

POINT

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Weather Forecast

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



FOREST NEEDS SERIOUS CONCERN



Andhra Pradesh's forest area has shrunk by nearly 140 square kilometers.

Timber mafia, encroachment, and insufficient staffing are blamed for the crisis.

Significant forest loss in the Rajahmundry Circle, with 138.66 square kilometers of forest land gone.

Rampachodavaram and Addathigala divisions face notable declines in forest cover.

Allegations point to timber mafia, land grabbers, and some forest officials as contributors.

Forest officials accused of indifference and failure to take action against illegal activities.

365 vacant positions in the Rajahmundry Circle hinder forest protection efforts.

Calls for Forest Minister Pawan Kalyan to address the crisis and take stronger action.

Locals and environmentalists urge the government to prioritize forest protection and strengthen the forest department.

TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, Feb 04

The India State of Forest Report 2022-24 has revealed alarming figures regarding the decreasing forest area in Andhra Pradesh. The report indicates that, within the Rajahmundry Forest Circle alone, approximately 138.66 square kilometers of forest land and 46 square kilometers of tree area have vanished. Statewide, Andhra Pradesh's forest area decreased from 30,223.62 square kilometers in 2022 to 30,084.96 square kilometers in 2024, while tree area also declined from 35,470.98 to 35,424.98 square kilometers in the same period. The primary causes of this shrinkage are attributed to the timber mafia and

encroachers. Local residents and activists have expressed concerns that some forest officials are either complicit in or turning a blind eye to the illegal activities of these groups. Reports suggest that illegal logging in areas such as Gokavaram has surged significantly, with the number of vans transporting timber increasing from three to thirty. In addition to the corruption allegations, the shortage of personnel in the Forest Department has also been highlighted as a significant factor contributing to the problem. Of the 864 positions sanctioned for the Rajahmundry circle, only 499 are filled, leaving 365 vacancies. Key positions such as Forest Range Officers (FRO) and Assistant Beat Officers (ABO) remain unstaffed,

hindering effective monitoring and patrolling. Chief Forest Conservator for the Rajahmundry Circle, BVN Murthy, acknowledged the staff shortages but emphasized that efforts to combat illegal timber trafficking would be intensified. However, he also pointed out that the lack of vehicles for patrolling remains a critical issue, with many of the current vehicles dating back to 2009. With the situation growing dire, locals and environmental advocates are calling on Forest Minister Pawan Kalyan to intervene and address the growing threats to the state's forests. The question remains: will the minister take action to stop the exploitation of Andhra Pradesh's valuable forest resources?



CM Naidu Emphasizes India's Global Recognition Growing

- CM Naidu Emphasizes India's Global Presence, Especially in AI Technology.
- India to become a developed nation by 2047 with a focus on infrastructure and reforms.
- CM responds to criticism over Andhra Pradesh's exclusion from the central budget.

TPN Correspondent New Delhi, Feb 04

In a media conference held in Delhi, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu highlighted India's rising prominence on the world stage, particularly in the fields of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Reflecting on his recent visit to Davos, he noted that while IT had previously garnered international attention, AI is now the focus. "India is ahead in AI technology, and our country's name is being heard globally," he said, expressing confidence that India will become a developed nation by 2047. CM Chandrababu emphasized that significant budget allocations have been made to align with the vision of "Vikasit Bharat," with a priority on infrastructure development. He also mentioned tax reforms and AP's pioneering efforts in electricity sector reforms. Highlighting the MSME policy as a game changer, he assured that

these efforts would attract substantial investments, fostering growth and innovation.

Addressing political concerns, CM Chandrababu urged for a shift towards inclusive growth. He criticized the current political environment in Delhi, citing air and political pollution as barriers to development. He advocated for voting for the BJP, asserting that a victory in Delhi would mark a turning point for the country's progress. On the topic of the central budget, the CM responded to criticism over AP's exclusion, stating that despite not being mentioned by name, the state received adequate funding for various schemes. He assured that AP would maximize benefits from new central initiatives, while also stressing that the state suffered more during the previous YSRCP regime than during bifurcation. He reaffirmed that the state will seek additional funds from the Finance Commission for its recovery and development.

Focus on Improving Quality in Engineering Education, Says Minister Lokesh

TPN Correspondent Andhra Pradesh, Feb 04

Andhra Pradesh State Education, IT, and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh emphasized the need for improving the quality of engineering education during a meeting with the Engineering Colleges Management Association at his residence in Undavalli. Lokesh acknowledged the issues raised by the management representatives and urged colleges to prioritize enhancing educational standards. He noted that the education system had weakened under previous administrations and that his government aims to bring transformation starting from primary education. He also highlighted the lack of reforms in intermediate education over the past decade, which his ministry has begun addressing. The minister assured that his government's approach would be consultative, with no unilateral decisions on policy changes. He stated that Rs. 571.96 crores of the Rs. 788 crores allocated for RTF scholarships had already been released, and the remaining

funds would be disbursed shortly. Lokesh encouraged colleges to focus on improving their National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) positions, engage in research and development (R&D), and foster innovations. He also requested that colleges provide the government with regular updates on student placements. Engineering college representatives brought up several concerns, including the timely release of fee reimbursement funds in line with the academic calendar, as well as a revision of current fee structures to make them more affordable. They also requested the release of the EAMCET schedule and the implementation of a three-counseling system for the entrance exam. Additionally, they suggested organizing job fairs at the state level, reviving the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR) in the state, and introducing micro-certification aligned with the National Credit and Quality Framework (NCQF). Lokesh assured that reforms would be implemented following consultations after the MLC election code ends.



Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Announces Good News for AP

₹9,417 Crores Allocated for Railway Development in AP

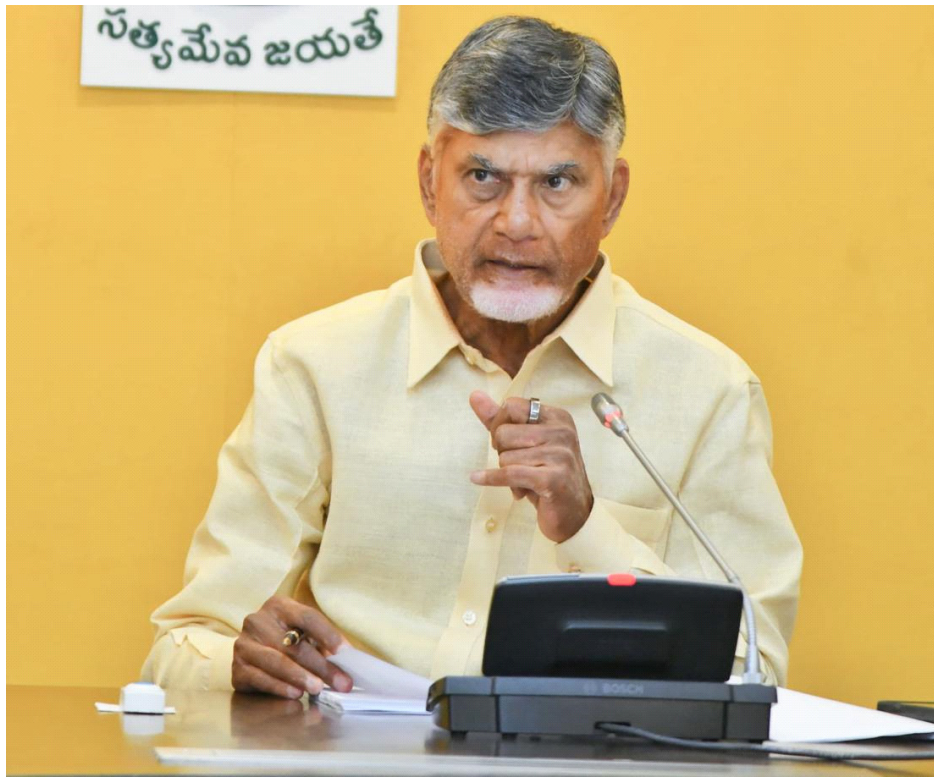
TPN Correspondent New Delhi, Feb 04

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently announced significant updates in the central budget for railway projects in the Telugu states.

“Continuous Opinion Gathering for Proper Implementation of Govt Schemes”

- CM Chandrababu emphasizes no tolerance for laxity, corruption, or negligence in scheme implementation.
- Continuous feedback from beneficiaries to improve government schemes.
- Review of survey results on various welfare programs.

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 04



CM Chandrababu Naidu reviewed the results of ongoing surveys and feedback collected from beneficiaries regarding the implementation of various government schemes. The Chief Minister stressed the importance of ensuring that there is no laxity, corruption, or negligence in the execution of these schemes. He specifically directed officials to act on the feedback from the public and make necessary improvements where required. During the review at the Secretariat, CM Chandrababu examined reports gathered through diverse methods, including IVRS and QR code scanning, on key programs such as pension distribution, Anna canteens,

fertilizer supply, medical services in government hospitals, and travel in RTC buses. He emphasized the need to thoroughly investigate complaints, especially when beneficiaries express dissatisfaction with the services provided. The CM highlighted specific concerns, such as delays in pension delivery, issues with free gas cylinder distribution under the Deepam scheme, corruption, and dissatisfaction with hospital services. He instructed the concerned officials to address each issue promptly, identifying the root causes and taking corrective mea-

asures where necessary. CM Chandrababu reiterated that individual errors or system inefficiencies should be addressed, but negligence and corruption by employees would not be tolerated. The Chief Minister also pointed out that gas agencies should be held accountable if there is any corruption in the distribution of gas cylinders. By focusing on continuous feedback and swift corrective actions, CM Chandrababu underscored the government's commitment to improving the lives of beneficiaries and ensuring the success of its welfare programs.

Minister Nara Lokesh Extends Support to Private Schools



- Nara Lokesh announces a Extension of ten-year recognition period for private schools.
- Promises to address concerns regarding the operation and regulation of private schools.

TPN Correspondent
Undavalli, Feb 04

Andhra Pradesh State Education Minister Nara Lokesh has extended a significant relief to private schools in Andhra Pradesh by announcing that the recognition period for private schools will be increased to ten years. Minister Lokesh met with representatives from various private school associations and owners at his residence in Undavalli on Monday and assured them that the issues faced by private school owners would be resolved. In his address, Minister Lokesh emphasized the coalition government's commitment to strengthening the education system in the state. He acknowledged that many students had moved to private schools due to the inefficiency of the previous government and assured that reforms introduced by the current government would uplift the education sector. "We are moving forward by taking everyone's opinions into account and focusing on strengthening both private and government ed-

ucation systems," he said. The private school representatives raised several issues, including the need to increase the recognition period of private schools, implement a Campus Protection Act, and facilitate the granting of fire certificates, structural NOCs, and sanitation certificates. They also requested that private school teachers be allowed to undergo DLED courses, that private school buses be given a two-year extension, and that Telugu medium schools be converted to English medium. Other demands included financial support for budget schools, talent awards for students in private schools, and opportunities for private school teachers to participate in training classes and sports activities. Lokesh assured that these issues would be thoroughly examined and appropriate steps would be taken. The meeting was attended by MLCs Paruchuri Ashok Babu, Kancharla Srikanth, Bhumireddy Ramgopal Reddy, Vepada Chiranjeevi, along with representatives from private schools across the state.



Central Home Ministry Urges AP and Telangana to Resolve Bifurcation Issues Cooperatively

Central Govt Clarifies Stance on Fund Distribution and Infrastructure Support
TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Feb 04

Central Home Secretary Govind Mohan met with officials from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to address unresolved bifurcation issues that have persisted for over a decade. The meeting, which focused on the distribution of assets and liabilities of institutions under Schedules 9 and 10 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, brought forward key suggestions from the Central Home Ministry. The Home Ministry emphasized that both states should work in coordination to resolve these issues, with a cooperative approach being crucial for the smooth implementation of the bifurcation provisions. It was noted that the central government would continue supporting infrastructure projects in both states. However, the Ministry urged that excessive insistence on fund distribution could lead to adverse consequences for both states. Govind Mohan also advised that legal counsel be sought to address matters related to the institutions listed in Schedules 9 and 10, stressing the importance of a legal framework to resolve such disputes. The Home Ministry indicated that no final decisions would be made in the upcoming meeting, urging both states to continue their discussions constructively. The meeting underscores the need for a unified approach in dealing with the remaining bifurcation issues, with both the central government and the Telugu states playing a key role in resolving them.

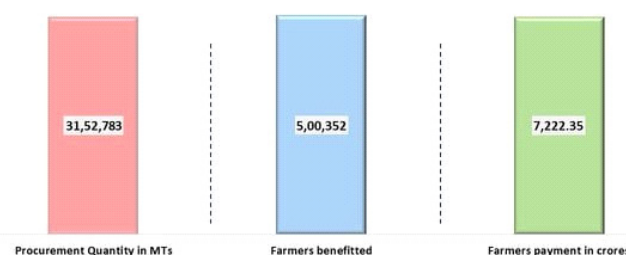
Govt Delivers Strong Support to Farmers - Minister Nadendla

- Rs. 7,222.35 crore paid for the procurement of 31.5 lakh metric tonnes of paddy.
- Over 5 lakh farmers benefited from the procurement program.
- Minister Nadendla hails CM Naidu and Dy CM Pawan Kalyan for their commitment to farmers' welfare.

TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 04

Andhra Pradesh State Food and Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar praised the coalition government's efforts to support farmers, emphasizing the significant progress made since coming to power in the state. He highlighted that, in the 2024-25 Kharif season, the Civil Supplies Department successfully procured 31,52,753 metric tonnes of paddy, disbursing Rs. 7,222.35 crores to farmers. Minister Nadendla shared that a total of 5,00,352 farmers benefited from this initiative, underscoring the government's dedication to addressing the needs of the agricultural community. He tweeted, "This is a great achievement for our government. This is an example of how Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan are continuously thinking about the welfare of farmers." Nadendla also shared a graph illustrating the scale of grain procurement, reinforcing the coalition government's commitment to supporting the state's farmers.

Kharif 2024-25 paddy procurement
as of 02/02/2025



Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav Announces Good News for AP

Continued from page 1

He revealed that Andhra Pradesh has received a remarkable Rs. 9,417 crores for railway development, a substantial increase from the UPA era. The state is currently undergoing railway projects worth Rs. 84,559 crores, including the development of 73 stations and 1,560 kilometers of railway tracks, with 100% electrification already completed. Minister Vaishnav highlighted the success of Vande Bharat trains in the region, with 8 such trains currently operating in Andhra Pradesh, connecting 16 districts. He assured that more Vande Bharat trains would be added to the state in the future. He also mentioned the introduction of Nammo Bharat and Amrit Bharat trains, aimed at providing

better connectivity at affordable prices. For Telangana, Vaishnav outlined an allocation of Rs. 5,337 crores, a significant increase from the previous UPA allocation of Rs. 886 crores. The state is set to benefit from projects worth Rs. 41,677 crores, including the ambitious Kavach project, which will be operational within the next 6-7 months. He also noted that Telangana's railway lines are now fully electrified. The Minister further revealed plans to increase train speeds, with tracks being prepared for speeds of 110 km/h to 160 km/h across the country. Vaishnav thanked CM Chandrababu Naidu for his cooperation in advancing railway development in Andhra Pradesh and promised further improvements in the sector.

Actor Sonu Sood Donates Four Specially Designed Ambulances to AP Govt



TPN Correspondent
Amaravati, Feb 04

Film actor and philanthropist Sonu Sood made a significant contribution to healthcare in Andhra Pradesh by donating four specially designed ambulances to the state government. Sonu Sood, the founder of the Sood Charity Foundation, met with Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the AP Secretariat in Amaravati on Monday to hand over the ambulances. During the meeting, CM Chandrababu praised Sonu Sood for his generous contribution and emphasized that his government remains committed to improving healthcare facilities across the state. The Chief Minister thanked the

Sood Charity Foundation for partnering in the initiative to enhance emergency medical services in the region. "We will continue to prioritize providing basic healthcare facilities to the people of Andhra Pradesh," CM Chandrababu assured. In recognition of his philanthropic efforts, CM Chandrababu honored Sonu Sood with a shawl. The two leaders engaged in a brief discussion on further initiatives to strengthen the healthcare system in the state. The ambulances donated by Sonu Sood are equipped with advanced features, making them more than just regular ambulances. These specially designed vehicles aim to provide better emergency medical services to those in need.

Janasena Urges for Repatriation of AP Employees from Telangana

TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 04

Jana Sena Central Andhra Convenor Badita Shankar, along with NLTA employees, submitted a formal petition to Andhra Pradesh Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh, urging him to facilitate the repatriation of 860 non-gazett-

ed employees who have been working in Telangana since the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh in 2014. The employees, who have spent years working in Telangana, voiced their concerns that due to their continued posting in the neighboring state, they are losing their rightful reservations and locality benefits under the Andhra Pradesh gov-

ernment. These employees, originally from AP, expressed a strong desire to return to their home state and resume work under the state's policies. Minister Kandula Durgesh acknowledged the issue raised by the employees and assured them that he would soon discuss the matter with Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan to find a solution.

Alliance Leaders Urged to Work for MLC Candidate Alapati's Victory



- Minister Gottipati urges alliance leaders to work for Alapati Raja's success.
- Minister criticizes YSRCP for taking the state back 20 years.
- Key welfare programs post-election code, including free bus for women and Annadata Sukhibhava.

TPN Correspondent
Palnadu, Feb 04

At a preparatory meeting in Narasaraopet, Palnadu district, Power Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar urged alliance leaders to work together for the success of MLC candidate Alapati Rajendra Prasad in the upcoming Patta-

bhadra elections. The meeting, attended by local MLAs, MLCs, and coalition leaders, discussed strategies to secure a win for the candidate. Minister Gottipati highlighted several initiatives implemented by the coalition government, including providing the highest

welfare pensions in the country, funding for road construction, and offering services like Anna Canteens and free gas cylinders. He announced that after the election code ends, key programs such as free bus services for women and the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme will be rolled out, along with the Mega DSC. The Minister also criticized the YSRCP government, alleging that the state has been pushed backward by 20 years since Jagan's rise to power. He accused YSRCP leaders of spreading false propaganda to tarnish the image of the coalition government, despite its welfare initiatives. Gottipati urged alliance leaders to effectively counter the YSRCP's narrative and ensure the people are informed about the positive changes brought by the coalition government. Gottipati concluded by emphasizing the importance of staying focused and not becoming complacent. He called for unity within the alliance to ensure the success of the coalition's candidates in upcoming elections, stressing the need for vigilance to prevent any further setbacks.

Tirupati Deputy Mayor Election Postponed



- Tirupati Municipal Corporation Deputy Mayor election was postponed.
- Violence and intimidation between political parties during the election.
- Four corporators reportedly kidnapped.

TPN | C. Sekhar
Tirupati, Feb 04

The much-awaited Tirupati Municipal Corporation Deputy Mayor election was postponed due to dramatic developments, including claims of violence and a lack of quorum. The election, scheduled on Monday for the post vacated by Bhumana Abhinay Reddy, saw tensions escalate between YSRCP and alliance party members. The election officer, JC Shubham Bansal, had made all arrangements for the election at the SVU Senate Hall, but the event took a dramatic turn when alliance party leaders allegedly attacked YSRCP corporators as they arrived at the election center. Tensions further intensified as four YSRCP corporators reportedly had their bus win-

dows broken and were allegedly kidnapped by the opposition party's leaders. The election officer later confirmed that the election was postponed after only 22 out of 50 corporators showed up, leading to a lack of quorum.

Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu spoke to the media, attributing the delay to the absence of YSRCP corporators, claiming that if they had attended, the election would have taken place. He criticized the actions of the opposition, accusing them of using violence and intimidation.

In a media briefing, YCP joint Chittoor district president Bhumana Karunakar Reddy accused TDP of orchestrating the violence and even claimed that bribes were being offered to corporators to sway the election outcome. He also alleged that TDP leaders and their supporters engaged in illegal activities to prevent the election from taking place, further claiming that the police acted as mere spectators during the ordeal. Amidst the growing tension, the kidnapped corporators' families raised concerns, with some calling for police protection. The case has sparked a larger debate over the role of law enforcement and the political violence that marred the election process. The situation has led to demands for further investigation and intervention by the authorities, including the filing of a lunch motion petition in the High Court.

Raghurama Vows to Continue Fight Against Custodial Torture Case

TPN Correspondent
New Delhi, Feb 04

AP Assembly Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnaraju addressed the media, shedding light on his ongoing battle regarding custodial torture and the involvement of PV Sunil. Raghurama expressed full confidence that justice would prevail, as he believes in the fairness of the public government. He further emphasized that the guilty would be punished, reaffirming his commitment to ensuring justice. Raghurama also questioned the YSRCP chief, Jagannathan Reddy, urging him to attend the Assembly and express his position on the matter. He pointed out that any MLA failing to attend the Assembly for 60 days without proper leave would

face disqualification, with by-elections being held in such cases. The Deputy Speaker reiterated his ongoing efforts to hold the responsible parties accountable for the custodial abuse he suffered. He accused YSRCP leaders of fueling division within society through religious and caste-based rhetoric. Raghurama also criticized Sunil Kumar for using his influence to remove critical videos from YouTube, adding that he had formally complained to the government as a victim of the situation. He firmly stated that his fight for justice would not cease, and he would continue to hold the government to its responsibility in addressing the issues surrounding custodial torture. Raghurama's resolve re-



mains unshaken as he seeks accountability and justice in this high-profile case.

MLA Tatiparthi Chandrasekhar Criticizes Govt for Delayed Salaries



TPN | N. Kasirao
Prakasam, Feb 04

Yerragondapalem MLA Tatiparthi Chandrasekhar raised concerns on Twitter (X) regarding the delay in salary payments to government employees. On Monday, he questioned the coalition government, stating that despite the 3rd of February passing, government employees have yet to receive their salaries. Chandrasekhar pointed out that under the leadership of

former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, salaries were paid promptly on the 1st of every month, calling it a key achievement of his administration. He further criticized the current government for the delay, noting that even though January 6th and February 3rd have passed, no salaries have been distributed to the employees, signaling mismanagement and dissatisfaction among state workers.

Yanamala is Making a Mockery of Democracy, Says Former Minister Dadisetti Raja

TPN Correspondent
Kakinada Dist, Feb 04

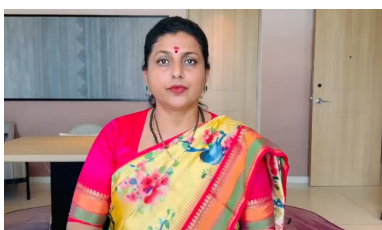
In a recent media conference at the party office in S Annavaram village, former Minister Dadisetti Raja sharply criticized Legislative Council member Yanamala Ramakrishnu for allegedly making a mockery of democracy in Tuni constituency. Raja was responding to the controversy surrounding the postponement of the Municipal Vice Chairman election and accused TDP leaders of manipulating the situation with the help of officials to

delay the election. Raja also pointed out that TDP leaders were attempting to mislead the public by falsely claiming credit for the development works carried out during the YSR Congress Party's rule. He highlighted the allocation of 15 crore 50 lakh rupees for the development of Kalupullama Lova under the YCP government and condemned the TDP's efforts to present those funds as their own. Additionally, Chairperson Eluri Sudhabalu voiced strong criticism against TDP



workers for resorting to violence in collaboration with authorities. Sudhabalu described these actions as unacceptable, further intensifying the ongoing political tensions in the region.

Former Minister Roja Criticizes Government for Anarchy in Tirupati



TPN Correspondent
Tirupati, Feb 04

Former Minister Roja strongly criticized the coalition government, accusing them of killing democracy in broad daylight in Tirupati. Speaking about the ongoing situation in the city, she pointed out that the Mayor, Dr. Sirisha, was facing significant difficulties, unable to attend special Municipal Council meetings due

to the prevailing anarchy. Roja condemned the attack on the vehicle carrying an MP and MLC, which resulted in several corporators being kidnapped, all happening under the watchful eyes of the police. She also referred to previous accusations against the coalition parties, alleging that those responsible for the deaths of six devotees and the adulteration of Srivari Prasad were now part of a regime that was undermining democracy. The former minister warned that the situation could escalate into a public revolt, with people rising against the chaos caused by the coalition parties.

TDP Wins Hindupur Municipal Chairman Post

MLA Balakrishna Congratulates Municipal Chairman Ramesh

TPN Correspondent
Hindupur, Feb 04

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has secured a significant victory in Hindupur, with Ramesh Kumar elected as the new Municipal Chairman. In the voting held today, TDP received 23 votes, while YSRCP's candidate, Venkatalakshmi, garnered 14 votes. The election marked a key win for the TDP, which has seen an uptick in momentum since the formation of the coalition government. Hindupur MLA Balakrishna played an important role in



the event, congratulating Ramesh and formally seating him in the chairman's position. MP Parthasarathy also participated in the voting process, lending further support to the TDP's victory. This win strengthens the TDP's presence in the region.

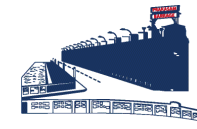
Pedda Reddy Questions Police Actions, Accuses JC Prabhakar Reddy of Provocation



TPN Correspondent
Tadipatri, Feb 04

Former YSRCP MLA Kethireddy Pedda Reddy expressed frustration after being prevented by police from traveling to his home in Tadipatri. He sarcastically questioned whether he needed a visa to visit his own house, suggesting he would apply for one if directed. The police had placed him under house arrest at his residence in Thimmampalli, Yellanoor mandal, citing potential disruptions to law and order as the reason for their actions. Pedda Reddy took the oppor-

tunity to accuse JC Prabhakar Reddy of extortion in Tadipatri, claiming that Reddy and his associates were collecting money from local businesses and threatening innocent people, creating an atmosphere of fear. He expressed anger over Reddy's provocations and stated that despite attempts to incite him, he would remain calm and eventually return to Tadipatri. He also voiced his willingness to cooperate with the government if JC Prabhakar Reddy brought development to the constituency. Meanwhile, the police presence in Thimmampalli intensified, with barricades set up and drones monitoring the area. The heightened security measures have led to a tense atmosphere in Tadipatri, as both sides prepare for further developments.



POLICE ACTING AS SETTLEMENT BATCH

Allegations of Police Misconduct and Corruption in Vijayawada.

High-ranking officers accused of exploiting their positions for personal gain.

Police reportedly settling civil cases and filing unlawful cases for bribes.

Bribery, illegal settlements, and unlawful cases being filed by officers with influence.

Calls for the ACB to intervene and hold officers accountable for misconduct.

Concerns over police corruption and its impact on public trust and justice.

**TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb 04**

The police in Vijayawada have come under severe scrutiny for their involvement in unlawful activities, with reports of illegal settlements and corruption surfacing across multiple police stations. The law enforcement officers, meant to uphold justice and maintain order, are instead alleged to be acting in collusion with powerful individuals and political figures, facilitating unlawful land deals and exploiting their positions for financial gain.

In a particularly disturbing case, two individuals involved in a land dispute under the jurisdiction of the West Lanka Police Station found themselves at odds with the police, despite a favorable court verdict. Allegedly, the area ACP, in collaboration with the individual who lost the case, visited the site and threatened the winning party. In a related matter, accusations have surfaced that another ACP was involved in an extramarital affair with a woman lawyer and used his influence to illegally register a rape case against a rival lawyer, sparking outrage within the Bezawada Bar Association. Further investigations reveal that the Kothapet Police Station has also been embroiled in multiple contentious land disputes, including one involving a 30-acre government pond in Gollapudi. The case, involving a land lease agreement with YSRCP leader Omkar Reddy, al-



legedly saw law enforcement officials supporting the politician's interests, while simultaneously intimidating and filing cases against protesting fishermen. In another case, Brahmin families in Ambapuram village became victims of police interference after they sought legal recourse for land that had been wrongfully acquired. Despite a court order, the police allegedly harassed the Brahmin families, compelling them to go through unnecessary legal and bureaucratic hurdles. At the heart of these scandals is a senior officer in the law and order department, accused of orchestrating illegal land settlements during the previous TDP government. The officer is alleged



to have pocketed large sums of money from land deals, and since his return to the city, the same practices have resurfaced. His targets appear to be individuals and families who can be exploited, using his position to secure financial gains before his retirement. Critics are now questioning the effectiveness of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), raising concerns over whether they are taking any action against such rampant corruption. Calls for the ACB to intervene and investigate these activities are growing louder, as the public remains anxious about the unchecked power of corrupt police officers. Will the ACB rise to the occasion, or will this cycle of abuse continue unchecked? Only time will tell.



City Police Commissioner Participates in "Say No to Drugs" Awareness Program

**TPN Correspondent
Vijayawada, Feb**

City Police Commissioner Sri. S. V. Rajasekhara Babu participated as the chief guest in the "Say No to Drugs" awareness program at P.B. Siddhartha College, Vijayawada, aimed at educating students about the dangers of drug abuse and promoting a drug-free lifestyle. The event was organized under the guidance of the college and saw participation from notable guests, including Eagle Team IG Sri. A. K. Ravi Krishna IPS and SP Sri. K. Nagesh Babu.

During his address, City Police Commissioner Sri. S.V. Rajasekhara Babu emphasized the devastating effects of drug abuse on individuals, families, and society at large. He particularly pointed out the rampant cultivation of marijuana in Uttarandhra, which has been significantly reduced since the formation of the Eagle unit. He noted that marijuana is now being cultivated in only 100 acres, down from 9,000 acres in the past, with drone surveillance helping authorities identify cultivation sites. He also warned that those consuming or involved in the drug trade would face severe punishments under the NDPS Act, including being banned from obtaining a passport once their names are listed as marijuana offenders.

He further highlighted the troubling link between marijuana use and rising crime rates, including thefts and violent incidents such as the blade batch attacks in Vijayawada. The Commissioner urged students to avoid associating with drug addicts and to courageously refuse any attempts to pressure them into using drugs.

Eagle Team IG Sri. Ravi Krishna IPS explained that special Eagle units would be formed in every college, and stressed the severe legal consequences of involvement in NDPS Act cases, including potential death penalties for repeat offenders. He also encouraged students to act as "Eagle Ambassadors" and report any information about drug activities by calling the dedicated helpline 1972.

Around 500 students, along with college director Sri. Baburao, Central ACP Sri. Damodar, Machavaram Inspector Prakash, and other officials, attended the event, underscoring the collective effort needed to tackle the growing drug abuse problem in the region.

Dist Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha Oversees the Fast-tracking of Safe Drinking Water Supply in A.Kondur

**TPN Correspondent
A. Kondur, Feb**

District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha has announced that the work to supply safe Krishna water to the people of 38 villages in A.Kondur mandal is being expedited on a war footing. The initiative aims to address the chronic kidney disease problem faced by the region's residents by providing them with clean drinking water.

During a visit to A.Kondur on Monday, Dr. Lakshmi Sha reviewed the progress of the Rs. 50 crore project sanctioned by the state government to mitigate kidney diseases in the area. She specifically inquired about the status of the overhead reservoir and the ongoing pipeline works, which cover a distance of around 200 km.

Dr. Lakshmi Sha issued clear instructions to the concerned officials to speed up the construction of 14 new tanks, in addition to the overhead tanks,



across the 38 villages in Konduru mandal. She emphasized that the work should be completed within the set target to ensure that safe drinking water reaches the affected communities at the earliest.

Accompanying Dr. Lakshmi Sha on the visit were local RDO K. Madhuri, RWS SE Vidyasagar, and other officials involved in the project. The initiative is expected to bring significant relief to the residents of A.Kondur and neighboring areas who have been suffering from kidney-related health issues due to contaminated water sources.

MLA Bolisetti Received Complaints At Janavani on Land Grabbing and Encroachment

**TPN Correspondent
Mangalagiri, Feb 04**

On Monday, Tadepalligudem became the center of attention as numerous petitions were received during the Janavani program, addressing the rampant issue of land grabbing and encroachment in various regions. A significant number of victims from Rayalaseema districts queued up to present their grievances, accusing YCP leaders of involvement in illegal land dealings and encroachments.

The complaints were varied but pointed to one common theme – that powerful political figures were exploiting their influence to grab land and misappropriate public properties. Several victims highlighted how they had been deprived of their rightful land and were left helpless by authorities who appeared to be turning a blind eye to the ongoing illegal activities.

MLA Sri. Bolisetti Srinu, who was



present at the Janavani program, assured the public that the complaints would be looked into and that the government would take appropriate action. He reiterated his commitment to addressing these issues and emphasized the need for transparency and accountability in land dealings. The MLA promised to escalate the matter and seek legal recourse against those involved in land scams.

The public, who are increasingly losing trust in the system, are hoping that their concerns will finally be addressed and that justice will prevail in the face of these widespread land-related injustices.

Villagers Protest Biochemical Waste Dumping in Jakkampudi



**TPN Correspondent
Jakkampudi, Feb 04**

In a significant move, residents of Jakkampudi, a suburb of Vijayawada, protested against the illegal dumping of biochemical waste on a vacant 133-acre plot of crop fields. The villagers stopped the loading of waste at midnight and filed a formal complaint with the police regarding the matter.

For the past two years, heavy vehicles have been bringing biochemical waste to the fields at night, dumping it in secret. The villagers claim that this waste is severely damaging the surrounding crops and making the local cattle sick. Experts have

expressed concerns that the waste poses a long-term environmental threat, warning that no plant can grow in the area for at least the next 20 years due to the toxic nature of the waste.

The biochemical waste is also affecting the local population, as it is mixed into the air, causing respiratory problems. The villagers have reported an increase in skin diseases, attributing these health issues to the waste being dumped nearby.

The waste-laden vehicle involved in the dumping is said to have a Suryapet number plate, and according to local claims, the owner of the vehicle is a resident of Mylavaram who has settled in Hyderabad and is believed to have connections with the local MLA.

The villagers are demanding a thorough investigation by the police into the factory from which the biochemical waste is originating, and they are calling for action to protect the health and safety of the community and the environment.

Police Crack Down on Safari Murder Case in Nandigama



**TPN Correspondent
Nandigama, Feb**

The Nandigama police have successfully cracked down on a Safari murder case, arresting four individuals involved in a conspiracy to kill Muvva Gopi. The incident unfolded after Kola Narasimha Rao from Aithavaram village, whose daughter had an arranged marriage 14 months ago, developed a feud with Gopi, who had helped facilitate the marriage. Rao then reportedly arranged a Safari (contract murder) worth Rs. 1 lakh through Palampalli Vijayakumar from Kothapet,

Hyderabad. During the Sankranti festival, the accused, along with two other individuals, traveled to Aithavaram and stayed at Muvva Gopi's house for a three-day ritual in an attempt to carry out the murder. However, their plan failed. On further investigation, the suspects were apprehended while roaming suspiciously in Nandigama town, where they were questioned and admitted to their intentions.

ACP Tilak confirmed the arrests and stated that the four individuals have been charged and produced before the court. Police have seized four chicken knives, a bike, and Rs. 2,000 in cash during the investigation. A case has been registered at the Nandigama police station, and authorities are continuing their efforts to ensure justice is served in this matter.

Another Life Lost to Call Money Scam

- Chinna Anjaneyulu of Undavalli village commits suicide over call money scam.
- Accused friends allegedly charged excessive interest rates.
- Police have launched an investigation amidst claims of political influence.

**TPN Correspondent
Undavalli, Feb 04**

In a tragic turn of events, Chinna Anjaneyulu, a man from Undavalli village in Guntur district, took his own life by consuming pesticide, reportedly due to the stress caused by call money scams. He left behind a suicide note and a selfie video, revealing that he had been harassed by his trusted friends, who had provided him loans at exorbitant interest rates.

Anjaneyulu named Singam Shetty Harish, Gonnakutty Prasad (Nani), Mogalipuvu Mani Kumar, and Prem Kumar of Errubalem as the individuals responsible for his mental torment. In his letter, he stated that he had to pay back three times the amount he had borrowed, and that these friends had spoken about him indecently to others, pushing him to the brink. The victim's relatives allege that the accused are using political influence to manipulate the police and avoid justice. A case has been registered, and authorities are investigating the matter, as the community calls for accountability in this disturbing case.



Renigunta Women Donated Her Lifelong Savings of ₹50 Lakh to Srivaru



TPN | Kannaiah
Tirumala, Feb 04

In a rare act of devotion, Smt. C. Mohana from Renigunta donated her entire life savings of ₹50 lakh to Lord Venkateswara, dedicating the amount to the welfare of orphans and underprivileged children studying in TTD institutions.

Smt. Mohana, who served as a disaster management officer in India, Kosovo, Albania, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia, has always held unwavering faith in Srivaru. On Monday, she handed over a demand draft to TTD Additional EO Sri CH. Venkaiah Chowdhury, who praised her extraordinary generosity and commitment to humanitarian causes.

Throughout her career, Smt. Mohana played a crucial role in global relief efforts, including tsunami and earthquake rehabilitation between 1982 and 1994. She worked with the United Nations and international charities to aid disaster-stricken communities. Despite serving in various countries, her devotion to Venkanna remained steadfast, inspiring her to dedicate her savings for a noble cause.

Her selfless contribution to the Sri Venkateswara Sarva Shreyas (SV Balamandir) Trust reflects a rare blend of faith and philanthropy, reinforcing the spirit of giving in service of Srivaru.

TTD EO Conducts Surprise Inspection at Alipiri Walkway



TPN | Kannaiah
Tirumala, Feb 04

TTD Executive Officer Sri J. Syamala Rao conducted a surprise inspection at Mokali Mitta on the Alipiri Walkway on Monday, reviewing key facilities for devotees trekking to Tirumala.

During his visit, he inspected the toilets along the footpath and instructed the staff to ensure regular cleaning to prevent inconvenience to pilgrims. He also assessed the ambulance services stationed along the route and issued necessary directives to the concerned employees for better efficiency.

Interacting with devotees, Sri Syamala Rao gathered firsthand feedback regarding the amenities provided by TTD on the walkway. Later, at Matrusri Tarigonda Vengamamba Annaprasadam Complex (MTVAC), he dined alongside pilgrims and personally evaluated the quality and taste of the Annaprasadam. He also examined the cleanliness of the premises, reinforcing the importance of hygiene.

DyEO Sri Rajendra Kumar accompanied him during the inspection.

Tidco House Corporation Chairman Felicitated in Srikalahasti

TPN | C. Sekhar
Srikalahasti, Feb 04

Andhra Pradesh State Tidco House Corporation Chairman Sri Vemula Pati Ajay Kumar was felicitated with a shawl and bouquet by Srikalahasti town president G. Vijay Kumar during a meeting with beneficiaries of New NTR Nagar (Tidco Houses) on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, Vijay Kumar recalled that during the previous Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government, the late Bojjala Gopalakrishna Reddy had sanctioned nearly 7,000 houses for Srikalahasti to ensure that no resident lived in huts. Under Phase One, 2,619 houses were constructed and allocated to beneficiaries. However, due to the change in government, essen-



tial facilities were not provided, delaying the handover of these homes.

He alleged that the previous YSRCP government demolished Tidco houses and spent crores on painting walls with party colors

instead of completing the housing project. Now, with a new coalition government in place, MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy has inspected the Tidco houses and assured beneficiaries that they will soon receive their homes. He urged them not to worry about bank pressures regarding payments.

Tidco Chairman Ajay Kumar stated that the previous government failed to allocate even a single house, but the new administration is committed to ensuring that all beneficiaries receive their rightful homes soon.

A large number of TDP, BJP, and Jana Sena leaders, along with beneficiaries, participated in the program.

District Collector Shanmohan Sagili Thanks Fishermen for Cooperation in Desalination Project



TPN | K.S. Shekar
Kakinada, Feb 04

District Collector Shanmohan Sagili expressed gratitude to fishermen's associations and families for their cooperation with Divis Company's desalination pipeline work off the coast of Tondangi.

During a media conference at the Collectorate on Monday, the Collector stated that Divis Company had commenced the installation of a 1.5-kilometer-long desalination pipeline at a depth of 6 meters in the seabed to convert salt water into fresh water for industrial use. The work is expected to be completed in 4.5 days. He emphasized that both industrial development and the well-being of fishermen must be balanced through mutual understanding.

He assured that the economic conditions of 5,000 fishing families across 16 coastal villages had been surveyed and that a skill development survey was underway per government instructions. A special committee, under the State Pollution Control Board, has been formed to analyze the impact of industrial development on fishermen's livelihoods. Scientists from the National Institute of Oceanography have conducted studies, and their report is expected within a month.

Fishermen's representatives raised concerns about marine pollution affecting fish stocks, endangering 2,000 fishermen's livelihoods. They submitted demands, including a ₹15,000 monthly allowance per family, permanent jobs, health cards with ₹10 lakh coverage, and compensation for damaged fishing equipment. The Collector assured them that he would discuss their concerns with Divis management and the government.

Fisheries Department DD Karunakar Rao, local representatives, and village leaders participated in the meeting.

Vasanth Panchami Celebrated Grandly in Kanipakam

TPN | C. Sekhar
Kanipakam

Kanipakam witnessed a grand celebration of Vasanth Panchami on Monday, with a mass Aksharabhyasa ceremony held at Sri Varasiddhi Vinayaka Swamy Temple. As part of the festivities, Sri Maha Saraswati Yagam was conducted in the Asthan Mandapam, invoking divine blessings for devotees and students.

Under the leadership of Puthalapattu MLA Sri Murali Mohan and Devasthanam EO Sri Panchala Kishore, temple priests and Vedic scholars performed a traditional circumambulation with special puja paraphernalia before adorning the ceremonial idols. A large number of students participated in the Aksharabhyasa ritual, marking the beginning of their academic journey with divine grace.

Chittoor District Collector Sri Sumit Kumar extended his best wishes to the students through a phone call, encouraging them to excel in their studies. Devotees received Theertha Prasadam, and many temple officials and local leaders actively participated in the celebrations.



GV Sundar to Contest as Independent MLC Candidate



TPN | Dhanalakshmi
Kakinada, Feb 07

GV Sundar, son of former Amalapuram MP GV Harsha Kumar, has announced his candidacy as an independent for the MLC seat representing graduates from East and West Godavari districts. The announcement was made during a press conference in Kakinada on Monday.

Speaking at the event, Harsha Kumar criticized both the current and previous governments, alleging that they had misled the people with false promises. He stated that his son, Sundar, had been justified to represent the concerns of graduates and address the injustices they have faced.

Candidate GV Sundar emphasized that past representatives had largely focused on job-related issues while neglecting the broader needs of graduates. He stated that he has formulated a manifesto dedicated to the welfare of graduates, with a primary focus on education, employment opportunities, and guarantees for their future. Sundar also announced that he would soon be filing his nomination.

He accused Chief Ministers Chandrababu Naidu and Former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy of failing to fulfill promises made to the unemployed and graduate community. Seeking support from voters, Sundar urged graduates to elect him as their representative. Following the announcement, he released his election manifesto. The event was attended by INTUC District President Talluru Raju, leaders Bojja Aishwarya, Netala Haribabu, Kashi Laxman Swamy, and other key supporters.

Empowering Girls: Rani Lakshmi Bai Self-Defense Program Launched

District Collector Chadalawada Nagarani Emphasizes Safety and Equal Rights



TPN Correspondent
West Godavari

West Godavari District Collector Smt. Chadalawada Nagarani emphasized the importance of ensuring girls' safety, equal rights, and societal respect while launching the "Girls' Self-Defense" program at Sri Venugopalaswamy High School, Marteru-Neggipudi, Penumantra mandal, on Monday.

As part of the initiative, the Rani Lakshmi Bai Self-Defense Pre-Training Program will be conducted across 80 upper primary and 230 high schools for 32 days, from



February 3rd to March 15th. The program, designed to empower girls with self-defense skills, will feature daily one-hour training sessions for 20 working days, with 50 karate instructors from Rupesh Welfare Society leading the sessions. The training will include Judo, Taekwondo, and Karate, equipping girls with the ability to recognize danger, respond effectively, and develop mental resilience.

The curriculum also covers awareness of women's helplines, legal resources, and differentiating between healthy and unhealthy behaviors.

Smt. Nagarani stressed that education is a vital tool for girls' empowerment, helping delay early marriage, improve job prospects, and build a progressive society. She urged students to focus on academics, minimize screen time, and build self-reliance. The district administration pledged full support to ensure the program's success and create a safer future for every girl.

District officials, educators, students, and parents participated in the event, marking the beginning of a transformative movement for girls' empowerment.

Ban Google Reviews!!

Open Letter to the Prime Minister – Ban Google Reviews?

A medical professional has written to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, urging an immediate ban on Google Reviews. He alleges that the review system is being misused for blackmail and extortion, harming Indian entrepreneurs and professionals. Given his regular contributions to our publication, we are reproducing his letter in full.

– Editor

Sri Narendra Modi ji
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
South Block, New Delhi

Subject: Urgent Request to Ban Google Reviews in India, Google is another east India company in hatching.

Respected Sir,

I write to seek your urgent intervention in banning Google Reviews in India. This platform is being exploited as a tool for manipulation, blackmail, and extortion, seriously harming Indian entrepreneurs and professionals.

For years, I have witnessed a disturbing pattern: individuals—often linked to Google representatives—post fraudulent negative reviews against businesses, only to later offer "package deals" to remove them in exchange for payment. This is nothing short of blackmail, allowing a foreign entity to exploit Indian professionals for financial gain.

As a medical professional, I have personally suffered due to these unethical practices. Fake reviews from people who have never visited my facility have damaged my reputation, causing financial loss and eroding public trust. Despite lodging complaints with both Google and the local cybercrime police, no action has been taken.

It is imperative that the Indian government does not remain passive while a multinational corporation engages in such misconduct within our borders. Furthermore, in light of these unethical practices, I urge the government to reconsider the Padma Bhushan award granted to Google CEO Sundar Pichai. Honoring corporations that engage in predatory tactics sends the wrong message about our nation's commitment to protecting its citizens and businesses.

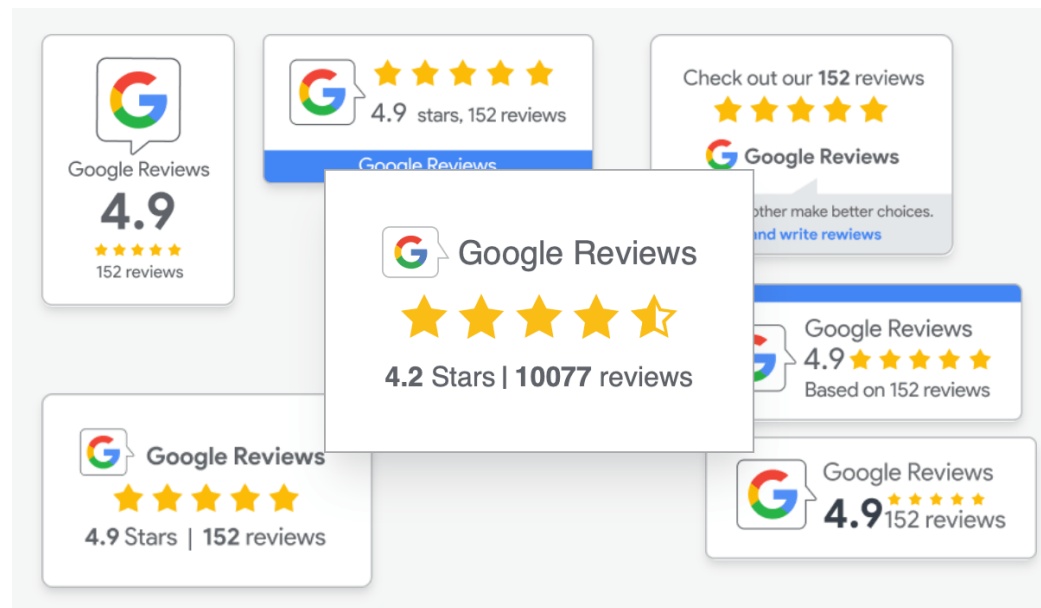
I urge you to take decisive action—either by banning Google Reviews or implementing strict regulations to prevent misuse. Protecting Indian professionals from exploitation should be a priority to maintain a fair and trustworthy business environment.

Google represents a multifaceted and intricate Frankenstein monster creation that, despite its vast capabilities and technological advancements, struggles to effectively control the misuse that arises from its fundamental elements. The platform, while designed to enhance connectivity and access to information, inadvertently becomes a breeding ground for various forms of cybercrime. Our nation is already grappling with the serious repercussions of these cybercrimes, which manifest in alarming ways, including digital arrests and fraudulent loan applications that exploit unsuspecting individuals.

Elon Musk and Donald Trump Target USAID, Sparking Controversy Over Government Oversight

Elon Musk and Donald Trump have launched a coordinated attack on the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), accusing the agency of corruption and overreach. Musk went as far as labeling it a "criminal organization," while Trump described USAID as being "run by radical lunatics." This marks a notable shift in the Trump administration's stance on government agencies, as the duo seeks to challenge what they perceive as wasteful and unchecked operations within the U.S. government.

Trump, speaking publicly on Sunday, criticized USAID's leadership, hinting at a potential overhaul of the agency. He suggested that the current leadership would be removed and that a future reassessment of USAID's role would take place, though he provided no specific details. This comment fueled speculation that Trump may be considering a significant restructuring or even



The consequences of these cybercrimes extend far beyond mere financial loss; they have devastating effects on mental health and community well-being. Tragically, we are witnessing an increasing number of young individuals who, overwhelmed by the pressures and challenges posed by the digital landscape, are taking their own lives. This heartbreaking trend highlights the urgent need for more robust safeguards and support systems to protect vulnerable populations from the darker sides of technology.

Moreover, families across the nation are facing severe economic hardships as a result of these digital threats. The financial strain caused by identity theft, scams, and other cyber-related crimes can lead to a cascade of difficulties, affecting not only individual households but also the broader economy. The emotional toll on families dealing with the aftermath of such crimes cannot be overstated, as they navigate the complexities of recovery and rebuilding their lives.

In this context, Prime Minister Modi's advocacy for the "Make in India" initiative aims to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and self-reliance within the country. However, it appears that Google's pervasive influence and the challenges associated with its platform may undermine this vision from the outset. The reliance on foreign technology gi-

ants can stifle local innovation and entrepreneurship, as domestic businesses struggle to compete in an environment dominated by powerful multinational corporations.

Furthermore, the potential for misuse of technology can deter investment and growth in homegrown solutions, as entrepreneurs may hesitate to enter a market fraught with risks associated with cybercrime and data breaches. To truly realize the goals of the "Make in India" initiative, it is essential to create a balanced ecosystem that empowers local businesses while also addressing the challenges posed by global tech giants like Google.

In conclusion, while Google has revolutionized the way we access information and connect with one another, it is imperative to recognize and address the complexities and challenges that accompany its influence. As we navigate this digital age, we must prioritize the protection of individuals and families from cyber threats, support mental health initiatives, and foster an environment that encourages local innovation and entrepreneurship. Only then can we hope to build a resilient and thriving society that aligns with the aspirations of the "Make in India" Before independence, British entity, the East India Company, controlled Indian commerce. Today, once again we find ourselves under the control of foreign companies like Google, which now exerts significant control over Indian businesses. Are we to remain subservient to these profit-driven foreign companies? Google's overarching aim appears to control of the Indian enterprises, ranging from micro, small, and medium enterprises in villages to major businesses in urban centers.

We, Indians should not remain captive in hands of these profit making unethical companies

I trust you will consider the severe implications of this issue and take appropriate steps. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Dr. Buragadda Srinadh, MD
Director, Asian Institute of Fetal Medicine and Reproductive Genetics
Hyderabad

How China Allegedly Contributes To Fentanyl Crisis



The United States continues to grapple with a devastating opioid epidemic, and fentanyl—a synthetic opioid 50 times more potent than heroin—is at the center of the crisis. The drug, which is cheaper and easier to produce than heroin, has claimed tens of thousands of American lives each year. Fentanyl is now the leading cause of death among individuals aged 18 to 45, and its rapid spread has been a point of contention between Washington and Beijing.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has accused China of being the primary source of fentanyl-related substances trafficked into the U.S. While China tightened its controls on fentanyl production in 2019, U.S. authorities assert that this only shifted the trafficking methods. Chemical components required to produce fentanyl are shipped to Mexico, where the drug is manufactured and then smuggled into the United States. Many of these precursor chemicals are legal in China and have legitimate medical uses, complicating prosecution efforts.

In response, Beijing has denied responsibility, asserting that there is no illegal trafficking of fentanyl between China and Mexico. However, the Chinese government has vowed to strengthen its regulations, pointing to some of the world's harshest drug laws. Despite these efforts, U.S. authorities argue that drug manufacturers continue to develop new variants of synthetic precursors faster than Chinese authorities can identify and regulate them.

The Biden administration has ramped up its efforts to curb the fentanyl crisis by targeting Chinese entities and individuals allegedly linked to the trade. In October 2023, sanctions were imposed on over two dozen Chinese firms accused of facilitating the shipment of fentanyl precursors to the U.S. and Mexico. These actions include individuals from both mainland China and Hong Kong, with U.S. officials attributing a significant portion of fentanyl-related deaths to the global supply chain that begins with Chinese chemical manufacturers.

China's cooperation in addressing the fentanyl trade remains uncertain. While U.S. and Chinese leaders agreed to restart counternarcotics talks following a summit in 2023, the effectiveness of these negotiations is still in question. Analysts note that cooperation between the two nations often hinges on the state of bilateral relations, and Chinese authorities may be less inclined to cooperate with countries with whom they have strained relations.

Learning from Past: The Importance of Disaster and Mitigating Modern Catastrophes



The devastating wildfires that ravaged Southern California in 2025 echo the destructive power of the Great Fire of 1910, which consumed over 3 million acres across Montana, Idaho, and Washington. Descriptions from that historic fire—such as "The forests staggered, rocked, exploded, and then shrieked under the holocaust" and "Great red balls of fire rolled up the mountainsides"—are chilling reminders of the recurring nature of such natural disasters. Similarly, the tragic events of the Wayanad disaster in July-August 2024 resonate with the accounts of a 1924 landslide in the region, highlighting the vulnerability of isolated communities in the face of natural calamities and the historical struggles of rebuilding economies after disasters.

While history may seem to repeat itself, there are valuable lessons to be learned by examining past disasters closely. Analyzing specific cases and their impacts, both immediate and long-term, can shed light on effective strategies for future disaster management and recovery. It is especially important to study historical disaster patterns and their socio-economic consequences to improve preparedness in today's world.

Disaster history has long played a crucial role in shaping how regions and nations deal with calamities. Although it has been an essential aspect of human experience, the study of disasters from a historical perspective has not always been systematically pursued. Pioneering studies, such as those on the 1755 Great Lisbon Earthquake and the 1920 dynamite explosion in Halifax, Canada, have provided insight into the multifaceted impacts of disasters, including their religious significance, social dynamics, and recovery processes. These early works laid the foundation for modern disaster studies, which have gained momentum since World War II, especially in the context of Cold War tensions.

India, Indonesia share motto of 'unity in diversity': PM Modi inaugurates Murugan temple

- Modi praises acceptance of diversity as key to harmony in India and Indonesia.
- Stresses deep-rooted cultural and historical ties beyond geopolitics.
- Highlights common spiritual connections, including Lord Murugan, Ram, and Buddha.



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized the deep cultural and spiritual connection between India and Indonesia, noting that the acceptance of diversity is a key reason why people of different faiths coexist harmoniously in both countries. Addressing the Maha Kumbabhishagam in Shri Sanathana Dharma Aalayam in Jakarta on Sunday, Modi underscored that the relationship between the two nations goes beyond geopolitics and is grounded in thousands of years of shared culture and history.

In his virtual address, Modi highlighted the profound historical and cultural ties that

have shaped the bond between India and Indonesia. He pointed out that this connection is not only about heritage but also extends to science, faith, shared beliefs, and spirituality. Modi further elaborated on the importance of this relationship, noting that it encompasses common reverence for figures like Lord Murugan, Lord Ram, and Lord Buddha, who are significant to both countries' religious and cultural landscapes.

The event was attended by Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, who had recently visited India as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations. The participation of both leaders in such a significant religious and cultural event further symbolizes the

strong ties between the two nations. Modi's address at the ceremony emphasized how the cultural and spiritual exchanges between India and Indonesia have played a crucial role in fostering a deep and lasting bond between their peoples.

Modi's comments also reaffirmed the importance of shared values, such as respect for diversity and religious tolerance, which have been central to the harmonious coexistence of different faith communities in both countries. The Prime Minister's remarks reflect the broader vision of strengthening Indo-Indonesian relations, rooted not only in modern-day diplomacy but also in the enduring legacy of mutual respect and cultural affinity.



Did Manipur Chief Minister Stoke Violence? Supreme Court Seeks Government Lab Report

TPN Correspondent | Manipur

In a significant development, the Supreme Court of India has ordered the submission of a forensic report on audio clips that allegedly feature Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh instigating ethnic violence. The court has instructed that the forensic findings from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) be submitted in a sealed cover.

The request for the forensic examination follows the presentation of audio tapes by advocate Prashant Bhushan, who is representing the petitioner in the case. The tapes, which were verified by Truth Labs with over 93 percent certainty, purportedly feature Singh's voice. In the recordings, Singh is reportedly heard discussing the protection of Meitei groups and their involvement in looting the state armoury during the ethnic clashes in Manipur. The tapes are alleged to have been recorded during a private meeting and leaked afterward, with Bhushan suggesting that the Chief Minister may have been instigating and abetting the violence.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the state, raised preliminary objections, arguing that the petitioner should first approach the High Court. He also informed the court that an FIR had already been filed, and an investigation was underway. Mehta further stated that the investigating agency had contacted the Twitter accounts that uploaded the audio clips for verification and sent the tapes for forensic analysis. He also accused the petitioner of having a "separatist mindset" that could be influencing the case.

The Supreme Court bench, led by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, pressed for the timely submission of the forensic report. However, Mehta suggested that the results might not be available immediately. The case highlights the ongoing ethnic tensions in Manipur, which have led to widespread violence, including the involvement of militant groups.

In a related development, a militant from the banned Kangleipak Communist Party (People's War Group) was arrested in Imphal West district for alleged extortion activities targeting government employees and the public. This arrest further underscores the volatile situation in the region.

BJP MPs' privilege motion against Sonia Gandhi for calling President 'poor thing'



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

BJP MPs in the Rajya Sabha have filed a privilege notice against senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi for her controversial "poor thing" comment about President Droupadi Murmu. The MPs have called for exemplary action, accusing Gandhi of displaying an elitist and anti-tribal mindset. The notice, addressed to Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, claims that Gandhi's remark shows a lack of understanding of the struggles faced by tribal communities and poor individuals.

The BJP MPs argue that such a statement is a violation of the established rules of conduct and Parliamentary ethics, which demand respect for constitutional offices. They emphasized that the Parliament, as the highest legislative body in India, holds the responsibility of maintaining decorum and respect for all constitutional authorities. Any deviation from this, they said, undermines the credibility and trust that citizens place in the institution.

The notice also stresses that Sonia Gandhi's comments undermine the dignity of the office of the President. The BJP MPs called her actions "disparaging" and "contemptuous," noting that they are inconsistent with the principles of mutual respect and decorum that are essential for the functioning of a healthy democracy.

India Reevaluates Cryptocurrency Stance Amid Global Shifts

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India is reconsidering its position on cryptocurrencies, with the country's growing interest aligning with global trends as other nations adjust their approaches to virtual assets. A senior government official revealed this development on Sunday, noting that the shift in stance comes in the wake of crypto-friendly policy announcements, notably in the United States.

Ajay Seth, India's Economic Affairs Secretary, explained in an interview that the government is revisiting its stance on cryptocurrency, especially after witnessing changes in how various jurisdictions are embracing or regulating digital assets. As a result, the planned release of a discussion paper on cryptocurrencies, initially set for September 2024, may be delayed. Seth emphasized that cryptocurrencies, by their very nature, do not adhere to borders, meaning that India cannot adopt a unilateral approach toward the evolving global landscape of virtual assets.

Though Seth did not directly reference the United States, the timing of his remarks coincides with recent moves by U.S. President Donald Trump. Last week, Trump ordered the creation of a cryptocurrency working group to propose regulations for digital assets and explore the possibility of creating a national cryptocurrency reserve, signaling a more favorable regulatory environment for virtual currencies in the U.S.

Despite India's historically cautious stance toward cryptocurrencies, marked by high trading taxes and regulatory hurdles, the nation has seen a surge in crypto investment from its citizens. As the sector expands, the Indian government is increasingly forced to reevaluate its policies. In December 2023, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) issued show-cause notices to nine offshore cryptocurrency exchanges for failing to comply with local regulations. In a related move, Binance, the world's largest crypto exchange, was fined 188.2 million rupees (\$2.25 million) in June 2024 after registering with the FIU to resume operations in India.

While some regulators in India have expressed openness to managing cryptocurrency trade, the Reserve Bank of India has consistently warned that private digital currencies pose a macroeconomic risk. This ongoing tension between government bodies signals the challenges India faces as it navigates its stance on the rapidly evolving world of digital finance.



Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Passes 50-Point Resolution, Rejects CAA, NRC, and UCC

TPN Correspondent | Jharkhand

The ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) passed a 50-point resolution during its 46th foundation day celebration at Gandhi Maidan in Dumka on Sunday night. Among the key points, the party strongly rejected the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the National Register of Citizens (NRC), and the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), stating that these measures should not be implemented in Jharkhand.

The resolution also called for the strict enforcement of the Chotanagpur Tenancy (CNT) Act and the Santal Pargana Tenancy (SPT) Act, both of which aim to protect tribal land rights. Additionally, the party demanded that the central government release the "Rs 1.36 lakh crore dues" owed to the state government immediately, emphasizing the need for financial justice for the state.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren addressed a large gathering during the event, where he lashed out at the Centre for allegedly ignoring the state's needs. He claimed that the people of Jharkhand had been "cheated" in the Union budget, as the state's concerns had been overlooked. Soren criticized those with a "feudal mindset," suggesting that they did not want the residents of the tribal-majority state to become self-reliant.

Soren also pointed out that despite Jharkhand contributing significantly to the nation's economy, particularly through its mineral resources, the state remains one of the most backward regions in the country. He voiced his frustration over the continued neglect of Jharkhand's development needs and emphasized the importance of financial justice for the state's growth and empowerment.

The resolution passed by the JMM and Soren's comments underscore the ongoing tensions between the state government and the central authorities, particularly regarding issues related to tribal rights, state finances, and the controversial national policies like the CAA, NRC, and UCC.



Rahul Gandhi's Remarks on Foreign Policy Spark Heated Debate in Lok Sabha

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Lok Sabha witnessed a tense exchange on Monday as Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks on India's foreign policy led to strong objections from the ruling BJP benches. Gandhi, while addressing the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, claimed that External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was sent to the inauguration of US President Donald Trump to secure an invitation for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit the United States. This statement quickly provoked BJP MPs, including Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju, who strongly objected, calling Gandhi's claim baseless and unfounded.

Gandhi began his speech by criticising the President's Address, claiming that it was repetitive, with the government listing the same achievements as in previous years. He also raised concerns about the rising unemployment in the country, asserting that neither the UPA government nor the current NDA administration has provided a satisfactory solution for the nation's youth regarding jobs.

On India's economic situation, Gandhi pointed out that despite the government's 'Make in India' initiative, the share of manufacturing in the country's GDP has decreased from 15.3% in 2014 to 12.6% today. He said that while the concept of 'Make in India' was a good one, the government has failed to implement it effectively. He further accused India of relying heavily on China for production, stating, "Every time we use a phone or wear Chinese products, we pay a tax to China."

In a controversial statement, Gandhi referenced the Trump inauguration, saying, "If we had a production system and were working on technologies, the US President would come here and invite the Prime Minister." This remark sparked protests from the treasury benches, with Rijju demanding an apology for such "unverified" statements. Gandhi responded sarcastically, apologising for "disturbing their peace of mind."

Trump Slams Democrats for Delaying Nominees, Urges GOP to Act Tough

Trump claims Democrats are purposefully delaying his nominees, urging the GOP to respond.

- Trump accuses Democrats of deliberately delaying his nominees.
- Calls for Republicans to take swift action against confirmation delays.
- Claims nominee delays threaten national safety and governance.

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Former President Donald Trump has accused Democrats of deliberately delaying the approval of his nominees, claiming that they are holding up the process for political reasons at the expense of the country's safety and well-being. In a post on his social media platform, Truth Social, Trump voiced his frustration with the ongoing nomination process for his administration picks.

"Democrats are purposefully delaying virtually all of my nominees. No matter how good and well-qualified someone is, they are taking maximum time for approval — and laughing about it. They're having a good time at the country's expense and safety," Trump wrote, sharing a Fox News clip in which host Mark Levin discussed how Democrats were allegedly undermining the Constitution.

Trump further criticized Democrats, claiming that even if figures like George Washing-



ton or Abraham Lincoln were nominated, they would still be delayed until the last moment. He blamed their actions on their inability to accept the results of the previous presidential election, warning that their obstructionist tactics would only increase the Republican Party's strength. "Republicans must GET TOUGH —

AND MUST GET TOUGH VERY FAST. We need our nominees NOW, for the safety and good of our country!" he added.

As of now, only eight of Trump's 114 nominees have been confirmed by the Senate, with 68 still under consideration and 38 awaiting votes, according to The Washington Post. Among those confirmed are key figures like Marco Rubio as Secretary of State, John Ratcliffe as CIA Director, and Pete Hegseth as Secretary of Defense. Notably, other high-profile picks like Pam Bondi for Attorney General, Elise Stefanik for UN Ambassador, and Doug Collins for Veterans Affairs Secretary are still waiting for Senate votes.

In response to the delays, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., defended the right to delay nominations for candidates lacking broad support in the Senate. Schumer cited concerns over certain nominees, including Ratcliffe's qualifications to lead the Office of National Intelligence.



Panama drops Belt and Road deal with China amid Donald Trump's warning

TPN Correspondent | Panama

Panama has officially announced its decision to withdraw from China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), signaling the country's intention not to renew the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that tied it to China's global infrastructure project. This decision comes as Panama reaffirms its sovereignty over the Panama Canal, rejecting any foreign influence or claims over the strategic waterway. President Jose Raul Mulino emphasized that Panama's control over the canal, the world's second busiest waterway, is non-negotiable.

The move comes amid growing tensions with the United States, as former President Donald Trump and US officials have voiced concerns over China's involvement in the region. Trump has repeatedly suggested that the US should regain control of the Panama Canal, a vital maritime route. "China's running the Panama Canal... that was given to Panama, foolishly, but they violated the agreement, and we're going to take it back, or something very powerful is going to happen," Trump said previously.

In response to these concerns, President Mulino clarified that Panama's neutrality treaty with the US, which governs the canal's use, remains intact. "Sovereignty over the canal is not in question," Mulino stated. The Panama Canal, which was originally built by the US in the early 20th century, was handed over to Panama in 1999. Since then, the canal has remained under Panama's control, despite ongoing disputes over its strategic importance.

Homes Blacked Out, Bridge Torn Into Two: Rising Floodwaters In Australia Wreak Havoc

TPN Correspondent | Australia

Rising floodwaters have wreaked havoc across northeastern Australia, forcing evacuations, cutting off communities, and causing extensive damage to infrastructure. Storms that began over the weekend have dumped more than a metre (39 inches) of rain in parts of Queensland, submerging homes, businesses, and roads under muddy waters.



In Townsville, a popular coastal tourist spot near the Great Barrier Reef, authorities have declared certain areas a "black zone" due to the severity of the floods. The state's premier, David Crisafulli, warned that the region could face additional rain and more flooding, including both flash floods and riverine flooding. "We remain prepared for the ongoing prospect of more rain," Crisafulli said during a news conference. Emergency services reported conducting 11 "swift water rescues" overnight.

More than 2,100 people were ordered to evacuate Townsville over the weekend, but about 10 percent of residents refused to leave, according

to emergency officials. Tragically, one woman in her 60s lost her life when a rescue boat capsized in the flood-hit town of Ingham, located about 100 kilometres from Townsville.

The floods also caused significant damage to infrastructure, including the collapse of a critical bridge over Ollera Creek, which severed the main coastal road, the Bruce Highway. "It's not every day you see a bridge torn in two," Cris-

afulli remarked, highlighting the scale of the destruction.

Nearly 11,000 properties remain without power across northern Queensland, with no immediate timeline for restoration, according to Ergon Energy. Townsville's acting mayor, Ann-Maree Greaney, said that communities were isolated due to road closures, and efforts were underway to deliver food and restore power.

Deadly Wildfires in Argentina's Patagonia Force Evacuations, Destroy 3,000 Hectares

TPN Correspondent | Argentina

A deadly wildfire has ravaged around 3,000 hectares of land near El Bolson, a popular tourist destination in Argentina's Patagonia region, prompting the evacuation of hundreds of residents. The fires, which broke out on Thursday in the Cajon del Azul hiking area in Amprale, have caused widespread devastation. High summer temperatures and strong winds helped the fire spread rapidly, leaving destruction in its wake.

The fire has claimed the life of one individual, who suffered a cardiac arrest from inhaling smoke while inside his residence, as reported by Bruno Pogliano, the mayor of El Bolson. "This disaster left one fatal victim, devastated thousands of hectares and caused enormous damage to our community," said Alberto Weretilneck, governor of Rio Negro province, where the fires are burning.

Over 800 people have been evacuated from the affected areas, as authorities work to contain the spread of the flames. The provincial government of Rio Negro has declared a state of emergency, imposing a ban on open fires and strengthening surveillance and prevention measures, which will remain in place until April 30.

Firefighters are facing a challenging task in battling the blazes, with the ongoing threat of the fires being fueled by dry conditions and unpredictable weather patterns. The region has been experiencing extreme summer temperatures, exacerbating the risk of wildfires in an already vulnerable landscape.

In response to the disaster, authorities are mobilizing resources to assist in firefighting efforts and support the affected communities. While the situation remains dire, officials are hopeful that these measures will help control the fires in the coming days.

Zelenskyy Warns Against Excluding Ukraine from US-Russia Talks on War

TPN Correspondent | Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned on Saturday that excluding Ukraine from talks between the United States and Russia about the ongoing war would be "very dangerous." He stressed the importance of Ukraine being directly involved in any discussions aimed at ending the conflict, especially as both sides work toward a potential ceasefire.

Zelenskyy expressed concern over Russia's reluctance to engage in meaningful ceasefire talks, pointing out that Moscow views any form of concessions as a loss, particularly with the current military advantage on the battlefield. He argued that the Kremlin's stance has made negotiations difficult, and he emphasized that the war could not be resolved without Ukraine's active participation in the dialogue.

In the interview, Zelenskyy highlighted that US President Donald Trump could play a key role in bringing Russian President Vladimir Putin to the negotiation table by leveraging sanctions targeting Russia's energy and banking sectors, in addition to continuing military support for Ukraine. "I think these are the closest and most important steps," Zelenskyy said, referring to the need for a strategic and coordinated approach involving Ukraine, the US, and its allies.

Zelenskyy's comments came after Trump's remarks on Friday, in which the former president indicated that US and Russian officials had already begun talks about ending the war. However, Trump did not provide further details on the discussions. Zelenskyy expressed that while Russia may have its own diplomatic channels, excluding Ukraine from the conversation would be detrimental to global stability. "Talking about Ukraine without us — it is dangerous for everyone," he concluded, emphasizing the crucial role his country plays in shaping the outcome of the war.

Trump Threatens EU Tariffs, Cuts Funding to South Africa Amid Trade War Escalation

TPN Correspondent | Washington DC

US President Donald Trump has announced plans to impose tariffs on goods from the European Union, following his recent moves to target Canada, Mexico, and China. Trump said on Sunday that tariffs on the EU would be implemented "pretty soon," accusing the bloc of taking advantage of the United States. This statement adds to his ongoing criticism of the EU's trade practices, which he claims have been unfair to the US.

Trump's comments on tariffs come on the heels of his recent actions, including 25% tariffs on Mexican and Canadian goods and a 10% tariff on Chinese imports. While Trump has previously threatened to impose tariffs on the EU, this latest declaration marks a potential escalation of the trade war. He reiterated his grievances over the US trade deficit with the 27-nation bloc, stating, "The European Union has treated us so terribly."

The European Union has vowed to retaliate if Trump follows through on his tariff threat. A spokesperson for the EU stated that it would "respond firmly" to any unfair tariffs imposed by the US. In addition to the EU, Trump's trade war has sparked backlash from key allies, including Canada and Mexico, who have already pledged retaliatory measures. China has also said it plans to challenge Trump's tariffs at the World Trade Organization.

In a related development, Trump also criticized South Africa, accusing the country of "confiscating" land and mistreating certain classes of people. He announced that the US would cut off all future funding to South Africa, pending an investigation into these claims.

Stock Markets Decline on Global Uncertainty; IT and Healthcare Limit Losses



Domestic stock markets closed lower on Monday. The Nifty opened with a gap-down of 162 points in the morning on negative signals from global markets. Donald Trump's decision to stop funding to South Africa, preparations to impose tariffs on other countries, signals from those countries to impose tariffs in retaliation, and international uncertainty contributed to this. After that, there was a slight recovery as investors took up some buying. However, the further weakening of the rupee against the dollar increased the negative sentiment. Nifty ended with a loss of 121 points and Sensex 319 points on support from IT and healthcare shares.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 77,505 in the previous session, opened at 77,063 today. It touched an intraday low of 76,756. It reached an intraday high of 77,260. It ended at 77,186, down 319 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,319 on Monday, touched

a low of 23,222 and a high of 23,381. It lost a total of 121 points and closed at 23,361. The Nifty Bank fell 296 points to settle at 49,210.

In the Nifty50, 16 companies gained while 35 lost. Bajaj Finance, Shriram Finance, M&M, Wipro, Bajaj Finserv were the top gainers. IT, Tata Consumer, Hero Moto, Coal India, BEL were the biggest losers. Today, all sectoral indices, except IT, healthcare, auto, pharma, and consumer durables, were in the red. Bank, FMCG, metal, oil and gas indices fell the most.

Market breadth on NSE today completely shifted in favor of sellers. Out of a total of 2928 stocks traded, 2063 lost. Only 787 gained. Shares of 34 companies reached 52-week highs



while 79 reached 52-week lows.

Rupee weakened by 58 paise to settle at 87.19 against dollar. Jefferies reduced GMR Airports target to Rs.92 from Rs.100. Nomura maintained buy rating with a target price of Rs.870 for Five Star Business Finance. Kamat Hotels and Sky Gold ended in the upper circuit. Railways, defense and infra shares were volatile today due to reduced capex spending. Stove Craft's net profit in the third quarter rose 79% from Rs 6.7 crore to Rs 12 crore. Alembic Pharma's net profit fell 23% to Rs 138 crore from Rs 180 crore. Poly Medicure's net profit rose 31% from Rs 65 crore to Rs 85 crore. The heads of the respective companies believe that India will register double-digit growth in the financial year 2026. Mahindra Life Space has won a project worth Rs 950 crore for the redevelopment of residential societies in Mumbai. Sky Gold's net profit rose from Rs 9 crore to Rs 37 crore. Hero MotoCorp's January exports rose 140.8%. Swan Energy won an order worth Rs 111 crore. Divis Laboratories' profit rose from Rs 358 crore to Rs 589 crore.

1. Bajaj Finance (BAJFINANCE) – NBFC Leader

Bajaj Finance is a market leader in the Indian non-banking financial company (NBFC) space, offering consumer loans, SME loans, and commercial lending. It has a strong digital lending platform



and a growing customer base. Bajaj Finance remains a strong long-term bet due to its consistent earnings growth, high return ratios, and leadership in digital lending. Valuations are on the higher side, but growth potential remains strong.

2. Wipro (WIPRO) – IT Services Giant

Wipro is one of India's largest IT services firms, providing consulting, cloud computing, and digital transformation solutions globally. It has a significant presence in the BFSI, healthcare, and manufacturing sectors. Wipro's growth has lagged behind peers like TCS and Infosys due to weaker deal wins and margin pressures. However, the company is focusing on improving execution efficiency and large deal acquisitions. Suitable for long-term investors seeking stability.

3. Bharti Airtel – Telecom & Digital Services Leader

Bharti Airtel is one of India's leading telecom providers, offering mobile, broadband, and enterprise solutions. It is expanding its 5G network and increasing ARPU (Average Revenue Per User) with premium offerings. Bharti Airtel is benefiting from strong subscriber growth, premiumization, and tariff hikes. Its high P/E suggests premium valuation, but



long-term growth potential remains strong due to rising data consumption and enterprise business expansion.

4. Cholamandalam Investment & Finance (CHOLAFIN) – Leading NBFC in Vehicle Finance



Cholamandalam is a Murugappa Group NBFC, focusing on vehicle finance, home loans, and SME loans. It has a strong rural and semi-urban lending presence. Cholamandalam is well-positioned to benefit from rising demand for auto and rural credit. While valuations are high, its consistent profitability and strong loan growth make it a solid long-term NBFC play.

5. TVS Motor Company (TVSMOTOR) – Two-Wheeler & EV Leader

TVS Motor is a leading two-wheeler manufacturer in India with a growing presence in electric vehicles (EVs) and premium motorcycles. It competes with Hero MotoCorp and Bajaj Auto. TVS is rapidly expanding its EV portfolio and premium segment motorcycles. Strong brand loyalty and international expansion support long-term growth. A good pick for investors looking for a blend of stability and growth in the auto sector.



Rupee hits an all-time low to go past Rs 87 against US dollar



The Indian rupee plunged to a record low of Rs 87.07 against the US dollar on Monday, following new trade tensions triggered by fresh tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump. The rupee's sharp decline, which amounted to a 0.5% drop in early trade, reflects broader instability in the global currency markets as the US dollar strengthened significantly.

The rupee's weakness was largely a result of three executive orders signed by Trump over the weekend, which introduced new tariffs on major trading partners. These measures included 25% tariffs on imports from Mexico and Canada, along with a 10% tariff on goods from China, set to take effect on Tuesday. As the US dollar gained strength in response to these tariffs, it placed significant pressure on other currencies, particularly in Asia.

Traders anticipate continued pressure on the rupee throughout the day, with further weakness expected as global markets adjust to the news. The strengthening of the US dollar, spurred by the tariffs, contributed to the rise of the dollar index, which climbed 0.3% to 109.8. This stronger dollar has affected not only the Indian rupee but other Asian currencies as well.



Budget is By the People, For the People, Of the People: says Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, paraphrasing Abraham Lincoln, described the Union Budget as "by the people, for the people, of the people." In her remarks, she highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strong support for tax cuts aimed at easing the burden on the middle class. According to Sitharaman, while the idea for tax cuts was driven by the Prime Minister's vision, it took time to convince bureaucrats to implement the changes.

The newly introduced tax rates are designed to reduce the financial strain on the middle class, leaving more disposable income in the hands of households. This move is expected to stimulate household consumption and support the economy by encouraging spending. Sitharaman emphasized that widening the tax base is an ongoing process, and it is crucial for citizens to understand the importance of tax payment in sustaining government welfare schemes.

Sitharaman acknowledged the concerns of the middle class, which had long been expressing dissatisfaction about their unmet aspirations despite being honest taxpayers. She explained that the government's decision to provide tax relief was a response to their calls for assistance, especially amid rising inflation.

However, while Prime Minister Modi was quick to approve the tax cuts, convincing the officials in the Finance Ministry and the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), responsible for ensuring revenue collection, required more effort. Sitharaman shared that the process took some time but ultimately led to the announcement of the tax relief, which has been in the works for several months.

Adani Power Plans Major Expansion to Boost Capacity by 1.7x by 2030

Adani Power Ltd (APL), India's second-largest thermal power generation company, is on track to significantly expand its power generation capacity. According to a report by Jefferies, APL aims to increase its capacity from 17.6 GW to 30.7 GW by 2030, marking a 1.7 times growth.

The company's strategic expansion plan comes with strong backing in terms of land acquisition and financing. APL is working closely with Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) for the delivery of necessary equipment. Additionally, APL's in-house engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) team is ensuring that capital expenditure progresses according to schedule, driving the company's expansion forward.

Jefferies highlighted that India's peak power deficit situation, combined with APL's exposure to the merchant power market, provides a positive outlook for the compa-



ny. The report projects a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10% in EBITDA between FY24 and FY27. As new power capacity comes online, EBITDA growth is expected to accelerate, with a 19% CAGR forecasted between FY27 and FY30. Overall, the report estimates a 2.2x increase in EBITDA from FY24 to FY30.

In terms of funding the expansion, APL will

require an incremental capital expenditure of Rs 1.6 trillion to add 13 GW of capacity. The company plans to manage this investment through operational cash flows of Rs 1.4 trillion between FY25 and FY30. However, APL's debt-to-equity ratio is expected to peak at 1.4x during FY26-FY27 before declining post-FY27 as new plants begin generating revenue.



Araku Chali Festival Concludes with Grand Success

TPN Correspondent | Araku

The three-day Araku Chali Festival concluded on a grand note, attracting large crowds who enjoyed the celebrations in the scenic valley. The festival, which featured trekking, cultural performances, traditional competitions, and adventure activities, showcased the rich heritage and natural beauty of Araku.

Trekking to Instill Enthusiasm in Tourists

Many youths enthusiastically participated in the trekking program organized to instill joy and courage in tourists. On the third day of the festival, participants trekked approximately three kilometers from the Sun-kara Metta Coffee Trail, experiencing the beauty of the region while also contributing to its preservation. In line with the District Collector's vision of making tourist areas plastic-free, trekkers actively removed plastic waste, spreading awareness about the responsibility of respecting nature. The trek was supported by the OP Agarwal team from Madhya Pradesh.

Under the guidance of Visakhapatnam District Judge M Giridhar, Divisional Forest Officer Sandeep Reddy, Sub-Divisional Forest Officer Umamaheswari, and Freedom Fighters Museum Curator P Shankar Rao, the trekking experience became a memorable one. Participants expressed their delight in witnessing diverse bird species, inhaling the fresh aroma of medicinal plants, and immersing themselves in nature's tranquility.

Muggula Competitions Add to the Festive Spirit
A major highlight of the festival was the muggula (rangoli) competitions, which attracted significant participation. Women from tribal and local communities enthusiastically displayed their artistic talents, creating vibrant and intricate rangoli designs. Several women officers also took part, adding to the festival's celebratory atmosphere.

The winners of the muggula competition were:

- **First Prize: B. Devi**
- **Second Prize: L. Madhu Sri**
- **Third Prize: U. Sunitha**
- **Consolation Prize:** Three-year-old Chinmayi, who impressed everyone with her participation.

District Collector S. Dinesh Kumar, while presenting the awards, lauded the enthusiastic response and highlighted the festival's ability to bring together locals and tourists in cultural harmony.

Government's Commitment to Tourism Development

Special Chief Secretary of the Tourism Department, Ajay Jain, addressed the festival's closing ceremony virtually, emphasizing the government's strong commitment to developing tourist destinations. He noted that after a five-year gap, the Araku Chali Festival was successfully

revived, setting an example for other districts. He announced that next year, a large-scale Alluri Tribal Destination festival would be organized to further promote tourism.

District Collector S. Dinesh Kumar revealed ambitious plans to boost adventure tourism in the region. He stated that nine key destinations had been identified for development, with 20 paragliding setups and cross-country flying planned for April next year. Additional tourism projects in Tajangi and Jolaput areas were also announced, with a focus on enhancing cultural experiences. Notable festival highlights included a 300-person marathon, a 20-member cycling event, and trekking expeditions, alongside mesmerizing performances by artists from Manipur, Nagaland, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh. The festival also featured food courts offering authentic tribal cuisine, adding a gastronomic delight to the event.

Celebrity Participation Adds to the Festivities

The Araku Chali Festival 2025 was further enlivened by the participation of notable personalities who added a special charm to the event. A standout moment was when IAS officer M.J. Abhishek Gowda captivated the audience with his rendition of the popular Telugu song Neeli Neeli Aakasam from the movie 30 Rojullo Preminchadam Ela. His performance, along with his participation in traditional dances, garnered widespread praise on social media.

Adding to the festival's allure, popular singer Mangli delivered an electrifying performance on February 2nd, energizing the crowd with her dynamic stage presence.

A Grand Conclusion with Promises for the Future

As the curtains came down on the Araku Chali Festival, it left an indelible mark on the visitors who cherished its cultural and adventurous experiences. The festival successfully brought together nature enthusiasts, adventure seekers, and cultural connoisseurs, setting a new benchmark for tourism events in the region. Officials reaffirmed their commitment to making the 2026 edition of the festival even more spectacular, transforming it into a must-visit event for both domestic and international tourists. With its blend of nature, adventure, culture, and tradition, the Araku Chali Festival has firmly established itself as a premier tourism attraction in Andhra Pradesh.

Anakapalle District Collector Vijaya Krishnan, Joint Collector Dr. M.J. Abhishek Gowda, ITDA Project Officer V. Abhishek, Sub-Collector Sooryaman Patel, Rampachodavaram Sub-Collector Kalpasri, DFO Sandeep Reddy, DRO K. Padmalatha, and other dignitaries graced the event, making it a grand success.



Telangana's Young Cricket Sensation Trisha

- A Journey of Sacrifice and Triumph

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad
Telangana's rising cricket star Gongidi Trisha has become a national sensation after her outstanding performance in the Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup. With her remarkable all-round skills, she played a crucial role in leading Team India to victory in the mega tournament, making her one of the brightest prospects in Indian women's cricket. However, behind Trisha's success lies an extraordinary tale of perseverance, sacrifice, and unwavering parental support, particularly from her father, Gongidi Ramireddy.

The Father's Sacrifice Behind Trisha's Success

Trisha's journey to international cricket is not just a story of talent and hard work but also of immense sacrifice by her father. Similar to fellow Telugu cricketer Nitish Kumar Reddy, Trisha's success was shaped by the dedication and relentless efforts of her father. Gongidi Ramireddy, a native of Bhadrachalam in the erstwhile Khammam district, was a fitness trainer in a private company. A sports enthusiast himself, he envisioned a career in sports for his future child even before she was born. On December 15, 2005, when Trisha was born, Ramireddy did not let the societal mindset about girls in sports deter him. Determined to nurture his daughter's sporting career, he took it upon himself to guide her every step of the way. Initially, he introduced her to different sports, including tennis and badminton, but it was cricket that caught Trisha's interest. She shared her father's passion for the game and often watched matches with him, strengthening his resolve to shape her into a professional cricketer.

Overcoming Hurdles and Relocating for Cricket

Despite facing skepticism from people around him and struggling with financial difficulties, Ramireddy never wavered. He made the life-altering decision to quit his job as a fitness trainer and dedicate himself entirely to his daughter's cricketering



journey. Realizing that opportunities in their hometown were limited, he took another bold step—moving his entire family to Hyderabad to provide Trisha with better training facilities. In Hyderabad, he enrolled her at St. John's Cricket Academy in Secunderabad, one of the finest cricket academies in the state. This shift came with its challenges—balancing her cricket training and education, financial constraints, and the pressure to prove that their sacrifices were not in vain. But Trisha, inspired by her father's dedication, put in relentless effort to hone her skills in both batting and bowling.

Trisha's Rise Through the Ranks

Trisha's hard work soon bore fruit as she began making waves in Hyderabad's cricketering circuit. She gained recognition as a talented all-rounder, earning a spot in Hyderabad's team for the 2017-18 Senior Women's T20 League. Her performances there led to her selection for India B in the Senior Women's Challenge Trophy held in Andhra Pradesh in 2021-22. By 2023, she had secured a place in India's

Under-19 Women's team and played a key role in the Under-19 World Cup that year. She showcased her batting prowess by scoring 24 runs in the final, contributing significantly to India's victory.

A Star Performer in the 2025 Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup

Trisha's defining moment came in the 2025 edition of the Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup, held in Malaysia. She emerged as the highest run-scorer in the tournament, playing a crucial role in India's dominant run.

In the final against South Africa, India chased down the target of 83 runs with ease, losing only one wicket in 11.2 overs. Trisha top-scored with an unbeaten 44, guiding the team to victory. Earlier in the match, she had also played a pivotal role with the ball, taking three crucial wickets to restrict South Africa to a meager total.

Her standout performances extended beyond the final. In the Super Six stage, she smashed a record-breaking 110 runs off just 59 balls against Scotland, hitting 13 fours and four sixes. This innings made her the first cricketer to score a century in the 2025 Women's Under-19 World Cup, further solidifying her reputation as an exceptional talent.

A Dream Yet to Be Fulfilled

Trisha's achievements have brought immense pride to Telangana and to her father, Ramireddy, whose sacrifices have finally paid off. Yet, his ultimate dream remains unfulfilled—seeing his daughter represent the senior Indian Women's team. With her current trajectory, it is only a matter of time before Trisha dons the India jersey at the highest level. Her story is a testament to the power of perseverance, determination, and parental sacrifice. From a small town in Telangana to the global cricketing stage, Gongidi Trisha has become a beacon of inspiration for aspiring young cricketers across the country.

Praggnanandhaa Defeats Gukesh in Tiebreaker to Win Tata Steel Chess Masters Title



Chennai's chess prodigy, Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa, triumphed over World Champion D Gukesh in a nerve-wracking tiebreaker to claim his first-ever Tata Steel Chess Masters title. The 19-year-old battled exhaustion and immense pressure to overcome his compatriot 2-1 in the final of the tournament's 87th edition on Sunday.

Both players ended the regular rounds with 8.5 points each, forcing a tiebreaker. Gukesh suffered a loss to Arjun Erigaisi, while Praggnanandhaa was defeated by Germany's Vincent Keymer. In the tiebreaker, Gukesh took the lead in the first game due to a blunder by Praggnanandhaa, but the latter bounced back in the second, employing the Trompowsky opening to level the score at 1-1.

The match then moved to sudden death, where Gukesh initially had an advantage, gaining a pawn. However, under pressure, he lost control, first giving away a pawn and later his last remaining knight. Praggnanandhaa capitalized on the errors with his impeccable endgame technique, securing victory.

With this win, Praggnanandhaa became the first Indian since Viswanathan Anand to win the Tata Steel Chess title. Gukesh, unfortunately, faced heartbreak for the second consecutive year, having lost the 2023 tiebreaker to Wei Yi.

After the victory, Praggnanandhaa expressed his excitement, calling it his most stressful day. "I didn't expect to win, but somehow things went my way," he said.

Sift Kaur Samra, Jonathan Anthony Win Gold at National Games 2025

Punjab's Sift Kaur Samra and Karnataka's Jonathan Anthony clinched gold medals in the women's 50m 3 positions and men's 10m pistol events, respectively, at the ongoing 38th National Games on Monday.

Samra, an Asian Games gold medallist, delivered a stellar performance, scoring 461.2 points at the Maharana Pratap Sports College. Her Punjab teammate Anjum Moudgil secured silver (458.7 points), while Telangana's Surabhi Bhardwaj Rapole took bronze (448.8 points).

In the men's 10m pistol final, Karnataka's Jonathan Anthony secured gold with a flawless performance, while SSCB's Ravinder Singh and Gurpreet Singh bagged silver and bronze, respectively.

Expressing her joy, Samra said, "This feels like a comeback after the Olympics. Winning gold today is special." Anthony added, "Competing against top shooters made this victory even more meaningful."

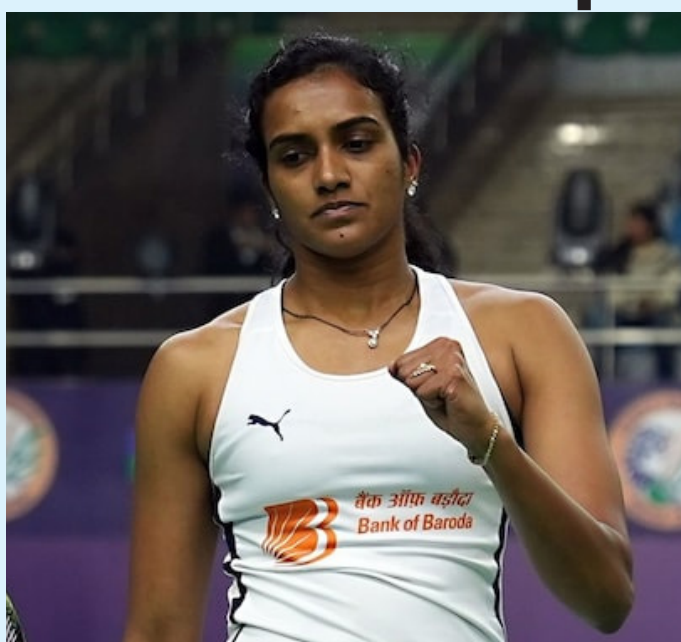


Indian Shuttlers to Attend Preparatory Camp in Guwahati Ahead of Asia Mixed Team Championship

The Indian badminton team, including top players like PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen, will take part in a five-day preparatory camp in Guwahati from Tuesday, ahead of the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships scheduled in Qingdao, China, from February 11-16.

After securing a bronze medal in the 2023 edition, the Indian squad aims to better their performance this time. The team will depart for the tournament on February 8.

Badminton Association of India (BAI) Secretary General Sanjay Mishra emphasized that the camp at the National Center of Excellence would not only en-



hance players' technical skills but also provide exposure to young shuttlers by training alongside India's finest talents.

"In addition to technical training, the camp will focus on discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship, ensuring a well-rounded preparation ahead of this major team event," Mishra said in a release.

The 14-member Indian squad will be spearheaded by PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen, with support from Asian Games gold medalists Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, and World Championship bronze medallist HS Prannoy. The preparatory camp is expected to boost team bonding and refine their strategies ahead of the high-stakes tournament.

La Liga: Lewandowski's Goal Secures Barcelona's Win Over Alaves, Keeps Title Hopes Alive



Robert Lewandowski's decisive second-half goal helped Barcelona secure a crucial 1-0 victory over Alaves on Sunday, narrowing the gap on La Liga leaders Real Madrid to four points. The win came after Real Madrid dropped points against Espanyol, giving Barcelona an opportunity to close in on their rivals.

The match at the Olympic Stadium saw Barcelona struggle to break down Alaves' strong defense in the first half. However, a brilliant cross from Lamine Yamal in the 61st minute allowed Lewandowski to net his 18th goal of the season, making him the league's top scorer.

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick praised Lewandowski, calling him "the best number nine in the box." The win places Barcelona three points behind Atletico Madrid, who face Real Madrid next weekend.

Despite Alaves' defensive resilience, Barcelona maintained composure. Substitute Ferran Torres nearly doubled the lead, but his curling shot was saved. With the victory, Barcelona remains in the title race, keeping pressure on their Madrid rivals. Meanwhile, Athletic Bilbao drew 2-2 against Real Betis, while Osasuna secured a 2-1 win over Real Sociedad.



Prabhas' First Look as 'Rudra' from 'Kannappa' Unveiled

The much-awaited first look of Prabhas as 'Rudra' from the epic film 'Kannappa' has been officially revealed. Starring Manchu Vishnu in the lead, the film is being made on a grand scale with a massive star cast. Prabhas plays a crucial role in this ambitious project, which is produced by Manchu Vishnu under his home banner. The first look showcases Prabhas in a powerful and intense avatar, increasing anticipation for the film. Directed by Mukesh Kumar Singh, 'Kannappa' is set to be a visual spectacle and will release worldwide on April 25, 2025. With its grandeur and star-studded lineup, the film is expected to be one of the biggest releases of the year.

'Coffee With a Killer' Movie Review: An Underwhelming Thriller Set in a Coffee Shop

'Coffee With a Killer', directed by CRP Patnaik, is a crime thriller that unfolds entirely in a coffee shop. Released directly on Aha, the film attempts to blend suspense with multiple subplots but struggles with its execution.

The story revolves around a coffee shop where people discuss personal and professional matters. Among them, a contract killer enters, waiting for instructions to eliminate a target. As the film progresses, multiple characters, including a cop, film producers, land mafia members, and lovers, contribute to the chaotic environment. The suspense builds around who the target is and how the events unfold.

Despite an intriguing premise, the film fails to maintain engagement. The screenplay feels disjointed, with subplots like hawala transactions and relationship troubles lacking depth. The humor track involving Srinivasa Reddy and Suresh falls flat, while the excessive number of characters dilutes the tension.

Performance-wise, Ravi Babu, Sathyam Rajesh, and Srinivasa Reddy deliver decent performances, but the weak narrative under-



mines their efforts. The cinematography and background score are passable, but the execution lacks finesse.

With a better screenplay and stronger character arcs, the film could have been a gripping thriller. Unfortunately, it misses the mark, making it a forgettable watch.

Rating: (2/5)

Beyonce Wins First Grammy for Album of the Year with 'Cowboy Carter'

Los Angeles: Beyonce won her first-ever Album of the Year award at the Grammy Awards 2025 on Sunday for her country album "Cowboy Carter." The music icon, who already holds the record for the most Grammy wins, finally secured the prestigious award, beating Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish, and others.

"I just feel very full and very honored. It's been many, many years," Beyonce said in an emotional acceptance speech. Rapper Kendrick Lamar won Record of the Year and Song of the Year for "Not Like Us." Meanwhile, Chappell Roan was named Best New Artist and used her stage time to call for better wages and healthcare benefits for musicians.

The Grammys also served as a fundraiser for victims

of the recent wildfires, which had displaced thousands, including many musicians. The night opened with an all-star performance of "I Love LA" by John Legend, Brad Paisley, St. Vincent, and Brittany Howard.

Hosted by Trevor Noah, the show directed viewers toward donation options while celebrating musical excellence.

Grammy 2025 Highlights

- **Album of the Year:** Cowboy Carter – Beyonce
- **Record of the Year:** Not Like Us – Kendrick Lamar
- **Song of the Year:** Not Like Us – Kendrick Lamar
- **Best New Artist:** Chappell Roan
- **Best Pop Vocal Album:** Short n' Sweet – Sabrina Carpenter
- **Best Country Album:** Cowboy Carter – Beyonce



Grammys 2025: Indian-Origin Chandrika Tandon Wins Big, Beats Ricky Kej and Anoushka Shankar

Indian-American vocalist Chandrika Tandon won the Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album award at the 67th Annual Grammy Awards for her album Triveni, held on Sunday at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles.

Chandrika shared the honor with her collaborators, South African flautist Wouter Kellerman and Japanese cellist Eru Matsumoto. She triumphed over other notable nominees, including Ricky Kej (Break of Dawn), Anoushka Shankar (Chapter II: How Dark It Is Before Dawn), Ryuichi Sakamoto (Opus), and Radhika Vekaria (Warriors of Light).

The Consulate General of India in New York congratulated her via social media, stating: "Congratulations to Ms. Chandrika Tandon @chandrikatandon on winning the Grammy Award @RecordingAcad in the Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album category for Triveni! A mesmerizing fusion of ancient mantras, flute, and cello, Triveni bridges cultures and traditions through the universal language of music."

Apart from Tandon's historic win, the Grammy Awards 2025 had several headline-making moments. Kanye West and his wife Bianca Censori were escorted out by police, while Hollywood star Will Smith made his first major awards show appearance since the infamous 2022 Oscar slap incident. Smith participated in a tribute to Quincy Jones, introducing Herbie Hancock on piano and later welcoming Cynthia Erivo, who performed Fly Me to the Moon.

Tandon's victory marks another proud moment for Indian-origin artists on the global stage.



Ed Sheeran and Armaan Malik Set Stage on Fire with '2Step' at Hyderabad Concert

British pop sensation Ed Sheeran and Indian singer Armaan Malik set the stage ablaze during Sheeran's India Tour concert at Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad, on Sunday. The event witnessed a spectacular musical collaboration as the duo performed the Indian rendition of 2Step, followed by the original English version, leaving the audience in awe.

A video shared by BookMyShow captured the electrifying moment when Ed Sheeran welcomed Armaan Malik on stage, saying, "Can you please make some noise for Armaan Malik?" The crowd erupted in cheers as the two artists delivered a power-packed act.

In another special moment, Armaan Malik performed the hit Telugu song Butta Bomma from Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo, a song that Ed Sheeran had previously grooved to during his Mumbai visit in 2023. Malik took to Instagram to share a clip of his performance, captioning it, "Performing Butta Bomma in Hyderabad is always just 'perfect'."

Ahead of the concert, Ed Sheeran and Armaan Malik also enjoyed a day out in Hyderabad, which Malik documented in a series of Instagram posts. Ed Sheeran's six-city India tour, which began in Pune on January 30, will continue with performances in Chennai, Bengaluru, Shillong, and Delhi in the coming days.

