

POINT

Published from : Vijayawada - Hyderabad - Delhi - Bengaluru

Friday, 14th March, 2025 | 12 Pages

100 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH 11 YEARS OF JOURNEY

Janasena completes 11 years, growing from zero to 21 MLAs



- Pawan Kalyan's leadership and strategies define party's journey
- Shifting alliances and bold moves shaped electoral success
- Sometimes, Pawan confused people with his change of theories, from Left to right wing
- Strengthening leadership remains a key challenge for the party
- Tensions persist between TDP MLAs and Jana Sena cadre
- Allegedly coterie blocking access to Pawan Kalyan

- Many well wishers unable to meet Pawan Kalyan, who came with a desire to serve the party
- Many people worked for party become unknown for the party now
- Welcoming well wishers and using their abilities for the party is key requirement, which is not doing by Pawan
- Concerns raised over corruption by five party MLAs
- As of now, the relations with TDP are going in a good way with small flaws
- Whenever the leadership of TDP changes, then Pawan will opt for different strategy for sure

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Jana Sena Party, founded on March 14, 2014, has completed 11 years of its political journey. Which started with a single defected MLA has now grown into a 21-member legislative force, playing a key role in the ruling NDA alliance in Andhra Pradesh. Led by Pawan Kalyan, the party has faced numerous challenges, shifting alliances and strategies to establish its position in the state's political landscape. Pawan Kalyan initially aligned with the BJP in 2014, campaigning alongside the TDP. His aggressive campaigning in the final weeks influenced the election outcome. Over time, he raised critical issues such as Amaravati's capital status and the Uddhanam kidney problem. However, his fallout with both BJP and TDP over special status to Andhra Pradesh led him to ally with the Left parties in 2019. The move backfired, resulting in a

heavy defeat where even Pawan himself lost in both constituencies he contested. Following Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's victory, Pawan Kalyan realigned his strategy. He distanced himself from the Left and rekindled ties with the BJP. His growing opposition to the YSRCP government eventually brought him back into the TDP-BJP fold, where he played a key role in the 2024 elections. His aggressive stance during political events, including his detention in Visakhapatnam and his support for Chandrababu Naidu during the latter's arrest, boosted his public image, contributing to the coalition's victory. "Whatever I feel right, whatever I do, will favor the people or state. So there will not be any fixed theory, it will change according to the situations and the dynamics of the state", this is the answer of Pawan Kalyan to the people, who question his changed theories frequently.

COTERIE AROUND PAWAN:

Additionally, concerns have emerged regarding a coterie within Jana Sena allegedly controlling access to Pawan Kalyan. There are claims that some MLAs leveraged this network to secure their positions, while others are being blocked from directly reaching the party leader. Because of this situation, many well wishers who came forward to serve the party wholeheartedly, are unable to meet the Leader Pawan Kalyan. Due to the covert experiences of Prajarajyam, Pawan Kalyan is not believing anybody easily. He trusts whoever works with him for a long time only. But, there is no chance to many to work with him. Many people have spent their wealth at the time of Prajarajyam and now in the era of Janasena, but unable to reach leadership and unable to work with the party. Even losing that much, they become unknown people for the party in the new format.

PARTY NEEDS SECONDARY LEADERSHIP:

Despite the electoral success, internal challenges persist. Leadership in Jana Sena is largely centralized around Pawan Kalyan, with only a few prominent figures like Nadendla Manohar and Nagababu. Among the 21 MLAs, Mandali Buddha Prasad, Bhimavaram Anjibabu, and Palakonda Nimmaka Jayakrishna are from outside. Few have gained some recognition, while leadership in nearly 160 constituencies remains weak. There are also reports of tensions between TDP MLAs and Jana Sena cadres, with allegations that the former are not giving due importance to their coalition partners.

FIVE MLAS CORRUPTION:

Furthermore, complaints against five MLAs—Yelamanchili MLA Sundarakumar, Kakinada MLA Pantham Nanaji, Narsapuram MLA Bommidi Naykar, Polavaram MLA Balaraju, and Tirupati MLA Arani Srinivasulu—have raised concerns about their performance. It is speculated that Pawan Kalyan has already issued warnings to them. As the party navigates governance, strengthening its organizational structure and leadership remains crucial. While Jana Sena activists believe that securing full power is the ultimate goal, much depends on how Pawan Kalyan addresses internal challenges and future alliances. Though he says the alliance will be for 10 to 15 years, whenever leadership changes takes place in TDP, he will enroute to different strategy for sure.

Jana Sena Leaders Supervise Arrangements for Aavirbhav Sabha

- Leaders review seating, security, and stage setup
- Interaction with party workers and local organizers
- Party anticipates massive public turnout

TPN Correspondent | Pithapuram

Jana Sena Central Andhra Convener Baditha Shankar, along with State Ministers Nadendla Manohar and Kandula Durgesh, inspected the preparations at the Aavirbhav Sabha premises. Jana Sena Party NTR District President Samineni Udaya Bhanu also participated in the review. During the inspection, the leaders assessed seating arrangements, security measures, and the stage setup to ensure all preparations were in place for the upcoming event. They interacted with party workers and local organizers, instructing them to ensure a smooth and well-coordinated execution of the program. Speaking on the occasion, Baditha Shankar emphasized the significance of the Aavirbhav Sabha for the party and assured that every effort was being made to make it a grand success. State Ministers Nadendla Manohar and Kandula Durgesh echoed similar sentiments, stating that the event would reflect the party's commitment to strengthening its organization and engaging with the public. Party members and workers expressed enthusiasm, anticipating a massive turnout for the Sabha. Leaders reiterated that Jana Sena remains dedicated to its vision and will continue working towards its goals with public support.



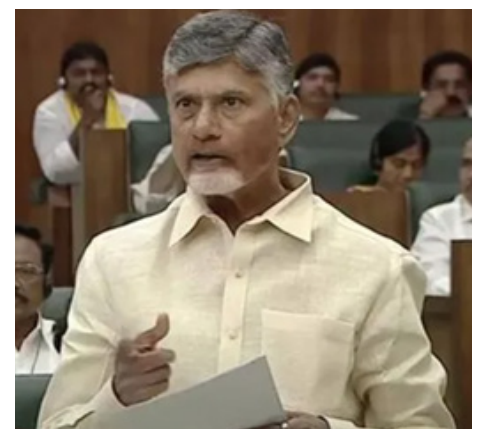
Revived AP's Power Sector, Pushes for 100% Solar Energy – CM Naidu

- TDP transformed AP into a power-surplus state
- YSRCP mismanagement led to electricity crisis
- Focus on green energy and solar power expansion

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu emphasized that the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) was instrumental in pioneering electricity reforms in Andhra Pradesh, turning it into a power-surplus state. Speaking during a short discussion in the AP Legislative Assembly, he criticized the previous YSRCP government for its mismanagement, which resulted in a power deficit.

Naidu recalled how he had witnessed farmers suffering due to power cuts and decided to implement 9-hour free daytime electricity for them. He highlighted that AP was the first state to introduce DISCOMs, regulatory boards, and energy auditing, reducing transmission losses from 23% in the past. He asserted that post-bifurcation, AP had no power cuts under TDP rule, but the previous government imposed surcharges on industries due to a power crisis. The CM accused the YSRCP govern-



ment of canceling PPAs, which led to an international dispute, including discussions in Davos.

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MLA Quota MLC Elections Unanimous in Telugu States

All 10 candidates elected unopposed

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Revived AP's...

Continued from page 1

He claimed that due to ego-driven decisions, the state had to pay ₹9,000 crore to power producers. Additionally, the Polavaram hydroelectric project remained stalled, causing a loss of 960 MW of potential power generation. Outlining future plans, Naidu announced a large-scale push for green energy. Under PM Suryagarh, every household will have 2 kW solar panels, aiming for 100% rooftop solar energy production. With 10,000 houses per constituency adopting solar, each household will generate 240 units of electricity, exceeding the state's current 100-unit average consumption. DISCOMs will purchase surplus energy, ensuring long-term cost benefits. The government is targeting 20 lakh solar rooftop connections this year, capable of generating 1,440 MW of power. Plans are also underway to reduce electricity purchase costs to ₹4.80 per unit from April 2025 and export surplus power to neighboring states. By modernizing power distribution and integrating smart grids, Naidu envisions a self-sufficient and energy-efficient Andhra Pradesh.

MLA Quota MLC Elections...

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The MLA quota MLC elections in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have concluded unanimously, with all 10 candidates securing their positions without contest. Election officials formally announced the results on Thursday. In Andhra Pradesh, five candidates from the ruling alliance and opposition parties filed their nominations. As part of the NDA alliance, TDP leaders BT Naidu, Beeda Ravichandra, and Kavali Greeshma filed nominations, along with Jana Sena's Nagendra Babu and BJP's Somu Veeraj. Returning Officer R. Vanitha Rani confirmed that all nominees were elected unopposed and subsequently handed over their election certificates. Similarly, in Telangana, the election saw a unanimous outcome. Five candidates—Vijayashanti, Addanki Dayakar, and Shankar Nayak from the Congress, along with Dasoju Shruvan from BRS and Nellikanti Satyam from CPI—secured their MLC seats without opposition. The nomination withdrawal deadline ended on Thursday, confirming their unopposed victory.

Clearing Jagan Govt's Fee Arrears, Implementing Reforms in Education – Minister Nara Lokesh

- Fee reimbursement arrears being cleared in phases
- Transparent appointments for university VCs
- Strengthening schools, ITIs, and polytechnics

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Minister Nara Lokesh stated that the previous YSRCP government had left ₹4,271 crore in fee reimbursement arrears, which the current government is clearing in phases. He assured that pending amounts would be directly transferred to colleges after April 24 under the new reimbursement system. Speaking in a discussion on education reforms in the Legislative Council, Lokesh warned private colleges against forcibly collecting fees from students, promising strict action.

He emphasized that education is the key to eliminating social inequalities and criticized the previous government for its ill-planned CBSE implementation. Mock tests conducted in CBSE schools showed a 90% failure rate in at least one subject. As a result, CBSE implementation has been temporarily postponed, and reforms will be introduced gradually. Lokesh also highlighted that school kits are now being provided without political branding, saving ₹1,000 crore in unnecessary expenses.

He accused the previous government of appointing relatives and party workers as university vice-chancellors. In contrast, the current government has appointed experts from institutions like IIT Kharagpur and NIT Warangal. Efforts are underway to construct buildings for ITIs and polytechnics, introduce an industry-linked curriculum, and ensure no government school is closed. Plans include sending teachers abroad for training and setting up a world-class training academy in Amaravati. Additionally, Lokesh announced the formation of Ea-



gle Committees in schools to prevent drug use and Green Clubs to promote environmental activities. Science fairs, cultural events, and 125 Bhavita Centers for children with special needs are also being planned. Lokesh Praises Vizianagaram Headmaster's Unique Approach Minister Lokesh lauded Chinta Ramana, the headmaster of Penta ZP High School in Vizianagaram, for his unconventional method of disciplining students. Instead of punishing them, he publicly punished himself to motivate them. A viral video of the incident caught Lokesh's attention, prompting him to commend the headmaster's dedication on social media. Lokesh emphasized collective efforts to improve education standards and ensure students' holistic development.

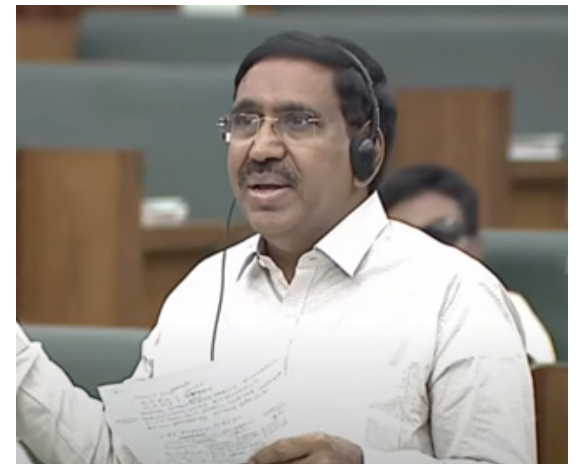
Tirupati Stampede Inquiry: Collector, TTD EO, SP Summoned



TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

The Judicial Inquiry Commission, led by Chairman Justice Satyanarayana Murthy, has summoned Tirupati District Collector Venkateswar, TTD EO Shyamala Rao, and SP Harshvardhan Raju for the third phase of inquiry into the January 8 stampede during the issuance of Vaikuntha Dwara Darshan tokens.

The hearing will be held in Tirupati from March 17. Ahead of the summons, Justice Satyanarayana Murthy will examine the queue line management at Tirumala on the 14th, 15th, and 16th of this month. The commission, appointed by the state government, has been conducting inquiries in multiple phases. In the second phase, held at the Tirupati Collectorate on February 22, eleven people provided testimony. Many victims from Visakhapatnam, who were either severely injured or lost family members in the tragedy, were issued notices to appear. However, they informed the commission that they were still recovering and unable to travel. As a result, Justice Satyanarayana Murthy conducted a virtual inquiry from Vijayawada on February 24, with victims testifying from the Vizag Gopalapatnam Tahsildar's office. Some injured devotees from Kerala and Tamil Nadu also participated virtually. With key officials now summoned, the upcoming phase of the inquiry is expected to focus on accountability and preventive measures for future crowd management at Tirumala.



135 Liters of Drinking Water for Every Household: Minister Narayana

- Water supply project to be completed in three years
- ₹8,500 crore sanctioned under Amrut 2.0 scheme
- 199 Anna canteens reopened, 63 more to start soon

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Municipal Affairs Minister Narayana announced that every household in the state will receive 135 liters of drinking water daily within three years. He made this statement in the Assembly while responding to the discussion on the municipal budget. With increasing urban migration, the municipal population has reached 1.5 crore, requiring urgent improvements in water supply. He accused the previous government of withholding municipal funds through CFMS, but CM Chandrababu Naidu has now ensured that municipalities will manage their own finances from April 1. The municipal department has been allocated ₹13,862 crore in the budget. Under the Amrut 2.0 scheme, ₹8,500 crore has been sanctioned, with the Center contributing 36.7%. He criticized the YSRCP for stalling the project due to a lack of matching grants, stating that ₹756 crore has now been allocated to complete it. He also announced that 360,430 sq. ft. of housing units will be completed by June. The Minister slammed the YSRCP for closing 204 Anna canteens between 2014-2019. He confirmed that 199 have been reopened, while 63 more will be operational in 100 days. Labor Minister Vasansetty Subhash alleged that 445 workers died in 363 industrial accidents from 2019-2024 due to the previous government's failure to conduct safety audits. He accused the YSRCP of mismanaging worker safety and ESI hospitals. Deputy Speaker Raghuramakrishna Raju secured approval for budget allocations, including ₹13,862 crore for municipalities and ₹13,609 crore for energy. A heated debate erupted between TDP MLA Kalava Srinivasulu and BJP leader Vishnu Kumar Raju. When asked to shorten his speech, Vishnu asserted his right to speak, briefly disrupting the session before the Deputy Speaker intervened.

Microsoft-AP Govt MoU: AI Skill Training for 2 Lakh Youth

- AP Govt partners with Microsoft for AI training
- 2 lakh people to be trained within a year
- Focus on IT, AI, and digital productivity skills

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with tech giant Microsoft to enhance AI and digital skills among the state's youth. The agreement, signed in the presence of State IT Minister Nara Lokesh, aims to prepare skilled personnel for IT and other industries. As part of the initiative, Microsoft will provide AI and modern technology training to 2 lakh people within a year, helping them secure international job opportunities. The program includes specialized training for 500 faculty members in 50 rural engineering colleges, enabling



them to mentor students in advanced technologies. Additionally, 10,000 students will receive training in AI and cloud computing, while 30,000 students in 30 Industrial Train-

ing Institutes (ITIs) will be trained in AI and digital productivity. This initiative is expected to bridge the skill gap and boost employment opportunities for youth across the state.

Demolition of Kasinayana Ashram a Bad Move: NDA Leaders



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Leaders of the ruling coalition strongly opposed the demolition of the Kasinayana Ashram, calling it an unjust act that hurt the sentiments of lakhs of devotees. They criticized the forest department for vacating a place that provided free food to all visitors, regardless of caste, religion, or ethnicity. The Avadhuta Kasinayana Ashram, locat-

ed in the Nallamala forests near Badvel in Kadapa district, was recently demolished by forest officials, sparking widespread protests across Rayalaseema, Nellore, and Prakasam districts. The issue was raised in the Assembly on Wednesday by Panyam MLA Gauru Charitha (TDP) and Jammalamadugu MLA Adinarayana Reddy (BJP), who demanded action against those responsible and urged the state government to rebuild the ashram. Devadaya Minister Anam Ramanarayana Reddy condemned the demolition, calling it an inhumane act against an institution that fed thousands daily. He expressed his frustration over increasing restrictions in the forest area, noting that even he was recently prevented from visiting the Ishtakameshwari Devi temple in Srisailem. He explained that the once-accessible forests are now designated as reserve forests and tiger sanctuaries, leading to such issues. The Minister stated that he had spoken to Union Forest and Environment Minister Bupendra Yadav through Health Minister Satyakumar, hoping for a resolution. Meanwhile, TDP sources confirmed that Education Minister Nara Lokesh has expressed his willingness to personally fund the reconstruction of the ashram.

YS Sharmila Slams BJP Over Delimitation, Calls It Revenge on Southern States



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

APCC President YS Sharmila Reddy strongly criticized the BJP, accusing it of conspiring to reduce the political influence of southern states through the delimitation process. She supported Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's stance, stating that his concerns were entirely valid.

Speaking on the matter, Sharmila alleged that the BJP, lacking significant support in the South, was resorting to politically motivated measures. She argued that delimitation based solely on population growth would be a severe injustice to states that effectively implemented family planning policies. Citing statistics, she pointed out that since 1971, the population of Uttar Pradesh alone had surged from 8 crore to 24 crore, leading to a disproportionate increase in parliamentary seats. "If the proposed changes take place, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar alone could have a combined representation of 222 MPs in the Lok Sabha, whereas both Telugu states together would see an increase of only 12 seats," she said. Sharmila demanded that the BJP convene an all-party meeting instead of making unilateral decisions on delimitation. She expressed concern over the potential marginalization of southern states in national politics. Taking a direct jab at Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Sharmila questioned his silence on the issue. "It is inappropriate for the CM to remain evasive on such a crucial matter. If we stay silent just to protect our alliance with the BJP, it will serve no purpose in the long run. We demand that Chandrababu Naidu clarify his stance on delimitation," she asserted.

Botsa Satyanarayana Defends Jagan, Questions Government on Allegations

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Opposition Leader in the Legislative Council Botsa Satyanarayana strongly criticized the government, stating that it is failing to provide proper answers during Question Hour. Speaking in the Council, he said that instead of responding to relevant queries, the government is making baseless accusations. Botsa demanded an investigation into various alleged scams, including Amaravati land deals, the skill development scam, and the Agri-gold case, tracing back to 2014. He asserted that calling former Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy a land grabber without proper evidence is unjustified. He further accused the ruling alliance of misleading the public with unfounded claims.

He alleged that the government is unable to counter the opposition with facts and is resorting to diversions. Botsa challenged the coalition leaders to present concrete proof instead of making false accusations. He pointed out that discus-



sions should be based on facts and that it is inappropriate to make allegations against a leader who is not present in the House to defend himself.

Responding to the allegations related to Amaravati, Botsa insisted that the previous YSRCP government had always been transparent. He reiterated that if the ruling party had any credible evidence, it should present it rather than rely-

ing on rhetoric. He also stated that YSRCP was ready to answer any legitimate question but would not respond to baseless accusations. Concluding his statement, Botsa criticized the coalition government for lacking direction and failing to focus on governance. He maintained that attempts to malign opposition leaders with false claims would not be tolerated and urged the government to act responsibly.

Nellore's Development with Public Cooperation - Mayor Sravanthi



TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Nellore Municipal Corporation Mayor Potluri Sravanthi affirmed that with the cooperation of all public representatives and officials, the city would be steered towards development. She addressed the general council meet-

ing held on Thursday at the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Council Hall in the corporation office.

The meeting, chaired by Mayor Sravanthi, saw the participation of council members from all city divisions. A total of 91 resolutions were presented, including 68 main agendas, 15 supplementa-

ry agendas, and 8 table agendas. Out of these, 89 resolutions were approved, while two were postponed.

Speaking on the occasion, the Mayor emphasized the importance of executing sanitation measures as planned across the city. She expressed hope that the Corporation Commissioner, officers, and staff from all departments would work together with the people to ensure the progress of Nellore Municipal Corporation. She directed corporation officials to prioritize resolving local issues raised by public representatives, including sanitation management, drainage canal desilting, mosquito eradication, and controlling stray dogs, pigs, and cattle.

Deputy Mayors, municipal corporators from all divisions, co-option members, Corporation Commissioner Surya Teja, and senior municipal officials participated in the meeting.

Jana Sena's Formation Meeting to Strengthen Party's Future



TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Jana Sena Party's Nellore City President and Amalapuram constituency formation meeting coordinator, Duggisetty Sujay Babu, emphasized the importance of the upcoming formation meeting in Pithapuram on the 14th. He stated that this gathering is significant as it marks the first formation meeting after the party's rise to power.

Speaking to True Point, Sujay Babu highlighted that every formation meeting has seen important decisions from the party leadership. He stressed that the decisions to be taken this time will be crucial for the party's future direction. The Aavirbhav Sabha aims to energize the cadre and further strengthen the party in the coming days.

Expressing his gratitude for being appointed as the Amalapuram coordinator for the event, he stated that he is actively working to strengthen the party at the field level in Nellore district as well. He assured that efforts are being made collectively to ensure the success of the Aavirbhav Sabha, with party workers coming together to support the event.



Gudivada Amarnath Questions Vijayasai Reddy's Stance on YSRCP Leadership

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Former minister and YSRCP leader Gudivada Amarnath has hit back at Vijayasai Reddy, criticizing his recent remarks about a coterie around YSRCP chief Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Responding to Vijayasai's comments that he distanced himself from Jagan due to this group, Amarnath questioned how he could now speak about a coterie when he was part of it until recently.

Amarnath pointed out that Vijayasai's words in Delhi while he was in YSRCP were vastly different from what he is saying now in Vijayawada. He remarked that the real coterie around Jagan is the people of Andhra Pradesh, and questioned whether other parties, including the TDP, do not have similar groups of close associates. Taking a jibe at Vijayasai, Amarnath said, "We were all part of the so-called coterie, but now some people suddenly find it a problem." He sarcastically added that just as love for one person grows, love for another diminishes, questioning whom Vijayasai has now chosen to align with after leaving YSRCP.

Amarnath stated that the political landscape in the state is currently divided into three groups: the ruling coalition, the YSRCP, and those who shift allegiance based on who is in power. He criticized leaders who held key positions in the YSRCP government but are now switching parties for political gain. He challenged whether those now leaving the party would have done so if Jagan had returned to power.

Concluding his remarks, Amarnath questioned whether people would accept Vijayasai Reddy's statements, suggesting that his comments indicate an attempt to reposition himself politically.



NDA Govt Committed to Solving Public Problems

TPN Correspondent | Ramachandrapuram

Senior coalition leader Vasamsetty Satyam emphasized that the ultimate goal of the coalition government is to address public grievances and ensure village development. Since State Labor Minister Vasamsetty Subhash was attending assembly sessions, Satyam participated as the chief guest in the Mana Gram - Mana Mantrivaryulu program at Gollapalem village, Kajuluru Mandal.

Speaking on the occasion, Satyam stated that villages are the backbone of the nation, and their development directly contributes to the country's progress. He assured that the coalition government is committed to resolving every issue at the village level and providing efficient governance. During the interaction, locals expressed con-

cerns about drinking water shortages, irrigation issues, pensions, ration cards, and the need for CC roads. Responding to the concerns, RWS officials informed that the government had sanctioned ₹1.30 crore under the Jala Jeevan Mission for drinking water in Gollapalem. While a water tank has been completed and 430 taps installed, a 2.5 km pipeline is yet to be laid, and efforts will be expedited to resolve the issue. Satyam assured that he would bring all problems to Minister Subhash's attention and push for immediate solutions. He also directed irrigation officials to ensure that farmers do not suffer from water shortages.

Mandal Development Officer J. Rambabu, Housing AE Srinivas, Village Sarpanch Pothuraj Prasanna Mounika, officials from various departments, coalition leaders, and local residents participated in the program.

High Drama at Guntur Jail as Ambati Rambabu's Followers Create Chaos

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

A high-voltage drama unfolded at Guntur district jail on Wednesday as YSRCP leader Ambati Rambabu and his followers created chaos while attempting to meet film actor Posani Krishna Murali, who is currently in judicial custody for making controversial remarks against Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan.

As Ambati arrived with a large contingent of party workers, an unexpected confrontation took place. A young man, who had also come to the jail, directly questioned Rambabu over his stance on the Kapu community during the YSRCP regime. The youth forcefully demanded answers, leading to a brief argument. However, Rambabu, avoiding a prolonged confrontation, proceeded into the jail premises.

Meanwhile, sensing a potential threat to the young man, police forces were quickly deployed in large numbers. Allegedly, some YSRCP supporters planned to attack him as he exited the premises. Sensing the volatile situation, security personnel stepped in to prevent any untoward incidents.

Rambabu's followers, angered by the confrontation, raised slogans in support of their leader and tried to intimidate the youth. The aggressive behavior of the YSRCP ranks led to tense moments outside the jail, with the police struggling to control the situation.

Amidst the heated atmosphere, authorities ensured the safe exit of the young man, preventing any escalation of violence.



Only 15 NGO Proposals Approved for Tribal Welfare in AP

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uke stated that only 15 proposals have been approved under the 'Assistance Fund' scheme for NGOs working in tribal welfare in Andhra Pradesh from 2022-23 to 2024-25 (as of March 7, 2025). A total of 12 NGOs have been sanctioned projects during this period.

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivanath (Chinni) raised the issue in the Lok Sabha, seeking details on the number of projects approved, the NGOs involved, funds allocated, and the number of beneficiaries under the scheme. Responding to his query, Minister Uke provided a written reply, stating that the Union government had appointed Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF) as an independent body to conduct a study on the scheme's effectiveness.

The Minister mentioned that BRLF submitted a comprehensive review report in December 2022. He also emphasized that district authorities are required to conduct annual inspections of the scheme, which is being implemented through the NGO Grants Online Application and Tracking System.



Tension in Gudivada Market After Clashes Between Two Groups

TPN Correspondent | Gudivada

A violent altercation between two communities in Gudivada Market led to a knife attack, causing serious injuries to a youth named Srinu from Sirigidi. The incident occurred when Puppala Pawan allegedly attacked Srinu with a knife, leaving him critically injured. Following the attack, Srinu was immediately taken to Gudivada Area Hospital for first aid. However, due to the severity of his injuries, his relatives later shifted him to a private hospital for advanced medical treatment. The attack sparked tension in the Gudivada Market Area, with a large number of youth from both communities gathering at the scene. The situation remained volatile, raising concerns over further clashes. Police forces have been deployed in the area to maintain order and prevent any escalation of violence. Authorities are closely monitoring the situation, and an investigation into the incident is underway.

Former DRDO Chairman Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy Meets CM Chandrababu Naidu

- Opportunities for defense sector investments in AP
- Support for 50 aspiring entrepreneurs
- CM assures infrastructure, land, and quick approvals

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Former DRDO Chairman and Aeronautical Society of India President Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat on Thursday. During the meeting, he presented investment opportunities in the defense sector and highlighted the potential for industrial growth in various regions of Andhra Pradesh.

Dr. Satheesh Reddy, who is actively working to establish industries with aspiring entrepreneurs, informed the Chief Minister that 50 entrepreneurs are ready to set up industries in the state. He requested the government's support to facilitate the establishment of these industries, ensuring smooth approvals and necessary assistance. He also emphasized the state's advantages, including its strategic location, skilled workforce, and the potential to become a key player in defense manufacturing. CM Chandrababu Naidu responded



positively to the proposal, stating that the state government would welcome all investors willing to contribute to Andhra Pradesh's industrial development. He assured that the government would provide essential infrastructure, allocate land, and ensure quick approvals to encourage industrial growth. He reiterated his commitment to fostering innovation and technological advancements in the state, aligning with the vision of making Andhra Pradesh a hub for defense and aero-

space industries. The Chief Minister further stated that Andhra Pradesh is determined to create a business-friendly environment and promote collaborations between the government, industry leaders, and entrepreneurs. He assured that the state would extend all necessary support to help industries thrive and generate employment opportunities for the youth. Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivanath and Amalapuram MP Harish were also present at the meeting.



Court Dismisses Case Against TDP Leaders Over Obulapuram Mining Protests

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Vijayawada Court of Representatives has dismissed the 17-year-old case registered against TDP leaders over their protests against Obulapuram mining irregularities. The verdict brings relief to the leaders, who have been attending hearings for several years. In 2007, during the Congress regime (2004-2009), TDP leaders led protests against illegal mining activities by the Obulapuram Mining Company (OMC). The company, owned by Congress leader Gali Janardhan Reddy, faced allegations of large-scale irregularities. In response, a legislative committee was set up to probe the matter. As part of the investigation, TDP leaders and other political representatives visited the Obulapuram mining site, following which a case was filed against 21 leaders. Several prominent leaders appeared before the Vijayawada Court of Representatives on

- Thursday, including:
- Minister Acham Naidu
 - Former Minister Nagam Janardhan Reddy
 - Devineni Uma
 - Nimmakayala Chinara-jappa
 - Dhulipalla Narendra Kumar
 - Errabelli Dayakar
 - Amarnath Reddy
 - Babu Rajendra Prasad
 - Kolla Lalitha Kumari
 - Polam Nagaraju
 - Chinnababu Ramesh
 - Gurumurthy and others

The court's decision to dismiss the case marks the end of a long legal battle for these leaders. TDP representatives and MLAs from both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana exchanged greetings in the courtroom as they received the verdict. The defense team included Gudapati Lakshminarayana, Gottipati Ramakrishna Prasad, and MV Satyanarayana, who successfully argued for case dismissal.

Bike Theft Case, Accused Sentenced to Seven Months and 21 Days Imprisonment

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

In a theft case registered at Machavaram Police Station under N.T.R. District Police Commissionerate, the accused, Kandula Vigneshwara Rao @ Vignesh (25), a resident of Budameru Madhyakatta, Vijayawada, was convicted and sentenced to seven months and 21 days imprisonment by First Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Shri M.S. Karimulla on March 13, 2025.

The complainant, a resident of Mogalrajapuram, Vijayawada, works at a bike finance company. On June 20, 2024, he parked his KTM bike near his house at night. The next morning, he found it missing and reported the theft to the Machavaram Police, who registered the case under Cr. No. 236/2024 U/S 379 IPC and initiated an investigation. Based on evidence collected at the crime scene, police conducted surveillance on suspects. Acting on gathered intelligence, they took Kandula Vigneshwara Rao @ Vignesh into custody on July 8, 2024, on a PT warrant. He was interrogated, arrested, and produced in court. The court, after examining 08 witnesses, found Vignesh guilty. On March 13, 2025, he was sentenced to seven months and 21 days imprisonment.

The case was successfully prosecuted with the efforts of:

- Senior Assistant Public Prosecutor Shri N. Umavathi
- C.M.S. Inspector P. Jagadishwara Rao
- Current Machavaram Inspector Prakash
- Former Machavaram Sub-Inspector A.V. Srinivas
- C.M.S. staff who supervised the case
- This conviction highlights the efficiency of Vijayawada Police in securing justice and their commitment to crime prevention.



₹49.18 Crore Sanctioned for Gudur Railway Station Redevelopment

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

In a significant step toward modernizing railway infrastructure, the Ministry of Railways has sanctioned ₹49.18 crore for the redevelopment of Gudur Railway Station. The decision, taken late on March 12, aims to transform the station into a state-of-the-art facility, enhancing passenger amenities and accommodating future regional growth.

This redevelopment is part of the South Central Railway's (SCR) broader initiative to upgrade key stations, ensuring world-class amenities for travelers while boosting regional economic development. The new station will seamlessly blend modern architecture with the rich cultural heritage of the region.

Key Features of the Project:

1. **New Station Building – Ground + 2 floors**
2. **Cover Over Platforms – Complete coverage from Platforms 1 to 5**
3. **12-Metre Wide Roof Plaza – Connecting East and West entrances, integrated with the Station Building**
4. **Improvements to Circulating Area – Enhanced traffic and pedestrian flow**
5. **New Façade for Station Building – Modernized exterior design**

Shri Narendra A. Patil, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Vijayawada Division, expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Railways and the Government of India for prioritizing the region's infrastructure. He highlighted that 21 railway stations in the Vijayawada Division are being developed under the Amrit Bharat Station (ABS) Scheme, with a total investment of ₹567.41 crore.

With this upgrade, Gudur Railway Station is set to emerge as a landmark facility, ensuring a seamless and comfortable experience for passengers from Tirupati, SPSR Nellore District, and beyond.

Ministers Inspect Arrangements for Srinivasa Kalyanotsavam

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

A team of state ministers conducted an inspection of the Srinivasa Kalyanotsavam arrangements at the TTD SV Temple, located within CRDA limits, on Thursday evening. The event, scheduled for March 15, is expected to witness a large gathering of devotees, and the officials are working to ensure that all necessary preparations are in place.

During the inspection, ministers emphasized the importance of streamlining arrangements to accommodate the heavy influx of devotees. They directed officials to make adequate provisions for queue management, traffic regulation, parking facilities, lighting, decorations, anna prasadam, laddu prasadam, drinking water, buttermilk distribution, sanitation, and other essential services. They stressed that all tasks should be completed on time to prevent any inconvenience to the devotees. The inspection team included Endowment Minister Anam Rama Narayana Reddy, Home Minister V. Anitha, Revenue Minister Angani Satya Prasad, Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana, TTD Chairman BR Naidu, TTD Board Members Jyothula Nehru, Panabaka Lakshmi, M. Shantaram, and M.S. Raju. Also present were EO J. Shyamala Rao, DIG Sarvashrestha Tripathi, TDP Additional EO CH Venkaiah Chowdhury, Endowment Secretary Vinay Chand, District Collector Nagalakshmi, TTD JEO V. Veerabrahmam, SP Satish Kumar, and other officials.

Minister Narayana Inspects CRDA Project Office Construction in Rayapudi

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana inspected the CRDA project office under construction in Rayapudi on Thursday. The seven-floor building, located along Seed Axis Road, is being developed to accommodate key administrative offices, including those of CRDA, ADC, the Municipal Administration Department, and other government divisions. During his inspection, the minister reviewed the progress of construction and held discussions with representatives of the contract company executing the project. He inquired about the current status of the work, the timeline for completion, and any challenges faced by the construction team. Offi-

cialists explained the progress and assured that efforts were being made to complete the structure within the stipulated timeframe. Minister Narayana emphasized the importance of accelerating the construction process to ensure that all departments could shift to the new facility at the earliest. He directed officials to monitor the construction work regularly and ensure that all necessary infrastructure, including office spaces, utilities, and facilities, is completed as per standards. He further stressed that quality should not be compromised in the rush to complete the project and instructed officials to coordinate with the contract company to address any bottlenecks. The new CRDA office is expected to enhance administrative



efficiency and facilitate better planning and execution of developmental activities in Amaravati.

Jana Sena's 12th Formation Day Celebrations in Pithapuram Today



TPN Correspondent | Pithapuram
The Jana Sena Party (JSP) is set to celebrate its 12th Formation Day, titled Jayaketanam, today in Pithapuram, Kakinada district. The event holds political significance as Deputy Chief Minister Konidela Pawan Kalyan, who won from the Pithapuram constituency, will address the massive gathering. This marks his first major

public meeting in the region since his election. With expectations high, Pawan Kalyan is likely to outline future political strategies, reinforcing his commitment to the people. His increasing popularity across the country, particularly with his stance on Sanatana Dharma and governance, has heightened interest in his address.

The event is witnessing extensive arrangements, with heavy police deployment to ensure security. Senior police officials, including SPs, DSPs, and Circle Inspectors, are supervising the venue. Five designated parking zones have been set up to accommodate the influx of people. In addition, fresh water, buttermilk stalls, food stalls, and fruit distribution points have been arranged as per the special instructions of Pawan Kalyan. To address medical emergencies, around 14 ambulances and seven medical camps have been established at the venue. The Apollo Hospitals management has also extended support by providing ambulances and other medical facilities. Many of the event staff are long-time party volunteers dedicated to serving JSP. The Jayaketanam celebrations in Pithapuram are attracting nationwide attention, as the political fraternity and Jana Sena supporters keenly await Pawan Kalyan's announcements. The event is expected to energize party workers and further strengthen JSP's position in Andhra Pradesh politics.

Thota Trimurthulu Raises Voice in Legislative Council Over Pension Collection



TPN Correspondent | Mandapeta
MLC Thota Trimurthulu, Mandapeta constituency YSRCP in-charge, voiced strong criticism in the Legislative Council on Thursday, alleging a conspiracy by the government in pension distribution. He stated that during YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure as Chief Minister, welfare schemes were provided irrespective of caste, religion, or political affiliation. Speaking in the House, Trimurthulu accused the state government of targeting YSRCP supporters and claimed that pensions of eligible beneficiaries were being canceled. He

pointed out that YSRCP had granted 65 lakh pensions from 2019 to 2024, whereas under TDP's rule from 2014 to 2019, the number was significantly lower. He further questioned the recent TDLP meeting remarks by CM Chandrababu Naidu, suggesting that benefits should not be extended to YSRCP members. He alleged that Rs. 32,000 crores were allocated annually for pensions under YSRCP, while the current budget has only Rs. 27,000 crores, leading to the withholding of nearly 3 lakh pensions. Expressing concern over the re-survey and re-verification process, he claimed that disabled individuals were now facing uncertainty regarding their pension eligibility. Trimurthulu demanded that the government distribute pensions purely based on poverty and not on caste, religion, or party affiliations. He warned of large-scale protests if the alleged discrimination continued.

24 Kg Ganja Seized in Srikakulam Dist

TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam

In a major crackdown on drug trafficking, the Narasannapet police seized 24 kg of ganja during vehicle checks at Madapam Toll Plaza in Srikakulam district on Wednesday. Acting on prior information, Narasannapet SI Durga Prasad and his team conducted inspections and apprehended Tufan Kariya, a resident of Subalai village in Ganjam district, Odisha. According to Narasannapet CI J. Srinivasa Rao, the accused

was transporting ganja from Odisha to Gujarat, intending to supply it to a person named Ritish in Surat. The police chased and caught Tufan Kariya while he was attempting to flee from a vehicle. Upon search, 24 kg of ganja was recovered from him, and a case was registered. Authorities have intensified vigilance on interstate drug smuggling routes, and further investigations are underway to identify other individuals involved in the smuggling network.



Gundugolanu Bridge Construction Delay Sparks Protest Threat

TPN Correspondent | Bhimadolu
The Gundugolanu Bridge, which has been under construction for the past three years, remains incomplete, causing severe inconvenience to the public. On Thursday, Gundugolanu Bridge Construction Committee Convener T. Suman Babu demanded that the authorities expedite the construction and make the bridge accessible without further delay. Speaking in Gundugolanu village, he criticized the contractor's negligence, stating that the project, which was supposed to be completed in six months, has been

dragged on unnecessarily. He alleged that the delay has resulted in four deaths and serious injuries to multiple people due to



accidents near the construction site. Suman Babu urged the Collector to blacklist the contractor for failing to complete the project on time. He also demanded that strict action be taken against those responsible for the negligence. Despite overcoming previous obstacles and laying the slab, the bridge remains unfinished due to the contractor's inefficiency, he added. Warning of possible protests, Suman Babu stated that if the authorities fail to complete the construction immediately, locals will be forced to take to the streets.

MLC Parvatha Reddy Chandrasekhar Reddy Calls for Relocation of RTC Bus Stands

TPN Correspondent | Nellore
As traffic congestion continues to escalate in Nellore city, MLC Parvatha Reddy Chandrasekhar Reddy has urged the government to relocate the RTC and Atmakur bus stands to a wider area to ease the burden on city roads. Speaking in the Legislative Council, he emphasized the need for immediate action to address the growing traffic challenges. The MLC stated that since 2006, Nellore has been rapidly expanding into a metropolitan hub, leading to increased

vehicular movement. To tackle congestion, proposals were made earlier to shift the RTC and Atmakur bus stands, but no significant steps have been taken so far. He suggested that the existing RTC and Atmakur bus stands be converted into city bus stands, while new, larger bus stands should be constructed outside the city. He informed the government that this move would significantly reduce traffic congestion and improve commuter convenience in Nellore.



No Proposal for Metro Rail from Visakhapatnam Steel Plant to Anakapalle: Minister Narayana

TPN Correspondent

| Amaravati
Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana clarified that there is no proposal for a metro rail project from Visakhapatnam Steel Plant to Anakapalle, as the peak-hour passenger traffic on this route is insufficient. He was responding to a question raised by MLA Konatala Ramakrishna in the Legislative Assembly. The minister stated that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared for the metro rail corridors in Visakhapatnam, keeping in mind the projected traffic congestion by 2051. However, the Central Government grants approval for metro projects based on peak-hour passenger demand. "The metro rail requires a min-



imum of 10,000 passengers per hour to receive approval. While the corridor from the Steel Plant to Kommati meets this requirement, with peak-hour traffic exceeding 10,000 passengers, the Steel Plant to Anakapalle corridor has only 3,763 passengers, making it ineligible," Narayana explained. The minister assured that alternative traffic diversion measures are being explored to address congestion on this route.

Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar Highlights AP's Energy Achievements



TPN Correspondent

| Amaravati
Power Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar outlined the state's achievements and initiatives in the energy sector, emphasizing AP's leadership in power reforms. He stated that Andhra Pradesh was the first state to introduce power sector reforms and also played a key role in the establishment of the Electricity Regulatory Commission (ERC). Highlighting the Telugu Desam Government's commitment to affordable electricity, he said, "Ours is the only government that has not increased electricity charges by even a single rupee." He further noted that the state has reduced electricity purchases by more than 60% and is focusing on self-reliance through AP Genco's record power generation. Ravi Kumar announced that AP will be the first state to implement a battery storage

system, enhancing power reliability. Additionally, he reaffirmed Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's efforts to secure investments, mentioning that Naidu wrote to the Centre regarding Suryagarh, while former CM Jagan Mohan Reddy sought its rejection. Regarding farmers, the minister assured quality electricity supply through PM Kusum, stating that 4.5 lakh PM Kusum connections have been requested from the Centre. He also criticized the previous YSRCP government for unilaterally canceling PPAs, causing uncertainty in the power sector. With a goal of exporting 3,000 tons of green hydrogen by 2030, the minister revealed plans for 55 new substations to ensure quality power supply. He accused YCP leaders of misleading the public, stating that no lift irrigation project under YSRCP provided water to even an acre of crops. Ravi Kumar concluded by announcing that a special surveillance system will be set up with district SPs to prevent transformer theft, and that agricultural electricity connections will be sanctioned on a war footing.

Emotional Appeal by Headmaster at Penta ZP School in Bobbili



TPN Correspondent

| Vizianagaram
In a dramatic incident at Penta ZP School, Bobbili Mandal, Headmaster Ramana prostrated himself before students, expressing his helplessness over their lack of interest in studies. According to reports, teachers at the school had previously faced warnings from parents after attempting to discipline students who were not studying. Despite repeated efforts to encourage academic progress, there was no improvement in student performance.

During the morning prayer session, an emotional HM Ramana told students and parents, "We cannot beat you, we cannot scold you, we cannot do anything. We are forced to tie our hands like helpless people before you." Overcome with frustration, he prostrated himself before the students, symbolizing his despair. The incident has sparked discussions about student discipline, parental interference, and the challenges faced by educators in ensuring quality education.



Trump's Economic Recession Strategy: A Risky Gamble for the US



As the US faces the looming threat of a recession, global markets are left wondering whether this potential downturn is part of President Donald Trump's broader economic strategy, or if it's a dangerous gamble. With the US contributing a quarter of the world's GDP, the consequences of a recession there are felt worldwide, making it a crucial issue for both domestic and global economies. Economists from Harvard University and Moody's have pegged the likelihood of a US recession at 35%, driven by government spending cuts, growing uncertainties, and the planned tariffs on trading partners like China, Canada, Mexico, and the European Union. While Trump refuses to predict a recession, he suggests that it may be a necessary "price" to pay for his ambitious goals, including bringing wealth back to America. This approach, dubbed "Trumpcession," may be seen by some as part of a long-term transformation to restore America's

greatness. However, it has already led to significant financial losses for prominent figures like Tesla's Elon Musk, whose wealth has been significantly eroded due to mounting recession fears. Similarly, the wealth of other tech giants like Jeff Bezos and Mark Zuckerberg has also been impacted. Despite these concerns, the US economy had been performing well before the implementation of Trump's trade policies. The country was experiencing relatively low inflation and strong growth, but his tariffs have caused fears of inflation rising, as import duties may increase consumer prices. Additionally, the federal debt has reached a concerning \$1.833 trillion in 2024, exacerbating worries about the nation's fiscal health. Yet, when considering the broader context, the US economy has continued to grow, with a GDP increase from \$5 trillion in 1990 to \$29 trillion by 2024. The country's share of global GDP has decreased from 40%

in 1960 to 24% today, but it remains a major player in the global market. Trump's "Make America Great Again" (MAGA) quest focuses on reviving manufacturing jobs, but with services now comprising nearly 80% of US employment, this seems increasingly unrealistic. Technological advances, such as robotics, have further reduced the need for large-scale manufacturing employment. Trump's goal of pruning the federal deficit and strengthening the US dollar could, however, lead to positive outcomes—if the trade policies pay off. The real question, however, is whether Trump's economic policies are pushing the US toward a recession that may ultimately do more harm than good. With geopolitical tensions and trade wars adding to the uncertainty, the US's path forward may rely on how the average American feels the pinch, and whether Trump's economic gambles yield results or lead to long-term economic pain.



Ukraine Accepts US-Brokered Ceasefire: A Crucial Test for Peace

Ukraine's acceptance of a 30-day ceasefire deal brokered by the United States marks a pivotal moment in the ongoing war with Russia. While the ceasefire offers a temporary reprieve from the devastating conflict, questions remain regarding its true potential to lead to a sustainable peace or if it is merely a strategic maneuver. The US's decision to resume military aid and intelligence-sharing with Ukraine following the ceasefire agreement highlights the fragile nature of this truce. Washington's involvement in the conflict has often been tied to its own geopolitical interests, as seen in the revival of a rare earth minerals deal between the US and Ukraine. This raises concerns about whether the ceasefire is truly aimed at de-escalation or is merely a tool to secure economic and strategic gains for the US. Russia's response remains a critical factor. President Vladimir Putin has yet to

commit to the ceasefire, and previous ceasefire attempts have been short-lived. Should Moscow refuse to comply, the conflict could continue unabated, making this ceasefire agreement ineffective. Furthermore, the absence of concrete security guarantees for Ukraine suggests that Kyiv may not have secured the long-term assurances it had hoped for. The success of the ceasefire will depend on whether it leads to meaningful negotiations or if it simply serves as a pause before renewed hostilities. While Ukrainian President Zelenskyy has signaled a willingness to pursue peace, the onus now falls on Russia and the US to ensure that this ceasefire is not used as a temporary break before further escalation. For Ukraine, this truce offers an opportunity to recalibrate its strategy, but for the world, it poses a test of whether diplomacy can still bring stability in an era of prolonged conflicts.

Review Needed for Stringent Provisions in Immigration Bill 2025

The recently introduced Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha has sparked concerns over its stringent provisions that could significantly alter the entry, exit, and stay of foreign nationals in India. While the bill is aimed at modernizing and consolidating immigration laws, some of which date back to the colonial era, its broad and forceful measures have drawn criticism from the Opposition and raised questions about its potential impact on India's global reputation.

The bill grants the Union Government extensive powers to bar foreign nationals from entering or staying in India on grounds related to national security, sovereignty, and integrity. While such measures are necessary for safeguarding the country, critics argue that the bill's wide scope could violate fundamental rights and constitutional provisions. One of the most controversial aspects of the bill is the provision that allows authorities to arrest foreign nationals entering India without valid documents without the need for a warrant. The law permits arrests based on "reasonable suspicion" of lacking valid papers, which may lead to arbitrary actions against foreigners. Additionally, the bill removes the flexibility for foreign nationals to self-register during their stay in India, instead requiring them to



approach registration officers promptly upon arrival. This places an added burden on visitors and could deter tourism. Furthermore, the bill imposes significant reporting obligations on medical and educational institutions that host foreign nationals. These institutions

would be required to inform authorities about their foreign guests, which might create operational hurdles and discourage foreign students and professionals from engaging with Indian institutions.

One of the most contentious provisions is

the clause that prohibits foreigners from associating with "persons of a specified description." This could lead to politically motivated surveillance, potentially undermining the democratic principles of freedom of association and expression. The provision contradicts India's global aspirations, especially its position as a promoter of international cooperation and the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family).

While national security remains a paramount concern, the bill's provisions have the potential to alienate foreign visitors, tourists, and professionals. The stringent requirements could also put off potential refugees, making it harder for them to navigate India's already complex immigration system. Given India's growing role on the world stage, it is crucial that the government reconsiders some of these provisions to strike a balance between security and the nation's broader diplomatic and economic objectives. A law that is too restrictive might tarnish India's image as an open and welcoming country, ultimately limiting its engagement with the global community.

The government should review this bill carefully, ensuring that it does not hinder India's long-term goals of promoting international collaboration and fostering a robust, inclusive environment for foreign nationals.



India ready to share experience of bridging Gender divide Through digital public infrastructure: Union Minister Annapurna Devi

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

India has expressed its readiness to share its experiences with the world on how digital public infrastructure can help bridge the gender digital divide. At the 69th session of the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held at the U.N. headquarters on March 12, 2025, Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Annapurna Devi, highlighted the country's progress in advancing women-led development and digital financial inclusion.

"India is moving ahead with women-led development, where women are active participants from conceptualization to monitoring of measures that shape the nation's development trajectory," Minister Devi said during her address at a roundtable organized by India's Permanent Mission to the U.N. and U.N. Women. The event, titled 'Digital & Financial Inclusion for Women's Empowerment' and 'Financing for Women Empowerment — Criticality of Core Resources', served as a platform for sharing insights and experiences from member states, particularly from the Global South.

Minister Devi emphasized India's commitment to leveraging digital public infrastructure to reduce the gender digital divide. She noted the importance of resources in realizing the vision of women-led development and shared India's successful implementation of the Unified Payment Interface (UPI). UPI has revolutionized financial transactions by digitalizing the payment system while maintaining full data protection. With 87.35 million transactions growing by 147% in volume, UPI has allowed women, regardless of gender, economic status, or geography, to increasingly take ownership of digital payments.

The minister also stressed the importance of ensuring the safe and responsible use of technology, emphasizing the need for regulatory frameworks that balance digital inclusion with data protection. "Digital public infrastructure should be a bridge, not a barrier," Devi said, underscoring the importance of a secure digital environment for women's dignity and active participation in nation-building.

As the 69th session of CSW continues through March 21, Minister Devi leads India's delegation, furthering the country's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment globally.

PM Modi, Mauritius PM Inaugurate Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute

PM Modi Announces Mahasagar vision with Mauritius for maritime security, trade

- India-Mauritius elevate ties to "Enhanced Strategic Partnership"
- Modi unveils "MAHASAGAR" vision for Global South cooperation
- ₹487 crore rupee-credit for Mauritius' water pipeline project

TPN Correspondent | Port Louis

India and Mauritius have elevated their relationship to an "Enhanced Strategic Partnership," signing eight agreements to boost cooperation in various sectors such as maritime security, defense, trade, and local currency use. The move is part of India's broader vision to support the Global South, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded his two-day visit to the island nation, where he also attended the national day celebrations as the chief guest.

Modi announced India's new vision for the Global South, named "MAHASAGAR" (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions), aimed at fostering development, security, and cooperation, particularly in the Indian Ocean region. This initiative follows India's previous "SAGAR" (Security and Growth for All in the Region) policy, emphasizing the importance of maritime security and shared economic prosperity in the region, especially amid China's growing influence.

During talks with Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Modi reiterated India's commitment to support Mauritius in securing its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and enhancing defense and maritime capabilities. The two countries agreed to increase joint maritime surveillance and hydrographic surveys and to strengthen defense cooperation, marking maritime security as a crucial component of their strategic partnership.



A significant development was the introduction of the first-ever Indian rupee-denominated line of credit, valued at Rs 487 crore, aimed at replacing water pipelines in Mauritius. This agreement highlights India's continued assistance in Mauritius' socio-economic development, which also includes funding community development projects and supporting infrastructure like the new Parliament building.

The leaders also committed to deepening cooperation on countering money laundering, promoting MSMEs, and facilitating trade using national currencies. Additionally, both sides expressed

their dedication to maintaining a free, open, and secure Indian Ocean, underlining their shared interests in countering maritime challenges and safeguarding regional stability.

Modi also announced new projects, such as the modernization of water pipelines, the launch of 20 community development initiatives, and the construction of infrastructure like the "Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation." These efforts are designed to strengthen the ties between India and Mauritius in various sectors, including defense, education, health, and space.

Tamil Nadu's first Economic Survey indicates State likely to maintain 8%+ growth rate

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Tamil Nadu's first Economic Survey for 2024-25 predicts the state will maintain a robust growth rate of over 8% in the coming year, continuing its strong economic trajectory. The survey highlights that the state's economic resilience has been driven by inclusive policies, with Tamil Nadu achieving growth rates above 8% since 2021-22. This growth is part of India's broader economic performance, with the country recording 7.61% growth in 2022-23 and 9.19% in 2023-24.

Tamil Nadu's per capita income has also consistently outpaced the national average, reaching ₹2.78 lakh in 2022-23, 1.64 times the national average of ₹1.69 lakh. The state ranks fourth in per capita income in India. The survey, compiled by the State Planning Commission, Finance Department, and other agencies, provides in-depth analysis of agriculture, industry, services, inflation, employment, and social sector indicators. It also suggests measures to overcome short-term challenges and ensure long-term sustainable growth.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin received the Economic Survey on March 13, 2025. The survey also highlights challenges posed by the Union government's policies, including fiscal caps, NEET, and NEP 2020, which have limited Tamil Nadu's growth potential. Executive Vice Chairman of the State Planning Commission, J. Jeyaranjan, pointed out the state's success in navigating the pandemic and natural disasters while achieving high growth.

ISRO SpaDex successfully completes undocking, sets stage for Chandrayaan-4

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully accomplished the de-docking of the SpaDex satellites on Thursday, marking a significant milestone in the country's space exploration ambitions. This achievement clears the path for future high-profile missions, including the development of India's own space station, the Chandrayaan 4 lunar mission, and the Gaganyaan human space-flight program.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh took to social media to announce the successful de-docking of the SpaDex satellites, expressing his congratulations to the ISRO team. "SpaDex satellites accomplished the unbelievable de-docking. This paves the way for smooth conduct of ambitious future missions including the Bharatiya Antriksha Station, Chandrayaan 4 & Gaganyaan," Singh wrote on X (formerly Twitter). He also acknowledged the continuous support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which has been instrumental in maintaining high spirits and pushing the nation's space exploration forward.

The SpaDex mission, which was launched on December 30 last year, successfully deployed two satellites—SDX01 and SDX02—into orbit.



These satellites were tasked with demonstrating the challenging docking experiment in space. After several attempts, ISRO achieved a successful docking of the two satellites on January 16, making it a landmark achievement in India's space program.

The successful de-docking of the SpaDex satellites is expected to play a crucial role in enabling more complex space missions in the future. The technology demonstrated by this mission is fundamental to projects like the Bharatiya Antriksha Station, which aims to position India among the global leaders in space exploration, and the Chandrayaan 4 mission, which will further India's lunar exploration ambitions.

This success further strengthens ISRO's reputation as a rising space power and underscores its ability to take on ambitious space exploration projects in the years to come.

India's Tejas Aircraft Successfully Test Fires Astra Missile

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India's indigenously developed Tejas light combat aircraft successfully test-fired the home-grown Astra air-to-air missile on Wednesday. The test was conducted off the coast of Chandipur in Odisha, as confirmed by the Ministry of Defence. The missile successfully hit its flying target, showcasing the advanced capabilities of both the aircraft and the missile system.

According to the defence ministry, all subsystems involved in the test performed flawlessly, meeting the mission parameters and objectives. The Astra missile, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), is designed to engage aerial targets at ranges exceeding 100 kilometers. Its advanced guidance and navigation systems ensure high precision, making it capable of striking targets with remarkable accuracy.



The successful test is considered a crucial achievement for India's defence capabilities, as the Astra missile is already in service with the

Indian Air Force. The successful launch of the missile is seen as a significant milestone for the induction of the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) in its MKIA variant. The MKIA variant is an

upgraded version of the Tejas aircraft, equipped with enhanced capabilities and features, further cementing the aircraft's role in modernizing India's air combat fleet.

The Astra missile's successful test-firing also highlights the growing self-reliance of India's defence industry, with DRDO continuing to develop advanced weapons systems for the Indian Armed Forces. With the missile's induction into the Indian Air Force, India has taken a substantial step towards bolstering its air defense capabilities, ensuring a higher level of preparedness and strategic advantage.

The development and successful deployment of the Astra missile, paired with the Tejas LCA, will strengthen India's defence infrastructure and contribute to its long-term military objectives, ensuring it remains competitive in the global defense landscape.

I Can Do Things : Donald Trump Warns Vladimir Putin Ahead Of Russia Talks

Warns Russia of 'devastating' sanctions if it rejects Ukraine ceasefire

- US envoy Steve Witkoff heads to Moscow for ceasefire negotiations
- Zelensky supports truce but doubts Russia's commitment to peace

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US President Donald Trump issued a stern warning to Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday, threatening "devastating" sanctions if Russia refuses to agree to a ceasefire in the ongoing Ukraine war. Trump's remarks came after a meeting with Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin at the White House. He also revealed that US negotiators are en route to Moscow to discuss a potential ceasefire agreement, following Ukraine's commitment to a 30-day truce.

Trump told reporters, "We could do things very bad for Russia. It would be devastating for Russia. But I don't want to do that because I want to see peace, and we're getting close to maybe getting something done." He emphasized the importance of achieving a ceasefire, stating that it would be a significant step toward ending the three-year conflict, which he referred to as a "horrible bloodbath."

The White House confirmed that Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, would be traveling to Moscow later this week to continue negotiations. Trump added, "People are going to Russia right now as we speak," expressing hope that Russia would agree to a ceasefire, which he believed could be pivotal in bringing an end to the war.



Trump's comments came just two weeks after his tense exchange with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the White House, where the two leaders clashed over the US's approach to the war. Following that confrontation, Trump halted military aid and intelligence sharing with Ukraine but resumed assistance after Kyiv agreed to the truce proposal on Tuesday.

Ukrainian President Zelensky, who attended talks in Saudi Arabia with US officials on Tuesday, expressed support for the ceasefire

proposal but stressed that it was crucial for the US to persuade Russia to accept the terms. "Ukraine welcomes this proposal, we consider it positive, we are ready to take such a step," he stated. However, he added that Ukrainians had little faith that Russia would abide by a ceasefire, noting that "none of us trust the Russians."

Zelensky further emphasized that the future of the ceasefire hinges on Russia's willingness to stop the violence. "Everything depends on whether Russia wants a ceasefire and silence, or it wants to continue killing people," he said.



"Responsible": Ex-Philippines President Surrendered To World Court Custody

Rodrigo Duterte Faces ICC Custody Over War on Drugs Charges

TPN Correspondent | Rotterdam

Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has been taken into custody by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to face charges of crimes against humanity related to his controversial war on drugs. The ICC, headquartered in The Hague, believes there is substantial evidence to charge Duterte with murder as an indirect co-perpetrator during the anti-drug campaign, which rights groups say led to the deaths of tens of thousands.

In a video shared on social media as he landed in Rotterdam, Duterte accepted responsibility for the violence during his presidency. "I am the one who led our law enforcement and military. I said that I will protect you and I will be responsible for all of this," Duterte said. He maintained that he had always been clear about his role in the campaign, which he oversaw while in office. Duterte, aged 79, becomes the first former Asian head of state to face charges before the ICC.

Supporters gathered outside the ICC detention center, chanting "Bring him back" and waving Philippine flags as Duterte's vehicle entered the facility. Some criticized the court's actions, claiming that there had been no due process. "This is kidnapping," said Duds Quibin, a caregiver.

Despite these objections, many victims' families welcomed the arrest. Gilbert Andres, a lawyer for drug war victims, expressed relief, calling the arrest a significant step toward justice. "It means that no one is above the law," he said.

The case is a major test for international criminal justice, with ICC Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan emphasizing that the arrest sends a strong message that international law holds weight. While critics, including China, have warned against politicization of the case, the ICC remains firm in pursuing accountability for the thousands of victims of Duterte's brutal drug war.

Duterte's actions as mayor of Davao, including alleged involvement in the "Davao Death Squad," also form part of the charges. The Philippines had withdrawn from the ICC in 2019, but the tribunal asserts jurisdiction over events prior to that withdrawal.

NASA and SpaceX Postpone Crew-10 Mission Due to Hydraulic System Issue

TPN Correspondent | Washington

NASA and SpaceX have postponed the launch of the Crew-10 mission to the International Space Station (ISS), originally scheduled for March 13, 2025. The mission, which was set to return astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, was delayed due to a hydraulic system issue with a ground support clamp arm for the Falcon 9 rocket at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.



With less than an hour to go before liftoff, the teams made the decision to scrub the launch. According to NASA and SpaceX, the issue was identified as a hydraulic malfunction in the system that supports the rocket during pre-launch operations at Launch Complex 39A. Due to this issue, the mission could not proceed as planned.

NASA officials have now set a new launch window for no earlier than 7:03 pm EDT (4:33 am IST) on Friday, March 14. The decision to delay the launch also came after forecasts predicted high winds and precipitation along the flight path for the Dragon spacecraft. Mission managers convened to review the situation and determined it was best to delay the launch for safety reasons.

Astronauts Anne McClain and Nichole Ayers from NASA, JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) astronaut Takuya Onishi, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Kirill Peskov had already safely exited the Crew Dragon spacecraft, which remains secure on the launch pad.

The Crew-10 mission, which would have replaced the stranded astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore at the ISS, is critical for maintaining crew rotations at the space station. The spacecraft was also scheduled to bring Williams and Wilmore back to Earth, if conditions permitted, by March 19.

NASA has emphasized that this delay will help ensure the safety and success of the mission, and the teams will continue monitoring the situation to determine the best time to proceed with the launch.

Canada Warns Countries At G7: "Nobody Is Safe" From Donald Trump's Policies

Canada Gears Up for G7 Talks Amid Escalating U.S. Trade Tensions

TPN Correspondent | Canada

As Canada prepares to host the G7 foreign ministers' meeting, Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly is set to address critical issues, including the intensifying trade dispute with the United States. Joly plans to raise concerns over U.S. tariffs and threats to Canada's sovereignty, warning her European and British counterparts that, "If the U.S. can do this to us, their closest friend, then nobody is safe."



Although the official G7 agenda focuses on global issues such as Ukraine, the Middle East, Haiti, and Venezuela, Joly intends to highlight the ongoing U.S. trade policies that have negatively impacted Canada. She aims to rally support from her allies, urging them to take collective action against the U.S. approach, which she argues could set a dangerous precedent. "Canada is the canary in the coal mine," Joly has stated, positioning Canada as a vulnerable test case for U.S. actions against close allies.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio downplayed Trump's annexation comments, framing them as part of a broader economic argument. Rubio suggested that, from Trump's perspective, Canada becoming the 51st state could simplify border and security issues, especially concerning the fentanyl crisis.

Relations between Canada and the U.S. have hit a low point, with Trump's musings about annexing Canada fueling skepticism and concerns about sovereignty. As Canada prepares for a new prime minister, Mark Carney, the trade dispute remains a key issue. Carney has described the situation as an "economic and sovereign crisis" and vowed to resist U.S. efforts to dominate the region.

In his farewell speech, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau reminded Canadians that "Democracy is not a given. Freedom is not a given. Even Canada is not a given."

The trade war escalated under President Donald Trump, who imposed 25 percent tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum. In retaliation, Canada imposed counter-tariffs on about \$20 billion worth of American goods. At the heart of the dispute are concerns over Canada's sovereignty, especially after repeated U.S. remarks that have been interpreted as threats of annexation. Joly has strongly rejected these remarks, emphasizing that Canada will not surrender its independence.

"Hostages Used As Human Shields": Pakistan Train Siege Ends After 30 Hours

TPN Correspondent | Islamabad

The Pakistani Army successfully ended a 30-hour operation on Wednesday to rescue passengers held hostage by a rebel group in Balochistan, confirming the deaths of 21 civilians and four security personnel. The rescue operation targeted the Jaffar Express, a train with 440 passengers that was hijacked by members of the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) after it was derailed near Gudalar and Piru Kunri, roughly 160 kilometers from Quetta, on Tuesday.



In a statement, the Army confirmed that all 33 rebels, including suicide bombers, were killed during the operation. The BLA had previously claimed to have killed 50 passengers and held 214 hostages, mainly security personnel. The Army, however, emphasized that its forces acted with extreme caution, as the rebels used passengers as human shields, slowing the operation's progress. Army spokesperson Lt Gen Ahmad Sharif said that snipers targeted the suicide bombers first, followed by a careful clearance of each train compartment, ensuring that no passengers were harmed during the operation.

The BLA, the most powerful insurgent group in Balochistan, had threatened to execute hostages unless the Pakistani government met its demands, which included the release of Baloch political prisoners. The group has been fighting for greater autonomy in the resource-rich but impoverished Balochistan region, which borders Iran and Afghanistan.

According to Pakistan's Ministry of Defence, intelligence reports revealed that the attack was orchestrated by terrorist leaders based in Afghanistan, who were in direct contact with the insurgents throughout the hijacking. Pakistan has urged the Afghan government to take responsibility for preventing its territory from being used for terrorism against Pakistan.

A video released by the BLA showed rebels bombing the railway track and storming the train. Passengers who escaped described walking for hours through mountainous terrain to reach safety, with one survivor, Muhammad Bilal, recalling the terrifying ordeal.

India Announces \$1 Billion Fund For Creators' Economy Ahead Of WAVES Summit

The Centre has announced a USD 1 billion fund aimed at boosting India's emerging creators' economy, coinciding with the announcement of the first World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) to be held in Mumbai from May 1 to 4. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis hosted envoys from over 100 countries on Thursday, inviting them to participate in the summit's Roundtable, which will be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



WAVES is being positioned as a groundbreaking convergence platform for the global media and entertainment sector, akin to the World Economic Forum in Davos. Fadnavis highlighted Mumbai's status as India's entertainment capital and emphasized its potential to become the permanent venue for WAVES, similar to how Davos hosts the World Economic Forum or Cannes hosts the renowned film festival.

Jaishankar addressed the importance of global economic and political rebalancing, emphasizing that true globalization lies in embracing the diversity of cultures and people worldwide. Vaishnaw detailed the creation of the USD 1 billion fund to support creators utilizing cutting-edge technology, helping them access capital, enhance their skills, improve production quality, and expand into global markets.

In addition to the fund, Vaishnaw announced the es-

establishment of the Indian Institute of Creative Technology in Mumbai, with land already allocated in Film City at Goregaon. Sanjay Jaju, Secretary of Information and Broadcasting, explained that the WAVES summit would include a Global Media Dialogue, plenary sessions, and panel discussions led by industry leaders. The WAVES Bazaar will showcase content and facilitate business opportunities through buyer-seller meetings.

The "Creatosphere" at WAVES will provide a platform for young creators to connect, learn, and collaborate through masterclasses, workshops, and networking events. Vaishnaw also noted the success of the "Create in India Challenge," which received over 25 lakh submissions, with 80,000 advancing to the next stage. The challenge culminates with 1,000 finalists participating in various events during the summit.

The initiative aims to bring together creativity, technology, and entertainment to create unique content, while also offering a space for international collaboration in the industry.

India's GDP Growth Expected to Exceed 6.5% in 2025-26, Moody's Forecasts

India's GDP growth is projected to exceed 6.5% in the fiscal year 2025-26, driven by increased government capital expenditure, a rise in consumption fueled by tax cuts, and the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) interest rate cuts, according to a recent report by Moody's.



Moody's expects India's economic growth to accelerate following a brief slowdown in mid-2024, with the nation maintaining one of the fastest growth rates among large global economies. The report forecasts that real GDP growth will rise to 6.5% in 2025-26, up from an expected 6.3% in 2024-25.

The boost in growth is anticipated to come from multiple factors, including government initiatives such as enhanced capital expenditure and tax relief for middle-income groups. The reduction in income taxes is expected to spur consumption, while the RBI's accommodative monetary policy, including interest rate cuts, will provide further support for growth.

Moody's also expects India's inflation rate to moderate to 4.5% in fiscal 2025-26, down from 4.8% the previous year. This decline in inflation would provide enough space for continued soft monetary policies, facilitating lower interest rates, increased liquidity in the banking system, and encouraging loans to both consumers and businesses.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra recently announced a 25 basis points rate cut,

bringing the key policy rate to 6.25%. However, Moody's suggests that further rate cuts will be modest as the RBI maintains a cautious approach, considering global uncertainties, particularly regarding US trade policies and the strengthening of the US dollar against emerging market currencies.

The banking sector outlook remains stable, although some stress is expected in areas such as unsecured retail loans, microfinance, and small business loans. Despite this, banks' profitability is anticipated to remain adequate due to modest declines in net interest margins. Moody's also projects a slowdown in system-wide loan growth, with an expected growth rate of 11-13% in 2025-26, down from an average of 17% between March 2022 and March 2024.

Overall, Moody's report paints a positive picture for India's economy, forecasting strong growth ahead despite challenges in the global and domestic markets.

India needs to grow 8% for progress, core sector must invest: SBI chairman



India must achieve a growth rate of 8% to ensure long-term progress, according to Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest bank with a deposit base of ₹52.29 lakh crore. Setty emphasized that while the current growth rate of around 6% may seem concerning, it should not be a cause for alarm.

In an exclusive interview with The Indian Express, Setty explained that while the nation requires 8% growth for sustained development, the present slowdown could merely be a temporary blip. He pointed out that India's long-term economic outlook remains positive despite the short-term challenges. "The slowdown we're talking about might just be a brief phase. The long-term story of India remains intact," he stated.

To achieve this 8% growth, Setty highlighted two essential factors: consumption and private capital expenditure. He underscored that private investment, particularly from the private sector, plays a crucial role in driving economic activity and job creation, which in turn supports higher consumption. According to Setty, bolstering private capital expenditure is crucial for sustaining economic momentum and ensuring the country's progress.

Setty's comments come at a time when India is navigating the complexities of a global slowdown, rising inflation, and uncertain external factors. However, he remains optimistic about India's ability to overcome these challenges and return to a higher growth trajectory.

India's economic future, according to Setty, hinges on addressing key structural factors, including bolstering private investments, enhancing domestic consumption, and encouraging further reforms. With these measures, the country can continue on its path toward achieving a higher growth rate and securing its position as a major global economic player.

Retail Inflation Eases to Seven-Month Low, Food Inflation Declines Sharply in February

Retail inflation in India eased to a seven-month low of 3.61% in February, down from 4.26% in January, driven primarily by a significant drop in food inflation, according to provisional data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) on Wednesday.

Food inflation, which is tracked by the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI), fell to 3.7% in February, the lowest level since May 2023, when it was recorded at 3.19%. This marked a sharp decline from the previous month, reflecting a broad-based reduction in the prices of essential food items.

Among the food items that saw significant price drops were ginger, tomatoes, and garlic. These items recorded the lowest year-on-year inflation rates of -35.81%, -28.51%, and -20.32%, respectively. Overall,



vegetable prices registered a decline of -1.07%, contributing to the easing of food inflation.

The decline in food prices was largely attributed to the seasonal drop in the prices of vegetables and other perishables. These changes played a key role in moderating the overall inflation figures, providing some relief to consumers who have been

grappling with higher living costs in recent months.

The reduction in food inflation was a major factor behind the overall easing of retail inflation, which was impacted by other goods and services showing stable or modest price increases. Experts believe that the lower inflation figures provide some breathing space for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which has been closely monitoring inflation trends to assess the appropriate monetary policy stance.

With food inflation moderating and retail inflation easing, there is optimism that the inflationary pressures that have affected Indian households in recent months may be starting to subside. However, analysts caution that continued monitoring of global commodity prices and domestic agricultural conditions will be crucial in sustaining this trend.

India to become world's third-largest economy by 2028, GDP growth projected to hit \$5.7 trillion

India is projected to become the world's third-largest economy by 2028, according to a report by Morgan Stanley. The country's growth will be fueled by its rising consumer market, increased global output share, and improvements in macroeconomic stability, infrastructure, and policy. The report predicts that India's economy, currently valued at USD 3.5 trillion in 2023, will expand to USD 4.7 trillion by 2026, making it the fourth-largest economy behind the US, China, and Germany. By 2028, India is expected to surpass Germany with a projected GDP of USD 5.7 trillion.

Morgan Stanley's analysis notes that India's rise has been swift. From ranking as the 12th largest economy in 1990, India fell to 13th in 2000, before climbing to 9th place in 2020 and 5th in 2023. India's share in the global GDP is projected to grow from 3.5% in 2023 to 4.5% by 2029.



The report outlines three growth scenarios for India's economy. In the "Bear" scenario, India's GDP could reach USD 6.6 trillion by 2035, while the "Base" scenario forecasts USD 8.8 trillion, and the "Bull" scenario projects an economy of USD 10.3 trillion. Correspondingly, India's GDP per capita is expected to rise from USD 2,514 in 2025 to USD 4,247 in the Bear scenario, USD 5,683 in the Base scenario, and USD 6,706 in the Bull scenario by 2035.

The driving forces behind India's growth, according to Morgan Stanley, include robust population growth, a functioning democracy, sound policy stability, better infrastructure, a rising entrepreneurial class, and improving social outcomes. The country is expected to become the most sought-after consumer market globally, undergo an energy transition, and see a rise in credit-to-GDP, with manufacturing potentially gaining a larger share of its GDP.

In the short term, Morgan Stanley has indicated a recovery in India's growth, with GDP growth expected at 6.3% for the current fiscal year and 6.5% in the next. Growth is anticipated to recover after a slowdown in the second half of 2024, supported by fiscal and monetary policy measures and a recovery in service exports. Additionally, consumption recovery is expected to become more widespread, driven by tax cuts that will stimulate urban demand while supporting rural consumption.

World Kidney Day 2025: Early Detection Key to Preventing Kidney Disease

World Kidney Day 2025 focuses on the critical need for early detection in maintaining kidney health, with this year's theme: "Are Your Kidneys OK? Detect Early, Protect Kidney Health." The global campaign aims to raise awareness about the rising prevalence of kidney disease and the importance of timely intervention, as millions of people worldwide are unaware of their kidney-related health issues.

Kidney diseases often develop silently, showing no noticeable symptoms until significant damage has occurred. This makes early detection crucial. Health professionals emphasize regular screening, particularly for individuals with risk factors such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or a family history of kidney disease. Simple tests like urine tests and blood work can identify early signs of kidney problems, allowing for prompt action before more severe complications develop.

The World Kidney Day campaign calls on governments, healthcare providers, and individuals to take proactive measures to protect kidney health. Kidney diseases remain one of the leading causes of death globally, but with increased awareness, early screening, and lifestyle changes, their impact can be significantly reduced.

Dr. Himanshu Shekhar, Medical Director of SCI International Hospital, advises that maintaining a healthy weight is crucial for kidney health. "Carrying extra weight forces the kidneys to work harder, which can lead to damage over time. Obesity increases the risk of developing diabetes and high blood pressure, two leading causes of chronic kidney disease (CKD)," said Dr. Shekhar.

He further highlighted the importance of addressing obesity as a risk factor for CKD. "Even without diabetes or high blood pressure, obesity can increase the risk of CKD and speed up its progression. Obesity is also linked to a higher prevalence of urinary albumin excretion, nephrolithiasis, and the development of end-stage kidney disease (ESKD)," he added.

The message of World Kidney Day is clear: early detection and proactive care are essential to preserving kidney health and preventing long-term damage. It is important for individuals, especially those at risk, to undergo regular screenings and adopt healthy lifestyle habits to safeguard their kidneys.



Holi Under The Blood Moon: Total Lunar Eclipse to Occur on March 14, 2025



A rare celestial event, the total lunar eclipse, also known as the Blood Moon, will take place on March 14, 2025, coinciding with India's colorful Holi celebrations. This unique astronomical occurrence will unfold during the afternoon, with the total phase beginning at 11:57 AM IST, reaching its peak at 12:29 PM, and concluding by 01:01 PM IST, offering a rare blend of cultural and natural wonders.

A lunar eclipse occurs when the Earth is positioned directly between the Sun and the Moon, casting its shadow onto the Moon's surface. In a total lunar eclipse, the Earth's darkest shadow, the umbra, completely covers the Moon. This phenomenon will lead to the Moon taking on a reddish-orange hue, which is why such eclipses are often called "blood moons." The reddish tint results from sunlight scattering through the Earth's atmosphere—blue and violet wavelengths are blocked, while longer wavelengths like red and orange

make their way to the Moon.

NASA explains that the degree of redness can vary depending on the presence of clouds or dust particles in the atmosphere, which scatter light further. Therefore, a clearer sky would result in a brighter red hue.

The event is expected to last about an hour, with the total eclipse visible to skywatchers across different time zones. For those in the U.S., totality will occur at 2:26 AM EDT, and 11:26 PM PDT on the night of March 13. While the total phase is brief, the Moon will also experience a partial eclipse before and after totality, giving viewers an extended window to observe the phenomenon.

As this rare event aligns with Holi, it is expected to add a touch of celestial magic to the festive spirit in India. Skywatchers and festival-goers alike will be treated to the simultaneous spectacle of a colorful celebration on Earth and a captivating cosmic display overhead.

Iran Beach Turns Bright Red After Mysterious "Blood Rain"

A stunning and surreal natural phenomenon recently occurred on Rainbow Island, located in the Strait of Hormuz, in Iran, leaving people both amazed and intrigued. The event, described by many as "blood rain," saw the beach glowing a brilliant red after a downpour. Videos of the remarkable scene quickly went viral, captivating viewers worldwide.

A tour guide shared a video on Instagram showing rainwater washing red soil from the island's land onto the beach, turning the water into a vivid scarlet hue as it mixed with the sea. The caption on the video, roughly translated from Persian, described the heavy rain at the famous Red Beach of Hormoz and highlighted the amazement of tourists witnessing the event.

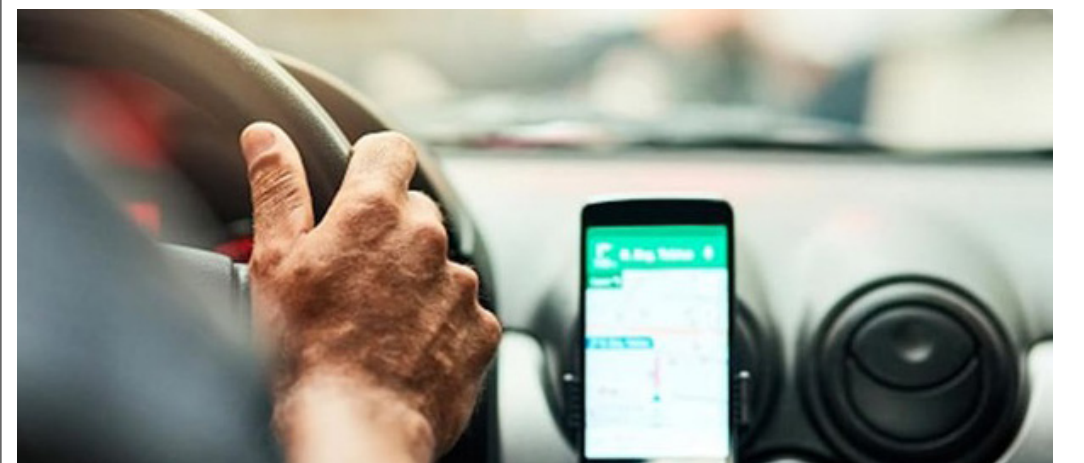
Social media reactions flooded in, with many expressing awe at the rare spectacle. One user commented, "I wish I was there under the rain of Hormoz and the beautiful soil colored with love," while another wrote, "This scene is really wonderful and special."

This "blood red" phenomenon is not entirely new. Rainbow Island's beach is well-known for its naturally red soil, which is rich in iron oxide and other minerals. The volcanic soil combined with the heavy tides creates the striking red coloration, giving the appearance that the sea has been drenched in red paint.

Far from causing concern, the "blood rain" beach has become a year-round attraction for tourists. The island's stunning natural beauty and the unique red shoreline draw travelers from across the globe, eager to witness the striking visual effect firsthand.



Indian Entrepreneur Meets Uber Driver With \$15 Million Net Worth, Stuns the Internet



Vineeth K, the founder of Deals Dhama, recently shared an unexpected encounter that stunned the internet. In a post on X, Vineeth recounted his experience meeting an Uber driver in the United States who had an astonishing net worth of \$15 million. The driver, a retired senior executive, turned out to be a former C-suite leader at a prominent oil company in the Middle East. Despite his wealth, the man continued to drive for Uber, citing a desire to stay engaged and avoid boredom.

According to Vineeth, the Uber driver owns two properties in the U.S. valued at \$1.5 million and an additional real estate worth 3.5 million euros in Bulgaria. His three children have also achieved success: one works as a lawyer in London, while the other two are professional football players in a European team. The driver, who is based in the U.S., still works because his wife is employed, and

he enjoys keeping himself busy. Vineeth's post, which has garnered over 80,000 views, sparked a wave of reactions on social media. Many were fascinated by the story, while others questioned the openness of sharing such personal financial details with a stranger. One user commented, "That's mind-boggling — for someone who now drives an Uber! Kudos — maybe there is a lesson in there."

Some people also shared their own similar experiences. One user recalled meeting a Punjabi Uber driver with a \$10 million portfolio, while another shared a story of a wealthy individual in Riyadh driving a Porsche as part of his recreational Uber work.

While some were in awe of the driver's financial success, others reflected on how the experience may offer a lesson in humility and the value of staying active, regardless of wealth.

"Triggering My Misogyny": Man Claims Workplace Favors Women, Sparks Debate

A Reddit post titled "I feel like my workplace is triggering my misogyny" has sparked a lively debate about gender biases in the workplace. The user, a 24-year-old male, expressed his frustration after noticing what he perceived as preferential treatment for female employees at his company. In the post, he shared several instances that led him to believe women receive advantages over men, including better mentorship, fewer consequences for mistakes, and preferential treatment during promotions.

The Reddit user mentioned that women seem to get away with making mistakes that would have serious repercussions for their male colleagues, and that women are generally given more support and guidance from senior staff, while men are expected to figure things out on their own. He also pointed out the unequal workload distribution, claiming that women adhere to standard 9-to-5 hours while men are expected to work much longer hours without extra pay.

Despite expressing his concerns, the user clarified that he does not harbor any hatred toward women and is not blaming them for the unequal treat-

ment. He noted that some female colleagues have also acknowledged the workplace bias. However, he was disheartened by the notion that women with less experience or skills may be promoted simply because of their appearance.

The post quickly garnered attention, with many Redditors offering their perspectives. Some supported the idea that the real issue lies in workplace culture and management rather than the women themselves. One user wrote, "You should hate your workplace, not the women. Hate your bosses who are exploiting men. Not the women. It's as simple as that." Another comment emphasized that while it's important to recognize unfair treatment, the real problem is a result of patriarchal structures that still influence workplace dynamics.

Some users also reassured the poster that he could still identify as a feminist, noting that feminism is about equality for all genders, not just the upliftment of women. "What you're facing here is STILL the consequence of patriarchy!" one commenter advised, encouraging him to address the issue with the management rather than blaming women for the systemic bias.



Wayne Rooney Calls for Major Overhaul at Manchester United, Says 10-15 Players Should Leave



Wayne Rooney has criticized Manchester United's current squad, describing them as "lost" and "scared" on the pitch. Speaking on the Stick to Football podcast, the club's record goalscorer stated that United's poor form, sitting 14th in the Premier League, requires significant changes. Rooney believes that "10 to 15 players need to leave the club," citing a lack of responsibility and mental toughness among the squad. He singled out Bruno Fernandes

and Kobbie Mainoo as the few players worth keeping. Despite the recent appointment of Ruben Amorim as manager, the club has continued to struggle, winning just five of 17 league games under his tenure. Rooney expressed disappointment at United's performances, stating it "hurts" to watch, especially with his children in the club's academy. He urged the team to show more character and fight on the pitch.

Max Verstappen Opens Up on 2025 F1 Title Race, Says Red Bull May Not Be the Fastest



As the 2025 Formula 1 season kicks off at the Australian Grand Prix, reigning champion Max Verstappen has admitted that Red Bull may not be the fastest team heading into the season. Despite starting 2024 in dominant fashion, Red Bull's grip weakened in the latter part

of the season, with McLaren and Ferrari making significant strides. Verstappen acknowledged, "I know that we are not the quickest at the moment," but stressed that it's a long season with much to change. Meanwhile, McLaren's Lando Norris downplayed suggestions that Mc-

Laren is now the team to beat. He emphasized that while the team had a strong pre-season, they are not superior and expect a tough battle with all competitors. Both Verstappen and Norris remain cautious about their team's true standing ahead of the racing season.

Malvika Bansod's All England Championship Run Ends After Loss to Akane Yamaguchi



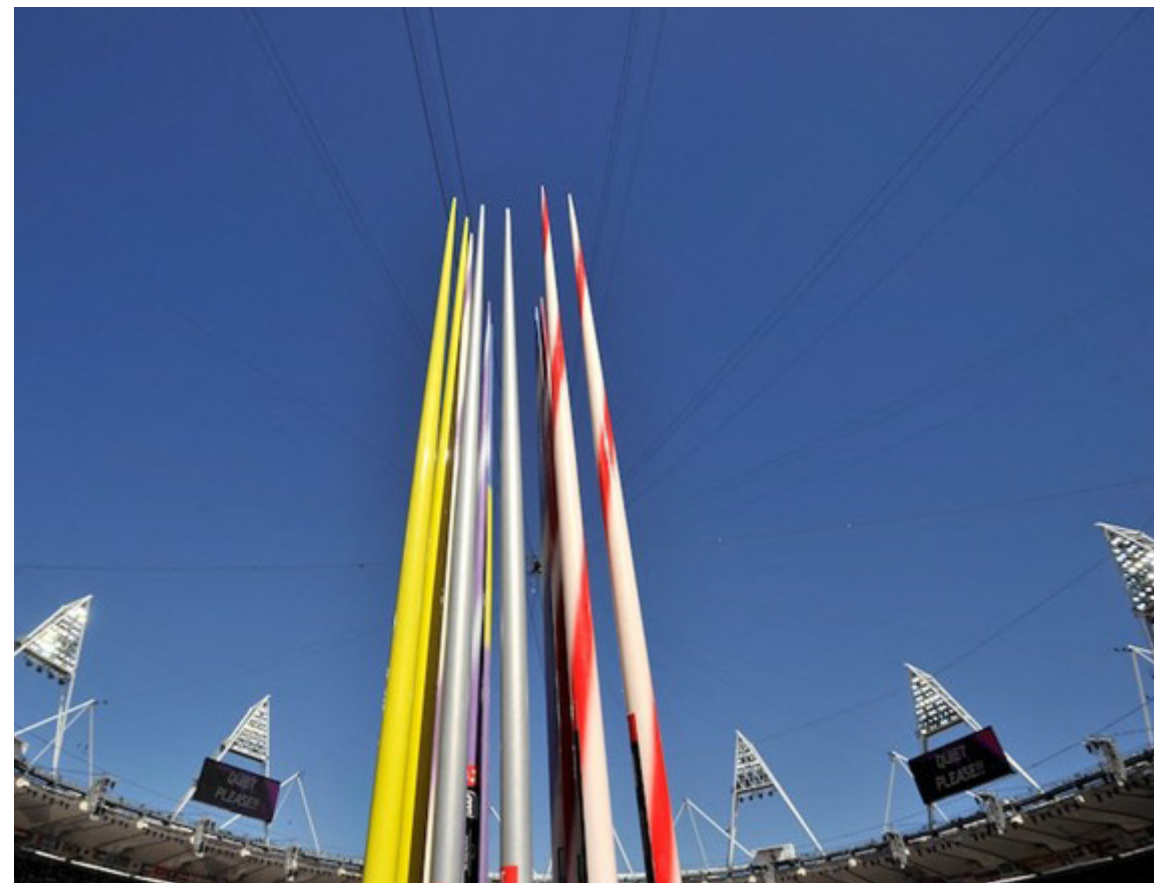
India's women's singles campaign at the All England Championships came to a close as Malvika Bansod lost in straight games to Japan's two-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi in the pre-quarterfinals. Yamaguchi, ranked world No. 3, dominated the match, winning 21-16, 21-13 in just 33 minutes. This extended her head-to-head lead over Bansod to 4-0. Bansod struggled with errors, hitting

wide and into the net, while Yamaguchi capitalized on her opponent's mistakes. Despite briefly leveling scores at 5-5 and 8-8 in the second game, Bansod could not sustain her momentum, as Yamaguchi surged ahead after the interval, sealing the match with a powerful smash. Earlier in the tournament, PV Sindhu was also knocked out of the women's singles event.

Rinku Hooda Shines as India Dominates Day 2 of World Para Athletics Grand Prix

India delivered an exceptional performance on the second day of the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025, with Rinku Hooda leading the charge in the men's javelin F46 category. Hooda clinched gold with a throw of 60.26 meters, maintaining his golden streak after recent successes at the National Para Athletics Championships and the Asian Para Games. India further showcased its dominance, sweeping the podium in the men's

javelin F12, F37, F42, F43 combined category, with Pushpendra Singh securing gold. Other notable performances included Ritender's gold in the F40/F41 javelin, Atul Kaushik's victory in the discus throw, and Svetlana Mironova's gold in women's shot put. India continued its success across various events, including gold medals from Dilip Mahadu Gavit in the 400m and Mikhail Kuskus in the 400m T35/T36.



Vinesh Phogat Opposes WFI's Affiliation Restoration by Sports Ministry



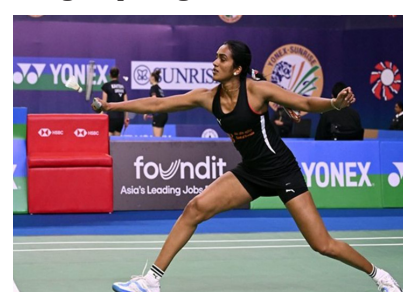
Olympian wrestler and Congress MLA, Vinesh Phogat, strongly opposed the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' decision to lift the suspension of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and restore its affiliation. The suspension, which was imposed

after elections in the WFI, was lifted following a Delhi High Court order. Vinesh, who has been vocal against WFI's leadership, expressed concerns over the federation being handed to "goons and criminals," urging the media to highlight this issue more forcefully.

India Drawn with Indonesia, Denmark, and England in Sudirman Cup 2025

India has been placed in Group D alongside Indonesia, Denmark, and England for the BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2025, which will take place in Xiamen, China from April 27 to May 4. The Sudirman Cup is a prestigious international mixed-team badminton competition held every two years. The draws were announced on Thursday as per Olympics.com. A total of 16 teams will participate in this year's edition, with each tie consisting of five matches: men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles. The defending cham-

pions and hosts, China, are the top seeds in Group A, while Indonesia, South Korea, and Japan are seeded second, third, and fourth, respectively. India's best performances came in 2011 and 2017, reaching the quarterfinals. In the last edition, India was eliminated in the group stage.



Indian Athletes Shine at Special Olympics World Winter Games with 9 Medals

Indian athletes have continued their impressive performances at the Special Olympics World Winter Games Turin 2025, bringing home a total of nine medals after the second day of competition. On Wednesday, India secured two gold, two silver, and one bronze medal across snowboarding and alpine skiing events. In snowboarding, Bharti (division F25) clinched a gold in the Novice Slalom Final, while Harshita Thakur (division F26) earned a bronze in the same event. This marks Bharti's second gold. In alpine skiing, Nirmala Devi (division F06) won gold, Radha Devi (division F01) took silver, and Abhishek Kumar (division M02) secured silver in the Novice Giant



Slalom Final. India's head coach, Anoop Kumar Sharma, praised the athletes' determination and hard work. The Special Olympics features over 1,500 athletes from 102 countries, with India competing in six disciplines.



Ranbir Kapoor Confirms Brahmastra 2 is Happening



Ranbir Kapoor has confirmed that Brahmastra 2 is definitely in the works. During a media interaction, Kapoor revealed that Ayan Mukerji, who is currently busy with War 2, will begin pre-production for the second installment once the project is completed. He assured fans that exciting announcements about Brahmastra 2 would be made soon. The first part of the ambitious film, Brahmastra: Part One - Shiva, was released in 2022, and its success helped launch Kapoor and Alia Bhatt's real-life love story. Ayan Mukerji had previously announced the release dates for the next two parts, with Brahmastra 2 slated for December 2026 and Brahmastra 3 in 2027.

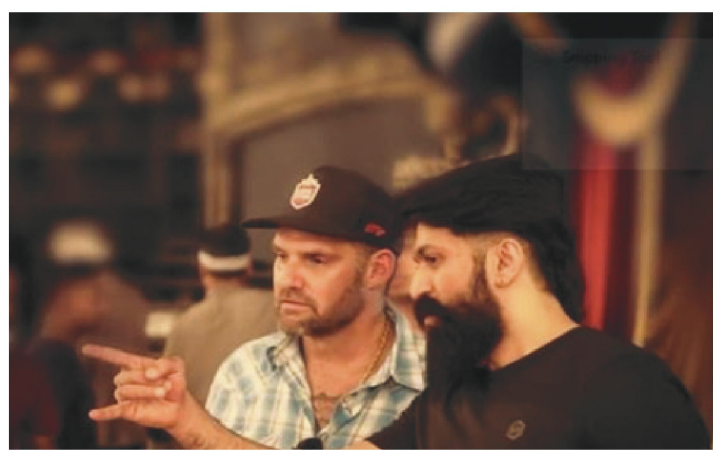
Title: Amitabh Bachchan Confirms Hosting Kaun Banega Crorepati 17: "This Bond Remains Unbroken Forever"



Amitabh Bachchan has confirmed he will return as the host for Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC) Season 17, ending rumors about his exit. In a heartfelt video released on March 12, Big B bid an emotional farewell to viewers, expressing deep gratitude for the connection built over the years. Reflecting on his journey, he shared, "My hope is that this bond remains unbroken forever." The 82-year-old icon also emphasized the show's positive impact, stating that if their efforts had even a small effect on someone's life, the journey had been successful. Bachchan concluded, promising to return for the next season, inspiring viewers to believe in their dreams. On the professional front, he was last seen in Vettaian alongside Rajinikanth.

Hollywood Action Director JJ Perry Calls 'Toxic' a "Banger," Yash's Reaction Goes Viral

Hollywood action director JJ Perry has hailed the upcoming action thriller Toxic as a "banger," and actor Yash's reaction to the compliment has gone viral. Perry, known for his high-octane action choreography, shared a photo with Yash on Instagram, expressing his pride in the film and the collaboration. Yash responded with excitement, saying, "My friend, working with you was straight up, raw power." Toxic: A Fairytale for Grown-ups, directed by Geetu Mohandas, is a milestone in Indian cinema, being the first major Indian production filmed in both English and Kannada. The film will also be dubbed in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam. Produced by Yash and Venkat K. Narayana, Toxic aims to appeal to global audiences, transcending cultural and linguistic barriers.



Kiran Abbavaram Pledges to Support Struggling Artists and Give Opportunities to New Talent

Actor Kiran Abbavaram has made a significant announcement about his commitment to supporting struggling artists in the film industry. Speaking at the pre-release event of his upcoming film Dil Ruba, Kiran shared his personal journey and the challenges faced by aspiring artists. Reflecting on his early days in the industry, he revealed how he started with 50 hopefuls and now only a few remain due to limited opportunities. Kiran promised to provide financial support to ten struggling artists each year and help them find opportunities in the industry. He also pledged to give new talent a chance in his films by encouraging producers to cast fresh faces. Despite being a relatively new actor, Kiran expressed hope that his actions would inspire others and create a path for future talent.

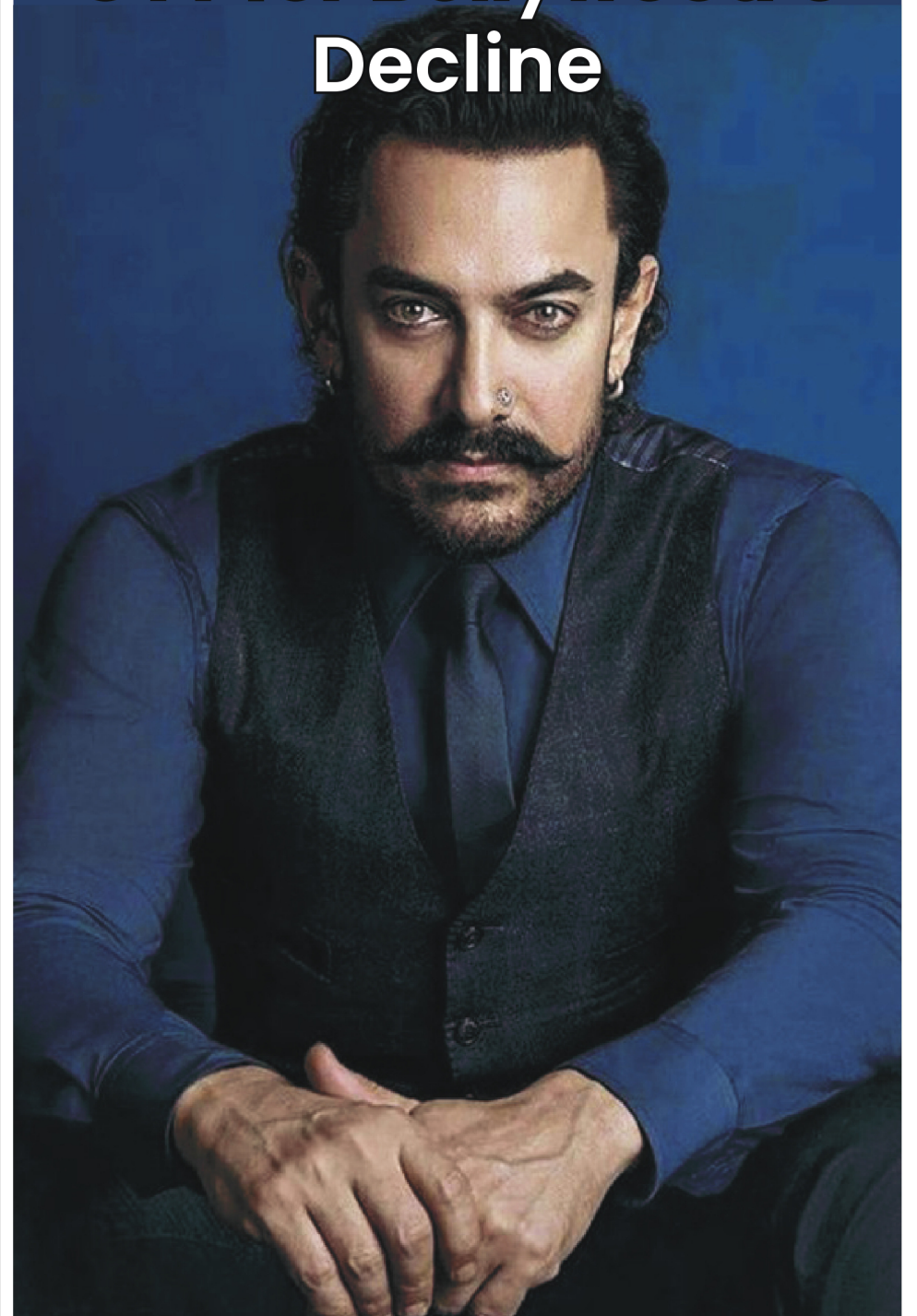


Alia Bhatt Confirms Cannes Debut: "Looking Forward to It"

Alia Bhatt is all set to make her debut at the 78th Cannes Film Festival this year. In a press interaction ahead of her 32nd birthday, Alia confirmed her participation, expressing excitement with a simple, "I am looking forward to it." The festival will take place from May 13-24, 2025. Alia, who has already made a mark at the Met Gala and Paris Fashion Week, will join the ranks of Cannes veterans like Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Deepika Padukone. Her appearance follows a successful year in global fashion, having presented for L'Oreal Paris at Paris Fashion Week. Alia also celebrated her upcoming birthday with husband Ranbir Kapoor at the press meet, where they shared a sweet moment cutting her cake.



Aamir Khan Blames OTT for Bollywood's Decline



Bollywood star Aamir Khan has shared his thoughts on why the industry is facing a decline. He believes that the rise of OTT platforms is the main reason for Bollywood's struggle, as audiences now prefer watching films at home rather than in theaters. Aamir pointed out that before the advent of OTTs, viewers would flock to theaters to watch movies, but with OTT subscriptions available, people

now watch films from the comfort of their homes. He also noted the significant rise of South Indian cinema, with regional films gaining massive popularity, while Bollywood films struggle at the box office. Aamir emphasized that the focus should not be on whether a film is from the North or South, but rather on reviving theater culture and encouraging people to watch films in theaters.