

ONE CRORE DEAL FOR VAMSI PHONE

- Vallabhaneni Vamsi's Missing Phone.
- A Crore-Rupee Deal and Police Conspiracy?
- Alleged involvement of a high-ranking police officer in the missing phone case.
- A deal worth one crore rupees allegedly linked to the disappearance of Vamsi's phone.
- Police investigation uncovers shocking details about the incident.

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 19

Vallabhaneni Vamsi, a former MLA from Gannavaram, is at the center of a growing controversy following the disappearance of his phone amid a complex criminal investigation. Vamsi and his supporters are implicated in the Gannavaram TDP office attack case, which led to multiple arrests and anticipatory bail applications from the accused. During the legal proceedings, the complainant, Satyavardhan, gave a perplexing statement in court, denying any knowledge of the attack or insults related to caste.

This statement by Satyavardhan led to confusion among the police, prompting an inquiry into why he had denied his previous claims. Shocking evidence surfaced that Vamsi and his followers had allegedly kidnapped Satyavardhan and coerced him into changing his testimony. With this new information, the police arrested Vamsi at his residence in Raya Durgam, Hyderabad, around 10:30 PM. He was brought to Vijayawada's Krishna Lanka Police Station the following afternoon. What followed next is raising serious concerns. In most criminal cases, when an individual is arrested,



their personal belongings, including phones and electronics, are seized. However, in Vamsi's case, the police did not seize his phone during the arrest. Sources claim that a follower of Vamsi handed over a phone to the police, raising suspicions that the phone in question was a replacement. An even more troubling revelation has emerged: It is alleged that a deal worth one crore rupees was struck to facilitate the disappearance of Vamsi's phone. According to police circles, a high-ranking officer is suspected of being involved in the missing phone's disappearance. This officer is reportedly conducting searches at Vamsi's Hyderabad residence while feigning ignorance about the missing phone. As investigations into the case unfold, the focus has shifted to the integrity of the police involved. The missing phone and the alleged bribery raise questions about corruption within the police force. Many are now calling for a thorough inquiry into the actions of the high-ranking officer and their potential role in this covert deal. With mounting public pressure, the coalition government must address these allegations, as the question of whether the YSRCP-linked police officers will face accountability looms large. The search for Vamsi's missing phone and the truth behind this possible conspiracy continues.

"We Will Not Spare Anyone," Jagan Issues Stark Warning

- YS Jagan Accuses TDP of Filing False Cases Against Vamsi
- YS Jagan claims Vamsi's arrest is part of a political plot
- False cases filed to keep Vamsi jailed
- Tensions rise over recent election-related violence

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 19

YSR Congress Party (YSCP) Chief and former CM YS Jagan has accused the TDP of filing false cases against Vallabhaneni Vamsi, claiming that the arrest was part of a well-orchestrated political scheme. Speaking on the issue, Jagan stated that the charges, including kidnapping and intimidation, were fabricated to malign Vamsi and prevent him from gaining bail. Jagan further emphasized that the cases were aimed at keeping Vamsi imprisoned for an extended period, alleging that the law and order situation was being misused for political vendettas. He mentioned that Vamsi was implicated in a case involving Dalit youth Satyavardhan, despite having no involvement in the incident, and accused the TDP government of reopening the case for political reasons. Highlighting the growing tensions in the state, Jagan pointed out the illegal activities that took place during the Piduguralla municipal elections, where TDP allegedly claimed victory despite lacking the necessary support. He accused the TDP of resorting to violence, including kidnapping people in buses in Tirupati, and postponing elections in areas like Tuni to prevent YCP from contesting.



In his comments, Jagan also suggested that TDP's political strategy revolves around threats and intimidation, with cases being filed against those they dislike. He accused Chandrababu Naidu of being frustrated by Vamsi's rise and political success, calling it a "mafia state" where false cases are routinely filed to suppress opposition. The situation has led to a fierce political rivalry, with both parties accusing each other of unethical practices. As the investigations continue, it remains to be seen how these allegations will affect the political landscape in Andhra Pradesh.

Minister Kollu Ravindra Counter to Jagan with Release of Kidnap Video

- CCTV footage shows abduction of Dalit youth Satyavardhan
- Vallabhaneni Vamsi arrested in kidnapping case
- Minister Kollu Ravindra warns against spreading factionalism

TPN Correspondent
Mangalagiri, Feb 19

In a significant development regarding the Satyavardhan kidnapping case, Minister Kollu Ravindra has released CCTV footage that appears to show the abduction of Dalit youth Satyavardhan. The footage, captured on February 11, 2025, at the My Home Bhujra Apartment in Hyderabad, allegedly shows Satyavardhan being forcibly taken and transported. It is notable that Vallabhaneni Vamsi, who was arrested in connection with the case, resides in the same apartment complex. This release comes at a time when political tensions between the TDP and YSRCP are escalating. YSRCP chief Jagan Reddy has criticized the arrest of Vamsi, calling it unfair and politically motivated. Jagan argues that the arrest was a targeted action rather than a legitimate legal step. Minister Kollu Ravindra responded by defending the evidence and emphasizing the gravity of the situation. He made it clear that the footage is a crucial piece of evidence in the investigation, showing how Satyavardhan was abducted. Ravindra also issued a strong warning, stating that any attempt to spread factionalism or instigate unrest in Krishna district, a traditionally peaceful



area, would not be tolerated. The case has ignited a fierce political debate, with both parties accusing each other of leveraging the incident for political gains. While the TDP leaders maintain that Vamsi's arrest was part of a political vendetta, the YSRCP government is steadfast in its stance, asserting that the actions against Satyavardhan were criminal and deserving of punishment. As the investigation continues, political observers are closely watching how this case will impact the ongoing rivalry between the two parties in the region.

Dy CM Takes Holy Dip at Triveni Sangam during Mahakumbh Mela

TPN Correspondent
Prayagraj, Feb 19

On Tuesday, Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, along with his wife Anna Lezhinova and son Akiranandan, took part in the sacred ritual of dipping in the Triveni Sangam at the Mahakumbh Mela in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The family, arriving from Hyderabad, was accompanied by close friends and renowned film director Trivikram Srinivas.

Speaking on the occasion, Pawan Kalyan shared that it was a blessing to participate in the Mahakumbh Mela, a rare

Pawan Kalyan and family participate in the holy dip at the Triveni Sangam during Mahakumbh Mela.

spiritual event that occurs once every 144 years. He highlighted the significance of the occasion and suggested that every

Hindu should take the opportunity to experience this divine ritual and perform pujas at the confluence of the sacred rivers.

After the dip, the family performed special pujas to honor their ancestral gods, continuing the spiritual tradition of the festival. Pawan Kalyan expressed his gratitude for being part of such a momentous event and encouraged others to partake in the blessings of the Mahakumbh Mela. The event marks a spiritually enriching experience for those involved, drawing millions of pilgrims and devotees from across India.





APERC Chairman Releases Report on Mission LIFE

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 19

Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) Chairman Thakur Ram Singh, along with A. Chandra Shekhar Reddy, Media Adviser for Southern States & UTs, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power (MoP), Government of India, and APERC Secretary D. Ramanaiah, released the latest Mission LIFE report. The report, presented by BEE, focuses on energy conservation, sustainable development, and efficient energy management in alignment with the government's green initiatives. The event also saw the participation of P. Krishna and other key stakeholders, who emphasized the importance of adopting energy-efficient practices across industries and households. Mission LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment) aims to promote responsible energy consumption and carbon footprint reduction. The report highlights best practices, policy recommendations, and future roadmaps for achieving environmental sustainability.

CM Naidu Says Aqua Sector Should Be the Growth Engine of the State

- 30% growth rate possible with technology-driven aqua farming.
- Global demand for aqua products through natural farming.
- 10 lakh-acre target for aqua farming by 2029-30.

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 19

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu emphasized that the aqua sector will be a key growth engine for Andhra Pradesh's economy. Speaking at the Aqua Tech 2.0 Conclave in Vijayawada, he stated that technological advancements could help achieve a 30% growth rate in the industry. He stressed that natural farming in aquaculture will increase global demand for the state's seafood products.

The CM pointed out that Andhra Pradesh currently cultivates aqua products in 4 lakh acres, with plans to expand it to 10 lakh acres by 2029-30. He urged farmers to follow pollution-free practices and ensure strict control over antibiotics in feed.

"Aqua farming must align with environmental sustainability. Pollution control measures should be followed, and unregistered farming will face action under government norms," CM Naidu said.

The three-day Aqua Tech 2.0 Conclave, hosted by GFST, featured discussions on industry challenges, policy changes, and technological solutions. Experts, farmers, seafood processors, and traders participated.

CM Naidu highlighted that Andhra Pradesh is a leading state in aqua farming, contributing 8.8% of the state's Gross Value Added (GVA). However, despite producing more than Vietnam, the state lags behind in export revenue:

- Vietnam earns \$13 billion from 3.9 million metric tonnes.
- Andhra Pradesh earns \$3 billion from 5 million metric tonnes.
- He stressed the need for processing and



- value addition to increase profitability.
- Government Support & AI Integration
- The CM announced that Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be used to predict diseases in shrimp farming, reducing losses and improving quality.
- "In 1995, I promoted IT. Present, AI will drive innovation in aquaculture," he said.
- The government will support processing industries and new technologies, ensuring higher farmer incomes and sustainable growth.



Jagan's Comments on Police Spark Outrage: AP Police Officers Association Demands Retraction

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 19

Tensions have escalated between YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy and the AP Police Officers Association following a series of remarks made by Jagan on Tuesday. After visiting Vallabhaneni Vamsi in Vijayawada jail, Jagan made controversial comments about the police, accusing them of contributing to the decline in law and order in the state. He further implied that even retired officers could be brought back and made to stand for public scrutiny, including stripping them.

The remarks have incited outrage from the AP Police Officers Association, with leaders denouncing Jagan's comments as insulting and disrespectful to the police force. J. Srinivasa Rao, the President of the association, stated that the comments have seriously undermined the morale of police officers and were akin to a threat. Rao expressed that such remarks were inappropriate, especially from someone who had served as the state's Chief Minister for five years.

In a strongly worded statement, Rao demanded that Jagan retract his comments, urging him to show respect for the police, who, according to the association, perform their duties without political bias. He emphasized that the police force operates under the principles of law, morality, justice, and truth—values that should be upheld, especially by those in positions of power.

Srinivasa Rao also questioned the broader implications of Jagan's words, suggesting that such rhetoric undermines democratic values and the integrity of law enforcement. He expressed concern over the signals these comments send to the broader public and to those under Jagan's leadership.

The association has made it clear that unless Jagan withdraws his statements, they will continue to speak out against such disparaging remarks, calling on the government to respect the rule of law and the dignity of the police force.

E-KYC for Free Gas Cylinder Scheme: Minister Nadendla Manohar

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 19

The Andhra Pradesh government is actively implementing the Deepam-2 scheme, fulfilling its election promise of providing three free gas cylinders per year to eligible households. Consumers initially pay for the gas cylinders, and the government reimburses them later.

As part of this initiative, AP Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar chaired a meeting at Civil Supply Bhavan, Vijayawada, with oil marketing representatives and LPG distributors. He highlighted the commitment of the alliance government to fulfilling the 'Super-6' promises made to the people. He also noted that since the scheme's launch on November 1, 2024, by CM Chandrababu Naidu, around 93 lakh gas bookings have been made, and ₹714.57



crore has been reimbursed to beneficiaries. To ensure efficiency and prevent misuse, Minister Nadendla Manohar mandated the implementation of E-KYC for all beneficiaries. He also directed officials to prevent gas delivery agents from charging extra fees beyond the stipulated delivery cost. He urged cooperation from all stakeholders to enhance transparency and spread awareness about government policies.

₹7,508 Crore Deposited in Farmers' Accounts
In another key development, Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar attended a meeting with rice millers at Civil Supply Bhavan. Addressing the gathering, he revealed that the government has procured 32 lakh metric tonnes of paddy from 5.21 lakh farmers, disbursing ₹7,522 crore for payments. Out of this, ₹7,508 crore was deposited in farmers' accounts within 24 hours, showcasing the state's efficiency in financial transactions. For the first time, the government facilitated paddy procurement via WhatsApp (7337359375), leveraging technology to streamline operations. Rice millers expressed satisfaction with the government's decision to supply high-quality rice for mid-day meal programs and welfare hostels, ensuring better nutritional standards for students and hostel residents.

Special Action Plan to Resolve Land Disputes Between Govt Departments

TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Feb 19

The government of Andhra Pradesh has announced a special action plan to swiftly resolve land disputes between various government departments, with a focus on avoiding legal complications. Special Chief Secretary for Revenue, R.P. Sisodia, chaired a high-level review meeting on Tuesday at the State Disaster Management Authority office to address long-standing land issues between the Forest and Revenue Departments. The meeting was attended by senior officials from key departments, including Revenue, Survey Settlement, Forest, and the Maritime Board. Sisodia emphasized the importance of field visits by senior officials to assess the situation firsthand and expedite the resolution of disputes that are impeding development projects. He also stressed the need for prompt decision-making to ensure that land conflicts do not delay government initiatives.



One of the main points of discussion was the transfer of 408.67 acres of government land in Santabommali Mandal, Srikakulam, for the construction of the Mulapeta Greenfield Port. This land, currently part of the forest area, raised concerns between the Forest and Revenue Departments. Sisodia instructed the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA) to find

alternative land for the Forest Department and resolve the issue quickly. The meeting also discussed a land ownership dispute in Nellore between the Forest Department

and APIIC (Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation) concerning 502.12 acres in Amancherla, which is tied to ongoing legal proceedings. Clarity and legal consultation are needed before making any final decisions. Another critical issue reviewed was the border dispute over 365.66 acres in Orvakal, Kurnool, between a mining reserve forest and a proposed Green Energy Project site. Sisodia ordered a joint re-survey by the concerned departments and instructed district collectors to conduct thorough field surveys and report the findings to the CCLA. The discussions are part of the government's ongoing effort to resolve land disputes, establish clear boundaries, and ensure the smooth implementation of development projects across the state.

AP Govt Signs Agreement with Singhania Group for Educational Reforms

- Transformation of 14 schools in Tirupati district.
- One lakh students to receive quality education in five years.
- Future expansion to Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, and Kakinada.



TPN Correspondent
Andhra Pradesh, Feb 19

The Andhra Pradesh government has signed an agreement with the Sulochana Devi Singhania School Trust to bring major reforms in 14 schools across Tirupati district. The agreement was finalized in the presence of Education Minister Nara Lokesh, who emphasized that the initiative aims to make Andhra Pradesh's education system the best in the country. The partnership will focus on enhancing teaching quality, with teacher training programs that include spoken English and educational skills development. The objective is to provide world-class education to one lakh students over the next five years. Minister Nara Lokesh stated that the KG to PG education system is undergoing radical changes to ensure students acquire job-ready skills upon completing their education. "Our mission is to transform Andhra Pradesh into the top-performing state in education. We are introducing significant changes from KG to PG to equip students with the skills needed for the future," Lokesh said. The Singhania Trust's services will gradually expand to Amaravati, Visakhapatnam, and Kakinada, benefiting more students across the state.

Palla Srinivasa Rao Open Letter to YS Jagan on Visiting Vallabhaneni Vamsi in Jail



JTPN Correspondent Amaravati, Feb 19

Former MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi was arrested in connection with the kidnapping case related to the attack on the Gannavaram TDP office. YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy visited Vamsi in Vijayawada jail on Tuesday and later criticized the state government, alleging that false cases were filed against Vamsi and that his arrest was illegal.

In response, AP TDP president Palla Srinivasa Rao wrote an open letter questioning Jagan's support for Vamsi. He accused Jagan of endorsing a leader with a history of crimes against Dalits, women, and the public. Palla listed ten sharp points in his letter, demanding an explanation from Jagan:

1. How can Jagan support Vamsi, who kidnapped and tortured Dalit employee Satyavardhan?
2. How can he visit a leader who insulted women in the Assembly?
3. Why support Vamsi, who burned down the

Gannavaram TDP office and targeted women activists?

4. Does Jagan have respect for women when Vamsi made obscene posts about his family?

5. How can Jagan back Vamsi, who allegedly deceived 16,000 families through Sankalpa Siddhi Chit Funds?

6. Why support the illegal soil mining from Pattiseema Ghat?

7. What about the 11,000 fake house pattas distributed in Gannavaram?

8. Why back the gravel mafia accused of illegal mining in multiple areas?

9. What is Jagan's stance on Vamsi's alleged airport land grabs?

10. Why visit a leader accused of seizing nine villages in Vijayawada Rural?

Palla's letter raises serious allegations, putting Jagan in a politically challenging position. The TDP leader demanded that Jagan clarify his stance on supporting a controversial figure like Vamsi.

Varla Ramaiah Questions Jagan's Motive Behind Visiting Vamsi



TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Feb 19

TDP Politburo member Varla Ramaiah sharply criticized YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy for his visit to Vallabhaneni Vamsi in jail, calling it a disrespectful act toward women and Dalits. He emphasized that Vamsi is accused in numerous criminal cases and is infamous for his anti-social behavior, including his violations against women. Ramaiah expressed his concern over Jagan's apparent affection for Vamsi, question-

ing what motives lie behind his support for such an individual.

Ramaiah pointed out the hypocrisy in Jagan's actions, citing that despite Vamsi's controversial history, Jagan failed to show similar concern for retired Dalit Additional SP Vijaypal, who had worked with him and was imprisoned. He suggested that Jagan's neglect of Vijaypal, a Dalit officer, reveals his low regard for Dalit individuals, further questioning his commitment to marginalized communities.

Undavalli Arun Kumar Expressed Confidence on Pawan Kalyan for Division Promises

Undavalli believes Pawan Kalyan can push bifurcation demands.

₹75,050 crore requested for Andhra Pradesh under division promises. Amit Shah has assured discussion if the issue is raised in Parliament.

TPN Correspondent Rajahmundry, Feb 19

Former MP Undavalli Arun Kumar expressed confidence that Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan could play a crucial role in securing Andhra Pradesh's pending bifurcation promises. He stated that the current political climate presents a strong opportunity to push the state's demands, as the central government is dependent

on Andhra Pradesh in various aspects.

Undavalli pointed out that the Congress-led government had made critical mistakes during the bifurcation process. Despite the separation, ₹1.42 lakh crore remains undistributed, with 42% allocated to Telangana. Additionally, several public sector undertakings are yet to be divided, leaving Andhra Pradesh at a disadvantage.

In a letter to Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, Undavalli urged him to raise the demand for ₹75,050 crore in Parliament and ensure the funds are secured for the state. He insisted that submitting a formal notice in the Lok Sabha is crucial to bringing this matter to national attention and forcing a

debate on the issue.

Recalling previous assurances, Undavalli reminded that Union Minister Amit Shah has repeatedly stated that he is ready to discuss the bifurcation issues. He called on the state government to take immediate steps to push for a formal discussion in Parliament, emphasizing that Andhra Pradesh should not lose this crucial opportunity.

Undavalli also mentioned that Pawan Kalyan had previously held a two-hour discussion on bifurcation promises in his Fact-Finding Committee. He expressed confidence that Pawan's leadership and commitment would help the state achieve its long-pending financial dues.



Fourth Time Tuni Municipal Vice Chairman Election Postponed

Tension prevails in Tuni over the election

TPN Correspondent Tuni, Feb 19

The Tuni Municipal Vice Chairman election was postponed for the fourth time, as tensions escalated between TDP and YCP activists. The situation turned tense in Tuni following the Chalo Tuni call given by YCP, leading to a confrontation at the residence of former Rajanagaram MLA Jakampudi Raja. In response, police issued notices to several YCP leaders restricting their movement. From the morning, a heated argument broke out between TDP

and YCP activists near the municipal office. Initially, as YCP councilors attempted to reach the office, they were blocked by TDP activists. In response, YCP members proceeded to the chairman's residence instead.

By 12 noon, 17 YCP councilors remained absent, leading officials to postpone the election due to lack of quorum. The Presiding Officer (PO) announced that a new election date will be declared soon, but uncertainty remains over when the process will be completed.



MLA Adinarayana Reddy Criticizes YS Jagan, Calls YSRCP a 'Dinosaur Party'

MLA Adinarayana Reddy calls Jagan's birth in Kadapa a 'poverty'.

Alleges Jagan visits jail only to see prison walls. TDP leaders demand explanation for Jagan's meeting with Vamsi.

TPN Correspondent Jammalamadugu, Feb 19

Jammalamadugu MLA and government whip Adinarayana Reddy launched a scathing attack on YSRCP chief and former CM YS Jagan, stating that being born in Kadapa district is like being born into poverty for someone like Jagan. He accused the former CM of making prison visits under the guise of consultations and alleged that Jagan's ultimate destination would be jail.

Speaking in Amaravati on Tuesday, Adinarayana Reddy defended former Gannavaram MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi, stating that he had done nothing wrong. He further added that all the "prison birds" would soon be gathered in one place, implying future legal troubles for YSRCP leaders.

The MLA criticized Jagan's governance, calling YSRCP a 'dinosaur party' that is fading away. He claimed that despite representing Pulivendula, Jagan failed to provide water to his own constituency and accused him of neglecting the poor while building six lavish palaces for himself.

On Tuesday, YS Jagan visited Vallabhaneni Vamsi in Vijayawada jail and later addressed the media, making several remarks.



Following this, multiple TDP leaders, ministers, and MLAs strongly condemned his actions. AP TDP President Palla Srinivasa Rao demanded that Jagan clarify why he met with Vamsi, even writing an open letter posing sev-

eral questions. Similarly, Minister Angani Satya Prasad and MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy also expressed their strong objections, calling Jagan's actions politically motivated.

AP High Court Grants Temporary Relief to Vidadala Rajini



TPN Correspondent Amaravati, Feb 19

Vidadala Rajini, former minister and YSRCP leader, received a short-term relief in the AP High Court on Tuesday regarding a petition filed by Chilakaluripet ITDP president Pilli Koti. Koti had alleged that Rajini, along with her personal assistants (PAs) and the police, harassed him during the previous government's tenure over posts on social media.

The AP High Court heard the petition for anticipatory bail and issued a temporary order. The court

directed the Chilakaluripet police not to take strict action against Rajini and her PAs until the next hearing, which is scheduled for February 20th.

The dispute stems from a case in which Pilli Koti claimed that he was arrested and mistreated by City CI Surya Narayana in 2019 for posting on social media, allegedly under the direction of Vidadala Rajini. Koti also accused Rajini of insulting him on caste grounds and stated that his repeated complaints to the police went unaddressed, forcing him to seek justice from the High Court.

In a recent hearing, the court ordered the Chilakaluripet police to register a case against Vidadala Rajini, her PAs, and the former Chilakaluripet CI, on charges of SC/ST atrocities. The police were instructed to investigate and submit a report within two weeks.

MLA Somireddy Slams Jagan for Meeting Vamsi in Jail

TPN Correspondent Nellore, Feb 19

TDP senior MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy expressed strong disapproval of YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy's visit to Vallabhaneni Vamsi in Vijayawada jail on Tuesday. After meeting Vamsi, Jagan spoke to the media, criticizing the coalition government, but Somireddy fired back with sharp remarks.

Somireddy questioned whether Jagan, who consulted a criminal, could speak on caste issues with any credibility. He accused Jagan of hypocrisy, stating that even his own party members no longer support his statements. He went on to ask whether Jagan would visit other prisoners like Varra Ravindra Reddy, who had criticized Jagan's mother and sister, and who was also in jail.

Somireddy expressed his disbelief, stating that while many leaders have come and gone, no one has exhibited such "evil thoughts" as Jagan, who, according to Somireddy, continues to support individuals with a criminal background, including Vamsi, who had committed unspeakable acts.



Jagan Assured Legal Support, Says Vallabhaneni Vamsi's Wife



TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 19

Pankajasri, the wife of Vallabhaneni Vamsi, has expressed confidence in legal proceedings following her husband's arrest. Speaking to the media, she shared that Chief Minister Jagan Reddy personally assured her that the matter would be handled legally, adding that she was advised not to be afraid during this time.

Pankajasri addressed the ongoing legal case related to the Satyavardhan matter, where it is claimed that Vamsi was involved in a kidnapping case concerning an amount of 20,000 rupees. The police have requested a 10-day custody of Vamsi to recover the money, which is currently under investigation. Meanwhile, Vamsi's legal team, led by lawyer Chiranjeevi, has filed a bail petition in the court, although several petitions are still pending, which may delay the decision.

In an emotional appeal, Pankajasri also condemned the objectionable and obscene trolling of women on social media. She questioned why posts targeting women related to one party are treated differently than those involving other women. She requested an end to such abuses and for greater respect towards women on social platforms.

Fire breaks out at Little Lights Orphanage, Injuring Six Students

TPN Correspondent
Gannavaram, Feb 19

A major fire broke out at the Little Lights orphanage in Gannavaram, Krishna district, causing panic among the students. At the time of the fire, 140 students were asleep in the orphanage. As the fire spread, students woke up and ran in fear, with six students getting trapped inside. The doors were broken open to rescue the trapped students, who were then rushed to a government hospital using an ambulance service (108).

The fire engine arrived quickly, and firefighters managed to douse the flames, preventing further damage. While the students were in panic, they were safely evacuated. The incident has left the community shaken, as it highlights the urgency of safety measures in places housing children.



Thieves Create Havoc in Gottumukkala Village, Four Houses Targeted



TPN Correspondent
Nandigama, Feb 19

In a shocking incident in Gottumukkala village, Kanchikacharla mandal, thieves Gude Venkateswara Rao and Chaganti Devendra targeted four homes, committing theft while the owners were away. Police were alerted after a series of break-ins, where the thieves reportedly entered locked houses during the absence of the owners.

According to reports, Venkateswara Rao, whose wife lives in Vijayawada, took advantage of her absence after her husband's death. Chaganti Devendra, who works at a fertilizer shop in Nandigama, also seized the opportunity to break into a house while the residents were away.

Though the full extent of the stolen jewelry, cash, and other valuables has yet to be determined, authorities are conducting an investigation with the assistance of a clue team.

SINGLE TREATMENT, DOUBLE CLAIM AT ANU HOSPITAL VIJAYAWADA

Private hospital accused of claiming double claim for treatment.

Family to file legal case against Anu Hospital.

Arogya Sri scheme misused alongside insurance claims.

Hospital allegedly charged for same treatment twice.

Patient's family discovers fraud after treatment.

Legal action planned against hospital's unethical practices.

TPN | VVS MADHU BABU
Vijayawada, Feb 19

In Vijayawada, Anu Hospital is facing serious allegations of double billing after charging for a single kidney stone removal treatment twice. The case involves a 50-year-old woman who was admitted to the hospital on November 12, 2024, for the procedure. The hospital management initially claimed an insurance claim of Rs. 60,000 for the treatment, and the patient was discharged on November 15, 2024.

However, the situation took an alarming turn when it was revealed that the same patient was treated again under the Arogya Sri scheme. On January 7, 2025, a claim for Rs. 40,000 was made

through Arogya Sri, despite the woman already having received insurance coverage for the procedure.

Upon investigation, the patient's family discovered the duplicate claim for the same treatment. In addition to this, they found that during her second visit to the hospital, the patient underwent unnecessary procedures. The hospital performed an additional stent



removal and created a small hole on the woman's back under unclear circumstances. The family became suspicious when the patient questioned the procedure and was told that a sticker would be removed within two days. The family, alarmed by the hospital's practices, plans to file a legal case against Anu Hospital for fraudulent billing. They are also preparing to file a formal complaint with the Health Secretary and the Medical Board, calling for action against the unethical conduct of the hospital.

This incident highlights growing concerns over unethical practices in the private healthcare sector, where profit seems to take precedence over patient care. The hospital's alleged double billing has not only defrauded both the insurance company and the Arogya Sri scheme but also subjected the patient to unnecessary treatments.

The patient's family hopes their legal action will shed light on the hospital's malpractice and prevent further exploitation of patients in the future.

Kodali Nani Expresses Frustration: Our Jobs Are Being Taken Away

Former minister Kodali Nani comments on political arrests.

Nani laments job losses and his current stance.

Nani unbothered by Red Book rumors, maintains defiant tone.

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 19

Former Minister Kodali Nani, who has kept a low profile since the YSRCP's defeat in the last elections, recently resurfaced with sharp satires. Commenting on the recent arrest of Vallabhaneni Vamsi, Nani downplayed the incident, calling it "ordinary," and attributed the lack of such actions in the past to the previous government's inactivity. He further stated, "Since we were in power, we were active. Now, in opposition, what should we do?"

Nani expressed frustration over the current political climate, claiming that jobs are being taken away, which he said has resulted in his current stance. "Our jobs are being taken away, that's why we are like this," he said, highlighting the chal-



lenges faced under the current government.

When asked about rumors regarding his name being listed in the controversial "Red Book" after Vamsi's arrest, Nani remained unfazed. He admitted he had not seen the book, adding, "I am not afraid of filing 30 cases if not three." His comments reflected his ongoing defiance, suggesting that he had no fear of potential legal troubles.

Despite his more subdued presence, Nani's remarks point to a deep dissatisfaction with the present political order and his frustration over perceived injustices. His history of being a highly active figure during the YSRCP government makes his current position particularly notable as he continues to express his views without hesitation.

District Collector Nagarani Inspects Mangrove Forests to Highlight Coastal Protection

Strict action warned against illegal cutting of mangrove forests

Protective wall project in Pedamayvanalanka to begin

with Rs. 35 crore funding

Nalli Creek bridge repair work sanctioned with Rs. 20 lakh

TPN Correspondent
Narasapuram, Feb 19

District Collector Chadalawada Nagarani undertook a boat inspection of the mangrove forests in Darbharevu and Rajulupalem areas of Narasapuram Mandal on February 18, 2025, highlighting the vital role mangrove forests play in preventing coastal erosion. Speaking during the visit, she emphasized the importance of allowing mangrove forests to grow and warned that strict action would be taken against any illegal cutting of these forests. She noted that mangroves serve as natural barriers against the encroaching sea and prevent significant coastal erosion.

The District Collector pointed out the severe damage to areas such as Chinamanyvari Lanka and Pedamayvanalanka, where the sea has already made significant inroads. She mentioned that Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had allocated Rs. 35 crore for a one-kilometer protective wall to safeguard Pedamayvanalanka, an area affected by erosion. The protective wall, currently in its initial phase, will be built by an elite company, with plans to eventually extend it over seven kilometers.

Nagarani also addressed local farmers, urging them to take responsibility for



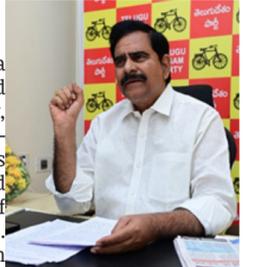
conserving mangrove forests, which are being rapidly depleted and are critical to the protection of the coastal areas. She acknowledged that the lack of mangrove coverage has led to significant coastal erosion, leaving local communities as the primary victims.

The District Collector, accompanied by R&B officials, also inspected the Nalli Creek bridge along the route to Chinna Myavanilanka. She announced that Rs. 20 lakh had been sanctioned for the repairs and strengthening of the bridge, with work set to begin immediately. The inspection was attended by District Joint Collector T. Rahul Kumar Reddy, District Forest Officer Asha Kiran, Narasapuram RTO Dasiraju, DSP Dr. Sri Veda, Tahsildar Rajarajeshwari, and other local officials and staff.

Devineni Umamaheswara Rao Criticizes YSRCP Leadership for Alleged Violence and Corruption

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 19

Devineni Umamaheswara Rao, Former Minister and TDP State General Secretary, addressed the media on Tuesday, accusing YSRCP leaders of promoting violence and anarchy under YSRCP Chief Jagan Reddy's leadership. Speaking at a conference in Vijayawada Rural Mandal



(Gollapudi), Umamaheswara Rao claimed that law and order had broken down, pointing to recent incidents of attacks on TDP party offices in various constituencies, including Gannavaram, and violence against marginalized communities such as SC, ST, BC, and minorities. The former minister alleged that leaders from the ruling party had employed anarchic forces to break into party offices, damage property, and harm innocent people. He also mentioned the involvement of several YSRCP leaders in corrupt activities, including the Babai murder case, and made strong remarks about ongoing investigations into attacks on party offices and the workers of TDP.

Umamaheswara Rao further accused the ruling party of injustice, stating that it had exploited public resources and undermined local elections by preventing people from filing nominations. He promised that the coalition government would hold those responsible for such crimes accountable and vowed to fulfill its election promises, emphasizing the importance of a double-engine government that would deliver on its promises to the people of the state. He expressed confidence that the people would see through the "dramas" being played out by the ruling party and that the day would soon come when the thieves and corrupt leaders would be brought to justice.

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Urges Public Participation in Swachh Survey

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 19

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dhyanchandra has urged all residents to actively participate in the Swachh Survey, emphasizing the importance of their involvement in maintaining the city's cleanliness and public health standards. In a statement released at the corporation headquarters on Tuesday evening, the Commissioner expressed his gratitude for the collective efforts that led to the city's top rankings in previous Swachh Surveys.

Dhyanchandra encouraged citizens to continue the momentum by taking part in this year's survey and helping Vijayawada secure the best position once again. He explained that participants can easily access the survey through a QR code, where they will be prompted to enter their phone number and OTP before answering ten questions to complete the survey. The Commissioner's call to action is aimed at further strengthening the city's reputation for cleanliness, encouraging everyone to contribute to Vijayawada's continued success in the Swachh Bharat Mission.



SRIKALAHASTI KNOWN AS THE SOUTHERN KASHI



- Brahmotsavams to be celebrated grandly in Srikalahasti.
- MLA Bojja Venkata Sudheer Reddy oversees arrangements.
- Devotees from across the country expected for the event.

TPN | C. Sekhar
Srikalahasti, Feb 19

The Mahashivratri Brahmotsavams at Srikalahasti, a spiritual district known for the revered Kalahasti Temple, are being organized with great zeal and dedication this year. The Kalahasti Temple, located 36 kilometers from Tirupati, is famous for its Vayu Linga, one of the five primary shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva. This temple, which has deep historical significance, is also known for the Gnanas Prasunamba Ambatralayam goddess and its uniquely square-shaped Shiva Linga. The temple's Mahashivratri Brahmotsavams are a major religious event attracting devotees from all over the country, including neighboring states like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. During the celebrations, the streets around the temple are filled with worshippers, and special buses

are run by the RTC to cater to the influx of pilgrims. In preparation for this grand event, Sri Kalahasti MLA Bojja Venkata Sudheer Reddy has been actively overseeing the arrangements for the past month. He has held meetings with Devadaya Department officials, ministers, and police officers to ensure smooth operations. Key political figures and film industry personalities have been personally invited to attend the Brahmotsavams, with preparations set to make this year's event grander than ever before. MLA Sudheer Reddy has focused on ensuring that devotees face no inconveniences in terms of transportation and access to the temple. He has directed that ample water and drinks be made available, while ensuring the surrounding areas remain clean with mobile toilets set up for public

convenience. Additionally, arrangements have been made for sound systems and LED TVs in surrounding areas so that everyone can stay connected to the ongoing events in the temple. The celebrations will officially begin on February 21st and will continue until March 6th, with significant events such as Mahashivratri on the 26th, the chariot festival on the 27th, and the marriage of the Goddess Ammavari on the 28th. The Nandi Vahana Seva on Mahashivratri is particularly notable, as special artists from various regions showcase their talents, making it a feast for the eyes during the festivities. This year's Brahmotsavams promise to be an extraordinary event, with all necessary measures in place to accommodate the large number of devotees expected.

Cancer Awareness Campaign in Prakasam Dist, Minister Satya Kumar Yadav Leads the Way



TPN | N. Kasirao
Prakasam Dist, Feb 19

On Tuesday, State Medical and Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav participated in a cancer awareness initiative in Edugundlapadu village of Madadipadu Mandal, Prakasam district. The event focused on educating people about cancer prevention and early detection, with a special appearance by film actress Gautami, a cancer survivor and Life Again Foundation volunteer. Minister Yadav shared the alarming fact that 17% of global deaths are caused by cancer, emphasizing that 63% of cancers are preventable. He introduced a statewide program offering free cancer screenings for women above the age of 18. These screenings, launched in November 2024, have already tested millions for oral, breast, and cervical cancers. The minister revealed that, out of 95 lakh screenings, over 87,000 cancer cases have been

identified, including 37,000 cases of oral cancer, 26,000 of cervical cancer, and 25,000 of breast cancer. Speaking at the event, Gautami urged people to take timely tests and confront cancer with courage, sharing her own battle with the disease. She stressed that early detection and treatment are vital in defeating cancer. District Collector A. Tamim Ansaria updated the crowd on the progress of the screening initiative, noting that 94.99 lakh people in the district have been tested so far. Ongole MLA Damacherla Janardhan Rao and Santanutalpadu MLA B.N. Vijay Kumar also praised the government's efforts and encouraged more people to participate. The event concluded with a pledge from locals to undergo screenings and a call for everyone to join in the fight against cancer.

NDA Alliance Leaders Campaign for Perabathula Rajasekhara's Victory in Bhimavaram

TPN Correspondent
Bhimavaram, Feb 19

In a significant campaign push for Perabathula Rajasekhara, the NDA alliance MLC candidate, Union Minister of State for Steel Heavy Industries, Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, urged voters to prioritize Rajasekhara's victory. A key event in the East and West Godavari district graduate MLC elections took place on Tuesday at SRKR Engineering College in Bhimavaram, where educational institution staff and graduate teachers gathered for the campaign. Minister Srinivasa Varma highlighted that the state's development can only be achieved under the NDA alliance government. He pointed out the government's achievements, such as the 16,000 teacher and 6,000 constable posts recently announced after the coalition government took power, stressing the government's commitment to job creation. He also discussed Make in India and Skill India initiatives, which offer collateral-free loans to youth, fur-



ther driving employment. Rajasekhara assured voters of his dedication to addressing the concerns of unemployed youth and graduates. He called on the electorate to exercise their right to vote and support him as the candidate for a prosperous government. Local leaders including Bhimavaram MLA Pulaparthi Ramanjaneyulu (Anjibabu), TDP state politburo member Thota Seetharamalakshmi, and BJP district president Sri Devi voiced strong support for Rajasekhara, urging the public to vote for the NDA coalition candidate. Their collective message underscored the NDA's focus on job creation and youth empowerment. The event saw a massive turnout from TDP, Janasena, and BJP workers and supporters.

Sub-Collector Ashutosh Srivastava Inspects Resurvey Process in Parvathipuram



TPN Correspondent
Parvathipuram, Feb 19

On Tuesday, Sub-Collector Ashutosh Srivastava, along with Parvathipuram ITDA Project Officer, visited Shivarampuram village in Balijepet mandal to oversee the ongoing resurvey process. During the visit, Srivastava emphasized the importance of conducting the resurvey accurately and without errors, urging the field staff to adhere to the guidelines. The meeting began with an awareness session for farmers about the resurvey process, followed by a review of issues raised in revenue conferences and gram sabhas at

the Tahsildar's office. Srivastava stressed that complaints should be systematically examined at the field level and resolved effectively. He further instructed officials to ensure that proper endorsements are made for every issue, with a focus on finding permanent solutions. The discussion also addressed specific concerns related to mutations, subdivisions, and mobile linking, where Srivastava sought detailed information to clarify any doubts. The meeting included the participation of the Tahsildar, revenue, survey, and panchayat staff.

Collector K. Vetrivelu Reviews Arrangements for Mahashivratri Celebrations

Arrangements for Balive Shivaratri in Full Swing

TPN Correspondent
Eluru, Feb 19

The Mahashivratri celebrations at the Balive Baleramalingeswara Swamy temple in Eluru district are set to take place from February 25 to 27. In preparation for the event, District Collector K. Vetrivelu held a review meeting with various department officials on Tuesday to discuss the arrangements. Collector Vetrivelu emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts to ensure a smooth experience for the devotees attending the festival. Special provisions will be made for queue lines for paid and free darshan, along with water baths and pindapradhans arranged at designated locations. She also instructed that changing rooms for wom-

en and adequate floodlighting be provided at the temple and ghats. Safety at the Tammileti river ghats, where devotees will take their baths, was also a top priority. The Collector directed officials to closely monitor the safety measures for the bathers and ensured that identity cards would be issued to priests performing the pindapradhans. After the meeting, Vetrivelu personally inspected the arrangements at the bathing spots and offered additional guidance on safety precautions. The meeting was attended by key officials, including Nujiveedu Sub-Collector Smaran Raja, Eluru District Endowment Assistant Commissioner CH Ranga Rao, and others from various departments.



MPDO Sitting in Sarpanch's Chair Sparks Allegations in Samanasa Village

TPN Correspondent
Amalapuram, Feb 19

A controversy has emerged in Samanasa village of Amalapuram Rural Mandal following an incident involving MPDO V. Babji Raju. During his field visit to oversee a survey aimed at strengthening small businesses, the MPDO sat in the village sarpanch's chair. This act did not sit well with the local sarpanch, who reportedly expressed anger over the MPDO's actions. The survey to support small businesses was progressing at a slow pace in the village, prompting the MPDO to vis-



tioned why the MPDO had taken his seat, which sparked

discussions within the village. Some residents downplayed the incident, dismissing it as a trivial matter, while others speculated that political differences between the ruling and opposition parties were fueling the issue. There are also rumors suggesting that certain individuals may be attempting to slow down the MPDO's progress on the survey, possibly as a way to obstruct his efforts. The situation remains under scrutiny, and it is unclear if the matter will escalate to a panchayat discussion in the near future.

Collector Mahesh Kumar Orders Immediate Resolution of Complaints in Revenue Conferences

TPN Correspondent
Amalapuram, Feb 19

District Collector R. Mahesh Kumar has emphasized the need for immediate action on complaints received through revenue conferences and the re-survey public problem resolution platform. In a meeting with Tahsildars and revenue staff, he reviewed the progress of resolving issues related to land and administration. Collector Kumar stressed that the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration regularly monitors the resolution

of these complaints, and remedial measures should be expedited. He instructed officials to bring any uncertainties to the attention of higher authorities for swift resolutions. Additionally, revenue staff were urged to meet their specified targets without neglecting them at any stage. The Collector highlighted the importance of accurate land mapping, especially in cases where vacant plots exist in house plot areas or where beneficiaries have built homes in different locations than those listed. Discrep-

ancies in land areas during the re-survey should be addressed in the presence of the farmers to ensure proper solutions. Special attention was drawn to the satisfaction levels of beneficiaries, which are being monitored through the IVRS system, and officials were cautioned that unresolved issues may lead to re-opening cases. Kumar emphasized the need for careful investigation into each complaint and the application of the updated standard operating procedures for re-surveys.

India's Paradox: Booming Economy, But Where Are The Jobs?



India, with the world's largest youth population, is at a critical juncture. While it stands as Asia's fastest-growing economy, it faces a severe employment crisis that remains unique to its socio-economic context.

The real paradox lies not in the absence of jobs but in the lack of skilled professionals who meet industry demands. An alarming 83% of India's unemployed workforce is between 15 and 29 years old, highlighting a mismatch between education and employability. Although India produces 50 lakh graduates annually, nearly half of them are unemployable—not due to lack of knowledge, but because of essential skill deficiencies, including communication, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills.

This skills gap is further exacerbated by low youth workforce participation, leading to rising frustration among young professionals and deepening economic strain for families that invest heavily in education, only to see their children unable to secure stable jobs. The inability of the job market to absorb this growing unemployable workforce, particularly in fields like research and development, hampers innovation and productivity, which are vital to sustaining India's economic growth. Efforts like the National Education Policy (NEP) and skill development programs are commendable but haven't fully addressed the skills gap. These initiatives encourage alignment between academia and industry needs, yet many graduates remain

unemployable due to deficiencies in real-world skills. Additionally, rural youth face a further disadvantage, with limited English proficiency hindering their entry into urban job markets, where English fluency is often a requirement for multinational companies. For India to continue its growth trajectory, it must bridge this skills gap to ensure that economic expansion translates into equitable job creation. The solution lies in realigning education with industry needs, fostering lifelong learning, and investing in skills development. If done correctly, India's demographic dividend can become a major economic asset, transforming its youth into a powerhouse of innovation and progress. The time for reform is now.

Trump's Blunt 'No' To Europe Could Change Everything



A new phase in the Ukraine war is unfolding, as the Trump administration seeks to engage Russia without involving Ukraine or Europe. The Saudis are stepping in as mediators, with key figures like US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Trump's Middle East special envoy Steve Witkoff, and National Security Adviser Mike Waltz playing central roles. This shift marks a dramatic departure from the US's policy of the past three years and leaves Europe scrambling to respond.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has strongly opposed any deals made without Ukraine's involvement, but the US seems ready to walk away from its commitment to European security. US officials, including Vice-President JD Vance, have emphasized that Europe must take on a greater role in its own defense, with US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth stating that Ukraine returning to its pre-2014 borders is unrealistic, while also downplaying Ukraine's NATO aspirations. The Trump administration's stance represents a fundamental rethink of the US-Europe partnership. In Paris, European leaders are urgently discussing how to respond to this shift, with UK leader Keir Starmer and Germany suggesting peace-keeping troops for Ukraine. However, many fear that Trump's pursuit of peace with Putin could put Europe at a long-term disadvantage.

As the US shifts its focus to the Indo-Pacific, Europe must confront the reality that its security is no longer a top priority for Washington. The task now is for European leaders to bolster their defense commitments and ensure that they have a say in the future of transatlantic relations. Trump's bold moves could disrupt the global order, with Europe left to reconsider its place in the new world order.

Beyond Deportation: Joint Efforts a Must to Curb Illegal Immigration

India is facing a serious challenge in the form of illegal immigration, particularly with planeloads of deported Indian migrants arriving from the United States. The individuals involved are primarily Indian citizens, and their deportation not only reflects poorly on the states they originated from but also on the nation as a whole. Political finger-pointing over the matter does little to address the deeper issues at play. Successive governments at both the central and state levels have failed these citizens to such an extent that they risked their lives seeking opportunities abroad.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his recent visit to Washington, pledged to accept any verified Indian migrant deported from the United States and to intensify efforts to combat human trafficking. His call to move beyond mere repatriation and to address the root causes of illegal immigration is a positive step. However, this effort cannot be the responsibility of the Indian government alone. Tackling illegal immigration requires coordinated action from both the Union and state governments, as well as collaboration with civil society and the general public. All these stakeholders are key to formulating a sustainable solution to this pressing issue.

The situation is particularly dire in Punjab, which has experienced an alarming exodus of its residents seeking better prospects in the US. Over the past 15 years, the state has been ruled by various political parties, including the Akali-BJP alliance, the Con-

gress, and the Aam Aadmi Party. Despite the change in leadership, the problem persists. The tendency to shift blame between political factions has failed to yield any real solutions. It is crucial for all political parties to put aside differences and prioritize the long-term interests of the state, addressing the root causes of illegal immigration in a unified manner.

The treatment of deportees has been another point of contention, with many arriving in India still shackled despite the country's protests to the US authorities. Additionally, the fact that nearly all deportations are being routed through Amritsar raises further concerns. While these issues cannot be ignored, they should not divert attention from the larger challenge at hand. A key task for both the central and state governments moving forward will be to prevent deported individuals from resorting to similar illegal attempts to migrate again. Equally important is to dissuade potential migrants from taking dangerous and desperate measures in pursuit of the elusive "American dream." To truly curb illegal immigration, it is essential for India to adopt a holistic and collaborative approach. Rather than focusing solely on deportation, efforts must be directed toward addressing the socio-economic factors that drive people to take such drastic steps. Only through coordinated action across all levels of government, along with the involvement of civil society, can India hope to solve this pressing issue and prevent further harm to its citizens.

Failure of Planning: Will Vaishnav Take Blame for Stampede?



The tragic stampede at New Delhi station, which claimed 18 lives during the Maha Kumbh Mela rush, was not merely an accident. It was a catastrophic failure of planning, foresight, and accountability by the authorities. As thousands of pilgrims descended on the station to board trains to Prayagraj, the lack of preparation to manage the massive influx of passengers became tragically apparent. The event's scale was not unexpected—such large gatherings have long been part of the Mela, and the resulting strain on railway infrastructure is well-documented. The fact that authorities failed to anticipate and implement proper crowd control measures is a glaring oversight that ultimately led to the deaths of innocent people.

Former Railway Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal was blunt in his assessment of the situation,

asserting that the ultimate responsibility lay with the current Railway Minister, Ashwini Vaishnav. While the government hastily announced compensation for the victims' families—Rs 10 lakh for each deceased and Rs 2.5 lakh for the seriously injured—ethical concerns arose when reports emerged of cash being distributed at the station. The distribution of money in violation of the 2023 compensation guidelines, which limit cash payouts to Rs 50,000, only served to highlight the government's inability to address systemic issues properly. The optics of handing out large wads of cash amid chaos seemed insensitive and inadequate in the face of such a preventable tragedy. The demand for Vaishnav's resignation is gaining momentum, especially after the government initially dismissed the stampede as a "rumor." Such deflection of responsibility highlights a deep-

er reluctance to acknowledge the failure in managing the situation. Historically, railway ministers such as Lal Bahadur Shastri and Nitish Kumar demonstrated moral responsibility by resigning following similar disasters. This raises the question: will Vaishnav follow suit and take accountability for the loss of life under his watch?

While resignations might offer a symbolic gesture of responsibility, what is needed now is not just individual accountability but a comprehensive overhaul of the railway system. Effective crowd management protocols must be instituted, especially during major religious and festival events. It is time to put in place robust systems that prioritize passenger safety, preventing such disasters from occurring in the future. Without this, no amount of compensation will be able to undo the damage done.



India, Qatar Elevate Ties To 'Strategic Partnership' As Emir Meets PM Modi

- India and Qatar upgrade ties to a strategic partnership.
- Discussions focus on trade, energy, and investment growth.
- Leaders explore a free trade deal and fiscal cooperation.



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India and Qatar have officially agreed to elevate their bilateral relationship to a strategic partnership, marking a significant milestone in their diplomatic ties. The agreement was finalized following a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, in New Delhi.

The leaders engaged in extensive discussions at Hyderabad House, focusing on key areas such as trade, investment, technology,

energy, food security, culture, and people-to-people exchanges. One of the highlights of the talks was a potential free trade agreement, with both nations aiming to double bilateral trade to \$28 billion over the next five years.

Energy security also featured prominently in the discussions, with both sides exploring ways to broaden their cooperation in this sector. Additionally, the two countries agreed on measures to prevent fiscal evasion and avoid double taxation concerning income taxes. An agreement on this front was also exchanged.

Both leaders also touched upon regional and global issues of mutual interest during their talks, reinforcing the strong partnership between the two nations. The Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, shared details of the discussions on social media, emphasizing the breadth of cooperation envisioned across various sectors, including innovation and technology.

In a rare diplomatic gesture, Prime Minister Modi personally received the Emir at the airport,

offering a warm handshake and a hug, underscoring the importance of the visit. The Emir's visit, which began on Monday evening, follows Prime Minister Modi's trip to Qatar in February 2024.

During the visit, the Emir was given a ceremonial guard of honour at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, where he was warmly welcomed by President Droupadi Murmu. Accompanying the Emir is a high-level delegation, including ministers, senior officials, and business leaders, further strengthening ties between the two nations.



Maharashtra Cabinet Approves Formation Of 6th Finance Commission

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

In a significant move, the Maharashtra Cabinet has approved the establishment of a Sixth State Finance Commission to assess the financial position of panchayats and municipalities and recommend necessary financial measures. The Cabinet authorized Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to propose the names of the Chairman and members of the Commission to the state Governor, C.P. Radhakrishnan. Additionally, an officer with at least a Junior Administrative Grade Officer rank will be appointed as the Member Secretary of the Commission.

The Finance Commission will be responsible for reviewing the financial status of local government bodies and recommending the allocation of state revenue from taxes, duties, tolls, and fees among panchayats and municipalities. The Commission will also suggest the principles for the distribution of grants-in-aid and measures to improve the financial health of local bodies. The recommendations will be based on the 2011 Census population data to determine the fair share of taxes and subsidies. The Commission's work will be supported by necessary resources, including office space and a dedicated budget for recurring and non-recurring expenses.

In addition to the Finance Commission approval, the Cabinet greenlit a major solar power project for the Mysal Lift Irrigation Scheme under the Krishna-Koyna Lift Irrigation Project. This energy-efficient initiative, with a budget of Rs 1,594 crore, aims to meet the annual electricity needs of approximately 398 million units for the scheme. The project will benefit drought-prone areas in Sangli and Solapur districts by providing irrigation water to over 1 lakh hectares.

Furthermore, the Cabinet approved the revised budget of Rs 1,275.78 crore for the Varkhede Londhe Barrage project in Jalgaon. Another notable decision was the establishment of an anti-drug task force, with 346 posts created to strengthen efforts in combating substance abuse in the state.

Gyanesh Kumar appointed as CEC; Vivek Joshi election commissioner

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On Monday, Gyanesh Kumar was appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), according to the law ministry. Kumar's appointment marks a significant moment as he becomes the first CEC to be appointed under the new law that governs the appointment of members to the Election Commission (EC). His term will extend until January 26, 2029, just before the expected announcement of the schedule for the next Lok Sabha election.

Vivek Joshi, a 1989-batch Haryana-cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, was also appointed as an Election Commissioner. Joshi, born on May 21, 1966, will serve in this role until 2031, in line with the law stipulating that CECs and ECs retire at the age of 65 or serve for a six-year term.



Before his appointment, Sushil Chandra had resigned from his position as the Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to become an Election Commissioner. Joshi, a former Haryana Chief Secretary, had been on central deputation since January 2019.

During his tenure as CEC, Kumar will oversee several crucial state elections, including the Bihar Assembly elections later this year, as well as the Kerala and Puducherry Assembly elections in 2026. He will also supervise the Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, which are scheduled for 2026.

Kumar, a 1988-batch Kerala-cadre IAS officer, played a vital role in implementing decisions related to the abrogation of Article 370 during his tenure in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. He took over as Election Commissioner on March 15, 2024.

Indian Embassy Assures Investigation into Nepalese Student's Alleged Suicide at KIIT

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Indian Embassy in Nepal has promised a thorough investigation into the alleged suicide of Nepalese student Prakriti Lamsal at Odisha's Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT). The third-year B Tech student was found dead in her hostel room on Sunday, triggering protests on the KIIT campus where nearly 1,000 Nepali students are enrolled.

In response to the incident, students took to the streets, blocking roads and staging protests against the administration. Demonstrations also took place in front of the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu, with students demanding a comprehensive probe into the matter.

The embassy issued a statement urging Nepali students to return to campus and continue their studies. It highlighted that Nepali students form a crucial part of the educational and cultural ties between India and Nepal. The statement further reassured that the Indian government would



continue taking necessary measures to ensure the safety and well-being of Nepali students in India.

The protests escalated on campus, leading to some Nepali students being evicted from their hostel by the authorities. KIIT clarified that extensive counseling efforts had

been made for over 10 hours to manage the situation. However, certain protesters had disrupted the process, blocking roads and creating tensions. As a result, the university advised students to return to their homes until the investigation is complete, with assurances that their academic progress would not be affected.

Meanwhile, Nepal's Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli intervened, dispatching officials to counsel students and provide them with the option of returning to their homes or staying in the hostel. State education ministers also instructed KIIT to ensure the safe return of Nepali students to Bhubaneswar by special buses.

Former UK PM Rishi Sunak and Family Visit India's Parliament House

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, accompanied by his wife Akshata Murty, visited the Parliament House in India on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. The family, including their two daughters, Krishna and Anoushka, was welcomed by the Lok Sabha Secretary General, Utpal Kumar Singh, during their visit to the iconic political landmark.

In a video shared by news agency ANI, Sunak can be seen arriving at the Parliament with his family. The warm reception marked a special moment for the Sunak family during their trip to India. In addition to his immediate family, Sunak's mother-in-law, Sudha Murty, who is a Member of the Rajya Sabha, was also present



at the Parliament House on the same day. Sudha Murty is known for her extensive philanthropic work and as the chairperson of Infosys Foundation.

Rishi Sunak's visit comes amid a series of engagements in India that have included cultural and

official events. The former UK PM, who made history as the first person of Indian descent to hold the position of Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, continues to maintain close ties with India, where his in-laws are prominent figures in the business and philanthropic spheres.

The visit was an opportunity for Sunak and his family to experience India's legislative heart and engage with Indian political leaders. The family's connection to India has always been a subject of interest, especially considering Sunak's background, with both of his parents being of Indian origin.

This trip also highlights the strengthening of ties between the UK and India, two nations with historical, political, and cultural bonds. As Sunak and his family toured the Parliament, the occasion symbolized a moment of personal and professional significance for the former Prime Minister, alongside his continued support for fostering UK-India relations.

Tesla Begins Hiring In India After PM Modi-Elon Musk Meet In US

- Tesla begins hiring in India, signaling market entry plans
- Job listings in Mumbai and Delhi hint at service expansion
- India's EV sector set for increased competition with Tesla's arrival



TPN Correspondent | Riyadh

Tesla has initiated recruitment efforts in India, signaling its upcoming entry into the country's burgeoning electric vehicle (EV) market. This development follows a recent meeting between Tesla CEO Elon Musk and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his trip to the United States, highlighting growing ties between the two nations in the tech and defense sectors.

A LinkedIn job post from Tesla revealed that the company is looking to fill 13 positions across Mumbai and Delhi. The roles range from customer-facing positions to back-end roles, including service technicians, customer engagement managers, delivery operations specialists, and advi-

sory positions. This recruitment drive is seen as a clear indication that Tesla is laying the groundwork for its expansion into India's EV market.

Tesla's potential entry into India is significant, given the country's increasing focus on clean energy and sustainability. With its strong brand recognition and innovative electric vehicles, Tesla could play a pivotal role in shaping India's transition to electric mobility. The company's recruitment efforts suggest that it plans to offer a range of services, including customer support and after-sales services, to ensure a smooth experience for Indian consumers.

The move also follows ongoing discussions between India and the US aimed at

reducing trade imbalances and increasing cooperation in key sectors, including military sales. As US President Donald Trump mentioned during his tenure, the US was keen on increasing military exports to India, including potential deals for advanced fighter jets like the F-35. These talks further strengthen the economic and strategic partnership between the two nations, providing a favorable backdrop for Tesla's entry into the Indian market. As Tesla continues to expand globally, its foray into India is expected to spark increased competition in the country's electric vehicle industry, which is experiencing rapid growth. Tesla's entry could further boost India's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and promote sustainable transportation solutions.

Netanyahu Orders Immediate Enforcement of UNRWA Law, Ending Operations in Israel

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has directed the immediate enforcement of the UNRWA law, following the Knesset's passage of the legislation with broad support. The law mandates the cessation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) operations within Israeli territory, including East Jerusalem.

The law, passed in October 2024, prohibits Israeli authorities from engaging with UNRWA and calls for the agency to vacate all premises in occupied East Jerusalem by January 30, 2025. Israel's Prime Minister's Office (PMO) confirmed the directive in a post on social media, stating there are no restrictions on its implementation. UNRWA, a vital relief and human development agency, was established in 1949 to provide services to Palestinian refugees who lost their homes and livelihoods in the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. For decades, the agency has provided essential humanitarian aid, including health facilities, schools, and vocational training, primarily in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Knesset's decision to end UNRWA's operations in Israeli-controlled areas has drawn international criticism. UN Secretary-General António Guterres expressed concern, warning that the effective ban could have devastating consequences for Palestinian refugees. Joyce Msuya, the acting head of the UN aid coordination office, called the move "dangerous and outrageous." UNRWA's Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini also condemned the decision, claiming that the legislation would increase suffering among Palestinians and amounted to "collective punishment." Earlier this month, U.S. President Donald Trump also signed executive orders to cut U.S. funding to UNRWA, further isolating the agency. As tensions surrounding the issue continue to rise, the implementation of the UNRWA law reflects Israel's stance on the ongoing Palestinian refugee situation and its efforts to limit the agency's influence in the region.



Vatican cancels Pope's weekend engagements as he battles 'complex' infection

TPN Correspondent | Vatican City

Pope Francis, who is currently in the hospital for a "complex" respiratory infection, will not participate in this weekend's Holy Year events, the Vatican announced on Tuesday. The 88-year-old pontiff has been suffering from the infection for over a week and was admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital on Friday.

As a result of his health condition, the Vatican confirmed that a public papal audience scheduled for Saturday has been canceled. However, a papal mass set for Sunday will still be held but will be led by a senior Vatican official in place of the Pope.

On Monday, the Vatican shared that doctors had modified the Pope's medication for the second time during his hospitalization in an attempt to address his "complex clinical situation." The infection is described as a "polymicrobial" one, which can involve a combination of viruses, bacteria, and fungi affecting the respiratory tract.

Pope Francis, who has faced various health challenges over the past two years, including bouts with influenza, continues to receive medical care. Despite these ongoing health struggles, his condition is described as stable, although his public engagements are being reduced for now to ensure his recovery.



Russian Delegation Arrives in Saudi Arabia for High-Level Talks with US Officials

TPN Correspondent | Moscow

The US and Russian delegations have agreed to address ongoing tensions in their bilateral relationship, according to a statement from US State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce following talks in Riyadh on Tuesday. The discussions, which focused on the Ukraine conflict and future economic cooperation, marked a significant step toward improving relations between the two countries.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who participated in the meeting, revealed that both sides had agreed to form a 'high-level team' tasked with negotiating peace in Ukraine and fostering economic cooperation. The aim, he said, was to find a sustainable, enduring solution to the conflict that would be acceptable to all parties involved.

Bruce emphasized that the US is committed to finding a resolution to the war in Ukraine "as soon as possible," while ensuring that the solution is long-lasting and acceptable to all sides. However, despite the discussions, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky expressed concerns about the talks, warning that Ukraine would not accept any agreements made about the country's future without its direct participation.

The meeting, which was hosted by Saudi Arabia, was significant for its lack of Ukrainian representation at the table, highlighting the complexities of the peace process. Zelensky's statement underscored the importance of Ukraine's involvement in any discussions related to its sovereignty and future.

In addition to the peace talks, Bruce noted that the US and Russia would explore opportunities for future cooperation on matters of mutual geopolitical interest. This includes potential economic and investment opportunities that could arise from a successful resolution to the conflict in Ukraine.

Secretary Rubio acknowledged the complexity of the process, calling the Riyadh talks "the first step of a long and difficult journey." He also hinted that the European Union (EU), which has imposed sanctions on Russia, would likely need to be involved in future negotiations. Rubio suggested that EU involvement would be crucial to reaching a comprehensive and lasting peace agreement.



Hasina vows to return, blames Yunus for 'terrorism and lawlessness' in Bangladesh

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

In a strong condemnation of the interim government in Bangladesh, former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has blamed Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus for causing "terrorism and lawlessness" in the country. Speaking virtually to her supporters from exile in India, Hasina, who was ousted from power in August 2024, accused Yunus of destroying Bangladesh's social fabric and allowing terrorists to wreak havoc on the population.

Hasina's remarks came as she criticized Yunus for his silence during violent student-led protests last year, which saw dozens of police officers killed. She accused Yunus' administration of being ineffective and unable to manage the country, particularly in terms of addressing the violence and civil unrest that erupted during her government's downfall.

"He has no experience in running a government. He dissolved all inquiry committees and unleashed terrorists to butcher people. They are destroying Bangladesh," Hasina said. She vowed to return to Bangladesh and promised that the perpetrators of the violence would be held accountable for their actions.

Hasina's comments were aimed at rallying support for her political party, the Awami League, which she leads. She pledged that her return would be marked by justice for those who had suffered under Yunus' leadership, adding, "Inshallah, we will oust this government of terrorists. The killers will face justice in Bangladesh."

About Ukraine, Without Ukraine": Zelensky Slams US-Russia Talks

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has voiced strong opposition to the ongoing discussions between the United States and Russia regarding the war in Ukraine, highlighting that these talks are being held without Ukraine's participation. The talks, which are taking place in Saudi Arabia, involve high-level officials from both the US and Russia, but Zelensky expressed his frustration over Ukraine's exclusion from these crucial conversations.



Speaking during his official visit to Turkey, Zelensky criticized the discussions, stating, "Talks are taking place between representatives of Russia and representatives of the United States of America. About Ukraine – about Ukraine again – and without Ukraine." His comments reflect grow-

ing dissatisfaction in Kyiv over the fact that decisions regarding Ukraine's future are being made without the country having a seat at the table.

Zelensky's remarks underscore Ukraine's longstanding position that any peace talks or negotiations involving the country must

include direct Ukrainian participation. Ukraine has consistently maintained that it should have the opportunity to actively engage in any diplomatic conversations related to the war, especially considering the profound impact these discussions have on the nation's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and security.

The ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia, which began in February 2022, has led to significant loss of life, displacement, and destruction. As international efforts to mediate the conflict continue, Zelensky's comments reflect his belief that Ukraine's involvement is essential in shaping the outcome of any discussions. He has repeatedly emphasized the importance of Ukraine determining its own future and security, rather than having decisions made by outside powers.



Intraday Rebound Falls Short Markets Slip Amid FII Outflows and Global Uncertainty

Domestic stock markets were in turmoil on Tuesday. The trend of benchmark indices is not clear due to lack of proper direction. Nifty lost 140 points in the morning due to mixed signals from global markets and FIIs leaving. Sensex also followed the same path. After the afternoon, it recovered after finding support at the crucial 22800 level. Investors recovered intraday losses as they bought IT, pharma, oil and gas shares. Overall, Nifty lost 14 points and Sensex lost 29 points.



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a strong brand presence, robust distribution network, and is expanding in premium product categories. Rising demand in housing and infrastructure. Expanding premium product lines. Strong brand recall and distribution network.

2. Sundaram Finance

Sundaram Finance is a leading non-bank-



SUNDARAM FINANCE
Enduring values. New age thinking.

ing financial company (NBFC) specializing in commercial vehicle and auto financing. The company has a strong presence in South India and a history of conservative lending. Rising demand for vehicle financing. Expansion in rural and used vehicle finance. Strong capital adequacy ratio.

3. Tech Mahindra

Tech Mahindra is one of India's top IT services companies, with a strong focus on telecom, BFSI, healthcare, and digital transformation. The company has been expanding in



AI, cloud computing, and cybersecurity services. Strong order book in telecom and BFSI segments. Expansion in AI and cloud solutions. Increasing digital transformation projects. Slowdown in IT spending by global clients. Margin pressure due to wage hikes and competition.

4. Axis Bank

Axis Bank is one of India's largest private sector



banks, offering retail, corporate, and investment banking services. The bank has a strong digital presence and a growing loan book. Expanding retail and digital banking services. Strong loan growth across sectors. Low non-performing assets (NPA).

5. NLC India

NLC India is a public sector company engaged in coal mining and power generation. It is expanding into renewable energy, particularly solar and wind power projects. Government push for renewable energy projects. Stable coal-based power demand. Expansion in solar and wind energy.



The BSE Sensex, which closed at 75,996 in the previous session, opened at 76,073 on Tuesday. It touched an intraday low of 75,531. It reached an intraday high of 76,091. Finally, it closed at 75,967, down 29 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,963, touched a low of 22,801 and a high of 22,992. It closed at 22,945, down 14 points. The Nifty Bank lost 171 points and settled at 49,087.

In the Nifty50, 18 companies gained while 32 lost. NTPC, Tech Mahindra, Wipro, ONGC and Apollo Hospitals were the top gainers. IndusInd Bank, Trent, BEL, UltraTech Cement and Mahindra & Mahindra were the biggest losers. IT, Oil & Gas indices rose. Realty, Metal and Finance indices ended flat. Bank, auto, FMCG, media, pharma, consumer durables stocks were volatile.

Market breadth on NSE today turned in favor of sellers. Out of a total of 2928 stocks traded, 720 gained and 2128 lost. 14 stocks touched 52-week highs. 652 stocks touched 52-week lows.

Rupee weakened by 7 paise to settle at 86.94 against dollar. Morgan Stanley has given an overweight rating to Deepak Nitrate with a target price of Rs 3000. CLSA has given an underperform rating to Nazara Technologies with a target price of Rs 665. Quality Power Electrical received a response of 1.16 times by noon on the third day. Shares of Mahanagar Gas rose after the Mumbai Municipal Commission ordered roadside vendors and restaurants to switch to clean energy. CLSA gave Tech Mahindra an Outperform rating at Rs 2030. 16 lakh shares changed hands in GAIL. Reliance Infra is looking to enter the renewable energy manufacturing industry. Shares of Rate Gain Travel Technologies fell to an 18-month low after successive cuts in its FY2025 guidance. JPMorgan gave Persistent Systems an Outperform rating with a target price of Rs 7200.

1. Berger Paints

Berger Paints is India's second-largest paint manufacturer, offering decorative and industrial paints. The company has



India's Fiscal Deficit Target for FY2026 Set at 4.5%, Focus on Capital Expenditure Growth



India's fiscal deficit target for FY2026 is projected to be set at 4.5% of the country's GDP, marking a reduction of 25-30 basis points compared to the anticipated fiscal deficit of 4.8% in FY2025. This follows the government's efforts to rein in fiscal deficits while continuing to support economic growth through infrastructure and capital spending.

lakh crore, which accounts for 46% of the budgeted target of ₹11.11 lakh crore. Nayar stressed that a large capex shortfall is expected for the current fiscal year, and for FY2026, maintaining a fiscal deficit target of 4.5% of GDP would be realistic. This would enable a capex allocation of ₹11 trillion, marking an 11-12% growth compared to FY2025's feasible capex figure.

Domestic credit rating agency ICRA has emphasized the need for the government to prioritize capital expenditure (capex), estimating that the target for Budget 2025 should be ₹11 lakh crore. ICRA Chief Economist Aditi Nayar highlighted that the current year's budgeted capex of ₹11.11 lakh crore is likely to fall short by around ₹1.4 lakh crore, and next year's capex target should align with the previous year's level to stay within borrowing limits. Nayar also noted that the capex spending for FY2025 is currently trailing the required run rate, indicating a potential shortfall.

Nayar also warned that setting a higher capex target could be "imprudent," as larger borrowing and a higher fiscal deficit would increase yields. Over the past few years, India has ramped up its capex spending to stimulate the economy, with increases from ₹4.39 lakh crore in 2020-21 to ₹10 lakh crore in FY2023-24. This push has been vital in stimulating economic growth and generating a positive cycle that benefits other sectors.

In conclusion, while India aims to reduce its fiscal deficit in FY2026, prioritizing capital expenditure remains crucial to sustaining economic momentum and supporting infrastructure development.

Between April and November 2024, the government's capex spending amounted to ₹5.13

Samsung Electronics to Cancel \$2.01 Billion in Treasury Shares as Part of Buyback Plan



Samsung Electronics announced on Tuesday that it will cancel 3 trillion won (\$2.01 billion) worth of treasury stocks as part of its ongoing buyback initiative aimed at enhancing shareholder value. The company will retire approximately 50.1 million common shares and 6.9 million preferred shares, according to a regulatory filing.

In related news, Samsung Electronics Chairman Lee Jae-yong emerged as the top dividend earner in South Korea last year. According to a survey by corporate data tracker Leaders Index, Lee received 346.5 billion won in dividends for 2024, marking a 7.1% increase from the previous year. The survey, which covered 560 companies, revealed that these firms collectively distributed 40.7 trillion won (US\$28.2 billion) in dividends, reflecting a 10.4% increase from 2023.

Hyundai Motor Group's Honorary Chairman Chung Mong-koo and Executive Chair Euisun Chung ranked second and third for dividends, receiving 189.2 billion won and 174.7 billion won, respectively. Meanwhile, SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won ranked seventh, receiving 91 billion won in dividends. Among the surveyed companies, 285 increased their dividends, 94 maintained the same level as in 2023, and 181 reduced their payouts.

SK hynix, a key affiliate of SK Group, saw its dividends nearly double following record earnings driven by high demand for artificial intelligence (AI) chips. This trend of increasing dividends reflects a strong performance by major corporations in South Korea.

This move follows a decision made by the Samsung board in November 2024 to repurchase a total of 10 trillion won worth of shares over the course of the upcoming year. The initial phase will involve the buyback of 3 trillion won worth of shares within three months, which will then be fully canceled. By reducing the number of outstanding shares, Samsung aims to improve its earnings per share (EPS) and support its stock price, ultimately benefiting its investors.

3rd in a row: Goods exports shrink 2.4%



India's merchandise exports saw a decline for the third consecutive month in January 2025, with exports falling to \$36.43 billion, representing a 2.38% drop compared to the same month last year. The dip in exports has raised concerns about the country's trade performance as global demand remains sluggish.

The merchandise trade deficit also widened, reaching \$22.99 billion in January, an increase from \$16.56 billion in January 2024 and \$21.94 billion in December 2024. This growing trade gap highlights the challenges faced by India's export sector, which has been struggling to recover from various global and domestic economic pressures.

Several factors have contributed to the

decline in exports, including weakening demand from major trading partners and the global slowdown in economic growth. Key export sectors, including petroleum products, gems and jewelry, and engineering goods, have seen reduced demand. This trend is in line with broader global economic conditions, which have been characterized by lower consumer spending and slower growth in both advanced and emerging economies.

The widening trade deficit is a cause for concern as it could exert pressure on India's foreign exchange reserves and contribute to the depreciation of the rupee. As India continues to grapple with challenges in the global market, experts suggest that there is a need for increased

focus on diversifying export markets and enhancing the competitiveness of Indian goods.

Despite these challenges, the Indian government has emphasized its commitment to boosting exports and addressing structural issues in the trade sector. Measures to improve logistics, enhance export credit availability, and provide incentives for export-oriented industries are expected to play a role in supporting India's long-term trade growth.

The outlook for India's export sector remains uncertain, but officials remain hopeful that recovery will take place with the right policy measures and favorable global conditions in the near future.



China Approves Deep-Sea Research Facility to Boost Marine Exploration



tem and be designed for long-term operation.

The research facility will also incorporate cutting-edge technologies, including a four-dimensional surveillance grid that integrates surface ships, unmanned submersibles, and seabed observatories. This network will enhance data collection, enabling comprehensive deep-sea exploration and research. The new facility is expected to be part of a broader infrastructure project, including a vast fibre-optic communication system on the seabed and the drilling ship *Mengxiang*. The latter will be tasked with exploring the Earth's mantle and investigating deep-sea resources, adding another layer of capability to China's growing marine exploration ambitions.

This deep-sea station will not only advance scientific knowledge but also give China greater control over one of the world's most contested and resource-abundant maritime regions, further strengthening its strategic influence in the South China Sea.

China has officially approved the construction of a deep-sea research facility in the South China Sea, a move that could significantly advance marine exploration and bolster Beijing's geopolitical influence in the region. After years of planning and technical evaluations, the approval marks a major milestone in the country's deep-sea scientific pursuits. The facility, located at a depth of 2,000

meters (6,560 feet) in the resource-rich and strategically important South China Sea, will focus on studying "cold seep" ecosystems, areas where cold methane and hydrogen-rich fluids seep from the seabed. The research station will be equipped to support up to six scientists for missions lasting up to a month. To endure the extreme conditions of the deep sea, the facility will feature an advanced life-support sys-

The Great London Beer Flood: When Beer Became a Tsunami

On October 17, 1814, London witnessed one of the most bizarre disasters in history: the Great London Beer Flood. Instead of rain, the streets of St Giles Rookery were flooded with beer, creating a chaotic scene that would forever be etched in the annals of odd historical events.

It all began at the Meux & Co Horse Shoe Brewery, located in the bustling Tottenham Court Road area. At around 4:30 PM, one of the brewery's massive wooden fermentation tanks, holding over 3,500 barrels of fermenting porter beer, suddenly gave way. The iron rings holding the tank together snapped, causing a catastrophic chain reaction. Within minutes, the rupture unleashed between 128,000 and 323,000 gallons (4.85 lakh - 12.2 lakh liters) of beer onto the streets. A 15-foot wave of alcohol surged through the densely populated slum, tearing down houses and claiming the lives of eight people.

As the beer flooded the streets, locals, in a bizarre twist, rushed to scoop up the "free beer," with some even drinking it straight from the ground. Sadly, a ninth victim succumbed to alcohol poisoning



days after the event, highlighting the dangers of such an unexpected deluge. The aftermath of the flood was both tragic and surreal. The stench of beer lingered in the air for months, while reports of more casualties surfaced, including one involving a collapsed floor at an Irish wake, plunging visitors into a beer-soaked cellar.

The brewery faced legal consequences, but was ultimately absolved after the event was deemed an "act of God." How-

ever, Meux & Co suffered significant financial losses, nearly bankrupting the company. The disaster did, however, result in the implementation of new safety regulations for breweries, replacing wooden casks with safer materials like concrete.

The Great Beer Flood became a source of humor and inspiration in art and literature, reminding us that even in the most chaotic moments, there's always room for a laugh.

Pizza Hut Hong Kong Introduces Snake Meat Pizza: A Bold Culinary Experiment



Pizza lovers around the world are used to seeing all sorts of quirky toppings on their favorite pies, from pineapple to seafood. However, Pizza Hut in Hong Kong has taken the concept of unusual pizza toppings to a whole new level by introducing a truly shocking ingredient: snake meat.

In collaboration with Ser Wong Fun, a restaurant that has been serving traditional Chinese cuisine for over 100 years, Pizza Hut has created a unique pizza that features shredded snake meat as its star topping. The nine-inch pizza, which is available until November 22, also includes black mushrooms, Chinese

dried ham, and is topped with an abalone sauce base, replacing the usual tomato sauce.

According to CNN, this experimental pizza is designed to challenge the conventional notion of what a pizza should be and offers a bold departure from traditional Italian

flavors. Pizza Hut Hong Kong believes that the addition of snake meat, paired with cheese and diced chicken, enriches the flavor profile and offers a new taste experience that also ties into health-conscious eating. They described the dish as not just an exciting culinary adventure but also a way to rethink the relationship between food and well-being.

For those brave enough to try it, the snake meat pizza combines rich flavors and textures, with the tender snake meat complementing the savory cheese and unique abalone sauce. While it may sound strange to some, it's a part of a growing trend where restaurants around the world are pushing the boundaries of what ingredients belong on a pizza.

Pizza Hut's snake meat pizza may not be for everyone, but it's certainly a conversation starter. Whether you're an adventurous foodie or simply curious about unusual global dishes, this pizza is one way to experience an entirely new take on a classic comfort food.

Italian Woman Undergoes 20 Body Modifications to Become a Human Cat



Chiara Dell'Abate, an Italian woman who goes by the name Aydin Mod, has revealed that she is on a unique quest to transform herself into a "human cat." At just 22 years old, Dell'Abate has undergone an astonishing 20 body modifications to achieve her dream, including over 72 piercings, subdermal implants, and even cosmetic surgery.

Her journey into body modification began at the young age of 11 when she got her first ear piercing and started stretching her ears. Over the years, her transformation has grown more extreme, with her most recent changes including split tongue procedures, punched nostrils, and multiple piercings on her lips and inner labia. She also underwent blepharoplasty, a surgery that removes excess skin or fat from the eyelids, to further enhance her cat-like appearance. Dell'Abate's modifications don't stop there. She has added 10 subdermal implants on both her hands, which give her a more unique, otherworldly look. Ad-

ditionally, her transformation includes eyeball tattoos, pointed ears, permanent eyeliner, and even claw-like nails to complete her feline-inspired aesthetic.

In a TikTok video that has gone viral with over 65 million views, Dell'Abate shows off her split tongue as it flicks through two holes above her lips, further showcasing her dedication to becoming a human cat. Despite being criticized and labeled as "psychotic" by some, Dell'Abate remains confident and unapologetic about her lifestyle choice. When asked about her transformation, she explained, "I'm thinking that I would be a pretty cool cat lady." Embracing her distinctive look, she continues to document her body modifications and share them on social media platforms, where she has attracted a large following.

While her extreme modifications may be shocking to some, Dell'Abate sees her unique appearance as an expression of her true self and an example of the possibilities of body modification.

Man Calls Mumbai "Chaotic and Unlivable," Compares it to Dubai in Viral Reddit Post



In a viral Reddit post, a man from Mumbai shared his recent experiences comparing his hometown to Dubai, calling Mumbai "chaotic and unlivable." Despite spending over 40 years in Mumbai, the Reddit user, identified as Mr. Yash, expressed that his trip to Dubai made him acutely aware of the glaring differences between the two cities.

Yash highlighted that Dubai, being a developed city, has a significant edge over Mumbai in various aspects, including infrastructure, traffic management, and civic sense. "I just came back from a week-long trip to Dubai. When you are back from a developed country, you can see just how far behind we are," he wrote. While not his first visit to a developed country, he not-

ed that this time, the contrasts were more apparent.

He pointed out several frustrations he has with Mumbai, such as its "non-existent infrastructure" and the lack of road discipline, which he believes worsens traffic congestion. "Main roads that have no lanes, construction and debris everywhere," he complained. Yash also mentioned the city's ongoing pollution issues, saying it "burns your throat." The overwhelming presence of trash and rubble, coupled with chaotic traffic, left him feeling disillusioned with his home city.

In contrast, Yash praised Dubai's organization and cleanliness. He observed that Dubai's roads were clearly marked, with separate lanes and designated truck routes that avoided congestion. He was also impressed by the disciplined traffic flow in Dubai, where vehicles stop at signals, and drivers do not cut in front of each other, unlike the situation in Mumbai.

While Yash confessed his love for Mumbai, he ultimately concluded that the city, which serves as India's financial capital, is becoming increasingly unlivable. He urged for better infrastructure and a more organized approach to urban planning, which he believes could help Mumbai catch up with cities like Dubai.

FIH Hockey Pro League: Germany Defeats India 4-1 with Dominant Performance



minute. From the very beginning, both teams showcased their competitive spirit, with the game producing fast-paced, thrilling action. While India enjoyed greater possession in the early minutes, Germany's tactical brilliance paid off in the 7th minute, as Florian Sperling finished a superb assist from Eric Kleinlein to open the scoring. India quickly responded in the 13th minute, when Rajinder Singh set up Gurjant Singh with a well-executed cross to equalize. However, Germany took control again in the 14th minute, when Thies Prinz scored a dramatic goal, extending their lead to 2-1 despite a defensive hit on Manpreet Singh. The second quarter saw India push for an equalizer, with young forwards creating several chances. Nilakanta Sharma's brilliant pass to Abhishek in the 17th minute came close, but Abhishek failed to control it. Another opportunity arrived when Gurjant Singh missed a deflection attempt in the 20th minute. Suraj Karkera, who replaced Krishan Pathak

in the second quarter, was key in goal, making a brilliant save after India lost possession. India also had chances, with Dilpreet's unconventional shot on goal failing to find the mark. The third quarter was intense, with India earning a penalty corner in the 38th minute. Jugraj Singh, filling in for the rested Harmanpreet Singh, attempted a flick but failed to execute it successfully. India's defense remained strong, but a crucial moment arrived in the 50th minute when Michel Struthoff capitalized on a rebound to score, extending Germany's lead to 3-1. With a growing deficit, India intensified their search for goals, but to their dismay, Germany sealed their victory with a fourth goal from Raphael Hartkopf in the 55th minute, ending the match 4-1 in favor of the World Champions. Despite a spirited performance, India couldn't overcome the German side's dominance, leaving them with a bitter defeat in this high-stakes encounter.

The reigning World Champions, Germany, put on a stellar display to secure a comprehensive 4-1 win over India in a thrilling encounter at the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024-25 at the iconic Kalinga Hockey Stadium on Tuesday. Germany's goals came from Florian Sperling (7'), Thies Prinz (14'), Michel Struthoff (48'), and Raphael Hartkopf (55'), while India's lone goal came from Gurjant Singh in the 13th

Russia, Greece, and India Join Forces to Expand Modern Pythian Games



In a groundbreaking move towards global cultural unity, representatives from the International Delphic Committee (Russia), Ecumenical Delphic Union (Greece), and International Pythian Council (India) have joined hands to strengthen the Modern Pythian Games. The collaboration aims to establish a larger platform for arts, culture, and traditional games, expanding the global reach of this revived cultural movement. The Modern Pythian Games celebrate artistic, cultural, and traditional sports excellence, providing an international platform for artists, performers, and athletes. This partnership marks a new chapter in promoting global cultural exchange, with both online and offline participation opportunities for individuals worldwide. Bijender Goel, Founder of the Modern Pythian Games, emphasized that this collaboration signals a new era of cross-cultural cooperation. Discussions are set to finalize the strategy and framework of this global initiative. In addition, Goel has invited Russia to participate in the upcoming 1st Global Para Pythian Games 2025, hosted by India, which will focus on empowering disabled artists and athletes. This alliance promises to enhance cultural diplomacy, inclusivity, and foster a revolution in sports and the arts by offering a truly global stage for creative expression and talent.

USA Breaks India's 1985 Record for Successfully Defending Lowest Total in ODI

In a remarkable achievement, the USA broke India's long-standing record for successfully defending the lowest total in a full men's ODI. On Tuesday, the USA, after posting a modest 123 runs in their first innings, managed to defend it and defeated Oman by 57 runs in their ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 match. India's previous record was set in 1985 during the Rothmans Four-Nations Cup, when they defended a total of 125 runs against Pakistan in Sharjah. India emerged victorious by 38 runs in that match, which had stood as the lowest total ever defended in an ODI for nearly four decades. The USA-Oman match was a unique encounter, with the entire game being dominated by spin bowling. All nine bowlers used in the match were spinners, marking the first game in ODI history after 4,671 matches in which no pacer bowled a single delivery. This rare scenario added a distinctive flair to the contest. The match also witnessed a record-setting 19 wickets falling, the same number as the ODI between Pakistan and Bangladesh in 2011 in Chattogram, where spinners claimed all the wickets. The combined total score of both teams was just 187 runs



from 61 overs, making it the second-lowest aggregate in ODI history where both teams were dismissed. The lowest aggregate remains a 163-run game between India and Bangladesh in 2014, played in 41 overs. Milind Kumar was the standout performer for the USA, scoring a steady 47* off 82 balls, leading

his team's efforts. Oman's bowlers, particularly Shakeel Ahmad, were impressive, with Ahmad claiming three wickets for just 20 runs. However, despite his efforts, Oman's chase of 123 faltered badly, with Hammad Mirza's 29 off 43 being the only score of note in their reply. USA's Nosthush Kenjige was the

hero with the ball, taking an incredible five-wicket haul. His spell dismantled the Oman batting lineup, which was bowled out for a mere 65 runs, sealing a comfortable 57-run victory for the USA. This game will now be remembered as a historic moment in ODI cricket for the USA.

InBL Pro U25 2025: Gujarat Stallions Edge Past Chennai Heat in Thrilling 74-72 Victory



In a thrilling encounter that kept fans on the edge of their seats, the Gujarat Stallions emerged victorious with a hard-fought 74-72 win over the Chennai Heat at the Thyagraj Indoor Stadium in the InBL Pro U25. Despite the victory, the Stallions remain behind on a head-to-head basis after losing by 8 points to the Heat in their earlier tournament encounter. The match saw multiple lead changes, with standout performances from both teams. Chennai Heat's Arvinder Singh played a key role in the first quarter, leading his team to a 17-13 advantage. Matt Gray followed suit, contributing a couple of crucial three-pointers. The Gujarat Stallions, however, stayed in the contest thanks to Trenderon Hankerson's consistent scoring. The second quarter saw a surge from the Stallions, with Joshua Duach coming off the bench to score nine quick points, and Jock Perry joining the offensive charge. The Stallions ended the first half with a solid 41-29 lead, setting up a tense second half.

FIH Hockey Pro League: India Women's Team Falls Short Against Spain in Thrilling 4-3 Defeat

The India women's hockey team suffered a heartbreaking 4-3 loss to Spain in a thrilling encounter at the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 at Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar, on Tuesday. Spain dominated the final moments to edge past India in a high-intensity match. Baljeet Kaur (19'), Sakshi Rana (38'), and Rutaja Dadaso Pisal (45') scored for India, while Estel Petchame (25', 49'), Sofia Rogoski (21'), and captain Lucia Jimenez (52') found the net for Spain. The match began with both teams battling for dominance. India had an early chance when Sharmila Devi's shot narrowly missed the post, while Spain struggled to break India's defensive press. India earned the first penalty corner of the match but failed to capitalize. Spain's defense held firm until India's Baljeet Kaur scored her first senior international goal in the 19th minute. However, Spain responded swiftly, with Sofia Rogoski and Estel Petchame putting



Spain ahead 3-1 by the end of the second quarter. India fought back in the third quarter, with debutant Sakshi Rana equalizing before Rutaja Da-

daso Pisal restored India's lead. Yet, Spain continued to press, with Petchame scoring again and Jimenez netting the winner in the 52nd minute. Despite in-

dia's desperate attempt to equalize by pulling their goalkeeper in the final minutes, Spain maintained their lead to secure the 4-3 victory.



“Hari Hara Veera Mallu” to Release on March 28: Producer AM Ratnam Confirms



Powerstar Pawan Kalyan's upcoming film Hari Hara Veera Mallu is all set to hit the big screens on March 28, as confirmed by the producer, AM Ratnam. In a recent interview, Ratnam reassured fans that there would be no delays and that the film would release on the previously announced date. He also stated that the remaining shoot featuring Pawan Kalyan is currently being completed. On the occasion of Valentine's Day, the movie unit announced a key up-

date: the second single, a romantic track titled “Kollagottindhiro,” will be released on February 24 at 3 PM. Fans are eagerly awaiting the song's release.

Hari Hara Veera Mallu is a period action drama directed by Krish Jagarlamudi, with AM Ratnam's son Jyothi Krishna taking over the remaining portions of direction. Music is by Oscar-winning composer Keeravani. Nidhi Agerwal stars alongside Pawan Kalyan in the film.

Jyothika's New Netflix Crime Thriller “Dabba Cartel” Set to Stream on February 28



Netflix is all set to launch its latest crime thriller series, Dabba Cartel, which revolves around five women involved in a drug trafficking operation. Directed by Hitesh Bhatia, the series features an impressive cast including Shabana Azmi, Jyothika, and Shalini Pandey in pivotal roles. Premiering on February 28, the show is set in the backdrop of Mumbai's suburban areas, known for its thriving ‘dabba’ (lunch delivery) business. The story follows five women who venture into the illicit drug trade through the lunchboxes delivered to customers. Confident in their intel-

lect and skills, they begin their operations with full belief that no one can catch them. However, their journey is filled with unpredictable twists as they face challenges that test their wit and survival instincts. Blending crime with comedy, Dabba Cartel promises to offer a fresh take on the genre. With the rising demand for crime thrillers on OTT platforms, this series is expected to captivate audiences. Fans are eager to see how the show will be received, given its unique premise and star-studded cast.

Sikandar New Poster: All Eyes On Salman Khan Ahead of Release



Salman Khan fans have a reason to celebrate as the superstar recently unveiled a thrilling new poster of his upcoming film, Sikandar, which is set to

release on March 28. The intense poster showcases Salman in a fierce, all-black avatar, sporting a rugged bearded look and an earring. What stands out the most, however, is the fire in his eyes—capturing the essence of his character in a truly captivating way. The poster reveal coincided with the 59th birthday of Sikandar's producer, Sajid Nadiadwala. The film, produced under Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment, marks the second collaboration between Salman and Sajid, following their successful partnership in the 2014 blockbuster Kick. To make the moment even more special, Salman

shared a heartwarming birthday wish for Sajid, along with the exciting poster announcement on Instagram.

Directed by AR Murugadoss, Sikandar stars Rashmika Mandanna as the female lead, with a supporting cast that includes Kajal Aggarwal, Prateik Babbar, Sharman Joshi, and Sathyaraj. Earlier this year, the much-anticipated teaser was released, giving fans a glimpse of Salman's action-packed role.

With the poster and teaser setting the stage, anticipation is high for Sikandar as it gears up for its big-screen release.

Amid Dating Rumours With Vijay Deverakonda, Rashmika Mandanna Receives Roses From Her “Paapalu”



Rashmika Mandanna, who is basking in the success of her latest film Chhaava, has once again ignited dating rumours with Vijay Deverakonda. The actress posted a cryptic story on Instagram on February 17, sharing a picture of herself holding a beautiful bouquet of red roses. The accompanying note read, “You always know how to put a smile on my face paapalu” (with a red heart emoji), though she did not reveal the sender's identity.

The pair, who starred together in the successful films Geetha Govindam (2018) and Dear Comrade (2019), have long been the subject of relationship speculations. While they have never confirmed their romantic status, their social media posts continue to fuel the rumours. For instance, on February 13, Rashmika shared the poster for Vijay's upcoming film Kingdom, cheerfully endorsing his work and expressing admiration.

In a recent interview with The Hollywood Reporter, Rashmika hinted at having a “partner” in her life, sharing her belief in the importance of home and personal connections. She emphasized how she cherishes her privacy, despite the public attention surrounding her career.

On the work front, Rashmika's Chhaava, which tells the story of Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, hit theaters on February 14, starring alongside Vicky Kaushal.

“Exhuma”: A Chilling Korean Horror Movie Now Streaming on Amazon Prime

The Korean horror movie Exhuma has recently made its way to Amazon Prime, offering a spine-chilling experience for horror fans. Directed by Jang Jae-hyun, the film follows a haunting tale revolving around two coffins. Starring Choi Min-sik, Kim Go-eun, Yoo Hae-jin, and Lee Do-hyun, Exhuma initially hit theaters in February 2024, before its recent streaming release.

The story centers on Park Ji-young, a young man living in the U.S. with his family. When his newborn son cries incessantly, they seek help from a paranormal expert, who believes a vengeful spirit of Park's late grandfather is behind the child's distress. The investigation leads to the discovery of two coffins, with one unleashing a vengeful spirit. As the story unfolds, dark secrets tied to an ancient war between nations come to light.

While the film follows a familiar supernatural premise, the tension escalates when a second coffin is uncovered. The movie combines eerie photography, intense sound



effects, and blood-curdling moments, creating a gripping narrative. However, the gruesome visuals may not be suitable for all viewers. Exhuma scores a 3/5, providing an intriguing horror experience.