



IPL 2025 Opener: KKR vs RCB at Eden Gardens

The much-anticipated IPL 2025 season kicks off today with defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) facing Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the opening match at Eden Gardens, Kolkata. The match is set to begin at 7:30 PM IST.

KKR, led by Ajinkya Rahane, will look to start

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CM Naidu Distributes Annaprasadam at Tirumala, Highlights Temple Initiatives

CM Chandrababu participates in Srivari Seva with family
Announces initiatives for temple conservation and medical services
Plans Srivari temples in capitals and abroad

TPN Correspondent | Tirumala
Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu visited Tirumala on Friday, participating in Srivari Seva along with his family on the occasion of his grandson Devansh's birthday. At the Vengamamba Annadana Distribution Center, he distributed prasadam to devotees and later addressed the media, emphasizing his deep connection with Lord Venkateswara. Chandrababu recalled his long-standing devotion, stating that the Annadanam Trust, initiated by NTR, has received ₹2,200 crore

in donations so far. He expressed immense satisfaction in serving Annaprasadam and spoke about his efforts in establishing the Pranadanam Trust, which facilitates medical treatment for people across Rayalaseema through hospitals in Tirupati. He urged doctors from around the world to contribute their services in Tirupati hospitals while also having darshan of Lord Venkateswara. He recounted his past struggles, mentioning that he once walked barefoot to Tirumala and planted saplings

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AP Govt Boosts Wildlife Conservation, 11 New Urban Forests Sanctioned By Dy CM Pawan

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati
Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has announced key initiatives to enhance wildlife conservation across the state. He emphasized that tiger conservation goes beyond merely increasing the number of tigers, stressing the need to maintain a balanced ecosystem that benefits both wildlife and local communities. On Friday, Pawan Kalyan released the annual report on tigers and unveiled the official logo for urban forests. Addressing the gathering, he stated that there are currently 50 urban forests across Andhra Pradesh, and the government has sanctioned 11 more for

Strengthening tiger conservation efforts in Andhra Pradesh
50 urban forests exist; 11 more sanctioned for 2024-25
Commitment to restoring habitats and increasing greenery



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STRONG DOUBTS ON MLA & Co

IN THE MURDER CASE OF BOSE

- Suspicious Mount Over YCP Activist Bose's Murder
- YCP leaders demand strict action against the accused
- Was the Murder Linked to Political Corruption?
- Family alleges police cover-up to protect ruling alliance leaders
- Locals suspect corruption dispute as motive behind the murder
- Is the Case Being Sidetracked?



Chirri Balaraju



File photo of Bose



Gandham Bose

TPN Correspondent | Tatiyakulagudem
The murder of YSRCP activist Gandham Bose in Tatiyakulagudem, Jeelugumilli Mandal, Eluru district has raised serious suspicions. Was it an act to silence him over corruption? Or a political rivalry? The incident has sparked debates, with allegations

of police inaction fueling further tensions. YSRCP Parliament Coordinator Karumuri Sunil and former MLA Tellam Balaraju have demanded strict action against the attackers, questioning why the police have failed to arrest the accused even after several days. They warned that Bose's murder has disturbed the peace in the tribal agency area. Meanwhile, Bose's family and relatives allege that the police are deliberately sidetracking the case to shield those responsible.

The Background of the Dispute

Gandham Bose worked as a supervisor under the NREGP scheme, ensuring accurate records of daily laborers. However, re-

ports suggest that some ruling party leaders pressured him to include fake names to inflate labor costs—requests he repeatedly refused. Further tensions escalated during the Jeelugumilli Jagadamba Theertham festival, where Bose, who served as a clerk, was allegedly forced by alliance leaders to falsify additional expenses. A dispute broke out, leading to clashes between TDP and YSRCP activists. Allegedly, some TDP leaders threatened Bose's life over the phone, warning him to comply. On Wednesday night, unidentified individuals attacked Bose at his residence while he was asleep, leaving him critically injured. He was rushed to Government Hospital in

Ashwaraopet and later shifted to KIMS Hospital, Khammam, where he succumbed to his injuries. Angered by the police's failure to arrest the culprits, Bose's family staged a protest at the border check post, leading to a tense standoff until DSP M Venkateswara Rao assured arrests within 24 hours. However, many claim the real culprits are still being protected. Strong suspicions point to the involvement of local TDP leaders, particularly due to threats allegedly made against Bose over festival fund mismanagement. Some allege that police are misdirecting the case to protect politically connected individuals.

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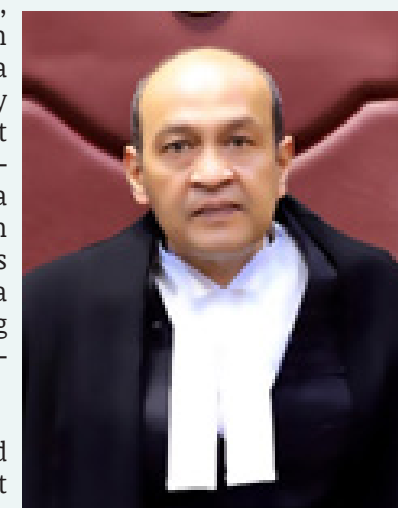
SC Collegium proposes transfer of Delhi HC judge Yashwant Varma

After reports of huge pile of cash at residence

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi
Justice Yashwant Varma of the Delhi High Court has been transferred back to his parent court, the Allahabad High Court, following a recommendation by the Supreme Court Collegium. This decision comes after a large amount of cash was discovered at his residence following a fire incident, raising concerns about unaccounted money.

appointment in October 2021.

While the transfer order has been issued, some members of the Collegium expressed concerns that the incident should lead to more than just a transfer. According to reports from The Times of India, these members suggested that the Chief Justice should request Justice Varma's resignation and proposed the formation of an in-house inquiry committee if Varma refuses to resign. The committee would serve as the initial step toward the removal of a judge from office by Parliament.



The incident occurred when a fire broke out at Justice Varma's official residence in Delhi, while he was away from the city. The fire department responded promptly and extinguished the flames. However, after the fire was brought under control, firefighters discovered a significant amount of cash in various rooms of the bungalow, sparking an official inquiry.

Following the report of the fire and the subsequent discovery of unaccounted cash, the Supreme Court Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna, recommended Justice Varma's transfer to the Allahabad High Court. Justice Varma had been serving on the Delhi High Court bench since his

The procedure for addressing corruption charges against judges, established in 1999, involves the Chief Justice seeking a response from the judge involved. If the response is unsatisfactory, an in-house inquiry committee can be formed, headed by a Supreme Court judge and the Chief Justices of two High Courts.

The controversy surrounding Justice Varma underscores the importance of judicial accountability and transparency within the Indian legal system.

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CM Naidu Distributes

there. He also spoke about the 27 claymore mine attack he survived, attributing his safety to the blessings of Lord Venkateswara. Chandrababu warned against any unauthorized activities in Tirumala, vowing to preserve its sanctity. He announced the cancellation of permissions granted by the previous government for the construction of hotels like Mumtaz, Emaar, and Devalok at Alipiri. He emphasized that no unauthorized constructions would be allowed in the sacred seven hills and called on the TTD board and officials to work together in safeguarding Tirumala's

spiritual integrity.

The CM further stated that Srivari temples would be built in all state capitals and even abroad. To facilitate temple construction, he announced the establishment of a new trust named the Venkateswara Swamy Temple Fund, which will work alongside the Srivari Trust to expand temple services and infrastructure. Chandrababu concluded by reaffirming his commitment to protecting Srivari properties and ensuring that only religiously dedicated individuals serve in Tirumala.

AP Govt Boosts Wildlife

development in the 2024-25 financial year. He also mentioned that a city forest is being developed in Pithapuram as part of the broader environmental sustainability efforts.

He reiterated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, the government is dedicated to increasing Andhra Pradesh's green cover to 50 percent. To achieve this, several initiatives are being undertaken, including strengthening tiger corridors, restoring degraded habitats, and increasing community participation in conservation programs. He highlighted the importance of sustainable forest management and the role of urban forests in improving biodiversity. Pawan Kalyan further stated that the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, along with field staff and conservationists, is working

tirelessly to protect wildlife and maintain ecological balance. He acknowledged their commitment and efforts in implementing conservation policies effectively.

Additionally, he stressed the significance of public awareness and participation in wildlife conservation. He urged citizens, especially those living in forest-adjacent areas, to cooperate with the government in safeguarding natural resources. He also mentioned plans to involve local communities in afforestation programs and sustainable livelihood projects to ensure environmental conservation benefits all sections of society. With these initiatives, the Andhra Pradesh government aims to set a benchmark in environmental conservation, ensuring the state's rich biodiversity is preserved for future generations.

IPL 2025 Opener

their title defense on a strong note, while RCB, captained by Rajat Patidar, aims for a winning start. Fans can expect an exciting clash as two powerhouse teams battle it out in front of a packed Eden Gardens crowd. The tournament promises thrilling cricket over the next two months.

STRONG DOUBTS ON MLA & Co

Locals question how the police identified suspects within 24 hours without a proper investigation. They also note that Bose's home, located on the village outskirts, lacked CCTV coverage, making it easier for attackers to execute the crime undetected.

Adding to concerns, Bose's wife Shanthakumari reportedly named several suspects in her police com-

plaint. However, instead of focusing on them, the police targeted a journalist, seizing their phone and suggesting a pre-planned effort to divert the case.

The locals of Tatiyakulagudem strongly believe that corruption over festival funds led to Bose's murder, and they demand a transparent investigation to ensure justice.

CM Naidu Halts Mumtaz Hotel Construction Near Tirumala foothills

- Hindu groups welcome decision, celebrate at the site
- TTD Chairman sends lease cancellation proposal

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

The construction of the Mumtaz Hotel at the foothills of Srivari in Tirupati has come to a sudden halt following the decision of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. The previous government had granted permission for the project under the Seshachalam hills, with Oberoi Group overseeing the construction of a spa center, bar, and restaurants. Concerns were raised over the indiscriminate soil excavation in the land allotted to Devalok, leading the CM to take a firm stance. Along with the Mumtaz Hotel project, the entire 30-acre



Devalok land allotment is now under review for reclamation by the government. Hindu groups have strongly welcomed this decision, considering it a significant step in preserving the sanctity of Tirumala. Following the announcement, Hindu organizations gathered at the Mumtaz Ho-

tel site, bursting firecrackers and distributing sweets in celebration. Leaders of these groups expressed their gratitude to CM Chandrababu Naidu for prioritizing the protection of Tirupati's religious heritage.

Additionally, the decision received further support as the TTD Chairman sent

a proposal in the first governing council meeting to revoke the lease agreement for the Mumtaz Hotel. Hindu groups have lauded this move, stating that it aligns with the sentiments of devotees and ensures that no commercial activities compromise the spiritual significance of Tirumala.

Polavaram Project to be Completed by 2026, Says Union Minister CR Patil

Over ₹12,000 crore allocated for Polavaram this year



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil reaffirmed the Central Government's commitment to completing the Polavaram project by 2026, highlighting its importance in providing irrigation and drinking water to Andhra Pradesh. During a discussion in Lok Sabha on Friday regarding the Jal Shakti Ministry's grant demands, Patil emphasized that while multiple governments had taken up the project over the past 50 years, significant progress was made only after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention in 2015.

He stated that since 2015, the Centre has allocated over ₹15,000 crore for Polavaram's construction, and an additional ₹12,000 crore has been earmarked this year to accelerate the work. The minister also mentioned that PM Modi has issued key instructions to the Andhra Pradesh government to ensure timely execution.

Once completed, Polavaram will provide irrigation to 2.91 lakh acres and ensure drinking water supply to 540 villages, including Visakhapatnam, benefiting 28.5 lakh people. Patil reiterated that the Centre remains dedicated to the project's success and is actively working with the Andhra Pradesh government to achieve the 2026 deadline.

Monitor Rowdy Sheeters Closely: Home Minister Anitha's Key Orders

Law and order review meetings every three months. Strict measures for women's and children's safety. Technology to play a key role in crime control.

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

AP Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha has directed the police to give top priority to the safety of women and children while ensuring strict law enforcement. She emphasized that high-level law and order review meetings will be conducted every three months. During a review meeting at the DGP office on Friday, Home Minister Anitha stressed the importance of technology in controlling crime. She urged the police not to compromise on maintaining order and issued key directives to law enforcement officials. Representatives of the State Police Association submitted a memorandum regarding pending surrenders and arrears. The Home Minister also acknowledged the response of the government and police in addressing the murder of a hijra in Anakapalle, as community representatives expressed their gratitude. Anitha commended the police department for ensuring tight security during the recent legislative assembly sessions and stated that the upcoming collectors' conference would also be effectively managed. She lauded the efforts of officers in swiftly apprehending criminals and emphasized the need for continued vigilance. She further advised the police to handle helmet violations sensitively while ensuring public safety. Additionally, she issued strict orders to monitor the movements of rowdy sheeters closely to curb criminal activities and maintain peace in the state.

Extensive Inspections of Medical Shops Across AP Under 'Operation Garuda' Over 100 teams conduct statewide inspections of medical shops

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

As part of Operation Garuda, vigilance, Eagle teams, and drug control officials conducted extensive inspections across the state, targeting medical shops suspected of violating regulations. Searches were carried out in Visakhapatnam, Nellore, Anantapur, Kadapa, Ongole, and Vijayawada, focusing on illegal sales and expired medicines. Over 100 teams participated in the statewide operation, examining pharmacy records, verifying prescriptions, and checking for expired stock. During the inspections, multiple cases were registered against medical shop operators found selling medicines without a doctor's prescription. Officials also seized expired medicines from several stores, cautioning shop owners against non-compliance with drug safety regulations. Authorities have urged the public to remain vigilant and report any irregularities related to drug sales or illegal activities. Citizens can file complaints through the toll-free helpline 1912 for swift action. Officials reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring the safe and legal distribution of medicines across Andhra Pradesh.

Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Reviews Rural Development Works in Video Conference

- Deputy CM holds review meeting with district collectors
- Focus on Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, and MGNREGS projects
- Farm pond works launched as part of village development initiatives

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan conducted a video conference with the collectors of all 26 districts on Friday from the Camp Office. He reviewed the progress of development programs under Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, and MGNREGS, emphasizing the timely execution

of projects aimed at enhancing rural infrastructure. During the meeting, Pawan Kalyan inquired about the status of the development works initiated as part of the village festival and the farm ponds program, which was officially launched today. He stressed the importance of effective implementation of these projects



to improve the quality of life in rural areas. The conference was attended by Principal Secretary of Panchayat Raj Department, Shri Shashibhushan Kumar IAS, Director of Panchayat Raj, Shri Krishna Teja IAS, and officials from the

Deputy Chief Minister's Office. The Deputy CM directed officials to ensure that the projects are completed as per schedule, highlighting their role in boosting employment opportunities and sustainable development in villages.

Vizag Master Plan to be Finalized in Four Months - Minister Narayana

New master plan aims for sustainable development over the next 30 years

Key issues like road expansion, metro rail, and drinking water to be addressed

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Minister P. Narayana announced that a revised Visakhapatnam Master Plan will be prepared and finalized within four months, ensuring it aligns with the city's long-term growth. Speaking after a high-level review meeting with MLAs and officials, he emphasized that the previous government's master plan was drafted for selfish interests and would now be modified with public opinion before release. During the meeting, attended by

GVMC-area MLAs Palla Srinivasa Rao, Ganababu, Velagapudi Ramakrishna, and other officials, key concerns like road expansion, traffic congestion, metro rail project, land encroachments, TDR bonds, and underground drainage were discussed. The minister stressed that the plan must be future-proof for the next 30 years and integrate vital infrastructure projects, including the metro rail and improved flyovers.

MLA Konathala Ramakrishna high-

lighted long-standing land disputes in Anakapalle and Gajuwaka, drinking water shortages, and beach corridor issues. Minister Narayana assured that all concerns would be addressed. MLA Vishnu Kumar Raju noted that CM Chandrababu Naidu's Vision 2047 places special emphasis on Vizag's development and that loopholes in the previous master plan will be corrected.

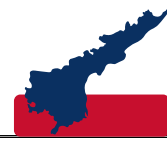
In addition, Minister Narayana discussed broader town planning re-

forms across Andhra Pradesh. He stated that non-high-rise construction norms would remain flexible, while rules for surveyor licenses were simplified to boost youth employment. Fees for obtaining surveyor licenses were reduced to just one rupee to encourage participation in town planning initiatives.

The minister reiterated that Vizag's transformation is a priority, with CM Chandrababu Naidu directing all necessary measures for its growth.



The revised master plan will soon be available online for public feedback before final approval.



ACA to Develop 30 Cricket Grounds Annually, Says MP Kesineni Shivanath

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Andhra Cricket Association (ACA) President and Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivanath (Chinni) announced that ACA has set a target to develop 30 cricket grounds annually across the 175 constituencies of Andhra Pradesh. He made this statement during a media conference at the Vijayawada Parliament Office NTR Bhavan in Guru Nanak Colony on Friday. MP Kesineni credited Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Education Minister Nara Lokesh for his appointment as ACA President. Addressing recent speculation, he clarified that the Vizag Cricket Stadium's name remains unchanged, as it has for the past 30 years. He mentioned that Delhi Capitals had earlier declined to host IPL matches at the stadium due to infrastructure concerns, but after Minister Nara Lokesh's intervention, GMR owners agreed to reconsider, provided modernization efforts were undertaken.

He stated that although work started late due to Christmas and Sankranti, the entire stadium was modernized in just one and a half months by March 10, a process that typically takes eight months. The upgrades included 320 hygienic toilets, 34 new rooms, a fully

LED-lit stadium, and a modernized press gallery. A Delhi Capitals delegation recently inspected the stadium and expressed satisfaction, with former cricketer Venkatapathi Raju praising the new dressing rooms as among the best in India.

Additionally, an international stadium in Amaravati has received approval from ICC Chairman Jai-sha after Minister Nara Lokesh's request. This stadium, set to be completed in two and a half years, is part of a broader initiative that includes a Sports City and a Sports University in Amaravati. The state government aims to host major sports events, including the National Games, with additional cricket academies planned in Vizianagaram and Moolapadu to train young players for IPL opportunities.

TDP leaders Songa Sanjay Varma, Madigani Gurunatham, and Narasimha Chowdhury attended the conference.



Posani Krishna Murali Granted Bail in CID Case

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

Film actor Posani Krishna Murali, who was arrested last month for making alleged inappropriate comments against Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan, has been granted bail by the Guntur court. Currently lodged in Narasaraopet jail, Posani had filed for bail citing health concerns, following which the court approved his plea on Friday.

Despite securing bail in five related cases, CID had arrested him again with a PT warrant, prolonging his

detention. Now, with the latest court order, he is expected to be released from jail soon.

The cases against Posani stem from his comments made during the YSRCP regime, targeting Chandrababu Naidu, Pawan Kalyan, and Nara Lokesh. Multiple FIRs were filed against him in Anantapur, Narasaraopet, Chittoor, Tirupati, Krishna, West Godavari, Annamayya, and Bapatla districts. His legal troubles, however, may not be over yet as proceedings in various cases continue.



CPI Narayana Praises Chiranjeevi's Decision, Slams Betting App Promotions

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

CPI National Secretary Narayana has made a striking revelation regarding film star Chiranjeevi's stance on ethical advertising, while also slamming celebrities involved in betting app promotions. Speaking at a media conference at Andhra Bhavan in Delhi, Narayana recalled how Chiranjeevi once stopped endorsing Coca-Cola after being informed about its potential health hazards.

He explained that years ago, he wrote to Chiranjeevi, warning that soft drink consumption harms children's health. Narayana even threatened to stage a protest on Children's Day if the actor did not withdraw from the ad campaign. Following this, producer Allu Aravind contacted him, defending that the earnings

were being used for Chiranjeevi's blood donation fund. However, Narayana questioned the ethics behind it, asking, "How can you promote something that spoils blood while using the earnings to save it?"

After requesting three months to honor existing contracts, Chiranjeevi completely stopped endorsing Coca-Cola and never accepted similar deals again, despite lucrative offers. "That is the true spirit," Narayana remarked.

Shifting focus to the betting apps controversy, Narayana strongly condemned film stars who misuse their fame to promote unethical activities. He accused them of misleading youth into financial ruin, comparing them unfavorably to past actors like Alluri Ramalingaiah, who used cinema for social good.

Criticizing those who justify their

involvement in betting promotions as legal or unintentional, Narayana insisted that public figures must recognize their influence and be accountable for their endorsements. He called for strict government action against celebrities who advertise betting apps, gutka, paan masala, and fraudulent businesses, stating that such endorsements harm society irreversibly.



CPI Stages Land Occupation Protest in Pithapuram

TPN Correspondent | Pithapuram

The Communist Party of India (CPI) staged a large-scale land occupation protest in Komaragiri Layout, Pithapuram, where 72 acres of government land are allegedly being encroached upon. CPI State Secretary K. Ramakrishna, along with thousands of poor rural residents, led the movement demanding that the land be allotted for house plots to the underprivileged.

Addressing the gathering, K. Ramakrishna stated that ₹32 crore was spent by the previous YS Jagan government to purchase this land for housing. However, land grabbers have illegally occupied 42 acres, with alleged support from local VROs and revenue officials. He condemned the inaction of authorities and announced plans to meet Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Revenue Minister regarding the issue. Additionally, he vowed to write to Jana Sena chief Pawan



Kalyan, the local MLA, urging him to take a stand.

Ramakrishna warned that if the government fails to distribute the land to the poor, CPI will take matters into its own hands and allocate plots themselves. The party has been fighting for three cents of land for rural poor and two cents for urban poor across Andhra Pradesh.

CPI State Secretary Dega Prabhakar Rao criticized the government's inaction despite repeated petitions from the poor. He demanded an immediate survey and land distribution within a week, warning of intensified protests otherwise. AP Agricultural Workers' Union State President Koteswara Rao reiterated CPI's commitment to fighting for land rights, stating that the party has historically distributed thousands of acres to the poor.

Anchor Shyamala Moves High Court to Quash FIR in Betting App Case

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Popular Tollywood anchor and YCP leader Shyamala has approached the High Court seeking to quash the FIR filed against her in the betting app case. The case, registered at Panjagutta Police Station, accuses Shyamala of promoting the online gaming app 'Andhra 365'.

Her petition is set to be heard in the High Court on Friday. The controversy surrounding celebrities endorsing betting apps has intensified in recent weeks, with legal action being taken against multiple public figures for allegedly misleading the public.



Shyamala's legal move comes amid growing pressure on authorities to crack down on endorsements of illegal betting platforms. Further developments in the case are expected following court hearing soon.

Marri Rajasekhara Criticizes YCP Leaders & Leadership

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Former MLC and minister Marri Rajasekhara has announced his resignation from YSRCP, citing disrespect and sidelining within the party. He expressed anger over Vidadala Rajini, stating that despite losing in the 2024 elections, she was made Chilakaluripet in-charge, while his role was ignored. Rajasekhara also blamed former CM YS Jaganmohan Reddy for his exit, stating that he was denied a ministerial post and only given an MLC position at the end of 2023. He felt his political stature was undermined to strengthen Rajini and thus decided to move on.

Reacting to Rajasekhara's statements, former minister Vidadala Rajini countered that he should self-reflect, claiming that the YSR family had always respected his family. She pointed out that YSR himself campaigned for

Rajasekhara in the past. Rajasekhara's resignation has created a buzz in Andhra Pradesh politics. He met Legislative Council Chairman Koyye Moshen Raju and formally submitted his resignation. Senior YSRCP leaders, including Botsa Satyanarayana, attempted to pacify him, but he stood firm on his decision.

With his entry into TDP now confirmed, his political realignment is expected to impact Chilakaluripet and Guntur politics in the coming days.



MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy Raises Concerns Over Funds Reduction For AP

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy questioned whether the funds allocated to Andhra Pradesh under Sakshyam Anganwadi and Poshan Abhiyan 2.0 have decreased over the years at lok sabha. He pointed out that the funds released to the state had declined from ₹825 crore in 2019-20 to ₹705 crore in 2023-24 and sought an explanation from the central government.

In response, Minister of State

for Women and Child Development Savitri Thakur clarified that the 15th Finance Commission had restructured the scheme into three main components:

Sakshyam Anganwadi - Focused on modernizing and improving Anganwadi infrastructure

Poshan Abhiyan - Aimed at providing nutritional support to children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers

Adolescent Girls Programme - Catering to the nutritional needs of girls aged 14-18

Union Minister further explained that the funds allocated to Andhra Pradesh from 2019-20 to 2025 are as follows:

- 2019-20: ₹825.24 crore
- 2020-21: ₹701.82 crore
- 2021-22: ₹744.60 crore
- 2022-23: ₹827.79 crore
- 2023-24: ₹705.68 crore
- 2024-25 (till February): ₹521.79 crore

The minister stated that the allocation of funds under Mission Poshan 2.0 depends on the Annual Programme Implementation Plan (APIP) meetings, where state gov-

ernments submit their proposals. She also noted that unspent funds, additional state expenditure, and compliance with the Single Nodal Agency (SNA) rules influence the release of funds each financial year.



Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar Distributes CMRF Checks in Addanki

Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar holds public forum in Santamaguluru
Distributes over ₹39 lakh in CMRF checks to 80 beneficiaries
LOC documents worth ₹9 lakh handed over

TPN Correspondent | Addanki
Power Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar visited Addanki and organized a public forum in Santamaguluru, where he interacted with the public and received their requests and grievances. The minister assured that the coalition government is committed to addressing public issues and providing necessary support. Following the forum, Minister Gottipati distributed Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) checks amounting to ₹39 lakh to 80 beneficiaries, ensuring financial aid

for medical treatments. Additionally, he handed over Letter of Credit (LOC) documents worth ₹9 lakh, further reinforcing the government's support for healthcare needs. He stated that since the coalition government took charge, 439 people in the constituency have benefitted from the CMRF. The minister reaffirmed that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's government is dedicated to providing financial security for people's health and will continue to support those in need.



MLA Venigandla Ramu Calls for Collective Effort in Gudivada's Development



TPN Correspondent | Gudivada
MLA Venigandla Ramu has urged all citizens to actively participate in the development of Gudivada constituency, emphasizing that collective effort is essential for progress.

As part of his initiative to address public grievances, MLA Ramu organized a public forum in Chautapalli village of Gudivada Rural Mandal, where he received requests from villagers, officials, and coalition leaders. He personally reviewed the grievances and took immediate steps to resolve several issues by coordinating with the concerned authorities.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Ramu stated that he has extensively traveled across the constituency and is well aware of the people's concerns. He highlighted that the Praja Vedika program was launched to directly connect with the public and address their problems effectively. He assured the villagers that his focus remains on resolving long-standing issues like drinking water shortages and poor road conditions, many of which have already been successfully addressed in various villages. Calling for active public participation, MLA Ramu stressed that only through unity and cooperation can they overcome the setbacks caused by the previous government's mismanagement. He reaffirmed his commitment to being accessible to the people, even when occupied with assembly sessions, government programs, or development initiatives. Those unable to reach him personally can present their issues at the Praja Vedika office.

MLA Ramu also expressed concern over the economic crisis inherited from the previous administration but assured that under the leadership of CM Chandrababu Naidu, the state is steadily returning to the path of development and good governance.

The event saw participation from Mandal TDP President Vasey Murali, Village Sarpanch Velagaleti Ramya, MDO Vishnu Prasad, various TDP leaders, government officials, and local villagers, all reaffirming their commitment to Gudivada's progress.

APNGO Leaders Thanks to CM for Releasing Employee Dues



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati
State government employees, teachers, and pensioners have expressed their gratitude to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, Finance Minister

Payyavula Keshav, and Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand for releasing ₹6,200 crores towards pending dues. APNGO Association State President K.V. Shiva Reddy and State Chief Secretary A. Vidyasagar issued a statement appreciating the swift government action.

On Thursday, AP JAC leaders met Chief Secretary K. Vijayanand and submitted a memorandum urging the government to focus on employee issues. They demanded the immediate clearance of pending dues, appointment of a PRC Chairman, and sanctioning of pending DAS. They highlighted that during the

previous government, employees and teachers faced financial distress as nearly ₹25,000 crores in dues were withheld.

Recognizing the state's financial constraints, JAC leaders had requested the coalition government to address the employees' difficulties. Responding positively, the government immediately released ₹6,200 crores to clear a portion of the dues.

APNGO leaders hope for further steps to address other pending concerns, including PRC appointment and DA clearance, ensuring long-term financial stability for government employees.

Tiruvur MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao Faces Serious Allegations

Jana Sena leader alleges death threat from MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao
Plans to submit evidence of corruption in four mandals to CM and Deputy CM
Calls for action from top officials, including the DGP and Governor

TPN Correspondent | Tiruvur
Tiruvur constituency MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao has once again found himself at the center of controversy, with Jana Sena Party Tiruvur constituency coordinator Manabolu Srinivasa Rao making serious allegations against him.

Speaking to the media, Manabolu Srinivasa Rao stated that he has been actively fighting against various irregularities in the Tiruvur constituency for the past few months. He claimed that evidence of corruption in four mandals—Visannapet, Tiruvur, Gampalagudem, and Kondur—has been collected and will soon be submitted to Chief Min-



ister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan. Alleging a threat to his life, Manabolu Sri-

nivasa Rao accused MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao of attempting to suppress opposition to corruption. He claimed that the MLA has hired a gang to harm him and has been using his appointee, Palle Kanti David, to record and leak private conversations.

Expressing fear for his safety, the Jana Sena leader stated that if anything were to happen to him or his family, MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao should be held responsible. He announced plans to file a formal complaint with CM Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, the State DGP, the Governor, the NTR District Commissioner, and local police officials.

NTR Dist Police Conducts Anti-Drug Workshop in Vijayawada

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
In an effort to combat drug abuse, NTR District Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhara Babu IPS organized a workshop for police personnel at the Police Commissioner's Office in Vijayawada, in collaboration with the Green Valley Foundation and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Speaking at the event, the Police Commissioner emphasized that drug abuse weakens individuals, families, and society. He urged police personnel to remain vigilant against drug suppliers and assured that a strong SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) would be developed soon. He also announced plans for coordinated action with other departments to assist drug users in rehabilitation. The Task Force, Eagle Team, and Narcotics Cell are already operational, and a new enforcement strategy will be introduced to completely curb drug use.

Dr. Swarajyalakshmi, addressing the gath-



ing, explained that drug addiction often starts with cigarettes and alcohol before escalating. She warned that prolonged drug use damages vital organs such as the lungs, kidneys, brain, and eyes, potentially leading to cancer, organ failure, and even death. She informed that de-addiction treatment is available at the psychiatric department of the old Government Hospital.

Dr. Smt. Kalyani, Director of Prosecution, elaborated on legal procedures under the NDPS Act, including case registration, medical tests, and prosecution guidelines issued by the Supreme Court in 2022.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, acknowledging NTR District Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhara Babu IPS, Green Valley Foundation Chairperson Smt. Umaraj, and other dignitaries. Police officers from various stations participated, reinforcing the district's commitment to eradicating drug abuse.

Tension in Nuzvid as 200-Year-Old Ganganamma Idol Vandalized

TPN Correspondent | Nuzvid
A shocking incident in Nuzvid Municipality, Eluru District, has left local Hindus deeply distressed after an unidentified person vandalized the 200-year-old Ganganamma idol in broad daylight.

According to reports, the idol of Ganganamma and two other puja pots were removed by the attacker, who also threw away religious flags before fleeing the scene. The act of desecration at the Krishna Buddy Center has led to widespread anger among the locals, with a large number of people gathering to express their grief and outrage.

The police reached the location and have begun an investigation into the incident. Authorities are examining CCTV footage and gathering information to identify the culprit. Meanwhile, heightened tension prevails in Nuzvid, with local residents demanding strict action against those responsible for the desecration.



MP Putta Mahesh Kumar Resolves Public Issues Swiftly



- Drinking water pipeline completed in Pragadavaram
- Electricity poles installed on a war footing
- Local residents express gratitude to MP Putta Mahesh Kumar

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

For five years, residents of Pragadavaram struggled for drinking water, with their pleas going unanswered. However, after Eluru MP Putta Mahesh Kumar took office, he promptly addressed their concerns. During his recent visit to Chintalapudi constituency, local women shared their hardships, explaining how they had to walk long distances daily just to fetch drinking water.

Moved by their plight, MP Mahesh Kumar assured immediate action and instructed

local authorities to lay a drinking water pipeline. Responding swiftly, officials installed the pipeline and began water supply, bringing immense relief to the villagers. The residents expressed their heartfelt gratitude to MP Putta Mahesh Kumar for his prompt intervention.

In another instance, women from a colony in Pragadavaram, Chintalapudi Mandal, requested electricity facilities. Without delay, MP Mahesh Kumar directed DISCOM officials to inspect the area and prepare estimates. Acting quickly, authorities installed 32 electricity poles and set up a new power line to provide uninterrupted electricity to the colony.

With both drinking water and electricity issues resolved, the residents expressed joy and gratitude, acknowledging MP Putta Mahesh Kumar's commitment to public welfare and development.



Railway Officials Shine in All India Senior Tennis Tournament



TPN Correspondent | Bhimavaram

In a thrilling finale at the All India Senior Tennis Tournament held in Bhimavaram, Shri K. Rajendra Prasad, Additional Registrar, Railway

Claims Tribunal, Amaravati Bench, Guntur, and Shri Sampath Kumar, Technician, Electrical Maintenance, Vijayawada Division, SCR, emerged champions in the 45+ Doubles category. Their exceptional coordination and strategic gameplay led them to claim the prestigious title.

The tournament, known for attracting top senior tennis players from across the country, witnessed high-level competition and sportsmanship. In the final match, the duo defeated Shri Ganji Venkateswarlu from Khammam and Shri Bhaskar Rao from Palvoncha, who finished as runners-up.

Organizers lauded the dedication and talent of the participants, emphasizing that age is no barrier to excellence in sports. They expressed gratitude to all players, sponsors, and supporters for making the tournament a grand success.

MLA Prashanthi Reddy Extends Early Ramadan Greetings



TPN Correspondent | Nellore

On the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy distributed 60 water coolers to mosques across Kovur constituency through VPR Foundation. The initiative, supported by MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy, aims to provide cold drinking water to those fasting during Ramadan. Speaking on this occasion, MLA Prashanthi Reddy extended early Ramadan greetings to the Muslim community in her constituency. She emphasized the importance of peace, tolerance, and charity, urg-

ing people to stay away from jealousy and hatred. She encouraged everyone to practice altruism and religious harmony, stressing that the spirit of Ramadan should inspire compassion and unity. The event was attended by Buchi Municipal Chairman Morla Supraja, Vice Chairman Yaratapalli Sivakumar Reddy, Penna Delta Chairman Jetty Rajagopal Reddy, Bezawada Vamsi Krishna Reddy, and minority leaders Imtiaz, Jameer, Jahangir, Feroze, Parveen, along with other community members.

Constituency Development is My Goal, Says MLA Koneti Adimulam

TPN Correspondent | Satyavedu

Satyavedu MLA Koneti Adimulam reaffirmed his commitment to the development of his constituency, stating that he has actively taken steps to address various issues. He has urged the government to establish a government school for girls in every mandal to improve educational opportunities.

During his recent meetings with Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and Minister Nara Lokesh, he sought their support in expediting development works. Highlighting key concerns, he pointed out that farmers in Nagalapuram are facing problems due to forest department officials, and he has taken the matter to the government for resolution.

He also noted that government hospitals in some mandals lack sufficient beds and staff, and he has formally requested the

Health Minister to address the shortage. Regarding welfare programs, he emphasized that CM Relief Funds should be distributed efficiently to eligible beneficiaries in every mandal and promised to hold regular review meetings on this.

Looking ahead to the summer season, he advised farmers to prepare for dry weather conditions. He also pointed out that Satyavedu is a backward constituency, and



many villagers migrate for work. In this regard, he requested the government to provide 104 village survey packets to facilitate local employment.

Expressing concern over damaged roads in several panchayats, he urged the Panchayat Department to immediately undertake repairs and bring the matter up in the assembly. He also addressed the issue of students from Sri City struggling to complete their education and secure jobs, stressing that CM Chandrababu Naidu's leadership has been instrumental in attracting companies to Sri City.

MLA Adimulam assured that he would remain accessible to the people and not just confine himself to office duties. He vowed to regularly visit villages, interact with residents, and conduct periodic review meetings to ensure the constituency's development.

Reduce Gram Panchayat Secretaries' Workload: Request to District Panchayat Officer



TPN Correspondent | Rajahmundry

The leaders of the Panchayat Secretaries Association have raised concerns over the growing workload on Gram Panchayat secretaries, stating that excessive responsibilities are leading to severe mental stress and health problems. On Friday, they met East Godavari District Panchayat Officer Shanthamani and submitted a petition seeking relief.

The association leaders explained that, in addition to their routine duties, secretaries are now burdened with numerous surveys and additional tasks, making it difficult to manage responsibilities efficiently. They highlighted that some secretaries have even suffered health issues due to this stress. The leaders urged the officer to bring their grievances to the attention of the government.

They pointed out that the Gram Panchayat secretaries are responsible for collecting

taxes such as house tax, tap tax, and license fees, as well as managing sanitation, drinking water, street lighting, and issuing birth and death certificates. Furthermore, they are tasked with maintaining records and overseeing development activities.

The officials stressed that conducting nearly 15 different government-mandated surveys through mobile applications has added an overwhelming burden. They cited surveys such as the Missing Citizen Survey, Missing Employee Survey, P4 Survey, Household Geotagging, Work for Home Survey, PACS Survey, Child Aadhaar Survey, and Village Profile Survey as particularly challenging.

The association leaders requested that the authorities ease their workload, especially in conducting online door-to-door surveys, to prevent further strain on Gram Panchayat secretaries.

Rajahmundry Divisional Panchayat Secretaries Association President, Secretaries Tankala Srinivas, Meka Prasad, Joint East Godavari District Secretary G. Venkat Rao, and several senior officials participated in the discussion.

NDA Govt Plans School Reforms to Match Private Institutions



TPN Correspondent | Pithapuram

In line with the coalition government's vision, efforts are underway to modernize government schools across the state and bring them on par with private institutions. As part of this initiative, a survey has commenced to identify schools for reorganization.

At Amaravalli village in U. Kothapalli mandal, Pithapuram constituency, concerns have been raised by parents regarding the merging of government schools. They fear that such a move may negatively impact students due to longer travel distances, safety concerns for girls, and other challenges. Keeping these issues in mind, parents of students from MPP schools met

former MLA and state spokesperson SVSN Verma and submitted a petition seeking reconsideration.

Addressing the gathering, SVSN Verma reiterated that the coalition government, under the leadership of State Education Minister Nara Lokesh, is committed to ensuring that government schools compete with private institutions in quality and infrastructure. He explained that schools with less than 65 students would be merged with nearby government schools to improve facilities and academic standards. Verma urged village elders, parents, and local leaders to set aside political differences and enroll their children in government schools, emphasizing that only collective community participation can help develop model schools in villages. A large number of women, Telugu Desam leaders, and activists participated in the event, expressing their support for the government's efforts.

YSRCP Will Stand by the People, Says Jakkampudi Raja

TPN Correspondent | Rajanagaram

YSR Congress Party State Youth Wing President and former Rajanagaram MLA Jakkampudi Raja reaffirmed the party's commitment to standing by the people and its workers, stating that YSRCP remains a true people's party. He participated in the My Workers - My Family program at Undeswarapuram and Vedullapalli villages in Sitana-garam mandal, Rajanagaram constituency, where he reviewed the party's strengthening efforts.

Speaking on the occasion, Jakkampudi Raja criticized the ruling coalition government, accusing it of deceiving women, farmers, laborers, and students by failing to fulfill its promises. He claimed that within nine months of coming to power, the government

has already lost public trust due to its inefficiency.

He alleged that the coalition government is unable to provide quality meals to students and is preparing to privatize primary health centers, which serve as the backbone of healthcare for the poor. He also accused the government

of increasing electricity tariffs despite earlier assurances that they would not.

Jakkampudi Raja declared that YSRCP will fight against the failures of the government in a democratic manner. He expressed confidence that public support for YSRCP is growing and that the party will return to power. He urged party workers to remain strong and work tirelessly for the party's future. Several YSRCP leaders and activists participated in the event.

Daughter Kills Father Over Extramarital Affair

Police take accused into custody



TPN Correspondent | Mandapeta

A brutal murder has come to light in Mandapeta, East Godavari district, where a daughter allegedly killed her father after he objected to her extramarital affair. According to reports, Durga, daughter of Sura Rambabu, had been in a relationship with Mummidivarapu Suresh from

Kothuru village in Ramachandrapuram constituency.

When Rambabu discovered the affair and strongly opposed it, Durga, along with her boyfriend Suresh, planned his murder. The incident took a shocking turn when Durga was caught with her blood-stained clothes, raising suspicion.

Following an investigation, the police took both Durga and Suresh into custody. Further inquiries are underway to uncover more details about the crime.

Devotees Struggle Under Scorching Heat at Tiruchanur Temple

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

Thousands of devotees visiting Sri Padmavati Ammavari Temple in Tiruchanur are facing severe difficulties due to the lack of cold pavilions. With the scorching sun on one side and the hot temple flooring on the other, devotees are struggling as their feet burn, forcing many to run barefoot to avoid the heat.

A large number of ordinary devotees enter the temple premises through Gate-3 and Gate-4 to have darshan. However, due to the absence of white-painted cold pavilions at crucial locations such as the ticket counter, mobile and luggage deposit counters, and laddu counters, devotees are enduring extreme discomfort.

Additionally, from the main entrance to the Annadana complex, no proper shade has been provided.



Though a small shed has been installed along this route, it is often occupied by employees and locals parking their motorcycles, leaving devotees exposed to the sun.

To make matters worse, the practice of laying red carpets and sprinkling water in the temple premises during peak afternoon hours has caused several devotees to fall ill due to the intensified heat.

Frustrated devotees are urging TTD authorities to take immediate action and install cold shelters to prevent further suffering.

RSS @100 :Unstoppable journey

The RSS's decision not to alter its ideology for electoral advantages has enhanced its credibility and fostered trustworthiness.

The Congress party's initial goals for the freedom struggle and the communist's anti-capitalist movement have shifted to focus on electoral objectives, resulting in the total transformation into political organizations. In contrast, the RSS has retained its non-political position while guiding its political affiliate, the BJP. Similar mentor guiding organisations the communists and Congress parties are lacking.



Dr. Buragadda Srinadh

identity.

RSS remained as foundational organisation and basic ideology not compromised for electoral gains

For sixty years, the Congress and Communist parties have been the principal political entities in India, frequently altering their manifestos and ideologies to secure electoral advantages. They have often taken the Hindu community for granted, testing their patience. In contrast, since its establishment in 1925, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has remained steadfast in its core ideology, without seeking power or making compromises for political gain. Although the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) serves as its political arm, the RSS retains its identity as the foundational organization. While the Congress and Communist parties have lost their distinct identities, lacking a guiding force like the RSS for the BJP, the RSS has continued its work with unwavering commitment for 100 years.

Millions of patriotic Indians desire a deep national identity with our culture and heritage

The current circumstances have evolved into a critical juncture, prompting genuine patriotic citizens to express deep concerns regarding the threats associated with global religious intolerance and instability. There is a pronounced yearning among the populace to preserve India's culture, which is rooted in peace and harmony. In this context, the nation is looking to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to assume a vital role in steering and unifying society. The expectation is that the RSS will help safeguard cultural heritage and identity, ensuring that the values held dear are protected against these challenges.

The dreams and ambitions of millions of patriotic Indians embody a deep and meaningful connection to their national identity. This sense of belonging is not merely a superficial sentiment; it is rooted in a rich history, shared values, and a collective vision for the future. As these individuals strive for progress and unity, their aspirations serve as a testament to their commitment to the nation, highlighting the importance of cultural heritage and the desire to contribute positively to the country's development. This profound sense of national identity fosters a spirit of solidarity among citizens, encouraging them to work together towards common goals and a brighter future for all.

Bharatiya culture is the life-breath of Hindustan. It is, therefore, clear that if Hindustan is to be protected, we must first nourish our own Bharatiya culture. If our culture perishes in Hindustan itself, and if the true Bharat society ceases to exist, it will hardly be appropriate to refer to the mere geographical entity that remains as Hindustan. Mere geographical landmasses do not make a nation. The entire society should be vigilant and organized so that no one dares to cast an evil eye on any of our sacred traditions.

Strength, it should be remembered, comes only through organization. Every patriotic Indian, therefore, must do their best to consolidate society. The Sangh is carrying out this supreme task. The present fate of the country cannot be changed unless lakhs of young men dedicate their entire lifetime to this cause. Molding the minds of youth toward this goal is the supreme aim of the Sangh—a true torchbearer and pathfinder for the glory of our nation.



Why Is Trump Invoking JFK? Hint: Russia

"Let's get out of the Defense mess before it's too late... Be brave, Jack."

Less than two years before his assassination in November 1963, U.S. President John F. Kennedy (JFK) received this letter from filmmaker Rod Serling, best known as the creator of *The Twilight Zone*. The poignancy of this postscript in a March 26, 1962, letter needs to be examined afresh today, especially after the latest release of another tranche of the JFK Files.

Keeping his promise, President Donald Trump recently declassified over 2,000 documents related to JFK's assassination. JFK, who lived by the media and also died on screen, continues to dominate the public imagination six decades after his death. As experts analyze more than 64,000 pages of these declassified files, conspiracy theories surrounding JFK's assassination have resurfaced.

Who'll Tell the Conspiracy Theorists?

Did the CIA have JFK assassinated to continue its Vietnam experiment? Did Lee Harvey Oswald conspire with the Soviet Union? Was the Chicago mob involved? Or did Vice President Lyndon Johnson orchestrate it? No definitive answers exist, fueling the enduring allure of conspiracy theories.

However, some question the purpose of these declassified documents, which inadvertently exposed sensitive details of hundreds of political, military, and congressional personnel.

The CIA's Role in the Cold War

The documents shed light on the CIA's vast influence during the Cold War. They reveal details about U.S. intelligence operations, including CIA bases in New Delhi and Kolkata, sabotage efforts against Cuba, and covert strategies to undermine foreign governments. Instead of painting the CIA as the villain behind JFK's assassination, the files reinforce its image as a formidable player in global politics.

Interestingly, JFK aide Arthur Schlesinger Jr. once described the CIA as possessing "many of the characteristics of a state within a state." Even today, the agency remains one of the most powerful arms of the U.S. government.

Why Is Trump Bringing Back JFK?

At a time when Trump's second term is facing domestic and international criticism, reviving JFK's legacy serves multiple purposes. The former president, who was often skeptical of intelligence agencies, has long positioned himself as an outsider challenging Washington's deep state. By declassifying the JFK files, Trump reinforces his narrative of exposing government secrets while invoking the legacy of a leader associated with peace efforts.

JFK, who campaigned for nuclear disarmament, signed the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty just a month before his assassination. Today, as the Trump administration navigates strained relations with Russia, leveraging JFK's image as a peacemaker helps frame Trump's diplomatic approach in a historical context.

This isn't the first time Trump has leaned on JFK's memory. In his 2016 campaign, he promoted conspiracy theories linking his rival Ted Cruz's father to JFK's assassination. Now, as Trump seeks to shape his second-term foreign policy, invoking JFK may be a calculated effort to justify his approach to Russia.

A Battle of Perception

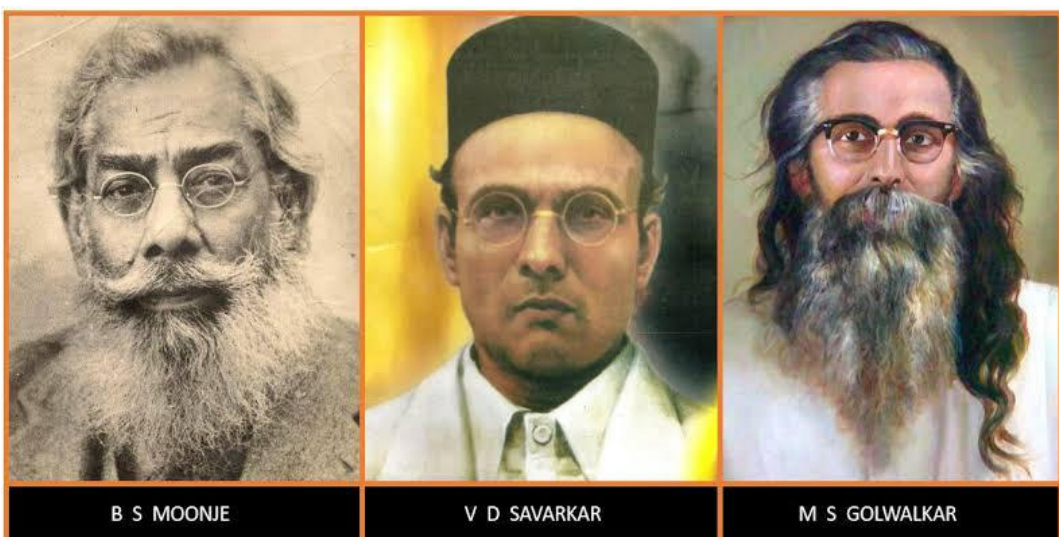
Ultimately, Trump's decision to declassify the JFK files is not just about historical transparency—it's about political optics. Like JFK, Trump understands the power of media and public perception. Whether this move will serve his broader agenda remains to be seen.

India's Immigration Overhaul: A Much-Needed Reform for a Changing World

Migration has shaped civilizations, economies, and national identities for centuries. In today's interconnected world, however, it has also become a pressing political and security challenge. Nations across the globe are grappling with balancing border control, economic opportunities, and humanitarian obligations. Against this backdrop, India's Immigration & Foreigners Bill, 2025 is a timely and necessary reform that modernizes outdated laws and aligns the country's immigration policy with contemporary global realities. India's historical experience with migration has been unique. From the mass displacement during Partition to the influx of refugees from Bangladesh in 1971, and the continued movement of persecuted minorities from neighboring countries, India has had to balance security with humanitarian concerns. However, the country has also emerged as a global hub for skilled migration, with millions of Indians contributing to economies worldwide. The need for a robust and forward-looking immigration policy is more critical than ever.

The Immigration & Foreigners Bill, 2025 replaces colonial-era laws that no longer serve India's security and economic interests. By consolidating and updating immigration regulations, the bill enhances border security, streamlines entry and exit procedures, and ensures stricter compliance with visa norms. It introduces firm penalties for illegal migration while ensuring smoother processes for legal travelers, skilled professionals, and tourists.

One of the bill's most significant aspects is its focus on technology-driven immigration management. Initiatives such as e-Visas, biometric-based entry systems, and real-time visa tracking through digital platforms reduce bureaucratic inefficiencies and enhance security. These reforms position India as a country that values both national security and economic openness, ensuring that global mobility benefits its growth and international standing.



Congress and communism were founded by foreigners

Historically, before independence, India witnessed the emergence of various political entities, notably the Communist Party, inspired by German national Karl Marx's ideology against capitalism in 1848, and the Indian National Congress, established in 1882 by British national Allan Octavian Hume to foster civil and political dialogue among educated Indians. Both institutions were foreign in origin and lacked a true understanding of Indian sentiments. Initially, neither functioned as a political party in the conventional sense. Over time, the Communist Party evolved into a global force, while the Congress emerged as the dominant political power in post-independence India. As these parties engaged in a power struggle, they failed to comprehend the sentiments of the vast majority of Indians, particularly Hindus.

The movement for India's independence was a prolonged struggle that united various groups, leaders, and ideologies against British rule. The Congress Party capitalized on the gains of the independence movement, with many people following its leadership, influenced by the reverence for Gandhi, often suppressing their own sentiments. A thousand years of foreign domination had devastated indigenous Indian culture, leading to the destruction of temples and the imposition of penalties, such as the jizya tax, for practicing one's faith. This resulted in feelings of humiliation and marginalization, leaving a lasting emotional scar on millions of Indians.

Communist served British interest due to alliance in Second world war

During World War II, Britain, the United States, Russia, and China constituted the main Allied powers. Indian communist parties were primarily influenced by Russian and Chinese communist leaders. Due to their alliance with the British, Indian communists largely overlooked local aspirations and served British interests in India. Alongside their opposition to capitalism, they also began mocking Hindu beliefs. The Communist Party, with its strong cadre-based structure, identified the Jan Sangh, the political arm of the RSS, as a rising cadre-based party that openly supported Hindu nationalism and posed a potential political threat. Rather than opposing the Jan Sangh on political grounds, the Communists shifted their focus to criticizing Hindu beliefs, diverting their struggle from capitalism to communal-

ism. Millions of Indians remained passive in the face of these attacks on Hindu faith by both political parties. The intellectuals associated with these parties misinterpreted this silence as consent, leading to an escalation in their criticism of Hinduism until growing Hindu discontent reached a critical threshold.

Secularism means Hindu bashing for Congress and communists for electoral gains

Under the leadership of Nehru, the Congress Party began undermining Hinduism for electoral benefits and self-image building. Hindus remained silent, and their silence was taken for granted by political parties. The attacks on Hinduism reached their pinnacle under Sonia Gandhi's leadership.

One of the most contentious aspects of her tenure was the discourse surrounding Hinduism. For instance, Sushil Kumar Shinde, the Home Minister during her tenure, introduced the term "Hindu terrorism," which many saw as an unfair label targeting a significant portion of the population to appease minority groups. This narrative was intensified by former Home Minister Shivraj Patil, who made offensive comments about the Bhagavad Gita, equating it to jihad—an analogy that many Hindus found deeply disrespectful. Sonia Gandhi reportedly advised party leaders that criticizing Hinduism was crucial for obtaining ministerial roles, leading Congress leaders to attack Hindus for political gain.

Current party president Mallikarjun Kharge has mocked the Kumbh Mela, a significant Hindu religious event, further alienating a large segment of the electorate. Several controversial bills and actions during the UPA administration were seen as attempts to win minority support. Sonia Gandhi denied Sri Pranab Mukherjee the Prime Minister position twice due to his Hindu identity, and the UPA government assigned all key portfolios to non-Hindus, sidelining others. Under her leadership, former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao faced humiliation both in life and posthumously. The UPA government, led by Sonia Gandhi, targeted Ram Sethu and took significant steps to dismantle it, even filing a petition in the Supreme Court against it. These actions were perceived as part of a broader strategy by Sonia Gandhi to bolster her political standing among minority communities through an anti-Hindu stance, reminiscent of historical efforts by invaders to undermine India's dominant religious and cultural

Rahul Gandhi Slams Merit System as 'Upper Caste Narrative', BJP Calls Him 'Entitled Dynast'



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has sparked controversy by calling the system of merit an "unfair and upper caste narrative," drawing sharp criticism from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He made these remarks while advocating for a caste census, arguing that it would expose the "truth of inequality and discrimination." In a video interaction with former UGC chairman Sukhdeo Thorat, Rahul Gandhi criticized India's education and bureaucratic entry systems. "There is a completely flawed concept of merit where I confuse my social position with

my capability. For anybody to say that our education system or our bureaucratic entry systems are fair to Dalits, OBCs, and tribals – that's just a complete fallacy," he said. He further argued that the prevailing notion of merit is deeply biased. "The entire narrative is an upper caste narrative. This notion of merit is, actually, itself an unfair idea," he asserted. Rahul Gandhi also reiterated his commitment to social justice, stating, "Babasaheb's dream is still incomplete. His fight is not just for the past, it is a fight for today as well – we will fight it with all our might." BJP Reacts Strongly

BJP leader Amit Malviya criticized Gandhi's comments, accusing him of undermining hardworking individuals. "Does Rahul Gandhi even know what he speaks? The dolt just ran down millions of people who come from poor and socially marginalized backgrounds and rise up in life on the dint of merit and sheer hard work. But how can one expect an entitled dynast to even understand what it means to compete and excel?" Malviya remarked. Rahul Gandhi's remarks have reignited the debate over caste-based reservations and the merit system, with political parties taking strong positions on the issue.

Nitish Kumar's 'World Will End' Remark Triggers Tejashwi Yadav's 'Anti-Tech' Jibe

TPN Correspondent | Patna

Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav has hit out at Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for his remark that mobile phone usage could lead to the world's destruction in 10 years, calling it "conservative and anti-technology." A controversy erupted in the Bihar Assembly after CM Nitish Kumar objected to the use of mobile phones inside the House. Criticizing JD(U) MLA Kumar Krishna Mohan alias Soday Yadav for referring to his mobile while asking a question, Nitish Kumar de-

manded strict action. "It is already banned in the House. I request you (Speaker) that whoever comes with a mobile phone should be thrown out of the House," he said, adding, "If this continues, the world will end in the next 10 years." Tejashwi Slams Nitish's Remark Tejashwi Yadav mocked the Chief Minister's statement, saying, "Bihar has a computer-illiterate Chief Minister who is against technology, youth, students, and women." He further criticized Kumar's

stance, stating, "It is unfortunate and condemnable that Bihar has such a conservative Chief Minister." Yadav also pointed out the contradiction in Nitish Kumar's argument, stating, "From an environmental perspective, the Bihar Assembly is going paperless, and members are encouraged to ask questions online." The remarks have sparked a fresh political debate, with the opposition questioning whether Nitish Kumar is out of touch with modern governance.



Nagpur violence: Fahim Khan, 5 others charged with sedition

TPN Correspondent | Nagpur

Nagpur police have booked key accused Fahim Khan and five others on charges of sedition and spreading misinformation on social media following the recent violence in the city. Officials confirmed on Thursday that curfew had been lifted or relaxed in certain areas three days after the unrest. Maulana Shahabuddin Razvi, a cleric from the Barelvi sect, has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah demanding a ban on the film Chhava, alleging that it incited communal tensions and was directly responsible for the violence in Nagpur. Amid growing demands from right-wing groups for the removal of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's tomb in Maharashtra's Sambhajinagar district, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has placed tin sheets on two sides of the historic structure. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee condemned the violence, emphasizing India's unity in diversity. "Our country is known for its unity in diversity. After the demolition of Babri Masjid, I hit the streets to protect communal har-

mony," she stated in Kolkata. According to officials, the violence in Nagpur was triggered by rumors that a 'chadar' with holy inscriptions was burnt during protests led by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) seeking the removal of Aurangzeb's tomb. Investigations suggest that initial misinformation spread via social media fueled the unrest, with subsequent videos further glorifying the violence. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber Crime) Lohit Matani said that six individuals, including Khan, the city chief of the Minority Democratic Party, have been booked for sedition. The cyber crime department has sought information from Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and YouTube regarding 230 accounts and requested their immediate blocking. Maharashtra Cyber officials have also identified over 140 objectionable posts and videos allegedly inciting communal tensions. Authorities have urged the public to be cautious while sharing online content and to refrain from spreading unverified or inflammatory information.



"Not Just About MPs...": MK Stalin's Message Before Big Delimitation Meet

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has reiterated his strong opposition to the proposed delimitation exercise, warning that it is not just about parliamentary representation but a direct assault on federalism. In a video statement, he called for "fair delimitation" and urged leaders from multiple states to form a 'Joint Action Committee' to protest the move. Stalin's concerns stem from fears that a delimitation exercise based on the 2026 population will reduce Tamil Nadu's representation in Parliament. He argued that states that have controlled population growth should not be penalized, while others, particularly in the north, could gain more Lok Sabha seats, shifting political influence in their favor. "Our fight is not just about the number of MPs but about all states' rights. This strikes at the foundation of federalism in India. Our voices in Parliament will be silenced, and our rights compromised," Stalin stated. Tamil Nadu has long opposed a population-based delimitation, arguing it would disproportionately benefit Hindi-speaking states, which are considered BJP strongholds. The DMK-led government is demanding that the current seat proportions be retained to ensure fair representation. Saturday's meeting follows a resolution passed by nearly 60 Tamil parties on March 5,

urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to retain the 1971 population as the basis for delimitation for another 30 years. Stalin has also written to the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Punjab, and Bengal, urging collective action. While the central government, including Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has assured that no state will be disadvantaged, Tamil Nadu remains skeptical. Stalin has insisted that while assurances have been given that southern states won't lose seats, there has been no commitment that northern states won't gain disproportionately. With the Congress backing this stance, and leaders like Telangana CM Revanth Reddy and Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah terming delimitation a move to weaken southern states, the upcoming meeting is expected to shape a larger opposition strategy against the proposed changes.



Annapurna Devi Seeks SC Action on Allahabad HC's 'Not Rape' Verdict



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Union Minister Annapurna Devi has strongly opposed the Allahabad High Court's ruling in an "attempt to rape" case, stating that such views have "no place in a civilized society." She urged the Supreme Court to intervene and review the judgment. The Allahabad High Court, in its order on March 20, modified the charges against two accused, ruling that their act did not constitute an attempt to rape but "aggravated sexual assault." Reacting to the verdict, Annapurna Devi said, "I am completely against this decision, and the Supreme Court should take serious note of it. Such a ruling has no place in a civilized society."

She also warned of the broader implications, stating, "Somewhere, this will have a negative impact on society, and we will discuss this matter further." Strong Criticism from Women Leaders Former DCW chief and AAP MP Swati Maliwal also condemned the judgment, calling it "very unfortunate." "I am very shocked at the comments made in the judgment. It is a very shameful scenario," she told NDTV. Demanding Supreme Court intervention, Maliwal added, "How can the act committed by those men not be considered an attempt to rape? I don't understand the logic behind this judgment. The Supreme Court needs to step in."

Gabbard's India visit reinforces US-India ties: US official

Discussions Focus on Defense, Counterterrorism, and Intelligence Cooperation

TPN Correspondent | Washington

US Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, recently visited India, marking a significant step in the growing strategic relationship between Washington and New Delhi. The discussions during her visit primarily focused on intelligence-sharing, defense cooperation, counterterrorism efforts, and addressing transnational threats, according to a report by the news agency PTI, citing a senior US official.

A spokesperson from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) emphasized that Gabbard's visit underscores the longstanding partnership between the United States and India. The strategic relationship between the two nations has been increasingly solidified, particularly under the leadership and camaraderie between US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The visit is part of ongoing efforts to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in crucial areas such as security, defense, and intelligence operations. The discussions were aimed at strengthening the collaboration to combat global and regional security challenges, including counterterrorism and the growing threat of transnational crimes.

Gabbard's visit to India represents the contin-



ued deepening of US-India ties, which have evolved from a primarily economic partnership into a comprehensive strategic alliance in recent years. Both nations are working together to address shared concerns about security, trade, and regional stability, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

The US-India partnership has been marked by growing defense cooperation, joint mili-

tary exercises, and increased collaboration on counterterrorism measures. With both countries facing common threats, such as terrorism and cyber-attacks, the strengthening of intelligence-sharing mechanisms plays a key role in ensuring mutual security. This visit further cements the US and India's commitment to strengthening their strategic alliance and working together to tackle global security challenges.



Modi-Yunus Meeting Unlikely at BIMSTEC Summit Amid Strained Ties

TPN Correspondent | Bangladesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh interim government chief Muhammad Yunus are set to attend the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit next month, but a formal meeting between the two leaders seems improbable, according to reports.

The sixth BIMSTEC summit is scheduled for April 3-4 in Bangkok, Thailand. While both Modi and Yunus are expected to be present, a recent Hindustan Times report, citing three unnamed sources familiar with the matter, suggested that the current state of India-Bangladesh relations would make a formal bilateral meeting difficult. The report mentioned that while an informal exchange of pleasantries might occur due to the leaders' shared presence, nothing more substantial is anticipated.

Bangladesh's de facto foreign minister, Touhid Hossain, confirmed on March 20 that Dhaka had formally requested a meeting between the two leaders on the summit's sidelines. However, sources indicated that such a meeting is unlikely due to the ongoing tensions between the two countries. "A formal meeting looks difficult, especially with the frequent criticism of India by some members of Bangladesh's interim government," one source remarked.

The bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh are at a low point, with India expressing concerns about the interim government's handling of attacks on religious minorities, particularly Hindus, in Bangladesh. Additionally, issues such as the release of violent extremists and deteriorating law and order in Bangladesh have further strained relations. Bangladesh, on the other hand, has raised concerns over the presence of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in India and has requested her extradition.

Furthermore, the growing engagement of the Bangladesh military with Pakistan's armed forces, including interactions with the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), has also fueled tensions. In February, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met with Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs Advisor Hossain on the sidelines of the Indian Ocean Conference in Oman, highlighting ongoing diplomatic efforts amid these challenges.

If US messes with Iran it will get hard slap: Ayatollah Khamenei

Asserts Iran Doesn't Need Proxies as Houthis Act on Their Own Motivation

TPN Correspondent | Iran

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei declared on Friday that Tehran does not require proxies in the region, clarifying that the Houthis in Yemen, who are aligned with Iran, operate based on their own motivations. Khamenei responded to US accusations, particularly remarks by President Donald Trump, who earlier stated that Iran would be held responsible for any attacks carried out by the Houthis. This comes as the US expands its military operations in the Middle East, marking the largest deployment since Trump's return to office.

Over the years, Iran has cultivated ties with various groups in the Middle East that consider themselves part of the "Axis of Resistance" against US influence and Israel. This alliance includes groups like Hamas, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Shi'ite militias in Iraq. Despite these alliances, Khamenei strongly rejected the notion of these groups being Iranian "proxies."

In his statement, Khamenei questioned the term "proxy," saying, "Americans make a big mistake by calling regional resistance centres Iranian proxies. What does proxy mean?" He emphasized that groups like the Houthis in Yemen act on their own motivations, and Iran does not need such proxies to assert influence in the region. The Supreme Leader also addressed the escalating tensions, asserting that while Iran has never initiated conflict, it would respond strongly to any acts of aggression. He warned that any malicious actions against Iran would result in "severe slaps" in return.

Trump Signs Order to Begin Shutting Down the Department of Education



TPN Correspondent | Washington

On Thursday, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order aimed at eliminating the Department of Education, a long-standing goal of conservative factions in the country. The order marks one of the most drastic steps in Trump's overhaul of the federal government, seeking to transfer education control back to the states.

During a special ceremony at the White House, Trump signed the order while surrounded by schoolchildren. He declared, "We're going to shut it down and shut it down as quickly as possible. It's doing us no good. We're going to return education back to the states where it belongs."

While the Education Department was created in 1979, it cannot be dissolved without congressional approval. However, Trump's order aims to defund and reduce the department's staff, which could lead to its gradual dismantling. The directive tasks Education Secretary Linda McMahon with taking all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the department and return authority over education to individual states.

The move is part of Trump's campaign promise to reduce federal government control, a

theme he has consistently championed. The president has argued that the U.S. education system lags behind those of Europe and China, and that eliminating the department will save money and improve educational standards.

The order has been met with heavy criticism from Democrats and educators. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer condemned the action as a "tyrannical power grab." Republican leaders, including Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and Texas Governor Greg Abbott, attended the ceremony and supported the move.

Although the order seeks to dismantle the department, a smaller office may remain to handle essential functions, such as student loans and grants for low-income students. Trump's education secretary, McMahon, who has already started reducing the department's staff, emphasized the need to remove Washington's bureaucratic interference and return educational funding to the states.

The decision follows a broader trend of Trump's efforts to reduce the size and influence of federal agencies, including efforts to dismantle the U.S. Agency for International Development earlier this week, which was halted by a federal judge.



North Korea claims to test anti-aircraft missiles in response to US-South Korea military drills

TPN Correspondent | SEOUL

North Korea announced on Friday that it successfully test-launched new anti-aircraft missiles, marking its sixth weapons test of the year. The launch occurred just hours after the U.S. and South Korean military concluded their joint Freedom Shield exercises, which North Korea considers a provocative rehearsal for an invasion.

According to North Korea's state news agency, Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the missile tests on Thursday and described the newly tested missiles as a significant addition to the country's defense arsenal. This missile launch came in the wake of heightened tensions following the U.S.-South Korea military drills, which were the first major exercises held since the inauguration of President Donald Trump in January.

The U.S. and South Korea insist that their combined military exercises are purely defensive, aimed at strengthening the allies' readiness and deterrence capabilities. However, North Korea has consistently condemned the drills, viewing them as an imminent security threat. The recent North Korean missile tests were launched on the same day the two countries concluded the Freedom Shield exercise. Earlier in March, North Korea fired several ballistic missiles into the sea as the drills began, signaling its displeasure. On Friday, North Korea's Defense Ministry issued a strong statement, accusing the U.S. and South Korea of simulating operations to destroy underground tunnels in the North, targeting its nuclear weapons. The North warned of grave consequences if the two countries continued with such "provocative" actions.

Stock Markets Rally to Record Highs; Best Weekly Performance in Four Years

Domestic stock markets set new records. They posted their best weekly close in four years. This was due to positive signals from global markets and increased positive sentiment among investors. The strengthening rupee also contributed to this. Investors bought after the falling trendline resistance broke in the benchmark indices. They invested in media, PSE, oil, energy and healthcare shares. Overall, the Sensex gained 557 points and the Nifty 159 points. The Nifty settled at 23,350. If there is consolidation at this level and the resistance breaks, the index is sure to rise further.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,348 in the previous session, opened at 76,155 on Friday. It touched an intraday low of 76,095. It reached an intraday high of 77,041. It ended at 76,905 with a gain of 557 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,168, touched a low of 23,132 and a high of 23,402. It rose by 159 points in total and closed at 23,350. The Nifty Bank rose by 530 points and settled at 50,593.

In the Nifty50, 38 companies gained and 12 lost. Media, PSE, oil, CPSE, energy, PSU bank, healthcare, pharma, private bank, infra, commodities, finance, bank, realty and auto stocks were the winners. Metal and consumer stocks were the losers. SBI Life, ONGC, NTPC, BPCL, Bajaj Finance were the top gainers. Trent, Infi, Wipro, Hindalco and Tata Steel were the biggest losers.

Market breadth turned in favor of buyers on NSE today. Out of 2988 stocks trad-



ed, 2120 gained. 804 lost. 33 shares hit 52-week highs and 49 shares hit 52-week lows. 192 shares crossed the upper circuit and 53 shares crossed the lower circuit.

Markets set their best weekly record in four years. Nifty rose 4% this week. Midcap index rose 8% after April 2020. Smallcap index rose 9% for the first time since June 2020. The market capitalization of BSE listed companies increased by Rs 22 lakh crore this week. The rupee strengthened by 39 paise to settle at 85.97 against the dollar. Yes Research has main-

tained its neutral rating on Tata Steel, raising its target price to Rs 168 from Rs 145. Godrej Agrovet will take a 47.38% stake in Creamline Dairy Products. Sunita Tools has signed a deal to supply artillery shells worth Rs 200-300 crore to the Ministry of Defense. Tata Capital has finalized ten investment bankers for its Rs 15,000 crore mega IPO. Hindalco Industries has prepared investment plans of Rs 45,000 crore. Shares of BEL and Bharat Dynamics rose after the Defense Acquisition Council approved proposals worth Rs 54,000 crore.



India's Steel Imports Could Drop 50% in FY26 With Proposed Safeguard Duty

India's steel imports could potentially decrease by 50% in FY26, while domestic manufacturers' profitability is expected to improve, following the government's proposal to impose a safeguard duty on steel imports, experts suggest. The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), the investigation arm of the Ministry of Commerce, has recommended a 12% provisional safeguard duty for 200 days on specific steel products to shield domestic steelmakers from the surge in imports.

The final decision on whether to impose the safeguard duty will be taken by the Ministry of Finance. However, experts view this development as credit positive for the domestic steel industry. Girish Kadam, Senior Vice President and Group Head - Corporate Sector Ratings at ICRA Ltd., believes that the duty could lead to a significant 50% reduction in India's steel imports by FY26.

With steel imports expected to drop considerably, the domestic market is anticipated to experience growth, with demand forecasted to increase at a healthy rate of 7-8% in FY26. As a result, ICRA projects that the industry's capacity utilization will improve, rising to a more comfortable level of 83% in FY26, up from the four-year low of 78% seen in the current fiscal year.

Dhruv Goel, CEO of BigMint, a market research firm, also echoed similar sentiments, pointing out that the safeguard duty would provide domestic manufacturers with an opportunity to capture a larger share of the domestic market. The anticipated reduction in imports is expected to improve the profitability of Indian steel producers, as it would give them a competitive edge over foreign suppliers.

The proposed safeguard duty aims to protect Indian steelmakers from being undercut by cheaper imports, which have been growing in recent years. If implemented, this move could help stabilize the domestic steel industry, reduce dependence on foreign steel, and boost the government's "Make in India" initiative.

India's Crude Oil Import Dependency Hits 88.2% Amid Rising Demand

India's reliance on imported crude oil has increased to over 88% during the first 11 months of the current financial year (FY25), driven by growing demand for fuel and other petroleum products, alongside stagnant domestic crude output. This upward trend suggests that the import dependency for the entire fiscal year could surpass the record high seen in the previous year.

According to the latest data from the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, India's oil import dependency stood at 88.2% from April to February, marking a slight increase from 87.7% during the same period in FY24. For the full FY24, India's import dependence reached 87.8%.

The rising demand for petroleum products, especially in sectors like transportation and industrial activities, coupled with stagnant domestic oil production, has led to a heightened need for imported crude. Industry experts suggest that the import dependency for FY25 could exceed the current level by a small margin, just as it did in the previous fiscal year.

This growing import dependency highlights the challenges India faces in reducing its reliance on foreign oil, despite efforts to boost domestic production and diversify energy sources. As the world's third-largest oil importer, India continues to rely heavily on oil imports to meet its fuel needs, making it vulnerable to global price fluctuations and supply disruptions.

To address these challenges, the government has been exploring various strategies, including increasing domestic oil exploration, enhancing energy efficiency, and investing in renewable energy sources to reduce the country's dependence on imported crude in the long term. However, in the short term, the rising import dependency remains a significant concern for policymakers, particularly as global oil prices remain volatile.

Exponent Energy to Launch 1.5MW Rapid Charging Technology, Competing with BYD's Innovations

Bengaluru-based Exponent Energy announced on Wednesday that it will launch its new 1.5 megawatt (MW) rapid charging technology later this year, following China-based BYD's introduction of a 1MW charging system capable of charging electric vehicles (EVs) in just five minutes. Exponent Energy currently manufactures 1MW chargers for electric buses, enabling a full charge in about 15 minutes.

Arun Vinayak, CEO and Co-founder of Exponent Energy, expressed confidence in India's ability to develop and own the full spectrum of electric vehicle (EV) technology. "We've historically been followers in internal combustion engines (ICE), but with EVs, we must not repeat that pattern," he said. Highlighting that Exponent Energy already has a 1MW charging system in place, Vinayak emphasized that the company uses standard off-the-shelf cells, making its technology ten times more accessible than BYD's 1MW charger, which leverages advanced cell material science. Vinayak also expressed optimism about forming partnerships with Indian cell manufacturers soon to further enhance capabilities.



Founded in 2020 by former Ather executives Arun Vinayak and Sanjay Balyal, Exponent Energy focuses on developing integrated EV charging solutions, including battery packs, charging stations, and connectors. Their system offers a 15-minute rapid charge and a 3,000-cycle life warranty for EVs. Currently, the company is targeting three-wheeler cargo and passenger vehicles as well as inter-city buses for the coming year.

On the other hand, BYD, backed by Warren Buffett, has introduced a Super e-Plat-

form capable of charging at 1,000 kilowatts, enabling EVs to travel up to 400 km on a five-minute charge. This announcement significantly impacted the global EV landscape, with BYD's shares rising by 4.1% on March 18. Meanwhile, Tesla, which typically takes 15 to 20 minutes to charge its vehicles up to 80%, saw its share price dip by 5.5%, reflecting growing competition in the EV sector. Tesla, which plans to enter the Indian market, faces stiff competition from BYD, which has been in India since 2007 and currently holds a 3% market share.

SEBI Proposes Rule Changes to Benefit Startup Founders Holding ESOPs After IPO

Ensures Founders Retain Stock Options, Enhances Investor Protection

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a change in regulations that would allow startup founders to retain their Employee Stock Option Plans (ESOPs) even after their company goes public. This move is aimed at providing relief to founders, particularly in new-age technology firms, who often receive ESOPs as part of their compensation instead of cash salaries during the early stages of their companies.

ESOPs are designed to align the interests of employees, including founders, with other shareholders. However, as startups raise investments, founders' ownership is often diluted, which complicates matters when the company eventually files for an initial public offering (IPO).



Under current SEBI regulations, founders are considered promoters when they file for an IPO. The existing rules prohibit issuing ESOPs to promoters, which creates a challenge for founders who were granted stock options before their companies went public. SEBI highlighted that employees who later become promoters due to their shareholding may be re-

quired to forgo their ESOP benefits, which could be considered unfair.

To address this issue, SEBI has proposed a clarification stating that founders who become promoters will still be able to exercise their vested and unvested ESOPs after the IPO. This clarification will be included in the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP).

However, the rule preventing the issuance of new ESOPs to promoters will remain in place.

This proposed change is expected to benefit startup founders who have received equity-based compensation, ensuring that they do not lose their ESOP benefits once their company goes public.

Additionally, SEBI has partnered with DigiLocker to enhance investor protection by allowing them to track their securities holdings securely. Through this collaboration, investors can store and access details of their demat accounts, mutual fund holdings, and other financial assets in one centralized, secure platform, helping to reduce unclaimed financial assets and improve accessibility.



Eid-ul-Fitr 2025: Awaiting the Crescent Moon for Celebration



Eid-ul-Fitr, one of the most significant festivals for Muslims worldwide, marks the end of Ramadan and the beginning of Shawwal, the tenth month of the Islamic calendar. The festival is determined by the sighting of the crescent moon, which means that celebrations often vary by a day across different regions. In India, Eid-ul-Fitr 2025 is expected to fall on either March 30 (Sunday) or March 31 (Monday), depending on the moon sighting.

According to the central government's holiday calendar, Eid has been designated as a gazetted holiday on March 31 (Monday). However, since the Islamic calendar follows lunar cycles, the final con-

firmation will depend on the sighting of the crescent moon on the evening of March 29. Eid-ul-Fitr is a time of joy, gratitude, and charity. Muslims across the world end their month-long fasting (roza) with special prayers, feasting, and giving to the underprivileged. A key aspect of the festival is 'Zakat,' a form of charity where Muslims donate food, clothes, and money to those in need before offering their Eid prayers. The festival is also associated with delicious traditional foods. The most famous among them is Seviyan, a sweet dish made with vermicelli and milk, which has given Eid-ul-Fitr the popular name "Meethi Eid" or "Sweet Eid." Families and friends

gather to exchange greetings, gifts, and sweets, strengthening bonds of love and community. In Saudi Arabia and the UAE, Ramadan began on March 1, which means that Eid-ul-Fitr is also expected to fall on March 30 or 31. In the UAE, if Ramadan lasts 30 days, the public sector will get an extended holiday until April 2. The official moon sighting committees in these countries will confirm the festival date based on lunar visibility. As India and the world eagerly await the sighting of the crescent moon, Eid-ul-Fitr 2025 will once again bring joy, spiritual reflection, and a reaffirmation of faith through charity and community celebrations.

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Online Video Criticizing Indian Flyers' Behavior Gains Widespread Support



A recent video by Instagram user Inderjit S Pannu has sparked an online debate, drawing widespread agreement for its criticism of the behavior of Indian flight passengers. In the video, Pannu calls out the irrational and entitled attitude of many Indian travelers, referring to them as "jaahil log" (ignorant people) and "padhe likhe jaanwar" (educated animals). He highlights common issues

faced by airline crew, such as passengers disregarding boarding announcements and rushing into queues irrespective of their assigned seat numbers. He also points out how many passengers insist on using the restroom during turbulence, ignoring safety instructions from the pilot. The video has resonated with many, garnering strong support from social media users,

including airline staff who expressed gratitude for the recognition of their challenges. Comments under the video overwhelmingly agreed with Pannu's observations, with some stating that such behavior is common not just on domestic flights but also on international routes.

One user humorously remarked, "Wo 'safar' karte hain, isliye aviation staff 'suffer' karte hain" (They travel, so aviation staff suffer). Another pointed out that while flight crew members are commendable, their management often fails to address such issues effectively.

A former cabin crew in charge, with 12 years of experience, thanked Pannu for voicing concerns that flight attendants have long endured. The viral discussion sheds light on the need for better passenger etiquette and a greater appreciation for airline staff who work tirelessly to ensure a smooth travel experience.

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Man Performs Self-Surgery Using YouTube, Recovers at Home



In a shocking incident from Uttar Pradesh's Vrindavan, a 32-year-old man attempted to cure his persistent stomach pain by performing surgery on himself after watching YouTube tutorials. Raja Babu, a resident of Sunrakh village, used surgical blades, stitch cords, and needles purchased from the market to cut and stitch his own abdomen on Tuesday. However, his condition worsened the next day, prompting his nephew, Rahul, to rush him to the Vrindavan Joint District Hospital for medical attention. Emergency medical officer Dr. Shashi Ranjan provided initial treatment and referred him to SN Medical College in Agra for further care. Surprisingly, instead of seeking advanced medical treatment, Raja Babu decided to return home. Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ajay Verma confirmed that Raja

Babu had been given first aid at the hospital but had not followed the referral advice. Fortunately, his condition has since improved. According to Rahul, the self-performed surgery only affected the upper layer of the abdomen, leaving the internal organs unharmed. The wound was dressed at the hospital, and Raja Babu is now reportedly recovering well at home. This incident highlights the risks of self-medication and medical procedures attempted without professional supervision. While access to online resources can be beneficial for learning, attempting complex medical procedures without expertise can be life-threatening. Medical professionals strongly advise against such dangerous practices, emphasizing the importance of seeking proper healthcare for any serious medical condition.

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Russian Man Retires at 23 After Just Two Years of Work, Sparks Debate

A 23-year-old Russian man has shocked the internet by securing full retirement benefits after working for only two years, thanks to a loophole in the country's pension system. His story has gone viral, igniting discussions about pension policies, financial strategies, and potential reforms. According to Oddity Central, the man took advantage of a special provision in Russia's pension system designed for military personnel and certain government employees. By meeting specific requirements, he became eligible for lifelong pension payments at an age when most individuals are just beginning their careers.

His early retirement has sparked mixed reactions. Some have praised his ingenuity in navigating the system to his advantage, while others argue that such loopholes create an unfair burden on taxpayers. Many online users have also questioned whether similar cases could arise in the future if the policy remains unchanged.

The International Record Registration Agency (INTERRECORD) officially verified his retirement and included it in the Register of Records of Russia, commonly known as the Book of Records of Russia. This recognition further amplified the story's reach, drawing

attention from financial experts and policymakers.

As the debate continues, experts suggest that cases like this might prompt authorities to reassess pension regulations. Governments often design pension systems to support retirees after decades of service, and instances of early retirement due to loopholes could lead to stricter eligibility criteria in the future.

While the young retiree enjoys a financial milestone many only dream of, his case raises broader questions about policy effectiveness, fairness, and the sustainability of pension systems worldwide.



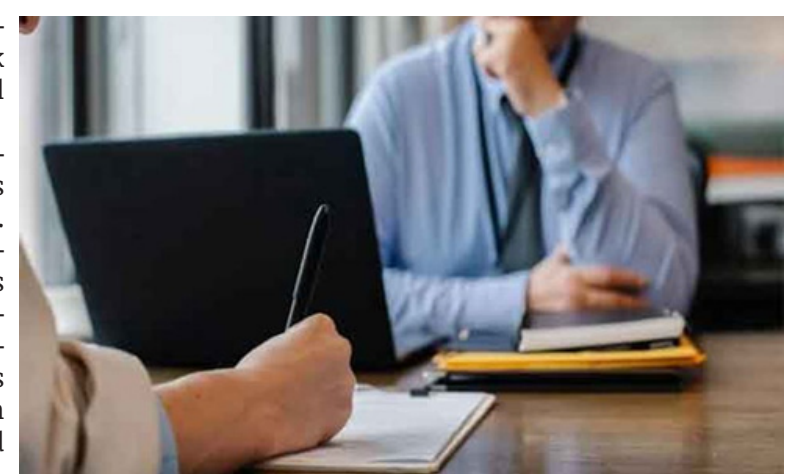
Mumbai CEO Rejects Candidate Over Husband's Involvement, Sparks Debate

A senior-level job candidate in Mumbai was recently rejected after requesting that her husband meet the company's leadership before she joined. The incident, shared on X by Vinod Chendhil, founder and CEO of the healthy noodle brand Naturally Yours, has sparked an intense debate about professional independence and gender dynamics in the workplace. Chendhil called the request a "huge red flag" and stated that it led to her "instant" rejection. He explained that the candidate wanted her husband to interview the senior management team to assess the company's suitability for her. To him, this signaled a concerning

level of dependency and lack of professional autonomy. Social media reactions were divided. Many supported Chendhil's decision, arguing that workplace decisions should remain personal and professional, without external interference. "There's no way it would have worked. Good call," commented one user. Another added, "Even a junior-level hire shouldn't make such a request." However, others defended the woman, suggesting that her request might have been influenced by personal cir-

cumstances. "Maybe the husband has mandated it—she could be in a toxic situation and has no choice," one user speculated. Another commented, "Women face additional challenges in career decisions. She deserved better opportunities." The debate raises larger questions about workplace autonomy, gender

roles, and the boundaries between personal and professional decision-making. While some view the candidate's request as a lack of independence, others argue that such considerations are valid, especially for women navigating complex personal and societal expectations.



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IPL 2025: All You Need to Know About Teams, Schedule, Prize Money



The Indian Premier League (IPL) is set to return for its 18th season, with defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) kicking off the tournament at Eden Gardens on March 22. The two-month-long T20 spectacle will conclude with the final on May 25 at the same venue.

Tournament Format & Schedule

IPL 2025 will follow a league-style format, where all 10 teams will play each other twice. The top four teams at the end of the league stage will qualify for the playoffs.

The playoff structure includes:

- Qualifier 1 (May 20, Hyderabad) – Top two teams compete, with the winner advancing to the final.
- Eliminator (May 21, Hyderabad) – The third and fourth-placed teams face off, with the winner progressing.
- Qualifier 2 (May 23, Kolkata) – The loser of Qualifier 1 plays the winner of the Eliminator for a spot in the final.

- Final (May 25, Kolkata) – The two remaining teams battle for the title.
- Matches will be played at two different times:
- Day matches: 3:30 PM IST
 - Night matches: 7:30 PM IST

Team Captains for IPL 2025

Several teams have changed leadership for this season. Here's a look at the captains:

- Chennai Super Kings: Ruturaj Gaikwad
 - Delhi Capitals: Axar Patel
 - Gujarat Titans: Shubman Gill
 - Kolkata Knight Riders: Ajinkya Rahane
 - Lucknow Super Giants: Rishabh Pant
 - Mumbai Indians: Hardik Pandya
 - Punjab Kings: Shreyas Iyer
 - Rajasthan Royals: Sanju Samson
 - Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Rajat Patidar
 - Sunrisers Hyderabad: Pat Cummins
- Biggest Signings of IPL 2025

The IPL 2025 auction saw some record-breaking bids:

- Rishabh Pant (Lucknow Super Giants): Most expensive player at \$3.2 million.
- Shreyas Iyer (Punjab Kings): Purchased for \$3.17 million.

Prize Money for IPL 2025

The financial stakes are high, with lucrative rewards for the top-performing teams:

- Champion: \$2.32 million
- Runners-up: \$1.5 million
- Third place: \$810,800
- Fourth place: \$752,894

As excitement builds for IPL 2025, cricket fans worldwide eagerly await another thrilling season of high-octane matches, big-money signings, and intense competition among the world's best cricketers.

Yuva All-Stars: Jaipur, Sonipat, Kurukshetra & Pune Shine on Day 14



The Yuva All-Stars Championship 2025 witnessed an action-packed Day 14 in Haridwar, with Yuva Paltan, Jaipur Pink Cubs, Kurukshetra Warriors, and Sonipat Spartans emerging victorious in their respective matches.

Sonipat Spartans defeated Vasco Vipers 43-34, with Harish Kumar shining with 15 points. Kurukshetra Warriors edged out Yuva Mumbai 44-39 in a closely contested battle, with Umesh Panwar and Ajay Sangwan leading the charge. Jaipur Pink Cubs overcame Palani Tuskers by four points, securing their top spot in Pool A. Yuva Paltan dominated Junior Steelers with a 14-point victory, thanks to Ajay Gulia's 10-point performance.

Upcoming matches on March 19 include Chandigarh Chargers vs. Yuva Yoddhas (10:15 AM) and Junior Steelers vs. Jaipur Pink Cubs (5:30 PM). Fans can expect more thrilling encounters as the tournament progresses.

Diksha Dagar Starts Strong with 4-Under 67 at NSW Open



India's Diksha Dagar made a solid start at the Women's NSW Open, shooting a 4-under 67 to tie for fourth place. The two-time Ladies European Tour winner carded eight birdies but dropped four bogeys, including three towards the end of her round. Spain's Nuria Iqurrioz and Australia's Kirsten Rudgeley led with 6-under 65s.

Among other Indians, Pranavi Urs shot an even-par 71 to sit at T-37, while Avani Prashanth posted a 1-over 72 (T-54). Iturrioz and Rudgeley dominated the leaderboard with consistent birdies despite challenging winds. Sweden's Anna Magnusson trailed by one shot at 5-under.

Diksha, runner-up at the season-opener in Morocco, remains in contention in this 72-hole stroke-play event featuring 132 players. Seven players, including Diksha, are tied for fourth at 4-under, setting up an exciting tournament ahead.

Elite Women's National Boxing Championships Kick Off in Greater Noida



The 8th Elite Women's National Boxing Championships began in Greater Noida, featuring 188 boxers from

24 state federations. The tournament, held from March 21-27 at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex,

promises top-tier competition as India's best female boxers battle for glory. Olympians Jaismine

(57kg) and Pooja Rani (80kg), alongside World Champion Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) and Simranjit Kaur (65kg), headline the star-studded lineup. Rising talents like Pema Bhutia and Preeti will challenge the veterans. With 44 bouts scheduled for the opening day, the event serves as a crucial platform for selection in international tournaments. The presence of World Champion Nikhat Zareen and IOA President PT Usha adds to the excitement. The championships will showcase intense action as young and seasoned boxers compete for national supremacy.

Ujjawal Choudhary Sets National Record at Indian Open Throws Competition



Haryana's Ujjawal Choudhary set a new national record in the U20 discus throw event at the 4th Indian Open Throws Competition in Navi Mumbai, winning gold with a 59.34m throw, surpassing the previous record of 58.11m. Vaibhav (53.48m) and Ritik (52.88m) secured silver and bronze, respectively. In men's javelin qualification, Karnataka's Shank

Patil topped with 72.48m, followed by Nitesh Yadav (72.34m) and Sunny Sheoran (71.43m). Reliance Foundation's Usmanali Khan won U18 discus gold with 55.11m, while Haryana's Seema clinched senior women's discus gold with 56.39m. Nikita Kumari (46.78m) won U20 women's discus, and Maharashtra's Aryan Satpute claimed U18 shot put gold (18.06m).



Samantha Wins Best Actress Award for OTT Performance



Actress Samantha, known for her work in multiple languages, has won the Best Actress award for her performance in the OTT series Honey-Bunny. Despite not featuring in recent Telugu films, she continues to captivate audiences through web series.

A leading media house honored Samantha for her outstanding performance in Honey-Bunny. Expressing her gratitude, she dedicated the award to those who believed in her. She credited directors Raj & DK and co-star Varun Dhawan for their support in completing Citadel: Honey-Bunny, especially during her battle with myositis.

Samantha, who underwent extensive treatment for the autoimmune condition, is now fully recovered and back in action. Her unwavering dedication and stellar performance have once again proven her mettle as a versatile actress.

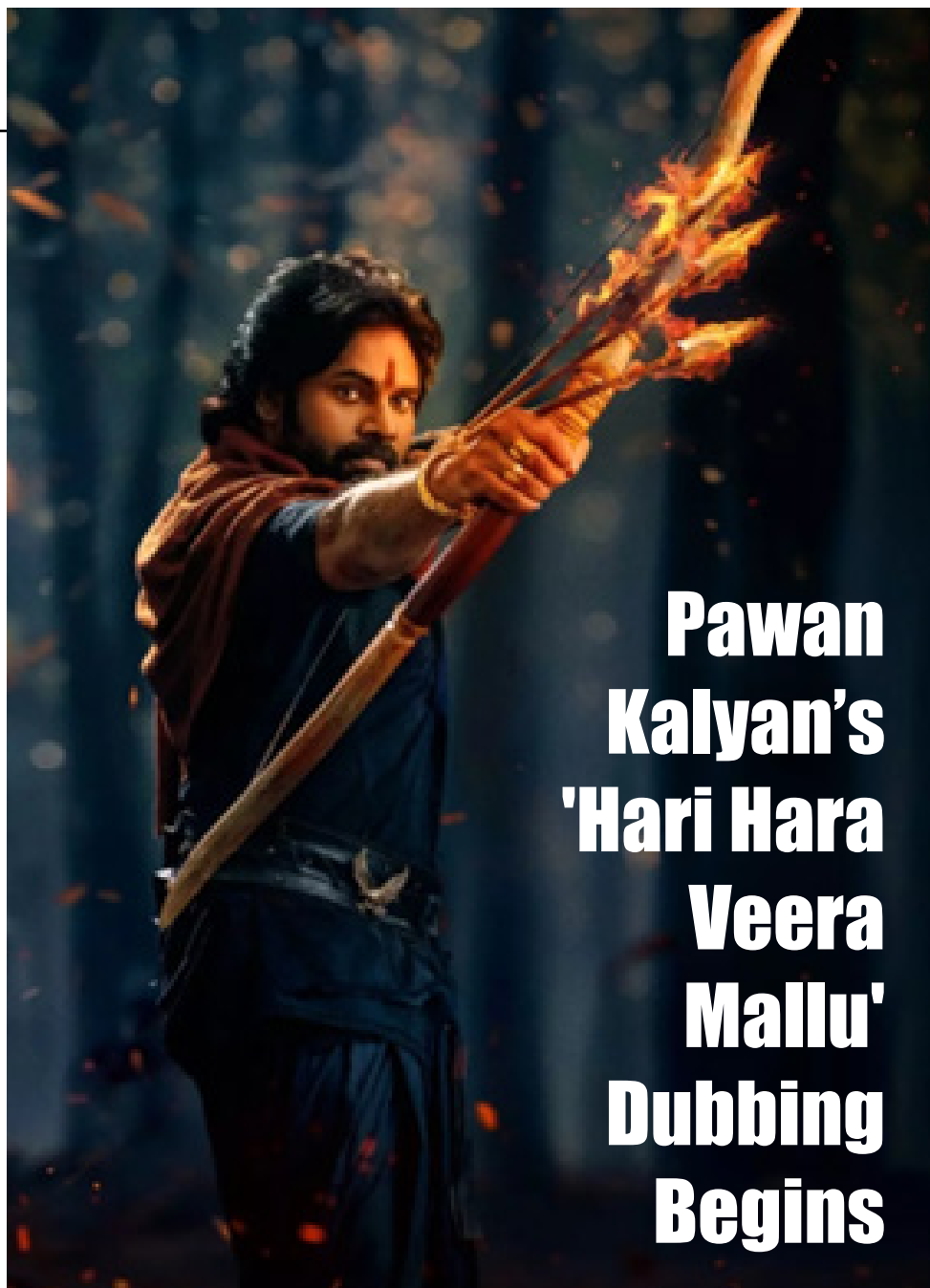


Mahesh Babu Learns Gen-Z Lingo from Daughter Sitara in Viral Ad

Superstar Mahesh Babu and his daughter Sitara Ghattamaneni continue to set father-daughter goals. In a new viral advertisement for a clothing brand, Sitara gives her father a crash course in Gen-Z slang. From words like “drip” and “vibe” to “fam-jam,” the adorable exchange has won fans’ hearts.

Despite his busy schedule, Mahesh Babu always makes time for his kids, Gautam and Sitara. In an interview, Sitara revealed how she often bunked school because of her dad, as he would persuade Namrata Shirodkar to let her stay home. She also expressed admiration for her father’s superstar image but sees him as just “dad” at home.

Sitara, who debuted on-screen with Penny from Sarkaru Vaari Paata, hinted at a future in cinema. Meanwhile, Mahesh Babu is gearing up for SS Rajamouli’s SSMB29, co-starring Priyanka Chopra. Fans eagerly await further updates!



Pawan Kalyan's 'Hari Hara Veera Mallu' Dubbing Begins

Power Star Pawan Kalyan’s much-awaited period action film Hari Hara Veera Mallu, directed by Krish and Jyothi Krishna, is set for a grand worldwide release on May 9. Touted as The Sword of Spirit, the film is produced under the Mega Surya Production banner with A.M. Rathnam’s presentation.

The makers have officially announced that dubbing work has begun. They teased fans by stating that the wait to witness Pawan’s unparalleled heroism on screen is almost over.

The film stars Nidhi Agerwal as the female lead, while Oscar-winning composer M.M. Keeravani is providing the music. Fans eagerly await this epic project, which promises to showcase Pawan Kalyan in a powerful new avatar.

Kiara Advani Becomes One of India's Highest-Paid Actresses

Kiara Advani has taken a massive leap in her career, becoming one of the highest-paid actresses in India. The Game Changer star has reportedly hiked her fee to ₹15 crore for her upcoming film Toxic, surpassing top Bollywood actresses like Alia Bhatt and Shradha Kapoor. Previously, she earned around ₹5-7 crore per film.

Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups, directed by Geetu Mohandas, features Yash in the lead and boasts a massive budget. The film will be released in multiple languages, including Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and English. Kiara will be seen alongside stars like Nayanthara, Huma Qureshi, and Tara Sutaria.

Meanwhile, Kiara and her husband, Sidharth Malhotra, recently announced they are expecting their first child, making Toxic possibly her last film before a break. With blockbuster hits, record pay, and personal milestones, Kiara is truly at the top of her game!

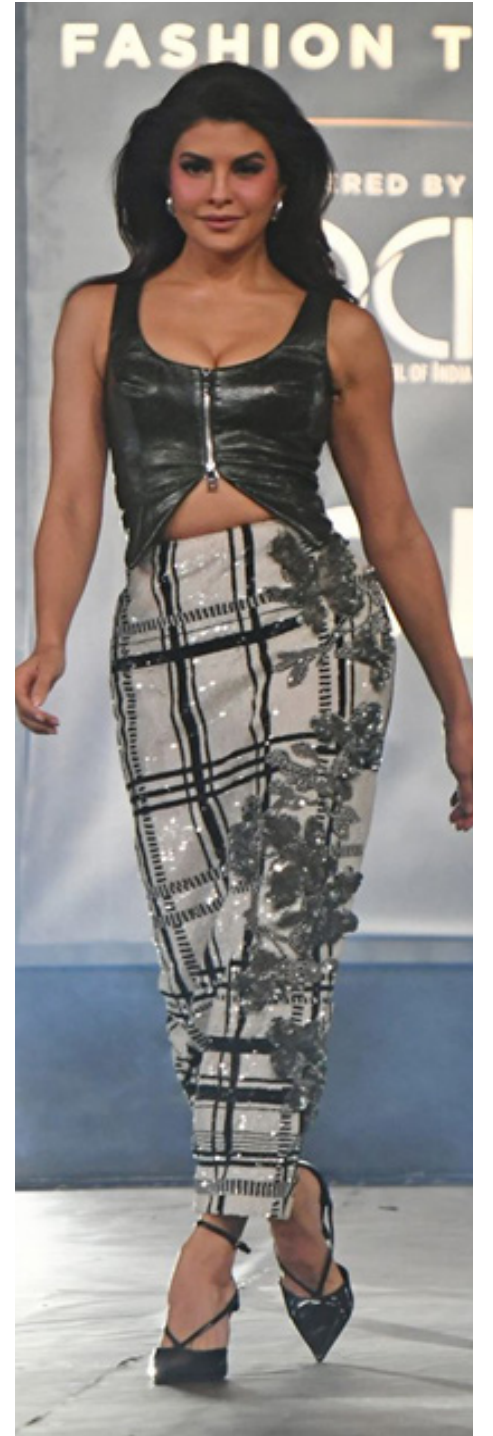


Jacqueline Fernandez Hopes 'Kick 2' Happens Soon

Jacqueline Fernandez is eager to be part of Kick 2, the sequel to the 2014 blockbuster starring Salman Khan. While Salman and director Sajid Nadiadwala announced the sequel last year, Jacqueline said, “I really do hope it happens soon. Kick changed my life, and fans have shown so much love for the franchise.”

Apart from Kick 2, Jacqueline has an exciting 2025 ahead, with multiple big releases. She will return for Housefull 5, reuniting with Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, and an ensemble cast. The film, directed by Tarun Mansukhani, promises another dose of comedy and entertainment.

She is also part of Welcome To The Jungle, the latest installment in the Welcome franchise, directed by Ahmed Khan. Calling it a “crazy comedy,” she shared her excitement about working with a star-studded cast. Additionally, Jacqueline’s debut web series is set to premiere in April.



Alia Bhatt Praises Netflix's Adolescence: "Perfection"

Bollywood star Alia Bhatt is the latest to heap praise on Netflix’s miniseries Adolescence, directed by Philip Barantini. Sharing the show’s poster on Instagram, Alia called it “truly perfection,” lauding its writing, cinematography, and raw performances. She admired the cast’s ability to bring every scene alive, making the energy palpable.

Alia also applauded the crew’s dedication, saying, “The magic of storytelling... every department giving their heart and soul to every second on screen.” Jigra co-star Vedang Raina echoed her sentiments, calling Adolescence “one of the most brilliantly acted and moving pieces of film/TV.”

The series follows the Miller family, whose world shatters when 13-year-old Jamie is accused of murder. Shot in continuous takes, it explores family, truth, and justice. Meanwhile, Alia is currently filming Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s Love & War with Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal.