



Wishing you joy, prosperity and new beginnings this Ugadi!

Note: No newspaper on March 31 & April 1. Regular editions resume April 2.



TDP Will Exist As Long As There Are Telugu People - CM Naidu

- Chandrababu addresses 60,000 workers on TDP's 43rd Foundation Day
P4 program launched to support economically weaker sections
TDP's growth attributed to activists' sacrifices and struggles

TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu extended his best wishes to Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders and workers on the party's 43rd Foundation Day.

2 PAGE

India Launches 'Operation Brahma' to Assist Quake-Hit Myanmar

India delivers 15 tonnes of relief material to Myanmar

NDRF deploys 80-member rescue team to assist operations

Indian naval ships carrying 40 tonnes of humanitarian aid

PM Modi assures Myanmar of India's full support



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

As Myanmar grapples with widespread devastation caused by a massive 7.7 magnitude earthquake, India has swiftly responded with humanitarian aid and rescue efforts under 'Operation Brahma'.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in

a conversation with Myanmar's Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, conveyed India's deep condolences and reaffirmed support for the quake-hit nation.

Massive Relief Operations Underway India has deployed an 80-member strong National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) team to Myanmar's capital, Nay Pyi Taw, to aid search and rescue operations.

The Indian Air Force's C130J aircraft transported the first batch of relief supplies to Yangon, comprising tents, sleeping bags, blankets, ready-to-eat meals, water purifiers, solar lamps, generators, and essential medicines.

2 PAGE



New Tax Rates, UPI, and GST: Key Changes from April 1, 2025

OPINION



Vijay Slams DMK, BJP at TVK Meet

INDIA



Over 1,000 Dead, 2,376 Injured: Myanmar-Thailand Quakes Flatten Buildings

GLOBAL



TDP Has Initiated Many Revolutionary Changes - Dy CM Pawan Kalyan

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Jana Sena Chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan extended his heartfelt wishes to Telugu Desam Party (TDP) President and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, National Secretary Nara Lokesh, and the party cadre on the occasion of TDP's 43rd Foundation Day.

2 PAGE

"Welfare Leader NTR... Development Provider Chandrababu"

- Lokesh announces Red Book initiative for transparency and accountability
Mega DSC notification to be issued within 10 days
Thalliki Vandanam and Annadata Sukhibhav schemes to be launched in May



2 PAGE

Earthquake Death Toll in Myanmar Rises to 1,644



- Over 1,644 dead, 2,000+ seriously injured in Myanmar earthquake
Hundreds of buildings destroyed; many feared trapped under rubble
Authorities seek international aid as rescue operations continue

2 PAGE

TDP Has Initiated Many Revolutionary...

Continued from page 1

Leadership of Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR) in 1982, describing the party as a significant force in national politics that has consistently stood by the people. "On the occasion of its 43rd Foundation Day, I extend my greetings to Telugu Desam Party National President Chandrababu Naidu, National Secretary Nara Lokesh, State President Palla Srinivas, leaders, and activists. I hope that the party will continue to stand by the people with even greater commitment in the future," Pawan Kalyan tweeted.

His message reflects Jana Sena's solidarity with TDP as it continues its political journey, aiming to serve the people of Andhra Pradesh with dedication and commitment. Pawan Kalyan emphasized that TDP's achievements over the decades are a testament to its perseverance, vision, and unwavering support for the welfare of the people.

Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Extends Ugadi Greetings to Telugu People

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

AP Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan extended his warm greetings to the Telugu people on the occasion of Ugadi, celebrating the arrival of the Telugu New Year. In a statement, he described Ugadi as a festival reflecting the rich heritage, customs, culture, traditions, and arts of the Telugu people, which continue to keep the nation alive. Pawan Kalyan noted that this year's Ugadi is named after the Gandharva, Vishwvasu, and expressed his heartfelt wishes to all Telugu people.

"Life is a combination of hardships and joys. We consider our Ugadi celebration as proof of that. While the previous government's rule was difficult, now a good government that provides happiness to the people has come to the forefront of the people of AP. I sincerely hope that the Telugu lands of Sri Vishwvasu Nama Ugadi, which brought spring with the splendor of Chaitra, will



be kept green with riches," Pawan Kalyan stated. The Deputy CM's wishes conveyed

optimism and hope for prosperity and well-being for all Telugu-speaking people.



Former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu Calls for a Law to Ban Party Defections

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu made sharp remarks on current political practices, particularly condemning party defections and the trend of making empty promises for electoral gain. Speaking in Vijayawada, he criticized the loopholes in existing laws that allow political leaders to switch parties easily, comparing it to "drinking water."

Venkaiah Naidu stressed the need for a law to ban party defections, suggesting that leaders who change parties must resign from their positions. He argued that only stringent legislation could curb the rampant practice of party-hopping, which he described as a violation of democratic principles.

Expressing concern over the mindset of voters, Naidu lamented that people often prioritize caste, community, and temporary incentives over merit and integrity. He urged citizens to elect leaders based on character, caliber, capacity, and contacts, instead of being swayed by cash, caste, and freebies.

Highlighting the financial strain of elections, Naidu noted that politicians invest heavily during campaigns, leading them to prioritize recouping their expenditures once elected. He estimated that the expenditure for the 2024 general elections had reached ₹1.35 lakh crore.

Palla Srinivasa Rao's Strong Remarks on MLA Kolikapudi Issue

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The controversy surrounding MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao has stirred tensions within the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in the Thiruvur constituency. A large number of TDP workers from Thiruvur gathered at the Mangalagiri TDP central office on Saturday, voicing their support for TDP leader Ramesh Reddy and protesting against Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao. They raised slogans like "Down, down, Kolikapudi" and "No Kolikapudi for Thiruvur," highlighting the rift within the party.

TDP AP President Palla Srinivasa Rao met with key leaders from Thiruvur and addressed the gathering. Speaking to the media, he emphasized that the party's authority is supreme and warned that disciplinary action would be taken against anyone who crosses the party line. He assured the activists that their concerns would be brought to the attention of party chief Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Lokesh.

Palla Srinivasa Rao mentioned that allegations against MLA Kolikapudi made by Ramesh Reddy had not yet reached him and no formal complaint had been filed. He described the Thiruvur conflict as a minor internal dispute and expressed confidence that the issue would be resolved soon.

Mudragada's Daughter Kranthi Barlapudi Counters Varma's Allegations

TPN Correspondent | Pithapuram

Jana Sena leader Kranthi Barlapudi, daughter of YCP leader Mudragada Padmanabham, has made strong comments countering allegations that Pawan Kalyan is preventing SVNS Varma from securing an MLC post. The allegations emerged after Varma, who had withdrawn his candidacy from Pithapuram in favor of Pawan Kalyan before the last elections, expressed dissatisfaction over not receiving the promised MLC post.

In her remarks, Kranthi clarified that the MLC issue is solely between Varma and TDP, with Pawan Kalyan having no involvement. She questioned Varma's claims, suggesting that his frustration might stem from his own political strategies rather than any actions by the Jana Sena leader.

Kranthi alleged that Varma's actions are aiding the YSRCP, which is attempting to sow division within the alliance. She pointed out that Varma's interactions with YSRCP media have only fueled rumors of his possible defection to the ruling party. Emphasizing Pawan Kalyan's commitment to the TDP-Jana Sena-BJP alliance, Kranthi stated that Pawan Kalyan made sacrifices for the alliance's success and led the parties to remarkable victories.

TDP Will Exist As Long As...

Continued from page 1

Chandrababu announced that this year's Mahanadu would be held in Kadapa, following NTR's vision of supporting the poor. As part of this effort, he launched the P4 program aimed at uplifting marginalized sections by providing necessary assistance.

He noted that the party has achieved an extraordinary milestone of one crore memberships and is offering accident insurance of Rs. 5 lakhs for activists' families. Reaffirming his commitment to stand by party workers, he acknowledged their role in keeping the party strong despite various challenges.

"I will be indebted to the workers for the rest of my life. Strengthening the Telugu Desam means good things for the state," said Chandrababu Naidu.

Central Govt Assistance Needed for Green Energy Corridor: Minister Gottipati Ravikumar

TPN Correspondent | Lucknow

Minister Gottipati Ravikumar appealed to Union Minister of State for Renewable Energy Shripad Yashonayak to provide assistance for the Green Energy Corridor proposed by the Andhra Pradesh government. The appeal was made during a meeting of Energy Ministers from various states, chaired by Shripad Yashonayak, held in Lucknow on Saturday.

Minister Gottipati explained that the Andhra Pradesh power sector suffered severe damage under the previous YSRCP government, with a debt burden of ₹50,000 crore on DISCOMs. Subsidies due to DISCOMs were not paid on time, resulting in financial strain. He noted that the coalition government, after assuming power, had cleared ₹11,352 crore to revive the DISCOMs and allocated more than ₹13,000 crore for the power sector in this year's budget.

Gottipati urged the Central Government to provide financial assistance for the Green Energy Corridor and battery storage projects to facilitate uninterrupted power supply from Rayalaseema to Uttarandhra. Additionally, he requested a reduction in Inter-State Transmission (ISTN) charges, faster approval for renewable energy plants, and reforms to the AP ERC Act.

India Launches 'Operation...

Continued from page 1

Furthermore, 60 para-field ambulances are also being sent as part of India's emergency aid to Myanmar. Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the External Affairs Ministry, described India's response as that of a "First Responder", ensuring immediate assistance to the affected region.

High-Level Coordination and Ongoing Efforts

The relief materials at Yangon Airport were formally handed over to Chief Minister of Yangon U Soe Thein by India's Ambassador to Myanmar, Abhay Thakur. The In-

dian embassy in Myanmar has been actively coordinating the speedy delivery of relief supplies while also remaining in contact with the Indian community in Myanmar.

The NDRF team, led by Commandant P.K. Tiwary of the 8th NDRF battalion, will conduct search and rescue operations in accordance with International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) norms. The team is also equipped with trained rescue dogs to assist in locating survivors trapped under collapsed structures.

Rising Casualties and Indian Support

According to Myanmar's mili-

tary-led government, the death toll has risen to 1,644, with 2,376 people injured. Authorities caution that these numbers may increase as rescue operations continue.

Prime Minister Modi, while extending support to Myanmar, also expressed concern for neighboring Thailand, which was impacted by the quake. "India stands ready to offer all possible assistance," he stated, adding that authorities have been directed to remain on standby for further relief efforts. India's swift response through Operation Brahma highlights its commitment to humanitarian aid and regional cooperation, reaffirming its role as a trusted neighbor and first responder in times of crisis.

Earthquake Death Toll in Myanmar Rises to 1,644

TPN Correspondent | Myanmar

The powerful earthquake that struck Myanmar on Friday has led to a tragic death toll of at least 1,644, with more than 2,000 people suffering serious injuries. The natural disaster has caused widespread destruction across the country, with hundreds of buildings reduced to rubble.

Rescue operations are ongoing as emergency personnel and volunteers race against time to save those still trapped under collapsed structures. Reports suggest that several remote areas remain inaccessible, hindering rescue efforts and communication. Officials have expressed concerns that the death toll may continue to rise as search operations progress.

Authorities have made urgent appeals for international assistance to support rescue and relief efforts. The scale of devastation has overwhelmed local resources, with emergency response teams struggling to provide adequate medical care and shelter to the thousands affected.

Communication networks have been severely disrupted, further complicating rescue operations. The lack of connectivity is particularly impacting remote regions, where relief workers are finding it difficult to reach those in desperate need of aid.

The earthquake has left entire communities devastated, with many families losing their homes and loved ones. Relief organizations are working to provide food, water, medical aid, and temporary shelter to those affected. However, the extent of the damage is proving to be a significant challenge.

Officials have warned that the final toll could be much higher as many areas remain unaccounted for. As search and rescue teams continue their efforts, the international community is being urged to step forward with resources and assistance.

Myanmar's government has declared a state of emergency and is coordinating with humanitarian agencies to deliver relief supplies to the worst-hit regions. The scale of destruction has prompted comparisons to previous natural disasters in the region, with officials noting that the recovery process could take years. As the nation mourns the devastating loss of life, efforts are underway to restore infrastructure, provide medical care, and ensure that those affected receive the support they need.

"Welfare Leader NTR... Development Provider Chandrababu"

TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri

Minister Nara Lokesh delivered a powerful speech at NTR Bhavan, Mangalagiri, on the 43rd foundation day of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), celebrating the party's achievements and resilience. Lokesh praised the dedication of the cadre, describing TDP's formation as a sensation and its initial victory as a historic milestone.

Lokesh emphasized that whether creating records or breaking them, TDP has always been at the forefront. He credited NTR for introducing revolutionary welfare schemes like Rs. 2 kg rice, pucca houses, pensions, and property rights for women. He also highlighted Chandrababu Naidu's contributions to technological growth, infrastructure development, and reforms in telecom, IT, and digital payments.

Announcing a Mega DSC notification to be released within 10 days, Lokesh also declared that Thalliki Vandanam and Annadata Sukhibhav schemes would be implemented in May. He noted the successful distribution of one crore gas cylinders under the Deepam scheme.

Lokesh proudly stated that TDP's alliance achieved resounding success in the 2024 elections, reducing YSRCP's influence across eight joint districts and securing wins in graduate elections. He acknowledged the Yellow Army's dedication, achieving one crore memberships in just 83 days—an exceptional record for any regional party.

In a significant announcement, Lokesh introduced the 'Red Book' initiative aimed at promoting transparency and accountability within the party. The Red Book will document all activities, achievements, and areas needing improvement. Lokesh emphasized that this initiative reflects the party's commitment to maintaining high standards of governance and fulfilling its promises.

Thiruvur Workers Protest Against MLA Kolikapudi at TDP Headquarters

- Protest against MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao's conduct
- State President Palla Srinivasa Rao promises disciplinary action



TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri

Thiruvur TDP MLA Kolikapudi Srinivasa Rao has once again found himself at the center of controversy, as his conduct continues to draw criticism from party leaders and workers alike. Despite several warnings from the TDP high command in the past, his behavior remains a concern. The latest controversy erupted when Kolikapudi issued an ultimatum to the party leadership, threatening to resign from his MLA post if action was not taken against TDP leader Alavala Ramesh Reddy from the Thiruvur constituency. The high command reportedly took this demand seriously and began reviewing the matter. However, the situation escalated further on Saturday when a large number of Thiruvur TDP workers thronged the TDP central office in Mangalagiri,

voicing their displeasure against Kolikapudi's conduct. Raising slogans such as "We don't want Kolikapudi," the workers made their grievances clear. State TDP President Palla Srinivasa Rao, who was present at the office during the protest, promptly addressed the agitated workers. He held discussions with key leaders from Thiruvur and assured them that the party would take their concerns seriously. Palla Srinivasa Rao emphasized that the party line must not be crossed and that disciplinary action would be taken if necessary. He also assured the workers that their views would be brought to the attention of TDP National President N. Chandrababu Naidu and National General Secretary Nara Lokesh. The ongoing discord between Kolikapudi and party workers has raised concerns about internal discipline and unity within the party.

YSRCP's Margani Bharath Questions Nara Lokesh's Remarks on Pastor Praveen's Death

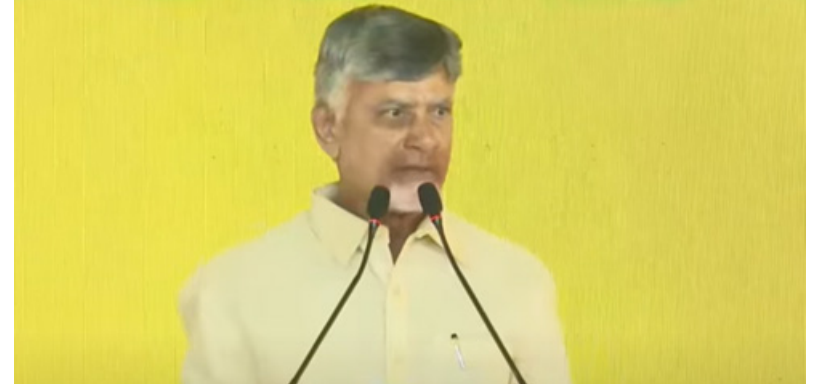
TPN Correspondent | Rajahmundry

During a media conference held in Rajahmundry, former YSRCP MP Margani Bharath criticized Minister Nara Lokesh for allegedly making premature comments regarding Pastor Praveen's death. Bharath questioned how Lokesh could declare the death an accident without waiting for the post-mortem report. "If Christian groups are declaring it a murder, why is there no investigation into it? We will soon reveal the evidence we have in the case related to the death of the pharmacist," Bharath stated.

He accused the Telugu Desam Alliance government of negligence and incompetence, especially concerning women's safety across the state. He alleged that the government has turned a blind eye to several atrocities against women, despite numerous reports and complaints. Bharath also claimed that the MLA in question owns wine shops and illegally permits rooms where alcohol is served, despite official restrictions. He alleged that sand extraction in the Godavari river is occurring without regulation, leading to dangerous conditions with deep holes and sluices causing boats to capsize.

Those Who Wanted to Do Away with TDP Have Merged with Time, Says CM Naidu

- TDP completes 43rd foundation day on March 29, 2025
- Celebrations held at Mangalagiri NTR Bhavan
- CM praises party's resilience, recalls NTR's legacy



TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri

Telugu Desam Party national chief and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu issued a special message to the TDP ranks on the occasion of the party's 43rd foundation day on March 29, 2025. Chandrababu attended the celebrations held at the TDP central office NTR Bhavan in Mangalagiri, alongside party leaders including Nara Lokesh, Palla Srinivasa Rao, Union Minister of State Pemmasani Chandrasekhar, and state Home Min-

ister Anitha. The leaders hoisted the party flag and paid floral tributes to the statue of NTR. Describing the TDP as the embodiment of a great man's vision, Chandrababu praised NTR for paving the way for the welfare of the poor through numerous revolutionary schemes. "We are all heirs of such a historic party... I am only the team leader," he clarified. Chandrababu remarked that many attempts were made to eliminate the TDP, but all those efforts have "merged in the womb of time." He stated that the party's

strength lies in its founding principles, and its golden age will always be remembered in history. Reflecting on the 2024 elections, Chandrababu highlighted the alliance formed between TDP, Janasena, and BJP to stabilize the state, resulting in a historic landslide victory with a strike rate of 93 percent. He acknowledged the unwaver-

ing dedication of party workers who faced adversities, including conspiracies aimed at financially harming leaders and the party itself. "Even after destroying properties, they did not fear anyone. We will remember the sacrifice of every worker. If the workers are alert, there will be no defeat for the Telugu Desam Party," he declared with emotion.

TDP Died with NTR's Death - Ambati Rambabu

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 re-

port to the high command soon, which will then decide on appropriate measures to resolve the disputes and improve the party's internal dynamics.

Former Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy Allegedly Goes Into Hiding Amid Illegal Mining Case

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Former Andhra Pradesh Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy is reportedly in hiding amid allegations of aiding illegal mining activities at Rustum Mines in Tativarthi. Sources suggest that Kakani went into hiding anticipating his arrest by the police. The police have already detained three individuals linked to the illegal mining case. With mounting pressure and the possibility of legal action, Kakani is believed to have taken evasive steps to avoid arrest. According to party insiders, Kakani met with party leaders and activists yesterday morn-

ing before allegedly disappearing. He reportedly mentioned receiving a call from a lawyer based in Vijayawada before leaving the area. The hearing on Kakani's bail petition, originally scheduled for on Saturday, has been postponed to Tuesday. Legal experts anticipate a crucial decision regarding his bail plea, which could determine his immediate political future. The incident has sparked widespread discussion within political circles, with speculation growing over Kakani's next move and the potential implications of the allegations on his career.



JC Prabhakar Reddy Warns YCP Leaders Over Illegal Construction

TPN Correspondent | Anantapur

Tadipatri Municipal Chairman and senior TDP leader JC Prabhakar Reddy has issued a stern warning to YCP leaders over alleged illegal constructions in Tadipatri. During a meeting held yesterday with Joint Collector (JC) Shivnarayana Sharma at the Anantapur Collectorate, Prabhakar Reddy lodged a complaint against the unauthorized construction activities in the area. He declared that he is providing a 15-day deadline for the demolition of the illegal structures, failing which he would proceed with their removal using JCBs. Speaking to the media, JC Prabhakar Reddy alleged that he was unlawfully arrested and imprisoned during the YSRCP regime despite being innocent. He vowed to pursue legal action against the irregularities committed by YSRCP leaders. Additionally, Prabhakar Reddy questioned how certain individuals could construct a house by encroaching upon four cents of municipal land without facing consequenc-

es. He also made comments on former minister Vidadala Rajini, stating that if wrongdoing is proven, imprisonment is not something to be feared. "If mistakes are made, you go to jail and come back... It doesn't matter. We have also been to jail in the past," he remarked, emphasizing his determination to combat injustice.



MLC Duvvada Srinivas Threatens AE Over Disconnection of Electricity

TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam

YCP leader and MLC Duvvada Srinivas has drawn criticism for his outburst against an electricity officer after the power supply to his house was disconnected due to unpaid bills. The incident occurred in Akkavaram, Tekkali mandal, Srikakulam district, where Duvvada's residence had accumulated arrears of Rs 56,692 over the last three months. Although payments for a connection in the name of D. Madhuri at the same residence were up to date, the connection regis-



tered under Duvvada's name had significant outstanding dues. As a result, electricity department staff disconnected the power supply on Thursday. Upon learning of the disconnection, Duvvada Srinivas called Tekkali Electricity De-

partment AE Muralimohan Rao and allegedly abused him over the phone. The audio recording of the conversation, in which the MLC issued threats and used obscene language, has since gone viral on social media. Duvvada reportedly

questioned the AE's authority to disconnect power to an MLC's house, warning him that he would ensure the officer was driven out of Tekkali. "How dare you disconnect power from an MLC's house? I will drag you to court and ruin your career," Duvvada allegedly threatened. Following the incident, AE Muralimohan Rao confirmed that the power connection was restored only after the MLC cleared the outstanding dues. The incident has sparked criticism over the MLC's conduct and raised concerns about abuse of power.

Minister Satyakumar Yadav leads DRC meeting for Swarnandhra

NTR Dist Aims for Leadership in Per Capita Income and GDP Growth Focus on Swarnandhra @ 2047 vision through innovation Emphasis on tourism, agriculture, industrial, service sector growth Collaboration aimed at achieving sustainable development goals

TPN Correspondent | NTR Dist
In-charge Minister Satyakumar Yadav led the second District Review Committee (DRC) meeting of NTR District on Saturday at Kondapalli Fort, Ibrahimpatnam mandal. The meeting, aligned with the Swarnandhra @ 2047 vision, aimed to boost tourism and hospitality sectors while fostering overall district development. The review began with discussions on the 113 issues raised at the previous meeting held on November 30, includ-

ing tenant farmer CCRC cards, MSP for chilli, and various irrigation projects. Special attention was given to the monkey menace and stray dog issues troubling agricultural and horticultural farmers in Vijayawada. Minister Satyakumar Yadav emphasized the need for cooperation among public representatives, officials, and citizens to enhance per capita income and GDP. He stated that NTR district's per capita income for 2024-25 was Rs. 3,53,150, with a target of Rs. 4,17,412 for

2025-26. The district currently ranks third in the state for per capita income. Highlighting tourism potential, the minister mentioned plans to introduce integrated tourism packages, including temple tourism circuits. The government is also working on developing MSME parks in each constituency to boost employment and economic growth. District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmi Sha added that tourism packages will be launched within ten days and empha-



sized the importance of the hospitality and tourism sector, which significantly contributes to the district's economy. Efforts are underway to further develop Kondapalli Fort with CSR funds, including a laser show to

attract tourists. Officials are also identifying 50 to 100 acres of land in each constituency for MSME parks, which are expected to be pivotal for the district's progress.

The Strength of the TDP Is It's Workers - MP Kesineni Chinni

MP Kesineni Sivanath honors 120 senior leaders and workers Focus on strengthening the party and eradicating poverty TDP praised for providing opportunities to weaker sections

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
The 43rd Foundation Day of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) was celebrated grandly at the Vijayawada Parliament Office, NTR Bhavan, in Guru Nanak Colony. Led by MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), the event featured the felicitation of approximately 120 senior leaders and activists who have served the party since its inception in Vijayawada. Chief guests included District Party President Nettem Raghuram, MLAs Bonda Umamaheswar Rao, Sriram Rajagopal (Uncle), and State Representative Nagul Meera. MP Kesineni Sivanath, along with other dignitaries, paid homage to the NTR statue and hoisted the party flag. Speaking at the event, MP Kesineni Sivanath highlighted the party's resilience and dedication to social welfare under the leadership of Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. He praised the unwavering commitment of party workers, acknowledging them as the party's true strength. Emphasizing TDP's vision of Swarnandhra



Pradesh 2047, Kesineni Sivanath stated that the party has consistently worked for the welfare of the poor and marginalized. He also appreciated the efforts of leaders from weaker sections who have risen to national prominence through the TDP. Other speakers, including Nettem Raghuram and Nagul Meera, reiterated the party's commitment to social justice and development, vowing to continue NTR's legacy of upliftment and progress.

Police Commissioner Hosts Iftar Feast for Police Personnel and Muslim Brothers

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
NTR District City Police Commissioner Sri S.V. Rajasekhhar Babu IPS hosted an Iftar feast for police personnel and Muslim brothers working under the NTR District Police Commissionerate at the A-Convection Center on March 29, 2025. The event aimed at fostering religious harmony and expressing gratitude towards the contributions of Muslim personnel in maintaining peace and security. Speaking at the gathering, Police Commissioner Rajasekhhar Babu emphasized the values of charity, devotion, and patience upheld during Ramadan. He acknowledged the significant role played by Muslim brothers in various departments, especially in promoting peace and security. Highlighting the uniqueness of India's religious tolerance, the Commissioner urged everyone to respect and support each other's faiths. He also encouraged Muslim brothers to progress in education and the economy while contributing actively to social development and harmony. The event witnessed participation from se-



nior police officials, including DCPs Smt. K.G.V. Saritha IPS, Sri Udayarani IPS, and Sri Krishna Murthy Naidu, along with ADCP Sri G. Ramakrishna, Inspectors, Sis, police personnel, Home Guard personnel, Muslim elders, and other dignitaries. Special prayers were held to mark the occasion of Ramadan.

60 Kg of Ganja Seized, Three Arrested in Krishna Dist

TPN Correspondent | Krishna Dist
Krishna District SP Sri R. Gangadhar Rao, IPS, revealed details of a significant ganja seizure at a press conference. Acting on reliable information, the Eagle Team, along with the Atkur Police Station staff, conducted vehicle checks at Pottipadu Tollgate on the evening of March 28, 2025. During the checks, a suspicious car was found carrying 60 kg of ganja packed in three bags. The operation, supervised by Mrs. G. Vimala Kumari, Tahsildar of Ungutur Mandal, resulted in the arrest of three individuals: Chantibabu (supplier), Santosh (receiver), and Bhaskar (transporter). The seized items include 60 kg of ganja, an ERTIGA car, and three smartphones. According to the investigation, Dalai Chantibabu, a repeat offender from Alluri Seetharamaraju district, had transported the ganja to Santosh, a native of Karnataka. Bhaskar, a Hyderabad resident, facilitated the transportation. It was discovered that Santosh had transferred ₹64,000 as an advance payment for the consignment. The operation was conducted under the supervision of Gannavaram SDPO Chalasani Srinivas, led by CI KVNN Satyanarayana, SI Suresh Chava, and a team of constables. SP R. Gangadhar Rao commended the Atkur Police Station team for their prompt and effective action. Further investigation is underway to identify and apprehend others involved in the illegal ganja trade.



MLA Sujana Chowdhury Distributes Ramadan Gifts, Pledges Support for Minorities

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Vijayawada West MLA Sujana Chowdhury, accompanied by coalition leaders, offered special prayers at the Syed Ghalib Shaheed Dargah in Bhavanipuram as part of the Ramzan festival celebrations. On this occasion, he distributed Ramadan gifts to locals and extended his wishes to the Muslim community. Highlighting the significance of the holy month of Ramzan, MLA Sujana Chowdhury noted that Muslims observe fasts with great devotion to commemorate the revelation of the Quran. He acknowledged the large Muslim population in the western constituency and assured them of full



support. The MLA pledged to improve the living standards of minorities by the next Ramzan and emphasized his commitment to making adequate arrangements for their special prayers and celebrations. He stated that plans are underway to enhance local



infrastructure and improve conditions beyond previous standards. Reiterating his support, MLA Sujana Chowdhury affirmed that the central and state governments would continue to stand by the Muslim community in all their endeavors.

Achieving 100% Tax Collection Target by March 31: District Panchayat Officer Dr. Aruna

TPN Correspondent | Krishna Dist
District Panchayat Officer Dr. J. Aruna emphasized the goal of achieving 100 percent tax arrears collection by March 31. She addressed a review meeting with 21 panchayat secretaries of Movva mandal at the Kuchipudi Gram Panchayat office under Pamaru constituency on Saturday. Dr. Aruna noted that house tax collection is progressing swiftly across 497 gram panchayats in the district. Out of the financial year's target of Rs. 84.65 crore, Rs. 61.44 crore has been collected so far. She credited the staff for their key role in the ongoing collection process and assured



that strong measures are being taken to reach the full target by March 31.

Highlighting the government's commitment to village development, Dr. Aruna mentioned

that substantial funds are being provided to gram panchayats every month to enhance infrastructure, greenery, and sanitation. She also stated that efforts are underway to ensure the availability of drinking water to every household.

Urging citizens to act responsibly, Dr. Aruna called on them to contribute to the financial security of the panchayats by promptly paying their taxes. Gudivada Division Panchayat Officer Sampath Kumari, OPRD Paramatma, Gram Panchayat Secretaries, and Secretariat staff participated in the program.

TDP Celebrates 43rd Anniversary in Visakhapatnam



-Gandhi Babji lauds NTR's legacy and welfare schemes
-ChandrababuNaiduleadingthestatewithNTR'sinspiration
-Lokesh praised for strengthening the party

TPN Correspondent
| Visakhapatnam

The 43rd anniversary of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) was celebrated at the Visakhapatnam party office under the leadership of APOILFED Chairman and Visakhapatnam District President Gandhi Babji. Party leaders, activists, and supporters gathered to pay tributes to the late NTR, ac-

knowledging his historic contributions to welfare and governance. Speaking on the occasion, Gandhi Babji described NTR as not just a leader, but a great power, whose welfare schemes continue to benefit people across the country. He credited CM Chandrababu Naidu for steering Andhra Pradesh toward development

and welfare, drawing inspiration from NTR's visionary leadership.

"NTR garu revolutionized governance by introducing landmark welfare schemes such as state power for BCs, equal property rights for women, abolition of the Patel Patwari system, ₹1/kg rice, Janata Vastra distribution, and pucca house construction," he said, adding that NTR remains an unforgettable leader in history.

Highlighting Minister Lokesh's leadership, Gandhi Babji said that as NTR's grandson, Lokesh has expanded the TDP's reach, achieving milestones that no other political party in the country has accomplished. The event saw participation from prominent leaders including Visakhapatnam MP Sri Bharat, Bhimili MLA Ganta Srinivasa Rao, Visakha East MLA Velagapudi Ramakrishna Babu, former MLC Duvvarapu Rama Rao, AP NTR Vaidya Seva Corporation Chairman Seethammaraju Sudhakar, along with corporators, ward presidents, and party activists.

MLA Arani Srinivasulu Leads Prajadarbar to Address Public Grievances



TPN Correspondent | Tirupati
A Prajadarbar program was organized in Tirupati on Saturday under the leadership of MLA Arani Srinivasulu to address and resolve public grievances. The initiative aims to provide a direct platform for citizens to voice their concerns and seek swift resolutions from government authorities. During the program, MLA Arani Srinivasulu, along with officials, received a large

number of petitions from the public. He stated that more than a hundred complaints were registered, covering various departments, including the Municipal Corporation, Revenue Department, TTD, Endowments Department, Police Department, and Irrigation Department. He assured the people that the coalition government is committed to resolving their problems efficiently.

MLA Arani emphasized that Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan are conducting similar public grievance programs like Janavani, alongside Prajadarbar, to ensure the government remains accessible to the people. He reiterated that the coalition government will work tirelessly to address the concerns of citizens without delay.

The event witnessed the participation of Corporation Deputy Commissioner Amariah, Deputy Tahsildar Ramachandraiah, SPDL AD Ramanjaneyulu, along with leaders of coalition parties, corporators, party activists, and a large number of citizens seeking resolutions to their issues.

TDP's 43rd Foundation Day Celebrated with Enthusiasm in Ramachandrapuram

Minister Vasamsetty Subhash hoists TDP flag

TPN Correspondent
| Ramachandrapuram

On the occasion of the 43rd foundation day of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), State Labour Minister Shri Vasamsetty Subhash hoisted the party flag at the TDP office in Ramachandrapuram. Minister Subhash extended his heartfelt wishes to party leaders, activists, and supporters, acknowledging the

growth and success of the party established by the late NTR. He praised the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu



Naidu, describing him as a visionary leader guiding the party towards national prominence.

The celebrations included cake-cutting by Shri Vasamsetty Satyam, with several senior party leaders present. Senior leaders were also felicitated on the occasion, recognizing their long-standing dedication and contributions to the party.

MLA Prashanti Reddy Asserts TDP's Commitment to Social Justice on 43rd Foundation Day



TPN Correspondent | Nellore
MLA Vemireddy Prashanti Reddy asserted that social justice can be achieved only through the TDP, emphasizing the party's dedication to development and welfare at the 43rd foundation day celebrations held at Padmavati Kalyana Mandapam, Buchireddy Palem, Nellore. She lauded late NTR for founding TDP to uphold the self-respect of Telugu people.

The event began with Prashanti Reddy hoisting the party flag at Marri Keda Center on Chenur Road. She honored veteran TDP workers Subba Reddy and Basheer for their 43 years of unwavering dedication.

Prashanti Reddy praised TDP's rapid ascent to power within nine months of its formation, crediting NTR for empowering marginalized communities. She highlighted welfare measures initiated by TDP, such as property rights for women, ₹2 per kilo rice, and pucca houses for the poor.

She commended CM Chandrababu Naidu for advancing these welfare efforts and promoting Telugu talent globally

through projects like Hyderabad's high-tech city. Minister Lokesh was also appreciated for his resilience and transformative initiatives like Yuvagalam.

Prashanti Reddy expressed gratitude to CM Naidu for his ₹2 crore contribution to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for the Kovur constituency. Assuring full support to party workers, she appreciated their dedication during previous elections.

Prominent leaders including TDP Rural and Urban Presidents, Municipal Chairperson, Vice Chairmen, and numerous activists attended the event.

The Dream of Rural Roads Becomes Reality: Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy

TPN Correspondent | Eluru

State Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy emphasized that the coalition government is fulfilling the long-awaited dream of better roads in rural areas. On Saturday, he performed the bhoomi puja and inaugurated CC road construction works worth ₹50 lakh in Agiripalli mandal of Nuziveedu constituency.

Addressing the gathering, the minister assured that he would uphold the trust of the people who elected him with a significant majority. He criticized the previous government for neglecting development and stated that under the current administration, infrastructure in villages is being prioritized. He highlighted that in Eluru district alone, ₹97.90 crore has been allocated for repairing potholes and improving 682 km of roads.

Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy reiterated the coalition govern-



- CC road works begin in Agiripalli mandal
- ₹97.90 crore sanctioned for road repairs in Eluru district
- Coalition government committed to rural development

ment's commitment to comprehensive rural development, ensuring better connectivity and accessibility for villagers.

Venkatagiri MLA Kurugondla Ramakrishna Leads TDP's 43rd Foundation Day Celebrations



TPN Ch. Sekhar | Venkatagiri

Venkatagiri MLA Kurugondla Ramakrishna organized the 43rd foundation day celebrations of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) on Saturday in Venkatagiri town, Tirupati district. The event commenced with the MLA paying tribute to the statue of party founder Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao (NTR) at the NTR Colony by laying a wreath.

Following the tribute, the party's founding flag was hoisted, a cake was cut, and the commemorative meeting was inaugurated. During his address, MLA Ramakrishna highlighted the establishment of the Telugu Desam Party and its monumental achievements.

He recalled that within nine months of its formation, in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly elections held in January 1983, the TDP achieved a historic and unprecedented victory by securing 202 out of 294 seats under the leadership of NTR. The landslide win, according to him, created a sensation in Indian politics and established the TDP as a formidable alternative to the Congress party's long-standing rule.

MLA Ramakrishna emphasized that the Telugu Desam Party remains the only hope for the Telugu people after the bifurcation of the state. He noted that since its inception, the TDP has contested 10 elections, forming the government on six occasions and serving as the opposition four times.

The party's city president, Sriramulu, and other leaders participated in the celebrations, pledging to continue the legacy of NTR and work towards the welfare of the people

Drones and CCTV Cameras Donated to Eluru Police for Surveillance

E Grovel Processor Pvt. Ltd. donates two drones, 100 CCTV cameras

TPN Correspondent | Eluru Dist

The management of E Grovel Processor Private Limited, based in Singarayapalem, Mudinepalli mandal, Eluru district, donated drones and CCTV cameras to the Eluru district police on Saturday to aid in surveillance and crime prevention.

Two drones worth ₹16.40 lakh and 100 CCTV cameras valued at ₹8.85 lakh were formally handed over to District Additional SP Nakka Suryachandra Rao at the district police headquarters in Eluru. The industry's board of directors, Chintapalli Sudheer and Potlur Srinivas, presented the equipment as part of their corporate social responsibility initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, the donors expressed their commitment to supporting law enforcement through technological advancements. Additional SP Suryachandra Rao welcomed the contribution, stating that the advanced surveillance equipment would significantly strengthen the district police force. He emphasized that the CCTV cameras and drones would enhance crime detection, prevention, and overall public safety.

"The support provided by Grovel Process Private Limited will be of great help to the police department," he added.

The event was attended by representatives of Grovel Processors Private Limited, including H.R. Pratima, General Manager Siddhi Lingeshwar, Finance Manager P. Srinivas, and other company officials. S.B. Inspector Malleswara Rao, IT Core R.S.I. Narendra, and police officers were also present at the program.



WG Dist Turns Invasive Water Hyacinth into Fertilizer Under Collector Nagarani's Leadership

TPN Correspondent

| West Godavari

Under the leadership of West Godavari District Collector Chadalawada Nagarani, a novel initiative has been launched to convert invasive water hyacinth into enriched compost. The effort targets ecological and economic issues caused by the weed, such as irrigation blockages, water contamination, and reduced agricultural productivity.

During a collectors' conference, Collector Nagarani emphasized the benefits of converting water hyacinth into fertilizer, promoting it as a sustainable waste management practice. This approach is expected to enhance agricultural productivity while addressing envi-

ronmental challenges.

The composting process involves chopping water hyacinth, mixing it with cow dung in a 2:1 ratio, and applying microbial culture to boost decomposition. The compost matures in about eight weeks, providing nutrient-rich fertilizer with high nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and essential micronutrients.

Pilot projects involving SHG women are underway in Sidhapuram village, Gollavanithippa, and KVK Undi. The initiative aims to produce five metric tons of compost annually, offering a profitable model for sustainable growth.

Collector Nagarani's leader-



ship aims to boost per capita income to ₹3.50 lakh and expand aquaculture from 1.33 lakh acres to 1.50 lakh acres, while also enhancing veterinary hospital facilities across the district. Her efforts are setting a benchmark for effective waste management and rural development.

New Tax Rates, UPI, and GST: Key Changes from April 1, 2025

- New tax slabs with higher exemptions take effect
- Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) to benefit 23 lakh employees
- Stricter UPI security measures to prevent fraud
- GST updates include mandatory multi-factor authentication

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

Starting April 1, 2025, several financial and regulatory changes will come into effect, impacting taxpayers, digital payment users, and businesses. These changes include revised income tax slabs, the implementation of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), updated Unified Payments Interface (UPI) security guidelines, and new Goods and Services Tax (GST) regulations.

Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)

The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), introduced in August 2024, will be implemented from April 1, 2025. This scheme aims to provide financial security to over 23 lakh central government employees. Under UPS, employees with at least 25 years of service will receive a pension equivalent to 50% of their last 12 months' average basic salary.

UPI Security Measures

To enhance security and efficiency in digital transactions, the National

New Income Tax Slabs and Exemptions

Following the Union Budget 2025, the revised tax slabs announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will be enforced. The new structure provides tax exemptions for individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh per year. Additionally, salaried individuals will receive a standard deduction of ₹75,000, effectively making those earning up to ₹12.75 lakh tax-free.

Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has mandated new measures for banks and third-party UPI service providers such as PhonePe, Google Pay, and Paytm. Inactive UPI-linked mobile numbers will be phased out automatically. Banks must update their databases using the Mobile Number Revocation List (MNRL) and Digital Intelligence Platform (DIP) on a weekly basis. Users with inactive numbers must update their details before April 1, 2025, to avoid losing UPI access.



Revised Income Tax Slabs:

Income Range	New Tax Rate
₹0 - ₹4 lakh	No tax
₹4 lakh - ₹8 lakh	5%
₹8 lakh - ₹12 lakh	10%
₹12 lakh - ₹16 lakh	15%
₹16 lakh - ₹20 lakh	20%
₹20 lakh - ₹24 lakh	25%
Above ₹24 lakh	30%

GST Updates for the New Financial Year

The GST regime will also undergo significant changes, improving security and compliance. Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) will become mandatory for all taxpayers accessing the GST portal. E-Way Bills (EWBs) can only be generated for base documents not older than 180 days. GSTR-7 filers (for tax deductions at source) must file returns in sequence and cannot skip months. Promoters and directors must now undergo biometric authentication at a GST Suvidha Kendra. These updates aim to enhance security, prevent tax evasion, and streamline compliance for businesses and taxpayers alike. With these changes coming into effect, individuals and businesses are advised to stay informed and update their financial details accordingly to ensure a smooth transition into the new financial year.

Delimitation Debate

A Necessary Reform for Balanced Representation

THE POINT DESK

The delimitation exercise, aimed at re-drawing the parliamentary and assembly constituencies based on population shifts, has been in a state of suspension for five decades. Initially deferred in 1975 and again in 2000, its postponement has been largely attributed to the need for stabilizing population growth. However, with India's demographic landscape evolving significantly since then, the time has come to reconsider the freeze and move towards a fair and updated electoral representation system.

Recently, a coalition of southern and regional leaders voiced their opposition to the upcoming 2026 delimitation process, arguing that it would unfairly reduce their representation in Parliament. The meeting in Chennai, convened by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and attended by leaders from Telangana, Kerala, Punjab, Karnataka, and Odisha, highlighted concerns that states with better population control measures would be penalized under a new seat allocation formula. However, the issue goes beyond a simplistic North vs. South debate.

The Need for a Balanced Approach

At the heart of this discussion is a fundamental democratic principle: representation should be proportional to population. The purpose of delimitation is to ensure that every Indian citizen has equal political weight, preventing distortions where some constituencies have vastly different population sizes. While the concerns of southern states are valid—particularly in terms of their economic contributions and progress in social indicators—delimitation should not be viewed as a punishment but as a course correction to reflect demographic realities. Population shifts over the decades have led to an imbalance in representation, with some states having fewer MPs per voter compared to others. Ignoring this would only widen the democratic deficit.

Furthermore, the argument that delimitation would reduce the influence of progressive states overlooks the fact that economic weight and development parameters can also be factored into the process. The Centre must work on a multi-pronged approach where both population figures and state development indicators are considered in the seat allocation formula.



Why Delimitation Should Proceed Without Further Delay

1. Reflecting Demographic Reality: India's population dynamics have shifted considerably since the last delimitation. Some states have experienced higher growth, while others have stabilized. Electoral representation should reflect these changes.
2. Enhancing Electoral Fairness: A voter in a less populated state should not have disproportionately greater influence than a voter in a high-population state. This imbalance needs rectification for a true representative democracy.
3. Strengthening Federalism: Contrary to fears that delimitation would harm federalism, an inclusive and transparent approach can strengthen India's unity. The process should be handled with consultations to address the concerns of all stakeholders.
4. Addressing Governance Challenges: A more balanced distribution of seats can ensure better policy-making and governance, particularly in regions experiencing high population growth. More representation means better outreach, policy implementation, and resource allocation.

Constructive Solutions for Addressing Concerns

While delimitation is essential, the concerns of southern and smaller states should not be ignored. Several viable alternatives could mitigate the impact while upholding democratic fairness:

1. Weighted Representation: Seats could be allocated not just on population but also based on states' fiscal contribution and development indicators. This would reward states that have managed population growth effectively.
2. Strengthening the Rajya Sabha: Increasing the Rajya Sabha's strength and ensuring proportional representation there could offset concerns of parliamentary imbalance. This would allow regional voices to

remain influential even if Lok Sabha seat distribution changes.

3. Expanding Total Parliamentary Seats: Instead of merely redistributing seats among states, India could increase the total number of seats in the Lok Sabha to ensure all states see some level of gain rather than loss. This would be in line with global democracies that have adjusted their legislative strengths over time.

Unilateral Opposition Won't Help, Dialogue Will
Some opposition leaders have framed the delimitation debate as an attempt to marginalize southern states, but such a narrative is over-simplistic and counterproductive. The reality is that fair representation benefits all citizens, and a transparent, consultative approach can ensure that no state feels disadvantaged. Moreover, accusations that the BJP-led NDA government is using delimitation for political gains overlook the fact that delimitation was originally frozen under previous governments. Any attempt to block the process further risks undermining democracy and delaying much-needed reforms. Instead of outright opposition, southern leaders should push for a negotiated framework that ensures their concerns are addressed while also respecting the core principles of democratic representation. Delimitation is an unavoidable necessity in a dynamic democracy like India. While there are concerns that need to be thoughtfully addressed, the larger goal should be to uphold electoral fairness and ensure every voter's voice carries equal weight. A transparent, data-driven approach with stakeholder engagement can make the delimitation exercise an opportunity for strengthening democracy rather than a cause for division. The Centre must take the lead in fostering dialogue and building a consensus-driven solution. Any further delay in delimitation will only deepen existing electoral imbalances, making India's democracy less representative over time. A strong, forward-looking decision is needed—one that embraces change while ensuring fairness for all states.



Elon Musk's X-xAI Merger

Elon Musk's recent decision to merge X (formerly Twitter) with his artificial intelligence company, xAI, in a \$33 billion all-stock deal has sparked intense debate. The move raises X's valuation to \$45 billion and aligns it with Musk's vision of an AI-driven future. But beyond financial restructuring, the real question is: how does this benefit users?

The Logic Behind the Deal

Musk has made it clear that he sees the future of social media and artificial intelligence as deeply connected. By integrating xAI's advanced models with X's massive user base of over 600 million, Musk aims to transform the platform into something beyond just a digital town square. He stated that this merger would "unlock immense potential by blending xAI's advanced AI capability and expertise with X's massive reach."

Musk's AI ambitions are not new. xAI, founded in 2022, has already positioned itself as a serious competitor in the AI space, developing sophisticated models and high-speed data centers. X, on the other hand, has undergone drastic changes since Musk's \$44 billion acquisition, including workforce reductions, rebranding, and feature revamps. This merger is expected to streamline operations, making X more efficient and AI-driven.

How Users Will Benefit

Musk has long spoken about turning X into an "everything app," and this merger could be a crucial step in that direction. Users can expect several AI-powered enhancements:

Smarter Content Curation: AI-generated content recommendations will refine user feeds, making engagement more personalized and relevant.

Improved Moderation: AI-driven tools could help tackle misinformation and harmful content, ensuring a safer platform.

Integration with Grok: xAI's chatbot, Grok, is set to enhance user interactions, offering AI-powered assistance and real-time engagement.

Expanded Services: The "everything app" concept suggests future integrations like AI-driven commerce, payments, and real-time translations.

However, not everyone is optimistic. Experts warn that increased AI integration could lead to privacy concerns, with vast amounts of user data being analyzed to train AI models. Additionally, Musk did not seek investor approval before the merger, raising questions about corporate governance.

Despite the concerns, Musk remains confident that this transformation will push X to the next level. As CEO Linda Yaccarino put it, "The future could not be brighter." If executed well, this merger could redefine social media, making X the first truly AI-powered global platform.

India Sends Urgent Aid to Quake-Hit Myanmar

- India sends 15-tonne aid
- IAF aircraft delivers supplies
- Quake kills 144 in Myanmar
- Relief includes food, medicine



India is sending approximately 15 tonnes of relief materials to Myanmar, which was severely affected by a devastating earthquake that struck on Friday. The powerful quake caused widespread destruction, toppling buildings, bridges, and even a monastery in Myanmar, while neighboring Thailand also reported significant damage. In response, India has swiftly organized humanitarian aid, which will be transported via a C-130J military aircraft of the Indian Air Force. The aircraft is scheduled to depart from the Hindon Air Force Station on Saturday, carrying essential supplies to assist those in distress. The relief package includes a range of

emergency provisions such as tents, sleeping bags, blankets, ready-to-eat meals, water purifiers, solar lamps, generator sets, and much-needed medicines. These supplies are expected to provide immediate support to survivors who have lost their homes and access to basic necessities due to the disaster. The earthquake has left at least 144 people dead in Myanmar, with countless others injured and displaced. In Thailand, the tremors led to the collapse of a high-rise under construction in Bangkok, resulting in at least 10 fatalities. Videos and images from Myanmar's hardest-hit regions depict widespread devastation, with rubble lining the streets and critical infrastruc-

ture reduced to ruins. India's rapid response reflects its strong ties with Myanmar and its longstanding commitment to humanitarian aid in times of crisis. As a neighboring country, India has frequently extended support to Myanmar, particularly during natural disasters, reinforcing its role as a dependable ally in the region. Officials have indicated that if the situation demands, India is prepared to send additional assistance to help Myanmar in its recovery efforts.

Meanwhile, international organizations and neighboring countries have also begun mobilizing resources to aid Myanmar in coping with the aftermath of the earthquake. Rescue and relief operations are underway, with efforts focused on locating survivors, clearing debris, and restoring essential services. With thousands left without shelter, immediate assistance is crucial in preventing further casualties and alleviating suffering. India's timely intervention is expected to bring much-needed relief to those affected, ensuring that displaced families receive food, medical care, and temporary shelter. The Indian government has reaffirmed its commitment to standing by Myanmar during this challenging period, pledging to provide continued support as the country works to recover from the devastating impact of the disaster.

ISRO Successfully Tests Semicryogenic Engine for LVM3

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved a major milestone in its semicryogenic engine development program with the successful hot test of the Engine Power Head Test Article (PHTA) on March 28. The test was conducted at ISRO's Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu, marking a significant breakthrough in the design and development of the Liquid Oxygen/Kerosene engine with a high thrust of 2,000 kN (kilonewtons). This engine will power the semicryogenic booster stage of the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3), enhancing its payload capacity and performance.

The test was crucial in validating the integrated performance of key subsystems, including the pre-burner, turbo pumps, start system, and control components, by carrying out a short-duration hot-firing of 2.5 seconds. ISRO confirmed that the ignition and boost strap mode operation proceeded as expected, with all engine parameters meeting predictions. This success paves the way for a series of further tests on the PHTA to fine-tune and optimize the engine's performance before fully integrating it. The Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) is responsible for developing the semicryogenic propulsion engine and stage (SCI20), which will replace the existing L110 liquid core stage of LVM3. This transition will significantly enhance payload capacity, increasing it from 4 tonnes to 5 tonnes in Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

The semicryogenic propulsion system employs non-toxic and non-hazardous propellants—Liquid Oxygen and Kerosene—offering higher performance than the current L110 stage. The SE-2000 engine consists of critical subsystems, including the thrust chamber, pre-burner, turbo pump system, control components, and start-up system. These components, made of specialized materials to withstand high-temperature oxidizer-rich combustion, have been developed in collaboration with the Indian industry. Given the complexities involved, only a few nations possess this advanced technology.

To test and qualify the semicryogenic engine and stage, ISRO has developed the state-of-the-art Semicryogenic Integrated Engine Test facility (SIET) at its Propulsion Research Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri. This facility, dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February 2024, plays a crucial role in ISRO's future launch vehicle development. Before conducting integrated engine-level hot tests, ISRO is evaluating intermediate configurations like the Power Head Test Article (PHTA), which includes all engine systems except the thrust chamber. The test on March 28 was the first in a planned series aimed at validating the propellant feed system, turbo pumps, pre-burner, start system, and control components. ISRO has meticulously tested all subsystems before integrating them into the PHTA. The ignition sequence for the PHTA was derived from multiple single-element hot tests. Additionally, a Pre-burner Ignition Test Article (PITA) was developed to ensure smooth ignition, consisting of a pre-burner, feed systems, start systems, and related control components. A series of successful tests with the PITA led to the derivation of an optimal start sequence for the power head test article. With this crucial milestone, ISRO is now preparing for further tests to refine the engine's design, bringing India one step closer to the operational deployment of this advanced technology.



Vijay Slams DMK, BJP at TVK Meet

Actor and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay held his party's first general council meeting on Friday, where he launched a sharp attack on both the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government and the BJP-led central government. Accusing them of having a secret understanding, Vijay called both parties fascists and alleged that while the DMK openly allies with the Congress for votes, it maintains a covert alliance with the BJP for financial benefits. He referred to the BJP as the "secret owner" of the DMK, criticizing their governance tactics. Addressing key national issues, Vijay opposed the delimitation exercise based on population, Hindi imposition, and the distribution of central funds, targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies. He warned the central government, emphasizing Tamil Nadu's history of resistance and asserting that the state has demonstrated its power multiple times. Vijay also took a strong stance against the proposed Waqf Bill and urged the Union government to withdraw it, aligning with a resolution recently passed by the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly. During the meeting, TVK passed 17 resolutions outlining its official stance on various issues, setting the stage for its political journey.

CBI Rules Out Gang Rape in R.G. Kar Case

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which has been investigating the rape and murder of an on-duty doctor at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, informed the Calcutta High Court on March 28, 2025, that the incident was not a case of gang rape. The revelation came during a hearing before Justice Tirthankar Ghosh, where CBI Deputy Solicitor General Rajdeep Majumder stated that after thorough investigations and expert medical opinions, the agency has ruled out the possibility of gang rape in the August 9, 2024, incident. However, the CBI remains committed to probing other crucial aspects of the case, including potential conspiracy, cover-up efforts, and the destruction of evidence. The case, which has garnered wide-

spread attention, saw a major legal development earlier this year. On January 18, the Additional District and Sessions Court in Sealdah convicted Sanjay Roy, a former civic police volunteer, for the rape and murder of the doctor. Two days later, on January 20, he was sentenced to life imprisonment. Despite this conviction, the victim's parents have continued to demand further investigation into the case, prompting the ongoing hearings. Meanwhile, the incident has sparked protests from the medical community, with doctors and nurses organizing marches demanding justice for the victim. On March 24, 2025, healthcare professionals took to the streets in Kolkata's Salt Lake area, demonstrating their outrage and calling for transparency



in the investigation. While the CBI's latest findings have ruled out gang rape, the agency's continued focus on conspiracy and evidence tampering

suggests that more revelations may emerge. The case remains a subject of intense public scrutiny, with calls for justice growing stronger.

India Assists Myanmar with 'Operation Brahma'



India has launched 'Operation Brahma' to provide humanitarian aid to Myanmar following the devastating 7.7-magnitude earthquake that has claimed over 1,000 lives. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed that no casualties have been reported among the Indian community in Myanmar. Addressing a press conference on Saturday, MEA

Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had conveyed his condolences and assured Myanmar of India's full support in relief efforts. Modi spoke with Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the head of Myanmar's military-led government, reaffirming India's solidarity in this time of crisis. The Prime Minister also took to

social media to emphasize India's commitment to aiding Myanmar through relief and rescue operations. Highlighting India's immediate response, Jaiswal announced the launch of 'Operation Brahma', explaining that the name signifies creation and India's role in helping Myanmar rebuild after the devastation. The first relief aircraft, carry-

ing 15 tonnes of essential supplies, including tents, sleeping bags, blankets, ready-to-eat meals, water purifiers, solar lamps, generator sets, and medicines, took off from Hindon Air Force Base at 3 am and landed in Yangon by 8 am IST. India's Ambassador to Myanmar personally received the consignment before handing it over to the Chief Minister of Yangon. Following this, two more aircraft were dispatched, carrying search and rescue personnel, specialized equipment, and trained canines to assist in operations. Additionally, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar confirmed that a 118-member Indian Army Field Hospital unit is on its way from Agra to Mandalay. This team will provide first aid and emergency medical services to those affected by the disaster. India's swift response aligns with its 'First Responder' policy, reinforcing its commitment to assisting neighboring countries in times of crisis. The ongoing rescue efforts and relief supplies underscore India's dedication to regional cooperation and humanitarian assistance.



"We Will Be Helping": Trump After Myanmar Hit By Huge Earthquake

TPN Correspondent | Washington

President Donald Trump expressed his support for Myanmar following a massive earthquake that struck the Southeast Asian nation on Friday, pledging U.S. assistance. The 7.7-magnitude earthquake, which also affected neighboring Thailand, resulted in over 150 fatalities and left hundreds more injured.

Speaking from the Oval Office, Trump called the earthquake "terrible," emphasizing the severity of the disaster. He confirmed that the United States had already been in contact with Myanmar's military rulers. "It's a real bad one, and we will be helping," Trump said in response to questions about the country's appeal for international aid.

Myanmar's ruling military junta, led by General Min Aung Hlaing, had earlier publicly invited "any country, any organization" to provide assistance for the disaster. The military regime has been grappling with the aftermath of a brutal civil conflict that began after their 2021 coup, which ousted the democratically elected government. The ongoing civil war has severely impacted Myanmar's infrastructure, including healthcare services, leaving the nation ill-equipped to handle such a large-scale natural disaster.

The earthquake's toll has placed further strain on the country, already facing dire humanitarian challenges. Myanmar's rulers have sought aid from global powers and organizations to help with relief efforts.

Despite the U.S. government's long-standing criticism of Myanmar's military regime, particularly regarding its violent suppression of opposition and political prisoners, the U.S. has pledged to assist in the aftermath of the disaster. This aid commitment comes as Myanmar deepens its ties with Russia. General Min Aung Hlaing recently visited Moscow to meet President Vladimir Putin, discussing a potential deal for Russia to help construct a nuclear power plant in Myanmar. As Myanmar continues to face both internal conflict and natural disasters, the international community, including the U.S., is responding to the urgent need for humanitarian relief.



TPN Correspondent | Dhaka

Bangladesh police have filed a case against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and 72 others, accusing them of conspiring to overthrow the interim government led by Muhammad

Curfew Lifted in Kathmandu After Violent Protests, Two Dead and Over 100 Injured

- 14 buildings burned, vehicles destroyed; 105 arrested.
- Former King Gyanendra's privileges revoked amid unrest.
- Government deploys Nepal Army, vows to restore stability.

TPN Correspondent | Kathmandu

Kathmandu, Nepal: Authorities in Nepal lifted a day-long curfew in the eastern part of Kathmandu on Saturday, following violent protests that resulted in two fatalities and left over 100 people injured. The curfew, which was imposed at 4:25 pm on Friday, was lifted at 7 am on Saturday after tensions in the area began to subside, according to a notice from the Kathmandu District Administration Office.

The violence erupted on Friday when pro-monarchy protesters clashed with security personnel in the Tinkune area of Kathmandu. The protesters pelted stones, set fire to vehicles, attacked political party offices, and looted shops. The clashes escalated into a deadly confrontation, with two people, including a TV cameraman, losing

their lives and at least 110 others suffering injuries, including 53 police officers, 22 Armed Police Force personnel, and 35 protesters.

To restore order, the Nepal Army was deployed, and police arrested 105 individuals involved in the unrest, including Dhawal Shumsher Rana, the general secretary of the Rastriya Prajatantra Party, and central party member Rabindra Mishra. Durga Prasai, the primary figure behind the violent demonstration, remains at large, according to Superintendent of Police Apil Bohara.

The protests led to widespread damage, with 14 buildings set on fire, nine damaged, and several vehicles destroyed. Among the property targets were government vehicles and media houses, including the Kantipur Television building and Annapurna Media House.



The unrest followed months of pro-monarchy activism. Protesters, led by monarchists, have been demanding the reinstatement of the monarchy and a return to a Hindu kingdom. This movement gained momentum after former King Gyanendra Shah appealed for support in a video message on Democracy Day in February 2025.

In response to the unrest, the gov-

ernment revoked King Gyanendra's state privileges and canceled his passport, accusing him of inciting the violence. Nepal's political landscape has shifted dramatically since 2008 when the country transitioned from a monarchy to a secular, democratic republic. The government's quick response, including the lifting of the curfew, aims to stabilize the situation as further security discussions continue.

Over 1,000 Dead, 2,376 Injured: Myanmar-Thailand Quakes Flatten Buildings

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

A powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar and parts of neighboring Thailand on Friday, leaving a trail of destruction and causing a rising death toll. As of Saturday, the combined death toll in both countries has exceeded 1,000.

The earthquake, with a magnitude of 7.7, hit northwest of Sagaing, Myanmar, at 12:50 pm (0650 GMT) on Friday. It struck at a shallow depth of just 10 km. This was followed by a 6.7-magnitude aftershock and several smaller tremors.

The quake's effects were felt across the region, with buildings shaking from India in the west to China in the east, as well as in Cambodia and Laos.

Myanmar's military junta reported that the death toll in the country has surpassed 1,000. The ongoing civil conflict, following the military's seizure of power, has severely hampered emergency response efforts.

In Thailand, the earthquake led to at least 10 deaths, primarily due to the collapse of a high-rise building under construction near Bangkok's Chatuchak market. As many as 100 workers are



feared to be trapped in the rubble.

In Myanmar's Mandalay, entire buildings collapsed into rubble, with emergency workers and locals rushing to rescue those trapped beneath the debris. The historic Ava Bridge also collapsed

into the Irrawaddy River.

In an unprecedented move, Myanmar's military regime appealed for international aid. Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing urged assistance from any country or organization.

Plot to oust Yunus govt? Case filed against Hasina in Bangladesh

Yunus. The case, led by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), alleges that Hasina and the others planned to bring her back to power through a civil war, according to media reports.

The Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court took cognizance of the case on Thursday, instructing the CID to launch an investigation into the matter. The allegations stem from an online meeting held on December 19, 2024, where participants reportedly formed a platform called the "Joy Bangla Brigade." During the meeting, the attendees discussed plans to reinstate Hasina through violent means, including waging

civil war. Police say that voice recordings from the meeting revealed conversations between Hasina and several key figures, including Dr. Rabbi Alam, who hosted the meeting. The participants allegedly expressed a determination to prevent the legitimate government from governing peacefully. A total of 577 individuals, both from Bangladesh and abroad, are said to have attended the meeting, showing support for Hasina's actions. Alam, the vice president of the Awami League's US chapter, is named as the second accused in the case. Hasina's government was ousted in August 2024 following a violent student-led uprising, and since then, she has

been living in India, secretly fleeing Bangladesh.

Since her removal, Hasina has faced over 100 charges, including accusations of mass murder and corruption. Many leaders and ministers from her government have been arrested or fled abroad to avoid trial. Yunus, who took over as Chief Adviser of the interim government, has been accused by Hasina's supporters and political analysts of orchestrating her ouster with the support of a Western government. Hasina and several of her party leaders are also facing charges at Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal for alleged crimes against humanity

Violence Erupts in Nepal as Pro-Monarchy Protesters Clash with Authorities

TPN Correspondent ,Kathmandu

Tensions flared in Kathmandu, Nepal, as a protest march organized by supporters of former King Gyanendra Shah turned violent on Friday, leading to the deaths of two people and injuries to at least 112 others. The march, demanding the restoration of the monarchy and a Hindu kingdom, escalated when protesters clashed with police after attempting to march toward the parliament building.

Pro-monarchy demonstrators threw stones, attacked political party offices, looted shops, and set vehicles on fire. The violence led to the death of a television cameraman and a protester, and police were forced to use rub-

ber bullets, tear gas, and live rounds to disperse the crowd. The army was later called in to restore order.

The authorities imposed a curfew in parts of Kathmandu starting at 4:25 pm on Friday, which was lifted on Saturday morning. As of Saturday, 105 individuals had been arrested, including prominent members of the pro-monarchy Rastriya Prajatantra Party. Among those arrested were the party's general secretary, Dhawal Shumsher Rana, and central member Rabindra Mishra. The key figure behind the protest, Durga Prasai, remains at large.

The violence marked a significant escalation in the ongoing debate about Nepal's political future. While the

monarchy was abolished in 2008, some citizens, including the protesters, seek its reinstatement. Gyanendra Shah, the last king of Nepal, has kept a low profile since his abdication, though recent public appearances and a video message in February reignited the pro-monarchy movement.

The unrest prompted strong condemnation from opposition parties, with former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' calling for accountability, accusing Gyanendra Shah of being behind the violence. The protests highlight deep frustrations over Nepal's political instability, which has hindered economic growth and failed to meet the public's expectations for jobs, security, and good governance.



India's Current Account Deficit Widens to \$11.5 Billion in Q3 Due to Higher Trade Deficit

India's current account deficit (CAD) expanded to USD 11.5 billion, or 1.1% of GDP, during the December quarter of the fiscal year 2024-25, compared to USD 10.4 billion (1.1% of GDP) in the same period last year, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday. This increase was primarily driven by a higher merchandise trade deficit.

However, despite the widening deficit, the CAD showed improvement when compared to the previous quarter (Q2 2024-25), which had seen a much larger deficit of USD 16.7 billion, or 1.8% of GDP. This decline in CAD from Q2 to Q3 reflects some stabilization in the trade imbalance.

In the third quarter, India's merchandise trade deficit increased to USD 79.2 billion from USD 71.6 billion in the same period of the previous year. Despite this, India saw growth in net services receipts, which rose to USD 51.2 billion in Q3 2024-25, up from USD 45 billion in Q3 2023-24. This increase was attributed to higher services exports across all major categories, providing a partial offset to the widening trade deficit.

The current account deficit for the April-December 2024 period also widened to USD 37 billion, or 1.3% of GDP, compared to USD 30.6 billion (1.1% of GDP) in the same period last year. This continued de-

terioration in the CAD was largely driven by the elevated merchandise trade deficit.

The RBI's data also highlighted that India's services sector continues to perform robustly, supporting the country's external position despite the challenges posed by the trade deficit.

In related fiscal developments, the Centre's fiscal deficit stood at 85.8% of the annual target by the end of February 2025. The fiscal deficit during the April-February 2024-25 period amounted to Rs 13.46 lakh crore, with an estimated total deficit of Rs 15.69 lakh crore for the financial year.



Centre's Fiscal Deficit Reaches 85.8% of Annual Target by February

The Centre's fiscal deficit for the current financial year reached 85.8% of the revised annual target by February, according to official data released on Friday. This is slightly better than the 86.5% deficit recorded in the same period last year, driven by tight expenditure control, particularly in capital expenditure.

The data suggests that the government is on track to meet its fiscal deficit target of 4.8% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the 2024-25 fiscal year, despite challenges such as lower-than-expected disinvestment proceeds and the recently approved supplementary demands for grants. Analysts have pointed out that the disciplined approach to spending, especially in terms of curbing capital expenditure, has played a crucial role in managing the fiscal deficit.

Capital expenditure has been a focal point for the government this year, with efforts to limit spending in this area to ensure that the fiscal deficit remains within the target. At the same time, the government has faced challenges with disinvestment receipts, which have been lower than anticipated, impacting overall revenue generation. However, the government's prudent fiscal management and focus on essential expenditure appear to be mitigating these challenges.

Despite these hurdles, experts believe that the government will be able to achieve its fiscal deficit goal, provided there are no major revenue shortfalls in the final quarter of the financial year. The fiscal deficit target of 4.8% is seen as crucial for maintaining macroeconomic stability and for sustaining the confidence of both investors and credit rating agencies in the Indian economy.

As the end of the financial year approaches, the government will continue to monitor spending and revenue inflows to ensure that the fiscal deficit remains within the targeted limits, and fiscal consolidation remains a priority in the coming months.

BSE Shares Surge Following Sebi's Proposal on Uniform Expiry for Equity Derivatives

Shares of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) surged nearly 18% on Friday after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) proposed a uniform expiry date for all equity derivatives contracts across exchanges. The BSE stock jumped by 17.81%, reaching Rs 5,519 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

The proposal, outlined in a Sebi consultation paper released Thursday, suggests that expiry dates for equity derivatives be standardized across exchanges, limiting them to either Tuesdays or Thursdays. This proposal is intended to optimize the spacing between expiries and avoid the complications of having either the first or last day of the week designated as an expiry day. Sebi further recommended that exchanges must seek Sebi's approval before launching or modifying any contract expiry or settlement day.

Meanwhile, the NSE, which had initially planned to shift the expiry date of all index and stock derivatives from Thursday to Monday starting April 4, 2025, has decided to defer the change for now. The exchange had previously announced that Nifty weekly contracts, which currently expire on Thursdays, would be moved to Mondays. Additionally, the expiry date for Nifty's monthly, quarterly, and half-yearly contracts was set to change from the last Thursday of the month to the last Monday.

However, following Sebi's consultation paper, the NSE decided to delay the implementation of these changes until further notice. In a circular issued late Thursday, the NSE confirmed the deferral, citing Sebi's ongoing consultation on final settlement days (expiry days) for equity derivatives.

Sebi's proposal aims to create a more consistent and streamlined system for derivatives contracts, benefiting both market participants and exchanges. Under the new framework, exchanges will still have the flexibility to choose one weekly benchmark index options contract for expiry on either Tuesday or Thursday. This move seeks to bring uniformity to the expiry process while enhancing market efficiency.



India's Solar Manufacturing Capacity to Reach 125 GW by 2030: Pralhad Joshi

Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi, announced on Saturday that India's solar photovoltaic (PV) module manufacturing capacity will increase to 125 gigawatts (GW) by 2030, up from the current 80 GW. In addition, the country's installed solar cell manufacturing capacity will soon reach 40 GW, up from 25 GW. Joshi made these remarks during the inauguration of a state-of-the-art 5.4 GW solar cell manufacturing facility by Waaree Energies Limited in Gujarat's Navsari district.

Joshi highlighted India's impressive growth in the solar manufacturing sector, stating that in 2014, the country had no solar PV module manufacturing industry. Today, companies like Waaree are producing 80 GW of solar PV modules. By 2030, India aims to achieve a total solar PV manufacturing capacity of 125 GW. Similarly, solar cell manufacturing, which was non-existent in 2014, is now at 25 GW and is expected to soon reach 40 GW. The government's vision includes integrated solar manufacturing in India, spanning everything from polysilicon to modules.

India has become the third-largest producer of renewable energy globally, and the minister ex-



pressed confidence that the country would reach its renewable energy target of 500 GW by 2030, up from the current 220 GW. Joshi attributed this progress to the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that under his leadership, India has emerged as a global leader in renewable energy.

The minister also emphasized India's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint. Despite having 17% of the world's population, India contributes less than 4% to global greenhouse gas emissions. Nevertheless, India is taking significant steps to harness solar and wind energy to ensure a sustainable future for the next generation. Solar PV modules, which were once imported

German firm from chemical sector to invest USD 1.5 bn in India: Goyal

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced on Saturday that a German chemical company has decided to invest USD 1.5 billion in India. While he did not disclose the name of the company or the state involved, Goyal revealed that the company's head is scheduled to meet the state's chief minister on Sunday. The company has already been allocated land for the project, and the foreign direct investment (FDI) is expected to flow into the country over the next 12 months.

The company is seeking a 250-acre parcel of land near a port, and Goyal emphasized that the land allotment would be finalized soon. Germany is currently India's ninth-largest investor, having contributed approximately USD 15 billion in FDI between April 2000 and December 2024. Goyal highlighted that more international companies are looking to India for business opportunities, citing improvements in the country's business environment.

The government, according to Goyal, has undertaken significant measures to reduce the compliance burden and decriminalize minor offences, which have bolstered investor confidence. He assured potential investors that the government is ready to assist them in overcoming any legal obstacles or unfair competition, particularly related to predatory pricing practices.



Addressing the topic of arbitration, Goyal discussed its potential to reduce judicial delays, provided both parties involved are sincere in accepting arbitration results. He acknowledged concerns about the quality of arbitration and emphasized the need for more robust arbitration processes. Goyal expressed concerns about whether the government presents its case effectively and whether arbitration decisions are influenced by larger corporate interests or international pressures.

He stressed the importance of strengthening arbitration and mediation mechanisms to ensure fairness and foster confidence among all stakeholders. Goyal also noted that as India's manufacturing sector grows, disputes will inevitably arise, and a more efficient dispute resolution system would help maintain an unclogged court system, thus supporting India's aspirations of becoming a global manufacturing hub.

from countries like China, are now being locally manufactured due to initiatives like the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. Joshi affirmed that the government's goal is for India to become a global leader in manufacturing everything from polysilicon and solar modules to green ammonia and methanol.

The growing demand for energy in India is expected to double by 2032. As part of this, the government aims to provide electric connectivity to 18,100 villages and transform India into a global manufacturing hub, leveraging its credibility and human resources. Over the past 60 years, India's electricity generation capacity has risen from 269 GW to 459 GW in just the last decade.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, who was present at the event, praised PM Modi for transforming Gujarat into a "development role model." He highlighted the state's pro-business policies and infrastructure, which have made Gujarat an attractive destination for industrialists and innovators. Under the state's Atmanirbhar Gujarat policy, 183 units have been established with an investment of ₹43,000 crore.



Woman's Rs 1,000 Purchase Could Be Rs 8.5 Crore Renoir Drawing



A Pennsylvania woman, Heidi Markow, may have made an extraordinary discovery after purchasing a drawing for just \$12 (Rs 1,026) from an antique store. Experts now believe the artwork could be an authentic piece by the renowned French artist Pierre-Auguste Renoir, potentially worth over \$1 million (Rs 8.5 crore). According to a report by ABC News, the drawing is thought to be a rare Renoir charcoal sketch from the 1800s. Markow, who runs an antiques business, came across the 17.5-inch by 16.5-inch artwork at a collector's auction in Montgomery County in January. Something about the piece caught her attention, and she was determined to buy it. "There were paintings selling for \$1,000, \$2,000, or even \$3,000. I didn't know what this was, but I just had a feeling that it was special," she recalled. Encouraged by her instincts, she urged her husband to place a bid on the drawing. To her surprise, he managed to purchase it for only \$12. Now, Markow is working with experts to authenticate the artwork. If proven to be an original Renoir, she hopes to sell it for a significant amount, ideally in the six or seven-figure range. However, she emphasizes that she wants the piece to go to someone who truly appreciates its value and historical significance. For now, the art world eagerly awaits the final verdict on whether this extraordinary find is indeed a lost masterpiece by Renoir.

Tourist Assaulted in Goa, Vows Never to Return



A tourist's harrowing experience in Goa has gone viral after he detailed being physically assaulted and verbally abused by two locals near Madgaon railway station. In a social media post titled "Got physically abused in Goa, will probably never come back," the man recounted the shocking incident that has left him shaken. According to his post, he had rented a car for his trip to avoid the scorching heat and was on his way to catch a train from Madgaon station after dropping his girlfriend at the airport.

While driving, he allegedly "cut" two men on a scooter, though he insists there was no contact between their vehicles. The two men allegedly followed him to the station, blocked his car, and threatened to break his windshield. "One guy got off, picked up a stone, and threatened to break the windshield if I didn't open the window," he wrote. When he complied, he claimed he was punched multiple times and verbally abused. The attackers allegedly taunted him for being an outsider, further adding to his distress. "I barely

managed to return the car and catch my train, thanks to some locals who helped me escape," he wrote. The incident has left him deeply disturbed. "This has scarred all the good times I had in Goa. I hate Goa now because of this," he expressed in his post. Though he plans to file a police complaint, he admitted he was unable to capture any footage of the attackers or their vehicle. The viral post has sparked outrage online, with many calling for stronger safety measures for tourists visiting the popular destination.

iPhone Users Can Set WhatsApp Default



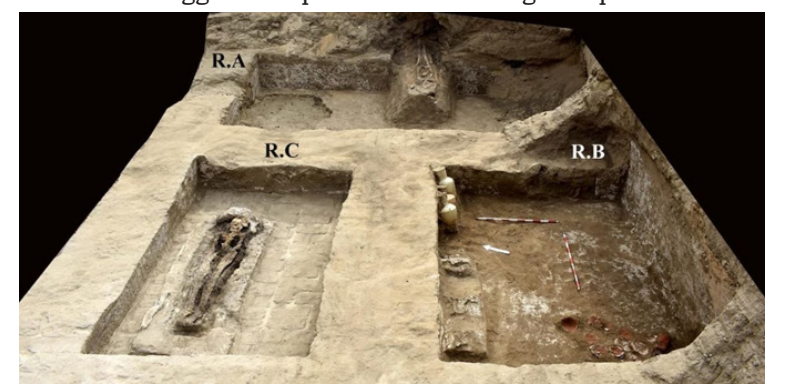
WhatsApp has rolled out a new update for iPhone users, enabling them to set it as their default calling and messaging app. This feature was initially announced by Apple for users in the European Union but has now been made available to all iPhone users with iOS 18.2. According to WaBetaInfo, to access this feature, users must update WhatsApp for iOS to version 25.8.74. This update allows users to bypass Apple's default Phone and Messages apps, integrating WhatsApp as their primary communication tool. This update marks a significant shift in iOS functionality, giving users more control over their preferred communication platforms. Apple had initially restricted third-party apps from

taking over core functions like calling and messaging, but regulatory pressure has led to increased flexibility. By setting WhatsApp as the default app, users can seamlessly make calls and send messages through the platform, which has over 2 billion users worldwide. This move is particularly useful for those who rely heavily on WhatsApp for communication, as it eliminates the need to switch between multiple apps. Apple's decision to allow third-party apps as defaults aligns with global efforts to enhance user choice and promote competition in the tech industry. As iOS continues to evolve, more such updates are expected to improve customization options for users.

3,200-Year-Old Tomb Linked to Ramesses III

Archaeologists in Egypt have uncovered a 3,200-year-old tomb that may have belonged to a military commander who served during the reign of Pharaoh Ramesses III. The discovery was made at Tell el-Maschuta, a site in northeastern Egypt, and was confirmed by the country's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The tomb is made of mud bricks and features a burial chamber along with three adjoining rooms. Inside, researchers found several artifacts, including a gold ring bearing the name of Ramesses III and a collection of bronze arrowheads. Other notable items recovered include an intricately carved ivory box and pottery vessels with inscriptions. One of the most intriguing aspects of the discovery is the presence of inscriptions referencing Horemheb, a

pharaoh who ruled between 1323 and 1295 B.C. Horemheb was known for his military career before ascending the throne, leading experts to question why his name appears on objects within the tomb. One theory suggests that some of the burial items were reused from an earlier period. However, the presence of artifacts linked to Ramesses III indicates that the tomb was likely in use during his reign, which lasted from around 1184 to 1153 B.C. While the tomb's artifacts suggest a possible connection to both Ramesses III and Horemheb, more research is needed to determine its true origins and purpose. Archaeologists plan to conduct further excavations and analysis to uncover more details about the individual buried there and the historical significance of the tomb. This discovery adds to the growing body of evidence about Egypt's rich and complex past, offering new insights into burial practices and political dynamics during the New Kingdom period.



New Plastic Dissolves in Saltwater



A team of Japanese scientists at the RIKEN Center for Emergent Matter Science (CEMS) has developed a new type of plastic that remains strong during use but dissolves in saltwater, offering a potential solution to ocean pollution caused by microplastics. Traditional plastics are highly durable due to their strong covalent bonds, which prevent them from breaking down naturally. As a result, plastic waste accumulates in the environment, posing a major threat to marine life and human health. The newly developed plastic, however, is designed to maintain its strength while in use but break down harmlessly when exposed to seawater. The research, led by Takuzo Aida, focuses on supramolecular plastics—polymers held together by reversible interactions. The team used a combination of two ionic monomers that form cross-linked salt bridges, which provide both durability and flexibility. One of the monomers is sodium hexametaphosphate, a common food additive, while

the other is a guanidinium ion-based monomer. These materials are biodegradable, as they can be metabolized by bacteria after dissolving. "While supramolecular plastics have been considered weak due to their reversible bonds, our new material proves otherwise," said Aida. The key breakthrough was discovering how to create selectively irreversible cross-links that only break down when exposed to seawater electrolytes. During the manufacturing process, the researchers observed that when the monomers were mixed with water, two distinct liquid layers formed—one thick and viscous, containing essential salt bridges, and the other watery, containing expelled salt ions. The final plastic, named alkyl SP2, was created by drying the thick liquid layer. This innovative material could significantly reduce plastic waste in the ocean, paving the way for more sustainable alternatives to conventional plastics.

MI's Start Goes From Bad To Worse, GT Claim First Win



In a thrilling encounter at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on March 29, 2025, Gujarat Titans (GT) secured their first victory of the season by defeating Mumbai Indians (MI) by 36 runs. Both teams entered the match seeking their inaugural win, having lost their opening fixtures. BIZNEWS INDIA

GT's Dominant Batting Performance GT set a formidable target, posting a total of 196/8 in their 20 overs. Opener B Sai Sudharsan led the charge with a stellar half-century, contributing 63 runs off 41 balls. Captain Shubman Gill added 38 runs from 27 balls, while Jos Buttler scored 39 off 24 balls, laying a strong foundation for the innings. Despite a late surge from MI's bowlers, including Hardik Pandya's two-wicket haul, GT managed to reach a competitive total. THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

MI's Chase Falters Under Pressure MI's chase got off to a challenging start, with Mohammed Siraj striking early by dismissing captain Rohit Sharma for just 8 runs in the first over. He followed up by removing Ryan Rickelton, leaving MI at a precarious 48/2 within the powerplay. Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma attempted to rebuild, adding 62 runs for the third wicket. However, the introduction of Prasidh Krishna shifted the momentum in GT's favor, as he dismissed both Yadav and Varma, reducing MI to 97/4. BUSINESS NEWS TODAY

Despite efforts from Hardik Pandya, who contributed 11 runs off 17 balls before falling to Kagiso Rabada, MI's batting order crumbled under pressure. The required run rate escalated, and wickets continued to fall at regular intervals. MI's chase concluded at 160/9, handing GT a well-deserved victory. BUSINESS NEWS TODAY

Key Performance Statistics
Gujarat Titans:
 B Sai Sudharsan: 63 runs off 41 balls
 Shubman Gill: 38 runs off 27 balls
 Jos Buttler: 39 runs off 24 balls
Mumbai Indians:
 Suryakumar Yadav: 48 runs off 28 balls
 Tilak Varma: 39 runs off 36 balls
 Hardik Pandya: 11 runs off 17 balls; 2 wickets for 29 runs
 This victory propels Gujarat Titans to a favorable position in the league standings, while Mumbai Indians will need to regroup and strategize for their upcoming matches to turn their season around.

Delhi Capitals Eye Second Win as KL Rahul Returns to Face Wounded Sunrisers

Delhi Capitals are aiming to build on their morale-boosting win over Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) as they prepare to face Sunrisers Hyderabad in their next IPL 2025 clash on Sunday. The Capitals, fresh off a thrilling victory, are further strengthened by the return of India wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul, who missed the season opener due to the birth of his first child. Rahul's return is expected to provide much-needed stability to Delhi's top order, which struggled in the previous match. Despite being absent in the first game, Rahul's presence will be crucial in the middle order, bolstering the batting lineup. His experience in big tournaments, including his contribution to India's Champions Trophy win in Dubai earlier this year, will be valuable for the squad. Rahul, who was picked by Delhi Capitals for ₹14 crore, will be keen to prove his worth after

a challenging stint with Lucknow Super Giants, where he was not retained. Now, he is looking to rediscover his form and push for a spot in India's T20 squad. Delhi's previous match saw them overcome a tough situation. Chasing a target of 211, they were reeling at 65/5 before Ashutosh Sharma (66*) and Vipraj Nigam (39) engineered a thrilling one-wicket win. Rahul's return should provide the team with the much-needed stability, with his leadership also serving as a vital support for Axar Patel, who is captaining the team for the first time. Meanwhile, Sunrisers Hyderabad have had a mixed start to their campaign. After an explosive opening game where they posted 286/6, they faltered in their second match, posting just 190/9. Despite their strong batting line-up, SRH's lack of substantial totals in their recent loss highlights the need to convert starts into big scores.



Manisha Bhanwala Wins Gold, Antim Panghal Bags Bronze at Asian Wrestling Championships

Indian wrestlers Manisha Bhanwala and Antim Panghal delivered stellar performances at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2025 in Amman, Jordan, on Friday, clinching gold and bronze medals in their respective categories. Manisha Bhanwala created history by securing India's first women's freestyle wrestling gold at the continental meet since 2021. She defeated Ok J Kim from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) 8-7 in a thrilling final. Manisha had a remarkable journey to the final, with wins over Kazakhstan's Tynys Dubek and Republic of Korea's Hanbit Lee. She also outperformed defending champion Kalmira Bilimbek Kyzy of Kyrgyzstan with a 5-1 victory. Despite trailing 2-7 in the final, Manisha showed incredible determination to turn the match around and clinch



the gold.

Meanwhile, Antim Panghal, making her return to international wrestling after the Paris 2024 Olympics, earned a bronze medal in the 53kg division. Panghal began her campaign with a strong 10-6 win over China's Jin Zhang, a World Championships silver medallist. However, she was defeated by Japan's 55kg world champion Moe Kiyooka in the semi-finals via technical superiority.

Panghal bounced back to defeat Chinese Taipei's Meng Hsuan Hsieh, securing a bronze medal with a dominant performance. These two medals pushed India's tally at the championships to seven—one gold, one silver, and five bronze. On Thursday, Reetika Hooda won silver in the 76kg women's freestyle category. Other bronze medalists include Muskan (59kg), Mansi Lather (68kg), and Greco-Roman wrestlers Nitesh (97kg) and Sunil Kumar (87kg). Unfortunately, wrestlers Neha Sharma, Monika, and Jyoti Berwal did not secure medals on the day. The Indian men's freestyle wrestlers, including Tokyo 2020 Olympian Deepak Punia, will be in action over the next two days, adding to India's medal hopes at the ongoing event.

Chapman, Nathan Smith powers New Zealand to victory over Pakistan by 73 runs in first ODI

Mark Chapman's brilliant 132 and Nathan Smith's impressive four-wicket haul led New Zealand to a dominant victory over Pakistan in the first ODI of their three-match series at McLean Park, Napier, on Saturday. Chapman was awarded the Player of the Match for his outstanding performance, which guided the Kiwis to a comfortable win. With this victory, New Zealand takes a 1-0 lead in the series, with the second match scheduled for Wednesday in Hamilton. New Zealand, batting first, set a challenging target of 345



runs, finishing with 344/9 in their 50 overs. Apart from Chapman's brilliant knock, Daryl Mitchell contributed 76 runs off 84 balls, and Muhammad Abbas played a quick-fire innings of 52 runs from 26 balls. Pakistan's bowlers tried to keep the total in check, with Irfan Khan claiming 3 wickets for 51 runs in

5 overs, and Haris Rauf and Akif Javed both picking up 2 wickets each. In reply, Pakistan began their chase with a solid start from openers Abdullah Shafique and Usman Khan, who put on a partnership of 83 runs. Shafique scored 36 runs off 49 balls, and Khan added 39 runs off 33 balls before

being dismissed in the 13th over. Pakistan's middle order, led by Babar Azam (78 runs off 83 balls) and Salman Agha (58 runs from 48 balls), kept the chase alive, but it wasn't enough as the visitors were bowled out for 244 runs in the 45th over. Nathan Smith was the standout bowler for New Zealand, taking 4 wickets for 60 runs in 8.1 overs, while Jacob Duffy supported well with 2 wickets for 57 runs in 9 overs. William O'Rourke, Michael Bracewell, and Muhammad Abbas each took one wicket in their respective spells.



To become highest run-getter for in history of Indian Premier League

MS Dhoni surpasses Suresh Raina

Former Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain MS Dhoni achieved a remarkable milestone on Friday, surpassing Suresh Raina to become the highest run-scorer in the history of the five-time Indian Premier League (IPL) champions. Dhoni reached this landmark during the eighth match of IPL 2025, held at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai, where he played an explosive knock of 30 not out off 16 balls, at a staggering strike rate of 187.5, which included three boundaries and two sixes. With this performance, the 43-year-old wicketkeeper-batter now holds the record for most runs for CSK, amassing a total of 4,699

runs in 204 innings, at an average of 40.50 and a strike rate of 139.43. This surpassed Raina's previous record of 4,687 runs, which he scored in 171 innings for the franchise before retiring from the sport. Other players on the list of top run-scorers for CSK include Faf du Plessis, who scored 2,721 runs in 86 innings, current captain Ruturaj Gaikwad, with 2,433* runs from 67 innings, and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who has accumulated 1,939 runs in 127 innings. While Gaikwad and Jadeja continue to play for CSK, du Plessis has moved on to join Delhi Capitals as their vice-captain for the ongoing IPL season.



Krithi Shetty's Glam Magic Lights Up Kollywood!

Krithi Shetty is making waves in Kollywood with her stunning presence! The actress recently turned heads at the JFW Movie Awards 2025, where she dazzled in a golden bralette, matching jacket, and a black thigh-slit skirt, paired with silver heels. Her sleek high bun and effortless confidence made her a true red-carpet sensation.

As she accepted her award, Krithi exuded glamour and poise, cementing her place as a rising star in the Tamil film industry. Fans are eagerly awaiting her upcoming Kollywood film LIK, where she will be seen alongside Pradeep Ranganathan. With her undeniable charm and talent, Krithi is all set to make a lasting mark in the industry.



Ustaad Bhagat Singh Faces Major Delay



Pawan Kalyan's highly anticipated film Ustaad Bhagat Singh, directed by Harish Shankar, has hit a major roadblock. After completing a few schedules, the shoot was put on hold due to Pawan Kalyan's political commitments. As per sources,

the film is unlikely to resume production this year. The actor must first wrap up Hari Hara Veera Mallu and OG before returning to this project. Additionally, Pawan Kalyan is reportedly facing health issues and requires time to recover,

further delaying the shoot.

Despite the setback, Ustaad Bhagat Singh, produced by Mythri Movie Makers, remains one of the most awaited films. Fans will have to wait longer for an official update on its progress.

Akshay Kumar's Film on Jallianwala Bagh Massacre



The Jallianwala Bagh massacre remains one of the darkest and most tragic events in India's fight for independence, where hundreds of innocent people lost their lives due to British brutality. Now, a film exploring the aftermath of this historical tragedy is set to release.

Bollywood star Akshay Kumar takes the lead role in Kesari Chapter 2, alongside Madhavan, Regina Cassandra, and Ananya Panday in pivotal roles. Directed by Karan Singh Tyagi, the film is produced by Karan Johar under the Dharma Productions banner. As a summer treat, Kesari Chapter 2 is slated for release on April 18. To build anticipation, the makers have unveiled the film's first look, generating excitement among audiences.

Kalyan Ram's Naayaldhi Set to Drop Soon!



Nandamuri Kalyan Ram's much-awaited film Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi is all set to elevate the excitement with its first single, Naayaldhi, releasing on March 31st. Composed by B Ajaneesh Lokanath, the song is expected to be a high-energy dance number. A newly revealed poster showcases Kalyan

an Ram striking a stylish pose with his signature charm, hinting at a grand celebration. The film has already made waves in the industry, setting a new record in pre-release business with theatrical and non-theatrical rights selling at record-breaking prices. Directed by Pradeep Chilukuri, the film stars Vijayashanthi

as Kalyan Ram's mother, with Saiee Manjrekar as the female lead. The emotional mother-son bond is expected to be a major highlight. Produced by Ashok Vardhan Muppa and Sunil Balusu under Ashoka Creations and NTR Arts, Arjun S/O Vyjayanthi is shaping up to be a massive entertainer.

Kajal Aggarwal's Strong Comeback in Sikandar



Salman Khan's much-awaited film Sikandar is set for a grand release tomorrow, marking his return to Eid releases. While the buzz around the film is steadily growing, reports confirm that Kajal Aggarwal, the female lead, has

a substantial role rather than a mere cameo. Once a leading actress, Kajal took a break after becoming a mother but is now making a strong comeback with major projects, including Sikandar. Directed by A.R. Murugadoss, the film

also features Sathyaraj as the main antagonist, while Rashmika Mandanna plays another key female role. With an exciting cast and high expectations, Sikandar is poised to make a big impact at the box office.