



Weather Forecast

HYDERABAD	VIJAYAWADA	TIRUPATHI
H 35° C L 21° C	H 36° C L 23° C	H 36° C L 23° C

The Future Belongs to Indians, Says CM Naidu

CM Chandrababu Naidu Highlights India's Growth Potential at IIT Madras Summit

TPN Correspondent | Chennai

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu expressed confidence that the future belongs to Indians, citing the transformative impact of economic reforms and advancements in education. Speaking at the All India Research Scholars Summit 2025 at IIT Madras, CM Naidu acknowledged the institution's success, noting that 80 percent of its startups thrive, with nearly 40 percent of its students being Telugu-speaking. Describing the establishment of IITs as a landmark achievement in India's education sector, the Chief Minister emphasized their crucial role in fostering innova-



- Lauds IITs' role in shaping India's education landscape
- Predicts India's rise to the top of the global economic ladder
- Urges young researchers to contribute to Andhra Pradesh's growth story

tion and research. Reflecting on the economic reforms initiated in 1991, he asserted that these reforms were not optional but essential for India's progress. Comparing global experiences, he remarked that while Soviet Russia disintegrated due to political re-

forms, China flourished through economic reforms, emerging as the world's second-largest economy. Highlighting India's own journey, CM Naidu pointed out that the nation began to advance following the economic reforms,

especially in the communication sector, previously dominated by BSNL and VSNL. The entry of private companies was described as a "game changer" that revolutionized the industry.

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Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Orders Swift Construction of Rural Roads

- 1202.66 km of rural roads to be constructed with Rs. 557.22 crore NABARD funds
- 402 road works to be completed as part of "Village Festival" programs
- Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan emphasizes quality and timely completion of projects

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The state government's ambitious "Village Festival" program continues to drive development across Andhra Pradesh, with a special focus on enhancing rural connectivity. On the occasion of Ugadi, which marks the beginning of the Telugu New Year, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Shri Pawan Kalyan announced the construction of 1202.66 km of rural connecting roads.

This extensive project will be executed with NABARD funds amounting to Rs. 557.22 crore, covering a total of 402 road works aimed at improving the connectivity between villages and mandals. Shri Pawan Kalyan directed officials to expedite the construction process with stringent adherence to quality standards.

The Deputy CM stressed the importance of continuing the development works with dedication to ensure a transformative impact on the appearance of villages. He expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Shri Chandrababu Naidu for their support in sanctioning the NABARD funds essential for this initiative.

Pawan Kalyan emphasized that the successful implementation of this program would be a true gift to the people of Andhra Pradesh for Ugadi, signifying growth and progress in rural areas.



YS Jagan Praises YCP Workers for Heroic Victory in Local Body By-Elections

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

YSRCP Chief Jagan Mohan Reddy has applauded his party's candidates and workers for their impressive performance in the recently concluded local body by-elections held across various parts of Andhra Pradesh. Taking to Twitter, Jagan expressed pride in the unwavering commitment demonstrated by YSRCP MPTCs, ZPTCs, and leaders who stood strong despite numerous challenges.

Jagan emphasized that the coalition parties lacked strength in the local body elections, accusing TDP Chief Chandrababu Naidu of arrogance and misuse of police machinery. He alleged that YSRCP workers faced false cases, destruction of properties, job threats to relatives, and other intimidation tactics aimed at weakening their resolve.

Despite such adversities, Jagan noted that the YSRCP cadres remained steadfast and ensured victory for the party's candidates. He praised their dedication to upholding democratic values and maintaining credibility even under pressure.

"I am proud of the YSRCP MPTCs, ZPTCs, and leaders who have upheld the spirit of democracy by adhering to values and credibility. The courage they demonstrated during challenging times has provided their momentum to the party," Jagan stated.

The YSRCP leader also congratulated constituency in-charges, district presidents, regional coordinators, and central office staff for their coordinated efforts that contributed to the party's success.

7.7 Magnitude Earthquake Devastates Myanmar and Thailand

Death Toll Rises to 167 in Myanmar Earthquake



TPN Correspondent | Southeast Asia

A powerful earthquake measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale struck central Myanmar near Mandalay on Friday, at 12:50 PM local time, causing widespread destruction across Southeast Asia. This catastrophic quake was followed by two significant aftershocks, including one of 6.4 magnitude, further compounding the devastation. In Myanmar, at least 167 people have lost their lives, and 370 others have been injured, with many still trapped under the rubble of collapsed buildings.

The destruction has been particularly severe in Mandalay, where structures like Mandalay University and a mosque were leveled. Several historic temples in the ancient city of Bagan, a UNESCO World Heritage site, also sustained extensive damage. Myanmar's military government has declared a state of emergency across six regions and launched rescue operations. However, ongoing political instability has hindered relief efforts, and authorities fear the death toll will rise as more areas are assessed.

The earthquake's impact ex-

• Destruction Spreads Across Southeast Asia

• Over 167 dead and 370 injured in Myanmar; rescue operations ongoing

• Emergency zones declared in Bangkok and other affected areas

tended to neighboring Thailand and Bangladesh. Tremors were strongly felt in Bangkok, where a 30-story government office under construction in the Chatuchak district collapsed, resulting in at least three deaths and leaving approximately 90 workers trapped. Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra declared Bangkok an emergency zone and deployed police and emergency services to assist with rescue operations.

The quake also led to the suspension of metro services in Bangkok and the temporary closure of the Stock Exchange of Thailand. Shaking was reported across northern Thailand, including Chiang Mai, raising concerns about potential aftershocks.

The international community, including India, has responded swiftly with offers of aid to assist the affected regions. Relief operations are ongoing as officials work to provide emergency assistance and assess the full extent of the damage.

The disaster has left Southeast Asia grappling with immense destruction, with rescue efforts continuing amid fears of further casualties and structural collapses.

Minister Nara Lokesh Introduces 'No Bag Day' to Make Learning Fun and Skill-Based



- 'No Bag Day' to be implemented every Saturday from the next academic year
- Applicable to students from classes 1 to 10 across Andhra Pradesh
- Focus on skill development through innovative activities and practical learning

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Kakinada District Focuses on Revenue Resolution and Clean Energy Initiatives – Minister Narayana

A district review meeting was held at the Kakinada Collectorate, attended by District In-charge Minister Narayana, district MLAs, MLCs, and officials. The meeting focused on various developmental aspects of Kakinada District as directed by the Chief Minister.

Minister Nadendla Manohar Reviews Civil Supplies Operations



- Rabi procurement to commence from April; Kharif training for RSKs by next season
Deepam-2 scheme beneficiaries urged to avail free cylinder by March 31, 2025
AI cameras and green energy initiatives to enhance godown management

The 227th Board Meeting of Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited was held at the Civil Supply Building, Kanur, Vijayawada, under the chairmanship of Minister Nadendla Manohar.

It was noted that 35.48 lakh metric tonnes of grain were purchased from 5.61 lakh farmers during the recent Kharif season, with Rs 8,138 crore directly credited to their accounts.

stalled at private godowns to enhance security, storage, and management of agricultural products. Plans to promote green energy by installing solar panels on godown rooftops were also discussed.

Minister Nara Lokesh Introduces 'No Bag Day' to Make Learning Fun and Skill-Based

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh government, under the leadership of IT and Human Resource Development Minister Nara Lokesh, has introduced a groundbreaking initiative titled 'No Bag Day' aimed at making education enjoyable and skill-oriented.

- Seminars and Discussions: Promoting analytical thinking through expert-led sessions on contemporary issues.
Sports Competitions: Developing physical fitness and teamwork through various sports activities.
Fine Arts: Fostering creativity in drawing, painting, music, dance, and other art forms.
Mock Parliament: Educating students about the political system through simulated parliamentary sessions.

Speaking about the initiative, Minister Nara Lokesh stated, "The 'No Bag Day' program aims to enhance students' interest in education by providing an innovative learning experience. Our goal is to prioritize skill-based education.

- Quiz Competitions: Encouraging knowledge enhancement and competitiveness among students.
Vocational Training: Providing awareness of various professions and offering skill-based training.

51 Mandals Identified for Drought Declaration, Says RP Sisodiya



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Special Chief Secretary to the Government (Revenue) RP Sisodiya announced that 51 mandals have been identified for drought declaration based on the Drought Management Manual.

tee meeting held on Friday at the Office of APSDMA in hybrid mode. Sisodiya stated that the committee has carefully examined proposals submitted by District Collectors and relevant departments, and is finalizing recommendations for the government's approval.

Table with 5 columns: S.No., Constituency, AMC, Chairman Name, Party. Lists 47 constituencies and their respective chairmen and parties.

Appointment of Chairmen for 47 Market Committees in AP

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has appointed chairmen for 47 Agricultural Market Committees (AMCs) across Andhra Pradesh, filling a total of 705 nominated posts including committee members.

confirmed that the selection process was conducted through a referendum, allowing public opinion to play a key role in candidate selection. The TDP has stated that the announcement of the chairmen for the remaining market committees will be made soon.

The Future Belongs to...

Continued from page 1

The Chief Minister also shared his efforts to bring Microsoft to Hyderabad, recounting a 45-minute conversation with Bill Gates that led to the company's establishment in the city.

YCP Has No Right to Talk About Polavaram: Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu has stated that the YSRCP, particularly former CM Jagan's team, has no moral right to speak about the Polavaram project. He made these remarks during a press conference held recently at his office.



Amaravati Villages to Receive Smart Upgrade under Sustainable City Project

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Amaravati's villages are undergoing a significant transformation under the Smart & Sustainable City project, with ₹138.62 crore allocated to improve essential services across the region. The project aims to provide modern facilities in education, healthcare, and early childhood care.

In line with sustainable development goals, several newly constructed buildings have already been equipped with solar panels, promoting clean energy use and reducing carbon footprints. Officials have emphasized that this approach will contribute towards creating an environmentally friendly and energy-efficient infrastructure in Amaravati's villages.

BJP MLA Parthasarathy Criticizes Hospital Services Under NTR Medical Scheme

- **MLA alleges hospitals are denying free treatment under NTR Medical Scheme**
- **Complaints of poor being charged for tests despite empanelment**
- **Government urges public to report violations at 104 NTR Trust Call Center**

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Adoni BJP MLA Parthasarathy has raised concerns on social media over the functioning of hospitals under the NTR Medical Scheme, alleging that many hospitals are failing to provide free services to the poor as promised by the government.

According to Parthasarathy, the previous Jagan government left Rs. 3,000 crores in dues. After the coalition government assumed power, some funds were released to clear the pending amounts.

However, he claims it is not correct for empanelled hospitals to deny services under the pretext of pending payments.

He highlighted that some hospitals are refusing to accept Arogya Sri benefits during emergencies and demanding additional payments beyond what the scheme covers. Poor patients are reportedly being charged for tests and scans, which should be free under the NTR Medical Scheme.

The coalition government, led by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Health Minister Y Sanya Kumar Yadav, is committed

to providing quality healthcare to the poor. Under the NTR Medical Scheme, free services worth Rs. 2.5 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh are promised through insurance coverage. The government aims to ensure that 2,500 treatments are provided free of cost to eligible beneficiaries.

Parthasarathy urged the public to report hospitals denying free treatment to the 104 NTR Trust Call Center, assuring them that appropriate action would be taken. He emphasized that the government is dedicated to the principle of "health for all" and



spends significant funds to ensure the poor receive the medical care they deserve. The MLA appealed to people to be aware of their rights under the scheme and not hesitate to file complaints against erring hospitals.

Navataram Party Chief Files Complaint Against Vidadala Rajani

TPN Correspondent | Chilakaluripet



Navataram Party national president Rao Subramaniam has lodged a complaint with the district SP against YCP leader and former minister Vidadala Rajani and her spouse Vidadala Gopi, accusing them of orchestrating an attack on him for questioning alleged irregularities.

According to Subramaniam's complaint, the incident occurred in April 2022, when approximately a hundred people allegedly attacked his residence, destroying his car and furniture. He claims that the attackers created havoc for three days, subjecting him and his family to continuous harassment and torture.

Subramaniam further alleged that despite his attempts to seek police intervention at the time,

the authorities registered only a nominal case and failed to take substantial action. Expressing dissatisfaction over the police's response, he has now appealed to the SP to include the names of Vidadala Rajani and Vidadala Gopi in the FIR and ensure justice. The complaint comes amid ongoing legal troubles for Rajani, who is already facing a case for allegedly threatening the management of Srilakshmi Balaji Stone Crusher and extorting Rs. 2.20 crore from them. Cases have also been registered against IPS officer Palle Joshua, Rajani's spouse Vidadala Gopi, and her PA Dodda Ramakrishna.

TDP High Command Seeks Report on Thiruvur MLA Kolikapudi's Controversies

- **TDP High command appoints committee to investigate MLA Kolikapudi's disputes**
- **Report to cover controversies over the past 10 months**
- **Concerns raised over party suffering irreparable losses**

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) high command has initiated a thorough investigation into the ongoing controversies involving Thiruvur MLA Kolikapudi, acknowledging that the persistent disputes between the MLA and party leaders have caused considerable damage to the party's reputation and functioning.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, the high command has constituted a three-member committee to probe into the controversies and prepare a comprehensive report. The decision was



made following complaints from

party leaders that unresolved conflicts with MLA Kolikapudi have been detrimental to the party's image and operational efficiency.

Sources indicate that the high command is particularly concerned about the irreparable losses the party has been facing due to the ongoing disputes, which have persisted since Kolikapudi assumed office. The committee has been tasked with reviewing all incidents of conflict that have occurred over the past 10 months and preparing a detailed report based on their findings.

The investigation is expected to focus on the reasons behind the disputes, their impact on party cohesion, and possible solutions to address the grievances. Party insiders suggest that the high command is keen on resolving the issues promptly to prevent further damage and restore unity within the party.

The committee is expected to submit its comprehensive report to the high command soon, which will then decide on appropriate measures to resolve the disputes and improve the party's internal dynamics.

JSP Leader Kiran Royal Demands Arrests Over Obscene Posts on Pawan Kalyan's Family

Complaint filed against YSRCP supporters for derogatory posts

TPN Correspondent | Tirupati

Jana Sena Party (JSP) leader Kiran Royal has lodged a complaint at the Tirupati Police Station against YSRCP supporters who allegedly posted obscene and derogatory comments about JSP President Pawan Kalyan and his family members on social media. Speaking to the media on Friday, Kiran Royal expressed outrage over the offensive posts and demanded immediate action.

Accusing the YSRCP's social media supporters of spreading inappropriate remarks over the past few days, Kiran Royal urged the Tirupati Rural DSP to arrest the culprits within 48 hours and initiate strict measures against them. "Some psychos have been making baseless and obscene allegations against Pawan Kalyan and his family members on YCP social media platforms. This will not be tolerated. We demand immediate arrests, and if necessary

action is not taken, we will give a strong warning to the YCP Paytm batch soon," Kiran Royal stated firmly.

The JSP leader also hinted at potential protests if authorities fail to act, stating, "It would not be good if we ourselves were in power and had to come out on the roads and stage dharnas again." Several JSP members, including Manoj, Sai Dev, Muni, and Sai, accompanied Kiran Royal during the complaint filing. The party's



call for swift action has drawn attention, with Royal emphasizing that JSP members are prepared to respond strongly if the offensive remarks are not addressed promptly.

Former MP Bharath Demands SIT Probe Into Anjali's Suicide Attempt

TPN Correspondent | Rajahmundry

Former MP Margani Bharath has demanded a full-scale investigation into the suicide attempt of Anjali, a final-year Forum B student who reportedly ingested 10 mg of a drug called Bro Maid on March 23. Visiting the victim's family, Bharath expressed his outrage over the hospital management's alleged negligence and lack of transparency.

Anjali was put on a ventilator following the incident, and her family members were in tears, demanding strict punishment for those responsible. Bharath questioned why the hospital management failed to explain the circumstances surrounding Anjali's drug consumption. He also criticized the alleged delay in initiating the treatment

process. According to Bharath, the hospital failed to clarify to the family why Anjali was given the drug and attempted to cover up the issue by diverting attention. He emphasized the need for a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to be formed to uncover the truth and hold those responsible accountable. Bharath also accused the Home Minister of negligence in handling the case and urged the government to take immediate action to ensure justice for Anjali. The demand for a comprehensive investigation has intensified, with the



victim's family and the former MP seeking accountability from the authorities.

Former Minister Appalaraju Stages Protest in Front of Kasibugga Police Station

TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam

Former Minister Appalaraju staged a protest in front of the Kasibugga police station, expressing his dissatisfaction over the alleged negligence of the police in handling a suspicious death case that occurred in Delhi in January 2025. Appalaraju, a prominent YSRCP leader, demonstrated his anger by sitting in protest outside the police

station. He accused the AP police of failing to properly investigate the matter and demanded justice for the victim.

This incident follows recent allegations by YSRCP leaders, including Jagan Mohan Reddy, who claimed that certain police officers are filing false cases against YCP members. Jagan Mohan Reddy also warned that appropriate action would be taken against such officers once his party

returns to power. The unexpected protest by Appalaraju reportedly left the police at the Kasibugga station uncertain about how to handle the situation. The former minister's demonstration has intensified the ongoing friction between YSRCP leaders and the police in Andhra Pradesh.



ACB Issues Fresh Notices to Former I&PR Commissioner Vijay Kumar

Vijay Kumar summoned for questioning on April 2nd

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has once again issued notices to former I&PR Commissioner Tumma Vijay Kumar Reddy, instructing him to appear for questioning on April 2nd at the Guntur ACB regional office. The inquiry pertains to alleged extortion of a witness and misappropriation of funds involving Blue Media during the previous YSRCP regime.

The latest notices state that Vijay Kumar will not be arrested at the current stage of the FIR registered under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act. However, the ACB has warned that failure to attend the inquiry could result in arrest under Section 35 (6) of the BNSS.

This fresh notice follows earlier attempts by the ACB to summon Vijay Kumar, who had previously avoided questioning by claiming unavailability. The notices were sent to his residence in Hyderabad, but he responded that he was too busy to attend. Subsequently, he filed an anticipatory bail petition in the High Court.

Sources allege that during the YSRCP government, Vijay Kumar illegally amassed hundreds of crores through government advertisements distributed to Jagan Media and other favorable outlets. The coalition government, upon reviewing these allegations, ordered a Vigilance and Enforcement investigation, which eventually led to the ACB's involvement.

Despite previous notices, Vijay Kumar

has not cooperated with the investigation, raising concerns about his intentions. The inclusion of a non-arrest clause in the latest notice has also sparked objections from legal experts and Telugu Desam Party sources. It remains to be seen whether Vijay Kumar will comply with the fresh summons or continue to evade questioning.





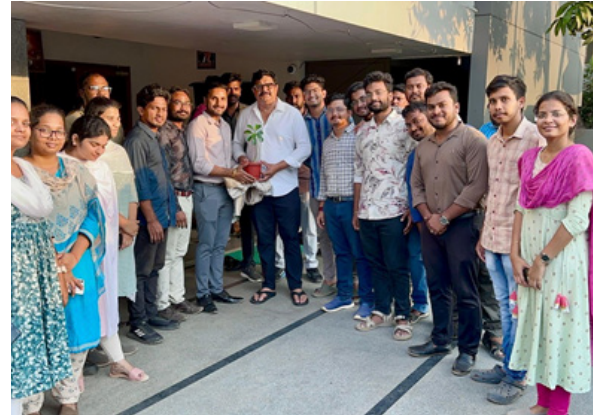
MP Kesineni Shivanath meets Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla

TPN Correspondent | Delhi
Vijayawada MP Kesineni Shivanath (Chinni) met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at his residence in Delhi on Friday. During the meeting, Kesineni Shivanath offered prasadam of Tirupati Sri Venkateswara Swamy to the Speaker as a gesture of respect and goodwill. The MP expressed his gratitude to Om Birla for appointing him as a member of the recently constituted Committee on Absence of Member from the Sitting of the House. Kesineni Shivanath conveyed his appreciation for the opportunity to contribute to the functioning of the committee

and assured his commitment to fulfilling his responsibilities effectively. The meeting was cordial, reflecting Kesineni Shivanath's acknowledgment of the Speaker's trust in him through the appointment. Sources indicate that the MP is keen to actively participate in the committee's proceedings and contribute towards enhancing parliamentary efficiency. The visit also signifies Kesineni Shivanath's efforts to maintain positive relations with the Lok Sabha Speaker and other parliamentary authorities.



MLA Venigandla Ramu Vows to Restore Dr. Gururaju Homeopathy College's Former Glory



TPN Correspondent | Gudivada
Gudivada MLA Venigandla Ramu has pledged to restore the former glory of Dr. Gururaju Government Homeo College, located on Eluru Road, Gudivada, which is regarded as one of the unique institutions in the country. During a meeting held on March 28, student union leaders brought various issues concerning the college to MLA Ramu's attention. They expressed their gratitude for his cooperation in preventing the loss of PG seats due to inadequate facilities.

The students highlighted their concerns over the dilapidated condition of the college building, stating that they have to attend classes in constant fear of accidents. They also pointed out the lack of basic amenities and infrastructure, which is causing inconvenience to patients seeking treatment for chronic diseases. They urged the MLA to expedite the construction of a new building to address these pressing issues. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Ramu assured the students that he would work to ensure the construction of the new building starts soon. He blamed the previous government's negligence for halting the construction work midway and promised to bring the matter to the attention of the current government. MLA Ramu emphasized his commitment to developing the college, considering its significance as the second-largest homeopathy institution in the country. Students of Dr. Gururaju Homeopathy College and student union leaders participated in the program.

NTR District Police Commissioner Distributes Summer Kits to Traffic Personnel



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Honorable NTR District Police Commissioner Shri S. V. Rajasekhara Babu, IPS, distributed summer kits to traffic personnel at the NTR District Police Commissioner's office in Vijay-

awada. The initiative, supported by donors Dr. Sri Ramesh of Aster Ramesh Hospital and Sri Lakshmana Chowdhury, owner of Hari Villu, aimed at providing relief to traffic personnel during the scorching summer season. The kits included quality Mil-

ton/Cello water bottles, electrical sachets, napkins, fast track glasses, and bags for easy carrying. Shri S. V. Rajasekhara Babu, IPS, expressed his gratitude to the donors and appreciated their concern for the welfare of the traffic personnel, who often face harsh weather conditions while on duty. Traffic DCP Sri M. Krishna Murthy Naidu, Traffic ADCP A.V.L. Prasanna Kumar, DCPs Smt. K.G.V. Saritha IPS (Admin), Sri S.B.T. Udayarani IPS, Sri Prasad, ACCPs, Traffic Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, and other officers and staff participated in the event. The traffic personnel expressed their happiness over the gesture, acknowledging the much-needed relief provided by the summer kits.

Ugadi Programs at Indrakiladri Temple on March 30th



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
The Sri Durgamalleswara Swamy Warla Devasthanam in Indrakiladri, Vijayawada, is set to celebrate Sri Vishwawasu Nama Samvatsara Ugadi with special programs on March 30th. Temple Executive Officer K. Ramachandra Mohan announced the schedule of various rituals and activities to mark the auspicious occasion. From 9 AM, Snapanabhishekam will be performed for Goddess Jagannata Sri Kanaka Durga, during which devotees can have darshan of the deities at the sub-temples and shrines. Due to this, Arjita Sevas such as Suprabhata Seva, Vastralankaran Seva, Devi Khadgamalarchana, and Rudra Homam in the main temple will be canceled and conducted as government services instead. Special rituals like Laksha Kumkumarchana, Shanti Kalyanam, Sri Chakra Nava Varanarchana, Chandi Homam, and Ashtottara Sahasranamarchana will commence from 9 AM onwards. Additionally, a special Pushparchana using jasmine flowers and maruvam will be performed for Sri Kanaka Durgamma to mark the beginning of Vasantha Navratri. Tickets for the Pushparchana Arjita Seva can be booked through the temple website or by contacting the Andhra Pradesh Government WhatsApp service at 9552300009. At 3 PM, the Ugadi Panchanga Shraavanam will be held, followed by the Silver Rathotsavam starting at 6 PM. The silver chariot will proceed from Sri Malleswara Mahamandapam through Brahmanavedhi and the ancient streets of One Town before returning to the temple after receiving worship from devotees.

M. Rajubabu Elected as Zonal President of Transport Employees' Association for Third Time

TPN Correspondent | NTR Dist
Zonal President M. Rajubabu met DTC A Mohan at the DTC office on Bandaru Road, following his election as the Zonal President of the Transport Employees' Association for the third consecutive time. Speaking on the occasion, DTC A Mohan lauded Rajubabu's active role in the association and his commitment to addressing employees' issues. He noted that Rajubabu has consistently acted as

a bridge between the authorities and employees, ensuring their concerns are heard and resolved. Rajubabu expressed gratitude to the employees of the seven districts of Zone 2 for their continued trust in his leadership. He pledged to visit each office in the districts to understand and resolve employees' problems. RTO Venkateswara Rao, newly elected Zonal Treasurer K. Ramachandra Raju, former Zonal Co-Chair G. Usha Sundari, Admin-



istrative Officers Satyanarayana and Chandrakala, along with several employees, participated in the program.

BIS Vijayawada Holds Manak Manthan on Packaging Standards



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Vijayawada Branch Office, successfully conducted a Manak Manthan on March 28, 2025, focusing on the latest amendments to IS 11652:2017 and IS 16703:2017 standards related to High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/Polypropylene (PP) woven sacks used for packaging 50 kg cement and 25 kg polymer materials, respectively. Shri D. Vivek Vardhan Reddy, Scientist C &

Deputy Director, BIS, Vijayawada, led the discussions, providing valuable insights on the implementation and compliance of these standards. Around 30 stakeholders, including manufacturers, buyers, and laboratory representatives, actively participated, offering feedback and discussing implications of the amendments. The event highlighted BIS's commitment to promoting standardization, quality certification, and regulatory excellence. Attendees were introduced to newly established standards and guided on verifying authenticity through the BIS Care App, which includes features like ISI Mark, Hallmark, Registration Mark verification, 'Know Your Standards', and complaint registration processes. Stakeholders appreciated the initiative, acknowledging BIS Vijayawada's efforts in fostering industry collaboration and enhancing compliance with national standards.

Capital Sanitation Workers Protest at Tullur CRDA Office Over Pending Salaries

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati
Capital sanitation workers staged a protest in front of the Tullur CRDA office on Friday, demanding payment of their pending salaries for February. The protest, organized under the Capital Area Sanitation Workers' Union, highlighted the plight of sanitation workers struggling without pay for over two months. M Ravi, Honorary President of the Capital Area Sanitation Workers' Union, expressed frustration over the non-payment of salaries despite repeated appeals to the authorities. "Is it fair to pay ₹21,000 to sanitation workers throughout the state, but only ₹12,000 to those working in the capital?" he questioned. He criticized the CRDA and agency officials for neglecting workers' grievances, stating that they are "burning the stomachs of workers" by withholding salaries. Ravi demanded that the government immediately release the pending payments and provide salary parity with sanitation workers across the state. He further alleged that the previous government's decision to stop the capital social pension for these workers has not been reversed despite assurances. The union also demanded an increase in the number of sanitation workers, supply of buttermilk and drinking water during the summer, and provision of protective equipment. Union leaders Cherukuru Sushila, Nayak L Sukhaveni, N Veerlankamma, and others participated in the protest. The union warned that if the government fails to address their demands, they will intensify their agitation in stages. After the dharna, a petition was submitted to the CRDA officials seeking immediate resolution of their issues.

YCP Leader Potina Mahesh Demands Regular EO Appointment for Durga Temple

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
YSRCP leader Potina Venkata Mahesh has criticized the ongoing administrative issues at the Indrakiladri Durga Temple, the second-largest temple in Andhra Pradesh, citing the absence of a permanent Executive Officer (EO) for the past three months. Addressing a press conference, Mahesh expressed concerns about the temple's man-

agement and demanded the immediate appointment of a regular EO. Mahesh stated that Ramachandra Mohan, who is currently serving as the in-charge EO, is handling three responsibilities simultaneously, making it difficult for him to focus on temple activities, development, and addressing irregularities. He urged the government to appoint an IAS-level officer as the EO to ensure

proper management of the temple. Furthermore, Mahesh criticized the practice of awarding temple contracts to non-Hindus and insisted that only Hindus should be considered for such roles. He also expressed concern over reports suggesting the formation of a governing council for the temple, warning that individuals with criminal backgrounds should not be included. Calling out

Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan, Mahesh questioned his silence over the demolition of the Kasinayana Satra, especially since Kalyan often speaks about protecting Sanatana Dharma. The demand for a regular EO and concerns over temple management have sparked fresh debate about the need for improved governance of one of the state's most significant religious sites.

Home Minister Anitha Consoles Dr. Sudhakar's Family



- Home Minister visits Dr. Sudhakar's house to console grieving family
- Mother Kaveribai emotional over son's death, delay in CBI investigation
- Assures Chief Minister's attention and necessary action

TPN Correspondent | Visakhapatnam

Home Minister Anitha personally visited the house of Anaesthesia Doctor Sudhakar, who allegedly suffered from the YSRCP government's partisan actions. Responding to a request from Dr. Sudhakar's mother, Kaveribai, the Home Minister visited the family on Friday to offer her condolences and support. During the visit, Kaveribai became emotional, recalling the tragic circumstances surrounding her son's death and the prolonged delay in the CBI investigation. Home Minister Anitha encouraged her to remain strong, assuring her that justice would prevail even if delayed. She promised full support from the coalition government and affirmed that all concerns raised by Kaverib-

ai would be brought to the attention of the Chief Minister for appropriate action. Dr. Sudhakar was suspended by the YSRCP government following his public criticism during the COVID-19 pandemic about the lack of basic medical facilities such as masks and the absence of cooperation from state authorities. The case eventually reached the High Court, which ordered a CBI inquiry and collected a report on the related complaints. Home Minister Anitha reminded the family that her letter, written as TDP Women's President, was taken up by the High Court as a suo moto case, resulting in notices being issued to the YSRCP government. She reiterated her commitment to ensuring justice for Dr. Sudhakar's family.

Free Tailoring Training for Women's Self-Employment Launched



TPN Correspondent | Eluru

The state government has launched a free tailoring and training initiative aimed at promoting women's self-employment under the AP Free Tailoring Mission Scheme-2025. State Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Kolsu Parthasarathy inaugurated the program on Friday at Nuzvidu Victoria Town Hall, Thukkuru, along with BC Corporation and Kapu Corporation representatives. Speaking at the event, Minister Kolsu Parthasarathy stated that the government will provide 90 days of free tailoring training to women, with participants required to maintain 75 percent attendance to qualify for sewing machines. As part of the first phase, 4,589 sewing machines will be distributed across Eluru district, with 700 machines allocated for Nuzvidu constituency. The minister highlighted that the scheme is part of a broader

initiative to empower women through various welfare and development programs, such as the Free Lamp Scheme, Free Bus Service, and Salute to Mother. He emphasized the coalition government's commitment to training skilled women and helping them become entrepreneurs by setting up weaving, tailoring, greens manufacturing, and food processing centers based on their interests. He further mentioned that those who complete the training will also be provided with loans to support their entrepreneurial journey. The recent mega job fair organized at Nuzvidu Triple IT resulted in approximately 700 individuals securing job opportunities. Additionally, Minister Kolsu Parthasarathy noted that the government has revived the Ashok Leyland company, which had been neglected by the previous administration, providing significant employment opportunities to locals. YPP Arepalli Sirisha, BC Corporation ED N. Pushpalatha, Municipal Commissioner R. Venkataramireddy, YMPDO Chenna Raghavendranath, and other local representatives participated in the program.

Dwaraka Tirumala Temple Earns ₹86.52 Lakhs Through Hundi Collections

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

The renowned Chinna Venkanna temple in Dwaraka Tirumala, Eluru district, has reported substantial earnings through hundi collections over the past 18 days. Temple authorities, led by Executive Officer NVSN Murthy, conducted the counting process on Friday at the Pramoda Kalyana Mandapa premises under strict security arrangements. According to EO Murthy, the temple received a total income of ₹86,52,789

in cash during this period.

Additionally, devotees offered 103 grams of gold and 2.75 kilograms of silver. EO Murthy also mentioned that a significant amount of foreign currency was received, highlighting the temple's popularity among international visitors. The counting process involved the participation of temple officials and staff, ensuring transparency and accuracy.



MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy Hosts Iftar Feast for Muslim Brothers



TPN Ch. Sekhar | Srikalahasti

MLA Bojjala Sudheer Reddy organized an Iftar feast for the Muslim community at the Eidgah located at the Srikalahasti SV Degree College to mark the holy month of Ramadan. Participating in the divine prayer alongside the Muslim brothers,

the MLA extended his warm wishes for a peaceful and blessed Ramadan. Addressing the gathering, MLA Sudheer Reddy expressed his commitment to working for the welfare and progress of Muslim minorities, following the legacy of his father, Bojjala Gopalakrishna Red-

dy. He assured the community that Eidgah's would be developed and mosques would be modernized to create a comfortable environment for offering prayers. MLA Sudheer Reddy also thanked the Srikalahasti Pipe Factory for their generous donation of Rs. 10 lakhs, which will be utilized for the development of the Eidgah and Shaadi (wedding) hall. He emphasized that the efforts to improve facilities at religious sites would continue to ensure a positive and inclusive atmosphere for all. The event, attended by local leaders and community members, highlighted the MLA's dedication to promoting communal harmony and ensuring the welfare of all sections of society.

Battepati Narendra Reddy Appointed as YCP State Farmer's Wing Spokesperson



TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Battepati Narendra Reddy has been appointed as the official spokesperson of the YSR Congress Party State Farmer's Wing. The appointment was made under the instructions of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and former Minister Nallapureddy Prasannakumar Reddy. Nellore City Incharge & MLC Parvatha Reddy Chandrasekhar Reddy met Battepati Narendra Reddy at the Ramji Nagar YSR Congress Party City Constituency Office in Nellore to congratulate him on the

new appointment. Wishing him success, Chandrasekhar Reddy expressed hope that Narendra Reddy would achieve greater heights in his political journey. Prominent leaders who participated in the program included Jonnavada Devasthanam Chairman Mavuluru Srinivasulu Reddy, Kovur Constituency YCP Intellectuals Four Division President Kondlapudi Srinivasulu Reddy, Kovur Constituency Trade Union President Bidavolu Roop Kumar Reddy, and senior YSRCP leaders Sheikh Shabbir, Dilip, Sumanth, Kishore, and Vishnu.

Govt Employees Urged to Work Efficiently: Public Opinion Campaign to Be Held



TPN Correspondent | Nellore

District Collector Anand has advised government officials to work efficiently and gain public appreciation as the government initiates a public opinion campaign to assess the effectiveness of various schemes implemented for the people. During a meeting held at the SR Sankaran Hall in the Collectorate on Friday, Collector Anand discussed the public opinion gathering program with officials from key departments. He stated that opinions would be collected using IVR calls, QR codes, and WhatsApp, covering a wide range of topics including pensions, ration, RTC services, hospitals, sanitation, fertilizers, seeds, roads, sand, liquor shops, and more. The Collector clarified that the purpose of the campaign is not to assign blame but to identify shortcomings in services and enhance them. Feedback will

be collected over four weeks, with a different topic addressed each week. Anand assured that the identity of those providing feedback will be kept confidential. In cases where negative feedback persists from a particular area, local inquiries will be conducted, and officials will be advised accordingly. The aim is to build public confidence in government policies and improve service delivery. Officials were instructed to prepare an action plan to address deficiencies in areas such as hospital services, essential commodities distribution, punctuality of RTC buses, food quality at Anna canteens, and prasad quality in temples. A review of the feedback and progress will be conducted monthly. Municipal Commissioner Surya Teja, Additional SP Soujanya, DRO Udayabhaskar Rao, DMHO Sujatha, DCHS Sesharatnam, Vidyut S E Vijayan, DPO Sridhar Reddy, District Public Transport Officer Murali Babu, CPO Narasimha Rao, and other officials participated in the meeting.

Srikakulam Dist SP Inspects KGBV Vidyalaya



TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam

Srikakulam District SP Sri K.V. Maheshwara Reddy IPS visited Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) near Gudurirajamanipuram, Mandasa Mandal, on Friday morning to investigate the reasons behind the illness of several students reported on Wednesday. During the visit, the District SP inspected the school's kitchen, classrooms, and surrounding

areas, emphasizing the importance of maintaining cleanliness and hygiene. He advised the students to report any difficulties or issues without fear and encouraged them to study with discipline. The SP also reviewed the quality of food served to the students and instructed the officials to provide necessary medical treatment based on the students' current health conditions. He stressed the need for strict precautions to

prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future. Additionally, the District SP checked the functioning of CCTV cameras installed on the school premises and directed the local SI to install more cameras for enhanced security and monitoring. Ichapuram CI Chinnam Naidu, Kasibugga Rural CI Tirupati Rao, local SI Krishna Prasad, school officials, and staff accompanied the SP during the inspection.

Clash Between Hijra Communities Over Begging Leads to Arrests in Nandyal



TPN Correspondent | Nandyal

A long-standing dispute over begging rights between the Hijra communities of Panyam and Nandyal erupted into violence on Friday. The confrontation occurred in front of the Rural and Two Town police stations in Nandyal, causing panic among the

locals. According to reports, tensions flared when members of the Panyam community attempted to beg in Nandyal, an area that the Nandyal community claims as their own. As the dispute intensified, both groups resorted to throwing pepper powder and pelting

stones at each other, creating chaos near the police stations. In response to the escalating situation, the Two Town Rural Police intervened by resorting to a lathi charge to disperse the clashing groups. Authorities reportedly arrested around 100 Hijras involved in

the altercation. Local residents expressed concern over the incident, urging the police to resolve the dispute and ensure peace in the area. Further investigations are expected to take place to prevent such occurrences in the future.

From Asking for Urdu Preference to Mocking Telugu



TPN | G Avinash

Hyderabad, March 29: The hypocrisy of AIMIM leader Akbaruddin Owaisi is once again on full display. Known for his provocative speeches and controversial remarks, Owaisi has now turned to mocking Telangana Minister Seethakka for speaking in her mother tongue, Telugu. His recent comments questioning her lack of Urdu and English proficiency show not only his arrogance but also his disregard for the very state he operates in.

For decades, Owaisi and his party have demanded preferential treatment for Urdu, lobbying successive governments to accommodate their language preferences. Yet, despite his family's long political presence in Hyderabad, Owaisi himself has failed to embrace Telugu—the language of the land. His inability (or refusal) to learn Telugu, while expecting others to conform to his linguistic preferences, exposes his political opportunism.

There is nothing wrong with Seethakka speaking in Telugu. As an elected leader in Telangana, she naturally communicates in her native language. The real question is—why hasn't Owaisi bothered to learn Telugu despite being in Hyderabad for generations? The answer is clear: political appeasement by successive governments has allowed him to continue with his Urdu-centric approach without any accountability.

This is not the first time Owaisi has stirred controversy with his statements. His past speeches have been infamous for their communal undertones and inflammatory rhetoric. Time and again, he has played divisive politics, using religion and language as tools to polarize the electorate. His latest jibe at a Telugu-speaking minister further cements his double standards—demanding Urdu preference on one hand while mocking those who speak Telugu in a Telugu-speaking state.

If Owaisi truly believes in representing Telangana, he should have learned Telugu by now. His deliberate ignorance of the state's language, coupled with his mockery of those who embrace it, speaks volumes about his priorities. Leaders like him, who thrive on divisive politics, should be questioned for their hypocrisy rather than entertained with continued political indulgence.

India's \$2.7 Billion Electronics Boost

A Step Towards Self-Reliance or a Long Road Ahead?

THE POINT DESK

The Indian government's latest approval of a \$2.7 billion (₹22,919 crore) incentive plan to boost local manufacturing of electronic components marks another ambitious step toward self-reliance in the tech sector. With a vision to attract \$7 billion in investments and create over 91,600 jobs in six years, this move is part of India's broader goal of establishing a \$500 billion electronics economy by 2030. While the plan has been welcomed by industry leaders, the real challenge lies in its execution and ensuring that India can move beyond assembly to high-value manufacturing.

Breaking Dependency

For years, India has remained dependent on imports for key electronic components such as semiconductor chips, display modules, and lithium-ion battery cells. While the country has made significant progress in assembling smartphones and electronic gadgets, the lack of a strong component ecosystem has limited value addition within the domestic market.

Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw acknowledged this gap, stating that India has achieved only 20% value addition in electronics manufacturing over the past decade. The new scheme, aimed at manufacturing both active and passive components, is expected to double this value in the next five years. The government's push aligns with its broader semiconductor mission, which aims to strengthen local production of high-end electronic components.

Key Features of the Incentive Plan

The scheme will provide subsidies of up to 50% for domestic and foreign companies setting up local component manufacturing facilities. The primary focus areas include:

- **Sub-assembly of display and camera modules**
- **Printed circuit boards (PCBs)**
- **Lithium-ion battery cells**
- **Enclosures for mobile and electronics hardware**

Additionally, incentives will also cover the localization of capital goods and other components used in the manufacturing process. However, a senior government official clarified that the



support for these will be below 50% of the company's capital expenditure. The government is also working on reforms in labor laws, customs policies, and taxation to create a more conducive environment for electronic manufacturers.

A Positive Move for Growth

Industry leaders have responded positively to the initiative. Josh Foulger, president of electronics at Zetwerk, emphasized the importance of building a strong component ecosystem in India, stating that his company is actively seeking partnerships to contribute to this effort.

Ajai Chowdhry, co-founder of HCL Technologies and chairman of Epic Foundation, noted that this move will enable "higher value addition in the country" and attract more investment in system products. He also highlighted the need for a "Design in India" scheme for chips and systems, which would further strengthen India's position in the global electronics industry.

Can India Compete with China and Taiwan?

While the approval of this incentive plan is a significant move, it is only the first step in a long journey. China and Taiwan dominate the global electronics supply chain, having spent decades developing their manufacturing ecosystems. Simply offering incentives may not be enough to attract global players unless India can provide a seamless and competitive environment.

Some key challenges that India will need to address include:

- **High Cost of Production – De-**

spite incentives, manufacturing costs in India remain higher than in China due to infrastructure gaps and expensive logistics.

- **Lack of Skilled Workforce – The electronics sector requires highly specialized skills, and India will need a focused strategy to train and develop a skilled workforce.**
- **Delayed Implementation of Previous Schemes – India's first semiconductor incentive scheme saw multiple delays, raising concerns about how efficiently the new scheme will be executed.**
- **Uncertain Global Demand – The global electronics market is facing fluctuations, and India must ensure steady demand to sustain long-term investment in the sector.**

Will This Move Help India Achieve Self-Sufficiency?

The government's larger vision of a \$500 billion electronics economy by 2030 depends on how well India can implement its incentive schemes and attract major investments. The country already manufactures \$120 billion worth of electronics, but to scale up, it will require a strong policy framework, industry collaboration, and consistent government support. If implemented effectively, this initiative could position India as a key player in the global electronics supply chain, reducing dependency on imports and creating a robust domestic manufacturing ecosystem. However, it will take sustained efforts and strong execution to turn this vision into reality.

Is US-Canada Friendship Damaged Beyond Repair?

THE POINT DESK

The long-standing partnership between the United States and Canada is facing an unprecedented crisis. With US President Donald Trump's recent decision to impose a 25% tariff on imported vehicles and auto parts, tensions have escalated between the two North American allies. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's response has made it clear: the "old relationship" with the US is over. As economic and military ties between the two nations deteriorate, a critical question arises—has the US-Canada relationship been damaged beyond repair?

Trump's Trade War Sparks Outrage

On March 27, President Trump announced steep tariffs on imported automobiles and parts, set to take effect from April 3, 2025. The move has sparked outrage among key US trading partners, including Canada, Germany, the European Union, and Japan, all of whom are now considering retaliatory measures. Trump has even warned that if the EU and Canada cooperate in opposing these tariffs, the US could impose "far larger" economic actions against them.

For Canada, this is not just another trade dispute. The auto industry is a critical part of the Canadian economy, employing thousands of workers. By imposing tariffs, Trump has directly challenged Canada's economic stability.



In response, PM Mark Carney called the tariffs a "direct attack" on Canadian workers and pledged immediate retaliation through trade measures designed to hurt the US while minimizing damage to Canada.

Mark Carney Declares the 'Old Relationship' is Over

In a sharp departure from the usual diplomatic tone between Canada and the US, PM Mark Carney did not hold back in his criticism of the Trump administration. His statement—"It is clear that the United States is no longer a reliable partner"—marked a turning point in how Canada views its long-time ally. Carney made it clear that Canada could no longer depend on the US as it once

did. He emphasized the need to "dramatically reduce reliance on the United States" and seek new trade relationships. This marks a significant shift from Canada's traditional approach, which has long been rooted in deep economic and security cooperation with its southern neighbor.

Carney also took issue with Trump's past rhetoric about Canada. During his 2024 re-election campaign, Trump repeatedly referred to then-PM Justin Trudeau as "Governor Trudeau" and even entertained speculation about annexing Canada as the "51st state" of the US. Such remarks were dismissed as campaign rhetoric at the time, but in light of the tariff war and diplomatic tensions, they have taken on a more serious tone.

Is the US-Canada Relationship Truly Beyond Repair?

While Mark Carney has declared that there is "no turning back," he has not entirely ruled out restoring some level of trust with the US. However, he made it clear that any future partnership would be vastly different from the past. The days of deep economic integration and unquestioned military cooperation between the two countries appear to be over.

Carney also emphasized that his government will fight back with "retaliatory trade actions of our own that will have maximum impact in the United States and minimum impacts here in Canada." This signals a more aggressive stance than previous Canadian administrations, which have often sought to negotiate rather than retaliate against US trade actions.

How Americans View Canada Amid Rising Tensions

The strained relationship between the two nations is also reflected in shifting public opinion. According to a recent Associated Press-NORC poll conducted between March 20-24, 2025, fewer Americans now see Canada as a close ally compared to previous years. Before Trump's second term, 70% of Democrats viewed Canada as a close ally. Now, that number has dropped to just 50%. Across all political groups, only 50% of Americans still consider Canada

a close ally, compared to 60% in 2023. Instead, three in 10 respondents now view Canada as merely "friendly but not a close ally," while two in 10 describe the relationship as "not friendly but not enemies."

These shifts highlight a significant deterioration in the US-Canada friendship. While most Americans do not see Canada as an outright adversary, the perception of the once-strong alliance is weakening.

What's Next for US-Canada Relations?

The coming months will be crucial in determining the future of US-Canada relations. Mark Carney has vowed to hold direct talks with President Trump in an attempt to address the crisis. However, given Trump's hardline stance on trade and national interests, it remains unclear whether diplomacy will be enough to mend the fractured relationship. If Canada moves forward with its plans to pivot trade relationships away from the US, the long-term consequences could be profound. A weakened North American trade bloc could give economic competitors like China and the EU an advantage.

For now, what is certain is that the trust between the US and Canada has been severely damaged. Whether it can be fully restored—or whether this marks the beginning of a permanent separation—remains to be seen.

India Ready to Assist Myanmar & Thailand After Devastating Earthquake

- India offers assistance to Myanmar & Thailand
- PM Modi expresses deep concern
- 7.7 magnitude earthquake strikes Myanmar
- Tremors felt in Indian cities
- Skyscraper collapses, workers trapped

India has extended its support to Myanmar and Thailand following a powerful earthquake that struck both countries, leaving dozens dead and causing severe destruction. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep concern over the situation and assured that India is ready to provide all possible assistance to the affected nations. Taking to social media platform X (formerly Twitter), PM Modi conveyed his sympathies and pledged India's support in the aftermath of the disaster. "Concerned by the situation in the wake of the earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand. Praying for the safety and well-being of everyone. India stands ready to offer all possible assistance. In this regard, I have asked our authorities to be on standby. Also asked the MEA to remain in touch with the Governments of Myanmar and Thailand," he posted.



The earthquake, measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale, struck central Myanmar at approximately 12:50 PM local time on Friday. The epicenter was located 16 kilometers northwest of Sagaing at a depth of 10 kilometers, according to the United States Geological

Survey (USGS). The quake was followed by a significant aftershock of 6.8 magnitude. The tremors were strong enough to be felt in various parts of India, including Kolkata and Imphal, triggering concerns among residents. While reports of casualties continue to emerge, no tsunami warning has

been issued so far. Rescue and relief operations are currently underway in the affected regions as authorities assess the full extent of the damage. One of the most shocking visuals from the disaster was a viral video showing an under-construction skyscraper in Bangkok's Chatuchak neighborhood collapsing due to the tremors. Reports indicate that at least 43 workers are trapped under the debris, with rescue teams racing against time to locate survivors. India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has been directed to stay in close contact with both Myanmar and Thailand to coordinate relief efforts. Indian disaster response teams and humanitarian aid are expected to be mobilized as needed to assist in rescue and recovery operations. The earthquake serves as a grim reminder of the region's vulnerability to seismic activity. As affected communities grapple with the devastation, international support and swift response efforts remain crucial in mitigating the crisis. India's proactive stance underscores its commitment to aiding its neighbors in times of need.



"Jaishankar Slams Pakistan for Minority Persecution"

- India tracks minority treatment closely.
- Jaishankar highlights Pakistan's human rights abuses.
- February saw multiple Hindu persecution cases.
- Sikh community also faced threats.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addressed the Lok Sabha on Friday, highlighting the "crimes and atrocities against minorities" in Pakistan. He emphasized that India closely monitors the treatment of minorities in the neighboring country and consistently raises concerns on international platforms, including the United Nations. Jaishankar reaffirmed India's stance at the UN, where Pakistan has been criticized for its human rights violations and persecution of minorities. He stated that India remains vigilant and continues to bring attention to these issues at global forums. Citing specific incidents, the minister detailed several cases of atrocities that took place in February. "We follow very closely and track the treatment of minorities in Pakistan. In February alone, there were ten cases of atrocities against the Hindu community—seven involving abduction and forced conversion, two related to abduction, and one incident where police took action against students celebrating Holi," Jaishankar informed the Parliament. The minister also highlighted attacks against the Sikh community in Pakistan. "There were three incidents related to the Sikh community. In one case, a Sikh family was attacked. In another, a Sikh family was threatened over the reopening of an old Gurudwara. Additionally, there was an abduction and forced conversion case involving a Sikh girl," he said. Jaishankar's remarks reinforced India's commitment to advocating for the rights of persecuted minorities in Pakistan. He stressed that India would continue to raise these concerns at the highest levels to ensure that such human rights violations do not go unnoticed. The minister's statement comes amid ongoing diplomatic tensions between the two nations, with India frequently calling out Pakistan on international platforms for its record on minority rights and religious freedom. As global attention remains on human rights, Jaishankar's address in Parliament signals India's firm stance on holding Pakistan accountable for its treatment of religious minorities. India's consistent efforts to highlight these issues at the UN and other international bodies underscore its commitment to protecting human rights and ensuring that the concerns of persecuted communities are addressed on the global stage.

Electoral Battle in 2026 Tamil Nadu Elections Will Be Between TVK and DMK

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president and actor Vijay has declared that the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections will be a direct contest between his party and the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK). Speaking at TVK's first general council meeting at Thiruvanniyur in Chennai on Friday, Vijay expressed confidence in his party's ability to emerge as a strong political force in the State. Vijay alleged that the ruling DMK government has been creating obstacles for TVK over the past year, making it difficult to organize conferences, meetings, and outreach programs. He claimed that such disruptions were deliberate attempts to hinder TVK's growth and prevent it from reaching the masses. Despite these challenges, he assured his supporters that his party remained committed to its mission and would not succumb to political pressure. Addressing thousands of party members gathered at the event, Vijay reiterated that TVK represents a new era of politics in Tamil Nadu. He



positioned the party as a viable alternative to traditional political forces, stating that the people of the State are looking for change. Vijay emphasized that TVK is not centered around any one individual but is a collective movement driven by the aspirations of the people. He urged party workers to stay united and work tirelessly at the grassroots level to strengthen

TVK's presence across Tamil Nadu. Highlighting the party's focus on governance, development, and welfare, Vijay assured that if TVK is elected to power, his government would prioritize key issues such as education, employment, social justice, and economic growth. He also dismissed claims that TVK was a temporary political experiment, stating that

it was founded on principles of transparency, equality, and justice. Concluding his speech, Vijay called upon the people of Tamil Nadu to support TVK in its political journey. He asserted that the 2026 elections would mark the beginning of a new chapter in the State's politics, with TVK leading the way towards a progressive and inclusive future.

J&K Seeks Extension for Special Cells



The Jammu and Kashmir government has urged the National Commission for Women (NCW) to extend funding for its special cells supporting domestic violence victims for at least another year. These special cells, established in police stations across J&K under the initiative Violence-Free Home – A Woman's Right, were launched in 2021 to provide crucial psycho-social-legal support to women facing domestic violence. The initiative is a joint effort involving the NCW, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, the J&K Police, and the Social Welfare Department. However, the project was initially set up for a limited period, with funding scheduled to end on March 31, 2025, unless an extension is granted. The J&K Social Welfare Minister, Sakina

Itoo, confirmed that the government has formally requested NCW to extend the project, emphasizing the positive impact these cells have had on women's well-being. "We have written to NCW, requesting them to extend the project by one more year as it would further improve the condition of women. However, even if the project is discontinued, the UT has staff centers operating in every district, which will continue to provide support," said Itoo. Since its establishment in 2021, the initiative has assisted nearly 10,000 women, with each special cell comprising two trained social workers to provide necessary guidance and intervention. The cells have been instrumental in offering women a safe space to seek help against domestic abuse and legal guidance to navigate their challenges. Despite the government's plea, sources within NCW claim that the J&K administration has been reluctant to take over the cells, even though they were aware that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was valid only until March 31. The original plan was for NCW to initiate and support the project before the J&K government assumed responsibility.

Centre Approves 2% Hike in Dearness Allowance for Government Employees

The Union Cabinet has approved a 2% increase in the dearness allowance (DA) for central government employees, bringing it up from 53% to 55% of basic pay. This move aims to provide relief against inflation and comes ahead of the 8th Pay Commission's implementation. In the last revision, DA was raised by 3% in October 2024, increasing it to 53% of basic pay. The new hike will further enhance government employees' salaries, helping them manage rising costs. DA is a critical component of salary adjustments for government staff, designed to counteract the impact of inflation. The Centre approved the 8th Pay Commission in January 2025 to revise wages and allowances for central government employees. The commission's formal constitution, including the appointment of a chairman and at least two members, is expected soon. While



DA and Dearness Relief (DR) are revised biannually, this is likely the final revision before the commission starts consultations with various stakeholders. Employee forums have advocated merging DA and DR with the basic salary before the next Pay Commission report is implemented. Historically, the 5th Pay Commission man-

dated merging DA with basic pay once it exceeded 50%. However, while the government integrated DA with basic pay in 2004, this practice was discontinued under the 6th and 7th Pay Commissions. The 8th Pay Commission is expected to introduce significant changes in salary structures, benefits, and allowances for government employees. The latest DA hike ensures financial relief for employees while they await broader salary reforms under the new pay commission. The upcoming deliberations will determine how future revisions and pay structures are formulated to benefit employees. With the rising cost of living, these adjustments play a vital role in maintaining the financial well-being of government workers. The DA increase reflects the government's commitment to supporting its employees in managing economic challenges effectively.

Trump Hosts Iftar Dinner At White House, Thanks Muslims For Support



TPN Correspondent | New York

US President Donald Trump hosted the annual Iftar dinner at the White House on Thursday, marking a significant moment during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. In his remarks, Trump emphasized his administration's ongoing commitment to the Muslim community and its efforts to foster peace in the Middle East.

During the event, attended by Muslim leaders, diplomats, and government officials, Trump began by extending a warm "Ramadan Mubarak" to Muslim attendees. He expressed gratitude to the Muslim-American community for their support in the 2024 presidential election, saying, "The Muslim community was there for us in November — and while I'm president, I'm going to be there for you."

Trump went on to highlight the administration's diplomatic efforts, particularly in relation to the Middle East, underscoring the importance of the Abraham Accords. These agreements, which were brokered during his presidency, aimed at normalizing relations between Israel and several Arab nations. "My administration is engaged in relentless diplomacy to forge a lasting peace in the Middle East, building on the historic Abraham Accords," Trump said, adding that while the agreements had been signed, his administration would work to "fill them out" and continue building on their success. He criticized the Biden administration, claiming that little had been done to further the agreements.

Trump also remarked on the ongoing conflict in Gaza, where violence continues between Israel and Hamas. He expressed a desire for peace for all nations and reiterated the sacred nature of Ramadan for Muslims, who fast and pray during the month. In a final reflection, Trump reaffirmed the importance of peace and cooperation, stressing that his administration remains committed to fulfilling its promises to the Muslim community, both in the US and abroad. The Iftar dinner at the White House has become an annual tradition for Trump, having first hosted such an event in 2018.

China's Door Will 'Open Wider And Wider', Xi Tells Foreign Executives



TPN Correspondent | Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping reaffirmed China's commitment to opening its doors wider to foreign businesses, emphasizing that the country is focused on advancing reform and economic openness. Speaking at a meeting with international executives in Beijing, including hedge fund tycoon Ray Dalio and Samsung Electronics chief Lee Jae-yong, Xi assured attendees that China would continue to push forward with its economic opening. "China is firmly committed to advancing reform and opening up. The door of opening up will only open wider and wider," Xi told the group of executives. His remarks come as China seeks to bolster foreign investments amid growing tensions with the United States, which has imposed significant tariffs on Chinese goods as part of an ongoing trade war.

Xi highlighted the country's focus on "high-quality development" while accelerating green, digital, and intelligent transformations. He emphasized China's strong industrial support capacity, which he believes will benefit foreign enterprises looking to tap into the growing Chinese market. "Foreign enterprises in China can develop their advantages and capabilities and gain an advantage in global competition," Xi said, signaling that China is open to foreign investment and innovation in sectors like technology and manufacturing.

PM Modi to Attend BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok, Followed by Sri Lanka Visit



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the 6th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) summit in Bangkok on April 3-4, 2025, as announced by the Ministry of Exter-

- Key focus on security, trade, investment, and connectivity.
- PM to visit Sri Lanka from April 4-6 for bilateral talks.
- Visit aligns with India's 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East' policies.

nal Affairs on Friday. This summit will be the first in-person meeting of BIMSTEC leaders post-pandemic and the first since the military coup in Myanmar on February 1, 2021, which has plunged the country into internal conflict.

The summit, hosted by Thailand, will see Prime Minister Modi's third visit to the country. BIMSTEC, comprising India, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, and Bhutan, is expected to discuss strategies to enhance cooperation in sectors like security, trade, investment, and connectivity. Discussions will also focus on institutional and capacity-building measures to strengthen regional collaboration within the BIMSTEC framework.

Following the Bangkok summit, PM Modi will travel to Sri Lanka for a state visit from April 4 to 6. During his visit, he will meet with top Sri Lankan leadership, including President Anura Kumara Dissanayaka, to review the progress made in areas of bilateral cooperation outlined in the joint vision for fostering

partnerships between the two nations.

The Prime Minister's visit to Thailand and Sri Lanka highlights India's commitment to its 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East' policies, along with the newly introduced 'MAHASAGAR' vision—Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions. This vision aims to strengthen India's ties with the Global South, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

PM Modi's agenda also includes a meeting with Thai Prime Minister on April 3 to discuss strengthening the partnership between India and Thailand, two maritime neighbors with shared cultural, linguistic, and religious ties. Additionally, during his Sri Lanka visit, the Prime Minister will inaugurate development projects funded by India in Anuradhapura, further reinforcing bilateral cooperation.

The tour underscores India's dedication to regional cooperation and its leadership role in fostering peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

7.7 Magnitude Earthquake Strikes Myanmar, Tremors Felt Across Southeast Asia

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck near the city of Sagaing, Myanmar, on Friday afternoon, causing widespread devastation and leaving at least 20 people dead, including 10 who died when a mosque collapsed in Mandalay during prayers. The earthquake's epicenter was approximately 260km from the capital Naypyidaw, where a 1000-bed hospital is feared to be a "mass casualty area," according to AFP. Though the number of fatalities at the hospital remains unconfirmed, scenes outside the building showed injured individuals receiving treatment on the streets, with family members offering comfort.

The quake also caused significant damage in other parts of Myanmar, including the destruction of residential buildings in Mandalay, the collapse of an old bridge over the Irrawaddy River, and the demolition of a monastery near the Thai border. In Mandalay, tremors led to further casualties, and reports suggest that more people may be trapped under the rubble.

The tremors were felt as far as northern Thailand, where buildings swayed, and metro services in Bangkok were temporarily suspended. Videos posted on social me-



dia showed people fleeing buildings in panic, and Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra declared a state of emergency in the capital. Additionally, in Bangkok's Chatuchak district, a 30-floor under-construction building collapsed, trapping 43 people. The building, intended for government offices, was reduced to rubble, and two deaths have been reported so far.

China's Yunnan province also felt the tremors, with the China Earthquake Networks

Center reporting a magnitude of 7.9. Mild tremors were also recorded in Kolkata, parts of Manipur, and Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Residents of Chiang Mai in Thailand recounted their experiences, with one person saying they had to flee their home in their pyjamas as the earthquake shook the city. The extensive damage and aftershocks have left authorities in Southeast Asia scrambling to assess the full extent of the destruction.

Bangladesh Welcomes Chinese Participation in Teesta River Project Signs Agreements During Yunus' China Visit

TPN Correspondent | NEW DELHI

Bangladesh has welcomed China's participation in the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project, marking a significant step in their growing bilateral relations. This development was announced during the ongoing visit of Chief Advisor Prof. Mohammed Yunus to China. The two countries also signed an agreement for the exchange of hydrological data on the Yarlung Zangbo-Jamuna (Brahmaputra) river, as part of a broader push to strengthen cooperation in various sectors.

In a joint statement issued at the end of the official discussions, both nations agreed to begin discussions for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) "at an early date," aiming to further bolster economic ties. The statement highlighted the commitment to promoting high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, fostering international collaboration on industrial and supply chains, and working toward modernization in both countries.

The two sides also reaffirmed their support for each other's core issues, with Bangla-



desh reiterating its support for China's "One China Policy," underscoring its position that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory. Prof. Yunus, who also participated in the Boao Forum annual meeting in Hainan, met President Xi Jinping in Beijing and held high-level discussions with Chinese traders

and investors.

Additionally, Bangladesh expressed appreciation for China's efforts in facilitating medical treatment for Bangladeshi citizens in the Yunnan province, reflecting the deepening people-to-people ties between the two nations.

On the economic front, Bangladesh welcomed Chinese companies to invest in the Mongla Port Facilities Modernisation and Expansion Project and confirmed its interest in further developing the Chinese Economic and Industrial Zone (CEIZ) in Chittagong. Both countries agreed to continue discussions on optimizing the China-Bangladesh Investment Agreement.

Looking to the future, the two countries resolved to deepen exchanges in culture, tourism, media, education, healthcare, and youth initiatives, marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Both sides also agreed to intensify cooperation in the blue economy and maritime sectors, including the establishment of a new round of Dialogue on Maritime Cooperation at an appropriate time.

Markets End in Red Amid Volatility; Nifty & Sensex Face Resistance

Domestic stock markets were in a tight spot today. They ended with moderate losses on Friday. They tested the patience of investors by rising and falling for a while. The indices, which started flat in the morning, reached their lows due to mixed signals from Trump tariffs, the US economy, inflation data and global markets. They recovered slightly in the afternoon and returned to their initial levels. European markets collapsed as soon as they opened. Nifty faced resistance at 23,600 and Sensex at 77,600 twice. FMCG, finance and bank shares gained.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 77,606 in the previous session, opened at 77,690 on Friday. It touched an intraday low at 77,185. It reached an intraday high at 77,766. It ended at 77,414, down 191 points. The NSE Nifty, which



opened at 23,600, touched a low of 23,450 and a high of 23,450. It closed

down 72 points at 23,519. The Nifty Bank fell 11 points to settle at 51,564.

In the Nifty50, 21 companies gained while 27 lost. FMCG and finance stocks gained. Media, IT, realty, auto, metal, pharma, commodities, PSU bank, consumption, health-care and energy stocks rose. Tata Consumer, Kotak Bank, Apollo Hospitals, ONGC and Tata Motors were the top gainers. Wipro, Indusind, Shriram Finance, Cipla, M&M were the biggest losers.

Market breadth on NSE today completely shifted in favour of sellers. Out of 2976 stocks traded, 1807 lost. 1099 gained. 36 shares touched 52-week highs and 312 shares touched 52-week lows. The upper circuit reached 98 and the lower circuit reached 132.

Analysts expect the RBI to cut the repo rate by 25 basis points in the April monetary policy meeting.

The Union Cabinet approved the manufacturing PLI scheme worth Rs 25,000 crore. The rupee strengthened by 32 paise to settle at 85.46 against the dollar today. KPI Green Engineering has received an order worth Rs 756 crore. IRCON gets letter of agreement from RVNL for Rs 872 crore project. HSBC gives buy rating to Glenmark Pharma with target price of Rs 1785. Goldman Sachs maintains buy rating on Reliance Industries at Rs 1640 crore. Asian Paints approves Rs 690 crore capital expenditure. SEBI approves Blackstone-backed Ask Group to start mutual fund business. Hudco is looking at raising Rs 65,000 crore through debt.



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SBI's C S Setty Elected Chairman of Indian Banks' Association



C S Setty, the Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI), was elected as the new chairman of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) on Friday. Setty's appointment was confirmed during the managing committee meeting of the association, and he will hold the position until the next Annual General Meeting (AGM), according to an official statement.

Alongside Setty, several prominent bankers were elected as deputy chairmen of the association. These include A Manimekhalai, Managing Director and CEO of Union Bank of India, Swarup Kumar Saha, Managing Director and CEO of Punjab and Sind Bank, and Madhav Nair, Country Head and CEO of Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait in India. These leaders will play a crucial role in steering

the association's strategic direction. In addition, B Ramesh Babu, Managing Director and CEO of private sector lender Karur Vyasya Bank, was appointed as the honorary secretary of the IBA. His role will involve managing the day-to-day operations of the association and supporting its initiatives.

The announcement comes shortly after the last AGM of the IBA, which was held earlier this month in Mumbai, the financial capital of India. The AGM was attended by M Nagaraju, the Secretary of the Department of Financial Services, underscoring the importance of the event in shaping the banking sector's future in India.

Setty's election as chairman marks a significant leadership change for the Indian Banks' Association, which represents major public and private sector banks. His extensive experience at SBI is expected to bring fresh perspectives and vision to the association. The appointment of new deputy chairmen and honorary secretary indicates the association's continued focus on strengthening leadership at the helm of India's banking industry.

This leadership transition will likely play a pivotal role in addressing key banking sector challenges and fostering collaboration among financial institutions in India.

Airtel Brings 2Africa Pearls Subsea Cable to India, Expanding Connectivity to Africa and Europe

Telecom giant Bharti Airtel has successfully brought the 2Africa Pearls subsea cable system to Indian shores, enhancing the country's connectivity with Africa, Europe, and West Asia. This strategic move marks a significant step in Airtel's ongoing efforts to expand and diversify its global network infrastructure.



The 2Africa Pearls cable is part of the larger 2Africa project, which, upon completion, will become the world's longest subsea cable system, stretching over 45,000 kilometers. This ambitious system will link Asia, Africa, and Europe through West Asia, providing robust international bandwidth and improving global connectivity.

According to Airtel, the 2Africa Pearls system will deliver over 100 terabits per second (tbps) of international

capacity to India. This boost in capacity will enhance the country's communication network, enabling faster and more reliable broadband services for users and businesses alike.

Sharat Sinha, Director and CEO of Airtel Business, expressed excitement about the new addition to Airtel's network, stating, "We are thrilled to bring the 2Africa Pearls cable to India, adding to our network resilience. We are aggressively

diversifying our global network and recently landed the SEA-WE-ME-6 cable in Chennai and Mumbai. We will continue investing in global cable systems to future-proof our network and deliver high uptime, reliability, and superior quality services to our customers."

Submarine cables are essential infrastructure that connect countries worldwide, facilitating broadband and communication services. With around 650 submarine cable systems globally, approximately 570 are operational, reflecting the crucial role these cables play in global connectivity.

This expansion is part of Airtel's broader strategy to strengthen its international network, ensuring high-quality services and enhanced connectivity between key global regions.

SEBI Proposes New Expiry Day Restrictions for Equity Derivatives Products



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed a significant change to the settlement schedule of equity derivatives products offered by stock exchanges. The regulatory body has suggested that the final settlement day or expiry day for these products be restricted to either Tuesday or Thursday. This proposal aims to provide greater predictability and stability for market participants regarding expiry days.

Currently, equity derivatives contracts such as futures and options

(F&O) have varying expiry days, which can often lead to uncertainties and market volatility. By limiting expiry days to just two specific days, SEBI intends to streamline the process, reducing the potential for market disruptions while enhancing transparency. This change will help market participants better plan their trading strategies, as they will know exactly when to expect the settlement of their derivative contracts.

The move follows concerns about the current system's complexity

and its impact on market liquidity. With multiple expiry dates across the week, traders and investors can sometimes face challenges in managing their portfolios and adjusting positions. A more standardized expiry schedule is expected to improve the efficiency of the equity derivatives market, making it easier for participants to engage in trading without the added uncertainty of fluctuating expiry days.

If implemented, this new restriction would bring Indian equity derivatives products in line with international markets, where more consistent expiry schedules are commonly followed. SEBI's initiative is also likely to enhance the attractiveness of Indian markets to foreign investors, offering a more predictable trading environment.

This proposal is currently under consultation, with SEBI seeking feedback from market participants and other stakeholders before finalizing the decision. If accepted, it could lead to significant changes in the way equity derivatives are traded in India, with potential benefits in terms of both market efficiency and participant confidence.

India's core sector growth slows to 2.9% in February

India's core infrastructure sectors, which contribute to about 40% of the country's industrial output, showed a slowdown in February 2025, growing by just 2.9%. This marks the slowest monthly growth in five months, compared to 7.1% growth in the same month the previous year.

The latest data, released by the Union commerce ministry on Friday, revealed that only three out of the eight core sectors experienced a rise in production, with cement and fertilizers standing out with higher output compared to the previous year. However, the overall output of these core sectors was weaker than the previous month, as five out of eight indicators, including coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery, and cement output, showed a decline.

In February, cement production grew by 10.5%, and fertilizers output rose by 10.2%, marking a positive year-on-year performance. However, cement production growth slowed down on a monthly basis. Coal output showed a modest rise of 1.7%, its slowest in six months, while refinery output increased by 0.8%. In contrast, the output of crude oil and

natural gas contracted by 5.2% and 6%, respectively. Steel production grew by 5.6%, and electricity output rose by 2.8%, both showing an improvement compared to January. On the other hand, the overall growth of the core sector has moderated, with a significant slowdown seen in coal, crude oil, and natural gas, which contributed to the decline.

This slowdown in core sector output comes as India's manufacturing sector also faced a dip, with manufacturing growth falling to a 14-month low in February, according to the HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). The moderation in core sector growth is likely to impact the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), with predictions suggesting a dip to 3-3.5% growth for February 2025, down from 5% in January.

As per Aditi Nayar, chief economist at Icria Ltd., the slower growth was partly due to the high base effect of the leap year. Despite this, the sluggish performance in key sectors raises concerns about the sustainability of India's industrial momentum in the coming months.



YouTube Tests Notification Reduction System



Google has announced that YouTube is testing a new system designed to reduce notifications from subscribed channels that users no longer watch frequently. This experiment aims to strike a balance between keeping users informed and preventing unwanted alerts without requiring them to unsubscribe. Currently, YouTube users can set notifications to “All,” ensuring they receive updates from their favorite channels via push notifications. However, this can become frustrating when users continue receiving alerts from channels they no longer engage with. The only existing solution is to unsubscribe, which can be tedious if the user follows many channels. The new system aims to resolve this issue by automatically limiting notifications from infrequently watched channels. YouTube’s New Notification System According to Google, this system will ensure that users who haven’t interacted with a channel recently will stop receiving push notifications from it. However,

these notifications will still be available in the YouTube app’s notification inbox. This change does not impact channels that upload infrequently or those with which users actively engage. Rather than adjusting notification settings for each channel individually or disabling all notifications at the app level, this experiment provides a middle ground. By limiting unwanted alerts, YouTube aims to enhance the user experience without affecting creators’ reach significantly. However, since this feature is still in the testing phase, only a small group of users currently has access to it. In addition to this notification experiment, YouTube recently introduced another test concerning monetization. Earlier this month, the platform began automatically submitting videos with a “Limited or no ads” rating for an additional review. This process ensures that even newly uploaded private videos undergo a monetization assessment, which may take up to 24 hours.

UK Man Finds Forgotten Lottery Ticket, Wins Over ₹10 Crore



Darren Burfitt, a 44-year-old greenkeeper from Swansea, recently discovered he had won £1 million (over ₹11 crore) in the lottery after checking an old ticket that had been sitting in his car for four months.

According to The Metro, Burfitt unknowingly held a winning ticket but had forgotten about it. He often stored his lottery tickets in the central console of his car for safekeeping but never got around to checking them. His unexpected windfall came when his four-year-old son asked for a snack. Instead of opening a new bag of crisps, Burfitt went to fetch an unfinished packet from the car. While doing so, he remembered the tickets and decided to

scan them using the National Lottery app. To his amazement, one of the tickets turned out to be a jackpot winner. He recalled hearing about a public appeal to find a missing lottery winner but never imagined it could be him.

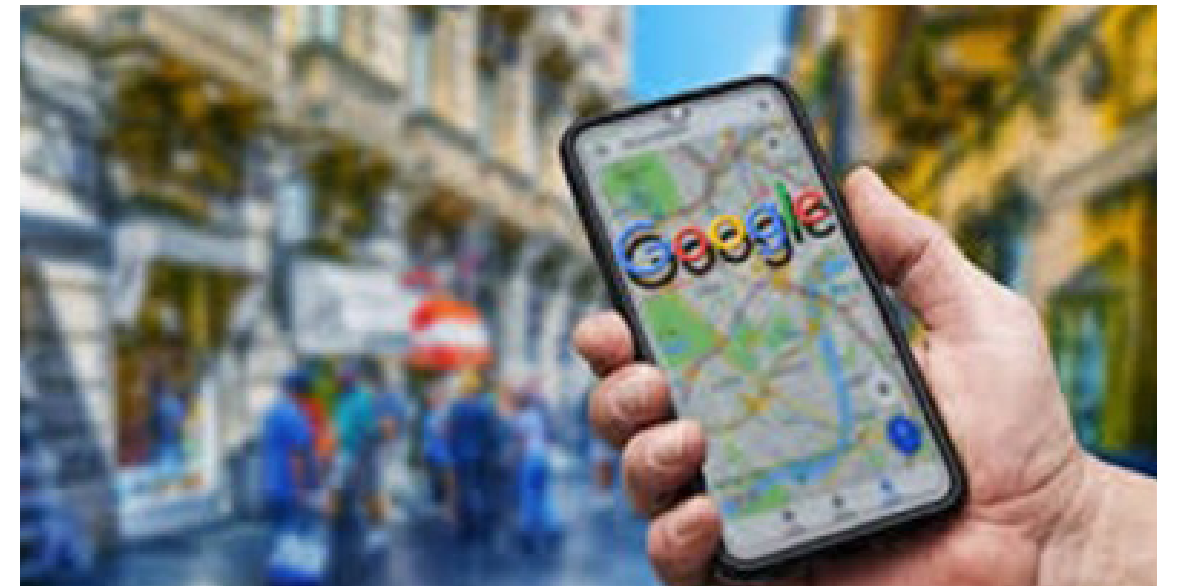
“When my son asked for a packet of crisps, I thought of the one in my car. I went out to get it and grabbed my National Lottery tickets at the same time. When I scanned them on the app, I was stunned,” Burfitt shared.

This stroke of luck turned an ordinary moment into a life-changing one. While it remains unclear how he plans to use his winnings, the fortunate find has undoubtedly changed his future.

Google Introduces New AI-Powered Travel Planning Features

Google has announced the rollout of several new features across its platforms to simplify travel planning. These updates, some powered by AI, will enhance Google Search, Maps, and Lens, making it easier for users to organize vacations. One of the key upgrades is the introduction of AI Overviews in Google Search, which will now provide trip ideas for cities, regions, and countries. Users can search for customized itineraries, such as “create an itinerary for Costa Rica with a focus on nature,” and receive AI-generated recommendations, photos, and user reviews. An expandable map feature will help users visualize their destinations, and trip details can be exported via Google Docs, Gmail, or saved in Maps. This feature is currently available in English in the US on mobile and desktop.

Google Maps is also receiving an upgrade that allows users to identify locations from screenshots stored on their devices. By adding these images to Maps, Gemini AI will recognize the places and highlight them on the map, enabling users to plan routes or explore nearby attractions. This update is rolling out to iOS users in the US, with Android support coming soon. Additionally, Google is introducing a hotel price-tracking feature. Users can activate a toggle below search filters to monitor price changes for hotels on their selected dates. If prices drop significantly, Google will send an automatic email alert. This feature is now available globally on mobile and desktop browsers. These updates aim to provide a seamless trip-planning experience by leveraging AI and enhancing user-friendly tools across Google’s ecosystem.



Ghibli AI Trend Takes Over Celebrities and Brands

OpenAI’s latest feature in ChatGPT-4, Image Generation, has sparked a massive trend on social media, allowing users to transform their photos into the enchanting animation style of Studio Ghibli films. People have been sharing adorable, wide-eyed selfies and creatively reimagining their pets, friends, and family in the signature style of Hayao Miyazaki’s beloved movies. The trend has now caught the attention of celebrities and brands. Renowned personalities like Sachin Tendulkar, Devendra Fadnavis, and Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma have shared their Ghibli-inspired portraits. Major brands such as Airbus and India Post

have also embraced the trend, showcasing unique and artistic adaptations of their visuals.

Karan Johar’s Dharma Productions took it a step further by recreating iconic characters from films like Kuch Kuch Hota Hai, Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani, OK Jaanu, Badrinath Ki Dulhania, Shershaah, and Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani in the whimsical Ghibli animation style.

With more celebrities and brands joining in, the Ghibli AI trend is proving to be a viral sensation, merging nostalgia with cutting-edge AI technology.



“Chaitra Navratri 2025: Kalash Sthapana Ritual”



Chaitra Navratri 2025 is set to begin on March 30 (Sunday) and will continue until April 7 (Monday), marking nine days of devotion to Goddess Durga. This Hindu festival is widely celebrated across India and by devotees around the world. The festival begins with Ghatasthapana, also known as Kalash Sthapana, a sacred ritual that symbolizes the invocation of divine energy. This ritual is considered one of the most significant aspects of Navratri, as it marks the establishment of a holy space dedicated to the goddess. Kalash Sthapana is performed with great devotion, signifying the presence of Goddess Durga and inviting her blessings for prosperity, health, and spiritual growth. Before performing the

ritual, the designated space is thoroughly cleaned and purified to ensure a sacred connection with the divine. Devotees believe that conducting this ritual with sincerity and faith brings positive energy and success throughout Navratri. Observing the Shubh Muhurat (auspicious time) for Kalash Sthapana is considered crucial for ensuring the ritual’s effectiveness. Priests and devotees follow specific guidelines to perform the ceremony correctly, ensuring that the divine energy is invoked in the most favorable manner. With the festival set to begin soon, temples and households across the country are preparing for the grand celebrations, filled with prayers, fasting, and devotion to Goddess Durga.

RCB Break 17-Year Jinx with 50-Run Victory Over CSK at MA Chidambaram Stadium



Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) secured a historic 50-run win over Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on Friday, breaking a 17-year jinx of never winning a match at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. This victory marked RCB's second-ever win at the venue, with their first coming back in the inaugural season of the IPL in 2008. Invited to bat first, RCB posted a competitive total of 196/7 in their 20 overs. Rajat Patidar was the star with the bat, scoring a well-crafted 51 runs off 32 balls. His knock anchored RCB's innings, and he was well-supported by Phil Salt (32 off 16) and Devdutt Padikkal (27 off 14),

who played vital cameos at the top. Tim David also contributed with a late flourish, scoring an explosive 22 not out off just 8 balls, which included three consecutive sixes in a single over, providing much-needed momentum for the team. For CSK, Noor Ahmad was the standout bowler, taking 3 wickets for 36 runs. Despite his efforts, CSK's bowlers struggled to contain RCB's batting onslaught, with the total being too high for them to chase down. Chasing a challenging total, CSK never really seemed in contention as RCB's bowlers kept up the pressure throughout the innings. Josh Hazlewood was exceptional, finishing with figures of

3/21, effectively dismantling CSK's top order. Yash Dayal and Liam Livingstone also made significant contributions, each picking up two wickets and further tightening the screws on CSK's chase. CSK's batting fell short despite a few individual contributions, and they were ultimately bowled out for 146 runs. RCB's disciplined bowling attack and well-timed batting proved too much for the home side, giving them a much-needed win at a venue where they had struggled for nearly two decades. This victory boosts RCB's confidence as they continue their IPL campaign, looking to push further in the tournament.

Alexandra Eala's Dream Run Ends at Miami Open, Jessica Pegula Advances to Final

Alexandra Eala's incredible run at the Miami Open came to a heartbreaking end on Thursday as she lost to American fourth seed Jessica Pegula in a thrilling three-set semi-final. After 2 hours and 24 minutes of intense play, Pegula emerged victorious with a 7-6 (7/3), 5-7, 6-3 win, securing her place in Saturday's final against world number one Aryna Sabalenka. Eala, ranked 140th in the world, had already made history by defeating three Grand Slam champions — Jelena Ostapenko, Madison Keys, and Iga Swiatek — to reach the semi-finals. The 19-year-old was the lowest-ranked player to make it this far in the tournament's history and was determined to continue her dream run against Pegula.

The match was a rollercoaster, with Pegula gaining the upper hand in the second set by breaking Eala's serve to go 3-1 up. However, Eala fought back fiercely, breaking Pegula three times in the set and eventually serving to level the match at 6-5. Despite the resilient fight, Eala's forehand faltered in the decider, allowing Pegula to break and serve out the match. After the match, Eala expressed her disappointment but remained positive, acknowledging the incredible week she had. "I gave everything I had, I'm half tape, I'm like a mummy. I did everything and I have no regrets," she said. She also reflected on the alignment of stars that had helped her achieve such a remarkable feat and set her sights on continuing her form.



FA Cup Quarter-Finals: Manchester City, Fulham, and Nottingham Forest Eye Historic Runs

As the FA Cup quarter-finals approach this weekend, Manchester City, Fulham, and Nottingham Forest are all looking to make their mark in the competition, each with their own unique challenges and aspirations. Bournemouth Pose Threat to Manchester City Manchester City, struggling in the Premier League this season, face a crucial clash against Bournemouth in the FA Cup, their last chance of silverware. The Sky Blues are still reeling from a surprising 2-1 defeat to the Cherries in November, which marked their first-ever loss to Bournemouth. Since that setback, Pep Guardiola's side has only won once in their last 11 games across all competitions, leaving them battling to secure a Champions League spot next season. A further loss to Bournemouth, who have never



reached the FA Cup semi-finals, would further tarnish what has been a difficult season for the

Premier League giants. Fulham Aim to End FA Cup Drought Fulham will host Crystal Palace on Saturday, hoping to end their 50-year wait for an FA Cup final appearance. The Cottagers have not made it to the final since 1975 and have not reached the semi-finals since 2002. After an impressive victory over holders Manchester United in the fifth round, Marco Silva's side will be looking to make a deep cup run, despite a recent 2-0 loss to Palace in the league. Palace, who have never won the FA Cup, could welcome back striker Jean-Philippe Mateta after recovering from a head injury sustained in a previous match. Nottingham Forest Without Chris Wood Nottingham Forest, in the midst of a dream season, are targeting a place in the FA Cup semi-

finals for the first time since 1991. However, they will be without star striker Chris Wood, who is sidelined due to a hip injury sustained on international duty with New Zealand. Forest, currently third in the Premier League, are pushing for a Champions League spot and hope to continue their cup run despite Wood's absence. Preston's Historic Ambitions Against Villa Preston, the only Championship team remaining in the FA Cup, will face Aston Villa with an eye on an upset. With two FA Cup wins in their history, Preston has not reached the semi-finals since 1964. Meanwhile, Villa, aiming to make their first semi-final appearance in 10 years, will look to build on their solid form this season, having already made it to the Champions League quarter-finals.

Jaismine Clinches Gold Trophy at Railways retain trophy

At the Elite Women's National Boxing Championships in Greater Noida, Commonwealth Games medallist Jaismine Lamboria and two-time Asian Champion Pooja Rani triumphed in contrasting fashion to secure gold medals. The Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) emerged as the overall champions, clinching the team trophy with nine medals, including five golds. Jaismine, representing the Services Sports Control Board (SSCB), maintained her dominance throughout the tournament, delivering a flawless performance in the featherweight final. From the first bell, the Paris Olympian

displayed a mix of relentless aggression and impeccable technique, overpowering Haryana's Priya. The Birmingham CWG bronze medallist's control over the match was undeniable, and she sealed a unanimous decision victory. Following her stellar performance, Jaismine was awarded the top performer prize, which included a ₹50,000 cash award. Reflecting on her victo-



ry, Jaismine expressed satisfaction with her improvement throughout the tournament. On the other hand, Pooja Rani faced a much tougher challenge in the 80kg final against Lalfakmawi Ralte of the All India Police. Despite a hard-fought contest, the Tokyo Olympian edged out Ralte with a 4-3 decision. Pooja, a former Asian Games medallist, claimed her ninth gold at the Na-

tional Championships. She shared her appreciation for the tough competition she faced and praised her ability to overcome the challenges posed by Ralte's power. Railways' strong performance in the tournament, with five golds and four bronze medals, ensured their place atop the team standings. Haryana followed closely in second with two golds, three silvers, and one bronze, while the Police team secured one gold, four silvers, and two bronzes. Services also had a perfect campaign, with Jaismine and Sakshi leading the charge, ensuring a 100 percent win record for their team.



Novak Djokovic showcased his rising form as he secured a 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) win over American Sebastian Korda in the quarterfinals of the Miami Open on Thursday, March 27, 2025. The match, which was rescheduled from Wednesday night, was a pivotal moment in Djokovic's campaign for his seventh Miami Open title and his 100th professional victory. The 37-year-old Serbian was in fine form, particularly in the second set, where he made an impressive comeback from a 4-1 and 5-2 deficit. Djokovic fought back with determination to win the tiebreaker, ending the match in one hour and 24 minutes. He served an ace on match point and posted an 83% first-serve percentage, a major factor in

his victory. Djokovic credited his serving as the key to his second-set resurgence, calling it his best serving performance in a long time. With this win, Djokovic advances to the semifinals, where he will face Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov. Djokovic holds a 12-1 record against Dimitrov, who reached the Miami Open final in 2024. Djokovic is aiming for his seventh title at this tournament, having won all six of his previous titles at the event's former venue, Key Biscayne. Meanwhile, in the women's draw, the upcoming final is set between third-seeded Jessica Pegula and top seed Aryna Sabalenka. The two are set for a rematch of the 2024 U.S. Open final, which was won by Sabalenka.



Swapna & Priyanka Dutt's Monumental Feat



The inaugural Women in Entertainment Power List by The Hollywood Reporter India highlights some of the most influential women reshaping the Indian entertainment industry. The March cover features five trailblazing women: the dynamic sister duo Swapna Dutt and Priyanka Dutt, alongside Zoya Akhtar, Alia Bhatt, and Nayanthara. In this special edition, they open up about their journeys, early struggles, and the challenges of balancing personal and professional boundaries while redefining excellence in showbiz.

Telugu producers Swapna Dutt and Priyanka Dutt have left an undeniable mark on the industry through their production houses, Swapna Cinema and Vyjayanthi Movies, delivering consistent blockbusters. Their inclusion in The Hollywood Reporter India is a historic achievement, as no Telugu filmmaker has previously received this recognition. Their success further solidifies the growing impact of women in Indian cinema, proving that talent and determination can break barriers and set new industry benchmarks.

Hrithik Roshan To Make Directorial Debut With Krrish 4



Bollywood superstar Hrithik Roshan is all set to step into the director's chair with the highly anticipated superhero film Krrish 4. The project was officially announced earlier today, marking a significant milestone in Hrithik's career. While it is yet to be confirmed whether he will reprise his iconic superhero role or introduce a new lead, fans are eagerly awaiting further details.

Hrithik began his journey in the industry as an assistant director on his father Rakesh Roshan's films Khudgarzi and Karan Arjun. Rakesh had previously helmed the Krrish franchise, including Koi Mil Gaya, Krrish, and Krrish 3. Now, Krrish 4 will be jointly produced by Rakesh Roshan and Bollywood's leading filmmaker Aditya Chopra under Yash Raj Films.

Announcing the news, Rakesh Roshan shared a heartfelt post on Instagram with Hrithik. "Duggu, 25 years ago I launched you as an actor, and today, along with Aditya Chopra, I launch you as a director for our most ambitious film, Krrish 4," he wrote. Hrithik's girlfriend, actor Saba Azad, reacted with heart emojis, celebrating his new journey.

Robinhood: A Thrilling Heist with a Social Message



Ram (Nithin), an orphan, grows up witnessing the hardships of fellow orphans suffering from hunger. Determined to help, he devises intelligent schemes to steal from the wealthy and distribute the money to the needy. Meanwhile, a ruthless villain (Devadatta Nage) sets out to

expand his international marijuana business and targets Rudrakonda village, known for its high-demand special variety of marijuana. Reena Vasudev (Sreeleela), the daughter of AV Pharma's Australian head, Abhinav Vasudev (Siju), visits Rudrakonda, setting off a series of in-

triguing events. How are Ram, the villain, and AV Pharma interconnected? Why does Ram accompany Reena? How does the international drug mafia kingpin David (David Warner) play a role in this conflict? The answers unfold on the big screen in this action-packed heist drama.

Kartik Aaryan & Sreeleela's BTS Sparks Excitement

Bollywood star Kartik Aaryan has shared an exclusive behind-the-scenes (BTS) glimpse from his upcoming untitled film, directed by Anurag Basu. This project is highly anticipated as it marks the Bollywood debut of South Indian actress Sreeleela. In the newly released image, Kartik is seen gazing at Sreeleela as they sit amidst a stunning tea garden, with his rugged new look—long hair and a thick beard—stealing the spotlight. Adding a hint of romance, Kartik holds two cups of tea, suggesting a heartfelt scene. The duo is currently filming in North Bengal's scenic tea gardens, with several BTS pictures surfacing online since Wednesday. One standout image features Kartik riding a bike with Sreeleela behind him, his bandaged hand hinting at intense action sequences.



Rakul Preet Singh Reveals She Rejected Puri Jagannadh's Offer

MAD Square – A Watchable Comedy Entertainer



MAD Square follows Laddu (Vishnu Oi), who ends up in Tihar Central Jail, striking fear among inmates. Curious about his past, they ask how he got there. Laddu reveals how his friends—Manoj (Ram Nithin), Ashok (Narne Nithin), and Damodhar (Sangeeth Sobhan)—turned his wedding into chaos, triggering unexpected events that landed him in jail. The film thrives on its humor, with

Sangeeth Sobhan, Narne Nithin, and Ram Nithin delivering energetic performances. Vishnu Oi shines, and Muralidhar Goud adds to the fun with his impeccable comedic timing. While comedy is the focus, some jokes feel forced, and the second half lacks the energy of the first. Sunil's character, Bhai, and supporting roles are underutilized. Despite minor flaws, MAD Square remains an enjoyable entertainer.

Actress Rakul Preet Singh recently shared insights about her film journey. She revealed that she entered modeling during college and had little knowledge of South Indian cinema. Her debut opportunity came from the Kannada film Gilli after her father spoke with the filmmakers. She fell in love with acting and decided to pursue it full-time. Rakul disclosed that after her debut, director Puri Ja-

gannadh offered her a film, requesting 70 days of her dates. However, due to her lack of industry awareness, she declined the offer and missed several good opportunities. Speaking about her marriage, she said she and Jacky Bhagnani shared similar values, leading to their union with family blessings. She also confirmed that marriage hasn't affected her acting career, as she continues to take on new projects.

