

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

CM Naidu Directs Leaders to Ensure Victory in Graduate MLC Elections

- CM holds teleconference with ministers, MPs, MLAs, and alliance leaders of joint Guntur-Krishna and Godavari districts.
Calls for unity among alliance parties to secure a decisive win in the upcoming Graduate MLC elections on February 27.
Emphasizes government's efforts in governance, investments, job creation, and welfare programs.



TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Feb 17

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu held a teleconference with ministers, MPs, MLAs, and alliance leaders of the joint Guntur-Krishna and Godavari districts to discuss strategies for the Graduate MLC elections scheduled for February 27.

Key Directions from CM Naidu:

- Alliance leaders must work as a team to secure a resounding victory in the Graduate MLC elections.
Voter awareness and mobilization are crucial, given that the alliance secured a 93% strike rate in the 2024 general elections due to public trust.
Governance reforms and welfare initiatives are being implemented effectively, bringing a clear change in administration.
Investor confidence in AP has improved, leading to agreements worth over ₹7 lakh crore, creating 4 lakh employment opportunities.
Skill development centers are being set up across the state to enhance youth employment prospects.
Government achievements in just 8 months:
64 lakh people receive pensions monthly.
16,347 teacher posts to be filled through DSC notification.
₹780 crore in fee reimbursement cleared from previous dues.
Timely salary payments for employees and pensioners.
Plans to generate income for educated women through work-from-home opportunities.
CM Naidu stressed that with just 10 days left for the elections, constant coordination between alliance leaders is essential. He directed leaders to adhere to the election code of conduct while ensuring a greater majority in the MLC elections compared to the general elections.



Minister Nara Lokesh to Visit Prayagraj for Maha Kumbh Mela

TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Feb 17

Andhra Pradesh Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh is set to visit Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, on Monday to participate in the Maha Kumbh Mela. His travel schedule has been finalized, with key religious observances planned during his visit.

Sangam) and participate in the Kumbh Mela rituals.

- After taking a holy dip and attending puja programs, he will depart for Varanasi at 3 PM.
In Varanasi, he will participate in various programs before boarding a flight at 8 PM to Vijayawada.
Upon arrival at Gannavaram Airport, he will travel by road to his residence in Undavalli.

As per the schedule:

- Minister Lokesh will depart from Hyderabad Begumpet Airport at 7 AM on Monday and arrive in Prayagraj.
He will then travel by road to the holy confluence (Triveni

Minister Nara Lokesh's participation in the Maha Kumbh Mela highlights his commitment to spiritual and cultural traditions while continuing his ministerial responsibilities.



Janasena Holds Key Meeting in Rajahmundry for Graduate MLC Elections

- Jana Sena leaders rally support for Graduate MLC alliance candidate Perabathula Rajasekharam.
Minister Kandula Durgesh and PAC Chairman Nadendla Manohar emphasize unity and commitment.
Leaders stress coalition government's focus on governance, welfare, and investment growth.



Home Minister Reviews Brahmotsavam Arrangements in Srikalahasti

TPN Correspondent Srikalahasti, Feb 17

Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha conducted an extensive review meeting regarding the Mahashivratri Brahmotsavams of Srikalahasti, ensuring coordination among all departments for a smooth and grand celebration. The state government has appointed three ministers—Endowments and Charities Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy,



First GBS Death Reported in Andhra Pradesh

- Kamalamma from Alasandalapalle village succumbs to Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS).
Treated at Giddalur Area Hospital before being shifted to Guntur Government Hospital.
Currently, 17 people are receiving treatment for GBS in state hospitals.

TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, Feb 17

The first death due to Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) has been recorded in Andhra Pradesh, raising concerns about the spread of the disease. Kamalamma, a resident of Alasandalapalle village in Daddawada panchayat, Komarolu mandal, Prakasam district, succumbed to the illness after days of treatment. Initially admitted to Giddalur Area Hospital with back pain, Kamalamma was later transferred to Guntur Government Hospital for advanced care. Despite being placed on a ventilator for severe fever and numbness in her legs, she unfortunately passed away. Currently, 17 patients are undergoing treatment for GBS in various government hospitals across the state. Though GBS is not a contagious disease, health officials advise caution. The condition, resembling paralysis, often affects individuals with pre-existing infections. In severe cases, muscle damage can occur. Health experts stress that early detection and treatment can lead to full recovery. GBS is believed to spread mainly through contaminated water and food, making hygiene and preventive measures crucial. While the disease typically affects adults, recent cases among children and infants have sparked further concerns. Authorities are urging people to remain vigilant, seek immediate medical attention if symptoms appear, and follow strict hygiene practices to prevent further cases.

Janasena Holds Key Meeting in Rajahmundry for Graduate MLC Elections

TPN Correspondent
Rajahmundry, Feb 17

The Jana Sena Party (JSP) held an important meeting in Rajahmundry to mobilize support for the Graduate MLC alliance candidate Perabathula Rajasekharam from the United Godavari Districts. The meeting was presided over by Rajahmundry Parliament MLC Election Coordinator Y. Srinivas, with key leaders, including Jana Sena PAC Chairman Nadendra Manohar and State Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh, in attendance. Several Jana Sena MLAs from the united Godavari districts, along with district officials and party functionaries, participated in the meeting. Leaders urged Jana Sena cadres to work tirelessly to ensure Rajasekharam's victory, highlighting the importance of the election for the coalition's future.

Minister Kandula Durgesh's Address

Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh emphasized that the success of the alliance candidate is crucial for strengthening the coalition government. He stated that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu is fully focused on the upcoming elections, and winning the MLC seat would be a gift to Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan.

He highlighted the coalition's commitment to governance, citing:

The target of creating 20 lakh jobs in five years. The upcoming DSC notification post-election code. The state's rapid development under a double-engine government (Center and State collaboration). Durgesh stressed that winning the MLC election would further the coalition's goal of serving the people effectively and bring the government closer to the public.

PAC Chairman Nadendra Manohar's Comments

Nadendra Manohar reaffirmed the Jana Sena's dedication to public service, emphasizing that the party's journey is built on selflessness and integrity. He called on Jana Sena members to take responsibility for the alliance candidate's victory and continue working in line with Pawan Kalyan's vision for the state.

Manohar also addressed:

Panchayati Raj development under Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan's leadership. Efforts to support farmers and pensioners. Measures to attract large-scale investments into the state. He warned against forces trying to create divisions within the alliance and called for unity and vigilance. The meeting concluded with leaders reaffirming their commitment to governance, welfare, and investment. They credited Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan's leadership for pushing vital initiatives and pledged to work closely with CM Chandrababu Naidu to ensure the coalition's long-term success.

Actor Rajendra Prasad Meets Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan

TPN Correspondent
Mangalagiri, Feb 17

Veteran Tollywood actor Rajendra Prasad met Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan at his camp office in Mangalagiri this afternoon. The meeting, described as a courtesy call, saw discussions on various topics, including developments in the film industry and public welfare initiatives.

Rajendra Prasad, known for his versatile acting and contributions to Indian cinema, expressed admiration for Pawan Kalyan's leadership and the coalition government's efforts in governance and public service. The meeting also touched upon the role of the film industry in social change, with Rajendra Prasad emphasizing the importance of cinema in shaping public awareness and cultural values. Sources suggest that the two also exchanged views on initiatives to support artists and creative pro-



professionals in Andhra Pradesh. The interaction concluded on a positive note, with both personalities reaffirming their commitment to the betterment of society and cultural growth.

Home Minister Reviews...

Continued from page 1

Revenue Minister Angani Satyaprasad, and Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha—to oversee the arrangements. After two ministers held a review last week, Home Minister Anitha visited the Srikalahasti temple on Sunday. She first offered prayers at the temple and later coordinated with officials in the administration building to finalize preparations. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Anitha stated that this will be the first Brahmotsavam in Srikalahasti since the formation of the coalition government, and all efforts are being made to ensure a hassle-free experience for devotees. Special queue lines have been set up for smooth darshan, and measures are being taken to prevent misuse of VIP passes by collecting them back upon entry. Additionally, she announced that the ₹50 darshan ticket has been removed, and free darshan will be conducted through two separate lines. To enhance the experience for devotees, free drinking water bottles and buttermilk packets will be distributed throughout the event. Authorities are working diligently to ensure efficient crowd management, better facilities, and a spiritually enriching experience for the thousands of devotees expected to visit during the 13-day Brahmotsavam celebrations.

Minister Savita Promotes Investment in AP's Handloom Sector



TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Feb 17

Andhra Pradesh State Handloom and Textile Minister S. Savita, representing Andhra Pradesh at the Bharat Tex-2025 International Exhibition in New Delhi, engaged with domestic and foreign industrialists, inviting them to invest in the state's booming textile sector.

The Bharat Tex-2025 event, organized by the Central Government, aims to enhance market access for Indian handlooms and attract investments in textiles. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the event at Bharat Mandapam, highlighting the sector's potential.

Investment-Friendly Textile Policy

Minister Savita emphasized the proactive measures taken by CM Chandrababu Naidu to revitalize the handloom sector, citing:

- A new textiles policy offering immediate permissions, subsidies, land allotments, and infrastructure support.
- AP's skilled workforce, making it an ideal hub for textile industries.
- The production of world-class silk and handloom fabrics.

She urged industrialists to take advantage of AP's investor-friendly policies and assured them of the state government's com-

mitment to ease of doing business. Empowering Weavers & Strengthening Handloom Marketing

The Minister highlighted several initiatives to boost the handloom industry, including:

- Handloom exhibitions and expos in key cities to expand marketing opportunities.
- Textile parks and weaver hubs ensuring year-round employment and financial security.
- A 15% subsidy on yarn purchases for weavers.
- Expansion of e-commerce sales via Amazon, Myntra, Flipkart, Jio Mart, and APCO showrooms, ensuring direct delivery of handloom fabrics to consumers.
- GST reimbursement for handloom cooperative societies.
- Free electricity benefits: 200 units for handloom workers and 500 units for power loom workers.
- 90% subsidy for modern weaving equipment and machinery.

Minister Savita was accompanied by State Handloom and Textiles Commissioner Rekha Rani, APCO MD Pavana Murthy, and other officials. Upon her arrival in Delhi, she received a grand welcome at AP Bhavan, reflecting the state's commitment to the handloom sector's growth.

Minister Dola Bala Veeranjanya Swamy Addresses Concerns Over GBS Case in Prakasam

TPN Correspondent
Prakasam, Feb 17

State Minister Dola Bala Veeranjanya Swamy responded to public concerns following the death of a woman due to Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) in Prakasam district. He assured that GBS is not a contagious disease and urged people not to panic. Clarifying misconceptions, the minister stated that GBS is not a newly emerged virus but has existed for a long time. He added that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has already reviewed the situation, emphasizing that the coalition government prioritizes public health.

The State Health Minister has conducted a review on the disease, and hospitals across Andhra Pradesh have adequate medicines and treatment facilities. Minister Veeranjanya Swamy directed doctors to immediately provide appropriate treatment to anyone showing symptoms of GBS.

Furthermore, he instructed health authorities to actively raise awareness among the public and eliminate any misconceptions surrounding the disease. The health department remains on high alert, ensuring prompt medical response and necessary preventive measures.

BEE to Host National Energy Efficiency Summit in Vijayawada

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 17

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, is set to strengthen state-level energy efficiency efforts by hosting the BEE-Indo German Energy Program Partnership National Summit on February 20-21, 2025, in Vijayawada.

The summit will focus on enhancing the role of State Designated Agencies (SDAs) in implementing national energy conservation programs, resulting in substantial energy savings and CO2 reductions.

In a letter to Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand, Srikanth Nagulapally, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power & DG, BEE, invited him to deliver the inaugural address and provide insights to support the summit's success.

Welcoming the initiative, Vijayanand emphasized Andhra Pradesh's commitment to ensuring financial stability for power distribution companies (DISCOMs) and promoting renewable energy through PM Surya Ghar and PM Kusum schemes. He also urged the Centre to double the state's battery storage capacity from 1,000 MW to 2,000 MW to strengthen grid stability and renewable energy adoption.

On this occasion, Vijayanand released a report on the impact of BEE Star Rated Appliances, focusing on economic and energy savings through effective communication strategies. The report was presented by A. Chandra Sekhara Reddy, Media Adviser for Southern States & UTS, BEE, Ministry of Power.

Ahead of the summit, BEE Secretary Milind Deora and Director Abhishek Sharma reviewed event preparations with APSECM CEO and officials. A special session will highlight best energy efficiency practices from Andhra Pradesh, Tripura, Kerala, Karnataka, Odisha, and Uttarakhand.

Outsourcing Employees Demand Job Security in Andhra Pradesh

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Feb 17

The Contract & Outsourcing Employees Association Andhra Pradesh (COEA AP) has urged the state government to ensure job security for outsourcing employees working in various government departments. The association leaders K. Suman (State President) and G. Sampath Kumar (Co-President) visited Ongole, Prakasam district on Sunday and interacted with employees facing uncertainties regarding their employment status. Speaking at the meeting, Suman and Sampath Kumar highlighted the difficulties out-

sourcing employees face due to job insecurity. They pointed out that in the past, HR policies were implemented for SPERS and MEPMA employees, ensuring stability. However, despite working in key government departments, many outsourcing employees continue to struggle due to a lack of permanent employment policies. The COEA leaders also strongly opposed the abolition of APCAS, stating that such a move would push employees towards exploitation by private agencies. They demanded immediate intervention from the government to prevent outsourcing employees from losing job protection.

Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy Orders Report on Katrenipadu Minor Canal Excavation

TPN Correspondent
Eluru, Feb 17

Housing and Information Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy has ordered officials to submit a detailed report on the hurdles preventing the excavation of a minor canal near Katrenipadu in Nuziveedu constituency. On Sunday, Minister Parthasarathy and Eluru MP Mahesh Kumar visited the constituency and inspected the incomplete minor canal under the NSP Madicherla Major following requests from local farmers. Farmers expressed frustration over a 30-year-long obstruction by two individuals, preventing the digging of a 300-meter stretch, which has restricted Sagar water supply to nine villages, lead-

ing to crop losses. In response, MP Mahesh Kumar and Minister Parthasarathy immediately engaged Revenue and Nagarjuna Sagar Project officials to resolve the issue.

Speaking at the site, MP Mahesh Kumar blamed the previous YSRCP government for its failure to complete the Chintalapudi lift irrigation scheme, which has worsened the irrigation crisis. He emphasized that the scheme's completion would offer a long-term solution for local farmers. Minister Parthasarathy criticized the prior administration for neglecting Sagar canal repairs, allowing thorn bushes and weeds to block water flow. He directed officials to prepare cost estimates for Sagar canal repairs and submit a report to the government.

YSRCP Leaders Remain Unchanged, Even After Winning 11 Seats - Minister Nimmala



**TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Feb 17**
Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu has launched a scathing attack on YCP leader Vallabhaneni Vamsi, branding him as an alias for corruption and an agent of lawlessness. He alleged that former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, who continues to support Vamsi, is equally responsible for fostering disorder and political anarchy. Speaking to the media, Minister Nimmala recalled how Vallabhaneni Vamsi led an attack on the TDP office—an incident unheard of anywhere else in the country. He pointed out that a Dalit youth, who courageously spoke against this attack, was allegedly kidnapped and intimidated. Furthermore, he accused Vamsi of tampering with evidence and conspiring to threaten the youth into silence. The Minister directly questioned YS Jagan's stance, asking how a lead-

er could defend such acts instead of admitting fault. He criticized Jagan for having a regressive attitude towards women and Dalits and challenged him to justify his support for individuals like Vamsi. Minister Nimmala assured the public that the state will no longer witness the anarchy and lawlessness that were prevalent under the previous YSRCP regime. He asserted that the current government is committed to ensuring justice and accountability. Expressing his strong disapproval of YSRCP's continued political behavior, he remarked, "Despite winning 11 seats, YSRCP leaders, including YS Jagan, have still not learned their lesson." He reaffirmed that the administration will take strict action against any attempts to disrupt peace and governance, sending a clear message that the mistakes of the past will not be repeated.

Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu accused YCP leader Vallabhaneni Vamsi of corruption and lawlessness. Criticized former CM YS Jagan for shielding Vamsi and supporting attacks on the opposition. Assured that past anarchy under YSRCP rule will not be repeated under the current government.

Achieve a Historic Majority in MLC Elections, Says Minister Kollu Ravindra



gan Mohan Reddy. The minister expressed confidence in the alliance candidate, Alapati Rajendra Prasad, and called upon graduates to actively participate in the elections. "Let's meet every graduate and ensure they cast their vote for our alliance," he stated. Ravindra criticized the previous YSRCP government for damaging the state's reputation with divisive politics. He accused the former administration of converting the Polavaram project into a lift irrigation scheme and conspiring to dismantle Amaravati by fueling caste-based conflicts. He also recalled how opposition to the Patiseema project could have worsened the water crisis in Krishna district. Highlighting the alliance government's achievements, he stated that central funds have been allocated for the revival of both the Polavaram project and Amaravati. He noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had recently laid the foundation stone for investments worth ₹2 lakh crore in the state. Minister Kollu Ravindra stressed the importance of educating the youth about the contrast between the past five years of destruction and the rapid progress achieved in the last eight months. He concluded by asserting that the victory margin should be so significant that YSRCP leaders recognize the people's rejection of their governance.

Emphasized the need to free the state from YS Jagan's destructive rule. Highlighted central government support for Polavaram and Amaravati projects.

**TPN Correspondent
Machilipatnam, Feb 17**
Minister for Mines, Underground Resources, and Excise, Kollu Ravindra, called for a decisive victory in the upcoming legislative council elections, stating that Krishna district should make history with a massive majority. He made these remarks while attending a graduation ceremony in Machilipatnam, chaired by APSRTC Chairman and TDP District President Konakalla Narayana Rao. District In-charge Minister Vasamsetty Subhash was also present. Addressing the gathering, Kollu Ravindra emphasized the importance of securing results that protect the state from oppression and ensure progress. He urged everyone to work towards making Andhra Pradesh a hub for jobs and employment, free from the destructive policies of YS Ja-

Ensure Alapati Raja's Victory with a Large Majority: Chief Whip G.V. Anjaneyulu



**TPN Correspondent
Vinukonda, Feb 17**
Government Chief Whip and Senior MLA G.V. Anjaneyulu has called for a historic majority for Alapati Rajendra Prasad, the graduate MLC candidate from the joint Krishna-Guntur district alliance. Speaking at a graduate MLC election meeting held at Gangineeni Function Hall in Vinukonda town, Anjaneyulu emphasized the need to consolidate the alliance's strength. He credited CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu for spearheading state development, highlighting that the transformative changes in the past eight months are proof of effective governance. He asserted that the alliance

government is committed to fulfilling its promises and ensuring progress across sectors. Anjaneyulu urged graduates to exercise their vote strategically by giving their first priority vote to Alapati Rajendra Prasad. He stated that a strong mandate for Alapati Rajendra Prasad would further fortify the alliance's mission and accelerate development in the region. The event was attended by MLC candidate Alapati Rajendra Prasad, former MLA Makkena Mallikarjuna Rao, and alliance leaders, who collectively stressed the importance of graduate participation in shaping the state's future.

CPI Ramakrishna Questioned By CM Pawan Kalyan's Commitment to Governance

**TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Feb 17**
CPI State Secretary K. Ramakrishna has strongly criticized Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, questioning his administrative role. Speaking to the media, Ramakrishna alleged that Pawan is neglecting governance and spending more time visiting temples. He sarcastically remarked that instead of the Deputy CM post, Pawan should be assigned the Endowments Department. Taking aim at Pawan's political stance, Ramakrishna noted that a leader who once declared he was

"born to question" is now seen wearing saffron robes and touring shrines. He ridiculed Pawan's decision to observe a silent deeksha over alleged adulteration in temple laddus, arguing that such silence is not a responsible approach for a Deputy CM. Ramakrishna also accused Pawan of failing to address critical issues in the state. He pointed out that in 2022, 2,500 acres of land were allocated for Adani's hydroelectric projects in tribal areas, yet Pawan did not raise any objections. He questioned how a minister, entrusted with governance, could remain si-



lent on such significant decisions. The CPI leader's remarks have sparked a political debate, adding to the ongoing discussions about Pawan Kalyan's leadership and approach to governance.

Former MP GV Harsha Kumar Accuses Ruling Party of Manipulating Graduate Voters

**TPN Correspondent
Mummidivaram, Feb 17**
Former Amalapuram MP GV Harsha Kumar has alleged that the ruling party is trying to influence graduates in the MLC elections for both Godavari districts. Speaking at a press meet in Mummidivaram on Sunday, he criticized the unethical tactics being employed to manipulate voters. Harsha Kumar stated that graduate MLC elections are meant for educated youth and intellectuals and should remain free from political influence. However, he alleged that ruling party supporters have set up websites to track registered graduate voters, offering to arrange train and bus tickets for them. Calling this act shameful, he criticized the Election Commission for ignoring their complaints. He further added that his



son GV Sundar, contesting as an MLC candidate, is receiving strong public support. He criticized the state government's failure to deliver on key promises like unemployment allowance, job calendar, free bus services for women, and the Super Six scheme. Highlighting his contributions, he pointed out the Pasupu Lanka Saladavaripalem project, Annampalli New Aqueduct, NH

216 Highway, and Pacharlupudi Bridge. He also reaffirmed his support for fishermen in the Reliance issue. During the event, Harsha Kumar released the manifesto and ballot papers for GV Sundar's campaign. Several local leaders and supporters attended the meeting, including Mummidivaram Nagar Panchayat Chairman Kamidi Praveen Kumar and others.

₹700 Crore Nala Scam in Visakhapatnam: Jana Sena Corporator Murthy Yadav

**TPN Correspondent
Visakhapatnam, Feb 17**
Jana Sena Corporator Peethala Murthy Yadav has made serious allegations regarding a massive ₹700 crore Nala tax scam in Visakhapatnam. Speaking to the media, he claimed that large-scale irregularities took place during the previous YSRCP government, with party leaders and officials working together to misappropriate government revenue. Murthy Yadav questioned how such a huge scam could take place in a single city and urged the government to assess the extent of financial mismanagement across the entire state. He demanded that a senior IAS officer be appointed to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the matter.



He further stated that he would formally bring the issue to the attention of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan by writing an official letter. Murthy Yadav expressed confidence that the current government would take strict action to

expose and hold those responsible accountable. The allegations have sparked political discussions in Visakhapatnam, with growing demands for an investigation into the financial mismanagement during the previous administration.

Anchor Shyamala's Response to Trollers: Thanks to Everyone



**TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 17**
YSRCP official spokesperson and well-known anchor Shyamala has been subjected to intense trolling on social media over the past few days. Various old videos and photos of her performances before entering the film and television industries have resurfaced, with trollers making comments about

her past, including remarks about "recording dances" and "dancing on tire balls." However, Shyamala took an interesting and dignified approach to respond to the controversy. Expressing gratitude towards those who dug up her past, she stated, "I express my heartfelt gratitude for the immense love and affection you have shown me. Since child-

hood, I have faced many hardships for my family and endured struggles to move forward in life. Words cannot describe how much effort you all have put in to relive such childhood memories." She went on to sarcastically thank those who unearthed her old photos and videos, saying, "I sincerely thank each and every one of you who searched for my childhood memories and brought back pictures that are close to my heart. Your love, support, and trust mean everything to me." In a bold move, Shyamala even shared the same photos that trollers were using against her, turning their criticism into an opportunity to showcase her journey. Her response has gained widespread attention, with many appreciating her positive and confident approach in handling the situation.



MP Kesineni Shivnath Urges Panchayat Champions to Drive Village Development

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 17

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivnath (Chinni) emphasized that village development is essential for realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed India. He urged Panchayat Champions to ensure that government schemes reach every household and to promote entrepreneurship in every family, aligning with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision. As part of the Vikasith Panchayat initiative, MP Kesineni met 33 Panchayat Champions who completed village development training through the Kesine-



ni Foundation in collaboration with NIRDPR, Hyderabad. These youth underwent comprehensive training from February 10 to 16. MP Kesineni Shivnath and NIRDPR Director General G. Narendra Kumar awarded IAS-certified certificates to the trained

Panchayat Champions. The participants presented village development plans, outlining strategies for employment generation, women empowerment, rural education, and environmental protection.

Key Initiatives

- Sanitary napkin manufacturing units to be set up in four constituencies.
- CSR funds will be used to enhance Primary Health Centers (PHCs).
- Playgrounds modernized in 194 government schools with sports kits.
- Reports to be prepared on village resources and facilities.

The event was attended by NIRDPR officials, including Director General G. Narendra Kumar IAS, faculty members, and project coordinators. MP Kesineni affirmed his commitment to developing 295 villages in the Vijayawada constituency as a model for the nation.



Kaps Rocks Founder Peddireddy Siva Bhaskar Offers Prayers at Sri Tirupatamma Temple

TPN Correspondent
Penuganchiprol, Feb 17

Peddireddy Siva Bhaskar, Founder of Kaps Rocks, paid a devotional visit to the sacred Sri Tirupatamma Ammavari Temple in Penuganchiprol village, Jaggayyapet, where he performed special pujas in reverence to the deity. Following the rituals, temple priests and Vedic scholars bestowed their blessings upon him.

During the visit, officials presented prasadams to Peddireddy Siva Bhaskar. He was accompanied by several notable individuals, including Nellore Admin PRO Pasupathi Kishore, Polanki Rama Rao, Pothana Srinivasa Rao, and Kathi Mahesh. A significant number of local Kapu leaders from Penuganchiprol also participated in the event, including Yalamandala Srinivasa Rao, Danda Ramakrishna, Gogisetty Gopal, Mankena Krishna Rao, Chakka Gautam, Adimula Narasimha Rao, and Yalamandala Sir. The visit was marked by spiritual fervor, with attendees offering prayers for prosperity and well-being.

Minister Vasamsetty Subhash Calls for Strong Support in MLC Elections

TPN Correspondent
Avanigadda, Feb 17

Andhra Pradesh State Labour Minister Vasamsetty Subhash has called on all alliance leaders and activists in Avanigadda constituency to work with double enthusiasm to secure a landslide victory for Alapati Rajendra Prasad, the MLC candidate for Krishna and Guntur districts. As part of the MLC election campaign, Minister Subhash led a door-to-door campaign in Avanigadda on Sunday, seeking voter support. He emphasized that the coalition's efforts would ensure the success of Rajendra Prasad and strengthen development initiatives in the region. The campaign saw active participation from State RTC Chairman Konakalla Narayana Rao, TDP Avanigadda constituency observers Kanaparthy Srinivasa Rao, Mandali Venkatram, and other local leaders.

JSP Leader Akkala Gandhi Alleges Murder Conspiracy by NTPS Management

TPN Correspondent
Mylavaram, Feb 17

Jana Sena Party state spokesperson and Mylavaram constituency in-charge Akkala Gandhi has accused the NTPS management of plotting his murder due to his continued fight against pollution and factionism in the region. Speaking at a media conference at the Kondapalli JSP office, he claimed that an ash tanker was intentionally driven towards his car on the night of February 13, while he was returning from a meeting in Vijayawada. He stated that upon reporting the incident at Kothagate security personnel, they dismissed his concerns, claiming they had no involvement. Gandhi alleged that NTPS officials, in collusion with the ash mafia and contractors, orchestrated the attack. He demanded a thorough investigation into the matter, asserting that a hidden conspiracy was at play. He also announced his intention to file a formal complaint with Ibrahimpatnam Circle Inspector Chandrashekar.

Bhimadolu Police Solve Motorcycle Theft Case, Two Arrested



TPN Correspondent
Eluru, Feb 17

Eluru DSP Shraavan Kumar announced the arrest of two individuals involved in motorcycle thefts across the region. Addressing a press conference at the DSP office on Sunday, he revealed that the police recovered four stolen motorcycles worth ₹2.25 lakh. Following complaints of frequent motorcycle thefts, Bhimadolu SI Y. Sudhakar and his team launched a special investigation under the supervision of Bhimadolu CI U.J. Wilson. The investigation led to the arrest of Vase Raju alias Samsonu and Yerramsetty Pawan Kumar at Vase Raju's residence. During questioning, the accused confessed to stealing: One Bajaj Pulsar from Dwarakathirumala police station limits. Two Bajaj Pulsars from Bhimadolu police station limits. A gold necklace from an elderly woman in Eluru 1 Town. Additionally, the police seized a Bajaj Discover used in the crimes.

Police Crack Down on Cockfighting in Kodur, Arrest Ten



TPN Correspondent
Krishna Dist, Feb 17

Acting on a tip-off, Kodur police raided an illegal cockfighting event in Kummaripalem village, Kodur mandal, Krishna district. Under the direction of senior officials, Kodur SI Chanakya and his team conducted the operation, arresting ten individuals involved in organizing and participating in the banned activity. During the raid, authorities seized 17 motorcycles, four chicken coops, and ₹13,980 in cash linked to the gambling activities. A case has been registered against the accused, and further investigations are underway. SI Chanakya urged residents to report any anti-social activities in the region, assuring that the identity of informants will remain confidential.

₹5 Crore Gold Theft in Guntur



TPN Correspondent
Guntur, Feb 17

A major gold theft took place in Guntur district, where 4.9 kg of gold worth ₹5 crore was stolen from a jewelry staffer en route to Mangalagiri. The victim, Nagaraju, has been employed at DVR Jewellers in Vijayawada's Jai Hind Complex for the past 20 years. On the day of the incident, he was transporting the gold on a scooter from Vijayawada to Mangalagiri when two unidentified thieves on another two-wheeler intercepted him and stole the gold before fleeing the scene. Following the incident, Nagaraju was taken to Mangalagiri Rural Police Station for questioning. The police are examining multiple angles, including his travel route, possible surveillance footage, and potential involvement of insiders. Authorities are also looking into Nagaraju's personal background, as his wife, a former constable at Tadepalli Police Station, had recently died by suicide. The case has raised serious concerns, and further investigation is underway to trace the culprits and recover the stolen gold.

Excise Officers Seize Satya Krishna Wines Over Illegal Liquor Sales

TPN Correspondent
Gannavaram, Feb 17

Excise officers in Krishna district's Gannavaram constituency have seized Satya Krishna Wines in Hanuman Junction for allegedly selling liquor illegally. According to Gannavaram Excise CI Surekha, officials had earlier received information about liquor boxes being moved from the shop and sold to private individuals. Acting on a tip-off, excise officers conducted a raid in Mallavalli, Bapulapadu Mandal, where they seized six cases of liquor from a person named Sambasiva Rao. Upon verification of the ES numbers on the seized liquor bottles, officials confirmed that the liquor belonged to Satya Krishna Wines. Following this, the Excise Department issued a seizure order, and the shop was sealed for violating liquor regulations. Further investigation is underway to identify other possible violations and those involved in the illegal liquor trade.



MLA Venigandla Ramu Flags Off 10K Run in Gudivada



TPN Correspondent
Gudivada, Feb 17

Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu inaugurated the 10K Run – Clean and Green Gudivada event at NTR Stadium, organized in memory of Late Parvataneni Jaganmohan Rao, former Convener and Associate Director of the stadium. Several doctors and sports enthusiasts from the town participated in the event, which commenced at NTR Stadium and passed through Nehru Chowk, Eluru Road, and Nagavarapadu before concluding at the starting point. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Ramu emphasized the importance of fitness and environmental awareness, stating that such events promote a healthy and clean Gudivada. After the run, prizes were distributed to the winners, recognizing their participation and efforts.

YS Jagan Looted AP With lies and debt, Says Devineni Umamaheswara Rao

TPN Correspondent
Guntur, Feb 17



Former minister and TDP state general secretary Devineni Umamaheswara Rao slammed YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, accusing him of turning Andhra Pradesh into a debt-ridden state with false promises and misgovernance. Speaking at a graduates' meeting in Rain Tree Park,

Namburu village, Peddakakani Mandal, on Sunday, Devineni Uma criticized Jagan for failing as both CM and opposition leader. He questioned why, despite claiming to have fulfilled promises, YSRCP won only 11 seats in the recent elections. He alleged that the irrigation sector was destroyed during Jagan's rule and pointed out that while Chandrababu Naidu symbolizes development and

welfare, Jagan's governance is marked by destruction and anarchy. Devineni Uma accused Jagan of misusing his five-year term to target TDP leaders instead of working for the people. He stated that major irrigation projects were left incomplete under YSRCP, but Chandrababu Naidu has now initiated a master plan to revive them with central support.

Bojjala Sudheer Reddy Welcomes Nara Lokesh at Renigunta Airport



- Minister Nara Lokesh received a grand welcome by MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy.
- Invitation extended for Mahashivratri Brahmotsavam at Sri Kalahasti Swamy Temple.
- Temple Executive Officer and local leaders participated in the program.

TPN Correspondent
Sri Kalahasti, Feb 17

Andhra Pradesh State IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh, who arrived at Renigunta Airport from Amaravati for his Nellore district tour, was accorded a warm welcome by Sri Kalahasti MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy.

As part of the ceremony, Sudheer Reddy presented Lokesh with Swami's Tirtha Prasadam and formally invited him to attend the annual Mahashivratri Brahmotsavam of Sri Kalahasti Swamy Temple.

The event was attended by Temple Executive Officer T. Bapireddy, former Market Committee Chairman Rangineni Chenchayya Naidu, Tirupati Parliament Telugu Youth President Akshinthal Krishna Yadav, and several other dignitaries.

Suspense Over Tuni Municipal Vice Chairman Election



- Political tension rises as the Tuni Municipal Vice Chairman election nears.
- TDP makes strategic moves despite lacking a single council member initially.
- YSRCP confident of retaining the position amid shifting political dynamics.

TPN Correspondent
Tuni, Feb 17

The Tuni Municipal Vice Chairman election, initially expected to be a one-sided affair, has now turned into a political battleground. Leaders from both Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) are aggressively vying for the position, even though the term lasts for just over a year.

The election has stirred controversy, with TDP leaders alleging that the previous YSRCP-led administration was marked by tyranny. Despite not having a single council member at the start, TDP orchestrated a political shift under the leadership of Yanamala Ramakrishnudu, with members switching parties in an unexpected turn of events. TDP is also hinting at further additions to its ranks, aiming to weaken YSRCP's hold on the

council.

Out of 30 council seats, one became vacant due to a member's death, while another resigned after securing a government job, leaving the current strength at 28 members. By Sunday evening, YSRCP still appeared numerically stronger, but TDP had secured 11 votes, including an ex-officio member. If further defections to TDP do not materialize by Monday morning, YSRCP is expected to retain the Vice Chairman post.

However, reports suggest TDP is holding secret talks with other council members to turn the tide in its favor. If it succeeds, TDP may also attempt to claim the Chairman's position. As the suspense-filled election unfolds, citizens are watching closely, questioning whether leaders are prioritizing governance or political power.

Task Force Raids Poker Den in Peddamandyam

TPN Correspondent
Annamayya Dist, Feb 17

Annamayya District Task Force Police carried out a surprise raid on a large-scale poker operation in Kottewandlapally, Bandamidpalli Panchayat, Peddamandyam Mandal, leading to the arrest of 15 gamblers.

District SP Vidyasagar Naidu stated that the police received confidential informa-



tion about the illegal poker establishment. Acting swiftly, the Rayachoti Special Force

Police conducted the raid, seizing Rs. 2.20 lakh in cash, 14 mobile phones, and 16 two-wheelers from the gamblers.

SI PV Ramana, who led the operation, confirmed that the arrested individuals were taken into police custody, and further investigations are underway. Authorities have warned of strict action against such gambling activities to curb illegal betting in the district.

Former Minister Vidadala Rajini's Uncle's Car Attacked in Purushothapatnam



TPN Correspondent
Palnadu Dist, Feb 17

A shocking incident took place in Purushothapatnam, Chikaluripet, where the car belonging to Lakshmi Narayana, maternal uncle of former minister Vidadala Rajini, was attacked. Unidentified persons smashed the windows of the vehicle, raising suspicions of a

politically motivated attack. Fortunately, Lakshmi Narayana was not present in the car at the time of the incident. The reasons behind the attack remain unclear, but initial speculation suggests political rivalry as a possible motive.

Despite the gravity of the situation, sources reveal that no official complaint has been lodged with the police yet. The incident has triggered tension in the area, with locals questioning the lack of immediate action by authorities. More details are awaited as investigations progress.

Sadhus Demand Protection for Varahi Ammavari Temple Lands

TPN Correspondent
Tirupati, Feb 17

The Sadhu Sangam of India has raised concerns over illegal encroachments on the Varahi Ammavari temple lands near Tiruchanur, Tirupati. The organization has urged the government to intervene and protect temple lands worth crores from land grabbers.

Speaking at the Tirupati Press Club, Bharatananda Saraswati Swamiji, president of the Sadhu Sangam of India, demanded strict action against those attempting to seize temple lands. He emphasized the need for authorities to protect



the sanctity of religious sites and punish those involved in illegal land grabbing.

The sadhus also appealed to AP Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, highlighting his commitment to protecting Hindu temples and traditions. They urged him to take immediate steps to safeguard the temple properties and ensure that devotional heritage remains intact.

Bird Flu Scare Shakes Poultry Sales, Boosts Mutton and Fish Demand

TPN Correspondent
Eluru, Feb 17

The fear of bird flu has significantly impacted poultry sales across the state, with people refraining from buying chicken despite its affordability. Traditionally, chicken has been the staple Sunday meal for many households due to its lower cost compared to mutton. However, after reports surfaced on social media about a person allegedly contracting bird flu, panic set in, forcing consumers to shift to mutton and seafood.

Over the past week, reports of poultry farm deaths due to the bird flu virus have heightened concerns. Even on Sundays, when chicken sales typically surge, shops remained largely empty, with only a handful of buyers taking advantage of reduced chicken prices (₹170-₹220 per kg).

In contrast, mutton centers and fish markets witnessed heavy crowds, with con-



sumers rushing to buy fish, prawns, or mutton as an alternative. Many fish markets saw their stock sell out within minutes as demand soared. With poultry sales plummeting and seafood and mutton markets booming, traders are closely monitoring the situation. Whether consumer confidence in chicken will be restored remains to be seen in the coming days.

Villagers face polluted water issues due to leakages in Jal Jeevan Mission pipelines

TPN Correspondent
Gandepalli, Feb 17

The people of Gandepalli mandal are struggling with polluted drinking water due to leaks in Jal Jeevan Mission pipelines. The scheme, intended to provide safe drinking water to every household, is now causing health concerns due to poor maintenance and negligence.

In Tallur village, which is located near National Highway No. 16, tap leakages are widespread, particularly along the road leading to the school. Villagers complain that contractors merely installed taps without ensuring proper functionality. As a result, many people are falling ill due to contaminated water.

When contacted, RWS JE Appalaraju stated that 10 villages - including K Nayakampalli, Gandepalli, Murari, Erram-



palem, Tallur, Niladri Rao Peta, J Ragampeta, Uppalapaadu, and Yellamilli - have completed the first phase, while the rest are under phase two. He dismissed the leakages as a minor issue and claimed that the responsibility now lies with the local panchayat.

Villagers, however, refuse to accept the blame-shifting and demand that higher authorities take action. They insist that immediate repairs be made to ensure clean drinking water and protect public health. The lack of clarity on who is responsible has left residents frustrated, with many wondering whom to approach for a solution.

Snake Rescue Training Workshop Held at S.V. Zoological Park



TPN Correspondent
Tirupati, Feb 17

A Snake Rescue Training Workshop was organized at Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park on February 15th and 16th by the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, in collaboration with Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, Chennai, and Sanghamitra Animal Foundation. The workshop focused on ethical and safe snake rescue techniques as per guidelines of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC). 40 rescuers from Kurnool, Kadapa, Anantapur, Vijayawada, and other districts participated in the event.

Ghaneshwar, Project Lead at MCBT, emphasized the importance of proper handling

techniques, stating that many rescuers face fatalities due to improper methods. He assured that regular training sessions will be held to build a strong network of trained rescuers in Andhra Pradesh.

As part of the event, Madras Crocodile Bank Trust donated 15 rescue kits to participants. Mohammad Idrees, Head of the Wildlife Wing at Sanghamitra Animal Foundation, stressed the need for snake literacy to prevent unnecessary killings due to fear. He highlighted that snakebites can be avoided with awareness and urged people to embrace coexistence with wildlife.

For snake rescue assistance in Tirupati, contact Zoo Park Authorities.

For Manipur to Have a Real Shot at Peace, BJP Must Let President's Rule Stay

The imposition of President's Rule in Manipur has been met with mixed reactions, signaling a critical juncture for the state's future. While the Kuki-Zo-Hmar community welcomed the declaration, viewing it as a much-needed reprieve, the Meitei community, through civil society group COCOMI, has strongly opposed it, calling it "undemocratic" and "unjustified."

The ongoing conflict between the Meitei and Kuki communities has left Manipur in turmoil since May 2023, resulting in over 250 deaths and 60,000 displacements. Violent clashes, along with shocking images of brutality, have scarred the state. The resignation of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, triggered by a no-confidence vote, led to the imposition of President's Rule, which has temporarily suspended the state assembly.

For Manipur to heal, President's Rule must remain in place long enough for neutral governance. The central paramilitary forces, alongside a politically neutral administration, can restore stability free from interference. However, the BJP's challenge lies in determining whether this is a genuine effort to address the violence or merely a political stopgap. The decision to prolong President's Rule will have a significant impact on the state's



peace prospects.

The Kuki community, which has faced severe displacement, demands a separate administration, and the creation of buffer zones between the hills and valley for protection. They remain concerned about the growing threat of Meitei youth militia groups, such as the Arambai Tenggol, who have looted weapons during the conflict. On the other hand, some Meitei residents privately welcome President's Rule, as it could curb extortion by underground el-

ements. Despite this, the Meitei community feels that the imposition aligns with the agenda of Kuki separatists, adding to their suspicions of a military-driven governance plan. The window for dialogue between the warring communities is now open. With massive security forces in place, President's Rule offers a chance for talks. However, the true success depends on how the BJP in Delhi handles this delicate situation, balancing the region's needs with its political priorities.

Government Response to Delhi Stampede: LG's U-Turn and Vaishnav's Delay in Acknowledging Deaths



The official response to the deadly stampede at New Delhi railway station, which resulted in at least 18 deaths and numerous injuries, has been marred by confusion, lack of clarity, and deflection. The tragedy, which unfolded on the night of February 15, prompted a series of conflicting statements from Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Delhi's Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena, and the Northern Railways.

Chronology of Events

Initial reports of the stampede began circulating around 11:30 pm, with Vaishnav calling it a "sudden rush" in his first post on X (formerly Twitter). In this early communication, he downplayed the situation, claiming that the rush had been controlled with special trains to manage the crowd. Within minutes, Vaishnav posted again to state that four special trains had been deployed, and the situation was under control.

Shortly after Vaishnav's posts, the Delhi LG was the first official to acknowledge the deaths, initially confirming that lives had been lost in a stampede. However, just 30 minutes later, the LG edited his post to remove any mention of the stampede or casualties, offering a vague statement about an "unfortunate incident." This editing raised concerns of a potential cover-up. It wasn't until around 1:00 am, after a condolence message from Prime Minis-

ter Modi, that Vaishnav issued a more formal acknowledgment of the stampede and the loss of lives, expressing condolences for the tragedy.

Railway's Mismanagement and Contradictory Statements

The Northern Railways' response further compounded the confusion. On the night of the incident, the Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of Northern Railways dismissed reports of a stampede, claiming it was a "rumour." However, the next day, the CPRO released another statement attributing the tragedy to a passenger slipping on the stairs of the foot-over bridge, causing a chain reaction that led to the stampede. The confusion surrounding the stampede's cause, coupled with the delayed and inconsistent responses, triggered strong criticism from opposition parties. Congress demanded Vaishnav's resignation, accusing him of failing to take responsibility for the incident and of minimizing the tragedy by calling it a "minor incident." The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Trinamool Congress (TMC) also criticized the government for attempting to whitewash the incident and hide its severity.

Opposition's Outcry

Opposition leaders, including Supriya Shrinete from Congress and Sanjay Singh from AAP, condemned the Union government's response, demanding account-

ability for the deaths. The response of the railway ministry, especially the denial and the delay in acknowledging the scale of the tragedy, led to accusations of a cover-up, with critics arguing that the government's first instinct was to protect itself rather than show empathy for the victims.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav expressed outrage at the repeated mismanagement, pointing out that the poor continue to suffer the most from the failures of the system. He called for accountability, questioning who would be held responsible for the deaths.

Broader Context of Stampede Tragedies

This tragic incident comes just weeks after another deadly stampede during the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, which claimed at least 30 lives. The recurrence of such tragedies raises questions about the government's preparedness and its failure to manage large crowds safely.

In summary, the official response to the Delhi stampede has been marked by indecision, conflicting statements, and deflection of responsibility. The initial efforts to downplay the scale of the disaster, followed by contradictory explanations, have left the public and opposition parties accusing the government of attempting to cover up the truth rather than addressing the tragedy with transparency and accountability.



In AAP's Provenance Lies the Reason for Its Defeat

The Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) defeat in the Delhi assembly elections is being seen by many as a setback for the dream of alternative politics. However, what exactly was this "alternative politics" that AAP promised? A closer look at the party's origins and actions reveals that its defeat may not be surprising.

AAP emerged from the India Against Corruption (IAC) movement, which, despite its anti-corruption rhetoric, often used Hindu nationalist symbols and sentiments to gather support. Arvind Kejriwal's leadership in the movement, alongside figures like Baba Ramdev and Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, already hinted at the party's soft Hindutva leanings. This communal undertone was overlooked at the time, but it became evident as AAP made questionable moves, such as supporting the abrogation of Article 370 and making statements against Muslims during the pandemic.

AAP's governance in Delhi faced significant challenges, especially with the BJP-led central government blocking the state government's initiatives through the office of the lieutenant governor (LG). This stalemate led some voters to shift support towards the BJP, believing that it was the only party capable of breaking the deadlock. AAP's promise of good governance and public services like education, water, and electricity was overshadowed by the inability to address larger issues.

Furthermore, AAP's engagement with "strategic communalism" became apparent during the election campaigns. The party adopted policies against Muslims, such as refusing admission to Rohingya and Bangladeshi children in Delhi schools. These actions blurred the line between AAP and BJP's tactics of using communal politics to garner Hindu votes.

AAP's promise of an alternative to traditional politics was undermined by its gradual shift towards the same divisive rhetoric and politics that it had once opposed. Though the party continued to promote "clean governance," its embrace of communal issues and lack of clarity on its ideological stance suggested that it was not the true alternative it claimed to be.



'Inaccessible' After BJP Complaints Over Modi-Trump Cartoon

The Tamil media group Vikatan has reportedly faced issues with its website becoming inaccessible, just hours after a cartoon published in its digital magazine sparked controversy within the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The cartoon, which was published on February 10, depicted Prime Minister Narendra Modi shackled next to former US President Donald Trump, a visual commentary on the mistreatment of Indian deportees by US authorities.

The Controversial Cartoon

The cartoon quickly became a point of contention after being criticized by BJP supporters, particularly Tamil Nadu BJP president K. Annamalai. The cartoon's portrayal of Modi in shackles alongside Trump appeared to upset BJP members, prompting Annamalai to lodge a formal complaint with the central government. The Tamil Nadu BJP's strong objections led to widespread discussion, and the digital publication faced backlash on social media. As a result, several users on the platform X (formerly Twitter) reported being unable to access the Vikatan website, leading to suspicions that the site may have been blocked.

Vikatan's Response

Vikatan denied receiving any official communication from the Union government regarding the website's alleged blockage. In an official statement, the media group acknowledged the widespread reports from users stating they couldn't access the site, but emphasized that no formal notice had been issued by the central government. The group also reassured that it would continue to uphold the principles of free speech and freedom of expression, values that have been central to its operation for nearly a century. "We are still trying to ascertain the reasons behind the blocking of our website and are in the process of taking up this matter with the ministry," said Vikatan in their statement.

Political Reactions

The situation drew immediate political reactions, with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin condemning the alleged blocking of the website. In a post on X, Stalin described the action as an example of the "fascist nature" of the BJP and expressed his concerns over the impact on democracy. He called for the immediate restoration of access to the website, stressing that blocking media outlets for expressing opinions was harmful to democratic values.

Free Speech Concerns

The issue has reignited concerns about the state of free speech and media freedom in India, especially in light of previous instances where media outlets and content critical of the government faced repercussions. The blocking of Vikatan's website, whether government-directed or otherwise, has raised questions about the government's response to dissenting voices and the implications of such actions on the broader media landscape.

PM Modi Meets President Murmu After 'Productive' US and France Visit

- Talks focus on diplomacy, governance.
- Govt formation in Delhi underway.

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday evening at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, following his return from a "productive visit" to the United States and France. The meeting comes ahead of the anticipated government formation in Delhi.

The President's office shared pictures of the meeting between the two leaders on the social media platform X. A post from the President House's official handle stated, "Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan."

Modi's visit to the US and France was hailed as success-

ful by the Indian government, with discussions focusing on strengthening bilateral relations, economic ties, and various global challenges. The visit was seen as a significant diplomatic step for India, enhancing its strategic partnerships with two key Western nations.

This meeting between the Prime Minister and the President holds particular importance as the Indian government is set to undergo a transition, with the formation of the new administration in Delhi expected soon. While specifics of the discussion have not been made public, such meetings are often routine, focusing on matters of national and international importance.



The photos shared by Rashtrapati Bhavan depicted a cordial exchange, with both leaders seen engaged in conversation. Prime Minister Modi's return and the subsequent meeting with the President underscore the importance of continued governance as the country prepares for new develop-

ments on the political front. This interaction between Modi and Murmu continues a series of regular engagements between the country's top political leaders, underscoring the collaborative nature of India's political system as it works to address both domestic and international concerns.

Prashant Kishor's Meeting with Vijay Sparks Speculation of Political Alliance



TPN Correspondent | Tamilnadu

A recent meeting between political strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor and actor-turned-politician Vijay in Chennai has set Tamil Nadu's political circles abuzz, leading to speculation about a potential collaboration. With assembly elections approaching in 2026, questions are now being raised about whether this was a casual meeting or the beginning of a strategic alliance between Kishor and Vijay's party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK).

Kishor, who has advised multiple political parties through his Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC), recently launched his own party, Jan Suraaj Party (JSP). However, JSP faced a setback in the 2024 Bihar bypolls, with three out of four candidates losing their deposits. This has raised doubts about Kishor's political future, prompting speculation that he may return to his consultancy roots after his party's underwhelming performance. The meeting with Vijay, who has a massive fanbase in Tamil Nadu, adds fuel to the idea that Kishor could be preparing to work with the TVK to reshape the state's political dynamics.

Vijay, having launched TVK, is positioning himself as a serious political figure, mirroring the political journeys of cinema icons like M.G. Ramachandran (MGR) and N.T. Rama Rao (NTR). His mass appeal could make the TVK a significant force in Tamil Nadu's politics, traditionally dominated by the DMK and AIADMK. However, whether Vijay's popularity can be translated into electoral success remains uncertain.

There is also speculation about a potential alliance between the TVK and the AIADMK, which has been struggling since the death of its leader J. Jayalalithaa. An alliance could potentially challenge the ruling DMK, with the BJP possibly joining as a third ally. However, for such a coalition to succeed, the AIADMK would need to offer the TVK substantial space within the partnership, which could be a point of contention.

As Tamil Nadu prepares for the next election, the Kishor-Vijay meeting marks a significant moment in the state's shifting political landscape.

India pledges collective action at Indian Ocean Conference in Oman



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar called on countries across the Indian Ocean to collaborate and coordinate policies to ensure regional security and stability, particularly amid ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia and the Indo-Pacific. Speaking at the 8th Indian Ocean Conference in Muscat, Jaishankar emphasized the importance of mutual cooperation to navigate the region's challenges and uncertainties.

Jaishankar highlighted India's pivotal role in addressing var-

ious regional issues, including stabilizing economies under stress, responding to emergencies, and fostering connectivity across the Indian Ocean. His keynote address underscored the need for a united approach among nations in the region to secure stability and overcome economic and political challenges. "We seek stability and security as the baseline... They will be easier reached when we look out for each other, supplement our strengths and coordinate our policies," Jaishankar said, describing the cooperation as a "coordinated flotilla" for navigating the future. He stressed that, in to-

day's volatile era, nations must come together to achieve their collective goals.

The conference, which is supported by the foreign ministries of India and Oman, was attended by foreign ministers from several countries, including Iran, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, and the Maldives. Representatives from China and the UK also participated. The event is occurring amid significant geopolitical shifts, spurred by the policies of the Donald Trump administration in the US and the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Jaishankar also discussed the region's resource constraints and the challenges countries face in meeting their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He alluded to the impact of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its assertive policies in the South China Sea, which have contributed to financial pressures and regional instability. Highlighting the importance of transparency and collaboration in tackling these challenges, Jaishankar reinforced that a coordinated effort will be key to overcoming the obstacles facing the Indian Ocean countries in the coming years.

Nitish Announces Ex Gratia For Delhi Station Stampede, Lalu Says Faltu Hai Kumbh



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressed deep sorrow over the tragic stampede that occurred at the New Delhi Railway Station on Saturday night, which claimed 18 lives, including 14 women and four minors, and left many others injured. In a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Nitish Kumar announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the families of the deceased who hailed from Bihar. The injured will receive compensation of Rs 50,000 for minor injuries and Rs 2.5 lakh for those seriously hurt.

The stampede occurred at a crowded New Delhi railway station, with several individuals still unaccounted for. Bihar officials are awaiting confirmation of the exact number of people from the state affected by the tragedy. Earlier, the Indian Railways had also announced compensation for the victims' families, with Rs 10 lakh for the deceased, and varying amounts for the injured.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary also expressed his condolences, criticizing the central government's handling of the situation. He pointed out the "inadequate arrangements" by the railway authorities, which he believed contributed to the disaster. Choudhary suggested that Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw should take responsibility and resign for the incident. RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav, who served as the Union Railway Minister, also blamed the railway's mismanagement for the stampede. He described the incident as "unfortunate" and demanded that the railway minister be held accountable. "The Railway Minister should take responsibility for this," he stated, adding that the mismanagement led to unnecessary loss of life.

Agreement reached on 38 of 54 recommendations: Himanta on Assam Accord

TPN Correspondent | Assam

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced on Sunday that the state government, in collaboration with the All Assam Students Union (AASU), has reached an agreement to implement 38 out of the 54 recommendations made by the high-level committee on Clause 6 of the Assam Accord. The Clause 6 provisions aim to provide greater protection to the indigenous people of Assam.

Sarma, speaking in Guwahati following a meeting with AASU representatives, explained that 52 of the committee's 54 recommendations fall under the purview of the Assam government. Of these, 38 recommendations will be implemented on a time-bound basis, as part



of the upcoming state budget and through future legislations and ordinances. He expressed hope that discussions in March and April will lead to an agreement on the remaining 14 recommendations.

Among the key recommendations being implemented is the mandatory inclusion of the As-

samese language as a subject in all schools in the Brahmaputra Valley. Similarly, Assamese and Bodo will be taught in all schools in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). Additionally, all schools will be required to teach Assam's history and geography up to Class 8. These steps are seen as crucial to preserving the state's culture

and heritage. In another significant move, the state government will identify blocks in Assam where only individuals who have lived there for at least three generations or since 1951 will be allowed to purchase land. However, this restriction will not apply to urban areas, ensuring flexibility in land transactions in cities.

The Chief Minister also revealed that the state government has requested the central government to hold tripartite talks to address recommendations that fall outside the state's jurisdiction. This development marks a significant step towards fulfilling the promises made under the Assam Accord and ensuring greater protection and rights for the indigenous people of the state.



Trump Team To Meet Russian, Ukrainian Negotiators, Hold Talks On Ending War

- US team heads to Saudi for Ukraine talks.
- Trump, Putin agree to ceasefire talks.
- Kyiv, EU wary of sudden negotiations.

TPN Correspondent | Washington

A senior delegation from US President Donald Trump's administration will soon begin discussions in Saudi Arabia with Russian and Ukrainian negotiators to seek an end to the ongoing war in Ukraine, US officials confirmed on Saturday. The team will include Secretary of State Marco Rubio, White House National Security Advisor Mike Waltz, and Trump's Middle East negotiator Steve Witkoff.

This diplomatic move follows Trump's recent announcement that he had held his first conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin since returning to office. The two leaders agreed to initiate talks aimed at negotiating a ceasefire in Ukraine. While details re-

garding the timing of the talks remain scarce, Rubio's planned visit to Saudi Arabia as part of his Middle East tour is expected to play a pivotal role in these discussions.

Rubio had a telephone conversation earlier with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, during which he reiterated President Trump's commitment to resolving the conflict in Ukraine. Rubio's trip to Israel, which marked the start of his Middle East tour, was part of broader efforts to engage with regional leaders on the Ukraine situation.

Steve Witkoff, a former property developer with a history of involvement in international negotiations, has been deeply involved in efforts to negotiate prisoner

exchanges, including the recent deal that facilitated a phone call between Trump and Putin. Witkoff's role underscores the Trump administration's focused approach to seeking resolution through direct negotiations.

In a social media post earlier this week, Trump emphasized that Rubio, Waltz, Witkoff, and CIA Director John Ratcliffe had been assigned to work swiftly on a deal with Russia to halt the war. However, this sudden shift in diplomatic strategy has taken Kyiv and its European allies by surprise. Both Ukraine and its Western supporters fear being sidelined in the discussions concerning the future of Ukraine after what has been the most significant land invasion in Europe since World War II.

Amid 'Deep State' Charges, US Cuts Bangladesh "Political Landscape" Funds



TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a bid to reduce US taxpayer spending, the Donald Trump administration's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has cancelled several overseas funding projects, including a controversial \$29 million initiative aimed at "strengthening the political landscape" in Bangladesh. The funding, which had been allocated to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), was intended to support political party capacity-building and foster better relationships between political parties and their constituents in Bangladesh.

The program, known as the Strengthening Political Landscape (SPL) project, also worked to reduce political violence and promote peaceful conflict resolution. According to Democracy International (DI), the program aimed to support political activists, citizens, and students in developing leadership skills and advocating for inclusive policies.

This funding cancellation comes just days after President Trump dismissed claims of US involvement in the political turmoil that led to the ousting of Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Speaking alongside Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Trump denied any role of the US in the 2024 regime change in Bangladesh, stating that the issue had long been managed by India.

Trump's remarks come amid growing tensions between Bangladesh and the US, following Hasina's ouster in August after massive protests, and the subsequent rise of an interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus. The interim government has faced criticism for failing to protect religious minorities, especially Hindus, from attacks by radical Islamist elements. In addition to the cancellation of the SPL project, DOGE also slashed other foreign aid funding, including \$22 million intended for "voter turnout" initiatives in India and \$39 million allocated for "fiscal federalism" and "biodiversity conservation" programs in Nepal. These cuts are part of DOGE's broader efforts to reduce unnecessary government spending, which the administration says will benefit US taxpayers.

Muhsin Hendricks, World's First Openly Gay Imam, Shot Dead in South Africa



TPN Correspondent | South Africa

Muhsin Hendricks, renowned as the world's first openly gay imam, was tragically shot and killed near the southern city of Gqeberha, South Africa, on Saturday. The imam, who dedicated his life to creating a safe haven for marginalized Muslims, particularly queer individuals, was targeted while in a car with another person. According to South African police, a vehicle suddenly blocked their path, and two assailants with covered faces exited and began firing multiple shots at the vehicle.

Hendricks, who was seated in the back of the car, was fatally shot. The driver managed to escape, and authorities later confirmed the authenticity of a video circulating on social media, which appeared to show the targeted attack. The police have not disclosed a clear motive for the murder, and the investigation is ongoing. They have urged anyone with information to come forward to assist with the case. Hendricks, who was a prominent figure in various LGBTQ advocacy groups, came out as gay in 1996 and later founded the Al-Ghurbaah mosque in Wynberg, near Cape Town. The mosque was known for offering a sanctuary where queer Muslims and marginalized women could practice Islam in a safe and inclusive environment. Hendricks was also featured in the 2022 documentary "The Radical," which chronicled his work and the challenges he faced as an openly gay religious leader.

The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) condemned the murder, calling it a possible hate crime. ILGA World's executive director, Julia Ehrh, expressed deep shock over the killing, urging South African authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident. South Africa, despite its progressive stance on LGBTQ rights, continues to grapple with high levels of violence, as evidenced by its staggering murder rate of approximately 28,000 in the past year. Hendricks had previously spoken of the threats he faced but maintained that the need to live authentically outweighed the fear of death. His death marks a tragic loss for the LGBTQ Muslim community and the broader fight for equality and acceptance.

Ex-Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth Arrested In Money-Laundering Case

TPN Correspondent | Port Louis

Pravind Jugnauth, the former Prime Minister of Mauritius, was arrested on Sunday in connection with a money-laundering investigation, marking a significant development in the ongoing probe into financial crimes on the island. Jugnauth, along with his wife Kobita Jugnauth, was initially detained on Saturday and questioned for several hours before his formal arrest in the early hours of Sunday.

Pravind Jugnauth, 63, who served as Prime Minister from 2017 to 2024, denied the allegations against him. His lawyer, Raouf Gulbul, stated that the ex-leader had provided his version of events and would appear before a judge later on Sunday. Kobita Jugnauth was released after questioning.

As part of the investigation, police conducted raids on the homes of other suspects, including a local leisure company employee and a real estate executive.



In these raids, law enforcement officials seized various items, including luxury watches, stacks of cash, and documents bearing the Jugnauth family's name. These findings have raised suspicions about the scale of the money-laundering operation.

The Financial Crimes Commission had earlier issued a notice to prevent the Jugnauths and two other suspects

from leaving the country, citing their involvement in a money-laundering case.

Pravind Jugnauth is a member of a political dynasty that has dominated Mauritius since its independence from Britain in 1968. His leadership was marked by significant achievements, including a historic deal with Britain over the Chagos Islands, which had been a long-standing territorial dispute. Jugnauth's government oversaw Mauritius regaining sovereignty over the islands, although the UK and US continue to operate a military base there under a lease agreement.

The arrest comes after Jugnauth's party suffered a crushing defeat in the November elections, which saw his rival Navin Ramgoolam return to power as Prime Minister. Ramgoolam's government has reopened negotiations on the Chagos Islands issue, aiming to renegotiate the terms of the UK-US military base lease.

UAE Expands Visa-On-Arrival Facility For Indians From 6 More Countries

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has expanded its visa-on-arrival program for Indian passport holders by including those with valid visas, residence permits, or Green Cards from six additional countries. This move will allow more Indian nationals to benefit from the visa-on-arrival facilities at UAE entry points, facilitating smoother travel for both tourism and business.

Under the new regulations, Indian nationals holding valid documentation from Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada are now eligible for the visa-on-arrival facility. Previously, this privilege was

limited to Indian citizens with valid visas or residence permits from the United States, European Union member states, and the United Kingdom. The decision aims to streamline travel between India and the UAE, reflecting the strengthening of ties between the two nations.

To qualify for the visa-on-arrival program, Indian nationals must fulfill certain criteria, including holding a valid ordinary passport with at least six months' validity from the date of arrival. In addition, they must possess a valid visa, residence permit, or Green Card from any of the newly eligible countries. Once these conditions are met, travellers will pay the visa fee upon ar-

rival at UAE immigration checkpoints. The UAE has introduced three visa categories under the program, each with a nominal fee. The 4-day visa is priced at Dh100 (approximately Rs 2,270), while a 14-day extension costs Dh250 (approximately Rs 5,670). There is also a 60-day visa, which is also priced at Dh250.

Major General Suhail Saeed Al Khailli, Director General of the UAE's Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs, and Port Security (ICP), stated that this move aligns with the long-term strategic partnership between the UAE and India. The initiative seeks to facilitate travel for Indian citizens, enhancing opportunities for tourism, residency, and employment in the UAE.

Mcap of 8 of top-10 valued firms tumbles Rs 2 lakh crore; Reliance biggest laggard



The combined market valuation of eight out of the ten most valuable domestic firms saw a significant drop of Rs 2 lakh crore last week, largely due to a bearish trend in the broader stock market. Leading this decline was Reliance Industries, which saw the biggest hit, alongside other major companies such as Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India (SBI), Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finance, and ITC.

Equity benchmark indices, including Sensex and Nifty, continued their downward trajectory for the eighth consecutive day on Friday. Over the past eight trading days, the BSE Sensex plummeted by 2,644.6 points, or 3.36%, while the Nifty shed 810 points, or 3.41%.

Reliance Industries experienced a sharp drop in its market capitalization (mcap), losing Rs 67,526.54 crore to settle at Rs 16,46,822.12 crore. Similarly, TCS saw a decline of Rs 34,950.72 crore in its valuation, bringing its mcap down to Rs 14,22,903.37 crore. HDFC

Bank also suffered a loss of Rs 28,382.23 crore, reducing its mcap to Rs 12,96,708.35 crore. ITC's valuation shrank by Rs 25,429.75 crore to Rs 5,13,699.85 crore.

In addition, Infosys' mcap fell by Rs 19,287.32 crore to Rs 7,70,786.76 crore, and State Bank of India's valuation dropped by Rs 13,431.55 crore to Rs 6,44,357.57 crore. Hindustan Unilever saw its mcap reduce by Rs 10,714.14 crore, closing at Rs 5,44,647 crore, while Bajaj Finance's mcap dipped by Rs 4,230.4 crore to Rs 5,20,082.42 crore.

On the flip side, Bharti Airtel and ICICI Bank were among the few gainers. Bharti Airtel's mcap surged by Rs 22,426.2 crore to Rs 9,78,631.54 crore, while ICICI Bank's valuation rose by Rs 1,182.57 crore to Rs 8,88,815.13 crore.

Despite the losses, Reliance Industries retained its position as the most valuable firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, SBI, Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finance, and ITC.



Depreciating rupee may impact softened inflation in Q4 2024-25

A depreciating rupee could pose a significant risk to India's overall inflation, particularly by increasing the prices of imported goods, according to a report by financial services firm Centrum Broking. The rupee is currently trading near its all-time low, which typically makes imports more expensive and could contribute to higher inflationary pressures.

However, the report notes that steady progress in Rabi sowing and the softening of food prices are expected to help lower inflation in the fourth quarter of 2024-25. India's retail inflation stood at 4.3% in January, marking a five-month low and staying comfortably within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target range of 2-6%. This decline in inflation is largely attributed to a drop in food prices, particularly fresh produce, which has helped ease inflationary concerns.

The Centrum report highlights that with food inflation in check, the food basket is projected to play a significant role in keeping overall inflation lower in the

near term. The decline in inflation is also seen as a key factor that may give the RBI more room to focus on fostering economic growth. The central bank has maintained a neutral stance on interest rates, with any future rate cuts being dependent on incoming macroeconomic data.

Food inflation had been a major concern in India, particularly due to rising prices of vegetables, fruits, and oils. This trend seems to have eased, providing relief to policymakers who are working toward bringing retail inflation down to a sustainable 4%.

The RBI had kept the repo rate elevated at 6.5% for nearly five years to control inflation but recently reduced it by 25 basis points to support growth and consumption. Looking ahead, Centrum forecasts that inflation will average 4.8% in 2024-25, with the possibility of another 25 basis points rate cut. However, the firm cautions that the depreciating rupee must be monitored closely, as it could offset some of the gains made in controlling inflation.

Indian Steel Industry at Risk of Dumping Due to US Tariffs: JSPL Chairman



The Indian steel industry must be vigilant as countries exporting steel to the US may redirect shipments to India following the imposition of tariffs by the US, according to Naveen Jindal, Chairman of Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL). Speaking at the Global Business Summit (GBS) on Saturday, Jindal warned that the tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump on steel and aluminum imports could lead to a surge in unfair exports to India due to the country's large domestic demand.

"Countries sending shipments to the US may dump their products in India because of the massive demand in our market," Jindal cautioned, adding that the Indian steel industry would need to be protected from such unfair trade practices.

To address the issue, the Indian Steel Association has already filed an application with the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), which is currently reviewing

the matter. Indian steel producers have long raised concerns over the dumping of steel products from certain countries, which has negatively affected their competitiveness in the domestic market.

Jindal expressed optimism that a positive decision would be reached soon to safeguard the interests of the Indian steel industry. Official data indicates a concerning trend: India's steel exports have fallen by 28.9% to 3.99 million tonnes in the April-January period of FY25, compared to 5.61 million tonnes during the same period last year. Meanwhile, steel imports into India have surged by over 20%, reaching 8.29 million tonnes during the same period.

The steel industry's struggles come amid the US imposing a 25% tariff on all steel and aluminum imports. India, which remains a net importer of steel, faces the risk of foreign steel flooding its market, putting additional pressure on local manufacturers.

Nifty Smallcap 100 Enters Bear Market Amid US Tariff Concerns

The Indian stock market witnessed significant turbulence on Friday, with the Nifty Smallcap 100 index officially entering a 'bear' market phase after it plunged around 22% from its peak of 19,716.20. The index closed nearly 4% lower, settling at 15,373.70. This decline was part of a broader market sell-off that also affected midcap stocks, as the Nifty Midcap 150 index dropped by almost 2.5%, closing at 18,325.40, according to NSE data.

Pharmaceutical stocks bore the brunt of the market sell-off on Thursday, largely due to growing concerns over potential reciprocal tariffs from the US. Stocks like Natco Pharma and Laurus Labs, which are part of the Nifty Smallcap 100 index, witnessed substantial declines, both falling over 9%. Other stocks within the same index, including IFCI, Glenmark Pharma, Finolex Cables, HFCL, BEML, and Apar Industries, also saw steep declines, losing over 7% on Friday.

The broader market sell-off came amid news of potential changes in US trade policy under President Donald Trump. On Thursday evening, Trump signed an order directing the US Trade Representative and the Commerce Secretary to devise new country-specific tariffs aimed at rebalancing trade relations. According to Howard Lutnick, Trump's nominee for Commerce Secretary, these changes may be implemented by April 1, 2025.

In addition to these country-specific tariffs, Trump also indicated that additional import



taxes could be imposed on goods such as cars, semiconductors, and pharmaceuticals, deepening concerns in the Indian market. The pharmaceutical sector, in particular, could be hit hard by such policies, as the US is a major market for Indian pharmaceutical exports.

In a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Trump noted that India has some of the highest tariffs globally, but reassured that both leaders are committed to strengthening bilateral ties and improving trade policies between the two nations. This potential shift in trade dynamics added to the market's volatility, as investors grew increasingly cautious about the economic impact of rising tariffs.

With the Nifty Smallcap 100 index entering a bear market, and concerns mounting over the impact of US tariff policies, investors are closely monitoring developments for any signs of stabilization in the Indian stock market.

The “Happiness Factory: Parents In South Korea Are Locking Themselves

In a unique experiment in Gangwon Province, South Korea, parents are voluntarily participating in a confinement experience designed to help them understand the social isolation and anxiety that their children are facing. The experiment, known as the “Happiness Factory,” involves parents being shut into small rooms for three days with no access to TVs, phones, laptops, or even any form of communication. Their only connection to the outside world is a small feeding hole through which their meals are passed.



tense pressure from school or society.

The purpose of this intense and somewhat extreme experience is to give parents a first-hand insight into what their children, many of whom are “reclusive youths,” experience daily. These youths, often referred to as “hikikomori” in Japan and South Korea, spend most of their time alone in their rooms, avoiding social interaction and engagement with the outside world. The isolation is usually due to a range of factors, including anxiety, depression, and in-

Parents who join the program hope to better understand the emotional and psychological toll their children endure when they withdraw from the outside world. The isolation is often a cry for help or a reaction to intense social pressures, yet many parents struggle to relate to their children’s feelings and struggles. By voluntarily experiencing confinement, parents aim to gain empathy and create better strategies for supporting their children in overcoming their social anxiety and withdrawal.

The “Happiness Factory” is not just about the isolation experience itself; it’s also a form of therapy and education for parents, who engage in group discussions afterward. Through these conversations, parents share insights and emotional struggles, learning how to create more open and supportive environments for their children. The ultimate goal of this experiment is to equip parents with the tools to help their reclusive children reintegrate into society in a healthy, supportive way, allowing for better communication and understanding within families.

Instagram Tests “Dislike” Button for Comments

Instagram, owned by Meta, is currently testing a controversial new feature that allows users to “dislike” comments. Several users have reported seeing a downward arrow next to the usual like heart in the comments section of posts, including Feed posts and Reels. However, Instagram has not officially confirmed the feature’s broader rollout or provided details on when it might become available to all users.



The new “dislike” button gives users the ability to express disagreement with certain comments, functioning similarly to the downvote feature found on platforms like Reddit. This change could allow people to signal whether they agree or disagree with opinions shared in the comment sections, potentially adding a new layer of interaction to Instagram’s platform.

Despite its potential to offer users more ways to interact with content, the feature has faced significant backlash. Many people are concerned that the dislike button could lead to in-

creased negativity, bullying, and toxicity within comment sections. Critics argue that it could open the door to a more hostile environment, as users may misuse the feature to downvote comments in a vindictive or hurtful manner. Some users have even shared screenshots of their comments sections with the newly added down arrow, expressing their discontent with the button’s presence.

its benefits in promoting more nuanced discussions or highlighting comments people strongly disagree with, its potential for encouraging online hostility has many worried. Instagram’s move to test the dislike button has reignited debates about how social media platforms can balance user expression with maintaining a positive and supportive environment. For now, it remains unclear whether the feature will be fully rolled out or scrapped due to user feedback.

While the feature may have

Youtuber Gets Stuck On Mobile Tower After Climbing It To Boost Channel Views

A YouTuber from Uttar Pradesh, identified as Nileshwar, found himself stranded and needing rescue after attempting a daring stunt for online fame. Nileshwar, who runs the YouTube channel Nileshwar22, climbed a mobile tower in Tigri village, Greater Noida, in an attempt to attract views. His channel, which has around 8,900 subscribers, aimed to boost its popularity through the risky stunt, which was being recorded by his partner.



As Nileshwar climbed the tower, their activity started to attract attention, and soon, a large crowd gathered beneath the structure. However, when his partner noticed the growing crowd, he fled the scene, leaving Nileshwar stuck at the top of the tower. The situation quickly escalated, and local authorities were called in to help. A five-hour rescue operation ensued, with the police working tirelessly to bring Nileshwar down safely.

The incident highlights the growing trend of YouTubers and online personalities taking dangerous risks for the sake of gaining more views and followers. The police have since issued a warning against engaging in such perilous activities, urging individuals to avoid putting their lives at risk for online fame.

This incident is not isolated. Recently, a similar stunt took place in Pune, where a woman dangled from a tall building, holding onto the hand of a man lying on the roof. Both were arrested after the stunt, with the person filming the video still on the run.

In another case, a YouTuber from Kerala, Sanju Techy, tried a risky stunt inspired by a Malayalam film. He transformed his car into a makeshift swimming pool by lining it with a tarpaulin sheet and filling it with water. The stunt caused a traffic jam when the water seeped into the vehicle’s seats and engine, and authorities were forced to intervene. Sanju and his friends were fined for violating traffic rules, and the car’s registration was suspended, along with the driver’s license. These incidents serve as a stark reminder of the dangers of prioritizing online fame over personal safety.

** Apple Vision Pro Set for New Features, Including Apple Intelligence and Guest Mode**

Apple is preparing to enhance its Vision Pro headset with several new features, including the addition of Apple Intelligence, an updated guest mode, and a spatial content app. These upgrades are expected to be rolled out as part of a software update, with the possibility of a beta version for developers being available as soon as this week, according to a report by Bloomberg News on Saturday.



The Vision Pro, which costs around \$3,500, has already attracted attention for its innovative design and capabilities. The upcoming software update is poised to expand its functionality even further, offering users more personalized experiences and new features to interact with the headset. One of the major additions is the integration of Apple Intelligence, which will likely bring advanced AI-driven features to the device. Apple has been focusing heavily on AI and machine learning in its product lineup, and the Vision Pro headset will now benefit from

this expertise, making the device more intuitive and responsive to users’ needs. Additionally, the update will introduce an updated guest mode, which will allow users to share their Vision Pro headset with others without compromising their personal settings or data. This feature could make the device more accessible to multiple users in households or shared environments. Another exciting feature coming with the update is the spatial content app, which will likely expand the range of immersive experiences available on the Vision Pro. The app

could open new possibilities for entertainment, productivity, and other activities, taking full advantage of the headset’s immersive display and advanced technology. These new features will likely be part of an ongoing effort by Apple to improve the Vision Pro headset and solidify its position in the growing augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) market. With the software update expected soon, developers will have the opportunity to explore these new tools and help refine them ahead of the wider rollout to consumers.

Chennai Influencer Gives A Tour Of Etihad’s Ultra-Luxurious The Residence

When it comes to luxury in the skies, Etihad Airways is redefining what it means to fly in style. Recently, a Chennai couple with their child shared their lavish experience aboard the airline’s Airbus A380, booking “The Residence” suite, which offers an exclusive, private flying experience. With ticket prices ranging from Rs 3-4 lakh, this service is considered to be one of the most opulent ways to travel.

Content creator Keerthi documented the entire journey on Instagram, providing a rare glimpse into the extravagant services offered by Etihad. According to Keerthi, the luxury experience began even before they boarded the flight. Passengers who book The Residence are granted access to Etihad’s exclusive First Class Lounge at Abu Dhabi International Airport, which is a far cry from your typical airport experience. The lounge

offers a host of premium services, including a la carte gourmet dining, spotless shower suites, a dedicated children’s play area, and private cabins for families.

Once aboard, The Residence delivers an unmatched level of comfort and privacy. With features akin to a private jet, the suite includes a spacious living area, a separate bedroom, and a private bathroom with a shower. Passengers enjoy personalized service from a dedicated butler, ensuring every need is met, from meals to special requests. The cabin’s sophisticated design combines comfort with elegance, allowing families to travel in absolute luxury.

For those seeking the ultimate flying experience, Etihad’s The Residence is the epitome of lavish air travel. Whether you’re enjoying world-class



dining in the lounge or relaxing in your own private suite, the experience offers a level of

exclusivity and comfort that is unparalleled in commercial aviation.

IPL 2025: KKR vs RCB to Kick Off Tournament on March 22; Full Schedule Released



Match No.	Date	Time	Home	Away	Venue
1	22-Mar-25	19:30	Kolkata Knight Riders	Royal Challengers Bangalore	Eden Gardens
2	23-Mar-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians	M.A. Chidambaram
3	24-Mar-25	19:30	Delhi Capitals	Punjab Kings	Aruna Jaitley
4	25-Mar-25	19:30	Rajasthan Royals	Gujarat Titans	Sardar Vallabhbhai
5	26-Mar-25	19:30	Hyderabad Sunrisers	Lucknow Super Giants	Dr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan
6	27-Mar-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata Knight Riders	Eden Gardens
7	28-Mar-25	19:30	Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals	Aruna Jaitley
8	29-Mar-25	19:30	Punjab Kings	Rajasthan Royals	Sardar Vallabhbhai
9	30-Mar-25	19:30	Gujarat Titans	Hyderabad Sunrisers	Dr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan
10	31-Mar-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians	M.A. Chidambaram
11	01-Apr-25	19:30	Delhi Capitals	Punjab Kings	Aruna Jaitley
12	02-Apr-25	19:30	Rajasthan Royals	Gujarat Titans	Sardar Vallabhbhai
13	03-Apr-25	19:30	Hyderabad Sunrisers	Lucknow Super Giants	Dr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan
14	04-Apr-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata Knight Riders	Eden Gardens
15	05-Apr-25	19:30	Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals	Aruna Jaitley
16	06-Apr-25	19:30	Punjab Kings	Rajasthan Royals	Sardar Vallabhbhai
17	07-Apr-25	19:30	Gujarat Titans	Hyderabad Sunrisers	Dr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan
18	08-Apr-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians	M.A. Chidambaram
19	09-Apr-25	19:30	Delhi Capitals	Punjab Kings	Aruna Jaitley
20	10-Apr-25	19:30	Rajasthan Royals	Gujarat Titans	Sardar Vallabhbhai
21	11-Apr-25	19:30	Hyderabad Sunrisers	Lucknow Super Giants	Dr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan
22	12-Apr-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata Knight Riders	Eden Gardens
23	13-Apr-25	19:30	Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals	Aruna Jaitley
24	14-Apr-25	19:30	Punjab Kings	Rajasthan Royals	Sardar Vallabhbhai
25	15-Apr-25	19:30	Gujarat Titans	Hyderabad Sunrisers	Dr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan
26	16-Apr-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians	M.A. Chidambaram
27	17-Apr-25	19:30	Delhi Capitals	Punjab Kings	Aruna Jaitley
28	18-Apr-25	19:30	Rajasthan Royals	Gujarat Titans	Sardar Vallabhbhai
29	19-Apr-25	19:30	Hyderabad Sunrisers	Lucknow Super Giants	Dr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan
30	20-Apr-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata Knight Riders	Eden Gardens
31	21-Apr-25	19:30	Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals	Aruna Jaitley
32	22-Apr-25	19:30	Punjab Kings	Rajasthan Royals	Sardar Vallabhbhai
33	23-Apr-25	19:30	Gujarat Titans	Hyderabad Sunrisers	Dr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan
34	24-Apr-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians	M.A. Chidambaram
35	25-Apr-25	19:30	Delhi Capitals	Punjab Kings	Aruna Jaitley
36	26-Apr-25	19:30	Rajasthan Royals	Gujarat Titans	Sardar Vallabhbhai
37	27-Apr-25	19:30	Hyderabad Sunrisers	Lucknow Super Giants	Dr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan
38	28-Apr-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata Knight Riders	Eden Gardens
39	29-Apr-25	19:30	Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals	Aruna Jaitley
40	30-Apr-25	19:30	Punjab Kings	Rajasthan Royals	Sardar Vallabhbhai
41	01-May-25	19:30	Gujarat Titans	Hyderabad Sunrisers	Dr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan
42	02-May-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians	M.A. Chidambaram
43	03-May-25	19:30	Delhi Capitals	Punjab Kings	Aruna Jaitley
44	04-May-25	19:30	Rajasthan Royals	Gujarat Titans	Sardar Vallabhbhai
45	05-May-25	19:30	Hyderabad Sunrisers	Lucknow Super Giants	Dr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan
46	06-May-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata Knight Riders	Eden Gardens
47	07-May-25	19:30	Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals	Aruna Jaitley
48	08-May-25	19:30	Punjab Kings	Rajasthan Royals	Sardar Vallabhbhai
49	09-May-25	19:30	Gujarat Titans	Hyderabad Sunrisers	Dr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan
50	10-May-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians	M.A. Chidambaram
51	11-May-25	19:30	Delhi Capitals	Punjab Kings	Aruna Jaitley
52	12-May-25	19:30	Rajasthan Royals	Gujarat Titans	Sardar Vallabhbhai
53	13-May-25	19:30	Hyderabad Sunrisers	Lucknow Super Giants	Dr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan
54	14-May-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata Knight Riders	Eden Gardens
55	15-May-25	19:30	Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals	Aruna Jaitley
56	16-May-25	19:30	Punjab Kings	Rajasthan Royals	Sardar Vallabhbhai
57	17-May-25	19:30	Gujarat Titans	Hyderabad Sunrisers	Dr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan
58	18-May-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Mumbai Indians	M.A. Chidambaram
59	19-May-25	19:30	Delhi Capitals	Punjab Kings	Aruna Jaitley
60	20-May-25	19:30	Rajasthan Royals	Gujarat Titans	Sardar Vallabhbhai
61	21-May-25	19:30	Hyderabad Sunrisers	Lucknow Super Giants	Dr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan
62	22-May-25	19:30	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata Knight Riders	Eden Gardens
63	23-May-25	19:30	Mumbai Indians	Delhi Capitals	Aruna Jaitley
64	24-May-25	19:30	Punjab Kings	Rajasthan Royals	Sardar Vallabhbhai
65	25-May-25	19:30	Gujarat Titans	Hyderabad Sunrisers	Dr. Y.S. Jagan Mohan

The highly anticipated IPL 2025 season is set to begin on March 22, with defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) taking on Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) at their home ground, Eden Gardens. This match will mark the opening of a thrilling ten-team tournament that will span 65 days, with 74 matches to be held across 13 venues.

The schedule was officially announced by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) through broadcasters JioHotstar. After a break following the Champions Trophy, which ends on March 9, the IPL action will resume.

The opening weekend includes several exciting fixtures. On March 23, Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), who

were the runners-up in IPL 2024, will host 2008 champions Rajasthan Royals (RR) at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium. The same evening, Chennai Super Kings (CSK) will take on Mumbai Indians (MI) in a much-anticipated clash at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. These two teams, both with five IPL titles each, will also meet in Mumbai on April 20 for the reverse fixture.

Other key matches include Delhi Capitals (DC) facing Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in Visakhapatnam on March 24 and Gujarat Titans (GT) opening their campaign against Punjab Kings (PBKS) in Ahmedabad on March 25.

Notably, KKR is also scheduled to host Qualifier 2 on May 23 and the IPL 2025 final on May 25, while Hyderabad will host Qualifier 1 and the Eliminator on May 20 and 21, respectively.

New captain announcements for several teams have also been made, with RCB naming Rajat Patidar as their new leader, and Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant appointed as captains for PBKS and LSG, respectively. However, KKR and DC are yet to announce their captains.

The full IPL 2025 schedule promises a thrilling cricketing season for fans across the globe.

Delhi Dribblers End Mumbai Titans' Winning Streak in Thrilling Showdown



In a nail-biting InBL Pro U25 clash at the Thyagraj Indoor Stadium, the Delhi Dribblers handed the Mumbai Titans their first loss in four games, defeating them 88-84 in a thrilling contest. The Dribblers dominated the first half, putting up a staggering 59 points, but the Titans mounted a fierce comeback in the second half, setting up a dramatic finish.

Lachlan Barker once again led the charge for the Dribblers, scoring 25 points, while Daniel Poelsma played a pivotal role with 23 points, including several crucial three-pointers. Newcomer Piyush Meena made his debut for the Dribblers, adding to the team's depth.

The Dribblers were off to a strong start, with early baskets from Barker and James Montgomery, and an energetic offense that helped them establish an early lead. The Titans, led by Aaron Verghese Blessen's strong drives to the basket, kept pace, but the Dribblers capitalized on turnovers to maintain their edge. Barker hit a clutch four-point play toward the end of the first quarter, extending the lead to eight.

In the second quarter, the Dribblers' offense continued to roll. With the Titans' attack stalling, Poelsma knocked down several three-pointers, pushing the lead to 15 points. By halftime, the Dribblers had an impressive

25-point advantage, heading into the break with a commanding lead.

The Titans came out strong after halftime, intensifying their defense. Lokendra and Dalph Panopio led the charge with fast breaks and perimeter shooting, while Montgomery fought hard in the paint. The Titans exploded for 42 points in the third quarter, trimming the Dribblers' lead to just 11 points heading into the final quarter.

The fourth quarter saw the Titans continue their surge, with Kitto hitting a deep three and Durell McDonald converting a three-point play. The Dribblers struggled offensively, allowing the Titans to close the gap to just two points.

As the game reached its climax, the Titans, led by Judd and McDonald, tied the game. However, Barker and Pratyanshu Tomar responded with key shots to maintain a slim lead. With 18 seconds left, Barker sank crucial free throws to give the Dribblers a four-point lead. Montgomery then sealed the win with a powerful two-handed dunk, ensuring the Dribblers' victory.

The Dribblers' 88-84 win was a dramatic and hard-fought contest, marking a memorable end to the Titans' three-game winning streak.

FIH Hockey Pro League: India Captain Salima Tete Praises Team's Resilience Against England



India women's team captain Salima Tete praised her team's performance against England in the FIH Hockey Pro League, despite their narrow loss in the shootout. The match ended in a tense 2-2 draw, with both teams battling fiercely. India showed great resilience, holding their nerve to force the game into the shootout. However, England kept their composure during the shootout and managed to win the bonus point.

Tete expressed her satisfaction with how her team played, emphasizing their determination and resilience on the field. Although the loss in the shootout was disappointing, the captain acknowledged the positive aspects of her team's performance, highlighting their ability to stay strong under pressure. The match at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium on Sunday was an exciting contest, showcasing the competitive spirit of both teams.

Yashasvi Jaiswal Ruled Out of Mumbai's Ranji Trophy Semi-Final Against Vidarbha

Mumbai's preparations for the upcoming Ranji Trophy semi-final against Vidarbha have taken a significant blow with opener Yashasvi Jaiswal being ruled out due to a right ankle injury. Jaiswal sustained the injury during training over the weekend, just days before the semi-final clash, which is set to begin on Monday in Nagpur.

Initially part of India's Champions Trophy 2025 squad, Jaiswal was later replaced by spinner Varun Chakaravathy and was retained as a non-travelling reserve. However, following his injury, Jaiswal is expected to return home, and there will be no replacement named for him in Mumbai's semi-final squad.

Despite Jaiswal's absence, Mumbai's squad still boasts a wealth of experience with players like Ajinkya Rahane, Suryakumar Ya-

dav, Shivam Dube, and Shardul Thakur. Among them, Shivam Dube is also a non-travelling reserve for India's Champions Trophy squad and could potentially be called up if required.

Jaiswal, a regular member of India's Test squad, had recently made his ODI debut against England in Nagpur, stepping in for Virat Kohli, who was sidelined due to a knee injury. He scored 15 runs in that match. Jaiswal has only played one Ranji Trophy match this season, where he scored 4 and 26 in Mumbai's group-stage loss to Jammu and Kashmir.

This semi-final clash against Vidarbha is a rematch of last season's final. Vidarbha have been in exceptional form, winning seven out of their eight matches this season. They head into the semi-final on the back of a dom-



inant 198-run victory over Tamil Nadu in the quarter-finals. Mumbai will now look to rely on their experienced squad to carry them through to the final, despite Jaiswal's absence.

Tejas Dhingra Defends National Championship Title at NEC Show Jumping 2024-25



Tejas Dhingra of Beeya's Riding Facility successfully retained his National Championship title at the National Equestrian Championship (Show Jumping) 2024-25. The prestigious event took place at the Modi Equestrian Academy in Meerut on Sunday.

Dhingra, the reigning champion, triumphed with

an impressive 16 points in the Championship Tour, securing the top spot. He finished ahead of the joint runners-up, Amar Sarin of Tarc Equestrian Centre and Ashray Butta of EGC Stables, who shared second place. This victory marks another significant achievement in Dhingra's show jumping career.



Movie Review: "MAX" (Streaming on ZEE5)



Released on February 15, 2025, MAX is a Kannada action thriller starring Sudeepa and directed by Vijay Karthikeya. The movie, now streaming on ZEE5, revolves around a tough police officer named Max, who confronts political corruption and crime in a troubled region. The film follows Max as he navigates through a complex scenario involving powerful political families and their rebellious children, leading to a murder mystery that challenges the law enforcement system. While Sudeepa delivers a strong performance, the film's character development feels lacking, particularly in the antagonist roles. Varalaxmi Sarathkumar's introduction is intriguing, but her character

loses impact as the story progresses. The film's narrative closely resembles Karthi's Kaithi, which may evoke a sense of familiarity for some viewers. Despite impressive cinematography by Shekhar Chandra and a solid background score by Ajaneesh Loknath, the screenplay fails to fully capitalize on its potential. The film could have been more gripping with stronger villain arcs and sharper pacing. Ultimately, MAX remains an average action thriller, with its shortcomings preventing it from reaching its true potential. Rating: 2.75/5

Nicole Kidman Talks About Her Motivation to Work with Female Directors



Hollywood icon Nicole Kidman has shared her inspiration behind collaborating with female directors, including Sofia Coppola, Halina Reijn, and Lulu Wang. Reflecting on her career choices, Kidman expressed that she feels deeply connected to women's stories, as a "mother, daughter, wife, producer, and actress." She feels that her personal experiences allow her to understand and portray women's emotions authentically, which makes her gravitate toward working with talented female filmmakers. In an interview, Kidman explained, "I feel in tune with women's stories, obviously, I am a woman, and I can speak as a mother, daughter, wife, producer, actress; in short, I can move in different spaces and use a well of emotions and experiences to express my voice." She spoke highly of her collaborations with renowned directors, praising their unique perspectives, such as Susanne Bier, Lulu Wang, and Mimi Cave, the young director of Holland. Kidman also mentioned her upcoming project, Scarpetta, where she will work with the accomplished Franco-Swedish director Charlotte Brandstrom. While she remains committed to telling stories that resonate with her emotionally, she emphasized that she will not limit herself to only female-led narratives. Her primary focus will always be on the emotional impact and connection she feels with the story. As a fearless actress, she remains dedicated to embracing roles that challenge and inspire her.

Nandamuri Balakrishna's "Dakko Maharaj" to Stream on Netflix from February 21

Nandamuri Balakrishna's latest blockbuster, Dakko Maharaj, is set to stream on Netflix from February 21. The film, directed by Bobby Kolli and produced by Sitara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas, was released in theatres on January 12 and quickly became a major hit. The movie garnered significant box office success with record-breaking collections from the first show itself, marking Balakrishna's fourth consecutive hit. The film features Balakrishna

na alongside Pragya Jaiswal, while Shraddha Srinath, Chandini Chowdary, Urvashi Rautela, and Bobby Deol play key roles. The music for the film was composed by Thaman. Balakrishna, who is currently busy shooting for the highly anticipated Akhanda 2 under Boyapati Srinu's direction, continues to maintain a strong presence in the industry. Fans of the actor and the film can now enjoy Dakko Maharaj on Netflix starting this week.



Ed Sheeran Ends India Tour with Electrifying Delhi-NCR Concert



British music sensation Ed Sheeran wrapped up his Mathematics Tour to India with an electrifying performance in Delhi-NCR on Saturday, leaving thousands of fans ecstatic. Performing at the Leisure Valley Ground, Sheeran, armed with just his guitar and a loop station, showcased why he's one of the world's most captivating live performers. Opening the evening, Indian singer-actor Lisa Mishra set the stage with her energetic performance,

getting the crowd hyped for the main act. After a short wait, Sheeran appeared wearing a 'Delhi' T-shirt, greeted by loud cheers. He began with 'Castle on the Hill', before addressing the audience, sharing how he wished to perform across various cities in India, unlike his previous tours which were confined to Mumbai. Sheeran's tour, which began in Pune on January 30, took him to Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Shillong before concluding in

Delhi. He shared his joy of exploring Delhi, mentioning his sight-seeing adventures in Old Delhi and expressing his gratitude for the warm welcome. During his performance, he demonstrated his impressive loop station skills, layering beats, harmonies, and guitar riffs in real time. Promising to return soon, Sheeran left his fans eagerly awaiting his next visit to India.

Kareena Kapoor Requests Paparazzi to Avoid Clicking Pictures of Kids at Randhir Kapoor's Birthday Bash

At Randhir Kapoor's recent birthday celebration, Kareena Kapoor made a special request to the paparazzi to refrain from clicking pictures of her children. The actress, who has always been protective of her family's privacy, reiterated her stance on keeping her kids out of the limelight. This came as she made her appearance at

the event, where she was seen in a stunning ensemble, maintaining her usual grace. Kareena, who was last seen in Singham Again, is a staunch advocate of her children's privacy. Her call for no pictures of her kids further reinforces her commitment to safeguarding their personal space.



Katrina Kaif Praises Vicky Kaushal's Stellar Performance in Chhaava

As Vicky Kaushal's historical action film Chhaava hit theaters, his wife, Katrina Kaif, took to Instagram to share her admiration for his performance. Posting a poster of the film, she described the experience as "what a cinematic experience" and praised the film's

portrayal of the glory of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, directed by Laxman Utekar. She specifically highlighted the powerful impact of the final 40 minutes, admitting that she spent the morning wanting to re-watch the film. Katrina continued to shower love

on her husband, calling his performance "outstanding." She expressed awe at the intensity and transformation Vicky brings to every character, referring to him as a "chameleon" for his effortless portrayal of different roles. "Every time you come on screen,

every shot, the intensity you bring on screen, you are a chameleon," she wrote, proudly celebrating Vicky's talent. In Chhaava, Vicky Kaushal plays the role of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, while Rashmika Mandanna stars as Maharani Yesubai.

