

Weather Forecast

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

VERY TOUGH FIGHT IN MLC ELECTIONS SURPRISINGLY, PDF AHEAD

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh is witnessing MLC elections at three places. The polling is scheduled on 27th February 2025. Generally, everybody expected that as Alliance Government is there and their candidates will get win in an easy manner. But the ground reality is different. Pooling up all the power also, the TDP supported candidates are not in sure of getting the win in these elections. Many reasons are influencing their chances. There is a situation, where nobody can judge whom will win these elections. That much fight is going on in the ground level.

In Krishna, Guntur Graduates MLC election sitting MLC, PDF candidate Mr. Lakshmana Rao has campaigned in a vigorous manner. Mr. Alapati Rajendra Prasad is contesting against him. He had a support of Alliance parties. In Godavari districts, Alliance supported candidate Perabathula Rajasekhar is getting tough competition from PDF candidate Veera Raghavulu. And in Uttarandhra Teachers MLC elections, there is a triangle fight between PDF, PRTU and APTF candidates. Here alliance parties supporting APTF candidate Raghu Varma. As per the ground reports, there is neck to neck fight between Mr. Lakshmana Rao and Alapati Rajendra Prasad, Perabathula Rajasekhar and Veera Raghavulu. Though triangle fight, there is tough fight between Raghu Varma and PDF candidate Vijaya Gowri.

There are four reasons for the tough situation facing by the candidates supported by TDP.

1.PDF Strength: The first reason is all the graduate voters are not negative at PDF candidates, as they work for people only and allegations are



KS Lakshmana Rao



Alapati Rajendra Prasad

nil against them. When compare to others supported by other parties, PDF candidates supported by Left Parties are having good record among the people. As all the voters are educated, they will look for candidates having clean image. They will not be influenced with money and muscle powers. If we witness the campaign of the candidates supported by TDP, rowdy sheeters, corrupted leaders and rich persons, with whom naturally the graduate voters will not be influenced.

2.Negative on Alliance MLAs: Within short period, majority of the MLAs of ruling parties are getting negative heat among the public. Because of their illegal business based on sand, soil and liquor, the corruption of MLAs exposed heavily. The failure of law & order and the money-based lobbying in and around Government is also making very bad impact on the ruling alliance.

3.Gap between Janasena and TDP: The third and major reason is very typical. In three places, the cadre and Janasena are not willing to work

for TDP candidates. Before assembly elections, we have witnessed cordial relations between them. But, after the elections Janasena cadre are feeling very serious concern that they have been discriminated by the TDP MLAs and Leaders in the ruling period. They felt that they have been cheated by those ruling party leaders, just to get win that time. That is why they are reluctant to vote in favour of TDP supported candidates and are willing to vote for PDF candidates.

4.YSRC support to PDF: The last reason is YSRC voting. Though the party is weak now, their voting is there still. Without fielding the candidates, YSRC is giving support to PDF candidates in an indirect manner. In the ground level, they working for PDF directly.

Because of all these reasons, the candidates supported by Ruling Alliance are getting tough fight from PDF candidates. Their only advantage is power and money. If these two factors influence more, then they can get a chance, if not influenced, definitely they will lose.



You will not get opposition status in these 5 years: Dy CM

- YCP should go to Germany if it wants opposition status
- People decide opposition status, not the Speaker or CM
- Disrupting the House reflects YCP's degradation, says Deputy CM
- YCP wasting assembly time and public money

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan firmly dismissed YSRCP's demand for opposition status, stating that the decision lies with the people, not the Chief Minister or the Speaker. Responding to the YCP's protest during the Governor's speech in the AP budget session, he asserted that the party has no claim to the status after securing only 11 seats. Pawan Kalyan pointed out that Jana Sena is the second-largest party in the state, having won more seats than YCP. He remarked that if YCP had won even one seat more than Jana Sena, they would have been granted opposition status. "Opposition status is not something to be handed over by the government—it is decided by the people," he said. Taking a dig at YCP leaders, he remarked that if they want opposition status based on vote percentage, they should go to Germany, where elections operate on a different system.

Criticizing YCP's conduct in the Assembly, Pawan stated that disrupting proceedings immediately after entering the House reflects the party's degradation. "You will not get opposition

status in these five years... it is fixed," he declared. He added that special status and opposition recognition follow established rules, which YCP does not meet.

Pawan also condemned YCP's attempt to block the Governor's speech for nearly 11 minutes, calling it an act of disrespect, especially since the Governor addressed the Assembly despite being unwell. "Respect the 11 seats given by the people and come to the House. The Speaker will allocate time to speak based on the seats you have," he asserted, urging YCP leaders to conduct themselves with dignity.

Regarding the Sanatana Dharma Parirakshan Board, Pawan Kalyan stated that he would discuss it in detail at the "Aavirbhav Sabha" on March 14. Responding to a query from national media representatives, he said the board is necessary, just as the Waqf Board exists for the protection of Muslim interests.

He also assured that the government is working on measures to support chilli farmers and that discussions with the Chief Minister and cabinet will be held soon to address their concerns.

Jagan decides to boycott assembly, holds key meeting with YCP leaders

- Govt has no plans to grant opposition status to YCP, says Jagan
- Will be in active politics for another 30 years
- Reveals that Jamili elections will be held in February 2028



GV Reddy resigns as AP Fibernet Corporation Chairman and to TDP

- GV Reddy submits resignation letter to CM Naidu
- Cites personal reasons for stepping down from both roles



We Must be given Opposition Status: Botsa

TPN Correspondent, Andhra Pradesh

The YSRCP staged a walkout from the AP budget session, with party chief Jagan Mohan Reddy and all MLAs boycotting the Governor's speech before exiting the Assembly. Speaking to the media outside, YCP MLC Botsa Satyanarayana reiterated the party's demand for opposition status, arguing that in a democracy, the opposition plays a crucial



SIT formed to probe allegations against Vallabhaneni Vamsi

- Govt alleges Vamsi caused ₹195 crore loss through irregularities
- HC has already denied bail to Vamsi in the TDP office attack case
- Four-member SIT led by GVG Ashok Kumar to investigate the case
- Vamsi's remand ends today in the kidnapping case

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The CID has filed a PT warrant against YSRCP leader Vallabhaneni Vamsi in the Gannavaram TDP office attack case. The Third ACM Court has directed that Vamsi be produced in court tomorrow. This comes after the AP High Court dismissed his anticipatory bail petition in the same case, prompting CID officials to intensify their actions.

Vamsi is currently in remand at Vijayawada jail in connection with the kidnapping of Satyavardhan, a computer operator at the Gannavaram TDP office. His remand period ends tomorrow. Meanwhile, the police have already petitioned the Vijayawada SC and ST Court, seeking ten days of custody for further questioning. The hearing on the petition has concluded, and the court granted three days of police custody for further investigation

into the kidnapping case. Former Gannavaram MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi is facing further trouble as the coalition government has set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe allegations of irregularities against him. The four-member SIT, headed by GVG Ashok Kumar, was formally constituted today through government orders.

The government has alleged that Vamsi caused a loss of ₹195 crore due



to illegal mining and land grabbing. The SIT will examine these claims in detail. It is known that Vamsi was arrested in connection with the kidnap-

ping of Satyavardhan, the computer operator at the Gannavaram TDP office. He is currently in remand at Vijayawada jail.

Governor outlines vision for AP's development in Budget Sessions

- Polavaram to be completed by 2027
- Metro expansion planned for Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada.
- Super Six schemes driving economic growth and social welfare.

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh Budget Sessions commenced this morning, with Governor Abdul Nazeer addressing both Houses. In his speech, he asserted that the people had given the coalition government an unassailable majority in the elections, reflecting their discontent with the previous administration. He emphasized that the current government is focused on steering the state towards progress through various welfare and development initiatives.

The Governor highlighted the significance of the 'Super Six' schemes, stating that they are transforming the lives of the people. He claimed that since the coalition took charge, the state's per capita income has risen, and essential services are being effectively delivered. He pointed out that pensions have been increased to ₹4,000 and are now being distributed directly at people's doorsteps on the first of every month.

Addressing key areas like education, healthcare, and infrastructure, the Governor reaffirmed the government's commitment to improving public services. He stated that Anna canteens have been revived to provide affordable meals to the underprivileged. On the economic front, he revealed that investments worth ₹6.5 lakh crore have been secured, contributing to the state's economic growth, which has now reached ₹16 lakh crore. He

also emphasized the government's use of artificial intelligence in industries, administration, and economic planning.

Governor Nazeer laid out the government's vision for a prosperous Andhra Pradesh, stating that a comprehensive roadmap has been prepared under the 'People First' policy to achieve Swarnandhra by 2047. He assured that projects like Polavaram and Amaravati have been mapped, with a firm commitment to completing Polavaram by 2027. He further added that the completion of the Polavaram-Banakacharla project would ensure that Rayalaseema never faces a drought again.

Regarding social welfare, he announced that the government has taken several measures to uplift the BC communities, including 34% reservation in nominated posts and local bodies. The state has also taken a strong stance against privatization, successfully halting the privatization of Vizag Steel. In the education sector, the government has appointed Vice-Chancellors to nine universities purely based on merit.

The Governor also underscored the government's focus on industrial growth and employment, mentioning the introduction of a new IT policy to position Andhra Pradesh as a leader in the sector. He noted that out of the 93 central schemes that were discontinued under the previous government, 74 have now been revived. Additionally, free electricity up to 200 units is now being provided to



SC and ST families, and rooftop solar panels have been installed for 20 lakh SC and ST households. Infrastructure development remains a key priority, with the government planning to develop ten ports as international ports. The metro rail project is set to advance, with 46 kilometers of metro construction planned for Visakhapatnam and 38.40 kilometers for Vijayawada by 2029. The government is also committed to expediting the completion of the Veligonda project.

With these initiatives, the Governor expressed confidence that Andhra Pradesh is on the right track under the coalition government. He reiterated that the administration is dedicated to ensuring economic growth, social welfare, and infrastructural development, with the ultimate goal of making every household financially self-reliant.

APPSC Group 2
Answer Key

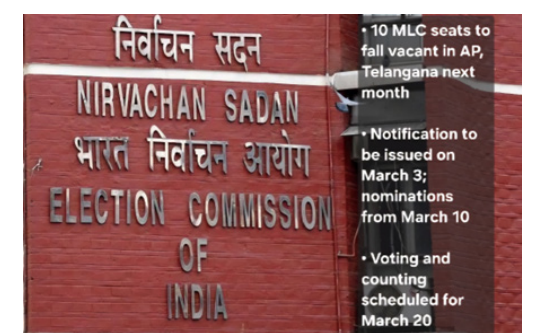


Group-2 Mains Preliminary
Key Released

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Group-2 Mains Examinations in Andhra Pradesh have concluded without any issues. The Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) released the preliminary 'key' for the Paper-1 exam on Sunday evening. Candidates who wish to raise objections can do so from the 25th to the 27th of this month through the official website psc.ap.gov.in.

According to APPSC, out of the 92,250 candidates who applied for the exams, 86,459 downloaded their hall tickets. Among them, 92 percent appeared for the exam, reflecting high participation. The commission has advised candidates to review the preliminary key carefully and submit objections, if any, within the stipulated timeframe.



Elections for 5 MLC
seats each in AP and
Telangana on March 20

TPN Correspondent | AP & TG

The Election Commission has released the schedule for elections to 10 MLC seats under the MLA quota in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, as these seats will fall vacant next month.

The tenure of five MLCs in AP—Yanamala Ramakrishnudu, Janga Krishnamurthy, D. Rama Rao, P. Ashok Babu, and Tirumala Naidu—will end on March 29. Similarly, in Telangana, Satyavathi Rathod, Mahmood Ali, Mirza Riazul Hasan, Sheri Subhash Reddy, and Egge Malleshram will complete their terms in March. According to the election schedule, the notification will be issued on March 3, and the nomination process will commence on March 10. Scrutiny of nominations is scheduled for March 11, while March 13 is the last date for withdrawal. Polling will take place on March 20 from 9 AM to 4 PM, with counting beginning at 5 PM on the same day.

Jagan decides to boycott
assembly, holds key
meeting with YCP leaders

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy has decided to boycott the ongoing AP budget meetings, asserting that his party will not attend the assembly sessions. On Monday, Jagan, along with YSRCP members, protested inside the House demanding that YSRCP be granted opposition status before staging a walkout. Following this, he held a crucial meeting with party MLAs and MLCs at his office in Tadepalli.

During the meeting, Jagan stated that the government has no intention of recognizing YSRCP as the main opposition. He urged party leaders to take their fight to the people, emphasizing that those who stand by him will remain his true supporters. Confident about his political future, Jagan declared that he will remain active in politics for another 30 years.

Jagan also revealed that the next general elections would be held in February 2028, signaling his party's preparations for the long-term political battle ahead.

Tribal villagers get road access, ambulance reaches Peddaguda for the first time

TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam

The long-standing struggle of tribal villagers in Peddaguda Panchayat under Hira Mandal has finally ended, as a newly constructed road has provided them much-needed connectivity. For years, the nine tribal villages in the panchayat, located in hilly terrain, lacked proper road access, forcing residents to carry sick and pregnant women on makeshift dollies to reach medical facilities.

To address this critical issue, the coalition government sanctioned ₹1.5 crore for a CC and asphalt road leading to the Peddaguda Panchayat center. With the completion of the road by ITDA engineers, emergency services have now become accessible.

On Sunday, a 108 ambulance reached the village for the first time after locals reported a pregnant woman, Savara Sakhiyaka, experiencing health complications. The ambulance transported her to Kothur Hospital, 20 kilometers away, within minutes.

The villagers, relieved and elated, expressed their gratitude, stating that they no longer have to endure the ordeal of carrying patients on foot to seek medical help.



Farmers should cultivate Rice Variants based on consumer demand: Minister Atchannaidu

- Minister urges selection of rice varieties based on market demand
- Orders irrigation officials to release water in the first week of June

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Agriculture Minister Sri Kinjarapu Atchannaidu emphasized the need for farmers to cultivate rice varieties preferred by consumers to ensure better market prices. He urged officials to guide farmers in selecting high-demand rice varieties before the upcoming Kharif season.

In a review meeting held on Monday in his chamber, Minister Atchannaidu discussed key agricultural strategies with Director of Agriculture Sri Dilli Rao IAS, Civil Supplies Department MD Sri Manjin IAS, Civil Supplies Commissioner Sri Saurav Gaur IAS, and Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University Research Director Dr. Satyanarayana,

along with other senior officials. Highlighting Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision of cultivating three crops annually to strengthen farmers' economic conditions, the minister stressed the importance of timely water release. He informed that he had written to Irrigation Minister Sri Nimmla Kishtappa, requesting the release of water in the first week of June to support the Kharif season.

The minister also directed the Director of Research, Dr. P. Satyanarayana, to inform farmers about the rice varieties that are in high demand among consumers and fetch better prices in the market. Similarly, he asked Agriculture Director Sri Dilli Rao to promote the benefits of cultivating such varieties, ensuring that farmers make informed choices. Additionally, Minister Atchannaidu urged millers and rice exporters to stay in close coordination with the Agriculture Department to understand consumer preferences and market demand for different rice varieties.

We Must be given Opposition Status: Botsa

Continued from page 1

role in voicing public concerns. Botsa asserted that there are only two groups in the Assembly—the ruling coalition and the opposition—and insisted that YCP must be officially recognized as the opposition. He

justified their protest inside the House, stating that their slogans were aimed at securing their rightful status. Criticizing the government's approach, Botsa accused it of failing to address farmers' issues, claiming that instead of taking concrete action, the ruling alliance was mere-

ly stating that talks were ongoing with the Center. He said YCP needs opposition status to highlight the suffering of the people, particularly farmers. Expressing anger over cases being filed against YSRCP leaders, Botsa slammed the government for inaction on its "Super Six" promises

even after nine months in power. He warned that their next course of action would depend on the government's response to their demand for opposition status. If necessary, he declared, YCP would take its fight to the streets and intensify protests against the ruling alliance.

GV Reddy resigns as AP Fibernet Corporation Chairman and to TDP

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

AP Fibernet Corporation Chairman GV Reddy has resigned from his position and also from the primary membership of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). In a letter addressed to

Chief Minister and TDP Chief Chandrababu Naidu, he formally submitted his resignation, citing personal reasons for his decision.

GV Reddy stated in the letter that his resignation was purely due to personal considerations and did not

elaborate further. However, he made it clear that he will continue his profession as a lawyer.

His resignation comes at a crucial time when AP Fibernet Corporation is handling key projects in the state. Political observers are keen to see if

his exit has any broader implications within the party or the corporation.

AP Fibernet MD Dinesh Kumar Directed to Report to GAD

The Andhra Pradesh government has

directed AP Fibernet Managing Director Dinesh Kumar to report to the General Administration Department (GAD). Meanwhile, the government has accepted the resignation of AP Fibernet Chairman G.V. Reddy, sources said.

Ridiculous to ask for Opposition status With 11 seats



- Jagan attending the Assembly only for formality
- Minister says he came out of fear of losing membership

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Minister Atchannaidu strongly criticized YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy and his MLAs for merely attending the Assembly for presence and leaving soon after. He condemned the YSRCP MLAs for walking out within ten minutes of entering the House on Monday morning, stating that they were expected to discuss public issues but instead acted as if they were there just to mark their attendance. He further accused them of being concerned solely about retaining their membership rather than addressing

people's concerns. The Minister also ridiculed the demand for opposition status from a party that won only eleven seats in the recent elections. He stated that he had never seen such a demand before and criticized the YSRCP for making it. Atchannaidu further expressed disappointment that senior leaders of the party were backing Jagan's stance despite the electoral outcome.

Accusing the YSRCP of being built on corruption and deceit, Atchannaidu remarked that the party continues to repeat the same false narratives it had previously spread. He alleged that the YSRCP leadership is misleading the people with lies instead of engaging in constructive political discourse.

Former minister Roja meets Jagan



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Former minister and senior YSRCP leader Roja met party chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at his residence in Tadepalli. The meeting reportedly focused on recent political developments in the Nagari constituency. Roja met Jagan at his Tadepalli residence amid reports that the YSRCP high command is keen on inducting Gali Jagadish into the party. It is speculated that Roja and Jagan discussed the same issue during their meeting. It is known that the YSRCP high command has been considering

the induction of Gali Jagadish, the second son of late leader Gali Muddukrushna Naidu. While Jagadish was initially expected to join the party, sources indicate that his entry has been stalled due to strong objections from Roja. In this context, Jagan is said to have discussed the matter with Roja during their meeting.

With this discussion, clarity on Jagadish's entry into YSRCP is expected soon. The political developments in Nagari have now become a topic of keen interest.

Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar expresses shock over Pedakakani electrocution incident



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar expressed deep shock over the electrocution incident in Pedakakani, Guntur district, which claimed the lives of four people. Extending his condolences to the families of the deceased, the

minister assured them of government support during this difficult time.

Minister Ravi Kumar spoke to local legislator Dhulipalla Narendra and other officials to gather details about the tragic accident. He urged people to exercise caution while handling electrical work and advised them to inform local electricity officials in advance to prevent such mishaps. He emphasized that timely communication with officials can help avoid accidents and ensure public safety.

YS Avinash Reddy dares NDA govt on by-elections



TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

YSRCP MP YS Avinash Reddy has thrown a challenge at the coalition government, questioning whether it is ready for by-elections in Kuppam, Pithapuram, and Mangalagiri if they are confident about the people's support. His remarks come in response to coalition leaders claiming that Jagan Mohan Reddy will be disqualified, necessitating a by-election in Pulivendula.

Speaking in Kadapa, Avinash Reddy accused the government of failing in the implementation of the Super Six schemes, claiming that the public is already turning against the coalition. He alleged that the government is evading questions raised by YSRCP in the assem-

bly and deliberately denying it opposition status.

"There is only one opposition party in the state. The number of seats is irrelevant. If three of the four parties in the assembly are in the ruling coalition, then the only remaining party—YSRCP—must be recognized as the opposition," he stated.

He further criticized the government for violating democratic norms by refusing to grant opposition status to YSRCP, calling it an attempt to suppress dissent and silence the opposition's voice in the legislature.

"Did you 11 people come for 11 minutes?" – Sharmila slams Jagan



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

AP Congress chief YS Sharmila has launched a scathing attack on YCP chief and former CM YS Jagan, questioning his party's conduct in the AP Assembly. Taking to X (Twitter), she criticized Jagan and YCP MLAs for their brief appearance, asking, "Did you 11 people come to the Assembly just for 11 minutes?"

Sharmila accused Jagan of focusing only on securing opposition status rather than addressing public issues. "Is opposition status more important

to you than the problems of the people?" she asked. She further alleged that YCP members attended the Assembly only out of fear of losing their membership due to non-attendance. She also slammed the Governor's speech, calling it pointless and disappointing for the people of Andhra Pradesh, who were expecting clarity on the implementation of the coalition government's Super Six promises. Sharmila remarked that the speech left people disillusioned as it failed to address key concerns.

Counting of votes should be transparent - Election Observer Sridhar



TPN Correspondent | Eluru

Election Observer CH. Sridhar has directed officials and staff to ensure transparency in the counting of votes for the Graduate MLC elections in East and West Godavari districts. Addressing a training program at Sir CR Reddy Col-

lege auditorium on Monday, he emphasized that the process should be smooth, peaceful, and error-free, with complete adherence to protocols.

Election Returning Officer K. Vetrivelvi announced that vote counting will commence at 8 AM on March 3, and counting

staff and agents must report by 6 AM. A total of 35 candidates are contesting, with 3,14,984 voters eligible to cast their ballots. Given the complexity of the process, shift-wise counting staff have been appointed, as the counting is expected to continue for three days.

Authorities have proposed 28 tables and 17 rounds for counting. DRDA PD R. Vijayaraju, Master Trainee Srinivas, and Phani provided a PowerPoint presentation to train observers, supervisors, and counting staff, followed by practical training on the counting process. Joint Collector P. Dhatri Reddy, DRO V. Visveswara Rao, Eluru RDO Achyuta Ambareesh, DRDA PD R. Vijayaraju, and other officials participated in the program.

Minister Narayana's team visits Prayagraj to study Kumbh Mela



TPN Correspondent | Prayagraj

A delegation led by Minister Narayana, along with Municipal Department Director Sampath Kumar and Rajahmundry Municipal Commissioner Ketan Garg, visited Prayagraj to study the arrangements for the Kumbh Mela in preparation for the 2027 Godavari Pushkaram in Andhra Pradesh.

As part of their study, the team visited the Kumbh Mela Authority office this evening, where Kumbh Mela Officer Vijay Kiran Anand gave a detailed presentation on congestion management,

traffic control, and security measures implemented during the mega religious gathering.

The ministerial team also inspected the Command Control Room of the Kumbh Mela Authority and examined the arrangements at the bathing ghats, closely observing the crowd management strategies and infrastructural facilities in place. Their visit aims to incorporate the best practices from the Kumbh Mela into the Godavari Pushkaram planning to ensure smooth execution and enhanced safety measures.

Congress leader Chintamohan demands super specialty status for Ruia Hospital

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader Chintamohan led a protest near the Tirupati Municipal Corporation Office, demanding the conversion of Tirupati Ruia Hospital into a super specialty hospital. Addressing the media, he highlighted the urgent need for advanced medical facilities in the region.

Chintamohan emphasized that all major medical departments, including heart, brain, liver, lungs, and kidney care, should be made available at Ruia Hospital, ensuring free super specialty services for the poor. He pointed out that high death rates in Rayalaseema districts were due to a lack of proper medical access. He urged the authorities to devel-

op Ruia Hospital on par with government hospitals in Kurunool, Guntur, and Vizag. He also demanded that the children's hospital building at Alipiri be allocated to Ruia and called upon the TTD Governing Council to discuss the matter and announce a decision. He criticized the inadequate facilities at Ruia, stating that the hospital had been struggling



since its inception during Anna Rao's tenure. He further noted that SWIMS lacked funds, leaving the poor and middle-class without access to proper medical treatment.

Bhargav Spa Under Scrutiny Allegations of Political and Police Nexus in Vijayawada

TPN Correspondent |
Vijayawada

The Bhargav Spa, owned by Chalasani Prasanna Bhargav, has come under intense scrutiny following allegations of illegal activities and high-profile clientele, including politicians, government officials, and private employees. The spa has gained notoriety for being a so-called "safe haven", with customers believing that police raids will not occur and that new attendants are frequently available. This overconfidence seemingly led to the downfall of YSRCP leader Shankar Naik, who was caught during a police raid on Friday, along with a State ST Commission member. The incident has once again brought Bhargav Spa's operations into the public eye.



Connections That Shielded Bhargav?

Sources indicate that Bhargav's spa centers have largely remained untouched by law enforcement, despite regular raids on other such establishments. In a prior raid before the elections, a CI's father was allegedly found inside but was discreetly released to protect his reputation. This has fueled speculation that Bhargav enjoys strong political and police

backing, allowing him to operate freely.

Utilizing this apparent immunity, Chalasani Prasanna Bhargav has reportedly expanded his empire, allegedly engaging in prostitution and large-scale gambling under the guise of a spa business. According to police sources, he has built close ties with Task Force officials, even claiming that he receives prior warnings about raids. Additional-

ly, Bhargav is said to monopolize gambling operations in the city, ensuring that any rival gambling businesses are swiftly taken down with the help of his connections in law enforcement.

With the latest raid bringing his operations under renewed scrutiny, Bhargav has now approached the court for anticipatory bail in an attempt to evade arrest. The unfolding case is raising serious concerns about political influence and law enforcement corruption, with many questioning how Bhargav managed to operate unchecked for so long. Authorities are now facing growing pressure to take strict action and dismantle the alleged political-police nexus that has protected Bhargav's operations in Vijayawada.

Roja Slams Governor's Speech, Accuses TDP of Betraying People



TPN Correspondent | Tadepalli

Former Minister and YSRCP leader RK Roja strongly criticized the Governor's speech, accusing the coalition government of misleading the public with blatant lies. Speaking at the YSRCP central office in Tadepalli on Monday, she questioned the lack of clarity on election promises and alleged that the ruling party was afraid to grant the opposition status to YSRCP, fearing their failures would be exposed. Roja ridiculed the government for discussing Vision 2047 in the Governor's address while failing to explain how they plan to fulfill their promises over the next five years. She stated that the Governor's speech unfairly praised Chandrababu Naidu while insulting YS Jagan, and pointed out that 143 promises, including the much-hyped 'Super Six,' were left unclear.

"People are eager to know how priority will be given to key sectors like education, healthcare, agriculture, and irrigation. Instead, the Governor's speech turned into meaningless chatter under the name of Vision 2047. Chandrababu has been given a five-year term, yet he talks about 2047 without explaining how he will deliver on his current promises. This only proves that nothing will be done now," Roja remarked.

"TDP Has a Habit of Deception"

Roja accused Chandrababu Naidu of betraying the trust of those who believed in him. She highlighted how liquor prices were hiked despite promises to keep them unchanged. "Look at the newspapers—liquor prices have increased by over ₹10 per bottle," she said. She also alleged that while Naidu promised to not increase electricity tariffs before the elections, his government has imposed a ₹15,000 crore burden on the people within just nine months. "Instead of implementing these schemes, the government has fired outsourcing employees, contract workers, and volunteers. Employees who expected relief from Chandrababu have been left disappointed, with no clarity on IR, DA, or PRC. It is unfortunate that those who trusted him have been deceived again," she stated.

Roja reiterated that YS Jagan is a leader who stands by his word and ensures its implementation, unlike Naidu, who repeatedly deceives the people. She also pointed out that every democratic country has an opposition, and even regimes like the Taliban acknowledge it, but in Andhra Pradesh, the government is hesitant to grant the opposition status to YSRCP.

"Where in the world does the ruling party get the PAC chairman post? They are afraid that their mistakes will be exposed if YSRCP gets opposition status in the Assembly," she added.

Gang Robbing Highway Travelers Arrested in Krishna District



TPN Correspondent | Krishna

The Kankipadu police have arrested a gang of criminals involved in highway robberies, targeting travelers in the Krishna district. The accused were caught in connection with a recent case where they threatened and robbed a commuter of ₹10,000. The police also seized five stolen motorcycles worth ₹6.5 lakh from them.

According to reports, on the 18th of this month, a victim from Poddutur village was traveling from Kankipadu to Proddatur around 3 AM when he was ambushed near the IAS Academy. Five individuals on two bikes blocked his way, threatened him, and looted ₹10,000 before fleeing the scene. Following a complaint, Kankipadu police registered a case and initiated an investigation.

Swift Action by Police Leads to Arrest

To prevent further incidents, Kankipadu SI Sandeep formed a special team, analyzing both technical and non-technical evidence. Acting on a tip-off, the police apprehended four suspects on February 24 at 9 AM at an alley near a mosque in Edupugallu village, Kankipadu mandal. Upon questioning, the accused admitted to committing multiple thefts, revealing that they were accustomed to a lavish lifestyle and resorted to crime for easy money. They stole a total of five motorcycles from Gannavaram, Atkur, Penamaluru, and Kankipadu areas. The case was successfully cracked due to the dedicated efforts of SI Sandeep, Head Constable K. Chandrababu, and Police Constables P.S.N. Murthy and S.T. Baji Babu. Their swift action led to the arrest of the accused, sending a strong warning to criminal groups operating in the region. The police have assured stringent action against such offenses to ensure public safety.

Resource Persons Appointed to Strengthen BIS Activities in AP



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Vijayawada, organized a one-day training program at Hotel Hyatt Place to empanel resource persons for promoting BIS activities across Andhra Pradesh. For the first time, 130 experts have been enlisted to support standardization efforts in the region. Addressing the event, Shri D. Vivek Vardhan Reddy, Scientist C and Deputy Director, BIS-Vijayawada, emphasized the need for resource persons to stay updated on Indian Standards and actively contribute to BIS activities statewide. He stated that BIS is directly monitoring various programs to enhance standardization awareness. During the session, resource persons were briefed on their role in promoting digital solutions such as the Young Professionals Programme, Know Your Standard, BIS Care App, Academic Dashboards, Learning Management System, GIS Portal, R&D Opportunities, and

Manak Manthan.

Shri Vivek Vardhan Reddy also highlighted the role of Manak Mitras, who are engaged in every district to further BIS outreach among government departments and industry stakeholders. To strengthen BIS initiatives, resource persons have been empanelled across all districts of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana (including Bhadradi Kothagudem), and the Union Territory of Yanam. Additionally, participants received practical training on BIS digital platforms, including the BIS website, e-BIS portal, and BIS Care App. Officials provided detailed explanations on the various promotional activities underway in Andhra Pradesh. BIS Standards Promotion Officer D. Krishna Veer Verma, along with other BIS officials, actively participated in the training program, ensuring that resource persons are well-equipped to enhance BIS outreach and implementation across the state.

Maulana Fazlur Rahman Re-elected as Ahle Hadith State President

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Maulana Fazlur Rahman has been unanimously re-elected as the Andhra Pradesh State President of Jamiat Ahle Hadith for the second consecutive term. The elections were held at the Ahle Hadith State Office at Jamia Masjid in Islampet, where around 170 Jamaat leaders from across the state participated in the voting process.

Along with Maulana Fazlur Rahman's re-election, Maulana Abdul Ghaffar was chosen as the General Secretary, while Farooq Khan was elected as the State Treasurer. Following the elections, the newly elected state leadership visited the office of Mohammad Fataullah in Khidmatgarh, where he was felicitated.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohammad Fataullah, who serves as the Telugu Desam Party Minority Cell General Secretary, assured the Ahle Hadith leaders of his full support for their religious and social programs. He also emphasized his commitment to addressing the issues



faced by Muslim students and the community at large. Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivanath Chinni has directed efforts to ensure that the concerns of the Muslim community are addressed without any inconvenience. Mohammad Fataullah further assured that the organization would receive necessary backing from both the Parliament members and the state government.

Case Filed Against YCP Activist for Derogatory Comments on CM

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

A case has been registered against YSRCP social media activist Sridhar Reddy for making inappropriate comments about Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on social media. The Vijayawada Suryaraoapet police have booked an FIR under the IT Act 2008 for his alleged derogatory remarks. Authorities have warned that strict action will be taken against



individuals who post defamatory content online. Police officials stated that cases under the IT Act, rowdy sheets, and the PD Act will be imposed against those engaging in defamatory social media activities. Law enforcement agencies have reiterated their commitment to curbing the misuse of social media and ensuring accountability for spreading misleading or offensive content.

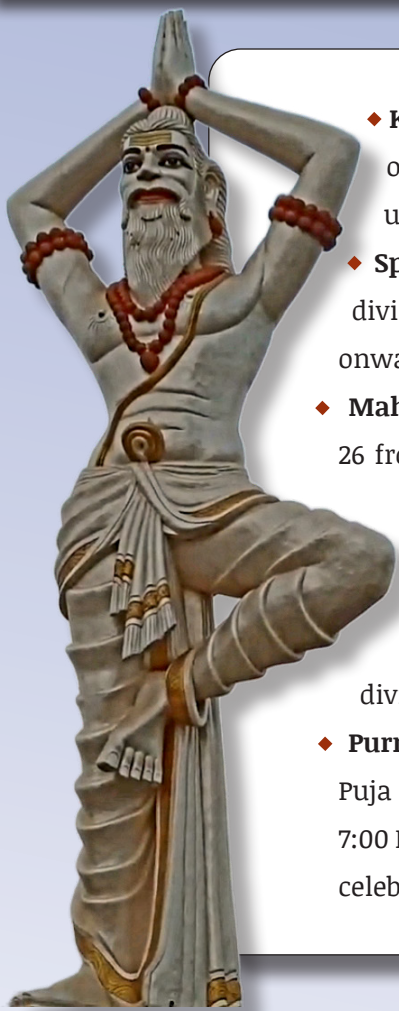
Sri Rudrayaga Sahita Maha Kumbha Abhishekam to be Held at Veerampalem Sri Balatripura Sundari Peetham



TPN Correspondent Veerampalem, Tadepalligudem: A grand spiritual event, Sri Rudrayaga Sahita Maha Kumbha Abhishekam, is set to take place at the revered Sri Balatripura Sundari Peetham in Veerampalem village from February 25 to 27, 2025, on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivaratri. This sacred ritual is being organized under the divine blessings of Sri Bala-

tripura Sundari Amma, with the belief that true devotion, rather than wealth, is what pleases the Lord. The Maha Kumbha Abhishekam will be performed with great devotion, with 12 holy river waters and 12 special dravyas sanctifying the deity. The event is being organized by Sri Chakka Venkata Rama Ramana Murthy and his wife, along with Sri

Karri Venkata Ramakrishna Reddy and his wife. The rituals will be conducted in accordance with the Shaiva Agama tradition, under the supervision of Brahmashri Dorbala Prabhakar Sharma, a distinguished scholar and former principal professor at Kovvur Sanskrit College, along with a team of 15 Vedic scholars, Smartas, and priests.



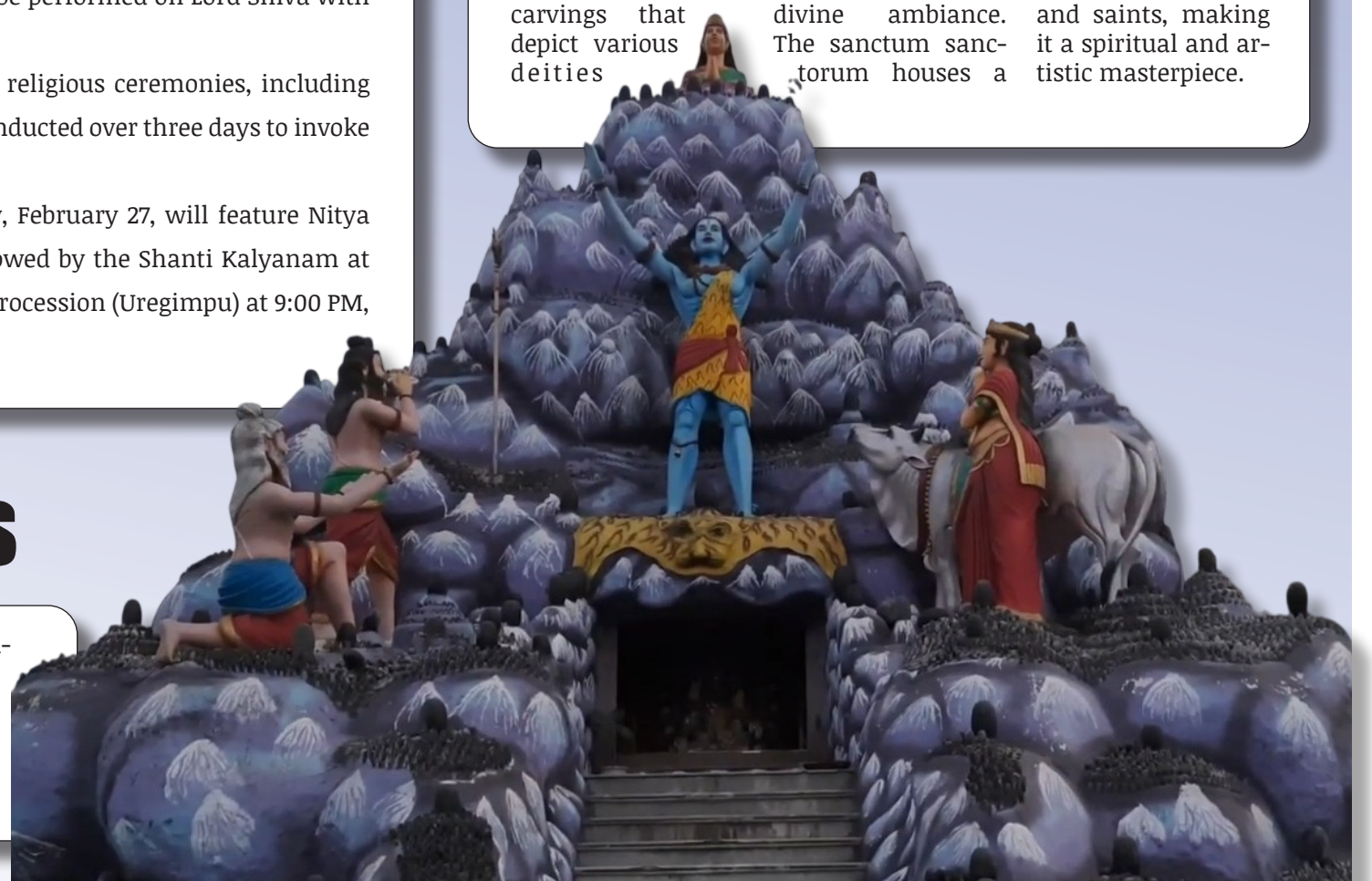
- ◆ **Kalasha Sthapana:** The sacred installation of the Kalasha will take place on February 25, 2025, during the auspicious Magha Bahula Dwadashi tithi, under Uttarashadha Nakshatra and Aries Lagna.
- ◆ **Spatikalinga Darshan:** Devotees will have the rare opportunity to witness the divine Spatikalinga Darshan on Maha Shivaratri, February 26, from 5:00 AM onwards.
- ◆ **Maha Kumbha Abhishekam:** The main event will be conducted on February 26 from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, culminating in a grand Lakshadweep Archana in the evening. The sacred abhishekam will be performed on Lord Shiva with water collected from twelve holy rivers.
- ◆ **Vedic Rituals and Homas:** A variety of religious ceremonies, including Japam, Homas, and Tarpanam, will be conducted over three days to invoke divine blessings for all attendees.
- ◆ **Purnahuti and Village Festival:** The final day, February 27, will feature Nitya Puja and the grand Purnahuti at 5:00 PM, followed by the Shanti Kalyanam at 7:00 PM. The event will conclude with a grand procession (Uregimpu) at 9:00 PM, celebrating the divine energy of Lord Shiva.

A Temple of Divine Beauty and Architectural Grandeur

The Sri Balatripura Sundari Peetham in Veerampalem is not just a place of worship but an architectural marvel adorned with intricate sculptures and carvings that depict various deities

and mythological stories. The temple premises are filled with beautiful stone sculptures of Shiva, Parvati, Nandi, and various celestial beings, enhancing its divine ambiance. The sanctum sanctorum houses a

majestic Shiva Lingam, where devotees gather to seek blessings. The temple walls feature detailed engravings of the Dashavatars, celestial dancers, and saints, making it a spiritual and artistic masterpiece.



Invitation to Devotees

The organizers, led by Garimella Venkata Ramana Sastry of Sri Balatripura Sundari Peetham, extend a heartfelt invitation to all devotees to participate in this grand event and receive the divine blessings of Lord Shiva and Goddess Balatripura Sundari. For further details, devotees can contact Sri Balatripura Sundari Peetham, Veerampalem, at 08818-276644.

Extend Visakhapatnam railway zone to Rajahmundry



- Uttarandhra Railway Employees Association

TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam
The Uttarandhra Railway Employees Association has requested Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Ram-mohan Naidu to extend the Visakhapatnam railway division up to Rajahmundry. On Sunday, a delegation led by association president Potnuru Hemasunder, along with station masters Majji Varun, Reddy Mohan, and Korada Dammodar Rao, met the minister at his residence and submitted a petition signed by 2,000 employees. The employees expressed concern that while they welcomed

the new railway zone with Visakhapatnam as its center, limiting its scope to 400 kilometers would negatively impact thousands of employees. They urged that the zone be expanded up to Rajahmundry, considering the operational scale of the Vijayawada zone. Responding positively, Ram-mohan Naidu assured that he would look into the request. Additionally, the petition was presented to Ponnada Ravikumar, a member of the Srikakulam Railway Station Development Committee, who also pledged to bring the matter to the minister's attention.

Alliance candidates should secure victory with first preference votes

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati
State Education and IT Minister Nara Lokesh has emphasized that the alliance candidates must win with a huge majority in the graduate MLC elections of Godavari and Krishna-Guntur districts, securing first preference votes. Reviewing the MLC election strategy with senior party leaders at his Undavalli residence, Lokesh stressed the need for efficient campaigning due to the limited time available. He instructed party members to utilize technology to reach out to every voter and ensure maximum participation. With the Shivaratri festival coincid-

ing with the elections, Lokesh urged in-charge ministers and legislators to take full responsibility in mobilizing voters. He directed them to ensure that every eligible graduate exercises their right to vote on



election day. To streamline monitoring, Lokesh ordered the setup of a war room at the central office to track developments throughout the polling process. He called upon all alliance leaders to work in unison for a decisive victory of the party-backed candidates. TDP state president Palla Srinivasa Rao, MLCs Bhumireddy Rambhupal Reddy, Kancharla Srikanth, Vepada Chiranjeevi, along with zonal coordinators Sujay Krishna Ranga Rao, M.V. Satyanarayana Raju, Damacherla Satya, Mandalapu Ravi, and other key leaders participated in the meeting.

Retired officer couple loses ₹91.6 lakh in cyber fraud

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Cybercriminals have duped a retired electricity officer couple of ₹91.62 lakh in an elaborate investment scam via a WhatsApp group named 'VIP F1 High Performance Stock Circle'. The fraudsters lured them into investing without even including them as group members. According to sources, the couple, residents of the Patamata police station area, fell victim to a new trend in cyber fraud—investment scams—after criminals shifted tactics from digital arrest scams. The fraud began on September 27 last year, when the retired officer's wife's mo-

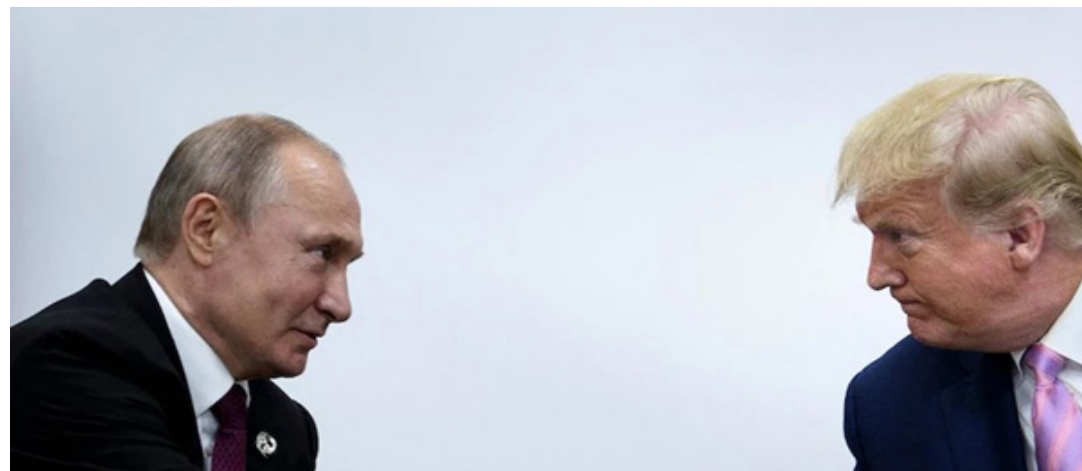
bile number was added to the WhatsApp group by unknown individuals. The group, seemingly involved in stock trading, appeared credible. Encouraged by group admins, she opened an account in a platform named 'Fires IT' and was persuaded by a manager named Aryan to invest. Believing in promises of high returns, she initially invested ₹26.99 lakh. When she expressed concerns, she contacted other group members, who reassured her. Seeing huge profits in her account, her husband also invested ₹64.63 lakh. However, when they attempted to withdraw their earnings, they were unable to do so and realized they had been

scammed. The victims filed a complaint on the cybercrime portal, and Vijayawada Cyber Crime Police have launched an investigation. Investigations revealed that the fraudulently obtained money was transferred to multiple bank accounts, including Bank of Maharashtra (Ballarshah branch), Yes Bank (Ahmedabad), Federal Bank (Nashik), Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Bhuj, Gujarat), IndusInd Bank (Gurgaon, Haryana), and Axis Bank (Ahmedabad). The police are actively tracking these transactions to identify the perpetrators and prevent further scams.

The Ukraine Conflict: A Global Power Struggle and Lessons for India

The ongoing Ukraine conflict, which has been a focal point of global geopolitics, has created significant shifts in alliances and tensions, particularly between Europe, the US, and Russia. Amidst these developments, Ukraine has found itself excluded from key diplomatic conversations. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, feeling sidelined, has declared that Ukraine will not honor any agreements reached without its participation. This discontent was further exacerbated when the Trump administration pressed Ukraine for a bilateral agreement that would provide preferential access to its natural resources in exchange for the \$500 billion of American aid to sustain its war against Russia. However, Zelenskyy rejected this proposal, insisting on security guarantees for Ukraine instead.

The political tensions were heightened when President Trump, in his second term (Trump 2.0), labeled Zelenskyy a "modestly successful comedian" and blamed him for starting the war. Zelenskyy, in turn, accused Trump of being influenced by Russian misinformation. These sharp exchanges and the calls for a new direction in the US foreign policy towards Russia have rattled European NATO members, who have long relied on American support to counter Russian aggression. The swift shift by Trump 2.0 towards repairing relations with Russia, without consulting NATO allies, has left Europe uneasy, especially as they continue to support Ukraine militarily and financially. This friction between the US and Europe is compound-

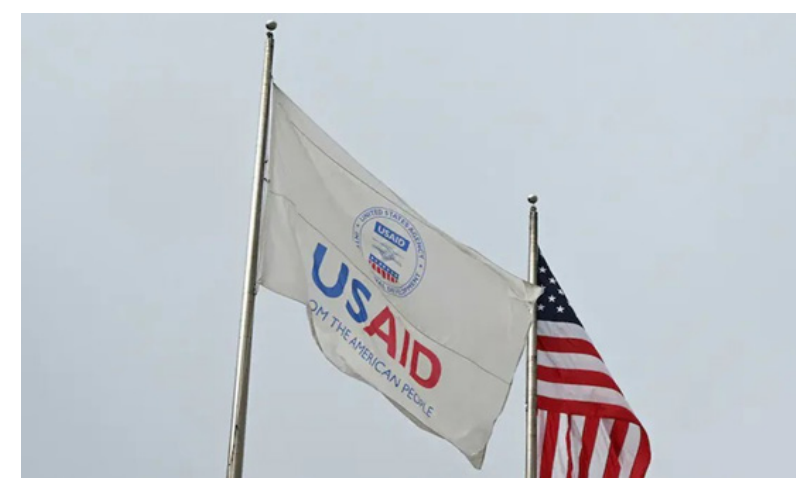


ed by Trump's criticism of European policies, particularly their approach to immigration and defense spending. Trump has pressured European NATO members to meet higher defense spending targets, further deepening the divide. Many European countries, especially those in Eastern Europe facing Russia directly, fear the erosion of NATO's collective security guarantee and the possibility of Ukraine being forced into a "Finlandization" scenario—where it would retain independence but be neutralized in terms of NATO membership.

Russia, meanwhile, has made it clear it will not make territorial concessions and continues to escalate its military campaign, hoping to exploit NATO's divisions. As the war drags on, the devastating human and economic costs for both Russia and Ukraine are mounting, with losses in the hundreds of thousands and profound economic setbacks for both nations.

The war's broader impact has led to global economic disruptions, including higher inflation and supply chain issues, particularly in hydrocarbons and precious metals. The conflict has also driven political polarization, with many countries reluctant to be forced into choosing sides.

For India, the conflict presents an opportunity to recalibrate its foreign policy. A resolution would allow India to strengthen its relations with both Russia and the US, lifting Western sanctions and improving economic interactions. Most importantly, the conflict underscores the importance of India's campaign for "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India), particularly in areas critical to national security and economic stability. The lessons from the Ukraine crisis highlight the vulnerabilities in global supply chains and the necessity for India to build resilience against such geopolitical shocks.



USAID and Its Role in India's Electoral Processes: Whose Interests Are Being Served?

The involvement of USAID in India's electoral processes raises serious questions about its motivations and the interests it serves. Ahead of the 2014 parliamentary elections, USAID funneled large sums into initiatives targeting voter turnout among marginalized communities in India. This sparked concerns about the true objectives of this funding and whose interests were being advanced.

US President Donald Trump criticized USAID's actions, arguing that the agency was not promoting democracy in India but rather undermining it. Trump's statement highlighted the US government's potential influence in shaping political outcomes in foreign countries. USAID's Democratic Elections and Political Processes (DEPP) programme allocated over \$318,000 annually to India-specific projects, with disbursements peaking during election years. In FY2014, a staggering \$21 million was spent on "voter awareness" campaigns, coinciding precisely with India's national election period. The funding dropped drastically after May 2014, suggesting that the primary goal was electoral rather than institutional.

In 2019, a similar pattern emerged, with \$486 million allocated regionally, though Indian agencies blocked some of these funds due to concerns over violations of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). This raised suspicions that USAID's efforts might align with political agendas rather than genuine democratic objectives.

Furthermore, USAID awarded funds to programs like a \$750,000 initiative aimed at "alleviating loneliness among migrant garment workers" in India. The vague nature of this program and the lack of clear beneficiaries call into question whether these initiatives truly serve the communities they claim to support or if they have ulterior motives.

Another contentious issue is the 2012 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India's Election Commission (ECI) and the US-based International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). While former Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi insists that no USAID funds were received directly by the ECI, leaked audits suggest that USAID's focus was on increasing voter participation in marginalized communities, which some critics argue aligns with specific political agendas.

The funding from USAID and its alignment with election cycles, as well as the involvement of organizations like IFES and private tech giants, raises concerns about foreign influence on India's democratic processes. With transparency lacking, these revelations call for a deeper investigation into how foreign interests may be shaping the nation's electoral landscape.

India Must Read the Fine Print in Trump's F-35 Fighter Jet Offer

The recent offer by U.S. President Donald Trump to sell India the advanced F-35 fighter jet has raised a crucial question: will the Indian Air Force (IAF) soon sport U.S. F-35s? While the F-35 is a cutting-edge fifth-generation stealth fighter, the IAF's decision to acquire it must be carefully considered in light of several challenges and potential conditions.

During his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the White House on February 13, Trump announced that the U.S. was willing



to negotiate an F-35 deal with India. This aircraft, already in service with key U.S. allies like Israel, the United Kingdom, and Japan, offers significant advantages, such as stealth technology and advanced combat capabilities. For India, the offer comes at a time when the IAF is grappling with a shortage of fighter aircraft. With only 31 active squadrons, well below the sanctioned 42, the IAF is eager to modernize and replenish its fleet. The MRFA (Multirole Fighter Aircraft) program, aimed at adding 114 fighters, has been delayed for over seven years, leaving India's defense forces in need of immediate solutions.

Given the growing threat posed by China's increasing fleet of fifth-generation J-20 fighters and Pakistan's acquisition of stealth J-35 jets, the IAF urgently needs advanced aircraft to maintain an edge. The F-35 could potentially fill this gap. However, before rushing into a deal, India must consider the complex conditions surrounding the F-35 offer. The U.S. has previously shown more interest in selling its F-21 aircraft, a variant of the F-16, to India, which is tailored to Indian needs but comes with more modest capabilities. The offer of the F-35 could be part of a transactional strategy, possibly requiring India to first purchase the F-21.

The Waning India-Pakistan Cricket Rivalry: A Battle of Unequals



The India-Pakistan cricket rivalry, once a fierce, breathless contest, has lost much of its intensity and significance over time. While the nostalgia of past moments — such as Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag's exploits during the 2003 World Cup, or Javed Miandad's iconic last-ball six in Sharjah in 1986 — still lingers in the minds of fans, the stakes of these encounters have changed significantly. What once was a do-or-die spectacle now feels less consequential, both in terms of the cricket field and the geopolitics that once revolved around these matches.

In the past decade, India has dominated their cricketing contests with Pakistan. Out of 10 ODI encounters since 2015, India has triumphed in eight, with Pakistan securing just one win in the 2017 Champions Trophy at The Oval. The two nations have also met in seven T20 internationals, with India winning five of those and Pakistan two. The last Test between them was back in 2007. These

figures reflect a one-sided rivalry, where India begins every contest as the overwhelming favorite, and Pakistan's sporadic victories are increasingly seen as rare surprises.

A key factor behind the shift in this rivalry is the stark contrast in the political and economic trajectories of both nations. India, under the leadership of Narendra Modi, has experienced political stability and economic growth. With Modi at the helm for three consecutive terms, India has become the world's fifth-largest economy and is on track to become the third-largest in the near future. The country has made remarkable strides in areas such as space exploration, with ISRO recently completing its 100th launch, and boasts 117 unicorns in the tech sector. Indian citizens today rarely discuss the prospect of war with Pakistan, focusing more on security concerns along the Chinese border.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's situation has be-

come increasingly dire. With mounting debt and an economy teetering on the brink, the country relies heavily on loans from China and the IMF. Its finance minister recently acknowledged Pakistan's lost credibility in the international arena. The country has been plagued by political instability, with no Prime Minister completing a full term in recent years, and the former Prime Minister, Imran Khan, now imprisoned. Internal insurgencies and rising sectarian violence continue to destabilize the nation, further exacerbating its economic and social woes.

Today, the India-Pakistan cricket encounter feels more like a contest between two unequally matched teams, with India's well-paid, confident squad facing a Pakistan team that is struggling amidst a battered economy and fractured political landscape. The intense rivalry that once captivated the imagination of millions has faded, leaving behind a sense of nostalgia for what was once a fiercely contested battle on and off the field.

PM Modi Transfers Rs 22,000 Crore to 9.8 Crore Farmers Under PM Kisan Scheme

- 19th PM Kisan installment boosts agricultural support
- Bihar event highlights rural and infrastructure growth

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday transferred over Rs 22,000 crore directly into the bank accounts of 9.8 crore farmers across India, marking the release of the 19th installment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. The event took place in Bihar, where the PM also inaugurated several developmental projects, furthering the government's commitment to strengthening infrastructure and promoting growth in the state.



Accompanied by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, several Union ministers, MPs, MLAs, and officials from both state and central ministries attended the event. The PM's visit aimed to highlight the government's ongoing efforts to uplift the agricultural sector, particularly focusing on the well-being of farmers across the nation.

During the event, Prime Minister Modi expressed the government's pride in India's 'annadatas' (farmers) and reiterated the govern-

ment's dedication to improving their lives. In a post shared on the social media platform X, responding to a thread by MyGovIndia, the PM reaffirmed, "We are proud of our annadatas and our commitment to improve their lives."

The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, launched in 2018, aims to provide financial assistance to farmers to support their agri-



cultural needs and enhance their livelihoods. This installment will continue to benefit millions of farmers, who receive direct cash transfers to support their farming activities and reduce financial burdens. The government's ongoing push to aid farmers aligns with its broader objective of enhancing rural development and promoting agricultural growth.



Omar joins Modi's anti-obesity relay campaign, ropes in Supriya Sule too

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam asserted that tariffs do not protect countries, and India needs to reduce them for its own benefit, regardless of external pressures. Speaking at the 69th Foundation Day of the All India Management Association (AIMA), Subrahmanyam emphasized that being open to global markets should be one of India's top priorities if it aims to become a developed nation.

He highlighted the need for India to finalize trade agreements with key economies such as the European Union and the United Kingdom to facilitate tariff reductions. Subrahmanyam further stressed the importance of deregulation at both the central and state levels to integrate India into global supply chains.

Subrahmanyam also observed that while there is global interest in India, many investors are choosing to explore other countries instead. He pointed to nations like Indonesia, Vietnam, and Turkey, which have benefitted from the "China plus one" strategy adopted by global companies seeking alternatives to China.

The NITI Aayog CEO argued that India's entry into global value chains requires more than just initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI); it also demands deregulation and a focus on skill development. He expressed concern about the bureaucratic red tape involved in business operations, which he claimed is stifling growth, particularly for MSMEs.

Subrahmanyam shared that NITI Aayog is working on integrating India into global supply chains across various sectors, including electronics, auto components, chemicals, textiles, and footwear. He also mentioned that the Aayog is awaiting Cabinet clearance for its recommendations on the electronics component supply chain and is preparing to launch a national manufacturing mission within three months.

In addition to manufacturing, Subrahmanyam identified education and agriculture as critical areas for India's development. He stressed the need to transform agriculture by shifting focus away from traditional crops like rice and wheat toward horticulture, floriculture, and dairy production. He also emphasized that states must be open to enterprises from other regions to stimulate growth, with a free-flowing enterprise environment being key to progress.

Subrahmanyam concluded by underscoring the effectiveness of the state rating system in encouraging reforms and highlighting the importance of fiscal health and efficient budget management for states.

Those who got Muslim votes could not stop riots: Bihar CM Nitish Kumar

TPN Correspondent | Patna

On Monday, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar criticized the opposition JRD-Congress alliance, accusing them of seeking Muslim votes without taking any substantial action to prevent communal clashes. Kumar made the remarks during a function in Bhagalpur, which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Governor Arif Mohammad Khan.

The event took place in Bhagalpur, a region historically remembered for the devastating communal riots of 1989, which resulted in the loss of nearly 1,000 lives. Speaking about the situation in Bihar when his government took over in 2005, Kumar highlighted the prevailing law and order problems. He emphasized that, under the previous administration, people were afraid to step out after dark due to the frequent Hindu-Muslim clashes. Without directly naming any party, he stated that those who relied on Muslim votes did nothing to stop these conflicts, but things started to improve only after his government assumed power.



Kumar, who is also the president of the JD(U), has often pointed to the trial and punishment of those responsible for the Bhagalpur riots as one of his government's key achievements. He has long claimed that during the 15-year rule of the JRD, the guilty parties were not punished because many of the accused were close to the party. At the event, Kumar expressed gratitude towards Prime Minister Modi for the financial assistance provided to the state by the Union government. He praised the latest budget for Bihar, which included several announcements for the state's development.

Gautam Adani Unveils Rs 1.1 Lakh Crore Investment Plan for Madhya Pradesh

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani made a significant announcement at the Madhya Pradesh Global Investors Summit (GIS) 2025, revealing a new wave of multi-sectoral investments worth over Rs 1.1 lakh crore for the state. Speaking at the event on Monday, Adani outlined a comprehensive investment blueprint of Rs 2.1 lakh crore, which is expected to generate more than 1.2 lakh jobs in Madhya Pradesh by 2030.

The announcement comes as part of Adani Group's ongoing efforts to contribute to the economic development of Madhya Pradesh, with a focus on infrastructure, energy, manufacturing, and other key sectors. The massive investment will help boost the state's industrial growth and attract more global investors, positioning Madhya Pradesh as an attractive hub for business and innovation.



Adani emphasized that the investments would have a long-term impact on the state's economy, contributing to job creation, skill development, and overall industrial modernization. With the planned investments, Adani Group aims to foster new opportunities across various sectors and ensure sustainable growth for Madhya Pradesh.

India, UK Aim To Triple Bilateral Trade In 10 Years. Leaders Meet In Delhi

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the United Kingdom resumed today after a months-long pause. The meeting between UK Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Jonathan Reynolds, and India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi marks a significant step towards a mutually beneficial trade deal.

The proposed agreement aims to drastically increase bilateral trade between the two nations, currently valued at \$20 billion annually. Mr. Goyal described the potential FTA as "pathbreaking," emphasizing its potential to triple this trade within the next decade. While negotiations are advanced, he refrained from committing to a fixed timeline, stressing that the process should be thorough and focused on long-term benefits for both countries. He added, "Speed is important, but haste is not, as this agreement will benefit citizens for years to



come." Reynolds echoed the sentiment, calling the FTA a top priority for the UK

government and highlighting its long-term significance for both economies. A joint statement following the

meeting confirmed the resumed talks, noting the goal of a balanced, forward-looking deal that will strength-

en trade ties and unlock opportunities for businesses and consumers on both sides.

In addition to the FTA, the two ministers discussed parallel negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) and a Double Contribution Convention Agreement, which aim to further cement economic cooperation. When asked about immigration, Mr. Goyal made it clear that it has never been part of trade negotiations, while Mr. Reynolds emphasized the UK's welcoming stance on Indian professionals, students, and business mobility.

The India-UK FTA talks began on January 13, 2022, with the goal of eliminating or reducing tariffs and customs duties on goods traded between the nations. In 2023-24, bilateral trade between India and the UK rose to \$21.34 billion, up from \$20.36 billion in the previous year. The UK remains one of India's top investors, with \$35.3 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) since 2000.

Conservative Merz set to be new German Chancellor

- Merz set to be Germany's next chancellor
- Far-right AfD surges to second place in historic result
- Coalition talks uncertain as parties avoid AfD tie-up

TPN Correspondent | Berlin

In a national election on Sunday, opposition leader Friedrich Merz of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) emerged poised for a victory, while the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) achieved a historic surge in support. Projections from ARD and ZDF public television show Merz's conservatives leading with a modest win, while the AfD nearly doubled its support, marking its strongest showing since World War II.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz of the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) conceded defeat, calling it a "bitter election result" as his party finished in third place with its worst postwar performance in a national election.

Merz, who had led the CDU opposition, vowed to act swiftly in forming a coalition government. However, uncertainties remain regarding the coalition-building process, as no mainstream parties are keen on partnering with the AfD due to its far-right positions. This complicates the formation of a stable majority in the Bundestag, and the path to a functional government remains unclear.



The election was called seven months earlier than scheduled after Scholz's coalition government, which had been marked by internal conflicts, collapsed in November. His tenure had been characterized by growing discontent among voters, with little enthusiasm for any of the main political leaders. The dramatic rise of the AfD has set alarm bells ring-

ing across Europe, as it reflects a broader shift toward far-right populism in the region. Despite the setback for Scholz's SPD, the outcome of the election highlights the volatile political climate in Germany, with the focus now shifting to Merz's ability to navigate complex coalition talks and address the growing influence of the far-right.

Will have to create NATO within Ukraine: Zelenskyy continues to bid for Kyiv's seat



TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy continues to advocate for Ukraine's NATO membership, emphasizing that it is the "simplest and most logical solution" to end the ongoing war with Russia. In a post marking the third anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Zelenskyy argued that NATO membership is the most cost-effective way to prevent further conflict, warning that without joining the alliance, Ukraine would have

to "create a NATO within" itself.

Zelenskyy, who has been vocal in his push for NATO membership, outlined a strategy where Ukraine would be forced to build and maintain its own strong military, finance it, produce weapons, and work with international partners to deter Russian aggression. He highlighted the necessity of securing comprehensive security guarantees, including military, economic, and political support, in the absence of NATO membership.

In a bold move, Zelenskyy recently expressed his willingness to resign from office if it would lead to Ukraine's accession to NATO. "If there is peace for Ukraine, if you really need me to leave my post, I am ready... I can exchange it for NATO," he stated during a press conference. His willingness to step down underscores the high stakes Ukraine faces in its ongoing struggle against Russian forces.

Despite facing criticism from the Donald Trump-led U.S. administration, Zelenskyy remains firm in his stance, thanking those who continue to support Ukraine's quest for real security. Tensions have escalated between Zelenskyy and Trump, who has made disparaging remarks about the Ukrainian president, even calling him a "dictator." Trump, however, has expressed confidence that peace talks with Russia could soon resolve the conflict, even as Zelenskyy insists that NATO remains Ukraine's best path forward. Zelenskyy's calls for NATO membership continue to be a central focus in Ukraine's strategy to bolster its defenses and seek international support as the war with Russia grinds on.

Indonesia's Prabowo Subianto officially establishes new sovereign wealth fund

TPN Correspondent | Jakarta

President Prabowo Subianto of Indonesia officially launched the nation's new sovereign wealth fund, "Danantara Indonesia," on Monday, marking a significant step toward economic growth and development. The fund, which is modeled after Singapore's Temasek, is set to manage government stakes in state-run enterprises and is expected to play a crucial role in driving the country's economic future.

In a televised address, Prabowo announced the creation of Danantara Indonesia, which will manage assets worth over \$900 billion with the goal of achieving 8% economic growth over the next five years. While the president did not reveal the identities of the fund's executives and advisors, he stated that the team had already been appointed to steer the fund's operations.



Danantara Indonesia will focus on investing in high-impact, sustainable projects in several key sectors, including renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, food production, and downstream industries. The fund will oversee all government holdings in state companies currently managed by the State-Owned Enterprises Ministry, which includes major financial institutions such as Bank Mandiri, Bank Rakyat Indonesia, and Bank Negara Indonesia.

This strategic move aims to stimulate Indonesia's economy, create jobs, and support the government's long-term development goals. By leveraging the wealth generated from state-owned companies, Danantara Indonesia will promote sustainable investments and help fund projects that are essential for the country's growth. The fund's establishment is part of a broader effort to modernize Indonesia's economic infrastructure and attract global investors.

Danantara Indonesia is seen as a pivotal tool in Indonesia's efforts to diversify its economy and achieve sustainable growth, as it will help fund critical sectors that are vital for the country's future. With its vast financial backing, the fund is expected to make a significant impact on Indonesia's economic trajectory, providing the necessary capital for development while ensuring that resources are managed efficiently for long-term prosperity.

Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif's Big Claim On India Might Cost Him His Name



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has found himself embroiled in controversy after making a bold claim during a public rally in Dera Ghazi Khan. Known for his animated speeches, Sharif went beyond his usual rhetoric, stating that his name will cease to exist if Pakistan does not surpass India in terms of economic development and progress.

Sharif, visibly passionate during the rally, was seen gesturing fervently, raising his fist in the air, and occasionally jumping on the podium. In an emotional outburst, he assured the crowd that his government was working tirelessly to improve the nation's situation. However, it was his following statement that stirred controversy: "My name won't be Shehbaz Sharif if due to our efforts Pakistan does not leave India behind in development and progress."

Sharif further emphasized his commitment by swearing on his elder brother, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's life, saying, "I am Nawaz Sharif's fan, his follower. I swear on his blessed life that we will work together to take Pakistan to greatness and defeat India."

The statement quickly spread across social media, triggering widespread mockery and criticism. Critics accused Sharif of making "tall promises" without offering any substantial evidence of progress on the ground. Many questioned his ability to fulfill such lofty claims, given Pakistan's ongoing economic and financial struggles.

Just weeks earlier, Sharif had called for dialogue with India, but India has made it clear that any talks must first address the issue of terrorism emanating from Pakistan. With this latest inflammatory remark, Sharif's rhetoric has only added fuel to an already complex diplomatic situation.

Sharif's visit to Dera Ghazi Khan, during which he announced new infrastructure projects, was intended to assure locals that his government was addressing their concerns. However, his ambitious statements seem to have overshadowed his promises of development and economic recovery.

People Tired Of: Trump Hails Conservative Wave In German Election



TPN Correspondent | Berlin

In a landmark national election, Germany's conservative alliance emerged victorious, with Friedrich Merz set to become the next Chancellor. According to exit polls, the result marks a major shift in Germany's political landscape, with the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) achieving record gains, securing second place. US President Donald Trump praised the election results, stating that the German people had rejected the "no common sense" policies of the Olaf Scholz-led centre-left government, particularly in energy and immigration. Trump expressed his belief that this was a "great day for Germany."

Meanwhile, Merz, 69, vowed to strengthen Europe's independence from the United States, criticizing Washington's influence. While he previously supported transatlantic ties, Merz declared his intention to help Europe become "real independent" from the US. He called for unity within Europe, citing external pressures from both Russia and the US. He even questioned the future of NATO in its current form.

Despite his victory, Merz faces complicated coalition talks. His Christian Democratic Union (CDU/CSU) bloc emerged as the largest group, but it secured its second-worst post-war result, making it unclear whether Merz will need one or two coalition partners to form a majority. The surge of the far-right AfD, which garnered 20.5% of the vote, complicates coalition possibilities, as mainstream parties have ruled out working with the AfD due to its far-right stances.

The election also saw a decline for Chancellor Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD), which achieved its worst result since World War II, securing only 16.5% of the vote. The Greens and the far-left Die Linke party also saw reduced support, while the pro-market Free Democrats (FDP) and new party Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance (BSW) struggled to reach the 5% threshold for parliamentary representation. Voter turnout was a high 83%, with male voters leaning right and female voters showing more support for left-wing parties.

Stock Markets Face Heavy Losses Amid Mixed Global Signals, Nifty and Sensex Decline



Domestic stock markets endured significant losses on Monday, as investor sentiment was weighed down by mixed signals from international markets, weak US consumer data, and continued selling by Foreign In-

stitutional Investors (FIIs). The indices opened lower and struggled throughout the session, with the Nifty and Sensex both closing deep in the red.

The day began with a gap down open-

ing as global market indicators were less than favorable. The lackluster data from the US, coupled with earnings downgrades by rating agencies for some companies, added to the negative sentiment. While sectors such

as auto, FMCG, and pharma showed some resilience, sectors like IT, media, metal, and realty saw mixed performances. The selling pressure pushed the Nifty to a loss of 242 points, ending at 22,555, significantly lower than the 200-day exponential moving average (DEMA).

The BSE Sensex opened at 74,893 and went on to touch an intraday low of 74,387 before peaking at 74,907. Eventually, it closed at 74,454, down 856 points from the previous session's close of 75,311. Meanwhile, the NSE Nifty started at 22,609, hitting a low of 22,518, and managed a high of 22,668 before closing at 22,555. The Nifty Bank, a key indicator of the banking sector's performance, fell 329 points to end at 48,561.

Out of the 50 stocks in the Nifty50 index, only 12 gained, while 38 experienced declines. Some of the top gainers included Mahindra & Mahindra, Dr. Reddy's, Eicher Motors, Hero MotoCorp, and Nestle India. On the other hand, major losers included Wipro, HCL Technologies, TCS, Infosys, and Bharti Airtel. While the Auto, FMCG, and pharma sectors posted slight

gains, the overall market breadth favored the sellers, with a significant number of stocks declining.

Market data revealed a clear dominance of selling pressure on the NSE, with 775 stocks advancing against 2,097 decliners. Notably, 20 stocks hit 52-week highs, while 214 touched 52-week lows. In terms of market movements, 82 stocks reached their upper circuit limits, and 177 stocks hit lower circuits.



MURTHY NAIDU PAADAM
Stock Market Analyst
+91 988 656 9709

The rupee closed flat at 86.70 against the US dollar. On the corporate front, notable developments included Adani Green Energy's launch of a 250 MW solar power project in Rajasthan, Rail Vikas Nigam's bid for a Rs 156.35 crore project in South Western Railway, and Bharti Airtel increasing its stake in Airtel Africa. India's crude oil imports reached an eight-month high in January, and economists are predicting a cut in the repo rate to 5.75% by mid-2025 due to ongoing growth concerns. Additionally, IRFC secured a bid to finance NTPC Renewables' Rs 7,500-crore project, while Varun Beverages and Power Finance Corporation saw notable trading volumes.

ICRA Predicts 7-8% Revenue Growth for India Inc in Q4

Domestic rating agency ICRA projected that Indian companies are likely to see a 7-8% revenue growth during the March quarter of the current fiscal year, driven by a revival in rural demand and increased government spending. However, the agency also highlighted that the private capital expenditure (capex) cycle is expected to remain subdued due to geopolitical uncertainties and a relatively weak outlook on merchandise exports from India.

ICRA noted that despite these challenges, certain sectors, particularly those receiving government support through production-linked incentive schemes, will continue to thrive. These include sunrise industries such as electronics, semiconductors, and electric vehicles (EVs), which are set to see increased investments. The agency further mentioned that the recovery in operating profit margins (OPM) for India Inc. observed in the past quarter is likely to be sustained, with expectations of margins staying between 18.2-18.4%. This growth will be support-



ed by rising demand, bolstered by improved consumer sentiments.

ICRA also emphasized the outlook for rural demand, which is expected to remain robust in the first half of CY2025. This will be supported by strong output from the kharif crops and a favorable forecast for the ongoing rabi season. However, the outlook for agriculture will depend on the arrival of a normal and well-distributed monsoon in 2025.

Urban demand, which has been weak in recent quarters, is anticipated to improve. This recovery will be driven by factors such as the significant income-tax relief in the Union Budget for 2025, monetary easing by the Reserve Bank of India, and expectations of a moderation in food inflation, which would aid discretionary consumption, according to Kinjal Shah, Senior Vice President and Co-Group Head of Corporate Ratings at ICRA.

Retail inflation eases slightly to 4.61% for farm workers, 4.73% for rural labourers

Inflation rates for agricultural and rural labourers in India have eased slightly, as the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) dropped in January 2025. According to the government data released on Monday, CPI-AL stood at 4.61 percent, while CPI-RL was recorded at 4.73 percent. These figures showed a decline from December 2024, when the inflation rates were 5.01 percent for CPI-AL and 5.05 percent for CPI-RL.



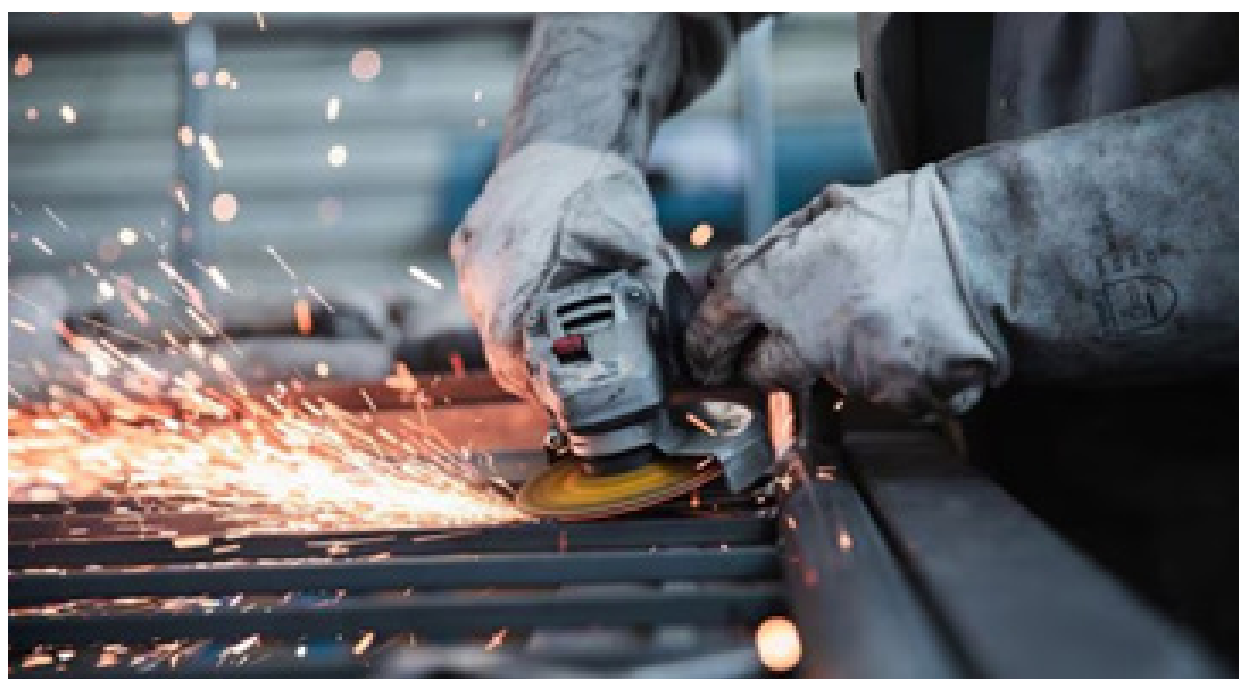
The All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) decreased by 4 points and 3 points, respectively, for January 2025, reaching 1,316 points and 1,328 points. In comparison, the CPI-AL and CPI-RL were at 1,320 points and 1,331 points, respectively, in December 2024.

In terms of year-on-year inflation, the figures for January 2025 showed a significant reduction in the inflation rates compared to the same month in the previous year. CPI-AL inflation fell from 7.52 percent in January 2024 to 4.61 percent in January 2025, while CPI-RL inflation dropped from 7.37 percent to 4.73 percent during the same period.

The CPI-AL and CPI-RL are important indicators of the cost of living for agricultural and rural workers in India, reflecting the price changes for essential goods and services. The decline in inflation is likely to bring some relief to these workers, as the cost of basic goods such as food, fuel, and household items has seen a slowdown in price increases.

The decrease in inflation also comes amid efforts by the government to control rising prices and ensure economic stability, particularly in rural areas where a large proportion of India's population depends on agriculture and manual labour for livelihood.

India's PMI Shows Strong Growth in February, Driven by Services Sector



India's private sector growth showed a notable uptick in February, as the Composite Flash Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 60.6, significantly higher than the previous month's reading of 57.7, according to an HSBC report. This increase follows three consecutive quarters of softening in the PMI, indicating a positive shift in the current quarter. The rise was primarily driven by a sharp acceleration in services sector activity, though the manufacturing sector also saw a healthy, albeit slower, expansion.

The report highlights that January and February data combined suggest that after a period of decline, the PMI composite index is likely to show an upward trend this quarter. The global restocking process continues to fuel India's new goods export orders, while a depreciation of the currency is expected to boost the country's rapidly growing services exports sector.

HSBC further noted that easing input prices have helped improve profit margins for businesses. Given the favorable economic indicators, the report anticipates a 25 basis point rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the upcoming April monetary policy meeting.

The flash PMI figures provide an early preview of the final manufacturing, services, and composite PMI data for the month. These flash readings, typically based on 80-90% of survey responses, are released about a week ahead of the final PMI figures, offering valuable insights into the health of India's economy.

Overall, the February PMI data suggests a positive outlook for the private sector, with growth momentum in both manufacturing and services continuing to strengthen.



Flying Car Worth Rs 2.5 Crore Rules The California Sky, Internet Say It 'Looks Fake'

Alef Aeronautics, a US-based company, has taken a major leap toward the future of transportation by releasing a video of its concept flying car, the Alef Model Zero, executing a vertical take-off. Priced at approximately \$300,000 (around Rs 2.6 crore), the futuristic vehicle has quickly gone viral, thanks to its impressive design and capabilities. In the video, the car is seen cruising down a California road before lifting off vertically and soaring over an SUV, creating a scene straight out of a science fiction movie.

The vehicle in the video is a special ultralight version of the Alef Model Zero. The test flight was conducted on a closed-off road for safety reasons. Powered by distributed electric propulsion with propeller blades hidden beneath the car, the vehicle successfully demonstrated its ability to transition from road travel to flight. Alef Aeronautics CEO Jim Dukhovny compared this breakthrough to the Wright Brothers' first flight, saying, "This drive and flight test represents an important proof of technology in a real-world city environment."

Alef Aeronautics is also working on a commercial version of the flying car, called the Alef Model A. This two-seat-

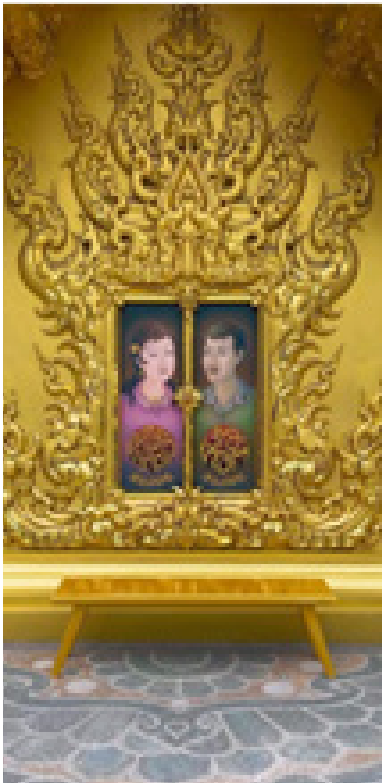
er vehicle is designed for both road and air travel and will feature a flying range of 110 miles and a driving range of 200 miles. Additionally, it will come equipped with autopilot flight capabilities. The company has already received 3,300 pre-orders for the electric flying car, signaling significant interest in the innovative vehicle.

The concept has sparked a flurry of reactions on social media, with users ex-

pressing excitement about the potential of flying cars. Some compared it to the animated series *The Jetsons*, while others raised concerns about safety and practicality. One user even warned, "Air traffic is going to be our next worry!" Despite these concerns, the Alef Model Zero has generated widespread attention, marking a significant step towards transforming transportation as we know it.



Lavish Washroom in Thailand Resembling a Palace Stuns Social Media Users



A lavishly designed washroom in Thailand has taken the internet by storm, leaving social media users in complete disbelief. The video, shared on Instagram by user Krishangi, has gone viral, capturing the extravagant design of the restroom.

The video opens with Krishangi saying, "I never thought I would make a video about a washroom, but today I could not stop myself. I mean look at this." The camera then pans to reveal a massive bathroom in cool tones, featuring intricate design details throughout. The sheer grandeur of the space is enough to astonish viewers, but what truly adds to its opulence is a garden outside the restroom,

further elevating its luxurious atmosphere.

Since being posted, the video has amassed over 4 million views and garnered more than 62,000 likes. The stunning visuals have led to an outpouring of amazement in the comments section, with many users expressing their astonishment at the level of detail and luxury in the washroom's construction.

One user commented, "Such a royal washroom!!!!!! Man, I want to go here, dress up nicely, and take so many pictures outside. The design on this is so beautiful, I am mesmerized." Another user jokingly wrote, "I'm going to sleep there no matter who says what. That's a whole palace."

Some users even shared background information about the washroom's location. One Instagram user revealed, "This (Wat Rong Khun) is in the Wat Rong Khun, which is popularly known as the White Temple of North Thailand's Chiang Rai. Had the opportunity to meet the owner Chalermchai in a programme."

The video continues to capture the attention of viewers around the world, with many commenting on how "amazing" and "beautiful" the washroom is. Others simply expressed awe at the opportunity to witness such a luxurious space. This viral post has shown just how far design innovation can go, even for something as everyday as a bathroom.

Japanese Police Academy Introduces Makeup Training for Male Cadets



A police academy in Japan has introduced a unique course teaching male cadets the basics of makeup application, which has garnered significant attention. In January, 60 police cadets, including those nearing graduation, started a beauty training program at the Fukushima Prefecture Keisatsugakko, a police academy in Fukushima Prefecture. The initiative quickly became a topic of online discussion.

The course focuses on essential beauty techniques such as applying primers, moisturising the skin, using eyebrow pencils, styling hair, and trimming eyebrows. To ensure a professional approach, the academy partnered with Shiseido, a leading Japanese cosmetics brand, for the training.

According to Takeshi Sugiura, the vice-principal of the academy, the goal is for police officers to maintain a clean and professional appearance as they frequently interact with the public. He explained that "as both members of society and future police officers, maintaining a proper appearance is crucial."

One of the male cadets who

participated in the course expressed his thoughts, saying, "I have never worn makeup before. I believe that being a police officer means often being in the public eye, so I want to ensure that I present myself well before going to work."

The introduction of the makeup training course has sparked mixed reactions on Japanese social media. Some users joked about the initiative, with one commenting, "Now they can throw loose powder into the suspects' eyes to catch them!" while others supported the idea, saying, "This may seem absurd, but isn't it a good idea for both men and women to take the make-up course?"

Traditionally, police academies in Japan have focused on legal and physical training, but the introduction of beauty courses is seen as a move to encourage more polite and courteous interactions with the public. In addition to Fukushima, a similar program is also being implemented at a police academy in Yamaguchi, where male cadets are even taught proper facial cleansing techniques.

Chinese Influencer Gu Xixi Earns ₹35 Lakh in One Day by Lying in Bed



following, made it clear that she doesn't just aim to earn a few hundred thousand yuan monthly. Her goal is far more ambitious: earning that much every single day. "It is not about earning hundreds of thousands of yuan per month; it is about earning hundreds of thousands of yuan per day. Understand?" she added.

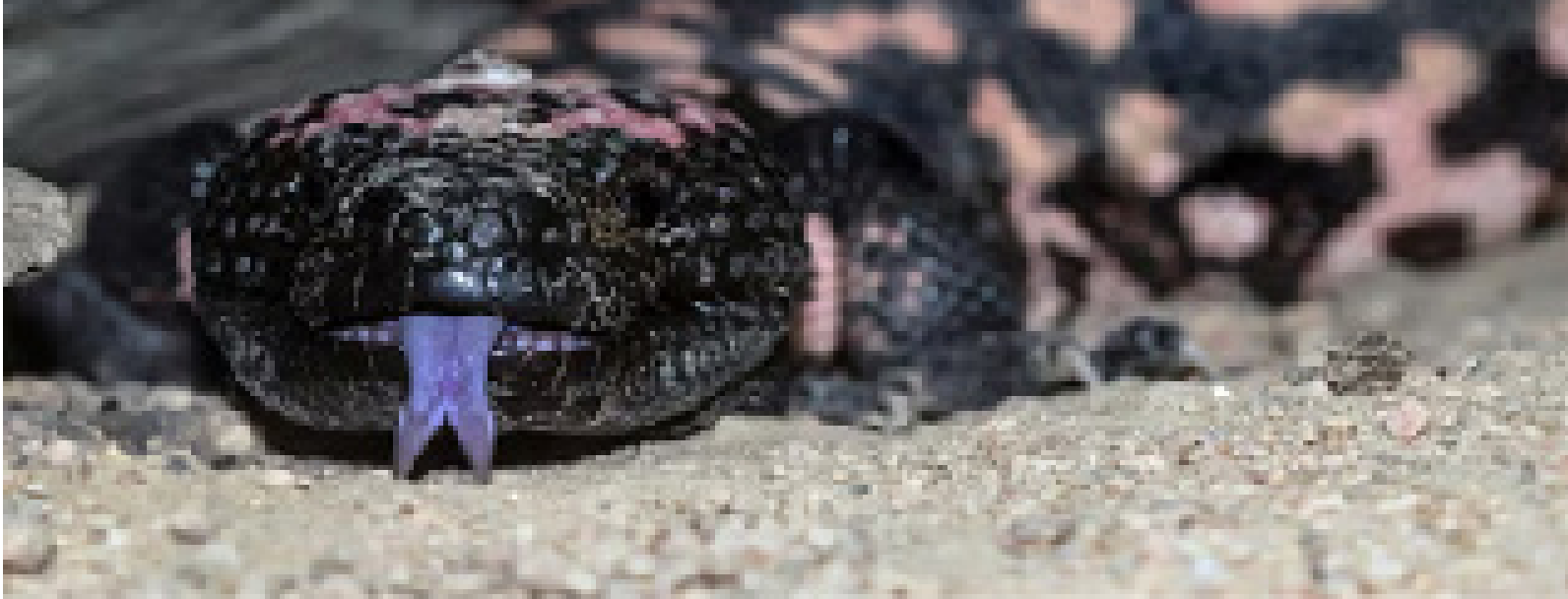
Chinese influencer Gu Xixi is making waves after revealing that she earned a staggering 3.03 lakh yuan (approximately Rs 35 Lakh) in a single day—all by simply lying in bed.

The 25-year-old influencer, who operates a shop on Douyin (the Chinese equivalent of TikTok), shared the details of her impressive earnings between February 8 and 16. Over that period, Xixi raked in a total of 1.039 crore yuan (approximately Rs 12 Crore) on one platform, with a commission of around 27.9 lakh yuan (approximately Rs 3 Crore). On another platform, her sales reached 89.4 lakh yuan within a week.

In a recent live stream, Xixi described her earnings as "hard-earned" and revealed an interesting twist—she claimed that the more people criticize her, the more money she makes. "Today, I spent the entire day lying in bed, did nothing, and still made 11.6 lakh yuan in sales on my Douyin shop, with an estimated commission of 3.03 lakh yuan," she said. "The more you cannot stand seeing me doing well and the more you criticize me, the more I make." Xixi, who has amassed a large

Her unorthodox approach to business and success has garnered both admiration and criticism. While some are impressed by her entrepreneurial skills, others argue that such claims perpetuate unrealistic expectations. Regardless, Gu Xixi's rise in the influencer world demonstrates the growing power of social media platforms, where individuals can generate enormous income with innovative approaches.

Ozempic: How The Venom Of A Lizard Paved Way For Popular Diabetes Drug



The venom of the Gila monster, a lizard known for its toxic bite, has led to groundbreaking discoveries in medicine, particularly in the development of GLP-1 agonists like Ozempic and Wegovy, used for treating diabetes and obesity. Science Alert reports that while the Gila monster's venom is dangerous, it contains vital components that have led to life-changing treatments.

At the turn of the 20th century, endocrinologist Daniel Drucker sought a hormone that could mimic the appetite-suppressing and blood sugar-regulating effects of human GLP-1, but without breaking down too quickly. His research led him to endocrinologists John Eng and Jean-Pierre Raufman, along with biochemist John Pisano, who discovered

proteins in Gila monster venom that resembled human GLP-1.

Drucker and his team obtained a Gila monster from a zoo breeding program to investigate further. Their findings revealed that the venom of the Gila monster contained Exendin-4, a protein similar to GLP-1 but more stable in the body. This discovery eventually led to a synthetic version of the protein, which became an FDA-approved treatment for type 2 diabetes in 2005. The same compound has since been used for obesity management. The Gila monster is not the only animal to inspire medical advancements. Lisinopril, one of the world's top-selling drugs for heart failure and hypertension, originates from the venom of the Brazilian viper. Similarly, the Caribbean sea sponge

produces nucleosides that led to the chemotherapy drug cytarabine, which effectively treats leukemia and lymphoma.

Even scorpion venom has been used for cancer treatment. In 2004, oncologist Jim Olson discovered chlorotoxin, a peptide from the deathstalker scorpion, which specifically targets brain tumor cells. This discovery led to the development of Tozuleristide, a fluorescent dye that illuminates cancerous cells during surgery. These discoveries highlight the invaluable contributions of nature's most dangerous substances to modern medicine. However, as we continue to unlock these medical marvels, it is vital to protect the biodiversity that makes such life-saving innovations possible.

Virat Kohli: King of the Chase, Marks Milestone in India's Win Over Pakistan



In a thrilling India vs Pakistan Champions Trophy match on Sunday, Virat Kohli led India to a six-wicket victory with a brilliant 100* off 111 balls. His knock, which included only seven fours, was marked by intelligent running between the wickets, focusing on quick singles and doubles. The win nearly secured India's spot in the semifinals while pushing Pakistan to the brink of elimination. Kohli's performance was not just about the match-winning hundred. He also crossed a major milestone, becoming only the second Indian and third overall to reach 14,000 ODI runs. He achieved the feat in just 287 innings, faster than both Sachin Tendulkar and Kumar Sangakkara, who took more in-

nings to reach the mark. Kohli's remarkable consistency has made him the fastest to 13,000 and 14,000 ODI runs. Reflecting on his approach, Kohli explained his game plan—taking on pacers and being cautious against spinners. He credited his teammates, including Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, and Shreyas Iyer, for their contributions. Kohli also set a record for the most catches by an Indian fielder, surpassing Mohammad Azharuddin with his 158th catch during Pakistan's innings. As Kohli's form continues to shine, his impact on Indian cricket remains invaluable.

Ahlawat Struggles in Kenya Open, Benzema Shines in Saudi Pro League



Veer Ahlawat had a challenging third round at the Kenya Open, carding an 8-over 79 to slip to T-67 on the leaderboard. The Indian golfer's round included a nightmare 11 on the par-5 seventh hole, as well as four bogeys and just two birdies. Ahlawat had earlier posted rounds of 70 and 72. South Africa's Jacques Kruyswijk took the lead with a 7-under round, moving one stroke ahead as he aims for his first DP World Tour title. In France, Indian Grandmaster P Niyan finished as runner-up at the 41st Cappelle La Grande International Open Tournament. Niyan scored 7.5 points, including

six wins and three draws, but lost in the tie-breaks to French IM Mahel, who emerged victorious after nine rounds. Meanwhile, in Riyadh, former France striker Karim Benzema helped Al-Ittihad secure a dominant 4-1 win over Al-Hilal in the Saudi Pro League. Benzema sealed the win with a stunning goal, extending Ittihad's lead to seven points, while also continuing his strong scoring form with 16 goals in the league. Lastly, cricket legend Ian Chappell retired from journalism after five decades, marking the end of an era of insightful writings and stories from his playing days.

Barcelona Reclaims Top Spot with 2-0 Win Over Las Palmas



Barcelona secured a vital 2-0 win against Las Palmas on Saturday, returning to the top of the LaLiga table. Dani Olmo and Ferran Torres came off the bench to seal the victory, which sent Barca back to the summit with 54 points, tied with Real Madrid and one ahead of Atletico Madrid. The match was a dull affair for much of its duration, with both teams struggling to create meaningful chances. Barcelona finally broke the deadlock in the

62nd minute when Olmo scored from inside the box. Torres added a second in added time, capitalizing on a defensive error by Las Palmas to score from close range. Olmo expressed his satisfaction after the match, acknowledging the importance of the three points in the title race. "We had to be patient," he said. "Las Palmas defended very well, and in the second half, we found more chances and secured the win."

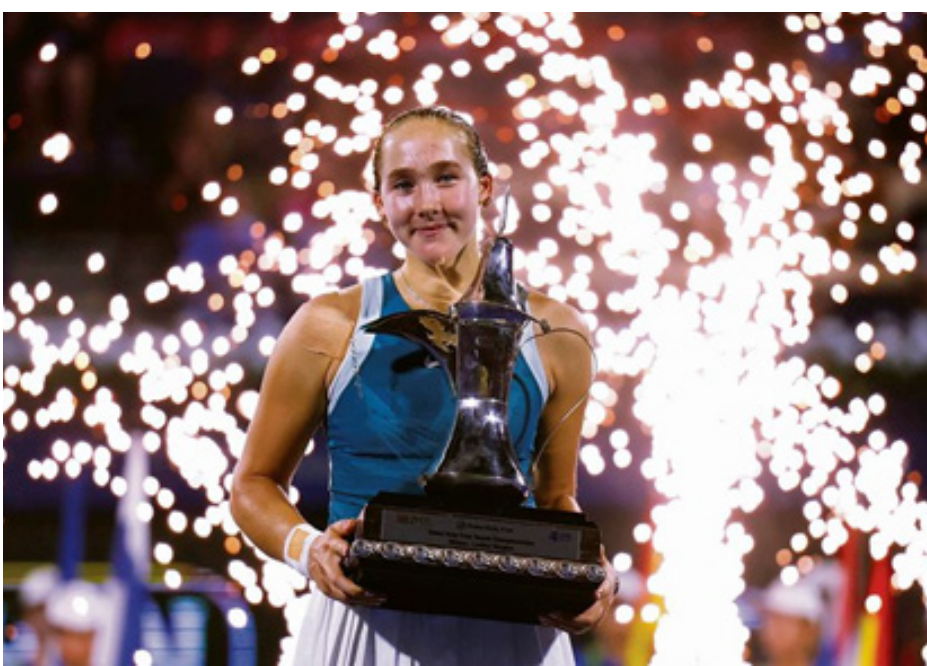
SFI Announces 2025 National Surfing and Stand-Up Paddle Event Calendar



The Surfing Federation of India (SFI) has revealed its 2025 National Surfing and Stand-Up Paddle (SUP) Event Calendar, aiming to further elevate the country's position in global surfing. After a historic 2024, where India secured its first-ever quotas for the 2026 Asian Games in Japan, the SFI is focusing on increasing ocean time and competitive exposure for the nation's top surfers. The 2025 calendar includes nine national-level events across Surfing and SUP, with competitions scheduled across key coastal regions to enhance training and provide valuable experience for Indian athletes. The season kicks off in February with the Varkala Surfing Championship in Kerala, followed by the Indian Open of

Surfing in May. The East Coast Pro Tour will feature stops in Pondicherry, Mahabalipuram, and Covelong in August, while SUP events will be held in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala throughout the year. SFI President Arun Vasu emphasized that these events are crucial for maintaining momentum from India's impressive international performances, including a 5th-place ranking in Asia. The support from local governments and international partners is key to India's rapid progress in the sport. India's surf scene continues to gain global recognition, with upcoming international events and growing support from the International Surfing Association.

Mirra Andreeva Clinches Dubai Championship Title



Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva claimed the biggest title of her career on Saturday, defeating Clara Tauson 7-6(1) 6-1 in the Dubai Championships final. The win will propel Andreeva into the top-10 of the WTA rankings for the first time in her career next week, making her the youngest player to achieve this feat since Nicole Pietrangeli in 2007. It was a remarkable week for the 17-year-old, who had previously secured impres-

sive victories over 2023 Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova, five-time Major winner Iga Swiatek, and 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina. With this achievement, Andreeva becomes the youngest player to defeat three Major champions at a single event since Maria Sharapova's 2004 WTA Finals performance. Andreeva's strong performance throughout the tournament signals the rise of a promising talent in women's tennis.

Savita Punia Reaches 300 International Caps; Hockey India Extends Congratulations

Indian women's hockey team goalkeeper Savita Punia achieved a remarkable milestone on Monday, earning her 300th international cap during India's match against the Netherlands in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 at Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. This achievement places her in an elite club, alongside Vandana Katariya as only the second Indian woman to reach this milestone. Savita is also the second In-

dian goalkeeper, after PR Sreejesh, to achieve this feat. Savita, who made her senior debut at 20, has been a cornerstone of Indian hockey, playing a crucial role in the team's historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Olympics and in other key tournaments, including the 2016 Rio Olympics and the 2018 World Cup. She has captained India to significant successes, including a bronze medal at the 2022 Common-

wealth Games and back-to-back golds in the Women's Asian Champions Trophy (2023-2024). Honored with the Arjuna Award and multiple FIH Goalkeeper of the Year awards, Savita expressed gratitude for her journey. Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey and Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh both lauded her leadership and dedication, celebrating her as a source of inspiration for aspiring athletes.





'Hari Hara Veeramallu' Second Song Released: A Mass Beat That Will Win Fans' Hearts!



The makers of Hari Hara Veeramallu have released the second song from the film, titled "Kollagottinadhiro," just ahead of its theatrical release on March 28. This energetic track has already become a sensation among fans, thanks to its vibrant mass beat and catchy lyrics. Pawan Kalyan, who stars as the titular character, is shown in all his glory in this song, which praises the valiant heroism of the character Hari Hara Veeramallu. The song is composed by the Oscar-winning music director MM Keeravani, with lyrics by Chandrabose. Singers Mangli, Rahul Sipligunj, Ramya Behara, and Yamini Ghantasala have given life to this energetic anthem. Directed by Krish Jagar-

mudi and produced under the Mega Surya Productions banner, the film also stars Nidhi Agerwal as the lead actress, with Bollywood stars Bobby Deol, Nargis Fakhri, and Nora Fatehi playing key roles. Hari Hara Veeramallu promises to be an epic historical action film, and with Pawan Kalyan's powerful performance, it is set to create a storm in theaters worldwide. Directed originally by Krish, the film had a major shift in direction when Krish stepped down from the project midway, and Jyothi Krishna, the son of producer A.M. Rathnam, took over. Fans are eagerly awaiting the film's release, with anticipation building over this high-budget spectacle.

"Partners": Malayalam Movie Gaining Popularity on OTT!



Partners, a Malayalam film, is currently creating a buzz on OTT platforms. The movie, which was initially released in theaters on July 5 last year, is now streaming on the Saina Play OTT platform since January 31, and it has been receiving remarkable feedback from viewers. Directed by Naveen John and produced by Dinesh, Partners revolves around a fake bank and the intriguing events surrounding it. The story follows a protagonist who starts working as a cashier in a small private bank. As he observes the bank's operations, he begins

to suspect something unusual. His suspicions grow when he realizes that everyone working at the bank has a criminal record, and he uncovers that the bank itself is a fraudulent operation. The film features performances by Dhyana Srinivasan, Sanju Sivaram, Kalabhavan Shajon, and Rony David Raj in pivotal roles, with music composed by Prakash Alex. While the film initially received positive responses in theaters, its content has found a strong audience on OTT platforms, bringing in more attention.

'HIT-3' Teaser Released: Nani as a Fierce Mass Cop!



On the occasion of Natural Star Nani's birthday today, the makers of HIT-3 released the highly anticipated teaser of the

film. The teaser, packed with unexpected shocks, has already left viewers excited and curious for more.

In this crime thriller, Nani is seen in the role of a tough, mass police officer, Arjun Sarkar. The teaser hints at a series of shocking murders in Srinagar and how the police officer investigates and solves these gruesome crimes. Nani's intense and powerful performance as a no-nonsense cop adds a gripping element to the teaser.

The visuals of HIT-3 are spine-chilling, with Mickey J. Meyer's background score taking the intensity to another level. Although a

few key characters like Rao Ramesh are revealed, the teaser deliberately keeps other important roles under wraps, building suspense.

The film, set to release on May 1, also stars Sreevidya Shetty alongside Nani. Directed by Sailesh Kolanu, the film promises to deliver a violent, edge-of-the-seat narrative, continuing the HIT Universe saga. After Nani's Dasara, HIT-3 seems to take the visuals to a whole new, thrilling level. Fans are eagerly awaiting this action-packed thriller.

Katrina Kaif Visits Maha Kumbh 2025 with Mother-in-Law Veena Kaushal



Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif visited the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj with her mother-in-law, Veena Kaushal, making a spiritual journey to the sacred event. Katrina, dressed in a powder pink Indian attire, was seen interacting with spiritual leaders Swami Chidanand Saraswati and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati. Photos from her visit have gone viral, showcasing her connection with the event.

Parmarth Niketan, a spiritual ashram led by Pujya Swami Chidanand, shared a tweet highlighting Katrina's presence at the Maha Kumbh. The tweet emphasized how her visit blended spirituality with entertainment, inspiring youth to recon-

nect with their roots.

Katrina Kaif is among several Bollywood personalities who visited the Maha Kumbh, including Akshay Kumar, Sonali Bendre, Vidhut Jambwal, and Vicky Kaushal, her husband. These stars participated in the holy dip, adding to the spiritual significance of the event.

In related news, Katrina recently praised her husband Vicky Kaushal's performance in Chhaava. She lauded his portrayal of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, calling him "outstanding" and sharing her admiration for the film's brilliance. Katrina also congratulated the entire team, including director Laxman Utekar, for their efforts.

IIFA Digital Awards 2025: Celebrating Digital Cinema and Creativity



The International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) is set to mark a special milestone in 2025, celebrating 25 years of showcasing Indian cinema globally. This year, IIFA introduces a new highlight—the Sobha Realty Presents IIFA Digital Awards, Co-Presented by NEXA, a unique addition to the iconic event. The awards, which will take place in Jaipur, Rajasthan, aim to recognize the rapidly growing world of digital and OTT entertainment, shining a spotlight on talented storytellers who are shaping the future of

cinema.

Scheduled for March 8, the Sobha Realty IIFA Digital Awards will honor the best in digital content across various categories, including Best Film, Best Series, Best Performance in a Leading Role (Male & Female), Best Director, Best Reality or Non-Scripted Series, Best Docuseries/DocuFilm, and Best Music/Soundtrack. These awards will celebrate the creativity and innovation that define digital entertainment and its growing impact on the entertainment industry.

The event will be hosted by Vijay Varma, Abhishek Banerjee, and Aparshakti Khurana, ensuring an engaging atmosphere throughout the evening. Performances by music legends like Sachin-Jigar, Shreya Ghoshal, and Mika Singh will add to the excitement.

The nominations for the IIFA Digital Awards are out, with Panchayat leading with 10 nominations, followed by Amar Singh Chamkila and Heeramandi, each receiving 6 nods.

Chiranjeevi Celebrates India's Win with Cricketers Tilak Varma and Abhishek Sharma

Chiranjeevi took to Instagram to share a few pictures and glimpses from the high-energy India vs Pakistan Champions Trophy match that took place on Sunday, where India registered a stunning six-wicket victory over arch-rivals Pakistan. The match was especially thrilling as Virat Kohli scored his 51st ODI ton, guiding India to a remarkable win in Dubai.

In the pictures, Chiranjeevi can be seen interacting with fans and posing for a selfie with Indian cricketers Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma. GMR Chairman Srinivas Bommidala and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur also made appearances in the photos. The megastar's excite-

ment was palpable, as he expressed his joy at witnessing the spectacular match live.

Chiranjeevi wrote on Instagram, "Hurrahhhhhh!!! India spectacularly triumphs over Pakistan!!! What a match!!!! Kudos to the Entire Team!!! Such a treat to watch the fireworks from the SENSATIONAL Virat Kohli. Bravo, Shreyas Iyer, Shubman Gill, Kuldeep Yadav & Captain Rohit Sharma and the entire team!!!"

He added, "It's been Absolutely Electrifying watching this Super Thrilling match Live with some dear friends Anurag Singh Thakur, Bommidala GMR, & young cricketer Tilak Varma among others!!! More power to India!!! Jai Hind!!!"

