



AP High Court Rejects Anticipatory Bail Plea of YSRCP MP Mithun Reddy

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

In a significant blow to YSRCP MP Mithun Reddy, the Andhra Pradesh High Court has dismissed his anticipatory bail petition in connection with the ongoing investigation into the liquor scam case. The MP had approached the court seeking protection from arrest amid allegations of irregularities in liquor policy implementation. According to sources, Mithun Reddy is accused of manipulating liquor licensing and distribution processes, which allegedly resulted in substantial revenue losses to the state exchequer. The High Court's decision to reject his bail plea is expected to intensify his legal troubles as the investigation continues. With the anticipatory bail petition dismissed, the possibility of Mithun Reddy's arrest looms larger. Investigating agencies are reportedly gathering evidence to establish irregularities linked to liquor policy violations. The rejection of the petition could accelerate further legal action against the MP. The court's decision has brought renewed focus on the alleged liquor scam and its implications for the political landscape of Andhra Pradesh. Investigative authorities are expected to proceed with the case, increasing pressure on the YSRCP leader to clear his name.

AP Cabinet Approves Polavaram-Banakacharla Connection Project Design



- CM Chandrababu Naidu chaired the Cabinet meeting
- Key infrastructure projects cleared to boost water connectivity
- Approval aimed at enhancing water access and management across the state.
- Approval granted for Jalaharati Corporation formation

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, concluded at the Secretariat with several significant decisions aimed at enhancing the state's water management and infrastructure. In a notable move, the Cabinet granted approval for the establishment of the Jalaharati Corporation, a dedicated body intended to streamline and expedite various water resource management projects across the state. The formation of this corporation is seen as a crucial step towards enhancing efficiency and accountability in executing large-scale water-related initiatives. Additionally, the design of the Po-

lavaram-Banakacharla connection project was approved under the auspices of the Jalaharati Corporation. This project is expected to bolster water availability across drought-prone areas and enhance the state's agricultural productivity. Officials emphasized that the initiative aligns with the broader vision of the Andhra Pradesh government to ensure equitable water distribution across regions. The Cabinet's decisions reflect the government's commitment to implementing strategic measures for sustainable water management, which is essential for agricultural growth, drinking water supply, and industrial development. The Polavaram-Banakacharla connection project, once completed, is expect-

ed to significantly improve water accessibility across various regions. CM Chandrababu Naidu expressed his satisfaction over the progress of the meeting and reiterated the government's resolve to prioritize projects that enhance the state's infrastructure and resources. The establishment of the Jalaharati Corporation is anticipated to streamline the planning, implementation, and monitoring of critical water resource projects, providing a structured approach to achieving long-term goals. Further details about the operational framework of the Jalaharati Corporation and the execution timeline of the Polavaram-Banakacharla project are expected to be announced soon.



Minister Lokesh Shuts Down False Propaganda, Launches 'Mana Illu - Mana Lokesh' Program

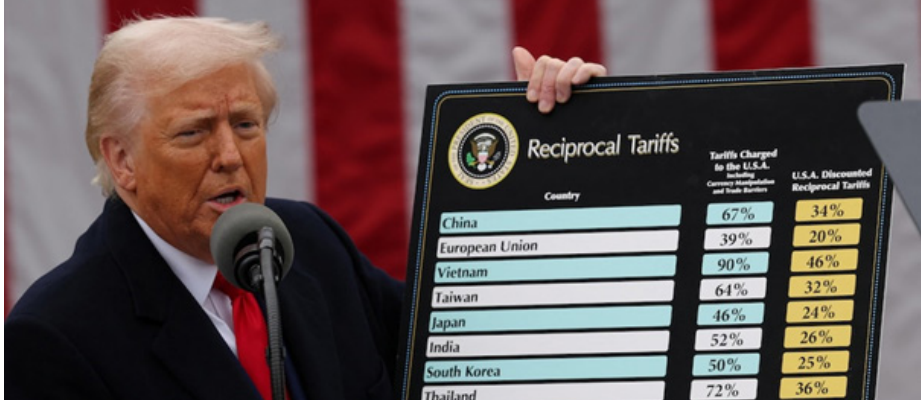
- 1st permanent house document handed over under 'Mana Illu - Mana Lokesh' in Mangalagiri.
- Nara Lokesh declares all issues will be resolved in three phases.
- Swachh Mangalagiri initiative aims to make Mangalagiri the cleanest in the country.

TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri

Minister Nara Lokesh asserted that the false propaganda about houses being demolished in Mangalagiri if he wins has been shut down within 10 months. Speaking at the launch of the 'Mana Illu - Mana Lokesh' program in Undavalli, Mangalagiri constituency, Lokesh announced that all issues would be resolved in three phases. During the program, Lokesh handed over the first permanent house document in Undavalli to Rajahmundry Govindu and Seetha Mahalakshmi, highlighting that the first document issuance was initiated within 10 months of the coalition government's formation. He emphasized his commitment to fulfilling promises across the state starting from Mangalagiri. Lokesh revealed that in the first phase, 3,000 people in Mangalagiri would receive house titles and clothes. Despite not being in power previously, he provided 26 welfare schemes at his own expense.

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Trump's Tariff Tornado India Caught in the Storm, but Some Sectors Find Shelter



TPN Correspondent | New Delhi

US President Donald Trump has unleashed one of the steepest tariff hikes in American history, imposing a universal 10% import duty and slapping higher levies on 60 nations. India has been hit with a 26% tariff on exports to the US, putting it among the hardest-hit countries, though some

sectors have managed to escape the worst of the impact. Despite strong personal ties between Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India did not receive any special exemptions. The tariff is higher than the 20% imposed on the European Union, 24% on Japan, and 25% on South Korea, but significantly lower than China's 54% levy. While India's

- India hit with a 26% tariff, higher than Japan and South Korea
- Pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, and copper spared from new US duties

rate was initially listed as 26%, a White House annex later indicated a possible increase to 27%. However, experts believe India can navigate these new trade barriers without severe economic distress. Bernstein analysts suggest India is more likely to negotiate than escalate trade tensions.

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Investigation Launched Into Allegations Against Nannayya University Teachers



- Minister Lokesh orders probe following True Point media report
- Special officer from Andhra University arrives for investigation



AP Govt Cancels 15.17 Acres of Ramanaidu Studio Land

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh government has taken a key decision to cancel the allotment of 15.17 acres of land originally allocated to Ramanaidu Studio for residential purposes. This decision follows a Supreme Court verdict stating that land allotted for a specific purpose must be used exclusively for that purpose. Ramanaidu Studio was allotted 34.44 acres of land for constructing a film studio, but during the YSRCP regime, the studio management requested an additional 15.17 acres for developing a house layout. MLA Velagapudi had earlier filed a petition in the Supreme Court, alleging land grab during the YSRCP government's tenure. The Supreme Court ruled that the land provided for a particular purpose cannot be repurposed for any other use. Acting on the verdict, Special Chief Secretary of Revenue Department RP Sisodia issued orders to cancel the land allotment for residential purposes. Sisodia instructed the Collector to issue show cause notices to the studio management and ensure necessary action is taken within the stipulated time. The cancellation of the 15.17-acre allotment highlights the government's commitment to adhering to the Supreme Court's directives and maintaining transparency in land allocations.

Minister Lokesh Shuts...

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Lokesh stated that his efforts under the Swachh Mangalagiri initiative aim to make Mangalagiri the cleanest town in the country. He also announced that the foundation stone for a 100-bed hospital, recently approved by the cabinet, would be laid soon. He noted that over 50 schemes have been implemented in Mangalagiri with central and state government support, and his objective is to make the constituency number one in all sectors. Regarding political tensions, Lokesh criticized the YSRCP, accusing its leaders of inciting caste and religious hatred for political gain. He maintained that the Raja Reddy Constitution was being replaced by the Ambedkar Constitution in the state, adding that the police are now acting lawfully under the Red Book. Lokesh further accused the YSRCP of attempting to gain political mileage from the death of Pastor Praveen Pagadala, urging the public to remain vigilant against conspiracies. The 'Mana Illu - Mana Lokesh' program will continue in the constituency until the 12th, with Lokesh personally distributing documents to beneficiaries.

AP Cabinet Approves Key Proposals to Develop the State



TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet meeting chaired by CM Chandrababu Naidu concluded at the Secretariat with approvals for various important proposals aimed at fostering growth and streamlining governance. In a significant move, the Cabinet approved the separation of the AP

Drone Corporation from AP Fibernet Limited, establishing it as an independent entity. The AP Drone Corporation (APDC) will now act as the nodal agency for all drone-related matters within the state, promoting technological innovation and efficient management. In a move aimed at promoting the hospitality sector, the Cabinet approved a significant reduction in bar

license fees for three-star and above hotels, bringing the fees down to Rs. 25 lakhs. Additionally, the AP Media Accreditation Rules-2025 were approved, which are expected to enhance transparency and streamline the accreditation process for media professionals. To support the hospitality sector, the Cabinet reduced bar license fees for three-star and above hotels to Rs. 25 lakhs, a step aimed at promoting tourism and investment in premium hospitality services. Additionally, the Cabinet ratified joint ventures under the Youth and Tourism Department to boost youth engagement and tourism initiatives across the state. Further, the government extended its guarantee for a HUDCO loan amounting to Rs. 710 crore, which will aid in implementing key infrastructure projects essential for the state's development. These decisions highlight the government's focus on promoting technological advancement, strengthening the tourism sector, and enhancing governance frameworks.

Laurus Labs to Establish Major Bulk Drugs Facility in Anakapalle

- ₹5,000 cr investment announced by Laurus Labs Ltd.
- Employment opportunities for 7,500 people.
- State government ready to allocate lands.

TPN Correspondent | Anakapalle

In a significant move towards boosting industrial development, Laurus Labs Limited has announced plans to set up a large-scale bulk drugs manufacturing facility in Anakapalle district with an investment of Rs. 5,000 crore. This major investment is expected to create approximately 7,500 jobs, providing substantial employment opportunities for local youth and skilled professionals alike. The state government has expressed its commitment to supporting the project by preparing to allocate the necessary lands for the establishment of the manufacturing unit. Officials stated that the initiative aligns with the government's broader vision to enhance industrial growth, improve employment rates, and strengthen the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector in Andhra Pradesh. Laurus Labs, known for its ex-



pertise in manufacturing bulk drugs and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs), aims to make Anakapalle a key hub for pharmaceutical production. The company's investment is expected to contribute significantly to the economic growth of the region while also promoting technological advancements in the pharmaceutical industry. The establishment of this manufacturing facility is anticipated to have a positive impact on the

region's socio-economic landscape, attracting further investments and contributing to the overall development of the district. With preparations underway, the state government is optimistic that the Laurus Labs project will accelerate industrial progress, enhance livelihoods, and reinforce Anakapalle's position as a promising destination for large-scale pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Nagababu Meets Dy CM After the Taking Oath As MLC

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada

Newly elected MLA Kota MLC Nagababu met his brother and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan in Vijayawada on Thursday, following his oath-taking ceremony held on Wednesday. During their meeting, Pawan Kalyan, along with the Janasena party, extended warm congratulations to Nagababu on assuming his new role. Sources indicate that the two brothers spent time discussing various political matters and party strategies. Nagababu's appointment as MLC is being viewed as a significant development within the Janasena party, further consolidating its leadership presence across the state. Party members believe that his new role will contribute to strengthening the party's influence and expanding its reach among the public. The meeting between the two leaders has garnered attention from party supporters and political observers, as it symbolizes the growing leadership structure within Janasena.



India Caught in the...

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The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDC-CI) estimates that the tariffs will impact India's GDP by only 0.1% in the short term, thanks to strong domestic manufacturing and government policies like the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme and Atmanirbhar Bharat. Pharmaceuticals, Electronics, and Textiles Find Relief Trump's tariffs exempted pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, and copper, providing relief to some of India's key export sectors. The pharmaceutical industry, which supplies 30% of the US's generic drug demand, welcomed the move, citing the importance of affordable medicines in global healthcare. India's electronics sector also emerged in a better position than rivals China and Vietnam, which face tariffs of up to 54% and 46%, respectively. Industry leaders believe this could give India an edge in manufacturing. Similarly, the textile industry is expected to gain as competitors like Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Cambodia face steeper levies, making India a more attractive sourcing hub for US buyers. India's steel, aluminium, and auto-related exports will bear the brunt of the tariffs, with levies reaching up to 25%. While steel and aluminium were previously taxed under Section 232, the



ACB Questions Former I&PR Commissioner Vijay Kumar for Second Day

TPN Correspondent | Guntur

Former AP I&PR Commissioner Vijay Kumar Reddy faced a second day of questioning by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in Guntur. Following an eight-hour interrogation on Wednesday, ACB officials called him back for further questioning due to alleged non-cooperation. The investigation revolves around accusations of misusing Rs. 859 crore in government advertisement funds during the YSRCP regime. According to reports, nearly half of the funds were exclusively allocated to Sakshi Media, while the remainder went to media outlets favorable to the YSRCP. The inquiry, triggered by a vigilance report, focuses on financial discrepancies and alleged favoritism in the distribution of government advertisements between 2019 and 2024. Officials are investigating the decision-making process and potential misuse of power involved in these transactions. Sources indicate that Vijay Kumar Reddy has remained largely unresponsive to critical questions posed by the ACB, prompting officials to intensify their probe. The investigation continues, with the ACB aiming to uncover the full extent of the alleged irregularities and hold those responsible accountable.

Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu Reviews Budameru Modernization Plans

TPN Correspondent | Amaravati

Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu conducted a review meeting with irrigation officials at the Amaravati Secretariat on Budameru modernization. The meeting was attended by Irrigation Special Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad, ENC M. Venkateswara Rao, and other senior officials including CEs, SEs, and EEs. The cabinet approved Rs. 39.05 crore for the repair of Budameru's three dams, with directives to expedite the tender process and complete the work swiftly. During the previous TDP regime, tenders were awarded for Rs. 464 crore to enhance the Budameru diversion channel's capacity to 37,500 cusecs, with 80 percent of the work completed. Despite the availability of funds during the YSRCP regime, the remaining 20 percent of the expansion work was stalled. The YSRCP government had canceled the channel expansion project from Enikepadu UT to Kolleru. Minister Ramanaidu stressed the need for an action plan to finish the pending work to boost the channel's capacity to 37,500 cusecs. The meeting also included comprehensive discussions on proposals to enhance the old channel's capacity from Velagaleru regulator to Kolleru and the development of a new parallel channel with a capacity of 10,000 cusecs. Plans are being prepared to proceed with the cooperation of the Central Government under Disaster Management for controlling Budameru floods. The proposals will be coordinated with the Municipal, Revenue, and Disaster Management departments before being placed before the Chief Minister.

Investigation Launched Into...

TPN SPL CORRESPONDENT | EAST GODAVARI

Following a series of allegations against teachers at Rajahmundry's Nannayya University, officials have initiated a thorough investigation after the issue was highlighted by True Point media. The matter was brought to the attention of Education Minister Nara Lokesh, who promptly directed authorities to conduct a detailed probe to uncover the truth. Nannayya University Vice-Chancellor Prasanna Sri has taken the allegations seriously and appointed a special officer from Andhra University to spearhead the investigation. The special officer, who initially examined the matter through a video conference, arrived in Rajahmundry on Thursday to conduct a comprehensive inquiry on-site. During her visit, the special officer has been meeting with various teachers and students to gather firsthand information. Sources indicate that several students have been questioned about the behavior of the accused teachers, Satyanarayana and Rajasekhara, who are reportedly facing allegations of misconduct. As the primary victim has left the university, efforts are being made to contact her for a statement. The special officer is also collecting testimonies from fellow students and faculty members to build a clear picture of the incidents. Despite the ongoing investigation, the accused teachers continue to attend classes and perform their regular duties, which has raised concerns among the student community.

Kakani Govardhan Evades Police Investigation for 3rd Consecutive Day



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Former Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy continues to evade police investigation for the third consecutive day in connection with an illegal quartz mining case. De-

spite police issuing notices on three occasions, Kakani has repeatedly failed to appear for questioning, raising concerns over his blatant disregard for the investigation process. The investigation was initiated following cred-

ible reports of Kakani's alleged involvement in illegal quartz mining. However, all attempts by the police to serve notices have been met with non-compliance. Authorities are reportedly frustrated by Kakani's unwillingness to

cooperate, prompting discussions about potential legal actions to ensure his presence.

Sources within the police department reveal that officials are now considering stricter measures to compel Kakani's cooperation.

His deliberate avoidance of the investigation has not only drawn criticism but also intensified public interest in the outcome of the case.

Kakani's history of evading legal proceedings adds a significant dimension to the current investigation. In a previous case involving similar allegations, he successfully obtained anticipatory bail from the Supreme Court, which shielded him from immediate arrest. Observ-

ers note that this previous legal victory may have encouraged his current approach of non-compliance.

The continuous evasion by Kakani has prompted speculation about what steps the police will take next. With three notices already ignored, pressure is mounting on the authorities to act decisively and proceed with the investigation without further delay.

As the situation unfolds, the police are expected to explore all legal avenues to bring Kakani to comply with the investigation process. All eyes are now on the authorities to determine their next move in addressing Kakani's persistent non-cooperation.



Prakash Raj Slams Pawan Kalyan's Governance Approach

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Actor Prakash Raj has openly criticized Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, questioning his approach to governance and accusing him of neglecting public issues despite holding power. In a recent interview, Prakash Raj expressed disappointment over Pawan Kalyan's failure to fulfill promises made to the people.

Prakash Raj highlighted that Pawan Kalyan had entered politics with enthusiasm, raising concerns about various public grievances.

However, he alleged that the Deputy CM has since abandoned those issues. "What is this time-pass work without solving the problems of the people? This is not a movie where you just talk about various things," remarked Prakash Raj, stressing that governance requires tangible action rather than

empty rhetoric.

The actor also addressed the Tirumala Srivari Prasadam Laddu controversy, describing it as a sensitive issue that demands proper investigation. He insisted that if lapses occurred in the preparation of laddus, those responsible should be held accountable and punished without delay. Clarifying his stance, Prakash Raj stated that his remarks were not intended to oppose Sanatan Dharma but rather to advocate for transparency and accountability.

Known for his outspoken and candid nature, Prakash Raj has previously criticized Pawan Kalyan through social media platforms.

His latest comments are expected to spark further debates about Pawan Kalyan's leadership style and his commitment to addressing public grievances.

YS Sharmila Criticizes Chandrababu Naidu's Stance on Waqf Bill

Accuses Avinash Reddy of Evidence Tampering

TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

APCC Chief YS Sharmila Reddy launched a scathing attack on Chandrababu Naidu and the BJP over the Waqf Bill amendments, accusing them of betrayal and conspiracy against the Muslim community. Speaking at a press meet, she described Chandrababu Naidu's support for the Waqf Bill as a betrayal of the Muslim community, likening it to "giving an Iftar dinner and putting poison in it."

Sharmila alleged that the BJP's Waqf Bill amendments are part of a larger plot to seize Waqf properties and undermine the

rights of the Muslim community. She claimed that transferring the board's powers to a special officer and including non-Muslims on the Waqf Board were blatant acts of injustice. According to her, the amendments aim to strip the Waqf Board of its authority and hand over properties to outsiders under the guise of legal reforms.

Sharmila accused the BJP of using religion for political gain and urged Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan to clarify their stance on the amendments. She insisted that the Congress Party will continue to fight



for minority rights and against any attempts to destroy Waqf lands.

Switching focus to the Viveka murder case, Sharmila accused Avinash Reddy of tampering with

evidence, how will justice be served?" she questioned.

Sharmila reiterated her support for Sunitha, Viveka's daughter, and promised to continue fighting for justice. She condemned Avinash Reddy's alleged interference in the investigation and demanded immediate accountability.

She also addressed the Praveen Pagadala case, claiming that the YCP's political strategies are creating division between communities. Asserting her commitment to justice, Sharmila stated that she would meet the DGP if evidence of wrongdoing emerged.

MLA Paritala Sunitha Warns Against Revival of Factionalism in Rapthadu

TPN Correspondent | Rapthadu

Rapthadu MLA Paritala Sunitha has alleged that Former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy was questioned by the CBI in connection with the murder of her husband, Paritala Ravi. Speaking at a media conference on Thursday, Sunitha made serious accusations, stating that Jagan played a role in her husband's murder and that the CBI had interrogated him over the case.

Drawing parallels between the past and pres-

ent, Sunitha questioned why those discussing the TV bomb incident were silent about the car bomb that led to the deaths of 45 people during Rajasekhara Reddy's tenure as Chief Minister. Sunitha criticized the Topudurthi brothers for allegedly inciting gang factions in Rapthadu, claiming that the Obul Reddy and Madelacheruvu Suri families are being dragged back into factionalism. She appealed to Kanumukkala Uma and Gangula Bhannumathi not to fall into what she described as a con-

spiracy orchestrated by the Topudurthi brothers.

"Our three families have already suffered immensely due to factionalism. It took us years to recover. Now, the Topudurthi brothers are trying to drag us back into the faction trap," Sunitha lamented.

Taking a direct jab at Jagan, Sunitha said, "Jagan believes whatever the Topudurthi brothers say. After serving as Chief Minister for five years, don't you know the truth?"

Ahead of Jagan's scheduled visit to Papireddypalli



village on Friday, Sunitha demanded that he not only visit the Lingamayya family but also those who have suffered due to his party's actions.

She urged the Chief

Minister to avoid creating factional disturbances in otherwise peaceful villages, concluding with a stern warning against further attempts to destabilize Rapthadu.



TPN Correspondent | Andhra Pradesh

Former Deputy CM Amjad Basha addressed the media during a press

Amjad Basha Criticizes Waqf Bill, Questions Chandrababu's Commitment to Minorities

conference, condemning the passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill by the NDA government, labeling it as anti-constitutional. He stated that the bill violates Article 300, which emphasizes equality and non-discrimination on the basis of religion,

caste, color, and birth. He accused the NDA government of enacting the bill with the intention of undermining minority rights. Amjad Basha questioned what Chandrababu Naidu had accomplished for minorities during his ten-month tenure, point-

ing out that the honorarium meant for Imams and Maujams remains unpaid for 12 months. He noted that only six months' worth of payments were released during Ramzan, and only after repeated requests from the YSRCP.

He further alleged that

Chandrababu Naidu had neglected the welfare of Haj pilgrims, claiming that the previous government under YS Jagan, allocated ₹14 crores for the Haj pilgrimage. However, after Chandrababu assumed power, not a single paisa was provided, and

the embarkation point for pilgrims was also removed.

Amjad Basha stressed that Waqf properties belong to the Muslim community, having been donated by ancestors to Allah, and not to the government. He criticized the

amendment for attempting to include non-minority members in the Waqf Board, describing it as a malicious effort to seize properties worth lakhs of crores.

He concluded by questioning whether non-Hindus would be given positions within Hindu boards, arguing that the amendments were unfair and an attack on minority rights.

New One Stop Center Inaugurated by Minister Gummidi Sandhyarani

One Stop Center Launched in Vijayawada for Women's Safety
Women's safety prioritized under government initiatives
Center to provide 24/7 support, legal aid, and shelter

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
State Minister for Women, Child Welfare, and Tribal Welfare, Gummidi Sandhyarani, inaugurated a new One Stop Center at the old Government Hospital premises in Vijayawada on Thursday evening, emphasizing the government's commitment to women's safety and protection. The One Stop Center, staffed with 11 to 13 members, will be operational 24/7 to assist affected women with legal, medical, and family support. Minister Sandhyarani mentioned that funds

would be allocated for similar centers across the state as part of a broader initiative led by Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. Unlike previous administrations, the current government aims to provide comprehensive assistance, including shelter and justice for victimized women. Minister Sandhyarani highlighted that women can freely discuss their problems with women officers at the center. The government plans to establish a Shakti Sadan women's shelter in Guntur and has issued a

notification for recruiting 960 staff members across 5,600 Anganwadi centers. These centers also focus on providing nutritious food to pregnant women, lactating mothers, and young children. MLA Bonda Umamaheswara Rao remarked that the One Stop Center is part of the government's commitment to ensuring complete protection for women facing harassment and attacks. Women police will be available round the clock to offer medical, legal, and advisory support.



The event was attended by Women and Child Welfare Department Secretary A. Suryakumari, Director M. Venugopal Reddy, NTR District Project Director Dasari Srilakshmi, DCP (Ad-min) Saritha, and other officials.

Vijayawada Division Sets Record with ₹62.03 Crore Ticket Checking Earnings

Highest-ever earnings surpass ₹60.1 crore of FY 2023-24
9.76 lakh cases detected; 2.5% revenue increase from last year
Enhanced checks during Kumbh Mela contribute to revenue boost

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
The Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway (SCR) has achieved a record-breaking ticket checking revenue of ₹62.03 crore for the financial year 2024-25. This marks the highest-ever earnings in the division's history, surpassing the previous record of ₹60.1 crore registered in FY 2023-24, reflecting a 2.5% increase. This achievement is attributed to the persistent efforts of the Commercial Department's Ticket Checking Wing, which implemented extensive fortress checks, ambush operations, and magisterial inspections to combat ticketless travel and irregular ticket usage. A total of 9,76,584 cases were detected, indicating a 6.5% increase compared to the previous year. Revenue breakdown includes ₹37.17 crore from 4,52,887 cases of traveling without tickets, ₹24.69 crore from 5,13,285 cases of irregular travel, and ₹19.46 lakh from 10,412 cases of unbooked luggage. The division's enhanced ticket checking drives during the Kumbh Mela were crucial, ensuring a seamless journey for genuine passengers while operating numerous special trains to meet increased demand. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (Sr. DCM) Shri Rambabu Vavilapalli praised the dedication of the Ticket Checking Staff and emphasized the importance of courteous and efficient passenger service. He also encouraged the use of QR codes displayed on Hand-Held Terminals (HHTs) for convenient



payment of ticket extensions, class upgrades, and penalties. Divisional Railway Manager Shri Narendra A. Patil congratulated the team for their commendable efforts and reaffirmed the division's commitment to enhancing revenue through continuous ticket-checking operations. The Vijayawada Division remains dedicated to ensuring a hassle-free travel experience for bona fide passengers through stringent monitoring and innovative measures.

Sujana Chowdhury Focuses on Comprehensive Development of West Constituency

Review meeting with Ministers on West Constituency's development.
Proposals for Kanakadurga Temple expansion, traffic solutions, and beautification projects.
Launch of Sujana Mobile Hospitals initiative for improved healthcare access.

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
MLA Sujana Chowdhury is implementing strategic plans for the holistic development of the West Constituency, aiming to transform the area according to her vision. A review meeting was held at the MLA camp office in Tadigadapa on Thursday with Municipal Administration Minister Ponguru Narayana, Endowment Minister Anam Rama Narayana Reddy, and Medical and Health Minister Satya Kumar to discuss various developmental aspects. During the meeting, Sujana Foundation Advisor Vejendla Srinivasa Rao presented an overview of ongoing and proposed development programs through a PowerPoint presentation. The discussion included traffic solutions at Kaleshwara Rao Market, construction of underpasses and flyovers, road expansions, drainage systems, beautification projects, and housing for the homeless poor. Minister Narayana assured full cooperation in these initiatives. MLA Sujana Chowdhury emphasized her commitment to making the West Constituency the best,



promising to address municipal, health, education, and endowment sector issues with ministerial support. She introduced the concept of "Sujana Mitra" for handling daily problems and ministerial support for larger issues. Regarding Indrakiladri's development, Minister Anam Rama Narayana Reddy stated that a comprehensive report has been prepared for enhancing Kanakadurgamma Temple and other temples in the constituency. Proposals include developing a second ghat road, multi-level parking, queue line modernization, and elevated queue lines. Medical Minister Satya Kumar

Yadav praised Sujana Chowdhury's efforts, especially her plans for Sujana Mobile Hospitals, which will be extended to various constituencies. He also highlighted ongoing cancer screening tests and initiatives to combat digital addiction and promote a drug-free policy. Plans are underway to connect medical officers to 12 UHCs using Sujana Foundation ambulances and to develop sports grounds across government lands. The meeting was attended by officials from various departments, including Endowment Department Commissioner Ramachandra Mohan.

Transport Employees Association Leaders Meet ATC Ramasree

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
Members of the Transport Employees Association Zone 2 Executive Committee met Additional Transport Commissioner (ATC) LSM Ramasree on Thursday in Vijayawada to congratulate her on assuming the new role. Ramasree, recognized as the first woman to serve as RTO and now the first woman Additional Transport Commissioner, has set a record in the Transport Department. During the interaction, Ramasree urged employees to act responsibly to deliver quality services and uphold the department's reputation. She stressed the importance of resolving applications promptly and maintaining a positive image for the department. Additionally, she encouraged employees to bring any work-related issues to her attention for timely resolution.



Zone 2 Employees Association President M. Rajubabu expressed his happiness at meeting Ramasree and acknowledged her achievements. He highlighted her positive approach towards employee-related concerns and commitment to resolving issues effectively. Rajubabu also noted that employees are diligently fulfilling their responsibilities and adhering to

the directives of higher authorities. Association leaders present at the meeting included Co-Presidents D. Ramamurthy, Vice Presidents V. Naga Shankar and Priyanka, Treasurer K. Ramachandra Raju, Executive Secretary B. Madhusudhan Rao, and Joint Secretaries P. Durga Prasad and K. Satyanarayana.

Commissioner Rajasekhara Babu emphasized the need for tight security coordination across the assembly venue, helipad area, and surrounding regions. He assured that all necessary measures would be implemented to prevent traffic disruptions and ensure safety. Following the inspection, a meeting was held at the Nandigama Sub-Division Office, where the Police Commissioner instructed officials to maintain stringent security at the helipad, assembly venue, and nearby areas. The Commissioner stressed the impor-

Krishna Dist Police Deploy Drone Surveillance to Curb Illegal Activities



TPN Correspondent | Krishna Dist
The Krishna District Police have intensified efforts to curb illegal activities by deploying drone cameras in various towns, including Machilipatnam, Gudivada, Gannavaram, and Avani-gadda. As part of the initiative, drone surveillance is being used to monitor public consumption of alcohol, ganja use, gambling, e-voting, chain snatching, and other crimes. The initiative was undertaken on the orders of District SP R. Gangadhara Rao IPS. Drone cameras have been strategically installed in urban and rural areas, focusing on dilapidated houses, village outskirts, uninhabited places, and other vulnerable spots where illegal activ-

ities are likely to occur. The police have made it clear that those found engaging in public drinking or drug consumption will face legal action, with cases registered against violators. During the operation on Saturday, a poker group was identified near Nagayathippa village under the Mopidevi Police Station's jurisdiction. The police successfully arrested five individuals involved in gambling and seized Rs. 4,520 from the spot. The district police are committed to preventing anti-social activities such as poker, eve-teasing, and other crimes by enhancing surveillance through drones. SP R. Gangadhara Rao IPS has issued a stern warning against those engaging in gambling or any other illegal activities, stating that strict legal action will be taken against offenders. Authorities plan to continue using drone surveillance as a proactive measure to enhance public safety and deter criminal behavior throughout the district.

Police Security Inspections Conducted in Muppalla Village Ahead of CM's Visit

TPN Correspondent | Vijayawada
NTR District City Police Commissioner Sri S.V. Rajasekhara Babu IPS and District Collector Sri G. Lakshmi Sha IAS, along with officers from other departments, inspected the security arrangements on April 3, 2025, ahead of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu's visit to Muppalla village, Chandlerlapadu mandal. The Chief Minister is scheduled to participate in a large public meeting on April 5, commemorating the birth anniversary of Babu Jagjivan Rao. During the inspection, City Police

Commissioner Rajasekhara Babu emphasized the need for tight security coordination across the assembly venue, helipad area, and surrounding regions. He assured that all necessary measures would be implemented to prevent traffic disruptions and ensure safety. Following the inspection, a meeting was held at the Nandigama Sub-Division Office, where the Police Commissioner instructed officials to maintain stringent security at the helipad, assembly venue, and nearby areas. The Commissioner stressed the impor-

tance of avoiding any lapses in security and coordinating with all departments to prevent untoward incidents. Officials were also directed to establish alternative routes for regular travelers to minimize inconvenience and avoid vehicle congestion during the event. Several officials participated in the inspection, including DCPs Sri K. M. Maheshwara Raju IPS, Sri Krishnamurthy Naidu, Sri S.V.D. Prasad, Trainee IPS Sri Manisha, ADCPs Sri G. Rama Krishna, Sri A.V.L. Prasanna Kumar, Nandigama ACP Sri A. B. G. Tilak, and other departmental staff.



Dy CM Pawan Kalyan Launches New Bus Service from Tirupati to Palani



TPN Correspondent | Mangalagiri
Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan launched a new RTC bus service connecting the prominent pilgrimage sites of Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh and Palani in Tamil Nadu on Thursday. The inauguration ceremony was held in Mangalagiri, where Vedic scholars performed religious prayers before the formal flag-off by Transport Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy. Responding to the long-standing requests from devotees, the government introduced this bus service to provide improved connectivity between the two sacred destinations. Addressing the gathering, Pawan Kalyan emphasized the government's commitment to enhancing transportation facilities for pilgrims, which will not only ease travel but also boost religious

- **New RTC bus service connects Tirupati and Palani for devotees**
- **Launched by Pawan Kalyan in Mangalagiri with religious prayers**
- **Transport Minister Ramprasad Reddy and other leaders presented**

tourism. He acknowledged the cultural and spiritual significance of both Tirupati and Palani, highlighting that the new service will contribute to strengthening ties between the two regions. State Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar, MLC Hari Prasad, MLA Arani Srinivasulu, Joint Chittoor District President Dr. Pasupuleti Hari Prasad, and Tirupati Jana Sena leaders were present at the event, expressing their appreciation for the initiative aimed at benefiting pilgrims. The dignitaries underscored the importance of promoting religious tourism and enhancing facilities for devotees visiting the two revered places. The newly introduced bus service is expected to benefit thousands of devotees who regularly travel between Tirupati and Palani. Officials mentioned that the new route would facilitate easier and more comfortable travel for pilgrims, pro-

viding them with better access to the spiritual sites. The initiative is seen as a step towards fulfilling the state government's vision of improving connectivity and promoting tourism. It also aims to support the economic growth of regions associated with these spiritual destinations by attracting more visitors in the future.



Another Key Milestone in Polavaram Project, Gap-1 Rockfill Dam Work Begins

TPN Correspondent | Polavaram

The Polavaram project achieved another significant milestone with the commencement of the Gap-1 rockfill dam work on Thursday. Following Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's visit on the 27th of last month, the project's construction has gained momentum. Officials from the Water Resources Department, Polavaram Project Authority (PPA), and Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) performed pujas at the construction site to mark the beginning of the work. The Gap-1 rockfill dam will be built with a height of approximately 25 meters and a length of 540 meters. Speaking on the occasion, officials from the Water Resources Department, PPA, and MEIL emphasized their com-



mitment to completing the project within the stipulated timeline, following Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's directives. They stated that coordinated efforts across all departments are being made to expedite the construction process. Polavaram Project CEO K. Narasimha Murthy, SE Reddy Ramachandra Rao, EE K. Balakrishna, PPA CE Ramesh Kumar, MEIL Joint Chief Operating Officer Satish Babu Angara, GM Gangadhar, and others participated in the puja ceremony.

Drug-Addicted Fake Police Gang Busted in Eluru

Four Arrested, Police Uniforms and Vehicle Seized



TPN Correspondent | Eluru

A gang of four fake policemen who were extorting money from night traders on the national highway has been arrested, District Additional SP Nakka Suryachandra Rao announced at a media conference held at the district police headquarters on Thursday. The gang, consisting of Bunga Prashanth Kumar, Perike Surendra Kumar, Golla Suresh Kumar, and Korapati Rohit from Bhimadolu and Ungutur mandals, was caught threatening roadside shopkeepers along the national highways and collecting money under the guise of being policemen. The operation was carried out by Bhimadolu Circle Inspector UJ. Wilson and Dwarakathirumala SIT Sudhir

with the support of Eluru DPP D. Shravan Kumar. The accused were arrested at Bhimadolu Junction on Thursday morning. During the investigation, it was revealed that the men were addicted to drugs and resorted to impersonating police officers to make easy money. The police seized a Suzuki Swift Dzire car, a uniform featuring the AP Police logo, and a lathi from the gang. Additional SP Nakka Suryachandra Rao congratulated Bhimadolu CI Wilson, Dwarakathirumala SIT T. Sudhir, and staff members S. Srinivas, SK Baji, M. Venkateswara Rao, and VJ Prakash Babu for successfully arresting the accused.

Vizianagaram Police Hold Annual Firing Practice for Enhanced Preparedness



TPN Correspondent | Vizianagaram

The annual firing practice for police officers in Vizianagaram district was conducted at the District Police Training Center in Saripalli, Nellimarla Mandal on April 3. District SP Vakul Jindal, IPS, attended the program as the chief guest, supervising the firing exercises and participating in the practice himself. Addressing the officers, SP Vakul Jindal highlighted the importance of conducting firing practice annually to enhance the proficiency of police personnel in weapon handling. He stressed that regular training helps offi-

cers improve their skills, react promptly during emergencies, and take necessary protective measures. SP Vakul Jindal instructed the officers to focus on improving their weapon-handling knowledge, maintaining physical and mental composure, and achieving precision even under pressure. The goal, he emphasized, is to hit the target accurately regardless of challenging circumstances. During the training session, SP Vakul Jindal demonstrated firing techniques with advanced weapons such as the pistol, Glock pistol, and MP4. He also monitored the firing practices of other officers to ensure effective training. Additional SP P. Soumyalatha, DSPs M. Srinivasa Rao, G. Bhavya Reddy, M. Veerakumar, S. Raghavulu, along with several CIs, RSIs, and SIs, actively participated in the firing practice session.

MP Vemireddy Pushes for Industrial Development in IFFCO Kisan SEZ

TPN Correspondent | Nellore

Nellore MP Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy met with IFFCO CEO Dr. Uday Shankar Awasthi in Delhi on Thursday to discuss the development of the IFFCO Kisan SEZ located in Kodavaluru mandal. During the meeting held at Awasthi's office, the CEO felicitated MP Vemireddy with a shawl before engaging in detailed discussions about industrial growth. This is the second time MP Vemireddy has met with the IFFCO leadership to expedite the establishment of industries within the 2770-acre IFFCO Kisan SEZ. Emphasizing the potential for employment generation for the youth of Nellore, MP Vemireddy explained the importance of attracting industries to the region. Dr. Uday Shankar Awasthi responded positively, assuring MP Vemireddy of IFFCO's support in bringing industries under his jurisdiction. He suggested that the MP take proactive steps to encourage industrialists from his region to invest in the SEZ, promis-



ing full backing from IFFCO for any new ventures initiated through the MP's efforts. The CEO also highlighted that if aspiring entrepreneurs show interest in setting up companies in the SEZ under MP Vemireddy's initiative, IFFCO would provide complete assistance to facilitate their establishment. The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to accelerate the industrialization process in IFFCO Kisan SEZ, which is expected to boost economic growth and provide significant employment opportunities in Nellore district.

SP G. Bindu Madhav Leads 'No Drugs Bro..' Awareness Drive at Aditya University

TPN Correspondent | Jaggampeta

An awareness conference titled 'Cyber Crime Awareness', "No Drugs Bro.." and "Shakti App" was organized at Aditya University in Surampalem, Gandepalli Mandal. Kakinada District SP G. Bindu Madhav participated as the chief guest, welcomed by University Chancellor Dr. Nallamilli Sesha Reddy, Pro Chancellor Dr. Nallamilli Satish Reddy, Deputy Pro Chancellor Dr. Medapati Srinivas Reddy, and Vice Chancellor Dr. M.B Srinivas. During the conference, SP G. Bindu Madhav stressed the severe consequences students face if involved in drug-related activities, warning of strict legal action and the potential loss of a promising future. He urged students to focus on their education and avoid falling prey to bad habits like drug use. SP Bindu Madhav also promoted the Shakti App, advising women to download it for safety. He explained that in



emergency situations, simply shaking the mobile would alert the police for immediate assistance. Highlighting the rising threat of cybercrime, he urged everyone to promptly report incidents to the authorities. He explained that reporting a cybercrime within the first 30 minutes increases the chances of recovering lost money. SP G. Bindu Madhav was felicitated by the Aditya University management with a memento. Several dignitaries including Peddapuram DSP C.R. Raju, S.B. DSP P. Sriram Koteswara Rao, Training DSP P. Ch. Jeevan, Jaggampet CI Y.R.K. Srinivas, Gandepalli SI Shivanagu, Dr. T. Neelima, faculty members, and students participated in the program.

Officials Address Concerns at Tuni Mandal Praja Parishad Budget Meeting

TPN Correspondent | Kakinada

A general meeting of the Tuni Mandal Praja Parishad was held at the Mandal office in Kakinada district. During the meeting, several sarpanches voiced their dissatisfaction, protesting that information regarding government activities was not being effectively communicated to them. Officials acknowledged the issue and assured that steps would be taken to improve communication and prevent such oversights in the future. Addressing the

water shortage at the village level, officials noted that the use of motors to draw



water was contributing to the scarcity. They emphasized the need to remove such motors, suggesting that this effort should be carried out with police assistance. Mandal Praja Parishad President Boppa Ramu, Vice President Chitikela Satya-vathi, Chodiseti Satya Nageswara Rao, ZPTC Member Potala Suryamani, RWSAE Shivaji, Tahsildar Prasad, village sarpanches, MPTC members, and other officials participated in the meeting.

Dalit YCP Leaders Joins TDP in Pithapuram



TPN Correspondent | Pithapuram

Around 30 Dalit youth from the YSR Con-

gress Party (YCP) in Pithapuram constituency, Kakinada district, officially joined the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) under the leadership of booth convener Madiki Ravi. The group, which included ward member Gandarapu Lakshmana Rao and his associates, was welcomed by former MLA SVS Varma, who embraced them with the TDP scarf as a mark of acceptance. Speaking on the occasion, Varma conveyed that the new members were drawn to the leadership of Chief Minister Nara

Chandrababu Naidu and Education Minister Nara Lokesh. He assured them that the TDP would stand by them in overcoming any challenges they may face. Mandal Party President Sakumalla Gangadhar Rao, Village Committee Presidents Nama Paddaraju, Nama Lakshminarayana, Gandarapu Lakshmana Rao, Madiki Babji, Elubandi Venkataramana, and Nutati Prakash were also present at the event, expressing their support for the new members.

Pawan Kalyan: The Consensus Builder India Needs

The Indian political landscape is vibrant and ever-evolving. Like the stock market, each political cycle introduces both critical and trivial issues that dominate national discourse. Two recent topics that have become national issues and have also created sharp regional and political divides are Delimitation and the National Education Policy. With Bihar, Kerala, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu state assembly elections fast approaching, these topics continue to stir up the centre-state federalism debate and provoke regional sentiments. At this critical juncture, Pawan Kalyan emerges as a unique political leader who can become a troubleshooter and a consensus builder between BJP and non-BJP parties, as well as bridge the North – South divide on these contentious topics.

Regional Sensitivity and National Vision

Pawan Kalyan's role has been instrumental in bringing the NDA government to power at both the state level in Andhra Pradesh and at the national level; he brought the TDP-BJP unity back into the fold during the 2024 elections. With JanaSena's 100% striking rate electoral success, Pawan Kalyan has positioned himself as the leader of a state party with national relevance. The mass appeal of Pawan Kalyan transcends the Telugu States and extends to other southern states, including Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, not to mention the crowds he attracted during the Maharashtra Assembly elections. Unlike most regional parties and leaders, Pawan Kalyan has the ability to engage with national parties, particularly BJP, without losing his regional identity. This dual approach makes him an ideal candidate to mediate and dialogue on sensitive national issues that require both regional sensitivity and national vision.

Delimitation: The North – South Debate

The topic of Delimitation is set to become a campaign tool, a political debate, an ideological rivalry, and a potential game changer for the future of Indian politics. The Southern States feel that delimitation based solely on population figures would unfairly penalize states that have successfully implemented population control measures, thereby undermining the principles of federalism. Another issue raised by the Southern States is that the Delimitation exercise might result in a reduction of their Lok Sabha seats, while states in North India, especially Uttar Pradesh, will see an increase in their Lok Sabha seats, giving them more political power.

The Ideal Mediator: Trouble Shooting the BJP and Non-BJP Differences

Pawan Kalyan connects well



with both BJP and regional parties. While he is currently part of the NDA, including TDP, he enjoys goodwill among the leaders of the southern states, including KTR from the BRS and the Left Parties; he recently met the CM of Karnataka, Siddaramaiah; he is well received both in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka; he campaigned for Shiv Sena –NCP-backed candidates in recently held Maharashtra Assembly Elections and is approachable to the BSP in Uttar Pradesh.

Pawan Kalyan was born, brought up, and educated across various regions in the South. He speaks Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi, English and, to an extent, Marathi. He is quite familiar with the nuances and details of the regions of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu. Pawan Kalyan understands the deep-rooted concerns of the Southern States regarding the representation, federalism and revenue contribution disparities. Pawan Kalyan offers a balanced approach, combining southern perspectives with national interests, paving the way for potential negotiations on a fair formula. Alternatives from increased Rajya Sabha seats for the Southern States or a weighted representation, a middle ground can be achieved. With his ability to engage both the BJP and non-BJP parties, he can serve as a neutral voice capable of brokering a fair solution.

NEP—Balancing the Regional and Ideological Divide

The National Education Policy has been received with mixed opinion, with the BJP-governed states pushing for the 3-language policy, while the non-BJP states, es-



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pecially in the South, have raised concerns about Hindi imposition and centralization versus federalism in the education policy. Historically, Dravida political parties have strongly opposed the Hindi language imposition and contested the centre, be it Congress in the past or BJP at present.

Why Pawan Kalyan Can Lead the NEP Dialogue

Pawan Kalyan has been a strong proponent of addressing regional aspirations without compromising national integrity and sovereignty. He has been vocal about the importance of Telugu and regional languages in education and governance, making him a credible voice in the South. He was the earliest to give a call for the skill census and strongly advocated for skill-based education in the national education policy, which was publicly acknowledged by then Minister of Education Shri Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal. Pawan Kalyan's focus on vocational training and skill development aligns with the goals of the NEP, allowing him to serve

as a bridge between the supporters and critics of the NEP. Pawan Kalyan brings in the possibility to facilitate a discussion for a customized state-level implementation of the NEP without losing its essence while respecting the regional linguistic identities.

The need for a new consensus builder of the nation

Mediation and consensus building have played a key role for India since its struggle for independence. In the modern Indian polity, PV Narasimha Rao successfully stitched a coalition to steer India through economic reforms in the early 1990s, Atal Behari Vajpayee led a coalition in the late 90s, and Pranab Mukherjee was the Congress party's go-to person for troubleshooting. However, the present-day political atmosphere in India lacks a strong consensus builder who can navigate through BJP's national agenda and regional aspirations. Pawan Kalyan has a rare ability to make his policy opposition clear, when necessary, yet remain amicable enough to forge alliances with political opponents to get things done or achieve the goals. Pawan Kalyan can become the face of the new consensus builder of the nation—he is not entirely dependent on BJP like some allies, which allows him to speak independently; in the past, he had differences with BJP and TDP about the special status issues of Andhra Pradesh; he opposed playing the national anthem in the cinema halls, opposed the imposition of any language, and opposed the idea of privatizing the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, etc. Last but not least, Pawan Kalyan commands a massive appeal among the youth, giving him a moral authority to speak on policies related to the future of the youth, including education.

Conclusion—A National Role Beckons

Pawan Kalyan is already an established leader in Andhra Pradesh. His ability to connect across ideological and regional divides, engage the national and regional parties, and bridge the North-South divide makes him a potential national leader. Pawan Kalyan can carve a significant space in national politics as a leader who can foster dialogue, forge alliances across ideologies, harmonize regional aspirations & national unity, and build consensus in an increasingly fragmented polity. As 2026 Delimitation approaches with major political challenges, India will need leaders who can mediate rather than polarize, ensure calm over chaos—and Pawan Kalyan has all the ingredients to emerge as India's much-needed political troubleshooter and become the new consensus builder of the nation.



PM Modi's Thailand Visit: Can India Change The Regional Game With BIMSTEC?

The 6th BIMSTEC Summit, taking place in Bangkok, Thailand, promises to be a critical moment for regional cooperation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet key leaders from the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), but the timing could prove challenging. Myanmar is grappling with internal conflict, Thailand has recently faced a devastating earthquake, and tensions between India and Bangladesh may overshadow the summit's potential outcomes.

BIMSTEC, established in 1997, includes seven member states: Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Thailand. The bloc represents 1.73 billion people and a combined GDP of \$5.2 trillion. Initially focused on Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, Myanmar joined in 1997, followed by Nepal and Bhutan in 2004. The bloc aims to enhance cooperation across various sectors, such as trade, energy, transport, and counterterrorism.

One of the summit's key developments will be the Maritime Transport Cooperation Agreement, which is set to improve trade and travel across the Bay of Bengal. Additional Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Indian Ocean Rim Association and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will further solidify regional ties and security.

BIMSTEC aspires to emulate the success of ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Like Europe with the EU and Africa with the African Union, regional cooperation remains a significant goal for BIMSTEC nations. Historically, the Bay of Bengal served as a thriving hub of trade, and BIMSTEC has the potential to revive these connections. However, unlike SAARC, BIMSTEC offers a unique bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia, particularly aligned with India's "Neighbourhood First" and "Act East" policies.

India, the largest member of BIMSTEC, plays a central role in driving regional prosperity and covers much of the bloc's operational expenses. While BIMSTEC offers exciting opportunities, it has struggled to make substantial progress, with in-person meetings and breakthroughs being infrequent. Trade agreements, including the long-delayed free trade agreement, remain elusive. However, regional connectivity projects like the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMMTTP) are helping improve infrastructure, although challenges like Myanmar's ongoing civil unrest have hindered their full realization.

Furthermore, India is advocating for a preferential trade agreement within BIMSTEC, a potential stepping stone toward a comprehensive free trade agreement. Security and energy cooperation are also gaining momentum, as evidenced by MoUs on grid interconnections and India's involvement in BIMSTEC's energy center in Bengaluru. These efforts aim to enhance cooperation in energy-rich nations like Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh.

The summit comes with a significant diplomatic challenge—Bangladesh's strained ties with India. Bangladesh's interim government, led by Muhammad Yunus, has cultivated closer relations with China, which has caused tensions with India. Yunus' recent comments about Bangladesh's strategic role and its relationship with China have further strained relations, leading many to speculate that PM Modi's meeting with Yunus might only be a brief exchange of pleasantries.

Trump Just Changed The Very Meaning Of Tariffs

A New Era of Protectionism

President Donald Trump marked a significant moment in trade history by declaring it "Liberation Day," a day when American industry was reborn. This bold announcement introduced a series of reciprocal tariffs aimed at addressing what he described as unfair trade practices from both friendly and adversarial nations. As markets reacted to this shift, Asia's stock markets tumbled, and gold prices soared. Trump's renewed focus on tariffs is poised to reshape the global trade landscape, significantly altering relationships between nations.

For countries like India, the conse-

quences of these new tariffs could be severe. The US's 26% tariff on Indian exports, along with a 25% baseline tariff on automobiles, threatens to disrupt various industries. India's electronics, pharmaceuticals, and gems and jewelry sectors are especially vulnerable. With Indian pharmaceuticals making up a substantial portion of the US market for generic drugs, this move could lead to significant price hikes, damaging the competitiveness of Indian exports. Sectors like textiles and jewelry, which have historically thrived due to lower production costs, are also at risk, with India losing its edge to cheaper competitors like Viet-

nam and China. In total, India's economy could face a \$31 billion blow, with the broader global supply chain suffering as well.

Although Trump's tariff policies are often viewed as extreme, they aren't entirely unprecedented. Former President Joe Biden, while pursuing his own protectionist measures, maintained many of Trump's tariffs, especially on China. Biden's industrial policies aimed at bolstering domestic manufacturing helped fuel a boom in factory investment by 2023. Critics of Trump's tariffs argue they disproportionately burden consumers, raising

prices on goods, while American businesses struggled with supply chain disruptions. The economic fallout from these tariffs was seen in sectors like agriculture, where US farmers suffered due to retaliatory tariffs from China. Yet, despite these challenges, Trump's approach of viewing trade as a zero-sum game continued to resonate with many of his supporters.

Trump's methods contrast with those of previous administrations, which focused on multilateral trade agreements. For instance, Obama's Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) sought to balance economic power in the



Asia-Pacific region, but opposition from both sides of the political spectrum led to its collapse. In contrast, Trump and Biden shifted the focus to bilateral agreements and strategic decoupling, highlighting a fundamental shift in US trade policy. Biden's "friend-shoring" approach further emphasized alliances with trusted partners rather than adversaries like China.

India Evaluates Impact of Trump's Reciprocal Tariffs

India is carefully assessing the impact of the reciprocal tariffs imposed by the Donald Trump administration, which include additional ad-valorem duties ranging from 10% to 50% on imports from all trading partners. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry stated on Thursday, April 3, 2025, that it is engaging with key stakeholders, including Indian industries and exporters, to gather feedback and evaluate the situation.

The government's response comes in light of the Trump administration's recent trade policy shift, which includes a 27% tariff on certain imports. While acknowledging the potential challenges posed by these new trade measures, India is also exploring opportunities that may emerge from the policy change. The Ministry emphasized that its approach aligns with the vision of *Viksit Bharat*, which aims for a developed and self-reliant India. "We are carefully examining the implications of the various measures and announcements made by the President of the USA," ANI quoted the ministry as saying. The statement further highlighted that the government is proactively assessing strategies to mitigate any adverse effects while identifying potential trade advantages. The US administration's executive order on reciprocal tariffs marks a significant shift in global trade dynamics, impacting multiple countries, including India. As one of the largest trading partners of the US, India is



expected to adopt a balanced approach, focusing on both safeguarding its exports and leveraging new trade opportunities. Industry experts believe that while higher tariffs on Indian exports to the US could pose short-term challenges, they may also open doors for diversification of trade markets and strengthening domestic manufacturing. The government's engagement with exporters and industry leaders aims to de-

velop a comprehensive strategy to navigate these evolving trade conditions. As global trade tensions continue to unfold, India's response to these tariffs will be crucial in determining its economic resilience and long-term trade strategies. Further discussions between Indian and US trade representatives are anticipated in the coming weeks to address the implications of the new tariff policies.

Jaishankar Stresses Terrorism and Trafficking at BIMSTEC Meet

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized the urgent need to tackle terrorism, human trafficking, and illicit narcotics trade during the 20th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on April 3, 2025. Addressing his counterparts, he called for a more ambitious approach to regional cooperation in light of increasing global instability. Jaishankar highlighted the importance of addressing real-world challenges such as cybersecurity, counter-terrorism, and organized crime through robust policy frameworks. "We need to create the necessary frameworks to deal with them effectively," he stated, stressing that BIMSTEC nations must work collectively to confront these threats.

Reflecting on the changing global order, Jaishankar noted that the dominance of a few powerful nations in shaping international policies is a thing of the past. He asserted that developing nations must collaborate to navigate contemporary geopolitical challenges. "The era when a few powers underwrote the international system is now behind us. What we make of our prospects is very much dependent on ourselves," he remarked, underscoring the importance of regional partnerships. Jaishankar also pointed out that the Bay of Bengal region shares common interests and concerns that must be addressed col-



lectively. He acknowledged that historical factors had previously hindered regional development but urged BIMSTEC nations to leverage their shared past and modern technological advancements to boost connectivity, trade, and investment. Despite BIMSTEC's potential, Jaishankar admitted that the region's economic performance remains below expectations. "Whether it is connectivity, trade, investment, or services between BIMSTEC members, we are performing below our real potential," he said. He urged nations to har-

ness both traditional strengths and emerging technologies to overcome obstacles and drive economic growth. As BIMSTEC marks its 28th year, Jaishankar reaffirmed India's commitment to strengthening regional cooperation and ensuring that the organization plays a vital role in shaping a secure and prosperous future for its member states. The meeting concluded with discussions on enhancing trade relations, security cooperation, and economic integration among BIMSTEC countries.

Dy CM Shinde to Vet Files Before CM Fadnavis



In a significant political move, the Maharashtra government has mandated that all official files must now be vetted by Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde before being forwarded to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for approval. The directive was issued by Chief Secretary Sujata Saunik on March 18, marking a shift in administrative protocol. This decision appears to be a strategic

effort to maintain political balance between the two leaders, reviving a system previously in place during 2023 when files were first cleared by the then two Deputy Chief Ministers—Ajit Pawar and Devendra Fadnavis—before reaching the Chief Minister, Eknath Shinde. The arrangement was originally introduced after Ajit Pawar, formerly the Leader of Opposition, joined the Shinde-led

government on July 2, 2023, along with several Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MLAs. The latest directive aligns with the earlier framework, wherein Deputy CM Pawar, who held the finance portfolio, processed files before sending them to Fadnavis, who oversaw the home, law, and judiciary departments, before the documents reached CM Shinde for final approval. By reinstating a similar procedure, the government aims to ensure smoother administrative functioning while maintaining equilibrium among the state's key political players. The move has sparked political discussions, with some viewing it as an attempt to strengthen Shinde's role in governance, while others see it as a power-balancing act between the CM and his deputy. The directive could influence decision-making speed and coordination within the government, particularly in crucial sectors such as finance, law, and infrastructure. As Maharashtra navigates political complexities ahead of the upcoming elections, this administrative restructuring is likely to shape the state's governance dynamics in the months to come.



Vijay Slams Waqf Bill, Demands Withdrawal

Actor and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay has strongly criticized the Waqf (Amendment) Bill passed in the Lok Sabha, calling it "anti-democratic" and demanding its immediate withdrawal. In a sharp statement on Thursday, Vijay accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led central government of engaging in "anti-Muslim politics" and warned that if the bill was not repealed, his party would stand in solidarity with the Muslim community in their legal struggle to protect Waqf rights. His remarks come amid growing opposition from various political groups and Muslim organizations, including the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), which have also pledged to challenge the bill through legal means.

The controversial bill has sparked widespread criticism, with opponents arguing that it undermines the autonomy of Waqf boards and restricts the management of Waqf properties, which are meant for religious and charitable purposes in the Muslim community. Critics claim that the amendments interfere with community rights and are part of a broader pattern of policies targeting minority institutions. The BJP government, however, has defended the bill, asserting that it aims to streamline Waqf management and ensure transparency in land administration. Despite these assurances, protests have erupted in various parts of the country, with Muslim organizations and opposition parties viewing the bill as an infringement on religious freedoms. Vijay's intervention in the matter adds political significance, especially as TVK continues to expand its influence in Tamil Nadu's political landscape. His vocal stance aligns with his broader efforts to position himself as a leader who advocates for social justice and minority rights. Given his massive fan following and emerging political clout, his statement is expected to add momentum to the ongoing resistance against the bill. As protests intensify, legal challenges are also likely to follow, potentially escalating the controversy further. With tensions rising, the demand for a rollback of the bill is gaining traction, setting the stage for a prolonged political and legal battle over Waqf rights in India.

How BJP Secured TDP, JD(U) Support for Waqf Bill

The decision of traditionally secular parties like the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and Janata Dal United (JD(U)) to back the contentious Waqf Amendment Bill has raised questions, given their historical divergence from the BJP on issues concerning Muslims. However, behind-the-scenes negotiations and strategic assurances from the BJP played a key role in bringing these allies on board. Both parties, which rely heavily on Muslim support, have previously opposed BJP-backed policies such as the Uniform Civil Code. However, sources indicate that senior BJP ministers engaged in extensive discussions

with TDP and JD(U) leaders before the bill's introduction, convincing them of its importance. Apart from these two parties, BJP also reached out to coalition partners like Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party and Jayant Chaudhary's Rashtriya Lok Dal, explaining that the bill aimed to safeguard Muslim interests and ensure women's rights rather than create religious divisions, as the opposition had claimed. While the allies broadly agreed, they expressed concerns about certain provisions, especially those affecting existing Waqf properties and potential encroachments on state governments' rights.

To address these concerns, the bill was sent to a Joint Parliamentary Committee, which recommended 14 amendments, including significant inputs from JD(U) and TDP. JD(U) pushed for ensuring the law would not apply retrospectively, preventing interference with existing mosques and religious sites. They also insisted that states must be consulted before making decisions on Waqf land, emphasizing that land remains a state subject. Meanwhile, TDP advocated for greater autonomy for state governments and proposed appointing senior officials above the collector level to handle disputes. They also sought an extended timeline for uploading Waqf-related documents on official portals to facilitate better compliance.

These modifications helped the BJP secure the backing of its allies, ensuring smoother passage of the bill in Parliament. While the move has sparked political debates, it also underscores the BJP's efforts to consolidate its coalition and navigate opposition from minority groups while pushing forward its legislative agenda.





PM Modi holds talks with Thai counterpart Shinawatra ahead of BIMSTEC summit

TPN Correspondent | Bangkok

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Bangkok on Thursday, April 3, 2025, for a two-day visit to attend the 6th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) summit. During his visit, PM Modi held delegation-level talks with his Thai counterpart, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, to strengthen bilateral ties and discuss key issues of mutual interest.

The discussions between the two leaders are expected to focus on enhancing cooperation in areas such as trade, security, tourism, and cultural exchange, building on the long-standing relationship between India and Thailand. Both nations share a commitment to regional stability and development, and their collaboration within the BIMSTEC framework is vital for fostering greater economic and technological integration in the Bay of Bengal region.

Before the talks, PM Modi was given a Guard of Honour, marking the official beginning of his visit. Following this, the Prime Minister had the opportunity to witness a captivating Ramakien performance — the Thai version of the ancient Ramayana epic. The performance was a spectacular display of Thai cultural heritage, symbolizing the deep historical and cultural ties that bind India and Thailand. PM Modi's visit to Bangkok holds significant importance in strengthening India's engagement with Southeast Asia, particularly through multilateral forums like BIMSTEC. The summit, which brings together countries from the Bay of Bengal region, provides a platform to address pressing regional challenges and foster collaboration in areas ranging from connectivity to climate change. As India continues to deepen its strategic and economic partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region, Prime Minister Modi's engagement with Thailand and other BIMSTEC members will play a key role in shaping future regional dynamics. The talks with Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra are expected to pave the way for enhanced cooperation and a closer India-Thailand relationship moving forward.

Donald Trump Unveils Reciprocal Tariffs On Countries, Escalates Trade Tensions

- **Trump imposes sweeping tariffs, with some as high as 50%, targeting key global trade partners.**
- **China faces a 34% tariff, while the EU, India, and Japan see significant trade restrictions.**
- **Additional 25% duties on automobiles escalate tensions with Europe and Asia.**

TPN Correspondent | Washington

In a bold move reflecting his "America First" agenda, US President Donald Trump on Wednesday unveiled a broad set of tariffs aimed at various nations across the globe. These tariffs, some as high as 49 percent, are part of Trump's ongoing efforts to reshape US trade policies and restore what he claims has been the country's exploitation by both friendly and adversarial nations for decades.

Speaking from the White House Rose Garden, Trump expressed frustration over what he described as the historic mistreatment of the United States by its trading partners. He stated, "For decades, our country has been looted, pilaged, raped, and plundered by nations near and far, both friend and foe alike." The president's tone was combative as he highlighted the tariffs as a necessary step to reclaim the country's economic prosperity. Trump's most severe levies were directed at key global players, including a 34 percent tariff on imports from China, 26 percent on India, 24 percent on Japan, and 20 percent on the European Union. These moves are expected to have a significant impact on global trade flows.

The tariffs, which span a wide range of goods, are seen as a direct challenge to the existing global trading system. Trump defended the measures, claiming that the tariffs would help American industry recover and bring back manufacturing jobs that he argues were outsourced to other countries. "This is Liberation Day," Trump declared, calling the day a historic moment when America would "reclaim its destiny." He further framed the tariffs as



part of a broader effort to restore American economic strength, saying that it would "forever be remembered as the day American industry was reborn."

Alongside these new tariffs, Trump also announced the imposition of additional 25 percent duties on automobiles, a move that further complicates relations with key allies, especially in Europe and Asia. The new tariffs target numerous countries, including some of the US's largest trade partners, and have the potential to spark retaliation and trade wars, disrupting global supply chains. The sweeping changes threaten to upend existing trade agreements and could lead to significant price hikes for consumers in the US.

The tariffs cover a wide variety of products, ranging from elec-

tronics and agricultural products to machinery and raw materials. Countries like Vietnam, Taiwan, South Korea, and Thailand are among those facing heavy tariffs, with Vietnam seeing a staggering 46 percent rate. Other nations, such as Cambodia and Lesotho, have tariffs as high as 49 and 50 percent, respectively. The new tariffs also extend to nations from every corner of the globe, including emerging economies like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nigeria, as well as long-standing US allies like the United Kingdom and Israel, both of which will face tariffs of 10 percent.

In total, the tariffs will affect a broad spectrum of global trade, signaling a potential shift in US trade relations that could have long-lasting effects on the global economy. Economists and trade

experts have warned that these tariffs could have unintended consequences, including higher consumer prices in the US, disruptions in supply chains, and retaliatory tariffs from other countries. Trump's unilateral approach to international trade has raised concerns about escalating tensions, particularly with China, which could result in a prolonged trade war.

Trump's announcement came just days after the implementation of auto tariffs and follows a series of contentious trade negotiations with major global economies. As the situation develops, the full impact of these new tariffs remains to be seen, but it is clear that Trump's economic policies will continue to shape US foreign relations and global trade dynamics in the years to come.

China Opposes US Tariffs, Vows Countermeasures in Escalating Trade Dispute



TPN Correspondent | Beijing

China has strongly condemned the latest round of tariffs imposed by the United States, vowing to take "countermeasures" to protect its rights and interests. The Chinese government's reaction came after US President Donald Trump implemented a series of new levies on imports, including a 10 percent tariff on global goods and an additional 34 percent tariff specifically targeting China.

The Commerce Ministry in Beijing issued a statement expressing firm opposition to the tariffs, which it described as violations of international trade rules. It argued that the measures would seriously harm the rights and interests of affected countries, warning that they would have far-reaching consequences for global economic development. The ministry also accused the US of engaging

in "unilateral bullying" and called for the immediate cancellation of the tariffs.

In retaliation, China has imposed its own tariffs on US agricultural products, including soybeans, pork, and chicken, with rates as high as 15 percent. These moves are part of a broader trade dispute that has the potential to damage both economies. China's fragile economic recovery, already hindered by a debt crisis in the property sector and low consumer spending, now faces further pressure from these new tariffs.

Trump has defended the tariffs, labeling them "reciprocal" in nature. However, experts have criticized his administration's claim that other countries' tariffs on US goods are far more damaging than they actually are. China, in its statement, rejected the idea of reciprocity and emphasized that the US had long benefited from international trade, urging Washington to pursue dialogue to resolve the dispute.

The Chinese government stressed that there are no winners in a trade war, reiterating that protectionism is not a viable solution. It pointed out that raising tariffs has never effectively resolved the US's own economic challenges, and warned that the global economy will suffer as a result.

In addition to these new levies, the US also imposed a 25 percent tariff on steel and aluminum imports, a sector in which China is the world leader in production, though it is not a major exporter of steel to the United States.

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu Arrives in Hungary Amid ICC Arrest Warrant

TPN Correspondent | Washington

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived in Hungary's capital early Thursday (April 3, 2025), receiving a warm red carpet welcome despite facing a warrant for his arrest issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC). This marks only the second foreign trip Netanyahu has made since the ICC issued the arrest warrant in November 2024.

The arrest warrant was issued for Netanyahu in connection with alleged war crimes linked to Israeli military operations in Palestinian territories. The ICC's decision has drawn significant international attention, with calls for accountability growing as political leaders and human rights organizations highlight the severity of the allegations.

Netanyahu's visit to Hungary comes as part of ongoing diplomatic engagements, but his presence in Hungary has drawn controversy. Hungary, led by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, has historically been a strong supporter of Israel and has maintained close political ties with Netanyahu's government.



Orbán's government has rejected the ICC's jurisdiction and criticized its decision, underscoring Hungary's staunch support for Israel amidst the international legal challenges faced by Netanyahu.

Despite the ICC warrant, Netanyahu continues to assert that the charges against him are politically motivated and part of a broader international campaign against Israel. His visit to Hungary highlights the political dynamics at play, as Hungary's government has repeatedly expressed opposition to the ICC's activities, particularly when it

comes to issues concerning Israel's security and military operations.

As Netanyahu navigates the legal and diplomatic challenges posed by the ICC, his travels are expected to remain under scrutiny, with the international community closely watching any potential consequences or actions resulting from the arrest warrant. The Prime Minister's visit to Hungary highlights the complex intersection of international law, geopolitics, and diplomacy that continues to shape the global response to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Markets End Lower Amid Tariff Concerns; IT Sector Hit Hard.



Domestic stock markets suffered a moderate loss. Benchmark indices started in a gap-down on Thursday after US President Donald Trump announced tariffs. Investors started selling after global markets crashed suddenly and negative signals came from Asian markets. They started buying again after it was known that the impact of tariffs would be minimal and pharma companies were excluded. After that, the markets, which had covered some losses, continued to be range-bound until the end. The Nifty IT index bled. It fell by 4.5%. Pharma, healthcare and bank indices were hit. Overall, the Nifty ended 82 points lower and the Sensex 322 points lower.

The BSE Sensex, which closed at 76,617 in the previous session, opened at 75,811 on Thursday. It touched an intraday low of 75,807. It reached an intraday high of 76,493. It ended at 76,295, down 322 points. The NSE Nifty, which opened at 23,150, touched a low of 23,145 and a high of 23,306. It closed at 23,250, down 82 points. The Nifty Bank rose 294 points to settle at 51,597.

In the Nifty50, 22 companies gained while 26 lost. Power Grid, Sun Pharma, Ultratech Sem, Cipla, Shriram Finance were the top gainers. TCS, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Infi, ONGC were the biggest losers. Pharma, healthcare, PSU bank, CPSE, media, PSE, bank, private bank, consumption and energy sector indices rose. IT, auto, metals, oil, finance and realty indices fell.

Market breadth on NSE turned in favour of buyers. Out of a total of 2963 shares traded, 2057 gained and 829 lost. Shares of 37 companies touched 52-week highs and 24 shares touched 52-week lows. 287 shares touched the upper circuit and 25 shares touched the lower circuit.

The rupee strengthened by 7 paise against the dollar to settle at 85.44. Ipca Laboratories shares gained the most in 13 months today. Ola Electric announced that it will deliver vehicles on the same day of registration. 14 lakh shares changed hands in BHEL. Jindal Steel acquired Allied Stripes. IDFC Bank shares rose to a ten-month high today. Bank of India's deposit growth was 10.6% in FY25, loan growth was 13.6%. Crude oil prices fell by 3% today. Dhanalakshmi Bank's Q4 deposits grew by 12% to Rs 16,013 crore. Bank of Baroda's deposits grew by 9.3% to Rs 12.42 lakh crore. 11 lakh shares changed hands in Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services. Some experts have estimated that India's GDP may decline by 50 basis points with the 26% tariffs implemented by Trump. Reliance Industries will build a biogas plant in Andhra Pradesh.

UltraTech Cement Ltd.
UltraTech Cement, India's largest cement manufacturer, has been experiencing steady demand, driven by infrastructure projects and real estate recovery. The company recently announced capacity

expansions and strategic acquisitions to strengthen its market dominance. Despite fluctuating raw material costs, UltraTech has managed to maintain profitability through operational efficiencies and cost optimizations. The stock has been relatively stable, with minor corrections due to overall market sentiment. Analysts continue to maintain a positive outlook, given the increasing cement demand across urban and rural regions.



Adani Power Ltd.
Adani Power has been at the forefront of India's energy sector, benefiting from rising electricity demand and increased coal availability. The company has secured long-term power purchase agreements (PPAs) that provide revenue stability. Recent expansion plans, including new thermal and renewable energy projects, are expected to boost future earnings.



The stock has seen strong momentum, supported by favorable government policies and sectoral tailwinds. However, investors remain cautious about regulatory risks and fluctuations in fuel costs. Overall, Adani Power is well-positioned for long-term growth, especially as India accelerates its energy transition.

Punjab National Bank (PNB)
PNB, one of India's leading public sector banks, has been focusing on improving asset quality and expanding its loan book. The bank recently reported a decline in non-performing assets (NPAs), reflecting improved credit discipline. Additionally, PNB's digital banking initiatives and expansion into retail lending have been driving business growth.



However, the stock has faced volatility due to concerns over interest rate fluctuations and sectoral challenges. Analysts maintain a neutral-to-positive outlook, citing improving fundamentals and government support for PSU banks.

Adani Enterprises Ltd.
Adani Enterprises, the flagship company of the Adani Group, continues to expand aggressively across multiple sectors, including infrastructure, airports, green energy, and mining. The company has been making strategic investments in data centers, hydrogen projects, and logistics, positioning itself as a diversified business conglomerate.



Despite market fluctuations, Adani Enterprises has maintained investor confidence with its long-term vision and high-growth business segments. The stock has been volatile but remains a key watch for long-term investors, especially given its expansion into emerging industries.

Rupee Closes Stronger Against Dollar After Trump Tariffs

The Indian rupee closed stronger against the US dollar on Thursday, recovering from early losses triggered by the latest tariff announcement from US President Donald Trump. The currency strengthened by 7 paise to settle at 85.44 per dollar, bouncing back after opening at 85.75—its sharpest opening drop since March 10. On Wednesday, the rupee had closed at 85.51 per dollar. Trump's decision to impose steep reciprocal tariffs on major trading partners, including China and the European Union, initially rattled markets. However, investor sentiment stabilized later in the day, helping the rupee erase its early losses. Brent crude prices also declined, falling 3.2% to \$72.52 per barrel amid a broader market sell-off. The drop in oil prices provided

some relief for import-dependent economies like India, as energy products, including oil and natural gas, were exempted from the new US tariffs. "There is considerable uncertainty around implementation and how other countries will retaliate," said Abhishek Goenka, Founder & CEO of India Forex & Asset Management. The US has introduced significantly higher reciprocal tariffs than expected, imposing a minimum 10% duty on all imports while introducing additional levies on 60 countries. For India, the Trump administration has determined that tariffs, factoring in currency manipulation and trade barriers, should be as high as 52%, according to Goenka. The first phase of these tariffs, a baseline 10% duty, will take effect



on April 5, while the higher tariffs targeting India, China, and the EU will come into force from April 9. Addressing an event titled 'Liberation Day' at the White House, Trump defended the move, stating that the tariffs were necessary to counter "unfair trade policies" that have weakened US manufacturers and disrupted supply chains. He described the new levies as his strongest action yet against what he called an "imbalanced" global trade system.

NCLT rejects insolvency plea against Zomato over Payment Dispute

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Delhi on Thursday dismissed an insolvency plea filed against food delivery giant Zomato by uniform supplier Nona Lifestyle over an alleged payment default of ₹1.64 crore.

The tribunal rejected the plea on procedural grounds, stating that Nona Lifestyle had failed to comply with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). It ruled that the company had not properly served the mandatory notice under Section 8 of the IBC before filing the case. The original plea was previously dismissed in November 2024 after Nona Lifestyle's lawyer failed to appear for the hearing. When the company later sought to restore the case, the tribunal denied the request, stating that an invalid plea could not be revived. Nona Lifestyle, a business-to-business apparel manufacturer, had sought to initiate a Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) against Zomato, alleging non-payment for uniforms and merchandise, including ICC World Cup 2023 apparel. According to the company, Zomato placed multiple orders in 2023 for rider uniforms, trousers, and World Cup jerseys but later delayed payments and refused deliveries, citing storage issues. The plea included details of specific purchase orders, such as an order dated July 18, 2023, for 32,724 rider t-shirts, generat-



ing five invoices worth ₹16.47 lakh. While Nona Lifestyle delivered 11,210 t-shirts, the remaining 21,500 were not accepted due to payment disputes, leaving the undelivered stock in the supplier's warehouse. Another order from June 6, 2023, for 35,000 t-shirts worth ₹51.45 lakh also faced delivery delays, attracting penalties under Zomato's agreement. Nona Lifestyle further alleged that Zomato pressured it into offering discounts through "threats and warnings" and later refused to accept remaining World Cup jerseys, citing a "failed campaign." Since the jerseys were custom-made, they could not be resold. Zomato denied the allegations, stating that Nona Lifestyle repeatedly missed delivery deadlines, triggering contractual penalties. It argued that the delays caused "substantial reputational and goodwill damage" and maintained that it only paid for delivered jerseys after adjusting penalties and advance payments.

Will Nike & Adidas prices rise after Trump's new tariffs?

The latest reciprocal tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump, particularly the 46% duty on Vietnam, are expected to disrupt the supply chains of major global footwear brands like Nike and Adidas. With Vietnam being a key production hub, these tariffs may lead to higher consumer prices and impact the country's \$44 billion export market. Vietnam plays a crucial role in the global footwear industry, with nearly half of Nike's shoes and 27% of Adidas products manufactured there. According to Bloomberg, Vietnam contributes over \$20 billion in annual revenue for the two brands combined. The newly imposed tariffs could force price hikes as shifting supply chains is not a viable option for performance footwear due to specialized manufacturing requirements. Nike has already projected a decline in its

gross margin this quarter due to tariffs imposed on China and Mexico. Analyst Poonam Goyal from Bloomberg Intelligence stated, "I can't see how prices to consumers don't go up." Apart from Nike and Adidas, Vietnam is also a key supplier for brands like Uniqlo, H&M, and Gap. The US remains Vietnam's largest export market, benefiting from previous trade shifts during Trump's first term. However, Trump's long-standing criticism of Vietnam's trade practices suggests further trade measures could be in store. Vietnam's appeal to global brands lies in its low labor costs, skilled workforce, and stable transport routes. However, with Trump's renewed tariff policies, the country's booming footwear and apparel industry may face significant challenges in the coming years.



Air India's legacy Boeing 777 Returns with New Look

Air India has received the first of its legacy Boeing 777-300ER aircraft after a major revamp, unveiling a fresh look with upgraded interiors. Officials stated that the remaining 12 planes in the fleet will be overhauled by the end of the year. The refurbishment of the aircraft, conducted in Singapore, took around 50 days. The delay in the refit, which was initially planned for last year, was attributed to supply chain issues. However, Air India has now undertaken a heavy refresh of its older aircraft, enhancing cabins with new seats, carpets, cushions, and entertainment systems while also fixing broken seats. Air India operates 13 legacy Boeing 777s, which are primarily used for ultra-long-haul flights exceeding 14 hours. These flights connect major destinations such as Toronto and Vancouver in Canada and Newark, New York, San Francisco, and Chicago in the US. The airline's fleet comprises 67 wide-body aircraft, including 19 B777-300ERs (6 leased

from Etihad Airways), 8 B777-200LRs (5 leased from Delta Air Lines), 7 B787-9s, 27 legacy B787-8s, and 6 A350-600s. The first legacy B787 is scheduled for a retrofit in April. On the narrow-body front, Air India operates 14 A321neos, 94 A320neos, 13 A321ceos, 4 A320ceos, and 6 A319s. As part of Air India's \$400 million retrofit initiative, the first upgraded A320neo has already resumed service, with all 27 A320neos expected to be overhauled by the third quarter of this year. Air India MD and CEO Campbell Wilson stated that all legacy wide-body aircraft are expected to be refurbished by mid-2027. He acknowledged ongoing supply challenges, including shortages of engines for narrow-body aircraft, seat supply issues, and sourcing difficulties for fuselage components. "Reality is that it is going to remain a supply-constrained market, not just for Air India or India but worldwide, for another four to five years. We are victims of the circumstances, as is every other airline," Wilson remarked.

Trump’s New Tariff Plan Sparks Debate



President Donald Trump has announced sweeping tariffs, imposing a 10% duty on all imports into the United States. Additionally, higher tariffs will apply to around 60 countries and trade blocs with significant trade deficits with the U.S. Among the hardest-hit are China and the European Union, which face tariffs of 34% and 20%, respectively. During his announcement, Trump displayed a plaque outlining the calculation method, stating that the tariffs reflect “approximately half of what they are and have been charging us.” He emphasized that

the new policy aims to counteract tariffs, non-monetary trade barriers, and other trade imbalances. The internet quickly analyzed the numbers, with many observers noting a pattern. Several netizens, including investment expert Julian Klymochko and logistics CEO Ryan Petersen, suggested that the tariff rates are derived by dividing the U.S. trade deficit with a country by the value of imports from that country. Critics argue this formula lacks economic logic. Klymochko called it the “biggest economic blunder of all time,” while others labeled it “incomprehensible.”

Despite the backlash, White House trade adviser Peter Navarro projected that the new tariffs would generate \$600 billion annually, making it the largest tax increase since World War II. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent stated that the tariffs could be adjusted through negotiations. The policy has triggered intense debate globally, with foreign leaders and economists scrambling to assess its impact. As nations calculate their retaliatory measures, the economic ramifications of Trump’s tariff strategy remain uncertain.

The Delhi Metro, often regarded as the city’s lifeline, has once again found itself in the spotlight—not for its efficiency, but for an unexpected in-transit performance. A viral video shows a man breaking into an impromptu song and dance inside a metro coach, leaving fellow passengers amused and surprised. The 33-second clip, originally posted on Reddit, captures the unidentified commuter standing near the coach door, singing and dancing as he waits for his stop. The performance caught the attention of other passengers, some of whom looked on in disbelief, while others quickly pulled out their phones to record the spectacle. The video’s caption humorously noted, “You don’t need any subscription to binge-watch in Delhi Metro.” The clip has since gained traction online, drawing laughter and lighthearted reactions from netizens. Many found it entertaining, calling it a refreshing break from the usual hustle of daily commutes. Others poked fun at the unexpected entertainment, comparing it to the growing trend of unusual metro incidents, including public fights, fashion statements, and spontaneous performances. As Delhi Metro continues to be a hub of viral moments, this latest clip adds to the list of amusing encounters commuters experience on their daily rides.



Delhi Metro Passenger’s Impromptu Dance Goes Viral

Train Passenger’s Foot-on-Tray Photo Sparks Debate



A viral photo of a woman resting her bare foot on a train’s tray table has sparked an online debate about civic sense and public etiquette. Shared on social media, the image shows the woman lying across multiple seats, with one foot on a seat and the other on the tray table. She also placed her bags on the table, leaving some questioning whether she had booked the entire row or was simply making herself comfortable. The post quickly gained traction, drawing mixed reactions. Some netizens criticized the act as disrespectful, highlighting a broader issue of poor public behavior. One user remarked, “This is why Indians are looked down upon—poor public manners and hygiene.” Others pointed out similar behavior worldwide, with one commenter sharing, “I saw a white lady do the same on a

flight from Philadelphia to Dallas.” Meanwhile, some defended the woman, arguing that long train journeys with cramped seating often make passengers uncomfortable. One user wrote, “If seats are empty, what’s wrong with sitting comfortably?” Another added, “People complain about everything without understanding the situation.” The debate also extended to social class and economic growth, with a comment stating, “Many people have gained wealth but lack etiquette. The IT industry has contributed to this.” Despite the controversy, the post has amassed over nine lakh views, proving once again how simple actions in public spaces can ignite widespread discussions on social norms.

Elon Musk Reacts to Sleep Study



A new study has drawn a strong link between poor sleep quality and an increased risk of brain shrinkage and Alzheimer’s disease. Researchers suggest that improving sleep habits could delay or even reduce the risk of cognitive decline, sparking widespread discussion about the importance of rest. The study comes at a time when hustle culture continues to glorify sleepless nights, with many high-profile entrepreneurs known for sacrificing rest to maximize productivity. One such figure is Elon Musk, who has long been associated with intense work schedules and minimal sleep. As the CEO of Tesla, SpaceX, and Neuralink, Musk has often described working late into the night, even sleeping on factory floors to meet deadlines. However, the billionaire’s response to this latest research suggests he may be rethinking—or at least acknowledging—the potential risks of his sleep habits. Reacting to the study, Musk

posted a simple but telling response on social media: “Uh oh.” His comment quickly gained traction, with many users chiming in about the long-term effects of chronic sleep deprivation. Experts emphasize that sleep plays a crucial role in brain health, memory consolidation, and overall well-being. Studies have consistently shown that inadequate sleep can accelerate cognitive decline and contribute to neurodegenerative conditions like Alzheimer’s. While Musk’s work ethic has inspired many, this research raises questions about the long-term impact of sleep deprivation on even the most high-performing individuals. Musk’s reaction, whether serious or in jest, highlights the growing awareness of sleep’s role in maintaining cognitive function. With science continuing to underline the necessity of quality rest, the study serves as a reminder that even the world’s busiest minds may need to prioritize sleep for long-term health.



Netflix Expands Language Options for TV Viewers

Netflix has introduced enhanced language options for television users, allowing viewers to access the full range of available subtitles and dubbing languages for any title. The update aims to make the platform’s global catalog more accessible, especially as nearly a third of its total viewership comes from non-English language content. The move comes in response to increasing demand for multilingual access, with Netflix stating that it receives thousands of language availability requests every month. Previously, TV users could only choose from a limited selection of languages, but the new update ensures

broader access across its extensive catalog. Popular international titles such as South Korea’s Squid Game, Spain’s Berlin, and Germany’s Oscar-winning All Quiet on the Western Front have drawn global audiences, thanks in part to their availability in multiple languages. Netflix currently provides subtitles in 33 languages and audio dubbing in 36 languages, though availability varies by title. With this expansion, Netflix continues to strengthen its position as a global streaming giant, catering to the diverse linguistic preferences of its subscribers worldwide.



PR Sreejesh Leads Player Development Workshop for Pro Kabaddi Stars

Mashal Sports, the organizers of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL), successfully conducted the 'PKL Level Up' Player Development Workshop to help kabaddi players grow beyond the mat. The event featured renowned speakers, including Olympic medallist PR Sreejesh, Alpi Chaudhari from Meta India, content creator Deepak Pareek, and sports psychologist Dr. Chaitanya Sridhar. The sessions covered personal branding, media handling, and mental fitness for professional athletes. PR Sreejesh emphasized teamwork and resilience, stating, "Real growth comes from failure. The ones who persist and improve ultimately succeed." He also highlighted the importance of off-field conduct, including social media presence and personal values. Dr. Chaitanya Sridhar stressed mental preparedness for handling pressure and injuries. PKL Commissioner Anupam Goswami called such initiatives crucial for shaping the future of kabaddi and inspiring young players. The workshop marked a significant step in enhancing players' careers beyond their on-field performances.



World Boxing Cup Brazil 2025: Manish Rathore, Hitesh, Abhinash Jamwal Storm into Semifinals

Indian boxers Manish Rathore, Hitesh, and Abhinash Jamwal put on dominant performances in their quarterfinal bouts at the World Boxing Cup Brazil 2025 on Thursday, securing their spots in the semifinals. In the 65kg category, Jamwal outclassed Germany's Denis Bril with a unanimous decision. Hitesh, competing in the 70kg category, also secured a convincing win over Italy's Gabriele Guidi Rontani. Manish Rathore faced a tough challenge against Australia's Paris Olympian Yusuf Chothia in the 55kg category but showcased resilience, earning a 3:2 split decision victory. In the semifinals,

- Rathore will face Nursultan Altynbek (Kazakhstan),**
- Hitesh will take on Makan Traore,**
- Jamwal will fight Gianluigi Malanga (Italy).**

Meanwhile, Jadumani Singh Mandengbam advanced to the 50kg semifinals, while India's challenge in the 75kg, 85kg, and 90+kg categories ended.

KKR Crush SRH by 80 Runs to Bounce Back in IPL 2025



Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) stormed back to winning ways with a dominant 80-run victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in their IPL 2025 clash at Eden Gardens on Thursday. Batting first, KKR put up an imposing total of 200/6 in their 20 overs. Venkatesh Iyer led the charge with a blistering 60 off 29 balls, while Rinku Singh's unbeaten 36 off 18 deliveries provided the finishing touch. In response, SRH suffered a disastrous start, losing wickets in quick succession. Impact substitute Vaibhav Arora rattled their top-order, leaving them reeling early in the chase. While debutant Kamindu Mendis and Heinrich Klaasen attempted to fight back, their dismissals ended any hopes of a turnaround. Klaasen managed a quick 33 off 21 balls, but SRH fell well short, getting bowled out for 120. This loss marks SRH's third consecutive defeat in the tournament, raising concerns about their form moving forward.

Kriish Tyagi Prepares for Junior Grand Slam Journey

17-year-old Kriish Tyagi, India's top-ranked junior tennis player, is gearing up for a pivotal season as he prepares to compete in Junior Grand Slams. His schedule includes tournaments in Malaysia, Thailand, and the French Open, followed by Wimbledon and the US Open. Recently, Tyagi played at the SM Krishna Memorial Open in Bengaluru but faced an early exit. Despite the loss, he remains focused, citing altitude differences and match rhythm as key challenges. Earlier, he made a strong run to the ITF M25 Ahmedabad Open semifinals, reaffirming his ability to compete at higher levels. Discussing the transition to senior circuits, Tyagi highlighted the importance of crucial points and mental composure. He also credited support from the Tennis Association, which has provided wildcards into key events. With a packed calendar ahead, the young star is optimistic about his Grand Slam ambitions and India's rising tennis talent.



Umpires, Match Officials Announced for Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 Qualifier

The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 Qualifier will take place in Pakistan from April 9-19, with six teams competing for two spots in the prestigious tournament. A panel of 10 umpires has been appointed, including Saleema Imtiaz, the first Pakistani woman on an ICC umpiring panel. Other notable umpires include Masudur Rahman Mukul and Shatira Jakir Jesy (Bangladesh), Sarah Dambanevana (Zimbabwe), and Donovan Koch (Australia). The match referees for the event are Ali Naqvi (Pakistan), Shandre Fritz (South Africa), and Trudy Anderson (New Zealand). ICC Senior Manager - Umpires and Referees, Sean Easey, expressed confidence in the officials, emphasizing their experience and preparation. He highlighted the tournament as a crucial step for teams on their path to the World Cup.

Diksha Dagar Returns to South Africa for Joburg Open

Indian golfer Diksha Dagar is set to compete in the Joburg Open, returning to the country where she secured her maiden Ladies European Tour (LET) title at the 2019 South African Open. She is currently fifth on the Order of Merit after a strong season, finishing runner-up at the Lalla Meryem Cup and T-11 at the New South Wales Open. Joining her in Johannesburg are fellow Indians Pranavi Urs, Avani Prashanth, and Tvesa Malik. Pranavi finished T-14 in New South Wales, while rookie Avani has been consistent, making the cut in all three starts. Tvesa, a past winner on the Sunshine Ladies Tour, looks to regain form. The Modderfontein Golf Course, known for its challenging water hazards, hosts a 132-player field, including 38 LET winners. Defending champion Chiara Tamburlini aims to retain her title in the 72-hole stroke play event, which sees a cut after 36 holes.



GD Birla Memorial Masters Badminton Tournament Set to Begin

The 31st edition of the GD Birla Memorial Masters Inter-Club Badminton Tournament will take place at Bombay Gymkhana from April 4-6 and 8-12. Recognized as the premier veteran badminton tournament, it continues to attract top veteran players from various districts. Organized by Badminton Gurukul, the event has seen significant growth, with over 20 teams and more than 150 individual entries this year. Ayaz Bilawala, Organizing Secretary, expressed his excitement about the tournament's rising stature, highlighting the veteran community's enthusiasm. Supriya Devgun, Founder & MD of Badminton Gurukul, emphasized the tournament's role in promoting badminton culture among veteran athletes, making it a marquee event in the circuit.



Balakrishna on Aditya 369: Fans Go Wild!

The trend of hosting pre-release events for re-released films is catching on, and Nandamuri Balakrishna made it even more special at the Aditya 369 re-release event. Produced by Sridevi Movies and directed by Singeetam Srinivasa Rao, Aditya 369 remains a landmark sci-fi film in Telugu cinema. Speaking at the event, Balayya reminisced about how the film was crafted

with future generations in mind. He credited the visionary storytelling and Sri Krishnadevaraya's role as the film's core, which audiences still cherish. Balakrishna also hinted at something fans have been eagerly waiting for, without giving them a chance to ask—leaving them thrilled and celebrating. With the hype building, the re-release of Aditya 369 is set to be a grand affair!



Siddhu Jonnalagadda's Jack Trailer Promises Action and Laughs

The trailer for Jack, starring Star Boy Siddhu Jonnalagadda, has finally dropped, giving fans a glimpse of an action-packed comedy directed by Bommarillu Bhaskar. Featuring Vaishnavi Chaitanya as the female lead, the film blends humor with thrilling action sequences.

The plot follows Jack, a private agency agent tasked with hunting down four terrorists. Meanwhile, Prakash Raj's character is also on the same mission, leading to a high-stakes clash. Will they work together to complete their objective? And how does Vaishnavi Chaitanya's role tie into the story?

The 3-minute, 6-second trailer showcases Siddhu's signature wit, intense action, and an engaging background score by Sricharan Pakala. Produced by BVSN Prasad, Jack has heightened anticipation ahead of its release. Stay tuned for more updates!



Nayanthara Joins Yash's Thriller Toxic Ahead of Test Release



As Test, Nayanthara's much-anticipated sports drama, gears up for its Netflix premiere on April 4, 2025, the actress has already dived into her next project. She recently joined the shoot for Toxic, an action-packed thriller starring KGF star Yash and directed by Geetu Mohandas. Spotted at the Mumbai airport, Nayanthara's role in the film remains under wraps, but insiders

hint it could be a game-changing character. The film features an ensemble cast, including Kiara Advani, Huma Qureshi, Tara Sutaria, and Akshay Oberoi. Backed by Venkat K. Narayana and Yash, Toxic is a high-budget venture, reportedly costing over Rs. 200 crore. Set for a worldwide release on March 19, 2026, in multiple languages, including English, the film promises to be a thrilling cinematic spectacle.

Vaani Kapoor Shares Glamorous Backstage Moments

Vaani Kapoor dazzled at Vivienne Westwood's debut show in India, wearing a stunning golden bodycon gown. The Khel Khel Mein actress shared a behind-the-scenes video on Instagram, offering fans a glimpse into her transformation for the event. The clip showed her make-up artists and stylists working on her look, followed by her posing for pictures and walking the red carpet. The video also captured a lighthearted moment where Vaani dealt with lipstick stains on her teeth, humorously calling herself a "vampire." She demonstrated a quick hack to remove excess lipstick, earning praise from fans. Beyond fashion, Vaani is making headlines for her upcoming film Abir Gulaal with Fawad Khan, set to release on May 9, 2025. A teaser featuring the duo in a romantic rain-soaked scene has already created buzz among fans.



Catherine Tresa's Phani Held a 5-Day Snake Audition!



Telugu actress Catherine Tresa is set to shine in Phani, a psychological thriller directed by VN Aditya. Produced by Dr. Meenakshi under O.M.G. Productions, the film marks the banner's debut. The motion poster was launched in Hyderabad by legendary director Raghavendra Rao, adding to the film's growing anticipation. VN Aditya shared that Phani started as a small project but transformed into a global film after Catherine joined. She dedicated herself to the role, even attending special workshops. One of the film's most unique aspects is its use of a real snake. To ensure the perfect reptilian co-star, the team held a five-day audition, using three cameras to evaluate different snakes before selecting a black pine. Phani promises a thrilling cinematic experience!

Jonita Gandhi's Juno Look Oozes Diva Energy!

If music had a dress code, Jonita Gandhi just redefined it! The powerhouse singer, known for Arabic Kuthu and What Jhumka?, turned heads at the Juno Awards in Vancouver—not just with her voice but with her dazzling ensemble. Styled by Manish Malhotra, Jonita wore a mesmerizing golden, blue, and pink sequined dress that flowed like a dream. The elegant hooded design added a regal touch, making her look like a high-fashion sorceress casting a musical spell. Under the stage lights, her shimmering outfit seemed to groove along with her performance. Jonita didn't just own the stage—she commanded it with diva energy. If fashion and music had a love child, it would be taking notes from her!

