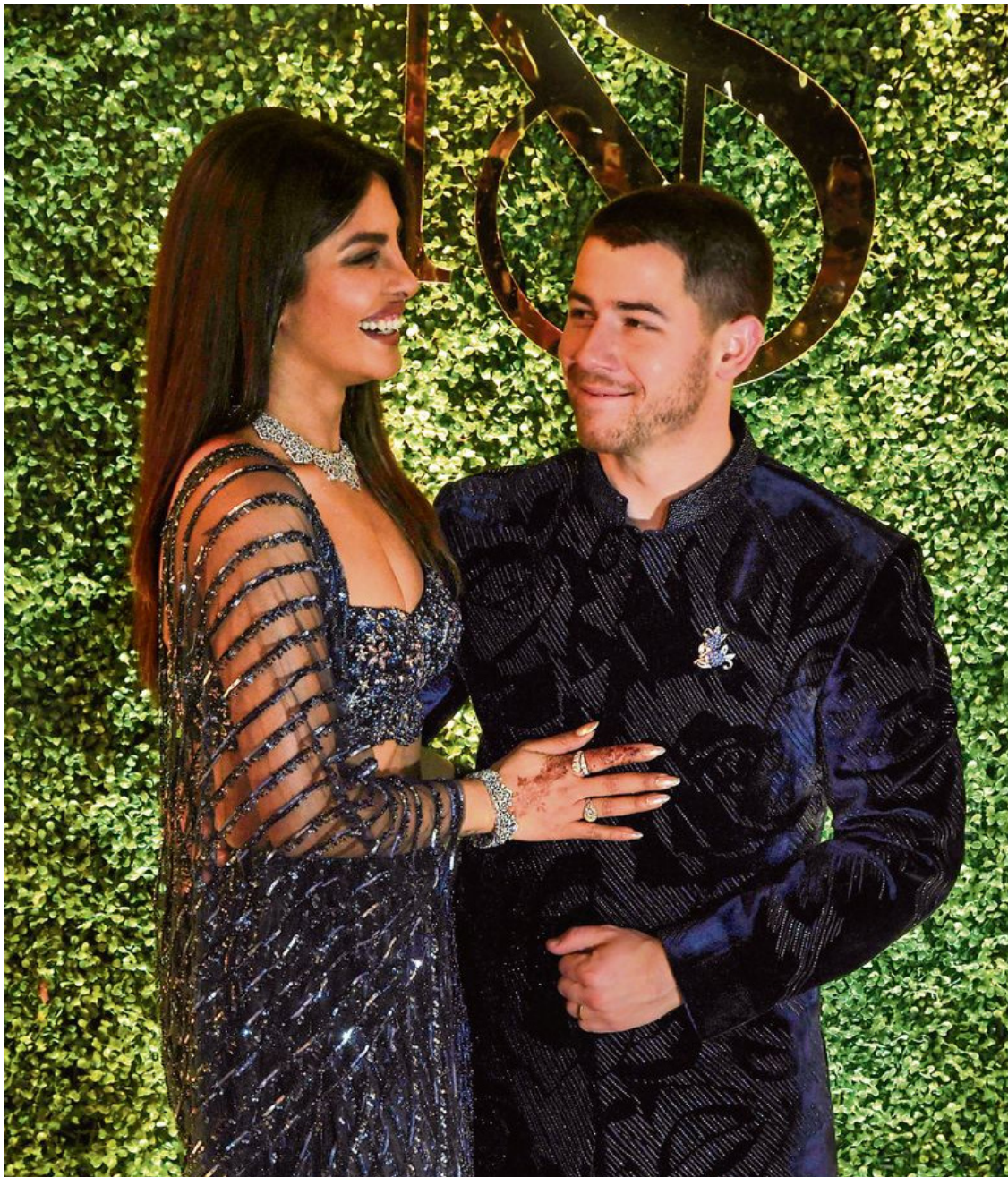


Nick Jonas Embraces Indian Traditions at Brother-in-Law Siddharth Chopra's Wedding

Nick Jonas made a special appearance at his brother-in-law Siddharth Chopra's wedding to Neelam Upadhyaya, soaking in the vibrant Indian traditions. The wedding, which became the talk of the town, followed Hindu customs, including the haldi, mehendi, and baarat ceremonies. Priyanka Chopra's American singer-husband, who arrived from Los Angeles, embraced his role as the jiju (brother-in-law) and took part in the celebrations with enthusiasm.

In a heartwarming video shared by Dr. Madhu Chopra, Nick was seen carrying a pooja ki thali, with a varmala (wedding garland) for the bride and groom. He was dressed in a crisp white blazer suit, paired with a traditional padgi (headwear), adding a cultural touch to his outfit. The video showcased Nick fully immersing himself in the festivities.

The highlight of the celebration was when Priyanka and Nick took over the dance floor, setting it on fire with their energetic moves, bringing even more fun to the already joyous occasion. Nick's participation in the wedding highlighted his deep respect for Indian customs, making it a memorable family affair.



Janhvi Kapoor Stuns in a Mesmerizing Silver Ensemble



Janhvi Kapoor never fails to impress, and this time, she traded the breezy summer vibe for pure glamour!

Draped in a dazzling silver corset top and a mermaid-style skirt, she exuded elegance and confidence. Her cascading hair, bold mascara, and a striking matching necklace added to the allure of her backless ensemble, making it an unforgettable fashion moment.

On the work front, Janhvi is gearing up for her much-anticipated Telugu debut alongside Ram Charan in "RC16." The film, directed by Buchi Babu Sana, promises to be a gripping entertainer, and fans are eager to see this fresh on-screen pairing. With back-to-back exciting projects, Janhvi continues to make waves in both fashion and cinema.

Lisa Mishra to Perform with Ed Sheeran in Delhi's Biggest International Concert

Singer-actress Lisa Mishra is set to create history as she performs alongside global music icon Ed Sheeran in Delhi on February 15. This highly anticipated event is being touted as the biggest international show ever held in the capital.

Lisa Mishra, known for her chart-topping tracks and acting prowess, is stepping into the global music spotlight with this prestigious collaboration. Fans can also expect an exclusive treat, as she might unveil some of her unreleased music during the concert. Expressing her excitement, Lisa said, "Performing with Ed Sheeran is nothing short of a dream come true. He has been one of my biggest inspirations, and to share the same stage with him is surreal. This is a defining moment in my career, reinforcing my belief in the power of music and hard work." This collaboration marks a significant milestone in Lisa's career,



solidifying her place in the international music scene. With an electrifying atmosphere expected at the concert, fans are eagerly waiting for this historic musical moment in Delhi.