

## Weather Forecast

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

## MLC Elections Intense Counting Continues in AP & Telangana Amid Tight Competition

- PRTU candidates secure key Teachers' MLC seats
- Alapati Rajendra Prasad maintains strong lead
- Gade Srinivasulu wins Uttarandhra Teachers' MLC
- Counting ongoing for six MLC seats in Both States
- Tense atmosphere at counting centers
- Official announcements awaited for some seats



TPN Correspondent | AP/TG

The counting of votes for the MLC elections in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana is progressing amid a tense and competitive atmosphere. Vote counting began at 8 am and is still underway for a total of six MLC seats across the two states. While some preliminary winners have been confirmed, official announcements are pending in several segments. In Uttarandhra Teachers' MLC constituency, PRTU candidate Gade Srinivasulu Naidu secured a clear victory, defeating his closest competitors after the completion of priority vote counting. Similarly, in Nalgonda-Khammam-Warangal Teachers' MLC constituency, PRTU candidate

Sripal Reddy emerged victorious. In this contest, no candidate managed to secure the required majority in the first round, leading to the elimination process. Sripal Reddy ultimately defeated sitting MLC Narsi Reddy through second-priority votes, marking a significant win for PRTU-backed candidates. In Karimnagar Teachers' MLC constituency, Malka Komuraiah emerged victorious, winning directly in the first round with first-priority votes. Election officials are expected to issue an official announcement shortly. Meanwhile, in Andhra Pradesh, the counting process for the Graduates' MLC elections in the two Godavari districts is still ongoing. Election authorities are currently segregating in-

valid votes. So far, 2,18,997 votes have been counted in this region. In the Guntur-Krishna Graduates' MLC constituency, TDP-backed candidate Alapati Rajendra Prasad has established a strong lead. After three rounds of counting, Alapati Rajendra Prasad is ahead by 30,065 votes, placing him in a commanding position. The tenure of several MLCs is set to end soon, making these elections particularly crucial for both ruling and opposition parties in shaping their legislative strategies. As counting continues in both states, official confirmation of results is expected later today, bringing clarity to the final outcome and influencing the political landscape in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

## Heated Debate Between Minister Atchannaidu and Botsa Satyanarayana

- Discussion on housing schemes, chilli farmers' welfare, and corruption allegations
- YCP MLCs protest after adjournment motion rejected



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Question and Answer Hour in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council turned intense on Monday with a direct face-off between Agriculture Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu and Leader of Opposition Botsa Satyanarayana. The two leaders sparred over key schemes and policies implemented during the previous YSRCP regime and the current NDA government. Minister Atchannaidu launched a scathing attack on the YSRCP government, accusing it of neglecting housing schemes between 2019 and 2024. He praised the NTR Housing Scheme implemented between 2014 and 2019, claiming that thousands

of houses were constructed, while the YSRCP government failed to complete a single house. He also alleged that funds for Jagannanna Colonies were entirely sourced from the central government, with no contribution from the state. The Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and Guntur Chilli Yard also featured prominently in the debate. Atchannaidu alleged that the YSRCP government allowed corruption to flourish at the chilli yard, affecting chilli farmers badly. He highlighted that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu held a 5-hour meeting with exporters and farmers to stabilize chilli prices and had also discussed the matter with the Union Agriculture Minister.

Botsa Satyanarayana strongly countered these allegations, claiming that the YSRCP government ensured payments for all eligible beneficiaries under housing schemes and rejected only ineligible claims. He dismissed Atchannaidu's allegations as politically motivated. Botsa also criticized Chandrababu Naidu, accusing him of making inappropriate comments about welfare schemes from a constitutional position. As the debate escalated, YCP MLCs attempted to move an adjournment resolution on the problems faced by chilli farmers. However, after the Chairman rejected the resolution, YCP MLCs stormed into the well and staged a protest inside the House.

## "We Will Make Govt Schools No 1 in Next Five Years"



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

State Education, IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh has asserted that revolutionary reforms are underway to transform school education in Andhra Pradesh, with a goal to make government schools No. 1 within the next five years. He held a 3-hour-long review meeting with coalition MLAs, MLCs, and senior education officials at his residence in Undavalli, focusing on Learning Excellence in AP (LEEP), repeal of GO 117, and infrastructure development in schools. Speaking at the meeting, Lokesh said the reforms align with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's vision of revamping government schools and ensuring learning outcomes improve across the state. Highlighting the importance of quality education, he em-

phasized that education can transform society and secure a better future for students.

Lokesh criticized the previous YSRCP government, citing the ASER 2024 report, which revealed that 55% of Class 8 students cannot perform simple division, while 90% of Class 3 students lack basic numeracy skills. He said 12 lakh students shifted from government to private schools over the last five years due to policy failures.

The Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2021-22 also placed Andhra Pradesh below the national average in teacher education and training, with a score of 66 compared to the national average of 66.

Lokesh confirmed that GO 117, which caused widespread disruptions, is being repealed to correct past mistakes and alternative systems are being put in place. Over ₹4,300 crore has been spent on fee reimbursement, school bags, and nutrition programs in the education sector.

He also exposed alleged irregularities, including ₹5 crore misused under the pretext of an IB report and 90% failure rates in mock tests after hasty CBSE implementation. The meeting was attended by Intermediate Education Director Kritika Shukla, Sarva Shiksha State Project Director B. Srinivasa Rao, Skill Development MD Ganesh Kumar, and several senior officials.



## CM Naidu & Dy CM Pawan Discussed on MLA Quota MLC Elections

- CM and Dy CM discuss budget and welfare schemes
- Focus on MLA quota MLC elections and candidate selection
- Notification released for five MLA quota MLC seats

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan met Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the Assembly on Monday. During the hour-long meeting, both leaders discussed the Andhra Pradesh state budget, particularly the allocations across various departments. Pawan reportedly expressed satisfaction that the budget balanced both development works and welfare schemes effectively. The two leaders also reviewed the preparations for the launch of key welfare programs such as Thalliki Vandanam and Annadata schemes, which are set to begin from May.

A key point of discussion was the MLA quota MLC elections. The meeting reportedly covered the

selection of candidates for these crucial seats. With a notification issued on Monday for five MLA quota MLC seats, the leaders discussed strategies and candidate selection to ensure a smooth election process.

As per the notification issued by General Administration Department CEO Vivek Yadav, nominations can be filed until the 10th of this month, with scrutiny scheduled for the 11th and withdrawals allowed until the 13th. Polling will take place on the 20th, followed by counting on the same evening. The terms of MLCs Janga Krishnamurthy, Duvvarapu Rama Rao, BT Naidu, Ashok Babu, and Yanamala Ramakrishnudu are set to expire on the 29th of this month, making this election a key event for the ruling alliance.

## Botsa Satyanarayana Sensational Comments on Amaravati Capital

- Amaravati construction needs lakhs of crores
- YCP lacked financial capacity for Amaravati development
- Capital decision after internal party discussions



# CM Naidu Assures Justice for Sai Sadhana Chit Fund Victims

- CM stops convoy to hear chit fund victims' grievances
- Victims allege Rs. 250 crore fraud affecting 600 families
- Chandrababu promises concrete steps for justice



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has assured that strict action will be taken to ensure justice for the victims of Sai Sadhana Chit Funds scam in Narasaraopet, united Guntur district. On Monday, victims of the scam gathered at Chan-

drababu's residence in Undavalli to seek his intervention. After noticing the group, the CM halted his convoy to listen to their grievances. The victims submitted a petition, alleging they were cheated to the tune of Rs. 250 crore by Sai Sadhana Chit Funds, promoted by Paladugu Pullarao. They explained that

around 600 families have been financially devastated, many left struggling for survival. The victims informed the CM that Paladugu Pullarao surrendered before the court about 40 days ago, yet no meaningful relief has been provided. CM Chandrababu, after listening to the victims for about 10 minutes, assured them that mere surrender is not enough, and that the government will pursue the matter to ensure full justice and compensation for the affected families.

Sai Sadhana Chit Funds was established by Paladugu Pullarao in Narasaraopet. After running the scheme for several years and collecting hundreds of crores, Pullarao suddenly disappeared, leaving investors in distress. Multiple cases were registered across the district, but no action was taken for a long time, pushing many victims to approach the courts. Following court intervention, Pullarao surrendered in the second week of February and was remanded to Guntur sub-jail. Despite this, the victims claim no concrete steps have been taken for recovery, leaving them hopeless and desperate.



## Botsa Satyanarayana Sensational Comments on Amaravati Capital

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Senior YSR Congress Party leader and former minister Botsa Satyanarayana has made sensational comments on the Amaravati capital project, reigniting the debate over the state's capital plans. Botsa stated that the development of Amaravati would require lakhs of crores, which the previous YSRCP government could not afford, prompting them to propose the three capitals concept.

Botsa stood by his earlier controversial remarks, where he referred to Amaravati as a crematorium, saying there was no controversy in those comments. He reiterated that the YSRCP government, during its tenure, lacked the financial strength to invest the massive sums required to fully develop Amaravati into a capital city.

Botsa further clarified that the party would hold internal discussions before officially announcing its stance on the capital issue. These comments have sparked widespread debate in political circles, especially in the context of the current government's commitment to developing Amaravati as the sole capital.

Botsa's frank remarks highlight the ongoing political divide over Amaravati, with the TDP-led government focused on reviving Amaravati, while the YCP continues to defend its earlier three-capitals policy. His comments are now fueling speculation about whether YCP will stick to its previous stand or reconsider its approach as the political landscape evolves.



## Dr. K.S.S. Shiva Murthy Elected National President of All India National Homoeopathic Congress

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Dr. K.S.S. Shiva Murthy, a prominent homoeopathic doctor from Eluru, has been unanimously elected as the National President of the All India National Homoeopathic Congress.

The election took place during the 27th All India National Homoeopathic Congress-2025, held in Pune on February 22 and 23. Alongside Dr. Shiva Murthy, Dr. Vinar Sangwan from Haryana was elected as National General Secretary, and Dr. Manisha Solanak from Pune was elected as National Finance Secretary. Speaking to the media in Eluru on Monday, Dr. Shiva Murthy said he would work to protect the rights of qualified homoeopathic doctors across the country. He assured that efforts will be made to fill vacant teaching positions in all government homoeopathic medical colleges and appoint homoeopathy medical officers in primary health centers (PHCs) and municipal corporation hospitals. During the conference, speakers urged the Central Government to introduce MD courses in all homoeopathic medical colleges and create new super speciality courses to strengthen the field.



## Former YSRCP MLA Pendem Dorababu Set to Join Janasena on March 9th

- Former Pithapuram MLA meets Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan
- Joins Jana Sena on March 9 in the presence of party leaders
- MPTCs, ZPTCs, and councillors to join along with him

TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri

Former Pithapuram MLA Pendem Dorababu, who recently resigned from the YSR Congress Party, is all set to officially join the Jana Sena Party on March 9. On Monday, Dorababu, along with his family members, met Jana Sena Chief and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan at the Jana Sena central office in Mangalagiri. After a detailed discussion, Pawan Kalyan gave the green signal for his induction into the party. Dorababu's joining has been in discussion for some time, especially after the alliance government came to power in Andhra Pradesh. With several leaders and public representatives leaving the YSR Congress Party, Dorababu's switch to Jana Sena marks another significant blow to the YS-

RCP in East Godavari district. On March 9, a formal joining ceremony will be held in Vijayawada, where Dorababu will take the Jana Sena mantle in the presence of Pawan Kalyan, along with several MPTCs, ZPTCs, and municipal councillors. Dorababu stated that he is committed to the development of Pithapuram constituency and will work closely with his followers and party activists to strengthen Jana Sena in the region. Dorababu, who won from Pithapuram in the 2019 elections, was denied a ticket by YS Jagan in the 2024 elections. Instead, Vanga Geetha was fielded against Pawan Kalyan, who ultimately won with a huge margin. Since then, Dorababu has remained silent, but his official entry into Jana Sena now clears all speculation.

## Posani Krishna Murali Remanded till March 13th by Narasaraopet Court

- Complaint over inappropriate comments on Chandrababu Naidu & Pawan Kalyan
- Arrested by Rayachoti police, handed over to Narasaraopet police

TPN Correspondent | Narasaraopet

The Narasaraopet court on Monday remanded actor and former YSRCP leader Posani Krishna Murali for 10 days in a case related to his alleged inappropriate comments targeting Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan. Posani was arrested in Hyderabad by Rayachoti police and subsequently shifted to Andhra Pradesh, where he faced multiple cases.

TDP leader Kiran had lodged a complaint with Narasaraopet police, accusing Posani of making derogatory remarks against the two leaders. Acting on the complaint, the police filed a case, took Posani into custody on a PT warrant, and produced him before the Narasaraopet court on Monday evening. The court remanded Posani till March 13, after which he was shifted to Guntur Jail.

This is just one of 17 cases filed against Posani across Andhra Pradesh, highlighting the widespread legal troubles he currently faces. Previously, Rayachoti police arrested Posani in connection with a case at Obulavaripalli Police Station, and following approval from higher officials, Narasaraopet Two Town Police Station also filed fresh charges.

In addition, a new case was registered at Puttur Police Station in Chittoor district for Posani's alleged remarks against TTD Chairman B.R. Naidu. Medical tests were conducted before Posani was handed over to Narasaraopet police. With police from several stations across Andhra Pradesh preparing further action, Posani's legal battles are expected to intensify in the coming days.



## Vallabhaneni Vamsi Remanded Till March 17th

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

In a setback for former MLA Vallabhaneni Vamsi, the Vijayawada court on Monday remanded him till the 17th of this month in connection with the Ganavaram TDP office attack case. The CID officers filed a PT warrant, and Vamsi, who is A71 in the case, was virtually produced before the court.



The court also conducted a hearing on three key petitions related to Vamsi's ongoing legal troubles. Vamsi's legal team had filed a petition to shift him to a different barrack, but the SC and ST court postponed the hearing, instructing the defense to file a

counter-petition. The CID had previously withdrawn the PT warrant after securing Vamsi's custody for three days during which an initial investigation took place. However, the CID re-filed the warrant following alleged non-cooperation from Vamsi, prompting his virtual appearance before the magistrate on Monday. The court then ordered Vamsi's judicial remand until March 17.

Additionally, the police, citing Vamsi's evasive answers during questioning, have now requested another 10 days of custody for both Vamsi and A4 Veeraju, stating that further interrogation is required to gather key information.

## AP Delegation Participates in 12th Asia Pacific 3R Circular Economy Forum

TPN Correspondent | Jaipur

A high-level delegation from Andhra Pradesh participated in the 12th Asia Pacific High-Level Regional 3R Circular Economy Forum, which commenced in Jaipur, Rajasthan under the auspices of the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The three-day conference primarily focuses on integrated waste management, climate reforms, environmental protection, and promotion of circular economy practices. Andhra Pradesh's delegation included Municipal Administration Chief Secretary Suresh Kumar, Swachh Andhra Corporation MD Anil Kumar Reddy, and Swachh Chandra Corporation Chairman Pattabhi. During the conference, Municipal Chief Secretary Suresh Kumar, Chairman Pattabhi, and MD Anil Kumar Reddy signed an agreement with Union Urban Development Minister Manohar Lal. The agreement focuses on implementing climate-based reforms under the Cities Project and strengthening waste management systems and environmental sustainability initiatives at the national level. The conference serves as a platform for representatives from across the Asia-Pacific region to share best practices, innovative technologies, and successful policies in the transition to circular economies. Andhra Pradesh's participation underscores its commitment to adopting sustainable urban development practices and fostering climate resilience in cities across the state.

# YSRCP's Housing Scam Exposed: Minister Anagani Fires in Council



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati  
State Revenue Minister Anagani Satyaprasad launched a scathing attack on the YSRCP government during the Question and Answer session in the AP Legislative Council on Monday. Responding to questions raised by YSRCP MLCs Rajasekhar and Hanumanthu Rao regarding the distribution of house pattas to the poor, the minister exposed massive irregularities under the Jagananna Housing Scheme. He clarified that the coalition government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, has enhanced the scheme to provide three cents of land in rural areas and two cents in urban areas for house pattas. So far, 70,232 applications have been received under the Housing for All scheme. He pointed out that the previous YSRCP government offered only one cent plots, showing the current government's commitment to better land allotment. Minister Satyaprasad alleged that YSRCP leaders and officials manipulated beneficiary selection, favoring wealthy individuals, employees, party workers, and close associates, instead of genuine poor families. He further revealed that uninhabitable lands near cemeteries, dumping yards, and waterlogged areas were purchased at inflated rates, causing massive financial loss to the state. The minister disclosed that 26,000 acres of private land were purchased for Rs. 10,500 crore, with thousands of crores diverted into the pockets of YSRCP leaders. He assured that the coalition government's Housing for All scheme was designed with the genuine intention of benefiting the poor, ensuring transparency and fairness in the selection and land allocation process.

- Minister alleges large-scale irregularities in Jagananna Housing Scheme
- House pattas now being given with increased land allotments
- Scam worth thousands of crores uncovered in land purchases

# Budget Reflects CM's Administrative Efficiency: MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Kovur MLA Vemireddy Prashanthi Reddy praised the 2025-26 Andhra Pradesh budget, calling it a reflection of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's administrative efficiency and vision for Swarnandhra - Vision 2047. She made these remarks during the Assembly budget session on Monday.

She thanked CM Chandrababu for preparing a budget that supports the poor and strengthens Andhra Pradesh, which was left economically weakened by the previous government's mismanagement. She also expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the Centre's cooperation in the state's development.

MLA Prashanthi highlighted the government's focus on welfare and development, with substantial allocations for education, healthcare, agriculture, Panchayat Raj, water resources, roads, pensions, IT, and welfare of SC, ST, BC, and women. Notably, ₹4,332 crore was allocated for women and child welfare, alongside ₹9,407 crore for Taliki Vandanam and ₹60 crore for gratuity pay-



ments to Anganwadi and ASHA workers. She appreciated the ₹878 crore allocation for Anganwadi management, strengthening services for children and mothers.

For Nellore district, Prashanthi welcomed ₹345 crore for the Telugu Ganga Project and ₹266 crore for Somasila Reservoir, boosting irrigation. She highlighted ₹20.53 crore for Vikrama Simhapuri University to promote research and ₹100 crore for Ramayapatnam Port development.

Additionally, ₹247 crore will benefit 1.77 lakh farmers under Annadata Sukhibhavam, and 12,000 fishermen will receive enhanced fishing ban compensation. She concluded by pledging to work under CM Chandrababu's guidance for the state's all-round development and ensure all eligible citizens receive government welfare benefits.

# Cannabis Cultivation to be Completely Eradicated – Home Minister Anitha



- Special focus on protecting school and college students from drug addiction

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Andhra Pradesh State Home Minister Vanagalapudi Anitha declared that the government is determined to completely eradicate cannabis cultivation across the state. Speaking during the Question and Answer session of the AP Assembly Budget Sessions, she explained the multi-pronged strategy being implemented to curb the menace. She revealed that under the effective measures of the current government, cannabis cultivation has drastically reduced from 11,000 acres to just 100 acres. She asserted

that the government will not stop until the illegal cultivation is completely wiped out. The Home Minister highlighted the role of the specially formed Eagle Team, which is actively monitoring and cracking down on cannabis cultivation, transportation, and sale. Additionally, district-level workshops are being held to spread awareness and sensitize communities about the dangers of drug abuse.

Anitha emphasized that special attention is being paid to protect school and college students from falling into drug addiction traps, particularly from marijuana, which is now being smuggled even in liquid form. She also warned of strict action against those inducing women into marijuana use, underscoring the government's commitment to a drug-free Andhra Pradesh.

- Cannabis cultivation reduced from 11,000 acres to 100 acres
- Eagle Team actively working to eliminate cultivation and trafficking

# Posani Krishna Murali Must Be Punished Severely - Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdhury



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Senior TDP leader and MLA Gorantla Butchaiah Chowdhury came down heavily on actor Posani Krishna Murali, calling him a foolish fellow for making inappropriate and derogatory comments about family

members of political leaders. Speaking to the media, Butchaiah Chowdhury stressed that strict action must be taken against Posani to set an example that such indecent remarks on women and families will not be tolerated.

He also advised people, especially those in public life, to think carefully before commenting on others' families and daughters, urging for a culture of respect and restraint in public discourse.

On the Graduate MLC elections, Butchaiah Chowdhury expressed confidence that the NDA alliance candidates will secure victory, reflecting the public's support for the good governance delivered by the alliance government.

Highlighting the state's financial recovery, he revealed that the alliance government

cleared ₹43,000 crore worth of debts inherited from the previous YSRCP government. He said this was crucial to stabilizing Andhra Pradesh's economy after the fiscal mismanagement during Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure.

He further noted that the AP Budget has now crossed ₹3 lakh crore, giving full credit to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. He praised the budget for allocating significant funds to agriculture, welfare, development, industries, and services, sectors that were allegedly neglected under YSRCP rule. Butchaiah Chowdhury also highlighted the government's efforts in repairing 20,000 kilometers of damaged roads, which were left in dire condition during the YSRCP regime, ensuring better infrastructure for the public.

# If You Spoke Six Years Ago, You Are Now Arrested, Says Roja

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

YCP leader and former minister Roja strongly condemned the arrest of actor Posani Krishna Murali, calling it cruel and politically motivated. She criticized the government for arresting someone over remarks made six years ago, questioning how hurt feelings from years ago could now lead to legal action.

Roja alleged that Posani was unfairly booked under BNS Section 111 and illegally framed. She questioned whether Chandrababu Naidu, Nandamuri Balakrishna, and Nara Lokesh — who had made critical remarks about Prime Minister

Narendra Modi in the past — could also be booked under the same section, openly challenging the government's double standards.

She also slammed Chandrababu for reportedly instructing officials to deny any help to YCP sympathizers. Roja asked if the government was not using taxes paid by YCP supporters too, calling such discrimination unconstitutional.

Roja accused the alliance government of intimidating and jailing critics simply for pointing out their failures and mistakes. She warned that if the alliance hopes to rule the state through such illegal cases and harassment, they will face the



same fate when Jagan returns to power.

Roja declared that Jagan Mohan Reddy, after becoming Chief Minister again, would ensure the alliance leaders pay with interest for their actions.

She also criticized Chandrababu Naidu for failing to fulfill even a single election promise, saying that the recent budget exposed the government's deceptive agenda, which she called a trap laid for the people.

# Prevent Accidents on Nellore National Highway: MLC Parvatha Reddy



TPN Correspondent | Nellore

MLC Parvatha Reddy raised his voice in the AP Legislative Council, demanding immediate safety measures at the Chinta Reddypalem National Highway Cross in Nellore, a known accident-prone zone.

He stressed that a flyover and service road must be constructed without delay to reduce traffic congestion and prevent further accidents. Every day, hundreds of vehicles travel this key highway connecting Nellore with Chennai

and Vijayawada, making it one of the busiest routes in the region.

With large vehicles frequently entering Nellore city through this junction, traffic jams have become routine, and the risk of accidents has escalated, leading to several fatalities over time.

MLC Parvatha Reddy urged the state government to prioritize public safety by taking immediate action. He called for the construction of a flyover to ease traffic flow and a service road to provide safer access for local commuters.

He emphasized that swift action by the government is essential to save lives and ensure smooth transportation along this vital highway stretch.

# Let's Work Together to Make Jana Sena Formation Day a Grand Success: Dr. Daneti Sridhar

TPN Correspondent | Srikulam

Jana Sena Party leader and prominent doctor Dr. Daneti Sridhar has called on party ranks to work unitedly to ensure the grand success of Jana Sena Party's Formation Day celebrations on March 14. A preparatory meeting was held at Shanti Convection Hall in Kotha Road Junction, under the Rural Mandal limits, under the auspices of Jana Sena Parliamentary Coordinator Korikana Ravikumar.

Speaking on this occasion, Dr. Daneti Sridhar reminded everyone of the resounding success achieved by the TDP, Jana Sena, and BJP alliance in the last assembly elections. He pointed out that all



21 candidates fielded by Jana Sena secured victory, marking the party's emergence as a key partner in the government led by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

He emphasized that this is a crucial time for the party and every leader, worker, and supporter has the responsibility to actively participate in the formation day celebrations. Dr. Sridhar urged party members to take Jana Sena's ideology and vision directly to the people, ensuring that the party's core values resonate across all sections of society.

# Uninterrupted Power Supply to Farmers Even During Summer – Minister Gottipati

9-hour free power to farmers ensured in summer  
Focus on renewable energy generation to meet rising demand  
RDSS works to be expedited for better power distribution

**TPN Correspondent | Amaravati**  
Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar has directed officials to ensure adequate power generation and uninterrupted supply to meet the increased summer demand across Andhra Pradesh. Reviewing the power supply situation with DISCOM CMDs at the Secretariat on Monday, the minister emphasized the importance of ensuring 9 hours of free power to farmers during the summer season, while also guaranteeing uninterrupted 24-hour supply to households, industries, and businesses. With peak demand expected to touch 13,700 MW and daily power consumption projected at 260 million units, Minister Gottipati instructed DISCOMs to prepare contingency plans to avoid any disruptions. He highlighted the need to increase renewable energy production, particularly solar and wind power, to supplement conventional power generation and cater to rising demand. The minister also reviewed the progress of agricultural power connections, noting that 22,709 agricultural connections have been provided so far. He directed officials to process new agricultural connections promptly



to ensure farmers' needs are met without delays during the upcoming season. Focusing on distribution infrastructure, Minister Gottipati stressed the importance of expediting RDSS (Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme) works, which aim to strengthen power distribution networks, modernize substations, and reduce trans-

mission losses.

The review meeting was attended by Special Chief Secretary (Energy) K. Vijayanand, DISCOM CMDs Prithvi Tej, Bhaskar, and Santosh Rao, NEDCAP VCMD M. Kamalakar Babu, Joint Secretary Kumar Reddy, and other senior officials.

# Vijayawada Autonagar Industrialists Meets MP Kesineni Sivanath

Focus on automobile industry development  
Industrialists highlight key challenges and needs

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**  
In Vijayawada Industrialists from Autonagar and the automobile sector met Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) at NTR Bhavan, Guru Nanak Colony on Monday. Organized under the banner of APMSME Industries Association, the meeting focused on the development of the automobile industry, the facilities needed for new industries, and government support for existing units. The industrialists explained various issues faced by their units, including challenges stemming from G.O. No. 5 and 6. They requested better infrastructure,

policy support, and financial assistance. Efronics CEO Ramakrishna gave a presentation on reforms in the education system to boost employment opportunities in the automobile industry. Addressing the gathering, MP Kesineni Sivanath assured that efforts are underway to bring new industries to Autonagar. He promised to personally discuss the needs of industrialists with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Education & IT Minister Nara Lokesh. He also arranged a meeting with the Secretary of the State Industries Department to address the specific concerns raised.



On this occasion, the industrialists presented a memento to the MP as a token of appreciation for his proactive approach. The meeting was attended by APMSME Industries Association Honorary President Bayana Venkata Rao, President Donepudi Durga Prasad, General Secretary M. Ramachandra Rao, J.R.D. Tata

Industries Estate Society Chairman Vinod Babu, Vijayawada Industrial Estate Manufacturing Association Secretary T. Nageswara Rao, along with industrialists and TDP leaders including Madigani Gurnatham, Dr. Sanke Vishwanatham, and Kaku Mallikarjuna Yadav.

# New Probationary SIs Reported to NTR District Police Commissioner

Commissioner advises them on discipline and technology use  
Senior officers participated in the orientation program

**TPN Correspondent | NTR Dist**  
A total of 56 probationary Sub-Inspectors (SIs) who completed their training at the Anantapur Police Training College have officially reported to the NTR District Police Commissionerate. On Monday, they paid a formal courtesy call on NTR District City Police Commissioner Sri S.V. Rajasekhara Babu IPS at the Commissioner's Office. Welcoming them, Commissioner Rajasekhara Babu congratulated the new probationary officers and urged them to discharge their duties fearlessly and impartially, maintaining discipline, honesty, transparency, and accountability at all times. He advised them to focus on ensuring justice to victims, taking strong action against offenders, and providing the best possible services to the public, thereby enhancing the reputation of the police department. The Commissioner emphasized the need for every officer to effectively use technology in their

daily policing activities. He directed them to become proficient in PGRS (Public Grievance Redressal System) for filing complaints and FIRs, case investigations, and maintaining records. He stressed the importance of learning the CCTNS system, using drones and cloud patrolling, and operating CCTV networks efficiently. He further instructed them to gain a thorough understanding of the Astra App, Pahara Beat system, NDPS case procedures, case diary writing, crime scene management, security cordon setup, and proper police station management. He advised them to consult senior officers whenever they encounter doubts. The program was attended by DCPs Gautami Shali IPS, Tirumaleswara Reddy IPS, K.G.V. Saritha IPS, ABTS Udayarani IPS, Krishna Murthy Naidu, SVD Prasad, Gunnam Ramakrishna, AR ACP D. Prasad Rao, and all 56 probationary SIs.



# Investigation into Saree Scam at Indrakiladri Intensifies

Irregularities in sale of devotee-offered sarees  
Crores worth corruption identified in 2018-19 sales  
High Court orders full inquiry before any action

**TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada**

The investigation into the saree scam at Indrakiladri has gathered pace, uncovering major irregularities in the sale of sarees offered by devotees to Goddess Kanaka Durga. Reports indicate that sarees worth crores were sold between 2018 and 2019, but the proceeds were misappropriated, causing a cash loss of Rs. 1.68 crore to the temple.

The then Executive Officer (EO) Bhramaramba and former Junior Assistant Subrahmanyam, who were responsible for overseeing saree sales during the period, have been served show cause notices. The irregularities reportedly involved underreporting sales, manipulating records, and diverting funds meant for the temple.

Following the issuance of the show cause notice, Subrahmanyam approached the High Court seeking relief. After reviewing the case, the High Court directed the District Endowment Officer to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the matter. The court further ruled that no penalty or disciplinary action should be taken against the accused until the investigation is completed and the facts are fully established.

The saree sales at Indrakiladri, a significant revenue source for the temple, are closely monitored by devotees and the Endowments Department. The emerging details of this multi-crore scam have raised serious concerns about transparency and accountability in temple administration. The temple management is now expected to tighten its procedures to prevent such irregularities in the future, ensuring public trust is maintained.

# NTR Dist Police Rescue Two Children from Illegal Sale Racket



**TPN Correspondent | NTR Dist**

In a significant operation, NTR District Police successfully rescued two male children on Monday from an illegal child-selling racket operating in West Godavari district. Acting on the orders of City Police Commissioner Sri S.V. Rajasekhara Babu IPS, the rescue was carried out by the Task Force team under the leadership of ADCP A. Srinivasa Rao and ACP Smt. K. Lathakumari, with support from North ACP Smt. Sravanthi Rai and Women's Police Station officers.

It may be recalled that on March 1, the Task Force had already arrested five women who were involved in illegally selling small children by targeting childless couples. During that operation, three children who were kept for sale were rescued and taken into safe custody. Additionally, one more baby was rescued yesterday, further exposing the extent of the illegal network.

Continuing the investigation, the Task Force team identified and rescued two more male children who had been sold in Palakollu and Narsipatnam areas of West Godavari district. These children were immediately handed over to officials of the Women and Child Welfare Department for further care and rehabilitation.

Commissioner Rajasekhara Babu praised the swift and coordinated efforts of the Task Force, Women's Police Station officers, and ACPs involved, reaffirming the NTR District Police's commitment to protecting vulnerable children and bringing those involved in such heinous crimes to justice.

## 12 Injured in Auto Overturn Accident in Nuzvidu

Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy stops convoy to help injured



- Immediate treatment arranged at Nuzvidu Govt Hospital  
- Victims' families thank minister for timely intervention

TPN Correspondent | Nuzvidu  
In a heartwarming display of humanity, State Information Minister Kolusu Par-

thasarathy came to the rescue of accident victims in Nuzvidu, Eluru district. An auto carrying passengers from Velamapet

overturned, leaving 12 people seriously injured.

Coincidentally, Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy was passing by the accident site. Upon witnessing the scene, the minister immediately halted his convoy and took charge of the rescue efforts. He ensured that the injured were swiftly shifted to Nuzvidu Government Hospital by arranging a 108 ambulance.

The minister personally interacted with those who sustained minor injuries and offered them words of comfort and encouragement. He also directed hospital authorities to ensure proper treatment for all the injured passengers without any delay.

The timely intervention and compassionate response from Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy received appreciation from the families of the victims, who expressed their gratitude for his concern and swift action. The incident highlighted the importance of immediate response in emergency situations and the role public representatives can play in saving lives.

## Sri Venkateswara Swamy Statue Installation Held at Madhurapudi



• BJP leader Kambala Srinivasa Rao participated as Chief Guest

• Silk clothes offered to the deity

• Free sarees distributed to 350 women

TPN Correspondent | Rajanagaram

The Sri Venkateswara Swamy statue installation program was held on Monday at Madhurapudi village in Korukonda mandal under Rajanagaram constituency. Vishva Hindu Dharma Parirakshan Ramaseena President and BJP leader Kambala Srinivasa Rao participated as the chief guest. Temple committee members, villagers, elders, and women welcomed him with garlands and flowers and honored him on the occasion.

Kambala Srinivasa Rao presented silk clothes to Sri Venkateswara Swamy and performed special pujas at the temple. He also took part in the Anna Samaradhana program and received theertham and prasadam. Speaking on

the occasion, Kambala Srinivasa Rao announced that incense, deepam, and navedyam will be provided to the temple free of cost every month. He further promised a monthly salary of Rs. 10,000 to the temple priest to support temple services.

As part of the program, free sarees were distributed to 350 women. Rama Sena members, BJP leaders Mango Ayyappa, Inakoti Bapanna Dora, Varasala Prasad, Dr. Valluri Jagannadha Rao Sharma, Dasari Dharmaraju, Battula Nanaji, Naresha, Ganesh, Pachhari Narasimha Murthy, Battina Veeranjineyulu, Battina Sathibabu, Chintala Devi Kanna Rao, temple committee members, villagers, and women participated in the celebrations.

## AIYF State President Demands Transfer of AP Home Guards from Telangana

TPN Correspondent | Srikakulam  
All India Youth Federation (AIYF) State President Mojjada Yugandhar, along with District President Secretaries Botsa Santosh and Konna Srinivasa Rao, submitted a petition to Srikakulam ASP K. Venkataramana urging the transfer of Andhra Pradesh-origin Home Guards currently working in Telangana back to their home state.

Speaking on the occasion, they highlighted that several Home Guards from Andhra Pradesh were recruited before the state bifurcation. However, following the creation of Telangana, they were compelled to continue their service in Telangana, which has caused severe personal and



professional hardships for them and their families.

The leaders pointed out that employees from all other government departments were transferred to their respective local states following bifurcation, but Home

Guards were overlooked in this process. They also raised concerns that children of these Home Guards studying in Telangana could potentially lose their Andhra Pradesh domicile status, further complicating their future educational and employment opportunities.

The AIYF leaders urged Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu to immediately intervene and ensure that all Andhra-origin Home Guards stationed in Telangana are brought back to Andhra Pradesh.

AIYF District Assistant Secretary Pagoti Vasu, Vice Presidents Y. Venu and Vasantha Rao were also present during the submission of the petition.

## Traffic Police Launch Creative Campaign with Witty Slogans in Amalapuram



TPN Correspondent | Amalapuram

Amalapuram traffic police have launched a creative awareness campaign to educate motorists about traffic rules and the consequences of violations. With the implementation of the new Motor Vehicles Act, fines for traffic violations have increased significantly. To drive home the message, the police have installed eye-catching hoardings at key road junctions across the town.

In a humorous twist inspired by popular jewellery advertisements, one board reads, "If you don't wear a helmet, you'll pay ₹1000 instead of ₹100 — follow the rules and save money." Several other boards use creative depictions of Yama Dharmaraju and Chitra Gupta, asking violators, "I don't have a helmet, Lord, should I wear one now?"

To strike an emotional chord, some hoardings feature images of young children with the caption, "It's okay if you're 10 minutes late, come slowly ... but don't forget to wear your helmet."

The police clarified that the campaign's goal is not just enforcement, but public safety. Through humor, emotion, and awareness, they hope to encourage responsible driving and reduce accidents in Amalapuram.

## Vasantala Program Held at Srikalahastheeswara Temple

TPN Correspondent | Srikalahasti

As part of the ongoing Mahashivratri Brahmotsavams at the Srikalahastheeswara Temple, a Vasantala program was held for the Goddess at the Vasantham Mandapam on Monday morning. The event began with Kalashthapan, followed by Ganapati Puja and Punyavachanam. Special rituals included offering flowers to the Kalash and performing abhishekams for Swami and Amma with milk, curd, honey, and sandalwood paste. After the abhishekam, the Goddess was adorned with beautiful garlands and aarti was offered amidst devotional chants. Devotees gathered



in large numbers to witness the divine rituals. Temple officials, along with prominent leaders, including local MLA Bojjala Venkata Sudheer Reddy, his wife Rishita Reddy, and Chenchayya Naidu Hari, also participated in the program. The rituals concluded with blessings for the well-being of devotees, and temple authorities ensured all arrangements were made for the smooth conduct of the event.

## District Collector Nagarani Held A Review Meeting on Women's Day Celebration



TPN Correspondent | Bhimavaram

West Godavari District Collector Chadalawada Nagarani has directed officials to make elaborate arrangements for a massive Women's Day rally to be held on March 8 in Bhimavaram town as per government orders.

The Collector held a review meeting with officials from various departments and representatives of voluntary organizations at her camp office on Monday to finalize the preparations. Speaking on the occasion, Collector Nagarani said that International Women's Day would be celebrated in a grand manner, with a huge rally, cultural programs, and special events, involving over a thousand women and students from various sec-

tions of society.

The rally will proceed from Prakasam Chowk to Alluri Seetharama Raju statue, with active participation from government departments and NGOs. Women staff from ICDS, DRDA, MEPMA, agriculture, and medical and health departments, along with students, will take part in large numbers.

The meeting was attended by ICDS PD B. Sujatha Rani, DRDA PD MSS Venugopal, DMHO B. Banu Nayak, Bhimavaram Municipal Commissioner K. Ramachandra Reddy, ICDS Nodal Officer Vijayalakshmi, Lines International CH Krishnamraju, West Berry Mahesh, social worker Kanteti Venkataraju, MEPMA officials, agriculture department officials, and other dignitaries.

## Illegal Liquor Worth Rs. 90 Lakhs Destroyed in Kothapet Division



TPN Correspondent | Kothapet Division

Kothapet DSP Sunkara Muralimohan announced that illegal liquor worth Rs. 90 lakhs has been destroyed in seven police stations under Kothapet division. Acting on the orders of Kakinada Prohibition and Excise Deputy Commissioner Chaitanya Murali, the liquor destruction program was held on Monday at Ambajipet market yard.

DSP Muralimohan stated that 258 cases were registered from 2019 to January 2025 across

Ambajipet, P. Gannavaram, Ainavilli, and Nagaram police stations under P. Gannavaram circle, as well as Rajolu, Sakhinetipalli, and Malkipuram police stations under Rajolu circle. In total, 2,700 liters of various types of liquor, stored in 9,124 bottles, were crushed using a road roller. Additionally, 300 liters of natu sara were buried in a pit.

He further stated that special drives would be conducted to enforce the new Motor Vehicles Act, while drones would be deployed to monitor and take action against unethical activities like poker and cock-fighting. Presently, a drone is available within the division limits, and circle-wise drones will be provided soon.

The program was attended by P. Gannavaram CI R. Bheemaraaju, Rajolu CI T.V. Nareshkumar, SCs K. Chiranjeevi, B. Sivakrishna, A. Chaitanyakumar, K. Manohar Joshi, B. Rajesh Kumar, P. Suresh, K.D. Srinivas, Amalapuram Excise Superintendent S.K.D.V. Prasad, Assistant Excise Superintendent G. Amar Babu, CI V.T.V.V. Satyanarayana, and other staff.

## Tea Stall Owner Shocked by ₹55,000 Electricity Bill in Dwaraka Tirumala

TPN Correspondent | Dwaraka Tirumala

A small businessman running a Hi-Tea stall near the Dwaraka Tirumala temple in Eluru district was left heartbroken after receiving an electricity bill of ₹55,423. The owner, who usually pays around ₹500 every month for electricity, was shocked to see the sudden spike in the bill amount.

The unexpected bill caused severe distress to the tea stall owner, who immediately approached the local electricity department for clarification. Officials, after a preliminary review, assured him that the excessive bill was likely caused by a technical fault in the electricity meter. The electricity department has promised to conduct a thorough inspection of the meter and correct the bill accordingly.

The incident has raised concerns among small traders in the area, who fear similar errors could affect their businesses. The tea stall owner, who serves customers near the popular temple, expressed relief after receiving assurances from the officials. Local traders and residents have urged the electricity department to regularly inspect and maintain meters to prevent such incidents in the future.

# Gangadhar Rao Proves Sri Vari System Can Revolutionize Rice Farming



Rice is a staple food in South India, and its cultivation plays a crucial role in the region's agricultural economy. However, the traditional method of cultivating rice in wetland conditions has become increasingly expensive due to rising labor costs and high water consumption. On average, a farmer requires 3,500 liters of water to produce just one kilogram of rice. Additionally, traditional rice farming demands 25 to 30 kilograms of seeds per acre, and yields generally range between 30 and 40 quintals per acre.

In this context, an innovative method known as the Sri Vari system, or the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), has emerged as a sustainable and high-yield approach. This method minimizes water usage while maximizing output, making it a viable solution for modern farmers. Recognizing the potential of this system, a young farmer from Dendulur village in Eluru district, Ramachellu Gangadhar Rao, has successfully adopted and implemented it on 30 acres of farmland.



## Sri Vari System: A New Era in Rice Cultivation

The Sri Vari system is an alternative method of rice farming that focuses on optimal spacing, minimal water usage, and organic farming practices. Unlike conventional methods, which require continuous water storage in each furrow, this system ensures that the soil remains moist but not flooded.

### Some key principles of the Sri Vari system include:

- Minimal seed usage: Instead of 25 to 30 kg of seeds per acre, only 2 to 3 kg of seeds are needed.
- Transplanting younger seedlings: Rice seedlings that are 8 to 14 days old are transplanted, ensuring faster and healthier growth.
- Proper plant spacing: A gap of 25 cm is maintained between each plant, which enhances root development and increases nutrient absorption.
- Use of mechanical weeders: A cone weeder or rotary weeder is employed from 10 days after planting, reducing weed growth and aerating the soil.
- Water management: The field is kept moist but without excess water accumulation, significantly reducing water consumption.



## The Benefits of Sri Vari System

**Higher Yields:** The method results in improved tillering, leading to higher grain production per plant. Farmers have reported an increase in yield, surpassing 50 to 60 quintals per acre, compared to traditional methods that yield around 30 to 40 quintals.

- Water Conservation: By avoiding continuous water submergence, water consumption is reduced by up to 50%.
- Cost-Effective: With reduced seed requirements and minimal labor dependency for irrigation, the overall cultivation cost decreases.
- Better Soil Health: The use of organic practices and natural soil aeration methods helps maintain soil fertility.
- Climate Resilience: The system enhances plant resilience against drought conditions, making it a sustainable choice in regions facing erratic rainfall.
- Gangadhar Rao's success with the Sri Vari system has set an example for other farmers in the region. As more cultivators explore this innovative approach, the potential for sustainable and profitable rice farming in Andhra Pradesh continues to grow.



## Success Story of Gangadhar Rao

Gangadhar Rao, a progressive farmer from Eluru, has been implementing the Sri Vari system on his 30-acre land, which consists of fertile carbon-rich soil. He selected BPT-2595, a long-duration rice variety that takes 160 days to mature. By adopting the 1 x 1 full-sediment method under the Sri Vari system, he has achieved remarkable results. In his fields, only 2 to 3 kg of seeds are used per acre, and seedlings are carefully planted following the specified spacing pattern. The method not only enhances crop productivity but also ensures better soil fertility through natural processes.



## Trump-Zelensky Showdown: No, Putin Is Not The Winner Here

The public confrontation between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and U.S. President Donald Trump in the Oval Office has sparked significant ripple effects that will be felt in the short to medium term. While many have already analyzed the incident itself, it's now essential to consider its broader implications.

For Ukraine, the fallout is severe. Zelensky's bold stand against Trump may have bolstered his nationalist image domestically, but it has come at a high cost. Despite visiting the U.S. with the goal of securing security guarantees, the spat has likely jeopardized Ukraine's relationship with its most important ally. The U.S., which has been crucial in providing military and financial support, may now be less inclined to continue its aid. The Ukrainian military, already struggling against a much larger Russian force, finds itself in a more vulnerable position with its security prospects diminished.

For the U.S., the public clash has tarnished its global reputation. Washington's inability to secure vital resources from Ukraine, such as rare earth elements, and its failure to maintain a consistent foreign policy strategy, particularly regarding Russia, undermine the U.S.'s position as a global leader. Trump's handling of the situation—mixing personal grievances with national interests—has cast the U.S. as an unpredictable and unreliable ally. Moreover, his defense of Vladimir Putin, despite past investigations into Russian interference in U.S. politics, only deepens doubts about his impartiality and leadership.

Putin, often seen as the beneficiary of such disputes, may not emerge as the clear winner. While the U.S.-Ukraine rift weakens Kyiv, it also complicates Moscow's own ambitions. A prolonged conflict and continued Western sanctions are not in Russia's interest, and a potential European military bloc opposing Russian aggression could prove formidable.

## The Legacy of Jihadism: From Sayyid Ahmad's Jihad to Modern Extremism



In 1852, the renowned poet and astrologer Momin Khan Momin met an untimely demise, falling from his terrace in Delhi. Despite his dreams of joining the jihadist movements rising in India's North-West, Momin's fate was quietly sealed in a cemetery, far from the martyrdom he had envisioned. His poetry, once filled with eroticism and adoration of Venus, now turned toward a fervent desire for martyrdom, revealing the complex relationship between personal faith, identity, and the broader forces of jihadism that would soon shape the region.

Last week, a suicide bombing at the Darul Uloom Haqqania seminary in Akora Khattak, Pakistan, epitomized the current state of jihadist extremism that has roots in the very religious foundations Momin yearned to be part of. The seminary, which has historically been a hub for jihadist thought, saw its leader, Hamid Ul Haq Haqqani, targeted by extremists within its own fold. Haqqani had attempted to mediate between Pakistan's government and the Taliban factions, trying to isolate the anti-Pakistan jihadists of the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) and Islamic State. While no group has taken responsibility, factions sympathetic to the Islamic State have expressed their approval, underlining the deep ideological schism within jihadist groups that once drew strength from institutions like Darul Uloom Haqqania.

# India's Global Image: The Link Between Domestic Policy and Foreign Relations

A fundamental lesson in foreign policy is that it often reflects a country's domestic values. The ideals a nation practices within its borders—such as justice, equality, and law—are generally mirrored in its foreign policy decisions and actions. When a country promotes human rights and democratic values abroad, it must demonstrate the same commitment at home. This domestic-foreign policy dichotomy can have significant consequences for a nation's global standing.



The United States in the 1990s is an example of how domestic values can influence global leadership. The U.S. promoted a liberal world order that mirrored its democratic, multicultural

ethos. Its inclusive society, commitment to rule of law, and focus on scientific and technological innovation propelled its leadership role in the international system. American uni-

versities became global benchmarks for education, attracting international students who saw the U.S. as a land of opportunity. The country's soft power, driven by its inclusive culture and

strong governance, made it an attractive destination for talent and investment.

However, under Trump's administration, the U.S. has begun to reverse this trajectory, with implications for its role in the liberal world order. A shift away from inclusivity and openness undermines the U.S.'s global appeal, damaging its soft power and its ability to lead the world. Soft power is not just about culture; it's about creating a society where justice, equality, and scientific inquiry are central to governance. Without this, soft power strategies become less effective, and in some cases, may backfire.

India faces a similar challenge, particularly in its quest for soft power. While India envisions a liberal and inclusive global order, its domestic system has yet to fully shed its hierarchical and exclusionary practices. This contradiction poses a significant obstacle to India's rise as a global leader, particularly in the developing world. Recent events, such as the mishandling of a student's suicide in a private university, turned into an international crisis, highlighting the disconnect between India's global aspirations and its domestic challenges. If the issue had been addressed with justice and empathy, it could have been resolved without turning into a diplomatic embarrassment.

## We take pride in India's contributions towards preserving, protecting wildlife: PM Modi

- PM Modi reaffirms India's biodiversity commitment
- UN-proclaimed day highlights endangered species and habitat loss
- India active in tiger, elephant conservation and anti-trafficking
- Global cooperation key to preserving biodiversity for future



TPN Correspondent | Delhi

On World Wildlife Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated India's commitment to protecting and preserving the planet's extraordinary biodiversity. Reflecting on the significance of the day, Modi took to social media to highlight the importance of safeguarding the world's wildlife and ecosystems.

"Today, on #WorldWildlifeDay, let's reiterate our commitment to protect and preserve the incredible biodiversity of our planet," Modi said, reinforcing the need for global cooperation in conservation efforts.

World Wildlife Day, observed every year on

March 3, was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly during its 68th session on December 20, 2013. The day serves as a global platform to celebrate and raise awareness about the diverse wildlife and ecosystems across the globe. It also aims to highlight the critical role wildlife plays in maintaining the health of the planet and the well-being of humanity.

The theme of World Wildlife Day changes annually, focusing on various aspects of wildlife protection. This day serves as a reminder of the need to protect endangered species and the habitats they depend on, as well as the growing challenges posed by human activities like deforestation, pollution, and climate change.

Prime Minister Modi's message underscores India's active role in global conservation efforts, with initiatives focused on preserving the nation's rich biodiversity, including its tiger and elephant populations. India has also been a key player in international environmental discussions, advocating for more effective actions to combat wildlife trafficking and habitat destruction.

As the world celebrates World Wildlife Day, leaders, conservationists, and individuals alike are reminded of the shared responsibility to ensure the survival of wildlife for future generations. With collective effort, the protection and preservation of global biodiversity remain an attainable goal.



## Jaishankar to embark on 6-day visit to UK, Ireland to boost trade and bilateral ties

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is set to embark on a six-day official visit to the United Kingdom and Ireland from March 4 to 9. The trip holds significant importance as India and the UK have recently initiated discussions on a free trade agreement (FTA), and Jaishankar's visit is expected to play a crucial role in shaping the future of bilateral relations between the two nations.

India and the UK have long shared a comprehensive strategic partnership that has strengthened in recent years across multiple domains. These include defense and security cooperation, trade and economic ties, healthcare, education, and people-to-people connections. The UK is one of India's most important economic partners, and the ongoing talks on an FTA are expected to boost trade and investment between the two countries. Jaishankar's visit to the UK is anticipated to set the tone for continued collaboration, ensuring that both nations can build on this momentum for mutual benefit.

During his visit to the UK, Jaishankar will meet with his UK counterpart, Foreign Secretary David Lammy. He is also expected to hold discussions with other senior government officials, exchange views on important regional and global issues, and strengthen the ongoing cooperation in various sectors. Additionally, Jaishankar will engage with members of the Indian diaspora, which plays a vital role in fostering ties between India and the UK.

Jaishankar will then travel to Ireland on March 6-7 to further solidify the growing friendly bilateral relations between India and Ireland. The two countries share common democratic values and deep cultural ties, which have served as the foundation for their robust relationship. Economic cooperation between the two nations is also expanding, and Jaishankar will meet with his Irish counterpart, Simon Harris, and other dignitaries to explore opportunities for further collaboration. He will also engage with the Indian community in Ireland to promote people-to-people ties and enhance mutual understanding.

Jaishankar's visit is a key step in strengthening India's diplomatic outreach and reinforcing partnerships with two important European nations.

## Have Babies Now: MK Stalin's Message For Newlyweds Is A Delimitation Jab



TPN Correspondent | Chennai

In a sharp sarcastic response to the Centre's proposed delimitation plans, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin humorously urged newlywed couples to start planning families immediately to ensure the state's representation during the upcoming exercise. At a wedding function in Nagapattinam, where he was attending a DMK district secretary's wedding, Stalin quipped that while he had previously advised newlyweds to take their time before starting a family, the government's delimitation plans had forced a change of approach. "We focused on family planning and succeeded, but now, with policies like delimitation being proposed by the Union Government, we cannot say that anymore. I now urge newlyweds to have children immediately and give them good Tamil names," Stalin said.

The DMK, under Stalin's leadership, has been outspoken in its opposition to the Centre's delimitation exercise, which is expected to occur after 2026. Delimitation involves redrawing the boundaries of parliamentary and assembly constituencies to reflect demographic changes over time. Stalin argued that southern states, including Tamil Nadu, could be at a disadvantage since these states had successfully implemented family planning policies. He claimed that this population control would lead to fewer seats for the south in Parliament, despite their contribution to India's economic growth and welfare. In response, BJP spokesperson CR Keshavan dismissed Stalin's remarks as "desperate and dishonest diversionary drama." Keshavan pointed out that the DMK was silent on Rahul Gandhi's call for "Jitni Abadi, Utna Haq" (rights proportional to population), which he said directly contradicted the DMK's stance on population-based delimitation.

## Paytm Faces ED Show Cause Notice Over Alleged FEMA Violations

TPN Correspondent | Delhi

Shares of One 97 Communications (OCL), the parent company of Paytm, dropped 4.4% to an intraday low of Rs 685 on the BSE on Monday following a show cause notice from the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The notice, linked to alleged violations of foreign exchange rules under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), involves transactions worth Rs 611 crore, impacting Paytm and two of its subsidiaries.

According to Paytm's regulatory filing with the BSE on Saturday, the ED identified non-compliance of Rs 245 crore in OCL, Rs 345 crore in Little Internet, and Rs 20.9 crore in Nearby India. The notice, dated February 27, was received by the company on Friday evening. While Paytm did not provide further details about the nature of the violations, the company stated that it has been cooperating with authorities and will respond appropriately.

The development comes at a time when Paytm is already under regulatory scrutiny. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had recently imposed restrictions on Paytm

Payments Bank, barring it from accepting fresh deposits after March 15 due to compliance concerns. This has led to increased volatility in Paytm's stock, which has declined significantly since the RBI's directive.

Market analysts believe that the ED's show cause notice adds to investor concerns over Paytm's regulatory challenges. The company has been facing pressure to strengthen compliance and address governance issues. The ongoing scrutiny could impact its operations and business confidence, particularly as it seeks to assure stakeholders about its financial health.

In response to the ED notice, Paytm reiterated its commitment to full compliance with regulatory requirements. The company assured investors and customers that its core businesses remain unaffected and that it continues to work with regulators to resolve any outstanding concerns.

With this latest development, market observers will closely monitor Paytm's next steps, particularly how it addresses compliance issues and reassures investors amid growing regulatory pressure.

ED HAS ISSUED SHOW CAUSE NOTICE (SCN) TO M/S ONE97 COMMUNICATION LTD (PARENT COMPANY OF PAYTM), AND ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR AND OTHERS FOR THE CONTRAVENTIONS OF PROVISIONS OF FEMA, 1999.



## Bhutan PM Tshering Tobgay on India-Bhutan Relations and High-Value Tourism

TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

In an exclusive interview with Divya A, Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay discussed the unique and trusting relationship between Bhutan and India, emphasizing the importance of high-value tourism while also expressing caution about over-tourism in the country. Tobgay highlighted that despite Bhutan's small size, its relationship with a powerful neighbor like India is rooted in genuine goodwill, with no hidden interests.

Tobgay spoke about the concept of high-value tourism, a key aspect of Bhutan's strategy to maintain its cultural and environmental integrity while welcoming visitors, particularly from India. While the country does value tourism and seeks to increase footfall, it does not want to overwhelm its infrastructure or lose its essence by opening the floodgates to mass tourism.



During the virtual interaction from Thimphu, ahead of the release of his book \*Enlightened Leadership\* (Penguin), which reflects on Bhutan's transition from a monarchy to a democracy, Tobgay also discussed the trust and cooperation between India and Bhutan. He addressed

concerns regarding potential trust deficits in the relationship, emphasizing that the two nations share a deep bond built on mutual respect and understanding.

Tobgay's relationship with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also a topic of discussion. He acknowledged the personal rapport between the two leaders, which has helped strengthen bilateral ties, especially in areas like trade, security, and regional cooperation. Tobgay reiterated Bhutan's commitment to preserving its sovereignty while benefiting from India's support, reinforcing the long-standing friendship between the two nations.

As Bhutan navigates the challenges of modernization and global engagement, the Prime Minister remains focused on maintaining the balance between progress and preservation, ensuring that Bhutan's unique identity remains intact for future generations.

# Bangladesh has no option but to have good ties with India: Muhammad Yunus

- Yunus reaffirmed the close relationship between the two nations.
- He acknowledged some conflicts due to misinformation but emphasized efforts to resolve misunderstandings.
- Bangladesh seeks a meeting between Yunus and PM Modi during the April 3-4 event in Thailand.



TPN Correspondent | Bangladesh

Bangladesh's interim government chief, Muhammad Yunus, reaffirmed the importance of maintaining strong relations with India, stating that both countries are deeply interconnected and reliant on each other. His remarks came ahead of the upcoming BIMSTEC Summit in Thailand on April 3-4, where Bangladesh is keen to arrange a meeting between Yunus and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In an interview with BBC Bangla, Yunus acknowledged that "propaganda" has led to "some

conflicts" between the two nations but emphasized that efforts are being made to overcome any misunderstandings. He did not specify the source of this alleged propaganda but stressed that both countries remain in constant communication, with regular high-level visits strengthening diplomatic ties.

Describing India-Bangladesh relations as "very good," Yunus dismissed concerns of any deterioration, asserting that the two neighbors have no option but to maintain close cooperation. "There has been no deterioration, our relations will always be good. They are good now and they will

be good in the future," he said.

Yunus further highlighted the historical, political, and economic ties that bind the two nations, making isolation impossible. Over the years, India and Bangladesh have engaged in trade, security cooperation, and cultural exchanges, further cementing their partnership.

The upcoming BIMSTEC Summit is expected to serve as a platform to discuss key regional issues, with Bangladesh looking to reinforce its strategic ties with India amid evolving geopolitical dynamics.



## Trudeau to bring up Trump's threat to annex Canada in meeting with King Charles

TPN Correspondent | Seoul

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is set to meet with King Charles III on Monday to discuss the ongoing threat posed by US President Donald Trump to make Canada the 51st state. The meeting comes after growing criticism in Canada of the monarch's silence regarding these provocative remarks from Trump.

In a statement made in London on Sunday, Trudeau emphasized the importance of addressing issues crucial to Canadians, particularly focusing on "standing up for our sovereignty and our independence as a nation." Canada, as a member of the British Commonwealth, recognizes King Charles as its head of state. However, the monarch's recent silence on Trump's threats has sparked renewed debate on Canada's relationship with the monarchy.

While Canada's anti-royal sentiment remains relatively small, the issue has gained traction following the lack of comment from King Charles regarding Trump's controversial remarks. The US President's suggestion that Canada could be annexed has raised concerns, particularly among those who feel the monarch should take a firmer stance on defending Canadian sovereignty. Former Alberta Premier Jason Kenney weighed in on the matter, stating that for those in Canada who are disappointed by King Charles' silence, it's important to remember that the monarch acts on the advice of the Canadian government. Kenney urged the Canadian government to ask King Charles to make a statement underscoring the nation's independence.

King Charles has recently met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and despite the controversy, he has invited Trump for a state visit to Scotland. Constitutional lawyer Lyle Skinner also weighed in, expressing hope that Trudeau's upcoming audience with the king would lead to a public statement reaffirming Canada's sovereignty.

As Trudeau prepares for his meeting with the king, the issue of Canadian independence and the monarchy's role in defending it is expected to be a key point of discussion.

## Permit Cancellations, Financial Burden: Canada's New Visa Rules Impact Indian Students



TPN Correspondent | Canada

Canada has recently implemented stricter immigration and visa policies aimed at reducing illegal migration, significantly impacting Indian students pursuing higher education. Since the new Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations took effect on January 31, several students have reported sudden permit cancellations, intensified scrutiny of visa applications, and stricter enforcement of departure requirements. Nikhil Jain, founder of Foreign-Admits, mentioned that many students, despite having strong academic records, have lost their permits. Jain projected that Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) could revoke permits for up to 7,000 students this year, potentially affecting the 427,000 Indian students currently in Canada.

If a student's permit is revoked, they may be required to leave Canada unless they can successfully appeal the decision. However, the legal fees for such appeals start at C\$1,500, with no guarantees of success. "We are advising our clients to meticulously document everything, including every hour worked and every address change, which must be reported within seven days," said Jain. "Canada's shift from a welcoming stance to a more suspicious approach means students must adapt quickly." This tightening of immigration policies has also led to a significant reduction in study permits issued to Indian students, with a 40% drop since the fourth quarter of 2023. Additionally, the new C\$20,635 Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) requirement for Fall 2025 applicants has become a financial hurdle for many middle-class Indian families.

# Replacing Me Will Not Be Simple": Ukraine President Zelensky

TPN Correspondent | Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has responded to suggestions from US Republicans that he may need to step down, offering a candid defense of his leadership. In an interview with British media, Zelensky acknowledged that replacing him as president would not be straightforward, reiterating his willingness to step down in exchange for NATO membership for Ukraine.



This statement comes after a dramatic shift in US politics, with former President Donald Trump turning against Zelensky during a contentious Oval Office meeting about the ongoing war with Russia. During this meeting, Trump and several Republican figures questioned Zelensky's leadership, suggesting that his personal and political motivations might be hindering efforts to end the conflict. National Security Advisor Mike Waltz emphasized the need for a leader who could negotiate with Russia and end the war, suggesting that if Zelensky's goals diverged from this objective, it could become problematic.

In his response, Zelensky remarked, "If they replace me, given what is going on, given the support, simply replacing me will not be simple." He added that holding elections

and preventing him from running would not be sufficient, hinting that any potential replacement would need to engage in negotiations with him. Zelensky also repeated his stance on NATO membership, saying, "I am exchanging for NATO. Then I fulfilled my mission."

The tensions with the US escalated following the Oval Office meeting, where Zelensky left without securing a preliminary agreement on Ukrainian mineral rights. While European leaders continue to support Ukraine,

the US Republican Party has raised concerns over Zelensky's leadership, with Speaker of the House Mike Johnson stating that Zelensky either needs to "come to his senses" or be replaced.

Despite the controversy, Zelensky remains steadfast in his calls for NATO membership, an issue that has been a major point of contention since Russia's invasion of Ukraine three years ago. The alliance has been hesitant to offer Ukraine membership, fearing further escalation with Russia.

# UK Investigates TikTok, Reddit, and Imgur Over Children's Data Privacy Concerns

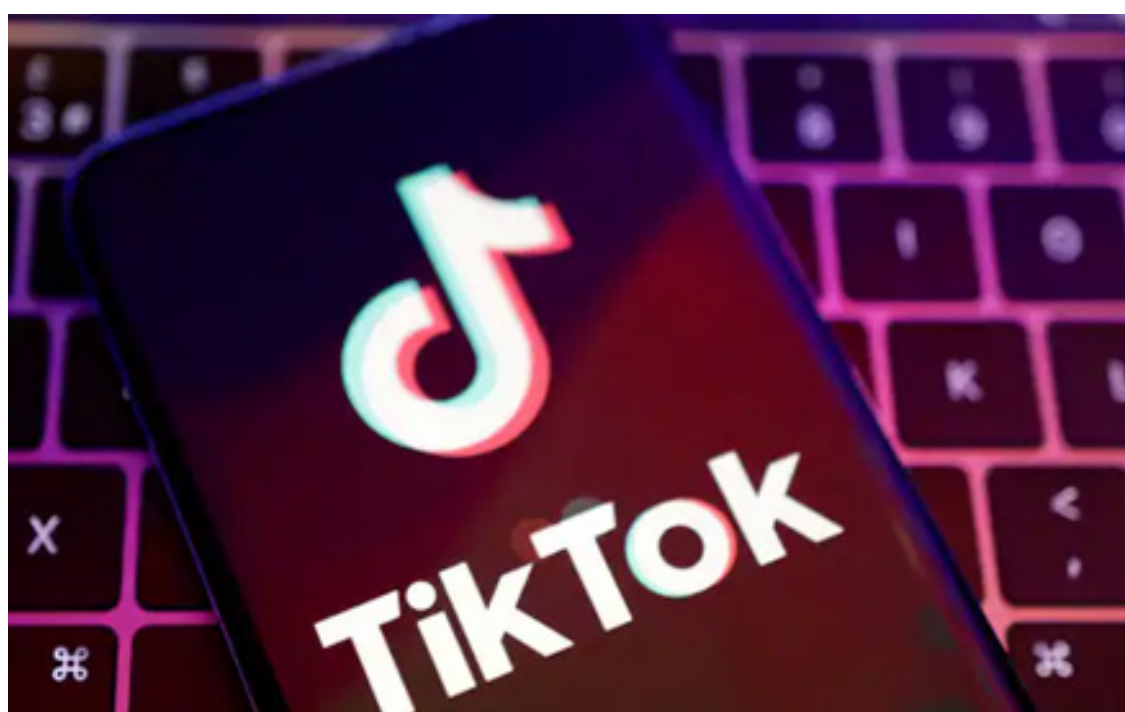
TPN Correspondent | UK

Britain's privacy watchdog, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), has launched an investigation into how popular social media platforms, including TikTok, Reddit, and Imgur, handle children's personal data. The inquiry focuses on how these platforms safeguard the privacy of young users, particularly those aged 13-17, and the role of algorithms in suggesting content based on personal information.

The ICO's investigation targets TikTok's practices around using personal data to recommend content to young users, as concerns grow over the platform's influence on minors. The watchdog is examining whether TikTok's algorithm unduly amplifies content, leading to potential exposure to harmful material. The ICO is also scrutinizing how Reddit and Imgur assess and handle the ages of their users, ensuring that they comply with privacy laws protecting children.

In a statement, the ICO emphasized that if sufficient evidence is found that any of the companies have breached data protection laws, it will take the necessary steps to address the issue. This could involve presenting findings to the companies and seeking their responses before concluding the investigation.

The UK's approach to safeguarding children's



online privacy has been evolving, with stricter rules being implemented in recent years. Legislation now mandates social media platforms to prevent children from accessing inappropriate or harmful content. This includes measures such as enforcing age limits and implementing age-verification processes. The UK government has also proposed measures requiring platforms to adjust their algorithms to filter or reduce the visibility of harmful content, offering greater protection

to younger users.

While TikTok, Reddit, and Imgur have not yet responded to requests for comment, this investigation highlights the growing concern over how social media platforms use personal data, especially when it comes to vulnerable groups like children. With the ICO's probe, the UK is further tightening its oversight of digital platforms, aiming to ensure they prioritize user safety, particularly for minors.



## Stock Markets Close Flat After Intraday Recovery Amid Global Uncertainty

Domestic stock markets ended nearly flat on Monday after recovering from early losses driven by global uncertainty and weak signals from Asian and international markets. The morning session saw a sharp decline in benchmark indices as investors reacted to negative cues. However, buying interest emerged later in the day, fueled by optimism over economic recovery, increased consumption, and strong agricultural production in the third quarter. Sectors like metal, realty, healthcare, and pharma provided key support. Despite the recovery, the Nifty ended the session with a marginal loss of 5 points, while the Sensex closed 112 points lower.



The BSE Sensex, which had closed at 73,198 in the previous session, opened higher at 73,427. However, it dropped to an intraday low of 72,784 before rebounding to a high of 73,593. Eventually, the index settled at 73,085, down 112 points. The NSE Nifty opened at 22,194, touched a low of 22,004 and a high of 22,261, before closing at 22,119, down 5 points. Meanwhile, the Nifty Bank index lost 230 points, ending at 48,114. Analysts noted that Nifty faces resistance at 22,300 and has support at 22,000.



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Within the Nifty50, 33 stocks advanced while 17 declined. Gains were led by IT, metal, realty, healthcare, pharma, and consumer stocks. Banking, media, oil, and gas sectors remained under pressure. Among the top gainers were BEL, Grasim, Eicher Motors, JSW Steel, and BPCL. Meanwhile, Bajaj Auto, Coal India, Reliance, Bajaj Finserv, and HDFC Bank were the biggest losers.

Market breadth on the NSE strongly favored sellers, with 2071 stocks declining compared to 880 gainers out of the

3026 traded. Additionally, 12 stocks hit 52-week highs, while 963 touched 52-week lows. Shares of 357 companies hit their lower circuit limits.

On the currency front, the rupee strengthened by 15 paise, closing at 87.36 against the US dollar. In stock-specific movements, Morgan Stanley assigned an overweight rating to International Gemological with a target price of ₹617. Jefferies maintained a buy rating on Polycab India but lowered its target price from ₹7700 to ₹6485.

Welspun Living's stock surged 8.87% to ₹116. Indian Overseas Bank hit a 52-week low for the second consecutive day after receiving a ₹699 crore demand notice. Jio Finance saw 10 lakh shares change hands. The mutual fund corpus of women investors has doubled over the past five years.

In corporate updates, Piramal Enterprises received a GST notice worth ₹1502 crore. Dalmia Bharat announced a ₹3520 crore investment in Maharashtra and Karnataka. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank completed the sale of its stressed loan portfolio. United Drilling secured an ₹80 crore order from Oil India, while NCC won a ₹218 crore project from a state government.

## India on Track to Meet Fiscal Deficit Target of 4.8% for FY25

The central government is expected to achieve its fiscal deficit target of 4.8% of GDP for the financial year 2024-25 (FY25), according to a recent report by Bank of Baroda. The report attributes this to a combination of higher-than-expected nominal GDP growth, stable revenue receipts, and controlled expenditure.



The report highlights three key factors supporting the government's fiscal consolidation efforts. First, the nominal GDP growth rate for FY25 is projected to be 9.9%, slightly higher than the 9.7% estimated in the Union Budget. A higher GDP growth rate typically enhances revenue collections, thereby assisting in managing the fiscal deficit target.

Second, government expenditure patterns have played a crucial role. Due to the general elections, spending remained subdued in the first half of the fiscal year. However, in the latter half (H2), the government increased its spending, ensuring that overall expenditure remained within budgetary limits. This controlled spending approach has helped in maintaining fiscal discipline while supporting economic activities.

Third, steady revenue receipts have strengthened the government's fiscal position. Direct tax collections, including corporate and personal income

tax, have shown resilience, while indirect taxes such as Goods and Services Tax (GST) have continued to generate robust revenue. Additionally, non-tax revenues from dividends, disinvestments, and asset monetization have provided supplementary financial support.

The Bank of Baroda report suggests that with these factors in place, the government is well-positioned to achieve its fiscal deficit target without requiring major policy adjustments. It also notes that maintaining fiscal prudence is essential to ensure economic stability while continuing to invest in infrastructure, social welfare, and other priority sectors.

Overall, the government's focus on balancing growth and fiscal responsibility appears to be yielding positive results. By managing expenditures efficiently and leveraging strong revenue collections, the central government is expected to remain on course to meet its fiscal deficit target, reinforcing confidence in India's economic resilience.

## India's Manufacturing Growth Slows in February, PMI Drops to 56.3

India's private sector manufacturing activity, as measured by the HSBC Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), slowed to 56.3 in February 2025, reflecting the slowest sales growth in over a year. This marks a decline from January's reading of 57.7, according to HSBC's latest report. Despite the slowdown, the PMI remained in expansion territory for the 44th consecutive month, as a reading above 50 indicates growth.



The manufacturing sector experienced a dip in momentum, with both sales and output falling to a 14-month low. Factory activity levels had previously reached a 12-month low in December but showed a temporary rebound to a six-month high in January. However, February saw a renewed deceleration, primarily due to subdued domestic demand.

HSBC's India Chief Economist, Pranjul Bhandari, noted that strong global demand continued to support the manufacturing sector, encouraging firms to increase purchasing activity and expand their workforce. "Business expectations remained very strong, with nearly one-third of survey participants anticipating higher output volumes in the year ahead. Although growth slowed to the weakest level since December 2023, overall momentum remained broadly positive," she stated.

Despite the slowdown, manufacturers ob-

served an increase in new orders, particularly from international markets. Export demand remained robust in February, contributing to job creation as firms responded to higher overseas orders. The steady expansion in hiring reflects an overall positive business outlook despite temporary challenges.

However, manufacturers faced rising input costs, with prices increasing for raw materials such as bamboo, rubber, and leather. Additionally, expenses related to marketing and telecom services also rose, putting pressure on production costs. Companies responded by passing on a portion of these costs to consumers through higher pricing. Labour costs also increased, further adding to the financial burden on manufacturers.

Meanwhile, India's overall industrial output growth declined to a four-month low of 3.2% in February. While the manufacturing sector remains on a growth trajectory, cost pressures and fluctuating domestic demand continue to shape the industry's outlook in 2025.

## Paytm Shares Drop Over 4% After ED Notice on Alleged FEMA Violations

Shares of One97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm, plunged over 4% on Monday (March 3, 2025) after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) issued a notice regarding alleged violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). The notice pertains to investment transactions involving Paytm and its subsidiaries, Little Internet and Nearbuy.



On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), Paytm's stock dropped 4.39% to ₹683.55 per share, while on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), it fell 4.37% to ₹685 per share. The broader market also saw declines, with the BSE Sensex slipping 271.22 points to 72,926.88, and the NSE Nifty falling 93.60 points to 22,031.10.

In a regulatory filing on February 1, 2025, Paytm disclosed that it had received the ED notice concerning alleged FEMA contraventions from 2015 to 2019. The violations reportedly involve Paytm's acquisition of Little Internet Private Limited (LIPL) and Nearbuy India Private Limited (NIPL), formerly Groupon India.

One97 Communications clarified that some of the alleged breaches occurred before LIPL and NIPL became its subsidiaries. The notice does not specify financial penalties but references transactions totaling over ₹611 crore. According to Paytm, the alleged violations include ₹245 crore linked to One97 Communications, ₹345 crore related to LIPL, and ₹21 crore concerning NIPL.

Paytm emphasized that the issue does not impact its services, assuring users that all operations remain fully functional and secure. The company is seeking legal advice to address the matter and explore appropriate remedies.

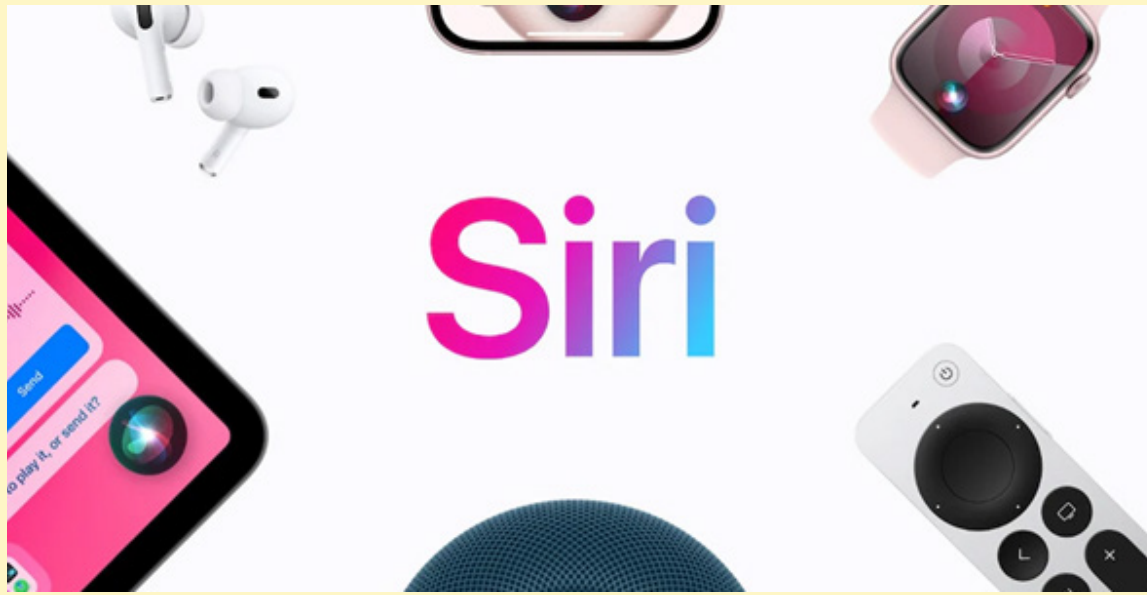
The fintech giant acquired Little Internet and Nearbuy in 2017. Groupon India, which later became Nearbuy, was initially launched in 2011 by Ankur Warikoo. Warikoo and the core management team took over the business in 2015, making it an independent entity before its eventual acquisition by Paytm.

As the regulatory investigation unfolds, Paytm remains focused on resolving the matter in compliance with legal requirements. Despite the stock decline, the company reiterated its commitment to ensuring uninterrupted service for its consumers and merchants.

## Apple's AI-Powered Siri May Be Delayed Until iOS 20 in 2027

Apple is reportedly facing challenges in upgrading its Siri assistant to the level showcased at its Worldwide Developer Conference (WWDC) 2024. According to a report from Bloomberg's Mark Gurman, the tech giant is working to roll out the first set of artificial intelligence (AI) features for Siri by May 2025. However, this version is expected to fall short of the expectations set by the demo, with the full implementation potentially taking until 2027 with the release of iOS 20.

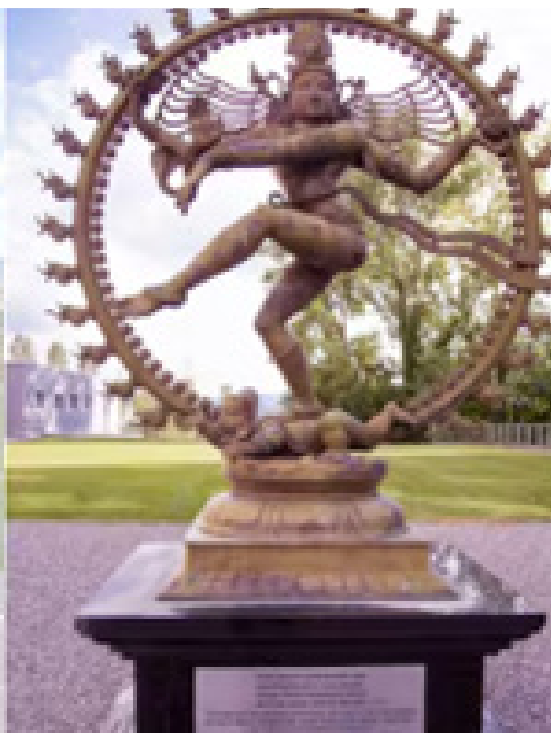
The new AI-powered version of Siri is expected to integrate user data and apps for more complex tasks. Currently, Apple's AI features have seen low real-world usage, with many users finding them non-essential. The new Siri will combine the legacy Siri system with a new AI-driven brain, but this combination may result in a less-than-smooth experience, according to Gurman. Apple is planning to merge these systems in the future, potentially with a new architecture for Siri that could debut with iOS 19.4 in 2026, though that release is also reportedly delayed. Internally, the new Siri is referred to as "LLM Siri" and will bring more conversational ca-



capabilities to the virtual assistant. However, Apple's original plan to release the fully upgraded Siri in 2026 as part of iOS 19 is now pushed to 2027 with the release of iOS 20. To expedite development, Apple recently moved Kim Vorrath, a seasoned software executive, to the AI and machine learning division. Vorrath previously oversaw soft-

ware development for the Vision Pro. The struggles with Siri and the delays in its rollout could even put the future of John Giannandrea, Apple's Senior Vice President of Machine Learning and AI Strategy, at risk. Giannandrea, who previously served as SVP of Engineering at Google, is reportedly under scrutiny as the delays continue.

## The Fascinating Connection Between Lord Shiva and CERN's Nataraj Statue



began in the 1960s. It was unveiled on June 18, 2004, by Dr. Robert Aymar, the Director-General of CERN, and other prominent figures, including Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. At the time, Dr. Manmohan Singh served as India's Prime Minister.

In Hindu mythology, Nataraj represents Lord Shiva as the cosmic dancer whose dance, known as Tandava, symbolizes the perpetual cycle of creation, preservation, and destruction. This ancient concept mirrors the work done at CERN, where scientists study the "cosmic dance" of subatomic particles, examining the fundamental forces and building blocks of the universe.

The Nataraj statue at CERN is more than an artistic creation; it bridges mythology with science. The metaphor of Shiva's cosmic dance is akin to the rhythms observed in physics, where forces of creation and destruction constantly play out. Fritjof Capra, a physicist, highlighted this connection in his 1970s book *The Tao of Physics*, drawing parallels between the cosmic dance and the discoveries made at CERN. The statue's presence at CERN serves as a powerful reminder that ancient wisdom and modern science can complement each other, fostering a deeper understanding of the universe's mysteries. It exemplifies how mythology and physics intersect in the pursuit of knowledge.

As Maha Shivratri approaches, a unique link between Hindu mythology and modern science is highlighted by the Nataraj statue at CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Switzerland. The 2-meter-tall bronze statue, gifted by the Government of India in 2004, symbolizes the deep connection

between the ancient Hindu deity Lord Shiva and the cutting-edge research conducted at CERN, including the discovery of the Higgs boson and the invention of the World Wide Web. The statue, crafted by Tamil Nadu artist Rajan, was a gift from India to celebrate the ongoing collaboration between India and CERN, which

## Baker Sets Guinness World Record for Icing 66 Cupcakes in Three Minutes

Michelle Evans-Fecchi, renowned for her appearance on *The Great British Bake Off*, has set a new Guinness World Record by icing an astonishing 66 cupcakes in just three minutes. This impressive feat showcases her exceptional speed and precision in the art of baking.

The record-breaking moment was shared on the official Guinness World Records Instagram, where viewers were treated to a video of Evans-Fecchi effortlessly decorating cupcakes with flawless buttercream swirls. The cupcakes were neatly arranged in front of her, and with each rapid motion, she expertly iced one after another, hitting the remarkable total of 66 in under three minutes. The caption accompanying the post noted, "Most cupcakes iced/frosted in three minutes (individual) 66 by Michelle Evans-Fecchi for @S4C."

The achievement has stunned many in the baking community, as icing cupcakes is often a delicate and time-consuming task that requires attention to detail. Yet Evans-Fecchi's extraordinary speed not only broke the record but also demonstrated the level of skill and efficiency that can be attained with years of practice.

The video has gone viral, with countless viewers expressing their awe and admiration for her talent. The internet is abuzz



with reactions, with many questioning how she managed to achieve such a high number in such a short time. While some fans celebrated her impressive record, others expressed amazement at her flawless technique, which ensured that each cupcake was perfectly decorated despite the rapid pace.

Evans-Fecchi's record has added another feather to her cap, further solidifying her status as one of the baking world's most talented and innovative figures. Her achievement also highlights the combination of speed and artistry required to excel in the highly competitive world of baking.

## Scientists Develop Device to Taste Food in Virtual Reality



Imagine experiencing the flavor of a delicious cake without even taking a bite. A team of scientists at The Ohio State University has made this possible with a revolutionary device that brings taste into virtual reality (VR). The 'e-Taste' interface enables users to perceive flavors remotely through sensors and wireless chemical dispensers, marking a breakthrough in VR experiences.

The 'e-Taste' system uses advanced sensors and wireless dispensers to simulate gustation (the sense of taste). The device works by distinguishing molecules like glucose and glutamate, which represent the five basic tastes: sweet, sour, salty, bitter, and umami. Researchers confirmed that it could digitally replicate a range of taste intensities during field tests, offering a unique and safe way to experience taste remotely. The taste sensations are triggered when the system collects data through electrical signals and transmits it wirelessly to a remote device for flavor replication.

Jinghua Li, co-author of the study and assistant professor of materials science and engineering at Ohio State, emphasized that taste and smell have been largely underexplored in VR and augmented reality (AR) environments. "We've developed this next-generation system to fill that gap," she said, highlighting the potential for future advancements in immersive experiences.

The device, inspired by Li's previous work in biosensors, features an actuator with two key components: an interface for the mouth and a small electromagnetic pump. The pump connects to a liquid channel containing chemicals that vibrate when an electric charge passes through. This vibration pushes the solution through a gel layer into the user's mouth, where the intensity and flavor of the taste can be adjusted based on digital instructions. The system can also release multiple tastes simultaneously to create complex flavor sensations.

This breakthrough opens new possibilities for gaming, healthcare, and accessibility, providing a more immersive and interactive experience for users. The study detailing the development of this technology was published in the journal *Science Advances*.

## Viral Roti-Making Hack Divides the Internet



A woman's viral video showing a hack to make multiple rotis in one go has left the internet divided. The video, which has amassed 2.1 million views, demonstrates a quick and efficient way to flatten several rotis at once, sparking a mix of admiration and skepticism online.

In the video shared by @theonly\_nitish on X, the woman begins by placing a clean plastic sheet on the kitchen counter. She then takes a dough ball, places it on the sheet, and covers it with another plastic sheet. This process is repeated with 6-7 dough balls, followed by a final sheet on top. The woman then uses a rolling board (chakla) to apply pressure over the stacked dough balls, flattening them simultaneously. The result? A set of perfectly round rotis, each flawlessly flattened without sticking together, thanks to the layers of plastic sheets. Once flattened, she simply separates the discs and

prepares the rotis as usual.

While the hack seems like a game-changer for speeding up roti preparation, it has generated mixed reactions. Many viewers were impressed by the simplicity and efficiency of the technique, applauding the woman for her ingenuity. However, others were skeptical about the practicality of the hack, questioning whether it would work consistently and if it would truly save time in a typical kitchen setting.

Despite the mixed feedback, the video has sparked a lively debate, with some praising the creative approach to an age-old kitchen task, while others argue that traditional methods are still the most reliable. The viral video serves as a reminder of how social media can bring innovative solutions to light, even if not everyone is convinced. Whether or not this hack will become a common kitchen practice remains to be seen.

## Rohit Sharma Refutes Home Advantage Claims Ahead of Semifinal Clash



Rohit Sharma has dismissed claims that India's participation in the ICC Champions Trophy, with all matches played in Dubai, gives his team an unfair home advantage. Speaking ahead of India's semifinal clash against Australia, Rohit emphasized that the conditions in Dubai have presented various challenges, not advantages. Several former players, including those from Pakistan, Australia, and England, suggested that India's early arrival in Dubai allowed them to better acclimatize. However, Rohit refuted this, clarifying that Dubai is not India's home ground. "Every time, the pitch is giving you different challenges. This is not our home; we don't play so many matches here. It is new for us too," he stated. Rohit also highlighted the need for adaptability, particularly in their last match against New Zealand, where both swing and spin played crucial roles. He expressed his preference for a balanced contest between bat and ball. Furthermore, he justified India's inclusion of five spinners in the squad, referencing observations from the ILT20 tournament that indicated slow bowlers could be effective in Dubai's conditions. He also noted that arriving early in Dubai allowed the team to adjust well, with good training sessions in the lead-up to the matches.

## Praggnanandhaa Draws with Aravindh Chithambaram at Prague Masters



Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa played to a draw against fellow Indian Aravindh Chithambaram in the fifth round of the Prague Masters chess tournament, maintaining a full-point lead over the nearest challengers. Both players have accumulated 3.5 points, staying ahead of top seed Wei Yi of China, Anish Giri of the Netherlands, Quang Leim Le of Vietnam, and Vincent Keymer of Germany, all with 2.5 points. The tournament follows a 10-player round-robin format, with four rounds remaining. The day's action saw just one decisive game, with Wei Yi defeating Sam Shankland. Anish Giri drew with Nguyen Thai Dai Van, and David Navara fought back to hold Keymer. Praggnanandhaa and Aravindh played a Berlin Defense, leading to a drawn rook and pawns endgame.

## FIFA Lifts Suspension on Pakistan Football Federation After Constitutional Reforms

FIFA has lifted the suspension on the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) after the federation made the necessary constitutional changes to ensure effective governance of football in the country. The suspension, imposed on February 5, was due to the failure of PFF Congress members to amend the constitution as required by FIFA. However, after a consensus was reached on the amendments last Thursday, FIFA confirmed the suspension was lifted on Sunday. Since June 2019, Pakistan football has been under the governance of a FIFA-appointed normalisation committee, tasked with resolving internal disputes and conducting elections. Despite several changes in leadership, key issues in Pakistan football remained unresolved. An AFC senior official visited Lahore last week to facilitate the constitutional changes, which were subsequently approved



by PFF Congress members. With the suspension lifted, Pakistan will now be eligible to participate in the 2027 AFC Asian Cup qualifiers, with their first match against Syria on March 25.

## WWE's Plan for John Cena's Heel Turn at Elimination Chamber Shocks the World



John Cena stunned the WWE Universe with a shocking heel turn on Cody Rhodes at the WWE Elimination Chamber on March 2, setting the stage for his upcoming WrestleMania 41 match against Rhodes. Cena secured his spot at WrestleMania by defeating CM Punk in the six-man Elimination Chamber match, and reports indicate that WWE had been planning this heel turn for weeks. In a surprising twist, after Cody Rhodes aggressively rejected The Rock's demand to become the 'Corporate Champion', Cena, who had been congratulating Cody for staying true to himself, suddenly turned on him. Cena, with a throat-cutting signal from The Fi-

nal Boss, aligned with The Rock and kicked Rhodes, leaving him incapacitated on the mat. The shocking moment was compounded by rapper Travis Scott, who slapped Rhodes while he was down. Reports suggest WWE had planned Cena's heel turn as the third act of the event, but it was rescheduled to follow the Men's Elimination Chamber match. While there were rumors about Drew McIntyre winning, Cena's heel turn surprised even WWE officials. After the event, Triple H, WWE's Chief Content Officer, revealed that very few people were aware of Cena's turn, and he played a significant role in the segment.

## Emma Navarro Dominates Emiliana Arango 6-0, 6-0 to Win WTA Merida Open



Top-seeded American Emma Navarro clinched her second WTA title with a dominant 6-0, 6-0 victory over qualifier Emiliana Arango in the final of the WTA Merida Open on Sunday. Navarro, who was seeded No. 1 for the first time, com-

pleted an impressive week by securing the 500-level crown without dropping a set. This win adds to the title she won in Hobart last year. The match lasted just 55 minutes, as Navarro overpowered Arango, becoming the

first player since Iga Swiatek in 2021 to win a WTA final 6-0, 6-0. Arango, ranked 133rd in the world before the tournament, made history by reaching her first WTA quarter-final and is set to enter the top 100 in the upcoming rankings.

## Major League Soccer: Lionel Messi Rests, But Inter Miami Triumph 4-1 in Texas

Lionel Messi was rested for Inter Miami's Major League Soccer match against the Houston Dynamo on Sunday, but his absence didn't affect his team's performance. Inter Miami cruised to a dominant 4-1 victory, with Telasco Segovia scoring twice. Coach Javier Mascherano decided to leave Messi in Florida to rest after a busy start to the season, leaving many ticket buyers in Houston disappointed. To make up for Messi's absence, the Dynamo offered free tickets to another game later in the season. Unfortunately for Houston, their defense was overly generous, allowing Miami to score four goals. Miami's first came early when Benjamin Cremaschi pressured Houston's defense, and Segovia capitalized on the mistake. Houston responded with some possession but were caught on

the counter-attack in the 37th minute as Tadeo Allende made it 2-0. Just before halftime, Segovia scored again to put Miami in a commanding 3-0 lead. Houston's Ezequiel Ponce had a header ruled out for offside, and Miami added another goal in the 79th minute with a brilliant strike from Luis Suarez. Houston managed to pull one back in the 85th minute with a goal from Nicolas Lodeiro, but the match ended in a comprehensive win for Miami. Despite the red card for Ian Fray in the final moments, Miami showed their potential to dominate the Eastern Conference this season. Luis Suarez spoke after the game, emphasizing the team's determination to go all the way this year after last season's painful playoff loss to Atlanta.





## Sonakshi Sinha Set for Telugu Debut in Supernatural Fantasy Thriller 'Jatadhara'



Sonakshi Sinha, known for her impressive Bollywood career, is gearing up for her Telugu cinema debut with the upcoming supernatural fantasy thriller *Jatadhara*. Directed by Venkat Kalyan,

the film is said to blend mythology with supernatural elements in an intriguing narrative. While official confirmation is awaited, sources suggest that Sonakshi will star opposite Sudheer Babu,

and filming is set to begin on March 8, 2025, following a grand mahurat event held recently in Hyderabad.

Sonakshi's versatile filmography includes hits like *Dabangg*, *Dahaad*, and *Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar*, earning her widespread acclaim. *Jatadhara* marks an exciting new chapter in her career, bringing her to the Telugu film industry.

In addition, Sonakshi's critically acclaimed film *Lootera* is set for a re-release on March 7, 2025, allowing fans to revisit the 2013 period drama, where she starred alongside Ranveer Singh.

## Nani's 'Paradise' Glimpse Unveiled with Powerful Teaser



Nani's upcoming film *Paradise* has created a buzz with the release of its intense "Ra Statement" glimpse. Known for his soft love stories, Nani has recently ventured into mass roles with films like *Shyam Singha Roy* and *Dasara*. In *Paradise*, he takes on a rugged, rustic role. Directed by Srikanth Odela, the teaser features a

powerful voice narrating a gripping story of a ravenous crow, a struggling community, and the rise of a leader. The glimpse showcases Nani in a completely different avatar, with a high dose of bloodshed, violence, and intense dialogues. The film, said to be made on a large budget, is scheduled for a pan-India release on March 26, 2026.

## 'Chhaava' Telugu Trailer Released: A Power-Packed Epic Awaits



The Telugu trailer for *Chhaava*, starring Vicky Kaushal and directed by Lakshman Utekar, has been released, sending chills down the spine with its intense visuals. Based on the life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's eldest son, Sambhaji Maharaj, the film is a historical epic that has already made waves in the Bollywood market. Released on February 14, *Chhaava* received rave reviews and has

been a box-office hit. The film is now being presented in Telugu by the prestigious Geetha Arts, with the release scheduled for March 7. The trailer, full of awe-inspiring visuals, blends courage and glory, promising an epic cinematic experience. With goosebump-inducing scenes, *Chhaava* is set to captivate Telugu audiences just as it did in Hindi, building anticipation for its release.

## Shruti Haasan Talks About Her International Debut in 'The Eye'



Shruti Haasan is all set to make her international debut with *The Eye*, a supernatural thriller set against the stunning backdrop of Greece. Directed by Daphne Schmon and produced by Fingerprint Content, the film premiered at the 5th Wench Film Festival, a platform dedicated to horror, sci-fi, and fantasy genres.

Reflecting on her role, Shruti shared, "From the moment I read the script, I knew this film was meant for me. I've always been drawn to stories that explore love, darkness, and self-discovery—concepts that resonate

deeply with me." She added that working with an all-female creative team made the experience even more special, calling it "an alignment of the universe."

The film follows Diana (played by Haasan), who embarks on an emotional journey to scatter her late husband's ashes on a remote Greek island. What starts as a moment of closure soon entangles her in a supernatural ritual. *The Eye* also features Mark Rowley, Anna Savva, and Linda Marlowe in key roles, with Emily Carlton as the scriptwriter.

## Salman Khan and Rashmika Mandanna Set the Dance Floor on Fire in 'Zohra Jabeen' Teaser



Salman Khan and Rashmika Mandanna, sharing screen space for the first time in *Sikandar*, have set fans buzzing with the teaser of their upcoming song *Zohra Jabeen*. The upbeat track, released as part of the film's music promotion, is a high-energy dance number that promises to be a perfect Eid treat for fans.

The teaser showcases the sizzling chemistry between Salman and Rashmika, with the duo lighting up every frame. *Zohra Jabeen* is composed by Pritam, directed by A.R. Murugadoss, and choreographed by Farah Khan, elevating the energy of the track. Sung by Nakash Aziz and Dev Negi, with lyrics by Sameer and Danish Sabri, the song is already being touted as a potential chartbuster.

Rashmika, who was last seen in *Chhaava*, also starred in the blockbuster *Pushpa 2: The Rule* with Allu Arjun, while Salman Khan was recently seen in a cameo in *Baby John*.

## Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor Set to Film at Iconic Delhi Locations for RC 16

Ram Charan and Janhvi Kapoor will soon be seen sharing screen space for the first time in *RC 16*, a Telugu film directed by Buchi Babu Sana. The duo is nearing the end of their Mysore schedule, after which they will head to Delhi to shoot pivotal scenes at iconic locations like the Parliament and Jama Masjid. According to reports, the scenes featuring Ram Charan are crucial to the sports-centric drama, with the team awaiting approval from the authorities to shoot

at these heritage sites. The film, produced by Mythri Movie Makers, is expected to have an emotional narrative centered on themes of resilience and determination.

Ram Charan, who previously worked with Buchi Babu Sana in the hit film *Uppena*, was last seen in *Game Changer* alongside Kiara Advani. Janhvi Kapoor was recently seen in *Ulajh*, released in August 2024.

The film also stars Shiva Rajkumar and Divyendu, with music by AR Rahman.



## Huma Qureshi Returns Stronger in Maharani Season 4 Teaser



Huma Qureshi is back as Rani Bharati in the highly anticipated *Maharani Season 4*, which

promises to showcase a more fierce and fearless version of her character. The teaser, released

today, hints at a significant transformation in Rani's journey as she fiercely protects Bihar amidst looming political threats. In the new season, Huma's character faces harsh accusations, including being called a murderer and an illiterate, while also being dubbed the future Prime Minister. However, her family — Bihar — takes priority over any political aspirations. In a powerful moment, she declares, "Aur Bihar hi humara pariwar hai. Aur agar koi Bihar ko nuksaan pauchega, toh satta hila denge" (And Bihar is my true family. And if anyone dares to harm my family, I will shake the very foundation of the rule).

*Season 4* sees Rani Bharati standing tall, ready to confront all challenges and continue her reign as a powerful leader. Fans are eager to see the fate of supporting characters and the twists in the gripping socio-political drama.

Huma Qureshi was last seen in the Zee5 thriller *Mithya - The Dark Chapter*. Besides *Maharani Season 4*, she has *Jolly LLB 3* and *Toxic* to look forward to.