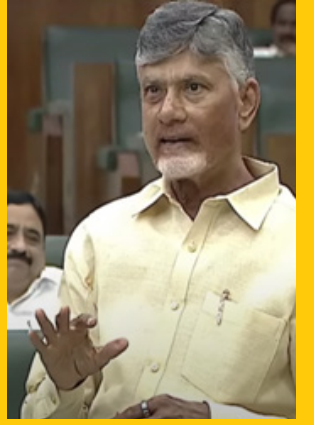


No One Defeated Me, It's My Fault

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu reflected on TDP's 2004 and 2019 defeats, stating that no one defeated him but admitted lapses in party coordination. "I was solely focused on public service but missed organizing MLAs and the party. Now, I will balance both—governance and party management. Involving people in governance and explaining long-term plans will ensure continuous victories," Chandrababu said in the Assembly on Monday. He emphasized his unwavering commitment to public service but acknowledged the need for better organization within the party.



₹250 Crore Scam in Employment Guarantee Works under YCP Rule

- Social audit in 564 mandals exposed irregularities
- Funds diverted to middlemen instead of beneficiaries
- Strict action promised against corrupt officials

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan alleged in the Assembly that there was massive corruption in the AP Employment Guarantee Scheme during the previous YSRCP government. Speaking during the Q&A session on misuse of employment guarantee funds, he revealed that official reports uncovered ₹250 crore in irregularities.

Pawan Kalyan stated that the government has conducted a social audit in 564 mandals, exposing large-scale misappropriation. He claimed that suspicious transactions were found in the funds allocated under the scheme, and instead of reaching the intended beneficiaries, the money was diverted into the hands of middlemen.

He emphasized that the audit process will be accelerated and completed in the remaining mandals by the end of this month. The employment guarantee works will be reviewed across all districts, and strict action will be taken against officials found guilty of corruption. He assured that the government is committed to ensuring transparency in welfare schemes.

Pawan Kalyan also addressed concerns over wages for employment guarantee workers, clarifying that any increase falls under the purview of the Central government.



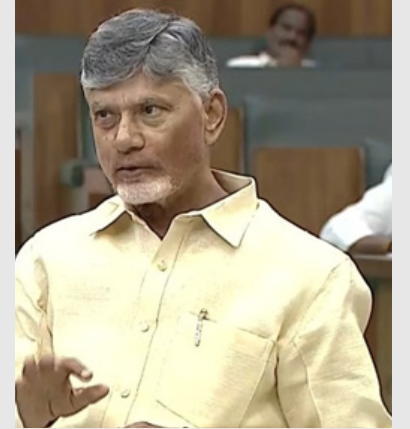
What's Wrong with the 3 Language Policy?

- CM defends trilingual policy, says languages expand opportunities.
- Swarnandhra Vision-2047 targets \$2.4T economy, ₹55L per capita income.
- Govt focuses on industry, renewable energy, and self-reliance.
- Rayalaseema's economy improving, Anantapur now ranks 5th.
- Govt aims 17.11% growth this financial year.
- Constituency-wise vision documents being prepared.

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a brief discussion held during the Assembly session, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu presented the Constituencies-2047 Vision Document as part of the Swarnandhra Vision-2047 initiative. During this session, he addressed the controversy surrounding the trilingual policy, asserting that there is nothing wrong with it. "Language is only a means of communication and expression. They say knowledge comes with the En-

glish medium, but many who studied in their mother tongue have excelled globally. No language should be hated. In our case, Telugu is our mother tongue, Hindi is our national language, and English is an international language. Our people are working in Japan, Germany, and other countries. Learning additional languages enhances job opportunities. The more languages we learn, the more beneficial it will be," Chandrababu explained.



2 PAGE |



AP Cabinet Approves SC Classification Bill and YSR District Name Change

- Cabinet approves SC classification bill based on Rajiv Ranjan Mishra report
- Decision to rename YSR district as YSR Kadapa district
- Approval of amendments to the Teachers Transfer Control Act

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu, convened on Monday at the state secretariat, discussing 20 key agenda items. A major decision was the approval of the SC classification bill based on the recommendations of the one-member commission led by Rajiv Ranjan Mishra. The government decided to implement reservation as a state unit, despite requests from some ministers for district-wise implementation. Officials cautioned against legal complications in such a move.

SC Classification and Reservation

The Cabinet resolved to provide:

- 1% reservation to Relli sub-castes in Group 1
- 6.5% reservation to Madiga sub-castes in Group 2
- 7.5% reservation to Mala sub-castes in Group 3

The government has set the roster points at 200 and decided to pass a resolution in the Assembly to include Beda Budaga Jangas in the Relli sub-castes. The resolution will be sent to the National SC Commission on the 20th of this month. CM Chandrababu Naidu stated that district-wise implementation would be considered after the 2026 census.

YSR District Name Change

The Cabinet also approved renaming YSR district as YSR Kadapa district, restoring its historical identity. The district was originally called YSR Kadapa after the late Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy, but the previous YSRCP government removed 'Kadapa' from the name. Critics opposed this change, emphasizing Kadapa's historical significance. The coalition government has now reinstated the name. Additionally, the Cabinet decided to remove the name of YSR from Tadigadapa Municipality in Penamaluru. Other key approvals included amendments to the Teachers Transfer Control Act and decisions related to land allocation in the capital region.

Fear of Arrest Grips YSRCP Leaders in AP



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The fear of being thrown in jail has taken hold of YSRCP leaders in Andhra Pradesh. Those who once boasted that their blood didn't know the meaning of fear are now carefully measuring their words. Leaders who once made bold and arrogant statements are now afraid to even open their mouths, fearing arrest and legal trouble. Pawan Kalyan's famous dialogue from a movie—"I will introduce fear... that too in tons, not grams or kilos"—is now being recalled as YSRCP leaders struggle to maintain their composure. Former Palasa MLA Seediri Appalaraju, who unexpectedly missed out on a ministerial berth in his first term, later served as a minister for four and a half years. During his tenure, he made statements as he pleased, often displaying an aggressive and brash attitude. Despite being a doctor, he acted recklessly at times, even using offensive language against the police.

2 PAGE |

11 YouTubers Booked by Punjagutta Police for Promoting Betting Apps

- Influencers endorsed illegal betting apps online.
- Punjagutta Police files cases against influencers.
- YouTubers received payments for promotions illegally.
- Charges include violating gaming and IT laws.

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

The Punjagutta Police in Hyderabad have filed cases against 11 YouTubers and social media influencers for promoting illegal betting applications. The accused, including popular YouTubers Vishnupriya, Suprita, Imran Khan (Pareshan Boys), Harsha Sai, Rithu Chowdhary, and Tasty Teja, are alleged to have endorsed these apps to increase views and revenue. The police investigation revealed

that these influencers were promoting online betting platforms, leading to their involvement in illegal activities. These YouTubers allegedly received payments for promoting the apps, which is in violation of gaming laws. In addition to the aforementioned influencers, other individuals, including anchor Shyamala, Sunny Yadav, Sudheer, and several others, have also been named in the case. The charges against the accused include violating the Telangana Gam-

ing Act, Sections 3 and 4, and Section 66D of the Information Technology Act, which deals with fraud and online crimes. The Punjagutta Police are currently conducting further investigations to determine the full extent of the illegal activities.

The rise of social media influencers promoting online betting apps has sparked concerns about the growing prevalence of illegal gambling and its potential harm to the youth. Authorities have urged influencers to be more responsible in their content and avoid promoting such activities that are not only illegal but also harmful to the society. This case highlights the increasing scrutiny on social media personalities and in-



fluencers, emphasizing the need for them to comply with legal and ethical standards in their promotional activities.

Fear of Arrest Grips YSRCP...

Continued from page 1

He once led a group of 150 people for a special darshan at Tirumala without following the rules. When questioned about it, he arrogantly dismissed concerns, stating, "It's our choice." He was known for making sharp remarks targeting opposition leaders like Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan, and Nara Lokesh, as well as district leaders. However, the situation has changed post-elections. Appalaraju, who was once vocal and aggressive, is now keeping a low profile. His past comments as a minister and his recent statements are now going viral on social media, exposing the stark contrast. Previously, he had publicly declared, "If anyone is seen here... grab their hair, grab their shirt, and throw them out. I am telling you all, don't worry." This aggressive statement was directed at TDP leaders and activists. But now, his tone has completely changed. "If I speak loudly for just four days like before, they will scold me. Three FIRs have already been filed against me. They will provoke me, and if I react, they will throw me in jail," he recently stated. Social media is now flooded with videos comparing his statements from then and now, with many mocking his sudden shift in stance. Some are calling it a realization, while others see it as a reflection of the fear gripping YSRCP leaders in the state.

We've Kept the Destroyed State Back on Track - CM Naidu

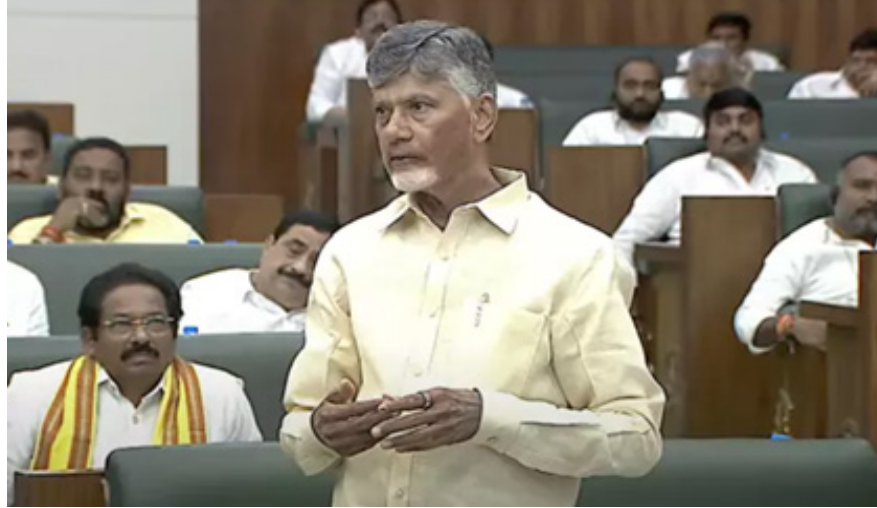
- CM aims for a \$30 trillion GDP for India by 2047
- AP targets ₹55 lakh per capita income, ₹2.4 trillion economy
- Vision-2047 plan includes 10 core development principles

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu emphasized Andhra Pradesh's commitment to long-term economic growth while participating in a short discussion on the Swarnandhra Vision-2047 document in the Legislative Assembly. He reaffirmed that the goal is to contribute to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Viksit Bharat-2047 initiative by ensuring India reaches a \$30 trillion GDP by 2047.

Highlighting the state's vision, Naidu stated that Andhra Pradesh is striving for a per capita income of ₹55 lakh and an overall economic size of ₹2.4 trillion by 2047. He outlined plans to achieve a 17.11% growth rate in the current financial year, stressing that MLAs play a crucial role in implementing the constituency-wise vision document.

CM Naidu recalled his earlier Vision 2020 plan for a united Andhra Pradesh, noting that the state had



benefited significantly from it. He asserted that the government is taking a structured approach by setting ten fundamental principles, including poverty eradication, to guide development. He emphasized that sector-wise and district-wise economic conditions are being studied to implement adaptive strategies based on evolving circumstances. Discussing regional development,

Naidu addressed concerns about Rayalaseema, countering past predictions that it would turn into a desert. He expressed confidence that the region would instead be transformed into Ratana Seema (a land of prosperity). Concluding his speech, he reiterated the government's commitment to forward-thinking policies to rebuild the state's economy and secure a brighter future for its citizens.



YCP Members Making Allegations and Running Away - Minister Lokesh

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Minister Nara Lokesh criticized YCP members for making baseless allegations and walking out of the assembly instead of participating in discussions on corruption during their regime from 2019-24. Speaking on the issue, he stated that the Chairman of the Council has the authority to use marshals to bring back members who leave during debates.

Lokesh pointed out that the agenda for the House sessions was decided by the BAC, where YCP members had initially agreed to discuss corruption allegations. However, instead of addressing the scams and irregularities during their rule, they walked out when the ruling party started presenting facts.

He further recalled how TDP leaders were falsely implicated in cases under the previous government. "Chandrababu Naidu was jailed for 53 days on fabricated charges, with the alleged scam amount changing from ₹3,000 crore to ₹300 crore and finally to ₹27 crore. Leaders like Atchannaidu, Dhulipalla Narendra, Kollu Ravindra, and Narayana were also targeted with illegal cases," he stated. Lokesh revealed that 23 cases, including SC/ST Atrocity and Attempt to Murder charges, were filed against him as part of YCP's vendetta politics. "Instead of facing a discussion on these injustices, YCP members ran away. If they have nothing to hide, why are they afraid of a debate?" he questioned.

What's Wrong with the 3 Language Policy?

Continued from page 1

With southern states like Tamil Nadu opposing the three-language policy, his comments have taken on political significance.

"Proud to Have Contributed to India's Reforms": CM

During the discussion on Swarnandhra Vision-2047, Chandrababu Naidu outlined ten guiding principles for the state's future development. He acknowledged the transformative reforms introduced by former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao and expressed pride in having contributed at least "one percent" to these reforms. He asserted confidence that by 2047, Indians would be global leaders. The Vision-2047 document includes key focus areas such as poverty eradication, technological advancements, and the P4 (People, Policy, Performance, and Progress) model. The plan has

Chandrababu's Delhi Visit

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu is scheduled to visit Delhi today, where he will meet Prime Minister Modi to discuss the revival of Amaravati's construction. The state government is securing funds from multiple financial institutions, including the World Bank and HUDCO, to resume the capital's development. CRDA has already completed the tendering process for key projects. With a coalition government in place, Chandrababu is expected to invite Modi to formally relaunch Amaravati's construction.

been formulated at multiple levels—state, district, constituency, municipality, and mandal-wise—using the Secretariat as a core implementation unit. Emphasizing socio-economic development, Chandrababu highlighted the government's commitment to self-reliance and economic security. "Our goal is not just to provide fish but to teach people how to fish," he stated, reinforcing his administration's policy of long-term empowerment over

short-term aid. The vision document also aims to ensure housing, clean drinking water, and gas connections for every household. Chandrababu stressed that sectors like solar, wind, and pumped storage power generation would be game-changers. He urged MLAs to actively bring industries to their constituencies, emphasizing that industrial growth should not be obstructed as in the previous administration.

AP's Economic Growth and Amaravati Revival

Chandrababu noted that Andhra Pradesh is recovering from the setbacks of the previous five-year government and emphasized the need for long-term planning. He recalled that his Vision-2020 plan, introduced in 1990 for a united Andhra Pradesh, had yielded significant benefits. Drawing parallels, he stated that Swarnandhra Vision-2047 aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Developed India-2047 initiative. The government's goal is to transform AP into a \$2.4 trillion economy by 2047, achieving a per capita income of ₹55 lakh. The current financial year targets a 17.11% growth rate. He highlighted Anantapur's economic progress, positioning it as the fifth-largest contributor in the state, and asserted that Rayalaseema—often dismissed as a barren land—would soon be known for its wealth of opportunities.

Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Holds a Special Meeting with the CM Naidu



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, concluded successfully. Following the meeting, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan proceeded to the CM's chamber, where the two leaders held a special discussion on key state matters.

It is learned that the meeting primarily focused on state development and welfare schemes. The leaders reportedly reviewed ongoing government initiatives and discussed strategies for effective implementation to ensure public welfare. Additionally, sources indicate that the discussion also included the possibility of expanding the cabinet. In particular, the inclusion of Pawan Kalyan's brother, Naga Babu, in the cabinet was reportedly deliberated upon.

The meeting is seen as crucial in shaping the state's future policies and governance, strengthening the coordination between alliance partners in the government.

AP JAC Meeting Demands Immediate Action on Employee Issues

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The Andhra Pradesh Joint Action Committee (AP JAC) Secretariat held a key meeting at NGGO Home, Gandhinagar, Vijayawada, to discuss employee, teacher, and pensioner issues. Leaders expressed dissatisfaction over the government's inaction in the past nine months and urged immediate steps to address employee grievances.

The meeting unanimously elected AP NGGO Sangha State General Secretary A. Vidya Sagar as the State JAC Deputy Secretary General. Leaders highlighted that except for salary payments on the first day of every month, no significant steps had been taken toward employee welfare.

Major Demands of JAC 12th PRC Commissioner Appointment

- The Pay Revision Commission (PRC) tenure started in July 2023, but no chairman has been appointed since the previous chairman resigned.
- JAC demanded immediate appointment of the PRC Commissioner and a 29% Interim Relief (IR) before PRC implementation.

Pending Dues and Allowances



- Employees continue to suffer from ₹25,000 crore arrears left by the previous government.
- The government has so far cleared only ₹700 crore in GPF/surrender leave arrears for Sankranti.
- JAC urged a roadmap for clearing pending arrears related to GPF, APGLI, and Surrender Leave.
- The three pending DA installments (01.01.2024, 01.07.2024, 01.01.2025) should be sanctioned.

Pension and Job Security

- The old pension scheme (OPS) should be restored for employees recruited before September 2004.

- The government should fulfill its promise to abolish CPS and provide an acceptable solution.
- Retirement benefits such as gratuity and commutation should be paid without delay.
- The retirement age for Gurukul, public sector, model schools, and MTS employees should be raised to 62 years.

Employee Regularization and Promotions

- Pending promotions in APSRTC should be implemented as per RTC rules.
- 7000 contract employees regularized before 2014 should be made permanent.
- Pending compassionate ap-

- pointments in Panchayat Raj and other departments should be cleared.
- Medical MPHAs who were removed from service should be reinstated.

JAC leaders warned that continued neglect of employee issues could lead to unrest and demanded immediate intervention by CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu and the Chief Secretary.

AP NGO Association State President KV Shiva Reddy, JAC Secretary General K Prasad, APSRTC NMU President Ramana Reddy, Andhra Pradesh Primary Teachers Association General Secretary Kaki Prakash Rao, and various union representatives attended the meeting.

SSC Examinations Conducted Smoothly in Andhra Pradesh

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The SSC Public Examinations commenced smoothly across Andhra Pradesh, with the First Language exam being conducted without any major disruptions. Director of School Education, Sri Vijay Rama Raju. V, I.A.S., confirmed the successful execution of the examinations in a press release on Monday. Out of 6,27,277 registered students, 6,16,451 appeared, resulting in an attendance of 98.27%. A total of 3,450 examination centers have been set up across the state, with 1,545 centers inspected by flying squads to ensure strict monitoring. During inspections, two students in Kurnool district were caught copying and have been debarred from the examinations, as per official reports. The Directorate of Government Examinations is closely overseeing the process to maintain fairness and transparency in the exams.

MP Uday Srinivas Raises Hindu Temple Funds Issue in Lok Sabha

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Kakinada Jana Sena MP Tangella Uday Srinivas raised concerns in the Lok Sabha regarding government control over Hindu temples. He questioned whether Hindu temples remain under state management while places of worship belonging to other religions operate independently.



Uday Srinivas sought clarification on the revenue generated from temples under government administration and whether these funds were being diverted for non-religious purposes. He also inquired whether any religious organizations had officially requested autonomy for Hindu temples, highlighting the need for transparency in temple fund utilization. Responding to these concerns, Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat provided a written reply. He stated that 3,698 historical monuments and ancient structures, including temples, have been classified as sites of national importance under the Archaeological Sites and Re-

mains Act, 1958. These structures are protected and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

The Minister further clarified that ASI generates revenue through ticket sales at 143 historical sites, including temples. In the financial year 2023-24, a total revenue of ₹317.92 crore was collected from these sites. He assured that ASI does not divert these funds for any other purpose and that the income is solely used for the conservation and upkeep of ancient structures. On the matter of temple autonomy, Shekhawat stated that no official requests have been received demanding independence for temples under ASI management. His response provided clarity on the government's role in temple administration and revenue management, addressing concerns about transparency and resource allocation.



EAS Sarma Urges CM Naidu to Reconsider Anakapalle Nuclear Plant

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

Former bureaucrat EAS Sarma has written to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, urging the Andhra Pradesh government to reconsider the proposed 2,800 MW nuclear power plant in Anakapalle. The project, planned by NTPC, requires 2,000 acres of land, which Sarma strongly opposed, citing past experiences with similar projects.



Referring to the Kovvada nuclear project in Srikakulam, he highlighted how 2,000 acres of fertile land were acquired nearly a decade ago, displacing around 2,000 families, yet the project remains incomplete. He warned that the proposed Anakapalle plant could face similar challenges.

Sarma also raised concerns about the plant's estimated water requirement of three billion gallons per day, warning that even with the completion of the Polavaram project, water shortages could arise. As an alternative, he suggested the NTPC explore a seawater desalination plant.

Pointing to the 2011 Fukushima disaster, Sarma questioned whether the Anakapalle project could meet safety guidelines set by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and

the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission. He also criticized the project's dependence on imported reactors and uranium, arguing that the high costs would make electricity unaffordable while providing minimal local employment.

As an alternative, Sarma urged the state government to prioritize decentralized solar power solutions, such as rooftop solar panels and solar irrigation pump sets for rural households. He emphasized that this model would be more sustainable, economically viable, and beneficial for rural communities.

In his letter, Sarma appealed to the Chief Minister to explore renewable energy alternatives instead of proceeding with the nuclear project.

Jagan Govt Reduced Polavaram Height, Says Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu

- ₹19,396 crore spent on Polavaram since 2014
- ₹1,340 crore yet to be paid for R&R of 18,266 families
- YSRCP proposed Polavaram height reduction to 41.15 meters

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Water Resources Minister

Nimmala Ramanaidu criticized the previous YSRCP government for reducing the height of Polavaram Project, stating that the decision was made during Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure. Answering questions in the Legislative Council, the minister revealed that ₹19,396 crore has been spent on the project since 2014, with the Central government contributing ₹17,860 crore.

Highlighting rehabilitation challenges, Minister Nimmala stated that 96,660 families are affected by project-related flooding. In the first phase of Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R), the government has provided ₹1,203 crore to displaced families. However, ₹1,340 crore is still pending for 18,266 families, and 12,263 fami-

lies are yet to be relocated. Out of 75 displaced people's colonies, 49 are under construction.

Land acquisition is expected to be completed by August 2025.

The first phase of R&R is targeted for completion by June 2026.

Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu alleged that the pre-

vious government failed to build a single house for displaced families. He emphasized that the YSRCP administration proposed the height reduction to 41.15 meters, affecting the project's long-term viability. CM Jagan should answer why the height was reduced, he added.



Botsa Satyanarayana Slams Govt for Ignoring Post-Bifurcation Issues

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council, Botsa Satyanarayana, has strongly criticized the state government, alleging that it is deliberately avoiding discussions on crucial issues that arose after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. Speaking to the media, Botsa claimed that rather than addressing these matters transparently, the government is making efforts to dilute several cases from that period. He accused the ruling coalition of neglecting the concerns that remain unresolved since the state's bifurcation in 2014. According to him, many issues, including the division of assets, financial settlements, and pending projects, require immediate attention, but the government is showing no inclination

to engage in a meaningful debate on them.

Botsa further stated that several cases related to post-bifurcation conflicts, particularly those involving institutional and financial matters, are being sidelined or weakened for political convenience. He asserted that this approach is unacceptable and warned that the YSR Congress Party will not remain silent on the matter.

The senior YSRCP leader emphasized that his party is committed to holding the government accountable and ensuring that Andhra Pradesh gets its rightful share of resources and justice in the post-bifurcation scenario. He urged the ruling dispensation to come forward for an open discussion and take necessary steps to resolve the lingering disputes instead of suppressing

them. Botsa reaffirmed that the YSR Congress will continue to strongly oppose any attempts to overlook these critical issues and will raise them both in the Legislative Council and in public forums to safeguard the interests of the state.



CPI Narayana's Sharp Satires on Chandrababu, Pawan, and Jagan

- Narayana criticizes Chandrababu's stance on Modi
- Accuses Jagan of following Modi and Amit Shah's methods
- Satirical remarks on Pawan Kalyan's political speeches

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

CPI leader K. Narayana once again targeted Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and YSRCP chief Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy with sharp comments, linking them to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. His remarks have sparked discussion in political circles.

Narayana accused Modi of exploit-

ing legal loopholes to secure a clean chit despite allegations surrounding the Gujarat riots and Godhra incident. He claimed that Modi has instilled fear among voters and questioned whether Amit Shah had been truly acquitted of his alleged involvement in past murder cases. He asserted that despite legal verdicts, society still sees Amit Shah as guilty.

Drawing a parallel, Narayana alleged that Jagan is following the same pattern as Modi and Shah in silencing witnesses. He referred to Ambedkar's vision of justice for all communities and criticized Modi's approach, which, he claimed, equates justice with the views of the majority community. He also opposed the imposition of Hindi, call-

ing it an unfair policy. On the issue of delimitation, Narayana dismissed the idea that seat allocation should be based on family planning policies. He ridiculed Chandrababu's recent statements encouraging larger families, remarking that women are not machines. He argued that Naidu cannot challenge Modi and is compelled to align with him, whether he likes it or not.



Actor Shivaji's Interesting Comments on Posani Krishna Murali's Arrest



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Actor and political commentator Shivaji has responded to the recent arrest of YSRCP leader and actor Posani Krishna Murali, who was jailed for making objectionable re-

marks against AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh. Speaking during a film promotion event, Shivaji made thought-provoking comments on the incident.

Shivaji emphasized that political criticism should not extend into the personal lives of leaders. He stated that targeting individuals on the orders of a party high command is unacceptable, and under no circumstances should criticism extend to their families. He pointed out that, despite being in poli-

tics for 12 years, he has never personally attacked anyone.

The actor underscored the importance of maintaining ethical discourse in politics, stating that respecting boundaries ensures everyone's safety. Commenting on Posani's arrest, he said that enough has already happened in the case and urged the government to give him an opportunity to reflect and correct himself.

It is known that Posani Krishna Murali has been remanded in custody until the 26th of this month following the court's decision.

"It's Not Your Fault... It's EVMs": Ex-Minister Roja Targets Govt

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

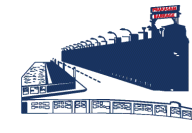
Former minister and YSRCP leader Roja launched a scathing attack on the coalition government, accusing it of systematically dismantling public welfare institutions. She claimed that while medical colleges had been strengthened under the previous government, the current administration is shutting them down along with Farmer

Assurance Centers. She alleged that schools are the next in line to be abolished. Taking a jibe at the ruling alliance, Roja sarcastically remarked, "Earlier, you said education is not the government's responsibility... It's not your fault; it's all because of EVMs."

Roja further questioned the government's priorities, stating, "Should there be only one school within a five-kilometer radius in a village? How many brandy

shops can there be? How many belt shops?" She concluded her social media post with a satirical "Good, good, good," hinting at growing discontent among the people.





AP Governor Abdul Nazeer Lays Foundation Stone for Red Cross Headquarters

**New Red Cross headquarters to be built in Vijayawada
Foundation stone laid by Governor S. Abdul Nazeer
Estimated project cost of ₹4 crore**

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Andhra Pradesh State Governor Syed Abdul Nazeer laid the foundation stone for the new headquarters building of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) in Andhra Pradesh. The ceremony was held in Gandhinagar, Vijayawada, where the headquarters is being constructed at an estimated cost of ₹4 crore. The event was attended by the Honorary Presidents of the Indian Red Cross Society and Andhra Pradesh, along with Vijayawada Municipal Commissioner, City Police Commissioner, District Collector, and other senior officials. Addressing the gathering, Governor Abdul Nazeer highlighted the essential role of the Red Cross in humanitarian services,

disaster response, and healthcare support. He emphasized that the new facility would enhance the society's ability to implement welfare programs efficiently. The upcoming Red Cross headquarters will serve as a central hub for various relief activities, including disaster management, first-aid training, and blood donation camps. Officials stated that the new building would be equipped with modern infrastructure to facilitate rapid response operations during natural calamities and emergencies. On this occasion, representatives from the Indian Red Cross Society expressed their gratitude to the state government for its support in establishing the headquarters.



They reiterated their commitment to strengthening humanitarian efforts across Andhra Pradesh and reaching vulnerable communities more effectively. The new headquarters is expected to play a crucial

role in improving coordination and implementation of health and welfare initiatives, further expanding the impact of the Red Cross in the state.

Thief and Minor Accomplice Arrested in NTR Dist



TPN Correspondent | Nandigama
Nandigama ACP Tilak announced the arrest of a man and his minor accomplice involved in multiple daylight thefts across Chandralapadu mandal, Lakshmipuram village, Lingalapadu village, and Jaggayyapet town. Addressing the media, he detailed the police operation that led to their capture. Acting on the instructions of Vijayawada Commissioner of Police Rajasekhar, four special teams were formed to track the suspects using mobile phone signals and CCTV footage. The investigation led to the arrest of Nagaraju, a resident of Suryapet, Telangana. Along with him, a minor boy from Achampet, Guntur district, who assisted in the crimes, was also taken into custody. ACP Tilak revealed that a total of 17 cases had been registered against the accused. During the operation, police recovered 300 grams of gold, 300 grams of silver, and a mobile phone from their possession. The stolen valuables were seized as evidence. The accused will be presented before the court for further legal proceedings. Authorities have urged citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to the police. The successful operation stands as a testament to the swift action and coordinated efforts of law enforcement in curbing criminal activities in the region.

NRI Student Siddharth Meets CM Chandrababu Showcases AI-Powered Heart Disease Diagnosis App

**14-year-old Siddharth develops CircadiaV app
AI-powered tool aids in heart disease diagnosis
CM Chandrababu invites and congratulates him at Secretariat**

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati
Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu met 14-year-old NRI student Siddharth, who has developed CircadiaV, an AI-powered application designed to assist in diagnosing heart diseases. The young innovator was invited to the Secretariat, where the CM personally congratulated him for his remarkable achievement in the field of healthcare technology. Siddharth, who has a keen interest in artificial intelligence and medical advancements, created the CircadiaV app to provide early detection of heart-related ailments using AI algorithms. The app analyzes medical data to assist doctors in identifying potential cardiac conditions efficiently. CM Chandrababu praised Sid-

dharth's efforts and encouraged him to continue his research in emerging technologies for the betterment of society. He emphasized that Andhra Pradesh is committed to supporting young innovators and fostering advancements in AI-driven healthcare solutions. Expressing his appreciation, Siddharth shared insights about his journey in developing the app and how AI can revolutionize early disease detection. He thanked the Chief Minister for the encouragement and said he hopes to contribute further to the field of medical technology. Officials present at the meeting lauded Siddharth's innovation and reiterated the state government's focus on promoting scientific re-



search and technology-driven solutions among young minds.

Regional-Level CSSR Competition Organized by 10th Bn NDRF



TPN Correspondent | Krishna District
The 10th Battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), located in Kondapavuluru village, Gannavaram Mandal, Krishna District, is organizing a regional-level Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) competition for the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams of the South & South-Central Zone on March 17, 2025. Seven SDRF teams, representing Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, and the Kerala Fire Department, are competing in this event. The competition, conducted by the NDRF, is part of a broader initiative with four regional zones—South & South-Central, North, West Central, and East & North-East. The winners and runners-up from each zone will qualify for the national-level competition, which will be held at the 8th Battalion NDRF in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. At the national level, the winning team will receive a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, while the runner-up will be awarded ₹50,000. At the regional level, winning and runner-up teams will be honored with trophies and gold and silver medals for all participants. The opening ceremony was held at the 10th Battalion's campus, where Shri Hari Om Gandhi, DIG NDRF, served as the chief guest. Addressing the participants, he emphasized the competition's objective of enhancing the efficiency of search and rescue (SAR) operations across states and union territories. He highlighted the event as a platform for SDRF teams to showcase their skills, share knowledge, and improve coordination in disaster response. Prominent attendees included Shri Nagen-dra Sharma, Commandant (3rd Battalion), Shri Niranjan Singh, Second-in-Command, and Shri Zafirul Islam, Second-in-Command, along with the rescuers of the 10th Battalion.

All Set for Public Representatives' Games in Andhra Pradesh



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh
Final preparations are underway for the much-anticipated Public Representatives' Games, organized under the leadership of the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SHAP). The event, which will see participation from MLAs, MLCs, and other dignitaries, aims to promote fitness and sportsmanship among elected representatives. SHAP Chairman Animini Ravi Naidu confirmed that all arrangements have been completed for the smooth conduct of the games.

Various sports courts have been set up, and senior legislators personally inspected the venues to ensure readiness. The tournament is set to begin at 3 PM today, with a series of competitions planned across multiple disciplines. Officials have assured top-notch facilities, emphasizing fair play and healthy competition among participants. The event is expected to boost awareness about the importance of physical activity and encourage broader community participation in sports initiatives across the state.

MP Kesineni Shivnath Seeks Funds for Vijayawada Railway Station Upgrade

**Vijayawada Railway Station yet to receive funds under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme
Gunadala-Bezawada ROB and Ajit Singh Nagar second ROB pending approval
Thanks to PM and CM for approving the Amaravati Railway Line**

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
MP Kesineni Shivnath (Chinni) raised concerns in the Lok Sabha regarding the lack of funds for the Vijayawada Railway Station under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Speaking under the Demands for Grants (DFG) on Railways for 2025-26, he pointed out that despite Vijayawada being a top revenue-generating station, not a single rupee has been allocated for its development in the last three years. Highlighting the economic importance of Vijayawada, MP Shivnath emphasized that the station serves 16.84 million passengers annually and has consistently generated over

₹5,000 crore in revenue, including ₹4,000 crore from freight traffic. He urged the Union Government to release necessary funds to modernize the station. MP Shivnath also pressed for the approval of the Gunadala-Bezawada Road Over Bridge (ROB) project, which remains pending with the Central Government. He stressed that the railway gate at Gunadala-Bezawada is opened and closed 150 times a day, causing severe inconvenience to the public. Despite a joint survey with the state government, the ROB proposal awaits approval. Additionally, he emphasized the ur-

gent need for a second ROB in Ajit Singh Nagar, where heavy traffic congestion has disrupted daily commutes and essential services, particularly during floods. He urged the Central Government to expedite the project. MP Shivnath thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and CM Chandrababu Naidu for approving the Amaravati Railway Line, stating that it will play a key role in economic growth and connectivity. He also praised the increase in railway budget allocations from ₹68,000 crore in 2019-20 to ₹2 lakh crore by 2025-26, showcasing the government's commitment to railway



modernization. Urging Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to prioritize Vijayawada's development, he reiterated that the city, being one of India's highest revenue contributors, must receive its due share of railway funds and infrastructure improvements.

President Droupadi Murmu Hosts Breakfast for MPs at Rashtrapati Bhavan



- MPs from AP, Karnataka, Kerala, Haryana, and UP attended
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union Ministers join the event
- President interacts with MPs on constituency issues and development

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu hosted a breakfast gathering at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre on Monday for Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. The event was also attended by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda. During the meeting, the President interacted with the at-

tending MPs, discussing key issues, development initiatives, and the unique features of their parliamentary constituencies. The gathering served as an opportunity for public representatives to exchange ideas and engage in discussions on governance and regional progress. MPs expressed their gratitude to President Droupadi Murmu for the invitation, acknowledging the importance of such interactive sessions in fostering collaboration between the central leadership and elected representatives.

TTD Announces Srivari Darshan for Telangana Public Representatives' Recommendations



TPN Correspondent | Tirumala

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has announced a new policy allowing Srivari Darshan for devotees holding recommendation letters from Telangana public representatives. This facility will be implemented from March 24th, marking a significant change in TTD's darshan allocation process. Under the new system, Telangana recommendation letters will grant VIP Break Darshan on Mondays and Tuesdays, while Special Entry Darshan for ₹300 will be available on Wednesdays and Thursdays. However, each public representative's letter can accommodate a maximum of six people.

TTD's decision comes following reports that Telangana leaders were not given priority during the previous government. The new policy was implemented under the directions of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu, ensuring equal access for Telangana devotees. Additionally, TTD has revised its rules for Andhra Pradesh representatives. Recommendation letters from AP leaders will no longer be accepted for Monday darshan. Instead, letters for Sunday darshan must be submitted by Saturday. TTD officials have urged devotees to follow these new guidelines and cooperate with temple authorities to ensure a smooth darshan experience.

Grievances Raised at Public Redressal Forum in Pithapuram



TPN Correspondent | Pithapuram

The Public Grievance Redressal Forum was held in Pithapuram, Kakinada district, where local representatives and residents raised pressing civic issues. The President and Secretary of Mana Uru Mana Sarva

Swamy Temple due to the absence of a water facility for post-ritual cleansing. They urged officials to construct a water tank at the site to address this issue. Additionally, concerns were raised over

Gopalapuram MLA Visits Diarrhea-Affected Patients at Govt Hospital



TPN Correspondent | East Godavari

Gopalapuram MLA Maddipati Venkata Raju, along with East Godavari District Collector Prashanthi, visited the government hospital on Monday to meet patients affected by a diarrhea outbreak in Gopalapuram Mandal. The leaders interacted with the victims and assured them of all necessary medical assistance.

- MLA and District Collector visit government hospital
- Officials directed to take preventive measures
- Awareness campaigns on hygiene and sanitation initiated

During the visit, the MLA and Collector instructed health officials to take immediate preventive measures to control the spread of the disease. They emphasized ensuring adequate medical supplies and directed hospital staff to provide proper care to the patients. Authorities have launched sanitation drives in affected areas and are conduct-

ing awareness campaigns to educate residents on safe drinking water and hygiene practices. Health officials are closely monitoring the situation, and efforts are underway to contain the outbreak at the earliest.



Extensive Arrangements for Grain Procurement in Nellore - JC Karthik

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Joint Collector Karthik announced that extensive measures have been put in place for the smooth procurement of grain at Minimum Support Price (MSP) across the district. Addressing a press conference on Monday at the SR Sankaran VC Hall in the Collectorate, he revealed that 11,000 metric tons of grain have been procured so far from 300 procurement centers established in the district.

To ensure seamless operations, technical assistants, data entry operators, and helpers have been deployed at all centers. Officials at district, mandal, and village levels are actively monitoring the procurement process. Strict warnings have been issued against middlemen and millers purchasing grain below MSP, with legal action being taken against violators.

Millers have provided bank guarantees worth ₹40 crore for purchasing 25,000 metric tons of grain, ensuring a smooth process for farmers. The district has 3.5 lakh gunny bags ready, with additional bags stocked at high-volume centers. A fleet of 250 lorries has been arranged to transport grain exclusively within the

district, with temporary magnetic GPS installed to prevent unauthorized movement.

Additionally, 10 rice millers from Prakasam district have been connected for procurement, with a daily target of 500 metric tons per mill. Payments are being credited to farmers' accounts within 24 to 48 hours of purchase. With 50% of the harvesting completed, the district administration is fully prepared to procure the remaining produce in the coming weeks. Farmers are urged to utilize procurement centers to receive fair prices and avoid middlemen. For any grievances, a control room (8520879979) has been set up to resolve issues at the field level.

District Civil Supplies Officer Ankayya and Civil Supplies Manager Arjun Rao also participated in the press conference.



Funds Allocated for PHCs in Srikalahasti

- ₹10,000 sanctioned for each PHC in the town
- MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy committed to improving healthcare
- Doctors request better facilities at PHCs

TPN Correspondent | Srikalahasti

The Hospital Development Society program was held at the Primary Health Center in Srikalahasti town, attended by Town President G Vijay Kumar, Municipal Commissioner, Municipal AE, doctors, and ANMs associated with the health centers.

During the event, doctors requested improved basic facilities in Primary Health Centers (PHCs) to enhance patient care. Speaking on the occasion, Town President G Vijay Kumar assured that Srikalahasti MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy had already raised the issue of PHC development in the Assembly. He informed that the MLA is working to secure special funds for upgrading all PHCs in the Srikalahasti con-



stituency. As per the MLA's instructions, ₹10,000 was allocated to each PHC for urgent needs. Town President G Vijay Kumar handed over ₹30,000 to three PHCs in Srikalahasti town as part of this initiative. ANMs and PHC staff participated in the program, expressing their gratitude for the financial support aimed at strengthening healthcare services in the region.

Division of Scheduled Castes is Unconstitutional - AP Dalit Mahasabha



TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam

The division of Scheduled Castes is unconstitutional, said Andhra Pradesh Dalit Mahasabha State Honorary President Benjamin. Speaking at a press conference held at Ambedkar Bhavan, Ilisipuram, on Monday, he alleged that political parties are trying to manipulate the SC division for electoral benefits.

Benjamin criticized both Congress and BJP for their approach to SC division, stating that a similar trend is being followed across states, particularly in Telangana, where Madigas have been allocated nine percent reservations. He

argued that this move directly violates the Supreme Court verdict on SC classification.

He further alleged that a conspiracy is being hatched in Andhra Pradesh as well, claiming that Krishna Madiga is being used, with the support of Chandrababu Naidu, to benefit the Madiga community in a way similar to Mandakrishna Madiga in Telangana.

Raising concerns over land and employment issues, Benjamin accused the government of taking Dalit lands in the name of industrial development without allocating even a cent of land to Dalits. He stated that thousands of Dalit youth are being forced to migrate due to the lack of jobs and land.

Dalit leaders K Rajulu, K Thavittayya, D Govind, K Asiri Naidu, and others participated in the press conference, calling for justice and fair policies for all SC communities.

MLC Thota Trimurtulu Accuses Govt of Cheating Volunteers

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Legislative Council Member Thota Trimurtulu criticized the coalition government for allegedly deceiving volunteers who were engaged in various administrative duties. Speaking in the Legislative Council on Monday, he accused the government of exploiting volunteers for flood relief efforts in NTR district in September 2024 and later removing them from service without any job security.

Thota cited Memo No. 2544493, issued on September 7, 2024, which mandated the participation of volunteers, secretariat staff, and panchayat employees in relief operations, warning of legal action for non-compliance. Despite their dedicated service, he alleged

that the government terminated 2.56 lakh volunteers by November 2024, breaking their trust.

He further criticized the ruling alliance for promising to increase the volunteers' honorarium from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000 before the elections, only to later revoke their positions. Thota urged the government to honor its commitments and provide alternative employment to the affected volunteers without political bias. Responding to the accusations, Minister for Social Welfare Secretariat Volunteers D. Balaveeranjanyulu claimed ignorance of the memos in question. The debate over the issue is expected to continue as affected volunteers seek justice.



Election Commission Needs Urgent Course Correction on Voter Rolls

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is facing growing criticism from Opposition parties over discrepancies in electoral rolls and issues of duplicate Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) numbers. As the country approaches a significant milestone of 100 crore eligible voters, these concerns have raised alarm over the integrity of the electoral process. If not addressed swiftly, these issues could undermine the credibility of India's democratic framework. The ECI has acknowledged that while some EPIC numbers may appear identical, other voter details such as demographic information, assembly constituency, and polling booth are different. However, this assurance has done little to quell concerns, and many believe it is insufficient. The need for a comprehensive national exercise to

ensure each voter has a unique EPIC number has become critical. In addition, there must be stronger coordination between the ECI and state electoral officers to ensure accurate and updated voter databases. Lapses by these officers, particularly in managing voter records independently, seem to have contributed to these discrepancies. A key point of contention is the ECI's move to link voter IDs with Aadhaar. Although current law allows for voluntary linking of Aadhaar details to electoral rolls, the government has assured that those who do not comply will not be removed from the voter list. This approach aims to prevent coercive actions and ensure inclusivity. Aadhaar, being a unique identifier, plays a pivotal role in eliminating duplicate voters, ensuring transparency, and improving

service delivery to citizens. However, the government must focus on resolving the current issues with voter rolls before undertaking major reforms like 'One Nation, One Election.' The concerns raised by Opposition parties are valid, as voter roll integrity is the cornerstone of any fair election. For a democracy as vast as India's, it is crucial to ensure that the voter list is accurate and free from duplication. The ECI's upcoming high-level meeting on March 18 to discuss the Aadhaar linkage issue must result in a clear, time-bound plan to address these concerns. Failure to act swiftly and decisively could lead to widespread disenchantment with the electoral process, damaging the trust that citizens place in their democratic institutions.



Ukraine Faces Potential "Frozen" Conflict Amid Ceasefire Talks

Ukraine may be on the verge of a "frozen" conflict, as international pressure mounts for a ceasefire, yet both sides remain far from agreeing on a lasting peace. The recent proposal for a 30-day ceasefire, brokered by the U.S., has brought global attention to Moscow's stance. While Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed conditional support for a ceasefire, emphasizing that it should address the root causes of the war, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has warned that Putin's intentions are manipulative and aimed at gaining further territorial concessions.

Putin's response is strategic; he recognizes that the conflict is not just a military struggle but a geopolitical one, and he aims to prolong negotiations to maximize his gains. With Russia regaining control of significant areas in Ukraine, including the Kursk region, Putin is pushing for a halt to Western military support to Ukraine during the ceasefire period, further complicating negotiations.

The situation mirrors the Korean War's armistice, where an official peace agreement was never signed, only a temporary halt to hostilities. Just as the Korean conflict remained unresolved for years, Ukraine could face a similar fate, with no peace deal in sight. Putin's demands to keep Crimea and parts of Donbas under Russian control are unacceptable to Ukraine, which remains determined to reclaim its territory.

Zelenskyy, meanwhile, is in a weaker position, as the Trump administration has hinted that Kyiv may have to accept significant territorial losses, including not joining NATO. The ill-fated Ukrainian offensive in Kursk last year only compounded the country's strategic challenges, with Russia regaining lost ground.

While the U.S. puts pressure on Moscow to accept the ceasefire and toughens sanctions on Russian energy and banking sectors, Zelenskyy is calling for guarantees to ensure Russia adheres to the ceasefire. The Kremlin, however, opposes the idea of European peacekeepers in Ukraine, with Putin preferring a role for countries like India and other BRICS nations, who have maintained neutral relations with Russia.

As talks progress, the conflict risks becoming a prolonged "frozen" war, where violence stops but a lasting peace remains elusive. For Ukraine, the challenge is to ensure its sovereignty while navigating complex international pressures.

India Must Deftly Walk the Tariff Tightrope

India faces a significant challenge in negotiating trade tariffs with the United States under President Donald Trump. The tariffs being used as leverage for non-trade objectives, such as reducing illegal immigration and bolstering the dollar, have caused global trade turmoil. While Trump's trade war strategy appears erratic, India must navigate these tumultuous waters carefully to avoid serious economic setbacks.

India's trade surplus with the U.S. has become a point of contention for the Trump administration, particularly as India runs a large overall trade deficit with the world. India's high tariffs on agricultural products, automobiles, and alcohol—ranging from 100% to 165%—have particularly drawn criticism. In response, India offered to reduce tariffs on items of American interest, like bourbon whiskey, but this gesture has not mollified Trump.

The situation has become a complex balancing act. On the one hand, India is protective of its domestic industries, such as agriculture and automobiles, where high tariffs shield local businesses and farmers from foreign competition. On the other hand, India has significant vulnerabilities. For instance, if India agrees to reduce tariffs for the U.S., it risks setting a precedent for other countries, such as the European Union and the U.K., who have long sought similar concessions. Moreover, the United States is unlikely to significantly increase its exports even if India cuts tariffs, making this trade dispute more emotional than practical.

India's economic situation is far stronger today compared to 1991, when it faced an economic crisis. The 1991 economic reforms opened up India's economy, making it the world's fifth-largest economy today. However, India's agricultural and automobile sectors remain overprotected, reminiscent of the country's pre-reform era. With growing global competition and changing economic dynamics, India must reconsider its high tariff policies.

Eliminating tariffs on agriculture and manufactured goods would help India integrate more deeply into the global economy, boosting its manufacturing sector and attracting foreign investments. This shift would also create jobs in new industries,



while freeing up resources to address pressing domestic issues such as the over-reliance on agriculture. India should not only focus on tariff reductions but also harness its labor force's potential in emerging sectors like sports, entertainment, and personal services. By retraining workers and investing in global opportunities, India can ensure long-term prosperity without compromising its economic independence. In conclusion, India must tread carefully with the U.S. on tariffs, aiming to strike a deal that protects its interests while positioning itself as an open and competitive player in the global economy.



Pakistan Faces Growing Internal Crisis Amid Baloch Separatism and TTP Resurgence

Pakistan is grappling with a significant internal crisis, driven by escalating separatist insurgencies and a surge in terrorist attacks. The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has intensified its activities, conducting at least 14 attacks between 2020 and 2025 against Chinese nationals, killing 20 people and injuring 34. In addition, over 400 Pakistani security personnel have died in similar attacks. While the BLA's militancy continues, the Baloch independence movement is also supported by non-violent activists, such as Mahrang Baloch, advocating for provincial autonomy and social justice.

The BLA's March 13 hijacking of the Jaffar Express, a high-profile operation, has propelled the movement into the international spotlight. This event parallels other global incidents, such as the October 2023 Hamas attack, highlighting the BLA's strategy to rejuvenate the Baloch cause. However, this bold action risks triggering a harsh response from Pakistan's military establishment, which traditionally leans towards military solutions rather than diplomatic engagement.

Pakistan's counterinsurgency history reveals the limits of force in resolving separatist

movements. In 1971, the state's heavy-handed tactics led to the separation of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). Similarly, while Operation Zarb-e-Azb against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) brought temporary peace, it failed to address the underlying issues, with the TTP quickly resurfacing when the Taliban gained control of Afghanistan.

The Baloch insurgency shares key similarities with past conflicts, where the state's reliance on military might has proven ineffective. Pakistan's failure to address the grievances of ethnic minorities like the Baloch, Sindhis, and Kashmiris has prolonged regional instability. As the TTP resurges and Baloch separatism gains momentum, Pakistan faces a perilous situation where military responses alone could lead to a prolonged, unwinnable conflict.

Pakistan's military engagement across its borders, including operations along the Durand Line, and its ongoing internal conflicts threaten to undermine recent economic stabilization. With tensions rising and the situation spiraling out of control, Pakistan must reconsider its approach, shifting from forceful suppression to genuine political dialogue to prevent further destabilization.

PM Modi-Christopher Luxon meeting: India, New Zealand ink defence pact

- Focus on maritime security and cooperation
- Roadmap planned for future defence ties
- Joint training and exercises to increase
- Supports Indo-Pacific peace and stability



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India and New Zealand have signed a defence cooperation agreement aimed at boosting their partnership in maritime safety and security. This pact follows a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon on Monday, marking a significant step in strengthening the two nations' ties.

Following the talks, Modi emphasized the decision to strengthen and institutionalize the defence and security relationship between the two countries. He also revealed that a roadmap would be developed to guide future cooperation in the defence industry sector, ensuring more strategic collaboration.

As a member of the Five Eyes intelligence alliance, New Zealand plays a vital role in global security, and this agreement is seen as a move to

enhance both countries' strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region. The focus on maritime safety and security is particularly significant given the increasing geopolitical challenges in the region, which call for stronger partnerships between like-minded nations.

The new agreement is expected to deepen defence engagements and facilitate greater collaboration on training, joint exercises, and the sharing of best practices in the defence sector. Both leaders acknowledged the importance of maintaining a rules-based international order in the maritime domain, and this agreement serves as a step towards enhancing peace and stability in the region.

This development also reflects India's growing global influence and its efforts to strengthen ties with key partners like New Zealand, in line with its broader foreign policy strategy to bolster defence cooperation across the Indo-Pacific.



India and Sweden Aim to Strengthen Trade and Investment Ties

Discussions focus on green technologies, smart infrastructure, and economic cooperation

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

India and Sweden are actively exploring ways to enhance their bilateral trade and investment relations, with a focus on fostering economic cooperation in key sectors. During a recent meeting in New Delhi, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, and Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Maria M. Stenergard, discussed opportunities for collaboration in areas such as green technologies, renewable energy, smart infrastructure, and healthcare.

Sweden is currently the 21st largest investor in India, with a cumulative foreign direct investment (FDI) of USD 2.51 billion from April 2000 to March 2024. Key sectors attracting Swedish investments include automobiles, industrial machinery, engineering, electrical equipment, and metallurgy. The two countries aim to further strengthen their trade and investment ties through increased cooperation, opening up new avenues for business in both nations.

Minister Goyal emphasized the importance of these discussions, saying, "We discussed ways to further strengthen the India-Sweden bilateral trade and investment partnership, fostering economic cooperation and

opening up new business opportunities in both nations." The Joint Economic Commission (JEC) continues to serve as the primary platform for government-to-government dialogue between India and Sweden.

In recent trade statistics, India's exports to Sweden reached USD 104 million in June 2024, while imports totaled USD 171 million, resulting in a trade deficit of USD 66.6 million. However, compared to June 2023, India's exports to Sweden saw significant growth of 45.2%, while imports increased by 21.6%. Key exports from India to Sweden include ready-made cotton garments, electric machinery, automobile spare parts, and iron and steel products. Imports from Sweden include iron and steel, pulp and waste paper, paper products, auto components, and industrial machinery for various sectors.

This growing engagement between the two countries comes as Sweden strengthens its global partnerships, responding to shifts in international dynamics, including the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its evolving stance toward China. Both nations continue to deepen their ties, focusing on shared goals of economic growth and mutual prosperity.



RG Kar Rape-Murder Case: SC disposes of parents' plea for fresh CBI probe – 'free to approach Calcutta HC'

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Supreme Court of India on Monday, March 17, dismissed a petition filed by the parents of a victim in the RG Kar rape-murder case, seeking a fresh investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). However, the court granted them the option to pursue their case in the Calcutta High Court.

Chief Justice of India, Sanjiv Khanna, stated, "Without making comments, we dispose of the application observing that the applicant is at liberty to pursue the proceedings before the HC," according to legal news agency LiveLaw.

The case relates to the horrific rape and murder of a 31-year-old post-graduate trainee doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. Her body was discovered on August 9, 2024, within the hospital premises. Investigations revealed that the woman had been raped and murdered, sparking widespread protests across the country.

During a prior hearing, the CJ-led Bench directed hospitals and medical colleges nationwide not to penalize doctors and medical professionals who had participated in protests over the case but had returned to their duties after the Supreme Court's appeal. Senior Advocate Karuna Nundi represented the victim's parents, while Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta appeared on behalf of the CBI.

In February 2025, a special court in Kolkata ordered the CBI to submit a progress report on the case by February 24. The CBI had taken over the investigation following a directive from the Calcutta High Court.



Centre has accorded approval for Chandrayaan-5 Mission: ISRO chief ISRO to Launch 250 kg Rover to Study the Moon

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

The Centre has granted approval for the ambitious Chandrayaan-5 mission, aimed at studying the lunar surface, ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan announced on Sunday. Speaking at an event to felicitate his appointment as the new head of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Narayanan highlighted the significance of the mission, which will carry a 250 kg rover, a substantial upgrade from the 25-kg rover 'Prayagyaan' aboard Chandrayaan-3.

The Chandrayaan-5 mission, a key part of ISRO's lunar exploration program, will focus on detailed surface studies of the moon. Narayanan noted that this mission would be a step forward in ISRO's lunar exploration capabilities, following the success of the previous Chandrayaan missions. Chandrayaan-1, launched in 2008, provided crucial data on the moon's chemical, mineralogical, and photo-geological characteristics. Despite a partial setback during the Chandrayaan-2 mission in 2019, which was 98% successful, the high-resolution camera on the spacecraft continues to send valuable images from the lunar surface.

Narayanan also spoke about the recent success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, which achieved a significant milestone with the Vikram lander performing a soft landing on the moon's South Pole on August 23, 2023.



India, New Zealand resume FTA talks, bilateral meet held

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

India and New Zealand have officially resumed negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement (FTA), marking a significant step towards strengthening economic ties after a nearly decade-long pause. The two countries began discussions on the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) in April 2010, aimed at boosting trade in goods, services, and investment. However, after nine rounds of talks, negotiations stalled in 2015.

The announcement of the resumption of talks came after Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met with New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Investment, Todd McClay, during a high-level visit by New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon to India. The two leaders agreed to pursue a comprehensive and mutually beneficial FTA that seeks to enhance supply chain integration, improve market access, and unlock new business opportunities for both countries.

Bilateral trade between India and New Zealand has been steadily growing, surpassing \$1 billion during April-January 2025. However, a report by the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) suggests that the proposed FTA may offer limited benefits to Indian companies, as many already enjoy duty-free access to a significant portion of goods in the New Zealand market. The report notes that New Zealand's average import tariff is just 2.3%, compared to India's 17.8%. Despite this, the FTA negotiations aim to further enhance trade relations and unlock new opportunities for businesses and consumers. India's exports to New Zealand include clothing, textiles, refined petroleum, agricultural machinery, and basmati rice.



Trump Attempts to Void Biden's Pardons, Raising Legal and Political Controversies

TPN Correspondent | Washington

U.S. President Donald Trump has moved to annul several of his predecessor Joe Biden's pardons, marking the latest in a series of actions to challenge political opponents. Among the pardons Trump declared void were those granted to Members of the U.S. House of Representatives investigating the January 6, 2020, Capitol attack, as well as prominent figures such as Dr. Anthony Fauci, who headed the Biden Administration's COVID-19 response, and former Joint Chiefs Chairman Mark Milley.

Trump's statement on his 'Truth Social' media platform claimed that these pardons, signed by Biden just before he left office on January 20, were invalid because they were allegedly signed using an autopen. "The 'Pardons' that Sleepy Joe Biden gave to the Unselect Committee of Political Thugs... are hereby declared VOID, VACANT, AND OF NO FURTHER FORCE OR EFFECT," Trump wrote early Monday morning.

The January 6 Select Committee, which Trump criticized, included several high-profile figures, such as Republicans Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger, and Democrat Adam Schiff, all vocal critics of Trump. On his first day in office, Trump had pardoned over 1,500 individuals involved in the Capitol attack, further emphasizing his controversial use of pardons.

Trump also claimed—without evidence—that Biden might not have been aware of the pardons and suggested that members of the Select Committee might have signed them on his behalf. He asserted that these individuals, who he accused of destroying evidence during their investigation, should be prepared for high-level scrutiny.

While Trump's attempt to nullify these pardons raises significant questions about executive power, he acknowledged that it would ultimately be up to the courts to decide if the rescinding of presidential pardons is legally valid. Presidential pardoning power, granted by Article II Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, is broad but has historically been used to protect allies and family members. Despite these powers, the courts have largely refrained from limiting presidential pardons, leaving their scope open to interpretation.



Ukraine Appoints Major General Andrii Hnatov as New Chief of General Staff

TPN Correspondent | Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has appointed Major General Andrii Hnatov as the new Chief of the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, replacing Lieutenant General Anatolii Barhylevych. The decision, announced through decrees published on the presidential website, did not specify the reasons behind the leadership change.

Defense Minister Rustem Umerov confirmed the reshuffle, emphasizing that the move was aimed at improving the combat effectiveness of the armed forces. Umerov noted that the promotion of Hnatov, which he recommended, is part of Ukraine's broader efforts to transform its military. Hnatov brings over 27 years of military experience to the position, having previously commanded various units, including a marine brigade, Operational Command East, and the Joint Forces of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

As part of the restructuring, Barhylevych has been appointed chief inspector of the Ministry of Defence. His new role will focus on ensuring compliance with military standards and reinforcing discipline within the Ukrainian military. Barhylevych had served as Chief of the General Staff since February 2024.

Competition is fine, not conflict: PM Modi on China

- PM Modi Emphasizes India-China Cooperation
- Criticizes Pakistan's Role in Global Terrorism

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated on Sunday that cooperation between India and China benefits not only the two nations but also the global community. Speaking to Lex Fridman in a podcast, he highlighted the progress made in normalizing the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and noted that both countries are working toward restoring the pre-2020 status along the border, although the process might take time.

Modi emphasized that India-China cooperation is crucial for global stability and prosperity, stating, "The 21st century is the Asian century. Competition is natural, but there should not be conflict." Reflecting on the historical ties between India and China, Modi pointed out that the two countries, both ancient civilizations, have learned from each other throughout history. He noted that they once contributed to half of the world's GDP and had little history of conflict.

Looking ahead, Modi expressed India's desire to maintain strong ties with China. "Differences between neighbors are natural, and occasional disagreements are also natural. Our aim is to ensure that these differences



do not escalate into disputes. We prioritize dialogue over discord," he said. Modi acknowledged that the 2020 border standoff had strained relations, but emphasized that efforts are underway to rebuild trust.

On relations with Pakistan, Modi reflected on his previous attempts to foster peace, including his invitation to Pakistan at his 2014 swearing-in ceremony. He said, "The biggest breakthrough was inviting Pakistan, but the results were disappointing." Modi criticized Pakistan for continuing to pursue conflict

instead of peace and harmony, despite the heavy emotional toll of the Partition on India. He pointed to Pakistan's role in global terrorism, particularly its involvement in the 9/11 attacks, as a source of global instability.

Modi urged Pakistan to abandon its policy of state-sponsored terrorism, stating that such actions were harming both India and the world. He expressed hope that Pakistan would eventually choose peace and that its people, too, were frustrated with the ongoing cycle of violence.

NASA announces Sunita Williams, Butch Wilmore's return date to earth



TPN Correspondent | Cape Canaveral

NASA has confirmed the return date for astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, who have spent an extended mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS). The pair, along with fellow astronauts Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, will return to Earth in mid-March aboard a SpaceX capsule.

Williams and Wilmore were originally scheduled for a brief mission lasting about a week when they launched in June 2024 aboard Boeing's first astronaut flight. However, due to several issues with the Boeing Starliner capsule, which delayed their scheduled return, they ended up spending nearly nine months in space. The capsule had encountered multiple technical problems, forcing NASA to leave

their mission crew behind until a SpaceX capsule could transport their replacements.

On Sunday, a new SpaceX crew capsule arrived at the ISS, delivering replacements for Williams and Wilmore. The four astronauts, hailing from the US, Japan, and Russia, will spend a few days aboard the station, learning about its operations from the experienced crew members before the pair return to Earth. This marks the end of their unexpected extended stay.

In a lighthearted moment, one of the Russian astronauts, Ivan Vagner, wore an alien mask as the new crew arrived. Wilmore greeted them with enthusiasm, ringing the space station's bell as the new crew members entered. Williams shared her excitement with Mission Control, saying, "It was a wonderful day. Great to see our friends arrive."

The planned return is set for mid-March. After some additional delays, including extensive repairs to their replacement capsule's batteries, Williams, Wilmore, and their fellow astronauts will undock from the ISS on Tuesday morning and splash down off Florida's coast later that evening. Weather permitting, their return will conclude an extended and challenging mission aboard the space station, with 11 astronauts currently aboard the orbiting laboratory.

"Lack Of Trust": Israel's Netanyahu Seeks To Fire Internal Security Agency Chief

TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Sunday, March 17, 2025, that he intends to seek the dismissal of Ronen Bar, the head of Israel's internal security agency, Shin Bet. Netanyahu's decision follows weeks of public disputes between the two, especially after the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, which triggered the ongoing war in Gaza. Netanyahu criticized Bar's leadership and accused him of failing to prevent the attack, which resulted in over 1,200 Israeli deaths.

In a video statement, Netanyahu explained that the lack of trust between him and Bar had led to the decision, stating that the Shin Bet's leadership needed to be restored in order to meet Israel's war objectives and prevent further disaster. He claimed that Bar's actions, including alleged media leaks, had obstructed necessary reforms within the agency.

However, Bar has rejected the notion that his dismissal is tied to the failures surrounding the October attack. He argued that Netanya-



hu's motive is political, suggesting the prime minister expects "personal loyalty" that contradicts Shin Bet's ethical standards. Bar emphasized that an in-depth investigation into the broader causes of the attack, including government policies, is crucial.

The proposed dismissal has sparked controversy. Israel's attorney general, Gali Baharav

Miara, called Netanyahu's move "unprecedented" and questioned its legality, stating that the decision should be fully reviewed before any action is taken. The political opposition, led by former Prime Minister Yair Lapid, has vowed to challenge the decision in the Supreme Court, claiming it is an attempt to derail a criminal investigation into Netanyahu's office.

Stock Markets Start the Week on a Strong Note



Domestic stock markets surged on Monday, closing at their highest levels amid positive cues from Asian and international markets. Investor sentiment was lifted as all major Asian indices opened with gains, and quality stocks were available at attractive prices. The BSE Sensex gained 341 points, closing at 74,169, after touching an intraday high of 74,376. The NSE Nifty rose 111 points to settle at 22,508, with the Nifty Bank advancing 293 points to 48,354.

Among Nifty50 stocks, Dr. Reddy's, Bajaj Finserv, SBI Life, Trent, and Axis Bank led the gainers, while Wipro, Britannia, BPCL, Hero Moto, and ITC were the biggest losers. Pharma, healthcare, finance, and auto stocks saw strong demand, while FMCG, PSU banks, and oil & gas stocks faced selling pressure. Market breadth favored sellers, with 1,134 stocks gaining and 1,781 losing on the NSE. A total of 29 shares hit 52-week highs, while 433 shares reached 52-week lows.

In corporate updates, NMDC declared a ₹2.50 per share dividend for FY25, while Tata Motors and Maruti Suzuki announced price hikes of 2% and up to 4%, respectively. Airtel received a buy rating from Macquarie at a ₹1,800 target price, and HSBC upgraded Tata Motors to a buy. Hudco shares surged after sanctioning a ₹10,000 crore loan for Amara-vati construction.



Voltas Ltd

Voltas saw strong demand in the air conditioning and cooling segment due to rising temperatures and increased sales of commercial refrigeration products. The company has a ₹500 crore expansion plan to boost its production capacity for cooling appliances. Jefferies has retained a 'Buy' rating with a target price of ₹1,620, citing growth potential in the consumer durables sector.

Coromandel International Ltd

Coromandel is expanding its specialty fertilizer business to cater to increasing demand in the agri-tech sector. The company reported a 12% YoY growth in revenue, supported



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by stable raw material costs and rising domestic demand. HSBC has maintained a 'Buy' rating with a target price of ₹2,250, emphasizing growth in agri-inputs.

Bharat Forge Ltd

Bharat Forge has secured a ₹900 crore defense order for artillery components and armored vehicle parts. The company is expanding its EV components business to capitalize on growing demand in the electric mobility sector. Analysts remain bullish, with Motilal Oswal giving a 'Buy' rating and a target price of ₹1,350.

HUDCO

HUDCO (Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd) announced fresh loan approvals worth ₹3,000 crore for affordable housing projects. The government's focus on infrastructure and urban development is expected to boost HUDCO's loan disbursement pipeline. ICICI Securities upgraded the stock to 'Buy' with a target price of ₹260.

Coal India Ltd

Coal India's production increased by 8% YoY, driven by higher demand from the power and industrial sectors. The company declared a third interim dividend of ₹5 per share, benefiting long-term investors. strong fundamentals and steady production growth.



India's Wholesale Inflation Rises to 2.38% in February, Food Prices Ease



India's wholesale inflation, based on the wholesale price index (WPI), rose to 2.38% in February, slightly up from 2.31% in January, according to provisional data released by the Union Ministry of Commerce on Monday. The increase in inflation was driven by a slower pace of decline in fuel and power prices and a rise in the prices of manufactured products.

The WPI inflation in February was marginally higher than the 2.36% predicted by economists in a Reuters poll.

Food Prices Show Moderate Increase Food prices, a major contributor to the overall inflation, increased by 5.94% annually in February, although this was a decrease compared to December's 8.85% and January's 7.47% rise. Within the food category,

cereal prices rose by 6.77% in February, a slight decline from January's 7.33%. Meanwhile, vegetable prices fell by 5.80%, following an 8.35% surge in January. However, the prices of onions and fruits continued to rise.

Despite the softer rise in food prices, they have remained elevated for over a year, largely due to uneven monsoon rains between November 2023 and June 2024.

Sonal Badhan, economist at the Bank of Baroda, noted that food inflation softened, helped by a broad-based slowdown. "The vegetable inflation index eased the most, followed by food grain inflation and inflation for protein-based items like milk, eggs, meat, and fish," she explained.

Manufactured Products and

Fuel Prices Manufactured product prices, which account for about 64% of the WPI, rose by 2.86% year-on-year in February, up from 2.51% in January. The prices of fuel and power fell by 0.71%, a smaller decline compared to January's 2.57% drop.

Rahul Agrawal, senior economist at ICRA Ltd., said that the overall uptick in wholesale inflation was primarily driven by non-food items. He added that the cooling in food inflation was offset by the narrowing deflation in fuel and power and an increase in core WPI inflation, which reached a 24-month high of 1.3%.

Looking ahead, experts predict volatility in commodity prices due to factors like the trade war and uncertainty surrounding US Federal Reserve rate cuts.

Swiggy Shares Rise 2% as Instamart Expands to 100 Cities in India



Swiggy's shares gained nearly 2% in intraday trade on Monday, March 17, reaching ₹359.30 apiece, following the announcement of a significant milestone for its Quick Commerce platform, Instamart. The platform, which was launched in August 2020, has now expanded to 100 cities across India, responding to the growing demand for fast 10-minute deliveries, especially in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.

In its filing to the exchanges, Swiggy revealed that it had introduced Instamart to 32 new cities this month alone, includ-

ing Raipur, Siliguri, Jodhpur, and Thanjavur. This expansion brings the convenience of rapid deliveries to millions of customers, who now have access to over 30,000 products, ranging from groceries and daily essentials to electronics, fashion, makeup, and toys, all delivered within 10 minutes.

Amitesh Jha, CEO of Swiggy Instamart, spoke about the milestone, noting that the platform has gained significant traction not only in metro cities but also in smaller towns. He emphasized that the demand for quick

commerce has grown substantially beyond Indian metros, highlighting the importance of their expansion to underserved areas.

In 2025, Swiggy reported that one in four new users came from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, demonstrating the increasing demand for quick commerce in these regions. The company remains committed to offering convenience, variety, and value to a broader customer base while empowering local ecosystems by supporting dark store staff and delivery partners.

Despite a 43% drop in Swiggy's share price from its peak, analysts remain optimistic about the long-term potential of the quick commerce space. They view the recent correction as an opportunity, with some brokerages offering positive outlooks. JM Financial has set a "buy" rating with a target price of ₹500, suggesting a 34.6% upside. ICICI Securities also maintains a "buy" call with a target price of ₹740 per share.

Tata Motors to Hike Prices of Commercial Vehicles by Up to 2% from April



Tata Motors announced on Monday, March 17, 2025, that it will increase the prices of its commercial vehicle range by up to 2% starting April 1, 2025. The price hike is aimed at partially offsetting the rising input costs the company has been facing.

In a regulatory filing, Tata Motors stated that the price increase will vary depending on the individual model and variant. The company noted that the move was necessary to address

the rising costs of materials and other inputs that are impacting the commercial vehicle segment.

Tata Motors, a part of the \$165 billion Tata Group, is a major player in the automobile industry, manufacturing cars, utility vehicles, trucks, and buses. With a market capitalization of \$44 billion, it has a significant footprint in both the passenger and commercial vehicle markets.

This price increase is expected to affect the company's range of commercial vehicles, which includes trucks and buses that are used for various industrial and transportation purposes. The decision comes in the wake of increasing raw material costs, including steel and other components, which have impacted the cost structure for automobile manufacturers worldwide.

Despite the price hike, shares of Tata

Motors closed 0.84% higher on Monday, trading at ₹660.90 per share on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). The rise in stock prices indicates investor confidence, despite the increase in operational costs.

Tata Motors' decision is in line with broader industry trends, where automakers are passing on a portion of the rising costs to customers through price adjustments. As input costs continue to rise globally, especially for

critical materials used in vehicle production, companies like Tata Motors are increasingly under pressure to balance profitability with consumer affordability.

As the industry adapts to these market conditions, the price increase is expected to impact both businesses and consumers, particularly in the commercial vehicle segment.

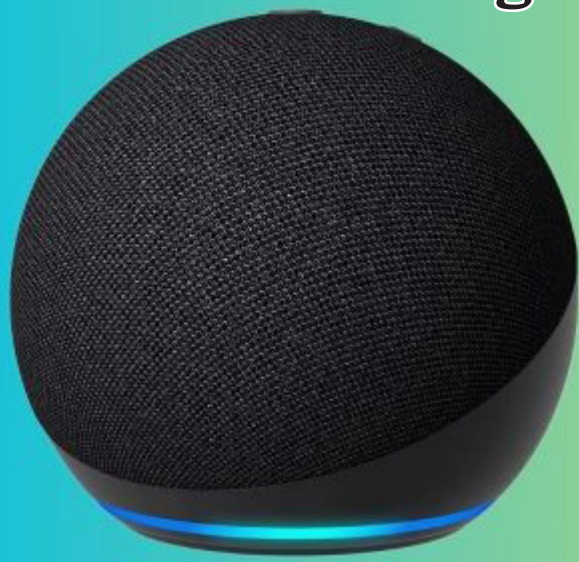
iPhone 17 Air Was Supposed to Be Port-Free, But Apple Scrapped the Idea: Mark Gurman



The iPhone 17 series has been a topic of extensive speculation, with rumors suggesting the lineup will include the iPhone 17, iPhone 17 Air (or iPhone 17 Slim), iPhone 17 Pro, and iPhone 17 Pro Max, with an expected launch in the second quarter of this year. Among these, the iPhone 17 Air was slated to be Apple's thinnest iPhone yet, potentially replacing the Plus variant in the lineup. Bloomberg's Mark Gurman has revealed new details about the iPhone 17 Air, including an ambitious plan that Apple initially considered. According to Gurman's weekly Power On newsletter, Apple originally planned to make the iPhone 17 Air "Apple's first completely port-free iPhone." The device would have relied on wireless charging and cloud-based data syncing, eliminating the traditional charging ports altogether. This move was intended to pave the way for even slimmer models in the future, with a sleek, minimalist design that further pushed the limits of device thinness. However, Apple reportedly scrapped this plan to avoid po-

tential regulatory issues, particularly from the European Union (EU), which has recently mandated that tech companies like Apple adopt the USB Type-C charging standard. Apple's decision was likely influenced by the need to comply with the EU's regulations and maintain its broad consumer appeal. The iPhone 17 Air's thin design would have required a thinner battery, which could have compromised battery life. To avoid this, Apple instructed engineers to redesign key components, including the display and silicon, to optimize efficiency while maintaining performance. Expected Specifications: The iPhone 17 Air is expected to feature a 9.5mm thick profile, including the 4mm camera bump. It may offer a 6.6-inch OLED display with a 120Hz ProMotion refresh rate and Dynamic Island. The device could house a 24MP front camera, a 48MP rear camera, and be made with a titanium frame. It may also include Apple's first 5G modem and Wi-Fi chip. Rumored pricing is between \$1,299 and \$1,500.

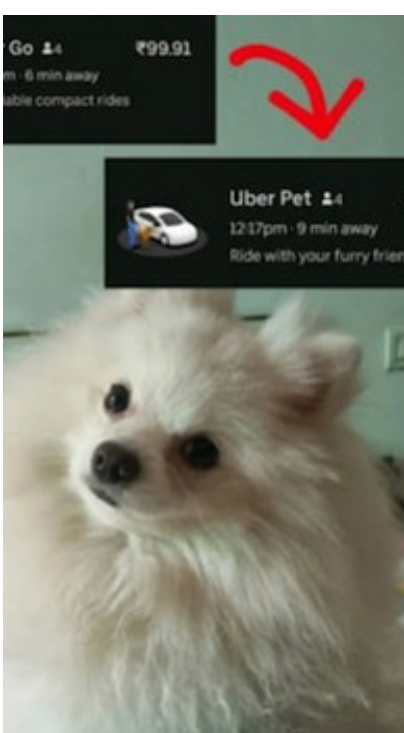
Amazon Echo Users Will No Longer Have Option to Process Alexa Voice Recordings On-Device



Amazon has announced that starting March 28, Echo users will no longer have the option to process their voice commands and recordings locally on their devices. Instead, all Alexa voice recordings will be sent to Amazon's cloud for processing, as the company expands Alexa's capabilities with generative AI features. This change affects all Echo devices such as smart speakers and displays. In an email to users who had previously enabled the 'Do Not Send Voice Recordings' option, Amazon explained that on-device processing is being discontinued to enable the new AI-driven features that require the processing power of Amazon's secure cloud. The company emphasized that Alexa voice requests will remain encrypted during transmission to the cloud, where they are processed under security protections. Although voice recordings will still be deleted automatically after processing, the new policy raises privacy concerns. Many users may be uncomfortable with Amazon having access to their voice data, especially in the context of

in-home devices that can listen continuously. Amazon assures users that privacy controls will still be available through the Alexa Privacy dashboard, where they can manage how their data is handled, including the option to prevent their voice recordings from being stored at all. Amazon also announced the upcoming launch of Alexa+, a subscription-based, generative AI version of Alexa, which will include advanced features like Alexa Voice ID. This feature will allow Alexa to recognize individual users based on their voice, and share personalized content like calendar events and music. However, Amazon clarified that Voice ID may not function if users choose not to save voice recordings. This shift in policy is part of Amazon's ongoing push to enhance Alexa's AI capabilities but raises concerns about privacy, particularly in light of past controversies surrounding the handling of user data. Notably, Amazon has faced scrutiny over allowing employees to listen to Alexa voice recordings for training purposes and other privacy violations related to its Ring doorbell cameras.

Gurugram Woman Calls Out Uber Pets For Overpricing



A Gurugram woman has raised concerns over the steep pricing of Uber's new service, Uber Pets, which allows passengers to travel with their pets. In a LinkedIn post, she highlighted the significant price difference between regular Uber rides and Uber Pets. For a short 2 km ride, the regular Uber fare was ₹100, while Uber Pets cost a staggering ₹530, over five times the price of a regular ride. The woman questioned whether the price hike was justified, speculating that it could account for cleaning fees, premium drivers, or simply be an added charge for pet owners. She pointed out that her local auto-rickshaw charges just ₹60 for a similar ride and even

offers belly rubs for her dog, making the Uber Pets pricing seem excessive. In her post, she expressed her surprise at the service's pricing, asking, "If the goal was accessibility, why is this service a luxury?" She further criticized the fact that many pet owners might struggle with these higher costs, especially when pets are considered family members. While some commenters suggested booking a regular Uber and informing the driver about the pet, others speculated that Uber might be capitalizing on the growing trend of pet ownership in India. One user pointed out that Uber may be trying to monetize this shift in consumer preferences.



Forget 2 Minutes, This Eatery Serves Noodles in Just 48 Seconds!

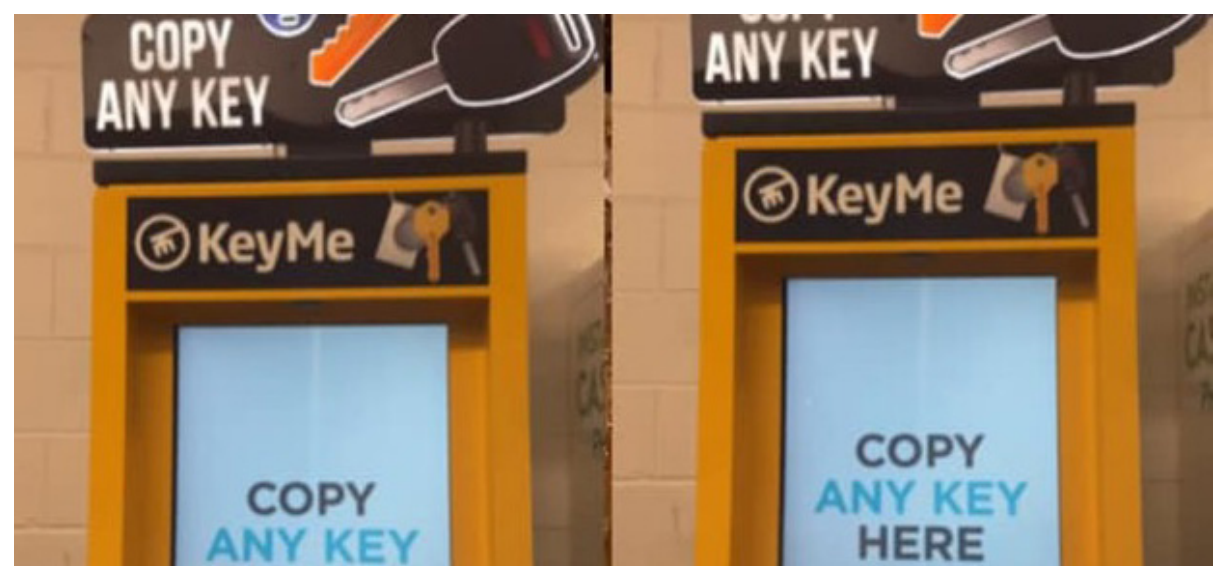
In the bustling city of Shenzhen, China, a new eatery is turning heads with its incredible speed of service, offering freshly cooked noodles in just 48 seconds. The Future Noodle Restaurant, a small but highly efficient establishment, has taken fast food to a whole new level. While most noodle dishes take at least two minutes to prepare, this restaurant uses a robotic system to make noodles from scratch in record time. The process is nothing short of fascinating. A robotic arm mixes flour and water, shaping the dough into perfect noodles in just eight seconds. The noodles are then plunged into hot water, where they cook with various ingredients like marinated eggs and grilled sausages for 40 seconds. The result is a hot, fresh, and delicious bowl of noodles, served in under a minute. The restaurant, which spans only eight square

meters, uses a self-service kiosk for ordering. Customers can choose from ten different noodle varieties, paired with sides such as marinated eggs and grilled sausages. The price of a meal ranges from 6 to 20 yuan (roughly Rs 122 to Rs 250), making it an affordable and quick dining option. A transparent window allows customers to observe the robotic cooking process, which has garnered praise for its speed, efficiency, and, most importantly, the flavor of the final product. With its cutting-edge technology and quick turnaround time, Future Noodle Restaurant is setting a new standard for fast food, proving that great meals don't need to take long to prepare. This innovative concept is a glimpse into the future of dining, where automation and robotics combine to deliver convenience and quality in record time.

US Vending Machine Goes Viral for Duplicating Keys in Minutes

A viral video is captivating social media users, showcasing a unique vending machine in the US that can duplicate keys within minutes. Shared by Tanvir Shaikh on Instagram, the video demonstrates an alternative to the traditional and often time-consuming process of visiting a locksmith. In the video, Tanvir walks up to a vending machine resembling an ATM and taps the screen to begin the key duplication process. The machine offers several options, including standard keys, vehicle keys, access cards, and key fobs. Tanvir selects the standard option for a basic key copy, inserts his original key into a scanning slot, and chooses his preferred key

type—brass in this case. After selecting the number of copies—two in this case—he proceeds to the payment section. Within minutes, the machine dispenses three keys instead of two, surprising Tanvir with a free extra key. This fast, automated process has drawn attention for its convenience and efficiency compared to traditional locksmith services, where customers often face longer waiting times. Tanvir's Instagram reel has sparked interest, highlighting how technology is transforming everyday services like key duplication, making it quicker, easier, and more accessible.



PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen Aim for Strong Show at Swiss Open



Star shuttlers PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will look to regain their top form at the USD 250,000 Swiss Open in Basel, which begins on Tuesday. Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist and 2022 champion, is seeded seventh and will face Malvika Bansod in a clash between two generations of Indian women's singles players. Lakshya Sen will meet HS Prannoy, the 2016 Swiss Open winner, in his opening match. Sindhu is recovering from a hamstring

injury and suffered an early exit at the All England Championship, while Malvika gained confidence with a win in Birmingham. Lakshya reached the quarterfinals at All England, while Prannoy faced early exits. Indian shuttlers have a strong record at the Swiss Open, with past champions including Sindhu, Prannoy, and Saina Nehwal. The tournament will feature several other Indian players aiming for success in singles and doubles events.

Hockey India Names 36-Member Core Probable Group for Senior Men's National Camp

Hockey India has named a 36-member core probable group for the senior men's national coaching camp at SAI Bengaluru, which started on Monday and will run until March 28. The group includes goalkeepers Krishan Bahadur Pathak, Pawan, Suraj Karkera, and Mohith Honnena-halli Shashikumar, alongside defenders like Jarmanpreet Singh, Amit Rohidas, Varun Kumar, and Yashdeep Siwach. Midfielders such as Rajkumar Pal, Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, and Vivek Sagar Prasad, along with forwards including Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, and Gurjant Singh, have also been called up.



Following a successful start to their FIH Hockey Pro League campaign, where they won five of eight home matches, the team will focus on fitness, conditioning, and evaluating

their recent performances. Chief Coach Craig Fulton emphasized preparing for upcoming Pro League matches in Europe and assessing new talent during the camp.

Panchal's 145 Guides Super Strikers to Elite Cricket Tournament Title

Super Strikers dominated the inaugural Elite Cricket Tournament, defeating Dynamic Daredevils by six wickets in the final on Sunday. Panchal was the hero of the match, blasting an astonishing 145 runs off just 34 balls, earning the 'Player of the Match' award. Dynamic Daredevils posted 200/6 in their 20 overs, with Sushant Singh scoring 83, Ansh contributing 31, and Amaan Alvi adding 43. However, Super Strikers made light work of the target, chasing down 201 in just 9.3 overs. Despite a shaky start at 15/2, Panchal's explosive innings, featuring 5 boundaries and 20 sixes, turned the match around. Jas-si's quick 26 off six balls helped seal the victory.



The tournament offered young cricketers a platform to compete along-

side experienced professionals, showcasing emerging talent and pro-

viding valuable exposure to high-level competi-tion.

National Women's Hockey League 2024-25 Final Phase to Begin on March 18

The final phase of the inaugural National Women's Hockey League 2024-25 will kick off on March 18 at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh AstroTurf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi, Jharkhand. The U-21 Women's tournament will feature eight of India's top state teams: Hockey Haryana, Hockey Maharashtra, Hockey Jharkhand, Hockey Madhya Pradesh, Hockey Bengal, Hockey Mizoram, Manipur Hockey, and Hockey Association of Odisha. The teams will compete in a round-robin format from March 18 to 28, with each team facing the others once. Three points will be awarded for a win, one point for a draw, and no points for a loss. The team with the most points at the end of the league will be crowned champions. The opening match will see Hockey Haryana face Manipur Hockey at 7:00 AM IST.



The tournament will showcase young talent and provide valuable exposure for rising players in domestic hockey.

Mirra Andreeva Shocks Aryna Sabalenka to Win Indian Wells Title

Russian 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva stunned world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka with a 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 victory to claim her second WTA 1000 title at Indian Wells. This win follows Andreeva's historic triumph in Dubai, where she became the youngest player to win a 1000-level title. After a challenging start, Andreeva broke Sabalenka three times in the third set, showing resilience and determination. She will rise to a career-high world No. 6 following this victory. Reflecting on the match, Andreeva said, "I was running like a rabbit today," crediting her ability to fight to the end. Sabalenka, who had been in dominant form leading into the final, expressed



frustration with her performance, admitting to unforced errors and emotional struggles. This marks Andreeva's first

hard court victory over Sabalenka, after losses to the Belarusian earlier this year at the Australian Open and Brisbane.

Avani Prashanth Shoots 65, Finishes Tied-13th at Australian Women's Classic

Avani Prashanth shot an impressive 5-under 65 in the final round of the Australian Women's Classic, securing a solid top-15 finish in her first season on the Ladies European Tour. With earlier rounds of 72-70, she finished at 3-under 207, six shots behind winner Manon De Roey, who claimed her third LET victory. Starting on the tenth, Avani birdied five holes in a row before a couple of dropped shots. However, she regained momentum, adding a birdie on the seventh. Avani was pleased with her performance, especially after overcoming challenges with reading the greens earlier in the tournament. Pranavi Urs, the only other Indian to make the cut, finished tied-65th. Manon De Roey's victory moved her to second in the 2025 Order of Merit, while the LET heads to Wollongong for the WPGA Tour next.





Kangana Ranaut Confident 'Emergency' Will Win National Award



Kangana Ranaut, actor and director of the historical drama *Emergency*, has rejected suggestions that the film should compete for an Oscar. The movie, based on the 1975 Emergency imposed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has been trending on Netflix, sparking polarized reactions. While some fans have suggested it should be considered for the Oscars, Ranaut has made it clear that she isn't seeking international recognition. Reposting a fan's praise on social media, Ranaut remarked, "America wouldn't like to acknowledge its real face... they can keep their silly Oscar, we have National Awards." Expressing confidence in her film's success, she emphasized her belief that *Emergency* would win a National Award, highlighting her pride in the Indian award system over foreign accolades.

Anushka Sharma Shares Cryptic Post After Virat Kohli Slams BCCI's Family Rule

Anushka Sharma recently posted a cryptic message on Instagram about the multiple versions of ourselves that exist in others' perceptions. Reflecting on how different people see us in varying ways, she shared, "A different version of you exists in the minds of everyone who knows you," emphasizing that our core identity remains elusive even to ourselves. This introspective post came



shortly after her husband, cricketer Virat Kohli, criticized the Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI) over their new restrictions on family time during international tours. Virat voiced his frustration at the lack of understanding about the mental well-being families provide to players. Anushka and Virat, who married in 2017, are parents to two children, Vamika and Akaay. Anushka's upcoming project is the biopic *Chakda Xpress* on cricketer Jhulan Goswami.

Shah Rukh Khan's Upcoming Movie in South: Collaboration with Sukumar

Shah Rukh Khan, fresh off the success of *Jawan*, is reportedly in talks with acclaimed South director Sukumar for an intense, rural-set political action drama. This collaboration is generating major buzz as it might mark a departure for SRK, who is expected to play an anti-hero, a significant shift from his usual roles. The film is rumored to explore caste and class struggles, with Sukumar's signature raw storytelling style. Adding to the excitement, the movie is believed to be linked to Sukumar's *Pushpa* universe, a franchise known for its



high-impact, mass-appealing moments. However, the film's production might take time, as both Shah Rukh Khan and Sukumar are currently busy with other commitments. Sukumar is working on a project with Ram Charan, while SRK is preparing for *Pathaan 2* and *King*.

Shruti Haasan's De-Glam Look Stuns Fans in Coolie BTS Photos

Shruti Haasan's simple and striking look in the behind-the-scenes pictures from *Coolie* has taken the internet by storm. Shared on March 14, the images celebrate the birthday of director Lokesh Kanagaraj. In one photo, Shruti can be seen wearing a modest salwar-kameez with her hair tied in a neat braid, flaunting her natural glow with minimal makeup. Her un-

derstated appearance has garnered attention, showing her effortless beauty and charm. *Coolie*, featuring an ensemble cast including Rajinikanth, Nagarjuna, and others, is expected to release in 2025. The film, produced by Sun Pictures, marks the reunion of Rajinikanth and composer Anirudh Ravichander. Action choreographers Anbu-Arivu



are also part of the project. Fans eagerly await more updates following the film's first-look poster release in March 2024.

Tamannaah Bhatia Aspires to Play Sridevi on Screen



revealing her desire to portray her on screen. Speaking at the Blenders Pride Fashion Tour, Tamannaah called Sridevi "super iconic," highlighting her immense influence and versatility.



various genres, from comedy to drama. She remains one of Indian cinema's most celebrated actresses, known for her unforgettable performances in films like *Mr. India*, *Sadma*, *Khuda Gawah*, and *English Vinglish*. Tamannaah, who was last seen in the heist thriller *Sikandar Ka Muqaddar*, will next appear in the Telugu supernatural thriller *Odela 2*. She also expressed her ongoing admiration for Sridevi's legendary career and the wide range of characters she portrayed.

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia recently expressed her admiration for the late legendary actress Sridevi, who passed away in 2018, was renowned for breaking stereotypes and portraying diverse roles across

Malaika Arora Rebukes 16-Year-Old Contestant for "Indecent" Gestures on Hip Hop India Season 2



Malaika Arora, a judge on *Hip Hop India Season 2*, schooled a 16-year-old contestant for making suggestive gestures during his performance. In a now-viral video, Malaika can be heard reprimanding the teenager, saying, "Mummy ka phone number do!" (Give me your mother's phone number!), expressing disbelief at his behavior. She pointed out his inappropriate actions, including winking and sending flying kisses.

Other contestants also voiced their objections to the participant's conduct. Malaika, known for her straightforward nature, emphasized the importance of respectful behavior, especially considering the contestant's young age. On the work front, Malaika recently appeared in the Marathi film *Yek Number* and continues to judge popular reality shows like *India's Got Talent* and *India's Best Dancer*.

Taapsee Pannu Wraps Up Shooting for Gandhari

Taapsee Pannu has officially wrapped up the shoot for her upcoming film *Gandhari*, an intense revenge action thriller. Sharing a series of pictures from the set, she reflected on the challenging experience, describing it as running on "fuel of grit and determination" and experiencing a "burnout like never before." The film's title, inspired by the character from the *Mahabharata*, follows a mother's emotional and powerful journey to rescue her kidnapped child. In her post, Taapsee expressed immense satisfaction with the project, saying, "Some bruises give a feeling of contentment like never before." *Gandhari* is directed by Devashish Makhija and marks

her sixth collaboration with writer-producer Kanika Dhillon. The film promises to be a powerful tale of revenge and redemption.

