



POINT

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WE NOT ONLY STOOD... BUT ALSO UPHELD TDP

We achieved a 100 percent strike rate with 21 MLAs and 2 MPs.

Jana Sena was born on Telangana soil.

I have no fear; courage is my shield.

They conspired to suppress me, but we shattered their arrogance.

A multilingual nation is key to India's unity and development.

We brought the NDA to power in AP.

I focus on society and the country, not cinema.

463 Jana Sainiks gave their lives for our ideology.



"Pawan Kalyan fought for Amaravati farmers and the Vizag Steel Plant"

Jana Sena Party Political Affairs Committee Chairman Nadendra Manohar stated that the struggles Pawan Kalyan faced in the past cannot be forgotten. Addressing party workers, he emphasized that Jana Sena has always maintained its values, whether in opposition or power. "In 2019, we assured our workers that Jana Sena had a future. People trusted Pawan Kalyan because he upheld values in politics. Our 100 percent strike rate is not just a technical statistic; it is proof of the people's faith in him," Manohar said. Recalling Pawan Kalyan's efforts, he said, "When Amaravati farmers were worried, who stood up for them? Pawan Kalyan went to Delhi, met BJP leaders, and asked them why they were not responding to the plight of farmers and women who generously gave their lands for the capital. Similarly, when the Centre announced its decision on the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Pawan Kalyan went to Parliament within five days and strongly spoke to Amit Shah, insisting



that privatization must not happen under any circumstances." Manohar urged party members to reflect on their journey, emphasizing that their fight was never for power or positions. "If we are in the state cabinet today, it is to serve the people. Our Jana Sainiks must understand that we sought change, and now we must uphold that change."

"Two Reasons for Pawan's Victory.."

Janasena Party chief Pawan Kalyan's brother and MLC Nagababu made strong remarks, seemingly countering former Pithapuram MLA Verma's claims. Nagababu directly dismissed the notion that any individual was responsible for Pawan Kalyan's electoral success in Pithapuram. He asserted that the victory was due to two main reasons—the first being Pawan Kalyan himself and the second being the dedicated Jana Sainiks and activists. His remarks have sparked discussions on social media, with many interpreting them as a direct counter to Verma's earlier claims that Pawan Kalyan won because of his support. Following Pawan's victory in the 2024 elections, there had been speculation that former MLA Verma played a key role in securing the win. Nagababu's comments now add fuel to the ongoing debate.



"Telangana gave me a new life"

Recalling a life-threatening incident, Pawan Kalyan said, "That day, when I got an electric shock and was on the verge of death, I was blessed by Kondagattu Anjaneyaswamy, the people of Telangana, and all those who love me. It was the land of Telangana that gave me a new life. My heartfelt greetings to this sacred land." He expressed gratitude to the people of Telangana, saying, "To the one who tied my leg with a rope and asked, 'How are you, sister?'—to my dear brothers who are no longer with us, and to the brave women of Telangana—I salute your fighting spirit."

"Even in defeat, I took a step forward"

Reflecting on the 2019 elections, Pawan Kalyan stated that he remained undeterred despite losing. "We stood up... We stood up for four decades of TDP. When we lost in 2019, they mocked us, insulted our women, and made people suffer. When our brave women questioned them, they filed cases and sent them to jail. Even a leader with four decades of experience was imprisoned. They conspired to suppress me, and they even challenged that we should not touch the assembly gate." He emphasized the strength of Jana Sena's resurgence, stating, "We entered the assembly with 21 MLAs and two MPs. We achieved a 100 percent strike rate that made the whole country take notice."

"Gaddar is like an elder brother to me"

Pawan Kalyan also paid homage to the sacrifices of Jana Sainiks, reminding that "463 Jana Sainiks gave their lives for our ideology." He described Gaddar as an elder brother and reiterated that his journey in politics is driven by his commitment to society and the country, not by cinema. "Do not mention cinema. Do not shout 'Oji Oji.' I ask my fans to listen to me carefully. My focus has always been on the country and its people," he advised.



As long as I live, I will be with Janasena

Former minister Balineni Srinivas Reddy made sensational allegations against ex-CM Jagan Mohan Reddy at the 12th formation day meeting of the Jana Sena Party. He claimed that he and his family had suffered immensely due to Jagan's actions. "Jagan has stolen my assets, as well as those of my in-laws. The injustices he has done are countless," Balineni alleged, creating a stir. Speaking at the Jana Sena Jayaketanam meeting held in Chitrada village, Pithapuram mandal of Kakinada district, Balineni stated, "I will always stand with Pawan Kalyan, whether I have a position or not. Politics has caused me great suffering. I have had to sell half of the property given to me by my father. My family and I have endured a lot because of Jagan." He further criticized the YSRCP leader, saying, "Jagan stole my assets and those of my in-laws. There isn't enough time to list all the injustices he has committed. When Raghurama Krishnam Raju spoke against him, he was beaten up. Jagan should realize that his sins will not go unpunished."

The Jana Sena Party's 12th formation day meeting was held at Chitrada in Pithapuram constituency of Kakinada district, where party chief and AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan delivered an impassioned speech. Reflecting on his journey, he stated that he formed the party alone in 2014 and continued his struggle despite facing numerous challenges. He recalled contesting the 2019 elections, and although he faced defeat, he considered it a step forward.

Addressing the gathering, Pawan Kalyan said, "We stood... we stood the party. We stood... not just that, we also stood the TDP for four decades. When we lost in 2019, they mocked us, shaved their mustaches, beat their thighs in arrogance, insulted our women, and subjected people to continuous harassment. When our brave Jana Sainiks and women questioned this injustice, they were slapped with cases and jailed."

He criticized the previous government for its suppression, stating, "A TDP leader with four decades of experience was thrown into jail on false cases. They created an atmosphere of fear among Telugu Desam Party workers and senior leaders. As for me, there is no insult they haven't hurled, no conspiracy they haven't hatched." Highlighting his party's resurgence, he said, "They once claimed that we wouldn't even get close to the Assembly gates. But today, we have shattered that arrogance. We have 21 MLAs in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly and two MPs in Parliament. We have achieved a historic 100 percent strike rate that has captured the nation's attention. Today, the flag of victory flies high. Jai Jana Sena!"

"Our women are as fierce as Rudramma Devi"

Pawan Kalyan praised the courage of Telangana's women, stating, "You are the queen Rudramma in everyone's eyes. The unwavering rays of the Sun God are our brave women. The laser beams that strike down injustice are our Jana Sena women warriors. I am forever indebted to you. Jana Sena was born on the soil of Telangana."

"India thrives on multiple languages"

Addressing the gathering, Pawan Kalyan said, "As senior leader Konatha mentioned, it is not a coincidence that today's event coincides with Holi. It is God's decision." He revealed that he has a strong fan base in various states and shared his recent experience in Tamil Nadu during the Shanmukha Yatra. "People there told me they follow my speeches," he said. He further stated that Maharashtra Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis had invited him to visit Maharashtra and Haryana. He also recalled his participation in the election campaign for the NDA alliance in Maharashtra, highlighting that the alliance won in all but one of the constituencies where he campaigned.

A call for unity through languages

During his speech, Pawan Kalyan demonstrated his multilingual skills by speaking in Hindi, Tamil, Marathi, and Kannada. Addressing the ongoing language debate between Tamil Nadu and the central government, he said, "For true unity and affection among Indians, we must promote multilingualism rather than restricting ourselves to two languages."

"Jana Sena has a presence across states"

Pawan Kalyan revealed that he informed his parents in 2003 about his decision to enter politics. He highlighted that he has political supporters not only in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana but also in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka. Emphasizing the importance of a multilingual nation, he stated, "A multilingual country is beneficial for development. Tamil Nadu and Kerala should embrace this ideology." He also expressed gratitude for the love and support he has received from Tamil people.

Rare honor for Chiranjeevi in Britain

To receive a Lifetime Achievement Award in the UK Parliament on March 19

TPN Correspondent |
Andhra Pradesh

Tollywood Megastar Chiranjeevi is set to receive a prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the British government in recognition of his contributions to cinema and society over the past four decades. This rare honor will be conferred upon him in the UK Parliament (House of Commons) on March 19. The UK's ruling Labour Party MP Navendu Mishra will felicitate Chiranjeevi during the event, with other MPs including Sojan Joseph and Bob Blackman also in attendance. On this occasion, the Bridge India organization will recognize Chiranjeevi's impact on cinema, public service, and philanthropy, presenting him with the Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in public service through cultural leadership.



This award holds special significance as Bridge India, a leading UK-based organization shaping public policy, is presenting the Lifetime Achievement Award for the first time—with Chiranjeevi as its inaugural recipient.

Chiranjeevi, who was honored with the Padma Vibhushan in 2024, India's second-highest civilian award, also entered the Guinness World Records last year for his achievements in acting and dance. Additionally, he was recognized with the A.N.R. National Award by the Akkineni International Foundation on the occasion of A.N.R.'s centenary celebrations in 2024.

Receiving this honor in the UK Parliament from a reputed international organization like Bridge India marks another significant milestone in Chiranjeevi's illustrious career.



Prime Minister to Visit AP

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The coalition government in Andhra Pradesh has taken up the reconstruction of Amaravati with great prestige. The foundation stone for the development of new cities within the capital region will be laid soon, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to attend the event. Reports suggest that Modi is likely to visit Amaravati between April 15 and 20 to participate in the program.

In the first phase, the state government will invest ₹64,721 crore in infrastructure development and public amenities in the capital. Tenders for works worth ₹37,702 crore have already been finalized, and the construction is planned to be carried out in a mission mode. The state cabinet is scheduled to meet on March 17, where the approvals for these projects are expected. Following this, agreement letters will be issued to the contract agencies, allowing them to begin work as soon as the orders are released.

Amaravati was initially declared the capital of Andhra Pradesh when Chandrababu Naidu became Chief Minister in 2014. However, work on the city was halted when the YSRCP came to power in 2019. The previous CM, Jagan Mohan Reddy, did not take steps towards Amaravati's development, instead proposing a three-capital plan. With the coalition government returning to power in 2024, Amaravati has once again been confirmed as the sole capital, and developmental activities have resumed.

CM Warns TDP Leaders to Avoid Contact YCP Leaders

- Welfare schemes will be provided to all, irrespective of political affiliation.
- Chairmen to be appointed for 21 major temples
- Nominated posts to be filled in phases.
- Ministers must visit districts regularly and focus on governance.
- Solar power subsidies for BCs, free installations for SCs/STs.



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Chief Minister and TDP Chief N. Chandrababu Naidu has issued clear instructions to party leaders, warning them against maintaining any contact with YCP leaders. In a teleconference with TDP MLAs, MPs, and ministers, he dismissed rumors that government schemes were being denied to YCP voters and urged leaders to focus on development and governance instead of engaging in political conflicts. Chandrababu emphasized ministerial responsibilities, stating that district in-charge ministers must visit their respective areas frequently, conduct reviews with

officials, and coordinate with MLAs, MPs, and party functionaries to ensure smooth implementation of government programs. He stressed that group politics within TDP must be avoided and ministers should strengthen the party by actively engaging with leaders and activists.

Addressing the appointment of chairmen for 21 major temples, Chandrababu said that the selection process is underway, along with filling various nominated posts. He revealed that 60,000 applications have been received, and the party is carefully examining them. He assured those who do not get posts in the first phase that opportunities will be provided af-

ter two years. He also made it clear that only dedicated party workers will be rewarded with posts. Chandrababu reiterated that welfare programs will be implemented without political bias, ensuring that schemes reach all eligible beneficiaries regardless of party affiliations. He criticized leaders who have been delaying recommendations for nominated positions and urged them to submit names at the earliest.

A major focus was placed on solar energy promotion through the PM Suryaghar Scheme. Chandrababu announced that the government will provide an additional ₹20,000 subsidy for BCs installing 2-kilowatt rooftop solar units, bringing

the total subsidy to ₹80,000 with central assistance. SCs and STs will receive solar units free of cost. He set a target of installing at least 10,000 rooftop solar units per constituency and urged MLAs to actively promote the initiative. Chandrababu instructed MLAs and MPs to raise local issues effectively in the Assembly and Parliament to ensure their concerns are addressed. He also urged TDP leaders to work in coordination with BJP and JSP leaders, reinforcing the alliance's governance efforts. He concluded by stating that party leaders must remain vigilant, act responsibly, and uphold strong governance principles to maintain public trust.

Serial deaths of witnesses in YS Viveka murder case stir concern



TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

The serial deaths of witnesses in the YS Vivekananda Reddy murder case have raised serious concerns, leading to increased security for Dastagiri, the key approver in the case. Responding to his request, Kadapa District SP Ashok Kumar has ordered an upgrade in his security cover from 1+1 to 2+2. Dastagiri visited the Kadapa District SP office, expressing fear over the mysterious deaths of witnesses and seeking enhanced protection. In his petition, he alleged that Dr. Chaitanya Reddy had threatened him while he was in Kadapa jail. Taking this into account, the police acted swiftly to strengthen his security.

The YS Vivekananda Reddy murder case has been one of the most high-profile investigations in the state, with multiple witness deaths raising suspicions and intensifying calls for justice.

Govt Sets Deadline for Issuance of TDR Bonds Shifts to Online Process

TPN Correspondent, Andhra Pradesh

The state government has set a specific deadline for the issuance of Transferable Development Rights (TDR) bonds, ensuring there are no delays in the process. As part of streamlining the system, the manual process has been completely eliminated, making way for an online application and issuance system.

Municipal Department Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar IAS has issued new guidelines directing that all TDR bond applications be processed exclusively through the online platform. The rules also outline the specific number of days allotted for file clearance at different officer levels, ensuring efficiency and transparency. With this move, the government aims to expedite development projects while maintaining accountability in the issuance of TDR bonds.



XXX Soaps Chairman Arunachalam Passes Away

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

Prominent industrialist and Chairman of Triple X Soaps, Arunachalam Manikyavel, passed away at a private hospital in Guntur on Thursday evening after a prolonged illness. He is survived by his wife, son, and daughter. His relatives announced that the last rites will be performed on Friday. Originally from Tamil Nadu, Manikyavel moved to Guntur in 1980 and started a soap business. He began by selling soaps door-to-door in a rickshaw and gradually built his empire. Recognizing the power of advertising, he incorporated popular movie song lyrics into his campaigns, making his brand widely recognized. He gained popularity with slogans like 'Saskunta Soap,' which he promoted as bringing good luck to consumers. Beyond business, he actively supported various cultural and service organizations, along with Tamil associations in Guntur, leaving behind a legacy of both entrepreneurship and philanthropy.

Gang of Thieves Who Terrorized AP Arrested

Huge Cache of Weapons Seized

TPN Correspondent | Chittoor

The police have successfully cracked the case of a notorious gang that created a sensation in Chittoor. Chittoor SP Manikantha Chandolu announced that seven individuals have been arrested, and a significant amount of weapons and materials were seized from them. The confiscated items include a car, three guns, four bullets, two knives, chili powder, gamex powder, and four pellets.

Theft Execution and Arrest

Speaking at a media conference, SP Manikantha Chandolu revealed that the robbery was masterminded by Subrahmanya from Chittoor. The gang arrived at Pushpa Kids store in an Omni van at 5:30 AM. Armed with deadly weapons, they entered through the main entrance and threatened shop owner Chandrasekhar's family for money. The gang severely injured Chandrasekhar, but his



wife, Shanti, screamed for help, alerting neighbors who caught four of the thieves on the spot. Three more accused were later arrested at Kanipakam Cross. The arrested individuals were identified as Subrahmanya from Chittoor, S Ibrahim from Proddatur, Naveen Kumar from Nandyal, Ramanjaneyulu from Jarutla village in Anantapur, Rajasekhar, Netti Kantaiah, and Sampath Kumar.

Criminal Past of the Accused

Investigations revealed that the main accused, Subrahmanya, had a criminal history with six cases in Kurnool and Nandyal districts. He had previously served ten years in prison for theft, robbery, and murder-related crimes. Once a furniture businessman under the name SLV Furniture in Chittoor, he resorted to crime after suffering financial losses.

SP Manikantha Chandolu commended the police team for their swift and efficient action in solving the case.

Jana Sena Formation Day Celebrated in Eluru

- 12th Formation Day marked with grand celebrations
- Reddy Appala Naidu unfurls party flag at Eluru office
- Huge rally with 130 cars heads to Pithapuram event

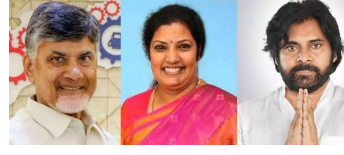
ru Parliament Constituency Coordinator and Jana Sena In-charge Reddy Appala Naidu unfurled the party flag at the local Jana Sena office, marking the occasion. Speaking at the event, Reddy Appala Naidu said that the party, which has endured obstacles, insults, and challenges for over a decade, has now entered governance as part of the coalition government. He announced that vehicle facilities were arranged for Jana Sena cadres from seven constituencies under the Eluru Parliament area to participate in the victory rally. A massive convoy of about 130 cars departed from Eluru for the Formation Day celebrations in Pithapuram. Additionally, in Chodimella's 27th Division, Division In-charge Be-



zawada Nagabhushanam Kumar led the flag hoisting ceremony. A grand rally started from the Cosmo Club on Mini Bypass Road, heading towards Pithapuram. Jana Sena District Joint Secretary Obilisetty Shrawan Gupta, City President Nagireddy Kashi Naresh, General Secretary Saridi Rajesh, along with party leaders, activists, and supporters, participated in the celebrations.

TPN Correspondent, Eluru
The 12th Formation Day of the Jana Sena Party was celebrated in Eluru on Friday with enthusiasm. Elu-

Chandrababu extends wishes to Pawan Kalyan on JSP foundation day Purandeswari, Nara Lokesh also congratulate Janasena



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh
As the Jana Sena Party (JSP) celebrates its 12th foundation day, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu extended his best wishes to party chief Pawan Kalyan and the Jana Sainiks. Taking to social media, he lauded JSP's commitment

to public service and value-based politics, expressing his heartfelt greetings to Pawan Kalyan and the party's leadership. He also shared a photograph of himself greeting Pawan Kalyan. Meanwhile, AP BJP President and MP Daggubati Purandeswari also extended her wishes to Pawan Kalyan and JSP cadres, acknowledging the party's journey over the past 12 years. Several alliance

leaders and political figures joined in congratulating the Jana Sena Party on its foundation day. On this occasion, Pawan Kalyan arrived in Pithapuram by helicopter from Gannavaram. He is set to address the 'Jayaketanam' meeting, which will mark the foundation day celebrations. His speech is expected to last 90 minutes, where he will outline the party's future course and vision.

Yanamala hints at Rajya Sabha aspirations



Senior TDP leader Yanamala Ramakrishnudu, who has been with the party since its inception, has expressed his interest in moving to the Rajya Sabha if given an opportunity. Currently serving as an MLC, his term is set to end this month. Speaking to the media in the Legislative Council lobbies, he stated, "If the party gives me an opportunity, I will go to Rajya Sabha. Otherwise, I will take a break." Yanamala revealed that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had spoken to him on the day TDP announced candidates for MLA quota MLC seats and that he had welcomed the decision. He also expressed gratitude to Naidu for allowing him to serve as an MLC twice. Reflecting on the changing nature of politics, Yanamala remarked that politics has become expensive, which, in his view, is not good for democracy. His statement has sparked speculation about his future role in the party and national politics.

- TDP leader says he will take a break if not given a chance

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Raghunandan Rao warns TTD over rejection of Telangana representatives'

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati
Medak MP and BJP leader Raghunandan Rao has strongly warned that if the recommendation letters of Telangana public representatives—including MLAs, MPs, and MLCs—are not accepted, all of them will visit Tirumala to settle the matter with the TTD. He demanded that the Andhra Pradesh government and TTD governing council implement their previous announcement regarding providing darshan on the recommendation of Telangana representatives.

Speaking to the media after having VIP break darshan in Tirumala on Friday, Raghunandan Rao insisted that devotees visiting during summer vacations on these recommendation letters must be allowed darshan. If not, he warned, Telangana public representatives will take up the issue directly with TTD authorities. He reminded that the TTD board, under BR Naidu's leadership, had assured that recommendation letters from Telangana representatives would be accepted from February 1.



However, he expressed disappointment that while 294 MLAs were allowed in the united Andhra Pradesh, now the privilege is restricted only to AP MLAs. He demanded an end to discrimination and urged Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to intervene and resolve the issue.

'Minister of All Departments – Lokesh' Says Meruga Nagarjuna

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh
YCP leader and former minister Meruga Nagarjuna launched a scathing attack on AP Minister Nara Lokesh, accusing him of acting as the "Minister of All Departments" and alleging that he has corrupted the education sector. Speaking to the media, Meruga

Nagarjuna criticized Lokesh for his objections to Jagan Mohan Reddy's photos on textbooks, questioning, "Doesn't Lokesh see Chandrababu's pictures on government schemes?" He further alleged that the coalition government is weakening school education and claimed that higher education flourished under the YCP re-

gime. He also condemned the alleged forced resignations of Vice Chancellors (VCs) in various universities, calling it an act of intimidation. "Is this how the education system should be run?" he questioned, further accusing the government of corrupting universities and diluting rules.



CM Warns Leaders Delaying Recommendations for Nominated Posts

- Says only those who worked hard for the party will be considered

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh
Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu held a teleconference today with ministers, MLAs, MPs, and party leaders, emphasizing the need to expedite recommendations for nominated posts. He expressed dissatisfaction over the delay by some leaders in submitting names and made it clear that only those who worked hard for the party will be given these posts. Naidu directed party leaders to submit details of dedicated workers to ensure that the right individuals receive appropriate positions. He also announced that chairmen will be appointed for 21 major temples across Andhra Pradesh. So far, the party has received 60,000 applications for nominated posts,

and Naidu assured that a thorough screening process is underway. He clarified that first-time applicants may not be prioritized and that others would be considered after a two-year term. He also stated that the performance of existing appointees is being closely monitored. Naidu urged leaders to maintain the same calm and disciplined approach they had while in opposition. He strictly instructed TDP leaders not to maintain any contact with YCP leaders and dismissed allegations that government schemes would be denied to YCP supporters. He emphasized that welfare programs will be implemented fairly, without political bias, but insisted that political relationships should remain separate. He also stressed the importance of avoiding group politics and directed district in-charge ministers to increase their visits. He called for better coordination among alliance partners to strengthen the party's position across the state.

Congress Committee Visits Polavaram Project-Affected Areas

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

Following the directions of Andhra Pradesh Congress Party President Smt. Y.S. Sharmila Reddy, members of the Polavaram Project Displaced Persons' Problems Study Committee visited flood-affected villages in Kukunuru Mandal, Eluru district, to assess the situation and hear grievances from the affected residents. State Congress spokesperson and Polavaram Study Committee Vice President Narapureddy Kiran Kumar Reddy stated that the sacrifices of displaced families are invaluable, and it is unjust for governments to neglect their rightful compensation. He emphasized that former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR) had laid the foundation for the Polavaram project by securing all necessary permissions from the Central Government. YSR had envisioned comprehensive rehabilitation, ensuring all affected mandals received fair compensation. During his tenure, 33% of the project was completed. He pointed out that the Congress-led Central Government had passed a land acquisition law in 2013, doubling compensation for farmers. Furthermore, Congress granted the Polavaram project national status, ensuring that the Central Government bore 100% of its costs. However, the 2023 annual project report highlighted delays in the diaphragm wall construction and rehabilitation

efforts, raising concerns about the current administration's commitment. Kiran Kumar Reddy strongly criticized former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy for mismanaging the project, alleging that his administration's first-phase compensation policy, covering only up to 41.5 meters, left out many deserving individuals. He pointed out that families in Kauntinya Mukti and Golla Guppa Mutyalamma Padu, the first villages to be submerged, have yet to receive any compensation. Additionally, tribals have not been allotted alternative land as promised. He called for a fresh resurvey to include all individuals who turned 18 after the 2017 survey, as they have

been unfairly excluded from compensation. The committee also raised concerns over the government's decision to establish rehabilitation colonies in flood-prone areas like Kivvokka and the lack of basic amenities in these settlements. The Congress leader urged the government to urgently address the issue by identifying flood-prone villages as an emergency priority, immediately initiating comprehensive rehabilitation efforts, and conducting a resurvey to ensure just compensation for all affected residents. He condemned both the state and central governments for neglecting the Polavaram flood victims for over a decade.



Special Pujas Mark Phalguna Pournami at Sri Durga Temple

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

On the auspicious occasion of Phalguna Pournami, special daily pujas were performed in grandeur at Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Warla Devasthanam, Indrakiladri. Devotees thronged the temple to witness Goddess Kanakadurgamma adorned with a golden armor, radiating divine splendor.

Large numbers of devotees actively participated in Laksha Kumkumarchana, Chandī Yagam, Sri Chakra Navavaranaarchana, and Shanti Kalyanam rituals, seeking divine blessings. The temple management ensured smooth access to the shrine by providing lift and free bus services to Indrakiladri. After darshan through various queue systems, devotees received free prasada and daily annadanam. Newlywed couples visiting the temple were granted special free darshan as per tradition.

Following the instructions of Temple Executive Officer Sri K. Ramachandra Mohan, the assistant executive officers, supervisors, and temple staff efficiently managed crowd control, ensuring continuous distribution of free prasada and adequate drinking water for all devotees.



Following the instructions of Temple Executive Officer Sri K. Ramachandra Mohan, the assistant executive officers, supervisors, and temple staff efficiently managed crowd control, ensuring continuous distribution of free prasada and adequate drinking water for all devotees.



Sri Tirupattamma Ammavari Chinna Thirunalla Mahotsavam Begins in Grand Style

TPN Correspondent | NTR District

The five-day Chinna Thirunalla Mahotsavam of Sri Tirupattamma Ammavaru along with Sri Gopayya Swamy commenced in Penuganchiprol village with grandeur and devotion. The festival began with the installation of the sacred Akhand Jyoti, symbolizing divine presence and auspicious beginnings.

Deputy Commissioner and Devasthanam Executive Officer B.H.V.S. Kishore Kumar, along with Chairman Jangala Srinivasa Rao, led the Ganapati Puja before installing the Akhand Jyoti in the sanctum sanctorum of Ammavaru. The religious event officially marked the start of the Chinna Thirunalla Mahotsavam.

Temple officials, members of the governing body, and Archa Swamulu participated in the event, ensuring the smooth conduct of rituals. Devotees have started gathering in large numbers, anticipating a spiritually uplifting celebration in the coming days.

Urgent Action Needed to Address Rising Attacks on Hindu Pilgrims and Temples in AP

The increasing attacks on Hindu pilgrims and temples in Andhra Pradesh over the past decade have become a matter of serious concern. Recent incidents in Pedana (Krishna district), V. Kota (Chittoor district), and Rayachoti (Anantapur district) have heightened fear and insecurity among devotees. These attacks not only cause physical harm but also disrupt communal harmony, leading to rising tensions.

Concerns are also growing over the spread of radical activities in previously peaceful coastal towns and the Rayalaseema region. A notable case in 2017 involved Konakalla Subra-



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh manyam, a young man from a village near Machilipatnam, who was reportedly radicalized and sent on a terrorist mission

to Syria to join ISIS. His arrest by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in Hyderabad raises serious questions about the extent of radicalization in Andhra Pradesh and the potential presence of a larger network.

Given these developments, there is an urgent need for both the State and Central governments to initiate a thorough NIA investigation to uncover and dismantle such networks. This will serve as both a preventive and deterrent measure to ensure communal peace and security. Additionally, there is a pressing need for stricter vigilance over religious institutions. Authorities should closely

monitor teaching activities, verify identities of students and educators, track curricula and funding sources, and check for the presence of illegal migrants from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and the Rohingya community. There are concerns that such elements could incite communal unrest, further worsening an already sensitive situation.

The priority of every responsible citizen and the government must be to maintain communal harmony in Andhra Pradesh. Law and order should remain a primary focus, as economic progress cannot thrive if security is compromised due to vote bank politics.

MLA Ramu Demands CID Probe into Gudivada Corruption Under YSCP Rule



TPN Correspondent, Gudivada

Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu has demanded a CID inquiry into the large-scale corruption that took place in Gudivada during the YSRCP regime. Addressing the media on Friday, he stated that the scam in Gudivada Municipal Co-operative Society Limited must be thoroughly investigated to ensure justice for the affected workers.

Earlier in the day, workers met MLA Ramu at his residence and detailed the fraudulent activities within the society. The MLA was shocked when they revealed that a loan of ₹10 lakh was taken in 2022 under the name of a person who had died 22 years ago.

Following this, MLA Ramu visited the society office in Sanyanarayanapuram and questioned society official Gumasta Raju regarding the irregularities. Raju admitted to misusing ₹40 lakh from four members and claimed that only society president Lakshmi had full knowledge of other loan transactions. The revelation left the workers deeply concerned.

MLA Ramu urged the One Town police to initiate an inquiry and later informed the district collector, who assured him of an investigation. He also stated that he would escalate the matter to Minister Nara Lokesh and press for a CID probe.

Condemning the massive financial irregularities, MLA Ramu alleged that YSRCP leaders played a role in looting crores from the hard-earned money of workers. He revealed that approximately ₹8.5 crore had been misappropriated and assured that the coalition government would ensure a thorough probe and justice for the victims.

Gudivada Town TDP president Dintyala Rambabu, labor union leader Vaddadi Nagaraju, and several TDP leaders, including Chekur Jaganmohan Rao and Gaddam Prakash Das, participated in the program along with municipal labor union representatives and workers.



MP Keshineni Shivnath Attends Iftar at Masjid Kausar Promises Support for Mosque Construction

TPN Correspondent, Vijayawada

MP Keshineni Shivnath (Chinni) participated in an Iftar feast at Masjid Kausar in Autonagar Colony, Vijayawada. During the event, leaders of the Mosque Committee submitted a request seeking financial assistance from Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu for the construction of the mosque.

Responding to their appeal, MP Keshineni Shivnath assured them that he would take the issue to the attention of CM Chandrababu Naidu and work towards securing the required support. He also emphasized the importance of industrial development within the Muslim community and urged the youth to take advantage of the opportunities and encouragement provided by the Chief Minister.

On the occasion, MP Keshineni extended his heartfelt Ramadan wishes to the Muslim community and expressed his commitment to supporting their welfare and development.

Youth Attacked with Knife in Gudivada Market Center



TPN Correspondent | Gudivada

Tension prevailed at Gudivada Market Center after a young man was attacked with a meat cleaver in broad daylight. The incident occurred when Puppala Pawan allegedly attacked Sirigidi Srinu, injuring him on his left hand and back, reportedly due to an old dispute.

Onlookers alerted the police, who arrived swiftly at the scene. Srinu was immediately rushed to Gudivada Government Area Hospital, where doctors provided first aid and later transferred him to Vijayawada for better treatment.

The police have launched an investigation into the incident, and efforts are underway to trace the accused.

Reckless Bike Riders Create Chaos in Gudivada Town

TPN Correspondent | NTR District

Reckless bike riders are causing panic among pedestrians and motorists in broad daylight in Gudivada town, performing stunts and riding at high speeds without number plates. Residents complain that some mischievous youths are making loud noises by manipulating Bullet bike power switches, disturbing the public and posing serious risks.

In the past, police officers took strong action to curb such activities, but the situation seems to have worsened again. Bikers are reportedly throwing their vehicles toward pedestrians and even acting aggressively when questioned. Many fear that the sudden loud noises from these bikes could trigger health issues, including heart attacks, especially among senior citizens. Locals argue that parents should take responsibility instead of giving powerful bikes to minors who are not mature enough to handle them. If a road accident occurs, not only does a family lose their child, but another innocent life could also be at risk.

The people of Gudivada are urging the police to conduct a special drive to control these reckless bike races before a serious tragedy occurs.

Rising Temperatures Mid-Day Schools in Telugu States from Today



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

With temperatures soaring beyond normal in March, the education departments of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have announced mid-day schools starting from March 15 as a precautionary measure.

Telangana: Schools will operate from 8 AM to 12 PM. However, in centers

conducting Class 10 exams, classes will be held from 1 PM to 5 PM. Mid-day schools will continue until April 23. Andhra Pradesh: Schools will function from 7:45 AM to 12:30 PM, while Class 10 exams will be conducted from 1:15 PM to 5 PM at designated centers. The decision was taken in view of the scorching heat and rising temperatures across both states, ensuring students' well-being during school hours.



Surprise Inspection Agri Marketing Director Vijaya Sunitha

TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram

Agricultural Marketing Director Vijaya Sunitha conducted a surprise inspection of three farmers' markets and market committees in Vizianagaram town on Friday.

During her visit, she reviewed the activities of the marketing department and examined the facilities available in the markets.

She held discussions with officials regarding the amenities provided to farmers, vegetable prices, and the policies of market committees.

Special focus was given to the cleanliness of market areas, Dwakra shops, and the quality of products being sold. Her visit aimed at ensuring better market conditions and improved services for farmers and consumers alike.

Three killed in tragic road accident in Tadepalligudem

TPN Correspondent | West Godavari

A fatal road accident occurred on the Kunchanapalli National Highway in Tadepalligudem mandal, resulting in the death of three people. A Santro car, traveling from Eluru to Tanuku, crashed into a vehicle involved in national highway works.

Two passengers died on the spot, while several others sustained injuries. The injured were rushed to Tanuku Government Hospital, where a young girl succumbed to her injuries



during treatment. Another victim remains in critical condition.

Upon receiving the information, the police reached the accident site, examined the situation, and registered a case. An investigation is underway to determine the cause of the accident.

BR Naidu invites CM for Srinivasa Kalyanam in Venkatapalem

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) Chairman BR Naidu today met Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in Undavalli and invited him to attend the Srinivasa Kalyanam program scheduled to take place in Venkatapalem, Amaravati, on March 15. He personally handed over the invitation and also presented Swami's prasadam to the Chief Minister.

BR Naidu briefed CM Chandrababu about the arrangements being made for the Srinivasa Kalyanam event and assured that all necessary steps are being taken for a smooth and grand conduct of the program. The Chief Minister advised TTD officials to ensure hassle-free arrangements for devotees attending the event.



Along with BR Naidu, TTD Governing Council members, TTD Executive Officer (EO), and Joint Executive Officer (JEO) were also present during the meeting with the Chief Minister.

₹24 Crore Critical Care Unit at Nellore Government Hospital

- MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy inspects ongoing works



TPN Correspondent | Nellore

A 50-bed Critical Care Unit, being built at the Government Main Hospital in Nellore Rural constituency with an investment of ₹24 crores, will be inaugurated on July 30. Nellore Rural MLA Kotamreddy Sridhar Reddy, who inspected the ongoing construction, stated that the facility would become a flagship medical unit for the district, providing advanced healthcare services to the people.

Equipped with modern medical technology, the unit

is expected to enhance critical care treatment in the region. MLA Sridhar Reddy expressed confidence that the project, initiated under Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's leadership, will significantly benefit the public.

The inauguration ceremony will be attended by Minister for Medical and Health Satyakumar, District Ministers Ponguru Narayana and Anam Ramanarayana Reddy, along with Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy. Several hospital officials and local leaders also participated in the inspection.

₹5 Crore Scam in Gudivada

TPN Correspondent | Gudivada

A massive financial irregularity has come to light in the Gudivada Municipal Employees Co-operative Credit Society Limited No. H 1067, with allegations of a ₹5 crore scam involving the society's management and bank officials. The Krishna District Cooperative Central Bank (KDCC) has issued notices to employees regarding unpaid old loans, triggering outrage among municipal staff who claim they had already cleared their dues.

The credit society, which extends loans to both permanent and outsourced employees, secures bulk loans from KDCC Bank in Gudivada and disburses them in smaller amounts to its members. Employees act as guarantors for each other, repaying loans through sala-



ry deductions. However, suspicions have arisen that the repayment records were manipulated, leaving many employees in unexpected debt. Reports indicate that each affected employee has outstanding dues ranging from ₹4 lakh to ₹5 lakh.

Allegations of Record Tampering

Several employees stated that they had fully repaid their old loans to the society's accountant and received receipts

- KDCC Bank issues notices for unpaid old loans
- Employees allege loan repayments were manipulated

confirming the settlements. However, accusations suggest that the accountant may have tampered with records and diverted the funds instead of forwarding them to the bank. The whereabouts of the misappropriated money remain unclear.

Employees who had settled their dues to secure fresh loans were shocked to receive bank notices claiming that their previous loans were still pending. The society had allegedly continued issuing fresh loans without clearing old ones, misleading KDCC Bank into approving an additional ₹5 crore in loans.

KDCC Bank Crackdown

Following a review, KDCC Bank discovered ₹3 crore in unpaid dues and issued immedi-

ate notices to the affected borrowers. The bank also alerted the Municipal Commissioner, requesting action against those responsible. As a result, the municipal administration has begun recovering unpaid loan amounts from employees' salaries.

Outraged employees, who were unaware of the financial mismanagement, have approached municipal authorities, demanding justice.

The municipal officials clarified that the deductions were based on lists provided by the bank. Employees are now calling for strict action against those responsible for the misappropriation and a thorough investigation into the missing funds.

Six-hour delay in Sri Rama Navami festival at Bhadrachalam temple

- Dispute between priests and temple authorities leads to chaos

TPN Correspondent | Bhadrachalam

A major disruption occurred in the Sri Rama Navami festival at the Bhadrachalam Sri Seetha Ramachandraswamy temple, delaying the ankurarpana (ceremonial seed sowing)

by six hours due to a dispute between the priest group and temple authorities. The festival, which was supposed to start on Thursday evening, was postponed until 10 PM amid tensions over the absence of the deputy chief priest.

The dispute arose after Deputy Chief Priest Srinivasa Ramanujam was transferred to Parnasala Sri Seetha Ramachandraswamy temple two days ago by Executive Officer (EO) Ramadevi as part of disciplinary action. He was accused of accepting money offered to the Lord by a devotee, which led to his removal. However, the priests refused to conduct the ankurarpana without his presence, arguing that his role was crucial for the rituals. They requested the EO to allow him to perform the festival ceremonies and agreed to his transfer only after the celebrations.

Despite hours of discus-



sions, there was no immediate resolution, causing frustration among devotees who had gathered to witness the sacred event. Eventually, at 10 PM, EO Ramadevi met the priests and criticized their stance, stating that bringing back an official facing disciplinary action would damage the temple's reputation. However, as the deadlock continued, the EO was forced to call back the deputy chief priest, after which the ankurarpana ceremony finally took place.

The incident has sparked a heated debate over the conduct of the priests, with many questioning their decision to halt a major religious event over an internal dispute. This controversy comes soon after another embarrassment for the temple authorities, as worms were found in the rice prepared for devotees during previous Sri Rama Navami celebrations.

Cocoa Farmers' Conference to be Held in Vijayarai on March 20

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

A state-level cocoa farmers' conference will be held at Sitarama Kalyana Mandapam in Vijayarai, Pedavegi Mandal, on March 20 at 10 AM. Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Association State Assistant Secretary K. Srinivas announced this at a preparatory meeting held on Friday under the chairmanship of Munnangi Subbareddy.

Speaking at the event, Srinivas emphasized the need for cocoa procurement based on international market price-

es. He criticized companies for manipulating prices, pointing out that the rate of new cocoa beans had been reduced from ₹650 to ₹600 without a valid explanation. He called on cocoa farmers from all districts to participate in the upcoming conference to address these concerns collectively.

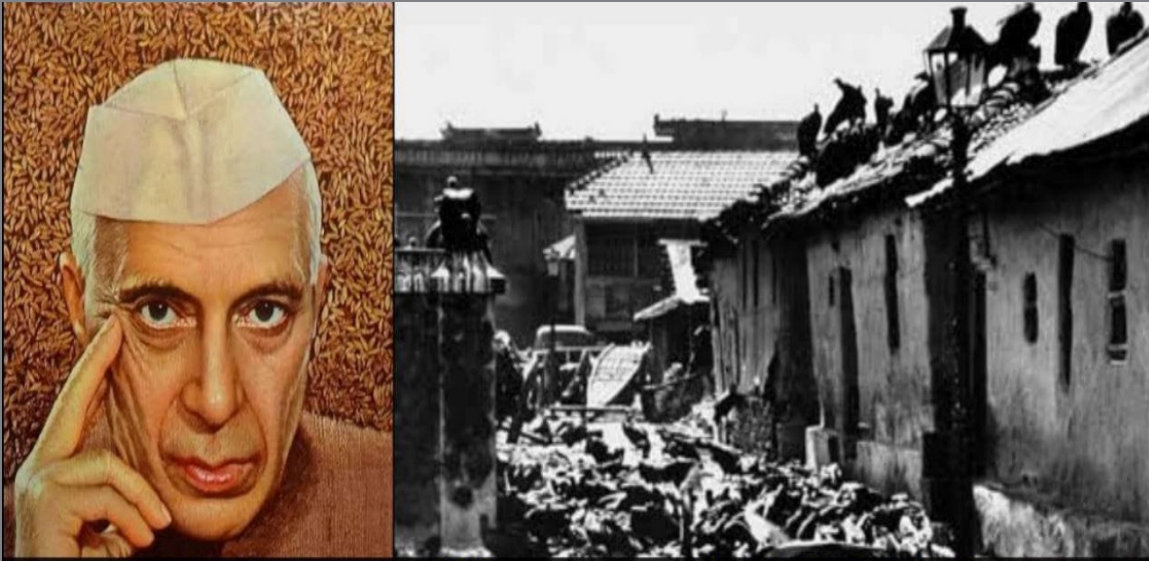
He highlighted that cocoa is cultivated on 75,000 acres in the state, with the highest production in the erstwhile Godavari districts, along with Anakapalle, Vizianagaram,



and Srikakulam. He accused companies of exploiting farmers and urged them to unite against unfair practices. Regional Coconut Farmers Association Vice President Bollu Ramakrishna, along with cocoa

farmers Koneru Satish Babu, Garapati Poornachandra Rao, Nagaraju Srinivasa Raju, Jasti Kashi Babu, Bollineni Prasad, Paladugula Satyanarayana, and others, participated in the meeting.

Nehru's Obsession with Hindus



"PM Nehru could have saved 18,000 Hindus, but he didn't."

The Indian National Congress's stance on Hinduism has long been a topic of debate, with the party's approach influenced by the views of its first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Nehru's limited understanding of Hinduism and his tendency to conflate the religion with the ideologies of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu nationalist organization, shaped the Congress party's approach. This misrepresentation of Hinduism not only painted it in a negative light but also led to a lack of appreciation for the diversity and pluralism inherent within the religion.

In his pursuit of secularism and liberalism, Nehru sought to project an image of a progressive India that catered to minorities. In doing so, he often marginalized the Hindu community, positioning it as a political scapegoat to secure minority votes. This created an environment where Hindu identity was frequently viewed with suspicion, leaving the community feeling alienated and disillusioned with Congress. Nehru's personal detachment from Hindu rituals

and practices only served to reinforce this divide, symbolizing a broader disconnect between Congress leadership and the religious sentiments of a significant portion of the Indian population.

Nehru's secularism was aimed at consolidating power, but it unintentionally fostered an anti-Hindu sentiment within the Congress party. This sentiment has persisted over time, influencing the party's policies and rhetoric in ways that further strained its relationship with the Hindu community. The legacy of this approach continues to affect the Congress party's stance on Hinduism today, contributing to a complex and often tense dynamic between the two.

Nehru's vision for a secular India, while important in maintaining harmony within a multi-religious society, also overshadowed the need for a strong understanding of citizenship and the responsibilities that come with it. Many developed nations have centered their political identities around citizenship, emphasizing both rights and responsibilities, alongside the

rule of law. In contrast, Nehru's Congress focused primarily on secularism to unite India's diverse population, at times neglecting the importance of a more comprehensive discourse on citizenship.

This early prioritization of secularism has had lasting implications for India's social and political landscape. The neglect of a more robust understanding of citizenship has contributed to challenges in social justice, equality, and individual rights. Moving forward, India's democracy must strike a balance between secularism, citizenship, and the rule of law, ensuring that all individuals are recognized as equal citizens, with full access to rights, protections, and responsibilities.



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh

The Superpower Must Recognize Its Own Interests

- Higher tariffs hurt Indian manufacturing.
- Trump and Modi's ties don't guarantee benefits for India.
- U.S. needs India against China, but India shouldn't blindly follow.
- India must balance ties with both U.S. and China.



The global economy is now on edge due to the aggressive trade policies of the United States, particularly under the leadership of former President Donald Trump. Trump's retaliatory tariffs, which have already impacted neighboring countries, are now set to affect India as well. The United States has historically maintained a complex relationship with China, and Trump has consistently viewed it with a strategic focus. However, what must be emphasized here is the broader impact of these trade wars, particularly on India. Noted political and economic analyst D. Paparao shared his insights on this issue in an exclusive conversation with POINT.

The Reality of Trump's Tariff Policies

Trump has taken a unilateral approach to global trade, imposing tariffs across the board. However, Indian policymakers seem to be miscalculating the implications, treating Trump's moves as a strategic alignment rather than an economic challenge. Instead of countering these measures effectively, they appear to be yielding to American demands. The ideological parallels between the Republican Party and India's ruling BJP have led to a perception of mutual support, but in reality, the U.S. remains guided by its own interests.

America's Need for India in the China Equation

The United States recognizes that countering China's rising influence necessitates a strong partnership with India. However, India's blind adherence to American policies, largely shaped by the ruling party's ideological stance, could prove costly. If the U.S. successfully curbs China's economic dominance, there is no guarantee

that India will not become the next target of American trade restrictions. Trump prioritizes American interests, and India should not assume that the tariff war with China will automatically benefit its economy.

The Impact on India's Economy

The recent tariffs announced by Trump will have significant repercussions for India's pharmaceutical sector. The U.S. has long benefited from affordable Indian generic drugs, which have helped reduce healthcare costs for American citizens. However, Trump's decision to impose additional tariffs on pharmaceutical imports will be a major setback for India. At the same time, India's willingness to reduce import tariffs on American goods, including motorcycles, raises concerns about the Modi government's economic strategy. Moreover, Trump's push for India to increase imports of American defense equipment and fossil fuels, even when cheaper alternatives exist in Russia and the Middle East, could further strain India's economy. While the goal of increasing U.S.-India bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030 is ambitious, the terms seem skewed in America's favor. The fact that the U.S. dictates what India should purchase while remaining non-committal about its own imports from India is a reflection of America's hegemonic approach.

Modi Government's Economic Policy Failures

The BJP-led central government has struggled in several key areas over the past decade, from the hasty implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to the flawed demonetization policy, mishandling of the COVID-19 crisis, rising

inflation, and unemployment. The much-publicized 'Make in India' initiative has not yielded the expected results.

Economic experts, including Ajay Srivastava of the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), argue that India should not surrender to Trump's economic pressure. Srivastava believes that India's response should be as firm as that of China, Canada, and the European Union, rather than making unnecessary concessions. The Modi government's decision to lower tariffs on American imports while failing to negotiate better terms for Indian exports has drawn widespread criticism.

The Consequences of a Trade War

China has been able to counter American trade restrictions effectively, but India's economy is more vulnerable. If Trump's tariffs come into effect, the cost of Indian-manufactured smartphones and other goods exported to the U.S. will rise, reducing demand. This could lead to major multinational companies, including Apple, scaling back their investments in India. Tariffs on aluminum and steel will further burden India's industrial sector, worsening the economic impact. India must adopt a balanced foreign policy that allows it to maintain constructive relationships with both the U.S. and China. Instead of blindly aligning with American interests, India must assert its own economic priorities and negotiate trade agreements that serve its long-term growth. The current approach risks making India a casualty of global trade wars rather than a beneficiary.



D PAPAARAO
Political and Economic analyst

Holi of Strategic Affairs: The Colorful Chaos of Global Diplomacy

It's Holi time, and the world of international relations is about to get a splash of unpredictability. Picture a festival where geopolitics meets the vibrant chaos of color—leaders and countries, like Holi revellers, find themselves drenched in the mess of shifting alliances, tariffs, and negotiations. Let's dive into this wild, colorful take on the serious world of global strategy.

India, the grandmaster of strategic fence-sitting, is everywhere and nowhere at once. Whether it's balancing its relations with the US or trying to mediate global conflicts, India finds itself

in the midst of a Holi-like storm. The US, led by the tariff king Donald Trump, has left India tangled in a web of strategic debates, with arguments about Trump's tariffs and India's role as a mediator often falling on deaf ears. While India claims to be a global peace broker, others, like the UAE and Saudi Arabia, have managed to outshine it in the mediation game, leaving India still clutching the idea of Vishwaguru while others take the lead.

Meanwhile, across the Atlantic, Donald Trump is keeping the world entertained with his meme-wor-

thy antics. His obsession with real estate—whether it's grabbing Greenland or Gaza—has become a signature move in his strategic playbook. And then there's his hair, which has dethroned Boris Johnson as the symbol of global hair di-



plomacy. Trump's approach is all about bending the line between treaties and deals with his weapon of choice: the Executive Order.

On the European front, French President Macron has managed to cling to

relevance, even as Europe struggles with economic crises and strategic setbacks. His claim to fame now? Being the so-called savior of Europe, with nuclear weapons as his primary bargaining chip. But let's not ask him about the practical use of those nukes, especially when the absence of US support in Ukraine leaves Europe's strategy looking shaky.

Brussels is busy regulating everything, from energy to defense, while Hungary's Viktor Orbán keeps stirring the pot, securing Covid funds and stirring Euroscepticism. Meanwhile, in the

Caucasus, Russia's defense strategy is proving masterful—arming both sides in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict while weakening its own military alliances.

As we continue this Holi-themed journey through global politics, the world is clearly in a state of chaotic color, where strategy is as unpredictable as the splash of powder on the streets. Between land grabs, memes, and shifting alliances, diplomacy has never been more colorful—or messier. So, enjoy the ride but remember to pack some color-safe diplomacy—it's going to get wild!

"Festival Of Joy Will Infuse Enthusiasm, Deepen Colours Of Unity": PM Modi On Holi



- PM Modi, President Murmu extend Holi greetings
- Festivities across India with music, dance, and colorful celebrations
- Security measures in place to ensure peaceful celebrations

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

As India celebrates the joyous festival of Holi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Droupadi Murmu, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh have extended heartfelt greetings to the nation, wishing everyone a festive season filled with unity, joy, and prosperity.

Prime Minister Modi posted his Holi wishes on social media, expressing that the festival, full of color and happiness, would bring new energy and enthusiasm to people's lives while strengthening unity across the country. He wished for harmony and joy in the lives of all citizens.

President Murmu, also greet-

ing the nation, emphasized that Holi symbolizes love, unity, and harmony, reflecting India's rich cultural heritage. She called on people to pledge to fill every child's life with the colors of progress and happiness, marking a commitment to a prosperous future.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh added his warm wishes for a safe and happy Holi, praying for the good health and happiness of the public. He emphasized that the festival represents joy and renewal, and hoped that it would bring peace and safety to all.

In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath marked the occasion by applying gulaal (colored powder) to calves

and cows at the Gorakhnath temple, spreading the festive spirit.

As people across the country come together to celebrate, vibrant scenes fill the streets with music, dance, and the application of gulaal. In Sambhal, the celebrations are particularly lively, as people of all ages join in the merrymaking, marking Holi with a spirit of unity. Paramilitary forces conducted a flag march to ensure security, with police also stationed to maintain order during Jumma Namaz and the Holi festivities.

In Aligarh, the colorful celebrations continue with people exchanging colors, accompanied by traditional folk songs and dances, creating a festive atmosphere. The celebration reflects not just cultural richness but the spirit of togetherness, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil.

Holi began with Choti Holi on Thursday, with festivities continuing across the country, marking the arrival of spring and spreading joy to every corner of India.

Jaishankar meets fishermen from Tamil Nadu

Promises 'full support in consular cases'



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met with a delegation of fishermen from Tamil Nadu on Thursday, March 13, 2025, to discuss the ongoing concerns surrounding the treatment of Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan authorities. This meeting holds significant weight as it follows India's strong protests against recent incidents involving the Sri Lankan Navy.

On January 28, 2025, India lodged a formal protest after the Sri Lankan Navy opened fire on 13 Indian fishermen near Delft Island. Two of the fishermen sustained serious injuries and were admitted to Jaffna Teaching Hospital. Three others were also injured but were later released after receiving medical treatment.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) sent officials from the Indian Consulate in Jaffna to visit the injured fishermen and assure them and their families of full assistance.

In response to the shooting incident, India summoned the Sri Lankan Acting High Commissioner in New Delhi and lodged a "strong protest." The Indian government emphasized the need for humane treatment of fishermen, stressing that the use of force was unacceptable under any circumstances. The MEA also urged both governments to adhere to existing understandings in managing these issues.

The situation escalated when, on February 9, 2025, Sri Lanka arrested 14 more Indian fishermen from Ramanathapuram and seized two of their boats.

This raised the total number of Indian fishermen arrested within two weeks to at least 50, according to reports. The rising tensions prompted further diplomatic engagement.

Jaishankar's meeting with the Tamil Nadu fishermen's delegation, led by Annamalai K, aimed to explore a sustainable solution to these ongoing issues. Jaishankar highlighted that the fishermen's livelihood concerns would be central to the Indian government's approach. He also assured the delegation that the High Commission would continue to offer full support in consular matters.

The meeting underscores the need for continued dialogue between India and Sri Lanka, with the livelihood and safety of fishermen at the forefront.

India denies Pakistan's 'baseless' allegations of India's involvement in acts of terrorism

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Pakistan has accused India of being involved in a recent terrorist attack on the Jaffar Express, a passenger train traveling through the country's Balochistan region. In a strongly worded statement, Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesperson, Shafqat Ali Khan, claimed that India played a role in the attack, citing evidence of communication between the terrorists and their handlers in Afghanistan. He alleged that this cross-border coordination involved Indian involvement in the attack.

Khan's remarks pointed to India's alleged role in fueling terrorism within Pakistan, further accusing India of complicity in the broader regional unrest. "India has been involved in terrorism in Pakistan. In the particular attack on Jaffar Express, the terrorists had been in contact with their handlers and ringleaders in Afghanistan," Khan said in a statement.

In response, India strongly



rejected these accusations. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal dismissed the claims as "baseless," stating, "The whole world knows where the epicenter of global terrorism lies. Pakistan should look inwards instead of pointing fingers and shifting the blame for its own internal problems and failures onto others."

The tragic attack on the Jaffar Express took place in Balochistan, Pakistan, where militants hijacked the train, killing 21 passengers and four paramilitary soldiers. The assault was claimed by the Baloch Liberation Army, a banned insurgent group that has been

responsible for numerous violent attacks in the region.

The attack occurred when insurgents blew up a section of the railway track, causing the train to halt partially inside a tunnel. The Pakistani military later launched an operation that resulted in the death of all 33 insurgents involved in the attack, with no further fatalities among the passengers.

The Jaffar Express was en route from Quetta, the capital of Balochistan, to the northern city of Peshawar when the attack occurred, highlighting ongoing security challenges in the volatile region.

TVK chief Vijay slams Tamil Nadu budget as 'politically motivated' and 'vote-driven'



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In response to the Tamil Nadu budget for 2025-26, actor-turned-politician Vijay has sharply criticized the government's proposals, describing them as superficial and ineffective in addressing the state's economic and social challenges. While the budget introduced nine new schemes, including financial assistance for children in orphanages, a 15-day special agricultural train, and subsidies for women entrepreneurs, Vijay dismissed these measures as politically motivated and insufficient.

Vijay pointed out that the government's promises of creating a favorable investment climate lacked clarity and substance. He argued that instead of offering concrete policies to guarantee the welfare of the people, the budget merely presented surface-level schemes. "There is no stability in the economic environment. The government's promises of investment opportunities do not translate into tangible benefits for the public," he said.

He also criticized the government's failure to

address the rising cost of living, particularly the inflation of essential goods. "No concrete steps have been taken to control price rises. The budget does not outline a clear strategy for managing the increasing cost of daily necessities," Vijay noted. Furthermore, the budget's vague assurances regarding job creation through trade associations raised concerns over its effectiveness, he added.

Vijay expressed disappointment that the budget did not prioritize farmers' welfare. While subsidies were announced for farmers, he argued that the core issues affecting agricultural production were overlooked. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive agricultural policy to protect farmers' livelihoods and ensure food security for the state.

The focus on infrastructure development, according to Vijay, seemed to benefit large corporations and urban areas rather than rural communities. He also highlighted the lack of social security measures for vulnerable sections of society, leaving them without adequate support.

Kerala CM Vijayan Joins Karnataka, Telangana & AP CMs

In Supporting Stalin's Delimitation Meeting

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has expressed his solidarity with the conference organized by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK supremo, M K Stalin, to oppose the "unilateral parliamentary constituency delimitation attempt" by the BJP-led central government. Vijayan, a seasoned Marxist leader, made his support known in a statement titled "Constituency Delimitation: Unity Against the Unilateral Move," after Tamil Nadu IT Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan and MP Dr. Tamizhachi Thangapandian met him to personally extend an invitation for the event, scheduled for March 22 in Chennai.

In his statement, Vijayan condemned the central government's move to redefine Lok Sabha constituencies without consulting democratic and federal principles. "As the central government rushes to redefine Lok Sabha constituencies, disregarding the values of democracy and federalism, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has invited the Kerala Chief Minister to an all-party solidarity conference in Chennai. The Chief Minister expressed his solidarity with the conference, which is scheduled to be held on the 22nd of this month, and with the stance taken on the issue," the statement read.

While the statement expressed strong support, it did not confirm whether Vijayan would personally attend the conference. The Tamil Nadu representatives, during their visit to Kerala, also presented Stalin's autobiography as a gesture of goodwill to Vijayan.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had earlier assured the southern states that the delimitation would not result in them losing "even a single seat." Despite this assurance, Stalin has convened the conference to discuss the proposed delimitation, which has raised concerns about the possible political and demographic implications for the southern states.



Putin thanks Modi, Trump for 'noble mission' to resolve Ukraine conflict



TPN Correspondent
| Washington

Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed gratitude on March 13, 2025, towards global leaders, including U.S. President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for their dedication to ending the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Speaking publicly for the first time about Ukraine's ceasefire proposal, Putin confirmed Russia's willingness to engage in discussions but emphasized the need to clarify the terms of any potential ceasefire.

Putin's remarks come after Washington and Kyiv endorsed a 30-day temporary truce following high-level talks between their representatives in Saudi Arabia. While Putin expressed support for stopping hostilities, he made it clear that Russia was focused on

achieving long-term peace and addressing the root causes of the crisis.

In his statement, Putin acknowledged the global efforts to resolve the conflict, praising leaders such as Chinese President Xi Jinping, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva for their involvement. "We all have enough issues to deal with. But many heads of state are spending significant time dealing with this issue. We are thankful to all of them for their noble mission to stop hostilities and the loss of human lives," Putin said.

Putin reiterated Russia's stance, saying that while Moscow agrees to a ceasefire, the pause in fighting must lead to permanent peace and a resolution of the underlying causes of the conflict. He emphasized that short-term pauses were

not sufficient.

Prime Minister Modi, who has been in regular communication with both Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky since the war began, has also spoken about India's stance on the conflict. During a meeting with President Trump at the White House last month, Modi reaffirmed India's position, stating, "India is not neutral; India is siding with peace." He reiterated support for President Trump's efforts to bring an end to the war, emphasizing that "this is not the era of war."

The ongoing international dialogue highlights the growing global commitment to resolving the conflict, with leaders from around the world contributing their voices to bring about a ceasefire and lasting peace.

- Russia open to truce but seeks long-term peace resolution
- Modi reaffirms India's stance: 'India is siding with peace'

"Wants To Continue War": Zelensky On Putin's "Manipulative" Ceasefire Remark



TPN Correspondent
| Kyiv, Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned Russian President Vladimir Putin's response to the proposed 30-day ceasefire as "very manipulative" and accused him of attempting to derail peace efforts. In his nightly address on Thursday, Zelensky responded to Putin's comments on the ceasefire proposal, calling them "predictable" and aimed at prolonging the war.

Putin, in his first public statement on the ceasefire idea, expressed support for the proposal but raised "serious questions" about its implementation. The ceasefire was proposed by the United States and backed by Ukraine, but Putin's comments suggested a number of hurdles that could prevent it from moving forward.

"We do not set conditions that complicate anything. Russia does that," Zelensky countered, accusing Putin of using preconditions to block progress. He added that Russia's response had been designed to delay any resolution, stating that "the only one who will drag things out, the only one who will

be unconstructive, is Russia."

Zelensky went further, claiming that Putin was "actually preparing a refusal" while avoiding a direct confrontation with U.S. President Donald Trump. He accused Putin of framing the ceasefire in such a way that it would make any meaningful peace impossible. According to Zelensky, Putin's tactics were aimed at ensuring that the war would continue for as long as possible.

In his public comments, Putin raised concerns about Ukraine potentially using the ceasefire to its military advantage. He also questioned how a ceasefire could be effectively monitored across the long front line of the conflict, which spans thousands of kilometers.

However, Zelensky rejected these concerns, emphasizing that the United States and Europe had the capabilities to monitor and verify the ceasefire. He also stressed the importance of preparing a detailed plan for long-term security and a real, reliable peace during the ceasefire period, with the aim of putting an end to the war.

Hamas agrees to release U.S.-Israeli hostage and the bodies of four other dual nationals

TPN Correspondent
| JERUSALEM

Hamas confirmed on Friday, March 14, 2025, that it has accepted a proposal from mediators to release one living American-Israeli hostage, Edan Alexander, and the bodies of four dual-national hostages who died while in captivity. The announcement comes amid ongoing ceasefire talks between Israel and Hamas in Qatar, aimed at extending the fragile truce.

While Hamas did not specify when the release would occur, and the involved parties did not immediately confirm the details, the agreement marks a significant development in the ongoing negotiations. Alexander, who was 19 when he was taken captive during the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, remains a key figure in the hostage discussions.

The United States, under the Trump administration's hostage envoy Steve Witkoff, has been pushing for an extension of the truce and for prisoner exchanges, which could facilitate the return of more hostages. However, Hamas has made it clear that it will only release the hostages in exchange for a lasting ceasefire agreement, further complicating the situation.

In a separate statement, Hamas official Husam Badran reaffirmed the group's commitment to fully implementing the ceasefire agreement and warned

that any Israeli deviation from the terms would cause the negotiations to collapse. The ceasefire, which has paused the deadliest conflict between Israel and Hamas, led to the return of 25 hostages and the remains of eight others in exchange for the release of nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners.

The first phase of the ceasefire allowed for Israeli forces to withdraw to buffer zones, enabling hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians to return to northern Gaza. However, tensions remain high, with Israel pressing Hamas to release half of the remaining hostages in exchange for an extension of the truce.

Hamas is seeking to begin negotiations on the more difficult second phase of the ceasefire, which would include the release of all remaining hostages and the withdrawal of Israeli forces, ultimately aiming for a lasting peace.



Japanese PM Apologizes Over Gift Scandal Amid Growing Political Uncertainty



TPN Correspondent | Tokyo

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba issued a public apology on March 14, 2025, after gifting certificates worth 100,000 yen (\$673) to 15 lawmakers from his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). The move, which he claimed was a personal gesture of appreciation for their election efforts, has sparked widespread criticism and could further damage his administration's already low approval

ratings.

Mr. Ishiba, who came under scrutiny after news outlets revealed the gifts, admitted the action caused distrust and anger, acknowledging that it hurt his political standing. Speaking in parliament, Ishiba explained that he used his own money to give the certificates to the lawmakers ahead of a dinner on March 3. He denied any political motive, asserting that the gifts were not illegal, but the incident has drawn harsh reactions, even from coalition partners. Opposition parties have called for his resignation, adding pressure to an already tense political situation.

This controversy comes at a particularly sensitive time as Japan's ruling coalition grapples with a tight budget

deadline. The government has been forced to amend the proposed fiscal year budget for 2025, making concessions to opposition parties to secure passage before the March 31 deadline. Analysts warn that failing to pass the budget could delay government spending plans and hurt Japan's economy, which is already facing challenges due to global trade tensions, particularly with the U.S. under President Donald Trump's policies.

The scandal has also intensified the pressure on Ishiba's leadership ahead of Japan's upper house election in July. Recent polling revealed that Ishiba's approval rating has fallen to 36%, down from 44% in February. If public trust continues to erode, the ruling coalition could risk losing its slim majority in the upper house.

Saudi Crown Prince Supports 'All Initiatives' To End Russia-Ukraine War

TPN Correspondent | Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, assured Russian President Vladimir Putin of the kingdom's support for "all initiatives" aimed at ending the ongoing war in Ukraine. This message came following recent talks in Jeddah, where a proposal for a 30-day ceasefire was discussed.

In a phone call with Putin, Crown Prince Mohammed reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's commitment to facilitating

dialogue and supporting efforts to find a political resolution to the conflict. The kingdom's stance reflects its desire to play a pivotal role in peace efforts, as it continues to engage in diplomatic discussions surrounding the war.

The ceasefire proposal emerged from talks held in Jeddah on Tuesday, where US and Ukrainian officials engaged in discussions regarding a temporary halt to hostilities. However, on Thursday, Putin expressed skepticism about the 30-day ceasefire

plan, citing "serious questions" about the proposal's feasibility. Despite this, the talks in Saudi Arabia highlighted the kingdom's active involvement in efforts to mediate a peaceful solution.



Additionally, the United States, as part of its renewed engagement with Ukraine, agreed to resume military intelligence sharing, which had been paused after a diplomatic fallout involving Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky and former President Donald Trump. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, speaking in Jeddah after the talks, indicated that the next move now rests with Russia.

In a follow-up Kremlin statement, Putin acknowledged the importance of resolving the Ukrainian crisis and

expressed Russia's readiness to contribute to improving Russian-American relations. The Saudi kingdom also hosted a previous round of talks in which Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met to discuss potential pathways to ending the three-year conflict.

As diplomatic efforts continue, Saudi Arabia remains a key player in facilitating dialogue and supporting initiatives aimed at bringing an end to the war in Ukraine.

India's Industrial Output Growth Reaches 5% in January 2025



India's industrial output growth surged to 5% in January 2025, up from 3.2% in December 2024, driven primarily by a strong performance in manufacturing, according to data released by the National Statistics Office on Wednesday. This growth is also an improvement from January 2024, when the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) posted a growth of 4.2%.

The manufacturing sector, which holds a dominant weight of 77.66% in the IIP, expanded by 5.5% in January 2025, compared to 3.6% growth in January 2024. This marks a significant acceleration from December 2024, where manufacturing growth stood at 3.4%. The cumulative growth in manufacturing output for the April-January period of the current fiscal

year stood at 4.2%, aligning with the overall IIP expansion.

The positive uptick was led by strong growth in primary goods and consumer durables. Primary goods output grew by 5.5% in January, compared to 3.8% in December, driven by mining and petroleum products. Intermediate goods also saw a solid increase, rising by 5.23%.

However, output in consumer non-durables showed a decline, contracting by 0.2% in January after a steep drop of 7.5% in December. Despite this, the moderation in the contraction indicates a slight improvement. "The rise in consumer durables signals improving consumer confidence and economic resilience," noted

Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser at the State Bank of India.

Growth in fast-moving consumer goods, particularly food products, was higher, likely driven by easing food inflation and stronger rural demand, said Dipti Deshpande, Principal Economist at Crisil. Meanwhile, capital goods output growth moderated to 7.8% in January from 10.4% in the previous month, and infrastructure and construction goods output growth also saw a slight decline to 7% from 7.4%.

While the overall IIP growth exceeded expectations, the sectoral growth data highlighted some challenges, particularly in government capital spending.

PepsiCo in advanced talks to acquire soda brand Poppi in \$1.5 billion deal

PepsiCo Inc. is in advanced discussions to acquire the healthier soda brand Poppi in a deal valued at over \$1.5 billion, according to sources familiar with the matter. The transaction is expected to be announced as early as next week, although final deliberations are still ongoing.

The beverage giant had initially planned to introduce its own functional soda brand, Soulboost, but abandoned the initiative due to weak market indicators. Instead, it has turned to acquisitions, with Poppi emerging as a strong contender in the rapidly growing functional soda category.

Functional sodas, known for their digestive health benefits, have seen a significant rise in consumer demand. These beverages often contain prebiotics, probiotics, and added fiber, distinguishing them from traditional sodas. According to Loan Heilner, merchandising director at FreshDirect, sales of functional beverages have surged over 60% year-over-year, with brands like Olipop and Poppi driving growth, while conventional sodas have seen only slight increases.

Poppi, founded in Austin by Allison and Stephen Ellsworth, gained widespread recognition after securing an investment from Cavu Venture Partners' Rohan Oza on the television show Shark Tank in



2018. The brand has since attracted endorsements from celebrities like Nicole Scherzinger and Ellie Goulding.

PepsiCo has been actively expanding its portfolio of health-focused brands. In October, it announced the acquisition of Siete Foods for \$1.2 billion, followed by a deal in November to take full ownership of Sabra Dipping Co. and PepsiCo-Strauss Fresh Dips & Spreads International GmbH.

"There's a higher level of awareness in general of American consumers towards health and wellness," PepsiCo CEO Ramon Laguarta stated during a February investor call.

With this latest potential acquisition, PepsiCo aims to strengthen its presence in the growing functional beverage sector, competing with rivals like Coca-Cola, which recently launched its own prebiotic soda, Simply Pop.

RBI likely to cut rates next month amid easing inflation: HSBC

Following a dip in retail inflation to 3.6% in February, March's inflation figures are also trending below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 4% target, prompting expectations of another rate cut in the upcoming April policy review, according to an HSBC Research report. The RBI, which has already initiated a rate-cutting cycle, is likely



to implement a 25 basis points reduction in its April monetary policy meeting, bringing the repo rate down to 6%, the report suggests.

The March quarter inflation is currently trending lower than the RBI's forecast for the quarter. While favorable conditions such as good winter crop sowing have been observed, the weather over the coming weeks—especially during the wheat crop's grain-filling stage—will be crucial to determining future inflationary pressures.

Deflation in food prices continued for the second consecutive month in February, decreasing by 1.0% month-on-month. This was primarily driven by falling prices in vegetables, pulses, and eggs, fish, and meat. However, prices of cereals, sugar, and fruits showed an upward trend. Core inflation, which excludes food and fuel, rose across all definitions due to a sharp in-

crease in gold prices during February. Despite this, core inflation, excluding gold, remained below the 4% mark on an annual basis and at its long-term average on a sequential basis.

Additionally, the report highlights that the rupee has depreciated by 4% against the U.S. dollar since October, potentially adding 30 basis points to inflation due to exchange rate sensitivities. However, a favorable oil price outlook, with HSBC forecasting Brent crude at USD 73 per barrel for 2025, alongside excess Chinese capacity, is expected to contain core inflation.

HSBC has forecasted India's GDP growth at 6.5% for FY26, bolstered by rising rural demand post-harvest, a potential boost from a middle-class tax cut, and continued monetary policy easing. However, weaker goods exports, impacted by global uncertainties and U.S. tariff threats, could temper growth.

Former L&T Finance CEO Sanjay Garyali appointed CEO of Fusion Finance

Fusion Finance has appointed Sanjay Garyali as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective March 17, 2025. The announcement was made in an exchange filing on Friday, March 14. Garyali will be taking over from Devesh Sachdev, the current CEO.

With over 28 years of experience in the financial sector, Garyali brings extensive expertise in retail financial markets. Prior to this, he served as the CEO of L&T Financial Services, where he managed a ₹40,000 crore portfolio, covering segments such as consumer loans, two-wheeler finance, and mortgages. His role involved shaping policies, building infrastructure, and



optimizing cost structures to drive profitability.

Before joining L&T Finance, Garyali held several key positions at Kotak Mahindra Bank, where he worked for over 15

years. His last role at Kotak was as the Business Head of Housing Finance and Emerging Markets. Garyali's appointment comes at a challenging time for Fusion Finance, which reported a net loss of ₹1,060 crore for the nine months ending December 2024, a significant drop from the previous year's profits. Turning around the microfinance lender's financial performance will be one of his key responsibilities. Following the announcement, Fusion Finance shares closed 3.33% lower at ₹141 on Thursday, compared to the previous close of ₹145.85. The Indian stock markets were closed on Friday due to the Holi holiday.

Tata Sons to invest ₹1,432 crore in Tata Projects' rights issue, listing plans on the horizon

Tata Sons, the holding company of Tata Group, is set to invest ₹1,432 crore in Tata Projects' ₹2,500 crore rights issue. The investment aims to strengthen the company's financial position and could pave the way for Tata Projects' potential listing on domestic stock exchanges.

According to reports, the board of directors of Tata Projects, a key engineering and construction arm of the conglomerate, approved the rights issue on March 13. Tata Sons' investment will come from the dividend earnings it receives from Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

TCS recently announced a special dividend of ₹66 per share and an interim dividend of ₹10 per share for the October-December quarter, with Tata Sons set to receive



₹24,931 crore from the payout.

Founded in 1979, Tata Projects specializes in engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) activities. Tata Sons holds a 57% stake in the company, with the remaining shares owned by other Tata Group entities, including Tata Power and Tata Chemicals.

A Crisil report projects Tata Projects to generate a cash flow of ₹300-400 crore in FY25, with a cash balance exceeding ₹600 crore as of June 30, 2024. The company's fund-based bank limit utilization stood at 64%, leaving approximately ₹1,000 crore in unutilized credit.

Additionally, Tata Projects is constructing a semiconductor assembly and testing plant for US-based Micron Technology in Sanand, Ahmedabad, which is expected to become the largest back-end semiconductor unit once completed.

India Shines in Asia's 50 Best Restaurants 2025 Extended List



As anticipation builds for the release of Asia's 50 Best Restaurants 2025 list, the extended ranking (51-100) has already generated significant buzz. This year, seven Indian restaurants have earned their place, highlighting India's expanding influence in the fine dining scene across Asia.

Among the new entrants is Naar, located in Kasauli, which made its debut with a unique offering of hyper-local Himachali flavors.

This addition signals a growing appreciation for regional, indigenous cuisines on the prestigious list. Meanwhile, Dum Pukht in Delhi, a long-standing favorite, continues to shine with its royal Awadhi cuisine, further solidifying its place in the culinary world.

Bengaluru's Farmlore earned a notable spot on the list and also received the coveted "One To Watch" award. This recognition highlights Farmlore's innovative approach

to the farm-to-table concept, celebrating fresh, locally sourced ingredients while offering an unforgettable dining experience. The farm-to-table movement has gained significant traction, and Farmlore's inclusion underscores the importance of sustainability and innovation in modern dining.

Also making an impressive return is The Table in Mumbai, which re-entered the list, reaffirming its enduring appeal. Known for its exceptional cuisine and commitment to quality, The Table continues to captivate food enthusiasts and experts alike, making it a staple in India's fine dining landscape.

With these seven restaurants, India not only demonstrates the richness of its culinary heritage but also its growing influence in shaping the future of Asia's dining scene. As the final ranking is awaited, the inclusion of these iconic and innovative establishments signals the country's significant role in the global fine dining conversation.

Bengaluru Auto-Driver Offers Professional Table Tennis Coaching, Viral, Obviously



In Bengaluru, the heart of India's tech industry, a remarkable story of resilience and determination has been making waves. Gurumurthy N, a middle-aged man, has been balancing two very different professions—working as an auto-rickshaw driver while also pursuing his passion for table tennis as a professional coach. His inspiring journey was shared by Gayatri Gopakumar on LinkedIn, where she highlighted his unwavering commitment and versatility.

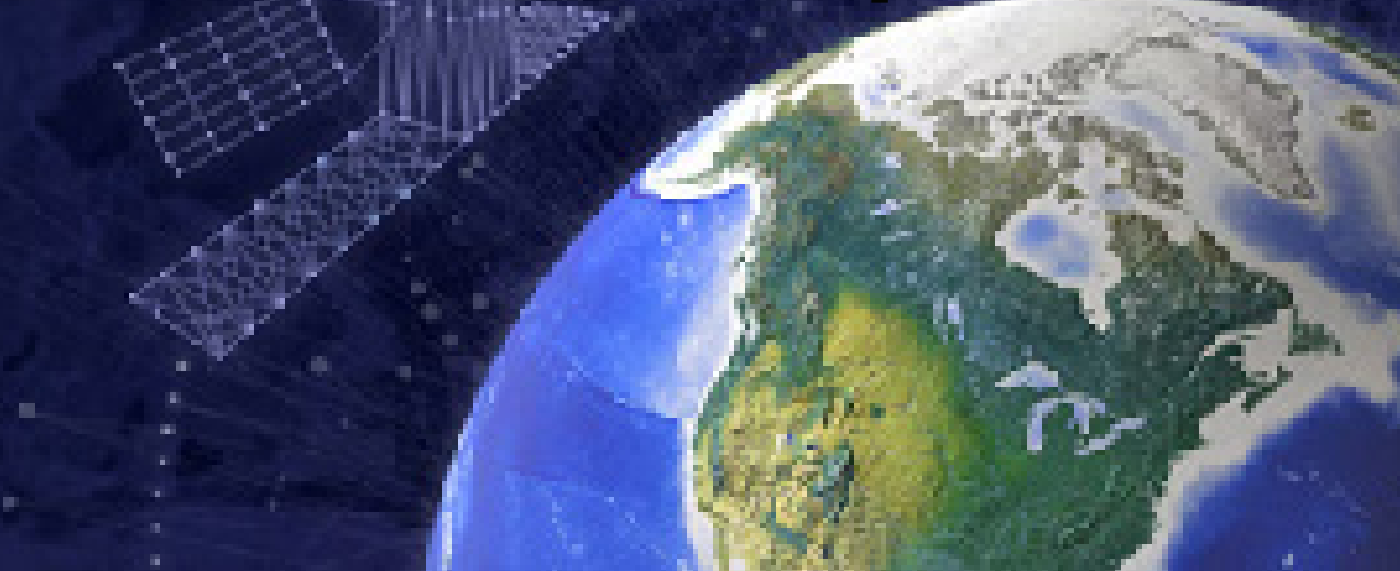
In her post, Gayatri recounted meeting Gurumurthy on a Wednesday morning. What stood out to her the most was his professionalism, patience, and the respect he showed, which left a lasting impression. She went on to explain that Gurumurthy had previously been a full-

time coach for Karnataka's state table tennis team until the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted his career. With his coaching job no longer available, he adapted by becoming an auto-rickshaw driver to make ends meet.

Gayatri's caption emphasized the importance of resilience and adaptability, noting that Gurumurthy's story proves that a person's job does not define their potential or passion. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Gurumurthy continues to pursue his love for table tennis while working hard to support himself and his family. "This chance meeting reminded me that we can wear multiple caps with excellence," Gayatri wrote, praising Gurumurthy's ability to juggle two demanding roles with such grace and dedication.

Gurumurthy's story serves as a powerful reminder that no matter the obstacles, with hard work and determination, one can continue to chase their dreams. His ability to seamlessly balance his roles as both an auto-rickshaw driver and a table tennis coach is a testament to the power of resilience in the face of adversity.

Alien Signals? New Discovery Reveals True Source Of Mysterious Radio Waves From Space



For the past decade, Earth has been receiving strange and regular radio signals from deep space, initially sparking speculation that they might be the work of extraterrestrial intelligence. However, a groundbreaking discovery has revealed that these enigmatic signals are not from aliens but from a rare binary star system located over 1,600 light-years away.

The signals, which reach Earth every 125 minutes, have been traced to a unique pair of stars in the Saptarishi constellation, also known as Ursa Major. This binary system consists of a red dwarf star and a white dwarf star orbiting each other. Scientists now believe that the interaction between the magnetic fields of these two stars generates the radio waves, creating a regular, clock-like pulse that scientists have been observing.

Dr. Iris de Ruiter, a researcher at the University of Sydney, made the key discovery in 2024 while analyzing data from the Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) radio telescope in the Netherlands. While studying data from 2015, Dr. de Ruiter detected a signal and later uncovered

more signals originating from the same region. Unlike the fast radio bursts (FRBs) that last only milliseconds, these signals are longer-lasting, with lower intensity and energy levels.

The regularity of these signals intrigued scientists, prompting them to examine the binary system more closely using a large optical telescope. This led to the identification of the faint white dwarf star, which had previously been undetectable with standard telescopes. White dwarfs are the remnants of stars that have exhausted their nuclear fuel, leaving behind only their ultra-dense, hot cores.

The interaction of the magnetic fields between the red dwarf and white dwarf stars is responsible for producing these long-duration radio signals, which travel across space for over 1,600 years before reaching Earth. This discovery provides new insights into how binary star systems can generate periodic radio waves and opens the door for further research into similar cosmic phenomena.

Viral Video Of 'Blood Rain' In Iran Stuns Locals, Scientists



A bizarre and unsettling phenomenon recently unfolded on the shores of Iran, leaving both locals and scientists stunned. After a heavy rainstorm, the waters along a beach in the country turned an eerie shade of red, creating a surreal spectacle that captured global attention. This rare and mysterious occurrence sparked widespread curiosity and speculation.

The transformation of the beach into a vibrant crimson scene fascinated onlookers while simultaneously unsettling them. Some interpreted the sight as an ominous omen, fearing it could signal a catastrophe, while others marveled at the unusual and haunting beauty of the moment. While such events are incredibly rare, this one seemed almost otherworldly to those who witnessed it firsthand.

The striking visual quickly went viral,

with social media users around the world sharing a video that showcased waves of deep red water rolling along the shore. The clip fueled speculation, with many commenting on the "blood rain" phenomenon. As the video spread across



various platforms, some questioned the cause of the event, pondering whether it was linked to natural occurrences or something more mysterious.

Experts believe the phenomenon could be linked to a "red tide," a type of harmful algal bloom where microorganisms called dinoflagellates release pigments that turn the water red. Red tides can occur in oceans and seas, usually as a result of changing environmental conditions, and although they can be visually stunning, they can also pose risks to marine life and the ecosystem.

Although rare, such events have occurred in various parts of the world, though this particular instance along Iran's coast caught the attention of many due to its vivid intensity. As scientists continue to study the phenomenon, locals remain captivated and wary, wondering what the cause of this strange occurrence might be.

Urban Company Faces Backlash Over "Insta Maids" Ad Campaign

Urban Company recently launched a quick 15-minute maid booking service, "Insta Maids," in Mumbai, offering household services such as utensil cleaning, mopping, and cooking preparation. Priced at Rs 49 per hour, the service was advertised with a scenario showing a woman receiving a text from "Sunita maid," notifying her that she wouldn't be coming to work. The ad quickly gained attention on social media, but not for the reasons Urban Company hoped.

The backlash was swift, with many users on platforms like X (formerly Twitter) calling the advertisement derogatory. Critics argued that the term "maid" was outdated, gendered, and demeaning. One user pointed out that the word was "classist" and out

of touch with contemporary sensitivities. Another expressed concern about the potential exploitation of illegal immigrants, claiming the new service could encourage the hiring of undocumented workers from neighboring countries.

The controversy prompted a deeper debate around the use of the term "maid." Some users defended the word, asserting that as long as it is used respectfully, there's nothing wrong with it. They argued that being a maid is simply a job, and all workers deserve respect regardless of their role. Others, however, believed the term was steeped in classism and should be replaced with more neutral terms like "domestic worker."

Urban Company responded to the criticism

by acknowledging the feedback and slightly adjusting their messaging. In a follow-up post, the company rebranded the service as "Insta Help" while maintaining the same offering. They also highlighted the benefits for service partners, including free health insurance and a guaranteed monthly income of Rs 20,000 for those working 132 hours a month.

Urban Company's pivot to quick commerce and its 15-minute maid service comes ahead of its anticipated IPO, positioning itself to compete with players like Snapbbit, a startup offering on-demand household chores since 2024. However, the backlash highlights the ongoing challenge of navigating class and gender sensitivities in modern advertising.



Tino Best Reflects on Memorable Moments in IML 2025



In a recent interview, Tino Best, West Indies Masters fast bowler, shared his most cherished moments from the International Masters League 2025. Although he's only played two matches, Best expressed joy in witnessing legendary performances, including Sachin Tendulkar's vintage cover drive, Jacques Kallis's backfoot punch, and Shane Watson's century. Best admired the passionate Indian fans, who continue to support

cricket fervently. He also shared how younger cricketers approach him, amazed by his fast bowling even at nearly 44. Best praised India's love for the game, calling it a humbling experience to inspire the next generation. The West Indies Masters will face Sri Lanka Masters in the second semi-final on March 14, with the winner meeting India Masters in the final on March 16.

Yuva All Stars Championship: Palani Tuskers and Yuva Paltan Secure Thrilling Wins



Day 7 of the Yuva All Stars Championship saw thrilling victories as Sonipat Spartans, Chandigarh Chargers, Palani Tuskers, and Yuva Paltan triumphed in their respective encounters at the Vandana Kataria Indoor Stadium. Sonipat Spartans defeated Kurukshetra Warriors 51-38, dominating the game with multiple All Outs, while Harsh Kumar's

18 raid points led the charge. Chandigarh Chargers stunned Yuva Mumbai with a 32-17 win, with Sunny's seven tackle points playing a crucial role. Palani Tuskers bounced back from previous setbacks, defeating Junior Steelers 34-27, thanks to a Super Raid by Kesavan Raja, who scored nine points. The final match saw Yuva Paltan edge past Warriorz K.C. in

a nail-biting contest. After a thrilling second half, Ashish Padale's 12 raid points helped Yuva Paltan clinch a 33-29 victory, with a dramatic final tackle from Nithesh Ramaiah securing the win. These results added more excitement to the Yuva All Stars Championship as teams jostled for position in their respective pools.

India Dominates ODI Deaf Series, Clinches 3-0 Victory Against Australia



India triumphed in the ODI Deaf Series, hosted by the Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA) at Karnail Singh Stadium, New

Delhi, defeating Australia 3-0. The series, held from March 10-12, 2025, followed India's recent victory in the T20 Tri-Series against South Africa and Australia. The Indian deaf cricket team, led by captain Virender Singh, demonstrated exceptional skill and resilience, sealing the series with commanding performances in all three matches. The thrilling encounters were a testament to the players' determination and passion, leaving spectators captivated.

IDCA President Sumit Jain praised the players' energy and highlighted the growing interest in deaf cricket worldwide. CEO Roma Balwani also celebrated the Indian team's outstanding performances, acknowledging the IDCA's commitment to fostering talent in the hearing-impaired cricket community. The series concluded with gratitude extended to all partners and dignitaries for their support in promoting the sport.

PR Sreejesh Calls for Grassroots Investment at RCB Sports Summit



At the ongoing RCB Innovation Lab Indian Sports Summit in Bengaluru, hockey legend PR Sreejesh emphasized the importance of grass-

roots investment and talent identification to build a stronger Olympic future for India. The double Olympic medalist spoke about the need to pre-

pare young athletes for the pressures of global competition, highlighting how exposure and mental training are key to success at the Olympics. Sreejesh also noted the growing belief among young athletes, inspired by India's success on the world stage. While acknowledging India's national depth, he stressed the need to invest in grassroots and talent identification, particularly in the 12-14 age group, to build for the 2036 Olympics. Additionally, he called for a shift towards a broader sports culture, focusing on both medals and the well-being of young athletes. The summit continues to bring together key global figures to discuss India's sporting future.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant Make History with Back-to-Back ISL Shields



Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) made history by becoming the first team to successfully defend the Indian Super League (ISL) Shield, clinching back-to-back titles. After winning their maiden ISL Shield under Antonio Habas in the

2023-24 season, the Mariners delivered a dominant campaign this season, securing the league title with two games to spare. Despite an early setback in the Durand Cup, MBSG bounced back, showcasing their strength in the league with command-

ing victories. Under Jose Molina's leadership, the team displayed resilience, winning crucial matches, including dramatic late victories against Kerala Blasters FC and Bengaluru FC. Their journey culminated in a thrilling 1-0 win over Odisha FC, with Dimitri Petratos scoring the Shield-winning goal. The Mariners' unbeaten home record played a significant role, finishing the league with 11 wins and a draw from 12 home matches. MBSG's remarkable defensive strength, highlighted by goalkeeper Vishal Kaith's record 14 clean sheets, sealed their place in ISL history, marking their back-to-back League Shield triumphs.

Cricketers Celebrate Holi with Joyful Festivities Across IPL Camps



Indian cricketers and IPL franchises embraced the spirit of Holi on March 8, 2025, sharing vibrant moments of celebra-

tion with fans. Cricket legends like Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag posted festive wishes, while IPL camps were alive

with colour. Sachin, playing in the International Masters League, was seen having fun with teammates like Yu-

vraj Singh and Yousuf Pathan, spraying water guns and applying colours. Sehwag shared a colourful photo with fans, wishing them joy and laughter on the occasion. IPL teams also celebrated, with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) enjoying a festive break from their pre-season preparations. Players like Ajinkya Rahane, Rinku Singh, and Venkatesh Iyer smeared each other with colours, while Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) captain Rishabh Pant and coach Justin Langer joined the joy. Gujarat Titans' Ashish Nehra and Rajasthan Royals' Rahul Dravid were also part of the colourful celebrations. Holi brought a sense of unity and joy, with fans and players alike marking the festival of colours across various IPL camps.



Chiranjeevi Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award in the UK

Honouring
Padma Vibhushan Awardee
Dr. Chiranjeevi Konidela
At UK Parliament,
House of Commons, London
Date: 19 March 2025 from 6:00PM

HOST:
Navendu Mishra
Labour MP for Stockport
In the presence of
Esteemed Members of UK Parliament

BRIDGE India
To Present
"Lifetime Achievement Award for
Excellence in Public Service through
Cultural Leadership"
to Dr. Chiranjeevi Konidela.

Megastar Chiranjeevi has been bestowed with a prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award by the UK Parliament for his exceptional contributions to the film industry and society. The award will be presented to him on March 19th in the House of Commons. This recognition celebrates his decades-long service to cinema, public welfare, and philanthropy. The Bridge India organization, known for recognizing achievements in public policy and societal impact, will honor Chiranjeevi with the award. The event will also be attended by members of the UK's Labour Party, including Navendu Mishra. This honor follows his Padma Vibhushan in 2024 and a Guinness World Record for his dancing skills. It marks yet another global milestone in his illustrious career, adding to his growing list of accolades.

'Dil Rooba' Movie Review: A Missed Opportunity for Kiran Abbavaram



Kiran Abbavaram's latest film Dil Rooba fails to captivate audiences despite high expectations. The movie, a triangle love story, centers around Siddhu (Kiran Abbavaram), his breakup with childhood love Maggie (Kathy Davidson), and his new relationship with Anjali (Ruksar Thilhan). While the premise holds promise, the narrative lacks emotional depth, and the pace feels slow. Key scenes fall flat, leaving viewers

disconnected. Despite some interesting moments in the first half, the second half drags, with forced dialogues and a weak villain character. Kiran Abbavaram's performance is energetic, but the film's lack of fresh elements and engaging comedy hold it back. With a weak storyline and missed opportunities for entertainment, Dil Rooba fails to live up to expectations, leaving audiences disappointed.

'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' New Release Date Announced: Now Set for May 9



The makers of Hari Hara Veera Mallu have announced a new release date for the film, starring Pawan Kalyan in the lead role. The movie, initially set to release on March 28, will now hit theaters on May 9. To mark the occasion of Holi, the makers released a new poster featuring Pawan Kalyan and actress Nidhi Agerwal riding horses. The poster also conveys Holi wishes to the fans and audience. Directed by Krish Jagarlamudi and Jyothi Krishna, the film is set in the 17th century and will be released in two parts. The movie features music by Oscar-winning composer M.M. Keeravani. Alongside Pawan Kalyan and Nidhi Agerwal, the film stars Bobby Deol, Nargis Fakhri, Nora Fatehi, and Sunil in pivotal roles. Produced by Mega Surya Productions under the banner of A. Dayakar Rao.

'Court' Movie Review: A Thought-Provoking Legal Drama on Love and Justice



Court, directed by Ram Jagadeesh, presents a compelling narrative that revolves around love, emotions, and the complexities of the law. Set in 2013 Visakhapatnam, the story follows the struggles of Jabili (Sridevi), a teenage girl in love with Chandu (Harsh Roshan), a poor boy. When their love affair leads to legal trouble, her uncle Mangapathi uses his power to file a case under the POCSO Act, igniting a legal battle. As the story unfolds, the film

sheds light on the impact of societal values, caste, and money on personal relationships and justice. With strong performances from Harsh Roshan, Sridevi, Priyadarshi, and Sai Kumar, Court is a well-crafted film with a powerful message. The director excels in keeping the screenplay tight and engaging. The film's exploration of the legal system and its impact on youth is both insightful and timely.
Rating: 3/5

Supritha Apologizes for Promoting Betting Apps, Urges Fans to Stay Away



Supritha, daughter of actress Surekha Vani, recently apologized for promoting betting apps on social media. The actress, known for her appearance on Bigg Boss Season 7 and for hosting the talk show Peelings with Supritha, addressed her fans on Holi, wishing them well and requesting forgiveness. In light of recent police actions against individuals promoting betting apps, Supritha admitted that she had unknowingly or knowingly endorsed these apps. She assured that she would no longer participate in such promotions and urged her fans to avoid them as well. She also appealed to everyone to delete any betting apps they may have and not follow them on social media, emphasizing the importance of staying away from such platforms.

Veteran Actor-Director Deb Mukherjee Passes Away at 83

Veteran actor and filmmaker Deb Mukherjee, known for his roles in classic films of the 1960s and 1970s, passed away on Friday morning due to prolonged illness at his Mumbai residence. He was 83. Mukherjee's notable film credits include Tu Hi Meri Zindagi, Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikander, and Kaminey. He also directed and produced the 1983 movie Karate, starring Mithun Chakrabarty. A key figure in the Samarth

Mukherjee family, Deb Mukherjee was the father of filmmaker Ayan Mukerji and father-in-law of director Ashutosh Gowariker. He was part of a prominent Bollywood lineage, with close ties to actors Kajol, Rani Mukerji, and Jaya Bachchan. His last rites were performed at the Pawan Hans Crematorium in Juhu, Mumbai, with numerous family members and industry figures attending to pay their respects.

