



"My Heart is Filled with Gratitude"



Tollywood Actor Megastar Chiranjeevi was honored at a special event in the UK Parliament, attended by several MPs, ministers, and diplomats. The event recognized his remarkable contributions to cinema and philanthropy. On this occasion, Bridge India Group presented him with the Lifetime Achievement Award in appreciation of his illustrious career and humanitarian efforts. Expressing his gratitude, Chiranjeevi took to social media, stating, "My heart is filled with gratitude to receive this honor in the presence of so many esteemed personalities. The kind words spoken about me brought immense joy." He dedicated the award to his fans, film fraternity, well-wishers, and family, especially those who became his "blood brothers and sisters" through his blood donation campaigns. He emphasized that this recognition inspires him to continue his work with even greater enthusiasm.



Why is Pawan Silent on the Sugali Preethi Case?

Pawan campaigned on the Sugali Preethi case during elections

- Promised to resolve the case after coming to power
- Deputy CM has ignored the case for 10 months
- CBI has withdrawn from the case
- Netizens criticize Pawan on social media
- Concerns that the real accused may never be found
- Social media campaign claims the case is stalled
- If Pawan doesn't act, he may be seen as politically guilty

TPN KISHORE KATTA | Andhra Pradesh

The Sugali Preethi case has once again sparked a debate on social media, with Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan facing heavy trolling. Pawan, who claimed he formed his party to question injustice, is now being questioned for his silence on this case. It was Pawan who brought this case into the public eye, accusing the previous government of failing to deliver justice. He had promised that this would be the first case taken up after coming to power. However, even after 10 months in office, the Jana Sena leader has not addressed the case.

Jana Sena, which claims to stand for people in distress, is now being criticized for its inaction. Why is the government unable to bring justice to the victims despite being in power? Is it because the accused are linked to the TDP? If Pawan knew about this earlier, why is he silent now?

People recall past cases like the murder of film actress Pratyusha, where the culprits were never found, and the Ayesha Meera

case, which remains unresolved. Now, there are growing fears that the Sugali Preethi case will meet the same fate. If successive governments fail to identify the accused in this brutal crime that occurred under the TDP regime, what could be a greater sign of incompetence?

Sugali Preethi was murdered in 2017. The TDP ruled for two more years but failed to identify the accused. YSRCP was in power for five years and also failed to crack the case. Now, even under the new coalition government, history is repeating itself. People are questioning how a government that cannot solve this case will address other public concerns. Pawan Kalyan, who once actively pursued justice for Sugali Preethi, is now being called out for his silence. His past speeches and promises are being widely circulated on social media, fueling criticism. Meanwhile, with the CBI stepping back, many ask why the Jana Sena, which has influence at the Centre, has not pushed for a CBI probe.

2 PAGE

SC Classification Progress Due to Chandrababu & Manda Krishna - Dy CM

- SC classification bill debated in AP Assembly
- Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan credits Chandrababu & Manda Krishna
- Jana Sena backs NDA gov't's SC classification bill

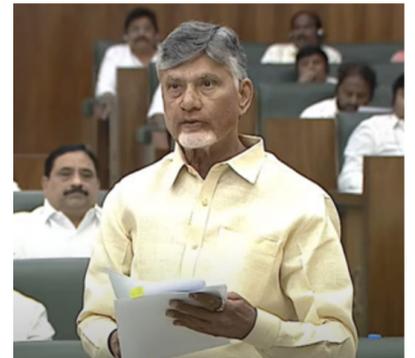
TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

A key discussion on the SC classification bill took place in the AP Assembly, where Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan credited Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and MRPS founding president Manda Krishna Madiga for their pivotal roles in advancing SC classification.

Addressing the House, Pawan Kalyan acknowledged that the movement for SC classification was initiated by Manda Krishna Madiga, while Chandrababu Naidu played a crucial role in furthering it. He emphasized that the issue of unrecognized castes within the SC community has been a long-standing concern, with numerous deliberations taking place over time. He also revealed that he had engaged in discussions with Dalit intellectuals to understand the intricacies of the classification.

Pawan Kalyan commended Manda Krishna for his bold stance, pointing out that adding caste names to surnames is generally seen among upper castes, but Manda Krishna broke the norm by adopting it. He further elaborated on the demographic differences between the Mala and Madiga communities, stating that Malas have a larger presence in Andhra Pradesh, while Madigas are dominant in Telangana.

He stressed that SC classification should be handled with careful consideration, ensuring fair distribution of reservations based on regional caste dynamics. Concluding his speech, Pawan Kalyan declared that Jana Sena fully supports the SC classification bill introduced by the NDA coalition government led by Chandrababu Naidu, reaffirming its commitment to justice and equality for all SC communities.



"AP Govt Fulfills Promise on SC Classification"

- Government moves forward with SC classification
- Assembly passes resolution for Budaga Jangam inclusion
- CM reiterates commitment to social justice

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu declared in the AP Assembly that the government is fulfilling its promise of Scheduled Caste (SC) classification, reinforcing its commitment to social justice. He stated that the move honors the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Jagjivan Ram, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, and NT Rama Rao, who dedicated their lives to uplifting marginalized communities. During the Assembly debate, Chandrababu emphasized that Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan has long supported the need for SC classification, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also stressed its significance in achieving social equity. Despite 70 years of independence, he noted that certain castes remain economically and socially backward, necessitating urgent reforms.

2 PAGE

30 Maoists Killed, Policeman Dies in Chhattisgarh Encounters

- Two major encounters in Bijapur and Kanker
- 26 Maoists killed in Bijapur, 4 in Kanker
- Amit Shah declares India will be Maoist-free by March 2026



2 PAGE

Betting Apps Scam

Hundreds of Crores Per Hour, Celebrities Under Scrutiny

Betting apps generate hundreds of crores per hour

Daily suicides linked to betting addiction

Influencers and celebrities under police investigation

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad



The online betting industry has turned into a massive illegal business, with hundreds of crores flowing into these apps every hour. Betting app operators are trapping people with lucrative offers, leading to financial ruin and even suicides. Despite police action against influencers promoting these apps, the main operators remain untouched, allowing the business to thrive.

The Telangana police have intensified their crackdown, registering multiple cases against celebrities and YouTube influencers endorsing betting apps. However, the masterminds

behind these operations continue to launch new apps daily. A single software provider powers multiple betting platforms, earning monthly fees while operators make crores every day. Initially, users receive joining bonuses to lure them into betting, but once addicted, they struggle to recover their losses. Governments are now working on software solutions to block access to these apps, alongside police action.

Actor Rana Daggubati's team has denied any involvement in illegal betting, clarifying that he was only associated with a skill-based gaming platform under a legally approved contract that ended in 2017. They emphasized that his

endorsements complied with all regulations and urged people to differentiate between legal gaming and betting platforms.

Similarly, actor Prakash Raj stated that he had endorsed a gaming platform in 2016 but ended his contract in 2017. He later discovered that his old ad was misused in 2021 without consent and had sent legal notices. Anchor Vishnupriya appeared before Panjagutta Police for questioning regarding betting promotions. Authorities are examining her role, and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) may step in to investigate money laundering as several individuals allegedly earned crores through betting promotions.

CM Naidu, Dy CM Pawan Praise Cultural & Sports Spirit of MLAs, MLCs

- MLAs and MLCs showcase talent in cultural and sports events
- CM emphasizes unity, calls for increased budget for sports and cultural programs
- Assembly sessions conclude with SC classification bill passage



showcasing their artistic talents, including dance, music, and comedy skits. CM Chandrababu Naidu praised the event, saying that Assembly should not just be about debates but also about fostering harmony and teamwork. He humorously remarked that he wished the current NDA MLAs to remain permanent MLAs.

Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, recalling his famous Gabbar Singh police station scene, said that the MLAs' performances had him laughing uncontrollably. He also noted that such events foster unity and team spirit among legislators, breaking barriers between political affiliations.

The Assembly budget sessions concluded on Thursday, with the passage of the SC classification bill. On this occasion, Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav hosted a grand dinner for all MLAs and MLCs, marking the successful end of the legislative session. The event ended on a high note, with CM Chandrababu Naidu announcing plans to hold such sports and cultural meets annually to promote a healthy, vibrant political atmosphere.

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

A grand Cultural and Sports Meet for MLAs and MLCs was held on Thursday at A Convention Center, Vijayawada, celebrating the spirit of camaraderie and talent among legislators. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, Ministers Nara Lokesh, and several legislators participated in the event, which featured sports competitions, cultural performances, and an award ceremony.



Earlier in the day, a sports competition for MLAs and MLCs was organized as part of the event. The legis-

lators took part in various activities, including relay races, tug-of-war, badminton, kabaddi, and shot put. The competitions witnessed intense

but friendly rivalries, with leaders across party lines joining in. CM Chandrababu Naidu flagged off the relay race, while Dy CM Pawan

Kalyan cheered on the participants in the kabaddi match, showcasing his enthusiasm for sports. Speaker Ayyannapatrudu and Deputy Speaker Raghurama Krishnam Raju actively participated, adding to the excitement.

At the prize distribution ceremony, winners were felicitated by CM Chandrababu Naidu and Dy CM Pawan Kalyan, who congratulated all participants for their sporting spirit. Minister Nara Lokesh, who coordinated the event, highlighted the importance of fitness and teamwork in governance. Following the sports meet, a cultural festival featured MLAs and MLCs

Why is Pawan Silent on the...

Continued from page 1

Shouldn't the real culprits be identified and punished? Shouldn't justice be delivered to Sugali Preethi's family? These are the questions people are asking, demanding answers from the Jana Sena leadership. Now, with the coalition government in power, Sugali Preethi's mother has met Home Minister Anita, who assured that the case would be handed over to the CID. At least now, people hope for justice. Pawan Kalyan, who once vowed to fight for the case, is now in power. It is his responsibility to ensure that the real accused are arrested. Otherwise, the Jana Sena will face severe political consequences. If Pawan does not act on this case, his critics will brand him just another politician who failed after coming to power.

30 Maoists Killed, Policeman Dies in Chhattisgarh Encounters

TPN Correspondent | Chhattisgarh

At least 30 Maoists were killed in separate encounters in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur and Kanker districts, while a police jawan lost his life in the exchange of fire. These operations mark a major success for security forces in their ongoing fight against left-wing extremism.

The encounter in Bijapur began around 7 AM near the border with Dantewada when a joint team of security personnel conducted an anti-Naxalite operation in Gangaloor police station limits. The State Task Force and District Reserve Guard engaged in intense crossfire with Maoists, resulting in the elimination of 26 insurgents. Security forces recovered firearms and explosives from the site. A police jawan was martyred in the operation.

In Kanker, a joint team of the Border Security Force and District Reserve Guard killed four Maoists near Koroskodo village. Both encoun-

ters come as part of heightened anti-Maoist operations across Chhattisgarh.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah hailed these encounters as a significant achievement in the fight against extremism. He reiterated the government's commitment to eliminating Maoist insurgency, stating, "The country will be Maoist-free before March 31 next year. The Modi government is implementing a zero-tolerance policy against Maoists who refuse to surrender despite multiple opportunities." Last month, security forces eliminated 31 Maoists in Bijapur's Indravati National Park area, where a fierce encounter resulted in the deaths of two security personnel.

In January, security forces killed senior Maoist leader Jayaram Reddy, also known as Chalapati, who carried a bounty of ₹1 crore. More than 200 Maoists were neutralized in Chhattisgarh in 2024, with 217 from the Bastar region. Additionally, over 800 Maoists were arrested, and 802 surrendered during the year.

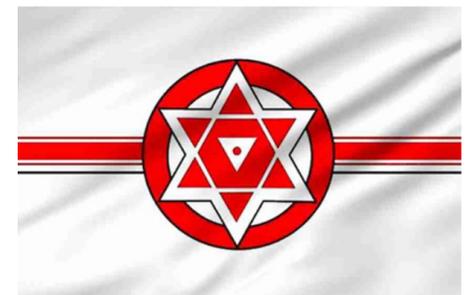
"AP Govt Fulfills..."

Continued from page 1

Chandrababu cited the Supreme Court's ruling that states have the authority to classify castes within the SC category. He assured that the NDA alliance is keeping its election promise and will send a resolution to the central government to ensure the inclusion of bubble clans in the SC list. He also announced that district-wise categorization would be implemented after the 2026 census to ensure equitable reservation distribution.

The Chief Minister highlighted TDP's historic role in eradicating caste-based discrimination. He recalled that during the Manda Krishna Madiga movement, the Justice Ramachandra Rao Commission classified SCs into four groups. Additionally, he pointed to the Justice Usha Mehra Commission's recommendations and a seven-member Supreme Court bench led by Justice Chandrachud, which upheld the need for classification. The R.R. Mishra Commission has also categorized SCs into Group-1, Group-2, and Group-3, with reservations allocated based on population and backwardness. Chandrababu credited NT Rama Rao for pioneering SC welfare programs and emphasized TDP's role in appointing leaders from marginalized communities, including K.R. Narayanan and Abdul Kalam as Presidents, Balayogi as Lok Sabha Speaker, and Pratibha Bharati as Assembly Speaker.

He assured that the issue of caste certificates for Turupu Kapus would be addressed and announced the P-Four program to eliminate poverty. The Assembly unanimously passed a resolution recommending the inclusion of the Budaga Jangam community in the SC list, marking a major step towards social justice.



Politics Behind Kolleru Issue Becoming Complicated: Janasena

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Janasena has released an official statement regarding the destruction of Kolleru, attributing the complexity of the issue to political interference. The party emphasized its commitment to environmental protection while ensuring the livelihood of people dependent on the lake.

In its statement, Janasena recalled the 2006 Operation Kolleru, during which the Ycp government blew up pond banks with landmines, causing widespread destruction. The party asserted that the coalition government is dedicated to safeguarding both the environment and the people relying on Kolleru for their livelihood. Janasena stated that Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan is actively working on a balanced solution. He has been engaging with officials, experts, and residents of the affected region to address the concerns effectively. The statement also highlighted CM N. Chandrababu Naidu's experience in resolving complex issues, expressing confidence that an equitable and long-term solution will be found.



AP Assembly Committees Announced, House Adjourned Indefinitely

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh government has announced the Assembly Committees for 2025-26, appointing seven members in each committee. These committees will function for a year, ensuring smooth legislative operations.

Key appointments include Ch. Ayyannapatrudu as Chairman of the Assembly Rules Committee, Kamineni Srinivas leading the Government Assurances Committee, Mandali Buddha Prasad as Chairman of the Ethics Committee, Pithani Satyanarayana heading the Privileges Committee, and Raghuramakrishnam Raju overseeing the Petitions Committee.

Meanwhile, after 15 days of intense discussions, the AP Assembly has been adjourned indefinitely. During this session, legislators discussed crucial matters for 85 hours and 55 minutes, and unanimously passed nine bills, including the SC classification bill.

A special committee has been appointed to investigate irregularities in cooperative banks. On the final day, State Home Minister Vangalapati Anitha introduced the SC classification bill, which was supported by Telugu Desam Party and Jana Sena. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, along with other members, participated in discussions before Speaker Ayyannapatrudu adjourned the Assembly indefinitely.

Government plans new policy for film industry development

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Cinematography Minister Kandula Durgesh announced that the government is actively working on developing the film industry in Visakhapatnam and Tirupati. He stated that a new policy will be introduced soon to facilitate industry growth and create employment opportunities.



During the question and answer session in the Legislative Council, the minister addressed members' concerns regarding cinema development in Visakhapatnam and tourism in tribal areas. He emphasized that the state government, under the leadership of CM N. Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, has held discussions with film industry leaders, encouraging them to establish film studios on the lines of Hyderabad. The government assured full cooperation and support for the construction of studios through direct government funding or in

Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Minister Durgesh highlighted that 34 acres were originally allocated for Ramanaidu Studio in Visakhapatnam, but the previous government diverted 15 acres for other purposes. The current administration is committed to reclaiming and fully utilizing the 34 acres for the film industry.

In response to another question, Minister Durgesh clarified that the state government has no plans to amend the 1/70 law related to tribal lands. However, the government is working on tourism development in tribal areas with active participation from local tribal communities.

Former ISRO Chief Somnath Assigned Key Role in AP

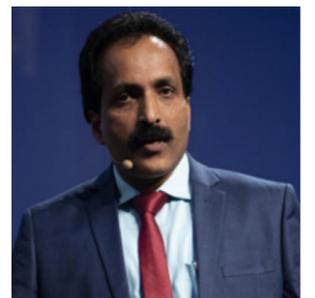
TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh government has assigned former ISRO chairman S. Somnath an important role, appointing him as the honorary advisor for space technology. He will provide strategic guidance on industries, research, smart cities, disaster management, satellites, and remote sensing communication technology, supporting the state's technological advancements.

In addition, renowned forensic expert KPC Gandhi has been appointed as the advisor for the Andhra Pradesh Forensic Science Laboratory, bringing his expertise to strengthen forensic investigations in the state.

Further, Chief Secretary KS Jawahar Reddy issued orders appointing Bharat Biotech MD Suchitra Ella and former DRDO chief G. Satish Reddy as honorary advisors for the Aerospace and Defense Manufacturing Hub, as well as for handlooms and handicrafts development.

All appointees will hold cabinet-equivalent advisory positions for two years, contributing their expertise to the state's growth and technological development.



Minister Gottipati Ravi Accuses YSRCP of Biased Transformer Procurement

- 90% of Transformer Purchases Tied to One Company Under Jagan Govt
- Coalition government reducing transformer and pole prices
- Tenders issued to ensure fair participation and quality supply

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar has alleged that during the previous YSRCP government, 90% of transformer purchases were tied to a single company, leading to inefficiencies in the power sector. Speaking in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, he responded to questions from MLAs Bathula Balaramakrishna, Kalva Srinivasulu, and Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy, assuring that transformers would be readily available for farmers by the upcoming agricultural season. Minister Gottipati criticized the YSRCP regime, claiming that it failed to replace broken electricity poles and did not repair faulty transformers over the last five years. He stated that after the formation of the NDA coalition government, the administration immediately began replacing damaged poles and repairing transformers. He also confirmed that new transformers will be installed in the Raja Nagar constituency before summer.

To address supply issues, tenders have been called for 10,000 transformers under AP SPDCL, and 22 new substations are being set up to improve power distribution. The minister emphasized that MSSEs will be encouraged in procurement, ensuring fair competition and preventing monopolies. Minister Gottipati also highlighted cost-cutting measures, revealing that the price of electricity poles has been reduced from ₹4,600 to ₹3,750, and transformer costs have dropped by over 20% without compromising quality. He assured that transformers of 25 KV, 40 KV, and 63 KV, catering to farmers, industries, and businesses, will be made available at lower prices, ensuring fair participation in tenders while maintaining high standards.



Speaker Slams AP MLAs for Leaving Assembly Like 'Thieves'

- Speaker Ayyannapatrudu expresses anger over MLAs skipping sessions
- Criticizes legislators for signing attendance and leaving immediately
- Seven YSRCP MLAs missing after the Governor's speech

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker Chintakayala Ayyannapatrudu made shocking remarks during the ongoing Legislative Assembly sessions, criticizing some MLAs for coming and going like thieves. Expressing deep dissatisfaction, he questioned their commitment as elected representatives and condemned their practice of signing the attendance register but not staying for discussions. The Speaker's comments were particularly directed at YSRCP MLAs, as reports revealed that seven legislators signed the attendance register but left immediately after the Governor's speech on Thursday. He strongly objected to this behavior, stating, "What kind of people's representatives do this? If they don't even stay to hear responses to their own questions, what purpose does their attendance serve?" Following this, Speaker Ayyannapatrudu read out the names of the absent MLAs, emphasizing that



such traditions are unacceptable. He urged all legislators to attend and actively participate in discussions, warning that those who fail to fulfill their responsibilities might not be needed in the House. His remarks have triggered a political stir, drawing widespread attention.

TDP MLA Demands Govt to Reclaim Ramanaidu Studio Lands

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

TDP MLA Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu has strongly demanded that the government take back the lands allocated to Ramanaidu Studio in Visakhapatnam, alleging that the land was being misused. Raising the issue in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, he pointed out that 35 acres were originally given to develop the film industry, but a portion of the land was converted into layouts and put up for sale instead of being used for the studio. Ramakrishna Babu revealed that 15.17 acres of the allotted land were illegally turned into layouts during the previous government's tenure. He took legal action to halt the sale, preventing further misuse of public land. In his Assembly speech, he urged the government to reclaim the land and ensure that allocations for public purposes are not diverted



for private gains. The government had initially allotted this land to boost the film industry in Visakhapatnam, aiming to turn the city into a major hub for cinema production. However, allegations of land misuse have sparked controversy, raising concerns over accountability in land allotments. The MLA stressed that public land should not be exploited for commercial profits and called for strict monitoring of all similar allocations. He emphasized that the state must ensure that lands given for industrial and cultural development serve their intended purpose. The issue has now gained political attention, with demands for a thorough review of all land allotments made in recent years.

NDA Govt Insincere About SC Classification: Botsa Satyanarayana

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

YSRCP senior leader Botsa Satyanarayana has strongly criticized the NDA coalition government, alleging that it is not sincere about SC classification and is only using the issue for political advantage. Speaking at a press conference, he accused the TDP-led government of having a bias against marginalized communities and failing to genuinely address their concerns. Botsa recalled that during its previous tenure, TDP filed cases against activists who fought for SC classification, attempting to suppress the movement instead of supporting it. He asserted that these legal actions were a clear indication of TDP's lack of commitment to the SC cause. He further stated that it was former CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy who ensured justice by lifting those cases and standing firmly with the

oppressed sections. The YSRCP leader also criticized the current NDA government, stating that despite its claims, it has not taken any concrete steps toward fair classification. He accused the coalition of using SC classification as a political tool while neglecting the actual needs of SC communities. Botsa warned that the marginalized sections would see through the government's insincerity and respond appropriately in the upcoming elections. He concluded by reaffirming YSRCP's commitment to social justice, stating that the party will continue to fight for fair and equal rights for all SC communities.



ACB Issues Notices to Former I&PR Commissioner Vijayakumar Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has issued notices to former I&PR Commissioner Tumma Vijayakumar Reddy, summoning him for questioning next week. He is accused of misusing government funds by issuing advertisements worth thousands of crores to Jagan Media and YSRCP-friendly outlets in violation of established rules during the previous administration. Following the formation of the coalition government, the Vigilance and Enforcement Department initiated

a detailed investigation into the matter. Based on the findings of the vigilance report, the ACB registered a case and began further inquiry. As part of the investigation, the ACB issued notices to Vijayakumar Reddy's residence in Hyderabad and also sent them via email. He is currently reported to be working in Kolkata. The notices direct him to appear before the ACB office in Guntur for further questioning. The case has gained significant attention, as it involves allegations of large-scale financial irregularities in government advertisements. The coalition government has vowed to take strict action against corruption and misuse of public funds. The ACB's latest move is seen as part of the ongoing crackdown on financial misconduct during the previous regime.



Notification Issued for Kadapa Zilla Parishad Chairman Election



TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

The Election Commission has issued a notification for the election of the Kadapa Zilla Parishad Chairman, with a special meeting scheduled for March 27 to finalize the selection. Nominations will be accepted from 10 AM to 12 PM, followed by scrutiny at 1 PM, after which the final list of candidates will be announced. The voting process will take place in the afternoon. The election is being held following the resignation of Akepati Amarnath Reddy, who previously held the post. Currently, out of 50 ZPTC seats in Kadapa district, YSRCP holds 49, while TDP won one seat. However, two ZPTCs passed away after the elections, and one resigned, reducing the total number to 48.

Sunil Yadav to Turn Approver in Viveka Murder Case

TPN Correspondent | Kadapa

A major twist has emerged in the Vivekananda Reddy murder case, as A2 accused Sunil Yadav has decided to turn approver, following in the footsteps of Dastagiri. Sunil stated that he is ready to expose the conspiracy behind the crime and has revealed names of those involved, urging the police for protection. Sunil met YSR district SP Ashok Kumar and requested personal security, claiming that he has been facing threats even after being released on bail. He alleged that YSRCP leaders threatened him in Cherlapally Jail and continued pressuring him after his release. He also pointed out that Dastagiri, who turned approver earlier, has been receiving both threats and offers of material benefits for the past five years.



Guntur Mayor's Resignation Triggers Election Process

- Council prepares for an emergency meeting
- Resolution for mayoral election to be sent to EC, state government
- Election date to be announced after EC approval

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

With the resignation of the Guntur Mayor, the city council has initiated the process for electing a new mayor. Arrangements are being made for an emergency meeting, which will be conducted under the chairmanship of Dep-

uty Mayor. The Municipal Commissioner has sought government approval to convene the council meeting, during which a formal resolution for holding the mayoral election will be passed. This resolution will then be sent to the State Government and the Election

Commission (EC) for further proceedings. Once the EC receives the resolution, it is expected to announce the date for the mayoral election. Currently, the alliance holds the majority in the Guntur Council, making the upcoming election a crucial political development.





Minor Girl's Missing Case in Krishna Dist Turns Into Rape Investigation

TPN Correspondent | Krishna District
A minor girl from G Kondur village, who went missing on March 14, 2025, was later found and revealed that she had been sexually assaulted. The case, initially registered as a missing complaint, was later converted into a rape case after the victim's statement.

The girl had gone to visit a known family in Veerapanenigudem on March 9 and stayed there for four days. On the night of March 13, she went missing, and her parents filed a complaint at Atkur Police Station the next day. On the orders of Krishna District SP R. Gangadhar Rao IPS, Hanuman Junction CI KVVN Satyanarayana and Atkur SI Chava Suresh formed eight search teams under "Operation Sravani" to locate her. A statewide lookout notice was issued, and the girl's photos were widely circulated through police networks, village secretariat groups, and media platforms. Drones and CCTV footage were used in the search. On the night of March 17, the girl was brought to Machavaram Police Station by an auto driver. She was later taken to Vijayawada Government



Hospital, where she told a Woman SI that she had been raped. The police converted the case into a rape investigation and arrested two accused while searching for six others.
Arrested Accused:
1. Banavathu Lakshmana Jitendra Kumar Nayak (25), Veerapanenigudem

2. Pagadala Harshavardhan (25), Veerapanenigudem
Eluru Range IG G.V.G Ashok Kumar congratulated the police team for their swift action, and efforts are ongoing to apprehend the remaining accused.

Women Allege ₹1 Crore Dwakra Loan Fraud in Vijayawada

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Several women from Vaissar Colony, Vijayawada, have alleged a ₹1 crore fraud in the name of Dwakra Group loans. The victims claim that a Take Over Group misused their documents to secure loans from multiple banks without their consent.

According to the complaints, 10 women deposited ₹2 lakh each as savings in the Bank of Maharashtra. However, they allege that RP Rani and CVO Rajesh used their documents to secure additional loans of ₹2 lakh per person from multiple banks. The victims claim they were neither informed about the loans nor received any funds. Further, the women allege that the accused demanded a commission of ₹5,000 per lakh, citing that loans were taken on their behalf. Despite assurances, the victims say they never received the ₹20 lakh borrowed in their names or even their original savings of ₹2 lakh each.

Adding to their concerns, the complainants state that some banks did not update the loan records online, making it difficult for them to track their financial status. Frustrated by the deception, the affected women lodged a complaint at the Vijayawada Kothapet Police Station, demanding the return of their money. The police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the alleged fraud.



National Defense College Delegation Studies Economic Security in AP



TPN Correspondent | Tadepalli
A high-level delegation from the National Defense College (NDC), New Delhi, visited the Andhra Pradesh Disaster Management Authority (APDMA) in Tadepalli on Thursday as part of their study on economic security. The delegation met with Revenue Special Chief Secretary R.P. Sisodiya and APDMA Managing Director Ronanki Kurmanath.

Sisodiya, a former participant in the prestigious NDC program, shared his insights with the delegation. He highlighted that the team comprises Indian Armed Forces officers of Brigadier rank and equivalent, senior civil service officers (Joint Secretaries/Directors), and military officers

from 32 friendly foreign nations. The delegation's visit to Andhra Pradesh from March 17 to 21, 2025, is part of their National Security and Strategic Studies curriculum, which includes assessments of economic and social development, IT advancements, tourism, industries, and rural-urban development in various states.

Sisodiya also revealed that the Air Marshal of NDC has requested meetings with key state dignitaries, including the Hon'ble Governor, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, and heads of relevant departments, to discuss economic security and strategic development initiatives in Andhra Pradesh.

SP Gangadhara Rao Warns Against Online Betting and Bike Modifications

TPN Correspondent | Krishna District
With IPL matches set to begin on March 22, Krishna District SP R. Gangadhara Rao IPS, Gudivada Town DSP Dheeraj Vinil, and Gudivada One Town CI Kondapalli Srinivas have issued a strong warning against online betting, calling it a life-threatening addiction. CI Kondapalli Srinivas urged parents to monitor their children, as many young individuals have lost lakhs of rupees through online betting and, in extreme cases, have taken drastic steps like suicide after facing financial ruin.

Despite repeated police warnings, online betting continues to lure youth into a dangerous cycle of addiction and debt. The police have vowed strict action against those involved and are prepared to register criminal cases if necessary.

The public has been urged to report any betting-related activities to Gudivada One Town police immediately.

In addition, police have noticed an increase in youngsters modifying their bikes by removing silencers, causing excessive noise and disturbances, especially to heart patients and the elderly. Gudivada police have instructed local bike mechanics to report any youth requesting silencer removal. Failure to comply may lead to legal action.

Authorities emphasize that public cooperation is essential in curbing online betting and illegal bike modifications for the safety of society.



CPM Demands Drinking Water Supply for Sri Kalahasti Colony

TPN Correspondent | Gudivada
The Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM) has demanded that the Sri Kalahasti Colony in Gudivada be provided with proper drinking water facilities, as residents continue to suffer even after two decades of its establishment.

CPM Mandal Secretary R.C.P. Reddy criticized the authorities, stating that water is being supplied only in small quantities through tankers, leaving residents in a state of distress, especially during summer. He pointed out that pipelines have been laid, yet regular water supply has not been ensured.

He warned that if the government does not take immediate action, CPM will launch a large-scale agitation to fight for the rights of the people. On Thursday morning, a petition was submitted to Secretary Kotaiah at the Sri Kalahasti Colony Secretariat demanding urgent measures.

CPM leaders R. Konda, L. Surendra, and local residents M. Mangamma, B. Lakshmi, M. Lokeswari, Bhavani, Ranga Rao, A. Venkateswara Rao, and S. Kristuraju participated in the program, urging authorities to resolve the crisis at the earliest.



Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu Shines in Public Representatives' Sports Competitions



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
The Public Representatives' Sports Competitions at Vijayawada's Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium witnessed a vibrant atmosphere on the second day, with Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu actively participating in multiple events on Wednesday.

In the cricket tournament, MLA Ramu was part of the winning team captained by Minister Nadendla Manohar, which triumphed over Minister Satya Kumar Yadav's team in the final match. Additionally, he competed in the 100m running event, securing third place. Maintaining his enthusiasm from the first day, MLA Ramu participated in various other sports events on Wednesday. According to sources from the Gudivada Praja Vedika office, teams represented by MLA Ramu will continue to compete in different sports categories on Thursday.

Strict Security Measures for EVM, VVPAT Warehouse in NTR Dist

TPN Correspondent | NTR Dist
Strict security arrangements have been put in place for the EVM and VVPAT warehouse in Gollapudi, with District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha instructing police personnel to remain constantly alert.

As part of a general inspection, Dr. Lakshmi Sha visited the warehouse on Thursday, accompanied by officials and political party representatives. She

reviewed CCTV surveillance, fire safety equipment, and overall security measures, ensuring their proper functioning. After completing the inspection, she signed the monitoring register. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector emphasized that inspections are being conducted periodically as per the Election Commission of India (ECI) guidelines, with detailed reports being submitted. She also stressed the need

for warehouse staff to remain vigilant and actively monitor the CCTV cameras.

The inspection was attended by DRO M. Lakshminarasimham, political representatives Y. Ramaiah (TDP), M. Vinod Kumar (BSP), Tarun Kakani (BJP), Y. Yesudas (INC), and Collectorate Election Cell Superintendent Chandramouli, among others.



"Amaravati Chitra Kala Veedhi" Poster Unveiled by Dy CM Pawan



- Unique art festival to support artists in Andhra Pradesh
- Deputy CM assures full backing for artistic talent
- Event scheduled for April 4, 2025, at Lala Cheruvu Road, Rajahmundry

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Deputy Chief Minister Shri Konidela Pawan Kalyan, along with Andhra Pradesh State Creativity and Culture Commission Chairperson Smt. Tejaswi Podapati, unveiled the official poster for the "Amaravati Chitra Kala Veedhi" art festival.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Pawan Kalyan expressed that the festival will serve as a beacon of hope for artists across Andhra Pradesh.

He assured his complete support in providing a robust platform for artists to showcase their talent and gain the recognition they deserve. Smt. Tejaswi Podapati emphasized the commitment of the Andhra Pradesh Cultural Commission, under the leadership of Culture Minister Shri Kandula Durgesh, in promoting artists who have long been overlooked. She highlighted that this initiative is not just a promise but a definitive step toward the empowerment of artists, receiving overwhelming support from the art community.

Scheduled for April 4, 2025, at Lala Cheruvu Road in Rajahmundry, "Amaravati Chitra Kala Veedhi" is the first-of-its-kind event in the state. The festival will unite artists from across the country, offering them a platform to display and sell their artworks while engaging directly with art enthusiasts.

MLA Gondu Shankar Seeks Revival of Kalingapatnam Passenger Jetty

MLA urges CM to push for central funds

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Srikakulam constituency MLA Gondu Shankar has taken steps to revive the long-pending Kalingapatnam Passenger Jetty project in Gara Mandal. The project was selected and recognized by the Central Government in 2016, with Rs 10 crore sanctioned for its development. However, Shankar criticized the previous YSR Congress Party government for failing to utilize the funds, resulting in years of stagnation. Bringing the issue to the notice of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, the MLA urged him to submit a Detailed Project Report (DPR) and formally recommend the project to the Centre for funding. Responding promptly, the Chief Minister directed Chief Secretary Ravichandra to write to the Central Government, seeking the necessary approvals and financial support.



MLA Shankar expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister for his immediate and positive response, reaffirming his commitment to ensuring the project's completion for the benefit of the region.

PADA PD Chaitra Varshini Reviews Development Works in Pithapuram



TPN Correspondent | Pithapuram

On Thursday, Area Development Authority (PADA) PD Chaitra Varshini conducted a review meeting with officials from Agriculture, Irrigation, Horticulture, Fisheries, Veterinary, and Sericulture Departments in Pithapuram constituency. The meeting focused on assessing ongoing projects and addressing any issues hindering their implementation.

During the meeting, Chaitra Varshini instructed officials to ensure that government schemes reach all beneficiaries effectively. She urged them to report any challenges to PADA immediately for swift resolution.

Following the review, she inspected the bridge construction work on the Suddagedda canal in Gollaprolu mandal and directed officials to expedite its completion. She then visited the silk shed in Chebrolu village, interacted with farmers, and inquired about their concerns. Later, she examined the silk industry market and reviewed the status of pending works with officials.

APD P. Vasanthamadhavi and other mandal-level officials accompanied her during the inspections.

YCP Protests Against Visakhapatnam Stadium Name Change



TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

The YSR Congress Party (YCP) staged a protest in Visakhapatnam on Thursday against

the proposed renaming of the city's stadium. Party leaders and activists demanded that the stadium be named after former Chief Minister Dr. Y.S.

Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR) without delay.

Protesters expressed strong opposition to any attempts to alter the existing name, emphasizing YSR's contributions to the state and his lasting impact on Andhra Pradesh. They urged the government to take immediate steps to officially name the stadium after YSR and warned of intensified protests if their demand was ignored.

YCP leaders accused the ruling coalition of neglecting YSR's legacy and stated that any move to change the stadium's name would be met with widespread resistance.

Aqua Farmers Urge NDA Govt for immediate support - Tsavatapalli Nagabhushanam (AP PFF)

- T. Nagabhushanam Adviser of AP Prawn Farmers Federation (AP PFF)
- Concerns over monopolization and price manipulation in the industry
- SPL charges and unexpected costs burdening farmers



The aqua sector in Andhra Pradesh is facing a severe crisis, with farmers struggling due to increasing financial burdens and industry monopolization. Farmers have appealed to the NDA government, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, Minister Achenn Naidu, and Nara Lokesh to intervene and provide much-needed relief.

Despite the central government reducing customs duties on feed composition, the industry continues to face significant challenges. Farmers have criticized the marginal price reductions, stating that lowering prices by just one rupee per day is insufficient. They have also raised concerns over large exporters controlling the market and driving smaller farmers into distress.

Major companies like Avanthi are producing 6.5 to 7 lakh tons annually, while the total industry output stands at 13 lakh tons. Smaller companies contribute between 4-5 lakh tons, but the price remains the same across all levels, from large-scale exporters to small-scale producers. Farmers argue that this pricing uniformity is a sign of a monopolized market, causing severe financial distress.

Another pressing issue is the Special Line Cost (SPL) charges, which have significantly increased financial stress on farmers. Farmers have been asked to pay Rs. 1,500 as development charges and Rs. 500 as a deposit, leading to overall costs of Rs. 7-8 lakhs per farmer in some cases. These sudden demands, without prior notice, have left farmers helpless and fearing for their

livelihoods.

Recent reports also indicate arrests of farmers in Vahala-varam and Kattarikonam due to non-payment of SPL charges. Many farmers are now living in fear, worried about financial ruin and legal troubles.

Farmers insist that the government must take immediate action to regulate pricing, protect their interests, and ensure fair trade practices. They are demanding clear notices before any cost revisions and better transparency in industry operations. The community is prepared to come together and push for solutions to safeguard their livelihoods and prevent further distress in the aqua sector.

MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy Oversees Development of Eidga in Srikalahasti

TPN Correspondent | Srikalahasti

Ahead of the Ramadan festival, major beautification and development works are being carried out at the Eidga in Srikalahasti. MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy, with the advice and suggestions of the Eidga Committee, has taken the initiative to ensure that the site is well-prepared for collective prayers. Work is progressing rapidly to level the ground and enhance the surroundings, ensuring a smooth experience for the Muslim community on the festival day.

Previously, the MLA had met with Muslim minorities and urged the government to take necessary steps to develop Ei-

dgas, Dargahs, Shadi Khans, and burial grounds in Srikalahasti. He had assured the community that their longstanding issues would be addressed, and with his intervention, many problems have now been resolved. Under his supervision, development works at the Eidga are being carried out meticulously to avoid any inconvenience to worshippers during Ramadan.

The first phase of work fo-



cused on clearing and leveling the surroundings of the Eidga, with continuous monitoring by the MLA. Sudheer Reddy has been regularly inspecting the progress, ensuring that all necessary facilities are in place before the festival. He is expected to review the work again in the coming days.

The Muslim community has expressed satisfaction with the efforts, acknowledging the contributions of former Minister Bojjala Gopalakrishna Reddy, who had previously allocated land for the Eidga. They now extend their gratitude to his son, MLA Sudheer Reddy, for continuing the development and providing essential facilities.

MLA Prashanthi Reddy Demands Support for Kovur Sugar Factory Workers



TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Kovur constituency MLA Smt. Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy has called for immediate support for the workers of the Kovur Sugar Factory, which was once a major employer in the region. Speaking in the Assembly on Thursday, she urged the government to clear the pending dues of the workers and ensure the proper use of the factory's 124-acre land.

She highlighted that the factory employed nearly 3,000 workers in the past, many of whom have passed away without receiving their rightful salaries. The total pending dues amount to Rs. 20 crores. She alleged that former

MLA Prashanthi Reddy, despite serving multiple terms, withheld payments due to commission-related issues. Now that the coalition government is in power, she urged them to address the plight of these workers.

Additionally, she pointed out that thousands of acres of land are available in the IFFCO Kisan SEZ in Kovur but lack proper infrastructure to attract industries. She emphasized that by providing the necessary facilities, the government can bring investments and create job opportunities for the youth. MLA Prashanthi Reddy appealed to the government to take swift action to resolve these long-standing issues.

Strict Implementation of Swachh Andhra Swarna Andhra Programme

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Following the instructions of Hon'ble Chief Minister at the recent Swachh Andhra Swarna Andhra programme in Tanuku, S. Suresh Kumar, IAS, has directed municipal authorities to take immediate steps for urban sanitation and environmental sustainability.

All Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) have been ordered to complete desilting of drains before the monsoon to prevent water stagnation. A monitoring mechanism will track progress, with weekly reports submitted to the government, ensuring completion before May 2025.

Authorities must eliminate garbage dump sites along roads, water bodies, and vacant lands by April 19, 2025, using CCTV surveillance and awareness campaigns to prevent further dumping. This will be a key performance indicator for ranking ULBs and districts.

A strict ban on sin-

gle-use plastic has been mandated, with penalties for violators. Awareness campaigns will promote biodegradable alternatives, ensuring proper waste disposal.

The Swachh Andhra campaign will be made a people's movement, involving NGOs, students, doctors, SHGs, RWAs, and businesses to foster public participation in maintaining cleanliness.

Each municipality must establish a "Model Swarna Andhra Park", adhering to high standards of design, greenery, and amenities. Additionally, ULBs must prioritize green space development and submit regular reports for evaluation.

The Commissioner & Director of Municipal Administration has been tasked with overseeing implementation, and a two-year progress report will be submitted to the Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration & Urban Development Department.

KARATAM RAMBABU, A SPARROW LOVER

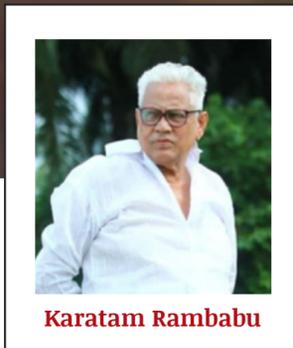


The humble sparrow, a tiny bird that once thrived in every village and city, is now struggling to survive. Once a common sight in our backyards, sparrows are gradually disappearing due to increasing environmental challenges such as cell tower radiation, pollution, excessive pesticide use, and the indiscriminate cutting of trees. It is heart-breaking to acknowledge that our own village sparrow has now joined the list of endangered species.

However, amidst this crisis, there are individuals who are striving to protect and revive the sparrow population. In our region, one such compassionate and dedicated individual is Sri Karatam Rambabu Garu. Much like environmentalist Mohammed Dilawar, who has been working tirelessly for the conservation of sparrows in India, Sri Karatam Rambabu Garu is leading a noble effort to save these little birds. His love for nature and wildlife is as deep as his love for the people he serves.

Understanding the dire need for sparrow conservation, Sri Karatam Rambabu Garu has taken significant steps to ensure their survival. In his household complexes, he ties rice husks into bundles and keeps them as food for the sparrows. Aware of the harsh summer conditions, he also arranges for water sources to quench the thirst of these little birds. His generosity extends beyond his home—whenever friends or acquaintances show interest in helping sparrows, he readily provides them with rice husks to encourage more people to take up this cause. His brother, Sri Karatam Uma, actively assists him in this mission, proving that conservation is best achieved when done together.

As we observe World Sparrow Day on March 20, let us draw inspiration from Sri Rambabu Garu's unwavering commitment to environmental protection. It is a call for all of us to take action in our own small ways—placing bird feeders, setting up water bowls, planting native



Karatam Rambabu

trees, and spreading awareness about sparrow conservation. These small efforts, when combined, can make a big difference in reviving the sparrow population and ensuring a balanced ecosystem.

The chirping of sparrows in the morning is a melody that signals the start of a new day. Let us make sure that this sound continues to be a part of our lives and that future generations do not miss out on the joy of having these little birds around. Sri Karatam Rambabu Garu has set an example for us all—now, it is our turn to follow his path and protect our feathered friends.

— By Chintala Nani

Revanth Reddy's Outburst: A Threat to Free Speech



Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's recent remarks in the state assembly, where he threatened to have critics "stripped and paraded," are deeply troubling. These words, reminiscent of a feudal mindset, not only violate democratic principles but also highlight the growing intolerance of political leaders toward dissent. Such statements, especially from a chief minister, set a dangerous precedent, normalizing the use of violent rhetoric against opponents.

The controversy began with the arrest of journalists Revathi Pogadadanda and Tanvi Yadav, who allegedly post-

ed an abusive video targeting Reddy and his family. While defamation is a legitimate concern, the state has legal avenues to address it. Resorting to threats and punitive actions, instead of allowing the judiciary to decide, reeks of authoritarianism. The very essence of democracy is the ability to tolerate criticism and respond within the framework of law, not through intimidation.

Reddy's comments raise a larger question: Should public figures have unchecked power to suppress dissent? His call to distinguish "government-approved journalists" from in-

dependent ones is an alarming sign of media control. Freedom of the press is a cornerstone of democracy, and journalists—whether mainstream or digital—play a vital role in holding power to account. If politicians start dictating who qualifies as a journalist, it will effectively turn the press into a state-controlled entity, undermining its credibility and independence.

The backlash from the opposition, particularly the BJP and BRS, is expected, but their own track records on press freedom aren't spotless either. Political hypocrisy aside, the larger issue remains—an increasing trend of using state machinery to suppress voices of dissent. The arrest of journalists on serious charges like criminal conspiracy and promoting hatred, rather than pursuing defamation suits, signals an intent to instill fear.

This incident is a stark reminder that political power, when unchecked, can erode civil liberties. Telangana's government must recognize that a leader's strength lies in their ability to handle criticism, not in silencing it. The Congress party, which frequently accuses the BJP of stifling dissent, must introspect. If it fails to rein in such authoritarian tendencies within its own ranks, it risks losing the moral high ground.

Revanth Reddy must clarify whether his comments were a moment of frustration or a reflection of his governance approach. Either way, such rhetoric has no place in a democracy. The law must remain the only recourse for grievances, not threats of public humiliation.

India-New Zealand Relations: A Strategic Shift in the Indo-Pacific



New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon's visit to India in March 2025 marks a pivotal moment in bilateral relations. Historically, New Zealand has maintained a cautious foreign policy, balancing economic dependence on China with regional security concerns. However, Luxon's trip signals a shift—one that prioritizes deeper engagement with India in trade, maritime security, and regional stability within the evolving Indo-Pacific order.

Economic Diversification: The Long-Awaited FTA

A key highlight of the visit was the revival of talks on a long-delayed Free Trade Agreement (FTA), initially proposed in 2009 but stalled due to geopolitical considerations. The agreement, if finalized, could significantly boost trade in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, critical minerals, and tourism, with projections suggesting a tenfold increase in trade over the next decade.

New Zealand's economic ties have been heavily dependent on China, particularly in dairy and agricultural exports. However, shifting global supply chains and geopolitical uncertainties have underscored the risks of over-reliance on a single market. Strengthening trade with India presents a strategic alternative, providing New Zealand with access to a large and expanding consumer base, while also supporting India's ambitions to integrate into global supply networks.

Maritime Security and Indo-Pacific Cooperation

Beyond trade, Luxon's visit underscores growing security cooperation between India and New Zealand. A key takeaway was New Zealand's commitment to a "free, open, and rules-based" Indo-Pacific—aligning closely with India's Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) vision. Both nations recognize that security is not just about military alliances but also about tackling non-traditional threats like illegal fishing, maritime disasters, and climate change.

New Zealand's participation in India-led initiatives such as the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) reinforces this commitment. IPOI, for instance, provides a platform for collaboration on maritime resource management, environmental sustainability, and capacity-building for smaller island nations. Given rising sea levels and extreme weather events affecting the Pacific, India and New Zealand can play a crucial role in developing climate adaptation strategies and strengthening regional resilience.

Strategic Realignment in the Indo-Pacific

While New Zealand remains outside formal security groupings like the Quad, its increasing cooperation with India allows for greater alignment with Quad-led initiatives on humanitarian assistance, cybersecurity, and maritime security. This reflects a broader shift toward a multipolar Indo-Pacific, where regional middle powers like India and New Zealand play an active role in shaping security dynamics beyond US-China competition.

Conclusion

Luxon's visit has injected fresh momentum into India-New Zealand ties, transforming them from a primarily trade-focused engagement into a more comprehensive strategic partnership. As both nations navigate an evolving Indo-Pacific, their strengthened collaboration holds the promise of fostering regional stability and resilience. The challenge now lies in sustaining this momentum and translating diplomatic goodwill into concrete outcomes across trade, security, and multilateral cooperation.

JD(U) After Nitish: Implosion or Survival?

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is facing the most crucial political transition of his career. As he eyes a fifth term, the question of succession looms large over the Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)]. Without a clear successor, the party risks either disintegration or a forced merger with the BJP. Nitish has always been the undisputed leader of JD(U), sidelining potential rivals within the party. His earlier attempts to groom successors, like Prashant Kishor and RCP Singh, ended in failure.

His close aides—Lallan Singh, Ashok Chaudhary, and Sanjay Jha—lack the charisma to lead. This leaves a critical leadership vacuum, making succession a defining issue for the party's survival. The buzz around his son Nishant entering politics has intensified. Though Nishant has largely stayed away from public life, his recent appearances at political events suggest a possible entry. However, Nitish has long opposed dynastic politics, and endorsing Nishant would be a reversal of his stance. If he does name his son as his successor, senior party leaders could rebel, potentially defecting to the BJP or RJD. On the other hand, without a clear transition plan, JD(U) risks internal strife. A leadership tussle between senior figures could push the party into chaos, giving the BJP an opening to orchestrate a merger. History shows that political transitions are smoother when a party is in power, as seen with Akhilesh Yadav and Tejashwi Yadav. If Nishant has to take over, now is the right time.

For JD(U) to survive post-Nitish, it must act decisively. Either Nishant takes charge under Nitish's guidance, or the party risks being a rudderless ship headed toward collapse. The choice is between controlled succession or political irrelevance.



Curfew Lifted, Partially Relaxed in Nagpur After Three Days of Violence

Curfew was lifted in some parts of Nagpur on Thursday, while restrictions were partially eased in others, three days after violent clashes erupted in the city. The unrest began on Monday night when mobs went on a rampage in central Nagpur following rumors that a 'chadar' with holy inscriptions had been burned during protests led by Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and Bajrang Dal. The demonstration was held to demand the removal of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's tomb located in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district.

The violent protests led to curfew being imposed in multiple police station jurisdictions, including Kotwali, Ganeshpath, Tehsil, Lakadganj, Pachpaoli, Shanti Nagar, Sakkardara, Nandanvan, Imambada, Yashodhara Nagar, and Kapil Nagar. The clashes caused widespread panic among residents, disrupting daily life and raising security concerns across the city. To restore normalcy, law enforcement deployed additional forces in sensitive areas, and strict restrictions were implemented to prevent



further escalation. Considering public convenience and an improvement in law and order, Commissioner of Police Ravinder Singal announced the lifting of curfew in Nandanvan and Kapil Nagar police station areas from 2 pm on Thursday. Additionally, authorities decided to partially relax curfew in five other areas—Lakadganj, Pach-

paoli, Shanti Nagar, Sakkardara, and Imambada—from 2 pm to 4 pm. This temporary relaxation allowed residents to step out and purchase essential items while maintaining security measures. Despite the easing of restrictions, police and security forces continue to monitor the situation closely. Authorities have urged citizens to maintain peace and

refrain from spreading misinformation that could incite further unrest. The administration is expected to take further decisions based on the evolving situation and security assessments. Meanwhile, appeals for calm and communal harmony have been made by both government officials and local leaders to prevent any further disturbances.



Mamata Banerjee Accuses Rivals of Tarnishing Bengal's Image

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has alleged that political opponents are engaged in an online campaign to malign the state ahead of her official visit to the UK next week. While addressing a gathering, she stated that she does not object to criticism, acknowledging that it is a part of democracy. However, she expressed strong disapproval of any attempts to defame Bengal on international platforms. "You can insult me, but don't try to tarnish the image of Bengal abroad," she asserted.

Ms. Banerjee accused certain groups of spreading misinformation through WhatsApp and email. Without naming any specific party, she claimed that these individuals had drafted false narratives about Bengal and encouraged people to send them to universities in the UK. "We do not humiliate them, but it is unfortunate that some anti-social elements (Ganashatru) are indulging in such dirty tricks," she said.

The Chief Minister is set to leave for the UK next week, where she will engage in multiple official events. She is scheduled to deliver a lecture at Oxford University and participate in a programme at the Indian High Commission on March 24. Additionally, she will attend a G2G (Government-to-Government) programme on March 26 and another in Oxford on March 27. Ms. Banerjee highlighted Bengal's strong ties with the UK, recalling their participation in the Bengal Global Business Summit.

In response to her remarks, the BJP criticized the Chief Minister, accusing her of shifting blame instead of addressing crucial issues. BJP MLA Shankar Ghosh stated that while Bengal was once celebrated as the cultural capital of India, it has now gained notoriety for rising crime rates. "If you check the pending cases in Calcutta High Court, the highest number of rape cases are registered there. Kolkata has now turned into the 'rapist center' of India under her rule," he alleged.

The BJP maintained that its criticism of the government is valid and necessary for accountability, rejecting claims of an organized campaign to malign the state. As political tensions escalate, the Chief Minister's visit to the UK remains a topic of heated debate in West Bengal's political landscape.



UP Professor Arrested for Raping and Blackmailing Students

Uttar Pradesh police have arrested Rajnish Kumar, a 50-year-old Geography professor accused of sexually abusing his students and blackmailing them with videos of his assaults. Kumar, who served as the Chief Proctor at Seth Phool Chand Bagla PG College in Hathras, had been on the run for 72 hours before being captured. The scandal came to light earlier this week when police received a USB drive containing 59 videos of Kumar sexually assaulting students. The professor allegedly recorded these acts and used the footage to blackmail victims into further abuse. Disturbingly, police sources revealed that Kumar did not recall the number of students he had abused over the years.

During interrogation, Kumar admitted that he began recording his crimes accidentally when a webcam unintentionally captured a molestation. This incident, which occurred in 2009, allegedly inspired him to continue recording and blackmailing students. Investigators also discovered that he accepted bribes from students and parents in exchange for higher grades and job placements, which he used to demand sexual favors. According to Superintendent of Police Chiranjeev Nath Sinha, Kumar installed special software on his computer to secretly record these assaults. Over 65 videos have been recovered, some of which were uploaded to pornographic websites. Kumar, who was married in 1996, was appointed as a teacher at Bagla College in 2001 and promoted to Chief Proctor last year. His reign of abuse allegedly began in 2008, leaving behind a shocking trail of exploitation and trauma. Police are now investigating whether more victims are yet to come forward.

Air India Dismisses Lisa Ray's "No Empathy" Allegation as "Unfounded"

Air India has refuted allegations by actor and author Lisa Ray, who claimed the airline showed "no empathy" when she requested a medical waiver for her ailing 92-year-old father. Calling the claims "unfounded," the Tata Group-owned airline clarified the situation in a detailed statement. Lisa Ray had alleged on X (formerly Twitter) that Air India refused to accept a medical waiver after she had to cancel her father's travel due to his deteriorating health. She said she had submitted a doctor's letter but was still denied the waiver.

"Here we go again, Air India. My father is 92, unwell, and I have



to cancel travel due to his ailing condition. Submitted doctor's letter and the waiver was denied? How is that possible? Where is the empathy from an airline that claims to care about passengers?" she posted.

Air India responded publicly, followed by an official statement explaining its stance.

"While we fully empathise with the passenger, we wish to clarify that the claim that Air India did not display empathy is unfounded. The passenger herself mentioned that she was booked to fly with two others, excluding her father, whose medical documents were submitted," the airline said. The airline further stated that Lisa Ray initially contacted her travel agent instead of Air India. Once the issue was brought to Air India's attention, the airline reached out and offered a free date change or a one-

year validity for future travel. However, Lisa Ray declined these options and insisted on a full refund.

Air India urged the media to "refrain from maligning the airline's reputation without corroborating facts," adding that misleading reports undermine its commitment to customer service and empathy.

Lisa Ray, a cancer survivor and advocate for patient rights, has been vocal about healthcare issues. Her memoir, *Close to the Bone* (2019), details her battle with multiple myeloma and her advocacy for healthcare awareness.

Delhi Airport's Terminal 1



Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) has announced that Terminal 1 (T1) of the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) will be fully operational from April 15. As a result, all flights currently operating from Terminal 2 (T2) will be shifted to T1.

Currently, IndiGo and Akasa Air operate from T2, handling around 270-280 air traffic movements and over 46,000 passengers daily. The temporary closure of T2 is part of a planned refurbishment project, expect-

ed to last four to six months, with completion anticipated in the September quarter.

DIAL stated that the expansion and modernization of T1 were carried out under the Phase 3A expansion project. The newly upgraded terminal was dedicated to the nation in March last year.

The revamped T1 now features 100 check-in counters, including 36 Self Baggage Drop (SBD) kiosks and 108 Common Usage Self-Service (CUSS) kiosks. Security checks will be stream-

lined with 20 Automated Tray Retrieval Systems (ATRS). Additionally, baggage reclaim facilities have been enhanced with 10 carousels, and baggage handling capacity has increased from 3,240 to 6,000 bags per hour.

The terminal area has expanded significantly from 55,740 sq m to 2,06,950 sq m, integrating arrival and departure areas to improve passenger convenience. With these upgrades, T1 can now accommodate 40 million passengers annually,

while T3 handles 45 million. T2, which will undergo refurbishment, has an annual capacity of 15 million passengers.

DIAL has informed airlines of the transition and advised them to prepare accordingly. IGIA, India's busiest airport, operates three terminals—T1, T2, and T3—with T1 and T2 currently serving domestic flights. The modernization of T1 aims to enhance passenger experience and operational efficiency at one of the country's busiest aviation hubs.

Trump, Zelenskyy agree; US-Ukraine to continue working together to bring about end to war

Discuss Path to Ceasefire and Peace Amid Ongoing Conflict

TPN Correspondent | Wahington

US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held a productive phone conversation on Thursday, agreeing to continue working together toward ending the war in Ukraine. According to US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and National Security Advisor Mike Waltz, both leaders expressed optimism about achieving lasting peace under Trump's leadership.

During the call, Zelenskyy thanked Trump for his previous support, especially the delivery of Javelin missiles, and for his ongoing efforts to bring about peace. Trump updated Zelenskyy on his recent conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, focusing on the situation in Kursk. Both leaders agreed to share information closely, as battlefield dynamics continued to evolve.

A significant part of the conversation was dedicated to Ukraine's defense needs, with Zelenskyy requesting additional air defense systems, particularly the Patriot missile system, to protect civilians. Trump assured Zelenskyy that he would work to find available systems, particularly from Europe, to assist in this matter.

The two leaders also discussed a



partial ceasefire, focusing on energy infrastructure. They agreed to technical discussions in Saudi Arabia regarding the expansion of the ceasefire to include the Black Sea as part of efforts toward a full ceasefire. This agreement was seen as a crucial first step in bringing the war to an end and ensuring security for Ukraine.

Trump also discussed Ukraine's energy needs, offering US expertise in running nuclear power plants and securing American involvement in the country's electrical supply infrastructure. Zelenskyy expressed gratitude for Trump's humanitarian

efforts, particularly for pushing forward the exchange of prisoners of war.

Additionally, the two leaders spoke about the missing children from Ukraine, some of whom were reportedly abducted during the conflict. Trump expressed his willingness to work with both sides to ensure their safe return.

The call concluded with both presidents instructing their teams to quickly address technical issues related to the ceasefire and work towards achieving lasting peace.

Elon Musk's X Sues Indian Government Over Alleged Censorship and IT Act Violations

TPN Correspondent | Jakarta

Social media platform 'X' (formerly Twitter), owned by Elon Musk, has filed a lawsuit against the Government of India in the Karnataka High Court, challenging what it claims is unlawful content regulation and arbitrary censorship. The lawsuit specifically targets the government's interpretation of Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology (IT) Act, arguing that it violates Supreme Court rulings and undermines online free expression.



process or a legally defined route, like Section 69A.

Section 79(3)(b) requires online platforms to remove illegal content if directed by a court order or government notification. If a platform fails to comply within 36 hours, it risks losing its safe harbor protection and could be held accountable under the Indian Penal Code. However, 'X' con-

tests this interpretation, arguing that the provision does not grant the government independent authority to block content, and that it is being misused to impose arbitrary censorship without following due process.

Under Section 69A, the government can block digital content deemed a threat to national security, public order, or sovereignty, but only through a regulated review process. 'X' argues that the government is bypassing these safeguards by using Section 79(3)(b) as a shortcut, allowing content removal without necessary scrutiny.

Additionally, 'X' opposes the government's Sahyog portal, created by the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) to streamline content takedown requests. 'X' argues that the portal acts as a censorship tool that pressures platforms to remove content without legal review, further undermining judicial oversight.

Israeli Army Bans Traffic on Gaza's Main Artery Amid Renewed Ground Operations

TPN Correspondent | Jerusalem

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) on Thursday imposed a ban on traffic along the main north-to-south artery of Gaza, known as Salaheddin Road. This move came a day after the IDF announced the resumption of ground operations in Gaza, marking a significant escalation in the ongoing conflict.

IDF spokesman Avichay Adraee stated on X that the military had begun targeted ground operations in central and southern Gaza to expand the security zone between the northern and southern parts of the Gaza Strip. As part of the operation, movement along Salaheddin Road is prohibited for safety reasons.

Instead, travelers from northern Gaza to southern areas are being rerouted to the Al-Rashid coastal road. The Israeli army did not clarify whether this restriction also applies to movement from the south to the north, leaving some uncertainty about the full scope of the traffic ban.

The closure of Salaheddin Road fol-



lows an earlier action on Wednesday, when Israeli forces shut down Netzarim Junction, located just south of Gaza City. Tanks were reportedly deployed at the junction after the withdrawal of American special security forces, who had been stationed there since February as part of a ceasefire agreement brokered earlier this year.

The ceasefire, which expired earlier this month, has been a point of contention, with Israel rejecting negotiations for the second phase of the agreement. Instead, Israel demand-

ed the return of all hostages, further stalling progress toward a lasting ceasefire. In response to the deadlock, Israel resumed its air campaign in Gaza on Tuesday, which drew widespread international condemnation.

On Wednesday, the IDF confirmed it was also resuming ground operations in Gaza, heightening the tensions in the region once again. The ongoing conflict continues to have devastating humanitarian consequences, with both sides suffering heavy losses.



Sri Lanka to Hold Local Council Elections on May 6

TPN Correspondent | Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's Election Commission announced on Thursday that the country's local council elections will take place on May 6, 2025. The election is set to be a significant political event, with voters across the island heading to the polls to elect councillors for 340 local councils.

This marks the first electoral challenge for the current government, led by Anura Kumara Disanayake, since it secured victories in the presidential and parliamentary elections in the last quarter of 2024. The local council elections are expected to provide a snapshot of the government's popularity at the grassroots level and its ability to maintain support among the public.

The Election Commission set the date after reviewing and accepting nominations from various political parties and independent groups. Over 17 million eligible voters will participate in the elections, making it a crucial test of political dynamics in the country.

The elections will see councillors elected to local councils throughout Sri Lanka, covering a wide range of regions and communities. These councils play a significant role in local governance, as they handle important issues such as infrastructure, education, and public health services at the municipal level.

The May 6 election will also serve as a reflection of the political climate in Sri Lanka following the economic turmoil and protests that have defined the past few years. Voters will likely use this election to voice their opinions on the current government's performance and policies.

As the date for the election approaches, political campaigns are expected to intensify, with various parties seeking to rally support and secure key local council positions. The outcome of these elections could shape the future of the current administration and influence the political landscape leading up to future national elections.

Netanyahu Accuses "Leftist Deep State" of Weaponizing Justice System, Sparks Controversy



TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stirred controversy after accusing the "leftist Deep State" of weaponizing the justice system against him. In a post shared on his official X (formerly Twitter) account, Netanyahu said, "In America and in Israel, when a strong right-wing leader wins an election, the leftist Deep State weaponizes the justice system to thwart the people's will. They won't win in either place! We stand strong together." However, the post was deleted within an hour, and Netanyahu reposted the same message from his personal account.

Netanyahu's remarks came amid ongoing investigations into alleged corruption involving his aides. Reports from The Times of Israel revealed that two suspects were detained in connection with an investigation into whether Qatar funneled money to Netanyahu's team. One suspect was released under unspecified conditions, while the other remained under interrogation.

The controversy surrounding Netanyahu has been further fueled by his controversial plans to overhaul the judicial system, which include increasing political control over the judiciary and firing top officials, including Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar. These moves have sparked significant anti-government protests in Jerusalem, with Netanyahu's critics accusing him of undermining the rule of law.

President Isaac Herzog responded by expressing his full confidence in Israel's judicial system. "Israel's strong and independent judicial system is an asset to our democracy, and the president of Israel is very proud of it," Herzog wrote on X. Opposition leader Yair Lapid, head of the Yesh Atid party, strongly criticized Netanyahu's statements, accusing him of losing touch with reality. "He's gone off the rails," Lapid's party posted, calling Netanyahu's rhetoric "dangerous conspiracies" that undermine the rule of law.

Markets Rally Strong; Nifty Surpasses 23,000, Sensex Soars 899 Points



Domestic stock markets closed flat for the fourth consecutive session. They closed with huge gains on Thursday. The benchmark indices, which started flat, gained on the back of the US Fed meeting details, Taiwan's central bank keeping interest rates unchanged, and positive signals from Asian markets. Despite the expiry of derivatives, the bullish momentum continued and investors continued the buy-on-dips method, reaching daily highs. Nifty gained 258 points and Sensex 899 points. Nifty not only broke the key resistance level of 23,000 but also closed above that level, adding to the positivity.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 75,449 in the previous session, opened at 75,917 on Thursday. It touched an intraday low of 75,684. It reached an intraday high of 76,456. It finally closed at 76,348 with a gain of 899 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,036, reached a low of 22,973 and a high of 23,216. It rose by 258 points in total and closed at 23,165. The Nifty Bank rose by 291 points and settled at 49,993.

In the Nifty50, 44 companies gained and 4 lost. Bharti Airtel,

Titan, Eicher Motors, Bajaj Auto, Britannia were the top gainers. IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, Trent, Shriram Finance lost the most. Today, auto, oil, infra, FMCG, media, metal, health-care, metal, IT, realty, PSE, and pharma stocks were the winners. PSU banks, private banks, commodities, energy and manufacturing stocks were underperforming.

Market breadth turned in favor of buyers on NSE today. Out of 2978 stocks traded, 1755 gained and 1147 lost. 35 stocks hit 52-week highs. 58 stocks hit 52-week lows. 184 stocks crossed the upper circuit and 55 stocks crossed the lower circuit.

Rupee settled at 86.36 against dollar. Pradeep Phosphates Company started production at ammonia and urea plants. CLSA has given a hold rating to Voltas with a target price of Rs. 1375. Jefferies has maintained a buy rating for Interglobe Aviation with a target price of Rs. 5700. 21 lakh shares changed hands in Tata Steel. India VIX fell 4% to

12.71. Nomura has given a neutral rating to DLF with a target price of Rs 700. Diamond Power Infra has received an order worth Rs 175 crore. It is learnt that Air India has given orders worth hundreds of crores to Boeing and Airbus. 22 lakh shares changed hands in NTPC. 10 lakh shares changed hands in ITC. Taiwan keeps interest rates unchanged at 2%. Dhana Lakshmi Bank board approves Rs 150 crore raising. Axis Capital has given a buy rating to Mahanagar Gas with a target price of Rs 1580.

1. Aditya Birla Capital (ABCAPITAL)



The company reported strong growth in its asset management business, with AUM rising 14% YoY. Its lending arm, Aditya Birla Finance, saw a steady rise in loan disbursements, indicating strong credit demand. Market sentiment remains positive due to expectations of strong Q4 earnings and increasing retail participation in financial services.

2. Jindal Saw



The company secured a ₹800 crore export order for supplying large-diameter pipes to the Middle East. Rising steel prices and strong demand from infrastructure projects boosted investor confidence. Analysts expect the stock to remain bullish in the near term, with a target

price of ₹350.

3. Tata Communications

The company secured a strategic partnership with a global cloud provider to enhance its data center services. Revenue from international business grew 9.2% YoY, driven by increased demand for enterprise solutions. Long-term outlook remains positive with expansion in 5G and AI-driven connectivity solutions.



4. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)

Crude oil prices softened, leading to better refining margins for BPCL. The company announced plans to expand its fuel retail network and invest in renewable energy projects. HSBC reiterated a BUY rating with a target price of ₹320, citing strong fundamentals and government support for the sector.



5. Eicher Motors

Royal Enfield sales showed a 5% YoY growth, with strong demand for premium models. The company is set to launch an electric motorcycle by early 2025, which could be a game-changer in the segment. Jefferies maintained a BUY rating with a price target of ₹5,500, citing strong brand positioning and international expansion.



RBI appoints Indranil Bhattacharyya as executive director

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on Thursday, March 20, 2025, the appointment of Indranil Bhattacharyya as its new Executive Director (ED). Effective from March 19, Bhattacharyya will oversee the Department of Economic and Policy Research, as stated in the RBI's official announcement.

Prior to his promotion, Bhattacharyya served as an Adviser in the Monetary Policy Department of the RBI. With nearly three decades of experience, he has a well-established career spanning various key areas, including monetary policy, fiscal policy, banking, and international economic relations. Bhattacharyya has held positions in several critical RBI departments such as the Department of Economic and Policy Research and the International Department.

Notably, Bhattacharyya's career also includes a five-year tenure at the Qatar Central Bank in Doha, where he worked as an economic expert in the technical office of the Governor from 2009 to 2014. This international experience further strengthens his broad expertise in economic and financial matters.

Bhattacharyya holds a postgraduate degree in economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and his research interests focus on monetary theory and policy, financial markets, market microstructure, and fiscal policy. These areas of expertise align with his responsibilities at the RBI, particularly in the areas of policy research and economic strategy.

His appointment comes at a time when the RBI continues to play a crucial role in shaping India's monetary policy and economic direction. Bhattacharyya's wealth of experience in both domestic and international finance will be instrumental in supporting the RBI's ongoing efforts to enhance the Indian economy's stability and growth.

As he steps into his new role, Bhattacharyya is expected to bring valuable insights and leadership to the RBI, particularly in its research and policy-making initiatives.



Chip giant Infineon looks to double India headcount by 2030, focus on R&D

Infineon Technologies Plans to Double India Workforce to 5,000 by 2030



German semiconductor giant Infineon Technologies is set to double its workforce in India, aiming to employ 5,000 people by 2030. The company plans to focus primarily on expanding its research and development (R&D) operations, with no immediate intentions to commit to manufacturing in India, according to a top official.

Andreas Urschitz, Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) and management board member at Infineon, revealed that the company currently has 2,500 employees in India, all working on R&D projects. Infineon, which employs over 58,000 people globally, primarily in the APAC region, sees India as a key hub for its growth in the future.

The company is a leading player in providing semiconductors, particularly for the automobile industry, and aims to strengthen its technological capabilities by significantly increasing its Indian workforce. With the growing demand for automotive chips and other semiconductor solutions, Infineon's expansion of R&D operations in India will help it meet global market needs.

While Infineon is investing heavily in R&D in India, it has not yet announced plans for setting up manufacturing units in the country. The focus remains on bolstering its research presence, in line with India's growing role in the global semiconductor ecosystem.

Indian Stock Market Soars on Strong IT Rally and Fed's Rate Cut Projections

Indian stock markets surged on Thursday, March 20, 2025, propelled by a rally in IT stocks and positive momentum from U.S. equities, following the Federal Reserve's decision to maintain its rate cut projections for this year.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose by 478.13 points to reach 75,927.18 in early trading, while the NSE Nifty gained 149.1 points, climbing to 23,056.70. The rally was largely driven by strong performances from leading IT stocks, including Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, and HCL Tech, as well as other significant gainers like Bharti Airtel, Zomato, and Mahindra & Mahindra. However, some stocks, including Bajaj Finance, UltraTech Cement, Adani Ports, and Tata Steel, faced declines.

Vikas Jain, Head of Research at Reliance Securities, noted that the domestic market is likely to continue its positive trajectory due to strong global momentum, especially following the U.S. Federal Reserve's announcement of planned interest rate cuts this year.

While Asian markets displayed mixed performance—Seoul traded positively, while Shanghai and Hong Kong were lower—the U.S. markets saw a significant surge on



March 19, 2025, indicating a broader global market recovery.

The Federal Reserve's decision to hold rates steady and its projection of two interest rate cuts this year, alongside an expected growth rate of 1.7% and an inflation forecast of 2.8% for 2025, aligned with expectations. V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, highlighted two key trends in the Indian market: strong domestic consumption themes and growing interest in underperforming sectors such as defense and

shipping. Global oil prices also saw a slight increase, with Brent crude climbing 0.54% to \$71.16 per barrel. In terms of investor activity, Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) sold equities worth ₹1,096.50 crore on March 19, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought equities worth ₹2,140.76 crore.

Overall, market sentiment remains positive as the anticipation of further rate cuts from the Fed continues to boost global equities.



Bengaluru Cab Driver's 'No Romance' Warning Note Leaves Internet in Splits

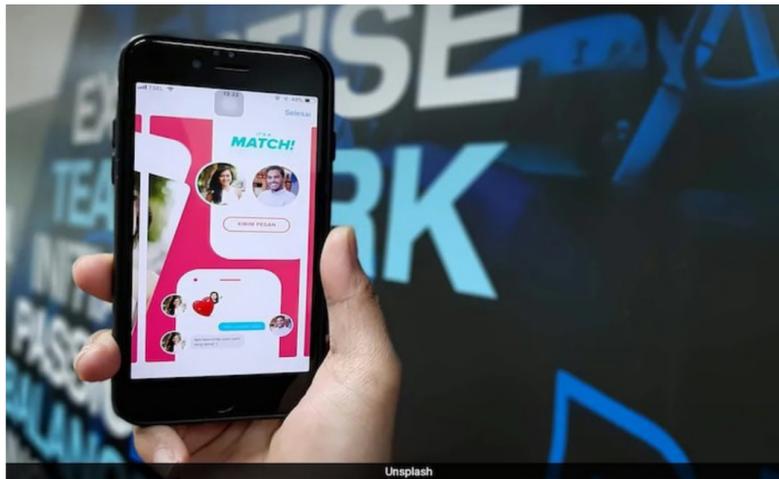
Bengaluru, often referred to as India's startup capital, is known for its unique urban culture and viral internet moments. One such instance has caught social media's attention—a Bengaluru cab driver's warning note advising passengers to "keep distance" has left the internet in splits. A Reddit user recently shared a picture of the note displayed inside a cab, which read: "Warning!! No romance. This is a cab, not your private place or OYO, so please keep distance and stay calm." The candid and humorous message has since gone viral, sparking a flurry of reactions from netizens. Social media users found the driver's

straightforwardness amusing, with many speculating about the experiences that led him to put up such a notice. "Mr. Driver has seen stuff, and he doesn't want to witness it again," joked one user. Another user supported the driver's stance, saying, "In a closed environment like a car, public display of affection is uncomfortable for the driver. He has every right not to be a part of it." Many users sympathized with the driver's plight, acknowledging that some couples take things too far inside cabs. "I've heard stories of couples making out or engaging in inappropriate activities in cabs. It must be uncomfortable for the driver. People should at least wait un-

til they get home or check into a hotel," commented one user. Another user humorously remarked, "Drivers in Bengaluru have seen things that would make you rethink any romantic plans in a cab. It's a whole different level of urban life!" The post has sparked discussions on boundaries and etiquette inside shared transport. While most users found humor in the situation, others pointed out the need for basic respect towards cab drivers. The incident has now become another addition to the long list of "Peak Bengaluru" moments, proving yet again that the city never fails to entertain the internet.

London Tops UK Cities Where Women Suspect Partners of Cheating on Tinder

A new analysis has revealed that London has the highest number of women checking Tinder to see if their partners are being unfaithful. According to a report by CheatEye.ai, 27.4% of all Tinder-related searches in London are focused on uncovering a partner's infidelity, with 62.4% of these searches being conducted by women. Beyond London, cities like Manchester and Birmingham also ranked high in suspicion-driven Tinder searches. In Manchester, 8.8% of searches were related to infidelity concerns, while Birmingham recorded 8.3%. Notably, in Birmingham, a significant 69% of these searches were carried out by women investigating their male partners. Glasgow also appeared on the list, with 4.7% of Tinder searches linked to concerns about infidelity. Similar to other cities, 62.1% of these searches were conducted by women. Why Suspicion is Rising? Infidelity expert Samantha Hayes attributes the rising trend to the widespread use of dating apps in major cities. "In



cities like London, the dating scene is more dynamic, which naturally leads to heightened suspicion and scrutiny of partners' activities," she explained. Hayes also noted that young adults aged 18 to 24 are particularly anxious about their partners' faithfulness, given the accessibility

of dating apps. With trust issues on the rise, the report suggests that Tinder is increasingly being used not just for dating, but also for relationship surveillance, particularly by women in major UK cities.

Company Orders Employees to Always Answer Boss's Calls, Even on Silent Mode—Internet Reacts

A company's controversial new policy requiring employees to always answer calls from their managers—even when their phones are on silent or in Focus Mode—has sparked outrage and humor online. A viral Reddit post exposing the policy has led to a heated debate on work-life balance and employee rights. Enforcing 24/7 Availability The company's instructions mandated that employees add their managers to the 'Emergency Bypass' feature on iPhones, ensuring that calls and messages from leadership would come through even when devices were on silent. Additional directives included enabling VIP alerts on Apple Watches and adding managers to the 'Allowed Callers' list under Focus Mode. While the company claimed that these measures were essential for handling urgent matters efficiently, one justi-

fication in the email particularly angered employees: "Since the company pays for your phone service, calls from leadership must always come through, even in Focus Mode." This statement implied that the employer had the right to dictate how employees used their phones, even outside of work hours. Backlash on Social Media Reddit users were quick to criticize the policy, pointing out the lack of work-life balance and potential overreach by the company. Many sarcastically suggested ways for employees to turn the policy against their bosses. One user proposed calling managers at 3:00 a.m. to ask, "Would you still hire me if I were a worm?" Another commented, "If the job requires 24/7 availability, they better pay for that time." Others highlighted the importance of compensation for



being on call. "If the company provides the phone, fine. But it stays off after work hours." A more empathetic user said, "I'd take an emergency call from a colleague in trouble, but anything from my boss? Ignored." The Debate Over Work-Life Boundaries The viral post reignited discussions about boundaries in the modern workplace, particularly in an era where digital connectivity often leads to unrealistic work expectations.

With many companies promoting flexible work environments, the expectation that employees must be available at all times raises concerns about mental well-being, burnout, and fair compensation. While some argue that emergency contact is necessary for business operations, the overwhelming response online suggests that employees are pushing back against policies that erode personal time and privacy.

Bengaluru Man Buys World's Most Expensive Wolfdog for ₹50 Crore



A Bengaluru man has made headlines after purchasing one of the world's rarest and most expensive dogs—a unique wolfdog named Cadaboms Okami—for a staggering ₹50 crore (\$5.7 million). A Rare and Exotic Breed The buyer, S Satish, president of the Indian Dog Breeders Association, is known for owning expensive and rare breeds. Cadaboms Okami is a cross between a wolf and a Caucasian Shepherd, making it the first of its kind in India. The New York Post reports that the dog was originally bred in the United States before arriving in India. "I spent ₹50 crore on this pup because I love dogs and want to introduce unique breeds to India," Mr. Satish told The Sun. At just eight months old, Okami weighs over 5 kilograms and has a special diet of 3 kg of raw meat every day. According to the American Kennel Club, the wolfdog is a guardian breed known for its intelligence and protective instincts.

A Profitable Investment Apart from his passion for rare dogs, Mr. Satish also earns a fortune from them. He reportedly charges between \$2,800 (₹2.3 lakh) for a 30-minute appearance to \$11,700 (₹9.7 lakh) for five hours at events where people pay to see his exotic pets. "People love to take selfies and pictures with my dogs. They attract more attention than movie stars," he said. Luxury Care for Elite Pets This isn't his first high-profile purchase. Last year, he bought a rare Chow Chow for ₹27 crore (\$3.25 million). His elite pets live in a seven-acre farm where each dog has a 20ft by 20ft kennel. "There is enough space for them to walk and run, and six caretakers look after them," Mr. Satish said, adding that air conditioning isn't required due to Bengaluru's cool climate. His latest purchase has once again captured the attention of dog lovers and luxury pet enthusiasts worldwide.

International Day of Happiness 2025: Date, Theme, and Significance



The International Day of Happiness is observed on March 20 every year, promoting the importance of happiness in personal and global well-being. Established by the United Nations General Assembly on July 12, 2012, this day recognizes happiness as a fundamental human goal. Origin and Background The initiative was led by Bhutan, a country that has prioritized Gross National Happiness over Gross Domestic Product since the 1970s. The first International Day of Happiness was celebrated in 2013, with participation from the United Nations' 193 member states. In 2015, the UN introduced 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to combat poverty, inequality, and environmental challenges, reinforcing the link between well-being and sustainable development. Significance in 2025 With ongoing global crises in

Ukraine, Gaza, Yemen, and elsewhere, prioritizing happiness has become more challenging. The day serves as a reminder that small acts of kindness and compassion can make a difference in building a better world. Modern life often leads to stress, anxiety, and material-driven pursuits, overshadowing emotional well-being. This day encourages individuals to focus on meaningful relationships and positive actions. Theme for 2025 The theme for International Day of Happiness 2025 is "Caring and Sharing", emphasizing the role of kindness and generosity in strengthening communities and enhancing well-being. Studies show that giving and receiving kindness significantly boost happiness, reinforcing the idea that compassion is essential for a fulfilling life.

Cricket Board Announces ₹58 Crore Reward for Champions Trophy Winners



The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced a ₹58 crore cash reward for Team India after their triumphant ICC Champions Trophy 2025 victory. The prize recognizes

the contributions of players, coaching staff, and selectors. Under Rohit Sharma's leadership, India dominated the tournament, securing wins over Bangladesh, Pakistan,

and New Zealand before defeating Australia in the semi-final. BCCI president Roger Binny stated, "Winning back-to-back ICC titles is special. This cash reward acknowledges

the hard work put in by the team and support staff." He also highlighted India's success in the ICC U19 Women's World Cup 2025, emphasizing the country's strong cricketing foundation.

Indian Para Swimming Team Set for 2025 Para Swimming World Series in Barcelona

A 27-member Indian contingent, including 19 para swimmers and eight officials, will compete at the 2025 Para Swimming World Series in Barcelona from March 20 to 23. Led by Paralympian and Arjuna Awardee Sharath M Gayakwad, the team features experienced athletes like Niranjana Mukundan, Shridhar N Malagi, and Tejas Nandakumar, along with emerging talents like Vaishnavi Jagtap and visually impaired swimmer Hi-

manshu Nandal. Coach Gayakwad expressed confidence in the team's preparations, calling it one of India's most promising contingents. Rising swimmers Afrid Attar, Ali Imam, and Chaitanya Kulkarni add depth to the squad. With rigorous training and high aspirations, India aims to make a strong mark on the global para-swimming stage, reinforcing its commitment to excellence and inclusivity in sports.



India Submits Bid to Host 2030 Commonwealth Games in Gujarat

India has officially submitted its bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Gujarat, a top sports ministry source confirmed. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) sent the 'Expression of Interest' before the March 31 deadline. Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had earlier expressed India's interest in hosting the Games, marking the country's bid to bring the prestigious event back since the 2010 Delhi edition. Additionally, India is also eyeing the 2036 Olympics as part of its long-term sports ambitions.

Chhetri Scores on Return as India Beat Maldives 3-0

Sunil Chhetri marked his international comeback in style, scoring in India's commanding 3-0 win over Maldives in a football friendly on Wednesday. The victory ended India's 12-match winless streak since November 2023. Rahul Bheke opened the scoring in the 35th minute, followed by Liston Colaco's strike in the 66th. Chhetri, re-

turning after retiring in May last year, sealed the win with a glancing header in the 77th minute, netting his 95th international goal. Despite an earlier save by the Maldives goalkeeper in the 47th minute, the 40-year-old captain made his presence felt before being substituted in the 82nd minute.



Mandaviya Inaugurates 2nd Khelo India Para Games 2025

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya declared the 2nd Khelo India Para Games 2025 open at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall, Indira Gandhi Stadium, New Delhi. Over 1,300 para-athletes will compete in six sports disciplines over eight days. A unique torch rally, joined by Paralympians Simran Sharma, Praveen Kumar, and Nitesh Kumar, marked

the inauguration. Mandaviya lauded Khelo India's role in nurturing talent, emphasizing India's success at the Paris Paralympics 2024. Union Minister Virendra Kumar praised the platform for providing para-athletes with opportunities to excel. The event witnessed participation from top officials, athletes, and coaches from across India.



Swiss Open: PV Sindhu Exits Early, Srikanth Advances to Pre-Quarterfinals



PV Sindhu suffered another early exit at the Swiss Open, losing 21-17, 21-19 to Denmark's Julie Jakobsen in the first round. This marks Sindhu's third consecutive first-round defeat in 2024 after similar setbacks at the Indonesia Masters and All England Open. In men's singles, Kidambi Srikanth edged out HS Prannoy 23-21, 23-21 in a tightly contested match to reach the pre-quarter-

finals, where he faces world No. 6 Li Shifeng. Qualifier Sankar Subramanian also progressed, defeating Magnus Johannesen 21-5, 21-16. In women's singles, Anupama Upadhyaya and Isharani Baruah secured wins, while Malvika Bansod and others were eliminated. In mixed doubles, India's pair of Sathish Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath advanced, while two other pairs suffered defeats.



Rahul Bose on Chameli Pay Gap: "I Was the Starlet, She Was the Star"

Actor Rahul Bose revealed that he was paid only a fraction of what Kareena Kapoor Khan earned for the 2004 film *Chameli*. Speaking at Mardon Wali Baat, a national conference on gender-based violence, Bose admitted the pay gap was justified as Kareena had a stronger box-office appeal.

"Men have also been starlets, and I am a shining example of that. Kareena was the star; she brings more people to theatres even today. It's completely logical," he said. Bose, who has also produced films, added that the industry is commercially driven, not biased.

Rahul Bose is known for *Mr. and Mrs. Iyer* and *Dil Dhadakne Do*, while Kareena's recent films *Crew* and *Singham Again* were box-office hits.



Dhanashree Verma Stars in Song on Toxic Relationships Amid Divorce Proceedings

Amid her divorce from cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal, Dhanashree Verma stars in *Dekha Ji Dekha Maine*, a song that delves into toxic relationships. Featuring Ishwak Singh, the music video presents a raw portrayal of love and emotional turmoil. Set in Jaipur's outskirts, the song is composed by Jaani with Jyoti Nooran's powerful vocals. Dhanashree called it an "emotionally charged performance", while

Jaani highlighted its intense theme. Directed by Dhruwal Patel and Jigar Mulani, the song is now streaming on T-Series' YouTube channel. Meanwhile, reports suggest Chahal has agreed to pay ₹4.75 crore in alimony. The Bombay High Court has expedited their mutual consent divorce, instructing the Bandra family court to finalize it by March 20, ahead of Chahal's IPL commitments.



L2: Empuraan Trailer – Mohanlal's Swag Takes Over

The much-awaited trailer of *L2: Empuraan*, the sequel to *Lucifer*, is finally out, and Mohanlal's signature style dominates the high-octane visuals. Directed by Prithviraj Sukumaran, the film features Tovino Thomas, Sachin Khedekar, Manju Warrier, and Indrajith Sukumaran in key roles. The trailer showcases intense political drama, with Tovino's Jathin Ramdas leading a party

amidst conspiracies. Manju Warrier's character challenges blood ties, while Mohanlal's Stephen Nedumpally emerges as the mysterious savior of Kerala. Explosive action sequences, gunfights, and combat scenes fill the gripping trailer, ending with Mohanlal declaring, "Lucifer." Bankrolled by Antony Perumbavoor, Gokulam Gopalan, and Subaskaran, *L2: Empuraan*

releases in multiple languages on March 27, 2025.



"Proud to Be His Brother": Pawan Kalyan on Chiranjeevi's Lifetime Achievement

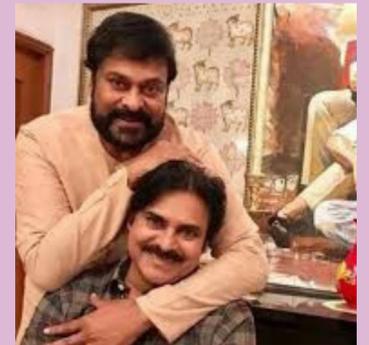
Megastar Chiranjeevi was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by Bridge India at the UK Parliament for his contributions to cinema and society. Reacting to this, his younger brother Pawan Kalyan expressed pride, calling it a moment of immense honor.

Taking to X (Twitter), Pawan wrote, "From being a middle-class excise constable's son to becoming a Megastar, my brother has entertained audiences for over four decades. I will always be proud to be his younger brother."

He hailed Chiranjeevi as his guiding force, highlighting his social service through the Chiranjeevi Charitable Trust. Recalling Chiranjeevi's recent Padma Vibhushan honor, he stated

that the Lifetime Achievement Award further elevated his legacy.

Pawan congratulated Chiranjeevi and thanked Stockport MP Navendu Mishra for hosting the event.



Janhvi Kapoor Visits Ram Charan's Home, Shares Special Moment With Upasana



Bollywood actress Janhvi Kapoor, currently in Hyderabad for *RC16*, took a break from her shoot to visit Ram Charan's residence in Jubilee Hills. She spent quality time with his wife, Upasana Konidela, making the visit extra special. Upasana surprised Janhvi

with Athamma's Kitchen, a collection of recipes curated by Ram Charan's mother, Surekha Konidela. A picture of their heartfelt moment is now viral, and the brand's official Instagram handle teased more surprises ahead, fueling speculation about Janhvi's possible collabo-

ration. Meanwhile, the *RC16* team will soon head to Delhi for an important shoot at Jama Masjid. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana and featuring music by AR Rahman, the film is produced by Vriddhi Cinemas with Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings.

Rakul Preet Singh Spreads Positivity on International Day of Happiness

Actress Rakul Preet Singh celebrated the International Day of Happiness by sharing an inspiring message on Instagram. Posting radiant photos, she emphasized that "Happiness is a choice, not a destination. Let's choose it together today and every day!"

The pictures, seemingly from a beach vacation, captured Rakul's joyous moments in a serene setting. Actress Rasika Dugal also marked the occasion, sharing her thoughts on finding happiness in small things. The International Day of Happiness, observed on March 20, was established by the UN to promote global well-being. Meanwhile, Rakul recently completed the Patiala schedule for *De De Pyaar De 2*, where she reprises her role as Aisha alongside Ajay Devgn and R. Madhavan.

