



Weather Forecast

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

YCP's Silence on AP Budget..

Andhra Pradesh witnesses intense debate over the state budget

First full budget presented by the coalition government

- Key promises ignored, yet YCP remains largely unresponsive
- Jagan and YCP leaders fail to capitalize on the situation
- Opposition's inaction seen as a missed political opportunity

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The recently presented state budget has sparked widespread discussions across Andhra Pradesh, with people from all walks of life analyzing the allocations and omissions. This is the first full-fledged budget of the coalition government, and it has set new records with substantial department-wise fund allocations. However, the ruling alliance has completely overlooked certain key promises, which should have provided a golden opportunity for the opposition YSRCP to attack the government. Surprisingly, despite these lapses, the YSRCP has remained largely silent on the issue. Except for a few leaders, no significant statements have come from the party, and even YCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy has not held a press meet to respond. This is in stark contrast to his earlier aggressive stance, where he vowed to take on the government from outside the Assembly. His silence at such a critical time is raising questions about YCP's political strategy

and intent.

A Lost Opportunity for the Opposition?

In any state, the opposition's primary role is to expose the government's mistakes and take them to the people. But in Andhra Pradesh, despite the government providing enough ammunition for attack, the YSRCP seems unable to utilize it. Critics argue that the party, which aggressively fought for opposition status, is now failing to act when it matters most. During the Governor's address, YCP leaders rushed to the podium in protest, yet after the budget presentation, when detailed fund allocations were revealed, the party remained silent. The government has ignored at least three major promises in its budget, allocating zero funds for them. This should have been a major rallying point for the YCP, yet the party appears to be caught in political inertia.

Is YCP Still Struggling Post-Election Defeat?

Many believe that Jagan and the YSRCP leadership are still reeling from their electoral defeat, which has led to their lackluster response. Unlike in other states where opposition parties actively mobilize protests and pressurize ruling governments, YCP appears hesitant even to raise its voice in the Assembly. The party's limited presence in the House may be a factor, but political observers argue that an active opposition does not need numbers—it needs intent and strategy.

Will YCP Wake Up Before It's Too Late?

In politics, momentum is crucial, and the opposition's strength lies in its ability to keep the government on its toes. The YSRCP's failure to react to the budget is being widely criticized as a wasted opportunity. Some even joke that the party only speaks up when it gets official opposition status, otherwise it remains silent.

Will YCP Wake Up Before It's Too Late?

This budget could have been a turning point for the YCP to reassert itself, but so far, the party has failed to seize the moment. Will Jagan and his party wake up before it's too late, or will they continue to let opportunities slip away? Only time will tell.



SEBI to challenge court order for FIR against ex-chief, officials



- Court orders FIR against former SEBI chairperson
- Judiciary to monitor probe, seeks status report in 30 days
- SEBI calls petition frivolous, plans legal challenge

TPN Correspondent | Mumbai

A special court has directed that a case be registered against former SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and five other officials over alleged stock market fraud and regulatory violations. The court has decided to monitor the investigation and has asked for a status report within 30 days. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced that it will challenge the court's order, stating that it was based on a frivolous petition and that SEBI was not given an opportunity to present its side before the decision was made.

"There is prima facie evidence of regulatory lapses and collusion, requiring a fair and impartial probe," said special court judge Shashikant Eknathrao Bangar in response to the petition filed by

reporter Sapan Shrivastava. The court noted that the allegations indicate a cognisable offence, warranting a probe. It also cited inaction by law enforcement agencies and SEBI, which, according to the judge, necessitated judicial intervention.

In response, SEBI stated that it would be "initiating appropriate legal steps to challenge this order." The board also argued that the officials named were not holding their positions at the time of the alleged violations.

"The court allowed the application without issuing any notice or granting SEBI an opportunity to place the facts on record," SEBI asserted. It further criticized the petitioner, stating that Sapan Shrivastava is known for filing frivolous litigations, with several of his previous cases being dismissed by the court, sometimes with penalties.

Foreign trips without permits – PV Sunil Kumar suspended



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The Andhra Pradesh government has suspended former CID Additional DGP PV Sunil Kumar for undertaking several foreign trips without obtaining the necessary permits. The violations occurred during the tenure of the previous YSR Congress Party government.

Investigations revealed that while Sunil Kumar had obtained permission to visit Georgia in February 2024, he instead traveled to Dubai, deviating from the approved itinerary. Additionally, on September 2, 2023, he left Hyderabad for Sweden on Emirates flight EK 525 and returned on September 11 on flight EK 526 without government approval.

Further violations were uncovered, including a trip to the United States via Dubai on February 1, 2023, using flight EK 525. He returned on February 28 on flight EK 524, again without obtaining the required permission. Similarly, in December 2022, he had received approval to visit Georgia but instead traveled to Dubai.

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Sajjala Ramakrishna, Bhargav Seek Anticipatory Bail in Posani Case

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

YSRCP leader and former government advisor Sajjala Ramakrishna Reddy, along with his son Sajjala Bhargava Reddy, has approached the Andhra Pradesh High Court seeking anticipatory bail. Their petition comes amid speculation of imminent arrest following the testimony of actor Posani Krishna Murali in a case related to derogatory comments against Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, his son Lokesh, and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan.

Posani, who was arrested in connection with the case, reportedly admitted during interrogation that he acted based on a script provided by Sajjala and Bhargava Reddy. He allegedly stated that they instructed him to make inflammatory remarks in press conferences and social media, inciting hatred against political leaders. Based on this, the police are considering their arrest, prompting them to file for anticipatory bail.

The petition argues that they are being falsely implicated due to political motives and that there is no direct evidence of their involvement apart from Posani's statement. They also assured the court that they have permanent residences in Pulivendula and Guntur and are willing to cooperate with the investigation, requesting bail to avoid unnecessary arrest.

Army Recovers two more Bodies, Death toll Rises to Six

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New Rule in Allotment of Accommodation Rooms in Tirumala



- VIPs must have a darshan ticket to get accommodation
- TTD aims to curb brokerage system in room allotments
- Board sources say the new rule is yielding positive results

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Notices Issued to IPS Officer Sunil Nayak in RRR Case

- Investigation intensifies into the custodial case of Raghurama.
- Notices sent to former AP CID DIG Sunil Nayak via WhatsApp and fax.
- Suspicion over Nayak's role in Raju's arrest and custodial assault.

One Model School in Every Constituency: Nara Lokesh

- Minister directs officials to establish model schools in all constituencies.
- Governor to meet university vice-chancellors to discuss higher education reforms.
- Workshop with legislators on AP Model of Education and GO 117.

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Education Minister Nara Lokesh has instructed officials to establish a model school in every assembly constituency in Andhra Pradesh, ensuring top-tier education standards. In a review meeting with officials from the School Education, Intermediate, and Higher Education departments, he discussed the implementation of the Learning Excellence in Andhra Pradesh (LEAP) program under the AP Model of Education.

Lokesh announced that a workshop with legislators will be held on the 3rd of this month to explore alternative arrangements



to organize a meeting with university vice-chancellors, led

by the Governor, to address higher education reforms, NIRF rankings improvement, and other key issues. Additionally, he emphasized the need to restore PG fee reimbursement and expedite the construction of AI University and Sports University in Amaravati. The meeting was attended by School Education Secretary Kona Shashidhar, Director Vijayaramaraju, Intermediate Education Director Kritika Shukla, Samagra Shiksha Project Director B. Srinivasa Rao, Higher Education Council Chairman K. Madhumurthy, and several other officials, including representatives from KPMG.



Rushikonda Beach Loses Blue Flag Recognition

TPN Correspondent | Vizag

Visakhapatnam's Rushikonda Beach has lost its prestigious Blue Flag recognition, which was awarded by the Danish Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in 2020. The certification, granted to a 600-meter stretch of the beach, was revoked following complaints about poor maintenance and deteriorating conditions. On the 13th of last month, complaints were filed with FEE, accompanied by photos highlighting issues such as stray dogs entering the beach, non-functioning CCTV cameras, waste accumulation, poorly maintained toilets and changing rooms, and damaged walkways. Taking these concerns seriously, the organization decided to strip the beach of its Blue Flag status.

Following this decision, tourism department officials removed the Blue Flag from Rushikonda Beach yesterday. Meanwhile, the private organization responsible for the beach's management withdrew a year ago after its contract expired, leaving maintenance efforts lacking.

Notices Issued to IPS Officer Sunil Nayak in RRR Case

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

The investigation into the attempted murder case of former MP and current AP Deputy Speaker Raghuramakrishna Raju has intensified, with fresh developments pointing towards key officials involved in the incident. Prakasam SP Damodar, the investigating officer, has issued notices to IPS officer Sunil Nayak, who was serving as the DIG of CID when Raju was arrested. Authorities confirmed that Sunil Nayak was present when Raghuramakrishna Raju was taken into custody in Hyderabad and later brought to the Guntur CID regional office. With suspicions about his involvement in the case, officials have now decided to question him. Notices were sent to Sunil Nayak, who is currently in Bihar, via WhatsApp and fax.

Sunil Nayak, a Bihar cadre officer, was brought to Andhra Pradesh on deputation by the previous YSRCP government and appointed as DIG of CID. However, following the change in government with the BJP-Janaseena-TDP alliance taking charge, he returned to Bihar, where he is presently serving as DIG in the fire department.

Officials are now examining the circumstances surrounding Raghuramakrishna Raju's arrest and alleged custodial assault, with the investigation expected to widen further in the coming days.

New Rule in Allotment of Accommodation Rooms in Tirumala

TPN Correspondent | Tirumala

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has introduced a new rule for the allotment of accommodation rooms to VIPs on Tirumala hill. Under this regulation, VIPs will be allotted rooms only if they possess a valid darshan ticket. This decision was taken to curb malpractices in the allotment process. TTD has made 7,500 rooms available to accommodate devotees visiting Tirumala. Of these, 3,500 rooms are allocated to general pilgrims, 1,580 rooms are set aside for advance bookings, 400 rooms are reserved for devotees who donate to TTD, and 450 rooms are allotted under the on-arrival category. The remaining rooms are currently allotted to VIPs under the present booking system.

However, reports suggest that brokers have been exploiting the system by booking these VIP rooms using Aadhaar cards and keeping them under their control. Since these rooms can be used for two days, brokers have been renting them out either to one devotee per day or multiple devotees within the period, making significant profits in the process. To put an end to this brokerage network, TTD has now mandated that VIPs must show both their Aadhaar card and darshan ticket at the Padmavati Inquiry Center, MBC, and TB counters to receive room allotments. According to board sources, this new rule is proving to be highly effective in streamlining the accommodation process and ensuring fair access to rooms for genuine devotees.

Foreign trips without...

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Other instances of unauthorized travel included a trip to Dubai from Hyderabad on October 2, 2021, returning on October 10, and a journey to the United Kingdom between December 21, 2019, and January 4, 2020, despite securing permission only for a visit to the United States. Citing these repeated violations, the government issued an official suspension order against PV Sunil Kumar, holding him accountable for breaching government travel regulations.

Pro-Planet People: BEE's Bold Green Drive

- BEE Calls on SDAs to Prioritize Mission LiFE
- Indo-German Energy Summit in Vijayawada is a Grand Success
- COP26: PM Modi's Vision, A Call to Act

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

In a significant move toward energy efficiency and environmental responsibility, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, is leading the nationwide implementation of Mission LiFE. As part of this initiative, BEE has introduced the National Concept of the Pro Planet People Initiative (PPPI), aimed at reinforcing India's commitment to sustainable economic development and climate action.

Designed in collaboration with the Ministry of Power (MoP) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), this initiative encourages individuals and communities to adopt an eco-conscious lifestyle. The Union Government has officially recognized those embracing such a lifestyle as "Pro Planet People."

To ensure widespread participation, BEE has urged all State Designated Agencies (SDAs) to engage in the Massive Mass Movement (MMM or 3M) to aggressively promote Mission LiFE as a global campaign. The goal is to empower individuals to take proactive steps in environmental conservation and responsible consumption.



Milind Deore, Secretary, BEE along with CEO's of State Designated agencies of States is releasing a Poster on Mission LiFE facilitated by Media Adviser wing of BEE..

tion. BEE Secretary Milind Deore announced that the MoP and MoEF&CC have developed an ambitious strategy to mobilize one billion individuals globally. A key focus is ensuring that 80% of India's villages and urban centers integrate Mission LiFE into their everyday practices. As part of this phased rollout, BEE is looking to major states in the southern and northern regions, particularly Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, to take the lead in promoting Mission LiFE. The initiative will also focus on metropolitan cities and prominent pilgrimage centers, including Tirupati, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Bengaluru, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Lucknow, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Bhopal, and Chandigarh.

Following the success of the BEE-Indo-German Energy Partnership National Summit in Vijayawada, Secretary Milind Deore and BEE Director Abhishek Sharma emphasized the necessity for SDAs to establish exclusive energy conservation cells within key government departments. These cells will actively promote Mission LiFE and ensure its reach at the grassroots level. During a strategic session, A. Chandra Sekhara Reddy, Media Adviser for Southern States and UTs, urged SDAs to develop dedicated awareness programs to encourage public participation. He stressed that Mission LiFE is crucial for improving living standards, boosting economic growth, and ensuring ecological well-being. To sustain momentum, BEE has recommended that state governments allocate dedicated green energy budgets as matching grants alongside BEE funding. This financial commitment will be vital for program execution and effective communication

strategies. **Highlighting the impact of BEE's programs, Secretary Milind Deore revealed that energy-saving initiatives have resulted in:**

- Over 50.98 million tonnes of oil equivalent (MTOE) saved
 - Electricity savings of 306.55 billion units annually
 - Significant financial savings per annum
 - A reduction of approximately 306.40 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually
- SDAs also applauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership at COP26, where he introduced Mission LiFE as a game-changing movement aimed at replacing the current "use-and-throw" culture with a sustainable and circular economy. By integrating its energy efficiency programs with Mission LiFE, BEE is accelerating India's transition towards a cleaner, greener, and more responsible future.

NAREDCO Andhra Pradesh Applauds Key

Urban Development and Revenue Reforms

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

NAREDCO Andhra Pradesh has welcomed the state government's latest reforms aimed at improving urban development and revenue processes. The real estate body highlighted that these changes will enhance ease of doing business, accelerate approvals, and bring greater transparency. Speaking at a press meet in Vijayawada, industry leaders discussed the reforms' positive impact on real estate and infrastructure.

State President Gadde Chakradhar praised the reduction of minimum road width from 40 feet to 30 feet, which will help regulate



unauthorized layouts. He also welcomed the approval of Podium Parking, reducing the financial burden on developers. Additionally, he lauded the upgraded DPMS software for speeding up approvals and the transparent TDR process allowing land utilization within the same site. Kiran, State Executive Vice Pres-

ident, stressed the need for further policy adjustments, including removing floor height restrictions and relaxing setback norms for smaller sites. He also welcomed the proposal to allow installment-based fee payments, easing financial pressure on developers. State Secretary General Seetara-

maiah emphasized the need for better coordination between departments and the implementation of a single-window system. He also praised the modernization of fire safety policies in line with global standards. President (Central Zone) Sandeep Mandava called for reforms in land mutation processes and registration software and welcomed the repeal of the NALA Act, which he said would accelerate real estate project launches. NAREDCO Andhra Pradesh reaffirmed its support for the government's initiatives, expressing confidence that these reforms will drive urban development, governance efficiency, and economic growth.

Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdhury Clarifies Stand on Ministerial Post



tion in 1982.

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Rajahmundry Rural MLA Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdhury has addressed speculations about his exclusion from the ministerial list, stating that he is not disappointed despite being one of the senior-most leaders in the Telugu Desam Party (TDP). He clarified that while Chandrababu Naidu is politically senior, he himself has been part of TDP since its inception in 1982 and has remained loyal to the party regardless of positions.

In a recent interview, Gorantla admitted he had hoped for a ministerial position after the last elections but did not receive one due to various arrangements and social considerations. However, he emphasized that he holds no dissatisfaction and remains committed to his role as an MLA.

“I have always stood by the party, with or without a post. I was a strong follower of NTR from the beginning and fought for him in 1996. After that, I rejoined TDP at Chandrababu’s request, and since then, I have continued winning elections under the party’s leadership,” he said, refuting claims that his allegiance to NTR had hindered his chances of securing a ministerial position.

Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdhury has contested 11 elections, winning seven times since his first victory in 1983. He reiterated that his focus remains on serving the people and strengthening the party, regardless of political appointments.

- **Chowdhury says he is not disappointed over missing a ministerial post.**
- **Denies claims of being anti-Chandrababu**
- **Reiterates long-standing loyalty to TDP.**
- **Says he has been part of the party since its incep-**

30 lakh tons of garbage removed, full cleanup by October: Minister Narayana



- **55 lakh tons of garbage to be cleared by October 2**

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

State Municipal Administration Minister Dr. Ponguru Narayana, along with former minister Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy, NUDA Chairman Kotamreddy Srinivasulu Reddy, Deputy Mayor Roop Kumar Yadav, Nellore Municipal Corporation Commissioner Surya Teja, former municipal chairperson Tallapaka Anuradha, Kuvvarapu Balaji, and other key leaders, launched a garbage removal program at the Allipuram dumping yard in Nellore on Saturday.

Speaking at the event, Minister Narayana criticized the previous government, stating that it imposed a garbage tax on people while failing to manage waste effectively, leaving behind 85 lakh metric tons of garbage. He highlighted that after the current government took charge, 30 lakh tons of waste have already been removed, and the remaining 55 lakh tons will be completely cleared by October 2. He announced that foundation stones for garbage removal were laid at both Allipuram and Donthali dumping yards, as part of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu’s initiative to clean up the state.

Minister Narayana assured that in the next six months, the dumping yard would be completely cleared and transformed into a green space. He accused the previous government of taking loans of ₹10 lakh crore, diverting municipal revenues, and mismanaging funds, which led to economic instability. He appreciated the Chief Minister’s directive to allocate municipal tax revenues for the development of respective municipalities from April 1 onwards.

He further criticized the neglect of ₹2,800 crore in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan grants under the previous administration. To enhance cleanliness, he announced the procurement of 72 sweeping machines for road cleaning, with a mechanized road cleaning program to be launched soon. MLA Somireddy Chandramohan Reddy praised Minister Narayana’s efforts in developing Nellore city. He stated that upon raising concerns about the Allipuram dumping yard, the Minister immediately responded and allocated ₹23.88 crore for its removal.

The event saw the participation of a large number of local leaders, officials, and residents.

Venkaiah Naidu criticizes glorification of smugglers, traitors in films



- **Calls for responsible storytelling to prevent negative influence on youth**

TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has expressed concern over the growing trend of glorifying smugglers, traitors, and those who follow unethical paths in films. He urged directors and filmmakers to rethink their approach toward hero characters and emphasized that cinema should send a positive message to society.

Speaking at the memorial service of veteran actress and producer Krishnaveni at the Filmnagar Cultural Club in Hyderabad, Naidu lamented that while films once conveyed inspiring messages, the indus-

try is now portraying criminals as heroes. He stated that such depictions could have detrimental effects on children and young minds.

“Bad deeds should never be glorified. The film industry must act responsibly and consider the kind of influence it has on society,” Naidu said. He advised directors and writers to focus on stories that uphold values and inspire the public rather than promoting negativity under the guise of entertainment.

Krishnaveni, a pioneer in the Telugu film industry, played a crucial role as both an actress and a producer. The memorial event was attended by several prominent figures from the film fraternity.

- **Former Vice President urges filmmakers to rethink hero portrayals**

Efforts for fishermen’s welfare through Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana



TPN Correspondent | Bhimavaram
Union Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries, Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, has directed Fisheries Department officials

to take immediate action on the issues faced by fishermen and ensure comprehensive development of the fisheries sector through the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

The minister met with the newly elected President of the Joint District Fisheries Association, Maila Vasantha Rao, and members of the governing body at the BJP Narsapuram Parliament Office. The association representatives submitted a petition highlighting key demands, including improving facilities in coastal fish markets, limiting Panchayat Raj pond auctions to 10%, and increasing the subsidy for nets and boats to 75% for SC, ST, and BC communities. They also sought the construction of a fishing community hall in fishermen’s

villages and higher subsidies for fishermen’s vehicles.

Responding immediately, Srinivasa Varma called the district fisheries department officials and instructed them to resolve the issues without delay. He assured the association members that the Central Government remains committed to the welfare of fishermen and the growth of the fisheries sector.

Vice President Raja Balaji, along with directors Woodimudi Srinivas, Beram Sriramachandramurthy, Bezawada Nagaraju, Thirumani Seethamalakshmi, Moka Anjaneyulu, Jampa Apparao, Kopanathi Srinivasa Rao, Pidge Joseph, Vaidani Srinu, and others participated in the meeting.

Jagan Anna Was Deceived, That’s All: Vidadala Rajani



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

YCP leader and former minister Vidadala Rajani has posted a striking message on social media, stating, “No one cheated Jagan, Jagan was deceived, that’s all.” She praised the former CM as a leader who earned a special place in the hearts of the poor. Along with her post, Rajani shared a video featuring a woman’s emotional remarks about the election outcome.

In the video, Rajani is seen sitting in a car while a woman standing by the window

insists that the people did not betray Jagan. “We all voted for Jagan, sister... We didn’t cheat... Even those we know voted for Jagan... No matter how many people we asked, they said they voted for Jagan... The EVMS cheated, but the people didn’t, Anna, sister,” the woman asserts. When Rajani asks where she is from, the woman replies, “Chodavaram.”

The video has sparked discussions among YCP supporters, with many echoing similar concerns about the election results.

Lakshmi Parvathi Slams Govt Over Posani’s Arrest

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

YSRCP leader Lakshmi Parvathi has strongly condemned the arrest of actor and politician Posani Krishna Murali, accusing the ruling leadership of bias and political vendetta. She targeted Pawan Kalyan, questioning his stance and alleging that democracy in Andhra Pradesh is being eroded.

Posani was recently arrested by Rayachoti police over multiple allegations, including making controversial remarks against Chandrababu Naidu, Nara Lokesh, and Pawan Kalyan, as well as allegedly fueling class divisions in the film industry. With 11 cases filed against him across Andhra Pradesh, his arrest has sparked debate.

Defending Posani, Lakshmi Parvathi argued that he was only voicing concerns about unfairness in the Nandi Awards and that rejecting an award is a personal right. She cited instances where prominent figures like singer S. Janaki declined the Padma Bhushan in protest against the government’s actions.

“Posani did the same. He rejected the award because he felt it was biased. Is it a crime to express an opinion? He is now being targeted over past remarks, and a case has been filed on the grounds of ‘hurting sentiments.’ But how many times have your actions hurt sentiments?” she questioned.

She further accused Pawan Kalyan and the TDP leadership of double standards, recalling how NTR was dethroned and how she herself, along with Jagan Mohan Reddy, Roja, and others, had faced political attacks in the past.

Criticizing the treatment of Posani, she remarked, “A 65-year-old man is being harassed and jailed, while others committing serious offenses walk free. Is this justice?”

Taking a direct dig at Pawan Kalyan, she accused him of hypocrisy. “Didn’t you send your people to target his wife? Now, you are settling scores. Is this democracy?” she questioned, warning that Andhra Pradesh is heading towards “anarchy and oppressive rule.”

Concluding her statement, she alleged that Pawan Kalyan, Chandrababu, and Lokesh are misusing power instead of addressing public concerns, citing the recent cases against Vamsi and Posani as examples of targeted political action.



PM Modi addresses webinar on agriculture and rural well-being

Developed India should be part of the goal
Kisan Credit Card (KCC) limit increased to ₹5 lakh
Focus on low-yield areas and self-reliance in pulses

TPN Correspondent | Nellore
Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a webinar on agriculture and rural well-being on Saturday, emphasizing the importance of farmers' welfare in achieving a Vikasit Bharat (Developed India). The event was attended by Lead Bank Manager Pradeep Kumar, bank officials, and over 100 farmers from the Thikkana premises at the Nellore Collectorate. During his address, the Prime Minister stressed the role of private sector participation and other stakeholders in advancing rural development. He highlighted the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana, which aims to boost production and productivity in low-yielding areas through aspirational districts. He also underscored the need for self-reliance in pulses, with a focus on quality seed supply and hybrid variety development. Speaking on fisheries, PM Modi pointed out that the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) was launched to

enhance infrastructure, production, and post-harvest management in the sector. He urged local communities to identify regional potential and develop sector-specific strategies. A major highlight of the session was the increase in Kisan Credit Card (KCC) limits, a key measure in the Budget 2025-26. The KCC limit has been raised from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh, while unsecured credit has been increased to ₹2 lakh. This initiative aims to benefit nearly 8 crore farmers, enabling them to invest in cash crops, horticulture, dairy, and poultry. The revised interest subsidy will apply to the new KCC limits, reducing dependence on high-interest informal loans and addressing regional disparities in credit distribution. The Prime Minister also noted that risk management under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) will be strengthened, and PM Kisan benefits will continue to be directly transferred to farmers' accounts. The KCC facility has been extended to tenant farmers, Joint Liability



Groups (JLGs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), vegetable farmers, intercropping, and integrated agriculture. Lead Bank Manager T. S. Pradeep Kumar and other banking representatives participated in the event, discussing financial support measures for farmers. More than 100 farmers from Nellore district attended the webinar.



NTR District Police Rescue Another Baby in Child Trafficking Case

NTR District Police crack down on illegal child trafficking.

Task Force arrests five women involved in selling children.

TPN Correspondent | NTR District

In a major breakthrough against child trafficking, the NTR District Police have rescued another baby in connection with an illegal child-selling racket. City Police Commissioner Sri S. V. Rajasekhara Babu IPS acted on received information, leading the Task Force ADCP Sri A. Srinivasa Rao to conduct a raid under the supervision of ACP Smt. K. Lathakumari and North ACP Smt. Sravanthi Rai. During the operation on March 1, 2025, officials arrested five women involved in illegally selling small children, targeting childless couples and those suffering from infertility for financial gain. The Task Force successfully took three children into safe custody and detained the suspects for further investigation. Continuing their efforts, today, under the leadership of ACP K. Lathakumari, the task force, along with officers from the women's police station, rescued another baby near Sitana-garam, Rajahmundry. The rescued child was immediately handed over to the Women and Child Department for care and protection. Authorities have intensified their crackdown on child trafficking, ensuring strict legal action against those involved in such heinous crimes.

CPM Applauds Vijayalakshmi for Resisting Irregularities in Council Elections



TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
CPM and public organization leaders congratulated Isa Vijayalakshmi, a Dalit woman leader from the All India Democratic Women's Association, for courageously standing against the alleged irregularities committed by Telugu Desam leaders during the Legislative Council elections in Krishna and Guntur districts. CPM State Secretary Ch. Baburao demanded strict action against the TDP leaders who reportedly threatened PDF agents and disrupted the polling process. He stated that Telugu Desam leaders resorted to electoral malpractices to secure the victory of Alapati

Rajendra Prasad in the Pattabadrulu constituency election. According to Baburao, on the day of polling, TDP leader Buddha Venkanna and other local leaders unlawfully entered the 79A polling booth at the RTC Training Center in Vidyadharapuram, Vijayawada West, at around 3 PM. They allegedly closed the doors, snatched ballot papers from officials, and attempted to disconnect webcams. PDF agent Vijayalakshmi, who was present at the booth, was threatened, abused, and forcefully asked to leave. However, she stood her ground and immediately lodged a complaint with the police. Though the po-

lice arrived late, they eventually intervened and escorted the TDP leaders out. Baburao condemned the irony of TDP leaders, who, despite engaging in electoral misconduct, are now filing complaints against polling officials. He alleged that similar incidents occurred in multiple booths, where TDP members tried to intimidate and manipulate agents, but PDF and public association agents successfully resisted their efforts. In recognition of her resilience, CPM leaders Satyababu, Narayana, and other public representatives honored Vijayalakshmi by draping her with a shawl. They commended her for upholding democratic values despite facing threats. Speaking on the occasion, Baburao and Satyababu criticized the ruling Telugu Desam Party for contradicting its earlier stance on democracy and electoral integrity. "In Vijayawada West, under Buddha Venkanna's leadership, TDP leaders illegally entered polling booths, threatened agents, closed doors, snatched ballot papers, removed webcams, and attempted fake voting. Election officials either remained spectators or responded too late," Baburao said. The CPM and public organization leaders demanded an impartial investigation and strict action against those responsible for electoral violations. They emphasized that free and fair elections are essential for democracy and urged the Election Commission to act immediately. Public association leaders Durga Rao, G. Venkateswara Rao (Konda), and others were also present at the event.

Class 8 student Srilekha dies after tree falls on her, DEO attends funeral



TPN Correspondent | Kurnool

A tragic incident claimed the life of C. Srilekha, a class 8 student of Polakal Zilla Parishad High School in Belagal mandal, after a tree fell on her due to strong winds on February 28. Despite undergoing treatment at Kurnool Government Hospital, she passed away on Sunday morning. Following the accident, District Education Officer (DEO) S. Samuel Paul, Mandal Education Officer Adam Basha, the Headmasters' Association, and school staff worked tirelessly to ensure the best possible treatment. The DEO personally visited the hospital, but despite all efforts, Srilekha could not be saved. Deeply moved by her passing, the DEO attended the post-mortem and consoled the grieving parents, assuring them of support. He later traveled to Peddanelatur in Gonegandla mandal for the funeral, where he paid his last respects. As immediate aid, he provided ₹20,000 to the family for funeral expenses. The tragic loss of the young student has left the education department and the local community in mourning.

Six Arrested in Jaggayyapet Murder Case, One Juvenile in Custody

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

The police have arrested six individuals in connection with a murder case that occurred during the Shivaratri celebrations in Jaggayyapet on February 27, 2025. The arrests were made at the Padmavati Nagar check post, while another juvenile suspect has been taken into custody and will be shifted to a juvenile home. Speaking at a press meet held at the Jaggayyapet Police Circle Office, CI Venkateswarlu revealed that the accused were involved in the murder of Bathula Srinu near Cheruvu Bazaar. The incident stemmed from a pre-planned attack by a group of youths from the same area. The arrested accused have been identified as Bathula Kishore Babu (25), Bathula Venkata Sivakumar (19), Bandi Sai Ankamma Rao Sai (19), Bandi Ravikumar (23), Vemula Jwala Narasimha Rao (23), and Roopana Vinay (19), along with



a juvenile whose name has been withheld. The police investigation revealed that all the accused were habitual drinkers and trouble-makers. Bathula Srinu, who was known in the village for settling disputes and maintaining peace, became a target for the accused. Feeling overshadowed by his influence, the group

planned to eliminate him.

On the night of Shivaratri, when a fight broke out, Srinu intervened as usual, attempting to resolve the conflict. Seizing the opportunity, the accused launched a brutal attack. They stabbed Srinu in the neck and back using a chicken knife they had concealed beforehand. During the attack, his elder brother, Bathula Venkateswarlu, was also stabbed in the shoulder before the assailants fled the scene. City Police Commissioner S.V. Rajasekhara Babu, IPS, took the case seriously and directed a speedy investigation under the supervision of Rural DCP K.M. Maheshwara Raju, IPS, and Nandigama ACP Tilak. Based on their orders, the police successfully tracked down and arrested the accused within days. Authorities have assured strict action against those involved, and further investigation is underway.

Eluru's Power Peta Underpass Turns into a Death Trap

TPN Correspondent | Eluru
The railway underpass in Power Peta, Eluru, originally constructed as an alternative to a railway overbridge (ROB), has become a major hazard for commuters. Built in one of the low-lying areas of the city, the underpass has been plagued with severe waterlogging, accidents, and increasing traffic congestion, making it a daily struggle for residents.

A Controversial Decision
Decades ago, the Railway Department decided to construct railway overbridges at level crossings for better traffic management. As part of this initiative, the then Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav allocated ₹25 crores for each bridge in the budget. However, the decision to construct an underpass instead of an ROB at the Venkatrama Power Press railway gate was driven by vested interests. The revelation of this budget allocation led to behind-the-scenes lobbying, and a member of the Central Railway Advisory Board influenced the decision to sanction an underpass rather than an overbridge. The justification was that an ROB would require demolishing buildings, some of which had been in families for generations. Railways eventually agreed to this alternative, leading to the construction of the underpass.

A History of Tragedies

From the beginning, the project was marked by disasters. During construction, heavy rains led to the drowning of three people. After its completion, four more people lost their lives in the same underpass due to severe waterlogging. The design flaws of the underpass, combined with its location in a low-lying area, made it highly prone to water accumulation, especially during the monsoon. Since then, this underpass has remained a significant problem for Eluru's traffic and safety.

Increasing Traffic Woes at Power Peta Railway Gate
Apart from the underpass issue, the Power Peta railway gate has worsened traffic congestion in Eluru. The railway gate, located under the jurisdiction of the Eluru Municipal Corporation, sees frequent closures due to passing trains, causing massive vehicular pile-ups. Trains cross the gate every five minutes, forcing cars, vans, autos, and two-wheelers to halt repeatedly. This situation leads to long delays, sometimes stretching up to 30 minutes multiple times a day. Even after the railway

gate is reopened, the simultaneous movement of vehicles from both sides results in chaotic traffic. Despite repeated warnings from the gateman about incoming trains, many vehicles refuse to clear the gate area, leading to situations where trains must be stopped. This disruption has persisted for over two decades, yet neither railway officials, municipal authorities, nor local representatives have taken steps to address it.

Unfulfilled Promises and Neglected Repairs

Twenty years ago, when Ambika Krishna was the MLA, a railway underpass named "Rajiv Sneha Varadhi" was constructed to ease movement. However, this underpass has remained submerged in water since its inception. Despite crores of rupees being spent on repairs, the problem persists.

Waterlogging in the underpass has created constant risks for commuters, particularly those on two-wheelers. People traveling with children face extreme difficulties as knee-deep water remains stagnant in the area. Every day, multiple travelers slip and fall while navigating through the underpass, leading to injuries. Even during light drizzles, water enters through various channels, worsening the foul smell and making the road hazardous. Potholes have formed across the underpass, leading to accidents and damage to vehicles. Despite residents' repeated pleas, public representatives and officials have ignored the issue. Every six months, funds are allocated for repairs, but

no long-term solution has been implemented. Frustrated locals accuse authorities of misusing public money under the guise of maintenance while failing to address the core problem.

Demand for a Permanent Solution

For years, politicians have promised to construct an ROB in place of the Power Peta railway gate, yet the project has never materialized. Although ₹25 crores have been allocated in the railway budget annually for an overbridge at this level crossing, the plan has been stalled due to land acquisition issues. Officials argue that acquiring land for a service road would cost four times the amount needed for the bridge itself, leading to neglect of the project.

As traffic congestion and safety concerns escalate, residents are demanding immediate action. They urge authorities to construct an ROB at the Power Peta railway gate and replace the underpass with a proper overbridge to prevent further loss of life. The public insists that delaying the project any further could lead to more accidents and hardships. With increasing pressure from locals, it remains to be seen whether the government and railway officials will finally take action or continue to ignore a problem that has plagued Eluru for decades.



Residents demand railway overbridge

- Persistent waterlogging and accidents.
- Power Peta railway gate causes severe traffic congestion.
- Despite decades of promises.
- No action has been taken to construct an overbridge.

Rift in Prathipadu Silent Feud Between MLA Satyaprabha and Party Activists



- Activists distancing themselves from the MLA
- Mudragada Padmanabham strengthening YCP grip in the region
- Jana Sena and BJP leaders express dissatisfaction over alliance dynamics

TPN Correspondent | Prathipadu

Internal discord is growing within the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in Prathipadu, as a rift emerges between MLA Varupula Satyaprabha and party activists. Despite the constituency being a TDP stronghold, the party suffered a setback in the 2024 elections when YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) candidate Varupula Subbarao won with a margin of 38,768 votes. Now, just eight months into her tenure, Satyaprabha is facing distancing from key party members and growing political pressure.

Party Activists Distancing Themselves
Satyaprabha's entry into politics was unexpected yet impactful, as she stepped in after the demise of her husband, senior TDP leader Varupula Jogiraju. She was backed by TDP chief Chandrababu Naidu, contested as part of the alliance, and secured a landslide victory. However, political observers note that she has been unable to consolidate her position within the party. There is dissatisfaction within TDP ranks over the influence of leaders from neighboring constituencies in Prathipadu's affairs. Party activists believe that Satyaprabha, despite her initial goodwill, is struggling to maintain unity and coordination among local leaders. Many who once stood behind her during her political debut now feel sidelined.

Growing Influence of Mudragada Padmanabham

Meanwhile, former minister Mudragada Padmanabham is making strategic moves to strengthen YSRCP in Prathipadu. He has positioned his son, Giribabu, as the party's key coordinator, intensifying political competition. Amid this, there is growing speculation that Satyaprabha's current approach could limit her to being a one-term MLA. There are also reports that leaders from alliance partners, Jana Sena and BJP, feel sidelined. While the coalition secured victory, Jana Sena and BJP leaders allege they are being given respect only in public statements and photographs, but not in actual decision-making. Party WhatsApp groups frequently trend with dissatisfaction over the lack of collective efforts. TDP leaders are reportedly concerned that officials are not prioritizing party recommendations. Additionally, allegations persist that local YSRCP leaders continue to control key revenue-generating sectors, such as quarries and land dealings, with little intervention from the ruling party. There are plans within TDP circles to escalate these concerns to senior leadership after Ugadi. **A Critical Political Crossroad**
Political analysts believe Satyaprabha still has time to solidify her leadership if she takes corrective measures. Many suggest that as an educated woman, she must focus on regaining control over governance and addressing party grievances to ensure a stronger political

Chandrababu Suggested Working for Both Telugu States: Rammohan Naidu



- Union Minister holds a press meet with Kishan Reddy in Hyderabad.
- Reveals Chandrababu advised him to work for both AP and Telangana.
- Says it's gratifying that Warangal Airport clearance happened during his tenure.

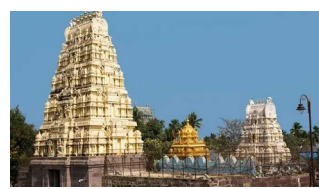
TPN Correspondent | Hyderabad

Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, along with Union Minister Kishan Reddy, addressed the media in Kavadiyiguda, Hyderabad, today. Speaking at the event, Rammohan Naidu revealed that after

assuming office as a Union Minister, TDP Chief and AP CM Chandrababu Naidu gave him a crucial suggestion—to work not just for Andhra Pradesh but also for Telangana's development, particularly in the aviation sector. He emphasized that the effort put

into Andhra Pradesh's aviation sector should be equally extended to Telangana. Rammohan Naidu expressed gratitude for the guidance provided by senior leaders like Kishan Reddy and stated that he is moving forward with their experience and support. Highlighting recent developments, he said it was a matter of great satisfaction that Warangal Airport received clearance during his tenure. He noted that Warangal Airport, once the largest in Asia, had remained inactive since 1981. However, the long-standing aspiration of the people of Warangal for an operational airport has now been realized. Rammohan Naidu credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the aviation sector's rapid expansion, stating that the number of airports in India has increased from 79 to 150 in the last decade. He highlighted that even small cities have been connected through new airports and shared the good news of Warangal Mamunur Airport's clearance, marking a significant step for the region's development.

Fake Darshan Tickets Scam Uncovered in Srisailam



TPN Correspondent | Srisailem

Authorities have uncovered a scam involving fake darshan tickets at the Srisailem temple, where fraudsters have been deceiving devotees by editing old tickets and reselling them. Following multiple complaints, temple CEO Madhusudhan Reddy has lodged a formal complaint with the police, prompting an investigation into the fraudulent activities. Officials revealed that scammers have been altering details on previously issued darshan

tickets and distributing them to unsuspecting devotees. This illegal activity has led to financial losses for devotees and raised concerns over security at the temple premises. Acting swiftly, the police have registered a case and initiated efforts to track down those involved in the scam. The temple authorities, along with law enforcement, are closely monitoring the situation and have urged devotees to purchase tickets only through official channels. Security measures are also being reviewed to prevent similar incidents in the future. Further investigations are underway to identify and take strict action against those responsible for this fraudulent operation.

CM Naidu Attends Former MLC Rajendra Prasad's Daughter's Engagement



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu today attended the engagement ceremony of senior TDP leader and former MLC YVB Rajendra Prasad's daughter, Sneha, in Uyyuru, joint Krishna district. He extended his best wishes to the couple, presenting a bouquet to Sneha

and Rajeshla and offering his blessings. Naidu's presence at the event created a buzz, with a large number of district TDP leaders and dignitaries attending the ceremony. The event witnessed a grand gathering, reflecting the influence and goodwill of the veteran leader.

The Imperialist Philosopher Who Demanded The Ukraine War

In August 2022, six months into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a cultural festival named Traditions was held just outside Moscow, at the former summer retreat of the celebrated Russian poet Alexander Pushkin. The keynote speaker for this event was Alexander Dugin, a scholar and influential ideologue widely seen as the intellectual force behind the movement supporting the war. Dugin, often referred to as the prophet of the new Russian Empire, has long advocated for a vision of Russia as a dominant, spiritual force in global history. His recent book *Being and Empire* (2023), a dense, 784-page tome, argues that Russia is "the last place of the true subject of history in time and space."



At the Traditions festival, Dugin delivered a lecture titled *Tradition and History*, which lived up to its grandiose name, covering an expansive range of topics. Dugin spoke about the

spiritual core of the Russian nation, looking back to its pre-modern past for clues to its deeper, metaphysical identity. He discussed the seasonal rhythms of the Russian peasantry, positing that the labor of the land

was not merely a form of work, but a manifestation of Russia's spiritual essence. Through this lens, the everyday life of the Russian people was imbued with profound, historical significance.

Dugin's intellectual and ideological positions have made him a central figure in the Russian political and cultural elite. His ideas about a new Russian Empire, grounded in a blend of nationalism, orthodoxy, and mysticism, are seen as providing a philosophical justification for Russia's aggressive military actions in Ukraine. At the Traditions festival, this worldview was not merely academic but presented as a living, spiritual truth for the nation.

Trump, Musk, and Patel: A Geopolitical Reckoning Liberals Can't Ignore



When Donald Trump reclaims the White House, he doesn't stand alone. Alongside him is Elon Musk, the world's richest man and the mastermind behind X (formerly Twitter), and Kash Patel, newly appointed as FBI Director following a contentious Senate vote. Together, this trio forms a power bloc that could reshape global politics, economics, and ideologies in ways that pose an existential challenge to liberals who champion global cooperation and progressive values.

This powerful coalition—Trump's nationalistic fervor, Musk's unrestrained influence, and Patel's security-driven vision—suggests a future where dominance trumps cooperation. For liberals who have spent decades building international alliances, climate action, and institutional trust, this shift signals the unraveling of everything they've worked for.

Under Trump's "America First" mantra, reinforced by Musk's wealth and Patel's security grip, the U.S. could turn inward, severing key alliances like NATO in favor of deals with like-minded

autocrats—such as Putin or Modi. Patel's FBI, driven by political loyalty rather than traditional law enforcement principles, could tighten intelligence flows, further isolating the U.S. from its global partners. For liberals, this represents a disastrous departure from multilateral diplomacy and could lead to a fragmented world where international norms are ignored, and global stability is endangered.

This emerging isolationist framework would put global leaders in a precarious position, forcing them to recalibrate their strategies as America no longer plays the stabilizing role it once did.

Elon Musk's control over X, with its vast global reach and 210 million followers, has already reshaped American political discourse. His platform has amplified Trump's return and boosted the rise of figures like Vivek Ramaswamy. Musk's influence extends beyond U.S. borders, where he's backed far-right European leaders and criticized climate activism. Under his leadership, X has become an increasingly hostile environment for progressive voices, further

aligning with Trump's populist rhetoric.

For liberals, this consolidation of power by one billionaire who influences political debates without facing elections is deeply unsettling. Musk's growing alignment with Trump could elevate X into a megaphone for right-wing ideologies, leaving little room for left-leaning perspectives in public discourse.

Patel's FBI: A Security-Driven Shakeup

Kash Patel's appointment as FBI Director signals a turning point. A staunch Trump ally with no law enforcement experience, Patel's approach promises to reshape the FBI into a political tool. His focus on rooting out "dissenters"—real or imagined—could turn the agency into an enforcer of Trump's vision rather than an objective intelligence body. International partners may hesitate to share intelligence, fearing that political agendas will influence national security decisions. This could escalate geopolitical tensions, further isolating the U.S. from its allies.

Liberals are particularly

alarmed by the rise of a security state driven by partisan loyalty. With Patel in charge, the FBI could become a vehicle for silencing opposition, both domestically and abroad, marking a dangerous shift toward authoritarianism.

The Global Right Strikes Back

Giorgia Meloni, Italy's populist prime minister, recently declared the left's worldview "decadent" and "elitist." With Trump, Musk, and Patel rising, it's clear why: this trio is not only challenging the left—they are overpowering it. With their combined wealth, influence, and security control, they are re-writing the rules of politics and economics in a way that leaves liberals scrambling to adapt.

As Trump's political machine, Musk's fortune, and Patel's security apparatus converge, the world is on the brink of a new geopolitical order—one that prioritizes dominance over diplomacy, strength over cooperation, and loyalty over justice. For liberals, the message is clear: adapt or watch their ideals crumble.



Shashi Tharoor | The outsider within

The four-time MP for Thiruvananthapuram has landed in back-to-back controversies after his comments on Kerala's industrial growth and Congress leadership

Shashi Tharoor, known for his literary prowess and political career, has often found himself at the center of controversy due to his sharp words, which sometimes appear to cause more trouble than they are worth. As a four-time Member of Parliament in the Congress, his political commentary has frequently stirred reactions, not only from his rivals but also from within his own party. From the "cattle class" comment in 2009 to his latest remarks about Kerala's Congress leadership, Tharoor's words have been both his greatest asset and his Achilles' heel in the political arena.

Most recently, Tharoor's interview in a newspaper sparked a new round of controversy. He reportedly spoke about the lack of a clear leader in Kerala's Congress unit and mentioned alternative "options" such as speaking tours and writing books, should the party not require his services. Although he later accused the media of twisting his words to imply that he was seeking a leadership position, the damage had been done. The comments were seen by many as a subtle pitch for a more prominent role in Kerala's politics, especially ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections, adding fuel to the fire of his strained relationship with state Congress leaders.

This incident came closely after another storm. Earlier in February, Tharoor praised Kerala's industrial ecosystem, highlighting the growth in the startup sector and the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government's achievements in fostering MSMEs. His remarks, made just before the Invest Kerala Global Summit, were seized by the ruling LDF to counter Congress's negative view of the state's investment climate. This infuriated local Congress leaders, who quickly tried to downplay his comments. The issue only subsided after Tharoor met with Rahul Gandhi, seeking clarification and damage control.

The Congress Party's Struggle for Relevance: A Call for Reform and Leadership



Will the Congress party ever learn from its repeated electoral defeats? This is the question that looms large over the party's future. Once the architect of India's independence, known for its art of political compromise and deft management of competing regional ambitions, the Congress now seems a shell of its former self. The party is plagued by a lack of coherence, a vanishing ideology, intolerance for dissent, and an inability to manage regional leaders effectively. These internal struggles, coupled with a lack of meaningful leadership, have led to its continuous defeats at the polls.

The Congress, which once commanded respect, is now overshadowed by a group of divisive and narrow-minded political forces. Today, the country finds itself in the hands of leaders who focus more on dividing societies, suppressing dissent, and marginalizing minorities than on fostering inclusive growth. The rise of such politics, focused on hyper-nationalism and divisiveness, represents a painful departure from the ideals that once made India a beacon of democracy.

Meanwhile, the right-wing parties have thrived, effectively harnessing the power of nationalism to build a strong base. Figures like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, backed by populist policies and a focus on national pride, have created a political environment where division is the norm, and governance takes a backseat to rhetoric. The right-wing's success lies in its ability to consolidate a vote bank by manufacturing societal divisions, often using nationalism as a weapon to unite its supporters.

This presents a dire challenge for the Congress: it must articulate a clear, compelling ideology that speaks to the needs of ordinary Indians—addressing unemployment, economic revival, education, social welfare, and regional harmony. The Congress must also recognize the importance of building a strong organization that reaches out to constituents year-round, not just during election cycles.

Ramzan Mubarak!: PM Modi Extends Greetings As Holy Month Begins

- PM Modi extend Ramzan greetings
- Wish for peace, harmony, and devotion
- J&K communities celebrate with unity

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday extended his heartfelt greetings to the people on the occasion of the holy Islamic month of Ramzan. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), he wished for peace and harmony to prevail in society as the month of fasting and devotion begins.

"As the blessed month of Ramzan begins, may it bring peace and harmony in our society," the Prime Minister said in his message. He emphasized that this sacred month serves as a time for reflection, gratitude, and devotion, reminding people of the core values of compassion, kindness, and service. He concluded his message with a warm "Ramzan Mubarak!"

Congress leader and Member of Parliament Rahul Gandhi also shared his greetings, sending wishes for happiness and peace during the holy month. "Ramzan Mubarak! May this sacred month fill your life with happiness and bring peace to your heart," Rahul Gandhi wrote in his post on X, extending his heartfelt wishes to the people observing Ramzan.

In Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri, the community marked the start of Ramzan with joy and togetherness. People in the region came together to distribute sweets, celebrating the beginning of the holy month. The distribution of sweets symbolizes a sense of unity and the spirit of sharing that is central



to Ramzan. Ramzan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is a time of fasting, reflection, prayer, and community for Muslims around the world. During this month, Muslims fast from dawn until sunset, engage in acts of charity, and strengthen their connection with God through devotion and worship.

As the holy month begins, both political leaders and citizens have come together to celebrate the values of unity, compassion, and peace that Ramzan embodies.



Eknath Shinde Dismisses Speculations Over Rift Within Mahayuti Alliance

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday dismissed rumors of a rift within the ruling Mahayuti alliance, assuring that the BJP-led coalition would remain intact. Addressing a joint press conference ahead of the upcoming budget session, Shinde humorously responded to claims of internal conflict, quipping that a "cold war" would be impossible in Maharashtra's scorching heat. "This is the second session of our government. Only we (BJP and Shiv Sena) have changed roles. But Ajit Dada's role remains constant... We have restarted several projects that were stalled by the MVA government. Ajit Dada will present the Maharashtra budget," Shinde said.

His comments followed opposition claims that Shinde had met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on February 22 in Pune to discuss alleged attempts by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to undermine his authority. Reports suggested that Shinde had complained about being sidelined and that his decisions were being reversed by Fadnavis. Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut further alleged that during the meeting, Shinde had expressed his desire to be the Chief Minister again, to which Shah purportedly responded that only by merging his Shiv Sena faction with the BJP could Shinde's claim to the CM post be considered.

Shinde's comments were aimed at quelling these rumors. "No matter how many breaking news stories you publish, we (Mahayuti) will not break. What is cold war? There is nothing like that. In this scorching heat of Maharashtra, how is a cold war possible?" Shinde added, mocking the speculation.

The Mahayuti coalition, comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP, secured a significant victory in the 2024 Assembly elections, winning 235 out of 288 seats. Despite the ongoing speculation, Shinde's remarks underline the coalition's resolve to maintain unity and focus on governance in the state.



Omar Abdullah Ensures Smooth Arrangements for Ramadan in Jammu and Kashmir

TPN Correspondent | Srinagar

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a high-level meeting on Saturday to review the arrangements for the holy month of Ramadan, which begins on Sunday. During the meeting, he directed the Power Department to ensure there are no electricity outages during Sehri and Iftar times, ensuring a smooth and comfortable experience for the people observing the fast.

Abdullah emphasized that during Ramadan, the public expects the government to provide essential services without inconvenience. He stressed the importance of delivering services effectively, particularly in the power sector. "People want, and we must strive, to ensure that there are no power outages during Sehri and Iftar time," he said. Any required shutdowns, he instructed, should be planned and implemented during the day, allowing for maintenance work at more convenient times.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the importance of addressing any issues with the electrical system and faulty distribution transformers (DTs) immediately to prevent disruptions during Ramadan. On the water supply front, Abdullah noted that the recent spell of snow and rain had improved the situation, but still emphasized the need to maintain a steady supply of clean drinking water to households.

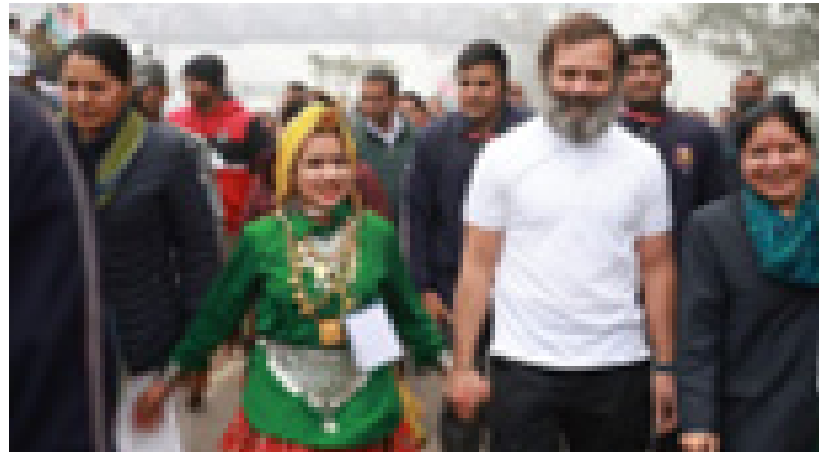
In addition to the power and water supply concerns, Abdullah directed officials to ensure cleanliness around mosques and shrines, optimize traffic management, and bolster security arrangements. Both the inspectors general of police for Jammu and Kashmir have already addressed security measures, ensuring that public safety is a top priority. Further, the Chief Minister directed all Deputy Commissioners to set up operational district control rooms to address grievances and enhance the public service delivery process during the holy month. "Our collective effort should be to ensure a smooth and hassle-free Ramadan for the people. It is our responsibility to put all necessary arrangements in place," Abdullah remarked.

Mehndi on hands, Body in Suitcase

Congress worker Himani Narwal found dead in Rohtak

TPN Correspondent | Haryana

A major political row erupted after Congress worker Himani Narwal was found dead in a suitcase near the Sampla bus stand in Rohtak. The 20-22-year-old had mehndi on her hands and a scarf around her neck, suggesting she had attended a celebration recently. Sampla police, who received information about the body on Friday, have launched an investigation.



Himani Narwal, from Kathura village in Sonapat, was an office-bearer of the Youth Congress in Rohtak. She gained prominence after appearing alongside Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra and played an active role in the Haryana Assembly election campaign with Bhupinder and Deepinder Hooda. She was also

known for performing with Haryanvi folk artists at Congress rallies and social events. Congress MLA Bharat Bhushan Batra confirmed her close association with the Hoodas during the election campaign. Her X account identified her as the vice president of the Indian Youth Congress.

Who was Himani Narwal?

The Congress has identified the deceased as Himani Narwal, an office-bearer of the Youth Congress in Rohtak. Himani Narwal hails from Kathura village in Sonapat. Narwal became popular after she appeared alongside Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra. She was also active during the Haryana Assembly elections,

campaigning for the Congress. During the election campaign, Narwal was pretty active with Bhupinder Hooda and Deepinder Hooda.

Congress leaders strongly condemned the murder. Haryana Congress president Bhupinder Singh Hooda called it a "barbaric act" and a "blot on the law and order situation" in the state. He demanded a high-level, impartial probe and justice for the victim's family. Former Youth Congress chief Srinivas BV also paid tribute, recalling her dedication to party activities, including the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Police are investigating the case, and the body has been sent for post-mortem. Authorities are working to identify the culprits behind the brutal killing.

Uttarakhand Avalanche

Army recovers two more bodies, death toll rises to six

TPN Correspondent | Uttarakhand

The Indian Army recovered two more bodies from the avalanche-hit area near Mana village in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, raising the total fatalities to six. The search operation continues to locate the remaining two missing individuals.

According to PRO (Defence), Dehradun, the bodies recovered today are being transported to Mana post. The rescue mission, involving the Army, ITBP, Air Force, NDRF, and SDRF, is working relentlessly to locate the missing workers. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami confirmed that advanced equipment, including ground-penetrating radar, thermal imaging cameras, and victim-locating cameras, is being used to aid the search efforts.

The Chief Minister noted that while weather conditions are improving, the risk of further avalanches remains high. As a precaution, authorities have suspended work in high-altitude areas.



Chamoli District Magistrate Sandeep Tiwari provided an update on the situation, stating that doctors had confirmed four deaths by Saturday. Initially, authorities estimated 55 workers were present, but later confirmed one was on unauthorized leave and had returned home, adjusting the

total count to 54, with four still missing at that time. Meanwhile, the Indian Air Force deployed a Mi-17 helicopter to airlift a drone-based Intelligent Buried Object Detection system for search operations in the avalanche-affected region. IAF Cheetah helicopters have been active-

ly assisting in rescue efforts since Saturday, after the avalanche struck a BRO camp near Mana village on February 28. The multi-agency search and rescue operation remains underway, with officials committed to locating the remaining missing individuals.

Trump-Zelensky Clash Spurs Europe to Strengthen Security Amid Fears Of U.S. Shift

TPN Correspondent | London

Europe is reassessing its security strategy after a public confrontation between U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the White House. The diplomatic fallout has prompted European leaders to reinforce their support for Ukraine and evaluate their options amid fears of a weakened American commitment.

Following the White House meeting, Zelensky received a warm reception in Britain, where he attended a summit hosted by UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and held an official audience at Sandringham. His visit comes as European leaders seek to reassert their backing for Ukraine, fearing that a shift in U.S. policy could embolden Russia and leave Europe more vulnerable.

Trump's administration has initiated direct talks with Russian officials to negotiate an end to the war, sidelining both



Ukraine and Europe. This shift, coupled with a phone call between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, has raised concerns that Washington may force Kyiv into an unfavorable peace deal, potentially strengthening Moscow's position in the region.

European leaders, including those from Germany, France, Spain, Poland, and the Netherlands, have expressed solidarity with Ukraine through public statements, with Zelensky personally acknowledging their support. However, the possi-

bility of the U.S. stepping back from its role as a security guarantor has led to urgent discussions on Europe's defense preparedness.

The U.S. has provided approximately \$114 billion in aid to Ukraine since the war began three years ago, while Europe has contributed around \$132 billion. Should American support wane, European forces stationed at key Ukrainian infrastructure sites could face increased risks from Russian military actions. Without a strong deterrent, Moscow might re-

sume hostilities, threatening regional stability.

In response, European officials are convening a series of high-level meetings to discuss their defense strategy. A summit in London on Sunday and a special European Council session in Brussels on Thursday will focus on accelerating military reinforcement and defining clearer security guarantees for Ukraine.

Ukraine remains determined to secure security assurances from Washington, recognizing the importance of U.S. support in deterring future Russian aggression. However, the diplomatic rift has fueled European efforts to build a more independent defense policy.

As tensions escalate, Europe faces a critical decision: whether to rely on Washington's unpredictable stance or rapidly strengthen its own military capabilities. The outcome of this week's discussions will likely shape the continent's security strategy in the years ahead.



Israel Stops Entry of Aid Into Gaza as Ceasefire Ends

TPN Correspondent | Tel Aviv

Israel announced on Sunday that it is halting the entry of all goods and supplies into the Gaza Strip following the expiration of the first phase of the ceasefire with Hamas. The Israeli prime minister's office did not specify the duration of the blockade but warned of "additional consequences" if Hamas does not agree to what Israel says is a US-backed proposal for an extended ceasefire. The first phase of the truce, which saw an increase in humanitarian aid deliveries, expired on Saturday. While negotiations for a second phase were expected—potentially involving the release of more hostages in exchange for an Israeli pullout—no agreement has been reached.

Israel stated that it supports a proposal to extend the ceasefire until April 20, covering Ramadan and Passover. The plan, reportedly put forward by US Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff, suggests Hamas release half of the remaining hostages on the first day and the rest once terms for a permanent ceasefire are settled. So far, Hamas has not responded to the offer, and there has been no official comment from mediators Egypt, Qatar, or the United States. The situation remains tense as humanitarian concerns grow over the renewed blockade of aid.



"What Are Your Needs?" New Scam In Indonesia Uses President Deepfakes

TPN Correspondent | Jakarta

A deepfake scam using AI-generated videos of Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto has swindled people across 20 provinces, with fraudsters luring victims by promising financial aid.

The scam involves a manipulated video of Prabowo, where he appears to ask viewers, "What are your needs right now?" Those who fell for the message were instructed to contact a WhatsApp number and pay between 250,000 and one million rupiah (\$15-\$60) as an "administrative fee" to receive aid that never materialized.

Authorities have arrested one suspect who pocketed 65 million rupiah (\$4,000) through the scheme, while a second person linked to another deepfake scam was also detained. However, similar fake videos continue to circulate widely on platforms like TikTok, with some clips amassing millions of views. Social media platforms are now scrambling to remove misleading content. TikTok confirmed taking down at least one such video, while Meta has not yet responded to requests for comment. Experts warn that deepfake scams are on the rise in Indonesia, posing serious threats to public trust and financial security. TikTok said it had removed one of the deepfake scam videos and the associated account, adding it would continue to remove any that violated the platform's community guidelines, which prohibit misleading posts. Facebook parent Meta did not respond to AFP's request for comment. AFP, along with more than 100 other fact-checking organizations, is paid by TikTok and Meta to verify social media posts that potentially contain false information.

Thousands Evacuated As Japan Battles Largest Wildfire In 30 Years

TPN Correspondent | Tokyo



A massive wildfire in northern Japan has forced the evacuation of thousands as authorities struggle to contain the country's worst blaze in over three decades.

The fire, which broke out near Ofunato city, has already claimed one life, damaged over 80 buildings, and spread across an estimated 1,800 hectares. Around 2,000 residents have fled to stay with relatives, while more than 1,200 have taken shelter in emergency centers.

Military helicopters are assisting in firefighting efforts, with nearly 1,700 firefighters mobilized from across the country. Japan experiences most of its wildfires between February and April, when dry conditions and strong winds heighten risks.

Aerial footage by NHK showed columns of white smoke billowing, four days after the blaze first materialized, with military helicopters trying to douse them. One burned body has been discovered so far, with more than 80 buildings damaged and around 1,700 firefighters mobilized from across the country. The number of wildfires has declined since the peak in the 1970s, according to government data, but there were about 1,300 across Japan in 2023 — concentrated in the February to April period when the air dries and winds pick up.

JD Vance Faces Pro-Ukraine Protest During Vermont Ski Holiday

TPN Correspondent | Vermont

US Vice-President JD Vance faced a wave of pro-Ukraine protests during his ski holiday in Vermont, following his heated exchange with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the White House. Protesters gathered in Waitsfield on Saturday, holding signs that read "International embarrassment" and "Vermont stands with Ukraine," while waving Ukrainian flags.

According to reports, the Vance family was forced to move to an undisclosed location from their planned ski resort due to the demonstration. The protest, initially planned before the Oval Office clash, saw increased participation after Vance's combative remarks against Zelensky and Ukraine aid policies.

"After what he did yesterday, he crossed the line," said protester Cori Giroux, speaking to Vermont Public Radio.

Despite the tensions, Vermont's Republican Governor Phil Scott, a critic of Trump, urged residents to be respectful. "Please join me in welcoming them to Vermont and hoping they have an opportunity to experience what makes our state, and Vermonters, so special," he stated. The controversy stems from Vance's confrontation with Zelensky during a White House meeting on Friday. The discussion, initially cordial, turned tense when Vance praised Trump's push for a diplomatic resolution to the Ukraine-Russia war. Zelensky challenged Vance, questioning what kind of diplomacy he was referring to.



"I'm talking about the kind of diplomacy that's going to end the destruction of your country," Vance retorted, accusing Zelensky of interfering in US politics by meeting with Trump's opponent Kamala Harris during the 2024 election campaign. As protests against the Trump-Vance administration continue, the fallout from the White House clash with Zelensky is expected to further deepen divisions on US support for Ukraine.

US-Funded NGOs May Be "Biggest Scam Ever": Elon Musk

TPN Correspondent | Washington, D.C.

Billionaire entrepreneur and key Trump advisor Elon Musk has claimed that US-funded NGOs might be the "biggest scam ever," alleging that taxpayer money is being misused to fund organizations with little oversight. His remarks, made during a podcast with Joe Rogan, have sparked intense debate over the role of these organizations in government spending.

Musk, who heads the newly formed Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) under the Trump administration, stated that his team is working to cut wasteful expenditures. According

to him, several NGOs receive billions in government funds without proper scrutiny, allowing individuals to profit from non-profit organizations.

"The whole NGO thing is a nightmare. A government-funded non-governmental organization is just a government-funded organization—it's an oxymoron," Musk remarked, adding that some NGOs were formed recently yet received substantial amounts of money.

Citing an example, Musk revealed that one particular NGO, barely a year old, received \$1.9 billion in funding. He argued that these organizations operate as loopholes, enabling activities that would otherwise be illegal if directly carried



out by the government.

The Tesla and SpaceX CEO also accused billionaire philanthropist George Soros of exploiting the system, claiming that he mastered the art of leveraging small donations into massive funding from the government. "Soros figured out how to create a non-profit, lobby politicians,

and turn a \$10 million donation into a billion-dollar NGO," Musk alleged.

Musk's accusations align with his earlier criticism of government agencies such as USAID, which he described as "money laundering operations." He emphasized that while some NGOs might serve genuine purposes, the majority engage in questionable financial practices, siphoning public funds under the guise of philanthropy.

Referring to the US government's fiscal crisis, Musk pointed out that the country is losing \$2 trillion annually and has repeatedly failed financial audits. He highlighted a case where the Navy received \$12 billion for additional submarines

but was unable to account for the funds. DOGE, under Musk's leadership, is reportedly scrutinizing the government's payment system, which he claims has been operating with minimal oversight. "When we arrived, we found that payments worth trillions were being processed without proper categorization or descriptions—essentially blank checks," he said. Musk expressed deep concern over America's financial future, warning that continued mismanagement could lead to economic collapse. He noted that many NGO payments persist even after the approving officials retire or leave their positions, likening it to an unchecked gym membership renewal.

Stock Markets set for Turbulence amid Global Uncertainties



Domestic stock markets are expected to face significant volatility this week, influenced by global developments. The tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump on Mexico, Canada, and China are set to take effect from March 4. Additionally, tensions have escalated after Ukrainian President Zelensky, who had engaged in peace talks, suddenly got into a disagreement with Trump, adding further uncertainty to the market. Given this



situation, investors are advised to remain cautious. However, if conditions turn favorable, there is a possibility of a counter rally in the benchmark indices. During the past week, stocks across all sectors declined, with only metal and private bank stocks showing some resilience. Analysts suggest that certain stocks may present good investment opportunities, provided investors exercise caution and implement

stop-loss strategies.



Stock Recommendations

Shares of HDFC Bank, which had reached an all-time high in December, witnessed a 15% correction before recovering at the crucial ₹1,660 support level. The stock has outperformed the Nifty index and recorded a 5% increase in the last three sessions. It closed at ₹1,732 last Friday, and investors are advised to enter around ₹1,700 with a target price of ₹1,825, keeping a stop-loss at ₹1,675. Coal India has seen renewed buying interest after a prolonged selling phase, as it is now available at attractive valuations. Despite market weakness, the



stock has shown stability. Closing at ₹369 last Friday, investors may consider entering around ₹350, targeting ₹390-₹425, with a stop-loss at ₹335.



Axis Bank has demonstrated consistent strength since late January, performing well even in a declining market. Relative strength is improving, and price action remains favorable. The stock closed at ₹1,015 in the previous session, and investors can consider an entry around ₹1,000, aiming for ₹1,125-₹1,150, with a stop-loss at ₹975.



Trent has been on a downward trend since October, losing 45% of its value. However, value investors are show-

ing renewed interest following strong quarterly results. Closing at ₹4,851 last Friday, the stock presents a potential entry at ₹4,800, with a target of ₹5,250, and a stop-loss at ₹4,750.



Hindalco has been outperforming the Nifty index, with the metals sector showing signs of recovery. Price action in the stock has been strong. Closing at ₹634 last Friday, investors can consider entering at ₹625, with target levels of ₹690-₹725, and a stop-loss at ₹600. Investors should proceed with caution. With ongoing global uncertainties, market participants should closely monitor developments and maintain a disciplined approach while trading in the current environment.

India's Economic Growth Shows Balance, Set to Reach 6.5% in FY25

India's economic growth is becoming increasingly balanced, with private consumption's share in GDP rising in fiscal year 2025, according to a new report by Crisil. The country's real GDP growth is expected to reach 6.5% for FY25, slightly revised from 6.4% in the second advanced estimate. This puts the projected growth closer to the pre-pandemic average of 6.6% for the past decade.

Dharmakirti Joshi, Chief Economist at Crisil, noted that this growth is underpinned by various factors, including normal monsoons, lower food inflation, and expected rate cuts in the range of 75-100 basis points in the current cycle, which began earlier this month. The GDP growth forecast for the next fiscal year is also pegged at 6.5%.

In fiscal 2024, public and household investments were the fastest-growing components, with the corporate sector lagging behind. Despite the financial flexibility and low leverage that many corporates enjoy, healthy investments have yet to materialize. Ongoing tariff wars and concerns about potential dumping from China have made the corporate sector more cautious in its investment decisions.

Joshi highlighted that the evolving risks from tariff actions, including those already in place and the possibility of more measures in the coming months, have created a downside bias to their



growth forecasts.

In terms of quarterly performance, India's GDP growth accelerated to 6.2% in Q3 of FY25 (October-December), up from a revised 5.6% in the previous quarter. For FY25, the growth is now estimated at 6.5%, while the previous fiscal year (2023-24) saw a revised growth rate of 8.2%, marking a 12-year high.

Regarding fiscal matters, the fiscal deficit for the first 10 months of the current financial year (April-January) stood at Rs 11.70 lakh crore, which is 74.5% of the annual estimate.

India Poised to Lead the AI Age with Strong Policies and Infrastructure: Piyush Goyal

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal emphasized that India is poised to take the lead in the AI revolution, thanks to the government's forward-thinking policies that enable entrepreneurs and innovators to leverage the digital wave. Speaking at the Mumbai Tech Week 2025, Goyal expressed confidence that Mumbai could become the country's tech hub, given the significant investments in infrastructure, capital, and skill development underway in the city.



The global significance of AI was underscored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the AI Action Summit in Paris. Co-chairing the event with France, PM Modi stressed that AI is a global responsibility, one that requires ethical, inclusive, and trustworthy development.

"Had an excellent interaction at the Mumbai Tech Week 2025, where I had the opportunity to discuss India's growing role in AI adoption and its commitment to ethical usage," Goyal posted on X. He highlighted that India is already taking a leadership position in artificial intelligence, with 3 billion AI-related app downloads recorded in 2024—far surpassing the U.S. (1.5 billion) and China (1.3 billion). According to Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, this growth indicates that India is not just conducting research on AI but is actively implementing it on a large scale.

He emphasized the need for governance frameworks that balance innovation with risk management and ensure access to AI, especially for the Global South. Modi also highlighted the importance of democratizing technology to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Prime Minister also pointed out India's success in building a Digital Public Infrastructure for its 1.4 billion citizens, ensuring open and accessible technology. He underscored that India is developing its own Large Language Model (LLM) for AI, taking into account the country's vast diversity. Modi concluded by announcing that India will host the next AI Summit, solidifying its position as a global leader in the AI era.

Manufacturing and services sectors set to boost GVA output as profitability improves in Q3FY25

A report by ICICI Bank suggests that the Gross Value Added (GVA) output, a key indicator of total value created by businesses, across the manufacturing and services sectors is set to maintain its momentum in the third quarter of the Financial Year 2025 (Q3FY25). This projection follows a significant improvement in profitability observed in Q3.

The report highlights that both manufacturing and services sectors showed steady recovery in profitability after a subdued second quarter. For Q3, ICICI Bank's Global Markets report predicts a continued pick-up in GVA output for these sectors, driven by improved profitability levels.



In Q3FY25, companies across manufacturing and services sectors wit-

nessed a rebound in revenue growth after a brief slowdown in the preced-

ing quarter. The service sector, in particular, saw robust top-line growth,

with a year-on-year (YoY) increase of 12.9%, outpacing the manufacturing sector, which grew by 4.4% YoY.

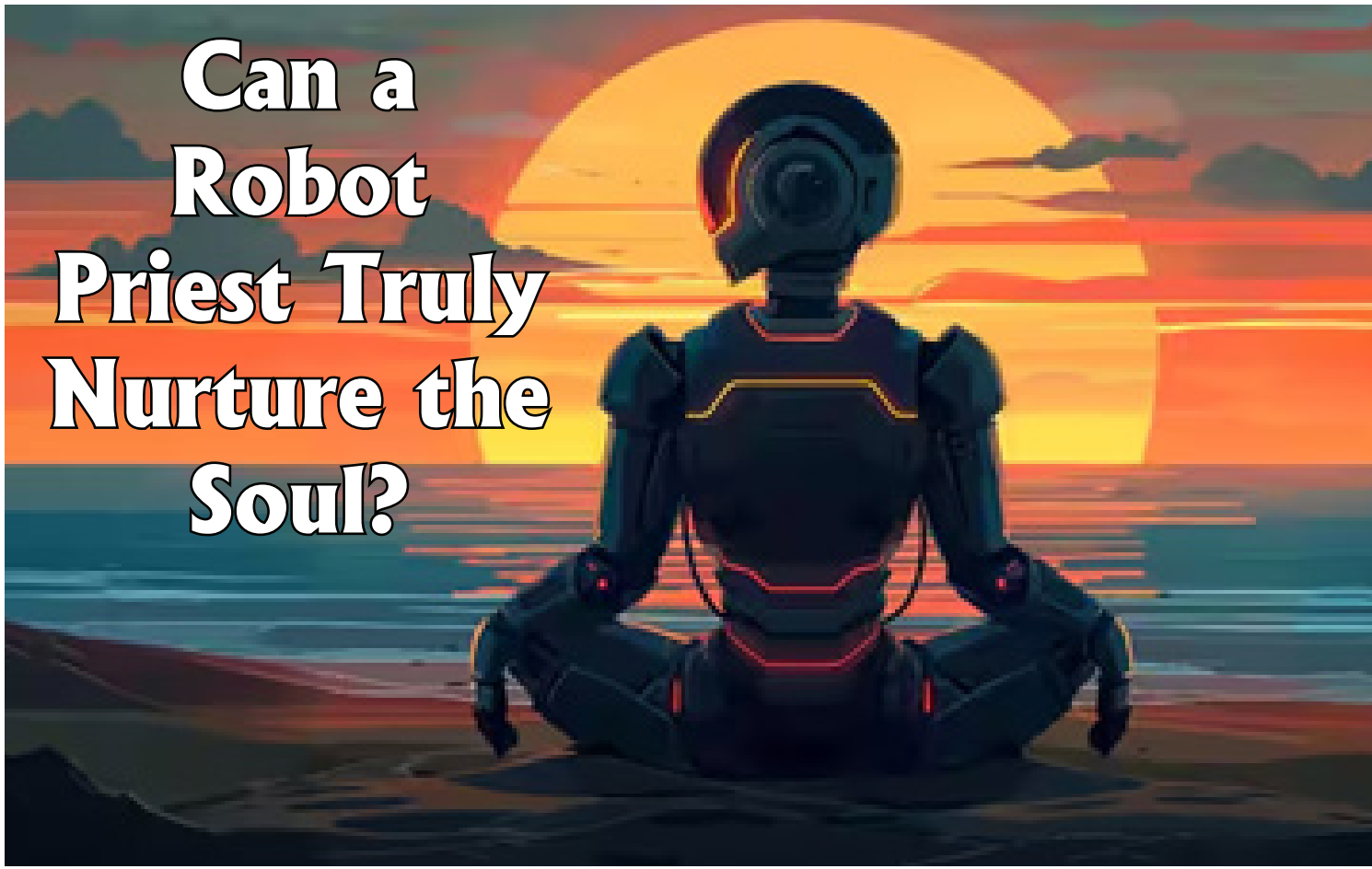
Manufacturing growth was largely driven by increased production volumes, although muted commodity prices restricted revenue expansion, particularly in commodity-focused sectors. However, manufacturers excluding refineries registered a faster revenue growth of 8.8% YoY. Key industries such as FMCG, chemicals, and electronics played a significant role in driving this growth.

The report also noted that the revenues of the manufacturing sector, excluding commodity sectors, grew by a stronger 10.3%, indicating a diversity of growth drivers within the industry. This revenue increase was primarily

supported by higher production volumes. However, manufacturing expenses rose by 4.9% YoY, mainly due to rising raw material costs, which account for about 72% of total manufacturing expenses.

In the service sector, industries like telecom, information technology (IT), and real estate contributed significantly to growth. However, the IT sector saw a deceleration in sequential revenue growth, largely due to the ongoing geopolitical uncertainties.

The report also pointed out that while the Quick Service Restaurants (QSR) sector faced challenges in the quarter, it is expected to perform better going forward, thanks to favorable policy announcements in the Union Budget.



As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to weave its way into every aspect of our lives, it is now making its presence felt in sacred spaces. From robot monks reciting prayers in Japan to AI-powered blessings and robotic aartis in India, faith leaders across different religious traditions are beginning to explore the role AI can play in spiritual practices. But the question remains: Can a robot priest truly nurture the soul, or is AI simply adding convenience to worship? AI's role in religion is still in its early stages, but some believe it has the potential to transform spiritual experiences. In Japan, for instance, Buddhist monks have been using robots to chant sutras and perform rituals for congregants, while in Hindu temples, robots are used to conduct aartis – the sacred lighting of lamps. These robots can recite prayers and deliver blessings with remarkable accuracy, yet they lack the emotional depth and spiritual understanding that human priests provide. While AI may be able to perform certain religious duties with precision

and consistency, it is difficult to imagine that it can fully replicate the personal connection and empathy that human faith leaders offer. Religion is not just about ritual; it is about community, compassion, and emotional support during times of crisis or joy. A robot, no matter how advanced, may struggle to fill this deeply human role. Moreover, the integration of AI into religious practices raises important ethical and philosophical questions. Can AI truly understand the spiritual significance of religious rituals, or is it simply following pre-programmed algorithms? Can a machine offer the same comfort as a human priest who understands the nuances of human emotion and the complexities of faith? Ultimately, while AI can enhance convenience and accessibility in worship, it is unlikely to replace the deeply personal and emotional aspects of religious practice that nourish the soul. As technology continues to advance, it is essential to maintain a balance between innovation and the essence of spiritual connection.

The Rise of AI-Powered Athlete Management: A New Era in Sports Training



Performance Optimization: Personalized insights are provided based on real-time data, adjusting workout intensity, technique, and recovery plans to ensure peak performance while minimizing the risk of injury. **Talent Scouting:** AI-powered video analysis helps identify emerging talent by evaluating biomechanics, speed, and movement patterns, ensuring that potential athletes from remote areas are not overlooked. **Coaching Support:** Virtual assistants provide data-driven strategies, analyze opponents, and assist in developing tailored development pathways for athletes, helping coaches focus on refining techniques and strategies.

Technology is no longer just an accessory in sports; it's becoming the digital coach athletes never knew they needed. Artificial intelligence (AI), computer vision, and data analytics are revolutionizing athlete management by personalizing training regimens, monitoring performance, and preventing injuries. These innovations are opening up new opportunities for athletes to reach their full potential.

AI's Impact on Athlete Management
A new wave of athlete management is emerging, inspired by successful global models like Australia's Winning Edge Program and its FTEM (Foundation, Talent, Elite, Mastery) framework. These systems emphasize digitization, providing real-time tracking and performance analysis. India is working towards implementing similar models in preparation for hosting the 2036 Olympics. One of the most notable examples of this technological shift is seen in the Indian table tennis team's preparation for the 2024 Olympics. With AI-driven tools offering data-driven feedback, athletes have fine-tuned their skills and made crucial adjustments, optimizing their training to meet global performance standards.

Features of AI-Powered Digital Coaches
AI-driven agents are transforming the landscape of athlete development. Key features include:

AI-powered systems offer several transformative benefits:
Personalized Training: Tailored programs are designed based on individual performance data and injury history, optimizing training for smarter, not harder, results. **Injury Prevention:** Real-time biomechanical assessments detect potential issues early, extending athletes' careers and minimizing downtime. **Talent Identification:** Data-driven scouting tools ensure a broader, more inclusive talent pool, giving every athlete a fair chance to be discovered.

Real-Time Decision Making: Coaches can adjust strategies on the fly based on live data, making precise decisions during competitions.

****The Future of Sports Technology in India****

As India gears up for the 2036 Olympics, embracing AI and real-time analytics will not only elevate the nation's sports infrastructure but also position it as a global leader in sports technology. This digital transformation will foster a new generation of champions, making technology accessible to athletes at all levels and ensuring a competitive edge on the world stage.

Apple's Foldable iPhone: What We Know So Far



Apple is reportedly working on a foldable iPhone that could rival devices from competitors like Samsung, Oppo, and Huawei. According to multiple reports and leaks, the tech giant may soon enter the foldable phone market, with a device featuring a book-style design and a unique screen ratio. While Apple has not yet confirmed any official plans, it has secured patents for technologies that could be utilized in such a device.

A tipster on Weibo, a popular Chinese microblogging platform, recently leaked details about the device's inner and outer displays. According to the leak, Apple's foldable iPhone will feature a 5.49-inch outer display, similar to the

one on the first-generation Oppo Find N. The device is expected to unfold into a 7.74-inch internal screen, which the tipster describes as "unfolding like an iPad," offering a large screen ideal for content consumption.

The leak also suggests that Apple's foldable iPhone will have a distinctive "unprecedented" screen ratio, possibly offering a different experience compared to current foldable models like Samsung's Galaxy Z Fold and Oppo's Find N. With this unique design, the device could serve as both a smartphone and a tablet, positioning it as a strong contender in the growing foldable market.

While the foldable iPhone has not been officially confirmed by Apple, industry insiders are speculating that it could debut as early as next year. Additionally, rumors point to the potential release of foldable iPads and MacBooks by 2027. Apple has also reportedly secured an ultra-thin glass supplier, possibly for its foldable phone's screen.

Bloomberg's Mark Gurman previously mentioned that Apple is also working on an iPad-like foldable with no visible crease, which could launch in 2028. Though details about Apple's foldable plans remain scarce, it's clear that the company is taking significant steps toward entering the foldable device market in the near future.

UK Woman Celebrates 106th Birthday, Credits Chocolate and Parties for Longevity

A UK woman celebrating her 106th birthday has shared her secret to a long and happy life: a love for chocolate and parties. Edith Hill, a retired secretary from Yorkshire, believes that eating chocolate daily helps keep her feeling young and active. Edith, who moved into a care home six years ago at the age of 100, marked her special day on March 3, 2025.

Born in 1919, Edith has witnessed the rise of 23 prime ministers, lived through two world wars, and experienced the reign of five monarchs. Despite her love for sweets, Edith has always maintained a healthy lifestyle, never smoking or drinking excessively.

In a conversation with *Mirror*, Edith said, "It's being independent, eating lots of chocolate, and partying," when asked what she believed contributed to her long life. Her favorite chocolate is the classic Cadbury Dairy Milk, though she enjoys trying other treats, especially around Easter.

Now living at Aspen Lodge Care Home in Skegness, Lincolnshire, Edith continues to charm those around her with her vitality. To commemorate her 106th birthday, the care home has organized a special celebration complete with a double chocolate cake, in honor of her favorite dessert. The facility has also launched a heartwarming campaign to collect 106 birthday cards for Edith, one for every year of

her remarkable life. So far, she has received 40 cards, and the care home is hopeful that they will reach the 106-card goal.

Anita Tindle, the head housekeeper at the care facility, shared her admiration for Edith, saying, "It makes my heart melt that people have taken part. It goes to show that there is still community spirit and kindness out there. She is truly one in a million."

Edith, who has a son, is looking forward to her birthday party, which will feature a spring theme and live performances of 1940s and 1950s classics. Her 86-year-old niece, Anne Turner, described her as "independent, kind, and loving," and emphasized Edith's strong connection with her family.



Rare Footage Captures Polar Bear Cubs Emerging from Den for the First Time

In an extraordinary breakthrough, scientists have unveiled rare footage capturing polar bear cubs emerging from their dens for the first time. This rare moment was captured in the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard, providing a glimpse into one of the most challenging and understudied life stages of these iconic Arctic animals.

The captivating footage shows a mother polar bear exiting her den with her three playful cubs trailing closely behind her, slipping and sliding across the icy terrain. The heartwarming scene offers an unprecedented view into the early life of polar bear cubs, who are typically born in the winter months and spend the early weeks of their lives in the protection of their dens.

To capture this rare glimpse, a team of researchers from Polar Bears International, the Norwegian Polar Institute, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, and the University of Toronto Scarborough has been monitoring polar bear dens in Svalbard for nearly a decade. The scientists utilized GPS collars

with remote cameras placed at the den sites to observe the bears' behavior without disturbing their natural habitat. This innovative technique has enabled researchers to gather valuable insights into the behavior, survival strategies, and early development of polar bear cubs in the harsh Arctic environment.

The footage not only provides a fascinating look at the cubs' first steps in the wild but also serves as a critical resource for understanding the challenges polar bears face in a rapidly changing environment. As Arctic temperatures rise and sea ice melts due to climate change, these changes threaten the habitats and survival of polar bears, making such research increasingly vital.

This momentous discovery sheds light on the resilience of polar bear families, offering hope and valuable data that can inform conservation efforts aimed at protecting these magnificent creatures in the face of climate change.



India Beat New Zealand by 44 Runs, Set Semi-Final Date with Australia in Champions Trophy

India defeated New Zealand by 44 runs on Sunday to top Group A in the Champions Trophy and secure a spot in the semifinals against Australia. India posted 249/9 in their 50 overs with Shreyas Iyer leading the charge, scoring 79 runs off 98 balls. Hardik Pandya and Axar Patel contributed with 45 and 42 runs respectively. Despite a strong fightback from New Zealand's Kane Williamson, who made 81, the Black Caps were bowled out for 205 in 45.3 overs. The star of the match was Indian bowler Varun Chakravarthy, who claimed 5 wickets for 42 runs in 10 overs. Matt Henry was New Zealand's top bowler, taking 5 wickets for 42 runs. India's win ensures they top Group A, setting up a semifinal clash with Australia on Tuesday. New Zealand will face South Africa in Lahore on Wednesday.

Brief Scores:

- India: 249/9 in 50 overs (Shreyas Iyer 79; Matt Henry 5/42)
- New Zealand: 205 all out in 45.3 overs (Kane Williamson 81; Varun Chakravarthy 5/42)



Yuva All Stars Championship 2025 Set to Kick Off on March 6 in Haridwar



The much-awaited Yuva All Stars Championship 2025, a groundbreaking tournament in the kabaddi ecosystem, will commence on March 6 at the Vandna Kataria Indoor Stadium in Haridwar. The championship will feature 12 teams, including the six top-performing teams from the 11th edition of the Yuva Kabaddi Series. The tournament will take place over 30 days, with four matches scheduled daily at 10:15 am, 11:45 am, 4:00 pm, and 5:30 pm. Fans can catch the action live on FanCode. Vikas Gautam, CEO of Yuva Kabaddi Series, expressed excitement

for the unique format of the tournament, describing it as a "battle of the best" showcasing the nation's brightest young talents. The championship will feature teams like Palani Tuskers, Sonipat Spartans, Kurukshetra Warriors, UP Falcons, Chandigarh Chargers, and Vasco Vipers, who secured their spots after strong performances in the division rounds. The competition will also include six Invitational Youth Teams, which will be revealed soon. The tournament will have three rounds to crown the ultimate kabaddi champion.

ISL 2024-25: Chennaiyin FC Focused on Strong Finish Ahead of NorthEast United Visit

Chennaiyin FC (CFC) will look to finish their regular season on a high when they face NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) in their penultimate match of the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 on Monday. Head coach Owen Coyle emphasized the importance of closing the season strong, following recent wins against East Bengal, Punjab, and a solid performance against Bengaluru. He also mentioned that some players would be given opportunities in this match and must seize those chances. The fixture has often produced high-scoring games, with CFC winning four out of the last five encounters. Coyle noted that NorthEast United's playoff hopes would make them a motivated opponent, highlighting their strong desire to secure a win or at least a draw. Chennaiyin's home form has been under scrutiny, but Coyle aims to finish these last two matches strong and bring joy to their supporters. Fullback Ankit Mukherjee, recovering from injury, expressed his intent to stay with the club next season.



Stefanos Tsitsipas Wins First Title in Nearly a Year, Re-enters ATP Top 10

Stefanos Tsitsipas clinched his first title in almost a year with a dominant 6-3, 6-3 victory over Felix Auger-Aliassime in the Dubai final on Saturday. The match lasted one hour and 28 minutes, and Tsitsipas ended a 500-level finals losing streak, securing his first win in three attempts in Dubai after previous defeats to Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic. Tsitsipas, who had been ranked No. 3 in early 2023 but had dropped to 11th, will rise to 9th in the ATP rankings following his triumph. "I'm happy to be back in the top 10, it's one of the greatest feelings," Tsitsipas said. His victory was marked by a strong baseline game and resilience under pressure, as he never dropped serve in the match.

Joginder Sharma, Ramit Tandon, Anahat Singh Promote Fitness During 'FIT India Sundays on Cycle' in Porbandar



Former cricketer Joginder Sharma, alongside Asian Games medallists Ramit Tandon and Anahat Singh, participated in the 'FIT India Sundays on Cycle' event in Porbandar, spreading the message of fitness and fighting obesity. The event, which started from Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium and traversed key locations like India Gate and Vijay Chowk, saw around 1000 participants, including citizens from various sectors and age groups. Joginder, who is now a Deputy Superintendent of Police, emphasized the importance of a healthy diet and regular exercise. Ramit Tandon and Anahat Singh, both prominent squash players, highlighted the significance of fitness beyond sports, stressing its role in maintaining overall health. In Porbandar, Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya led 650 cyclists, encouraging citizens to embrace cycling for a healthier, pollution-free lifestyle. The event was attended by various government officials, including the Porbandar Collectorate and the Indian Navy.

"Top Performers of Ranji Trophy 2024-25: Vidarbha's Dominance and Record-Breaking Stars"

The 2024-25 Ranji Trophy season concluded with Vidarbha securing their third title, and several Vidarbha players stood out in the tournament's top performers list.

Top Run-Getters:

- Yash Rathod (Vidarbha) was the highest run-scorer with 960 runs in 18 innings at an average of 53.33, including five centuries.
- Shubham Sharma (Madhya Pradesh) accumulated 943 runs at an average of 104.77, with a best score of 240.
- Tanmay Agarwal (Hyderabad) scored 934 runs in 12 innings at 77.83, including three centuries.
- Karun Nair (Vidarbha) impressed with 863 runs in nine matches, including four centuries, his best being

135 in the final.

- Danish Malewar (Vidarbha) contributed with 783 runs, including a match-winning 153 in the final.
- Top Wicket-Takers:**
 - Harsh Dubey (Vidarbha) dominated with 69 wickets, breaking a long-standing record, and also scored 476 runs, earning the Player of the Tournament award.
 - Auqib Nabi (Jammu and Kashmir) took 44 wickets at an average of 13.93.
 - Shams Mulani (Mumbai) took 44 wickets and scored 365 runs, including a century.
 - Dharmendrasinh Jadeja (Gujarat) claimed 40 wickets at 20.85.
 - Jalal Saxena (Kerala) was a prominent all-rounder, with 40 wickets and 366 runs.





Shubham Sharma to Represent India at Mister Supranational 2025



Shubham Sharma, the newly crowned Mr India 2025, is set to represent India at the prestigious Mister Supranational 2025 pageant in Poland, scheduled for June 28. The 24-year-old from Maharashtra emerged victorious from a pool of 80 contestants who competed in the mega auditions held in Mumbai. Sharma expressed his gratitude, stating, "Winning Mr India 2025 is a dream come true, and I am honored to represent my country globally. I look forward to making India proud at Mister Supranational 2025." The Mr India 2025 competition tested contestants on personality, talent, confidence, intellect, fitness, and presentation, with a distinguished jury panel including Mr World 2016 Rohit Khandelwal and Mister Supranational winners. Additionally, the competition introduced a web series titled "The Hunt for India's Most Desirable Man," documenting the contestants' journey from registration to the grand finale.

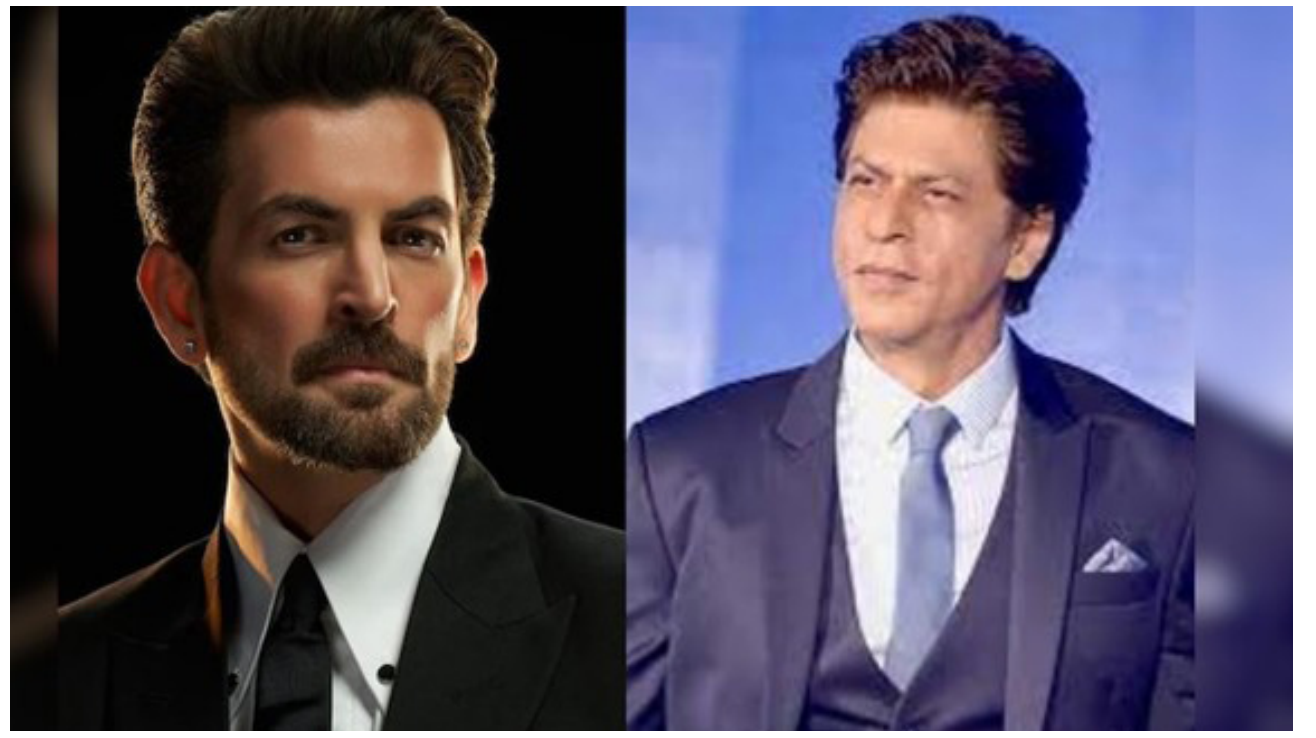
Vidya Balan Warns Fans About Misleading AI Content



Actor Vidya Balan has cautioned her fans against AI-generated videos circulating on social media that falsely feature her. In a post shared on Instagram, the 46-year-old actress clarified that these videos are inauthentic, stating that she has no involvement in their creation or dissemination. "I urge everyone to verify information before sharing and be cautious of misleading AI-generated content," Balan wrote, urging fans not to engage with such content. She emphasized that any claims made in these videos do not reflect her views or work. This isn't the first instance of AI content involving celebrities; others like Rashmika Mandanna, Katrina Kaif, and Aamir Khan have also faced similar issues online. #FakeAlert #Stay-Aware

Neil Nitin Mukesh Reflects on Viral 2009 Filmfare Moment with Shah Rukh Khan

Neil Nitin Mukesh recently addressed the viral moment from the 2009 Filmfare Awards, where he told Shah Rukh Khan to "shut up" after a joke about his name. The incident sparked headlines, with SRK humorously pointing out that Neil had three first names but no surname. In response, Neil defended his reaction, explaining that it was a lighthearted moment, but he would never speak to a senior like SRK in such a manner. Neil clarified, "We are in an era where I would never say 'shut up' to my seniors. It was a different situation, and the conversation had a lot of things at play." He also spoke about the importance of his name, which honors his father and grandfather, emphasizing that he would not tolerate disrespect towards it. On the work front, Neil's latest satirical action comedy, *Hisaab Barabar*, is now streaming on Zee5.



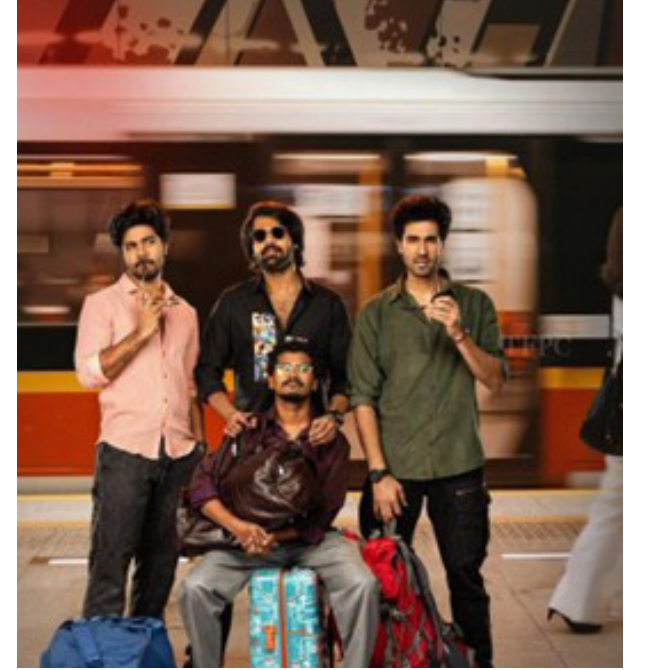
Malaika Arora Celebrates Mother Joyce Polycarp's Birthday with Family and Friends



Malaika Arora celebrated her mother Joyce Polycarp's birthday with heartfelt moments shared on Instagram. The actress posted a series of beautiful pictures, including a special snap of Joyce with her daughters, Malaika and Amrita Arora, as well as their close friend Kareena Kapoor. The post also included a nostalgic throwback photo of the sibling duo posing with their mom and a tender moment between Malaika and Joyce. Malaika's caption read, "Happy birthday my Momy... love you," accompanied by red heart emojis. The post received warm birthday wishes from friends like Seema Kiran Sajdeh, Isha Koppikar, Farah Khan, and Sophie Choudry, among others. Amrita Arora also shared a loving tribute to her mother, reposting a picture with Joyce and writing, "Happy birthday, my lovely mommy! We love you and wish you the best always." On the professional front, Malaika was last seen in a special appearance in the Marathi film *Yek Number*, while Amrita has been away from acting since 2015.

Producer Nagavamsi Explains Release Date Change for 'Mad Square'

The release date for *Mad Square*, the sequel to the popular *Mad* movie, has been moved up by a day. Initially scheduled for March 29, the film will now release on March 28. Producer Nagavamsi explained that the change was made due to the presence of Amavasya (new moon) on March 29, which led to the decision to shift the release date. Nagavamsi shared, "On the advice of the distributors, we moved the release to March 28. Since Amavasya falls on March 29, we believe this change will be beneficial for the film's box office performance." The film, starring Nithin, Sangeeth Shobhan, Ram Nithin, and Vishnu, promises to bring more laughter in this sequel. Directed by K.V. Anudeep and produced by Hari-ka Suryadevara, Sai Soujanya, the film is backed by Sitaara Entertainments and Fortune Four Cinemas. Nagavamsi also wished success to Nithin's *Robin Hood*, releasing on the same day.



Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga Responds to Former IAS Officer's Comments on 'Animal'

Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga has responded strongly to the criticism made by a former IAS officer about his film *Animal*. In a recent interview, the director addressed the remarks that suggested movies like *Animal* were unnecessary for society and were created solely to make money. The former IAS officer had also criticized films like *Animal*, stating that reading books could help one become an IAS officer, but it would not help in filmmaking. Sandeep Vanga expressed that the comments

deeply hurt him, likening it to being accused of a crime. He dismissed the criticism as baseless and shared his thoughts on the matter. Vanga stated, "If you want to become an IAS officer, yes, you can go to Delhi, join a coaching center, and study hard. But filmmaking or writing a script does not come from books or formal courses. It comes from learning by doing and having a passion for it." He emphasized that films are a result of personal taste and experience, not something that can be learned through books alone.

