



Parents Sudiksha Konamki Urge Authorities to Declare Her Dead



The parents of Sudiksha Konamki, a missing American student, have appealed to authorities to declare their daughter dead, fearing she drowned near the RIU Republica resort in the Dominican Republic. Sudiksha went missing on March 6, and the last known person to see her was Joshua Reebe, who spotted her in the surf at 4:50 a.m. on the hotel's beachfront. The strong waves in the area have raised concerns about beach safety, and her family now believes she may have been swept away. The Telugu community in the U.S. has been deeply shaken by this tragedy, expressing their grief and solidarity with the family.

“7Lack Crore Investment In Last 10Months”



- Minister Nara Lokesh inaugurates Ashok Leyland plant in Mallavalli
- 600 jobs in the first phase, 1,200 in the second phase
- AP government committed to industrial expansion and employment generation

TPN Correspondent | Mallavalli

Andhra Pradesh Industries and IT Minister Nara Lokesh inaugurated the new Ashok Leyland manufacturing facility at Mallavalli Industrial Estate, Bapulapadu Mandal, Krishna District, on Wednesday. The plant, spread over 75 acres, is set to create 600 jobs in its first phase and expand to 1,200 jobs in the second phase, strengthening the state's industrial ecosystem. Addressing the gathering, Minister Nara Lokesh emphasized the government's commitment to making Andhra Pradesh a leading manufacturing hub. “The inauguration of this Ashok Leyland facility marks a major milestone in our vision for industrial growth. This plant will not only provide employment to hundreds of people but also contribute to the overall economic development of the state,” he stated. Lokesh highlighted the government's focus on ease of doing business, infrastructure development, and investment-friendly policies. “Andhra Pradesh is attracting major investments due to our proactive governance. We are ensuring world-class infrastructure, seamless connectivity, and a skilled workforce to support industries. Companies like Ashok Leyland will play a crucial role in our goal of making the state an industrial powerhouse,” he added. Ministers TG Bharat, Kollu Ravindra, and Gannavaram MLA Yarlagadda Venkat Rao attended the event, along with top executives from Ashok Leyland. Minister Lokesh inspected the newly manufactured bus models and planted saplings within the plant premises, emphasizing the importance of sustainable industrial growth.

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AP Govt and Gates Foundation Sign Key Agreement

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

The Andhra Pradesh government has entered into a key partnership with the Gates Foundation to leverage advanced technology for public welfare. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu met Gates Foundation Chairman Bill Gates in Delhi on Wednesday, where they held in-depth discussions on various areas of collaboration. On this occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the two sides. The agreement aims to introduce cost-effective and scalable solutions in crucial sectors such as healthcare, medical technology, education, and agriculture. Under this partnership, the Gates Foundation will support implementation partners identified by the AP government to integrate AI-driven health diagnostics, precision farming, and satellite-based agricultural management. These initiatives are expected to improve governance and enhance services across key sectors. Following the meeting, CM Chan-

- CM Chandrababu's visit to Delhi
- Strategic MoU signed with Gates Foundation
- Focus on AI-driven solutions in health, education, and agriculture

drababu Naidu shared his thoughts, calling it a productive and insightful interaction. He emphasized the transformative impact of the collaboration, stating, “Our partnership with the Gates Foundation will accelerate Andhra Pradesh's progress. By integrating AI in governance, human capital development, health, agriculture, and education, this MoU will serve as a model not only for AP but also for other regions.” Bill Gates lauded Chandrababu Naidu's vision for development through data-driven innovation. “This partnership has immense potential. It will help in providing affordable, locally produced medical devices and diagnostics to benefit

vulnerable communities. AI-driven solutions in health, agriculture, and education can serve as a model for India and beyond,” he remarked. The Chief Minister reaffirmed his commitment to the Swarnandhra Pradesh-2047 vision, stating that the partnership with the Gates Foundation would play a key role in empowering the people of Andhra Pradesh. He expressed his gratitude to Bill Gates for his time, insights, and support in driving the state's development. Key officials from the AP government and representatives of the Gates Foundation participated in the event, marking a significant step toward technology-driven governance.

286-Day Space Mission: Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore return after a record-breaking stay

PAGE: GLOBAL



YCP Leader Gandham Bose Attacked at Midnight Succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment



TPN Correspondent | Polavaram

YSRCP leader Gandham Bose was brutally attacked by unknown assailants while he was sleeping at his house in Thatakula Gudem, Jeelugumilli mandal, under Polavaram constituency on Tuesday midnight. The attack left him seriously injured, and he was immediately rushed to Khammam Hospital for better treatment. However, despite medical efforts, Bose succumbed to his injuries on Wednesday night, leading to outrage among YSRCP members and activists. Former Polavaram MLA Tellam Bala Raju strongly condemned the attack and vowed that those responsible would not be spared, regardless of their influence. He criticized the police investigation,

stating that even after 24 hours, no significant progress had been made in identifying or apprehending the culprits. Bala Raju also expressed suspicion regarding certain alliance leaders, alleging possible involvement in the incident. He further questioned the role of CI K. Venkateswara Rao and SIV Naveen Kumar, who inspected the crime scene but allegedly failed to provide any updates to Bose's family members or party leaders, raising concerns about transparency in the investigation. YSRCP members have demanded immediate action from the authorities to uncover the truth behind the attack and ensure justice for Bose. Further details on the case are awaited as investigations continue.

Marri Rajasekhara Was Set to Join TDP!

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Yuva Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YCP) is facing continuous setbacks as another senior leader has quit. MLC Marri Rajasekhara has announced his resignation from both the party and his legislative post, intensifying the ongoing political crisis within YCP. This marks the fifth resignation of a YCP MLC in recent times. Previously, MLCs Pothula Sunitha, Karri Padmasree, Jayamangala Venkataramana, and Balli Kalyana Chakravarthy had also left the party, highlighting growing dissatisfaction among party leaders. With Rajasekhara's exit, the number of disgruntled YCP MLCs has increased, signaling deeper internal unrest. It is being speculated that Marri Rajasekhara is preparing to join the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). Sources indicate that he has been in discussions regarding his political future, and strong reports suggest that his next move will be towards TDP. His departure from YCP comes at a time when the party is already struggling with internal conflicts and leadership challenges. This wave of resignations could have serious implications for YCP's strength in the Legislative Council. Political analysts believe that if more leaders follow suit, it could significantly impact the party's position in the upcoming elections. As YCP grapples with these setbacks, all eyes are now on Marri Rajasekhara's next political step.





Central Govt Sanctions Funds for Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada Metro Projects

- Central government sanctions funds for metro projects
- Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) to be redesigned
- Consultancy firm Systra MVA selected for the project



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a major boost to urban transport development in Andhra Pradesh, the central government has sanctioned funds for the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) of the Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada Metro Rail projects. This decision comes as part of the Center's renewed support for infrastructure projects in the state after the formation of the coalition government. The deadline for the earlier mobility plan

had lapsed over five years ago, prompting the Central Urban Transport Department to instruct the Andhra Pradesh government to revise the plan. Following these directions, the AP Metro Rail Corporation initiated a fresh tender process to select a consultancy firm for the task. After a competitive selection process, Systra MVA was awarded the contract to design the CMP for both metro projects. The firm will prepare the mobility plan with a budget of ₹84.47 lakh for Visakhapatnam

and ₹81.68 lakh for Vijayawada. The central government has sanctioned the required funds to the AP Metro Rail Corporation for these works. This development is expected to accelerate the progress of metro projects in both cities, significantly improving public transportation and urban mobility. The revised CMP will lay the foundation for the effective implementation of the metro rail networks, ensuring better connectivity and sustainable urban transport solutions.

Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Expresses Gratitude to CM Naidu, Lokesh, and NDA leaders

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Jana Sena Party (JSP) chief Pawan Kalyan expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all those who extended their wishes on the occasion of Jana Sena's 12th Foundation Day, celebrated on March 14 in Chitrada, Pithapuram constituency. The event, organized under the theme 'Jayaketanam,' witnessed massive participation and enthusiastic support. In a statement, Pawan Kalyan thanked Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief and AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Minister Nara Lokesh, BJP state president D. Purandeswari, and other NDA alliance leaders for their support. He also expressed appreciation for his well-wishers, film industry friends, and party activists who contributed to the event's success.

Highlighting Jana Sena's future course, Pawan Kalyan reiterated that the party would continue to grow stronger, act as the voice of the common people, and uphold the state's interests with a sense of national responsibility. He extended special gratitude to every Jana Sena leader, Jana Sainik, and women activists who worked tirelessly, whether visible on stage or behind the scenes. He also acknowledged the efforts of the police department in ensuring smooth event management, thanking DGP Harish Kumar Gupta, Kakina District SP Bindu Madhav, Collector Shanmohan, and other officials for their cooperation. Pawan Kalyan specifically mentioned and thanked Minister and JSP PAC Chair-



man Nadendla Manohar, Minister Kandula Durgesh, MLC Pidugu Hariprasad, Kakina MP Tangella Uday Srinivas, Pithapuram in-charge Marreddy Srinivas, along with various MLAs, MPs, and district leaders. He further appreciated the Program Committee, Doctor Cell team, media personnel, and volunteers who contributed to the event. Special thanks were given to the Cultural Department, Food Committee, Stage Decoration Team, and Sanitation Staff for their efforts in organizing cultural performances and maintaining the venue. Calling for unity and dedication, Pawan Kalyan urged all party members to continue their hard work in strengthening the Jana Sena Party in the coming days.



Helmet Fine Implemented as per Central Guidelines: Home Minister

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Home Minister Anitha clarified that the Rs. 1,000 fine for not wearing helmets is being implemented in accordance with the guidelines issued by the central government and the Supreme Court. She stated that the rule has not yet been enforced across the entire state but is currently being implemented as a pilot project in select areas. Speaking on Wednesday, Minister Anita emphasized that the government's primary objective is to promote road safety rather than impose financial burdens on the public. "We are prioritizing awareness programs to educate people on the importance of wearing helmets. The government is not in favor of penalizing citizens but is focused on reducing road accidents and fatalities," she said. The minister also highlighted that the government has identified accident-prone areas, known as black spots, and has taken steps to enhance security and traffic management in these locations. She assured that efforts are being made to improve road safety through public cooperation and preventive measures.

Farmers Should Sell Paddy to Government, Not Middlemen: Minister Nadendla Manohar



- Minister Nadendla Manohar holds meeting on paddy procurement
- Assures farmers of support price and timely payments
- 5 lakh bags available for procurement in Nellore district

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

State Minister for Civil Supplies, Food, and Consumer Affairs Nadendla Manohar urged farmers to sell their paddy at government procurement centers instead of relying on middlemen. He assured that the government would provide the support price and process payments within 24 hours. The Minister chaired a meeting on Wednesday in the Assembly, attended by Nellore district ministers, MLAs, and officials, to discuss issues related to paddy procurement. Public representatives highlighted that farmers in Nellore had suffered in the past two years due to the

previous government's inaction, forcing them to sell to middlemen at lower rates. Minister Manohar emphasized that 46% of the paddy harvest in Nellore district has already been completed and that procurement is being actively carried out in Sangam and Kovvur areas. He announced that a control room has been set up to monitor procurement, and five lakh bags are available for storage. He directed officials to ensure smooth transportation and instructed revenue staff to be present at every mill. He also advised public representatives to visit procurement centers and address any issues. The Minister assured that payments would be deposited in farmers' accounts within 24 hours and stressed the need to minimize middlemen involvement by engaging with the Rice Millers Association. If required, arrangements would be made to transport farmers to Prakasam, Bapatla, Kandukur, and other areas for procurement. The meeting was attended by Endowment Minister Anam Rama Narayana Reddy, Nellore District In-charge Minister Mohammed Farooq, MLAs Somireddy Chandra Mohana Reddy, Vemireddy Prashanthi, K. Ramakrishna, Krishna Reddy, Nellore District Collector O. Anand, and civil supply officials.

₹31,600 Crore Allocated for Amaravati Construction: Minister Narayana

- Massive funding secured for Amaravati's development
- Loans from World Bank, Asian Bank, HUDCO, and German Bank KFW
- CM directs that no taxpayer money be used for the capital project

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Municipal and Urban Development Minister Ponguru Narayana announced that Rs. 31,600 crores are being allocated for the construction of Amaravati, with all funds being sourced through loans from financial institutions and banks. Speaking on Wednesday, Minister Narayana stated that the World Bank and the Asian Bank are providing Rs. 15,000 crores, while another Rs. 15,000 crores are being secured from HUDCO. Additionally, Rs. 5,000 crores are being borrowed from the German bank KFW. He clarified that these funds would ensure the capital city's infrastructure and urban



planning without burdening state finances. The minister also revealed that the central government has agreed to construct a railway track for Amaravati, while the state government is responsible for land acquisition. He emphasized that Amaravati is being developed as a self-sustaining project, as per Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's directive, ensuring that taxpayer money is not diverted for capital construction. Addressing opposition concerns, Narayana responded to YSRC leader Botsa Satyanarayana's query on whether Rs. 6,000 crore was allocated in the state budget. He clarified that while the funds have been earmarked, they will be reimbursed once financial assistance from the central government and banks is received. The announcement reaffirms the government's commitment to Amaravati's development as a world-class capital while maintaining financial prudence.

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"7Lack Crore Investment In Last 10Months"

Continued from page 1

Ashok Leyland executives expressed their appreciation for the Andhra Pradesh government's support in establishing the facility. They assured that the company would continue investing in skill development and collaborating with the government to generate employment opportunities. With Ashok Leyland being the fourth-largest bus manufacturer in the world and a key subsidiary of the Hinduja Group, this facility is expected to further strengthen Andhra Pradesh's position as a major automobile manufacturing hub.



IT Raids on Crane Vakkapodi Companies in AP and Telangana

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

Income Tax (IT) officials conducted searches on Crane Vakkapodi companies across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, targeting business establishments in Guntur, Vijayawada, and Hyderabad. The raids, which took place on Wednesday, were aimed at uncovering financial irregularities and undisclosed assets. During the inspections, officials seized 40 kg of gold, 100 kg of silver ornaments, and a substantial amount of cash. Sources indicate that IT authorities are investigating possible tax evasion and unaccounted financial transactions within the company. The searches were carried out simultaneously at multiple locations, including company offices and key personnel's residences. IT officials are scrutinizing financial records, business transactions, and asset declarations to determine the extent of undisclosed wealth. The raids have created a stir in business and political circles, with authorities expected to continue their investigation based on the seized materials. Further details regarding the findings and potential legal actions are awaited.



Kadambari Jatwani Meets DGP Over Case Delay

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Kadambari Jatwani met Andhra Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Gupta on Wednesday regarding the delay in the investigation of her case. Concerned about the prolonged inquiry, she approached the DGP at his office in Amaravati to seek updates and clarity. During the meeting, Jatwani expressed her dissatisfaction with the slow progress and urged the authorities to expedite the process. Responding to her concerns, DGP Harish Gupta assured that the necessary details and updates on the case would be provided within the next 15 days. The delay in the investigation has drawn significant attention, leading to growing demands for a resolution. Jatwani's meeting with the DGP has now raised expectations for further action in the coming weeks.



Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu Gives Strong Reply to YCP’s Allegations on Handri Neeva

- Heated debate in Legislative Council over Handri Neeva Canal
- Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu defends lining work, announces increased water flow
- Government allocates ₹3,240 crore for Handri Neeva project

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati
A heated debate took place in the Legislative Council regarding the Handri Neeva canal, with YCP members raising objections over the lining work. YCP MLC Shivarami Reddy argued that lining the canal would prevent groundwater recharge and demanded an increase in water flow to 10,000 cusecs. Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav countered these claims, stating that the YCP

was misleading the House with false narratives. He reminded the Council that Handri Neeva was originally conceptualized by NTR and emphasized the government’s commitment to its development. Responding to the allegations, Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu asserted that CM Chandrababu Naidu has taken concrete steps to double the canal’s water flow by June 2025. He announced that the current capacity of 2,200 cusecs would be increased to

3,850 cusecs, and ₹3,240 crore has been allocated exclusively for Handri Neeva in the budget. He highlighted that additional water would be supplied to Kurnool and Anantapur districts, and 195 tanks would be developed along the 216 to 400 km stretch of the canal. Further, he stated that once Godavari water reaches the Banakacharla project, Rayalaseema will receive even more water. He questioned why the YCP government



had not increased the canal’s capacity or utilized motors at Malyala during its tenure. He also pointed out the silence of YCP leaders when water was diverted from Kuppam to Chittoor through pipelines. Minister Ramanaidu reiterated that lining the Handri Neeva canal is essential for making Rayalaseema arable and affirmed the coalition government’s commitment to regional development.

Gudivada Amarnath Slams TDP Over YSR Name Changes

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh
Former minister Gudivada Amarnath launched a sharp attack on the TDP government, alleging that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu’s administration is systematically erasing the legacy of YS Rajasekhara Reddy and YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. Speaking at a media conference, Amarnath pointed out that key schemes and projects initiated under the previous YSRCP government are being rebranded or renamed. He accused the government of changing the name of a district that was dedicated to YSR and altering the names of welfare programs like Rythu Bhārōsa, which was introduced for farmers’ benefit. Furthermore, he criticized the removal of YSR’s name from the flagship Aarogyasri healthcare scheme, which had been a cornerstone of medical support for the poor. Amarnath also questioned why the names of newly established medical colleges, which were originally named after YSR, were changed. He highlighted that the 125-foot Ambedkar statue, erected in the heart of Vijayawada during Jagan Mohan Reddy’s tenure, had its inscription modified to remove Jagan’s name.



However, he pointed out the irony that despite all these removals, it was Jagan Mohan Reddy who named a district after Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR), recognizing his contribution to the state. Taking a dig at Chandrababu Naidu, Amarnath stated that when people hear the name of YS Rajasekhara Reddy, they think of pensions and welfare programs. When they hear Jagan’s name, they recall 17 newly sanctioned medical colleges. “But when Chandrababu’s name is mentioned, the only thing that comes to mind is a backache,” he remarked, in a jibe at the TDP leader’s long-standing claims of suffering from back pain. The former minister’s statements reflect the ongoing political battle between YSRCP and TDP, with the opposition continuing to criticize the ruling party’s governance and approach towards past leaders’ contributions.

Kodali Nani Moves AP High Court Over Police Case

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh
Senior YSRCP leader and former minister Kodali Nani has approached the Andhra Pradesh High Court, seeking to quash a case registered against him by the Machilipatnam police in June last year. Alleging that the charges against him are false, Nani argued in his petition that the sections invoked carry a punishment of less than seven years and that he should have been given notice before any legal action. Kodali Nani contended that the case was politically motivated and part of a larger crackdown on YSRCP leaders. In his petition, he

urged the High Court to issue a notice and seek an explanation from the police regarding the basis of the case. It is known that several YSRCP leaders have been targeted in various cases, leading to arrests in recent months. Leaders like Posani Krishna Murali and Anil Kumar Yadav have already faced legal action. Against this backdrop, Kodali Nani’s legal move has drawn significant attention in political circles. The High Court is expected to hear the case soon, and the outcome could have implications for other YSRCP leaders facing similar legal battles.



Court Postpones Verdict to March 21st on Posani Bail Petition

TPN Correspondent | Guntur
Arguments on the bail petition of YSRCP leader and film actor Posani Krishna Murali were completed in the Guntur court on Wednesday. Following the hearing, the court postponed its verdict to March 21, raising curiosity about whether Posani will be granted bail. Posani is currently in remand at the Guntur District Jail in connection with a case involving alleged inappropriate comments against Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh. Multiple cases have

been registered against him across Andhra Pradesh. Earlier, Posani had approached the Guntur CID court seeking bail. The hearing, which began two days ago, was adjourned to Wednesday for further arguments. With the completion of arguments, the court reserved its decision. However, since Posani has been remanded until March 23, there is keen interest in whether he will be granted bail before then. The CID police had already taken Posani into custody for one day for questioning. Reports indicate that the CID is preparing to seek his custody once again, adding to the uncertainty regard-



ing his bail status. There is speculation that a new PT warrant could be issued, extending his remand. Posani was initially arrested based on a complaint filed by TDP activist Bandaru Vamsi Krishna in October last year, objecting to statements made by Posani during a media conference in Hyderabad. Acting on this complaint, the CID brought Posani to Guntur on

a PT warrant and presented him in court on March 12. Following this, he was remanded, and the CID was granted one day of custody for interrogation. During questioning, Posani reportedly stated that he made the controversial remarks based on inputs from others. With the verdict expected on March 21, the outcome remains a subject of intense speculation.

Botsa Satyanarayana Urges Marri Rajasekhara to Withdraw Resignation



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh
The exodus from the Yuva-Jana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YCP) continues as another key leader, MLC Marri Rajasekhara, has resigned from both the party and his legislative post. This resignation marks yet another blow to the YCP, which has been struggling with internal dissatisfaction following its crushing defeat in the elections. Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council and YCP MLC Botsa Satyanarayana has urged Marri Rajasekhara to reconsider his decision and withdraw his resignation. However, sources indicate that Marri Rajasekhara has not responded to Botsa’s request, signaling

a firm stand on his decision. With this resignation, the number of YCP MLCs who have recently quit has risen to five. Earlier, MLCs Potula Sunitha, Jayamangala Venkataramana, Balli Kalyanachakravarthy, and Karri Padmasree had also stepped away from the party, citing various reasons. Marri Rajasekhara’s decision is reportedly linked to his dissatisfaction with the party leadership, particularly the appointment of former minister Vidadala Rajani as the in-charge of Chilakaluripet YCP. Sources say that since Rajani’s appointment, Marri Rajasekhara has distanced himself from party activities, indicating growing discontent within YCP ranks. The back-to-back resignations of key leaders reflect the deepening crisis within the party. As discontent spreads, political observers are closely watching whether more YCP leaders will follow suit in the coming days.

Professor G. Haragopal Demands Immediate Halt to ‘Operation Kagar’

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam
Professor G. Haragopal has strongly demanded an immediate halt to the central government’s ‘Operation Kagar,’ alleging that it is being used to suppress tribal communities. Speaking at a conference organized by CPI Rashtra Samithi in Visakhapatnam, he criticized the country’s development model, stating that it goes against the spirit of the Constitution. He condemned the growing economic disparity, where wealth is being concentrated in the hands of a few while tribal communities face severe oppression in the name of development. Highlighting the ongoing situation in Bastar, Professor Haragopal warned that such repression would push society toward destruction. He emphasized the need for a national debate on the injustices faced by tribal populations. Human Rights Forum state

leader V.S. Krishna pointed out that Chhattisgarh holds nearly 18% of India’s mineral wealth. He accused the government of attempting to hand over these resources to corporate entities under the guise of tackling Maoist influence. He further alleged that fake encounters, village destruction, rapes, and forced disappearances are being carried out to criminalize tribal movements. He called for a judicial inquiry into these alleged atrocities. CPI State Assistant Secretary J.V. Satyanarayana Murthy, environmentalist Ganjivara-pu Srinivas, and tribal rights activist Rama Rao Dora also participated in the discussion, voicing their strong opposition to the government’s policies.



MLC Varudu Kalyani Criticized Government on Women’s Safety

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati
Senior leader Varudu Kalyani strongly criticized the coalition government over the state of women’s safety. She alleged that since the new government took office, an average of 70 crimes, including rapes, are being committed against women every day. However, she questioned the government’s claims that such incidents were on the decline. Kalyani pointed out that the previous YSRCP government had introduced the Disha app for women’s safety, but the present administration has renamed it as the Shakti app. She accused the government of attempting to rebrand existing measures instead of effectively addressing the rising crimes against women.

Highlighting recent cases, Kalyani demanded stronger law enforcement and accountability from the ruling coalition. She criticized the ministers for making misleading statements while the ground reality showed an alarming increase in crimes. Calling for immediate action, she urged the government to prioritize women’s safety and take concrete measures rather than just renaming initiatives. Her remarks have sparked a debate, with opposition leaders also questioning the government’s commitment to law and order.



MLAs and MLCs Sports Competitions Continue in Vijayawada

Various sports events held for MLAs and MLCs
Events promote relaxation and teamwork among legislators



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
The second day of the MLAs and MLCs sports competitions continued at Vijayawada Municipal Stadium with great enthusiasm. Andhra Pradesh Government Whip and MLA Tangirala Soumya, who participated in the events, highlighted the importance of physical fitness and mental well-being for public representatives. Speaking on the occasion, Tangirala Soumya stated that badminton, throwball, carroms, tennis, shot put, cricket, volleyball, kabaddi, tug of war, and running competitions were organized exclusively for MLAs and MLCs. She emphasized that sports activities help legislators maintain good health, reduce stress, and build strong bonds among colleagues. "The Anunithyam Coalition government is committed to ensuring good governance with a balanced approach to development and welfare. Engaging in sports brings mental happiness to MLAs and MLCs, allowing them to refresh themselves while continuing their public service with renewed energy," she said.



The sports meet, spread over multiple days, includes a variety of events:

- Athletics:**
o-100m, 200m, and 400m running races
o-Shot put and long jump
- Indoor Games:**
o-Carroms o-Chess o-Table tennis
- Team Sports:**
o-Volleyball o- Throwball o- Kabaddi
o-Tug of war
- Racquet Sports:**
o- Badminton o- Tennis
- Cricket Tournament:**
o-Friendly matches among MLAs and MLCs

The event has been well-received by legislators from across the state, who expressed their enthusiasm for participating in the competitions. The sports meet aims to encourage physical activity, teamwork, and relaxation among public representatives, ensuring they stay energized while managing governance responsibilities.

Excise Department Strengthens De-Addiction Efforts

TPN Correspondent | Guntur
The State Excise Department is intensifying its efforts to combat addiction and improve rehabilitation services. As part of this initiative, officials are working on upgrading de-addiction centers and ensuring better support for those struggling with alcohol, drug, and cannabis dependency. Excise Director Nishant Kumar and Enforcement Director Rahul Dev Sharma recently visited de-addiction centers at Guntur Government General Hospital and AIIMS, Mangalagiri. Their visit reaffirmed the department's commitment to addressing addiction and enhancing recovery programs. During their interactions, the officials spoke with patients, listened to their experiences, and analyzed the underlying causes of addiction. They also held discussions with medical staff on improving treatment methods, emphasizing advanced counseling techniques, upgraded medical equipment, and the availability of essential medicines. The Excise Department has pledged to strengthen its network of 25 de-addiction centers. Plans include upgrading infrastructure, introducing better medical equipment, and developing an IT system to



track patient progress efficiently. Additionally, the department is working on enhancing its existing web application to streamline de-addiction services. To support these initiatives, the department has introduced a 2% cess on the landed cost of liquor under its new excise policy. The funds generated will be used for public health initiatives and addiction treatment programs. With these measures, the Excise Department is setting a new benchmark in addiction recovery, aiming to provide effective rehabilitation while addressing public health concerns.

BC Welfare Association Demands 50% Reservation for Women



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
National BC Welfare Association State President Bonu Durga Naresh has reiterated the demand for 50% reservation for women in government jobs, politics, and other sectors. He emphasized that true develop-

ment is possible only when women are given equal opportunities in all fields. Addressing the media from his office in Vijayawada, Durga Naresh highlighted the success of the Mahila Shankharavam program, organized

by the Andhra Pradesh National BC Welfare Association at AP Bhavan in Delhi. He stated that the overwhelming response to the meeting reflects the strong support for women's empowerment. Durga Naresh, who has been advocating for 50% reservation for a long time, urged the central government to introduce a law in Parliament to ensure this reservation. He asserted that the association will stand by women in their fight for equal opportunities. Several prominent MPs, including Etela Rajender, Parthasarathy, Nagaraju, R. Krishnaiah, Mallu Ravi, Beeda Mastan, and Bala Nayak, participated in the event. They assured their commitment to working towards the passage of a bill in Parliament to implement this demand. Durga Naresh affirmed that the BC Welfare Association will continue its efforts to push for legislative action, ensuring that women receive the representation they deserve in all sectors.

Porters Thanks to Government for Wage Hike

Wage increase benefits 6,000 porter families
GO No. 14 raises wages from ₹25 to ₹28 per quintal
Union leaders appeal for ESI benefits

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati
The Andhra Pradesh government's decision to increase porter wages has brought relief to thousands of workers. Expressing their gratitude, representatives of the Civil Supplies Department Porters' Union met Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar at the Amaravati Secretariat and thanked him for the move. The government issued GO No. 14 on February 28, 2025, approving the wage hike from ₹25 to ₹28 per quintal, benefiting nearly 6,000 porters across the state. The revised wages have been implemented retrospectively from January 1, 2024. During the meeting, trade union leaders also appealed to the minister to extend Employees' State Insurance (ESI) benefits for the health security of porters. They emphasized that providing med-



ical coverage would significantly improve the welfare of workers engaged in physically demanding tasks. Among those who met the minister were Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Corporation Porters' State Union Honorary President K. Umamaheswara Rao, President R. Krishna, General Secretary S. Udaya Bhaskara Rao, Treasurer B. Anjaneyulu, and senior members Narayanaswamy and K. Sekhar. The minister assured them that their concerns would be considered, reaffirming the government's commitment to improving the livelihoods of workers in the state.

AP Waqf Board Chairman Abdul Aziz Meets Telangana Counterpart

Seeks immediate transfer of ₹55 crore from Telangana to Andhra Pradesh
Requests handover of old records, survey documents, and resolutions
Board members of both states to review and resolve the issue post-Ramzan



TPN Correspondent | AP/TG
AP Waqf Board Chairman Sheikh Abdul Aziz met Telangana Waqf Board Chairman Syed Azmatullah Hussaini at the Telangana Waqf Board office in Nampally, Hyderabad. The meeting focused on the long-pending financial and administrative matters related to the bifurcation of the Waqf Boards of both states. Speaking on the occasion, Abdul Aziz recalled that in 2015, the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India, had decided to establish separate Waqf Boards for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. A gazette notification was issued, clearly stating that the deposits, invest-

ments, and cash balances of the Telangana Waqf Board should be transferred to the AP Waqf Board. However, he noted that these funds, amounting to ₹55.49 crore, along with old records pertaining to Andhra Pradesh, have not yet been handed over. Citing the poor financial condition of the Andhra Pradesh Waqf Board, Abdul Aziz urged Telangana authorities to transfer the funds at the earliest. He also requested the immediate handover of important files, survey documents, district-wise gazettes, copies of board resolutions, and other historical records. Both chairmen agreed that after the Ramzan festival, a joint meeting involving board members and officials from both states should be conducted. A comprehensive report will then be prepared and sent to the respective state governments for swift resolution. Abdul Aziz emphasized that resolving this matter quickly is essential for the smooth functioning of the AP Waqf Board.

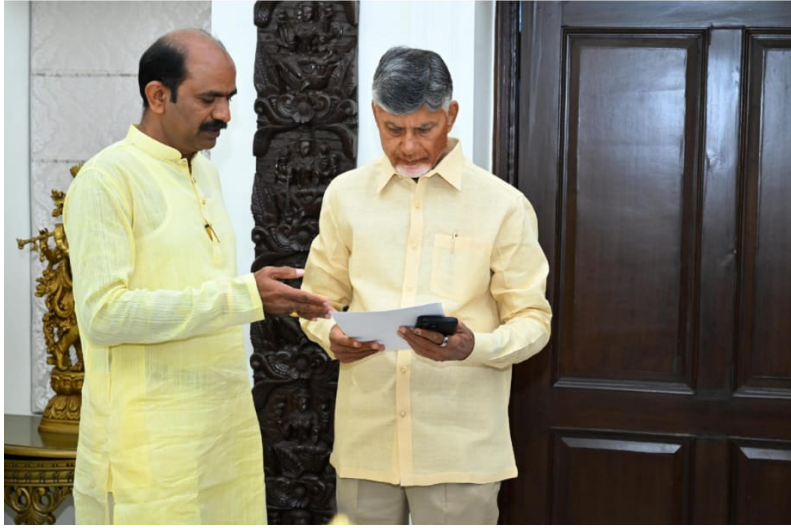
Awareness Seminar on Workplace Safety for Women Held in Vijayawada

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
NTR District Police Commissioner Sri S.V. Rajasekhara Babu, IPS, organized an awareness seminar on workplace sexual harassment under the auspices of Vasavya Mahila Mandali at the Police Commissioner's Office in Vijayawada. Speaking at the seminar, Commissioner Rajasekhara Babu stressed that sexual harassment in workplaces is a serious issue and should not be taken lightly. He urged women to speak up and file complaints without fear. Highlighting the importance of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Act, he assured that this legislation ensures a safe working environment for women employees. He explained that inappropriate physical contact, obscene gestures, sexual comments, or sending explicit content fall under the POSH Act, and women have the right to report such incidents. Complaints can be filed with the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) within

offices or at police stations within 90 days. Vasavi Mahila Mandali President Smt. Chennupati Kirti elaborated on the legal provisions of the POSH Act, explaining the roles of the Internal Complaint Cell (ICC) and Local Complaint Cell in addressing workplace harassment. She provided clarity on various sections of the law, ensuring that all attendees understood their rights and complaint mechanisms. DCP Mrs. A.B.T.S. Udaya Rani, IPS, expressed gratitude to the Police Commissioner and Vasavi Mahila Mandali for organizing the session. The event saw participation from DCPs G.V. Saritha IPS, Udaya Rani IPS, Chakravarthy, ADCP G. Ramakrishna, CPO officers, women police officers, and other staff. The seminar reinforced the commitment to safeguarding women's rights and workplace dignity.



MP Kalisetty Appalanaidu Submits Petition to CM Naidu for Road Upgradation



- **MP Kalisetty Appalanaidu seeks road development in Vizianagaram**
- **Submits representation to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and CM Chandrababu Naidu**
- **Focus on upgrading key roads to four-lane connectivity**

TPN Correspondent
| New Delhi

Vizianagaram Member of Parliament Kalisetty Appalanaidu has intensified efforts for road infrastructure development in his constituency. Following a representation to Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari, the MP submitted another petition to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday, urging the state's intervention in expediting key road projects. The petition includes requests for the upgradation of major roads to four-lane highways, aiming to improve connectivity and boost regional development: Four-lane road from Ramabhadrapuram to Rayagada via Bobbili and Parvathipuram. Ranasthalam Road upgradation from Nellimarla

Junction via Ramatirdhalu. Arthabangi (Odisha) Road expansion via Vizianagaram, Cheepurupalli, Palakonda, Seethampet, and Kothur. Four-lane road development from Rambhadrapuram to Rayagada via Bobbili, Parvathipuram, and Komarada. MP Kalisetty Appalanaidu, who is also a member of the IT and Communication Parliament Standing Committee, emphasized that although a representation was already made to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, these proposals have been reinforced under the leadership of CM Nara Chandrababu Naidu for swift implementation. He reiterated the importance of these projects for economic growth and regional connectivity, urging both state and central governments to prioritize their execution.

Steps Taken to Resolve Consumer Cases: MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy



TPN Correspondent | Nellore Nellore Parliamentarian Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy questioned the Central Government regarding the steps being taken to resolve consumer cases in Andhra Pradesh. He raised the issue in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, seeking clarity on the number of cases registered in the Andhra Pradesh State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (SCDRC) in the last three years and the actions taken for their speedy resolution. In response, Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution B.L. Verma provided a written reply. He confirmed that 2,260 cases were registered in the Andhra Pradesh SCDRC in the past three years, out of which 1,686 cases have been resolved. The Union Minister empha-

sized that the Department of Consumer Affairs is continuously working towards consumer protection and empowerment. He stated that the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, was replaced with the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, to address the evolving challenges of globalization, technology, and e-commerce markets. As part of the CONFONET scheme, video conferencing equipment has been provided in 10 benches of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) and 35 benches of State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions (SCDRCs), including Andhra Pradesh. He assured that the Central and State Governments are actively working to fill vacancies in Consumer Commissions to ensure timely case resolutions.

Gandi Babji Leads Grievance Redressal at TDP Central Office

TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri

APOILFED Chairman, Visakhapatnam District TDP Party President, and Pendurthi Constituency In-charge Shri Gandi Babji actively participated in a grievance redressal program at the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) central office in Mangalagiri on Wednesday. The program was aimed at addressing public grievances and ensuring quick resolutions. During the session, a large number of people gathered to submit their complaints and requests, seeking intervention in various issues affecting their lives. Gandi Babji patiently listened to the concerns of the victims and assured them that their problems would be taken up on priority. Understanding the importance of swift action, he immediately contacted the relevant authorities and urged them to expedite solutions to the grievances raised.

- **Victims present complaints at TDP office**
- **Gandi Babji interacts with authorities for solutions**
- **TDP reaffirms commitment to public welfare**



He emphasized the need for government officials and departments to respond promptly and effectively to public concerns, ensuring that people's issues do not remain unresolved. TDP leaders present at the event reiterated that the party remains dedicated to serving the public and addressing their issues through efficient grievance redressal mechanisms. They highlighted that

such initiatives are crucial in strengthening the trust between the people and the leadership. The event once again showcased TDP's proactive approach in resolving public issues through direct interaction and coordination with authorities, reinforcing its commitment to good governance and public welfare.

Illegal White Maddi Timber Trafficking in Uyyuru Raises Concerns

- **Illegal timber transport near Transport Dept. office**
- **Social activist Yesu Babu exposes unauthorized tree cutting**
- **Calls for a thorough investigation based on CCTV footage**

TPN Correspondent | Uyyuru

A major case of illegal white maddi timber trafficking has come to light in Uyyuru, Penamaluru Constituency, raising serious concerns about unauthorized deforestation and the alleged involvement of officials. Social activist Yesu Babu has alleged that the Durga Sai Timber Depot in Tadam is behind the illegal felling and transportation of a 50-year-old tree. He claims that the tree was cut and moved without informing the forest department, and authorities have remained unresponsive despite clear violations. Yesu Babu further alleges that illegal timber trade is rampant in Uyyuru and surrounding areas, with the Durga Sai Timber Depot playing a key role in these activities. He suspects that officials from the forest, revenue, and environment departments may be involved in the illegal transportation of



timber worth lakhs of rupees. **Raising critical questions, he asks:**

- **Who cut this prohibited timber?**
- **Who transported it and where is it headed?**
- **Why have the authorities not acted yet?**

Yesu Babu demands that the authorities analyze CCTV footage from the area to track the culprits and take strict action. He has urged the Krishna District Collector to intervene and ensure accountability. With the issue now in the spotlight, all eyes are on the district administration to see if they will act against the illegal timber mafia and bring those responsible to justice.

Contractors Protest Over Pending Bills at Eluru Collectorate



TPN Correspondent | Eluru

Contractors under the Builders Association of India (BAI) staged a unique protest at the Eluru District Collectorate on Wednesday, sweeping roads to highlight their long-pending unpaid bills. The protest, led by BAI Chairman V. Satheesh Chowdary, was joined by several contractors demanding immediate payment of dues for road construction projects. Addressing the gathering, Satheesh Chowdary, along with Vice Chairman B. Someswara Rao, Secretary U.V. Satyanarayana, and K.V.V. Suribabu, stated that contractors have been struggling for six years due to the non-payment of bills by the government. Even under the previous YS-RCP government, payments were delayed, forcing contractors to halt construction work.

Following the coalition government's formation, they resumed roadworks with the expectation that pending bills would be cleared. According to the association, ₹1,350 crore worth of bills remain unpaid in the R&B Department, while substantial dues are also pending in the Panchayati Raj and Municipal Departments. The contractors lamented that they had even sold their properties to fund road construction but are now burdened with financial hardships. Demanding urgent intervention, the agitating contractors submitted a memorandum to District Revenue Officer (DRO) Vishweshwar Rao. Several BAI advisory members, including M.S.R. Krishna, K.V.S. Buchirayudu, and municipal contractors from the Godavari districts, participated in the protest. With growing frustration among contractors, all eyes are now on the government's response to this pressing issue.

Court Movie Team Victory Celebrations in Vijayawada

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The cast and crew of the recently released film Court celebrated the movie's success with a visit to a temple in Vijayawada, followed by a grand event at a well-known hotel. Actor Sivaji, Priyadarshi, director Ram Jagadish, hero Roshan, and heroine Sridevi participated in the celebrations. Actor Sivaji, marking his return to cinema after 13 years, expressed gratitude to the audience. "I thank everyone for making this film a success. The character of Mangapati will remain in the audience's hearts forever. This film sheds light on the POCSO Act and portrays what happens when minors fall in love. I am thrilled

to be part of this project under producer Nani's banner." Actor Priyadarshi acknowledged Natural Star Nani for backing the project. "Nani's Wall Poster banner has brought this film to life. The POCSO Act has been depicted very well, and the film has even become a blockbuster overseas. Ram Jagadish has



made this film with great ambition, and I'm honored to be part of it." Director Ram Jagadish shared his experience in making the film. "Before working on this movie, I met several lawyers and studied real-life POCSO cases. We wanted to keep the film as close to reality as possible. The hero and heroine have truly brought the story to life, and Sivaji has lived the role of Mangapati." Lead actors Roshan and Sridevi emphasized the overwhelming response from audiences. "We embarked on this Vijaya Yatra to personally thank everyone for making Court a success. The love from youth and theatergoers has been truly heartwarming," they said.

Daily Annadanam Program Launched at Pithapuram Govt Hospital



TPN Correspondent | Pithapuram

With the blessings of Andhra Annapurana Smt. Dokka Seethamma and the service inspiration of Deputy Chief Minister Konidela Pawan Kalyan, the Daily Annadanam program was inaugurated on Wednesday at Pithapuram Town Government Hospital in Kakinada District. The initiative, organized by Cheyutha Volun-

tary Service Organization, was launched by MLC of both Godavari districts, Sri Perabathula Rajasekhara, along with Kakina-da District Janasena Party Chairman, Sri Tummala Ramaswamy. Speaking on the occasion, Tummala Ramaswamy expressed special gratitude to Cheyutha Sanstha founder Mondiravi Kumar, who initiated this noble program in Pithapuram. He recalled the legacy of Smt. Dokka Seethamma, who fed thousands in her lifetime. MLC Perabathula Rajasekhara appreciated the efforts of Cheyutha Sanstha, stating that its service programs are benefiting many people. He assured his continued support and cooperation for such initiatives. Hospital Superintendent Dr. P. Sujatha welcomed the initiative and acknowl-

edged the support of the District Medical Officer and District Collector. She emphasized that such programs are essential in hospitals to support needy patients and their attendants. The event witnessed participation from doctors, hospital committee members Bojja Kumar and Venum Suresh, Pithapuram Janasena and TDP leaders, voluntary organizations, Cheyutha NGO Secretary Aleem, member Chinta Pawan Kalyan, hospital staff, and CBR students. Cheyutha team members Neelam Daya Sagar, Sunkara Anil, Katta Nageswara Rao, Siadula Sriman Narayana (program presenter), and Kaki Rambabu extended their gratitude to the guests, village representatives, and media personnel who attended the event.

AAP’s Governance: A Mixed Report Card, But Still Punjab’s Best Bet

Despite facing challenges, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) remains Punjab's best hope, according to recent opinions. The Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), former rulers, have failed to meet the state's needs. AAP, in contrast, is praised for showing political will to tackle key issues, though its execution leaves room for improvement. The party has taken bold steps to combat corruption and incompetence, even if some promises, like a drug-free Punjab within three months, may seem over-ambitious. With critical years ahead, Punjabis must decide whether to continue with AAP's intent-driven governance or return to the old, unfulfilled promises of past governments. While some view AAP's governance as underwhelming, others point out the party's ongoing struggle to meet public expectations. Initially brought to power on hopes of positive change, AAP has faced significant hurdles, including Punjab's rising debt. Critics argue that the government has been spending excessively on out-of-state election campaigns, while neglecting the state's immediate needs. However, after learning from its defeat in Delhi, the party is attempting to reorganize, and CM Bhagwant Mann is urged to focus on development to meet the state's



challenges. In other developments, various letters highlight the importance of the National Education Policy (NEP) in promoting multilingualism and the potential of Haryana's new 'Department of Future' to drive long-term development. Additionally, apple growers in

Himachal Pradesh are encouraged to embrace food processing initiatives to diversify their income, enhancing returns in both domestic and international markets. These diverse perspectives emphasize the need for strategic action and foresight in governance and economic planning.

Modi Government’s Assurances: Unfulfilled Promises Erode Public Trust



Despite the Modi government's consistent claims of commitment to good governance, the reality on the ground tells a different story. The government has reaffirmed its dedication to providing a transparent and accountable administration, but the latest figures reveal that nearly 75% of the assurances made by Union ministers in Parliament in 2024 remain unfulfilled. This is not a new issue; a decade ago, during 2015 and 2016, two-thirds of the promises made were either dropped or left pending. To address this issue, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs launched the

Online Assurances Monitoring System in 2018, aiming to track, monitor, and fulfill ministers' commitments. While the system's intention was to enhance accountability and efficiency, the actual implementation has been lackluster, with ministers failing to meet deadlines and follow through on their promises. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has assured that the government takes these assurances seriously, but the lack of accountability for erring ministers raises concerns. Why are ministers not being held accountable or replaced for their failure to fulfill commitments? The

Standing Committee on Government Assurances, which is responsible for overseeing the implementation of these promises, also seems to be ineffective in ensuring timely action. While promises made during election rallies are often met with skepticism, assurances made by elected representatives in Parliament should be taken more seriously. The government's failure to meet these promises undermines public trust and erodes the sanctity of parliamentary democracy. It is crucial for the government to restore credibility by ensuring that assurances are fulfilled promptly and effectively.

Truce in Tatters: Israeli Strikes Push Gaza to the Brink

The recent Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, which have resulted in the deaths of over 400 people, signal the near collapse of a fragile ceasefire that had been in place to ease hostilities. Instead, the region is thrust back into turmoil, with civilians bearing the brunt of the violence. Israel defends the renewed assault as essential to secure the release of hostages still held by Hamas, while Hamas asserts it has adhered to the truce and is prepared for negotiations. However, the hostages remain trapped in a diplomatic deadlock as violence escalates. The humanitarian situation in Gaza has reached catastrophic levels. Hospitals are overwhelmed, aid is blocked, and each new airstrike only deepens the destruction. Civilian infrastructure—homes, schools, and entire neighborhoods—has been decimated, with military targets also suffering heavy damage. Israel's offensive risks not only further devastating Gaza but also the potential to draw in other regional actors, such as Iran, Hezbollah, and Yemen's Houthis, escalating the conflict into a broader regional war.



International responses to the violence have been notably weak. The United Nations has condemned the attacks, and Egypt has called for restraint, but these appeals have not been successful in halting the bloodshed. The United States, Israel's key ally, must do more to advocate for immediate de-escalation instead of simply reiterating its support for Israel's right to self-defense. Without meaningful international interven-

tion, the humanitarian crisis is likely to worsen. At the heart of this conflict lies the debate over security and survival. While Israel insists that Hamas must be dismantled for long-term peace, the relentless strikes are eroding the very possibility of peaceful coexistence. The collapse of the ceasefire highlights the grim reality: without a concrete political solution, this cycle of violence will only continue.



Punjab’s Unfulfilled Aspirations: A Call for a Fair Constitutional Deal

The ongoing struggle of Punjab, a state deeply affected by Partition, continues to be overlooked within the Indian constitutional framework. While the state endured immense hardship during and after Partition, it did not receive the constitutional guarantees it deserved—unlike other states that were able to secure special provisions. The lack of a negotiated constitutional niche for Punjab, despite the immense sacrifices made by its people, remains a significant issue.

Punjab's unique plight began with the devastating Partition, which divided families and left many of its agricultural lands in Pakistan. As one of the major contributors to the British Indian Army, with over 360,000 soldiers, Punjab's contribution to India's security and economy was significant, but its representation in the armed forces and its economic status was severely affected after Partition. Despite this, the state was unable to secure the constitutional safeguards that other regions, like Jammu & Kashmir, were able to negotiate. The absence of these provisions, particularly in the areas of agriculture and military recruitment, left Punjab at a disadvantage compared to other states. While Jammu & Kashmir received Article 370, which gave it special provisions, Punjab failed to obtain any similar constitutional guarantees, even though it faced the same issues of territorial loss and economic hardships. This discrepancy raises questions about why the leaders of undivided Punjab did not demand a better deal for their state during the Constituent Assembly discussions.

Punjab's history, from Partition to wars and militancy, has left it politically, economically, and socially exhausted. The state's ongoing debt and struggles require a new economic and constitutional framework to ensure its future prosperity. To achieve this, Punjab's political parties and intellectual community must set aside partisan interests and unite for a common cause—securing a fair deal within the Indian Constitution. The time has come for a serious, scholarly examination of why Punjab was neglected and what can be done to rectify this oversight.



Global Stock Market Turmoil: What India Needs to Revive Its Economy

Indian stock markets have been in a slump for the past six months, with the Bombay Stock Exchange falling 13% since September 2024. Experts suggest this decline may continue, with foreign investors pulling out \$25 billion from Indian stocks. This decline is sharper than the 2% drop in Asian and global emerging markets, highlighting India's unique position amidst global market turmoil.

The global stock market decline has been fueled by President Donald Trump's policies, which focus on "America First." His isolationist trade policies, including tariffs, have caused instability in global markets, yet they've inadvertently boosted European stock markets. While US stocks have fallen by 5% since Trump's reelection, European stocks have risen by 5-20%. This divergence has left India struggling, with Indian stocks remaining stagnant even as non-US markets advance.

To address its economic challenges, India is negotiating with the US to lower tariffs, a move that could benefit both nations. Lowering tariffs will introduce more reasonably priced goods, forcing Indian businesses to become more efficient, benefiting Indian consumers. Moreover, the US should reconsider its isolationist stance, as global cooperation is essential for long-term prosperity. For India's economy to recover, it needs to focus on its manufacturing sector, which has been sluggish. While India's software and AI sectors have brought in foreign exchange, the country's reliance on them is not enough. Additionally, the outflow of skilled workers, particularly healthcare professionals, is causing strain on India's public healthcare system. Better compensation for healthcare workers could improve the system and attract health tourists, providing a boost to India's economy. With strategic policy changes and focus on manufacturing and healthcare, India can regain momentum in the global stock market.

India's First Trump-Branded Office

Tribeca Developers, the real estate development partner of the Trump Organization in India, has officially launched the first Trump-branded commercial real estate project in the country. The project, named "Trump World Center," will be developed in Pune, a major city in western India that has seen significant growth in the IT sector over the past decade. The launch marks a significant milestone in the Trump brand's expansion in India, which has become its largest real estate market outside of the United States.

The Trump World Center is expected to attract considerable interest, with sales projections exceeding \$289 million. The office development is scheduled for completion in about four years. Pune is known for being a hub of both global and local IT firms,



making it an ideal location for this premium commercial project. The project will be developed in partnership with Kundan Spaces, a local real estate compa-

ny, further expanding the collaboration between international and Indian developers. Kalpesh Mehta, the founder of Tribeca Developers, shared that

the company is also planning to launch three to four additional Trump-branded luxury residential projects in various parts of India over the next 4 to 6 weeks. These upcoming projects will be spread across both northern and southern India, contributing to the growth of the Trump brand's presence in the Indian market. Mehta forecasts that the combined sales potential from the Trump World Center office project and the upcoming residential projects will reach an impressive \$1.15 billion. This expansion further solidifies India's importance as a key market for the Trump Organization's real estate ventures. With the growing demand for luxury properties, the Trump-branded developments are poised to make a significant impact in India's real estate landscape.



MEA Slams Pakistan's Comments on Kashmir

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday strongly criticized Pakistan for its response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comments on Jammu and Kashmir during a podcast with American AI researcher Lex Fridman. The MEA demanded that Pakistan vacate the Indian territory it holds under "illegal occupation."

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal accused Pakistan of actively promoting and sponsoring cross-border terrorism, which he referred to as the "biggest roadblock to peace and security in the region." He emphasized that the real issue at hand is Pakistan's continued support for terrorism, which hampers efforts for peace in the region. "The world knows that the real issue is Pakistan's active promotion and sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. This is the biggest barrier to peace and security in the region. Instead of spreading lies, Pakistan should vacate Indian territory under its illegal and forcible occupation," the MEA statement read.

Prime Minister Modi's remarks came during a podcast with Lex Fridman on Sunday, where he discussed various topics, including India's efforts to engage with Pakistan. Modi stated that "every attempt to foster peace with Pakistan was met with hostility and betrayal." He also expressed hope that "wisdom would prevail" among Pakistan's leadership, leading to improved bilateral ties between the two countries.

The MEA's response reiterates India's long-standing position on Jammu and Kashmir and condemns Pakistan's actions, which India sees as a significant impediment to regional stability and peace. The statement calls for a shift in Pakistan's approach, urging it to end its illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and cease supporting terrorism.

Adani Group Partners With PGTI for Invitational Golf Championship

The Adani Group has entered the world of Indian professional golf by launching the Adani Invitational Golf Championship 2025 in collaboration with the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI). The tournament, which offers a prize pool of Rs 1.5 crore, is set to be held from April 1-4, 2025, at the prestigious Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort in Greater Noida. This marks the return of the PGTI to the venue after 11 years.

Aimed at promoting golf as a mainstream sport and increasing its accessibility in India, the Adani Invitational is designed to nurture the next generation of global champions. "This initiative reflects our commitment to broadening golf's appeal in India, enhancing participation, and providing world-class training opportunities," said Pranav Adani, Director of Adani Enterprises. Kapil Dev, the President of PGTI,



expressed his excitement over the partnership, highlighting the role the Adani Group will play in fostering the growth of Indian professional golf. "With Adani Group's support, we aim to produce more

champion golfers who will represent India on the global stage," Dev stated. He added that he anticipated a large turnout of fans at the tournament, eager to see their favorite players in action.

Amandeep Johl, CEO of PGTI, described the Adani Invitational Golf Championship 2025 as a watershed moment for Indian golf. He emphasized the significant impact of the partnership in elevating the stature of the tour. The event promises a top-tier field, an attractive prize purse, and outstanding playing conditions, making it an eagerly awaited occasion for golf enthusiasts.

In preparation for the championship, a pre-tournament event will take place on March 29, 2025, at The Belvedere Golf & Country Club in Ahmedabad. The event will feature a golf clinic conducted by five leading PGTI professionals, where 50 children from The Adani International School will be introduced to the sport. Kapil Dev will attend the event to emphasize the shared vision of the Adani Group and PGTI to develop golfing talent in India.



Delhi Police in Solving ₹80 Lakh Robbery Case

Delhi Police, with the help of Israeli facial recognition technology, solved a robbery case involving ₹80 lakh and arrested two accused persons. The incident occurred in the Chandni Chowk area on Monday when a trader's employee was robbed at gunpoint. The accused fired a warning shot before fleeing with the money. The arrested individuals have been identified as Md Ali (21) and Samir (19). Following the crime, police analyzed CCTV footage from nearly 500 cameras in areas including Chandni Chowk, Red Fort, Jama Masjid, and others. Israeli facial recognition technology was used to identify Md Ali as a prime suspect, linking him to a previous case. Using the technology, police matched a screen grab of the suspect to a database, which led them to Ali's residence in Daryaganj. Further investigation revealed that Ali had prior knowledge of the victim's cash movement and had conducted a recce before the robbery. Samir, his accomplice, was arrested after Ali revealed his identity during interrogation.

A raid at Samir's residence led to the recovery of ₹79.5 lakh, a semi-automatic pistol, and other incriminating materials. Both suspects have been booked under relevant sections of the law.

Anand Mahindra Welcomes Sunita Williams Back From Space

Business tycoon Anand Mahindra expressed his relief and admiration after astronaut Sunita Williams returned to Earth following an extended stay aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Mahindra, the chairperson of the Mahindra Group, described Williams as "courage personified" and shared an old photograph from a chance encounter two years ago, recalling the moment with fondness.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Mahindra said, "When the SpaceX rescue mission was launched, I recalled this chance encounter almost two years ago with Sunita Williams in Washington. It was an enormous relief to see her and her colleagues' successful splashdown back on earth a few hours ago. She is courage personified, and it's good to have her back amongst us. Swagatam, Sunita."

The picture Mahindra shared, taken in Washington in 2023 during the India-US Hi-Tech Handshake, also featured tech entrepreneur Vrinda Kapoor and billionaire Mukesh Ambani. Mahindra humorously recalled how he and his colleagues missed their shuttle bus and bumped into Williams while trying to call an Uber. He joked that they asked if they could hitch a ride on her space shuttle instead.

Mahindra further remarked on the encounter, saying, "I suppose this was what they would call a 'Washington moment.' After the tech handshake meeting yesterday, Mukesh Ambani, Vrinda Kapoor & I were continuing a conversation with the Secretary of Commerce and missed the group shuttle bus to the next lunch engagement."

Meanwhile, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) also welcomed Williams back, praising her successful mission. "Wel-



come back, Sunita Williams! Your safe return after an extended mission aboard the ISS is a remarkable achievement," ISRO posted on X. The space agency acknowledged the significance of her return as a testament to NASA, SpaceX, and the USA's commitment to space exploration. ISRO's statement further read, "Your resilience and dedication continue to inspire space enthusiasts around the world." ISRO also extended warm greetings to Williams and expressed its hopes of utilizing her ex-

pertise in space exploration to aid India's space program, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Williams, along with NASA astronaut Butch Wilmore, had been stranded aboard the ISS for nearly nine months. Their scheduled week-long stay was extended due to technical glitches with Boeing's Starliner spacecraft. The astronauts finally returned safely to Earth following a soft splashdown of their Crew 9 Dragon Spacecraft off the coast of Florida on Wednesday.

286-Day Space Mission: Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore return after a record-breaking stay

The astronauts landed safely in SpaceX’s Dragon capsule at 3:27 am off the Florida coast.

TPN Correspondent | Wahington

Astronaut Sunita Williams, along with her fellow astronaut Butch Wilmore, has returned to Earth after an extraordinary 286-day stay in space. The duo, both former Navy pilots, initially launched aboard Boeing’s Starliner spacecraft on June 5 last year for what was planned to be an eight-day mission to the International Space Station (ISS). However, a series of unexpected delays and technical issues left them stranded in space for nearly nine months.

The astronauts returned home aboard SpaceX’s Dragon spacecraft, which splashed down off the coast of Florida early this morning. After completing a deorbit burn at 2:41 am, the spacecraft slowed down and made its way toward Earth, landing just 44 minutes later at 3:27 am.

Upon their return, a NASA team greeted Williams and Wilmore, assisting them out of the capsule and onto mobility aids. Williams was seen smiling,



waving, and giving a thumbs-up, a clear sign of relief after the long journey.

Their extended mission, which was initially planned as a brief stay, became a prolonged ordeal after Boeing’s Starliner capsule suffered propulsion problems, rendering it unfit for their return. As a result, they were reassigned to SpaceX’s Crew-9 mission, and after several delays, a

Dragon spacecraft was finally dispatched to bring them back.

Williams and Wilmore now face the challenging recovery process that astronauts undergo after long periods in space. Bone and muscle deterioration, radiation exposure, and vision impairment are common issues faced by astronauts returning from extended space missions. The lack of gravity in

space causes bone density loss and muscle weakening, while radiation exposure poses a significant health risk. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his pride in Williams’ achievements in a letter made public during her return journey. In his letter, Modi conveyed that 1.4 billion Indians take great pride in her perseverance and fortitude, acknowledging her inspiring journey into space.

Russia-Ukraine War Ceasefire Talks Set For Sunday In Saudi Arabia: US



TPN Correspondent | Washington

Negotiations for a potential ceasefire in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war will resume on Sunday in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, US President Donald Trump’s special envoy, Steve Witkoff, confirmed on Tuesday. In an interview with Fox News, Witkoff revealed that the US delegation, led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and National Security Advisor Mike Waltz, would engage in talks aimed at reaching a ceasefire agreement. However, he did not specify who they would be negotiating with.

The discussions are focused on reaching a temporary ceasefire, with particular attention to halting attacks on energy infrastructure and Black Sea targets. Witkoff indicated that the Russians have agreed to cease strikes on energy targets, expressing hope that the Ukrainian side would also agree to the proposal.

Despite this progress, Ukraine accused Russia of rejecting the full ceasefire proposal, pointing to continued attacks on civilian infrastructure. Hours after Moscow reportedly agreed to pause strikes on the energy grid, Ukraine reported further bombardments. The US has been pushing for a comprehensive, 30-day ceasefire as a starting point for a broader resolution to the war, which has now entered its third year.

In a 90-minute phone call with President Putin, Trump’s envoy was informed that Russia’s stance on a ceasefire was conditional. Putin insisted that any ceasefire deal would require Ukraine’s allies to halt all military support to Kyiv. The Kremlin also announced that Russian forces would pause strikes on Ukrainian energy targets for 30 days.

Witkoff, however, stressed that the ceasefire proposal encompasses broader infrastructure targets and noted that the consensus around energy and Black Sea objectives brings the two sides closer to a full ceasefire agreement.

The ongoing talks in Jeddah aim to secure a fragile peace after nearly three years of devastating conflict, but significant hurdles remain in bridging the divide between Russia and Ukraine.



SpaceX to take humans to Mars in next 20-30 years? Elon Musk claims it’s possible

TPN Correspondent | US

In a recent exclusive interview with Sean Hannity on Fox News, SpaceX CEO Elon Musk shared his ambitious vision for the future of human space travel, stating that humans could journey to Mars within the next 20-30 years. Musk, who has long championed space exploration, emphasized that SpaceX’s ultimate goal is to make space travel accessible to everyone.

“We would be able to take astronauts to Mars. In fact, we want to take anyone who goes to Mars,” Musk declared, revealing that the long-term goal of SpaceX is to facilitate human colonization of the Red Planet. Musk expressed confidence that the mission could be achieved within two to three decades, which he described as a “realistic” timeline for interplanetary travel.

This statement comes at a time when SpaceX continues to push the boundaries of space exploration with significant advancements in rocket technology. Musk’s company recently made headlines with the safe return of NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, who had been stranded aboard the International Space Station (ISS) for nine months. The astronauts were initially set to return in a Boeing spacecraft but were later brought back aboard SpaceX’s Dragon capsule after technical issues with Boeing’s vehicle.

Looking ahead, Musk reiterated his plans for Mars exploration, announcing that SpaceX’s Starship rocket will be launched to Mars by the end of 2026. Starship, the world’s largest and most powerful rocket, will carry Tesla’s humanoid robot, Optimus, as part of the mission. Musk has hinted that if these initial missions go smoothly, human landings on Mars could take place as early as 2029, with 2031 being a more realistic target.

Starship is critical to Musk’s vision of colonizing Mars, with plans for the vehicle to be fully reusable and capable of carrying humans on deep space missions. In addition to Mars exploration, NASA is working with SpaceX on a modified version of Starship to serve as a lunar lander for its Artemis program, which aims to return astronauts to the Moon.



Israel Launches "Limited Ground Op" In Gaza Day After Missile Strikes

TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

On Wednesday, the Israeli military announced the initiation of a “limited ground operation” aimed at retaking a strategic part of the Gaza corridor. This move deepens the Israeli offensive in Gaza, which has already led to the collapse of a ceasefire with Hamas that had been in effect since January.

The operation focuses on the Netzarim corridor, a crucial route that bisects northern Gaza from the southern parts of the territory. Historically, this corridor has been a military zone for Israel, allowing movement of troops and supplies. During the ceasefire, Israel had agreed to withdraw from this area as part of the broader agreement. The recent re-engagement in the corridor marks a significant shift, with Israel reasserting control over the area.

The ceasefire had created a fragile calm, and its breakdown signifies a sharp turn in the ongoing conflict. The military action in the Netzarim corridor, while described as “limited,” is seen as an escalation that could provoke further retaliation from Hamas and potentially escalate the situation across Gaza. The operation also appears to signal Israel’s intent to regain control over areas it deems vital to its security strategy.

The military spokesperson has emphasized that the operation aims to reclaim critical terrain that is central to Israel’s objectives in Gaza. However, the details of the operation remain somewhat vague, leaving room for speculation about its long-term impact on the broader conflict.

As Israel continues its offensive, the situation in Gaza grows increasingly volatile. The breakdown of the ceasefire has raised concerns about the potential for a wider military escalation, affecting both the security situation in Israel and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

The international community has expressed concern about the deteriorating situation, urging both sides to return to diplomatic negotiations to avoid further bloodshed. The outcome of Israel’s latest operation in Gaza remains uncertain, but it is clear that the path to peace remains fraught with challenges.



Russia Accuses Ukraine Of Trying To 'Derail' Putin-Trump Peace Agreement

TPN Correspondent | Jakarta

The Kremlin on Wednesday accused Kyiv of undermining US-Russia efforts to end the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, claiming that Ukraine attempted to strike Russian energy infrastructure despite an agreement between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump to halt such attacks.

Following a phone call between Trump and Putin on Tuesday, the Russian president announced a 30-day pause on strikes targeting Ukrainian energy facilities. This came after Putin rejected Trump’s earlier request for a complete cessation of hostilities. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov expressed frustration, stating that there had been no reciprocity from Ukraine regarding the ceasefire and that Kyiv had attempted to strike Russian energy infrastructure.

Peskov noted that the Russian president had “immediately” commanded a halt to energy attacks and claimed that seven Russian drones were poised for strikes on Ukrainian infrastructure but were shot down by Ukrainian air defenses. Following the phone call, both countries launched drone strikes against each other.

The Kremlin sought to clarify any confusion between Russian and US reports, with Peskov confirming that Putin had agreed only to a ceasefire regarding energy infrastructure strikes, contrary to reports by US envoy Steve Witkoff suggesting a broader halt on all infrastructure attacks. Meanwhile, Kyiv had declared its own commitment to an unconditional ceasefire last week, though no specific agreement with Russia had been made.

Markets Extend Gains for Third Straight Session; Nifty Nears 23,000



Domestic stock markets closed in gains for the third consecutive day. Consolidation continued in benchmark and sectoral indices. The indices started flat and continued in a range-bound mode due to mixed signals from global markets. Investors followed the 'buy on dips' approach and then gradually recovered. Bank, auto, finance, realty and metal shares were the winners. Investors are waiting for the US Fed meeting announcement on Thursday. This will affect the course of tomorrow's markets. Overall Nifty rose by 73 points and Sensex by 147 points. Nifty is another 100 points away from touching 23000.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 75,301 in the previous session, opened at 75,473 on Wednesday. It touched an intraday low of 75,201. It reached an intraday high of 75,568. It finally

closed at 75,449, up 147 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 22,874, touched a low of 22,807 and a high of 22,940. It closed at 22,907, up 73 points. The Nifty Bank rose 388 points to settle at 49,702.

In the Nifty50, 31 companies gained and 19 lost. Shriram Finance, HDFC Life, Apollo Hospitals, Tata Steel, Power Grid were the top gainers. Tech Mahindra, ITC, TCS, Infi, Sun Pharma were the biggest losers. All sectoral indices rose today, except FMCG and IT. Bank, auto, finance, media, metal, pharma, PSU bank, realty, healthcare, consumer durables, oil stocks were the losers.

Market breadth on NSE today turned in favor of buyers. Out of 2990 stocks traded, 2345 gained. 568 lost. 42 stocks hit 52-week highs. 89 stocks hit 52-week lows. 244 stocks crossed the up-

per circuit and 43 stocks crossed the lower circuit.

Desko Infratech IPO public issue to start from March 24. Rupee strengthened by 12 paise against dollar to settle at 86.44. 19 lakh shares changed hands in Reliance Industries. Bajaj Electronics to set up subsidiary in United Arab Emirates. 14 lakh shares changed hands in ITC. HSBC reduces target price of Power Grid to Rs 250. Physics Wala submits draft papers for India IPO. 10 lakh shares changed hands in Tata Steel. TCS signs five-year deal with Air New Zealand. Nuwama maintains buy rating on Pdilde Industries with target price of Rs 3660. Momentum in banking stocks including Indusind and SBI gained as Bank Nifty rose for the fifth consecutive day. 48 lakh shares changed hands in NTPC. Tata Motors board approves Rs 2000 crore through NCDs. REC has declared an interim dividend of Rs. 3.60 for the fourth time for the financial year 2025.

1. JSW Infrastructure Ltd
The company secured a ₹1,500 crore contract for port expansion in Maharashtra. Cargo handling capacity increased by 18% YoY, driven by rising



coal and container volumes. Jefferies maintained a 'Buy' rating with a target price of ₹380, citing strong infrastructure expansion.

2. Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO)



HUDCO sanctioned ₹5,000 crore worth of affordable housing and urban infrastructure projects across India. The government's push for smart cities and urban development is expected to drive further growth. Motilal Oswal gave a 'Buy' rating with a target price of ₹280, citing strong financial stability and growth prospects.

3. Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL)



BDL signed a ₹2,400 crore contract with the Indian Armed Forces for missile production. Export orders rose by 30% YoY, boosting revenue visibility. ICICI Securities upgraded

its rating to 'Buy' with a target price of ₹1,600, citing strong defense sector demand.

4. NLC India Ltd

The company announced ₹7,000 crore investment in renewable energy projects. It reported a 14% increase in coal production, ensuring steady power generation. HSBC maintained a 'Buy' rating with a target price of ₹325, expecting continued growth in the energy sector.



5. Max Healthcare Institute Ltd

Max Healthcare expanded its hospital network with the acquisition of three new hospitals in South India. Revenue per bed increased 15% YoY, reflecting strong patient demand. Morgan Stanley retained a 'Buy' rating with a target price of ₹1280, citing expansion and rising medical tourism.



Fitch tweaks FY27 India growth aim to 6.3% and makes rate cut predictions

On Tuesday, a leading rating agency kept its economic forecast for India unchanged, projecting a growth rate of 6.5 percent for the fiscal year 2025-26. However, the agency slightly updated the growth estimate for FY26-27 to 6.3 percent, an improvement from the 6.2 percent forecast made in December. This revision comes amid challenges posed by the ongoing global trade tensions, particularly the trade war instigated by the United States.

In the March edition of its Global Economic Outlook (GEO), the rating agency emphasized that India's economy remains somewhat insulated from the global trade pressures due to its self-sufficiency and lower dependence on external demand. Despite the uncertainty caused by aggressive US trade policies, India's domestic consumption-driven growth model provides a buffer against potential shocks in global demand.

The report outlined that India's GDP growth for FY25-26 is expected to maintain the steady 6.5 percent pace, with a slight de-



celeration to 6.3 percent in FY26-27. While this forecast is mostly unchanged from the previous update in December, the report flagged the risks posed by the escalating US trade policies, which could potentially impact global supply chains and trade dynamics.

Additionally, the agency projected two further cuts in India's policy interest rate within the current calendar year. The policy rate is expected to decrease to 5.75 percent by December 2025,

down from the current 6.25 percent, following a 25 basis point reduction in February. These rate cuts are expected to support domestic economic activity and cushion any adverse effects of external factors.

As India faces global uncertainties, its relatively lower exposure to global trade makes it well-positioned to weather the storm, with the economy expected to continue its steady growth trajectory in the coming years.

India to explore green shipping and digital business with Singapore

India's green fuel and digital shipping initiatives are poised to enter the global market through Singapore's robust marine and shipping industry, which supplies over 55 million tonnes of bunker fuel annually to internationally operating vessels. This makes Singapore one of the largest global hubs for marine fuel.

According to trade sources, both India and Singapore are exploring the creation of a "Green Digital Shipping Corridor" that would connect international ports and marine industries. This corridor aims to facilitate the movement of green fuels, such as green hydrogen and ammonia, while leveraging digital technologies to enhance efficiency in the maritime sector.

India's long-term focus on exporting green fuels aligns perfectly with Singapore's strategic position as a maritime hub. The country's maritime industry is well-positioned to help market and distribute India's green fuels to ships operating worldwide.

Next week, India's Minister of Port, Shipping, and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, along with key industry stakeholders, will visit Singapore to formalize a working program with Singapore's maritime industries. Sonowal has a clear focus on advancing green shipping practices and digitizing Indian ports,



with the goal of making India a global leader in the maritime sector.

Meanwhile, Singapore is also exploring various opportunities to expand its industrial base, including the development of shipping capacity, port modernization, and shipyard upgrades. Sonowal's visit will coincide with Singapore Maritime Week, running from March 24 to 28, providing opportunities for the minister and his delegation to engage with over 20,000 attendees, including global maritime industry leaders.

This partnership is set to boost India's role in the global green shipping and digital trade landscape, enabling both countries to tap into new business prospects and solidify their leadership in the global maritime industry.

India's auto parts & medical exports show robust growth Auto parts exports rise to \$7.7 billion in FY24

India's exports of auto components, along with medical and scientific instruments, have experienced significant growth over the past three years, according to a government official. The auto parts sector, in particular, saw a rise in exports to \$7.7 billion in the fiscal year 2023-24, up from \$6.88 billion in FY22. This growth reflects both the strong global demand for Indian auto components and the country's increasing competitiveness in the global supply chain.

Key export destinations for Indian auto parts include the United States, Turkey, Germany, Mexico, and Brazil, indicating a wide and diverse market for these products. The strong demand in these regions underscores India's ability to meet the needs of global automakers, offering high-quality components at competitive prices.

In addition to the auto sector, India has also made impressive strides in the export of medical and scientific instruments. These exports have sim-



ilarly shown resilience and growth, driven by global demand for India's high-quality, cost-effective healthcare solutions. As the global healthcare industry continues to expand, India is positioning itself as a reliable source of medical and scientific equipment, further bolstering its export portfolio.

This growth in both the auto and medical exports highlights India's evolving role as a key player in global manufacturing and trade. The country's competitiveness in these sectors can

be attributed to its robust industrial base, skilled labor force, and ongoing technological advancements.

Looking ahead, experts expect India's exports in these sectors to continue their upward trajectory, driven by sustained global demand and improvements in India's manufacturing capabilities. With a focus on expanding its global footprint, India is poised to remain a leading exporter of auto components and medical instruments in the coming years.

Google Doodle Celebrates ‘Worm Moon’ with Interactive Lunar Game



On March 25, Google unveiled a creative and interactive Doodle to celebrate the Worm Moon, marking March’s final Half Moon. The Doodle invites users to engage in a unique card game that tests their knowledge of the lunar cycle. In the game, players must match the different phases of the moon to earn points and compete against the March Half Moon. Titled “Rise of the Half Moon in March,” the Doodle allows users to choose from cards, each representing a phase of the moon, as they learn more about the lunar cycle. With every stage of the game, players are rewarded with unique incentives, encouraging them to continue playing. Those who successfully complete the challenge can share their high scores, adding a competitive edge to the fun.

According to the Old Farmer’s Almanac, the Worm Moon is named after the time of year when frozen ground begins to thaw, and earthworms start reappearing, signaling the arrival of spring. In another interpretation, the moon’s name comes from the emergence of beetle larvae from tree bark. This interactive Doodle is available on both mobile and desktop devices, allowing users worldwide to participate in this lunar celebration while learning more about the phases of the moon.

Chaitra Navratri 2025: Dates, Significance, and Rituals



Chaitra Navratri, one of the most significant festivals for Hindus, will be celebrated from March 30 to April 7, 2025. This nine-day festival, dedicated to Goddess Durga, is observed with great devotion across India and among Hindus worldwide. It marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year, particularly in North India, and is considered a time of spiritual renewal and celebration of feminine power.

Key Dates of Chaitra Navratri 2025:

- March 30: Pratipada (Ghatasthapana & Shailputri Puja)
- March 31: Dwitiya (Brahmacharini Puja)
- April 1: Tritiya (Chandraghanta Puja)
- April 2: Chaturthi (Kushmanda Puja)
- April 3: Panchami (Skandamata Puja)
- April 4: Shashti (Katyayani Puja)

- April 5: Saptami (Kalaratri Puja)
- April 6: Ashtami (Mahagauri Puja & Kanya Pujan)
- April 7: Navami (Siddhidatri Puja & Ram Navami)

The festival symbolizes the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance. Each day of Navratri is dedicated to worshipping a specific form of Goddess Durga, known as Navadurga. The nine forms, including Ma Shailputri, Ma Brahmacharini, and Ma Mahagauri, represent various virtues and aspects of the divine feminine energy.

Rituals and Celebrations:

Devotees observe fasting, prayer, and meditation during these nine days. Temples across the country witness grand celebrations, and special ceremonies are held to honor Goddess Durga. People also dress in vibrant colors, each corresponding to a specific day, as a form of reverence.

Chaitra Navratri is a time to seek blessings, cleanse oneself spiritually, and celebrate the victory of righteousness. It is not just a religious event but also an occasion for cultural and spiritual rejuvenation across communities.

Surat’s Vispy Kharadi Sets World Record for Holding Hercules Pillars: “Proved Them Wrong”



Vispy Kharadi, an athlete from Surat, Gujarat, has etched his name in the Guinness World Records by setting the record for the “longest duration holding Hercules pillars (male).” Kharadi’s remarkable feat involved holding two Hercules pillars, each weighing over 166 kg, for an impressive two minutes and 10.75 seconds. This surpasses the previous record of 1 minute and 30 seconds, making Kharadi’s accomplishment a

historic achievement.

In a video addressing his triumph, Kharadi boldly challenged the idea that Indians are genetically weaker than athletes from other nations. He said, “People say that Indians are weak because our genetics are not as strong as those from other countries. But I proved them wrong.” He further explained the difficulty of the challenge, stating, “The Hercules Hold is something a normal person can’t

even imagine attempting.”

Kharadi’s feat has garnered global attention, with his achievement celebrated as a testament to the strength and resilience of Indian athletes. He emphasized that his success was not just personal but a victory for all Indians who have been labeled weak due to misconceptions about their physical capabilities. “Our strength is on par with world-class athletes,” Kharadi asserted.

His inspiring achievement was shared by Guinness World Records on social media and even caught the attention of Elon Musk, who reshare the video, further amplifying Kharadi’s victory. This world record not only challenges stereotypes but also serves as a powerful reminder that with determination and perseverance, extraordinary feats are possible.

7-Year-Old Madurai Girl Sets Guinness World Record as Youngest Taekwondo Instructor

Seven-year-old Samyuktha Narayanan from Madurai has made history by becoming the “youngest Taekwondo instructor ever,” earning a Guinness World Record. Her remarkable achievement has garnered widespread admiration, with many praising her dedication and skill in the martial art.

Guinness World Records announced the feat in a social media post, stating, “Seven-year-old girl makes history as the youngest Taekwondo instructor ever, aged just seven years and 270 days old! Samyuktha Narayanan is an inspiration to fellow kids in Madurai, India, encouraging them to engage in sports!”

Her accomplishment has sparked a variety of reactions. Many users expressed awe at her talent and hard work, encouraging other children to pursue their dreams. One Instagram user congratulated Samyuktha, saying, “Your

hard work, determination, and incredible talent are truly inspiring.” Another added, “There’s always a child doing it better than you,” in refer-

enced, “A sprained ankle could impact her life in a flash.”

Despite the mixed responses, Samyuktha’s success has



ence to Samyuktha’s exceptional ability.

However, not all reactions were positive. Some users expressed concerns about the potential risks of children practicing such physically demanding sports at a young age. One comment

highlighted the potential for young athletes to achieve extraordinary feats. Her record not only makes her a source of inspiration in Madurai but also encourages children around the world to pursue their passions with dedication and perseverance.

“I Regret Moving to Canada”: Student’s Viral Post Exposes Hardships Faced by Immigrants

A Reddit post titled “I Regret Moving to Canada” has gone viral, shedding light on the struggles that Indian students face when they move abroad in search of a better future. The post, authored by an anonymous individual currently living in Canada, criticizes the often-illusory promises of a prosperous life in the West, calling out the harsh realities that many students encounter. According to the Redditor, Canada’s government and educational institutions have turned international students into a “business model,” exploiting them through exorbitant tuition fees for subpar education. The user claims that many students enroll in private or low-ranking colleges offering outdated curricula and barely functional degrees, which hold little value in the Canadian job market. After graduation, the post argues, many students are left struggling in survival jobs like Uber driving or retail, burdened by heavy student loans and with little career advancement.

The post also highlights the steep cost of living in Canada, including high rent, expensive groceries, and a lack of work-life balance. Students often find themselves

working long hours at minimum-wage jobs to make ends meet, while being exploited by employers who pay under the table for illegal wages.

Beyond financial struggles, the post touches on the emotional toll of living away from family and the isolation many students face. Despite Canada’s polite society, the author writes that building meaningful friendships is difficult, with many international students suffering from loneliness and depression.



Indian Superbike League Launched to Revolutionize Motorsports

The Indian Superbike League (ISBL) was officially launched on March 17, 2025, marking a new era for Indian motorsports. Sanctioned by the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI), the league will offer professional motorcycle racing, with the inaugural season scheduled for the end of this year. The competition will span three rounds across Chennai, Bengaluru, and Pune-Mumbai. The ISBL aims to develop home-grown talent and provide a structured platform for riders to showcase their skills. The franchise-based league will feature Pro, Amateur, Female Riders, and Rookie classes. Key investors include the Dhuleva Group, and Ducati will supply motorcycles for the event. Director Pranav Bakre emphasized that the league would empower riders and technicians while elevating Indian motorsports on the global stage. With over 400 riders al-



ready signed up, the ISBL is set to fill the gap in India's motorcycle racing ecosystem and create a sustainable career path for aspiring racers.



Yuva All Stars Championship: Wins for Yuva Mumba, Palani Tuskers, Warriorz K.C on Day 13

On Day 13 of the Yuva All Stars Championship in Haridwar, Yuva Mumba, Palani Tuskers, and Warriorz K.C. emerged victorious in their respective matches. The day began with a thrilling tie between Chandigarh Chargers and Sonipat Spartans, ending 29-29. Virender Singh's raids kept Chandigarh in the game, while Sonipat's Ankit Kumar Rana and Rahul Ahri contribut-

ed significantly. Warriorz K.C. defeated UP Falcons 43-34, with Shivansh Thakur's defense and Himanshu Yadav's points turning the tide in their favor. Palani Tuskers triumphed 41-37 against Yuva Yoddhas, with Kesavan Raja's excellent raiding. In the final match, Yuva Mumba defeated Yuva Paltan 40-31, securing a thrilling win through key moments and strong defense.

Haryana, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh Win on Day 1 of National Women's Hockey League 2024-2025

The National Women's Hockey League 2024-2025 Final Phase began in Ranchi on Tuesday, with Hockey Haryana, Hockey Association of Odisha, and Hockey Madhya Pradesh securing victories in their respective matches. In the first match, Hockey Haryana triumphed 7-1 over Manipur Hockey, with Saavi and Kirti scoring braces. Odisha defeated Hockey Bengal 1-0, thanks to a goal by Dipika Barwa early in the match. In the final game of the day, Hockey Madhya Pradesh beat Hockey Maharashtra 2-0, with goals from Bhumiksha Sahu and Captain Soniya Kumre. The opening ceremony took place at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh AstroTurf Hockey Stadium before Hockey Jharkhand faced Hockey Mizoram. The tournament features eight teams and will be played in a single pool format, with the top team crowned champion.



Khelo India Para Games 2025 Anthem, Mascot, and Logo Launched

The Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) 2025 anthem, mascot, and logo were officially launched by the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium complex on Tuesday. The second edition of the games will be held in New Delhi from March 20-27, with over 1300 athletes competing in six para sports disciplines. The mascot, 'Ujjwala,' symbolizes resilience and perseverance, inspired by the house sparrow of Delhi. The logo features a dynamic athlete and Delhi's iconic landmarks, highlighting inclusivity and progress. The bilingual tagline "Champions Beyond Limits | Haunslon ki Udaan" reflects the spirit of para-athletes. The anthem, with its motivating lines "khelega khelega mera India, jeetega jeetega mera India," aims to inspire both athletes and fans. The games will take place at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Indira Gandhi Stadium, and Dr. Karni Singh shooting range.



DSC's U15 Table Tennis Tournament Opens with Top Performances

The Dream Sports Championship U15 Table Tennis Tournament kicked off on March 17, 2025, showcasing outstanding performances on Day 1. The event began with an orientation session featuring Table Tennis legend Sharath Kamal and key figures from Dream Sports Foundation. In the boys' category, K Akshay Bhushan delivered a dominant 3-0 win over Bhiwandkar Param, while Chakraborty Shrestho triumphed in a thrilling 3-2 match against Dhariwal Siddhanth. In the girls' competition, Dhar Shreya beat Dhimahi Kabrawala 3-0 with an impressive performance, and Jitnada Unjit secured a 3-0 victory over Singhal Akanksha. The tournament, filled with intense and exciting matches, continues to highlight the immense potential of young Table Tennis athletes.



Sukant Kadam Climbs to World No. 2 After Stellar Spanish Para-Badminton Performance

India's para-badminton star Sukant Kadam has risen to World No. 2 in the SL4 category of the BWF Para-Badminton World Rankings, following an outstanding performance at the Spanish Para-Badminton International 2025. Sukant now has 53,650 points, just behind Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan (56,680 points). His rise is fueled by impressive showings in two Grade 2 tournaments and one Grade 1 tournament in Spain. Sukant clinched gold in the Grade 2 event by defeating fellow Indian Tarun 21-13, 21-10. In the Grade 1 tournament, he narrowly lost to Naveen Sivakumar in a tight match. Kadam expressed his joy over the achievement, emphasizing the importance of consistency as he looks forward to upcoming tournaments like the Asian Para Games and World Championships. His rise highlights India's growing dominance in para badminton.



Stasya, Jaden, and Yashaan Win Gold at Mumbai Horse Show 2025

The Mumbai Horse Show 2025 (MHS 2025) concluded at the Mahalaxmi Racecourse with stellar performances from Stasya Pandya, Jaden Dsouza, and Yashaan Khambata in Show Jumping and Dressage. Organized by the Amateur Riders' Club (ARC), the event saw top competitors from across Maharashtra. On Day 1, Jaden won gold in the Show Jumping junior category, while Stasya clinched gold in the Show

Jumping children's category on Day 2. Yashaan also bagged multiple golds, including in the Show Jumping open category. Stasya was awarded the 'Best Rider in the Children category', Jaden earned the 'Rider in Junior category' title, and Yashaan was named 'Best Rider in the Open category.' ARC emerged as the winning team, with the competition highlighting the region's talent and dedication to equestrian sports.





Aishwarya Rai Rejected ‘Kuch Kuch Hota Hai’ Role to Avoid Backlash



Aishwarya Rai Bachchan revealed she rejected the iconic role of Tina Malhotra in *Kuch Kuch Hota Hai* (1998) due to fears of being criticized for her portrayal. The actress shared in an interview with *Filmfare* that she did not want to be typecast or face harsh backlash for playing a glamorous character, as the film’s plot centers around Shah Rukh Khan’s character choosing a “real” woman over Tina, who is more modern and fashionable. Aishwarya was concerned that accepting the role would lead to negative comparisons to her modeling days, particularly her portrayal of a glamorous, pouting character. The role eventually went to Rani Mukerji, whose performance became iconic and remains one of her most beloved roles. Aishwarya’s career, however, continued to thrive, with her latest appearance being in *Ponniyin Selvan: II* (2023).

SRK, Priyanka Chopra to Reunite at IPL 2025 Opening Ceremony



Bollywood fans are buzzing with excitement as Shah Rukh Khan and Priyanka Chopra will reunite at the IPL 2025 opening ceremony on March 22, 2025, at Eden Gardens, Kolkata. SRK, the owner of *Kolkata Knight Riders*, will support his team, while Priyanka’s role remains a mystery, adding to the intrigue. The event promises a blend of cricket and Bollywood glamour, featuring perfor-

mances by stars like Arijit Singh, Shreya Ghoshal, Varun Dhawan, Shradha Kapoor, and Vicky Kaushal. Salman Khan will also promote his upcoming film *Sikandar*. The ceremony starts at 6:00 PM IST and will be broadcast live on Jio Hotstar and Star Sports Network. Don’t miss this star-studded spectacle where cricket and entertainment collide!

Hollywood Director Arrested for Swindling Netflix Out of USD 11M



Hollywood director Carl Erik Rinsch, known for *47 Ronin*, has been arrested on charges of wire fraud and money laundering after allegedly swindling USD 11 million from Netflix. Rinsch had secured about

USD 44 million from the streaming giant for his unfinished sci-fi show *White Horse*. When requesting an additional USD 11 million to complete the project, Rinsch instead transferred the funds to his personal

brokerage account. Prosecutors claim that Rinsch lost about half of the money through failed investments, later channeling the remaining funds into cryptocurrency. He then spent USD 10 million on personal expenses, including luxury cars, furniture, and clothing. Rinsch, 47, was arrested in West Hollywood, California, and appeared in court on Tuesday, where he was released on a USD 100,000 bond. His court date in New York has not yet been set. Netflix has declined to comment.

India’s Highest Tax-Paying Actor in 2025

Amitabh

Bachchan, Bollywood’s legendary actor, has made headlines once again, this time for paying the highest tax in India for 2024-25. With an impressive earning of Rs. 350 crore, Bachchan paid a whopping Rs. 120 crore in taxes, surpassing even Shah Rukh Khan’s Rs. 92 crore, making him the top taxpayer in the industry. At 82, Bachchan remains one of the most popular figures in In-



dian cinema. His income comes from multiple sources, including his acting career, brand endorsements, and television appearances. Bachchan continues to captivate audiences with ma-

jor film projects like *Kalki 2898 AD* and *Vettaian*, as well as hosting *Kaun Banega Crorepati* (KBC), one of India’s most-watched TV shows. Bachchan’s tax payment marks a 30% increase from last year, further solidifying his influence and success. Despite his age, he remains a key figure in entertainment, with upcoming movies like *Section 84* and the sequel to *Kalki 2898 AD* on the horizon.

Niharika Konidela Announces Second Film Under Pink Elephant Pictures

Niharika Konidela, daughter of the mega family, is all set to produce her second film under the Pink Elephant Pictures banner. After the grand success of her debut production, *Committee Kurrollu*, Niharika is collaborating with female director Manasa Sharma for this new project. Manasa Sharma, known for her work as the creative director of *Oka Chinna Family Story* (ZEE5) and di-

rector of *Bench Life* (Sony Liv web series), will be helming this feature film as her third project under the Pink Elephant Pictures banner. The details regarding the upcoming film will be revealed soon, creating excitement among fans and industry insiders alike. Niharika’s journey as a producer is gaining momentum, and this new project promises to add another successful chapter to her career.



Shalini Pandey Discusses Potential Roles



Shalini Pandey, who gained recognition for her role in *Arjun Reddy*, recently shared her thoughts on acting in films similar to the bold character she portrayed in the hit movie. In a recent interview, Shalini revealed that her role in *Arjun Reddy* was a bit weak, especially considering it was early in her career. Despite this, she expressed her willingness to take on a similar role in the future, but with certain modifications to her character, if the director agrees. Shalini emphasized her desire to portray strong, powerful female characters, a wish she feels was fulfilled with her role in the *Dabavala Cartel* series, where she plays a strong woman. Her growing versatility and choice of roles continue to earn her praise in the industry.